

Memo

19 November 2018

To: Environment and Community Committee
Subject: **Tripartite Economic Alliance**
From: Global Partnerships and Strategy (GPS)
Action: **For information only**

Purpose

In July 2018, we undertook to update the Committee further on outcomes and survey results associated with the Tripartite Economic Alliance activity in Guangzhou (November 2017) and Los Angeles (May 2018). This memo provides that update and proposed plans for the Auckland Tripartite activity in 2019.

Update: 2017 Tripartite Summit, Guangzhou

As reported earlier, of those surveyed, on average six business leads per delegate were made and these businesses are expecting an average of NZ\$4.37 million business growth and the addition of five staff for China during the next three years. We note that these are optimistic forecasts from the delegates surveyed and it is too early to specifically quantify the long term economic benefits. However, their forecasts demonstrate the value and expectations placed on the Tripartite by participants.

Approximately 100 delegates from 70 businesses made up Auckland's delegation.

The Tripartite Business Programme received a bronze award at the International Economic Development Council's (IEDC) Awards in Atlanta, USA, in October 2018. This recognised the value of economic intervention developed by ATEED alongside Auckland Council.

The same programme was awarded the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's (MBIE) 2018 Premier Award and Economic Development New Zealand's Best Practice Integrated Strategic Planning Award.

A follow-up survey in August 2018 indicated that nearly all surveyed companies are eager to partake in further Tripartite activity and acknowledged they have benefited from participating.

2018 Tripartite Business Delegation to Los Angeles

The Deputy Mayor led a targeted 13-member delegation to LA which included representatives from the screen, social enterprise, transport, health and technology sectors. The LA visit was timed to align with the 2018 Select LA Investment Summit. A key outcome was a reported NZ\$20m joint-investment deal between New Zealand's HMI Technologies and the Sino-European Innovation Centre of Heshan Industrial City in Guangdong Province.

Tripartite 2019 –Techweek19

Tripartite-related activity in 2019 will be held in Auckland 19-21 May. In the new model agreed by the three Mayors, Tripartite activity will be aligned to existing trade/innovation events in each city and will no longer have standalone summits.

The 2019 programme will form part of Techweek19 (20-26 May), New Zealand's largest tech event. The Tripartite will enhance Techweek19 by providing an additional international audience comprising many tech companies and investors thereby boosting its international profile.

Tripartite delegates' participation in Techweek19 activities provides an opportunity to showcase Auckland's tech sectors to our key partner cities and their businesses; share Auckland's technological and innovation ideas with those of Guangzhou and LA; and increase opportunities to build international connections across the three cities. There will also be opportunities during this time for city-to-city dialogue.

During this visit, Council will also take the opportunity to recognise the 30th anniversary of the Auckland - Guangzhou relationship. This is both a practical and unique time to celebrate this partnership.

ATEED plans to visit Los Angeles in March 2019 along with a BNZ delegation, and will use this opportunity to further promote Techweek19 and Auckland's hosting of Tripartite 2019.

Background

- In October 2014, the Regional Strategy and Policy Committee approved Auckland's participation and engagement in the Tripartite Economic Alliance (REG/2014/125).
- In July 2017, the Environment and Community Committee approved Auckland's participation and engagement in the Tripartite for another three years (ENV/2017/94). The Committee also acknowledged that the Tripartite has enhanced Auckland's political, economic and trade relationship with two of Auckland's most strategically relevant partner cities (Guangzhou and Los Angeles).
- At the Guangzhou Tripartite Summit in November 2017, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed renewing the Tripartite Economic Alliance for a further three years, acknowledging the importance of city-to-city relationships, understanding commonalities and cooperation. Under the terms of the renewal, annual Tripartite Summits were replaced with Tripartite-related activity aligned to significant international events in each of the three cities.
- In February 2018, the Environment and Community Committee received the report on the Tripartite Economic Alliance Summit 2017 held in Guangzhou (ENV/2018/19). GPS undertook to report back to the Environment and Community Committee by December 2018 on Tripartite initiatives, trade/innovation events aligned to Tripartite-related activities, and any other business outcomes from the 2017 Guangzhou Tripartite Summit.
- In July 2018, an 'information memo' on the Auckland Tripartite Business Delegation visit to Los Angeles ([Tripartite Business Delegation and Visit Report to Los Angeles, May 2018. Deputy Mayor's report](#)) formed part of documentation presented to the Governing Body (CP2018/00243).

About Techweek (techweek.co.nz)

- In 2012, technology industry association NZTech began a Tech Innovation Week to coincide with the Hi-Tech Awards in order to build enthusiasm around new technologies being developed in New Zealand. In 2016 they joined ATEED to produce TechweekAKL – a week-long festival of innovation ecosystem events.
- In 2017, TechweekAKL became TechweekNZ: a nationwide initiative with a curated programme focused on ‘finding local answers to global questions’. Techweek’17 included 287 events in 24 locations, and hosted more than 20,000 New Zealanders and visitors over 9 days.
- In 2018, it continued to grow in scale and in participation of new cities and companies, with 94 events in Auckland alone (540 across New Zealand) and over 20,000 attendees.
- Techweek’s official 2019 programme will be released in March next year. ATEED is working closely with the Techweek team to ensure Tripartite activities will enhance Techweek19.

GPS will report back to the Environment and Community Committee by September 2019 on outcomes from Tripartite 2019.

*Global Partnerships & Strategy
Auckland Council
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