



Mayors of winter cities confer at Winter Cities 2002 Aomori, Japan.

Tenth Biennial Mayors Conference February 7-10

“Sustainability” Focus of Winter Cities 2002 Aomori

Following an introduction to “Winter Cities 2002 Aomori” by Aomori mayor Sasaki Seizo on February 7, Colin Fudge addressed the opening session of the tenth Mayors Conference on the conference theme, sustainable winter cities. In his keynote speech, Professor Fudge focused on the evolution of sustainability and recent trends and issues; European policy and experience regarding sustainability; and general lessons and application of sustainability to winter cities. Sustainability was the theme throughout the events in Aomori, including sectional sessions of the Mayors Conference as well as plenary and roundup sessions.

The following is a summary of Professor Fudge’s address “Implementing Sustainable Futures in Cities: Lessons from Policy and Practice.”

Evolution, Trends, and Issues

The Bruntland Report helped popular-

ize the notion of sustainability. Appearing in Europe in the late 80s, the report focused on equity between generations, between rich and poor, and between the present and future. The World Conservation Union’s concept of sustainability meant improvement of the quality of life while living within the capacity of supporting ecosystems. Other studies ask: Are there ideal sizes for towns and cities?

Ecological Footprint

The ecological footprint interprets human consumption as the area of land required to provide resources and to assimilate waste, another way of considering sustainable development. For example, London requires an ecological footprint 127 times the city. One of the consequences is that the impact of our life-style on the globe is much greater than the area of the city.

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NGO in Consultative Status (Roster) with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

International Association of
MAYORS OF NORTHERN CITIES

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20 Years After— Revitalizing the IAMNC

The International Association of Mayors of Northern Cities celebrated its twentieth anniversary with the tenth Mayors Conference in Aomori, Japan, providing occasion to both celebrate accomplishments and to reflect on the organization’s future. It was in the latter spirit that the nineteen member cities of the IAMNC Board of Directors voted in Aomori to devise a plan to revitalize the association and increase its relevance for winter cities twenty years after its founding.

20 Years of Progress

The IAMNC was inaugurated in 1982 with the first Mayors Conference in Sapporo, Japan. In addition to Sapporo and the most recent conference in Aomori, Mayors Conferences have been held in Harbin and Shenyang, China; Tromsø, Norway; Montréal, Winnipeg, and Edmonton, Canada; Anchorage, U.S.A.; and Luleå and Kiruna, Sweden. In 1997 the IAMNC was registered as an NGO in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Winter cities have changed since that first conference in Sapporo twenty years ago. Technological and climatic changes, as well as increasing globalization of

Please see *Revitalizing the IAMNC*, page 4.



Visitors are welcomed to Winter Cities 2002.

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Sustainability

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With those definitions in our minds, we also need to be aware of what is going on around the world. We know sea levels are rising, polar caps are melting, glaciers and lakes are shrinking, deserts are increasing, and also that there are quite significant issues in relation to peace, intolerance, and diversity in the world.

Confounding these issues are population growth, and one of the most rapidly increasing segments are the elderly. Finally, the world population is becoming increasingly urban. We have a large movement of people from rural areas to urban areas.

Two points that are important and interrelated are that it is the towns and cities that are the producers of both the global economy and the global environment.

Sustainability in European

The European Union has had quite a bit of experience over the last 15 years in thinking through sustainability issues in relation to towns and cities.

In 1990 the Green Paper on the Urban Environment led to the formation of the EU Expert Group on the Urban Environment. In 1994, a conference produced the Albo Charter and started a campaign for sustainability, and now there are 1,600 towns and cities in Europe involved in this campaign. In 1996 the campaign produced a large report on the policies and practices that should be adopted by Eu-



Colin Fudge addresses the opening session of the Mayors Conference. Professor Fudge is Pro-Vice Chancellor and Dean of the faculty of the Built Environment, University of the West of England.

ropean towns and cities if they wanted to become more sustainable.

At the moment, the Expert Group on the Urban Environment is focusing on four areas.

- Tests of sustainability indicators on a hundred local authorities so that they can be compared in relation to their performance on sustainability indicators.
- A report on sustainable land use, which is related to the notion of the compact city.
- Environmental legislation and how national legislation is integrated at the local authority.
- Urban designs for sustainability.

The Example of Stockholm

Stockholm is winner of the European Sustainable City Award and has been active in promoting sustainability.

