

**Report to the Council**

**Agenda item 6.9**

**Proposed travel by Councillor Louey:  
Osaka, Japan 28 August to 1 September 2018**

**Council**

**Presenter:** David Livingstone, Manager International and Civic Services

**31 July 2018**

**Purpose and background**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for the Chair, Prosperous City portfolio, and City of Melbourne appointee to the Business Partner City (BPC) Network, Councillor Louey, to travel to Osaka, Japan to participate in the BPC network Roundtable 2018, 28 August to 1 September.
2. The City of Melbourne has been a member of the BPC network since 1999 and has participated in each annual roundtable since. The secretariat of the BPC network is the Osaka City Municipal Government, one of the City of Melbourne's most important global partners. Melbourne and Osaka's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of sister city relations is being commemorated in 2018. The BPC network consists of 13 other economically important Asia Pacific cities that Melbourne maintains significant connections with, such as Shanghai and Tianjin in China and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam.

**Key issues**

3. With its theme of '*Creation of Business Innovation and Strengthening of International Competitiveness*', participation in the BPC Roundtable will provide the City of Melbourne with an opportunity to:
  - 3.1. promote the City of Melbourne's international interests through key city partners across the Asia-Pacific region
  - 3.2. showcase Melbourne's strengths as a global centre of innovation
  - 3.3. nurture and leverage an important regional network.
4. Additional meetings will be sought with the cooperation of our contacts at the Australian Consulate-General in Osaka (Austrade) and the Victorian Government Trade and Investment Office in Tokyo. These additional meetings will provide the City of Melbourne with an update on market developments and opportunities for trade and investment for Melbourne businesses (proposed itinerary at Attachment 3).
5. Melbourne and Osaka have a history of close engagement in the health and life sciences sectors and are developing closer links relating to startups and urban design. These connections have gained significant momentum through the 2018 Business Mission to Japan in March 2018, including valuable leads that could be incorporated into the BPC network travel program to good effect.
6. The Mayor of Osaka, Mr Hirofumi Yoshimura, plans to visit Melbourne with a business delegation from 16-20 December 2018 to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Participation in the Roundtable will also provide the Councillor an important opportunity to discuss the visit.
7. It is proposed that a member of the International and Civic Services Branch accompany the Councillor to provide high level support to the visit.

**Recommendation from management**

8. That Council:
  - 8.1. Approves City of Melbourne's participation in the 2018 BPC Roundtable in Osaka, Japan.
  - 8.2. Nominates Councillor Louey's travel to Osaka to participate in the Roundtable and stakeholder meetings for the period 28 August to 1 September 2018.
  - 8.3. Approves an amount of up to \$6300 to cover the travel costs, including: business class airfare \$4600, accommodation \$600 (three nights including three breakfasts) and \$1065 to cover meals and incidentals (three days at \$355 per day).
  - 8.4. Notes that Councillor Louey will prepare a report to the Future Melbourne Committee or Council within 60 days of return from travel.

**Attachments:**

1. Supporting Attachment (page 2 of 10)
2. Information on the Roundtable (page 3 of 10)
3. Proposed travel itinerary (page 9 of 10)

**Supporting Attachment**

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**Finance**

1. The estimated cost of the proposed travel to Osaka for the Councillor would be \$6300 which includes business class airfare \$4600, accommodation \$600 (three nights including three breakfasts) and \$1065 to cover meals and incidentals (three days at \$355 per day). These costs will be met from within the approved 2018–19 overseas travel budget.

**Conflict of interest**

2. No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a direct or indirect interest in relation to the matter of the report.

**Relation to Council policy**

3. The Director City Economy and Activation has confirmed that the travel proposal accords with the requirements of the travel guidelines outlined in the Councillor Expenses and Resources Guidelines.
4. Participation in the 2018 BPC in Osaka will contribute to achieving Council Plan Goal: 'A Prosperous City' which seeks to position Melbourne as the destination of choice amongst international and local business and enterprise by excelling in its ability to nurture a vibrant economy for those who work, live, study, visit and invest. It also pursues the business approach outlined in 'Melbourne: Doing Business Globally' (endorsed by Council November 2014) which guides Council's international activities to deliver business development opportunities that increase exports and inward investment.

**Environmental sustainability**

5. The carbon emission resulting from air travel to Osaka will be offset with the purchase of credits.



# *Business Partner City Roundtable 2018 Osaka*

*Date : August 30th (Thu),2018* (Overall Schedule : From August 29th (Wed.) to 31st (Fri.))

