

# **Attachment A**

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

# REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL – 2019 SMART CHINA EXPO, CHONGQING AND 2019 SEOUL FRIENDSHIP FESTIVAL, SEOUL

Travel report: Councillor Robert Kok

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its meeting on 19 August 2019 Council endorsed that, on behalf of the Lord Mayor, I attended and spoke at the 2019 Smart China Expo in Chongqing, China from 25 to 29 August 2019 and attended the 2019 Seoul Friendship Festival in Seoul, South Korea from 29 August to 1 September 2019.



I arrived in Chongqing on Sunday 25 August and attended a meeting between overseas delegation leaders and Mayor of Chongqing, Mr Tang Liangzhi, who later hosted an evening welcome reception for the Smart China Expo.

On Monday 26 August I attended the opening of the Smart China Expo in the morning, followed by the Big Data and Smart Technology Summit. This Summit was attended by the world's top high technology enterprises including Apple, SAP, Alibaba, Tencent, Xiaomi, and BYD. In the afternoon, I spoke at the Mayor's Roundtable to promote Sydney's smart and sustainable development strategies and then had a media call with Chongqing local media outlets.

On Tuesday 27 August, in my meeting with the Deputy Director of Chongqing Culture and Tourism Commission, Mr Qin Dingbo, we discussed about possibilities for Chongqing delegations to join Sydney Lunar Festival. I then had a meeting with the President of Southwest University, Professor Zhang Weiguo. Professor Zhang was keen for an introduction to the Dean of Conservatorium of Music in Southwest University who was also looking for opportunities to collaborate with Chinese Conservatoriums of Music. My Courtesy Call with the Vice Mayor of Chongqing, Mr Qu Qian, was the highlight of the day. As Vice Mayor Qu's portfolio covers high technology, smart and sustainable industries, and higher education, we discussed opportunities for businesses, especially startups and small/medium size businesses, and how we can support and facilitate the exchanges and opportunities for this industry between our cities.



*COURTESY CALL WITH VICE MAYOR QU QIAN AND HIS COLLEAGUES*

All the official meetings with Chongqing Government were also attended and supported by the Consul General of Australia in Chengdu, Mr Christopher Lim.

On Wednesday 28 August, I was taken on a few site visits including Guanyinqiao Business District, South Mountain Yikeshu Lookout, and the Beibin Road Coastal District.

My trip to Seoul was short but fruitful. Arriving on the night of Thursday 29 August, I was impressed by the vibrant night economy and how much effort the Seoul Metropolitan Government puts in to present a vivid City at night.

In the early morning of Friday 30 August, I visited one of Seoul's most significant redevelopment projects- Seoulo 7017. Also known as the Seoul Skygarden or Skypark, it is an elevated, linear park in Seoul, built atop a former highway overpass. The path is about one kilometer in length and lined with 24,000 potted plants.

I then had a meeting with the Governors Association of Korea in Seoul.

At 11am, Mayor Park received me for a Courtesy Call and then presented me with an Honorary Citizenship of Seoul- a high recognition of Sydney's friendship with local Korean community and businesses. Mayor Park also showed me Seoul's highly advanced smart city governance system.



WORKING IN THE SYDNEY BOOTH IN SEOUL FRIENDSHIP FESTIVAL

My attendance to the Seoul Friendship Festival provided a great opportunity to meet with Seoul local residents and to pass on Sydney's warm welcome. I brought 18kg of City of Sydney materials and the City's pull up banner with me and was present in my City of Sydney Volunteers T-shirt to work a Sydney Booth in the Festival. Our booth was the one of the most popular and all the materials were gone within a few hours.

In the afternoon, I attended the Opening Ceremony and Reception hosted by Mayor Park. After these two events, I left for Sydney in the late afternoon and concluded my intensive and very productive trip on 31 August.

The cost to the City for the seven days travel was only \$132.80 AUD due to the hospitality of the host cities.

