SISTER CITIES CONFERENCE

2019

PROSPERITY THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

INFORMATION PACK

CONFERENCE & FUNCTION CENTRE
PALMERSTON NORTH, NEW ZEALAND
21-23 MARCH 2019
Mayor’s Message

Kia Ora,

Kia Ora, As the Mayor of Palmerston North City, I’m delighted to be hosting the 2019 Sister Cities New Zealand National Conference. Home to world-class businesses, research and education institutes, Palmerston North is humming with international activities and networks. This makes us one of the most diverse, multicultural regional cities in New Zealand. New Zealand cities and regions are increasingly committed to driving communities to thrive in a global marketplace. So our chosen theme for the 2019 conference is “Prosperity through Partnership”, exploring the many ways that cities and regional centres have a role in supporting international connectivity, trade, business and innovation. The conference will have a strong economic development focus, an emphasis on practical outcomes, and include a range of national and international speakers. This event will be made even more special and prominent by its timing with Palmerston North’s international Festival of Cultures, which is attended by thousands from around our region every year. I warmly invite you to join us at this valuable national event.

Grant Smith,
Mayor of Palmerston North City

President’s Message

Nau mai, Haere mai,

Nau mai, Haere mai, The aim of Sister Cities New Zealand (SCNZ) is to foster international understanding and friendship between NZ cities, and to encourage the exchange of ideas, knowledge, culture, tourism and trade. At its core, the Sister City movement was established to promote world peace and prosperity through intercultural understanding and acceptance – a notion that is just as important today as it ever was. At this conference, Mayors, Ambassadors, city officials, businesses and community groups will come together and roll up their sleeves to share knowledge and unpack the same question – how do we make the most of our international partnerships and global city-to-city networks? These days this extends beyond the traditional Sister City model to topics like economic alliances, strategic partnerships and cross-border projects. The SCNZ Board welcomes you this event and to support our wider mission as we unlock the potential of our valuable international partnerships.

Hiromi Morris,
President of Sister Cities New Zealand
What is the SCNZ Conference?

The Sister Cities New Zealand (SCNZ) conference is an annual meeting of mayors, elected members, local and central government officials, and community leaders, to discuss, learn and exchange best practice on international cooperation at a local level.

‘Sister Cities’ or ‘Friendship Cities’ are the traditional terms for these city partnerships, but the conference openly examines all forms of city and regional international relations, including strategic city partnerships and projects, economic alliances and participation in international city networks.

At their core, all these types of international city partnerships seek the same thing: cross-border communication and cooperation to achieve mutual benefits. They create a channel for the exchange of ideas, people, and materials across a range of cultural, economic, educational, youth, sports, municipal, professional, and technical projects.

The SCNZ organisation provides a network for New Zealand cities to join knowledge and forces to make the most of these international partnerships and support an NZ Inc. approach to global engagement.
Conference Objectives

- For SCNZ members and delegates to deepen their knowledge of the context and opportunities of international economic, education, environmental and cultural cooperation
- For SCNZ members to exchange knowledge, ideas and tools for managing their international city partnerships more effectively
- For cities and SCNZ members to discuss the revised report on the ‘Economic Benefits of International City Partnerships for New Zealand’, and how to apply best practice to their own city partnerships
- For Palmerston North to welcome our international partner city guests, showcase the best of our city, and deepen mutually beneficial cooperation across all relationships

Who will be attending?

Local government:
Mayors, councillors, CEO’s, council officials

Diplomatic Corps:
Ambassadors, High Commissioners, diplomatic staff

Central government:
National agencies such as MFAT, LGNZ, MBIE and NZTE

International visitors:
Including the Japan Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR), Chinese Association for Friendship for Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) and the cities of Missoula (USA) and Mihara (Japan)

Business and Trade:
Economic Development Agencies, Chambers of Commerce, and other business leaders, owners and managers with an international interest

Universities and schools:
Senior leadership, educators, staff and volunteers

Community leaders:
Sister City Trusts, community boards/committees, youth leaders

Why attend?

