

***Responses to “Questions for Sister City Stakeholder Groups” were received from:***

Pat Dando, President and CEO, San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce

Larisa Brener, Ekaterinburg Sister City Program

Suneel Kelkar, President San Jose/ Pune Sister City Organization

Kathy Sakamoto, San Jose/Okayama Sister City Organization

Marice M. Hsueh and Jina C. Mao, Tainan/San Jose Sister City Organization

## Questions for Sister City Stakeholder Groups Attachment C

1. Describe your sister city committee or organization.

The Chamber has worked with the following:

- Okayama Delegation to arrange tour of San Jose/Silicon Valley, as well as assist in organizing and funding to celebrate the Sister City anniversary in San Jose
- Dublin Delegation in numerous ways

2. Describe the most significant programs or accomplishments of your sister city committee/organization during the past two years.

N/A

3. What does your sister city committee or organization wish to accomplish with the sister city relationship?

Continue to assist the Sister City relationship in ways that will promote the social, cultural and economic exchange between cities.

4. What, if anything, does your committee or organization need from the city government to achieve your goals and objectives?

Open to discussion. I would like for the City to explain their position regarding Sister City goals and objectives.

5. How does your committee or organization involve volunteers and encourage community participation in the sister city relationship?

N/A

6. What is your committee or organization's reaction to the City staff recommendation to a) reaffirm the existing guidelines on new sister city affiliations (approved by the City Council in 1992, attached) and that b) to require that potential sister cities first enter an "Economic Partnership" with San Jose and demonstrate mutual benefit to both cities before formal consideration of sister city status?

The "Economic Partnership" is important, but so is the social and cultural aspect of the city relationship.

7. If the City Council could make one change to the City's involvement with the sister cities program, or how the program operates in San Jose, what would your committee or organization recommend?

Open - City ideas?

- Attachment C
8. To be considered as an active sister city committee eligible for City funding, city grant contracts currently require the committee to have a minimum of 10 active members. Based on your experience, what is the minimum number of active committee members that you believe is required to maintain an effective sister city program?

N/A

9. Is your sister city committee affiliated with an umbrella organization that provides services to sister city committees? If so, what is your relationship to the umbrella organization? If your sister city committee is not part of an umbrella organization, why have you chosen to operate independently?

See #3

10. Expand on any sister city-related issues that you would like to share with the City.

N/A

Name: **Pat Dando**

Sister City Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note that your responses may become a public record and discussed at a City Council Meeting.

**PLEASE SUBMIT THE COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE BY DECEMBER 4, 2007** to  
joe.hedges@sanjoseca.gov

## Questions for Sister City Stakeholder Groups

1. Describe your sister city committee or organization.

It's a newly established Sister City Committee. We are trying to revitalize previously successfully existing Sister City partnership between San Jose and Ekaterinburg, Russia.

2. Describe the most significant programs or accomplishments of your sister city committee/organization during the past two years.

Sister City Committee along with SJSU and San Jose office of Economic Development hosted a group of CEO and managers of IT and Telecommunication companies, Ekaterinburg, Russia.

DVC between SJSU and Ekaterinburg Higher Education Institutions, sponsored by U.S Department of State, U.S Consulate, Ekaterinburg.

Host one student from Ekaterinburg, faculty member, Academy of Art, Ekaterinburg.

Host a group from Ekaterinburg in March.

3. What does your sister city committee or organization wish to accomplish with the sister city relationship?

Fully revitalize partnership.

Ekaterinburg is going to celebrate it's birthday ( I believe it's 850) in August. Ideaaly I would like to get together a group of community members and SJSU representative to participate in celebration.

Develop outgoing joint programs between San Jose State and Elaterinburg Higher Education Institutions.

Organize Short-Study Abroad program-Tran Siberian Express.

4. What, if anything, does your committee or organization need from the city government to achieve your goals and objectives?

Full support. ( help contacting Silicon Valley Businesses to get a support when the delegations come), help in making arrangements for the delegation from San Jose to travel to Russia in August.

5. How does your committee or organization involve volunteers and encourage community participation in the sister city relationship?