## 2. Chongqing

### 2.1 2019 Smart China Expo

The current Mayor of Chongqing, Mr Tang Liangzhi, was the former Mayor of Wuhan who signed our Friendship City Agreement. Under his invitation, I attended and spoke at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Smart China Expo in Chongqing on behalf of the Lord Mayor and Sydney.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Smart China Expo in 2018 attracted 630,000 visitors with an exhibition area of 180,000 square meters. In 2019, to acknowledge Chongqing's strong high-tech innovation industries, China announced Chongqing as the permanent host city for this national level event.

At the 2019 Expo, 530 projects worth over 817 billion yuan (\$168 billion AUD) were signed. 843 businesses and 388 representatives attended with a total exhibition area 210,000 square meters.



*VICE PRESIDENT OF CHINA, MR LIU HE, OPENING THE EVENT*

The event was opened in the morning of Monday 26 August with remarks from the Deputy Premier of China, Mr Liu He. The following summit, Big Data and Smart Technology Summit, was a great opportunity for me to learn about Chongqing and China's smart and high-tech industries and to explore opportunities might benefit our local businesses, especially startups.

A number of entrepreneurs from world leading companies addressed

the event and shared their perspectives to cope with this fast growing smart and digital era. In my conversation with Jack Ma, the founder of Alibaba Group, he briefed me on Alibaba's presence in Sydney and Melbourne and praised Australia's quality business environment. He also commended Sydney's efforts in taking action on climate change, and expressed interest in working with the City in sustainable development and addressing climate change.

Mr Wang Chuanfu, the CEO of world's largest electric vehicle manufacturer, BYD, told me that BYD is working with multiple Australian companies to produce new electric vehicles, especially electric buses for public transportation. I told him Sydney would be happy to welcome opportunities in more eco-friendly transportations and advised him about our George St light rail and electric charging stations in Alexandria.

CEOs and presidents of world leading companies including Apple, UK Telecom, Qualcomm, SAP, Oracle, Ford, and Hyundai also presented at the event.



*WITH MR JACK MA, THE FOUNDER OF ALIBABA*





*SPEAKING IN THE MAYORS' ROUNDTABLE*

The speaking opportunity at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mayors' Roundtable for International Sister Cities of Chongqing aimed not only to promote the City's smart and sustainable development visions and practices, particularly our Digital Strategy, but also to send a welcome to international city and business leaders to collaborate with our local high-tech and innovation businesses, especially startups.

My speech resonated with many other city leaders, who also emphasized the important roles cities playing in facilitating smart industries and serving local communities by offering smart infrastructures. The Deputy Mayor of Brisbane, Clr Krista Adams, shared similar views as well as challenges for Australian cities. According



*VISITING AUSTRALIA PAVILLION*

to 2ThinkNow Innovation Cities Index 5014, Brisbane has been ranked in the top 15% for innovation environment out of 450 cities worldwide. They have also developed a Digital Strategy, under which programs have been delivered including a new Digital Business Power-up program, the Lord Mayor's Budding Entrepreneurs Program, the Coderdojo program, and CLICK! Digital Expo in partnership with Regional Development Australia.

Other sessions including the Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition and Global Digital Economy Summit were also inspiring with many ideas might could be adopted by the City.

In between the conferences, I visited the Australia Booth and congratulated the businesses exhibiting in the Expo for their strong presence.

## 2.2 Courtesy Calls and Meetings

I attended the Courtesy Call hosted by Mayor of Chongqing, Mr Tang Liangzhi, with another 80 international representatives. Later on, I was received by the Vice Mayor of Chongqing, Mr Qu Qian, due to the strong and long lasting relationship between our two cities.

Vice Mayor Qu briefed me on Chongqing's smart and sustainable industries and welcomed Sydney's attendance on behalf of Mayor Tang. Chongqing has a reputation as an innovative city, whose 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. It is the second largest producer of mobile phones worldwide, producing 270 million units last year. He encouraged Sydney high-tech and innovation businesses, especially startups, to consider operating in Chongqing and Chongqing Government would like to provide a series of support and benefits to assist.



