

ITEM 11. REPORT ON TRAVEL TO CHINA**FILE NO: S050647****SUMMARY**

As reported to Council in September 2015, the City's 10-year Economic Development Strategy identifies long-term, sustainable connections with China as a priority if we are to deliver greater benefits to the local community and to the economy more broadly (at a city, state and national level). These connections with China will be integral to the city's economic competitiveness and to future trade and investment outcomes. To maintain and strengthen these ongoing connections, Council approved travel to China by the following City led delegations during the previous financial year.

Media delegation to Hubei Province and Euro-Asia Economic Forum

In July 2015, the Director-General of Hubei Tourism Administration, China, invited Councillor Robert Kok, Chair of the Chinese New Year Advisory Committee, to lead a media delegation to Hubei Province for the Sixth Yangtze River International Travel Festival during the period 16 to 23 September 2015.

The City also received an invitation from the Director General, Xi'an Municipal Foreign Affairs Office, to participate in the Euro-Asia Economic Forum 2015 and 'One Meeting One' Exhibition from 23 to 26 September 2015.

On 10 August 2015, Council endorsed Councillor Kok to lead a media delegation to Hubei Province China from approximately 16 to 23 September 2015 and to travel to Xi'an in Shaanxi Province China to participate in the Euro-Asia Economic Forum 2015 from 23 to 26 September 2015.

A report on behalf of Councillor Kok has been prepared and is included at Attachment A.

30th Anniversary of the Sydney-Guangzhou Sister-City relationship

In 2014, the Lord Mayor and the Mayor of Guangzhou agreed in principle to hold a "Sydney week in Guangzhou" and a "Guangzhou week in Sydney" to mark the 30th anniversary of our Sister City relationship with Guangzhou, China. The City of Guangzhou prepared a program of events for mid-May, with the Sydney events in Guangzhou scheduled from Monday 30 May to Thursday 2 June (four days).

To showcase Sydney's service economy and highlight the innovation, expertise and excellence within specific city industry sectors such as international education, sustainability, business events and creative/cultural enterprises, the City's program of events in Guangzhou included participation by the following partner organisations (partly funded under the City's Knowledge Exchange Sponsorship Program):

- Sydney Symphony Orchestra;
- the University of Sydney;
- the University of Technology, Sydney;
- the Australia China Business Council; and

- the 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art.

On 21 March 2016, Council endorsed travel by the Lord Mayor and Councillor Robert Kok to Guangzhou to participate in the 30th Anniversary Sister City Program in May/June 2016.

A report on behalf of the Lord Mayor and Councillor Kok has been prepared and is included at Attachment B.

RECOMMENDATION

It is resolved that:

- (A) the Report on the Sydney Media Delegation to Hubei Province and Xi'an Euro-Asia Economy Forum, 2015, as shown at Attachment A to the subject report, be received and noted.
- (B) the Report on 30th Anniversary of the Sydney-Guangzhou Sister-City Relationship, as shown at Attachment B to the subject report, be received and noted.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Report on the Sydney Media Delegation to Hubei Province and Xi'an Euro-Asia Economy Forum, 2015

Attachment B: Report on 30th Anniversary of the Sydney-Guangzhou Sister-City Relationship.

MONICA BARONE

Chief Executive Officer

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