

Secretariat

City of Sapporo, Kita 1 Nishi 2, Chuo-ku, Sapporo 060-8611,

Japan tel: +81-11-211-2032 fax: +81-11-218-5168

e-mail: koryu@somu.city.sapporo.jp

web site: <http://www.city.sapporo.jp/somu/nic/>

Spring 2004

At Winter Cities 2004 Anchorage

Winter Frontiers Challenged

"Challenging Winter Frontiers" was the theme of the eleventh Northern Intercity Conference of Mayors in Anchorage, February 18 to 22, 2004. Mayors, vice mayors, and administrators of twenty-seven cities from eleven countries attended the conference, which focused on two topics: "Winter City Designs—Satellite Town Centers" and the "Role of the Sports Community in the Development of Municipal Services and Venues."

Mayors also discussed the revitalization of the Northern Intercity Association of Mayors, an activity that was first proposed at the 2002 Mayors Conference in Aomori, Japan. After enthusiastic discussions in Anchorage, it was resolved that the name of the organization would be changed to the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors, and that membership in the organization would no longer be limited to cities in northern regions. Any city whose planning must take into account snow accumulations and cold temperatures may also join the association.

With a new name and with broadened membership criteria, the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors will work to increase member cities.

Winter Cities Forum

At the Winter Cities Forum held in conjunction with the Mayors Conference, fifty-one sessions dealt with topics in the fields of "Society and Culture," "Energy and Environment," "Construction Techniques," and "Health and Medicine." The Winter Cities Forum included academic lectures and panel discussions on city planning and winter lifestyles.



Winter Expo was a popular attraction in Anchorage during Winter Cities 2004.

Winter Expo

The Winter Expo, which is also held concurrently with the Mayors Conference, comprised two events in Anchorage: the Pacific Rim Construction Oil Mining Expo (Pac Com), and an Inter-

national Marketplace. Pac Com is an industrial trade fair held annually in Anchorage, and with participation of the Mayors Conference, Pac Com attracted a total of 127 vendors representing a variety of industries and organizations. International Marketplace attracted approximately sixty-nine businesses and organizations from Japan, Korea, China, and Scandinavia, representing the diversified cultures of northern regions.

Youth and Culture

Other programs at the Anchorage conference included the Youth and Citizens Forum, an opportunity for mayors of member cities to introduce their cities to the young people of Anchorage. Culture Night at the conference provided entertainment from a variety of countries.

World Winter City News

At the Anchorage Mayors Conference in February 2004, it was agreed that the name of the International Association of Mayors of Northern Cities would be changed to the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors.

Accordingly, the *Northern Intercity News* has been renamed the *World Winter City News*.

Mayors Ponder Winter Issues

Two informative sessions at the Mayors Conference focused on winter city issues of common interest.

Winter City Designs

The first session of the Mayors Conference, "Winter City Designs: Satellite Town Centers," began with a presentation by Mark Pfeffer of Koonce, Pfeffer, and Bettis, and George Canellos of the Municipality of Anchorage, that outlined the ongoing joint efforts by Mr. Pfeffer's development firm and the Municipality of Anchorage. A lively discussion followed the presentation along with a question-and-answer session led by Mayor Begich of Anchorage.

The discussion reviewed the challenges in developing satellite town centers. Particular issues concern the necessity of ensuring that appropriate financing, through bond agencies as well as private investment, be obtained to develop necessary infrastructure. The development of a satellite town center is a collaborative effort that requires participation from the private development sector as well as the public infrastructure sector.

The member mayors concluded the session with an understanding of the challenges that cities face in developing a satellite town center. However, they also learned that certain development amenities could be incorporated into a satellite town center that would enhance the living experience for residents.

Anchorage and Winter Sports

"The Role of the Sports Community in the Development of Venues" was the title of the second session, which comprised four presentations.

Three presentations were made on

the Arctic Winter Games, a unique northern sporting event that Anchorage has participated in for a number of years, followed by a presentation on the experiences of Anchorage in hosting the 2001 Special Olympics World Winter Games.

In both of these winter sports events the need for municipal infrastructure spending was minimal compared to a more global international



Mayors Conference participants at Winter Cities 2004.

event, such as the Winter Olympics. Nevertheless, the cost benefit return to the municipality for these more modest sporting endeavors was substantial. In both situations, municipal venues in Anchorage were improved and legacy capital assets, as well as foundation monies, were retained in the community for the continued development of future sporting events.

