

## Houston-Karachi Sister City Signing Ceremony



**March 3, 2009**—The number of Houston’s Sister Cities has been expanded after the city of Karachi, Pakistan, became Houston’s 17th Sister City. This special relationship also marks the 100th Sister City partnership between a U.S. city and a city in a predominately Muslim country.

The new partnership between Houston and Karachi aims at strengthening existing ties and exploring new synergies between the two cities.

Karachi is located on the coast of the Arabian Sea, and, with has a population of 12 million, is Pakistan’s largest city. The city is Pakistan’s political hub as well as the country’s economic, cultural, philanthropic, educational center. Karachi’s port is the country’s largest.

On the day preceding the Sister City signing ceremony, the City of Houston and the Houston-Karachi Sister City Association hosted a dinner in honor of Karachi Mayor Syed Mustafa Kamal. “The synergy between Houston and Karachi is very strong and the Houston-Karachi Sister City relationship will prove to be a model partnership,” indicated Houston City Council Member M.J. Khan. He also added that, “The Sister Cities relationship between Houston and Karachi is quite meaningful for me. I have the special privilege of knowing the beauty and benefits of both the city I grew up in, Karachi, and the city I have made my home, Houston.”

The Sister City signing ceremony took place at the Visitors Center of City Hall where both Mayor Bill White and Mayor Syed Mustafa Kamal addressed the attending guests. The Chairman of the Sister Cities International organization, Mike Hyatt, also attended the ceremony.

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## Council Member Peter Brown



**March 5**—Mr. Wu Yimin, Executive Vice Mayor of the city of Guangzhou, China, visited Houston to explore new sustainable and environmentally friendly technologies in the petrochemical industry. Vice Mayor Wu along with a high-ranking government delegation from Guangzhou, met with Houston Council Member Peter Brown, representatives from the Houston Mayor’s Office and the Port of Houston Authority to discuss areas for mutual collaboration.

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## Council Member Ronald Green



**March 6**—Mr. Jun Sup Shin, President of the Junior Chamber International (JCI), a world-wide network of young leaders, arrived in Houston as part of his visit with the Texas chapter. City Council Member Ronald Green met with Mr. Shin to discuss the Chamber and its ongoing initiatives such as encouraging government entities to battle global warming.

# Mayor's International Affairs & Development Councils (MIADC)

## MIADC—Canada

**March 10**—Members met to discuss the progress of the Council's various committees and to plan activities related to the forthcoming visit of the Mayor of Calgary. In order to adequately promote its future events, the Council also formed a Marketing and communications Committee. The Council also welcomed a new member: Ms. Karen Love.

## MIADC—Middle East / North Africa

**March 25**—Members met to recap their participation in the 2009 Energy Summit, organized by the Greater Houston Partnership. Approximately 300 guests attended the event, which was viewed as a success. It was the first year that representatives of the MENA Council participated in the annual Energy Summit. In addition, Council members decided to serve as a liaison between their respective international community and the City of Houston on airport entries and customs procedures involving foreign visitors.

## MIADC—South Asia

**March 26**—Members elected officers for 2009, confirming Mr. Sajjad Burki as the Council Chair, Mr. Sanjay Ram as Chair-Elect and Mr. Zafar Tahir as Secretary. Members decided to emphasize the trade links with South Asia and Houston in their future initiatives; they also plan to host inbound trade delegations as well as outbound missions to South Asia.

## MIADC--Americas

**March 30**—Council Member James Rodriguez attended the Council's meeting, in which progress on the proposed 4-day trade mission to Buenos Aires, Argentina was discussed. Members also formed a committee to oversee future trade missions, and proposed to expand current bylaws in order to address the addition of new members and member participation. Members also discussed the establishment of a memorial scholarship fund in memory of Gustavo Wensjoe who died in March 2009.

## International Partners — Incheon, South Korea

Over the years, the Mayor's Office of International Affairs & Development has reached out to partner cities / states around the globe to form enduring ties and promote cooperation. The featured partner this month is the city of Incheon, South Korea.

