

6. MAYORAL VISIT TO WUHAN AND GANSU

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Public Affairs, DDI 941-8637
Officer responsible:	Marketing Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to report back to the Council on the Mayoral delegation visit to Wuhan City and Gansu Province in China 10–17 April 2007.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Christchurch established a Friendly City relationship with Gansu Province in China in 1984, and in 2006 the Christchurch City Council signed a Friendship/Strategic relationship with Wuhan in the Hubei Province.
3. Since the inception of both relationships there have been many projects and programmes initiated to bring closer cultural and economic ties between Christchurch and each of Wuhan and Gansu.
4. The April 2007 Mayoral visit was undertaken to celebrate the first anniversary of the signing of the Friendship/Strategic relationship with Wuhan and also assist Education Christchurch and Canterbury and the University of Canterbury build stronger education connections under the banner of the two relationships. The Education Delegation included the first ever secondary student exchange programme between Christchurch and Wuhan. A total of 12 students stayed on home stay and joined in with school classes while in Wuhan. Two teachers supported the students and nine other teachers carried out specifically targeted marketing programmes with 'sister' schools in Wuhan. Vice Chancellor Roy Sharp joined the Mayoral Delegation and he signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Chinese University of Geosciences during his visit.
5. The visit to Wuhan included the following formal meetings:
 - Signing of a Vocational Agreement between Education Christchurch and Wuhan Education Board.
 - Formal discussion with Ambassador Tony Browne, New Zealand's Ambassador to China and Mayor Li, Mayor of Wuhan.
 - Visit, presentation and formal meeting with Huazhong University of Science and Technology – Wuchang Branch (HUST WB).
 - Visit, presentation and formal meeting with Number 1 Middle School attached to the central China Normal University.
 - Visit, and Memorandum of Understanding signing at the Chinese University of Geosciences.
 - Media conference and Official Opening of the Te Papa Exhibition "New Zealand – New Thinking", which has been funded by New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE) to visit four major cities in China.
 - Media Conference and speech at the Schools Cultural Performance in Wuhan.
6. The visit to Gansu included the following formal meetings:
 - Courtesy call and discussion with the Vice Governor of Gansu Province.
 - Visit and formal meeting with the Cadre Training Centre for discussion on potential links for training Local Government Managers at the University of Canterbury.
 - Visit to the Provincial Museum.
 - Visit and meeting with Director of the Lanzhou University to discuss possible connections with Universities in the Christchurch region.

7. This visit built on the existing relationships between Christchurch and Wuhan. The existing relationships include connections involving the University of Canterbury, Lincoln University, Canterbury Development Corporation, Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce, Education Christchurch and Canterbury, Crop & Food CRI and the New Zealand Racing Industry Board.
8. The visit to Gansu Province opened the door for University of Canterbury Opportunities to work with training organisations in Lanzhou to provide Administration Training programmes for local government experts from Gansu.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. There are no direct financial considerations

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2006-16 LTCCP budgets?

10. Covered by existing unit budgets.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

11. There are no legal considerations.

Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

12. There are no legal implications.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

13. Volume 1, page 117 of the LTCCP, level of service under Economic Development.

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2006-16 LTCCP?

14. As above.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

15. Yes, Prosperous Economy and Strong Communities.

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

16. Not applicable.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

17. Not applicable.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council receive this report and the oral report to be presented by Mayor Garry Moore.