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MEDIA CONTACT:

Megha Swamy
mswamy@sister-cities.org
202-347-8637

Maryland-Kanagawa Sister State Committee receives funding to send four-member delegation to Kanagawa, Japan

WASHINGTON, DC – Maryland-Kanagawa Sister State Committee has been selected by *Sister Cities International* to receive the *Leading Asia: Renewing the U.S. and Japan Sister Cities Network* exchange funding. The funding will enable a 10-day Maryland delegation visit to their Japanese sister state Kanagawa.

Through the *Leading Asia* exchange funding, the Maryland-Kanagawa Sister States Program plans to focus on green energy and business development exchange, areas of interest to Kanagawa Prefecture Governor Yuji Kuroiwa. The focus will build on the Maryland's significant technology and policy experience.

The Maryland-Kanagawa 3 decade-old sister state relationship has enabled several government, art, sports and education exchanges including regular high school sister school programs. The partnership today continues to foster social, cultural, education, and business interaction between the citizens of both regions.

The purpose of the *Leading Asia* exchange funding is to launch programming in the following areas: business development, sustainability, creative economies, and young professional development. In 2011, five cities were awarded funding during the first round.

The *Leading Asia: Renewing the U.S. and Japan Sister Cities Network* is funded by a grant from the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnerships. The objective of this grant award is to improve and expand existing relationships between the U.S. and Japan. To see the entire list of exchange funding awardees and to learn more about *Leading Asia*, please visit http://www.sister-cities.org/programs/leading_asia.cfm

About *Sister Cities International*

Sister Cities International facilitates nearly 2,000 partnerships in 136 countries on six continents between 600 communities in the United States with similar municipalities abroad. *Sister Cities International* represents citizen diplomats who work tirelessly to promote the organizations' mission of creating world peace and cultural understanding through economic and sustainable development programs, youth and education projects, arts and culture, and humanitarian assistance.

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