An international port city on the west coast of South Korea, Incheon is one of Houston's many partner cities. With a population of more than 2.5 million, Incheon is South Korea's third largest metropolis. The city is also a major transportation hub and home to Incheon International Airport, South Korea's largest and busiest airport.

In recent years, Incheon has been quickly becoming North-East Asia's economic center as well as a leisure and tourism destination. The designation of the city in 2003 as the Incheon Free Economic Zone has been a major impetus in the city's latest economic growth.

Despite its proximity and many links to the capital Seoul, Incheon is rapidly developing as its own city. Incheon has declared itself an "English" city, in an effort to make the city more attractive to English-

speaking business investors modeled after Hong Kong.

In December 2007, a delegation from Incheon, led by Vice Mayor Lee Chang-koo, visited Houston to strengthen ties and promote bilateral trade.

During this visit, Vice Mayor Lee and then-City Council Member Adrian Garcia signed a memorandum of understanding aiming at increased cooperation between the two cities in the IT, logistics, port, airport and tourism areas. The Delegation members also met with officials from the South Korean Consulate as well as with members of the local Korean community. Officials in both cities are encouraged by the partnership's potential, and expect significant progress in the future.

—By Mary Jane Wakefield

## International Frontier

*Houston is home to many distinguished individuals who are dedicated to the promotion of Houston on the global stage. The featured Houstonian this month is Dr. Renu Khator, President of the University of Houston and Chancellor of the UH System.*



DR. RENU KHATOR

In January 2008, Houstonians were introduced to Dr. Renu Khator, a brand new leader articulating a bold new vision for the University of Houston (UH), the largest university in the city and the third largest in the state. As both the President of UH and the Chancellor of the UH System, Dr. Khator's numerous responsibilities include the overseeing of the UH Main campus as well as the UH System -- which includes UH-Downtown, UH-Clear Lake, and UH-Victoria, and the teaching centers in Sugar Land and Cinco Ranch---as well as a TV station (KUHF) and a radio station (KUHF). The UH System, which has an enrollment of more than 59,000 students, has an annual operating budget of over \$1 billion whose annual economic impact is estimated at \$3 billion.

Though Houston has been widely recognized as the 'Energy Capital of the World' or 'Space City,' as well as being home to the largest medical center in the world and to a major port and airport, Dr. Khator has made it clear that she sees another distinction for the city---Houston as an internationally-recognized center for higher education. In her efforts to elevate the university to a Tier-One status, Dr. Khator has recently testified before the Texas Legislature and has been making a compelling case for the University of Houston becoming the state's next premier research institution.

Focusing on the international aspect of UH, Dr. Khator has indicated that, "The University of Houston has long taken pride in its high ranking as one of the country's most diverse public research institutions, and our wide-ranging international enrollment certainly reflects this commitment. Walking across the University of Houston campus, where one out of every ten of our 36,000 students comes from outside the United States, is not unlike walking down the halls of the United Nations. This rich mix of backgrounds and cultures enhances our university immeasurably."

Under Dr. Khator's leadership, student enrollment to the university has reached the highest level in its history; furthermore, the university has been ranked number one in the nation in terms of its "Entrepreneurship in the College of Business"

program, it has been recognized as a 'top tier' by the Carnegie Foundation for its community outreach program, and it has also won the Armed Forces Bowl, its first 'bowl' win in 28 years.

Born in Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state and the world's largest sub-national unit (population 190 million), Dr. Khator earned a Bachelor's degree in liberal arts from the University of Kampur. After immigrating to the United States, she received her master s degree and Ph.D. degree in political science from Purdue University.

Before joining the University of Houston, Dr. Khator had served as Provost and Senior Vice President of the University of South Florida. While there, she played a pivotal role in securing an \$18.5 million donation from philanthropists Kiran and Pallavi Patel in order to establish the Kiran C. Patel Center for Global Solutions whose mission is to improve living conditions in underdeveloped countries. A noted scholar in the field of global environmental policy, she has published five books and several articles on this subject.

