

SUBJECT: 32nd World Hakka Conference, Longnan, Ganzhou, China,
November 7 – 9, 2023

PREPARED BY: Chris Rickett, Director, Economic Growth, Culture and
Entrepreneurship

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) That the report entitled “32nd World Hakka Conference, Longnan, Ganzhou, China, November 7 – 9, 2023” be received;
- 2) That Council approve business travel for Mayor Scarpitti or designate, Chair of Economic Growth, Culture & Entrepreneurship Regional Councillor Alan Ho and Regional Councillor Joe Li to attend the 32nd World Hakka Conference in Longnan, Ganzhou, China from November 7 – 9, 2023;
- 3) That the total cost of the 32nd World Hakka Conference in Longnan, Ganzhou, China not exceed \$15,000 CDN and be funded from the Corporate Contingency Account , as the 2023 International Investment Attraction Operating Budget is fully allocated; and,
- 4) That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council’s approval for business travel for Mayor Scarpitti or designate, Chair of Culture and Economic Development Regional Councillor Alan Ho and Regional Councillor Joe Li to attend the 32nd World Hakka Conference in Longnan, Ganzhou, China on behalf of the City of Markham.

BACKGROUND:

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 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.

On September 26, 2017, Council passed the resolution to support the Hakka Canadian Association in the bidding for hosting rights for the 31st World Hakka conference in Markham in October 2021. Markham was awarded the bid to be host city at the 29th World Hakka Conference in Hong Kong. In June 2022, following a delay due to COVID-19, Markham successfully hosted the 31st World Hakka Conference which included over 1000 delegates from 14 different countries around the world. The conference featured events promoting Hakka culture, while also including programming highlighting Markham's tech sector, which included a tour of key tech companies in Markham. The conference also showcased the economic opportunity of investing in Markham to the delegates in attendance.

OPTIONS/ DISCUSSION:

Markham, being the most diverse community in Canada and with a significant Hakka population of more than 15,000 residents, has sent prior delegations to World Hakka conferences over the years.

The City of Markham and Ganzhou, China have been friendship cities since 2013, with both cities signing a friendship agreement at the 31st World Hakka Conference in Markham. With Ganzhou being the host of the upcoming conference, it would be recommended to have a delegation attend the conference on behalf of the City of Markham.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The proposed budget and costs to attend the 32nd World Hakka Conference in Longnan, Ganzhou, China from November 7 – 9, 2023, including number of representatives are included below. The total budget spend will be \$15,000.

32nd World Hakka Conference	Cost
Travel and Logistics (Mayor or designate, Regional Councillor Alan Ho and Regional Councillor Li at \$5,000 CDN)	\$15,000 CDN
Total	\$15,000 CDN

HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

To highlight Markham as the best place to live, invest, work, and showcase Markham's rich diversity.

BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

Economic Growth, Culture & Entrepreneurship
Finance Department

RECOMMENDED BY:

Chris Rickett
Director, Economic Growth, Culture
and Entrepreneurship

Arvin Prasad
Commissioner, Development
Services

ATTACHMENTS:

N/A