

BANGALORE- SAN FRANCISCO SISTER CITY CO-OPERATION

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

2008

The Administrator, Bangalore and the Honorable Mayor of San Francisco recognize that cooperation between their respective cities in fields of Culture, Trade, Economy, Tourism, Education, Health, Traffic & Transportation etc will be mutually beneficial and that such cooperation will promote and strengthen the bonds of friendship and understanding between the peoples of the two cities.

Bangalore, Karnataka

Bangalore, the capital city of Karnataka state has, over the years, emerged as a major technological hub of the World with the presence of more than a thousand IT & BT Companies. Today it is firmly established as a global IT destination. With its salubrious climate, multi cultural population (about 7 million) and abundant technical talent, it has successfully in the IT/ ITES and Biotechnology sector. Consequently, most of the Fortune 500 Companies of the World have established base in Bangalore, in the process, adding to their growth and business potential.

San Francisco, California

The City and Country of San Francisco is the fourth most populous city in California (fourteenth-most populous in the United States). San Francisco is the center of the much larger San Francisco Bay Area, which is home to approximately 7.2 million People. The city is located on the tip of the San Francisco Peninsula, with the Pacific Ocean to the west, the San Francisco Bay to the east and the famous Golden Gate to the north. With over thirty international financial institutions, six Fortune 500 companies and a large infrastructure of professional services, including legal, public relations, financial, architecture, graphic design , San Francisco today is one of ten Beta World Cities.

San Francisco's economy has increasingly become one that is innovation and knowledge based, sharing a need for highly educated workers with specialized skills. It has been positioning itself as a biotechnology and biomedical hub and research center. The California Institute for Regenerative Medicine is one such important centre for stem cell research programs.

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It is only natural and inevitable that these two great cities come together and form an effective alliance for mutual benefits as well as a better cultural bonding. The areas of co-operation may extend to application of modern technology, research and development in bio technology, health care, aviation, IT, and ITES, application of IT for better Governance. Multi media delivery of Municipal services, public transport, water management, management of waste, promotion of economy and trade, sports and education, promotion of tourism, socio-cultural exchanges and learning from best practices across various endeavors.

In this direction, both cities have agreed to seal the relationship in the form of a MoU, which the Honorable, Mayor of San Francisco and Administrator of Bangalore have most gracefully signed on this day, 20th October 2008.

Strategy

The Parties agree to establish a “Working group”, which will facilitate the implementation of this MoU. The Working Group shall set down the procedures, plans, recommended programs and activities towards achieving its aims through the official agencies and various stakeholders at the public and private sectors. The Working Group shall further review the implementation of this MoU, the procedures, plans, recommended programs and activities and then submit a report to the Executing Agencies. The Parties will facilitate visits of senior officials and other representatives for mutual consultation, as deemed necessary, in implementing this MoU.

Areas of Co-Operation

Exchange of ideas through friendly visits

The two sides believe that frequent exchanges of high-level visits and contacts are conducive to the development of sound and steady bilateral relations. Consequently, it is agreed to promote friendly exchange of visits between government agencies, Legislatures, industry and trade officials and non-governmental organizations. It is also agreed to encourage regular exchange of visits between government officials of the two cities at various levels, for a better understanding of common issues relating to good governance. Such visits can extend to holding of seminars, conferences and workshops with participation from other stake-holders.

To begin, Bangalore will be honored to host the visit of Honorable Mayor Gavin Newsom and his team of delegation from San Francisco. San Francisco, in turn, will also extend an invitation to the Honorable Mayor / Administrator of Bangalore to visit San Francisco at his earliest convenience.

Promotion of Economy and Trade

Bangalore's Confederation of trade and industry wishes to establish co-operative relationship with the Trade and industry of San Francisco. Bangalore will work on a city centric “Investment Promotion Guide” for the benefit of San Francisco businesses, who aspire to develop business links with Bangalore.

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In turn, San Francisco will provide a similar guide to promote an attractive, favorable and better environment for economic cooperation and trade; increased transparency and impartiality of trade-related regulations through the exchange of information and the increased coordination.

Both parties will strive to simplify investment procedures, hold regular investment promotion activities and facilitate the continued growth of two-way investment with practical safeguards; encourage closer contacts and mutually beneficial cooperation of various forms between business communities of the two sides, including bilateral economic cooperation and trade.

Bangalore and San Francisco shall begin dialogue on formation of an "IT and ITES-Sister City Program" to explore new opportunities in the areas of software development, testing, applications and exchange. Protection of Intellectual Property Rights of IT services will engage special attention. A similar program for the Bio technology sector can also be envisaged to promote research and development in this green-field area of knowledge.