Internationally recognized for her leadership and vision, Dr. Khator has been recently nominated to the Indian Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council. In 2007, she received the Hind Rattan (Jewel of India) award, which is awarded to about 30 members of the Indian Diaspora world-wide for making outstanding contributions in their respective field. The non-profit NRI Welfare Society of India awards the Hind Rattan annually. Dr. Khator has also received the *Outstanding American by Choice award* from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, which recognizes notable achievements of naturalized citizens; She has also received Purdue University's Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Dr. Khator who is the University of Houston's first woman Chancellor, is also the first Indian immigrant to head a comprehensive research university in the U.S. In Houston, she serves on the boards of the Greater Houston Partnership, the Methodist Hospital System and the Museum of Fine Arts.

Her husband, Dr. Suresh Khator, is the Associate Dean of the UH Cullen College of Engineering. Their two daughters are both ophthalmologists.

—By Mary Jane Wakefield

## International Event Calendar -- April 2009

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Contact
4/1	4:30 PM	Port of Houston Authority Office of Small Business Development: How To Do Business With the City of Houston	Port of Houston Executive Building	www.portofhouston.com
4/2	10:30 AM	Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: Annual Membership and Corporate Sponsors Luncheon and Business Expo	Hilton Americas Hotel Downtown	www.houstonhispanicchamber.com
4/3	7:15 AM	Houston Technology Center: Technology Champions Meeting	Houston Technology Center	www.houstontech.org
	8:30 AM	James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy: America and China—The Next 30 Years	James A. Baker Inst. Rice University	www.bakerinstitute.org
	Noon	World Affairs Council of Houston: Jesse H. and Mary Gibbs Jones Award, featuring Richard Armitage	Hyatt Regency Hotel	www.wachouston.org
4/7	6:00 PM	Foundation for Women's Resources and the World Affairs Council of Houston: Forward Looking Leadership—Can the Middle East Resolve its Problems and Reform Itself?	Junior League	www.fwrnetwork.org
4/8	9:30 AM	Houston Minority Business Council: April Monthly Luncheon	Hilton Americas Hotel Downtown	terry.williams@hmhc.org
	11:30 AM	Asian Chamber of Commerce: April Monthly Luncheon	Westin Oaks Hotel Galleria	faye@asianchamber-hou.org
	11:30 AM	Texas Turkish-American Chamber of Commerce and the Raindrop Turkish House: Luncheon Forum	Houston Petroleum Club	edirector@turkishhouse.org
4/13	6:00 PM	World Affairs Council of Houston: The Way Ahead—Military Strategy for the 21st Century	Westin Oaks Hotel	www.wachouston.org
4/14	Noon	Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership: Citizens for Space Exploration - Texas	Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership	www.bayareahouston.com
4/15	11:30 AM	Greater Houston Partnership: Quarterly Networking Luncheon	InterContinental Hotel	www.houston.org
4/16	6:00 PM	World Affairs Council of Houston: The Changing Face of Chinese Journalism	Junior League	www.wachouston.org
4/17	9:00 AM	Houston Minority Business Council: Business Opportunity Forum—Straight Talk with Business Program Advisors / Managers	HISD Northwest Transportation Center	terry.williams@hmhc.org
	11:30 AM	Greater Houston Partnership: Hong Kong—Your Partner in Success	Greater Houston Partnership	htan@houston.org
	11:30 PM	World Affairs Council of Houston: A Vision for Africa (Luncheon and Evening components)	Westin Galleria Hotel	www.wachouston.org

4/21	11:30 AM	Greater Houston Partnership: Lunch & Learn—Negotiating with the Savvy Buyer	University of Houston Small Business Development Center	www.houston.org
4/22	11:30 AM	Greater Houston Partnership: Houston Area Survey—Public Perceptions in Uncertain Times	Doubletree Hotel Downtown	ksmith@houston.org
	11:30 AM	German-American Chamber of Commerce of Southern United States: Green Investment—Business Luncheon with Deutsche Bank	Smith and Wollensky Restaurant	www.gacctexas.com
	12:00 PM	Houston Minority Business Council: Networking Luncheon—A View from the Top	Hilton Americas Hotel Downtown	http://www.hmbc.org
4/23	11:30 AM	Mayor's International Affairs & Development Council for Africa and the Africa Coalition: Houston Consular Award Luncheon	International Trade Center	vthompson@houstontrade.org
4/24	8:00 PM	Moroccan Society of Houston: 4th Anniversary Gala	Crowne Plaza Hotel	(713) 478-9317
4/27	—	Brazil-Texas Chamber of Commerce: 7th Latin American Leadership Forum (through April 29)	Westin Galleria Hotel	www.cg-la.com/lalf7
4/28	6:00 PM	European Chambers of Commerce: After Hours Business Networking Cocktail	Boheme Wine Bar	www.facchouston.org
4/29	7:30 AM	Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: Networking and Business Development Breakfast	TBA	www.houstonhispanicchamber.com
4/30	7:30 AM	St. Mary's University and the Greater Houston Partnership: Terrorism, Crime & Business Symposium (through May 1, 2009)	Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, Houston Branch	fcampbell@stmarytx.edu