*Host : City of Osaka*

*Osaka Business Partner City Council*





## Business Partner City (BPC) Roundtable 2018 Osaka



### (1) Overview

- 1. Name:** Business Partner City (BPC) Roundtable 2018 Osaka
- 2. Date:** August 30th (Thu), 2018  
\* Overall Schedule : From August 29th (Wed.) to 31st (Fri.)
- 3. Venue:** Hyatt Regency Osaka
- 4. Organizer:** City of Osaka  
Osaka Business Partner City Council
- 5. Theme:** “Creation of Business Innovation and Strengthening of International Competitiveness in Business Partner Cities”
- 6. Participants (tentative):** Representatives from Business Partner City
- <Hong Kong> Hong Kong Trade Development Council
  - <Singapore> Enterprise Singapore
  - <Bangkok> Thai Chamber of Commerce
  - <Kuala Lumpur> City Hall Kuala Lumpur  
Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation
  - <Manila> Manila City Hall  
Department of Trade & Industry Philippines, Foreign Trade Service Corps
  - <Jakarta> Jakarta Chamber of Commerce & Industry
  - <Seoul> The Korea Chamber of Commerce & Industry
  - <Shanghai> Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce
  - <Ho Chi Minh> People’s Committee of Ho Chi Minh City
  - <Mumbai> IMC Chamber of Commerce and Industry
  - <Melbourne> City of Melbourne  
Australian Industry Group
  - <Tianjin> Tianjin Commission of Commerce
  - <Auckland> Auckland Regional Chamber of Commerce
  - <Osaka> City of Osaka  
Osaka Business Partner City Council
- 7. Language:** English (Simultaneous Interpretation)
- 8. Official Hotel :** Hyatt Regency Osaka
- 9. Secretariat:** Osaka Business Partner City Council (BPC Council)  
Masahiro Arita (Mr.) / Gunes Ustuner (Ms.)  
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**(2) Overall Schedule (Tentative)**

**Wednesday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

- 18:00-18:45     **Osaka City Innovation Tour**  
Venue:         Osaka Innovation Hub (OIH) ~ The Lab. @Grand Front Osaka  
Attendee:     BPC Roundtable participants
- 19:00-20:00     **BPC Roundtable Welcome Dinner**  
Host:         City of Osaka, Osaka Business Partner City Council  
Venue:         Japanese Restaurant “Wagokoro Shunsai” in Umeda Sky Building  
Attendee:     BPC Roundtable participants
- 19:00-20:30     **Night City Tour to Umeda Sky Building**  
Venue:         Umeda Sky Building (The Floating Garden Observatory)  
Attendee:     BPC Roundtable participants

**Thursday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

- 9:30-11:45     **BPC Roundtable 2018 (Morning Part)**  
Theme:         “Creation of Business Innovation and Strengthening of International  
Competitiveness in Business Partner Cities”  
Venue:         Hyatt Regency Osaka “Regency-E”  
Program:     Opening~ Presentation from each BPC  
Attendee:     BPC Roundtable participants etc.
- 12:00-13:30     **BPC Networking Luncheon**  
Host:         Osaka Business and Investment Center (O-BIC)  
Venue:         Hyatt Regency Osaka Italian Cuisine “Basilico” (Planned)  
Attendee:     BPC Roundtable participants  
Business delegations from BPC etc.  
✓ Briefing on investment promotion by O-BIC is scheduled during the luncheon.
- 13:45-15:00     **BPC Roundtable 2018 (Afternoon Part)**  
Theme:         “Creation of Business Innovation and Strengthening of International  
Competitiveness in Business Partner Cities”  
Venue:         Hyatt Regency Osaka “Regency-E”  
Program:     Free Discussion ~ Wrap-Up  
Attendee:     BPC Roundtable participants etc.
- 15:30-16:30     **BPC Business Seminar**  
Program:     TBD  
Venue:         Hyatt Regency Osaka “Regency-B”  
Attendee:     BPC Roundtable participants etc.

16:45-18:00

**World EXPO 2025 Promotion Tour**

Venue: Osaka Prefectural Government Sakishima Building  
Attendee: BPC Roundtable participants etc.

13:30-17:00

**Business Matching Event (Concurrent Event)**

Host: City of Osaka  
Venue: Hyatt Regency Osaka “Crystal Ballroom”  
Attendee: Business delegations from BPC  
Japanese Businesses

18:30-20:30

**BPC Roundtable Networking Reception**

Host: City of Osaka, Osaka Business Partner City Council  
Venue: Hyatt Regency Osaka “Salon Panorama”  
Attendee: BPC Roundtable participants, Business delegations from BPC,  
Officials from City of Osaka and related organizations, Business  
Meeting participants, Officials from foreign diplomatic offices  
located in Japan etc.

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| <b>Friday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018</b> |
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9:00-11:30

**Osaka Bay Area Tour (Option)**

Venue: INTEX Osaka (G20 Summit 2019 Venue) ~  
National Institute of Technology and Evaluation (NITE)  
Attendee: BPC Roundtable participants

## **BPC Roundtable 2018 Osaka Theme**

### **“Creation of Business Innovation and Strengthening of International Competitiveness in Business Partner Cities”**

#### Point of presentation and discussion

- Initiatives and measures for the creation of innovation in Business Partner Cities
- Strengths and success stories of each city in creation of innovation
- Issues and challenges for the creation of innovation

#### **Overview of the theme:**

This year marks the commemorative 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the founding of the Business Partner City (BPC) Network. Over the past 30 years, the Asia-Pacific region has experienced the active promotion of trade and investment liberalization along with the facilitation of multilateral trade and introduction of foreign investments. These developments not only stabilized the economic foundation but it also stimulated rapid economic development in the Asia-Pacific region. Presently, as the driving force of global economic growth, this region has continued to lead the world economy. We anticipate that the Asia-Pacific will retain its position as the world’s most dynamic region for the coming years.