Social & Cultural

The exchange of cultural values between the two cities is significant for building a strong foundation to sustain the relationship. The cities are committed to working together towards achievement of greater cultural harmony. The two sides will work together and take practical and effective measures to enhance exchanges and cooperation between the cities in matters of culture and arts, reciprocally establish friendship associations between their multi ethnic and multicultural societies, actively encourage exchanges between non-governmental organizations/cultural ambassadors and also provide necessary infrastructure and facilities to this end.

Education

There shall be co-operation in the field of Education between the two cities in the key areas of medicine, engineering, multi media and various higher education programmes. It will extend to tie-ups between the Universities, laboratories and the industry for such initiatives as well as Research & Development in key areas of Science and technology.

San Francisco, home to the California Regenerative Medicine Institute (Stem Cell) and the University of California, San Francisco Medical Research Campus etc. and Bangalore, home to the famous Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore University and a host of biotech and biomedical companies with advance research facilities will all work together to forge new partnerships and collaborative ventures between their respective institutions.

The two cities will actively facilitate academic and technological exchanges and encourage joint research and development projects in high- and new- tech areas, including information technology, as well as the commercialization of scientific and technological achievements;

Facilitate exchanges and cooperation between their educational and academic communities, exchange students through scholarship programs, encourage regular exchanges between experts and scholars; and organize joint research between the academicians, experts or scholars of the two sides.

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Tourism

The exchange of knowledge across all levels of industry will provide a platform for innovative services to be developed and delivered from the learning City.

Increase in tourist arrival to both cities from the respective tourist generating markets will encourage healthy growth of the tourism industry in both cities, increase flow of investment and trade in tourism and travel related services from and to both countries; and promote human resource development in tourism and travel related industries of both cities. Similarly, the parties will explore possibilities of establishing direct air connectivity to facilitate easier movement of people and goods between the two cities.

Environmental knowledge exchange

With respect to environmental sustainability, this relationship will provide opportunity for knowledge exchange on matters such as waste minimizations and management, environmental health, water, air and biodiversity. The twin cities agree to take proactive steps to reduce the carbon footprints and in turn, promote sustainable development.

Legal support and Intellectual Property

The two sides will respect each other's legal systems, enhance their judicial exchanges and strengthen their law enforcement. The two sides will co-operate in providing protection to Intellectual Property Rights for promotion of healthy trade relations.

Modes of Co-operation

The two cities will strive to initiate co-operation in the above mentioned areas through a series of pro-active measures. Some processes of co-operation are delineated below:

- Consultations and co-operation on substantive issues
- Exchange of information and documentation of good practices
- Participation in meetings, seminars and conferences
- Promotion of Annual Fair involving Trade & Commerce, Travel & Tourism, Cultural, Educational, Health & etc, in both the cities
- Dissemination of information of the cities thru a link in official web sites of both the cities
- Annual exchange programmes of youth & officials
- Joint Annual Action Plan

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The Key benefits

The Sister City arrangement is likely to be beneficial to both cities in the following area:

- New business opportunities
- Economic and social benefits
- Collaboration and transfer of cutting-edge Technology
- Good Governance and better service delivery
- Transfer of cross-cultural understanding
- Exchange of language development
- Broadening of skills and knowledge
- Greater level of satisfaction and motivation for City employees who become involved as mentors and trainers
- Measurable outcomes that will sustain the economic and social development of the sister city relationship.

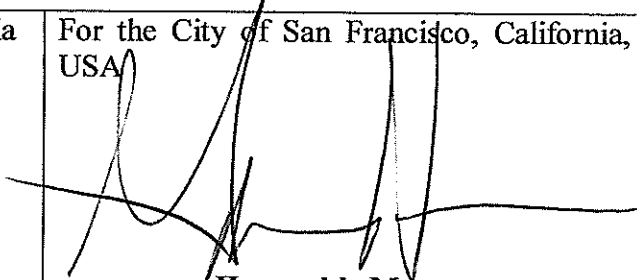
The cities will also need to develop a relationship plan for its stakeholders who have supported the relationships to a great extent till date. The plan will be developed in conjunction with all stakeholders and will clearly set out agreed mechanisms for maintaining the enthusiasm and support of all the City stakeholders in order strengthen this relationship.

Duration

This MOU shall enter force on the date of its signing for a period of three years and be automatically extended for three years subsequently, unless it is denounced in writing by either Party, giving a notice to the other, at least two(2) months in advance.

Should this MOU be terminated, the relevant clauses shall remain in force until such time when the implementation of procedures plans and programs of cooperation have been carried out to their completion.

Signed in San Francisco and Bangalore, on the 20th day of October in the year 2008, in two original copies in the English language, in formalization of a Sister City arrangement between Bangalore and San Francisco. All texts are being equally authentic.

<p>For the City of Bangalore, Karnataka, India</p> <p>The Administrator, Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore, India.</p>	<p>For the City of San Francisco, California, USA</p>  <p>Honorable Mayor, City of San Francisco, USA.</p>
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