It's a relatively new committee and we just follow the needs of Ekaterinburg community and San Jose State university needs and interest

6. What is your committee or organization's reaction to the City staff recommendation to a) reaffirm the existing guidelines on new sister city affiliations (approved by the City Council in 1992, attached) and that b) to require that potential sister cities first enter an "Economic Partnership" with San Jose and demonstrate mutual benefit to both cities before formal consideration of sister city status?

I guess, It's fair.

7. If the City Council could make one change to the City's involvement with the sister cities program, or how the program operates in San Jose, what would your committee or organization recommend?

I think, that Sister City partnership beneficial for San Jose and it's Sister City.

8. To be considered as an active sister city committee eligible for City funding, city grant contracts currently require the committee to have a minimum of 10 active members. Based on your experience, what is the minimum number of active committee members that you believe is required to maintain an effective sister city program?

I don't know.

9. Is your sister city committee affiliated with an umbrella organization that provides services to sister city committees? If so, what is your relationship to the umbrella organization? If your sister city committee is not part of an umbrella organization, why have you chosen to operate independently?

NO

10. Expand on any sister city-related issues that you would like to share with the City.

Name: Larisa Brunet

Sister City Program: Coaterberg

Date: 12/4/2007

Please note that your responses may become a public record and discussed at a City Council Meeting.

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## Questions for Sister City Stakeholder Groups

### 1. Describe your sister city committee or organization.

Pune became a sister city of San Jose in 1992 and until 2006 we were part of Pacific Neighbors Inc. In Oct. 2006, we registered as a California-based not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization independent of Pacific Neighbors. We have our own By Laws which are registered with the State of California. We have a board of directors and officers of the corporation (see attached for the current board and officers). In Nov. 2007 we have applied for the Federal Tax Exempt Status as a non-profit Organization.

Our officers receive no compensation and each board member has donated at least \$100 to get the organization off the ground.

We have already raised a few thousand dollars via donations from bay area residents and well-wishers and plan to fund all our projects and programs through our own fundraising activities.

As of June 2007, we have signed an agreement with the city of San Jose.

There is a parallel organization based in Pune which has its own charter and committee members. We implement our projects in Pune through this organization.

### 2. Describe the most significant programs or accomplishments of your sister city committee/organization during the past two years.

Our most current and prominent program is with a school in Pune, (called) Hutatma High School. We are providing scholarship to 30 students in this school who would otherwise have quit school and started working as domestic maids or servants. For more than a year, we have managed to keep them in school. We have also set up a pen pal program between these students and the students at St. Francis High School, Mountain View, CA, who donate \$1 each month to help this project. The students in St. Francis write to these students in Pune to encourage them to stay in school. The girls in Pune write in Marathi language which we translate into English. So far, more than 100 letters have arrived from Pune.

Tsunami Relief. In 2005, we arranged a music concert by local artists to raise money for the Tsunami victims. We raised over \$8,500 – the highest amount raised so far by any of our fund raising programs. This money was distributed via NGOs so that no cash was distributed but the victims received help in material to get back their life style and income earning.

We have hosted 3 different mayors of Pune over the last 10 years. They met with the then Mayor of San Jose and we have started some projects as a result of such visits.

Over the last 10 years we have held three symposiums on various high tech topics in Pune. We invited senior executives from the high tech industry in the Silicon Valley and in Pune to be our guest speakers. These events were very popular and helped raise money as well as visibility for our projects in Pune.

In the past we have implemented many projects with Pune by working with our committee as well as the Rotary Club of Pune. We helped build a park on the banks of Mutha River to preserve it from becoming an ecological disaster.

In 1999, we worked with the Mayor of Pune wherein that city donated a statue of Shivaji Maharaj – the founder of the city of Pune. The statue was presented to Mayor Gonzales. This statue was installed in Guadalupe Park and the new Mayor of Pune, Deepti Chaudhary, inaugurated it in 2002.

We have worked with various charitable organizations in Pune to help students and children in poor areas. For example, last year we provided funds to vaccinate 100 children via a Rotary Club program.

For more information about our projects visit our website at <http://www.sanjosepunesistercity.org>

3. What does your sister city committee or organization wish to accomplish with the sister city relationship?

We have been implementing many programs to develop better relations between the people of Pune and people of San Jose. (see attachment # 2)

Three different mayors of Pune have visited San Jose as part of this sister city program. We would like to get the mayor of San Jose to visit Pune with a delegation of high tech leaders to build closer cultural and business relationships between the two cities.