Among other achievements, Stockholm uses low-emission fuels for its 1,500

city vehicles, trucks, vans and cars: electricity, bio-gas from the sewage system in Stockholm, ethanol, and rapeseed. The city has also persuaded two of the large petrol companies in Stockholm to become multifuel garages, where petrol, diesel fuel, rapeseed, ethanol, bio-gas, and even electricity are available.

Stockholm buses have moved to a hybrid fuel system, which is predominantly ethanol with some diesel, and heavy duty vehicles, which are particularly for picking up waste and recyclable material,

have gone to bio-gas from the sewage system.

Applications of Sustainability

The following are some general points that apply to all cities.

■ We need new policies and practices, but we also need to rethink how we lead local government and authority and particularly how citizens, the private sector, others are going to be involved in these processes.

■ Local authorities and communities are crucial for sustainability, but regional and central government frameworks need to be supportive. We need an integration of the policies at the national or federal government level with policies at the local government level.

■ We need to reduce the ecological footprint and consider resource flows, the recycling of land and buildings, and try to close resource loops.

■ It is crucial to share good practices

Tenth Northern Intercity Conference of Mayors

Resolutions

1 International Association of Mayors of Northern Cities member cities will cooperate with each other and make the greatest efforts possible to realize "winter cities that ensure sustainable development" based upon the "Joint Statement" declared at this tenth Mayors Conference.

2 Basic policies of IAMNC revitalization are to be reviewed for further development of the Association, and the revitalization issue is to be continuously discussed with administrative officials in involved in the Working-Level Meeting.

3 Collaborative tourism promotion by member cities to be implemented in FY 2002 as a pilot project of the IAMNC revitalization plans.

4 Subcommittee designed to research effective policies for creating winter cities that ensure sustainable development will be established to study specific measures. The role of its secretariat is to be assumed by the city of Aomori.

5 A subcommittee designed to re-

search effective measures against terrorism in northern cities will be established. The city of Anchorage, Alaska will serve as secretariat of the subcommittee.

6 The twelfth Northern Intercity Conference of Mayors in 2006 will be hosted by the city of Changchun, China.

7 Sasaki Seizo, mayor of the city of Aomori and host of the tenth Northern Intercity Conference of Mayors, and the people of Aomori, who supported the conference shall, be greatly honored.

and support problem solving but also to try to avoid duplication.

■ Integration is needed between different sectors. People involved in local economic development, those involved in the social issues, in health issues, in cultural issues, and those involved in environmental and town planning issues need to integrate their efforts in relation to one direction towards sustainable futures.

■ We need to think about the future and encourage both politicians and technical officials to go back to longer term planning.

■ We need to develop partnerships and collaboration between the different sectors.

■ We need demonstration projects so that people can actually experience what a sustainable future is about.

■ We need regular measurement systems to know whether we are progressing or not.

■ We want to get university academics alongside practitioners and politicians to work together in relation to action research in this new topic.

■ We also need to evaluate our programs so that we know what has been successful over time and what has not. And the Swedish research councils have had a large sustainability research program evaluating the work that has gone on and indeed now that is explored in many countries.

Winter Cities

Reduction in the need to travel becomes an important issue, particularly in winter cities, which raises the notion of the compact city. How you interrelate travel patterns, the activities that people need to go to, work, residential, leisure, education—these things are quite crucial in relation to survival and indeed reinventing the city as a sustainable city. Obviously, we also need to maximize energy conservation. This is crucial in all cities, but it is crucial if we are going to start to reduce resource use in winter cities.

There is also of course the appropriate design of buildings and spaces to maximize winter sun and to minimize the impact of prevailing winds. It seems that the current international style of architecture needs some adaptations for winter cities.

The encouragement of community facilities for the compact

Joint Statement of the International Association of Mayors of Northern Cities

We, the member cities of the International Association of Mayors of Northern Cities, will cooperate with each other and make the greatest efforts possible in order to realize "winter cities that ensure sustainable development" while reaffirming our fundamental principle of "Winter is a Resource and Asset" and revitalizing our activities. We also call for all people of northern regions to take on the challenge of construction of cities that ensure sustainable development.

—Aomori, Japan, February 2002

city is also important, it is about outdoor space—it is about how people congregate and enjoy the city outdoors, but it is also how you create comfortable indoor facilities in relation to encouraging the community to be in the city and not drift out to the suburbs.

