

WWCAM
World Winter Cities Association
for Mayors
Pamphlet



Updated April 2019

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From “northern regions” to “world winter cities”

Although winter poses many challenges to the citizens of winter cities, it is also a blessing that brings much charm and allure to our cities. For instance, snow which is an affluent source of water supply and a tourism resource in winter, is a precious asset for the citizens of winter cities. Under the philosophy, “winter is a resource and an asset,” the first Mayors Conference was convened in Sapporo in 1982, and since then it has taken place biennially with the purpose of giving fellow mayors, the CEOs of city management, an opportunity to gather together, discuss face-to-face and share knowledge on city planning and other common problems that often face cities with harsh cold and heavy snowfall. In this manner, outcomes of the past conferences have been adopted into city planning.

Meanwhile, due to the expansion of advanced modes of information and globalization in recent years, the environment surrounding us has drastically changed. The free cross-border movement of people, commodities and service has globally expanded and accelerated with the innovative advancement of the information and telecommunication systems, a progress of globalization that has enhanced the interdependence on the international community. Along with this trend, the network of northern cities is expected to serve as an organ to meet each city’s needs adapted to the times. Our association will also work together and discuss winter-related issues not only with cities in northern regions but also with other winter cities all over the world to gain a broader perspective and create livable winter cities in this tide of the times. Therefore, beginning February 2004 the network of northern cities was further strengthened and expanded, and name of the association was changed from the International Association of Mayors of Northern Cities (IAMNC) to the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors (WWCAM).

Your understanding of the WWCAM philosophy and activities is greatly appreciated through this information packet, as it is a way to mutually work towards our goal of creating comfortable winter cities together. Therefore, I cordially invite you to become a member of the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors.

秋元克広

Mayor AKIMOTO Katsuhiro
President of WWCAM
Mayor of Sapporo

Historical Background of the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors

Winter cities face the common issue of having to adapt city planning to harsh winter climatic conditions, such as heavy snowfall and cold temperature. Under the slogan “Winter is a Resource and Asset,” the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors (WWCAM) provides winter cities in the world with similar climatic conditions an opportunity to gather together and discuss common issues in order to create livable winter cities. The organization started when the City of Sapporo initiated the Northern Intercity Conference in 1981.

In 1982, the first Northern Intercity Conference was convened in Sapporo with attendance of 9 cities from 6 countries. Since then, this conference has continuously been held. Through this conference, an original network developed among northern cities in Asia, North America and Europe.

Beginning at the third conference in Edmonton in 1988, the Winter Expo, which is for industries and businesses, and the Winter Cities Forum, for academics and research institutes, have also been held at the Northern Intercity Conference. Thus, the conference has grown to be the largest winter convention in the northern region of the world, bringing together people, commodities, technology, and information.

At the 6th Conference in Anchorage 1994, a new member-based organization was established aiming to further strengthen this network and to contribute to the development of an entire northern circle where winter cities can collaboratively work. In accordance with this establishment, the name of the conference was changed to the Northern Intercity Conference of Mayors.

In the past conferences, mayors have discussed various issues such as city planning, winter transportation, snow clearing and removal, waste recycling, tourism promotion and resources development, and learned from each other’s experiences and wisdom in order to obtain hints for “city development” and to learn about measures for overcoming severe climatic conditions.

Since 2002, the Working-Level Officials Meeting, attended by administrative officials, has also been held annually. Therefore in addition to the Mayors Conference, discussion is also being made at the working-level.

At the 11th Conference in Anchorage 2004, it was also resolved that the target membership area would be expanded and the name of the association would be changed to the “World Winter Cities Association for Mayors (WWCAM).” In order to revitalize the Association and enhance its attractiveness, the WWCAM Revitalization Plan was approved. Based on this revitalization plan, it was also decided that member cities would collaboratively make efforts to tackle global environmental issues and improve the lives of citizens’ in winter cities aiming to create sustainable societies, which will therefore lead to the promotion of the Association’s activities to the world.

In 2017, for the first time in 34 years, the WWCAM Mayors Conference was held in Sapporo, the very first place it was ever held. The WWCAM has since taken a new stage with discussions switching direction to “distinctive urban development originating from Winter Cities.”

