



Meeting December 2, 2024

COMMITTEE COVER REPORT

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND FRIENDSHIP CITIES COMMITTEE

TO: *MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: 2025 OFFICIAL SISTER AND FRIENDSHIP CITIES VISIT TO JAPAN,
SOUTH KOREA, AND TAIWAN**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT a delegation of Council be authorized to visit Kushiro, Japan, Hwaseong, South Korea, and Taichung, Taiwan; and

THAT representatives from the Burnaby business community, Tourism Burnaby, Burnaby Board of Trade, Burnaby Board of Education, Simon Fraser University, and British Columbia Institute of Technology be invited to participate in the Official Sister Cities and Friendship City visit.

REPORT

The International Relations and Friendship Cities Committee, at its meeting held on July 23, 2024, received and adopted the attached report seeking approval for a delegation of Council to visit Sister Cities Kushiro, Japan and Hwaseong, South Korea, and Friendship City Taichung, Taiwan.

The report has not appeared on Council agenda immediately after the July 23, 2024, International Relations and Friendship Cities Committee meeting due to Standing Committee appointments, Acting Mayor schedule, and budget considerations.

At its meeting held on November 18, 2024, the International Relations and Friendship Cities Committee received correspondence from the City of Kushiro, Japan, informing the Committee of the preferable dates for delegation of the City of Burnaby to visit the City of Kushiro. The Committee agreed that there is a need to amend the report to reflect the updated travel dates and delegation destinations.

Based on correspondence received from the City of Kushiro, the Committee agreed to change the delegation travel dates from March 2025 to September 2025 to accommodate visiting the City of Kushiro during the “Kushiro Tairyō Donpaku” event, which will take place on September 13 and 14, 2025.

The Committee further inquired about the cost breakdown per delegate to visit Japan only, Japan and Korea, and Japan, Korea and Taiwan, to assess delegation destinations.

The estimated cost per delegate is summarized in the table below:

	Japan (7 days)	Japan & Korea (11 days)	Japan, Korea & Taiwan (14 days)
Economy Class	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,100	\$ 2,500
Premium Economy Class	\$ 3,000	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500
Business Class	\$ 4,000	\$ 8,500	\$ 8,500
Accommodations	\$ 1,750	\$ 2,750	\$ 3,500
Meals	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,600	\$ 2,000
Total	\$ 2,750	\$ 4,350	\$ 5,500
Total via Economy Class	\$ 4,750	\$ 7,450	\$ 8,000
Total via Premium Economy Class	\$ 5,750	\$ 8,850	\$ 10,000
Total via Business Class	\$ 6,750	\$ 12,850	\$ 14,000

Other additional estimated costs are summarized in the table below:

	Japan (7 days)	Japan & Korea (11 days)	Japan, Korea & Taiwan (14 days)
Ground Transportation	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 15,000
Hosting Dinner	\$ 8,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 24,000
Token of Appreciation	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 6,000
Total	\$ 15,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 45,000

The report with the additional context above now appears before Council for approval.

On behalf of the International Relations
and Friendship Cities Committee,

Councillor P. Calendino
Chair

Councillor J. Wang
Vice Chair

TO: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND FRIENDSHIP CITIES
COMMITTEE (IR&FCC)

FROM: DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AND CHIEF
FINANCIAL OFFICER

SUBJECT: **2025 OFFICIAL SISTER AND FRIENDSHIP CITIES VISIT TO
JAPAN, SOUTH KOREA, AND TAIWAN**

PURPOSE: To seek approval for a delegation of Council to visit Sister Cities
Kushiro, Japan and Hwaseong, South Korea, and Friendship City
Taichung, Taiwan.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT a delegation of Council be authorized to visit Kushiro, Japan, Hwaseong, South Korea, and Taichung, Taiwan;

THAT representatives from the Burnaby business community, Tourism Burnaby, Burnaby Board of Trade, Burnaby Board of Education, Simon Fraser University, and British Columbia Institute of Technology be invited to participate in the Official Sister Cities and Friendship City visit.

1.0 POLICY SECTION

The City of Burnaby maintains Sister and Friendship City relationships that meet the goals and objectives of Burnaby's International Relations and Friendship Cities Program.

Sister City and Friendship City visits support the following City policies: Climate Action Framework; Official Community Plan; Community Safety Plan; Transportation Plan; Economic Development Strategy; Environmental Sustainability Strategy; Housing and Homelessness Strategy; and Social Sustainability Strategy.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Burnaby has a strong tradition of international sister and friendship city relationships. Sister and friendship cities have intrinsic long-term benefits for the community, like spreading economic and cultural awareness.

