

REPORT ON 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SYDNEY-GUANGZHOU SISTER-CITY RELATIONSHIP

Overseas Travel Report 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SYDNEY-GUANGZHOU SISTER-CITY RELATIONSHIP

- Report for Lord Mayor Clover Moore & Councillor Robert Kok

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

From Sunday 29 May to Friday 3 June 2016, as Lord Mayor I led a 100-person delegation to China with Councillor Kok for a Sydney Week in Guangzhou to celebrate the 30th anniversary of our Sister City relationship with Guangzhou.

Over the past 30 years, there have been many successful visits between the two cities, furthering our economic and cultural relations. In May 2014, I signed a memorandum of understanding with former Mayor of Guangzhou Chen Jianhua, further strengthening ties and collaboration on education, trade, culture, business and sustainability.

Sydney and Guangzhou are natural partners. Both are outward-looking, economically-dynamic cities with thriving services and innovation sectors. This milestone presents a significant opportunity to promote Sydney's global economy and world-class cultural institutions in southern China.

Guangzhou is a city of over 13 million people, in a province of 110 million. We have close historic ties and many of our international students, visitors and business partners come from southern China.

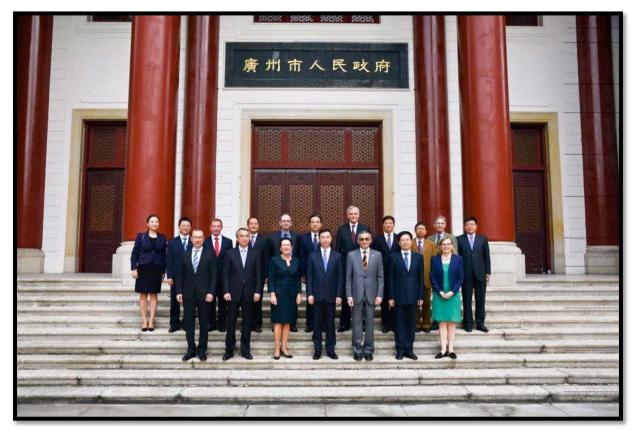


Image 1: Visit to Guangzhou People's Government with Guangzhou Mayor Mr Wen Guohui.

NSW is also a sister state to Guangdong Province. Signed in 1979, the NSW-Guangdong relationship is underpinned by yearly meetings promoting economic collaboration between the two economies.

This was a significant campaign promoting Sydney's economy overseas and our events – a business summit, sustainability forum, alumni reunion, Sydney Symphony concert and art exhibition – provided opportunities to celebrate and strengthen our longstanding economic, cultural and civic connections with Guangzhou.

The delegation included businesses travelling with the Australia China Business Council, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, and representatives from the University of Sydney, UTS: University of Technology Sydney and 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art. It was the largest international delegation – in size and scope – the City has led to promote Sydney overseas.

The program included:

- A performance by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, which also conducted a musical workshop with students from the Xinghai Conservatory of Music.
- The University of Sydney, the University of New South Wales and the University of Technology Sydney delivered a 1-day sustainability symposium.
- Sydney's six leading universities combined to host a special alumni reception the first Australian alumni event to take place in Guangzhou.
- The Australia China Business Council presented a business conference, hosting around 100 attendees from both cities.
- Sydney's 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art and Guangzhou's Observation Society presented work by Australian artist Lucas Ihlein and Chinese artist Trevor Yeung.

The City's visit to Guangzhou followed a 2-day visit of 97 delegates from Guangzhou led by Vice Mayor Mr Wang Dong in May 2016 – the largest delegation to visit Sydney from Guangzhou. That visit saw the signing of business and library memorandums of understanding, a business networking event, photo exhibition and a Guangzhou variety performance.

Sydney's events in Guangzhou successfully provided opportunities to celebrate and strengthen our longstanding economic, cultural, university and civic connections with Guangzhou. The City's support enabled the Australia China Business Council, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, 4A Gallery, and a collaboration between Sydney universities to strengthen relationships and pursue new opportunities with government, academic and industry representatives in China.

Following the Anniversary events in Guangzhou, I travelled to Ningbo to address the APEC High Level Urbanisation Forum on the City's approach to urban renewal, focusing on the demands of increasing urban density while maintaining a liveable, sustainable city. Discussion at the forum demonstrated the common challenge that density will only work when it is supported by open space, community facilities and a healthy social mix.

