



Report to: Development Services Committee

Meeting Date: April 1, 2019

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**SUBJECT:** **Recommendation Report**  
30<sup>th</sup> World Hakka Conference, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,  
October 16 – 21, 2019.

**PREPARED BY:** Sandra Tam, Sr. Business Devt. Officer, ext. 3883

**REVIEWED BY:** Stephen Chait, Director, Economic Growth, Culture &  
Entrepreneurship, ext. 4871

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

- 1) That the report titled, “30<sup>th</sup> World Hakka Conference, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, October 16 – 21, 2019”, dated April 1, 2019, be received;
- 2) That Council approve business travel for Mayor Scarpitti, Regional Councillor Joe Li, and Sr. Business Devt. Officer Sandra Tam to attend the 30<sup>th</sup> World Hakka Conference in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia from October 16 - 21;
- 3) That the total cost of the business trip to attend the 30<sup>th</sup> World Hakka Conference in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia not exceed \$19,500.00 and be expensed from within International Investment Attraction account 610-9985811;
- 4) And That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

**PURPOSE:**

In October 2017 the “Hakka Canadian Association” supported by the City of Markham was awarded the hosting rights for the 31<sup>st</sup> World Hakka Conference to be held in Markham in October 2021. The purpose of this report is to request Council’s approval for business travel for Mayor Scarpitti, Regional Councillor Joe Li, and Sr. Business Devt. Officer Sandra Tam to attend the 30<sup>th</sup> World Hakka Conference in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia from October 16 – 21. The City of Markham representatives, accompanied by members of the “Hakka Canadian Association” will meet with and make a formal presentation to the conference delegates (estimated 2,500+) to invite them to attend the 2021 World Hakka Conference in Markham.

The business trip is an integral part of the City’s 10-Year Economic Strategy “Markham 2020”. It addresses the objective of building Global Markham and Branded Markham.

**BACKGROUND:**

The World Hakka Conference

The World Hakka Conference is a prestigious global event for the international Hakka community. The conference has been successful in building a platform for global Hakka

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leaders to meet and network, and to promote greater awareness of Hakka culture, especially amongst the younger generation.

The conference is held every two years in different countries and has been successful in attracting thousands of Hakka from around the world. Recent conferences held in Jakarta, Indonesia (2013), Hsinchu, Taiwan (2015) and Hong Kong (2017) were attended by 3,000 (Hong Kong) to over 6,000 (Jakarta and Hsinchu) delegates who were representatives of global Hakka organizations. Hosting cities benefit from the surge in visitors and media attention and related cultural and economic impacts.

#### Markham to host the 31<sup>st</sup> World Hakka Conference

On September 26, 2017, Council passed the resolution to support the “Hakka Canadian Association” in the bidding for hosting rights for the 31<sup>st</sup> World Hakka conference in Markham in October 2021.

Council further approved the attendance of then Deputy Mayor Jack Heath, Regional Councillor Joe Li and Senior Economic Development Officer Sandra Tam to join the Hakka Canadian Association at the 29<sup>th</sup> World Hakka Conference in Hong Kong in October 2017. During the conference, Markham was successfully showcased to the 3,400 Conference participants as a vibrant, inclusive and welcoming community. Markham achieved its goals in supporting the Hakka Canadian Association and was awarded the hosting rights for the 31<sup>st</sup> World Hakka Conference in Markham in 2021. The strong support demonstrated by the City of Markham was essential to winning the bid.

The Mayor and Regional Councillor Joe Li will represent Markham as part of the Hakka Canadian Association delegation at the 30<sup>th</sup> World Hakka Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to promote attendance at the 31<sup>st</sup> World Hakka Conference.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

Markham, being the most diverse community in Canada and with a Hakka population of more than 15,000 residents will benefit from the hosting of this signature international Hakka event both economically and socially. To ensure success of the 31<sup>st</sup> World Hakka Conference in Markham in October 2021, it is essential for Markham to join the Hakka Canadian Association at the 30<sup>th</sup> World Hakka Conference to be held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. It is customary for the organizer and host city representative of the next World Hakka Conference to attend the Conference Flag Handover Ceremony during which conference programs are presented.

The City of Markham is participating at the 30<sup>th</sup> World Hakka Conference as the host city of the 31<sup>st</sup> World Hakka Conference. As the rights-holder, the Hakka Canadian Association is taking the sole responsibility of planning and hosting of the 31<sup>st</sup> World Hakka Conference including meeting its financial and all other obligations.

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**Recommended Itinerary:**

October 16	Departure
October 17-18	Business meetings in Kuala Lumpur
October 18-20	Attend 30 <sup>th</sup> World Hakka Conference in Kuala Lumpur
October 21	Return to Toronto

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Economic Development staff estimate the costs for the business travel plans as follows:

October 16 – 21: Attend World Hakka Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Travel, meals and accommodations:

Mayor Frank Scarpitti, Regional Councillor Joe Li and Sr. Bus. Devt. Officer Sandra Tam @\$6,500.00	\$19,500.00
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The total travel cost of \$19,500.00 to be expensed from within International Investment Attraction account 610-9985811.

**HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS**

Not applicable.

**ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

This initiative is an integral part of Markham's 10-Year Economic Strategy "Markham 2020". The program addresses the objective of building Global Markham and Branded Markham.

**BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:**

Legal and Financial Services.

**RECOMMENDED BY:**



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Stephen Chait, MPA, CMC  
Director, Economic Growth, Culture  
& Entrepreneurship



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Arvin Prasad, MPA, RPP, MCIP  
Commissioner,  
Development Services