

# Memo

5 March 2019

To: The Mayor, Councillors, Independent Maori Statutory Board Members, Executive Leadership Team

Cc: Marguerite Delbet, GM – Democracy Services

From: International Relations Unit

## Subject: International Engagement Activity Update – March 2019

### Summary

This memo outlines the IR Unit and Auckland Council's international engagement activity in March 2019. It also notes the activity outcomes in February 2019.

**Action:** For information

Date	Key Activity – March 2019	Location
3 Mar	Japan Day 2019 in Eden Park	Auckland
6 Mar	Visit by Wellington International Relations team	Auckland
7 Mar	Fukuoka-hosted Asia Pacific Children's Conference Orientation Session 1	Auckland
17-29 Mar	Deputy Mayor Cashmore and Chief Operations Officer Dean Kimpton attending the Infrastructure NZ delegation to China, Singapore and Hong Kong	China/Singapore
19 Mar	NZ Asia Institute Conference "Peace and Prosperity in Pacific-Asia in the Age of U.S.-China Strategic Competition"	Auckland
21-23 Mar	Sister Cities New Zealand Conference at Palmerston North	Palmerston North
23-24 Mar	Pasifika Festival	Auckland
30 Mar	2019 Korean Day in North Shore Events Centre	Auckland

### Key Activity - February 2019

The following is a list of key global activity facilitated and/or contributed to by IR and outcomes achieved:

Date	Activity	Location	Outcome
3-5 Feb	Newcastle business delegation visit to Auckland to leverage Virgin Australia's new direct flight service	Auckland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mayor Goff met with the Mayor of Newcastle and Mayor of Port Stephens</li> <li>Key business connections were made in particular Mainfreight keen to develop closer links with the business delegation</li> </ul>

4-5 Feb	Hamburg e-culture expert group visit to Auckland for smart cities focused conference	Auckland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best practice exchange in the sustainable urban design, big data research and innovation area</li> <li>• Supported Auckland and Hamburg's partner city relationship</li> </ul>
7 Feb	IR pre-posting briefing with the Head of Mission designate to Singapore, Jo Tyndall		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The HOM designate informed of Auckland's international engagement strategy and connections with Singapore</li> </ul>
12-13 Feb	Kakogawa students with special needs delegation annual visit to Auckland	Auckland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborative practice with Panuku Development and Henderson Local Board via the Henderson Kakogawa Peace Bell garden visit. The design idea of a refreshed Peace Bell garden was communicated well.</li> <li>• Deepened cultural understanding and strengthened the partner city relationship between Auckland and Kakogawa</li> </ul>
14 Feb	IR/ATEED pre-posting briefing with the new Deputy Head of Mission to Tokyo, Japan	Auckland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The HOM designate informed of outcomes/follow-ups of the Mayor's visit to Japan in July 2018</li> <li>• The HOM designate informed of Auckland's international strategy for Japan and key business opportunities in Auckland/NZ</li> </ul>
25 Feb	IR pre-posting briefing with Tessa Te Mata, NZ High Commissioner (NZHC) to the Cook Islands	Auckland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closer collaboration with NZHC in Rarotonga and Auckland on potential technical assistance to the Cook Islands under the MFAT/LGNZ PacificTA facility</li> </ul>
28 Feb	Briefing by Auckland Council for MFAT Public Diplomacy Officers from NZ Embassies in Europe, Australia, Africa and the Middle East	Auckland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signalled Auckland's importance to the NZ economy</li> <li>• Provided an overview of Auckland international engagement activity</li> <li>• Demonstrated collaboration between local and central government</li> </ul>

### Next steps

- The International Relations unit will provide an update on key international activity each month.
- Enquiries about the information listed above or requests for additional information or support from the team can be directed to Kimberley Wu, International Relations Manager; ([kimberley.wu@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:kimberley.wu@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz) Mobile: 021 225 4035).