
REPORT 7
(1215/52/IM)

**SISTER CITIES NEW ZEALAND 25TH ANNIVERSARY
CONFERENCE 2006, WELLINGTON, 9-12 MAY 2006 -
“CAPITALISING ON THE GAINS”**

1. Purpose of Report

To provide information on and to seek approval for up to three elected members to attend the ‘Capitalising on the Gains’ Sister Cities New Zealand 25th Anniversary Conference 2006 to be held in Wellington, 9-12 May 2006.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Approve the attendance of up to three elected members at the ‘Capitalising on the Gains’ Sister Cities New Zealand 25th Anniversary Conference 2006 to be held in Wellington from, 9-12 May 2006, and that the costs associated with attending the conference be met from the Elected Members Budget (GVEM01).*
- 3. Note that there is a Strategy and Policy Committee Agenda meeting for 25 May 2006 Strategy and Policy Committee meeting, a Strategy and Policy Committee pre-meeting session and a 2020 Communications trust meeting scheduled on Tuesday 9 May 2006, an Elected Member Session and a Grants Subcommittee meeting scheduled on Wednesday 10 May 2006 and a Strategy and Policy Committee meeting and Tawa Community Board meeting scheduled on Thursday 11 May 2006.*
- 4. Note that a report back on the conference will be presented to the Strategy and Policy Committee in accordance with Council policy.*

3. Discussion

The ‘Capitalising on the Gains’ Sister Cities 25th Anniversary Conference will celebrate the founding of Sister Cities New Zealand, including the first sister city relationship between Hastings and Guilin, China and also the 50th Anniversary founding of the worldwide sister city movement. Although the conference will have a strong Chinese and wider Asian focus, the conference will feature a range of speakers and several workshops.

The workshops include:

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| ‘Our Stories’ A panel of presentations highlighting a cross section of relationships over the past 25 years. |
| ‘What we’ve learned – Sister City Best Practice’ Four concurrent workshop sessions focusing on arts and culture, youth and children, business and education. |
| ‘My Vision of Sister Cities in 25 Years’ Panel presentation by young New Zealand Councillors (under the age of 30). Sharing their vision for the future of Sister Cities in New Zealand. |
| ‘Learning from Others’ Panel Presentation: Learning from other agencies who have developed superb cultural and business exchange programmes – how we can learn from their experiences and knowledge? |
| ‘Technical Co-operation at a Municipal Level’ A presentation of examples of technical liaison and cooperation resulting from Sister Cities relationships |
| ‘Looking Forward – More than Cultural Exchange?’ An informal and entertaining panel interview in the style of a TV interview show, hosted by a leading New Zealand journalist and commentator |

Speakers include:

- Mayor of Wellington, Kerry Prendergast
- Hon Jim Sutton, Minister of State
- Representative from the Wellington Sakai Association
- Mr Rob Kuiti, Principal of Titahi Bay Intermediate School
- Representative from Education Wellington International
- Incoming President of Sister Cities New Zealand
- Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba, Hiroshima, Japan

- There will also be offsite tours held before and after the conference.

The attached information is copied from the registration brochure and provides information and details of speakers and topics.

3.1 Considerations

When deciding whether up to three elected members should attend this conference, consideration should be given to:

- the cost; and
- the impact of attendance on the budget; and
- the other conferences elected members may wish to attend later in the financial year.

The total cost if three elected members are selected is expected to be \$2531.25 and will be met from the conference budget.

The cost of attendance is broken down as follows:

| Item | Cost (\$NZD) |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Registration | \$843.75 |
| Total | \$843.75 |

The impact on the budget of three elected members attending this conference is outlined in Table One.

Table One:

| | 2005/2006 Budget | Year to Date Expenditure | Unexpended Funds |
|--|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Total budget for conference fees, accommodation and travel | \$34,000 | ¹ \$25,511.73 | \$8488.27 |
| Impact of sending three elected members to the conference | \$2,531.25 | \$28,042.98 | \$5957.02 |

4. Conclusion

A decision is required as to whether the Strategy and Policy Committee should approve the attendance of up to three elected members at the 'Capitalising on the Gains' Sister Cities New Zealand 25th Anniversary Conference 2006 to be held in Wellington from, 9-12 May 2006.

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1. The attendance of 1 Councillor at the National Housing Conference at a cost of \$2823.00
The attendance of two Councillors at the New Zealand Cycling Conference at a cost of \$500
The attendance of 8 Councillors at the Urbanism Down Under conference at a cost of \$3500.00
The attendance of 1 Councillor at the Lord of the Regions Conference at a cost of \$1325.00
The attendance of 2 Councillors at the TRAFINZ conference at a cost of \$1380.00
The attendance of 4 Councillors at the Local Government New Zealand conference at a cost of \$7980.00
The attendance of 2 Councillors at the NZ Recreation Conference at a cost of \$1687.50
The attendance of 1 Councillor at the UNESCO Combating Racism Conference in Bangkok, Thailand at a cost of \$3891.94
The attendance of 1 Councillor at the NZ Planning Institute Conference, in Australia at a cost of \$2424.29
The attendance of 2 Councillor at the Climate Change and Governance Conference in Wellington at no cost.