

4. MAYORESS'S OVERSEAS TRAVEL



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The purpose of this report is to seek funding for the Mayoress, Pam Sharpe, to accompany Mayor Garry Moore to Japan and Korea from Saturday 2 August 2003 until Saturday 16 August 2003.

Christchurch has a strong Sister City link with Kurashiki in Western Japan. The link between Christchurch and Kurashiki is not only New Zealand's longest-standing Sister City relationship, but is also extremely active. This year is the 30th Anniversary of this link. As part of the 30th Anniversary celebrations, the Christchurch/Kurashiki Sister City Committee is promoting many commemorative activities and exchanges between the two cities.

The Mayor will lead a goodwill mission of City Councillors, Community Board members, Sister City Committee members, Council staff and Christchurch citizens who have an interest in Kurashiki, to Kurashiki to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Sister City Link.

The Mayors of Nagasaki and Hiroshima have personally invited the Mayor and Mayoress to make official visits to their cities on the respective anniversaries of the bombing of those two cities and in the case of Nagasaki, to attend the memorial service of the bombing of Nagasaki. An invitation is expected from the Mayor of Hiroshima, to the memorial service of the bombing of Hiroshima.

The Mayor will also make a four day visit to our Sister City Songpa-Gu, in Seoul, Korea. This will be the first visit to Songpa-Gu by a Mayor of Christchurch since the establishment of our Sister City relationship eight years ago. A number of Songpa-Gu Mayors have visited Christchurch, and there has long been an expectation in Songpa-Gu that the Mayor of Christchurch should support the Sister City link with a reciprocal visit, and they welcome this planned visit.

It is appropriate for the Mayoress to accompany the Mayor to represent Christchurch at these significant occasions. The Mayor's travel costs can be accommodated within the Mayor's travel budget. The cost of the travel and accommodation for the Mayoress would be approximately \$5,000.

Most of the on-ground costs in Kurashiki and Songpa-Gu will be met by the host cities. The Mayoress's costs will be approximately:

Airfare - Christchurch/Kurashiki/Seoul return	\$2,388
7 day rail pass	\$686
Accommodation Hiroshima/Nagasaki six nights	\$1,600

TOTAL	\$4,674

As funds are available within the Mayor's travel fund to meet the Mayoress's travel costs the Committee supported above request.

Recommendation: That the Council meet the cost of the Mayoress's travel, as outlined above.