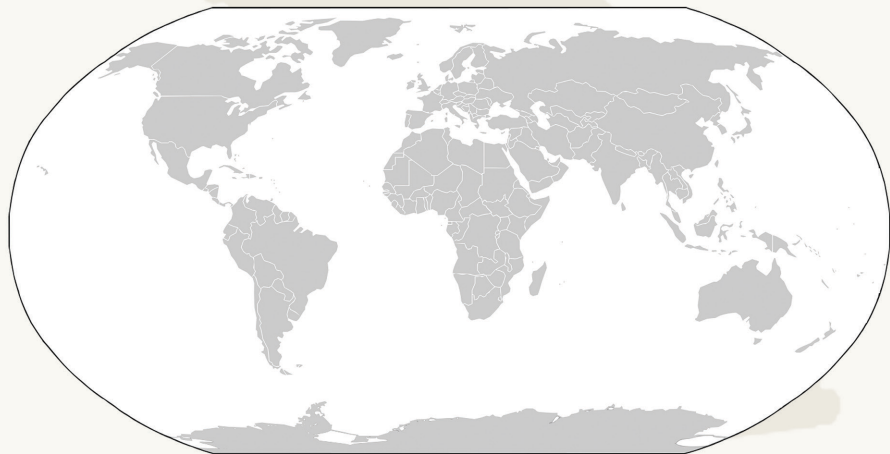




2014 SoCal Sister Cities Annual Conference

**SISTER CITIES JOINING
FORCES FOR SUCCESS**



Saturday, April 5, 2014 • 8:00 am-3:00 pm
The Tom Bradley Tower, 26th Floor,
Los Angeles City Hall, 200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012



TOM LaBONGE
Councilmember
Fourth District

Southern California Sister Cities International
P.O. Box 61264
Los Angeles, CA 90061

April 5, 2014

Dear Friends:

Please accept my warmest congratulations on your Southern California Sister Cities International conference on Saturday, April 5th, 2014. This annual event will go a long way by truly highlighting the incredible growth and development of not only Sister Cities International, but also the presence of people-to-people friendships between Americans and peoples of other nations.

This year's theme, "Joining Forces for Success," truly highlights U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower's famous quote that initiated Sister Cities International in 1956. *"Two deeply held convictions unite us in common purpose. First is our belief in effective and responsive local government as a principal bulwark of freedom. Second is our faith in the great promise of people-to-people and sister city affiliations in helping build the solid structure of world peace."* As a proud supporter of continuing to expand international cultural exchange in the City of Los Angeles and around the world, I applaud Sister Cities International for introducing opportunities to build global cooperation, promote cultural understanding and stimulate economic development for all its member cities. Thank you for your dedication in promoting the importance of resource between nations and an expression of their common desire for friendship, goodwill, and cooperation for a better world.

The longevity of this conference is a testament to the power of community. With your help, Los Angeles can continue to learn and engage in cultural understanding, international trade and global cooperation. Here's to many more years of continuing to help the people of the City of Los Angeles. You are all angels in the City of Angels! Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

TOM LaBONGE
Councilmember, Fourth District
City of Los Angeles

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MORNING SESSION

8:00 am **REGISTRATION**

Continental Breakfast and Information Tables

9:00 am **OPENING CEREMONY**

Welcome Address:

Gil Garcia, *SoCal President*

Proclamations and Sponsor's Remarks

The Honorable Tom LaBonge, *Councilmember, Fourth District, and Chairman, Sister Cities of Los Angeles*

Sister Cities of Los Angeles Welcome

Tom Gilmore, *President, Sister Cities of Los Angeles*

9:20 am **CONSULS GENERAL PANEL**

“How to Work Effectively with Consular Corps to Enhance Sister City Relationships”

His Excellency Cyril Sibusiso Ndaba, *Consul General of South Africa*

The Honorable Carlos M. Sada, *Consul General of Mexico*

The Honorable Masahiro Suga, *Deputy Consul General of Japan*

Moderator: Sherri Ferris, *Pres. and CEO, Protocol Professionals, Inc.*

10:10 am **FOUNDER'S ADDRESS**

“SoCal Sister Cities, A History of Success”

