

IAMNC Meetings, Winter Cities 2001 Held in Quebec



Flag ceremony, Winter Cities Quebec 2001

Subcommittee on Countermeasures Against Natural Disasters Confers

The International Association of Mayors of Northern Cities (IAMNC) Subcommittee on Countermeasures Against Natural Disasters conferred in Quebec City, Canada on February 3, 2001, to discuss a survey the subcommittee will conduct and to exchange information on natural disasters in member cities.

Representatives from Harbin, China; Kiruna, Sweden; Prince George, Canada; and Sapporo, Japan took part in this second meeting of the subcommittee.

The natural disasters subcommittee was established at the ninth Mayors Conference in Luleå and Kiruna, Sweden in February 2000. The Fire Bureau of the city of Sapporo, which is responsible for the city's disaster prevention programs, has assumed the secretariat of the subcommittee. A previous meeting of the subcommittee was held in Prince George in October last year.

Floods and snow-related disasters were also among topics of the subcommittee discussions, which are summarized below.

Flooding in Harbin

Harbin suffered great losses from the flooding of the Songhua River in 1998. The Songhua, China's third largest river, floods every two or three years, but the flood of 1998 was the worst in 100 years. The lives of the residents of Harbin were greatly disrupted.

To cope with the disaster, the city of Harbin promoted a relief program in which residents and the People's Liberation Army worked together. As a result, stability returned to the community and life in Harbin was normalized.

At present, a program is underway here to construct a large-scale flood prevention facility that will protect the city from all but the level of flooding that occurs only once every 200 years.

Snow-Related Disruption

Heavy snowfall and other snow-related incidents cause traffic congestion and disruption of city functions. As a countermeasure, prompt snow removal becomes indispensable.

Top priority is placed on snow removal in the city of Prince George, which is authorized to remove parked vehicles that interfere with snow removal work. The city of Sapporo, in contrast, does not have such authority; streetside parking hinders effective snow removal here, and this has become an issue in the city.

The severity and type of snow

Case Studies Planned

The natural disasters subcommittee will survey natural disasters, such as floods, earthquakes, and snowfalls that create significant disruption to life and to city functions. Case studies of disasters and of antidisaster measures in member cities will be included in the survey. It is expected that the natural disaster survey will contribute to increased safety and livability in northern cities. The subcommittee will make a final report regarding natural disasters at the eleventh Mayors Conference in Anchorage in February 2004. The survey report will enable winter cities to learn from each other's experience and expertise.

disaster varies from city to city. In Sapporo, where heavy snowfalls are not unusual, it is snowstorms that are more disruptive. In Prince George, the problem is often cold temperatures. Here the temperature may drop suddenly to minus 20 to 40 degrees centigrade after a snowfall, causing problems with snow removal vehicles and equipment.

Kiruna

Many academic institutions are involved in city administration in Kiruna, and with the city's participation on the subcommittee, Kiruna hopes to make technical assistance available. For example, telecommunications satellites may be used by Kiruna to forecast or observe natural disasters, such as floods.

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Subcommittee on Snow Management Meets in Quebec

The IAMNC Subcommittee on Snow Management convened on February 3, 2001 in Quebec City following the Winter Cities 2001 conference there. Snow Management Subcommittee members representing the cities of Aomori, Harbin, Kiruna, Luleå, Prince George, and Sapporo were present. The city of Nuuk, Greenland, was a guest at the meeting.

2. Community support and involvement in Harbin's snow clearing.

In November 1998, the mayor approved new Regulations for Clearing Away Road Snow and Ice in the Harbin Urban Area. The regulations established responsibility for snow removal in specified areas of the city, as well as time standards for clearing and regulations regarding disposal of snow.

Volunteers also play an important role in snow removal in Harbin, where they take charge of sections of a road. The volunteers, which

Best Practices Guide; WinterNet Use Encouraged

The Snow Management Subcommittee has indicated its intention to compile a Best Management Practices Guide that will identify the most suitable snow management practices for IAMNC member cities. The subcommittee expects to produce a guide that does not duplicate work already available.

The subcommittee meeting also confirmed support for the use of WinterNet (www.iamnc.org) to exchange information, to post articles of interest to member cities, and to develop links from member websites to the WinterNet site.

Harbin, Nuuk Submit Reports

The cities of Harbin and Nuuk have submitted snow management reports to the Subcommittee on Snow Management. The reports will be posted at the WinterNet site. Excerpts of the reports appear below.



Winter Cities Quebec 2001 Showcase

Snow and Ice Removal From

have included persons over the age of 70 as well as young students, clear away snow as soon as it has accumulated using shovels and brooms. Also, the mass media here praise the work and efforts of people who cooperate in the snow removal work.

3. Combining society's responsibility units and property rights responsibility units in snow clearing operations.

Beginning in the 1980s, ?responsibility units? have cleared snow from Harbin streets. Today, with new expressways added to the road surface in Harbin, the responsibility units have not had sufficient capabilities to perform all snow removal duties, and as a result, a designated office has been assigned that duty.