**TEAM AUSTRALIA IN MEETING WITH MAYOR TANG. WITH CONSUL GENERAL MR CHRISTOPHER LIM AND DEPUTY MAYOR OF BRISBANE CLR KRISTA ADAMS**



**WITH MR QIN DINGBO AND CONSUL GENERAL MR CHRISTOPHER LIM**

Director General of Chongqing Culture and Tourism Commission, we both agreed to put Sydney Lunar Festival again on the agenda. Our friendship started from Chongqing's successful participation in our Twilight Parade in 2010 with a 400-people delegation. Mr Qin also expressed interest to invite Sydney local indigenous artists to perform in Chongqing festivals. The meeting was also attended by Chongqing based cultural and tourism businesses, which have presented in Sydney.

Professor Zhang Weiguo, the President of Southwest University, proudly introduced the rich history of the University and its high ranking in China and Asia. He specifically requested me to pass their intention to work with Sydney Conservatorium of Music, University of Sydney.

He learnt that Sydney plays a leadership role in sustainable development so then introduced Chongqing's sustainable actions, policies, and practices. Higher education was also an area in which Vice Mayor Qu would like to see more connections between the two cities. 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.

In my meeting with Mr Qin Dingbo, the Deputy



**WITH PRESIDENT ZHANG WEIGUO IN SOUTHWEST UNIVERSITY**

## 2.3 Site Visits

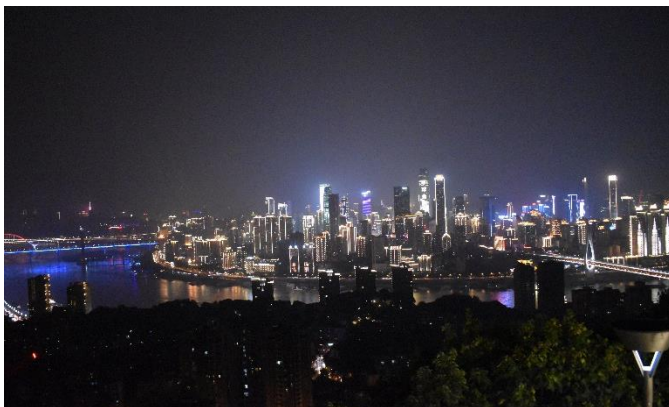
### Guanyinqiao Business District

Guanyinqiao Business District is the name card for Chongqing's night economy. It is the largest pedestrian area in West China, with a 15,000 square meters area, and a daily visitation of 350,000 persons.

I was impressed by the vibrant environment and the convenience it brings to Chongqing residents- shops open until mid-night; restaurants and bars, with live music performances, welcome customers 24/7. The nightlife of Chongqing has become a life style for young people, at the same time brought about 200,000 jobs in the area.

### Beibin Road Coastal District

The Beibin Road Coastal District is part of Chongqing's new development zone, the Jiangbeizui Area. It has the largest shopping mall in Southwest China, the Jinyuan Shopping Centre.



NIGHT IN CHONGQING

The area has now become Chongqing's new business and financial center. It also has a 1km coastal boardwalk as a public recreational area. The Chief Town Planner of Chongqing, Mr Yu Jun, mentioned that Sydney's award winning Pirrama Park inspired them as a role model of place making.

### South Mountain Yikeshu Lookout

Chongqing Cultural and Tourism Commission invited me to visit the Yikeshu

Lookout in South Mountain district- one of the highest point to overlook the North Shore of Yangtzi River.

## 2.4 Media Coverage

Chongqing local media requested media calls during my attendance in the Expo.



IN MEDIA CALL WITH CHONGQING MEDIA

The Chongqing Morning Post focused on my comments on how Sydney and Chongqing could collaborate on smart technology and sustainable development. Hualong News covered the presentation and speech during the Mayor's forum.

The Computer Science Post in Chongqing followed up on collaboration in high-tech startups from the two cities. iChongqing, provided an opportunity for me to promote Sydney and our smart city digital strategy.



