

**ITEM 3. INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TO HONG KONG – CHENGDU – TOKYO
AND NAGOYA**

FILE NO: X014468

SUMMARY

The Lord Mayor has been invited to attend and speak at the Global Innovation and Entrepreneurship Fair (GIEF) in Chengdu, China, at the invitation of the Mayor of Chengdu, Mr Luo Qiang, and at the Tokyo Forum for Clean City and Clear Sky in Tokyo, Japan, at the invitation of Governor of Tokyo, Ms Yuriko Koike.

The Chengdu Global Innovation and Entrepreneurship Fair (GIEF) 17-20 May 2018

This two-day program will include a range of events focusing on innovation and high technology industries and start-ups in both domestic and international fields.

Mayor Luo has requested that the Lord Mayor speak at one of the highlight events - *the 2018 Innovation Forum for Mayors of Sister Cities of Chengdu*. Under the theme “New Economy, New Driving Force and New Development”, leaders from Chengdu’s sister cities and friendship cities will meet to share and exchange thoughts and experiences about the challenges and opportunities that these industries bring to cities.

Councillor Robert Kok has also been invited by the Chengdu City Government to participate.

This will be the first official delegation from Sydney to Chengdu, and an important opportunity to strengthen the relationship between the City of Sydney and the City of Chengdu.

The Tokyo Forum for Clean City and Clear Sky 21-23 May 2018

The Governor of Tokyo, Ms Yuriko Koike, has invited the Lord Mayor to speak at the Tokyo Forum for Clean City and Clear Sky.

This three-day forum is for City leaders in partnership with the C40 Climate Leadership Group and ICLEI. The aim is to work together to enhance urban policy to meet global agendas such as the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals.

The Forum will provide an opportunity to discuss policy options among Asian city leaders, government officials, international agencies and the business community. It covers a broad range of social and economic development issues such as waste management and air pollution control.

The City of Sydney has significant relationships with both Chengdu and Tokyo, and these invitations offer an important opportunity to highlight and promote our work and to strengthen our relationships with not only these cities, but other cities that will be participating.

The City of Sydney should be represented at both events. As the Lord Mayor is unable to attend, it is proposed that the City of Sydney be represented by the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Jess Miller, and Councillor Robert Kok. It is also recommended that they be accompanied by two staff to provide language and media assistance.

A staff member from the Sustainability Unit will also take part in the Forum for Sustainable Urban Environment in Tokyo, at the request of the organisers.

After the visit of Ms Carrie Lam, the Chief Executive of Hong Kong in 2015, the Hong Kong Government indicated that they would welcome an opportunity for an official meeting between our two cities. Given that Councillors Miller and Kok will transit in Hong Kong, it is proposed that they represent the Lord Mayor at an official meeting with the Hong Kong Government.

It is also proposed that they visit Nagoya in Japan. Nagoya has been a Sister City to Sydney since 1980 and is just one and half hours by train from Tokyo. It would be disrespectful for this significant and ongoing relationship if City representatives travelled to Tokyo without visiting Nagoya.

The cost of international flights for both Councillors and local costs will be met by the Chengdu and Tokyo Governments.

RECOMMENDATION

It is resolved that Council:

- (A) endorse international travel to Chengdu and Tokyo (including Hong Kong and Nagoya) for the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Jess Miller, and Councillor Robert Kok;
- (B) endorse two staff members to travel with Councillors to provide support; and
- (C) note that Councillor Miller and Councillor Kok will provide a report to Council after the travel.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Invitation from Chengdu Municipal Foreign Affairs Office