Snow Removal Operations in the City of Nuuk, Greenland

Nuuk has a harsh winter with precipitation reaching between three and four meters of snow. On occasion, Nuuk can receive enough precipitation resulting in approximately 50 to 100 centimeters or more of snow in one day. Temperatures in winter can go as low as -25°C. The average is -8°C in January.

Unpredictable winds along with great precipitation in winter contribute to many snowstorms that, for short periods, can create extreme weather conditions for Nuuk residents, sometimes making it impossible to keep roadways open.

Nuuk has approximately a

Urban Roads—the

Example of Harbin

The city of Harbin has made snow and ice removal from city streets and expressways a priority in order to accommodate the mobility and traffic safety needs of residents and tourists, and to create a favorable winter environment. The city's Municipal Administration Bureau has developed a model of snow removal that has been in use since the 1980s.

1. Combining mechanical and chemical methods in snow clearing.

The city of Harbin has increased its use of snow removing vehicles recently, and when used together with salt, Harbin has had positive results.

hundred kilometers of paved roads, and the municipality's Department for Technical Matters and Environment is responsible for winter maintenance. For snow clearing purposes, roads in Nuuk are divided into three categories according to importance for accessibility.

The municipality is divided into 15 snow clearing districts with responsibility for 14 of the districts contracted out to private concerns. The municipality assumes responsibility for the management and quality control of snow clearing in one snow clearing district, the clearing of snow from public stairways, pedestrian paths, bus stops at municipal institutions, and slippery areas.

In reviewing its winter maintenance needs, Nuuk takes many issues into account, including traffic safety measures, environmental considerations, and the economy. Nuuk takes all these matters under consideration in order to ensure that its overall solutions in dealing with snow removal operations are balanced and appropriate.

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Quebec Hosts WCA Conference

Winter Cities 2001

by Anne Martin, acting-president, with contributions from Patrick Coleman, past president,

Livable Winter Cities Association

Delegates to Winter Cities 2001 in February found a warm welcome in Quebec City in spite of subzero and snowy weather. The conference title was "Global Climate Change and Its Impact on Northern Communities." The program was comprised of workshops, panel discussions, technical visits, and a trade show. Principal conference themes were climate change, habitat, and energy, and speakers were climatologists, town planners, architects, geographers, biologists, Aboriginal people, municipal government representatives, and people from the business community.



Quebec, Canada, site of Winter Cities 2001

Challenges for the North

Several speakers focused on the results of climate change, including—

- more frequent and severe rain, snow and ice storms, and increased winds;
- greater ranges of temperature and hotter days;
- less humidity and long dry periods with reduction in soil moisture;
- increasing freeze-thaw cycles.

Air pollution is also expected to accompany climate change, and water supplies will be at risk of degradation. Delivery systems, including those of food supplies, could be disrupted.

Action Needed

Two areas of action are required to alleviate the consequences of climate change, according to conference speakers. The first relates to adapting urban systems, which could include preparations

The Ideal Winter City

Conference sessions concluded with a well-attended panel discussion on "The Ideal Winter City." Panelists discussed architecture, housing design, winter cities in Scandinavia, and social attitudes. It is apparent that despite great improvements in technology, transportation, clothing, and heating systems, North American culture is increasingly negative about winter, and that fuels the flight of population from the north to the south. Changes must be made by the media, the education system, and cities to reverse current attitudes.

Technical Tours

Technical tours included visits to a new housing development near Quebec, to the Ice Hotel-Quebec, and to an experimental road station to observe how construction types are evaluated. These visits provided opportunities to learn how the Quebec region is dealing with housing, tourism, and transportation.

IAMNC, WCA to Cohost 2004 Events

for severe flooding, planning for higher highway maintenance costs resulting from increasing freeze-thaw cycles, and other efforts, such as—

- avoiding construction in flood plains;
- adapting building codes and standards to meet changing climate conditions;
- upgrading access to weather forecasting warnings;
- planning for winter emergencies, and reviewing these plans regularly.

As the urban landscape changes, new designs can be incorporated, such as—

- raised crosswalks to eliminate treacherous slopes and to create drier pedestrian walkways;
- bus shelters designed for winter;
- multiple uses of parks and municipal facilities in all seasons;
- grouping buildings in clusters and landscaping to reduce winds and to create heat pockets.

The second area of action to reduce the effects of climate change involves altering human activities: for example, replacing fossil fuels with alternatives like geothermal heating and air conditioning, or using electro-technologies in industry.

Reduced use of the automobile is also crucial. Conference speakers also urged northern communities to calculate their greenhouse gas emissions, starting with an examination of municipal energy bills, to learn what changes could be made.