The city of Bremen in Germany is a sister city of Pune and has developed a very close relationship through multiple visits by various government officials. This has resulted in multi-million dollar contracts and other business agreements for various German companies. Pune is considered the second most important software city in India after Bangalore and there is a huge potential for even more business for Silicon Valley companies. We would like to work with the Office of Economic Development to take advantage of such opportunities.

4. What, if anything, does your committee or organization need from the city government to achieve your goals and objectives?

Help Promote the Sister City relationship.

We have a very good working relationship with the Office of Economic Development through Joe Hedges and get regular advice, encouragement and help. We were recently awarded a certificate for one of our programs and such

encouragement helps motivate our volunteers in the US and also those that work in Pune. It also helps us promote our programs and raise funds for future programs. Additional PR by the Mayor's office to promote the Sister city program will be very beneficial.

Review the operation of each sister city org. and Pacific Neighbors:

City Council needs to audit each sister city program on an annual basis to review progress. Find out how many and which programs each has initiated and complete and how they have funded these projects and how they have used the city funds. Reward the programs that are working and help the programs that are not working.

Help us recover the city funding (\$2500) from Pacific Neighbors.

Pacific Neighbors is holding \$3800 of San Jose Pune Sister City money and refusing to release it. This money belongs to the Pune Sister City program and not Pacific Neighbors - \$2500 of it was paid by San Jose to Pune as reimbursement for approved programs – such as the school project for which the city gave us an award! The other \$1300 was raised by Pune Sister City Org. through its fund raising efforts.

Provide more active participation in the sister city programs:

Allocate a small portion of the city council members' time to the sister city programs, say, one hour a month and review and track the programs of all the sister cities. We think the city council should get involved a little more and understand all the issues and make appropriate decisions instead of looking at it once in 5 or 10 years.

5. How does your committee or organization involve volunteers and encourage community participation in the sister city relationship?

We have displayed and promoted our programs at various places including the opening of the San Jose's new City Hall, the opening of the Guadalupe Park and other programs run by the local Indian community such as Maharashtra Mandal. We have also been able to attract all our volunteers via such promotions and raise funds.

We work with the local media including San Jose Mercury News and other Indian newspapers such as India West and issue press releases regarding our programs, projects and events such as the visits by Pune mayors and the inauguration of the Statue of Shivaji Maharaj in Guadalupe Park.

We have also met with the professors at San Jose State University to encourage them to have a recruiting session in Pune for graduate students.

The office of economic development had arranged meetings where we invited leaders in the high tech industry who had offices in Pune. These meetings allowed us to recruit

senior managers in high tech to be guest speakers at our Technical Seminars in Pune where we raised money for the projects in Pune for the Pune Committee.

6. What is your committee or organization's reaction to the City staff recommendation to a) reaffirm the existing guidelines on new sister city affiliations (approved by the City Council in 1992, attached) and that b) to require that potential sister cities first enter an "Economic Partnership" with San Jose and demonstrate mutual benefit to both cities before formal consideration of sister city status?

We basically agree with this approach.

It is a good idea to develop some relationship with the proposed sister city, have the San Jose based group develop some funding and establish some credibility and then go for an official approval of the new sister city.

However, it should be noted that Business Development alone was not the original objective of the sister city program established by President Eisenhower. At the same time, we completely understand that the city does not have the resources to support additional sister city relations when the existing relations are not necessarily working (one example of not working is that most of the money allocated by the city for the last 3 years was returned and unused by most sister cities except Pune and Dublin).

Perhaps the alternative or a compromise could be to replace the wording "Economic Partnership" by "Educational, Cultural and Economic" partnership. It is up to the citizens to focus on the first two and the city (i. e. Office of Economic Development) can focus on the third.

7. If the City Council could make one change to the City's involvement with the sister cities program, or how the program operates in San Jose, what would your committee or organization recommend?

The city signs a contract with each sister city and it requires each sister city to have insurance. This insurance is normally required from all contractors who work for the city and need to have large liability insurance. However we do not have any salaried employees, we do not have any capital assets such as cars; we do not have any programs where we invite a large number of outsiders. Most of our work is done via meetings at someone's house and the rest of the work is done via emails and phone calls. We do not have anything to be covered by this insurance. This insurance has cost us \$1150 which is almost half the amount of money that the city has allocated to us! We could use this money for our programs and projects instead.

