



Winter Cities 2004 Anchorage, February 18-22

## Challenging Winter Frontiers

**H**ave you ever wondered why people choose to live in a winter climate? Have you ever wondered about how people get by in waist-deep snow? Or about the practicality of children's metal playground equipment in minus-ten-degree Celsius weather? Or about how senior citizens get around in a snow storm? Or about how a public transit system continues to operate in the middle of a blizzard? Or how to effectively plow snow while business goes on as usual? These are just a few questions that will be discussed as topics at the eleventh biennial Winter Cities 2004, February 18-22, in Anchorage, Alaska, U.S.A.

What can you do to make your winter city more livable? Discuss winter city issues with colleagues from other important cities at the conference. Get ideas from those who experience the same winter climate and conditions that you do. Make contacts to continue your discussions long after the conference has concluded!

### Four Dynamic Components

Winter Cities 2004 will feature four dynamic components: the Mayors Conference of the International Association of Mayors of Northern Cities (IAMNC), the Winter Cities Expo at Pac Com—an industrial expo, the Winter Cities International Showcase, and the Forum and Tech Tours. The events will

# Winter is Hot!

be held at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel and the Egan Civic and Convention Center.

### The Mayors Conference

The eleventh Mayors Conference includes the IAMNC board of directors meeting, subcommittee reports, opportunities to attend forum presentations, networking with city officials from around the world, and cultural opportunities.

### Winter Cities Expo

Winter Cities 2004 will partner with Pac Com Expo, an already well-established international industrial expo attracting participants and speakers from countries such as Japan, Canada, Russia, and the United States. This prestigious event brings together key foreign and local personnel from various industries, services, and govern-

ment ministries, who work together to further the development of construction, oil, and mining industries in Alaska and the Pacific Rim nations.

### Winter Cities Showcase

The Winter Cities Showcase will give delegates the opportunity to present their country's crafts, culture, and wholesale gifts. Both the showcase and the expo will be open to the public.

### Forum and Tech Tours

The Forum and Tech Tours will highlight academic papers and offer local technical tours, all of which will focus on the unique problems and solutions associated with living in a winter city. Themes for Winter Cities 2004 "Challenging Winter Frontiers" include forum presentations on many topical issues, including—

Please see *Winter Cities 2004*, page 2.



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

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**MAYORS OF NORTHERN CITIES**

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# IAMNC Subcommittees Make Progress Reports

## Snow Management

### Snow Management Subcommittee Visit to Prince George, Canada

Reported by Yasuta Mitsunobu, Road Preservation Section, City Development Dept. and Tanaka Hiroo, Road Construction Section, City Development Dept., Aomori, Japan. We visited Prince George and stayed there for three weeks to learn about snow clearing and snow removal policies and about the development of those policies with the hope to put into practice relevant knowhow and technology in Aomori.

The average annual snowfall in

*Winter Cities 2004* continued from page 1

- Social and Cultural Aspects of Winter;
- Health and Medicine;
- Cold Region Engineering;
- Energy and the Environment;
- Security and Safety;
- Technology;
- Building Construction Techniques;
- Rural Outreach and Urban Growth;
- Economic and Planning Opportunities.

### Important Submission Dates

- Call for Papers Submission deadline: May 15, 2003
- Selection of Abstracts/Papers: July 15, 2003
- Notification of Acceptance: August 1, 2003
- Final Submissions due: December 31, 2003

Please e-mail submissions for the Winter Cities Forum to—  
[callforpapers@wintercities2004.org](mailto:callforpapers@wintercities2004.org)

### For More Information

For more information about the Winter Cities Conference, see the Winter Cities 2004 web site at—  
[www.wintercities2004.org](http://www.wintercities2004.org)



Prince George's hard-working "snow force" sets out on city streets after a recent snowfall.



Prince George is 2.25 meters, one third of Aomori's 7.65 meters. The temperature drops to minus 30 degrees Celsius and due to low humidity, the snow does not harden on the streets as it does in Aomori under heavy traffic. Therefore, frequent snow removal becomes necessary in Prince George, where the minimum accumulation for clearing is 7.5 centimeters on principal thoroughfares and 10 centimeters on residential streets, which is less accumulation than the amount that Aomori has set for initiating plowing.

What is good in Prince George is that the city removes snow piles that have accumulated in front of private homes as a result of snow clearing on streets. This is a policy that may be considered in future snow removal

policies in Aomori.