Representatives of the International Association of Mayors of Northern Cities (IAMNC) and the Livable Winter Cities Association (WCA) met during Winter Cities Quebec to discuss ways the organizations could work together to improve living conditions in northern communities. As a result of the talks, the two groups will cooperate on the Winter Cities conference in Anchorage in 2004. The IAMNC and the WCA will cohost the Forum and the Exhibition portions of the conference. The third event, the Mayors Conference, will be conducted by the IAMNC.

Quebec City Winter Carnival

Winter Cities 2001 coincided with the Quebec City Winter Carnival, and there were opportunities for participants to tour the historic city, to visit the dramatic ice palace and outstanding snow sculptures, and to meet Monsieur Bonhomme, the carnival mascot. Delegates came to the conference from Japan, Sweden, the U.S.A., Greenland, and Canada. Our thanks go to the dedicated and hard-working organizers for a productive event.

Yellowknife

Diamond Capital of North America

Yellowknife, the capital of Canada's Northwest Territories, has a population of 17,700.

Yellowknife was developed in the 1930s and •f40s, and for more than 50 years gold mining contributed to the growth of the city.

Yellowknife has always had a jewel-like quality. Set in pink and grey granite on the shores of Great Slave Lake, one of the world's largest pristine bodies of water, Yellowknife sparkles and glitters, summer and winter.

This gem of a city is one of the best places in the world to catch the shimmering, fiery northern lights, and Yellowknife now entertains thousands of overseas visitors on Aurora Borealis tours each winter. But that's not all that brings visitors here. From May through August, Yellowknife's midnight sun provides up to 20 hours of light each day—perfect for fishing, canoeing, sailing, golfing, and just lounging on a sun-warmed rock beside a lake.

Tourist Attractions Abound

Yellowknife's historic Old Town retains some of the excitement of the •f30s when gold moved everything. Today there are quaint eateries, boat, kayak, canoe, and yacht rentals, and, from June through September, a constant buzzing of float planes taking visitors on fishing trips.

In contrast to Old Town, Yellowknife's New Town offers the services of a much larger city. Shopping for northern crafts and art is excellent. There is the Prince of

Two diamond mining companies, BHP Diamonds Inc. and Diavik Diamond Mines Inc., have invested hundreds of millions of dollars here over the past several years and Yellowknife is showing the results with some of the most advanced communications services in Canada and excellent air transportation. Within eight years, Canada will likely be among the top six diamond producers in the world.

Gold Paved the Way to Diamonds

The city that gold built in the 1930s and •f40s has traded up—from gold to diamonds! Yellowknife, the capital of Canada's Northwest Territories, is riding high on the glittering stones, with one diamond mine in production some 200 kilometers north of here, and another on the way. Local jewellers are now trading in the first Canadian arctic diamonds.

Marketing the sparkle is Sirius Diamonds NWT Ltd., Yellowknife's first cutting and polishing facility, which has been producing Canadian cut Polar Bear diamonds since May 1999. Now

Wales Northern Heritage Center, featuring regional history and aboriginal life-styles, the unique snow-house-shaped Legislative Assembly Building, and a lively visitors center.

Near the airport there is a beach and a summer stage, where visitors can catch folk and rock music performances. Nearby, a picturesque highway winds 70 kilometers east, passing cottages on lakes that are noted for their excellent fishing and boating. Walking trails link the major sites around Yellowknife, summer and winter.

Mineral City

Mineral exploration activity north of here has flourished since the discovery of diamonds in Yellowknife. Prospectors and geologists now believe the geological surface has only been scratched. With new mining technologies, improved baseline geological mapping, and increased ability to service exploration, Yellowknife residents are ready to invest in northern exploration and the environmentally sound development of northern resources.

joining the market is Deton•fCho Diamonds Incorporated, located in nearby Ndilok and Arslanian Cutting Works Ltd., both of which celebrated their grand openings in 2000.

Northern creative and artistic skills are being applied to northern jewellery making, using locally manufactured diamonds and gold. Yellowknife jewellers are now marketing diamonds that have been mined, cut, polished, and set in the Northwest Territories to visitors from around the world.

Come to Yellowknife!

Access to Yellowknife is convenient: air service is available from Edmonton, Alberta, seven days a week, and overland, Yellowknife can be reached via the Mackenzie Highway from Grimshaw, Alberta, or via the Liard Highway from Fort Nelson, British Columbia.

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Located on the banks of the Songhua River, Harbin (9.68 million people) is the capital of Heilongjiang Province as well as the largest city in northeast China.

The city also has great historical importance. Harbin was the center of China's Jin Dynasty (1115–1234) and the birthplace of the Jin and Qing (1644–1911) Dynasties. In the early twentieth century, Harbin became an important international business port and distribution center for northeast Asia.

Since New China was founded 50 years ago, Harbin has undergone great changes and has recorded impressive achievements. The city has been able to raise the living standards of its people, and it has won many awards for its environmental quality. Harbin is ranked eleventh among China's top 50 most prominent cities.

Strengths and Goals

As one of the most important industrial cities in the country, Harbin is a leader in automobile manufacturing, food production, pharmaceuticals, machinery, and electrical equipment manufacturing. The city has more than 13.3 million hectares of arable land and has the largest grain provisions in China.

Harbin also has an advanced transportation network, including five railways and seven main highways that pass through the city. The Harbin International Airport and Harbin Harbor have also played important roles in the development of the city's economy.

Harbin is now focusing on the development of its high-tech industries and education systems.



A bird's-eye view of the city of Harbin.

China Harbin Trade Fair

Many investment contracts are signed during Harbin's annual Ice and Snow Festival and during the Harbin Trade Fair. The trade fair takes place every June and is one of seven regional trade fairs approved by the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation. Businesspeople from over 20 provinces and more than 50 countries and regions attended the recent trade fair.

Ice & Snow Festival

Many tourists come to Harbin in winter for the world-renowned Ice and Snow Festival, which is held on January 5 every year. Festival events include outdoor winter swimming, ice hockey, skiing, and trade fairs. Ice lanterns and snow sculptures are also displayed.

The Snow and Ice Festival, which has been held every year since 1985, brings in foreign investment after visitors from overseas have seen Harbin's beauty. Residents here have already begun preparations for next year's festival.

Harbin Tourism

There are 24 higher education institutes and more than 400 research institutes in the city.

International Cooperation Boosted

Harbin is striving to improve its investment environment by expanding international cooperation. The city has so far built trade relations with over a hundred countries and cultivated ties with eleven cities in nine countries.

Foreign investment has greatly stimulated Harbin's economy and the number of foreign companies in the market here is still rising. Two-thousand four-hundred-and-eight foreign entities from 44 countries have been approved to invest in the city. Foreign funds have poured into 14 industries, including machinery, electronics, food, agriculture, and construction. Joint ventures have provided jobs for ninety-thousand local people. The ventures have developed smoothly thanks to regulations designed to encourage foreign investment. A special group has been established to handle problems for foreign businesses, including communications, electronic provisions, transportation, and capital.

Harbin has been officially named as one of the top tourism cities in China by the State Council. Visitors are drawn here by Chinese history and tradition, such as the Jin Dynasty attractions, and also by the Western cultural influences in the city, including architecture.

Other attractions here include the Songhua River, Sun Island on the north bank of the river, the Flood Control Monument, the Songhua Highway Bridge, and the Walk Road in the Central Street. The Yabuli Ski Resort, the Manchurian Tiger Training Base, and local natural scenery also bring many visitors here. Every summer Harbin lives up to its reputation as the Town of Music and hosts a major music festival which attracts people from all over the world.

Takikawa is a city of approximately forty-seven thousand people in the centrally located Sorachi District of Hokkaido, Japan.

Although Takikawa prides itself on its four beautiful seasons, it is more famous throughout Hokkaido for its extremely heavy snowfall in winter. Whether there is snow on the ground or not, however, Takikawa people know how to enjoy the outdoors, and the influence of their attractive natural environment can be seen in their arts, crafts, and festivals.



Winging over Takikawa.

The city of Takikawa is nestled on a river plain at the confluence of the

The discovery of a large manatee fossil here in 1980 was the start of a cleaning, assembling, and modeling project that brought together many people of Takikawa. The city's Museum of Fine Art and Natural History was built in 1986, partly to house the manatee, or ?Takikawa Dragon,? as a main exhibit. The manatee provided a unifying and unique symbol for the town, and in 1985 Takikawa's young and old danced through the streets with drums and cymbals, pulling *andondashi*—brilliantly colored and illuminated paper floats featuring wave and dragon imagery. The excitement became an annual summer festival that culminates in a river-water battle.

In winter, fishing through the ice on the frozen rivers and keeping warm with hot rice wine is a favorite activity; and there are other ways to keep occupied during the long snowy months here. The All-Hokkaido Tug-of-War Championship, which is Takikawa's major winter festival, and cross-country skiing—whether up in the Maruka Highlands or alongside the river by one of the local hot springs—offers additional winter fun and healthy exercise.

Sources of Artistic Inspiration

The seasons of Takikawa play an important part in the paintings of Eien Iwahashi (1903-1999), born in Ebeotsu village in northern Takikawa. After graduating from

Sorachi and Ishikari rivers. The rivers of Takikawa have had a great influence on its history. Less than two hundred years ago, when people from the mainland of Japan decided to settle in Hokkaido, Takikawa's position at the junction of rivers and railroads secured its importance. It was a base for settling the north, one step from the major city of Sapporo into the island's rugged interior. Takikawa's river plains provide fertile fields for crops of onions, rice, potatoes, other vegetables, apples, and flowers. In coal mining days Takikawa's location also guaranteed its function as a major transportation hub. The winds that embrace Takikawa's river plains provide ideal conditions for sky sports today. Gliders from the city's Sky Park can often be seen in the skies.

