



## 2007 Conference in Te Anau 26 to 29 April 2007

This year's annual conference will take place in the resort town of Te Anau in beautiful Fiordland. Hosted by Southland District Council, the conference programme promises to befit the stunning location, with a range of motivational speakers lined up. The conference will include a full social programme, including the Air New Zealand Awards Dinner to be held on the evening of Saturday 28th April.

For further details of the 2007 Sister Cities New Zealand Inc. Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting or to download the registration form, go to [www.southlanddc.govt.nz/council/sister-city/sister-cities-conference-2007.cfm](http://www.southlanddc.govt.nz/council/sister-city/sister-cities-conference-2007.cfm)



## From the Presidents Desk

A Happy New Year to you all, and may 2007 bring further success to our sister city relations around the world.

2006 was an exciting year, with a number of new relationships formed. At our annual conference in May, Wellington formalised its important capital city relationship with Beijing, while during the year, among others North Shore and Qingdao signed an agreement, as did Hawkes Bay Regional Council and Xuzhou. While our links with China continue to grow and develop, a lot of work is also being done under the Aichi Project at the national level to help maintain the vibrancy of our numerous links with Japan. For the first time in its history the organisation was contracted to deliver an international programme, with the Core Leaders in Civil Society project undertaken on behalf of the Japanese and NZ governments.

In order to fully realise the potential benefits to the nation of our international community links, more resources are needed so that opportunities can be fully explored and beneficial programmes delivered. The Board has been doing some work on our funding options, to enable us as an organisation to fully realise those opportunities.

In the meantime, NZ remains an attractive target for new sister city partnerships, with interest shown during the year not only from our traditional partners, but also such places as Mexico, India Italy and the USA - to name a few. Opportunities abound for links around the world for those communities that recognise a benefit and the community support needed to make them a success.

Best wishes for 2007. The work you all continue to do with our international relations makes a significant difference not only in your communities, but at a national and global level too!

I look forward to seeing you all at Te Anau in April  
Keep the passion!

**Kind regards**  
**Peter**

## AIR NEW ZEALAND AWARDS



Entries are now open for the Air New Zealand Awards, for which brochures have previously been distributed. Air New Zealand has again provided generous sponsorship of this annual celebration of our success. The Awards give tangible recognition of achievements within the Sister Cities, as well as providing successful examples and encouragement by illustrating what is being done through our people to people links.

### Awards will be presented in three categories:

- Youth, Education or School Project*
- Culture, Sport or Recreational Project*
- Business or Commercial Project*

For full details of the Air New Zealand Awards, refer to the brochure, further copies of which are available from the National Office, or on our website [www.sistercities.org.nz](http://www.sistercities.org.nz). The closing date for entries is 23rd March 2007.

*Air New Zealand is a major sponsor of Sister Cities New Zealand Inc., and our Preferred Carrier.*

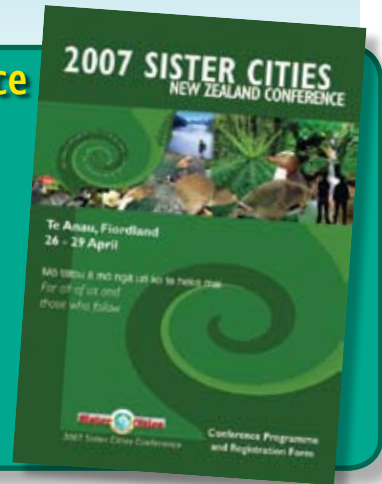
## Important Dates:

Sister Cities New Zealand Inc.'s 2007 Annual General Meeting will be held in Te Anau on 26 April 2007. Members are advised that any notices of motion they wish to have considered are due at the National Office by 30th March 2007. Nominations for election of Board members are due at the National Office by 12 April 2007. Nomination forms and a formal Notice of Meeting will be circulated to all members shortly.

## 2007 Conference - Te Anau, 26 to 29 April

Don't miss out on this years conference! For more details visit our website and click on the **2007 Conference, Te Anau** link to the right of the home page.

