

**Opening of Secretariat Office  
Australia-China Chamber of Commerce and Industry of New South Wales  
29 June 2004**

**By the Lord Mayor of Sydney  
Clover Moore, MP**

Thank you Michael.

Tonight is important for the Australia China Chamber of Commerce and Industry of New South Wales. Your new Secretariat office in Ultimo will provide the Chamber with a physical presence in Sydney and a focus for your activities.

You have chosen the location well. It is easily accessible from Sydney's CBD and is close to two major universities, the University of Sydney and the University of Technology, Sydney.

It is also close to the Haymarket, the traditional heart of Sydney's Chinese community.

The Chinese community has a significant presence in Sydney. The City of Sydney historian, Shirley Fitzgerald, writes in "Red Tape Gold Scissors, the Story of Sydney's Chinese":

*"Everywhere, men and women of Chinese ethnicity contribute to the life of the city. They are represented in the corridors of political power, teach in the universities, play on the City's stock exchange, contribute financially and architecturally to the built form, create and perform in all branches of the arts and the professions and work with the rank and file in every avenue of employment.*

*"There are scores of Chinese-based organisations and community groups, and the network of Chinese social services is extensive. Chinese-language schools cater to the second generation children while Chinese-staffed English-language classes assist the newly arrived."*

## **HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS**

The City is proud of the contribution of Chinese people.

Later this week, the City of Sydney will launch 'No Ordinary Man: Sydney's Quong Tart: citizen, merchant and philanthropist'.

This exhibition celebrates the life of Quong Tart, a Chinese businessman prominent in late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century Sydney. Quong Tart set up Sydney's first tea rooms and established a chain. The most famous was the splendid Elite Dining Hall and Tea Rooms in the Queen Victoria Building, opened in 1898 by the Mayor of the day.

Quong Tart contributed to the civic life of the City. He was one of the founders of the first Chinese merchants' association, served on a Royal Commission, and acted as spokesman and advocate for the local Chinese community. If he were alive today, I am sure he would be active in your Chamber.

Quong Tart had an excellent relationship with the Sydney Council. As Lord Mayor I am pleased to continue and build on the links between Council, the Chinese community and business that Quong Tart helped create over a century ago.



Last month I had the honour of meeting Madame Fu Ying, Ambassador for the People's Republic of China to Australia. It was my first diplomatic meeting after becoming Lord Mayor.

Next month, my Council colleagues and I will attend a dinner at the new premises of the Chinese Consulate in Sydney and will also hear the Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra perform in its first visit to Sydney.

Sydney has enjoyed a Sister-City relationship with Guangzhou since it was created in 1985. In recognition of that valuable relationship, Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor John McInerney will host a reception following the concert at the Opera House.

This visit by the Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra will continue the many cultural visits which Sydney has enjoyed from the People's Republic of China.

Each year, the City of Sydney contributes \$100,000 to the Chinese New Year Festival, the largest Chinese New Year celebrations outside of Asia. In 2004, the Chinese New Year Festival welcomed the Beijing Huaming Weiye International Culture Exchange Centre, the Beijing Wind and Thunder Peking Opera Group, and the Beijing Vocational Institute of Local Operas and Arts, which performed under the umbrella name of the Beijing Performing Group.

These strong cultural and historical associations provide a firm foundation for strong economic and cultural relationships between Sydney and the many great cities of China.

The strong links are reflected in Sydney's Chinese community, in education, in business and in tourism.

## **SYDNEY'S CHINESE COMMUNITY**

Migration to Australia from China began more than 150 years ago and has created a strong Chinese community in Sydney.

According to the 2001 Census, almost 250,000 Sydneysiders have Chinese ancestry, over five per cent of Sydney population. Over 125,000 people in Sydney were born in the Chinese Asia region, and almost 200,000 speak a Chinese language at home.

The City of Sydney local government area is only part of the Sydney metropolitan region, taking the Sydney CBD and nearby inner-city suburbs. Within this area over 5,000 residents were born in China and 11,800 people acknowledge a Chinese ancestry. Almost 8,500 speak a Chinese language — this is one in every 13 City residents.

The City of Sydney is a place many Chinese expatriates choose to live.

## **EDUCATION**

Many of the City's Chinese residents are studying at Sydney universities.

More than one-in-six overseas students are from China. This is the largest group of overseas students, and the numbers are growing rapidly. Between 2002 and 2003, the total number of China-based students in Australia increased by 20 per cent, double the average growth rate.

This trend is set to continue, based on the growth in visits to the Chinese language version of Australia's International Education Network Website. Many of these web-based inquiries lead to enrolments at Sydney's educational institutions.



