

# media release

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## Beijing classroom for Oxley teacher

An Oxley High School teacher is about to embark on the learning experience of a lifetime, travelling to China for the International Chinese Teachers Workshop in Beijing.

Ms Dominique Smit, a language teacher from Oxley High School, has been invited by the Chaoyang District Government in Beijing to attend the 18-day workshop.

Tamworth Sister City chairman John Green said the opportunity was a direct result of the region's strong Sister City relationship with the Chaoyang District. It follows a month-long exchange visit by a teacher and three students from the Beijing Culture and Arts Vocational High School in Chaoyang District to Oxley High School last month.

'The invitation came as a surprise to the Tamworth Sister City Committee and Oxley High School,' said Mr Green. 'The offer was very generous as it covered all expenses for the selected candidate while in Beijing and the Oxley Parents and Citizens have donated the airfare to allow Ms Smit to attend the workshop.'

Ms Smit said she is 'very excited' about attending the workshop. She has never been to China and is looking forward to learning more about Chinese culture and language and using her new knowledge in the classroom at Oxley High School.

The International Chinese Teachers Workshop will cover Basic Mandarin, introduction to Chinese Arts and Culture such as shadow boxing, paper cutting and Chinese history. There will also be visits to the Confucius Institute, Peking Opera, the Forbidden City and The Great Wall.

Tamworth Regional Mayor, Cr Col Murray, said it was gratifying to see Tamworth Regional Council's Sister City relationship with Chaoyang District bring tangible benefits for the community.

'The workshop invitation is an example of how the Sister City program goes beyond international friendship. It actually creates to business and educational opportunities from which the whole community can benefit,' Cr Murray said.

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**MEDIA CONTACT:** Mayor Col Murray – (02) 6767 5441

John Green, Sister City Committee chair – (02) 6765 7437

Nicole Cowan, Corporate Communications Officer - (02) 6767 5710