8. To be considered as an active sister city committee eligible for City funding, city grant contracts currently require the committee to have a minimum of 10 active members.

Based on your experience, what is the minimum number of active committee members that you believe is required to maintain an effective sister city program?

One or two member committees cannot effectively accomplish a lot and no sister city program should be approved with such a small participation.

We have always had more than 10 members on our committee. Our experience is that you normally end up having half that many people when you have an event. This is not because people are not supporting the projects but everyone is working and is very busy at his or her job and may not be always available.

However, we would recommend that the requirement should be a minimum of 8 members. This is because many of our volunteers do not want to be on the official committees or the board but would like to volunteer without a portfolio.

9. Is your sister city committee affiliated with an umbrella organization that provides services to sister city committees? If so, what is your relationship to the umbrella organization? If your sister city committee is not part of an umbrella organization, why have you chosen to operate independently?

In 1992 when Pune became the sister city of San Jose, we were part of Pacific Neighbors. As of last year, we have registered as an independent organization. There were many compelling reasons for our decision to separate from Pacific Neighbors:

- Over the years we have developed many programs and have attracted many people to join us. We want to be able to make quick decisions and manage our own programs and projects in a very efficient and professional manner. This was not possible to do as part of Pacific Neighbors.
- We want to develop our own database of mailing addresses and keep them informed of our programs via email campaigns.
- We want to take advantage of the web site to promote our name and our programs on a worldwide basis. Pacific Neighbors still does not have a web site and we had to go on our own.
- We want to continue to do our own fund raising activities and have that money available to us when we need it and as soon as we need it.
- We want to have complete control over our projects -we want to decide which projects to do, when and at what cost and raise the money and manage them.

None of the above was possible to do while we were part of Pacific Neighbors because:

- Pacific Neighbors does not do any mailings and does not have a large database of citizens to tap into. It does not have the people and the skills to implement such a program either. As a result the word does not go out to the community. If we have to do our own mailing and manage our fund raising activities we might as well be a separate organization.
- Two years ago, Pacific Neighbors spent so much time negotiating a contract with the city that it was too late and we lost the funding of \$2500. (We believe the issues which Pacific Neighbors was arguing about were trivial. We have

essentially signed the same agreement as an independent organization and so has the Sister City of Dublin.)

- Our projects were never supported and the funds were never transferred quickly by Pacific Neighbors. It is still holding on to \$3800 of our money and refusing to release it.
- It is extremely difficult to get hold of the officers via mail, phone or email. Some of us have sent many emails which were never replied to. In general our phone calls were never returned.
- When we attended the meetings of this organization, our items for the agenda were not scheduled in a timely manner or never scheduled for discussion and as a result our projects were never discussed nor approved and supported.
- Some of us had paid the annual membership of this organization but it was unclear what any member received in return as a benefit. We were never informed of any meetings, were never sent an agenda beforehand, were never asked for our inputs beforehand for the agenda and when we went to the meeting it was too late to discuss anything we wanted to discuss.

10. Expand on any sister city-related issues that you would like to share with the City.

The sister city program is a very valuable program. It is a program for people of one city to develop relationships with the people of another city. It does not involve any government body as such and the involvement of the mayor of the city is only for ceremonial purposes.

However, by taking active part in this program, the Mayor as well as the City Council can help the program and also benefit the taxpayers by developing business relationships between San Jose and its sister cities.

This requires a continued long term effort and needs to be sustained through hard times as well (i.e. even during a budget crunch).

We, on the Board of San Jose Pune Sister City Organization would like to be part of any endeavor that the city council wishes to embark on and will continue to support the Office of Economic Development in that respect.

**Current developments in this area regarding the treatment of San Jose Pune Sister City by Pacific Neighbors are unhealthy and are very harmful for the long term success of such programs. This situation needs to be addressed very quickly before more permanent damage is done.**

Name: \_\_Suneel Kelkar, President SJ Pune Sister City Org

Sister City Program: Pune, India

Date: November 15, 2007

Please note that your responses may become a public record and discussed at a City Council Meeting.