We also need to encourage people to appreciate and enjoy winter. Helsinki is designed so that residents can ski from the center of the city outwards and then back again in the deep snow. The snow sculptures in Sapporo and here in Aomori and the ice hotel in northern Sweden are obviously for the enjoyment and benefit of local residents; however, these events also become economically advantageous to a city in promoting tourism. These are some ways in which one can convert winter—what some people may see as a difficult situation—into a positive opportunity in relation to exploiting the snow and the ice.



Volunteers are honored at Winter Cities 2002 Aomori for their invaluable contribution to the success of the event.

Finally, in the end we can do a lot in relation to local authorities, policies and practices, we can govern in a sensitive way, we can make all sorts of innovations, but we also have to take the citizens with us and we have to think about our own life-styles and whether or not we are willing and able to change to a rather different life-style for sustainable futures.

Sectional Sessions

Two sectional sessions on the second day of the Mayors Conference comprised informative presentations on the conference theme.

Session A

Session A involved discussions on urban strategies for winter cities. Presenting cities were Changchun on "Revitalization of the Central Urban Area in Developing Cities"; Tromsø on "Urban City Development in Tromsø"; and Jilin on "Measures of Revitalization of Central Urban Areas." Thirteen cities participated in session A.

Generally, discussions in session A recognized—

- the importance of the central urban area as a center of commerce and services and as very important in representing the city;
- problems created by population shifts to suburbs;
- the need for building up commerce, services, housing, and transportation in the city center;
- the importance of improved housing and policies that integrate social, cultural, and commercial functions of the city.

Session B

"Urban Systems with Less Negative Impact on the Environment" was the theme of sectional Session B. Nine cities participated in the session. Participants concluded that efficient energy use is especially important in order to attain the goal of reducing the impact of the city on the environment. More specifically, the session participants recommended efficient utilization of existing energy; active introduction of unutilized energy sources and renewable energy that is suitable for northern cities; and upgrading land use for efficient energy use by integrating urban facilities and by construction of housing complexes.

Revitalizing the IAMNC

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economies, people, and cultures have all heightened mutual dependence and widely increased everyday activities that transcend international borders.

All of this makes the IAMNC more relevant today than ever, while at the same time, the availability of information on a real-time basis has made some of the functions of the IAMNC less relevant. The IAMNC finds itself in a new world, and it must make adjustments. There have been declines in interest and membership in the IAMNC, and to succeed the organization must meet the expectations of winter cities.

Revitalizing the IAMNC

Several ideas being considered for revitalizing the IAMNC include making the organization more relevant, clarifying the work of the organization, and making it more widely known. While specifics of the revitalization plan have yet to be worked out,

three basic principles were formulated in Aomori: structural revitalization, revitalizing the existing IAMNC framework, and creating new IAMNC projects.

1 Structural Revitalization

"Winter is a resource and an asset" remains the founding principle of the IAMNC, and its goal remains "comfortable winter life." However, both of these must be promoted more clearly.

To make these goals relevant for cities, a broad refocusing by the IAMNC has been suggested, including a broadening of membership to include all cities that have problems related to winter, not just those in the northern hemisphere.

A more direct connection between the Mayors Conference, the Trade Fair, and Forum is also necessary if these events are to be held concurrently. Broader participation also needs to be developed.

A name change might be timely in order to reflect a broader constituency and more relevancy. "Winter Cities Network" has been suggested. Also, more clearly defined roles and responsibilities of member cities are needed.

In addition to outcomes that may be intan-

gible, membership also needs to result in economic and other benefits to members that are concrete and observable in the short term.

2 Revitalizing the Existing IAMNC Framework

Mayors Conference

Winter and snow are not the only issues relevant for the Mayors Conference. The winter city perspective on issues facing other cities worldwide are also relevant. Topics, however, must be clearly concrete and relevant to the interest of participants.

"Over the years we have learned much from the other members of the IAMNC, and I hope that we can share our experiences in the future as well. We have much in common and I say that together we can create better winter living for all our citizens."

—Lars Tornman, mayor of Kiruna

Winter Trade Fair

The winter trade fair should be one clearly based on winter technology, products, and information, and it might also incorporate an element of selling ideas in an "idea trade fair."

Working-Level Meeting

A meeting comprised of working-level administrative staff members should replace the board of secretaries meeting.

In order to allow the mayors to have active discussions and make policy judgments at the Mayors Conference, essential features of the topics for the conference should be developed at the working-level meetings, so that the Mayors Conference is more a policy meeting.