The Mayor of Sapporo has served as President of World Winter Cities Association for Mayors since the establishment of the International Association of Mayors of Northern Cities, and its Secretariat has been located at the International Relations Department of the City of Sapporo.

What is a "Winter City" ?

“Winter City” indicates a city that faces challenges related to development due to harsh winter climatic conditions with heavy snowfall and cold temperatures.”

- * **Measure of snow accumulation:**

At least 20cm (8in.) per year.

- * **Measure of cold temperature:**

At least one month per year with an approximate average temperature below 0°C (32F).

These are just standards. Even if a city does not meet these standards, it may join the association as long as it is a winter city faced with winter-related challenges in city planning

Significance of the WWCAM

Member of the International Community

As one can see from the present state of global environmental issues, recent years have seen an increase in the number of challenges that countries and regions around the world must work together to solve. In order to tackle these issues, not only nations and international organizations but also local governments must cooperate with cities throughout the world as members of the international community. Accordingly, those northern cities aiming to fulfill their roles and responsibilities as world cities are expected to assist and cooperate with other northern cities faced with similar problems, by making use of the latest technology for cold and snowy environments and knowledge of city planning. Furthermore, each city should incorporate the knowledge and experience it has obtained from other northern cities into the goal of city development and mutually cooperate with other northern cities in order to solve various issues.

Creation of Livable Winter Cities

The results of overseas exchanges are reflected in various forms of “city planning” which, although they may take time to have a visible impact, eventually exert a great influence in terms of the long-term effects of exchange on the lives of citizens.

Face-to-Face Communication

While the Internet has become an increasingly common means of communication in modern society, it remains important for mayors to gather together and discuss issues face-to-face. Through such communication, it is possible for participants to share knowledge and technology in order to create livable winter cities.

Member Cities

Member cities	23 cities from 9 countries	As of April 2019
Canada(2)	Edmonton, Winnipeg	
China(9)	Changchun, Daqing, Harbin, Jiamusi, Jilin, Jixi, Mudanjiang, Qiqihar, Shenyang	
Estonia(1)	Viimsi	
Finland(1)	Rovaniemi	
Japan(2)	Matsumoto, Sapporo	
Mongolia(1)	Ulaanbaatar	
Republic of Korea(3)	Hwacheon, Inje, Taebaek	
Russia(3)	Magadan, Norilsk, Novosibirsk	
U.S.A.(1)	Anchorage	

Activities

World Winter Cities Conference for Mayors

The World Winter Cities Conference for Mayors is held every two years.

During the conference, cases and endeavors related to city-planning are introduced, during which information and technology are exchanged among mayors. Participants actively discuss the topic of livable winter city creation.

In principle, mayors attend the conference; however, non-member cities may also participate in the conference as observers.

The host city of the conference is selected by vote out of all of the candidate cities at the General Assembly.

The 19th Mayors Conference will be held in Rovaniemi (Finland) in 2020.



18th World Winter City Conference for Mayors
Shenyang, China, September 2018

Conference Number	Host City	Dates	Participating Cities
1	Sapporo	Feb. 7-10, 1982	9 cities from 6 countries 21 observer cities
2	Shenyang	Sep. 19-22, 1985	10 cities from 6 countries 6 observer cities
3	Edmonton	Feb. 13-15, 1988	17 cities from 12 countries 2 observer cities
4	Tromsø	Mar. 2-4, 1990	20 cities from 10 countries 2 observer cities

5	Montréal	Jan. 17-21, 1992	34 cities from 11 countries 12 observer cities
6	Anchorage	Mar. 5-10, 1994	30 cities from 10 countries
7	Winnipeg	Feb. 9-12, 1996	33 cities from 9 countries
8	Harbin	Jan. 15-18, 1998	49 cities from 10 countries
9	Luleå & Kiruna	Feb. 12-16, 2000	26 cities from 10 countries
10	Aomori	Feb. 7-10, 2002	28 cities from 13 countries
11	Anchorage	Feb. 18-22, 2004	27 cities from 11 countries
12	Changchun	Jan. 15-18, 2006	29 cities from 13 countries
13	Nuuk	Jan. 18-20, 2008	22 cities from 8 countries
14	Maardu	Jan. 20-22, 2010	18 cities from 11 countries
15	Ulaanbaatar	Jan. 13-15, 2012	13 cities from 7 countries
16	Hwacheon	Jan. 16-18, 2014	12 cities from 4 countries
17	Sapporo	Jul. 27-30, 2016	32 cities from 8 countries
18	Shenyang	Sep. 12-14, 2018	47 cities from 20 countries