## **CHINESE VISITORS TO SYDNEY**

Sydney is also a place to visit. Over the past 5 years, despite many impacts on global travel, the numbers of international visitors from China to Australia has grown by 162 per cent.

Many come because Sydney is the place to do business.

## **SYDNEY – A GLOBAL CITY**

Four years ago, Sydney was the focus of the world. The 2000 Olympic Games gave Sydney a great opportunity to project itself and its many assets to the global community.

Four years on, it's Athens turn; and in four years time, it will be Beijing's turn. The Olympic flame moves on and Sydney cannot bask in its afterglow forever. Sydney must promote and sell itself.

Sydney is the financial and economic capital of Australia:

- Sydney is headquarters to Australia's main financial institutions, the Reserve Bank of Australia, the Australian Stock Exchange and the Sydney Futures Exchange;
- More than 90 commercial and merchant banks are headquartered in the CBD;
- Of Australia's top 100 companies, 60 per cent are headquartered in greater Sydney, most within the CBD itself;
- Two thirds of Australia's banking and finance industry business; almost three-quarters of financial services; and nearly half of Australia and New Zealand's top 500 companies are located in Sydney.
- Between 25-30 per cent of Australia's total economic activity occurs in Sydney.

Sydney's economic size is estimated at approximately US\$175 billion, equivalent to the economic size of Singapore, and about half that of Hong Kong.

Sydney also has the highest number of retail locations in Australia and Sydney CBD sells almost 25 per cent more merchandise than any other capital city CBD.

Sydney is a truly global city.

The measure of a global city is not its size. In terms of population, Sydney ranks close to 70th in size internationally. The true measure is how successfully it connects with other international cities.

Leading international experts recognise that Sydney connects very well.

In his major study *Globalisation of World Cities*, Professor Peter Taylor acknowledged that Sydney is outside the 'Top 10 global cities' in terms of size, based on such factors as trade, the financial sector and office spaces.

However, Professor Taylor believes that Sydney is in the top ten in all four key areas for connectedness: legal, accountancy, advertising and banking/financial.



Our location is one major advantage. Because of its time zone, Sydney is able to integrate its "working" time with Europe, Asia and North America. This means that corporations can increase their potential by operating 24-hours a day.

This potential is increased by a communications infrastructure that offers capacity, reliability and cost effectiveness. Sydney is the landing point of the PacRim West cable system and accommodates six specialised antennae, accessing the AsiaSat and PanAmSat2 satellites.

Travel access is another advantage. Sydney has more than twice the international flight departures and two and half times the departures to Asia per week than Melbourne. If you come to Sydney for business, you can do business with the world.

Already more than 500 global corporations operating in the Asia Pacific region have recognised this. They have chosen Sydney as their regional headquarters.

Sydney's business costs are also highly competitive. For example:

- Executive and professional salaries are lower than those in OECD countries as well as in Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan; and
- Rent for a prime office space in Sydney is one-quarter that of Tokyo, less than half that of London and significantly less than a host of cities including Hong Kong, Paris, Frankfurt, Dublin, Taipei and San Francisco.

Sydney has a highly skilled, multicultural workforce that is ideally suited to the global economy. For example:

- More than one-quarter of the Sydney metropolitan residential population was born overseas and a further 20 per cent are the children of migrants;
- More than 200 languages are spoken in Australia apart from English;
- According to the 2001 Census, nearly 40,000 Sydney-siders had both a University degree and spoke Chinese.

These advantages put Sydney at the forefront in building strong economic ties with the great cities of China.

The City of Sydney supports initiatives by the ACCCI [A triple C I] and Australian business in forming these strong economic links.

This morning, I addressed a State Chamber of Commerce Breakfast. The State Chamber of Commerce draws its membership from businesses large and small from all industry sectors across the state.

At that breakfast I gave a commitment that the Council I lead will work with the city's business community and the State Government to maximise our city's strengths. I give this same commitment tonight.

One major contribution the City of Sydney will make is to ensure that the City remains a pleasant, attractive and viable place to live, work and do business.



Sydney, like the great cities of China, faces major challenges from the pressures of urbanisation. I understand that 40 per cent of China is now urbanised and that this percentage is rising, with one million people migrating to the cities each month.

While the challenges China faces are on a far greater scale, than Sydney's challenges both Sydney and the cities of China need to find solutions if our cities are to remain sustainable. As we work towards solutions there may be opportunities for an exchange of knowledge, ideas, experience and expertise.

I am sure that in the coming months and years, these offices will be the venue for many exchanges of knowledge, ideas, experience and expertise.

I am also confident your new offices will play a pivotal role in furthering stronger economic and cultural relationships between Sydney and the great cities of the People's Republic of China.

It gives me great pleasure to declare these offices open.

Thank you.