Despite the rapid economic growth, each country and region face new issues and challenges such as labor shortage influenced by the declining birthrate and aging population as well as decreased population, income gaps, poor economic and social infrastructures, environmental problems, resource and energy problems, new infectious diseases, increased needs for disaster-prevention and anti-terror measures. Furthermore, the global market has entered the ‘fourth industrial revolution’ where cutting-edge technologies such as the “Internet of Things (IoT),” “Big Data,” “Artificial Intelligence (AI),” and “robotics” will become catalysts that propel economic growth.

Hereafter, as social and economic environments undergo accelerated changes and the world becomes more globalized, the creation of new ideas and values, or so-called “creation of innovation,” will be essential in resolving the various issues mentioned above and also in obtaining new business opportunities. It may be no overstatement to say that the creation of innovation will play a key role for the future sustainable growth in the Asia-Pacific region.

‘Start-up entrepreneurs’ are expected to fulfill a substantial part in the creation of innovation. In the era of the fourth industrial revolution that is connected with the creation of new businesses and social reforms, the technological revolution will not be solely defined by the technologies developed by major companies. The world’s leading economies have high expectations for technologies and services invented by start-up entrepreneurs. These very entrepreneurs who take on challenges flexibly, boldly and promptly will help advance new growth.

In this meeting, with “innovation” as the keyword, we would like to share information on each city’s initiatives, issues and challenges for the creation of innovation. This will correlate with the aims of raising international competitiveness and making regions capable of continuously evolving and growing through the establishment of innovation-friendly environments in business partner cities. Let us take this opportunity to reflect how business partner cities can collaborate by exploring various perspectives and angles.



## Proposed Itinerary for Councillor to attend BPC Roundtable 2018 in Osaka

29 August - 1 September 2018

| Day                         | Time          | Activity   | Notes   |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--|---|
| <b>Wednesday, 29 August</b> | 13:00         | Arrival at Kansai International Airport  |   |
|                             | 14:30         | Arrival at Hyatt Regency Hotel, Osaka  |   |
|                             | 16:30         | Site visit to Umekita Phase 2 Project and meeting.   | Demonstration of progress with Umekita development project. Discussions around possible collaborations.   |
|                             | 18:00         | Business Partner City (BPC) Roundtable Innovation Tour   | Tour of significant innovation sites, including Grand Front Osaka, Osaka Innovation Hub and 'The Lab'.  |
|                             | 19:00 – 20:00 | BPC Roundtable Welcome Dinner<br><br>Venue: Wagokoro Shunsai restaurant.   |   |
|                             | 20:00 – 21:00 | Night City Tour<br><br>Venue: Umeda Sky Building   |   |
| <b>Thursday, 30 August</b>  | 9:30 – 12:00  | BPC Roundtable Session 1<br><br>Theme: Creation of business innovation and strengthening of international competitiveness in business partner cities.<br><br>Venue: Hyatt Regency Osaka – Room "Regency E" | The session will include presentations by BPC participants.   |
|                             | 12:00 - 13:30 | BPC Networking Luncheon  | Opportunity for Cr to pursue discussions with key partner cities (such as Tianjin, Kuala Lumpur, Seoul) to further projects we are promoting with those cities. |
|                             | 13:45 – 15:00 | BPC Roundtable Session 2   | Free discussion and wrap up of recommendations and key learnings.   |

|                                  |                      |   |   |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|---|---|
|                                  | <b>15:30 – 16:30</b> | BPC Business Seminar  | Presenter TBA   |
|                                  | <b>16:45 – 18:00</b> | World Expo 2025 Promotion Tour<br>Venue: Osaka Prefectural Government Sakishima Building  | The bid for the 2025 Expo is a major priority for Osaka City and Prefectural governments.   |
|                                  | <b>18:30 – 20:30</b> | BPC Roundtable Networking Reception<br>Venue: Hyatt Regency Osaka – Room “Salon Panorama” | This reception will include BPC Roundtable participants and business delegates. It will attract the most senior representation from Osaka City and other stakeholder organisations. Likely to be attended by Mayor Yoshimura. |
| <b>Friday,<br/>31 August</b>     | <b>9:30 – 11:30</b>  | Site visit to INTEX Osaka   | Large battery storage test evaluation facility. The visit will highlight work done to retrofit ageing event sites with modern low-emission and energy saving technologies.  |
|                                  | <b>12:00 - 13:30</b> | Lunch with Australian Consul-General in Osaka   |   |
|                                  | <b>PM</b>            | TBC   |   |
|                                  | <b>Dinner</b>        | Dinner with key industry figures  | Daibiru and Sumitomo are two major global construction firms that have expressed interest in connecting with Melbourne.   |
| <b>Saturday,<br/>1 September</b> | <b>TBC</b>           | Depart Kansai International Airport   |   |