



Education and Sister Cities

Congratulations on achieving 25 years of Sister Cities

- ◆ Kaye Le Gros - International Manager Whitireia Community Polytechnic – Porirua City
- ◆ Former Board Member Sister Cities
- ◆ Current Education Spokesperson Wellington Xiamen Association

Experiences with Education and Sister City links

◆ Hawkes Bay:

- Links with Tomokomai/Napier
- Japanese student group visits to NZ
- Japanese group study programmes – NZ study content allowing credit to Japanese Degree
- NZ students overseas study opportunities to Japan investigated
- Links with Ainu Cultural studies and EIT Māori studies investigated

Experiences with Education and Sister City links

◆ Wellington:

- Chinese delegations to NZ
- Chinese Student visits Porirua to celebrate Chinese New Year and Waitangi day
- PBW delegation to Xiamen
- Chinese teachers study visits to Whitireia
- Nursing school links with Nishio Japan and Porirua under investigation

Comparison in Regional and City Experiences

◆ Smaller regional NZ City situation

- Only one Council with or without International relations as a strategy
- 1 or no Tertiary Provider
- Individuals are the driving force
- Less funding available

Comparison in Regional and City Experiences

◆ Larger cities or regional areas like Wellington

- Multiple councils (4) with different strategies and focus
- 4 large tertiary institutions – often competing
- Numerous community groups
- Strong regional Educational Organisation
- Larger sector of business community involved in education

My Observations - some points to consider:

- Strong results often from unplanned marketing
- Strong links are based on individual people- these people leave or transfer
- Challenge of keeping links alive once agreements have been signed
- Different perceptions of Sister City relationships – voluntary commitment compared with business focus.

Observations cont....

- New direction of institutional links with other stakeholders - NZQA
- Changing makeup of the distribution chain- education agents
- Country differences on what is expected of a Sister City link
- Move to align education with business

Solutions – how can Sister Cities assist with such issues

Let us consider three of those issues and start some discussions from the floor

- 1) Staff changes – What is the solution when individuals leave and the continuity is lost in a sister city link?
- 2) How do we keep the momentum going once agreements between institutions have been established?
- 3) How can we accommodate the two very different perceptions: Friendly/fuzzy relationships compared with Business/results based links?

Thank you

Keep up the excellent work of building links between countries and cultures

Any further questions:
Kaye Le Gros
Mobile 021 128 3041
Email: k.legros@whitireia.ac.nz
www.whitireia.ac.nz