**PLEASE SUBMIT THE COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE BY DECEMBER 4, 2007 to**  
joe.hedges@sanjoseca.gov

Attachments

- San Jose Pune Sister City Organization - Board of Directors and Officers
- Brief summary of our programs and Projects

San Jose Pune Sister City Organization  
Board of Directors and Officers  
For the Term from Dec. 1 – June 30, 2008

**Board of Directors**

<b>Vijay Pendse</b>	Director – Fund Raising and Membership.
<b>Sanjay Wanzkhade</b>	Director -Corporate Fund Raising:
<b>Shobha Vora</b>	Director – External Relations:
<b>Mahesh Kale</b>	Director - Cultural Exchange and Programs:
<b>Shri Shende</b>	Director - Special Projects or Programs.
<b>Snehal Patil</b>	Director – Legal and Compliance
<b>Suneel Kelkar</b>	President

**Officers forming the Executive Committee**

<b>Suneel Kelkar</b>	President
<b>Shyam Rangole</b>	CFO/Treasurer
<b>Ashok Kulkarni</b>	Secretary
<b>Nima Gujar</b>	VP of Operations
<b>Sameer Nigade</b>	VP - MIS
<b>Nilesh Dixit</b>	VP – Communications

**Advisors to the Board**

Arun Medhekar

San Jose Pune Sister City  
Brief summary of our programs and Projects as of  
November 21, 2007

- Hosted three different Pune Mayors during their visits to San Jose. Many programs were initiated during these visits with Mayors of San Jose. Pune Mayor Vandana Chavan visited in 1997 and met with then Mayor Susan Hammer. Mayor Datta Gaikwad visited in 1999 and again in 2001. Pune Mayor Deepti Chaudhary visited in 2004. Mayor Gaikwad and Chaudhary met with then mayor Ron Gonzales.
- Worked with Pune committee to commission building a statue of Shivaji Maharaj (the great Maratha King 1630-1680). This is a gift to the people of San Jose from the people of Pune. This statue is now erected in the Guadalupe Park. This is one and only statue of Shivaji Maharaj in North America. The statue was received in San Jose in June 1999 and was installed and inaugurated in 2004.
- Raised funds for Mutha River Park project and developed in cooperation with the Rotary Club of Kothrud, Pune. This project has converted an area of about 4 acres by the river bank from an environmental disaster into a pleasant park setting made of shrubs, flowers and trees surrounded by the only jogging track in Pune. The park was completed and inaugurated in December 2004.
- Since 1996, we have arranged three symposiums on various high technology topics (in 1996, 2003 and in 2004). We invited senior executives from prominent Silicon Valley companies (Intel, HP, Siemens...) who made presentations to an audience of 150 to 250. The attendees were managers/engineers from high technology companies in and around Pune. These developed many mutual relations and also raised money for our projects in Pune.
- Arranged a music program and raised \$2500 to help the earthquake victims of Latur near Pune in Nov. 2003.
- Participated in the Sister Cities International Young Artists Program and received several entries from Pune – one of them won a prize. (June 1993).
- In 1995, we shipped \$275,000 worth of medical supplies and blood separation equipment to Pune. Using this equipment, a single unit of blood can be separated into four different components as red cells, white cells, platelets, and plasma and supply only those parts to the patient that he/she needs. This will make required blood components available to four times as many patients.
- Through our book exchange program, we shipped hundreds of books to Pune library in 1995. These included reference books such as encyclopedias and National Geographic magazine issues, children's books and books on art and crafts.