- Unlock international opportunities and overcome challenges by sharing knowledge and best practice through the sessions.
- Profile what you are achieving with your global partner cities, and be in for an Air New Zealand SCNZ Award if you’re a member...
- Create valuable networks with leaders and policy makers from local and central government and the diplomatic corps.
SCNZ Conference Agenda

Thursday 21 March - Conference Day 1

From 9am Registration desk open

11am Mihi & Karakia / Opening presentations - NZIER report launch

12pm Lunch

1pm Session 1: The contribution of global city partnerships to NZ Economic Development and Foreign Affairs

2pm Session 2: 2019 China NZ Year of Tourism – opportunities for Sister cities

2:45pm Afternoon tea

3:15pm Session 3: Regional Forums – break into regional groups for collaboration discussions

4:15pm Walk to next venue

4:00pm Palmerston North Sister City displays & presentations

5:00pm - 7:00pm Welcome reception and tour of the New Zealand Rugby Museum Welcome by Hiromi Morris and Japanese Ambassador Kobayashi: Celebrating the 2019 Rugby World Cup via Japan/NZ Sister Cities

Friday 22 March - Conference Day 2

From 8am Registration Foyer

9am Session 4: “Strategy to action” - Presentations on the development and implementation of new city international relations frameworks

Session 5: Workshops – topics include:
- Emergency management
- Trade & Business
- International education
- Community engagement & exchange
- Youth development

10am Break Gallery Room

11am Session 5 continued: Workshop report back & conference discussion

11.30am Session 6: International environmental cooperation and knowledge exchange

12:30pm Lunch Gallery Room

1:30pm Session 7: Māori and Indigenous exchange via Sister Cities – Cultural, educational and business opportunities

2:30pm Session 8: Practical tools and resources
- 2020 Olympics Host town initiative and 2021 World Masters Games – CLAIR presentation
- 2020 China NZ Mayoral Forum update
- 2020 Sister City NZ conference

3:00pm Session 9: Mayoral panel – The evolution of Sister Cities & local government international relations

3:45pm Break Gallery Room

4pm SCNZ AGM

Networking reception Council Link Span

6 - 9pm Dinner guests arrive from 6pm SCNZ Annual Dinner & Air NZ Awards evening

Saturday 23 March - Community Forum: Prosperity Through Cultural Diversity

9.30am Opening address: MP Priyanca Radhakrishnan Elwood Room

9:40am Keynote speaker: Collaboration through Successful Intercultural Communication – Dr Udo Fluck (Missoula, Montana, USA) Elwood Room

10:10am School & Community presentations

10:50am Light morning tea refreshments

11:10am Korero 2019 – Youth dialogue

12.30pm Closing remarks

All conference guests free to enjoy the Festival of Cultures in The Square
Registration Rates

The electronic conference registration form can be accessed on the Sister Cities New Zealand website page under the “events” tab.

Full Registration Rates (includes Awards Dinner)*

$750+ GST – Member - Council & Corporate (early bird, until Friday 1 March 2019)
$850+ GST – Member - Council & Corporate (standard rate, after Friday 1 March 2019)
$500+ GST – Member - School, Community, or Individual
$850+ GST – Non-Member (early bird, until Friday 1 March 2019)
$950+ GST – Non-Member (standard rate, after Friday 1 March 2019)
$300 – Students (ID required)

Single Day Registration Rates (does not include Awards Dinner)*

$300+ GST – Member (21 March)
$300+ GST – Member (22 March)
$150+ GST – Member (23 March)
$400+ GST – Non-Member (21 March)
$400+ GST – Non-Member (22 March)
$200+ GST – Non-Member (23 March)

Student Rates
$100 (21 March)
$100 (22 March)
Free student entry for 23 March

Awards Dinner

$100+GST – Single Awards Dinner Pass
Accommodation Options

SCNZ has pre-arranged a number of suggested accommodation options all within short walking distance of the conference venue. These options will have special discounts for Conference attendees, although you are free to pick your own accommodation options as well.

**Distinction Palmerston North**

- **$179 – Tower Superior Rooms** - Room only
- **$199 – Tower Superior Rooms** - Plus bed and breakfast based on occupancy
- **$165 – Tower Standard Twin Rooms** - Room only
- **$185 – Tower Standard Twin Rooms** - Plus bed and breakfast based on occupancy

Address: 175 Cuba Street, Palmerston North  
Phone: 06 355 5895  
Email: reservations@distinctionpalmerstonnorth.co.nz  
Website: www.distinctionhotelspalmerstonnorth.co.nz

**Copthorne Hotel Palmerston North**

- **$145 – Superior Single Rooms** - Room only (single occupancy)  
- **$165 – Superior Single Rooms** - Plus bed and breakfast (single occupancy)  
- **$165 – Superior Double/Twin Rooms** - Room only (double/twin occupancy)  
- **$185 – Superior Double/Twin Rooms** - Plus bed and breakfast (double/twin occupancy)

Address: 110 Fitzherbert Avenue, Palmerston North  
Phone: 06 356 8059  
Email: copthorne.palmerston@millenniumhotels.co.nz  
Website: www.millenniumhotels.com

For Reservations: Phone or email directly to the hotel and quote Sister Cities New Zealand Conference.  
Note: all quotes include GST.
Conference Venue

Conference & Function Centre
354 Main Street,
Palmerston North

Key Contact

For any enquiries please contact:

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