Subcommittees

IAMNC subcommittees should be clearly

distinguished as organs that continuously conduct surveys and research on an established theme, differentiating them from the working-level meeting, which mainly discusses themes for an upcoming Mayors Conference.

In addition, subcommittees should be gatherings in which people who are not involved in governmental administration, such as experts and technicians, can easily participate.

WinterNet

The internet is first and foremost a supplementary communication tool, and the basis of the network is face-to-face communication.

3 Creation of New Projects

A number of possibilities for future activities of the IAMNC have been suggested, including—

- collaborative tourism promotion: the IAMNC promotes tourism in winter cities

through participation in travel fairs;

- cultural exchange programs that are open to the public in member cities;

- personal exchanges among cities that match the needs and information and technology resources of member cities and promote personal exchanges between cities;

- youth exchanges for short-term stays in member cities;

A citizen/NGO meeting, collaborative academic research, and a winter idea award, are additional suggestions that have been proposed for revitalizing the IAMNC.

Implementing Revitalization

A working-level meeting will be held in the first part of fiscal year 2002 where directions for revitalization will be discussed. As a pilot project of the revitalization plan, IAMNC member-city tourism promotion at travel fairs will also be initiated in fiscal year 2002, and the IAMNC will cover part of the booth rental fees at these conventions.

In addition, concrete operations related to structural and project revitalization will be discussed at the working-level meeting, and those measures deemed suitable will be initiated.



Taiko drummers performed in the closing ceremony of Winter Cities 2002 Aomori.

Health Promotion Forum

Healthful Living Required for Sustainability

Approximately 250 mayors, health professionals, and others involved with the Mayors Conference participated in a Health Promotion Forum at Winter Cities 2002 Aomori. Organized by the IAMNC, the main theme of the forum was "Health for All Winter Cities." The event was held at Asamushi Hot Spring Resort and was co-sponsored by the Winter Cities 2002 Aomori Executive Committee and supported by the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare.

The purpose of the Health Promotion Forum was to call attention to the importance of healthful living in the pursuit of sustainable winter cities. Participants considered how to promote and enhance public health while addressing community challenges. Participants also

discussed ways to share the experiences of IAMNC member cities in promoting health.

Ilena Kickbusch, professor, department of epidemiology and public health at Yale University School of Medicine gave the forum keynote speech titled, "New City Policy for Enhancing Human Well-Being."

The Health Promotion Forum also comprised a panel discussion on community participation in health policies, and related presentations.

Healthful Living in Aomori

"Aiming for a Healthy City" was the title of a presentation by Aomori mayor Sasaki Seizo at the forum. Mayor Sasaki outlined Aomori's vision of a future city, which

includes healthful living. He also outlined the city's overall city planning directive which was published in 1996, and which will shape the city's development through 2010. Important features are protecting the environment through sustainable development and recycling; community participation and assistance; and local independence and self-reliance.

Mayor Sasaki also spoke about Aomori's "Second Basic Plan for Health Measures" and its health-related projects, which include promoting healthful living among individuals and communities, and the establishment of a health-supporting partnership among companies, residents, government, and educational institutions. Aomori's health plan was formulated in July 2001.

IAMNC Subcommittee Reports Presented at Aomori

The IAMNC Subcommittee for Countermeasures Against Natural Disasters and the Subcommittee for Snow Management presented interim progress reports in Aomori. The subcommittees were established at the ninth Mayors Conference in Luleå and Kiruna in 2000 for a period of four years. The responsibilities of the two subcommittees are to conduct research and to survey cities on their respective subcommittee themes.

Subcommittee for Countermeasures Against Natural Disasters

The Subcommittee for Countermeasures Against Natural Disasters comprises six cities: Shenyang, Harbin, and Jiamusi in China; Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; Maardu, Estonia; and Sapporo, Japan, which acts as the secretariat of the subcommittee.

Among activities of the subcommittee, fact-finding missions have been dispatched to Mongolia to observe the effects of extreme winter conditions there, including temperatures as low as -49°C . Subcommittee members have also visited Harbin to observe the consequences of widespread flooding in that city.

Of particular interest to the subcommittee are winter-related disasters, such as unusual midwinter thaws or rainfalls that can result in flooding. Unusual effects of winter have occurred in the northern

Arctic region, where the aurora, actually a magnetic storm, has created unexpected electrical disturbances that have resulted in electric power disruptions.

