

# Sister City Relationship Annual Report\*

City Clerk's Office  
 City Hall, Room 205  
 200 E. Wells Street  
 Milwaukee, WI 53202 PH: (414) 286-2221 WEB: [www.milwaukee.gov/sistercities](http://www.milwaukee.gov/sistercities)



APPLICATION ORGANIZATION		
Name N/A (Hmong Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce (HWCC) is in the process of applying)		
Mailing Address		
Website		
PERSON IN CHARGE OF ORGANIZATION FOR MILWAUKEE		
Name Khay Khong	Phone 414 688 7763	
Mailing Address 2332 N 57 <sup>th</sup> Street Milwaukee WI 53210	Email <a href="mailto:transworldk@gmail.com">transworldk@gmail.com</a>	
SISTER CITY		
Name Medan	Country Indonesia	Population 1.75 million
PERSON IN CHARGE OF ORGANIZATION FOR SISTER CITY		
Name Rudi Zulham Hasibuan	Phone +62 61 4527799	
Mailing Address Medan Chamber of Commerce (KADIN) Jl. Sekip Baru No.16, Sei Putih Tim. I, Medan Petisah Kota Medan, Sumatera Utara, Indonesia	Email <a href="mailto:rudizulham@yahoo.co.uk">rudizulham@yahoo.co.uk</a>	

## Please attach the following information

### Updated information about the sister city:

- Areas of mutual interest and involvement between Milwaukee and the sister city in the areas of culture and business
- Details of communication and consultation with the sister city regarding the existing relationship
- Updated information regarding the local organizational structure in the sister city that supports the relationship including number of members, their professional and business background, names and contact information

### Updated information about the applicant organization:

- Organizational status (e.g. 501c-3). List Board of Directors and attach bylaws
- Number of members, their professional and business background, names and contact information
- Progress of the goals of the organization regarding the sister city relationship
- Progress of activities of the organization in relation to the sister city
- Progress of the methods the organization uses to meet the goals of the sister city relationship
- Financial base of the organization and funds available to support the sister city relationship
- Evidence of local community support for the sister city relationship, including additional financial support and interest in exchange program

*\*Note: An annual report must be submitted to the Sister Cities Committee within 30 days following the anniversary of the date on which the mayor signed the resolution establishing the relationship.*

## **Milwaukee-Medan Sister City Relationship**

### **Report for 2018**

By: Khay Khong, Milwaukee contact for the Milwaukee-Medan sister city relationship

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Milwaukee, WI 53214

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Date: September 19th, 2018

## **Background**

The Milwaukee-Medan Sister City relationship agreement was signed in October 2014 by Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett and Medan Mayor Dzulmi Eldin at the Milwaukee City Hall.

The non-profit organization representing the Milwaukee side will be the Hmong Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce (HWCC). HWCC will replace Pan African Community Association (PACA) which recently ceased operations. The Medan side is represented by the Medan Chamber of Commerce, headed by the Mr. Rudi Zulham Hasibuan.

This is the annual report for 2018.

## **Hmong Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce (HWCC) – the new NGO sponsor**

The Board of the Hmong Chamber of Commerce agreed to be the new sponsor for the Medan-Milwaukee sister city relationship. Considering that the HWCC is the most prominent Asian NGO in Milwaukee, it is the most suitable entity to replace PACA. HWCC is in the process of submitting the paperwork to make it official.

Here is a description of HWCC from the Hmong Chamber website:

<https://www.hmongchamber.org/>

*“HWCC is a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) providing economic development assistance in business planning, market analysis, marketing strategies, effective day-to-day business operations and much more. HWCC acts as an advocate for the Hmong and Southeast Asian communities in Wisconsin regarding business and economic issues. Furthermore, HWCC is a forum for Hmong and Southeast Asian entrepreneurs to discuss successes and challenges, offering support resulting in a win-win for all of Wisconsin. Our mission is to provide financial resources and technical assistance to business and community development activities that improve economic opportunities in low-income and underserved communities. HWCC recently opened a branch office in Wausau.”*

## **Updates and Events related to Medan-Milwaukee Sister City Relationship**

PACA (Pan-African Community Association) ceased operations early this year, leaving the Medan-Milwaukee sister city relationship without a local sponsor. Most of the effort early this year had been focused on finding a replacement agency. There are no Indonesian associations in Wisconsin apart from Indonesian students' associations on campuses. Hmong Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce is the main organizations representing the Southeast Asian communities.

