

International Travel – 2019 Smart China Expo, Chongqing and 2019 Seoul Friendship Festival

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Summary

2019 Smart China Expo, Chongqing

The Mayor of Chongqing, Mr Tang Liangzhi, has invited the Lord Mayor and Councillor Robert Kok to attend the 2019 Smart China Expo in Chongqing from 25 to 29 August 2019. Sydney is specifically invited to speak at the International Mayors' Roundtable on 26 August with other international city representatives to discuss the topic "Smart Life, Future Innovation".

The 2019 Smart China Expo is under the theme "Smart Technology: Empowering Economy, Enriching Life". The Expo will explore what smart technologies bring to cities and will especially articulate the role of smart life - how city leaders can utilise smart approaches to improve residents' living. The Expo will have more than 100 events with forums, presentations, panel discussions, and contests. It will focus on not only big international corporations like Google, Microsoft, Intel, Siemens, and Samsung, but also open opportunities to small and medium size businesses to learn, share, and grow.

The International Mayors' Roundtable aims to provide a platform for city leaders and policy makers to look into the current smart city narratives and position their roles and responsibilities in order to take the best advantage of smart technology and support the industry. The Lord Mayor is invited to speak in the Roundtable to exchange practice and experience in smart city and sustainable development.

Many Asian cities see Sydney as the leading business events destination in Australia, boasting the largest tech start-up ecosystem in the country. In Sydney, we have been working steadily since 2008 on our own smart and sustainable transformation, and we have seized every opportunity to engage with Asia and with other cities around the world working similar challenges.

Chongqing is China's innovation hub with a strong smart technology economy. In 2018, the output value of the intelligent industry in Chongqing reached 460 billion RMB (\$67 billion USD) which is an increase of 19 per cent compared to 2017 values, with an increase of 14 per cent in the high-tech industry compared to 2017 values. Chongqing Government is now implementing the "Hundred Million" program to cultivate science and technology enterprises, and cultivated more than 4,301 key science and technology enterprises, many of whom are keen to develop and grow their business overseas. This is an opportunity for Sydney to attract investments into the local economy and for Sydney start-ups to explore the Asian market and to grow their businesses.

Participating events like the Smart China Expo brings the City to the fast growing global context in achieving smart city practices and support smart industries to thrive. It is also in alignment with the aims and goals of our Digital Strategy adopted in 2012 - to continue to transform our organisation and participate in the digital transformation of the city, to create opportunities for our residents, visitors and business and to address the challenges of the digital age.

2019 Seoul Friendship Festival

The Mayor of Seoul, Mr Park Wonsoon, has invited the Lord Mayor to attend the Seoul Friendship Festival from 29 August to 1 September 2019 in Seoul. After Mayor Park's successful participation via 3D technology in our CityTalks in May, he would like to further the relationships between the two cities, especially in tackling climate change, sustainable development, and cultural exchange.

Our local Korean communities strongly support Sydney's participation in the Seoul Friendship Festival, as this will be the first official visit from Sydney to Seoul since the Lord Mayor's visit in 2008.

Given the Lord Mayor is unable to attend both events and Councillor Robert Kok will transit in Seoul, it is proposed that the Lord Mayor and the City of Sydney be represented by Councillor Robert Kok.

The cost of international flights and local costs for Councillor Kok will be met by the event organisers, the Chongqing City Government and the Seoul Metropolitan Government.

Recommendation

It is resolved that Council:

- (A) endorse international travel to Chongqing, China and Seoul, South Korea for Councillor Robert Kok; and
- (B) note that Councillor Kok will provide a report to Council after the travel.

Attachments

Attachment A. Invitation to the Smart China Expo in Chongqing

Attachment B. Invitation to the Seoul Friendship Festival

Background

2019 Smart China Expo, Chongqing

1. The Lord Mayor has been invited by Mayor of Chengdu, Mr Tang Liangzhi to attend and speak at the 2019 Smart China Expo from 25 to 29 August 2019.
2. It is proposed that Councillor Robert Kok attends the Expo as the Lord Mayor's representative.
3. Sydney has strong connections with Chongqing since their participation in the Sydney Lunar Festival (Chinese New Year Festival) in 2010 with a 400-person delegation including performers and business leaders. At the Festival's Business Summit Chongqing signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the City and NSW.
4. In 2018, the first Smart China Expo was held in Liangjiang New Area with an exhibition area of 180,000 square meters and received 630,000 visitors.
5. At the 2018 Expo, 501 projects involving 5G and Artificial Intelligence technologies worth over 612 billion yuan (\$91 billion USD) were signed.
6. Chongqing is home to 33.9 million people across 82.4 square kilometres.
7. Chongqing has a reputation as an innovative city, which is friendly to private enterprise.
8. Chongqing's major industries are automobiles and IT, with one in eight cars in China having parts designed or manufactured in Chongqing and 400 million units of smart terminals produced in 2018.
9. Chongqing is the second largest producer of mobile phones worldwide, producing 270 million units last year.
10. Chongqing has 25 universities and 34 science and technology innovation parks. It also is China's top innovation and high-tech talent pool to support the smart technology development.

2019 Seoul Friendship Festival

11. The Lord Mayor has been invited by Mayor of Seoul, Mr Park Wonsoo to attend the 2019 Seoul Friendship Festival from 29 August to 1 September 2019.
12. As Councillor Kok will transit in Seoul, it is proposed that Councillor Robert Kok attends the Seoul Friendship Festival as the Lord Mayor's representative.
13. Seoul positions itself as a "Smart Green City", with approximately 10.2 million population in a total area of 605 square kilometres.
14. Seoul is ranked as the World's No. 1 in municipal e-governance and the third in the world in the number of international conferences hosted.
15. Mayor Park participated in Sydney CityTalks in May and provided the keynote speech on "Big Ideas Transforming Global Cities".
16. Sydney has a large Korean community and Korean is the third most spoken Asian language in our Local Government Area.

17. The Korean community has made a great contribution to our City in multiple aspects.
18. New South Wales and Seoul have a Sister State Relationship.

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision and Digital Strategy

19. Sustainable Sydney 2030 is a vision for the sustainable development of the City to 2030 and beyond. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the City, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This report is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
 - (a) Direction 1 - A Globally Competitive and Innovative City -
 - (i) The City will remain Australia's most significant global city; home to globally-oriented people, jobs and businesses, and an international gateway with world-class tourism attractions and sustained investment in cultural infrastructure, icons, amenities and public spaces.
 - (ii) The City is committed to being 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.
 - (iii) The City's global orientation and connection will lead to local opportunities and benefits.
20. The Digital strategy provides the overarching framework for digital transformation, guiding the approach we will take and articulating the things we need to consider and achieve to be successful. This report is aligned with the vision for the City's Digital Strategy and its priorities, especially in supporting business to build the skills, knowledge and infrastructure required to thrive in the digital future of Sydney.
21. Participation in events will assist with the City's goals of supporting smart industries, which includes leveraging our international relationships to strengthen knowledge and investment exchange.

Budget Implications

22. The costs of international flights for Councillor Kok, and all local costs in Chongqing and Seoul, will be met by the Chongqing Government and Seoul Metropolitan Government.
23. It is proposed that the cost of any incidentals be met by the City at an estimated maximum cost of \$2,000.
24. Funds are available within existing operational budgets.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

25. The Smart China Expo will be from 25 to 29 August 2019 and the Seoul Friendship Festival will be from 29 August to 1 September 2019.
26. Councillor Kok's travel dates will be from 24 August to 1 September 2019, subject to the availability of flights.

MONICA BARONE

Chief Executive Officer