Sorachi and Ishikari

The Sorachi and Ishikari rivers provide many recreational opportunities, and fishing, canoeing, and kayaking are popular pastimes.

The waters also play a major part in the city's iridescent summer festival, the *Shibuki Matsuri*. This is a relatively young festival with intriguing roots. The word *shibuki* refers to the fine, misty spray of a powerful wave, which suggests the importance and power of Takikawa's converging rivers, and which reflects the turbulence of the ancient oceans that brought a huge manatee to rest here.

school in Ebeotsu, Mr. Iwahashi left his family to study art in Tokyo. He was interested in abstract and surreal styles of painting, and one of his representative works is a 29-meter long scroll entitled "Dosanko-Tsuioku-no-Maki" [Memories of a Child of Hokkaido], which depicts the four seasons of his hometown. Mr. Iwahashi received many honors and awards throughout his career, including the "Order of Cultural Merit" from the Emperor of Japan. His work is displayed in Takikawa's Museum of Fine Art and Natural History.

Koutaro Ono is another famous Takikawa artist. Born in Brazil in 1953, Mr. Ono has since made Takikawa his home. Mr. Ono's work with ceramics has been much acclaimed, especially his trademark luminescent, water-blue colored glaze, and he has shown pieces in prestigious national and international exhibitions. When not working on ceramics, Ono can be found teaching at the Takikawa City Ceramics Centre.

A Youthful, Rich Heritage

One of Takikawa's goals is to provide residents with a rich heritage. This is being achieved through careful town planning and through the realization that in the creation of an increasingly global community, one cannot be entirely inward looking. On the national level Takikawa enjoys affiliations with Tochigi City near Tokyo and Nago City in Okinawa. On the international level, Takikawa's sister city is Springfield, Massachusetts in the United States.

Takikawa residents hope to learn

a lot from people in other cities and lands, but they also feel they have a lot to offer. Come and enjoy at least one of Takikawa's beautiful seasons!

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Luleå

Luleå is a city of seventy-two thousand inhabitants, making it the twenty-sixth largest municipality in Sweden. Luleå today is the result of the municipal amalgamation of 1969, when two neighboring communities and the city of Luleå were united to form one municipality.



Downtown Luleå, Sweden.

The city of Luleå was founded in 1621 around a fifteenth century church in the old town of Gammelstad. The whole church village of Gammelstad with its little cottages, the largest village of its kind in Sweden, was included in UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1996. The medieval site is very much in use today and is a popular tourist attraction.

Trade and Administration

Luleå is an important port for the region's export businesses, and its new ore-handling harbor is one of the world's most modern shipping ports. The city also has one of the largest airports in Sweden, handling almost one million passengers a year. Luleå is also a city of

Education and IT Businesses

Luleå has several first-class educational institutions. Sweden's first University of Technology is in Luleå, and quite naturally, the city also has a wide spectrum of companies in the field of information technology, some of which are already world leaders in their respective fields. The Aurorum Technology Village is an international center for information technology here, and the city's House of Technology is a popular educational attraction for visitors. Exhibits here place science in real contexts, making science learning relevant and easily comprehensible.

Luleå also boasts of the most modern hospital in Europe.

considerable political importance: it is an administrative center for Sweden•Ls northernmost region.

Completed in 1999, the environmentally-friendly, high-tech facility offers patients peace and quiet and has been designed to provide a unique feeling of security and harmony.

Visitors Welcome

Luleå has much to offer the visitor. In addition to the city's three special attractions—the World Heritage Gammelstad Church Village, Luleå archipelago, and the Råne River Valley—the Luleå area offers great leisure and recreational opportunities, including cross-country and downhill skiing, fishing, canoeing, and golf. For those who like to explore, the Mount Bålinge Nature Reserve offers a primeval forest and great hiking trails.

Visit Luleå! Discover a town of the future in an expanding region offering high-quality life.



The Luleå Ice Palace is one way residents enjoy winter.

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Taebaek Highland Tourist and Resort Town



Mt. Taebaek is the center of Baekdudaegan

•The Taebaek Coal Museum is the largest facility of its kind in Asia and is highly educational and entertaining. The museum takes visitors through the complete development process of the coal mines, effectively demonstrating the importance of coal and making quite obvious the reason why it is often referred to as 'black pearl.'

and has a special spiritual significance for Koreans. In winter, the snow-covered landscape of Mt. Taebaek attracts many tourists.

The five-thousand year-old city of Taebaek, Korea is located in the midst of the Taebaek Mountains, which form the spine of the Korean Peninsula. The mountains are also the source of the Han and Nakdong rivers, the lifeblood of the nation. The rivers originate at Lake Hwangji in the center of Mt. Taebaek.

Taebaek's location, accessibility, vitality, and tourist attractions have made it the center of economy, social life, culture, education, and sport in the southern Kangwon region.