The subcommittee expects to continue its research on natural disasters and hopes also to be able to consider man-made disasters and environmental issues.

Snow Management Subcommittee

The Snow Management Subcommittee seeks sustainable solutions for winter

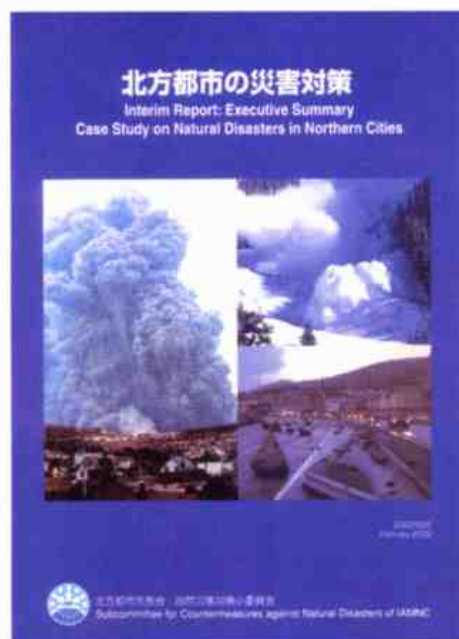
road maintenance, policies that are not temporary and that are applicable in all IAMNC member cities. The policies must represent "best practices" and be both efficient and cost-effective. Aomori and Sapporo in Japan; Harbin, China; Kiruna and Luleå in Sweden; and Prince George, the secretariat, are members of the subcommittee.

Among its goals, the subcommittee aims to raise the international profile of the IAMNC, recruit new membership, and share the information the subcommittee has gathered. In the future, the subcommittee hopes to be able to act as a resource for information on snow management. In order to increase its effectiveness, the subcommittee has proposed the designation of a snow management liaison person and a standardized overview of snow management for each participating city. The subcommittee has also adopted a position that recognizes cultural challenges in information gathering and distribution.

Future subcommittee meetings will involve discussions about what the local community expects at the resident level and ways to educate residents on the costs of snow management operations.

Final Reports

The two subcommittees will present final reports at the 2004 Mayors Conference in Anchorage.



Subcommittee for Countermeasures Against Natural Disasters Interim Report

New IAMNC Conference Feature

Winter Cities Art Exhibited in Aomori

The first Winter Cities Art Exhibition was held at several sites in Aomori during Winter Cities 2002. The exhibition was one of several "jointly held events" that included a Winter Cities Photographic Display, a Noh Play Appreciation event, an International Design Competition for Northern-Style Housing, and the Aomori Winter Festival. IAMNC member cities contributed works to the art exhibition and to the photo display.



Art works from IAMNC member cities attracted viewers at several sites in Aomori.

Rich Culture of Northern Cities Reflected in Works of Art

The mayor of Aomori, Sasaki Seizo, proposed the Winter Cities Art Exhibition at

the Winter Cities 2000 conference in Kiruna and Luleå, Sweden. Mayor Sasaki initiated the exhibition out of interest in a quality of northern cities that "transcends mere meteorological conditions

than the many natural languages spoken in IAMNC member cities—and without the ubiquitous interpreters of an international conference like Winter Cities 2002.

such as falling snow and the bitter cold."

The mayor's objective was that the exhibit should remind visitors of the rich culture of northern cities. The mayor also noted that the language of art should have an opportunity to create and communicate ideas among residents of northern cities, which art may be able to do more easily

"Northern Lifestyle and Industry and Life of Winter Cities"

Winter Expo Is Opportunities for Businesses

Seventy-two businesses from seven countries participated in a winter cities showcase during Winter Cities 2002 Aomori. "Northern Lifestyle and Industry and Life of Winter Cities" was the theme of the eighth International Winter Expo. A wide range of industries participate in this winter trade fair, which is held as a component of the biennial Mayors Con-

ference and Forum. The expo attracts leading buyers pursuing international business opportunities. Winter Expo in Aomori reported one thousand and forty-two business discussions during the four-day event, February 7 to 10.

A Premier Winter Cities Event

Winter Expo included a display of Win-

ter Industry and Technology, a Snow and Ice Academic Studies booth, and an Urban Cities display featuring city planning and tourism in northern cities. A Northern Livelihood corner introduced experimental approaches and activities associated with snow and winter at the local civic and private levels. Municipalities and organizations also had displays.



Visitors to Winter Expo experienced an earthquake at this display.