To report back to our Sydney community on this historic visit, I also hosted a reception on 30 June 2016 with our partners for the Sydney-Guangzhou 30th anniversary celebrations. A financial report is included in the City's Quarterly Report. Average cost for the Lord Mayor, Councillor Kok, two accompanying staff and an interpreter was \$6,416 per person.

GUANGZHOU 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

On our first day in Guangzhou, Mayor Wen Guohui welcomed us with a Courtesy Call at the Guangzhou Government City Hall. Mayor Wen extended formal thanks for our support for Guangzhou week in Sydney in May and spoke at length about how fruitful our two cities' robust relationship has been.

He was keenly interested in the work we are doing on environmental sustainability and urban planning and grateful for our support of Australian businesses in China. He was also pleased to see representatives from our universities, remarking on the strength of our higher education sector.

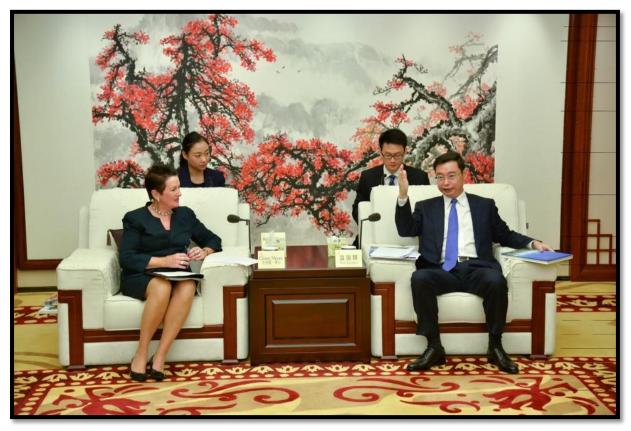


Image 2: Guangzhou Mayor Wen Guohui welcomes Lord Mayor Clover Moore to discuss strengthening the Guangzhou-Sydney relationship.

On top of Guangzhou's generosity through our Chinese New Year celebrations (they sent a delegation of performers and the magnificent goat lantern was located in the heart of Chinatown this year), to celebrate our 30th anniversary Guangzhou presented Sydney with an extensive encyclopedia collection on the history of their city. Mayor Wen gave me a picture of 2016 Guangzhou city, saying the encyclopedia was a celebration of their past and the new image a celebration of the present.

In return, we presented Guangzhou with a series of Bruce Goold linocuts – a kookaburra, a cockatoo, a magpie and a lyrebird – the original set of which are displayed in Town Hall. Bruce took as his inspiration the native flowers in the beautiful stained glass windows in Town Hall and the panels of etched glass that feature native Australian birds and flora. Each bird can be seen in the native habitat of Sydney and is distinctive for its bird song.



During the week I met with other government officials, including former Guangzhou Mayor Chen Jianhua, who is now the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Guangzhou People's Congress. In 2008 when I visited Guangzhou last, Chairman Chen and I committed to the Guangzhou in Sydney 30th celebration promotion and our Sydney week in Guangzhou.

Each of the officials emphasised the importance they place on our Sydney-Guangzhou relationship.

Guangzhou Mayor Wen Guohui:

"The close and intimate economic and cultural cooperation between our two peoples has become a fountainhead of continuing partnership between the two cities. We are excited to put into action the new opportunities that will be forged from this celebratory delegation and look ahead to strengthening our relationship."

Chairman of the Guangzhou People's congress, Mr Chen Jianhua:

"Over the years, Sydney has set a good example for Guangzhou in the areas of green and low carbon development and applying sustainable environmental technologies. Issues of environmental protection and sustainability development get more and more attention from the Guangzhou government, and the city prides itself on some of its key environmental performances."

Guangzhou Vice Mayor Wang Dong:

"We place great importance on this sister-city relationship with Sydney. The close cooperation in fields of business, education and culture have all indicated the strengthening of the friendship between our two city governments, which has contributed to the development of the relations between China and Australia. Under the Lord Mayor's care and support, this relationship has grown, and we have great expectations for more and closer co-operation with the City of Sydney."

SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The City of Sydney launched our three-day program with a concert by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra for around 350 guests, including participating delegates and local dignitaries. It was a special performance that included Bach concertos, Tchaikovsky's Serenade for Strings with Scullthorpe and a Chinese melody to conclude.

The SSO is an integral part of our cultural fabric and a leading cultural ambassador for Sydney and Australia internationally – so I was really proud to have them as part of our delegation.

Not only are the musicians renowned performers, the orchestra also has a fantastic outreach program with young Guangzhou musicians, in collaboration with the Xinghai Conservatory of Music.

