Sister City Programs and International Partnerships

The Sister City Movement commenced internationally shortly after the Second World War during the United States Eisenhower Administration.

Having recognised the damage that was done to diplomacy during the Second World War, Eisenhower established a plan to involve all levels of society in citizen diplomacy in the hope that personal relationships fostered through Sister City Agreements and country and state affiliations, would lessen the chance of future world wars by promoting international peace and goodwill.

Traditionally, Sister City relationships focused on cultural and education exchanges.

Nowadays, they have the ability to stimulate economic growth, increase tourism and assist in establishing reliable business contacts which can create long-term benefits to the local community and partners abroad.

They also enable communities to exchange ideas, gain an international perspective and increase their understanding of global issues.

Social and cultural exchanges between Sister Cities break down intercultural barriers and promote diversity which encourages openness, tolerance and mutual understanding, all of which enrich our community and those of our international partners.

Today, cities across Australia currently have 500 Sister City affiliations throughout the world.

The City of Gold Coast (City) currently has 12 active International Partnerships and five inactive Sister City Agreements, all of which have helped shape the Gold Coast as a city of global significance by fostering successful business and cultural ties through initiatives that include two-way trade missions, hosting inbound delegations, and staff and student exchanges.

City of Gold Coast's International Partnerships

The City currently has Sister City Agreements with the following cities:

- Beihai, China
  Since 1997
- Dubai, United Arab Emirates
  Since 2001
- Fort Lauderdale, United States of America
  Since 1980
- Noumea, New Caledonia
  Since 1992
- Taipei, Taiwan
  Since 1982
- Taichung, Taiwan
  Since 1992
- Takasaki, Japan
  Since 1995
- Zhuhai, China
  Since 2012

The City currently has one active Friendship Agreement with the following region:

- Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan
  Since 1990

The City has one active Agreement of Friendship & Cooperation with the following city:

- Jining, China
  Since 2014

The City currently has two active Letter of Intent to Establish a Friendly City Relationship with the following cities:

- Chengdu, China
  Since 2014
- Wuhu, China
  Since 2015

The City currently has four inactive Sister City Agreement with the following cities:

- Corfu, Greece
- Horowhenua, New Zealand
- Netanya, Israel
- Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

The Queensland Government participates in bilateral Sister State arrangements with the following governments:

- Province of Central Java, Republic of Indonesia
- Province of Gyeonggi, Republic of Korea
- Prefecture of Saitama, Japan
- Municipality of Shanghai, People's Republic of China
- State of South Carolina, United States of America
- State of Texas, United States of America.

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