

## **Mayor Visit to Strengthen Tianjin Wellington Partnership**

Wellington Mayor Kerry Prendergast is visiting Tianjin, China, in early September as part of developing the Tianjin Wellington Earthquake Mitigation Partnership that began in August 2000.

She will meet with Tianjin Mayor Me Dai Xianglong and Tianjin officials, including officials of the Tianjin Seisological Bureau. Discussions will in particular focus on two key project themes – namely an Engineering Lifelines Project and a Seismic Isolation Technology Project.

The Wellington Mayor's delegation will include the Wellington City Council's Director of International Relations Kevin Murphy, International Projects Co-ordinator Tom Yuan, and Wellington Regional Economic Development Trust Positively Wellington Business Chief Executive Blair McRae.

“This visit will build on the initial exchanges of information and sharing of experiences between Tianjin and Wellington cities,” says Earthquake Engineering NZ Chairman David Hopkins.

David Hopkins was the establishment Project Director for the original Wellington Lifelines Project that was begun over a decade ago. Wellington was one of the first cities in the world to develop a major earthquake lifelines collaborative project, which involved over 70 organisations.



Wellington established its Earthquake Mitigation Partnership with Tianjin, China's third largest city, in August 2000, as part of the World Bank supported Megacities Earthquake Mitigation Initiative (EMI).

The Earthquake Mitigation Initiatives are assisting the capabilities development for large metropolitan cities to manage preparedness, response and recovery in the event of an earthquake. The cities involved engage in programmes to foster exchange of knowledge and expertise from members in each of the cities' communities.



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