This cross-cultural exchange is so valuable, not just for our relationship with Guangzhou, but also for the performers themselves. Take Shuti Huang for instance – an SSO violinist who studied at the Shanghai Conservatorium nearly forty years ago. He says he remembers visiting artists bringing a

different perspective to the understanding of music, and that he still remembers the new ideas feeling like a breath of fresh of air.



Image 3: Concert by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra for participating delegates and local dignitaries.

Rory Jeffes, the SSO's Managing Director, put it well at the opening concert when he said that: "Music is a universal language that can create friendship between people and nations." The power of music to compel and lay deep seeds of emotional connection is almost unparalleled.



Image 4: Sydney Symphony Orchestra musicians work with Xinghai Conservatory students.

Rory Jeffes also reports:

"We are excited to put into action the new opportunities that will be forged from this celebratory delegation and look ahead to strengthening our relationship... "The Sydney-Guangzhou sister-city relationship is vitally important in fostering the diplomatic, economic and cultural ties between our cities.

With the support of the City of Sydney, the SSO's profile in China has grown significantly, as has our ability to champion the City across the globe. This was particularly evident in the stature of the distinguished guests in attendance – including City of Sydney Lord Mayor Clove Moore and Mr Chen Jianhua, Chairman of Guangzhou's People's Congress – and the incredibly warm reception we received at our recent performance."

In celebrating and strengthening this wonderful relationship, we could not look past the SSO as a key part of our delegation – alongside our business and educational representatives.

SHARING KNOWLEDGE ON SUSTAINABILITY

On our second day, our university partners – the University of Sydney, University of Technology Sydney and the University of New South Wales – hosted a Sustainability Forum. The breadth and depth of discussion made for lively and important discussion.

University of Sydney:

"The City of Sydney's support of the event was a key factor in the Symposium's success, and the event provided a high level of visibility for the City and its role in promoting relationships between Sydney and China. The University of Sydney, UNSW Australia, and University of Technology Sydney is grateful for the City's ongoing support and welcomes future opportunities for collaboration."

These world-leading educational institutions are not only great ambassadors for Sydney, their ground-breaking research and industry engagement in the fields of sustainability and green technology made them another important part of our delegation – as we took the opportunity this milestone presented to share ideas that will help us build the environmentally sustainable cities that our planet needs.

Our university partners developed a program that featured their leading researchers on sustainability in the areas of water, energy and infrastructure. Local experts in renewable energy and green tech as well as policy makers, government officials and other university academics all took part. Discussion was a two-way exchange, with our experts learning about the innovative research being carried out by Chinese colleagues.

Dangerous climate change is the great challenge of our time. This forum demonstrated the idea that underpins our relationships with other cities: When we work together toward a common goal, and use our relationships to get the right people in the room together, solutions can be found.

Professor Katherine Belov, University of Sydney reported:

"This is the best opportunity to share ideas and links across the academic industry on sustainability. The Guangzhou forum is a vital opportunity to create a research agenda with a focus on bringing water, waste, energy, resources and researchers together."



Image 5: Sustainability forum hosted by the University of Sydney, University of Technology Sydney and the University of New South Wales.

Dr Chau Chak Wing, Guangzhou businessman and university benefactor:

"The Sydney-Guangzhou friendship has been greatly enhanced by the people to people exchanges that have contributed a great deal to the relationship between Australia and China. Looking at the next 30 years and the relationship between these two great cities, I hope there will be more exchanges between the universities to create future business leaders and young professionals."

UNIVERSITY CONNECTIONS

As part of the celebrations we also hosted more than 100 Chinese students who studied at Australian universities for the first ever Australian university alumni event in southern China.

The Australian Catholic University, Macquarie University, The University of Technology Sydney, The University of Sydney, The University of New South Wales and Western Sydney University hosted this historic alumni event. The event was attended by 215 guests including alumni, special guests and VIPs from leading Sydney-based universities.

Over the past 10 years, NSW has attracted one-third of Australia's 500,000 international students and the majority of them based in Sydney – one third of those are from China. Walking around the event I was glad to hear that Sydney not only provided an outstanding tertiary education but a happy and fulfilling experience for these graduates.

Professor William Purcell, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice President, International & Advancement, UTS reported:

"We were pleased that UTS had the opportunity to co-ordinate with the five other Sydney based universities this unique gathering as part of the 30th anniversary celebrations.