2.1 Kushiro, Japan

The Sister City relationship between Kushiro, Japan and Burnaby began in 1965.

2.2 Hwaseong, South Korea

The Sister City relationship between Hwaseong, South Korea and Burnaby began in 2010.

2.3 Taichung, Taiwan

The Hi-Tech City Declaration between Taichung, Taiwan and Burnaby was signed in 2007 and the Friendship City relationship between the two cities began in 2009.

3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

2025 marks the sixtieth anniversary of the Sister City relationship between the City of Burnaby and Kushiro, Japan, the fifteenth anniversary of the Sister City relationship between the City of Burnaby and Hwaseong, Korea, and the sixteenth anniversary of the Hi-Tech City Declaration between Taichung, Taiwan, and Burnaby.

At its meeting on January 11, 2024, the International Relations and Friendship Cities Committee requested that staff investigate planning a visit to Kushiro, Japan, Hwaseong, South Korea, and Taichung, Taiwan in 2025.

4.0 COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable.

5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

It is at Council’s discretion on the dates to travel to Asia. There has been an invitation for Council to attend the Taipei/ Kaohsiung Smart City Summit & Expo, which for 2025 takes place from March 18 to 22. As a result, the Committee may recommend that Council send a delegation to Asia in March 2025.

The estimated cost per delegate is summarized in the table below for 15 days:

Estimated Cost per Delegate	
Airfare (Premium Economy Class Air – Business Class)	\$8,500 - \$11,000
Accommodations	\$4,500
Meals	\$2,000
Total	\$15,000 - \$17,500

Other additional estimated costs are summarized in the table below:

Estimated Cost	
Ground Transportation	\$15,000
Hosting Dinner	\$25,000
Tokens of Appreciation	<u>\$6,000</u>
Total	\$46,000

International Relations activities have previously been budgeted from the Gaming Reserve. Should Council authorize the delegation, the budget required would be included as a commitment against the Gaming Reserve during the 2025-2029 Financial Planning process. Approval is required in advance of the 2025-2029 Financial Plan Bylaw, which will be presented to Council early in 2025, so that staff are able to start planning the trip and make necessary travel arrangements.

Respectfully submitted,
Noreen Kassam, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer and Chief Financial Officer

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 - Kushiro, Japan, Sister City Agreement
- Attachment 2 - Hwaseong, Korea, Sister City Agreement
- Attachment 3 - Taichung, Taiwan, Friendship City Agreement
- Attachment 4 - Smart City Expo Invitation Letter
- Attachment 5 - Smart City Expo Dates

AGREEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
SISTER
RELATIONSHIP

BETWEEN

THE CITY OF KUSHIRO
& THE DISTRICT OF BURNABY

The District of Burnaby in the Province of British Columbia, Canada, and the City of Kushiro in Hokkaido, Japan, shall strive for industrial, economic and cultural exchange, and at the same time, with the sincere desire to promote friendship between the two cities, shall endeavour to promote international goodwill
between Canada and Japan

With the firm belief that it will contribute towards the peace of the world, we do hereby pledge to cooperate one with the other as
SISTER CITIES

Dated this ninth day of September
nineteen hundred and sixty-five



Reeve of the District of Burnaby, Province
of British Columbia, Canada

A. H. EMMOTT

A. H. Emmott

Mayor the City of Kushiro,
Hokkaido, Japan

TAKEO YAMAMOTO

Takeo Yamamoto



**OFFICIAL SISTER CITY AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
CITY OF BURNABY, PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA
AND
HWASEONG CITY, GYEONGGI DO PROVINCE, REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

WHEREAS the City of Burnaby, Province of British Columbia, Canada and Hwaseong City, Gyeonggi Do Province, Republic of Korea signed a Letter of Intent on July 24, 2008 as well as a Memorandum of Understanding on March 24, 2010 agreeing to develop friendly relations between the two cities; and

WHEREAS since 2008, both cities have had the opportunity to work towards fostering respect, mutual understanding, and meaningful connections between each other through the exchange of ideas and valuable information; and

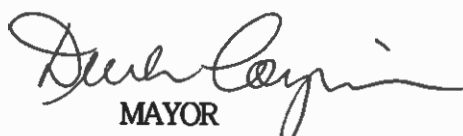
WHEREAS these discussions have resulted in the City of Burnaby and Hwaseong City agreeing to become Sister Cities for the purposes of:

- establishing projects, international exchanges and joint learning opportunities in the areas of economic development, education, sports and cultural awareness
- promoting peace through mutual respect and understanding and building lasting friendships between our people.