Following the presentation, a number of questions were raised with respect to the staging criteria of these events. One of the topics discussed at some length dealt with the Anchorage experience in providing spectator access for the Arctic Winter Games. For that event the organizers decided that a single-price ticket would provide access to any and all venues for the day the ticket was purchased. The Anchorage experience was that people who

purchased the tickets understood that seating was always on a first-come, first-served basis, and it appeared that this ticketing arrangement was very well received by those who attended the various events.

Valuable Sessions

In both sessions at the Mayors Conference, participation by member mayors and their staff was enthusiastic. There seemed to be a recognition that the sessions provided a forum for the member mayors and other city officials to share and acquire information that may be of use in the development of their communities as more livable winter cities.

With respect to the satellite town centers, there appeared to be a general consensus, based

on the discussions, that the development of satellite town centers was an idea worthy of further study and that the success of Anchorage's implementation of the concept would be of interest to other member cities.

The consensus regarding the role of the sports community in the development of municipal venues was a recognition of a need to work closely with sports organizations in the city. The sports community provides a valuable resource that not only provides enthusiasm to stage athletic events, but also assists the municipality in developing venues for staging events, and this cooperation provides a continuing benefit to the citizens of the community following the event. The cooperation should be encouraged for the mutual benefit of the sports organizations, the cities, and their residents.

IAMNC Subcommittees Report

Snow and Ice Management

Final Report by the Snow and Ice Management Subcommittee

by George Paul, Chair

What started as a proposal at the 2000 Mayors Conference in Luleå/Kiruna, Sweden to collect information on best practices in snow and ice management was delivered as a final report to the Anchorage Mayors Conference in February 2004.

The report overviews the various committee meetings, the reference materials distributed to subcommittee members, and the internet resources available in snow and ice management. The last ten years have seen a significant increase in the research information available from many agencies around the globe. Perhaps the challenge today is to move this information off the research pages and textbooks and to put the ideas into practice in our communities. It was also apparent from the subcommittee meetings that many communities were eager to share their expertise with others.

Perhaps the most productive activities emerging from the subcommittee meetings were the operational staff exchanges between Aomori and Prince George during January and February of 2003. Two staff members from each city visited their exchange city for a few weeks to observe, to ask questions, and to appreciate the challenges faced and the methods employed to deliver services in each community.

Reports by the staff involved in the exchanges, supplemented with photos, outlined their impressions and lessons learned. The exchanges also promoted friendship and understanding between our communities and identified some of the cultural and climatic differences between our countries. It is important that we appreciate our differences in the context of our cultural backgrounds, community, climate, and

resources available. Surveys from eight cities located in Canada, the United States, and Japan, highlight some of the differences in equipment and in the city and contract manpower used for snow and ice control.

On behalf of the subcommittee we wish to thank the translators and other support staff who were ever present for meetings and e-mail exchanges and who toiled over the technical content of our materials.



Subcommittee reports found an attentive audience

A special personal expression of thanks is extended to Frank Blues, Manager of Transportation for the city of Prince George. Frank was the key person in making the subcommittee successful. He was always vigilant in keeping the process on track and ensuring that the project achieved its goals. In addition, he provided a wealth of experience in snow management that was invaluable to the subcommittee's work.

A copy of the report is available in English, Japanese, and Chinese on the IAMNC web site at <<http://www.city.sapporo.jp/somu/kokusai/iamnc/welcome/index1.htm>>.

Sustainable Winter Cities

Report by the Subcommittee for Sustainable Winter Cities Planning City of Aomori

In the twenty-first century, with the environment a global issue, cities consuming large amounts of energy due to

severe winter climatic conditions have to tackle associated environmental issues on a global scale.

In view of this, the Subcommittee for Sustainable Winter Cities Planning has been considering the concept of a compact city—an urban form with possibilities for sustainable development. The subcommittee strives to realize “winter cities with possibilities for sustainable development” in northern areas around the world by studying and proposing measures that will be effective in the construction of a compact city.

At the Anchorage conference, the subcommittee presented examples of activities carried out by member cities. The city of Aomori, subcommittee secretariat, proposed a method of measuring the effectiveness of the compact city, and it was agreed to continue studying the cases of member cities using this method.

The subcommittee will carry out research with the goal of submitting a final report at the Chungchun conference in 2006.

Natural Disaster Countermeasures

Subcommittee for Countermeasures Against Natural Disasters City of Sapporo

With the presentation of its 300-page report at the Anchorage conference, the Subcommittee for Countermeasures Against Natural Disasters has completed four years of research on the topic.

The report comprises a compilation of disaster cases and countermeasures of a large number of cities for reference by winter cities. Examples of natural disasters were analyzed by location and type, and the report details types of natural disasters and how and when they occurred.

The subcommittee is planning to post the disaster information on a Winternet web page.

Winter Cities Anchorage 2004

International Culture Night

Mayors, delegates, and residents of Alaska enjoyed two hours of entertainment from around the world at Winter Cities 2004. International Culture Night was so popular that the mayor of Anchorage has requested that it become an annual event in Anchorage.

Alaskan's were thrilled by visiting entertainers, including throat singer Byambakhishig Lkjagva and opera singer Ganbatpurev Jay, both from Mongolia, and by Chinese musicians Du Bo, on the Chinese urheen, and Wu Baoli, on the Chinese zither.

Top entertainers from Alaska shared their many talents as well, including award-winning Pamyua.



Winter Cities Forum

Winter Cities Forum

Mark Premo, chairman of the Winter Cities Forum put together an impressive group of over 45 speakers for the nearly 400 persons who attended the Winter Cities Educational Sessions.

Speakers came from Japan, Norway, Canada, Finland, the United States, Sweden, and Greenland. Topics ranged from "Playgrounds in Schools and Residential Areas" to "Masonry Construction Requirements in Severe Winter Climates."

In addition to the Forum topics, delegates were also able to participate in Tech Tours of Anchorage's Emergency Operations Center, the Alaska Native Medical Center—the largest and newest hospital in Anchorage, and other sites of interest.

International Marketplace

Winter Cities International Marketplace was a three-day exhibition of over 100 booths displaying culture, arts and crafts, and entertainment from around the world. Open to the public, over fifteen thousand people enjoyed the sights and sounds of the countries represented.

A collection of art work from school age children around the world was displayed in the lobby of the Egan Center. Children from Taebaek, Korea displayed some beautiful watercolor works. Prints are being sold at events throughout Anchorage, with the money raised going back to participating schools.



International Children's Art Exhibition

Youth and Citizen Forum

Mayors of winter cities met with the youths and residents of Alaska, sharing with their audiences what they do to make life in each of their cities more enjoyable in winter.

The mayors of Sapporo and Aomori, Japan; Maardu, Estonia; Saute St. Marie, Canada; Prince George, Canada, and Tromso, Norway gave presentations to an audience of over 400, many of whom were children. Mayors shared with the audience tourism and recreational opportunities and reports on economic development.

The audience was able to take home a greater understanding of other cultures and notions of what makes all of us unique in our life-styles and yet so similar in other respects.

Collaborative Tourism Promotion

As part of an effort to revitalize the WWCAM, association members agreed in Anchorage to participate in the JATA World Tourism Congress and Travel Fair 2004 in Tokyo, September 24-26. Collaborative activities such as this strengthen the WWCAM, and member cities will discuss other projects at the annual meeting of the Working-Level Officials of the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors.

The World Tourism and Travel Fair is an opportunity for tourism bureaus and travel organizations around the world to promote tourism opportunities to travel agencies in Japan and to the general public in Tokyo.



Changchun reception

Changchun: 2006 Host City Reception

Changchun, China, host city of Winter Cities 2006, held a great reception in Anchorage, showcasing their city and hospitality. Highlights of the evening included musicians Du Bo, on the Chinese zither, and Wu Baoli, on the urheen, a classical Chinese instrument. Both musicians also entertained guests at International Culture Night.

Changchun also displayed about twenty banners depicting their city and culture. Mayor Mark Begich was pleased at the end of the evening when the city of Changchun presented Anchorage with these banners.

The city of Anchorage is now working on a permanent display for the banners.

Mayor Mark Begich on Anchorage Winter Cities '04

Northern Intercity News: Mayor Begich, what's your assessment of the Anchorage Mayors Conference?

Mayor Begich: I think the conference has shown that the Anchorage community comes out strong in support of activities like this through their volunteerism. We have, I believe, shown some incredible hospitality and provided good opportunities to show how our city operates.

The Mayors Conference takes place at the time of our big winter festival, which I think is very appropriate. When you talk about winter cities, this kind of event is essential because you have to ensure that your community and your city make it through the whole winter, and I think that these winter events have had a very important role in that.

I think that the conference itself has gone very well. A few glitches here and there, perhaps, but I think, in general, we have done a real good job in ensuring that all the participants have the things they need, providing them with information about different examples of what other cities are doing and offering, and we've had, I believe, good debates, which is very positive. Sometimes you go to a conference, and all you do is listen and leave, but having debates has sparked a lot of interest among mayors. So I think the conference for Anchorage has been a very strong statement for us as a city, showing that we can host international events of this type.