- Provided funds to many charitable organizations including:
  - Bal Kalyan which provides free medical treatment to the physically handicapped (1994)
  - Dilasa Kendra – a school for mentally handicapped. We donated a sum of \$1200 to get this school operational. (1994)
  - Kalyan Charitable Trust – 2006.
- All our programs are funded by money raised by our committee members via donations and conducting various entertainment programs in the San Jose area. The city of San Jose provides limited funding too. We strive to ensure that every dollar donated to SJ-Pune Sister City Org. goes directly to approved programs
- Set up a web site for San Jose Pune Sister City Organization (2004).
- Symposium in 2006 – to help San Jose and Pune people make business contacts, transfer knowledge and technology and build relationships with other organizations in either city.
- Vaccination program for low income class children around Pune city– work with the Rotary Club in Pune to vaccinate the poor children to avoid terrible deceases like Polio (2006).
- Participated in the Grand Opening of the Guadalupe Park where the statue of Shivaji Maharaj was installed. Presented a dance depicting the culture of Maharashtra by boys and girls of ages between 10 and 14
- Received a Blood Separation machine from a US hospital and shipped it to Sanjivani Hospital which is an NGO in Pune. It is used to separate blood parts to increase the amount of blood available. Sanjivani Hospital offers free medial help to many poor families. (1996).
- Hosted a Software Mission brought to San Hose by the Pune Mayor's Office with a delegation of Software and other high-tech companies. (May 1997).
- Hosted Vision Maharashtra in San Jose. This was a delegation of businesses and software companies brought together by the Pune Mayor's office who had a three day seminar in San Jose. (2001).
- Received 509 artificial limbs and shipped them to an NGO – Sanjivani Hospital where the doctors donate their time to custom fit these to poor kids who have suffered from Polio and cannot walk. As a result of this many kids are walking and it has changed their lives. (2003-2004).
- Participated in the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the San Jose's sister city relations in December 2006 arranged by the Fairmont Hotel. We presented a dance of Ganesh by a local Dance School with kids of ages between 10 and 15 participating.

- Tsunami Relief. In 2005, we arranged a music concert by local artists to raise money for the Tsunami victims. We raised over \$8,500.

New Programs and Ideas for future Programs

- Develop relationship with the Agricultural College in Pune for projects about "Bagayati Shetee" with the California technology companies and universities.
- Arrange student and teacher exchange and projects with the Pune University as well as other prominent colleges/high schools in Pune.
- Establish a scholarship fund for deserving but financially disadvantaged students in Pune.
- Invite prominent artists from Pune to visit San Jose.
- Hold seminars at primary education levels to exchange ideas between San Jose and Pune teachers. We also plan to invite teachers to develop a program to set up pen pals with the students in San Jose schools.
- Promote the sister city program in San Jose schools, businesses and to the citizens of San Jose.

Various Music and Entertainment Programs arranged in San Jose to  
Raise Money for Pune Sister City Projects

Nov. 14, 1992 – Live Concert by Suresh Wadkar

Nov. 6, 1993 – Music Concert by Mrs. Nirmala Gogate

June 29, 1996 – Yaaden – Nostalgic Hindi Film Songs by Sur Sangam

July 27, 1996 – Live Concert by Meena Joshi

May 18, 1997 – Orchestra and music by Shirish Nimgaoinkar and Sonal Baandal

July 12, 1997 – Sur Sangam music program by Sharvari Dixit and Subhash Kulkarni

June 27, 1998 – Musical Afternoon with Mrs. Nirmala Gogate

April 8, 2004 – Classical Music Program by Mrs. Padmaja Phenani

June 5, 2004 – Mimicry and Songs by Mr. manohar Patwardhan

March 26, 2005 – Euphonia – Fusion Music Program by Local Artists – a benefit concert  
for the Tsunami Victims in Indonesia

## Questions for Sister City Stakeholder Groups

1. Describe your sister city committee or organization.

*The Japantown Business Association participation is a part of general community involvement in the Sister City Program with the City of San Jose and Okayama, Japan. Because of the historical connection between the Japanese American and Japanese citizenry, the history of Japanese immigration to the United States and more particularly, Santa Clara Valley, the non-profit board of directors of the Japantown Business Association agreed to participation for the benefit of the business district and the legacy of the area. Participation is supported by the Executive Director of the organization.*

2. Describe the most significant programs or accomplishments of your sister city committee/organization during the past two years.

*Although there was participation in the Sister City program in a small way before this 2007 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, it was really this anniversary that spurred involvement in coordination of activities (Welcome at City Hall, Official Welcome Dinner, seminar, Golf Tournament dinner for the business delegation, banner design coordination downtown and in Japantown, and general communication between community, Okayama, organizations and the City of San Jose.*

3. What does your sister city committee or organization wish to accomplish with the sister city relationship?

*To maintain communication and exchange with the City of San Jose and City of Okayama Sister City relationship, participate in activities, foster goodwill and further exchange of ideas, facilitate communication and growth of the program.*

4. What, if anything, does your committee or organization need from the city government to achieve your goals and objectives?

