Seongnam City

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Dear Honorable Mayor Jose Esteves of Milpitas and Sister City Commissioners !

I am Seunghun Han, Spokesperson of Seongnam City in Korea, where we want to become a sister city of City of Milpitas.

The special mission group members of Seongnam City have visited the Mayor Jose Esteves to deliver the Mayor letter to suggest cooperative exchange between two cities on January 21, 2014, and made a presentation on Seongnam City at the Sister Cities Committee on January 23, 2014. After that, we have processed the specific exchange programs on education, economy and culture between two cities.

Seongnam City is often called as the "Silicon Valley of Korea" for it is one of the most developed high-tech industrial city, and also it is the "Education City", where we support children's creative education program, as well as we consider love for humanity and patriotic spirit as important. We know that Milpitas is also one of the main cities in Silicon Valley, where citizens are highly educated and world well-known IT companies run. Also, we were impressed by the fact the City Council of Milpitas adopted the resolution No. 8285, to support the investigation of comfort women issue, and we think it is very meaningful in loving for humanity.

Seongnam City hops not only to establish the sister cities relationship with City of Milpitas but also to develop cooperation of friendship by running active cooperative exchange programs to benchmark the advantages of cities and to help people of two cities visit each city in economy, education and culture. We think it will be very meaningful to have a photo exhibition where citizens of one city can see the life of the other city people, students exchange program, and build symbolic monument. Therefore, we thought that it would be good to build symbolic monuments of Seongnam and Korea, and to announce the issues that were under discussion to the media, but I express my regret for miscommunication by cultural difference including different expressions in Korean and English. But, I also want to tell you that there were mistranslated parts in English version of our press release.

Because a statue of girl symbolizes the painful Korean history and City Council of Milpitas approved the resolution to support investigation on the comfort women issue, we have suggested only one example of symbolic monuments, but since we have more valuable statues or symbolic monuments such as Hunminjungeum, the first document in Korean alphabet, Korean traditional buildings and Namhansansung in Seongnam City, which is expected to be registered as the world heritage at the UNESCO, if we can build a Korean park where can reflect these cultural heritages, of course, through communication between two cities, it will be a valuable cultural and educational place between City of Milpitas and Seongnam City.

Honorable Mayor Jose Esteves of Milpitas and Sister City Commissioners!

I sincerely appreciate the Mayor and Sister Cities Commissioners of Milpitas for your hard works on this project for two cities to build a base of mutual interchange in economy, education and culture. I wish you, Mayor and Sister City Commissioners, would visit Seongnam City. The Mayor of Seongnam City also hope that he will have a chance to visit City of Milpitas to build strong friendship between two cities. I wish healthy and happy life of citizens of City of Milpitas.

Sincerely

Spokesperson Seunghun Han, City of Seongnam, Republic of Korea 1st, April 2014