

Report to the Future Melbourne Committee

Agenda item 7.1

Proposal to travel by Councillor Cathy Oke, CBD COP13, Mexico, December 2016 and ICLEI Board meeting, Germany, January 2017

22 November 2016

Presenter: Councillor Cathy Oke

Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Future Melbourne Committee approval for Councillor Cathy Oke to participate in the following:
 - 1.1. The 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP13), 5 to 12 December 2016 to be held in Cancun, Mexico.
 - 1.2. The 5th Global Biodiversity Summit of Cities and Subnational Governments - a parallel event to CBD COP13
 - 1.3. The ICLEI e.V. Board Meeting and Membership Assembly of the World Secretariat to be held in Bonn, Germany, 23 to 27 January 2017 at the invitation from ICLEI WS Secretary General, Gino Van Begin.
2. Councillor Oke is Council's representative on ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) and the City of Melbourne is the host city for the ICLEI Oceania regional office. Councillor Oke is Chair of the Regional Executive Committee (RexCom), ICLEI Oceania representative on the Global Executive Committee (GexCom) and holds the position of GexCom Biodiverse City Portfolio Chair. Councillor Oke is also the President of the Membership Assembly and of the Board of ICLEI World Secretariat, based in Bonn Germany.

Key issues

3. City of Melbourne is currently at an early stage of embedding biodiversity planning into policy and practice. Participation at CBD COP13 presents an unparalleled opportunity to gain access to emerging knowledge, innovation and best practice in urban biodiversity. It will also provide an opportunity to rapidly develop a range of relevant networks to support the implementation of the City's draft Urban Ecology and Biodiversity Strategy.
4. Formal representation by City of Melbourne at CBD COP13 will enable us to also showcase Melbourne as a centre of excellence for urban forestry, and the role that urban ecology and biodiversity plays in climate resilience.
5. Councillor Oke has been invited to host a range of high level events during the COP13 and side events. This includes, in her capacity as Chair of ICLEI's Biodiverse City Portfolio, hosting, chairing and participating in a program of commitments including those outlined in Attachment 2.
6. Melbourne will also be invited to lead a new global initiative around nature in our cities – and Cr Oke's attendance will allow us to take the chair of this community of practice, enhancing the city's reputation in collaborative approaches to sustainability.
7. Attending CBD COP13 will also enable Councillor Oke to promote the 2017 World Ecocity Summit, Melbourne to highly select international audiences and stakeholders. The City of Melbourne is host and major sponsor of this event, with both Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood and Councillor Oke holding key positions on the 2017 World Ecocity Summit Advisory Committee.
8. As a result of her attendance at CBD COP13, Councillor Oke has also been invited to author the global ICLEI iNews foreword. This will serve as a valuable opportunity for Councillor Oke to highlight the City of Melbourne and promote the City of Melbourne's urban ecology initiatives to ICLEI global networks.
9. Costs associated with participation in CBD COP13 will be jointly funded between Council and ICLEI. Participation in the Assembly in Bonn will be at no cost to Council. A copy of the invitation is included as Attachment 3.

Attachment:

1. Supporting Attachment
2. Overview of key activities
3. Letter of invitation ICLEI Secretary General

Recommendation

10. That the Future Melbourne Committee
 - 10.1. Approves Councillor Cathy Oke's participation in the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP13) in Cancun, Mexico from 5 to 12 December 2016 and the 5th Global Biodiversity Summit of Cities and Subnational Governments.
 - 10.2. Approves an amount of up to \$AUD 3900 to cover airfare and incidental costs.
 - 10.3. Approves Councillor Oke's proposal to travel to Bonn, Germany to attend an ICLEI e.V. Board Meeting and Membership Assembly between 23 and 27 January 2017 at no cost to Council
 - 10.4. Note that Councillor Oke will prepare a report to the Future Melbourne Committee or Council within 60 days of return from travel.

Supporting Attachment

Finance

1. The costs associated with Councillor Oke's travel to Mexico will be jointly funded by ICLEI and the Council. ICLEI is contributing approximately \$AUD4531.00 towards airfare and accommodation costs. The cost to Council will be approximately \$AUD3900 to cover airfare and incidental costs.
2. The estimated cost of the proposed travel will be met from the existing budget allocation.
3. The cost associated with travel to Germany will be funded by ICLEI.

Conflict of interest

4. 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

5. The Manager Governance and Legal has confirmed that the travel proposal accords with the requirements of the travel guidelines outlined in the Councillor Expenses and Resources Guidelines.
6. Participation at the Conference supports Council advancing delivery of Eco-City, Knowledge, Connected and Prosperous City goals.
7. Participation at the Conference supports City of Melbourne's Urban Forest Strategy, Open Space Strategy and draft Urban Ecology and Biodiversity Strategy.