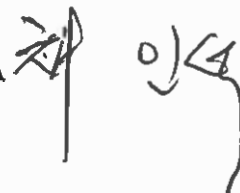
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, on this historic occasion being the 28th day of September, 2010 and in the spirit of friendship and cooperation, the City of Burnaby and Hwaseong City respectfully enter into an official Friendship City relationship; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT two copies of this official Friendship City Agreement be presented in both the Korean and English Language and signed by representatives of the City of Burnaby and Hwaseong City.

September 28, 2010


MAYOR
CITY OF BURNABY
CANADA

MAYOR
HWASEONG CITY
REPUBLIC OF KOREA





**FRIENDSHIP DECLARATION
BETWEEN
CITY OF BURNABY, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA
AND
TAICHUNG CITY, TAIWAN, REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

WHEREAS the City of Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada and Taichung City, Taiwan, R.O.C. signed a Hi-Tech Cities Declaration on June 8th, 2007 acknowledging the value in supporting hi-tech industries and technology cooperation between the two cities; and

WHEREAS in the spirit of friendship and goodwill, Mayor Derek Corrigan and Officials from the City of Burnaby are visiting Taichung City for the purpose of further pursuing business relations between the two cities and to establish a friendship declaration; and

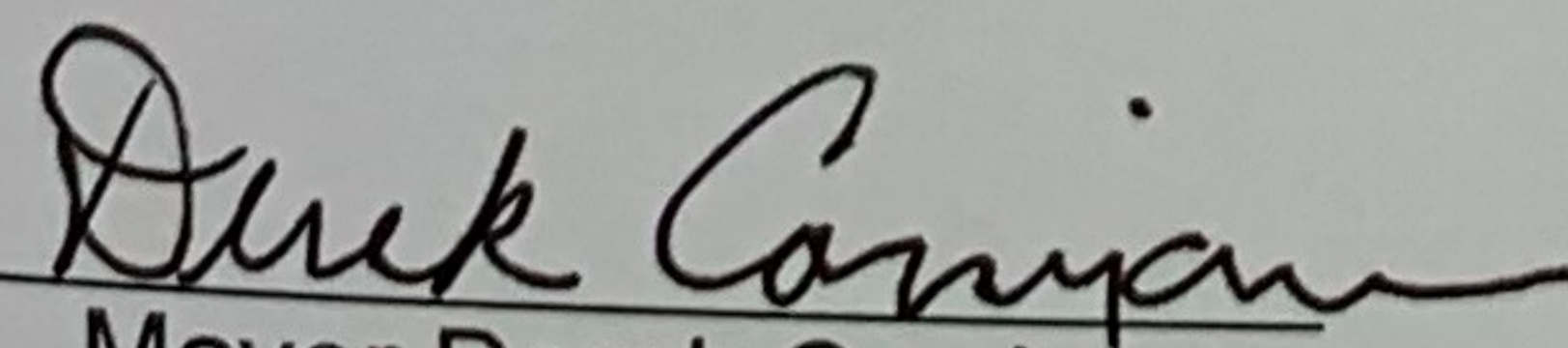
WHEREAS a friendship declaration between the City of Burnaby and Taichung City will promote communication and sharing of information on matters of mutual benefit such as arts and culture, tourism, education, industry and economy, and the environment; and

