



Harbin Municipal Government

哈尔滨·中国

MAYOR SUN ZHE
CITY OF HARBIN

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July 16th, 2019

The Honorable Mr. Frank Scarpitti,
Mayor, City of Markham, Canada

Dear Mr. Frank Scarpitti,

On behalf of Harbin Municipal People's Government and 10.98 million Harbin citizens, I would like to extend our warmest regards to you and your citizens in City of Markham.

First of all, congratulations for the successful 2019 Markham Ice & Snow Festival, which marks the friendship and cooperation between our two cities! We also thank you for sending Councillor Alan Ho to Harbin in support of our ice & snow festival in January, 2019.

Since its inception in 1985, Harbin International Ice and Snow Festival, an annual event, has become the largest Ice and Snow Festival in the world. Diverse activities covering tourism, culture, economic and trade, sports will be organized between January 4th and January 7th, including the Opening Ceremony of Harbin International Ice and Snow Festival & Ice and Snow World, International Snow Sculpture Expo, International Ice and Snow Sculptures Competition and business match-making events. The 35th Ice and Snow Festival held last year has generated 23.39 million tourists in total.

To deepen friendship and facilitate cooperation among international sister cities for win-win results, Harbin will host the International Winter Cities Conference during the 36th Ice and Snow Festival period between January 4th - 7th, 2020. During the Conference, we would like to invite winter cities, chamber of commerce and companies around the globe to participate our diverse events, including International Winter Cities Symposium, International Business and Chamber of Commerce Match-making, "Voice of Sister Cities" Symphony Concert, Mascot Tour, International Youth Ice Hockey Invitational and International Ice and Snow Sculpture Competition. By organizing these events, we hope to share experiences and resources in winter festivals, tap potential and promote cooperation between winter cities.

We will be pleased to cover the expenses of a delegation up to 5 members headed by you for 4 days stay in Harbin. Business, chambers of commerce people, artists and athletes are welcome to join our other events (see the attached introduction), whose expenses in Harbin will also be covered by us during that period. Please send the RSVP form back to us before November 1st, 2019.

Harbin, a glittering winter wonderland with vivid ice and snow sculptures, awaits your participation with open arms !

For further information, please don't hesitate to contact Cathy KAI at Harbin Foreign Affairs Office at 86-451-84664730 or hfao@sina.com

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the Chinese characters '孙喆' (Sun Zhe), written in a cursive style.

Sun Zhe

Mayor of Harbin, P. R. China