Thelma Press, PhD, *Co-Founder*

10:20 am **BREAK**

10:40 am **YOUTH AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS PANEL**

“Youth and Awe – Inspiring the Next Generation”

Carlsbad: Andrea Abeyta and Gretchen Miller

Culver City: Isabella Browning and Elizabeth Ferriera

San Diego: Belen Hernandez Garcia and Saiqaa Nuri

Moderator: Mickey Mello

11:20 am **MEMBERSHIP & BENEFITS**

Adam Kaplan, *SCI Director of Membership*

AFTERNOON SESSION

12:00 pm **NETWORKING LUNCHEON**

1:15 pm **ALLIANCE PANEL**

“Opportunities with Common Goals for Successful Missions”

Pina Hernandez, *President*

Jalisco Federation

Zuraya Tapia Hadley, *Director*, Mexican American Leadership Initiative
and Director of Communications

U.S.-Mexico Foundation

Sylvia Whitlock, PhD., *Past District Governor (2012-2013)*

Rotary International District 5300 & Rotary Club of Claremont

Naomi Takasu, *Director*

Japan Foundation

Sachiko Yoshimura, *Chief Executive Director*

Japan External Trade Organization

Moderators: Gil Garcia, *President of SoCal* and

Anthony AL-Jamie, *1st Vice President of SoCal*

2:15 pm **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Fabiola Kinder, Chair, SoCal Sister Cities Conference 2014

PRESENTATION ON 2014 NATIONAL SCI CONFERENCE

Tim Quigley, *President of the San Jose-Dublin Sister City*

2:30 pm **INFORMATION TABLES**

EVALUATION

PRESENTERS

Andrea Abeyta, is a Carlsbad Sister Cities Executive Junior Ambassador, junior at Carlsbad High School, and Founder and Co-President of the Sister Cities Club at the high school. As a girl scout, she welcomed dignitaries from Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic. In 2011, she traveled there as Sister City Junior Ambassador and presented “Carlsbad in a Suitcase” to the current Mayor and city staff, as well as Girl Guides. She hosted students and delegates from Futtsu, Japan in the spring of 2013. Last year Andrea attended the SCI conference in San Antonio, Texas.

Anthony Al-Jamie, PhD., Second Vice President SOCAL Sister Cities Board of Directors, was born and raised in Southern California. He is Executive Director and Publisher of the Tokyo Journal, Vice-President of Anaheim University Press, Anaheim Sister City Commissioner, and educator. Dr. Al-Jamie lived in Saitama and Tokyo, Japan for 20 years, where he owned a chain of English language schools, including teaching members of the Advanced and Basic Officers Courses at the Japan Self Defense Force Training Grounds. He also served as an International Advisory Council Member to the Governor of Saitama, Japan and was the only non-Japanese Member of the Wako-shi Rotary Club.

Isabella Browning, is a high school senior, representing Culver City Sister City. She attended Kaizuka, Japan in 2012 and the Youth Summit in San Antonio, Texas last year.

Elizabeth Ferreira, is a high school senior. She has always loved traveling, so when was offered the opportunity to go to South Korea during her freshman year in high school through the Culver City Sister City Committee, she seized it! The next year, she went on the tri-lateral program. Whether in the tri-lateral program, being a youth board member, or speaking at conferences, she is highly engaged. Elizabeth is a three-year member of Culver City Sister City Committee. She became a lifetime member when she renewed this year.

Sherri Ferris, is the President and CEO of Protocol Professionals, Inc., a San Francisco based international relations consulting firm. Her clients include Chevron, Oracle, Chinese Foreign Ministry and the United Nations. She was San Francisco’s Deputy Chief of Protocol, Disneyland Lead VIP Hostess, and California licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. Ms. Ferris has a graduate degree in Psychology from California State University Fullerton. In 2008 she founded the Sonoma – Aswan Egypt Sister City Committee

with Egyptian Ambassador Salaheldin. She is Sonoma Sister Cities Chief of Protocol, leading political delegations to Egypt, China, Argentina and Chile. She co-founded a career consular corps network, The Young Diplomats Club, currently with over 500 members.