Our congratulations go to all of those who contributed to the success of the entire event program, and particularly to the City of Sydney for its overall co-ordination and support.

I enjoyed meeting many of the alumni who attended and I know that they were pleased to have the opportunity to meet with fellow graduates as well as make new contacts.

I hope it will be the foundation of many more productive relationships for them both in China and with their home institutions."

GUANGZHOU UNIVERSITY

I also gave a talk at Guangzhou University. It was a keen and engaged audience, with a lively Q&A afterwards. Guangzhou University is a mega-university, with ten campuses and 200,000 students.

Professor Yu Jianshe, Party Secretary of Guangzhou University Party Committee, thanked us for having such a high regard and level of care for Chinese international students. We take looking after international students – from my Lord Mayor's Welcome reception at the start of each semester, to our student ambassador program that helps get vital information to students – seriously at the City and I'm glad to see so many having such a positive experience in Sydney.

Studying in Sydney is the starting point for a lifelong connection with our city for many of these alumni, who have gone on to help foster our bilateral relationship as well as connections in the business and education sectors and the community.



Image 6: Lord Mayor Clover Moore and Councillor Robert Kok at Guangzhou University with Mr Yu Jianshe, Party Secretary of Guangzhou University and Ms Liang Biru, Director-General of Guangzhou University International Office.



Image 7:

Lord Mayor Clover Moore with Mr Tao Zhenguang, Deputy Secretary-General of Guangzhou government at the Sydney universities alumni event.

LIGHT RAIL IN GUANGZHOU

On my way to deliver the talk to students at Guangzhou University, I asked if we could take the light rail. It has four carriages, is about 37 metres long and has a capacity for 380 people. During peak hour, more carriages are clicked on to the back, and 15,000 people per hour can use the service.

It runs on batteries on top of the tram carriages and charged at each stop, which means there are no overhead wires. They're removable batteries, so they can be replaced as technology improves.



Image 8: Green tracks at the Pazhou light rail station, Guangzhou.

It's quiet and flexible to suit commuter needs. And look at the beautifully grassed track! I will continue to push for a similar approach for the CBD and City South light rail, especially in Surry Hills.

BUSINESS FORUM

Thirty Sydney-based businesses and 180 Chinese companies joined us at our Business Summit organised by our partner the Australia China Business Council (ACBC).

One attendee reported: "Would like to have this every year, well done ACBC Team!"

Alex Sala, part of the business delegation that travelled with us to China for our Business Summit, is the business manager of Global Experience Australia, a Sydney company that organises home-stays for Chinese students. She told me that she joined the delegation so she would have an opportunity to network and continue her business relationship ("guanxi") with China. But she also said she and her team came to Guangzhou to share their expertise and help educate agencies who send international students to Australia. "What they can expect, for peace of mind of everyone involved."

It was great to see the room paying great attention as our visiting experts talked about Australian markets. It was even better to see the room buzz during the business matching session, and I'm told many of our businesses have seen direct results already.

Leveraging the Sydney-Guangzhou milestone to help get some Sydney businesses over to China, and to host this summit, gave us the opportunity to help forge strong people-to-people relationships – which are at the heart of business and cultural ties – between our two cities.



Image 9: Official delegation at the launch of the Guangzhou-Sydney Business Summit in Guangzhou.

Examples of business opportunities arising from the Sydney-Guangzhou Business Summit include:

- Australian Property International, a large Australian property agent, is arranging to head back to Guangzhou in September for the Guangzhou Luxury Property Show. As part of this follow up, Australian Property International, has organised a series of follow up meetings with construction and real-estate delegates from the Sydney Guangzhou Business Summit.
- The Australia China Business Council and AustCham South China are now exploring how the two organisations can better work together to help facilitate introductions and services for Australian businesses who are interested in entering the Chinese market in Guangzhou. This discussion is a direct result of meeting in person at the Sydney Guangzhou Business Summit.

Mr Jim Harrowell AM, Chairman, Australia China Business Council NSW Branch:

"The ability for business to leverage the sister-city relationship between Sydney and Guangzhou helps open doors in China, and encourages the development of closer economic cooperation between the two countries. Government-to-government platforms like our sister-city relationship with Guangzhou lay important foundations for people-to-people and business-to-business relationships."

ACBC concluded that the 2016 Sydney Guangzhou Business Summit was a great success:

The results of the participant survey and anecdotal feedback highlight that participants found the event highly informative and a great opportunity to build and develop networks in both Australia and China.