Two issues that face Prince George involve obstruction of snow clearing by cars parked on city streets and by snow pushed into the street by home owners clearing their sidewalks. Prince George has a system of fines to discourage this, and a policy of towing vehicles obstructing snow plows. These are two additional lessons we hope to apply in Aomori.

What impressed us most in Prince George was the city's "snow force," the crews that move snow day and night. We observed a great pride in the services that these crews provides.

We want to thank the many people of

Prince George for their warm welcome and hospitality. They made our three-week stay very useful and fruitful.

## Anti-Terrorism

### Subcommittee for Measures Against Terrorism in Northern Cities

Reported by Dick Dworsky

The first line of defense in any terrorist attack is the "first responder" community—local police, firefighters, and emergency medical professionals. Properly trained and equipped first responders have the greatest potential to save lives and limit casualties after a terrorist attack.

Currently, capabilities for responding to a terrorist attack vary widely.



Many areas have little or no capability to respond to a terrorist attack using weapons of mass destruction. Even the best-prepared localities do not possess adequate resources to respond to the full range of terrorist threats we face. The purpose of this secretariat is to recommend means for local communities to become better prepared to respond to acts of terrorism and to minimize the damage from such events.

#### First Subcommittee Meeting

This first subcommittee meeting was held on February 7th, at the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in Honolulu, Hawaii. The participants identified common themes for the subcommittee and established the baseline of information necessary to determine the potential research needs and evaluation process.

The specific framework includes—

- Identification of Activities
- Prevention: Levels of Responsibility
- Mitigation: Immediate/Short Term
- Recovery: Actions/Activities
- Process Evaluation: How do we measure success?

## Natural Disasters

### Report from the Subcommittee for Countermeasures Against Natural Disasters

The Subcommittee for Countermeasures Against Natural Disasters has been preparing a case book of disasters as a final report that will be submitted at the Mayors Conference at Winter Cities 2004.

In order to produce an authoritative and practical report, and to collect relevant information about natural disaster and disaster countermeasures, subcommittee representatives visited five IAMNC member cities, including Maardu, Estonia; Kiruna, Sweden; and Shenyang, Changchun and Qiqihar in China in fall 2002.

The subcommittee will analyze data and study the experiences that have been learned from each city in order to compile a useful report.



The IAMNC promoted northern cities at the World Travel Fair in Yokohama in September.

## Uniqueness of Winter Cities Promoted at World Travel Fair

The northern lights, snow statues and ice sculptures, exciting winter festivals, sparkling white nights, and refreshing and pleasant summer weather—all of these are among the countless attractive features of winter cities. While severe winter conditions may admittedly pose difficulties for those living in a harsh winter climate, snow is also one of the greatest resources and assets of winter cities, a theme that was emphasized by the International Association of Mayors of Northern Cities at the World Travel Fair in Yokohama, Japan last September.

### IAMNC Promotes Attractions of Winter Cities

The IAMNC participated in the event on behalf of its members to inform the Japanese public and others about the attractions of northern cities and to promote tourism in IAMNC member cities.

The IAMNC booth was decorated with images of the aurora borealis and snow and ice, attracting many visitors who requested tourism information, pamphlets, and incentives. The booth's video presentations attracted a steady

stream of interested viewers.

The IAMNC compiled pamphlets of tourism information of member cities, and these were distributed at the fair. Some of the European cities introduced in the pamphlets are featured on pages 6-9 of this publication.

### Biennial World Travel Fair

The World Travel Fair is held in Japan biennially to publicize tourism opportunities and provide information to tourists in Japan, one of the largest tourism markets in the world. Exhibitors included tourism bureaux of central governments in Asian countries and a variety of other organizations and companies. Three hundred forty-one companies and organizations from 79 countries and regions were represented at the fair, and more than ninety thousand people attended the event.

### Participating IAMNC Cities

Participants at the IAMNC booth in Yokohama included Changchun, Qiqihar, and Shenyang, China; Taebak, Korea; Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; Tromsø, Norway; Anchorage, U.S.A.; and Aomori and Sapporo, Japan.



# WCA Winter Cities Forum 2003 Celebrates Winter Living, 20th Anniversary

"Living in Balance" was the theme of the WCA Winter Cities Forum 2003, in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada, in February. "Celebrate Winter Living—More than Just Snow" was the forum slogan. Forum topics included health, tourism, economic partnership, and quality of life. A youth forum addressed youth-related issues, including employment and retention of young people in the north.

