

**Conference Attendance report template - to be sent to gertrud@internetnz.net.nz
1 month after attending the conference**

Grant reference number:	#OD201600007
Name of recipient	aimee whitcroft
Name of organisation (if applicable)	GovWorks NZ / GovHack NZ / Syntropics / Flaxroots
Name, date and location of conference attended	#civicttechfest, Taipei, 10-14 September 2017 http://civicttechfest.org/
Amount of funding received	\$2,500 + GST
Budget details	#civicttechfest ticket, including accommodation, excluding meals: \$854.13 Return flights Wellington – Taipei (economy), excluding other travel: \$1,679.00 Total: \$2,551.13 The spend was about in line with what I expected.
What were the highlights of the conference?	<p>The highlights included hearing from a wider range of countries than one might potentially find at similar events held in America / Europe. It was especially great to hear the experiences of people based in Africa and South East Asia, and to get an idea of how far ahead NZ is in some respects, and how far behind in others.</p> <p>I also met some fantastic people – some I met in person after having met already/been introduced on Twitter, while others were completely new. In particular, the Talk to NYC team stood out for the inclusivity, kindness and energy. Of course, getting to meet some more of the g0v.Taiwan people was fantastic! And, outside of the conference, I was able to meet and chat with one of Taipei’s mayoral advisors – he wasn’t part of the conference, and is a longstanding tech entrepreneur – and get a good feel for the tech and socioeconomic situations there. It was all a big privilege 😊</p> <p>There are some strong parallels between NZ and Taiwan, and I’m looking forward to seeing whether and how I can help strengthen our (non-political!) ties.</p> <p>I also got to see some of the amazing VR/AR work being done in Taiwan, and am looking to see how best to link up people in NZ and people in Taiwan</p>

	<p>working on these areas – they are doing some amazing work we could learn from, and they’d love to make linkages in other countries.</p> <p>You can find videos from the sessions at civictechfest.org/agenda, and we took copious notes of the sessions too. Happy to share those, and will point to them in upcoming writings.</p>
<p>What were the lowlights of the conference?</p>	<p>It’s always a bit difficult being both an introvert and shy, especially at conferences. I do have some feedback for the organisers, which I’ll share with them, suggesting that (given the type of event this is), they may want to make sure people there on their own from a country (I was the only person from NZ there) have buddies/are included. The conference was fantastic, but many people there either came with people, or had already met at other conferences 😊</p> <p>In future, I’ll also do more to reach out to people beforehand, especially if it looks like I’ll be going on my own.</p>
<p>Was their media coverage or media-worthy content at the Conference?</p>	<p>I haven’t seen any media coverage, but given it was in Taiwan, I doubt I would have (or, potentially, been able to understand it) 😊 There’s been no media coverage here that I’m aware of. As NZ’s sole delegate to the conference, this doesn’t surprise me.</p> <p>In terms of media-worthy content – I’m not sure? I don’t think our media’s terribly interested in civic tech (not yet, at least), but I and my civictech peeps are hoping to get it onto the radar of the new govt as soon as possible, including (hopefully) at the upcoming Wellytech Christmas Party.</p>