



Report to: Development Services Committee

Meeting Date: June 4th, 2024

SUBJECT: 33rd World Hakka Conference, Luoyang, Henan Province, China, October 24 – 26, 2024

PREPARED BY: Lee Boudakian, Director, Economic Growth, Culture and Entrepreneurship

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) That the report entitled “33rd World Hakka Conference, Luoyang, Henan Province, China, October 24 – 26, 2024” 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 33rd World Hakka Conference in Luoyang, Henan Province, China from October 24 – 26, 2024;
- 3) That the total cost of the 33rd World Hakka Conference in Luoyang, Henan Province, China not exceed \$10,500 CDN and be funded from the Corporate Contingency Account; 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 33rd World Hakka Conference in Luoyang, Henan Province, 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 has been held in different countries and has been successful in attracting thousands of Hakka from around the world. Recent conferences have been held in Jakarta, Indonesia (2013), Hsinchu, Taiwan (2015), Hong Kong (2017), Kuala Lumpur (2019), Markham (2022) and Longnan, China (2023). Past conferences were attended by 3,000 to over 6,000 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.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The proposed budget and costs to attend the 33rd World Hakka Conference in Luoyang, Henan Province, China from October 24 – 26, 2024, including number of representatives are included below. The total budget spend will be \$10,500.

33rd World Hakka Conference	Cost
Travel and Logistics (Mayor or designate, Regional Councillor Alan Ho and Regional Councillor Joe Li at \$3,500 CDN)	\$10,500 CDN
Total	\$10,500 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:

Lee Boudakian
Acting Director, Economic Growth, Culture
and Entrepreneurship

Arvin Prasad
Commissioner, Development
Services

ATTACHMENTS:

N/A