



*Renewal*

*of the*

*Sister City Agreement*

*between the*

*People's Government of Beijing Municipality*

*and the*

*Government of the District of Columbia*



# **THE AGREEMENT ON EXCHANGES AND COOPERATION BETWEEN BEIJING MUNICIPALITY, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

In recognition of the friendly, close and long-standing relationship between Beijing Municipality and the District of Columbia that dates back to 1984, when the two cities were officially twinned as inter-city friendship cities, Mr. Guo Jinlong, Mayor of Beijing, and Mr. Vincent C. Gray, Mayor of Washington, D.C., do hereby reaffirm this relationship with the signing of this agreement and declare their intent for both cities to work together in the areas of economic development, tourism, sustainability, education, and technology. To that end, projects will be developed and implemented in each of the following areas.

Both parties have agreed to the following:

## **ARTICLE 1: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRADE, AND INVESTMENT**

- Both parties shall share information about trade and investment opportunities. Inquiries for additional information shall be referred to the appropriate authorities in both cities.
- Both parties shall connect businesses with potential partners and customers.
- Both parties shall provide assistance with registration, licensing, and other requirements for establishing a local business.

## **ARTICLE 2: TOURISM**

- Both parties shall promote opportunities to increase travel to and from each other's city for leisure and business purposes.
- Both parties shall seek cross-marketing and advertising opportunities to promote inter-city travel and tourism.

## **ARTICLE 3: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

- Both parties shall promote collaboration and exchange of ideas in the areas of e-governance and smart city initiatives.
- Both parties shall encourage and support local high-tech companies to explore business opportunities in each other's city and to work together on research and development projects.

## **ARTICLE 4: SUSTAINABILITY**

- Both parties shall share information about best practices in conserving energy and limiting pollution. Such information may include measures pertaining to transportation, construction techniques, water usage, and green space.
- Both parties shall promote collaboration and exchange of ideas in the area of environment protection, urban green development and the green economy.



## **ARTICLE 5: EDUCATION AND CULTURE**

- Both parties shall promote the development of programs and share experiences in the areas of culture, education, and the arts and shall explore the creation of a vibrant creative economy.
- Both parties shall support partnerships between sister city universities and colleges. These partnerships may include study abroad opportunities for students, academic research assistance, and student recruitment.
- Both parties shall explore opportunities for student and teacher exchanges between Beijing school students/teachers and District of Columbia Public School system students/teachers at the high school level.

The Foreign Affairs Office of the People's Government of Beijing Municipality and Office of the Secretary of the District of Columbia will serve as the liaison departments of their respective cities, and shall be responsible for coordinating the implementation of this agreement. The ways of cooperation for above-mentioned programs and related cost will be negotiated by both parties.

Signed in Beijing, China on June 26, 2012, this Agreement will be valid for five years and take effect on the date of its signature. This Agreement will be prepared in two original copies in both the English and Chinese language.

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Vincent C. Gray  
Mayor of Washington, D.C.

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Guo Jinlong  
Mayor of Beijing