● **Issues discussed at respective conferences:**

◇ **First Conference, Sapporo**

- Future direction in city planning in the northern regions
- Transportation problems
- Improving living environments
- Promotion of arts, culture, sports, and recreation

◇ **Second Conference, Shenyang**

- Planning and construction of the northern city
- Utilization and exploitation of energy and economic development in northern cities
- Afforestation and cultural activities in northern cities
- Exploitation and utilization of water resources, preservation and excavation of cultural relics in northern cities

◇ **Third Conference, Edmonton**

Main theme: “Business of Winter”

- Economic Development in Winter Cities - Potentials of Winter Cities
- Urban environment in winter cities

◇ **Fourth Conference, Tromsø**

Main theme: “Warm Winter Cities-Quality of Life and Economic Development”

- Urban Transportation in Winter
- Comprehensive City Planning
- Development of Winter Technology
- Challenges of Small Cities
- Art and Culture of Winter Cities

◇ **Fifth Conference, Montréal**

Main theme: “Living in Harmony with Winter”

- Environment
- Urban planning
- Health and physical strength

◇ **Sixth Conference, Anchorage**

Main theme: “North to the Future”

- Communications: “Developments in Communications Technology”
- Transportation: “International Air Commerce”
- Health: “Changes in the Global Climate”
- Business: “Marketing Winter Destinations and Winter Tourism”

◇ **Seventh Conference, Winnipeg**

Main theme: “Global Living – Living, Working and Playing in the Winter City”

- Economic development: “Warming the North for Business Development”
- Accessibility: “Accessibility in Winter Cities”
- Leisure and recreation: “How are the long-term needs of winter-city citizens being met?”

◇ **Eighth Conference, Harbin**

Main theme: “Let Us Unite to Create a Winter World Kaleidoscope!”

- What Winter Means to Senior Citizens and Children
- Develop and Exploit Winter Tourism Resources
- Promoting the Culture of Ice and Snow

◇ **Ninth Conference, Luleå/Kiruna**

Main theme: “Sustainable Development in Winter Cities”

- Countermeasures against natural disasters, support networks among IAMNC members during natural disasters
- Snow removal and civil cooperation

◇ **Tenth Conference, Aomori**

Main theme: “Sustainable Winter Cities 21”

- Revitalization of Central Urban Area
- Urban System with the Less Negative Impacts on Environment

◇ **Eleventh Conference, Anchorage**

Main theme: “Challenging Winter Frontiers”

- Winter City Designs: Satellite Town Centers
- The Role of the Sports Community in the Development of Municipal Services and Venues

◇ **Twelfth Conference, Changchun**

Main theme: “Grow in Winter”

- Environmental Issues in Winter
- Problem Solving in Citizens’ Winter Lifestyles

◇ **Thirteenth Conference, Nuuk**

Main theme: “Climatic Changes in the Arctic”

- Climatic Changes and Living Conditions among Young People in the Arctic
- Measures against Global Warming in Winter Cities

◇ **Fourteenth Conference, Maardu**

Main theme: “Features of Environmental Protection in Northern Cities”

- Multicultural Society in Winter Cities
- E-state

◇ **Fifteenth Conference, Ulaanbaatar**

Main theme: “Energy Supply and Efficient Consumption of Heat Supply in Winter Cities”

- Efficient Uses of Heat Supply
- Efficient Uses of Electricity
- Air Pollution in Winter Cities and Its Methods to Decrease Air Pollution

◇ **Sixteenth Conference, Hwacheon**

Main theme: “ Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources in a Winter City, and Sustainable Application Methods”

- Development of tourism and the promotion of tourism industry using natural resources
- Enhancing winter cities through environmental protection

◇ **Seventeenth Conference, Sapporo**

Main theme: “Winter City Urban Development: Uniqueness and its Appeal”

- Urban Development Utilizing Winter
- Urban Development that Takes Advantage of Special Climate Features Outside the Winter Season
- Eco-conscious Sustainable Urban Development in Winter Cities

◇ **Eighteenth Conference, Shenyang**

Main theme: “Winter Cities, Making Life Better!”

