

## Report to Council

Agenda item 7.1  
26 March 2019

### Post travel report by Councillor Philip Le Liu: Participation in the 10<sup>th</sup> World Chinese Economic Summit, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, November 2018

**Presenter:** Councillor Philip Le Liu

#### Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Council on the outcome of travel undertaken by Councillor Philip Le Liu at the 10th World Chinese Economic Summit (Summit) held in Kuala Lumpur in November 2018.
2. On 30 October 2018 Council approved the proposal for Councillor Le Liu to attend the Summit and to participate in Session 1 'Renewable Energy and Climate Change – Revolutionizing and Sustaining our Changing Planet'
3. The Summit's aim was to enhance connectivity and business linkages between China and Southeast Asia, and China and Europe. The Summit has been previously held in Malaysia, China, Australia and the United Kingdom, and is an international platform for business, trade facilitation and investment to build new partnerships.

#### Key issues

4. The theme for the 2018 Summit was 'Towards a common future: Enhancing new opportunities in a changing world', and the program comprised an outstanding array of speakers including world leading captains of industry, former heads of state, current and past ministers, trade and business experts.
  - 4.1 Councillor Le Liu participated in Session 1 'Renewable Energy and Climate Change- Revolutionizing and Sustaining our Changing Planet' where he took the opportunity of promoting Council's vision of climate mitigation aiming to ensure the economic impacts of climate change are managed.
  - 4.2 Key observations included: the main levers for action are converting to renewable energy sources; improving the quality of energy consumption from buildings; and reducing the impact of transport and waste.
5. Attachment 2 provides a summary of key activities and outcomes associated with Councillor Le Liu's participation in the Summit.
6. The cost of Councillor Le Liu's participation was jointly funded by Council and the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute.
7. Councillor Le Liu had also received approval by Council on 30 October 2018 to participate in a Victorian delegation to the New Year Music Festival and Trio Mundi Performance in Chengdu and Mianyang cities in late December 2018 and early January 2019, however he was unable attend.

#### Recommendation

8. That Council notes the report by Councillor Philip Le Liu on participation in the 10th World Chinese Economic Forum held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in November 2018.

#### Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment (Page 2 of 6)
2. Summit - Summary of key observations (Page 3 of 6)

## Supporting Attachment

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### Finance

1. The travel undertaken by Councillor Le Liu was jointly funded by Council and the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (Institute) and comprised of the following:
  - 1.1 The Institute covered an economy airfare (\$1298AUD), accommodation for three nights (\$201AUD), ground transfers (\$107AUD).
  - 1.2 Cost to Council included sustenance and local transport (\$283AUD).

### 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.

### Occupational Health and Safety

3. The travel advice of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade was noted and appropriate safety and awareness precautionary steps were undertaken.

### Relation to Council policy

4. 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.
5. Participation in the Summit supported efforts and objectives aimed at fostering global business relationships and investment attraction. It also supports the principles that underpin Council's *Melbourne: Doing Business Globally*, which seeks to increase trade and investment opportunities for businesses from Council's international activities.
6. Participation in the Summit also provided the opportunity to promote Melbourne's leadership in environmental and sustainability programs.

### Environmental sustainability

7. The carbon emissions resulting from air travel were offset with the purchase of credits.

**Summary of key highlights and insights 10<sup>th</sup> World Chinese Economic Summit**

**1. Background**

**Questions asked by the panellists: Session 1 - *Renewable Energy and Climate Change- Revolutionizing and Sustaining our Changing Planet***

What are the opportunities involved in growing sector?

What are the ways a government can facilitate the deployment of renewable energy?

What are the new business opportunities from clean energies?

What can businesses do to mitigate the challenge of climate change?

Consider in the context of

- China is at the centre of global energy transformation, which is being driven by technological change and the falling cost of renewable
- China's economy shifting towards service and consumption-led growth

Councillor Le Liu participated in the panel discussion and promoted Melbourne's credentials.

There were genuine interests around handling of waste and wanting to know more about our 'smart bins'.

Few people have visited Melbourne and looking for local collaborations.

In the morning session, Prime Minister of Malaysia Yang Amat Berhormat Tun Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad spoke about the need for multiculturalism and that Malaysia should represent all diversities, not cater to just a few. He also spoke about the need to come together and to move forward.

Councillor Le Liu was able to briefly have a conversation with the Prime Minister after the speech and extended an invitation to visit Melbourne in the future.

In the evening session, Yang Berhormat Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim (MP) spoke about his vision for Malaysia and reflected on his journey in politics.

Councillor Le Liu also briefly spoke to him and welcomed him to visit Melbourne in the future.

Councillor Le Liu visited some tourism sites and noted how such sites were being used by the community groups to engage with young people. On this particular day, an artist was teaching young people how to use the tourism site as the creative subject.

## 2. Session Program

### **Renewable Energy and Climate Change – Revolutionizing and Sustaining our Changing Planet**

As Donald Trump pulls out of the Paris climate change agreement, China seizes the opportunities of Renewable Energy Technology. China is at the centre of a global energy transformation, which is being driven by technological change and the falling cost of renewables. But China is not just investing in renewables and phasing out coal. It also accounts for a growing share of global energy demand, meaning that its economy's continuing shift toward service- and consumption-led growth will reshape the resource sector worldwide. What are the opportunities and challenges involved in growing sector? What are the ways a government can facilitate the deployment of renewable energy? What are the new business opportunities from clean energy? What can business do to mitigate the challenge of climate change?

#### **Moderator:**

- **Prof. Dr. Kriengsak Chareonwongsak**  
Ex-Prime Ministerial Advisor, Senior Fellow  
Harvard University & Chairman Nation-Building  
Institute, Thailand

#### **Panellists:**

- **Cr. Craig Chung**  
Councillor, City of Sydney
- **Tan Sein-Way**  
Chairman & CEO, Green World City  
Organization, Sydney
- **Cr. Philip Le Liu**  
Councillor, City of Melbourne

## 3. Photos - Summit



**Councillor Phillip Le Liu and other Panel Members at the session *Renewable Energy and Climate Change – Revolutionizing and Sustaining our Changing Planet***



**Summit delegates**



**The Hon Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia**



**Yang Berhormat Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim (MP) speaking at the gala dinner and award presentation ceremony**



#### 4. Photos - Living Arts Culture Festival.

Held in the largest shopping mall in Kuala Lumpur, the idea was to expose many of the international tourist and shoppers to local culture while they are taking a break and at the same time make them stay longer.

