湖南省人民政府

Hunan People's Government

Invitation

Feb. 22, 2010

Dear Honorable Mayor Bill Bell,

The Foreign & Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of The People's G overnment of Hunan province cordially invites you to attend the "2010 Hunan Forum for Sister-City Cooperation" in Changsha from June 21 to 22.

In conjunction with the Shanghai World Expo, t he "2010 Hunan Forum for Sister-City Cooperation" will be hosted by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the People's Government of Hunan province to promote economic cooperation and strengthen exchanges in science & education, cul ture, health, and tourism between Hunan Province and its sister states and cities. The main theme of the forum is "Inter-city Cooperation and Common Development". A space is reserved for each participating state and city to set up exhibits that showcase their economy, education, environment, tourism and culture.

The agenda of the forum includes plenary sessions and round-table discussions for "inter-city cooperation", city and state exhibits, a signing ceremony for agreements or letters of intent, and a post-forum tour of Hunan's famous World Heritage sites, as well as a tour of the Hunan Hall of the "World Expo" in Shanghai. We will cover all expenses on food, domestic travel and acco mmodation for all invited participants during their visit to Hunan Province.

All sister cities and international partners of Hunan Province are invited to join with 14 cities, universities and major corporations of Hunan Province. The Forum is an opportunity to promote economic cooperation and search for common prosperity. We will appreciate if you can consider our invitation for Durham to become a sister city with Zhuzhou, and respond by March 5 to Dr. Lian Xie, North Carolina Representative of Hunan Province by email at: xie@ncsu.edu, or by phone at: (919) 649-7407. Upon receiving your response, we will send an official invitation.

We appreciate your effort in developing the friendly relationship between our two sides , and hope you and a delegation from your city will be able to join us.

Best regards

Yours sincerely,

Wen Pang
Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs office