

## **2019 WWCAM Working-Level Officials Meeting (WLOM) Report**

- 1. Dates:** Thursday, November 14 – Sunday, November 17, 2019
- 2. Venue:** Palace of Culture (Norilsk, Russia)
- 3. Attendees:**
  - Member cities:** 40 delegates from 13 cities in 7 countries
  - Observers:** 4 cities in Russia (Murmansk, Yakutsk, Monchegorsk, Dudinka)
- 4. List of meeting materials:**
  - See Appendix “2019 Working-Level Officials Meeting Agenda”
- 5. Reports of discussion on each agenda item (materials enclosed for each agenda)**

### **Agenda 1: Final Report on the 18th Mayors Conference (Appendix Reference 1-1)**

Shenyang, China, presented a final report on the 18th Mayors Conference. The following main points were addressed:

- Dates                      September 12 (Wed.) – 14 (Fri.), 2018
- Host city                    Shenyang, China
- Venue                        New World Expo, Shangri-la Hotel
- Conference theme
  - Main theme:            Winter Cities, Making Life Better!
  - Sub-themes:            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
- The 18th Mayors Conference has become one of the largest international exchange events for the city with participants from 41 cities in 30 countries and 52 Chamber of Commerce groups. Winter Cities Conference of Mayors has proven its significance as a platform promoting exchanges and cooperation among international municipalities especially winter cities.
- In the opening ceremony, 15 representatives including Liaoning Province, City of Shenyang, WWCAM Secretariat, and Government of Uganda made addresses.
- As concurrent events, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry networking event, project matching, Shenyang international friendship event, and city/industry tours were conducted.

- Representatives from 48 cities in 31 countries, including the WWCAM member cities signed the Shenyang Declaration, which calls for more mutual learning, exchange and cooperation between international cities.
- City of Shenyang concluded friendship/cooperative relationship with Jinja in Uganda, Rabat in Morocco, and Daejeon in Republic of Korea during the conference period.

## **Agenda 2: Discussion regarding the Operation of WWCAM**

### **1) Recruitment of Host City Candidates for the 20th Mayors Conference (Appendix reference 2-1)**

The city hosting the 20th Mayors Conference in 2022 will be determined at the Rovaniemi Mayors Conference, which will be held in September 2020. Following the conclusion of the WLOM, the Secretariat will send out to all member cities an application form for hosting and asks that member cities please positively consider stepping forward. It should be noted that the host city can decide the dates of the conference given the candidate city's own will and taking into consideration matters of agenda topics and transportation access.

### **2) Report on Changes in Member Cities (Appendix reference 2-2)**

- Daqing, China, joined the association on April 1, 2019
- There is no withdrawal of member cities

### **3) Election of Officials (Appendix reference 2-3)**

In accordance with the WWCAM Charter, the positions of two Vice-Presidents (Asia/Oceania Region and European Region) and Director within the Association are up for election at the Rovaniemi Mayors Conference. A letter including a call for candidates for next term will be sent out to member cities by the Secretariat at a later date, and it is asked that member cities may please positively consider stepping forward to fill positions.

## **Agenda 3: Discussion on the 19th Mayors Conference (Appendix Reference 3-1)**

Rovaniemi, Finland, provided an explanation of proposed plans for the 19th Mayors Conference. The main contents are as follows:

- Dates                      September 16 (Wed.) – 18 (Fri.), 2020
- Venue                      Culture Center Korundi
- Main theme              Aging Society in Winter Cities and Cold Climate
- Sub-themes              Social Exclusion & Marginalization  
Other sub-themes are to be determined based on member cities proposals
- Reasons for selecting the main theme are as follows:

The population of Finland is 5.5 million as of 2017, and of which, 21.4% are 65 years and older. This figure is expected to exceed 25% in the future. Also, the northern regions of Finland are aging faster than the southern regions. Elderly people are more likely to stay home, leading to reduction in productivity, health problems, and a lack of access to adequate services. The aging of society is becoming a global problem, therefore, discussing this issue is believed to be beneficial not only to Rovaniemi, but to all member cities.

- One of the sub-themes Rovaniemi is hoping to have is “Societal Exclusion & Marginalization”. The city would also like to have a few more sub-themes in fields like infrastructure, labor force, expenses, and medical system in relation with aging society. To finalize sub-themes, Rovaniemi would like to call for proposals from member cities.
- The contents of sessions and tours are subject to minor change.
- The registration fee for each delegate will be 420 USD. Accommodation fees are not included in the fee and are to be paid by participants. In accordance with the Article 51 of WWCAM Charter, Rovaniemi will be responsible for the registration fees for one representative of each member city.
- Tentative observer cities include Oulu, Tornio, Kemi, and Kemijärvi in Finland, Luleå, Umeå Kiruna, Tromsø, and Sør-Varanger, Narvik in Norway, Akureyri in Iceland, Nuuk in Greenland, Tórshavn in Faroe Islands, Arkhangelsk and Murmansk in Russia.
- Remarks by member cities:
  - Novosibirsk is very interested in the proposed Theme.
  - In Shenyang, more than 20% of the population is 65 years and older. Infrastructure for elderly and isolation of seniors are interesting topics for us too.
  - Edmonton has the same issue and therefore the theme is topical. The city would like to continue discussing the sub-themes.

#### **Agenda 4: Discussion on the Future WWCAM Operation (Appendix Reference 4-1)**

Rovaniemi, Finland, proposed an idea to improve proceeding of the 19th Mayors Conference.

The main contents are as follows:

- At the past Mayors Conferences, all participating cities have made 5 to 6-minute presentations on sub-themes of interest. Instead, Rovaniemi would like to invite 3 to 4 cities to make a keynote speech. Selected cities will be given as long as 20 minutes and are expected to speak about its policies more in detail.
- Rovaniemi will request member cities to submit a keynote speech proposal and make decisions based on the contents. However, the selection process will continue to be considered.
- After the keynote speeches on sub-themes, group sessions will take place for further discussions. Cities that do not make keynote speeches have chances to speak on their

cases during the group sessions.

- In case a member city have a topic of interest that is not directly related to the main theme and sub-themes, the city can establish a working group separately from the group sessions. This working group may also develop into a subcommittee.
- Sub-theme proposals, which will be the topic of keynote speeches, will be discussed in detail between Rovaniemi and the Secretariat, and a letter including a call for proposals will be sent out to member cities by the Secretariat at a later date.
- Remarks by member cities and Secretariat:
  - Secretariat – Member cities can participate in multiple group sessions. Also, we will be able to welcome the working level officials and private companies in addition to mayors and departmental representatives who have been the major participants in the past mayors conferences.
  - Novosibirsk – It will be a good opportunity to adopt new system and Novosibirsk thinks it will be an effective way.
  - Shenyang – It is a wonderful proposal and Shenyang fully supports it. We'd tried to adopt something new in the 18th Mayors Conference, and we hope that it will continue in the future.
  - Edmonton – It will make it possible for us to have discussions in depth, so Edmonton also agrees to the proposal.
  - Hwacheon – Having working groups is a productive idea. Hwacheon would like to propose “measures against aging society through conducting winter festival” as a sub-theme.
  - Changchun – Changchun hopes to have the discussion in more details as the theme is topical for us too. We would like to suggest “use of underground space for aging population” as another theme.
  - Norilsk – We can be flexible about introducing new style. We can modify it anytime is necessary.

#### **Agenda 5: Arctic Design Subcommittee (Appendix Reference 5-1)**

- Rovaniemi set up a subcommittee to be more active in WWCAM activities, and started by taking a survey to grasp each city's policies and issues. It was even more favorable if there had been an opportunity for all interest cities to get together and discuss how to proceed the subcommittee in the beginning. The city hopes that its experience can contribute to improve future subcommittee activities.
- The subcommittee's main objectives are to exchange information as well as to promote cooperation, and is seeking the best way to achieve these goals. Therefore, opinions and case studies are welcomed, in order to carry out the activities of the subcommittee efficiently during its final year.

- For example, establishing an online platform may be able to make information exchange easier. The platform can also be utilized in the Rovaniemi Mayors Conference.
- What happens after the final year – Is there going to be a new subcommittee established, or does the current subcommittee continue to be active?
- Remarks by member cities and Secretariat:
  - Secretariat – The Secretariat would like to welcome suggestions and comments from member cities on how the subcommittee can be more effective.
  - Edmonton – The city believes we need to build a platform where we can interact with questions and suggestions.
  - Rovaniemi – It is ideal to establish an online platform that is accessible anytime not only by subcommittee members but also all member cities.
  - Secretariat – Add-ons are relatively easy on the system that we use for newly developed WWCAM homepage, therefore, we believe it is technically possible to add such functions.
  - Rovaniemi – The city appreciate your suggestions. The subcommittee would like to further discuss on how to introduce the system as well as how to best utilize it.
  - Secretariat – Some restrictions may be required on access rights, such as the member cities participating to a survey will have authority to request the experts or neighboring municipalities to fill out the questionnaire. After a draft is developed by Rovaniemi, the Secretariat would like to ask member cities for additional opinions. Also, based on what was pointed out by Rovaniemi, the Secretariat is going to consider setting up the guidance at the initial stage to revitalize the activities of subcommittee, and call for opinions from the member cities.