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**Delegates from Bandung Indonesia are in Fort Worth for Emergency Preparedness Training**

**March 3, 2003** – Fort Worth Sister Cities International (FWSCI) is hosting visitors from their sister city of Bandung, Indonesia this week for Emergency Preparedness Training. The training, designed to prepare the city to respond to emergency situations, is part of Sister Cities International's (SCI) "Sister Cities United for International Peace and Friendship" program. This initiative was launched in response to 9/11 to encourage sister city programs to increase involvement in areas with Muslim populations.

The delegation will be trained in areas of water production, flood control, and bioterrorism response. Dr. Ronald Blanck, President of the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth and member of The Association of Academic Health Center's Biodefence Council, is leading the presentation on bioterrorism and public health. This workshop is taking place this Thursday, March 6 at the University of North Texas Health Science Center (3500 Camp Bowie) at 10 a.m.

FWSCI was chosen by SCI as one of four cities to participate in Emergency Preparedness Programs to benefit sister cities partnerships in Islamic regions. The group has been awarded approximately \$40,000 to organize reciprocal visits with the city of Bandung. SCI hopes to expand this program beyond these four cities and eventually generate a larger International Sister Cities Emergency Preparedness Network.

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The visitors arrived on March 1 and will be in Fort Worth through next Wednesday, March 12. In addition to the Emergency Preparedness Training, the group will have the opportunity to explore Fort Worth and see why we are so proud of our city. Local agencies participating in the training include the City of Fort Worth, Freese & Nichols, UNT Health Science Center, American Red Cross, Tarrant County Public Health Department and CH2M Hill.

## **Bandung, Indonesia - Signed 1990**

When Indonesia moved to create Sister City programs in the United States, Fort Worth was invited as the first U.S. city to link because of the strong corporate connection with Bell Helicopter, Lockheed Martin (then General Dynamics) and Pier 1 Imports, as well as Fort Worth Sister Cities International's successful track record for developing sustainable relationships. The Fort Worth/Bandung partnership continues to work around language, distance and financial obstacles to produce many important exchanges such as: pen pal and traveling trunks programs for schools; university-based "Train the Trainers" nursing programs; municipal waste water, security and management internships; international conference on women; medical school programs, as well as economic, sports and cultural exchanges. In the post 9/11 environment, the Fort Worth/Bandung relationship intends to help set the standard by which U.S.-Islamic partnerships will be measured.