



CITY OF MILPITAS

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January 31, 2014

Ms. Eun-Hee Koo, Ed.D
Korean Language & Culture Foundation

Sent Via Email

Dear Professor Koo,

On behalf of the Milpitas Sister Cities Commission, I would like to thank you and your colleagues from Seongnam City for attending our commission meeting on January 23, 2014. We enjoyed and appreciated the presentation of such a rich and vibrant city.

The Commission will explore and discuss the possibility of establishing a sister city relationship with Seongnam City starting with our next meeting on February 27, 2014 (6PM). The City of Milpitas deeply values its relationships with its sister cities. However, the activities in which we can engage are limited by available resources. With that in mind, we need to follow up with questions of practical matters:

- Economic – Both Seongnam and Milpitas are home to major high-tech companies and can benefit from mutual cooperation and conferences which bring the companies together. Does Seongnam envision Seongnam – Silicon Valley Conferences to be primarily organized by our cities or by the high-tech companies? Does Seongnam see other opportunities outside of the high-tech industry for mutual economic development?
- Education – The Milpitas Unified School District sets the guidelines for annual student visits with Sister Cities of Milpitas. What types of student exchanges, and for what duration, does Seongnam envision? Is there a part of the year best for Milpitas students to visit Seongnam?
- Culture – The exchange of arts and performance groups provide opportunities for us to taste each other's culture. Milpitas conducts a variety of educational and cultural exchanges with our Sister Cities that do not involve travel. These include photo exchanges to create displays that share information, social events, and history. We also have enjoyed the temporary exchange of culturally significant items, such as paintings or pottery, which are informative and interesting to each community. We just began an 'e-pal' (electronic pen pal) project between Milpitas and Sister City students that fosters friendship and knowledge about each student's culture and community. Do activities such as these fit in with Seongnam's vision for cultural exchange?

Responses from Seongnam City representatives by Friday, February 21 would be appreciated and will further discussions at the next Commission meeting (February 27 at 6PM).

Also, please feel free to pose questions for the City of Milpitas so that I may research the answers for you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nolan Chen', written in a cursive style.

Nolan Chen
Milpitas Sister Cities Commission

Email cc: Jose Esteves, Mayor
 Carmen Montano, Council Liaison
 Milpitas Sister Cities Commission