Gil Garcia, President, SoCal Board of Director, is a practicing architect involved in civic affairs. As a former City of Santa Barbara Council member for ten years, he was active in the League of California Cities, Community Services Policy Committee, Local Government Commission, and the National League of Cities Human Development Committee. His sister cities activities include former President of US/Mexico Sister Cities Association, current board member of Sister Cities International, and past President of Santa Barbara Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee. In addition, Mr. Garcia is a California delegate to the Sister Cities Association of America. He is also responsible for assisting the president of the Mexican national sister cities organization in organizing sister city committees in cities throughout Mexico.

Tom Gilmore, is President of Sister Cities of Los Angeles and Managing Partner of Gilmore Associates. Trained in architecture and design, developer Tom Gilmore has been pursuing acquisition and rehabilitation opportunities of under-utilized historic properties in Downtown Los Angeles and Hollywood since the early 1990s. His leading projects include the Old Bank District, Vibiana, Old Bank District Garage, and a Chinatown Redevelopment Project at 835 N. Broadway. As the first developer to utilize the Adaptive Reuse Ordinance in Los Angeles, which opened up a new avenue for renovation in the City, Tom Gilmore has been a driving force in the redevelopment of Los Angeles' urban spaces and a major catalyst for Downtown's revival and great residential boom. His past and current community affiliations include involvement with Sister Cities of Los Angeles (current President), Southern California Institute of Architecture, the Historic Downtown Business Improvement District, Central City Association, and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. Along with ex-Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and ex-mayor Richard Riordan, Tom Gilmore ranked among the "42 Most Powerful People in Los Angeles" by LA Downtown News in the 2011 Downtown Power List which selects "the top of the top in politics, business, labor and entertainment" in the last 40 years. Recognized for his active contribution to the community - chipping in money to save the Downtown Los Angeles Art Walk and the \$1 million endowment to the Southern California Institute of Architecture - Tom Gilmore was also named one of the Central City Association's Treasurers of Los Angeles.

Belen Hernandez Garcia, is a student at The Preuss School UCSD, a high School in San Diego. She was member of Preuss' Ecology Club, a student activity partnered with the San Diego-Jalalabad Sister City Society. Spon-

sored by the local sister cities program, Belen joined 49 high school students from a broad range of US Cities, at the Sister Cities International “Youth Leadership Summit” last year in San Antonio, Texas

Pina Hernandez, President of Federacion De Clubes Jaliscienses, has been directing this organization of 30 clubs or hometown associations. Ms. Hernandez has been active in many community developments such as WIC, Club Magdalena, and CA Immigrant Welfare Collaboration. The current agenda for Federacion de Clubes Jaliscienses includes bi-national work between Mexico and the U.S.

Adam Kaplan, Membership Director at Sister Cities International, joined the organization in 2008 as a Program Manager. He has been in his current position for over two years. Mr. Kaplan was Academic Coordinator for American Language Center, and Program Assistant and Program Officer for other non-profit organizations. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts from Georgetown University and Master of Arts in Communication from American University in Washington, D.C. Mr. Kaplan travels nationally to conduct SCI programs.

The Honorable Tom LaBonge, is Councilmember for the Fourth District of the City of Los Angeles. His role is the culmination of a lifetime spent in service to his native city. He has worked in some capacity for the City of Los Angeles for almost four decades, starting with a stint on Mayor Tom Bradley’s youth council. Los Angeles Magazine in 2009 dubbed LaBonge “Mr. Los Angeles” for all of his years of service. LaBonge first took office in 2001, in a special election to replace political mentor John Ferraro. He was subsequently re-elected to four-year terms in 2003, 2007, and 2011. LaBonge started working for the city as a volunteer with Mayor Tom Bradley’s Youth Council in 1974, and on Mayor Bradley’s Summer Youth Beautification Team. He served on the staffs of Councilwoman Peggy Stevenson, City Council President John Ferraro, the Honorable Mayor Richard Riordan, and the Department of Water and Power as its Director of Community Relations. LaBonge has had a career-long involvement with public parks and the preservation of open-space. He received the National Parks Service Award, and People of the Parks Award “Legislator of the Year” among numerous accolades. LaBonge currently serves as Chairman for Trade, Commerce & Tourism, Vice Chair for Arts, Parks, Health, Aging and River, Member of Energy & Environment Committee, Member of Transportation Committee, Member of Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee, and serves on the City Council Leadership as the Assistant President Pro Tempore. Born and raised in Los Angeles, Councilmember Tom LaBonge grew up with his seven brothers in Silver Lake. In 1971, he graduated from John Marshall High School and in 1975, from the Cal State University Los Angeles with a Bachelor of Scienc-