Over the course of the forum, delegates developed and adopted the Sault Ste. Marie Winter Cities Protocol. Using a model of sustainability, the protocol identifies ways in which a balance can be achieved between the environmental, economic, and social demands of winter cities. It is hoped that the document will create a framework for discussion that will result in an increased awareness among the public and government that winter cities are "more than just snow."

Delegates received a warm welcome from Mayor John Rowswell and his efficient and friendly organizing

committee, which had arranged a number of special events, including celebrations connected with the fortieth anniversary of the Bon Soo Winter Carnival. A trade show was not a part of Winter Cities Forum 2003, but a showcase was organized so that municipalities in the region could promote their communities.



WCA board members at Winter Cities 2003 Forum. Seated, l-r: Norman Pressman, Anne Martin, Patrick Coleman. Standing: Larry Neal, René Akre, Michael Barton, George Paul.

## WCA 20 Years Old

The Winter Cities Association (WCA) was founded in 1983 by the late Jack Royle, a Canadian journalist. From the outset, the WCA had a connection with Sapporo because Dr. William Rogers, a founding member of the WCA and advocate of livable winter cities in Minneapolis, attended the Northern Intercity Conference in 1982.

## WCA Mission

The WCA is committed to enhancing the livability and quality of life in winter communities, particularly through climate-sensitive design. Through its quarterly *Winter Cities* magazine and its biennial Winter Cities Forum and Trade Show, the association shares information, ideas, community-based innovations and research.

The WCA has contributed to the development of a shared northern identity and a heightened appreciation of winter.



Snow slide and snow sculptures (below) make winter enjoyable for residents of Sault Ste. Marie.



## Powered by Enthusiastic Volunteers

The WCA is run by volunteers. Future plans include finding funds to employ a staff person. The association will continue to produce its magazine and to hold conferences, and it is also developing a web site. The Winter Cities Association also looks forward to a continuing relationship with the IAMNC. The association has an agreement with the organizing committee in Anchorage, Alaska to help with program development and marketing for the eleventh IAMNC Winter Cities Conference in 2004.



Sapporo's severe cold and heavy snow accumulations are great for the winter sports this city is famous for, but winter also offers opportunities for pedestrian falls on snow and ice, and in Sapporo they are frequent occurrences, averaging 859 incidents a year.

Plastic helmets are not sufficiently attractive to convince people that they need head protection, and as a result, there has been a demand for warm, fashionable, and protective, one-size-fits-all head covering. Recently a new product called an Abonet® appeared on the market to meet that demand. An

Abonet offers almost the same protection as a helmet, along with light weight and fashionable colors and designs. In a fall, an Abonet can absorb three times more impact than a tradi-



*Two styles of winter head protection are being marketed.*

## Attractive Head Protection for Winter

tional wool hat.

With its new universal design, everyone in the snow country will feel comfortable wearing this winter head protection.

### Role for the Winter City

The product idea and design for the Abonet originated at the Sapporo School of the Arts, and production technology was

provided by the manufacturer. The city of Sapporo brought both of these elements together, and the first product was made under

the Welfare Equipment Design and Study Project, whose goal was to develop original products for the welfare of Sapporo.

### Availability

Abonet is manufactured and sold by Tokushu Iryou Co., Ltd. Hassamu 1-1-1, 2-40, Nishi-ku, Sapporo 063-0834, Japan; tel. +81-11-663-0761.



## Winter Design for the Disabled—4WD Wheelchair

Hokkaido, Japan gets some of the heaviest accumulation of snow in the world, and in the cities here that means rough going for the disabled who depend on the conventional electric wheelchair.

Ice pack on roads and pedestrian walkways is a major obstacle for the disabled and aged to get outdoors in winter. To help the disabled cope with winter, an electric four-wheel drive wheelchair has been developed, which will reduce dependence of the disabled on others for shopping and getting to appointments.

This first full-scale electric wheelchair that operates safely

on snow-covered roads, was developed through the collaboration of Hokkaido University, Hokkaido Electric Power Co. Inc., and Cupid Fair. A special

feature of the chair is its ability to operate in places where there are considerably rough surfaces and surfaces of varying levels.