- Winter Cities: Precise Planning, Delicate Development and Lean Management
- New-Type Smart City Construction for Winter Cities
- Green Development of Winter Cities
- Joint Efforts for Happy Winter Cities

Winter Expo & Winter Cities Forum

(1) Winter Expo

Along with the conference, the Mayors Conference host city can also hold the Winter Expo. The cooperation of the host city and its businesses and organizations brings forth an exhibition of various winter- and snow-related machines and materials at the Expo, introducing a great range of technology and playing an important role as a stage of economic exchange for winter cities.



Winter Expo
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, January 2012



Winter Expo
Sapporo, Japan, July 2016

(2) Winter Cities Forum

The Mayors Conference host city has the opportunity to concurrently hold the Winter Cities Forum. Experts and academic researchers in various fields as well as citizens make presentations regarding winter lifestyle and city-planning, and also exchange their views with other participants.



Winter Cities Forum
Sapporo, Japan, July 2016

Working- Level Officials Meeting

The Working-Level Officials Meeting is held, in principle, every two years in the city where the Secretariat is located. During this meeting, the hosting plans and discussion themes of the next Mayors Conference as well as issues related to the management of the association are discussed.



Working-Level Officials Meeting
Sapporo, Japan, January 2018

● Conferences:

Name of Conference	Location	Duration	Number of Participating Cities
Working-Level Officials Meeting 2002	Sapporo	July 3-4, 2002	11 cities from 7 countries
Working-Level Officials Meeting 2003	Ulaanbaatar	Sept. 13-16, 2003	9 cities from 6 countries
Working-Level Officials Meeting 2004	Changchun	July 15-17, 2004	10 cities from 6 countries
Working-Level Officials Meeting 2005	Taebaek	July 13-15, 2005	12 cities from 8 countries
Working-Level Officials Meeting 2006	Nuuk	July 25-27, 2006	6 cities from 5 countries
Working-Level Officials Meeting 2007	Sapporo	July 26-28, 2007	12 cities from 8 countries
Working-Level Officials Meeting 2008	Prince George	Aug. 21-22, 2008	12 cities from 9 countries
Working-Level Officials Meeting 2009	Tromsø	Aug. 19-21, 2009	9 cities from 6 countries
Working-Level Officials Meeting 2010	Ulaanbaatar	July 8-10, 2010	9 cities from 6 countries
Working-Level Officials Meeting 2011	Sapporo	July 29-30, 2011	14 cities from 7 countries
Working-Level Officials Meeting 2012	Hwacheon	Aug. 3-5, 2012	13 cities from 6 countries
Working-Level Officials Meeting 2013	Sapporo	Aug. 1-2, 2013	15 cities from 7 countries
Working-Level Officials Meeting 2015	Sapporo	Jul. 30-31, 2015	16 cities from 6 countries
Working-Level Officials Meeting 2018	Sapporo	Jan. 25-26, 2018	15 cities from 5 countries

Subcommittees

At the fourth conference in Tromsø in 1990, subcommittees were established to conduct technical research and exchange information on technology among administrators of municipal governments and technocrats.