With an average elevation of 650 meters, Taebaek benefits from a unique highland climate that provides cool summers and abundant snow in winter.

Taebaek's slogan "Let's Sell Our Snow-White Winters and Cool Summers?" motivates the sixty-thousand residents of Taebaek to take advantage of the local climate and to work together to develop diverse tourist attractions and festivals.

Mt. Taebaek and Nature

Mt. Taebaek (1,567m) is the center of Baekdudaegan. The name Taebaek was derived originally from the fact that the mountain was a place where people came to pray. Mt. Taebaek is one of the nation's twelve most famous mountains and is very popular among tourists here. Two attractions are the Taebaek Coal Museum and Yongyon Cave.

•Yongyon Cave is an 830-meter-long limestone cave located 930 meters above sea level, which makes it the highest in the nation. The cave presents visitors with a wonderland of stalagmites and stalactites.

Tourism and Culture Festivals

Taebaek is blessed with an abundant variety of natural scenery and exciting festivals for every season. For example, the Mt. Taebaek Azalea Festival is held annually in early June when royal azaleas are in full bloom and, together with yew trees, create a truly impressive spectacle.

The Mt. Taebaek Cool Cinema Festival is another popular event held here. Visitors to Taebaek may while away hours in the forest along the waterway during the day and enjoy a wide range of films at the cinema festival at night. Cool summer nights, beautiful starry summer skies, and no mosquitoes allow viewers to enjoy a cool and refreshing experience while indulging in midnight cinema.

The Taebaek Festival, which begins in early October, is held annually. This is a local citizens' festival in which approximately sixty-thousand Taebaek residents participate in a variety of events that range from literary and traditional activities to popular sporting events.

Another seasonal festival is the Mt. Taebaek Snow Festival. The wintertime event is held on Mt. Taebaek, which is renowned for its snow-covered landscape and

winter mountain climbing. The festival includes varied events, such as an ice-carving contest, snow sled races, and a national climbing competition.

Excitement and Tradition

Taebaek is only 25 kilometers from Casino Resort, which offers a variety of convenient facilities, including quality restaurants and accommodations. Taebaek city is an ideal choice for casino-goers who want to relax.

As the city behind the Casino Resort, Taebaek is emerging as a highland city of tourism, centering on fifteen different leisure complexes, a motor sports complex, nature parks, and more. Taebaek is an exciting city that has preserved its history and traditions in harmony with nature.

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Jiamusi

Jiamusi is located in Heilongjiang Province, China, between the Songhua River and the Xiao Xing'an mountain range. Jiamusi covers an area of 32,562 square kilometers and has jurisdiction over five districts, four counties, and two subordinate cities. It includes twenty-nine state farms, and four state forestry administrations.

Jiamusi is inhabited by 2.3 million people of 34 nationalities, including Han, Hul, Man, Korean, Hezhe, and others. Jiamusi stretches along a 448 kilometer border with Russia and is the center of politics, economy, culture, science, education, and communication in the eastern area of Heilongjiang.

At the confluence of three rivers, the Heilongjiang, the Wusuli, and the Songhua, lies the fertile and alluvial Three Rivers Plain. This area in Heilongjiang Province, China, is one of the largest stretches of black earth in the world. In the hinterland of the plain, lies Jiamusi, a developing, multifunctional city.

According to historical records, Jiamusi was founded more than one hundred years ago. A military map of the Shengjing, Jilin, and Heilongjiang area drawn during the forty-third year of the reign of Emperor Qian Long (Qing dynasty, 1778), mentions Jiamusi. In the fourteenth year of the reign of Emperor Guang Xu, also of the Qing dynasty (1888), a large town named Dongfeng was founded, which was the beginning of Jiamusi. Since then, Dongfeng has been a center of business and trade. The town underwent major development and was renamed Jiamusi City in 1937.

Jiamusi experienced a history of blood, fire, humiliation, and honor in the years of the War of Resistance Against Japan (1937–1945), when it was a base for the Allied Forces. Among the forces of resistance emerged many national heroes who were loyal to the resistance until their heroic deaths, such as general Zhao Shangzhi. During the years of China's Liberation War, in compliance with the strategic plan of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), some CPC leaders and a large number of revolutionary soldiers gathered in the city. Jiamusi was, therefore, called the small Yan'an of northeast China during this period.



Jiamusi

Nature Abounds

Nature has provided Jiamusi with its beautiful setting. In early spring, apricot trees are in bloom and fields are covered with blankets of green. In midsummer golden waves of wheat roll over fields and green mountain slopes rise and fall across the landscape. In midautumn, birches are strikingly beautiful and streams are extremely clear. In midwinter, a silver-colored world presents itself.

Primitive conifer woods can still be found in this region and are regarded as one of China's natural treasures. Coal, granite, graphite, and peat reserves are extensive. The rich black earth in the Jiamusi area offers an abundance of rice, soya-beans, wheat, and corn. The rivers are rich with fish, including sturgeon and salmon, and the green hills are inhabited by bears, deer, swans, and wild cranes.