*4WD all-weather wheelchair.*

### Easy to Control

A joystick-type control allows the operator to move the chair forward, backwards, and left and right. A battery under the chair is rechargeable at a 100 volt outlet in eight hours after every twenty kilometers of use. The wheelchair can also operate as a two-wheel drive vehicle in the home or on smooth outdoor surfaces, and it operates easily in small spaces.

With winter lasting almost half a year in Hokkaido, the 4WD wheelchair is expected to help many people become independent in winter months.

For more information, please contact—  
Social Welfare Corporation Cupid Fair, Kurisawa Plant,  
Do-oh Kurisawa Industrial Complex, Aza Yura 213-4, Kurisawa-cho, Sorachi-gun, Hokkaido, 068-0111 Japan; tel. +81-126-34-4551; fax. +81-126-34-4553



# Winter Cities

## *Excitement, Adventure, and Experience*

### Quality Life

Luleå has excellent facilities for tourism and year-round outdoor recreation. The city offers immediate access to beautiful natural surroundings and countless opportunities for great experiences at close range.

Luleå's Norrbotten county is one of contrasts; while permafrost still holds the northern mountainous regions in its icy grip, tourists flock to bathing resorts on the Gulf of Bothnia.

Luleå has a great range of entertainment and leisure activities. The countryside is always close at hand and the center of town is packed with exciting things to see and do.

Luleå has everything: intensive entertainment, restaurants offering culinary delights, as well as quiet mo-

ments on any of the excursions into the countryside or to the islands.



*Luleå offers visitors old-world charm and adventure.*

Winter tourism in Luleå brings visitors from afar for activities such as dog-sledding, snowmobile safaris, and international ice sculpture festivals. A

somewhat unusual artistic element in the town is the array of ice sculptures created every winter in the Town Park.

Luleå has an exciting archipelago and the church village at Gammelstad has been included on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The Hagnan outdoor museum is on the edge of Gammelstad Church Town and offers cultural history and events. Teknikens Hus, the House of Technology, a science center at Luleå University of Technology, is visited by the greatest number of people of any tourist attraction in the county. The range of cultural events is comprehensive: concerts, theaters, lectures, and much more.

Light summer nights, northern lights in winter, and sparkling winter days make Luleå an enjoyable destination every month of the year.

### Welcome to

# Tromsø

Norway

Travelers in the 1800s wrote enthusiastically about Tromsø, calling it a sophisticated, cultured, and hospitable town "so unexpected this close to the North Pole!" The heroes of the day were the polar explorers who exploited local knowledge and experience to their advantage and set off on daring expeditions to the far North. This small Arctic town gained a big reputation.

Today, Tromsø is a center for education, research, and culture in the North, and its inhabitants are among the best qualified in the whole country and



*Tromsø provides good views of Aurora Borealis.*

most well known also for their appreciation of the lighter side of life. Tromsø's cultural diversity has nerve, vitality and engagement: the aroma of locally-caught seafood and exotic spices, and Tromsø's famous nightlife,

full of intense, humorous, and engaging conversation in a backdrop of local or international rhythms. Museums, exhibitions, and traditional wooden architecture serve both to inspire and to educate.

The islands around Tromsø are characterized by enterprising fishing villages, with exports worth millions around the world, and by incredible and unspoiled isolated skerries, teeming with bird life and full of tens of thousands of years of history. Along the fjords that stretch for miles are luxuriant forests and green pastures, protected by the high peaks and fed by glaciers. Just as deep are the traditions of the Sami, Finnish, and Norwegian settlers and their cultural heritage.



# Kiruna

Sweden

## Pure Experience

*In the countryside, you can drink the water and the air is clean. This is something quite exclusive on our beavily populated globe. This is Kiruna.*

Kiruna is Sweden's leading winter city. From October to May there are mile after mile of prepared ski trails, and those who so desire can ski all year round. The ski trails attract top-class competitive skiers from all over the world for training facilities on natural snow at a time when other resorts are still rounding off the bathing season. In addition, there is a biathlon circuit in Kiruna that attracts many nations to early training sessions.

The slopes at Riksgransen are among the best Sweden can offer and



*Ice Hotel in Kiruna.*

they attract many skiers in search of a challenge. Perhaps the most exclusive tour begins with summer skiing on the Riksgransen slopes and ends with a cycle tour to Rombakk Fjord in Norway, all in the light of the Midnight Sun.

