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20 March 2019

TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
FROM: SENIOR PROJECT OFFICER
RE: NERIMA 25TH ANNIVERSARY INVITATION TO CITY OF IPSWICH

INTRODUCTION

This is a report concerning an invitation by Nerima City to the City of Ipswich to attend the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of Sister City relations and represent Ipswich at the Urban Agriculture World Summit from 29 November and 1 December 2019.

RELATED PARTIES

Nerima City Government, Tokyo, Japan.

ADVANCE IPSWICH THEME LINKAGE

Strengthening our local economy and building prosperity.

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

Nerima is a special ward in Tokyo, Japan. The ward refers to itself as Nerima City and has an estimated population of 721,858 with 323,296 households. Key industries of Nerima include agriculture, defence, tourism and animation.

The City of Ipswich has had a Sister City relationship with Nerima City since 1994, making Nerima Ipswich's oldest standing Sister City and 2019 the 25th anniversary of the agreement. Both signatories have undertaken active initiatives during this time including:

- Nerima Gardens – Queens Park including the first permanent tea house in Queensland. Nerima have also gifted suitable items for this tea house.
- Nerima City community groups provided support during the 2011 Ipswich floods, holding a fundraiser with proceeds going directly to the Ipswich Flood Appeal. This initiative was co-ordinated by the Nerima City Office.
- Education exchanges (students and Nerima Board of Education annual visits).
- Book exchanges (Ipswich Library).
- Sporting exchanges (Western Pride).
- Regional promotional activities (tourism).

- Ipswich Festival and Christmas Wonderland support (cultural).

The next Nerima Board of Education delegation visit is scheduled for July 2019, coordinated by Education Queensland International and supported by Ipswich City Council.

The last Ipswich outbound delegation to visit Nerima City was 15 to 20 October 2014 to commemorate the 20 year Sister City anniversary.

The Mayor of Nerima City, Akio Maekawa, has written to the Interim Administrator inviting delegates from Ipswich to participate in a number of activities within Nerima from 29 November to 1 December 2019 (Attachment 1).

Nerima City officials have proposed a schedule of engagements including attendance at the Urban Agriculture World Summit.

The Office of Economic Development believes there are opportunities to develop the relationship further through active trade and investment discussions focused on priority Ipswich industries including agricultural production, manufacturing, defence supply chain, education, tourism and smart city solutions.

It is further recommended that invitations to participate in the delegation be extended to leaders from relevant industries, companies, associations and community groups. Participation would be managed through a qualified expression of interest process and all costs would be borne by the participants.

A complete activity schedule would be developed by the Office of Economic Development with Nerima City Government, Trade and Investment Queensland and Austrade.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The Office of Economic Development would be responsible for overall project management, liaison with all stakeholders, research, delegation briefings, logistics, budget, comprehensive follow up reporting and recommended actions in accordance with the Economic and Workforce Development Plan.

Nerima city officials have advised that internal transfers, meals and interpreter fees will be provided by their government. Ipswich City Council will be required to provide their own airfares, transfers (to and from airports) and accommodation. Nerima officials will assist with recommending appropriate accommodation.

It is recommended that two council representatives attend, being the Chief Executive Officer and an Economic Development Officer. Estimated expenses for this outbound delegation would be approximately \$10,000.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Failure to appropriately recognise the 25th anniversary of Sister City relations would put the relationship between the City of Ipswich and Nerima City at risk of failure and damage Ipswich's reputation in international relations.

LEGAL/POLICY BASIS

This report and its recommendations are consistent with the following legislative provisions: *Local Government Act 2009*.

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

Consultation has been undertaken with

- Ipswich City Council, Office of the Interim Administrator
- Nerima City Government (International and Domestic City Exchange)
- Trade and Investment Queensland
- Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade)

CONCLUSION

The Mayor of Nerima City has formally invited the City of Ipswich to join in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of Sister City relations and represent Ipswich at the Urban Agriculture World Summit.

The Office of Economic Development believes this is an excellent opportunity to strengthen relations with our longest serving Sister City actively develop trade and investment opportunities focused on priority Ipswich industries.

ATTACHMENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND PAPERS

1.	Invitation to Nerima in Commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of Friendship City Agreement
2.	The Urban Agriculture World Summit

RECOMMENDATION

That the Interim Administrator of Ipswich City Council resolve:

- A. That council accept the invitation from the Mayor of Nerima City to join in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of Sister City relations and represent Ipswich at the Urban Agriculture World Summit.
- B. That the Office of Economic Development work with Nerima City Government, state and national trade agencies and Ipswich stakeholders to maximise the benefits of a delegation to Nerima City and the ongoing value of the Sister City agreement.

Comments added at Economic Development Committee of 9 April 2019

Rob Jones from the Interim Management Committee queried if there had ever been an analysis of what has been achieved in the 25 years of council's sister city relations with Nerima City. The Economic Development Manager advised that a detailed economic analysis had not been done to date and that the 25 year anniversary provides the basis for such an analysis.

Ben Hayward
SENIOR PROJECT OFFICER

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Paul Massingham
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Ben Pole
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND MARKETING)

"Together, we proudly enhance the quality of life for our community"