The waterways are vast and unlocked for shipping. Since a river- and ocean-coordinated shipping system was developed in the 1980s, ships have been able to

northeast China during this period.

The New Jiamusi

After the establishment of the People's Republic of China, Jiamusi grew into a new and developing center for papermaking, chemical industry, building materials, manufacture of agricultural machinery, and sugar refining. Since the 1980s, when China entered a new era of socialist development, Jiamusi has been praised as model of mutual support between the army and local people. Jiamusi was also recipient of the nationwide Cleanest City Award for several consecutive years. At present, Jiamusi is striving to become the safest and most advanced city in China.

Since policies of reform and openness were begun, Jiamusi has become a major agriculture zone. Agriculture development has reached an advanced level here with annual grain output reaching 2.5 billion kilograms. Technological innovations have contributed significantly to five major industries: food production, machinery, papermaking, building materials, and chemicals.

reach any port in the world. Among the five open riverside towns or cities, Tongjiang and Fuyuan are very close to Russia across the river. Both sides can even hear the cries of each other's fowl and dogs. Frequent contact and mutual support create good neighbors.

Reaching out with warm hands, Jiamusi welcomes friends from all over the world. Come and build a brighter future together with us.

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As the capital of Greenland, Nuuk is an administrative center and the site of Greenland's Home Rule Government, as well as the headquarters of businesses such as the Royal Greenland Co., one of the largest fish exporters and processors in the world. In addition to administration and fisheries, construction and handicrafts are also prominent employers. Nuuk's importance is also characterized by facilities such as Greenland's Arts Centre, Katuaq, where residents of Nuuk meet to enjoy concerts and theater. Katuaq's cinema enjoys the status of a premier facility.

The municipality of Nuuk has 14,500 residents, of whom just over 14,000 live in the town of Nuuk. The municipality is large—approximately 87,000 square kilometers, or twice the size of Denmark.

Nuuk itself lies at the outlet of Godthåb Fjord. The fjord system, which comprises a number of islands and smaller fjords, is similar in size to the Faeroe Islands and forms the framework for the open-air life of the community—especially during the summer. Hunting and fishing are among the most popular activities.

Nuuk and its suburb, Nuussuaq, are spread over a relatively large area, but an efficient bus service running at 15-minute intervals ensures that travel in the area is convenient and inexpensive. There are approximately 100 kilometers of asphalt roads and the town is also crisscrossed by a comprehensive system of skiing paths.

The municipality of Nuuk has a high level of service, which bears



Nuuk's modern Atlantic harbor is a center for fishing trawlers in the Arctic region.

Climate, Sport, Education in Nuuk

The climate of Nuuk is subarctic, with average temperatures of 7 degrees celsius in July and -8 degrees in January. The closeness of the town to the coast ensures a relatively high snowfall each winter—much to the delight of all children. Nuuk lies 250 kilometers south of the Arctic Circle and the days are very short in December with the sun rising at 10 A.M. and setting at 2:30 P.M. On the other hand, there is daylight 24 hours a day from the end of May to the beginning of August in Nuuk.

There are many opportunities for sports enthusiasts in Nuuk. The town has a sports hall, and there are several smaller halls in connection with schools. Winter sports are catered to with an extensive network of ski runs around the town as well as several ski lifts, and now efforts are being made to organize ice-skating. It should also be mentioned that Nuuk has the only grass golf course in Greenland.

Nuuk has a well-functioning education system. The Nuuk municipal council has clear objectives with regard to modern

comparison with most Danish municipalities. The general tax rate at Nuuk is 40 percent, including national tax.

technology, and schools are well equipped with computers. All schools are linked in a network with access to the internet from all workplaces. Finally, the municipality is taking vigorous steps to secure the further training of teachers.

Northern Intercity News

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Jixi

The city of Jixi is located in the southeastern economic zone of Heilongjiang Province, China. Jixi has an area of 22,581 square kilometers and a population of 1.94 million. Jixi was founded in 1957 and has jurisdiction over two cities, one county, and six districts. Jixi has two first-class national land ports—Mishan and Hulin, and the city possesses a solid transportation network with excellent rail and highway systems. Jixi has a well-developed infrastructure, including post and telecommunications.

Jixi enjoys unbounded natural beauty and rich resources. More than 40 varieties of minerals are found here, including prominent supplies of coal, graphite, and petroleum. Jixi possesses about eight billion tons of coal deposits, and coal output is 30 million tons a year. Graphite deposits here are 800 million tons, the largest in Asia, and output is 70 thousand tons annually. The city is the most prominent crystal graphite base in China.

Jixi has five small areas of petroleum recovery in Hulin. The area also has deposits of gold, peat, potassium, marble, dolomite, phosphate, platinum, and palladium.

