



Houston Karachi Sister City Association

Affiliated With Sister Cities of Houston & Sister Cities International

GOODWILL DELEGATION VISIT TO PAKISTAN

January 2019

The Houston Karachi Sister City Association (HKSCA) is a not for profit organization formed jointly by the City Government of Houston, Texas and Karachi. Our mission is the promotion of peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation through people to people exchanges. HKSCA operates under the umbrella of Sister Cities International (SCI), created in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to foster municipal partnerships between U.S. cities, counties, and states and similar jurisdictions in other nations. President Donald Trump currently serves as Honorary Chair of Sister Cities International and Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner serves as the local Honorary Chair of HKSCA. SCI represents more than 700 U.S. communities and nearly 2,000 partnerships with sister communities in 145 countries. Since its inception in 2009, HKSCA has developed and supported projects in education, healthcare, humanitarian assistance, trade and culture leading to three international awards and a U.S. Congressional Recognition.

HKSCA Chief Patron S. Javaid Anwar and President, Muhammad Saeed Sheikh, who was recently recognized by President Donald Trump with the prestigious 2017 President's Lifetime Achievement Award, visited Karachi and Islamabad in January 2019, along with members Atif Khan and Shahzad Choochan. The purpose of the visit was to build resilience in US-Pakistan relations through people to people and institutional ties. The trip allows for an exploration of partnerships with the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industries and other public and private sector entities for improving bilateral trade as well as a possible trade delegation to include Houston Mayor Turner and other officials.

HKSCA had the opportunity to meet with an array of US and Pakistan's official, as well as leaders of the private sector and academia. Meetings took place with the President of Pakistan, the Prime Minister, cabinet ministers, the US Consul General, the Governor of Sindh, the Mayor of Karachi, as well as business, finance and academic leaders.

“Helping Build Bridges of Friendship & Commerce”

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Federal Level Meetings:

Meeting with the President of Pakistan:

A meeting was held with President Arif Alvi of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Islamabad. The HKSCA delegation discussed HKSCA projects, as well as investment opportunities in health and infrastructure sectors, including the city of Karachi's mass transit system, water desalinization and the Prime Minister's Affordable Housing Scheme.

The discussion focused on the outlook for Houston towards Karachi as a trade and business partner. Karachi is a large market for Houston businesses in many sectors of industry and the potential to deepen relations as Pakistan's middle class and youthful population continues to grow.

Meeting with The Prime Minister of Pakistan:

A meeting was held with Prime Minister Imran Khan. Discussions centered on his administration's initiatives to attract foreign investment and Diaspora engagement. Topics discussed included how the Pakistani-American Diaspora is uniquely positioned to make an impact in commerce and trade, given its credibility and prominence in the US.

The PM was briefed on HKSCA projects as well as US investment opportunities in health and infrastructure sectors, including the city of Karachi's mass transit system, water desalinization and the Prime Minister's Affordable Housing Scheme. The PM was briefed on exploratory efforts to organize a possible visit by the Mayor of Houston to Karachi. Discussions centered on market opportunities for Houston's vibrant energy sector in meeting local demand. S. Javaid Anwar provided an overview of US oil and gas investment and technology potential it relates to Pakistan.

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Meetings also took place with Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Mr. Khalid Maqbol Siddiqui and Federal Minister Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit Baltistan Mr. Ali Amin Khan Gandapur.

Provincial Level Meetings:

Meetings took place with the Governor of Sindh, Mayor of Karachi, Chief Secretary of Sindh, Secretary Investment, as well as the Commissioner of Karachi. An invitation was extended to the Governor, Mayor, and Commissioner of Karachi to attend the Sister Cities International Annual Conference to be held in July, 2019 in Houston. A detail discussion on HKSCA projects, including Investment opportunities for City of Karachi mass transit system, Healthcare & water by accompanied business group.

US Consul General in Karachi:

A meeting took place with US Consul General JoAnne Wagner, who expressed enthusiasm HKSCA's role as cultural and commercial ambassadors between Houston and Karachi as part of a broader effort to strengthen US-Pakistan relations. C.G. Wagner highlighted key US initiatives in Sindh, especially in education, trade and culture, as areas of potential mutual interest. Chief Patron HKSCA Mr. S. Javaid Anwar expressed interest in sponsoring future US Consulate projects in collaboration with HKSCA.

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Culture:

A meeting took place with Sindh Ministry of Culture to explore the promotion of Pakistan's culture at the Sister Cities of Houston 2019 Fall Concert.

Karachi Port Trust (KPT):

A meeting took place with the KPT Chairman Rear Admiral Jamil Akhtar as a follow up discussion to ongoing efforts related to the Houston & Karachi Port Collaboration as proposed by the Consulate General of Pakistan and the Houston business community.