es in Sociology. He lives in Silver Lake today, with his wife Brigid and their two children, Mary-Cate and Charles.

Mickey Mello, Member of SoCal Board of Directors and Bakersfield Sister City Board of Directors, is in charge of Communications, Social media and the SoCal website. Mickey is a Marketing professional at Global CTI, a firm in Bakersfield which specializes in telecommunications. A former professional actor starting at age 15, he has to his credit, movies, TV, and national commercials. Mickey was the first student from his university to study at Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan. A yearlong study abroad commitment was cut to six months due to the 9.0 earthquake. Mickey graduated with Highest Honors while double majoring in Marketing and Business Economics. He visited Bakersfield's Sister City in Wakayama, Japan.

Gretchen Miller, is a Carlsbad Sister Cities Executive Junior Ambassador, junior at Carlsbad High School, and Founder and Co-President of the Sister Cities Club at the high school. As a girl scout, she welcomed dignitaries from Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic. In 2011, she traveled there as Sister City Junior Ambassador and presented "Carlsbad in a Suitcase" to the current Mayor and city staff, as well as Girl Guides. She hosted students and delegates from Futtsu, Japan in the spring of 2013. Last year, Gretchen attended the SCL conference in San Antonio, Texas.

His Excellency Cyril Sibusiso Ndaba, Consul General of South Africa posted in Los Angeles, was born in the coastal city of Durban. In 1978, he enrolled in law school at the University of Zululand, and in 1981 he was suspended for his political activism. He later completed his degree in 1986, becoming a teacher before joining the diplomatic corps. His first assignment as a diplomat was in New York 1995–1998, and then in Rwanda 2000-2004. His most recent assignment before his current post was as Deputy High Commissioner of South Africa to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 2004-2010.

Saiqaa Nuri, is a high school student at The Preuss School UCSD, in San Diego. She was member of Preuss' Ecology Club, a student activity partnered with the San Diego-Jalalabad Sister City Society. Sponsored by the local sister cities program, Belen joined 49 high school students from a broad range of US Cities, at the Sister Cities International "Youth Leadership Summit" last year in San Antonio, Texas. Saiqaa role-played a Peoples' Republic of China diplomat coping with ecological disasters and maritime security issues in a model United Nations simulation.

Thelma Press, PhD, Co-Founder of SoCal Sister Cities was born in Darjeeling, India. Mother Teresa was one of her teachers. Ms. Press began her involvement with Sister Cities in 1959 through establishing a relationship

between San Bernardino, California and Tachikawa, Japan. In 1972, SCI appointed her as California State Representative. She co-founded a California state chapter of Sister Cities International in 1974, and then the SoCal Chapter. Ms. Press served as a Board member of Sister Cities International from 1977-2001, and co-chair of the First Sino-U.S. Sister Cities Conference in Beijing in 1995. She has served on many Boards and received numerous honors, including Global Envoy, Sister Cities International's highest honor.

Stephen "Tim" Quigley, Jr., President of San Jose/Dublin Sister City, has served in a variety of senior executive positions in private industry, non-profit organizations, the U.S. Navy, Department of Defense, NATO and international organizations in the last 40 years. In the past 16 years, Mr. Quigley has been Chairman and CEO of Azores TV and PIN TV Holding Group, President/CEO of the Silicon Valley Global Trading Center, Executive Director of Volunteer Center Silicon Valley, and Program Director of Green Challenge California. Mr. Quigley is a 31-year career naval officer, aviator, and veteran, with positions such as Commanding Officer, Executive Assistant to the Commander in Chief, NATO Southern Forces Europe, and Commander in Chief US Naval Forces Europe.

