

# Sister City Relationship Proposal



Greensboro, NC and Suqian, PRC



# Relationship Background

- Suqian letter of interest to form Sister City relationship and delegation visit to Greensboro in March 2016
  - Initiated through Carolinas Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Senator Rick Gunn's office (NC – District 24)
  - Delegation Meeting Attendees included:
    - Six (6) representatives from Suqian
    - Three (3) representatives from Carolinas Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Charlotte
    - Senator Rick Gunn
    - City Attendees – Mayor Pro Temp Johnson, Former Councilmember Fox, City Manager Westmoreland
  - Meeting Agenda included:
    - Introductions
    - Review of Cities with each other
    - Discussion of value of Sister City Relationship
  - Agreed to continue process of exploring relationship and to develop draft Sister-City MOU

## 江苏省宿迁市人民政府外事办公室

Foreign Affairs Office of Suqian Municipal People's Government, Jiangsu

To: The City Hall of Greensboro, America

Cordial greetings and good wishes go to Greensboro from Suqian Municipal Foreign Affairs Office, Jiangsu Province, China!

Suqian City is located in the northern part of Jiangsu Province which lies in the eastern coastal area of China. With a total area of 8,555 square kilometers and a population of 5.8 million, it is the homeland of Xiang Yu, the Lord of the West Chu Dynasty. The city enjoys reputation both home and abroad for its good ecology, picturesque scenery and also its two famous brands of liquor, Yanghe and Shuanggou. In 2015, its GDP was RMB 211 billion, the public budget fiscal revenues stood at RMB 23.57 billion, and the fixed assets investment attained RMB 18.39 billion. The city's leading industries include machinery and electronics, textile and garment, brewery and foods, wood processing, software and outsourcing service, smart appliance and green building materials. Suqian has grown into a new-emerging industrial and commercial city and an ecological city for residence in Yangtze River Delta Region.

From Carolinas Chinese Chamber of Commerce, America, we know that Greensboro is also a livable commercial city with a complete range of industries, especially its robust development in new industries like high-tech industry. For the common goal of establishing international sister cities with each other, we'd like to

develop multiform cooperation with Greensboro in the fields of trade, education, culture, technology and so on, trying to build up a mutual beneficial relationship with each other. We sincerely hope close contact and timely communication could be maintained with your city. Moreover, in this March, a delegation of our city will pay a visit to America for friendly exchanges. We expect to have the opportunity to visit Greensboro and discuss on the issues of bilateral cooperation for a further mutual understanding. It would be very appreciated if you could receive us then!

It is kindly suggested that contact persons be designated of both cities for daily communications. The contact persons of Suqian are:

1. Ms. Zhang Yan, Director of Suqian Municipal Foreign Affairs Office

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2. Ms. Tao Beibei, Staff of Suqian Municipal Foreign Affairs Office