### 3. Seoul

#### 3.1 2019 Seoul Friendship Festival

Seoul Friendship Festival is Seoul Metropolitan Government’s largest multicultural event every year and the 2019 Seoul Friendship Festival featured more than 60 friendship and sister cities of Seoul all over the world, who brought performances, food stalls, handcrafts, tourism news, and city and government information to local communities.



SEOUL FRIENDSHIP FESTIVAL

Seoul Mayor Mr Park Won-soon’s speech in our CityTalks in May attracted a lot of attention from media and people in Seoul. Therefore, Sydney’s attendance in this year’s Friendship Festival was seen as a result of Mayor Park’s participation.

To take the best advantage of my short stay, I brought a range of Council materials to introduce and promote Sydney to Seoul residents.

Opened at 11am on the day, our booth was one of the most popular. Although a very hot day, many people visited and our materials were all gone within a few hours.

I took this opportunity to talk to many Seoul residents and to introduce them our City in multiple aspects with face-to-face conversations. Our Sustainable Sydney 2030 was the most popular material that generated most of the questions- Seoul people are very Climate conscious and see Sydney as a leader in sustainable development. Our International Education Action Plan was the other popular policy paper as there are more than 31,000 international Korean students studying in Australia and most of them are living and studying in Sydney.

Many people also shared with me their personal connections with Sydney and Australia, which showed the strong people-to-people connections between our two cities.



SYDNEY BOOTH "SOLD OUT"



## 3.2 Courtesy Calls and Meetings

My Courtesy Call with Mayor Park Won-soon was held in Seoul City Hall.

Mayor Park welcomed me and sent his gratitude to the Lord Mayor for inviting him to speak at our CityTalks. He also thanked me and the Lord Mayor for the long lasting support to Sydney's local Korean community and businesses who see Pitt Street's Korean Town as home.

Mayor Park presented me with Honorary Citizenship of Seoul, a recognition of friendship and support to local Korean community in Sydney, and as someone who "has set an extraordinary example of making efforts for social integration among immigrants from Asian countries living in Sydney".

The statement on the Certificate reads "Seoul presented Mr. Kok with honorary Seoul citizenship with the expectation of his continuous efforts in accomplishing social unification for Asian residents



MAYOR PARK EXPLAINING THE E-GOVERNANCE SYSTEM

in Sydney and playing the role of a mediator to broaden exchanges and cooperation between the cities of Seoul and Sydney."

Sydney has a large Korean community and Korean is the third most spoken Asian language in our Local Government Area.

Mayor Park also showed me the E-governance System of Seoul Metropolitan Government in his office.

After this meeting with Mayor Park, I met with Ms Jinah Kim, the Director, and Ms Maria Kim, Senior Manager, International Cooperation Department, Governors Association of Korea. Their office is in charge of all local government's relationships with Australian cities and their representative office in Sydney has been working with the City for years in promoting relationships between Sydney with Korean cities.

## 3.3 Site Visits

### Seoullo 7017

Through the city's policy *New Spots in Seoul*, Seoul has been introducing new spaces in the City since 2017. Seoul 7017 is one of the sites where the 17-meter high overpass of Seoul Station has been



turned into a pedestrian road. The site consists of 17 walking paths that are connected like a net, and takes in the sights of popular places in Seoul such as Seoul Station, Namdaemun Market, and Malli-dong, leading to the center of history, culture, and shopping.

The small gardens called “Sky Gardens” have 228 species and 66 types of 645 pots installed, with automatic irrigation and inductive drainage system. Throughout the path, there are six stages for busking and performers can apply to use free.

### **Cheonggyecheon Stream Recreational Park**

*VISITING SEOULLO 7017*

Cheonggyecheon is a 10.9-kilometre-long, modern public recreation space in downtown Seoul. The massive urban renewal project is on the site of a stream that flowed before the rapid post-war economic development caused it to be covered by transportation infrastructure. The \$900 million project initially attracted much public criticism but, since opening in 2005, has become popular among residents and tourists.

I have also visited the Seoul’s most popular pedestrian street Insadong and the most historic site Gyeongbok Palace.



*WITH MS KIM JINAH IN CHEONGGYECHEON STREAM RECREATIONAL PARK*