The strong engagement by local Guangzhou business, government and media highlights the interest that Chinese organisations have in understanding the opportunities for their business in Sydney.

The City of Sydney's support for this event was a critical factor in the success of the Sydney Guangzhou Business Summit as well as the entire week of events surrounding the 30th Anniversary Celebrations of the Sister City relationship. The ACBC is grateful for the City's ongoing support and we look forward to our continued engagement.

AN INNOVATIVE ART COLLABORATION

On our final day in Guangzhou, I opened our partner gallery 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art's exhibition in Guangzhou's Observatory Society, one of China's most exciting contemporary art project spaces.

It's called "Sea Pearl White Cloud" and features art by Sydney-based artist Lucas Ihlein and Guangdong-born, Hong Kong-based artist Trevor Yeung. "Sea Pearl White Cloud" presents new works informed by questions of temporality, exchange and poetics that reflect on the urban condition in the twenty-first century.

Lucas' work maps predicted sea level rise through the Pearl Delta on beautiful screen prints, made in collaboration with a local printmaker. His work considers how the populated river-bank will adapt to our changing future. It's traumatic because the land along the bank is so low and 1-5m rises will be devastating. Trevor's works use UV lighting, dehumidifying units and aquariums to poetically propose connections between nature, the material world and their emotional meaning.

As gallery 4A summarises:

This artistic collaboration across themes and context is signalled by the project's title: Haizhu (海珠) or 'Sea Pearl,' signalling a process of materiality – and even beauty – being forged through time; and Baiyun (白雲) or 'White Cloud', suggestive of interminable transience, while in a more practical sense being the name of the district in which Guangzhou's international airport is located and where Trevor Yeung originally sourced live fish and water for his work.

The exhibition currently continues in Sydney from 30 July to 24 September 2016 at the 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art. For further information, visit www.4a.com.au.



Image 10: Artists Trevor Yeung and Lucas Ihein at the Trial Observations exhibition launch.

GUANGZHOU'S TECH STARTUP SECTOR

Our hosts suggested we visit the headquarters of WeChat, due to our keen interest in innovation and facilitating tech growth. WeChat is a messaging service used by 700 million people. It started as an app to help friends chat, but is now used for all sorts of things, like checking traffic or booking appointments.

WeChat began here in 2010 & is now a huge global company. 700 million users in just over five years. Incredible.

WeChat's offices are in a former textile factory precinct that was built in the 1950s. The government bought the factory and converted the precinct into a hub for creative and tech industries about ten years ago. Some of the equipment and heavy plant remains as a reminder of its industrial past which now houses multiple tech firms as well as shops, bars and retailers.

When we consulted for our tech ecosystem, we were told the most powerful thing the City can do is make it easy for tech and creative firms to cluster – to work with and bounce off each other in "cool" spaces. It's exactly what should be happening at Australian Technology Park (also an old, converted industrial space). I hope the NSW Government considers the success of precincts like the Guangzhou Textile Park as it finalises plans for the Bays Precinct and Central to Eveleigh.



Image 11: Visit to the headquarters of WeChat, a messaging service used by 700 million people.

GUANGZHOU LIBRARY

In March 2016, Guangzhou Library invited Councillor Kok to participate in an event commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the Sister City. Via its social media portal, Guangzhou Library had identified that its audience would like to know about Councillor Kok's experience and living in Australia as a Guangdong province descendant migrant and the only Chinese councillor in the City of Sydney.

During the delegation to Sydney headed by Vice Mayor of Guangzhou, Mr Wang Dong, in May, an MOU was proposed between Mr He Jianping, the Party Secretary of Guangzhou Library and Ms Ann Hoban, the Director of City Life, to start a collaboration between the libraries in the two cities.

To fulfil this commitment, Councillor Robert Kok participated in an event with Guangzhou Library, "To talk about my second homeland, Australia" on Sunday 29th May 2016. The event was held in the Board Conference Theatre in Guangzhou Library and was part of the Live Book series which the library runs regularly.



Image 12: Councillor Kok at Guangzhou Library celebration event, "To talk about my second homeland, Australia".

In attendance were Mr Liu Wanzi Deputy Director General, Mr He Jianping Party Secretary of Guangzhou Library, Mr Zeng Qingchun Deputy Director General of Foreign Affairs Office of Guangzhou Government and Ms Chen Jie Director General of Oceania Division, Guangzhou Foreign Affairs Office. The event was also attended by around 300 local Guangzhou residents.