Environmental sustainability

8. The carbon emission resulting from air travel to attend the Forum will be offset with the purchase of credits.

DRAFT Itinerary & briefing: Dr Cathy Oke

Convention on Biological Diversity's 13th Conference of the Parties

5th Global Summit of Cities & Subnational Governments

DRAFT Itinerary & briefing: Dr Cathy Oke

7 December

ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center Side Event:

Nature-based Solutions for Thriving Urban Communities ID: 2170

13:15

Venue: Asia and the Pacific Regional Group Meeting room, Sunrise Building, Second Floor

CIlr Oke to host and chair the side event

9 December

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Planning Interactive Session

Venue to be announced

09:30 – 13:00

Stakeholder engagement on NBSAP development that incorporated local and sub national governments

ICLEI is running a workshop with the CBD on NBSAP guidelines for incorporating local and regional actions into NBSAPs. We are inviting you to participate with your technical and city experience.

All 195 parties of the CBD have committed to developing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). As cities and subnational governments are increasingly recognised for their pivotal role in implementing NBSAPs at the specific subnational level, mechanisms for mainstreaming their contributions is critically needed.

15:00 – 17:00	ICLEI – Biodiversity "Community of Practice" meeting
	Venue to be announced
	<p>Cllr Oke's active participation is welcomed, and Melbourne will be invited to act as the lead city (to discuss) for the "Nature4Cities" community of practice.</p> <p><i>ICLEI is gathering interested parties and delegates to create a global community of practice. The purpose of the meeting is to gain input and perspectives from the group and determine the interest and need for such a community. This is an open meeting to discuss the revival of a platform for cities to engage with SCBD, ICLEI and other partners to encourage collaboration, coordination and cooperation for joint initiatives.</i></p>

18:00 – 21:00	VIP High Level Roundtable
	Venue to be announced
	<p>Cllr Oke to co-chair the evening with the Governor of Quintanaroo.</p> <p><i>You are invited to the VIP High Level Roundtable for a small group of mayors, governors, national party delegation heads and other political representatives (all three tiers of government).</i></p> <p><i>The meeting will include a meet-and greet, discussion and review of the Summit Declaration, followed by a light cocktail dinner.</i></p>

10 December

09:00 – 10:00	Summit Opening Plenary 1
	Venue to be announced
	<p>Welcome to the Cities Summit on behalf of ICLEI and present the objectives</p> <p><i>Building on the themes of the CBD COP 13's focus on mainstreaming biodiversity into productive sectors, this Summit provides cities, states and other sub-national entities with a unique and globally recognised platform to engage directly with Parties, each other and other stakeholders identifying, recognising and promoting the key and pivotal and complementary roles they fulfil in meeting global targets and ambitions.</i></p>

10:00 – 11:00	Plenary 2 - High level plenary
	Venue to be announced
	<p>Cllr Oke to represent ICLEI with a 6 minute speaking slot from a global cities perspective</p> <p><i>Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been adopted by national governments. However, SDGs are fundamentally relevant to local and city level actors for vertical and horizontal integration of biodiversity. City and regional level action is one of the most critical climate</i></p>

resilience and adaptation measures across the world.

11 December

09:00 – 10:30

Session 7C: Cities & Regions: Drivers for Innovation

Venue to be announced

Cllr Oke to present an overview of urban biodiversity initiatives from the City of Melbourne.

The role of cities and regions towards the management and conservation of biodiversity through creative and innovative actions and the implications these strategies and actions have for sustainability and climate resilience.

11 December

11:00 – 12:30

Launch of new initiatives

Venue to be announced

Cllr Oke is requested to support ICLEI with the new initiatives launched

Cities in Biodiversity Hotspots (IKI)

Friends of Cities - Based on the previous Global Partnership, this event presents a platform for cities to engage with SCBD, ICLEI and other partners to encourage collaboration, coordination and cooperation for joint initiatives.

Nature4Cities

12:30- 13:15

Closing plenary

Venue to be announced

Cllr Oke to represent ICLEI by concluding the Cities Summit.



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Secretary General

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Legally represented by
ICLEI e.V., Bonn

09 November 2016

ICLEI is the leading global network of more than 1,500 cities, towns and regions committed to building a sustainable future.

Invitation to visit the ICLEI World Secretariat in January 2017

Dear Councillor Cathy Oke,

In your capacity as President of the ICLEI e.V. Board, I am pleased to invite you to visit the ICLEI World Secretariat in Bonn, Germany, from 23 – 27 January 2017. This would be a welcome opportunity to discuss developments of the ICLEI e.V. and the details of your role as President of the ICLEI e.V. Board.

During the time of your anticipated visit, we will aim to hold an ICLEI e.V. Board Meeting and an ICLEI Membership Assembly meeting.

I confirm that the ICLEI World Secretariat will cover your travel and accommodation expenses.

We hope that you will be able to accept this invitation and look forward to welcoming you at our offices in Bonn. Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Gino Van Begin'.

Gino Van Begin
Secretary General