● Past Subcommittees Activities:

Subcommittee	Duration of Activities	Secretariat Location
Winter Urban Environmental Research	Mar. 1990 – Sep. 1993	Sapporo, Japan
WinterNet	Mar. 1994 – Jan. 1998	Edmonton, Canada
Waste Reduction and Recycling	Mar. 1994 – Feb. 2000	Luleå, Sweden
Winter recreation and Tourism	Feb. 1996 – Feb. 2000	Anchorage, U.S.A.
Economic Expansion	Feb. 1996 – Feb. 2000	Tromsø, Norway
Snow Management	Feb. 2000 – Feb. 2004	Prince George, Canada
Countermeasures against Natural Disasters	Feb. 2000 – Feb. 2004	Sapporo, Japan
Sustainable Winter Cities Planning	Feb. 2002 – Jan. 2006	Aomori, Japan
Measures against Terrorism in Northern Cities	Feb. 2002 – Jan. 2006	Anchorage, U.S.A.
Winter City Environmental Issues	Jan. 2006 – Jan. 2010	Sapporo, Japan
City Operations for Mitigation of Global Climate Change	Jan. 2008 – Jan. 2012	Anchorage, U.S.A.
Environmental Protection	Jan. 2010 – Jan. 2014	Changchun, China
Arctic Design	Feb. 2015 –	Rovaniemi, Finland



Environmental Protection Subcommittee
(Hwacheon Mayors Conference, January 2014)



Arctic Design Subcommittee
(Sapporo Mayors Conference, July 2016)

Revitalization Projects (former Collaborative Projects)

- (1) At the 11th Anchorage Conference in 2004, it was resolved that collaborative projects such as tourism promotion and cultural exchange will be conducted among member cities. In accordance with the resolution, a Collaborative Project was implemented as follows until the year 2006.

● Collaborative Projects:

Projects	Venue	Duration of Events	Number of Participants
Collaborative Tourism Promotion 2002	Yokohama, Japan	Sept. 20 - 22, 2002	9 cities from 6 countries
Collaborative Tourism Promotion 2004	Tokyo, Japan	Sept. 24 - 26, 2004	6 cities from 4 countries
Collaborative Tourism Promotion 2005	Tokyo, Japan	Sept. 22 - 24, 2005	6 cities from 5 countries
Collaborative Tourism Promotion 2006	Beijing, China	June 22 - 24, 2006	5 cities from 3 countries

*Collaborative Tourism Promotion 2002 was experimentally conducted prior to the resolution at the Anchorage Conference.

- (2) It was decided at the 2007 Working-Level Officials Meeting that the Collaborative projects would be replaced by the Revitalization Projects. In order to proactively promote the WWCAM, the focus is currently on creating a well-developed website and pamphlet.
- (3) The WWCAM Promotion Project was proposed by Hwacheon (Korea) and it was approved by member cities at the 2010 WLOM in Ulaanbaatar. The project included an exhibition of traditional costumes and crafts provided by member cities. The project continued until 2014.



Exhibition of traditional costumes and crafts



World Winter City Symposium
Hwacheon, Korea, January 15, 2011

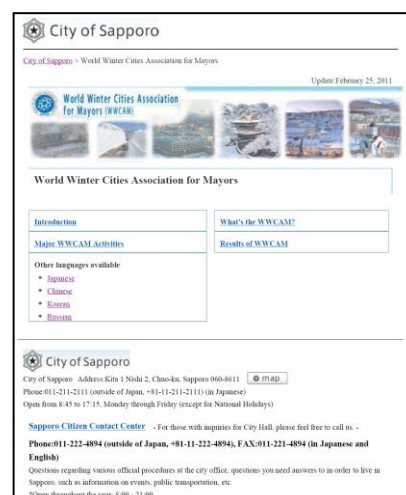
- (4) At the 2016 WWCAM Mayors Conference, it was decided that the City of Sapporo would serve as the Secretariat and implement the Research Project Regarding the Application of the United Nations Information Centre.

Public Relations Activities and Publications

(1) Website

This is the homepage of the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors. It is available in five languages (Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, and Russian), and provides information on WWCAM activities and reports from the latest Mayors Conference. The site can be accessed by going to the following address:

<http://www.city.sapporo.jp/somu/kokusai/wwcam/>



(2) Newsletter

● World Winter City News [English]

Activities and introductions of member cities of the WWCAM, as well as technology and information on winter cities are included in this English and Japanese language publication. This newsletter is issued once or twice a year and sent to winter cities and academic and research institutes throughout the world. This newsletter can be also accessed on our web page.

Website of the World Winter City News

<http://www.city.sapporo.jp/somu/kokusai/wwcam/news.html>



A United-Nations Registered NGO

The World Winter Cities Association for Mayors is registered in NGO status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Department of Public Information (DPI), and plans to utilize this status in order to deepen its relations with the United Nations.