Anchorage, Alaska was one of many exhibitors at Winter Expo.

George Wuerch, Mayor of Anchorage Host of "Winter Cities 2004"

George Wuerch, mayor of Anchorage, Alaska granted an interview in Aomori with the Northern Intercity News. The city of Anchorage hosted the Mayors Conference in 1994 and will do so again in 2004.

Northern Intercity News:

Welcome to Aomori, Mayor Wuerch.

Mayor Wuerch:

Thank you. Arriving in Aomori was a special treat. Aomori is a beautiful city surrounded by mountains and sea. It reminds me very much of Anchorage. The people are extraordinarily friendly. Everywhere our team has gone, there is someone who is willing to help and provide information and share their knowledge of their city with Alaskans. A large group of people from Anchorage came here with us—over 30 of us. We are just very, very pleased to be here.

Northern Intercity News:

What has been your experience so far at the Mayors Conference in Aomori?

Mayor Wuerch:

Mayor Sasaki and his staff have done a beautiful job. But, I also want to complement the hotel staff here. They made our stay very convenient. Rooms and meeting halls and menus for luncheons and dinners are first class, five-star quality. It is fun to be here.

Northern Intercity News:

How is the conference going?

Mayor Wuerch:

Of course, the conference is not over yet, but I would say that, after a good start, I think the most important thing to come from this conference is the plan to revitalize the International Association of Mayors of Northern Cities. The future of our winter cities network rests on our ability to increase



George Wuerch, mayor of Anchorage with Sapporo mayor Katsura Nobuo (left) and Aomori mayor Sasaki Seizo.

our membership and to keep our current members involved and active and participating. So the revitalization plan is the key to the future.

Northern Intercity News:

What do you see as the main role of the IAMNC? What distinguishes the association from other northern city organizations?

Mayor Wuerch:

First of all, I think we should think in terms of winter cities, rather than just northern cities. If I understand the comments of my colleagues on the board of directors and in the general assembly, it seems in the future we want to emphasize winter cities, not just northern cities.

I also want to add that it is the responsibility of the IAMNC to reach outside government. The government does not create the economy. It can spoil the economy, but it takes the private sector to attract the capital investment that creates jobs for citizens. And if we can create an awareness of opportunities in winter cities, perhaps we can get over this worldwide attitude that winter cities are always ice-and-snow and that no one wants to visit them.

Well, we know better. We live here in the north; we love the northland; and we love the winter season. And it's wonderful to share that. So we need to reach outside our own city hall. We need to reach out business community,

to the industrial strength of our world, and serve winter cities.

Northern Intercity News:

What is an area of special contribution to the membership by Anchorage?

Mayor Wuerch:

In the sessions we have had so far, we were able to share our initiatives in urban planning. Just a few moments ago, I shared the concept of town centers, where we have not only a central business district; we have been creating neighborhood town centers that bring together residential, retail business, education, service industries—and opportunities to make those things all easily accessible to everyone on foot—including children and the elderly. We reduce the need for public transportation and energy consumption when we can locate all of the necessary essentials together—job, school, recreation, and culture.

Northern Intercity News:

You must be looking forward to the conference in 2004.

Mayor Wuerch:

Yes, we hope it will be among the very best winter city conferences. Aomori has certainly set a new high standard. We will do everything we can to meet this standard. We look forward to using the revitalization plan to attract members.

In preparation for the sixth Mayors Conference in Anchorage in 1994, I joined our mayor and others from Anchorage on a tour of northern cities and Asian countries to promote the event, and we will do that again. But, most importantly, between now and the conference in 2004, we hope member cities will suggest themes and topics for the 2004 meeting. We will also consult with member cities, mayors, and staff of the secretariat.

What do you think?

The Northern Intercity News requests your opinion.

1. What kind of information on northern cities would you or your organization like to receive through the Northern Intercity News?

- information on member cities (North America Europe Asia) district/city planning
 civil engineering/construction environment disaster prevention transportation
 social welfare economy tourism/conventions art/culture
 education other _____

2. Which of the articles in this issue of the Northern Intercity News were the most interesting or relevant to you or your organization?

- Report on Mayors Conference Forum Winter Expo related events interview

3. Please indicate events, festivals, winter activities, winter technology, and any studies about your winter city that may be topics for introduction in the Northern Intercity News.

City: _____ Topic/event: _____ Contact person: _____ Phone or e-mail contact: _____

4. Additional comments: _____

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