

ATTACHMENT A

**REPORT ON CHINA TRIP
OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2016**

CHINA CULTURAL TRIP 2016

As a long-term partner and strong supporter of the City's Chinese New Year Festival, the China Cultural Centre in Sydney invited me to join the China Cultural Trip 2016 to investigate the possibilities of Chinese cities participating in the City's Chinese New Year Festival.

Shanghai and Chengdu have expressed their strong interests in participating in the City of Sydney's Chinese New Year Festival in 2017 and 2018, respectively.

Shanghai

I had a short stay in Shanghai (one night) and visited Shanghai Museum.

The City has historic connections in many areas with Shanghai. In 2013, Council endorsed a \$20,000 sponsorship for the 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art to send Australian artists to participate in the Shanghai Biennale.

The museum is a pivotal cultural hub for local Shanghai residents and international tourists, and creates a vibrant connection between the local community and cultural activities.

Chengdu

Chengdu and the City of Sydney signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2012 to strengthen mutual understanding, friendship and cooperation. In 2012 Chinese New Year Festival, Chengdu sent approximately 200 performers, artists and support staff to participate in several events.

During the trip to Chengdu, I met with managers of various performing companies and theatres, local artists and performers and provincial government officials, including Mr Dou Weiping, the Deputy Director-General of the Culture Department of Sichuan Province.

Mr Dou welcomed participants on the China Cultural Trip with a symposium at Sichuan Provincial Song and Dance Theatre and spoke at length about how fruitful our two cities' cultural exchange has been.

He expressed his willingness to promote further cultural cooperation in areas where we have common interest, in particular, traditional opera, stage theatre, cultural heritage and creative cultural industries.

In return, I spoke about the strong relationship between Sydney and China in terms of tourism, business, trade, education and cultural exchange. I also extended the City's gratitude to the Sichuan Department of Culture for their support for Sydney's Chinese New Year Festival and highlighted the tremendous success for the 2016 Chinese New Year Festival.

As a part of the Cultural Trip in Chengdu, the local performers showcased their contemporary dance and traditional Sichuan Opera performance. Artists from local galleries and studios also showcased their skills and folk artistry.

Chengdu local performers and artisans confirmed their attendance at the 2017 Chinese New Year Festival. They will bring famous performances, including the Sichuan Opera and Face Changing performance which present the traditional culture of Sichuan. Artisans will also demonstrate some cultural heritage and artistic works, including sugar painting, dough modelling, shadow puppetry and lantern-making.

Nanjing, Jiangsu Province

In Nanjing, Ms Jiao Yunhua, the Deputy Director-General of Nanjing Municipal Bureau of Culture, Radio, TV, Press and Publication, received the China Cultural Trip delegation and expressed strong interest in facilitating cultural exchange with the City.

Ms Jiao also introduced the famous Little Red Flower Troupe, one of the top children's performing groups in China in her welcome speech.

Subsequently, a delegation of over 20 children, led by Ms Jiao and her team, made a short visit to Sydney on their way to New Zealand for a performance and, on 2 December, I hosted them at Town Hall.

Ms Jiao expressed a keen interest in the troupe visiting Sydney to perform in the future.

21ST CENTURY MARITIME SILK ROAD EXPO AND GUANGZHOU SISTER CITY ROUNDTABLE FORUM

Guangzhou

Our sister city relationship with Guangzhou was established by Mr Xi Zhongxun, father of president Xi Jinping, 30 years ago.

In May 2017, the Lord Mayor led a delegation with 100 participants to Guangzhou to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of this relationship.

The Vice Mayor of Guangzhou, Mr Wang Dong, also visited Sydney on behalf of the Mayor of Guangzhou, Mr Wen Guohui, in April to present Guangzhou Week in Sydney with a delegation of over 100 government officials and business people.

The Guangzhou International Sister Cities Roundtable brought together all sister cities of Guangzhou to exchange ideas and experiences. There were representatives and government officials from 19 international cities.

I gave a keynote speech in this forum on behalf of the City regarding our sister city relationship, particularly our celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the relationship.

In the afternoon, we were invited to the Production Capacity Cooperation and Innovative Development Forum of 2016 Guangdong 21st Century Maritime Silk Road International Expo. The speakers included Mr Zhu Xiaodan, the Premier of Guangdong Province; Mr Jiang Zengwei, the Chairman of China Council for the Promotion of International Trade; Mr Yosiwo George, the Vice President of the Federated States of Micronesia; and Mr Abhisit Vejjajiva, the President of the Democrat Party of Thailand and former Prime Minister.

LAUNCH CEREMONY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY CENTRE IN CHINA

Suzhou

The University of Sydney has been a long-time partner of the City. The University was represented in the delegation that attended the 30th Anniversary Celebration of the Sister City relationship with Guangzhou in May.

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The launch of the University's Centre in China consisted of an opening ceremony and the Sydney China Business Forum at Suzhou. As a Councillor of City of Sydney and a member of the Advisory Panel for the China Studies Centre of the University of Sydney, I delivered a speech at the launch which offered congratulations on the opening of the Centre and praised the City's long-standing cooperation with the University of Sydney.

I also attended the Sydney China Business Forum in Suzhou. The City has provided financial and value in-kind sponsorship for the University of Sydney's Sydney China Business Forum since its inception in 2011. It is now a top level business and academic event which increases awareness of the latest trends, issues and opportunities in one of Asia's most lucrative, rapidly evolving and complex markets.

MEDIA COVERAGE

- China's *People's Daily* and local news portal site *Sichuan News* reported the China Cultural Trip in Sichuan as "The partners of China Cultural Centre visited Sichuan" (8 November 2016). Their articles stressed that this visit will increase mutual understanding between Sichuan and Australia, and deepen bilateral cultural collaboration for Chengdu and Sydney.
- According to University of Sydney, around 300 Australian and Chinese delegates from business, government, education and media sectors attended the event in Suzhou and secured extensive media coverage by mainstream media in Australia, Mainland China and Hong Kong.