



DICK MURPHY
MAYOR

December 17, 2003

The Honorable Razaq S/O M. Sadiq
Mayor
City of Jalalabad
AFGHANISTAN

Dear Mayor Razaq S/O M. Sadiq:

On behalf of the citizens of the City of San Diego, please accept our warm greetings in friendship. It has come to my attention that there is an organized committee of citizens in San Diego who wish to sustain a relationship with the City of Jalalabad to promote exchange and communication in the spirit of international goodwill, understanding, and peace. This organization consists of volunteers from the San Diego community who have an interest in developing friendly relations with Afghanistan. We fully support such international philanthropic endeavors on the part of our citizenry.

A Sister Cities Steering Committee of twenty people, including Afghan expatriates, has been formed in San Diego. Its members have confirmed their interest in establishing this bond with the people of Jalalabad. Although this partnership must begin on an official basis between the governments of our two cities, we see the strength and vitality of this long-term association resting wholly in the hands of our citizen volunteers and participants. To this end, we hope that a similar Sister Cities Steering Committee can be established in Jalalabad to enhance this relationship as a partner to the San Diego Steering Committee.

The Sister City Program began in 1956 when President Dwight D. Eisenhower initiated the People-to-People Program. Today, over 1,283 U.S. cities are paired with over 2,022 international cities in 137 different countries. San Diego signed its first Sister City Agreement in 1957 with Yokohama, Japan. Currently San Diego has 14 partners, 9 of which are located in the Pacific Rim: Alcalá, Spain; Campinas, Brazil; Cavite, Republic of the Philippines; Jeonju, Korea; Edinburgh, Scotland; Leon, Mexico; Perth, Australia; Taichung, Taiwan; Tema, Ghana; Tijuana, Mexico; Vladivostok, Russia; Warsaw Province, Poland; Yantai, People's Republic of China, and Yokohama, Japan.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact my Deputy Chief of Protocol, Mr. Ben Marchant at (619) 236-6448 or by e-mail bmarchant@sanidiego.gov.

Best regards,

DICK MURPHY
Mayor
City of San Diego

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