Organization and Administration

Composition

The World Winter Cities Association for Mayors consists of the member cities and defines mayors as the representative of a member city.

Officials

One President, three Vice-Presidents (one from North/South America, Asia/Oceania, and Europe), two Directors and one Auditor are elected by the General Assembly.

● Current Officials:

President	Mayor of Sapporo
Vice-President	Mayor of Edmonton [North/South America] Mayor of Hwacheon [Asia/Oceania] Mayor of Rovaniemi [Europe]
Director	Mayor of Shenyang [2018 18th Conference host city] Mayor of Rovaniemi [2020 19th Conference host city]
Auditor	Mayor of Harbin

General Assembly

The General Assembly, which is the ultimate decision-making organ, is convened by the President every two years in conjunction with the Mayors Conference to ratify the budgets and project plans of the Association.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is convened by the President every two years, as necessary, in conjunction with the General Assembly.

Secretariat

The Secretariat is located in the International Relations Department, General Affairs Bureau of the City of Sapporo, Japan, and the Secretary-General is the Director General of the Mayor's Office, the General Affairs Bureau of the City of Sapporo.

Operation of Association

The expenses necessary for implementing projects of the Association are covered by the revenue of the Association, such as membership fees, contributions, balances carried forward from the previous year, and other sources. Part of the expenses of the operating the Mayors Conference, Working-Level Officials Meeting, Subcommittees, Revitalization Projects and Secretariat are covered by the income of the Association.

	Percent of Budget
Mayors Conference Expenses	60%
Working-Level Officials Meeting Expenses	10%
Revitalization Project Expenses	15%
Secretariat Expenses	10%
Research Subcommittee Expenses	5%

Membership Procedure

Application for Membership

Any mayor wishing to become a member of the Association will apply to the President for membership. The decision will be made at the meeting of the Board of Directors.

Membership Fee

Member cities must pay an annual membership fee, in U.S. dollars, between January 1 and March 31. The fee is calculated in accordance with their per-capita GDP and their population. The fee for the first year of membership will be half the amount indicated in the table.

Annual Membership Fees (January 1 - December 31)

(Unit: US\$)

population \ GDP	0-9,999	10,000 or more
0 -499,999	1,000	2,000
500,000 -999,999	1,500	4,000
1,000,000 or more	2,000	6,000

Each member shall pay annual membership fees in accordance with its per-capita GDP and its population. The fee will be calculated according to the following sources.

- (1) Gross domestic product (GDP) per capita of each country
Source: United Nations, "Statistical Yearbook"
- (2) Urban population (population of each city, excluding population of suburban areas)
Source: United Nations, "Demographic Yearbook"
Populations of cities which are not included in the above material shall be assessed by the respective cities themselves.

Advantages of Membership

The Members will be qualified to attend the General Assembly and Mayors Conference, speak at meetings, and vote. They will receive all the publications of the Association, including newsletters. They are also qualified to apply for hosting the Mayors Conference and Winter Cities Showcase. In addition, they are eligible to utilize the network system established among members.

Applications are to be sent to:

Secretariat
World Winter Cities Association for Mayors
c/o International Relations Department, City of Sapporo
Kita 1 Nishi 2, Chuo-ku, Sapporo 060-8611 Japan
Tel: +81-11-211-2032, Fax: +81-11-218-5168
E-mail: wwcam@city.sapporo.jp
<http://www.city.sapporo.jp/somu/kokusai/wwcam/>

Major Outcomes (based on the survey polled by member cities)

Overall Outcomes

(1) Enhance international status and promote international relations

[Prince George]

Through IAMNC activities, Prince George could publicize its name. Particularly, the city could introduce itself to member cities by holding the Board of Secretaries Meeting other than in Sapporo in October 2000.

[Harbin]

Through the 8th Mayors Conference held in Harbin in 1998, Harbin could publicize its name to cities in northern regions.

[Shenyang]

Through the 2nd Northern Intercity Conference, Shenyang could improve its recognition, and deepen mutual understanding and friendship among member cities. Moreover, the city could accumulate know-how to host international conferences.