Attachment B: Invitation from Tokyo Metropolitan Government

BACKGROUND

1. Chengdu and Tokyo are C40 members. Chengdu joined C40 in 2016, under the inspiration and encouragement of Sydney, as Mayor Luo stated.
2. In 2012, Chengdu sent a delegation with approximately 200 performers, artists and support staff to participate in the City's 2012 Chinese New Year Festival. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the two cities to recognise the relationship and further opportunities for cooperation.
3. Mayor Luo Qiang visited Sydney in 2017 and a follow-up MOU has been signed to further this relationship and, particularly, to deepen the collaboration in sustainable development.
4. In 2017, the Chengdu Global Innovation and Entrepreneurship Fair drew more than 600 participants from China and around 30 countries, with delegates including government leaders, scientists, academics, diplomats, entrepreneurs and investors. This annual Chengdu Global Innovation and Entrepreneurship Fair has been a success since 2015, delivering tangible deals assessed as worth RMB 45.3 billion (approximately AUD 9 billion).
5. Tokyo, a member of C40 since 2006, has been strongly committed to take action in working with global leaders in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.
6. The City was in partnership with Tokyo in leading the C40 Private Building Efficiency Network, which provided crucial references for the City to develop its own Energy Efficiency Masterplan.
7. Since 2007, the City of Sydney has been a member of the C40 Cities climate leadership group, a network of the world's megacities committed to addressing climate change. C40 provides an effective forum where they can collaborate, share knowledge and drive meaningful, measurable and sustainable action on climate change.
8. Membership has been a vital resource for the City in meeting its ambitious climate targets. The City actively participates in a range of C40 events and has implemented projects with technical and practical information from the C40, including our LED street lighting rollout, Environmental Upgrade Agreements and Smart Green Apartments Program.
9. The Lord Mayor and City delegations have attended C40 Summits in New York in 2007, Seoul in 2009, Sao Paulo in 2011, Johannesburg in 2014 and Mexico City in 2016. It is the most significant climate conference for cities in the world.
10. As Councillor Miller and Councillor Kok will transit via Hong Kong to Chengdu, it is proposed that, if time permits, they represent the Lord Mayor in meetings with city officials. After the visit of Ms Carrie Lam, Chief Executive of Hong Kong in 2015, the Hong Kong government indicated that it would welcome developing further cooperation between our two cities.
11. After Councillor Miller and Councillor Kok participate in the Tokyo forum, it is proposed that they travel to Nagoya, a Sister City to Sydney since 1980, which is one and half hours by train from Tokyo. It would be disrespectful for this significant and ongoing relationship if City representatives travelled to Japan without visiting.

KEY IMPLICATIONS

12. *Sustainable Sydney 2030* aims to ensure that Sydney remains Australia's most significant global city as home to globally-oriented people, jobs and businesses, and as an international gateway with world-class tourism attractions and sustained investment in cultural infrastructure, icons, amenities and public spaces.
13. The City is committed to be part of global networks and an active participant in global knowledge exchange, because Sydney's global connections are an essential component of our past, present and future.
14. One of the strategic directions for *Sustainable Sydney 2030* is for Sydney to be a globally competitive and innovative city. Our global orientation and connection will lead to local opportunities and benefits.
15. The City's Tech Startups Action Plan specified that, to create a global business, expansion into large markets such as the US or China is essential. Chengdu, being the startup hub and tech powerhouse of China, offers great opportunities for our local start-up business to grow and expand.
16. One of the City's proposed projects to support technology entrepreneurs includes leveraging our international sister-city relationships to strengthen knowledge and investment exchange.
17. The Chengdu Global Innovation and Entrepreneurship Fair (GIEF) provides an excellent platform for cities to exchange experience in innovation and entrepreneurship and to enhance co-operations among innovation companies from sister and friendship cities.
18. Guided by *Sustainable Sydney 2030*, delegates from the City of Sydney can share insights at the event in Tokyo regarding climate policy, waste management and air quality control, particularly in light of the recent implementation of its 'Leave nothing to waste' strategy and action plan 2016-2021, which was endorsed by Council in 2017.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

19. The cost of international flights for Councillor Miller and Councillor Kok from Sydney to Chengdu, Chengdu to Tokyo and Tokyo to Sydney, and local costs will be met by the Chengdu and Tokyo governments.
20. It is proposed that two staff members travel with Councillor Miller and Councillor Kok to provide language, media and other assistance.
21. One staff member nominated by the Sustainability Unit will attend the Tokyo Forum for Clean City and Clear Sky to participate in the events and be available to provide professional support in sustainable urban planning topics.
22. The City will cover the Councillors' incidental expenses for the period of travel and additional travel and accommodation for official visits in Hong Kong and Nagoya. Funds are available within existing operational budgets.

CRITICAL DATES / TIME FRAMES

23. The Chengdu Global Innovation and Entrepreneurship Fair (GIEF) is being held from 17-20 May 2018 and the Tokyo Forum for Clean City and Clear Sky is being held from 21-23 May 2018.
24. Councillors' international travel will be from approximately 15 to 26 May 2018, subject to the availability of flights and availability of city leaders in Hong Kong and Nagoya for relevant meetings.

MONICA BARONE
Chief Executive Officer