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Fort Worth Sister Cities International receives funding to send four-member delegation to Nagaoka, Japan

WASHINGTON, DC – Fort Worth, Texas is one of seven U.S. cities selected by *Sister Cities International* to receive the *Leading Asia: Renewing the U.S. and Japan Sister Cities Network* exchange funding. The funding will enable a 10-day Fort Worth delegation visit to their Japanese sister city, Nagaoka.

Through the *Leading Asia* exchange funding, Fort Worth is looking to strengthen the city's business relationship with Nagaoka as well as develop a Young Professional Mentorship Program to emphasize the long-term importance of youth in sister city relationships.

The Fort Worth-Nagaoka program conducts exchanges for over 200 youth and adults each year focusing on sports, culture, and education. The two cities will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of their relationship next year.

The purpose of the *Leading Asia* exchange funding is to launch programming in the following areas: business development, sustainability, creative economies, and young professional development. In 2011, five cities were awarded funding during the first round.

The *Leading Asia: Renewing the U.S. and Japan Sister Cities Network* is funded by a grant from the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnerships. The objective of this grant award is to improve and expand existing relationships between the U.S. and Japan. To see the entire list of exchange funding awardees and to learn more about *Leading Asia*, please visit http://www.sister-cities.org/programs/leading_asia.cfm

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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