Private Sector:

Education:

A meeting took place with Dr. Farrukh Iqbal, Dean and Executive Director at Institute of Business Administration (IBA) City Campus. The meeting was in pursuance of the coordinating efforts of the Consulate General of Pakistan in Houston and HKSCA in establishing an educational partnership between IBA and the University of St. Thomas (UST) in Houston. Updates were provided of the pending agreement with the institutions. A commitment was made to establish a student exchange and summer study program. HKSCA agreed to offer a travel stipend Scholarships granted by Mr. S.Javid Anwar. IBA is interested in reciprocal programming with UST.

A meeting took place with the University of Karachi, Department of Mass Communication's Dr. Seemi Naghmana Tahir to discuss a proposed 'Houston Karachi Educational Corridor' joint venture which includes support for the construction of an auditorium on campus.

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Trade:

Employer Federation of Pakistan Economic Forum(EFP) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

EFP is a leading member-driven industry association, working to strengthen business relations. Ismail Suttar, Chairman of the Employers Federation of Pakistan Economic Council, and Muhammad Saeed Sheikh, President of HKSCA, signed a MOU for cooperation on trade and investment. Sindh Governor Imran Ismail, EFP President Majyd Aziz, EFP Vice President Zaki Ahmed Khan and members of the executive committee of the HKSCA Karachi Chapter were present for the ceremony.

Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry & HKSCA MOU:

A large trade association of small- and mid-sized businesses, the FPCCI is a pillar of the business community. The diversity of businesses represented in the FPCCI are prime entrepreneurial opportunities for the Houston business community. Daroo Khan Achakzai, President of FPCCI and Muhammad Saeed Sheikh, President of HKSCA, signed a MOU for to establish cooperation in promoting bilateral trade exchange. The organizations agreed to promote joint ventures and other partnerships and technical exchange and events.

Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI):

A meeting took place with the Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) President, Junaid Makda and the executive committee. An invitation was extended to KCCI

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representatives to attend the SCI Annual Conference. President Makda expressed interest in sending a KCCI delegation to event as an opportunity to enhance trade and investment

cooperation. Sheikh encouraged KCCI to organize a My Karachi exhibition in Houston as well as future trade delegations between the two cities. Makda stressed the need for more strengthened relations between the business communities of Karachi and Houston and encouraged the reinstatement of the Karachi-Houston Sister Cities agreement in order to build resilience in the relationship between the two cities. The KCCI executive committee members in attendance included Senior Vice President Khurram Shahzad, Vice President Asif Sheikh Javaid, former President Majyd Aziz, former President Mian Abrar Ahmed and former Senior Vice President Ibrahim Kasumbi, and others.

Community Visits:

A community visit to HKSCA sponsored RO Filtration Plant, a collaborative with Helping Hand USA in North Nazimabad, Karachi. The plant, in operation since 2016, has increased production as demonstrated by the HHRD team.

A Karachi park was selected to be commemorated as the 'Houston Karachi Sister City Friendship Park'. The HKSCA project includes development, renovation library and the construction of a monument. The project will be in Collaboration with Commissioner and Municipal Government of Karachi and all needed funds will be Donated by Mr. S. Javaid Anwar, Chief Patron of HKSCA.

Numerous prominent community organizations hosted events honoring the HKSCA delegation with attendance by business people, entrepreneurs and philanthropists, including a former President of Pakistan, a former Prime Minister as well as the Ambassador of the Philippines. Lively discussion regarding entrepreneurship and the startup economy in Pakistan took place with attendees agreeing that the market was preparing for capital investment.

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Media:

A meeting took place with Hum TV Networks President Sultana Siddiqui to explore the HKSCA Collaboration in hosting the popular Hum TV Awards in Houston.

A reception was held in honor of HKSCA at the Karachi Press Club with participation by major press outlets and live appearance with the delegation was hosted by PTV World, Geo News, BOL, ARY News, Express, Neo and VOSA TV.

City of Hyderabad

A meeting took place with Hyderabad Mayor Tayyab Hussain, who provided an overview of the Toledo Hyderabad Sister City Association and its efforts educational and culture exchange. An invitation was extended to attend SCI Annual Conference.

A meeting took place with the Hyderabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry to discuss Toledo Hyderabad Sister City Association projects and explore future collaboration in trade and education.

A site visit took place to the Hyderabad Chippa Welfare Association's Charitable Hospital and agreed to Provide Foco Eye Machine sponsored by Mr. S. Javaid Anwar, Chief Patron of HKSCA.

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