

Statement of Intent

Statement/Press message

Friday 9th of June a delegation of the city of Palmerston North and Massey University led by mayor Grant Smith of Palmerston North had a meeting with a delegation of the city of Wageningen and Wageningen University & Research, led by mayor Floor Vermeulen of the city of Wageningen. The meeting was hosted by the Ambassador of New Zealand in the Hague, Mrs. Susannah Gordon. Both universities, Massey University and Wageningen University have a long lasting partnership. During the meeting in the Hague both cities and universities talked about creating a possible future network of cities and universities together. Building such a network could lead to knowledge exchanges about topics shared by university cities and their universities. Examples of topics to discuss are campus development, student housing, climate and (renewable) energy policy, sustainable development goals etc.

At the end of the meeting all parties agreed to a further exploration of how this network could be organised, which other university cities and their universities could be asked to join this network as well as other (business) organisations and what kind of issues could be discussed within this network. At the beginning we can connect to the ongoing collaborative activities. All parties involved in such a network should benefit of it.

Mayor Floor Vermeulen will present a draft proposal which will be discussed with representatives of the city of Palmerston, Massey University, the city of Wageningen and Wageningen University & Research during a digital meeting in the next upcoming Month (to be confirmed).

Attendants of the meeting:

1. Ambassador of New Zealand, Susannah Gordon
2. Steffen Bertram, policy officer Embassy of New Zealand

From Palmerston North:

3. Palmerston North Mayor Mr. Grant Smith
4. Palmerston North Mayoress Mrs. Michelle Smith
5. Palmerston North City Councillor & Rangitāne iwi representative Mr. Roly Fitzgerald
6. Central Economic Development Agency Chief Executive Mr. Jerry Shearman
7. Professor Chris Anderson – Massey University
8. Gabrielle Loga, International Relations Manager – PNCC
9. Kate Harridge, International Relations and Education Adviser – PNCC

From Wageningen:

10. Mayor Mr. Floor Vermeulen
11. Tjitske Zwerver, international affairs office – city of Wageningen
12. Marco Otte, Manager international relations Oceania, Corporate Strategy & Accounts of Wageningen University & Research



Mayor Grant Smith and Mayor Floor Vermeulen, The Hague 9th of June 2023