We are also going to learn a lot about how other cities have been dealing with winter conditions. We are a very young city, so we need to consider the best practices and best ideas and learn from others; Aomori and Sapporo, for example, had some great examples, such as the snow bins that are used to melt snow. In Anchorage,

we have a continuing problem with where to store our snow. So there are some ideas there that I am going to seriously consider. Ideas about compact town centers is another area of interest.



Mark Begich, mayor of Anchorage

How does the conference benefit Anchorage?

I really think the whole idea of snow removal is the number one topic that I want to learn about from other cities, and I just learned from them very good ideas. The other piece is how other communities deal with housing and public transportation. I think we can learn a great deal from other cities on how to improve our public transportation system to meet winter city conditions. I would hope that in conferences we might talk about transportation—pedestrian, vehicle, and public transportation.

The conference has been very beneficial, and for me personally it has been enjoyable to meet many people from around the globe. From their knowledge I learned a great deal and my employees gained a lot.

How is the international character of the conference important for Anchorage?

When I took office eight months ago, I talked about Anchorage as an international city, and we consider ourselves the crossroads of the world. And so we have to now act like an international city and that means involving ourselves internationally not just once in two years but on an ongoing basis. So I think from the city's perspective you will see more involvement not only in the winter cities element in an international conference, but again reaching out to the friends I got to know here in the areas of cultural exchanges, trade, and educational opportunities.

What has been the interest level in the conference among Anchorage residents?

I wish more people had attended, but I think we have had coverage on local TV every night. And we got very good coverage in a local newspaper. Ten years ago when Anchorage hosted the conference, I heard that the first article on the conference questioned why the city should spend money on the event—a very negative article. I think now the media here are embracing the event as a very good opportunity.

I think people who live here have not had opportunities to see winter innovations that could make life better.

People wondered why I was interested in holding another conference, but when I explained the advantages, there was a lot of interest. I wish more citizens had participated. I think people will realize the benefits of the conference and want to be involved in planning neighborhoods and learning more about the whole issue of snow. I think that will engage a lot of community interest and when a mayor explains where we got that information, I think it will be very enlightening to our communities.

Introducing Four WWCAM Cities

Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Russia

Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, the administrative center of the Sakhalin region, is a unique socio-economic entity determining the style and substance of Russia's only archipelago administrative region.

As of early 2000, about 300 foreign businesses were registered in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, and about forty accredited offices of companies from Japan, South Korea, the United States, and China were in operation here. Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk has sister-city affiliations with Hakodate and Asahikawa in Japan, and Yanzsy, China, and the city has an agreement of friendship and cooperation with the cities of Wakkanai, Japan and Ansan, South Korea.

The people of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk are sure that a great future lies before their city, which, no doubt, will evolve into one of the best cities of the Russian Far East.

Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk is located in the Susunai lowland at the foothills of the Susunai mountain range. Its climate is monsoonal with mild, snowy winters and cool, wet summers. As of early 2000, the city's population was more than 180,000, or one-third of the population of Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands.



Mayor Fedor I. Sidorenko

Dear Friends!

As the mayor of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, I am happy to pass my greetings to all members of WWCAM and to the people of all countries represented in this association.

It is a great honor for Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk to become a member of the association. And on behalf of all citizens, I would like to express our gratitude for this.

Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk has many challenges and my great desire is to make the city more comfortable for living. Together with other members of the association we can learn how to stand against crime, poverty, and many other problems of everyday life.

Our city looks forward to active cooperation with member cities!

Fedor I. Sidorenko,
Mayor of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk

Changchun, China

Changchun, the capital of Jilin Province, is the beautiful political, economic, and cultural center of the province. Changchun enjoys a reputation for its automobile industry, and the surrounding Liaoning Plain is known for its corn and soybean production.



Changchun's Cultural Square

Changchun: Everyone's Destination

Changchun has many tourist attractions, including the Changchun Film Studio, a pioneer of the Chinese Film Industry, and at the Changchun Film Castle, visitors learn the history of Chinese film. The biennial Changchun International Film Festival attracts many people.

In Changchun, the former capital of old Manchuria, the remains of the old imperial palace, the Mansion of the Northeastern Japanese Army Commander, the Puppet Man-



Imperial Palace of former Manchuria, Changchun.

churian State Council, and the Eight Ministries of the Puppet Regime have been preserved.