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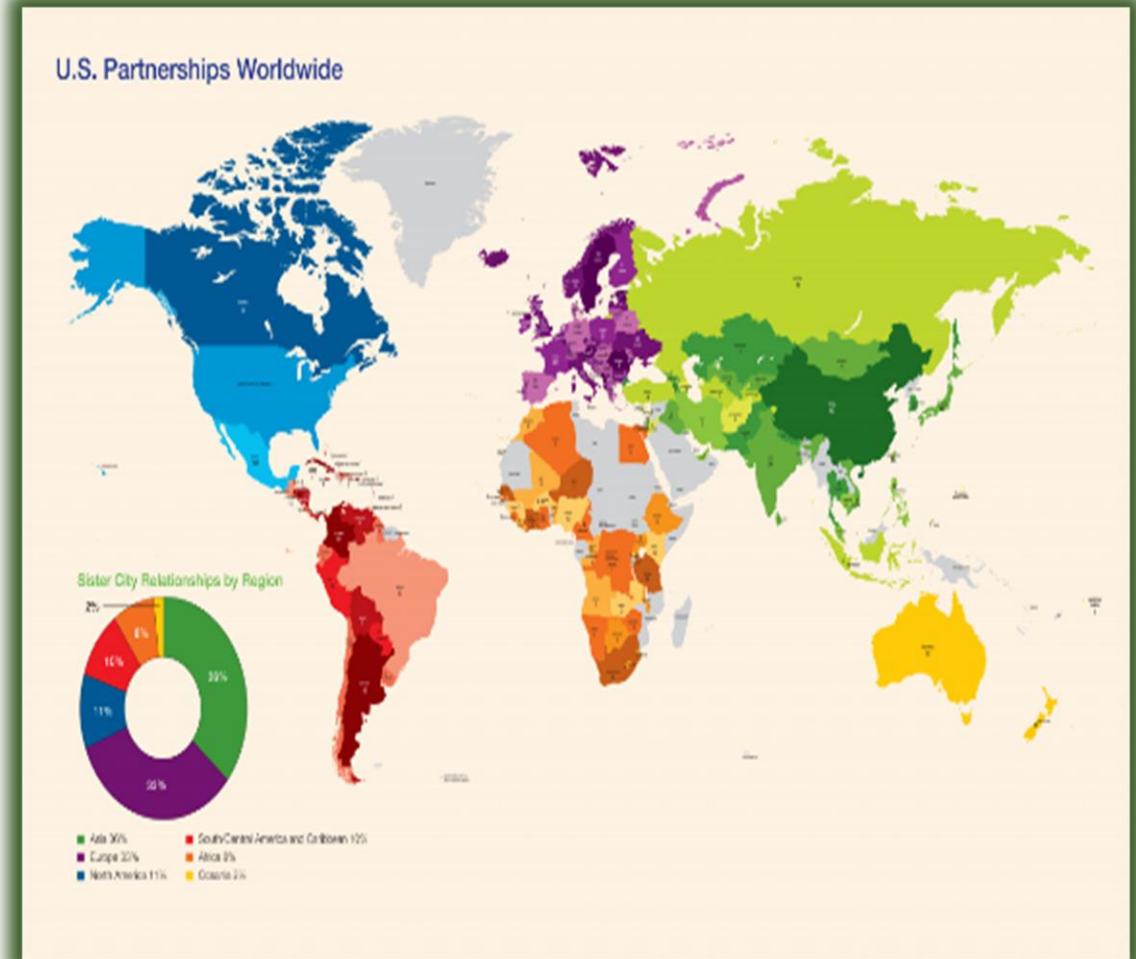
Best regards!

Suqian Municipal Foreign Affairs Office  
Jiangsu Province, China  
March 2, 2016

中国·江苏·宿迁市洪泽县的洪泽湖大闸蟹  
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# Overview of the Sister City Initiative

- Founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956
- Nonpartisan 501(c)(3) nonprofit – Sister Cities International
- Serves as the national membership organization for individual across the U.S.
- Unites tens of thousands of citizen diplomats and volunteers in over 500 member communities
- Over 2,000 partnerships in 145 countries on six continents.



# Suqian Municipal Structure and Attractions

- Part of the Jiangsu Province People's Republic of China
- Prefecture-level City (level between Province and County)
- Metro Population: 735,000
- General Population: 4.7M (Metro and Rural Combined)
- Noteworthy Industries and Attractions:
  - Agriculture
  - Alcohol Manufacture
  - Textile & construction
  - Botanical Landmarks
  - Higher Education





# What Can Each City Learn from the Other?

## SCI Partnership Focus Areas



- Recreation, Arts, and Tourism
- Small Business Support
- Economic Development  
(focus on Brewery Industry)
- Education  
(Collegiate and Public School Partnerships)

# How Will We Engage with Each Other?

- Delegations across focus areas
- Member of varying departments
- Invite Community Partners to collaborate



- Teleconferences
- Video Conferences
- Host Delegations

# Next Steps

- Council review and approval of Draft MOU
- Develop Delegations across different Focus Areas
- Establish objectives for each Focus Area