*The City of San Jose can aid the relationship by fostering government, educational, arts, cultural and business exchanges on an annual basis for the two cities and communities. The City of San Jose can assist in providing meeting spaces, regular government communications between the cities and distributing that information to the communities and organizations involved in San Jose.*

*The City of San Jose can also provide a small amount of funding on an annual basis to help support the program. Japan has put forward a great amount of effort in San Jose, including monies that have contributed toward public parks and monuments to honor the Sister City relationship. It would be nice to return the efforts in kind.*

5. How does your committee or organization involve volunteers and encourage community participation in the sister city relationship?

*The Executive Director networks with Pacific Neighbors, the Japantown Community Congress of San Jose, local neighborhood associations, businesses and chambers of commerce to encourage and educate concerning the Sister City relationship and its changes, growth and possibilities.*

6. What is your committee or organization's reaction to the City staff recommendation to a) reaffirm the existing guidelines on new sister city affiliations (approved by the City Council in 1992, attached) and that b) to require that potential sister cities first enter an "Economic Partnership" with San José and demonstrate mutual benefit to both cities before formal consideration of sister city status?

*Mutual benefit can be seen in goodwill and understanding of cultures which can lead to Economic Benefit. It is the thought of the Executive Director of the organization that the primary philosophy of the program must be that the understanding and exchange should be the standard of communication rather than the thought of economic benefit in a Sister City relationship. San Jose's economy has changed drastically from the time of the founding of the relationship, as has Okayama's. Some sisters are very much like one another. Some are very different. They are still sisters in the same family.*

7. If the City Council could make one change to the City's involvement with the sister cities program, or how the program operates in San Jose, what would your committee or organization recommend?

*That all City Council and the Mayor take note of the cultures and differences of the countries and cities involved in the Sister City programs and create a Sister City pamphlet with history, current programs etc for public distribution. This might be done with the help of staffing in appropriate city departments – or convention and visitors organizations and published by the City of San Jose.*

8. To be considered as an active sister city committee eligible for City funding, city grant contracts currently require the committee to have a minimum of 10 active members. Based on your experience, what is the minimum number of active committee members that you believe is required to maintain an effective sister city program?

*For the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Sj/Okayama we had input from many organizations came together but there was 1 main City employee and a network of many others, all from separate organizations and all active participants. I think diversity in the Sister City committee for each city is key to a strong program (arts, business, commerce, education, sports, etc).*

9. Is your sister city committee affiliated with an umbrella organization that provides services to sister city committees? If so, what is your relationship to the umbrella organization? If your sister city committee is not part of an umbrella organization, why have you chosen to operate independently?

*The Japantown Business Association was approached in the past 5 years by the City of San Jose Office of Economic Development. The Pacific Neighbors organization seemed to have established parameters in which they operated. The Business Association gave great credence to Sister City efforts when it was known that the City of San Jose OED was involved and supportive as was the City Council and the Mayor's office.*

10. Expand on any sister city-related issues that you would like to share with the City.

*Re: San Jose/Okayama Sister City program*

*It is well known in Japanese culture that the individual integrity of the leader is paramount to the relationships, understandings and belief systems of the people they govern. Traditions of making sure that one's own words are backed up by one's presence are at the core of the culture. A leader is one that takes that mission unto him/herself.*

*For this reason, I believe that it is essential for the Mayor to make a personal trip to honor the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary relationship of San Jose & Okayama Cities. If no one else but the Mayor arrived in Okayama to spend even one evening with them, they would be overjoyed and understand the challenges of all the others to making the trip.*

*The Japanese government and representatives will understand best if the leaders can come to understandings between themselves. The other cities in Japan will note the absence of a leader from an important event in the relationships between the two countries if (10<sup>th</sup> largest city in the USA) and will equally notice if this relationship is honored.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Kathy Sakamoto \_\_\_\_\_

Sister City Program: \_\_\_\_\_ San Jose/Okayama City \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ December 4, 2007

Please note that your responses may become a public record and discussed at a City Council Meeting.

**PLEASE SUBMIT THE COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE BY DECEMBER 4, 2007** to  
joe.hedges@sanjoseca.gov

## Questions for Sister City Stakeholder Groups

### 1. Describe your sister city committee or organization.

Most members of the Tainan-San Jose City Sister-City Committee (TSJCSC) are active members of the Taiwanese American Federation- Northern California (TAF-NC), many with advanced degrees in various high-tech fields, including bio-medical, computer/network engineering, software engineering, satellite systems engineering, etc. Most TSJCSC members have full-hearted passions towards the promotion for cultural and educational, as well as economic, exchanges between Tainan and San Jose.

