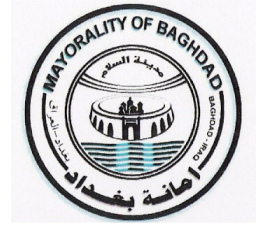




International Partners for Peace

BAGHDAD-DENVER REGION PARTNERSHIP

The Provincial and City Councils of Baghdad, Iraq
and
The Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG)



PURPOSE:

The purpose of the partnership is to promote the exchange of ideas and understanding between citizens, government officials, education faculty and students, businesses, and non-profit organizations. Relationships are established and maintained primarily by email, telephone, and periodic visits of delegations to each others communities.

BENEFITS:

The primary benefit to Baghdad is exposure to the systems of government, education, business, and non-profits in a democratic society. This assistance is much needed after more than 35 years of repression and isolation by the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein and the Ba'ath Party. The primary benefit to the Denver area is increased understanding of the culture and history of Iraq and the Middle East. Of substantial benefit to both parties are the strong personal and professional relationships made through the Partnership.

THE BAGHDAD – DENVER REGION CONNECTION:

Baghdad and the Denver region already have quite a connection! Several Denver area former local government officials – and others from the Denver area - served as advisers to the Baghdad Councils during their initial development in 2003 and early 2004. During this time, the principles of the Denver Regional Council of Governments, and materials provided by the Colorado Municipal League, were frequently consulted as Baghdad's new local government officials developed their own system of democratic government.

Four members of the Baghdad City Council visited the Denver area in December 2003 and they met with Colorado's Governor, Denver's Mayor and Council, and officials from Aurora, Lakewood, Littleton, and Douglas County, and the Board of the Denver Regional Council of Governments. Additionally, the Mile High United Way has been actively involved in furthering the development of Baghdad's fledgling non-profit community. Two small delegations from Baghdad visited the Denver area in August and October 2004, and a delegation of 18 government and NGO officials visited in April 2005.

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS FOR PEACE:

The Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) and the Province of Baghdad signed a partnership declaration in October 2004, formally establishing the two regions as "partners for peace" through Sister Cities International. Activities are funded by grants and monies raised locally. The Partnership meets about every other month to discuss activities and to coordinate a variety of cultural and professional programs. Participation is open to any individual or group who shares the goals of furthering cultural and professional understanding. Present participants cover the full range of the political spectrum! Please contact us should you be interested in learning more about the Partnership or if you are interested in making a tax-deductible donation.

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Contact Joe Rice if you are interested in Partnership meetings.