[Kiruna]

Experience of international exchange through the IAMNC is a significant outcome.

(2) Information Sharing

[Qiqihar]

It is useful for various fields in the city to exchange technology and information among winter cities with common natural environment.

[Shenyang]

Through the IAMNC activities, the city could obtain useful information in order to cope with issues common to winter cities.

[Kiruna]

The city learned from other cities with similar climate, and could obtain knowledge when necessary.

Cases of Practical Use (Advanced Cases Study and Practical Application)

(1) Winter Tourism Resource

[Changchun]

When visited Kiruna to attend the 9th Mayors Conference in 2000, the city became interested in an ice hotel. It was informative to draw up measures to attract tourists from southern regions.

[Harbin, Qiqihar]

Through mutual visits by member cities, the cities learned experience and knowledge to make the city's winter more attractive. For example, the cities learned that Sapporo succeeded in utilizing snow and ice as a tourism resource.

[Shenyang]

Through the discussion made at the 8th Mayors Conference held in Harbin in 1998, the city learned innovative ideas to enhance cultural activities in winter and promoted an ice and snow project.

[Ulaanbaatar]

The city sent its officials to the Sapporo Snow Festival held in February 2002 and learned the know-hows of the festival, and held the first snow festival in Ulaanbaatar in 2003.

[Kiruna]

The city learned the know-hows of making snow statues and ice sculptures from the Sapporo Snow Festival. During winter, an ice hotel is built aiming to attract tourists.

(2) Personnel Exchanges

[Prince George, Kiruna, Luleå]

Taking the occasion of the Board of Secretaries Meeting held in Prince George, Prince George, Luleå, Kiruna and Marquette, Michigan, U.S.A. where then president of the WCA resided, made an agreement on exchange of snow removal technology and mutually sent city officials in 2001.

[Prince George, Aomori]

As part of the activities of the Snow Management Subcommittee, an exchange of personnel in charge of snow removal was implemented between Prince George and Aomori. The cities learned concrete measures and technologies related to snow removal, and incorporated them into future challenges.

[Ulaanbaatar]

Since the year 2001, a senior official has been sent to the City of Sapporo for six months, and training programs in various fields such as culture, waste management, snow removal and administrative management have been given to a trainee.

(3) Youth Exchanges

[Aomori, Luleå]

Elementary school students of Luleå and Aomori conducted a meeting through the Internet in 2001. Mutual understanding among the students was deepened by introducing school life, culture and games to each other.

(4) Cultural Exchanges

[Aomori]

Winter Cities Art Exhibition was concurrently held with the 10th Mayors Conference in Aomori in 2002. Great artistry fostered by natural features and ethnicity peculiar to northern regions was reacknowledged and mutual understanding in culture was deepened.

(5) Infrastructure

[Jiamusi] 【Introduction of advanced road construction technology】

The city sent a road inspection team to Anchorage in 1996, and learned road construction technology to prevent cracks on the winter road surface and snow removal methods which were incorporated in the city's projects.

[Qiqihar] 【Urban development projects】

Visited Sweden in 2001 and conducted business talks on projects such as geothermal energy, greening and housing construction.

[Kiruna] 【Frontage snow removal】

Frontage snow removal machines developed by the City of Prince George, which is a snow removal method that does not leave snow mounds in front of houses, were introduced.

[Aomori] 【Use of sodium lamps】

Adopted sodium lamps used in Anchorage, and promotes introducing sodium lamps when installing and renewing.

【Improvement of snow disposal facilities utilizing natural energy】

Practically used "road heating system utilizing seawater heat resource" which was introduced at the Forum at the 9th Mayors Conference in Luleå and Kiruna in 2000, and adopted it to roads in city center. Also applied road heating system utilizing other natural energy, ground heat to the city center and have promoted introducing

snow-melting system with less impact on the environment.

【Promoting improvement of citizens' snow removal awareness】

“Snow Force,” a volunteer group with special uniforms consisting of both public and private employees engaging in snow clearance and disposal aiming at morale boost was formed in Prince George. Citizens' organization “Northern Life Study Group” was formed in Aomori, and publicized citizens' engagement in regional snow removal in order to improve citizens' snow removal awareness adopting the ideas of “Snow Force.” The group conducts “Snow Knight Projects” to reward accomplishments in snow removal, and as part of the projects, uniforms are presented.

