

## International Relations

### **Third Global Irish Civic Forum hosted by Minister of State for International Development and Diaspora, Seán Fleming TD, at Dublin Castle on April 20-21 next.**

Fanchea Gibson, Head of International Relations, attended the third Global Irish Civic Forum in Dublin Castle 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2023 in Dublin Castle. The theme of the Forum was *Le Chéile Arís – Together Again*. The Opening Address was given by Tánaiste Mícheál Martin TD. Panel Discussions with both Irish and international speakers were held on a range of topics including the Diaspora under the themes, Our People, Our Values, Our Prosperity, Our Culture and Our Influence. Issues discussed included engagement with Irish abroad, digital connections, post brexit experience, post pandemic experience, voting rights, representation of diaspora in Ireland – one suggestion for appointment to Seanad for Diaspora, barriers to those returning home to Ireland to work, identity of Irish, education and engagement with naturalised Irish citizens.



*An Tánaiste Mícheál Martin TD giving the Opening Address*

### **Visit of delegation from Savannah Georgia**

A delegation from Savannah Georgia, led by Mayor Van R. Johnson visited Dublin as part of a visit to Ireland and paid a courtesy call to the Lord Mayor Caroline Conroy on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023.



## Visit of delegation from Cleveland Ohio

A delegation from Cleveland Ohio visited Dublin on the inaugural Aer Lingus flight between Cleveland and Dublin. It was led by Mayor of Cleveland Justin Bibb and Cuyahoga County Executive Chris Ronayne and co-ordinated by Mark Owens, VP of Team Neo and Honorary Irish Consul General for Ohio (appointed March 2023).

During their visit to Dublin, the group met with Lord Mayor Caroline Conroy, Chief Executive Owen Keegan, Councillor Cat O’Driscoll, A/Executive Manager Mary MacSweeney and Deirdre Scully, Deputy City Planner at the Mansion House with discussions on housing, engaging with youth, employment and challenges, attracting overseas workers to Dublin, refugees, regional relationship between Dublin and other Dublin Authorities, climate and net zero 2030, biodiversity and traffic free areas within the city.

The group walked to City Hall looking at Powerscourt Townhouse Centre and the George’s Street Arcade as to how older buildings have been re-used as city market / shopping areas.

In City Hall they met with Assistant Chief Executive Cólín O’Reilly, DCC Economist Juliet Passmore and Councillors Donna Cooney, Alison Gilliland, Dermot Lacey, Cat O’Driscoll and Larry O’Toole. A presentation was given on the Your Dublin Your Voice public consultation tool and discussion took place on a range of topics including Housing, Local Government v National Government and Funding.

The group then walked to Bridgefoot Street Park and met with Peter Leonard, Senior Executive Landscape Architect who gave them an overview of the history of the park, how a park was recommended rather than housing, the local consultation involved when creating the park and the sustainability approach to the creation of the park.



## Eurocities Annual Conference – June 2023

Lord Mayor Caroline Conroy and Fanchea Gibson, Head of International Relations attended the Eurocities Annual Conference in Brussels on 13th and 14th June. The Eurocities Conference was part of the Brussels Urban Summit held by Brussels Capital Region, Eurocities, Metropolis and the OECD Champion mayors for Inclusive Growth Initiative and brought together 322 cities from 82 countries worldwide, 84 Mayors and 1,409 attendees to exchange ideas and set priorities for the cities of the

future to be being more sustainable, liveable and accessible to all. The Summit looked to cities to make the decisions to ensure sustainable, inclusive and well-managed cities for future generations. The major challenges worldwide are concentrated in cities and city governments are uniquely placed to engage, mobilise and coordinate activities of local communities, stakeholders and businesses. Four main items were Urban Leadership, Empowering cities as global partners, connecting to increase positive impact and looking at urban answers to global challenges.

The following talks / exchanges were attended:

- Sustaining Cities, Naturally
- Homelessness – inequalities and risk factors
- Urban Recovery Watch : Cities in the Implementation of the Next Generation EU.
- Time Policies : an opportunity to live better in our cities.
- Eurocities breakfast on City Diplomacy
- Migration and Diversity : Cities lead the way in turning challenges into opportunities
- Urban food policies for sustainable and just future

President Burkhard Jung, Mayor of Leipzig was announced as the new President of Eurocities.



### **Visit to Seoul Republic of Korea by Deputy Lord Mayor Darcy Lonergan and Brendan Teeling**

The Deputy Lord Mayor Darcy Lonergan and the Deputy City Librarian visited the city of Jeongeup-si, South Korea, at the invitation of the organisers of the 2nd World Revolutionary City Solidarity Conference. The visit ran from 10-13 May 2023. Other international guests included the Lord Mayor of Cork and Cork City Librarian, the Mayor of Alta Gracia, Argentina, and speakers from China, Spain, and Germany.

Jeongeup-si was a key site in the Donghak Peasant Revolution of 1894. Despite its ultimate defeat, the Donghak Revolution is perceived as a great example of Koreans' national struggle against feudalism and foreign interference. Consequently, it inspired the March First Independence Movement in 1919, seeking a restoration of Korean sovereignty against Japanese colonial rule. The revolution is commemorated each year at the Donghak Farmer Revolution Memorial Festival, held in May at the Donghak Peasant Revolution Memorial Park.

On Tuesday 9 May the representatives of each city had an official meeting with Mayor Lee Hak Soo at Jeongeup-si City Hall. The Mayor welcomed us formally to the city and issued an invitation to Dublin to join the World Revolutionary City Solidarity Forum.

The conference took place on Wednesday 10 May at the Donghak Peasant Revolution Memorial Park. Before the conference there was a formal, solemn, ceremony at the memorial in the Park, when the Mayor and the Chief Executive and the international guests laid flowers in memory of those killed in the revolution.

The Deputy Lord Mayor spoke briefly at the conference and the Deputy City Librarian gave a presentation on the Council's 1916 commemorations programme.

The conference was covered by several local television news programmes.

The 56th Donghak Peasant Revolution Memorial Festival was held at the memorial park on 11 May. The international delegates attended a number of events and performances at the Festival, which concluded with a march involving 300+ local people and dignitaries. The delegates were invited to take part in the march and did so with varying levels of enthusiasm.

The visit gave an interesting insight into how other countries and cultures commemorate significant events in their history.