Here are the **Updates**:

- **Port of Milwaukee**

Talks with the Port of Milwaukee started last year on promoting Wisconsin exports to Indonesia. Possibilities are soybean, wheat and grains for animal feed. The Port of Milwaukee had expressed interest to cater to shipping products to Indonesia. There are opportunities to increase traffic going to Indonesian ports such as Port of Belawan in Medan.

Illinois export a significant amount of soybean to Indonesia. The main soy product is a meat substitute called tempeh, one of the staples of the Indonesian diet. If the Port of Milwaukee has a regular schedule to Southeast Asia, trade with Indonesia could grow.

There is a meeting scheduled for mid-October with the Port of Milwaukee to discuss opportunities to expand traffic to Asia.

- **Indonesian Culture at Holiday Folk Fair – Year 3**

The Indonesian Trade Promotion Center in Chicago is interested in participating at the Holiday Folk Fair for the third year. Besides ethnic dance performances, they could expand the cultural experience with ideas such as a photo exhibit or a cooking demonstration.

- **Intensive English language course for Indonesians at UWM**

University of Milwaukee is recruiting Indonesian students for its intensive ESL program. Information in the Indonesian language is used to reach the target audience.

Since the beginning of the sister city relationship, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) has 2 MoUs to promote education exchange, research and technology transfer. The MoUs are with University of North Sumatera (Universitas Sumatera Utara or USU) and University of HKBP Nommensen (UHN). Dr. Marija Gajdardziska-Josifoska, Dean of Graduate Studies, is the contact person.

- **Indonesian Batik and other Fabrics**

The Indonesian Consulate staged a batik fashion show in Chicago this summer. I am reaching out to the Consulate to bring this fashion show to Milwaukee. There has been a growing interest in batik and other Indonesian fabrics, especially among African and Asian communities. Authentic Indonesian fabrics are hard to come by in the Midwest. A

local tailor shop P'Dia is interested to utilize batik for men's accessories such as bow ties and women's summer outfits.

## **Other Possibilities for Exchange and Cooperation**

- **Water Technology**

Indonesia is Southeast Asia's largest economy and has the region's fastest-growing middle-class population. This high economic growth is a strain on its infrastructure. Fresh water supply is crucial for Indonesia. The Indonesian Consulate visited Milwaukee's Water Council 2 years ago. It is a perfect time to further that relationship.

- **Food Supply**

Indonesia has one of the youngest populations in the ASEAN region. The median age of Indonesians is 28 years compared to Wisconsin's 39 years. Penetration of mobile phones is high. Indonesia is top ten in Twitter and Facebook users. Indonesian millennials are well-informed and they have developed a taste for imported foods. Food processing has been a strength of Wisconsin. There are great opportunities to export Wisconsin food processing equipment, food safety expertise, franchises and packaged foods.

On the other hand, Indonesia is a key producer of food ingredients. For example, it is the World's largest producer of palm oil. It is also the legendary spice island nation. It has the best of spices such as cloves, nutmeg, cinnamon, peppercorn, etc.

Indonesia is a quality coffee grower, supplying well-known single origin beans such as Sumatera, Java, Bali, Sulawesi and Papua. One of its best secrets are natural health products. These are imports from Indonesia with high potential in Wisconsin, both for local consumption and for food processing.

All these mean great opportunities for Wisconsin's food and beverage industry.

- **Tourism**

Both Wisconsin and Indonesia have ethnic cultures and natural beauty to attract visitors. The Wisconsin Department of Tourism could collaborate with the Indonesian Ministry of Tourism. There is little tourist traffic between Wisconsin and Indonesia and there is tremendous potential in joint efforts.