

Report to Council

Agenda item 7.2

Post travel report by Councillor Kevin Louey, Participation in the 3rd Global Conference on the Cantonese, China, November 2017

12 December 2017

Presenter: Councillor Kevin Louey

Purpose and background

1. To report to the Council on the travel undertaken by Councillor Kevin Louey to Jiangmen, China to participate in the 3rd Global Conference (Conference) of the Cantonese in November 2017.
2. On 8 November 2017, the Lord Mayor approved the urgent travel proposal by Councillor Louey to represent the City of Melbourne at the Conference of the Cantonese whilst on private travel to Jiangmen, China.
3. The Conference was jointly hosted by the Global Association of the Cantonese, Jiangmen Municipal Committee, Bureau of Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs of Jiangmen Municipality and the Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese of Jiangmen Municipality.
4. The costs associated with Councillor Louey's travel were privately funded.

Key issues

5. More than 2300 overseas Cantonese citizens, government officials, business representatives and attendees from over 70 countries attended the conference. A delegation from Melbourne was also represented.
6. Conference deliberations included discussions on the *Twenty-first Century Maritime Silk Road Strategy* which seeks to establish an interconnected network of ports and manufacturing zones across the Indo-Pacific.
7. Conference participants also discussed ventures in infrastructure, high-tech manufacturing, urban construction, culture, agriculture and tourism, both in China and abroad.
8. In May 2017, a television station from the City of Jiangmen visited Melbourne and interviewed Councillor Louey on his role as a Councillor. During the conference a follow up interview was held where Councillor Louey discussed the City of Melbourne's international strategy; *Melbourne: Doing Business Globally*, including the upcoming 2018 Lord Mayor's Business Mission to Japan and China.
9. During the Conference, Councillor Louey met with representatives from the Sino-Europe (Jiangmen) SME International Co-operation Area Service Centre who provide hot-desking and business support services to a number of businesses including Deloitte, KPMG, PWC, Accenture and BP. During the meeting with Councillor Louey, they extended an offer for the City of Melbourne and Melbourne businesses to also use these services.
10. At the conclusion of the Conference it was announced that Sydney will be the host of the 4th Global Conference of the Cantonese, to be held in 2020.

Recommendation

11. That Council notes the report by Councillor Kevin Louey on his participation in the 3rd Global Conference of the Cantonese whilst on private travel to China in November 2017.

Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment (page 2 of 2)

Supporting Attachment

Finance

1. Councillor Louey's travel was privately funded and there was no cost to Council.

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 Manager of Governance and Legal has confirmed that the travel accords with the requirements of the travel guidelines outlined in the Councillor Expenses and Resources Guidelines.
4. Engagement with officials from the City of Jiangmen in China supports the City of Melbourne's efforts in fostering global business relationships and investment attraction.

Environmental sustainability

5. There are no environmental sustainability impacts associated with the recommendation in this report.
6. The carbon emission resulting from air travel to attend the program will be offset with the purchase of credits.