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Sister City Program of the City of New York, Inc. To Host Technology Summit

The Sister City Program of the City of New York, Inc., and the New York City's Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications (DOITT), along with the City University of New York will host the "Transforming Government Through Technology" international summit on June 24-25th.

With the changes in the global economy and an increasing focus on service delivery, governments around the world face unprecedented challenges in responding to the needs of their citizens. Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg has put New York City at the forefront of meeting this common municipal challenge. His innovative proposals to utilize technology to deliver quality citizen services are enabling municipal agencies to operate far more efficiently and effectively.

"In meeting the challenges of the 21st century, technology in government is a critical tool for cities around the world," said Mayor Bloomberg who opens the summit at City Hall this morning. "This summit will help New York City and our Sister Cities learn from each other about better leveraging our technology to control costs, improve efficiency, provide a higher level of service, and make government more accessible and accountable."

New York City has implemented a number of innovative programs which will be discussed at the Summit, including the New York City 3-1-1 Citizen Service Center, the expansion of the NYC.gov portal and the Citywide Geographic Information System (GIS) Utility, new technologies in the New York Police Department (NYPD), and other ways to improve the delivery of city services in areas such as transportation and public health.

"This important Summit advances the Sister City goal of establishing a dialogue on key issues facing our cities," said Sister City Program President and Ambassador Nancy Soderberg. "This two-day session will foster new ideas and new cooperation, allowing our cities to become more responsive to the needs of their citizens."

“The City of New York is using technology in ways never possible before. These innovations are revolutionizing the way that government services are accessed, provided and managed,” said DOITT Commissioner Gino Menchini.

“I am delighted that the City of New York is hosting this exciting summit,” said United Nations, Consular Corps and Protocol Commissioner Marjorie Tiven. “This two-day summit is an example of the tremendous work that the Sister Cities Program has set out to do by providing its members the opportunity to share valuable information that will help everyone to use technology as the key to meeting some of today’s challenges.”

International participants in the Summit are Chief Information Officers and other officials from New York City’s Sister Cities including Beijing, Budapest, Cairo, Jerusalem, London, and Madrid. There are also local representatives from Cairo, Rome and Tokyo. Officials from London and Beijing will make presentations during the Summit.

A variety of New York City officials will participate in the Summit, including the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications Commissioner Gino Menchini, NYPD Deputy Commissioner V. James Onalfo, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Chief Information Officer Ed Carubis, and Taxi and Limousine Commission First Deputy Commissioner Andrew Salkin.

The Sister City Program's mission is to support initiatives of Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg that seek creative solutions to municipal challenges through business, security and cultural exchanges between the City of New York and selected cities throughout the world. The Program, an apolitical, non-profit, charitable, and educational 501 (c)(3) organization, is a member of the Sister Cities International Program, the world's premier citizen diplomacy network. Based on President Dwight D. Eisenhower's "people to people" approach to improving international relations, the program was founded in 1956 and currently supports links between 2,100 cities in 121 countries worldwide. New York's program has been active since 1960.

In partnership with the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation's Computer Resource Centers, the Sister City Program has also developed an Internet-based Educational Exchange Program (IEEP) between students in the Parks & Recreation Afterschool Program around the City and with youth in our ten Sister Cities.

New York’s Sister Cities are: Beijing, Budapest, Cairo, Jerusalem, Johannesburg, London, Madrid, Rome, Santo Domingo, and Tokyo.

For more information please visit: www.nyc.gov/sistercities