

Action Plan for Sister-City Cooperation in 2017-2019 between Beijing Municipality and City of Helsinki

Beijing Municipality of the People's Republic of China and City of Helsinki of the Republic of Finland

Recalling the Sister City Agreement between the two capitals signed on July 14, 2006, which provides the overall framework for the cooperation, as well as the Memorandum of Understanding between the two capitals signed on June 15, 2010, which outlined the cooperation in the field of design

Recalling the various discussions during Mayoral meetings, most recently in May 2016 and in November 2014, where mutual understanding was reached about further deepening the sister-city cooperation

Recognizing the importance of sister-city cooperation in economic, educational and cultural development

Recognizing China's goals for promoting winter sports ahead of the Beijing Olympic Games in 2022, and Finland's traditions as a successful winter sports nation

Acknowledging the active existing cooperation in education and culture, including the annual Helsinki Spring Festival organized jointly by the two cities and the Moi Helsinki event organized in Beijing in May 2016.

Considering the increasing role of design and startups in creating well-being for their citizens and boosting their innovative capacity

Agree, through friendly consultations, to strengthen their sister-city cooperation by implementing a three-year Action Plan for 2017-2019.

1. Beijing and Helsinki share knowledge and expertise in winter sports and facilities, through talent building as well as smart and energy efficient facilities. The capitals will enter into concrete development projects through supporting the cooperation of related companies in the field.
2. Schools from both cities continue their successful sister-school cooperation. In addition to ongoing exchanges in pedagogy and education, the cooperation will focus on the future school, digitalization of teaching and learning, as well as innovative, safe and healthy learning environments.
3. Cultural cooperation remains active with the Helsinki Spring Festival organized as a joint effort by the parties and developed as one of Helsinki's most popular winter festivals. Other cultural exchanges can be arranged on ad-hoc basis by municipal

governments and art export agencies based on the previous cooperation in e.g. Moi Helsinki event.

4. Through the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, the cities engage in active dialogue within the field of design, sharing experiences, exchanging ideas and planning bilateral design initiatives.
5. Startups in the two cities are encouraged to use services and facilities supported by local governments through a specific startup exchange program. Incubators, accelerators and growth capital funds from both cities are encouraged to cooperate in order to facilitate startup growth and internationalization through joint operations.

Foreign Affairs Office of the Beijing Municipality and the City Executive Office of the City of Helsinki are responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Action Plan and for reporting to the Mayors about the results of the cooperation.

Signed on 29th August 2017 in Helsinki, The Action Plan is written in duplicate in Chinese and English, with both texts being equally authentic.

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