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**Fort Worth Sister Cities International wins *Sister Cities International's*  
Best Overall Program Award**

WASHINGTON, DC – Fort Worth Sister Cities International has won *Sister Cities International's* 2011 Best Overall Program Award for a city with a population of more than 500,001. The award recognizes sister city programs that demonstrate outstanding accomplishments in advancing the goals and mission of the sister cities movement.

Fort Worth has eight sister cities: Reggio Emilia, Italy; Trier, Germany; Nagaoka, Japan; Bandung, Indonesia; Budapest, Hungary; Toluca, Mexico; Mbabane, Swaziland and the most recent, Guiyang, China. Fort Worth's comprehensive sister city projects include cultural, youth, educational, and technical exchanges; and trade missions.

In 2011, Fort Worth raised nearly \$30,000 in funds for Nagaoko to support relief efforts following the devastating tsunami in Japan. Continuing its humanitarian efforts, Fort Worth has built a health and social center in Mbabane, with the support of a grant from the Africa Urban Poverty Alleviation Program (AUPAP).

Fort Worth Sister Cities also has highly popular ongoing projects like *Dancing with the Sister Cities Stars!*, Fort Worth Youth International and the International Leadership Academy. The organization currently has over 1,500 members, five full-time and one part-time staff member and an active internship program of 10 to 20 university and high school students annually.

The *Sister Cities International* Annual Awards are awarded in several categories. Award winners will be honored at a special luncheon ceremony on July 14 during the *Sister Cities International* 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Jacksonville, Florida.

**About *Sister Cities International***

*Sister Cities International* facilitates nearly 2,000 partnerships in 136 countries on six continents between 600 communities in the United States with similar municipalities abroad. *Sister Cities International* represents citizen diplomats who work tirelessly to promote the organizations' mission of creating world peace and cultural understanding through economic and sustainable development programs, youth and education projects, arts and culture, and humanitarian assistance.

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