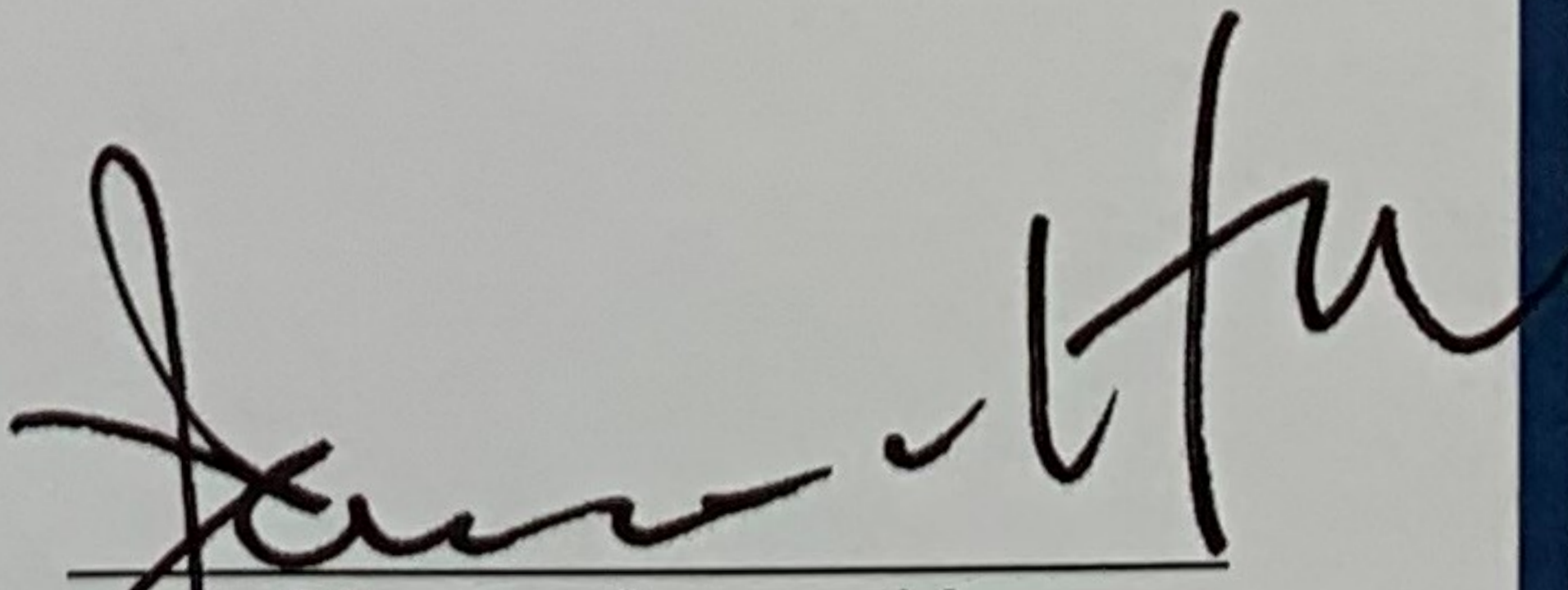
WHEREAS to sustain the success of the friendship declaration, the City of Burnaby and Taichung City will encourage visits between the citizens of both cities including government officials, manufacturing and business leaders, education officials, and other interested organizations and individuals; and

WHEREAS the friendship declaration shall have four official copies; two (2) in the English language and two (2) in the Mandarin language.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada and Taichung City, Taiwan, R.O.C. enter into a declaration of friendship for the purpose of strengthening ties between the two cities and to promote ongoing dialogue on matters of mutual interest and benefit.

DECLARED AT THE CITY OF
TAICHUNG
ON THE 22ND DAY OF MAY, 2009.


Mayor Derek Corrigan
City of Burnaby, British Columbia
Canada


Mayor Jason Hu
Taichung City, Taiwan
Republic of China

駐溫哥華台北經濟文化辦事處
Taipei Economic & Cultural Office, Vancouver

SUITE 2200, 650 WEST GEORGIA STREET
VANCOUVER, B.C., CANADA V6B 4N7
TEL: (604) 689-4111 FAX: (604) 689-0101

December 7, 2023

His Worship Mike Hurley
Mayor
City of Burnaby
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby, BC V5G 1M2

Dear Mayor Hurley:

On behalf of the Government of Taiwan, I would like to cordially invite you to visit the Smart City Summit & Expo (SCSE), which will be taking place in Taipei and Kaohsiung from the 19th to the 23rd of March, 2024. With a wide range of innovative forums and B2B sessions, SCSE has served as a convener, a facilitator and a matchmaker for the global IoT sector for over 10 years.

As Taiwan is undertaking many programs to reduce its carbon footprint and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, a “Net-Zero City Leaders Summit” will serve as the cornerstone for the upcoming SCSE. The summit will enable municipal leaders around the world to gather and exchange ideas on how cities can leverage innovations to create renewable and sustainable urban environments. Given that Burnaby is taking bold climate action, I am confident your visit will pave the way for more cooperation between your city and municipalities in Taiwan for a cleaner and greener future. As a case in point, last year’s Net-Zero Summit saw more than 300 city delegates and 27 mayors in attendance.

If you are planning to attend the Net-Zero City Leaders Summit along with other SCSE programs, event organizers will be able to provide accommodation for 4 nights during exhibition period and reimburse your round-trip flight ticket; please refer to the attachment for the full set of details. Should you have additional questions or thoughts on this, please feel free to contact my colleague Jacob Hsia (nthsia@mofa.gov.tw).

I look forward to the opportunity of having you at SCSE in 2024.

Sincerely yours,



Lihsin Angel Liu
Director General

2024 Smart City Summit & Expo



Mar.19 Tue - **22** Fri Taipei Nangang Exhibition Center Hall 2

Mar.21 Thu - **23** Sat Kaohsiung Exhibition Center



SCSE
smartcity.org.tw

Digital and Green Transformation