Industrial Development



*Kylin Mountains scenic resort area in Jixi.
(photo: Li Dafu)*

Education and Culture

There are six institutions of higher learning in Jixi, 12 polytechnic schools, 152 senior middle schools, 126 junior middle schools, and 662 primary schools.

During the New Year and the Spring Festival, Jixi holds the Ice Lamp Exhibition, the Yangge

Jixi's developed industries include metallurgy, machinery, chemicals, power generation, building materials, textiles, and food processing. Jixi is the second largest production base of coal in China. Jixi Coal Mining Machinery Plant is the production and research center for coal-mining machinery in China. Its production is first in Asia and second worldwide.

Agricultural Production

Jixi has always enjoyed the reputation of being a land of fish and rice. It also abounds in soybeans, maize, corn, Chinese sorghum, and other products. Jixi is an important base of commodity grains in Heilongjiang Province.

The area of Jixi is 33.7 million mu (2.25 million ha.), about a third of which is under cultivation. Jixi has 43 reservoirs 85 rivers, and 12.9 million mu (860 thousand ha.) of forests.

More than a hundred types of wild medicinal herbs are found in Jixi, including astragalus membranaceous, ciwujia, schisandra chinensis, rough gentian, and others. The amount harvested is five thousand tons. Wildlife here includes deer, bears, and tigers.

Dancing Festival, and other winter events. The Jinji Culture and Arts Festival and the Xingkai Lake Culture and Arts Festival are held in July each year to enrich the cultural lives of the residents here. All of these events contribute to favorable economic conditions in Jixi.

Tourism

The uniqueness of Jixi and its many attractions make the city a prominent tourist destination.

Situated in the local Kylin Mountains is a 44 square kilometer resort and vacation district that includes beautiful mountain scenery and an artificial lake where visitors can enjoy swimming and skiing. The area also contains villas for accommodation and an amusement park. Visitors enjoy climbing Shending Peak in Hulin in summer. Xinkai Lake and the Wushuli River with Zhenbao Island are areas of famous natural beauty.

Northern Intercity News

Mongolia Suffers Second Winter Disaster
Ulaanbaatar Hit by Record Cold

Temperatures of -49°C Hit Capital

Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia, has suffered with the rest of the nation through its most severe winter in decades. The winter weather disaster here—or *dzud*—has meant extremely frigid cold accompanied by very heavy snowfalls.

Sansar Jiimen, director of the International Relations and Cooperation Department at city hall in Ulaanbaatar, reports that temperatures dropped to record lows in the city this winter, disrupting the municipal heating system and forcing residents of some apartments to seek alternative heat sources or emergency housing. Mr. Sansar also reported that two preschools were forced to close down because of the extreme temperatures.

The city of Ulaanbaatar utilizes a centralized heating system that distributes heated water to city structures and to outlying areas. Because of the extreme cold, the system was unable to provide heat to housing in some suburban districts. Temperatures in Ulaanbaatar have averaged around -37°C (-34.6°F) during the coldest periods. The record this winter was -49°C (-56.2°F).

Effect of Severe Cold on Mongolia

The effect of the dzud on the rural areas of the nation has been even worse than the consequences for Ulaanbaatar. Blizzards winds in excess of a hundred kilometers per

Second Winter Disaster in a Row

The 2000–2001 dzud has come before the nation had adequate time to recover from the winter of 1999–2000, which was almost as severe as the present one. Last winter about three million head of livestock died as a result of severe cold and snow, bringing economic devastation to almost half a million livestock herders in Mongolia, which has a population of about 2.3 million.

On top of the disaster of last winter, Mongolia was hit by drought last summer. Temperatures surpassed 35°C (95°F), and with little rain, grass was unable to regenerate properly, and livestock could not build the necessary bulk to survive another harsh winter.

International Relief Efforts

The government of Mongolia had prepared for the dzud and has provided relief to families affected. However, the two consecutive winter weather disasters have overstretched the resources available for assistance, and the United Nations Resident Coordinator System in Mongolia has appealed for international emergency relief aid.

IAMNC Subcommittee on Countermeasures Against Natural Disasters

Winter disasters, such as the one experienced by Ulaanbaatar, are of interest to the IAMNC Subcommittee on Countermeasures

hour hit Mongolia this winter, resulting in fatalities among herders. For the 2000–2001 winter, projections estimate losses of up to 6.6 million animals or about 21 percent of the nation's livestock total by June. In a country in which herding is a livelihood for much of the rural population, the effect is to undermine the security of many families. For many rural Mongolians, livestock are the source of food, transportation, and purchasing power. If herds are depleted, many people will fall below the subsistence level.

Against Natural Disasters. The subcommittee was created at the ninth Mayors Conference in Kiruna and Luleå, and members have recently begun to survey natural disasters in member winter cities.

Ulaanbaatar is a member of the International Association of Mayors of Northern Cities.

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