The Honorable Carlos M. Sada, is Consul General of Mexico in Los Angeles. His previous posts include Consul General of Mexico in New York; Minister for Congressional Affairs at the Embassy of Mexico in Washington, D.C.; Consul General of Mexico in Chicago; Dean of the Consular Corps of Chicago; Consul General of Mexico in San Antonio, Texas; Mayor of the City of Oaxaca, State of Oaxaca, Mexico; Consul General of Mexico in Toronto, Canada; and Secretary of Social and Economic Development of the State of Oaxaca. He holds a degree in industrial engineering from the Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City. Mr. Sada completed graduate studies at the University of Newcastle in Great Britain, the University of Deft in the Netherlands, and the Public Administration Institute of The Hague, in the Netherlands.

The Honorable Masahiro Suga, has served as Deputy Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles since September 2012. He entered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1984. Mr. Suga has served in the Asia Bureau, Economic Affairs Bureau, Public Relations Office, Economic Cooperation Office, and Protocol Office. In addition, he worked on international crime in the Multilateral Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. His overseas appointments have included the United States, Australia, and Zambia.

Naomi Takasu, Director of the Japan Foundation, Los Angeles since March 2014, she has been working for the Japan Foundation since 1986, specializing in international cultural coordination in the fields of visual and performing arts, language education, Japanese studies, and intellectual exchange. For

over 25 years, she has organized cultural activities in several countries including Belgium, Senegal, and France as Administrative Director. She also organized a series of symposia and meetings on machizukuri (urban building) in Japan, India, Bhutan and Spain where she focused on succession of traditional culture and revitalization of cities, fostering citizenship with cultural activities.

Zuraya Tapia Hadley, directs the Mexican American Leadership Initiative (MALI) of the U.S.-Mexico Foundation, a national network of leadership and influence that forges constructive partnerships between the U.S. and Mexico. She oversees USMF's messaging and communications strategy. Prior to this, Zuraya served as Executive Director of the Hispanic National Bar Association, which represents the interests of over 100,000 Hispanic legal professionals, academics, and students in the U.S. Throughout her career she has held positions in national policy, legislative affairs, private law practice, and was a staffer in the U.S. House of Representatives. She obtained the degree of Licenciatura en Derecho from Universidad de las Américas, Puebla and a Master of Laws (LLM) in International Law from Georgetown University.

Sylvia Whitlock, PhD., past District Governor of Rotary International District 5300 and current member at Rotary Club of Claremont, was born in New York City and raised in Jamaica. She earned a B.A. in Psychology at Hunter College and worked at the United Nations until 1967. With dual Masters in Education and Marriage and Family Therapy, she earned her Doctorate in Education at Claremont Graduate University. Dr. Whitlock joined the Rotary Club of Duarte in 1976; however, Rotary International revoked the charter in 1978 and said that women were excluded from membership. Sylvia Whitlock became the first woman President of a Rotary Club in the world in 1987, when the Supreme Court confirmed that women should not be excluded. She has traveled the world on various missions. A citizen dedicated to serving, she has earned the UNA Global Citizen Award and the Rotary International Service Above Self Award.

Sachiko Yoshimura, Chief Executive Director of JETRO, joined the organization in April 1988. She has worked in departments overseeing international trade fairs, overseas research, and economic analysis for Japanese companies. She supported the overseas expansion of Japanese companies, especially small and medium-sized companies. Most recently, she served as Director of the Intellectual Property division, helping Japanese companies protect their intellectual properties abroad.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GOLD SPONSOR – Conference Sponsorship

The Office of Councilmember Tom LaBonge



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Thelma Press, PhD.

STUDENT TRAVEL SPONSORS

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IN-KIND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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TTC – for Folders

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SoCal Sister Cities
(A Regional Chapter of Sister Cities International)
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