



Media release
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Opportunity to visit China as part sister city relationship

Applications are being invited from Selwyn residents for the 2013 Gansu International Fellowship Programme.

The programme allows one Selwyn resident to visit the city of Lanzhou in the Gansu Province in China to learn Chinese and be immersed in the local culture for several weeks. Travel and accommodation costs are covered by the Gansu government.

The fellowship recipient will also have the opportunity to visit Gansu's major facilities and tourist attractions.

Shandan in Gansu Province is a sister city of Selwyn District. The province is located in North West China and has a population of over 26 million. Much of Gansu's economy is based on mining as the province has significant deposits of nickel, coal, copper, iron, limestone, crude oil, zinc and other metals. Other important industries include electricity generation, petrochemicals and developing oil exploration machinery.

Gansu has a number of tourist attractions, including Jiayuguan Pass, the largest and most intact entrance to the Great Wall China. The pass was built in the early Ming dynasty, around 1372.

The historic silk road route also passes through Dunhuang in Gansu. Traders would stop here to get fresh camels and food for their journey across the dangerous Taklamakan Desert.

Selwyn Mayor Kelvin Coe says that the fellowship is a great opportunity for a Selwyn resident to learn more about Chinese culture and make contacts which could benefit their business, research or help to strengthen the relationship between China and New Zealand.

"Our two previous fellows came from an agribusiness background and used their time in China to improve their organisation's understanding of the Chinese economy and culture. China's economy is growing very quickly and connections like these are very important to New Zealand businesses," he says.

The opportunity to visit China through the fellowship programme is one of the benefits of Selwyn's sister city relationship with Shandan.

Applicants should be under 45 years old, be in good health, be a University graduate and be willing to present information about Selwyn District. Applications close **Thursday 23 May 2013** and should include a CV, application form and a letter of recommendation on a prescribed form which is available by emailing bernadette.ryan@selwyn.govt.nz.

Ends