[Sapporo] 【Planting of evergreen trees】

Evergreen trees are planted in public spaces like center dividers of trunk roads in order to prevent snowstorms in the area and to preserve appearance. Overuse of evergreen trees makes the area dim, and use of evergreen for roadside trees might cause danger of sliding snow accumulated on the leaves. Therefore, evergreen trees and deciduous trees are efficiently used.

【Regulations for studded tires】

Studded tires have high efficiency for braking; on the other hand, the road surface maintenance caused by scraping paved road surface is tremendous and it also impacts the environment with noise and dust. Under such circumstances, other cities' case examples related to studded tires were introduced at the first Northern Intercity Conference held in Sapporo in 1982. These case reports encouraged the City of Sapporo to take the first full-scale step toward studded tire measures. After the city actively worked on enactment of regulations and laws, it realized a total ban on the use of studded tires in 1990.

【Introduction of hydroelectric power】

As part of energy conservation measures, electric energy has been generated at the Moiwa Water Treatment Plant since 1984. Electricity generated is 330kWh and it is equivalent to the amount of electricity consumed by 100~150 general households.

【Introduction of sodium lamps】

To conduct energy-saving measures and to improve visibility when snow is falling, street lights were changed from mercury lamps to sodium lamps. As of April 2003, the number of sodium lamps is 70,795, equivalent to about 73% of the number of entire street lights in the city, 96,874. From the perspective of promoting ISO14001, sodium lamps should be actively introduced in the future.

【Promotion of snow hockey】

In order to promote a lifelong sport enjoyed all through the year, snow hockey was thought out, and the first Sapporo Mayor's Cup Snow Hockey Meet was held in 1983. This hockey meet has been continuously held, and the 20th meet was held in 2003 with the participation of 57 teams and 580 athletes consisting of mostly elementary school students. Snow hockey has become a popular winter sport for children.

【Promotion of cross-country ski courses】

To promote citizens' recreation and sports in winter, permanent cross-country ski courses were developed in Nakajima Park in 1983. Currently, a 1km-course is set up for beginners and 150 ski sets with boots are lent for free from December to March. There are 14 permanent cross-country ski courses in the city.

【Opening parks in winter and introducing wooden play equipment】

Since 1983, introduction of wooden play equipment and opening parks in winter have been actively implemented so that children can play outside even in winter. In the late '80s, opening in winter was promoted in many parks. On the other hand, snow removal in the parks made themselves snow-dumping sites, and wooden play equipment

is not actually used because of the matters with maintenance, durability and introduction cost.

【Role sharing between the city and the citizens】

In order to efficiently manage parks and to expand opportunities for citizens' participation, parks have been managed in cooperation of the city and the citizens. Cleaning and weeding in children's parks, which is done three times a year, is entrusted to neighborhood associations.

【Cityscape development】

It is important to develop attractive cityscape characteristics of northern cities sufficiently considering colors and shapes of buildings so as to create a livable urban environment and upgrade citizen's culture. Case examples related to cityscape were introduced at the first Northern Intercity Conference held in Sapporo in 1982, which led the City of Sapporo to initiate full-scale urban landscape development. Sapporo Urban Landscape Award was founded in 1983, and Sapporo Urban Landscape Code was enforced in 1998.

World Winter Cities Association for Mayors

Application for Membership

1. City: _____

2. Country: _____

3. Representative (Mayor): _____

4. Department in charge of World Winter Cities Association for Mayors Affairs: _____

Name of the contact person and his/her title: _____

Telephone number: _____

Fax number: _____

E-mail: _____

URL of your city's homepage: _____

Mailing address: _____

5. Population: _____ (As of _____) Month/Year

6. Major issues your city is dealing with at present: _____

7. Issues to be discussed at the Mayors Conference: _____

Date: _____ Mayor's Name: _____
(Signature)

Name in print: _____

Title: _____

※Please send an annual report of your municipal government along with this form to:

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