[www.sistercities.org.nz](http://www.sistercities.org.nz)





# Leaders in Civil Society Programme: Partnership with the Government of Japan

The Japanese Government operates an international programme to develop leadership in civil society. New Zealand was invited to participate in 2006/07, and Sister Cities NZ Inc. contracted to organise a suitable itinerary for the group of six Japanese leaders in the field of Youth Services who were selected to visit for an intensive programme. Meanwhile, groups representing Support for People with Disabilities and Support for the Elderly visited Belgium and Denmark respectively. The programme's purpose is to give selected people from within Japanese society the opportunity to share experiences with foreign counterparts and to study ways in which other countries manage social issues in modern society.



Group members with Hon Nanaia Mahuta, Minister of Youth Affairs (centre). Japanese Embassy representative Ms Keiko Furuta is on the right.

The programme included presentations on policy and initiatives by staff of the Ministry of Youth Affairs, and in-depth discussions with specialists in the areas of training and employment initiatives, health and wellbeing education, suicide prevention and dealing with at-risk youth and young offenders. A particular interest of the group was how New Zealand encourages volunteer support for Youth-based activities and the funding mechanisms for delivering them. Meetings with the New Plymouth District Council Youth Sub-committee and school representatives provided the opportunity to hear from young people themselves how they directly participate in forming a society in which Youth is fully engaged.



With representatives of Life Education Trust, at Discovery School, Whitby.

"We were most impressed by the spirit of teamwork shown by social activity leaders in New Zealand, and the way they positively and passionately work at their tasks" said group leader Mr Shinshi Toru. "We have learned much through this program that can be used in Japanese society, to help provide sustainable youth development and contribute to

a bright future for our young people."

In February 2007, a group of 13 New Zealanders will visit Japan for two weeks as guests of the Japanese Government to complete the exchange. This follows advertising of the programme through the Sister Cities and other networks.

## Nishio Tea Ceremony sets a new Guinness World Record

In October 2006, Porirua's sister city in Japan staged the world's biggest tea party when 14,718 people engaged in a traditional Japanese tea ceremony. After the event Nishio City was given official certification by Guinness World Records.



## Aichi Project Update

Members will have now received the manual New Zealand – Japan Portfolio of Exchanges, produced with assistance from the Government's Aichi Leveraging Fund. We hope you will find it informative and motivational in further developing your links with Japan and elsewhere. To those with a sister city in Japan, please don't forget to forward the copy in Japanese to your partner city for their use. Updates of the manual will follow as they become available, and further submissions are welcome at any time.

## Going Global: A New Zealand Guide to International Youth Opportunities

The Ministry of Youth Development has produced this excellent publication, which will be of interest to all young people engaged or seeking to be involved in sister city and other international activities at the local level. It can be accessed at [www.myd.govt.nz/uploads/docs/Going%20Global.pdf](http://www.myd.govt.nz/uploads/docs/Going%20Global.pdf) or by contacting [mydinfo@myd.govt.nz](mailto:mydinfo@myd.govt.nz). Refer also to [www.youthvoices.govt.nz](http://www.youthvoices.govt.nz)



## From the Board Meetings of 19 August and 4 November 2006 (both held by conference call)

- The possibility has been raised of regional workshops for practitioners in Sister City work, to provide practical professional and peer support to those directly engaged in managing our international community links. Work is being done at the National Office on the proposal for reporting back to the Board. Member comments and input are welcome.
- Director Bill Woods was appointed to represent SCNZ Inc. at the 2006 ASCA Conference, held in Devonport, Tasmania.
- Aichi Project Funding: The Board resolved to make a further application in 2007, which is the final year of the funding scheme managed by New Zealand Trade & Enterprise

## Resourcing and Supporting Sister Cities New Zealand Inc.



## New Member

We are pleased to welcome International Education Fund Ltd as a new corporate member. IEF is based in Auckland and is engaged in community projects between New Zealand and China.

Contact Details: National Office, 20 Singers Road, Korokoro, Wellington, New Zealand  
Ph. +64 4 586 3145, Email: [enquiry@sistercities.org.nz](mailto:enquiry@sistercities.org.nz)