Image 13: Participants at Guangzhou Library celebration event on Sunday 29 May 2016.

The focus of the event was an interview with Councillor Kok about his family's immigration and work as a City of Sydney Councillor, particularly what the City's service to the local Chinese community. Topics discussed included the success of the Chinese New Year Festival and what it meant to overseas Chinese to have the festival as part of a major event in a capital city such as Sydney; our world famous Sydney Chinatown, its origins and how it has been maintained over the years, and the City's Chinatown Masterplan for ongoing improvements.

Many of the younger members of the audience were University students who wanted to know about studying in Sydney and about the universities. This indicated that many students still aspire to come to Sydney for their higher education.

APEC URBANISATION FORUM IN CHINA

Following our time in Guangzhou, I travelled north to Ningbo, where I addressed the APEC High Level Urbanisation Forum on Thursday 2 June, outlining the City's approach to urban regeneration and renewal. This invitation is an endorsement of our response to the demands of increasing urban density while maintaining a liveable, sustainable city.

I joined a panel session with the Chinese Vice Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development and representatives from the Singaporean Ministry of National Development as well as the mayors of Ningbo and Xi'an and a representative from Tokyo.



Image 14: Lord Mayor Clover Moore presents to the APEC High Level Urbanisation Forum in Ningbo on the City's approach to urban renewal, focusing on doing density well to maintain a liveable, sustainable city.

I discussed our focus on well-designed, sustainable development on former industrial sites that are supported by appropriate public amenity. Sydney's approach to increasing densities is paying dividends as inner city living is now being embraced with enthusiasm. I talked about the \$13 billion Green Square redevelopment, and how Sydney is prospering from our efforts to create a liveable, sustainable city for all.

A copy of my speech is available at www.clovermoore.com.au/guangzhou_apec.

It was inspiring to hear global support for our work as best practice: planning for and factoring in environmental sustainability while providing good community infrastructure which is essential for modern cities.

Density will only work when it is supported by open space, community facilities and a healthy social mix – and that is the challenge we all face.

PROMOTION OF SYDNEY

As we readied to depart China, the Guangzhou Daily had a big spread on the Sydney week in Guangzhou anniversary celebration.



Image 15: Front page of Guangzhou Daily, Thursday 2 June 2016

This was our biggest international delegation yet, and it was a huge success. A sustainability forum, a business summit, engagement with universities and cultural exchanges – our relationship with Guangzhou was formalised thirty years ago and it's stronger than ever.

The City of Sydney's delegation visit to Guangzhou has been reported by many local Chinese media, including SBS Mandarin, People's Daily Online, Sydney Today, New Express Daily and ACNW World News Online.

Media coverage of the 30th Anniversary celebrations included:

- http://www.sbs.com.au/yourlanguage/mandarin/zh-hans/article/2016/06/01/xi-ni-shichang-lu-tuan-fang-wen-guang-zhou-qing-zhu-jie-mei-shi-guan-xi-30zhou?language=zh-hans
- http://world.people.com.cn/n1/2016/0601/c1002-28404079.html
- http://www.xkb.com.au/html/cnc/shetuandongtai/2016/0531/171179.html
- http://www.sydneytoday.com/content/1207612
- http://www.acnw.com.au/article-43411-1.html
- http://www.acnw.com.au/article-43483-1.html
- http://www.sydneytoday.com/content/1209416
- http://www.acnw.com.au/article-43578-1.html

Media coverage of the Lord Mayor's panel session on APEC Urbanisation Forum included:

- http://www.sbs.com.au/yourlanguage/mandarin/zh-hans/article/2016/06/03/xi-ni-shichang-zai-zhong-guo-apeccheng-zhen-hua-gao-ceng-lun-tan-fa-yan-liang?language=zh-hans
- http://www.acnw.com.au/article-43576-1.html
- http://www.jinriaozhou.com/content/1211874

The City of Sydney estimates a total reach of around 620,000 people from social media associated with the celebrations, including Facebook, Twitter, Linkedin, Instagram, Weibo and WeChat.

CONCLUSION

In the words of Consul-General of Australia in Guangzhou, Dominic Trindade:

"Ties between Sydney and Guangzhou have left an indelible mark on Sydney's unique social and cultural fabric and will continue to greatly influence the development of Australian society following this delegation.

"The 30th anniversary of sister-city relations is a celebration of Sydney and Guangzhou's common history and a statement of ongoing commitment and friendship. I am grateful for the hard work of those who have helped make these celebrations possible..."