Each year, thousands of people visit the world's biggest igloo—the Ice Hotel. The function and appearance of

the Ice Hotel vary from year to year, but the hotel art gallery, chapel, bar, and hall of pillars have become the bases for the hotel's annual design and construction.

### Summer Adventures Too

Abisko National Park is the starting point for those who wish to hike along the internationally famous King's Trail. The resort of Bjorkliden has a family profile both in summer and in winter. One of Sweden's biggest cave systems and Tornehamn, with the beautifully located railway navvies' graveyard, are both close to Bjorkliden. Bjorkliden was also the place chosen for the world's northern most golf course as early as 1929.

Gold-washing in Lannavaara, the beautiful and tranquil village of Lainio, tours of Esrange Rocket Base and mountain tours in the Kebnekaise area are examples of other attractions that draw visitors to Kiruna.

## Capital of Greenland

A city with a history—Nuuk was founded by Norwegian missionary Hans Egede. In 1721, he went to Greenland to establish a colony and find the Northerners, a European people who migrated to Greenland shortly before the year 1000. Hans Egede never found the Northerners, but he got to know the Inuit peoples who lived and hunted along the coast. In 1728, Hans Egede founded a colony near present-day Nuuk. For almost 250 years, the place was officially named Godthaab, Danish for "good hope."

In 1975, self-government was introduced in Nuuk, which among other things gave Nuuk the right to levy taxes, and when home-rule was intro-

# Nuuk

Greenland

duced in 1979 the city changed its name to Nuuk, "the cape." Today, Nuuk is Greenland's largest city and the administrative center of the country.



*A breath-taking view of the city of Nuuk.*

### Tourism in Nuuk

Greenland's capital has plenty to offer tourists with its great atmosphere and

rich culture life—the Greenland National Museum and Archives, the Home Rule Government Building, the city Hall with Hans Lyng's gobelins, the Katuaq Culture Centre, the colonial port, the many richly coloured houses and buildings in Nuuk, and much more.

The Godthaab fjord system, which is the size of the Faroe Islands, offers beautiful natural scenery with hills of stone and ice, and whales and great bird and animal life. Everywhere in the fjord system are old Inuit and Northerners settlements. The fjord system and the hills provide a unique setting for the city's leisure activities: sailing, hunting, fishing and hiking. During winter, all sorts of winter sports can be enjoyed, including cross-country skiing, alpine skiing, snowmobiling and ice skating.

# Maardu

Estonia

## Youthful and Vibrant

Maardu is fifteen kilometers from Tallinn, the capital of the Estonian Republic, and is seventh among cities in Estonia in terms of population.

In 1986 the modern Muuga Port was constructed in the northern part of Maardu. The port is recipient of the Euromarket-93 Award and it offers great possibilities for the development

of trade. Muuga Port is the site of the largest elevator in the Baltic countries (five million tons) and has a large oil terminal. The port has its own rail station and goods may be easily shipped to southeast and west European markets from here.

There is also a good stadium and a football club with four teams. The FC Levadia is the champion of Estonia and represents Estonian football in the Champions League.

Maardu is a very young town with many nearby cultural and historical sites. Tallinn, which was founded in 1154, is easily accessible from Maardu. Downtown Tallinn is included on UNESCO's list of the world's sights.

Maardu is a young and emerging town. Owing to its good geographical position, it has great possibilities for development of industry, trade, and tourism.



Maardu's modern Muuga Port.

## 2003-2004 Events in IAMNC Member Cities

### China: Jiamusi

- Jiamusi Sanjiang International Tourism Festival, June 8-12, 2003
- Tongjiang He zhe Minority Custom Festival, August 8-10, 2003

### Japan: Aomori

- Aomori Nebuta Festival, August 2-7, 2003
- 2003 Asian Mountain Bike Championships in Japan/Aomori, September 20-21, 2003
- Hakkoda Walk, March 29-31, 2004

### Japan: Sapporo

- Sapporo Lilac Festival, May 23-25, 2003
- Pacific Music Festival (PMF), July 5-25, 2003
- Sapporo White Illumination, November 21, 2003-January 4, 2004 (planned)
- Sapporo Snow Festival, February 5-11, 2004

### Korea: Taebaek

- Mt. Taebaek Azalea Festival, June 7-10, 2003

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