International Cultural Events in Houston:

4/1	5:30 PM	Columbia University Alumni Club of South Texas: Laugh it Up!	Improv Houston	worthworldtx@sprintmail.com
4/17-26	TBA	42nd Annual WorldFest-Houston International Film Festival	AMC Studio 30 at Dunvale	hunter@worldfest.org
4/19	5:00 PM	Russian Cultural Center: A Night in Spain featuring the Russian virtuoso guitarist Grigory Goryachev	Bellaire High School	www.ourtx.org/grisha.html
4/21	6:00 PM	British American Business Council: Young Professionals Pub Quiz	TBA	www.babchouston.org
5/15	TBA	Museum of Fine Arts Houston: New Arts of India Gallery Opening	The Museum of Fine Arts Houston	www.mfah.org
5/16-17	9:00 AM	Houston Highland Games Association: Houston Highland Games and Celtic Festival	Farm & Ranch Club	www.houstonhighlandgames.com
5/26	TBA	Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans: Youth to Youth Conference	George I Sanchez High School Gymnasium	(713) 926-9491

Events hosted by International Partner Cities of Houston:

4/6-7	U.S. Commercial Service: Asia Pacific Outlook Conference		Los Angeles, U.S.A.	www.buyusa.gov/Utah/apbo2009.html
5/22-23	5th Annual Chinese Energy Strategic High-level Forum of China and concurrent Beijing International High-tech Expo and International Oil City Mayor's Forum		Beijing, China	zjxk19850926@126.com

6/3-5	World Investment Conference	Baule, France	www.facchouston.com
6/10-12	Oil & Gas Asia 2009	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	desmond.cheng@mail.doc.gov
5/20-23	China Beijing International High-Tech Expo: 11th CHITEC	Beijing, China	www.chitec.com
6/9-11	GO-EXPO 2009: Gas and Oil Exposition	Calgary, Canada	www.petroleumshow.com
6/23-24	2nd Annual U.S.-Arab Cities Forum	Amman, Jordan	forum@ammancity.gov.jo

## **Opportunities**

### **Presenters**

- 8th Annual Rice Alliance Life Science Technology Venture Forum  
Contact: www.houstontech.org

### **Continuing Education**

- Houston Community College: Export Academy  
Contact: exportacademy@hccs.edu

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Please submit event information to: [moiad@cityofhouston.net](mailto:moiad@cityofhouston.net) or by fax to: (832) 393-0859  
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It is with great sorrow that we report the heartbreaking and untimely death of Dr. Gustavo Wensjoe and his infant son Julian on March 19, 2009. Both were killed in a traffic accident in Peru where Dr. Wensjoe was on a Sabbatical leave.

Dr. Wensjoe was the Director of the University of St. Thomas's Center for International Studies and a member of the Mayor's International Affairs & Development Council, to name just a few of his many different academic and civic commitments. He will be remembered for his extraordinary leadership and international vision, which have inspired all who have interacted with him; The void he has left is immense.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Mrs. Joanna Houck-Wensjoe, wife and mother, who is still recovering from the accident, and to the rest of their family.

A mass for Dr. Wensjoe and his son will be held on Thursday, April 2, 2009, at 7:00 PM, at St. Cyril of Alexandria Catholic Church, 10503 Westheimer Rd., Houston, TX 77042.