### 2. Describe the most significant programs or accomplishments of your sister city committee/organization during the past two years.

The TSJCSC committee accomplished the following significant programs in the past two years:

- a) Organized 2 visits to Tainan City Government Officials in preparation for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of sister-city relationship between Tainan and San Jose City: once in Nov. 2006 and again in March 2007.
- b) Participated in 2005/2006 annual SJC's Veterans' Day Parades.
- c) Participated in the 2005 summer Taiwanese C. American Athletes Tournament (TCAAT) held at SJ City College
- d) Participated in the annual SJC Multi-culture Mixer events at the SJ Museum, Oct. '06 & '07.
- e) Supported annual San Francisco Bay Area Taiwanese American Chamber of Commerce (SFBATACC) fund-raising events.
- f) Supported annual Northern California Taiwanese American Cultural Festivals.

### 3. What does your sister city committee or organization wish to accomplish with the sister city relationship?

The TSJCSC committee would like to actively promote the economic, cultural and educational exchanges to enhance the sister city relationship between Tainan and San Jose City in the following fields:

- Bio-technology, Bio-medical, nanotechnology
- Green/renewable energy
- Hi-Tech, including semi-conductors, computers, SW, networking, flat-panel displays, etc,
- Summer students exchanges
- Etc.

### 4. What, if anything, does your committee or organization need from the city government to achieve your goals and objectives?

We need SJC government's active supports in needed resources, e.g. communication contacts, facilities and funds, for the activities that we'll initiate and concurred with SJC. We'll also fully support those programs initiated by SJC government benefiting the sister city relationship.

### 5. How does your committee or organization involve volunteers and encourage community participation in the sister city relationship?

The TSJCSC committee has actively participated in many ethnic organizations, e.g. Taiwanese American Volunteers, activities, such as fund raising, cultural exchanges, holiday celebration, homeless assistance programs, etc. For the recent 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of sister-city between

and Tainan, we invited many local organizations to participate including: SFBATCC (SF Bay Area Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce), TAITA (Taiwanese American Industrial Trade Asso), NATEA (N. America Taiwanese Engineers' Asso), TAC (Taiwan-America Center). We'll continue our partnership with these organizations and encourage other volunteers to join us for the good causes.

6. What is your committee or organization's reaction to the City staff recommendation to a) reaffirm the existing guidelines on new sister city affiliations (approved by the City Council in 1992, attached) and that b) to require that potential sister cities first enter an "Economic Partnership" with San Jose and demonstrate mutual benefit to both cities before formal consideration of sister city status?

a) Fully supportive.

b) Support the concept of "Economic Partnership" between potential sister cities, but feel that it should be a desirable merit rather than a requirement.

7. If the City Council could make one change to the City's involvement with the sister cities program, or how the program operates in San Jose, what would your committee or organization recommend?

Provide active resource supports for promoting diversity in multi-sister-cities programs.

8. To be considered as an active sister city committee eligible for City funding, city grant contracts currently require the committee to have a minimum of 10 active members. Based on your experience, what is the minimum number of active committee members that you believe is required to maintain an effective sister city program?

We feel that 10 active members as a minimum, but 15 members would be stronger, more resourceful and productive.

9. Is your sister city committee affiliated with an umbrella organization that provides services to sister city committees? If so, what is your relationship to the umbrella organization? If your sister city committee is not part of an umbrella organization, why have you chosen to operate independently?

Yes, we are a part of the Pacific Neighborhood Inc. (PNI) which provides some programmatic and logistic supports to our programs.

10. Expand on any sister city-related issues that you would like to share with the City.

Each Sister City Program should be supported by SJC government with certain level of financial flexibility and accountability within the PNI umbrella accounts.

Name: Marice M. Hsueh / Jina C. Mao

Sister City Program: Tainan-San Jose City Sister-City Program

Date: Jan. 6, 2008

Please note that your responses may become a public record and discussed at a City Council Meeting.

PLEASE SUBMIT THE COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE BY DECEMBER 4, 2007 to [joe.hedges@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:joe.hedges@sanjoseca.gov)