Other popular sightseeing spots are Cultural Square, Nan Hu Park, and the Geological Palace. Many tourists from China and abroad come to the Changchun Jingyuetan Lake Snow and Ice Festival every winter and enjoy skiing, skating, and dog sledding.

Jilin, China

The city of *Jilin* is located along the Changbai Mountain range in Jilin Province in northeastern China.

Jilin was an important political, economic, and cultural center of the Qin Dynasty and is the birthplace of Manchurian culture. The city has grown to become one of the thirty-two metropolitan areas in China with populations of more than one million.

The Songhua River runs through the city, and many theme parks have been built in the clear water and green belt area near the river.

Songhua Lake in Jilin contributes to the city's rich

Northern City of Culture and Nature



Jilin's Songhua River

water resources. The Fengman Hydro-power Plant and a large number of heavy industries have been built here, encouraging Jilin's growth.

A City of Winter Tourism

Beishan Hill Ice and Snow World and the Ice Sports Center are major attractions, and nearby are two large ski resorts. The frosted trees here are one of the four natural wonders of China.

With abundant nature and friendly residents, the city of Jilin and its people have been striving to make a more attractive and comfortable city in a natural setting.

Shenyang, China



Shenyang Palace

Historic and Scenic Shenyang

liang, a marshal in the early twentieth century.

Shenyang has beautiful natural scenery, including Qipan Mountain Scenery Area, Shenyang Strange Slope, which is said to be China's number one wonder, and Aeroliths Mountain.

In addition, dynamic festivals and culture add color to the natural landscape. There are large-scale festivals

held throughout the year in Shenyang, such as the Qing Dynasty International Cultural Tourism Festival, Beiling Snow Festival, Qipan Mountain Snow Festival, Shengjing Cultural Festival, and Nanhu Color Lantern Festival.

Shenyang warmly welcomes visitors from around the world. Please come and see us in fascinating and beautiful Shenyang.



Shenyang financial district

Shenyang, capital of Liaoning Province, is a cultural, commercial, and information center of northeastern China. It is also a city rich with history and culture and has numerous historical remains and ruins, including the Xinle Relic, 7,200 year-old ruins; Shenyang Imperial Palace, an ancient imperial structure; Fuling and Zhaoling Tombs, the tombs of Shi Huangdi of the Qin Dynasty; and the former residence of Zhang Xue-

What is the "WWCAM"?

Winter cities face the common task of having to adapt city planning to harsh winter climatic conditions. Under the slogan "Winter is a Resource and an Asset," the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors (WWCAM) provides winter cities with an opportunity to meet and discuss common concerns in order to create livable winter cities.

The WWCAM was initiated when the city of Sapporo founded the Northern Intercity Conference in 1981. Since then, the Mayors Conferences have been held in winter cities around the world, where mayors have shared experiences and offered solutions to improve winter livability.

At the eleventh biennial conference in Anchorage in February 2004, it was resolved that membership in the organization would no longer be restricted to cities in northern regions and that the name of the organization would be changed to the "World Winter Cities Association for Mayors (WWCAM)."

The mayor of Sapporo has served as president of the organization since the International Association of Mayors of Northern Cities was established, and its secretariat has been located in the city of Sapporo.



Anchorage, Alaska

Mayors Conferences

- 1982**—first Northern Intercity Conference: Sapporo, Japan
- 1985**—second Northern Intercity Conference: Shenyang, China

1988—third Northern Intercity Conference: Edmonton, Canada

1990—fourth Northern Intercity Conference of Mayors: Tromsø, Norway

1992—fifth Northern Intercity Conference of Mayors: Montréal, Canada

1994—sixth Northern Intercity Conference of Mayors: Anchorage, U.S.A.

1996—seventh Northern Intercity Conference of Mayors: Winnipeg, Canada

1998—eighth Northern Intercity Conference of Mayors: Harbin, China

2000—ninth Northern Intercity Conference of Mayors: Luleå/Kiruna, Sweden

2002—tenth Northern Intercity Conference of Mayors: Aomori, Japan

2004—eleventh Northern Intercity Conference of Mayors: Anchorage, U.S.A.

2006—twelfth World Winter Cities Conference for Mayors, Changchun, China

2008—thirteenth World Winter Cities Conference for Mayors: Nuuk, Greenland

From
World Winter Cities
Association for Mayors
Secretariat
c/o City of Sapporo
060-8611 JAPAN

To



PRINTED MATTER

PAR AVION
VIA AIR MAIL