



Representatives of WWCAM cities wore traditional Chinese jackets at a welcome reception hosted by Zhu Yejing, the mayor of Changchun.

Changchun Welcomes 12th WWCAM Conference

The World Winter Cities Association for Mayors (WWCAM) held its twelfth biennial Mayors Conference in Changchun, China, January 15 to 18, 2006. "Grow in Winter" was the theme of the four-day event.

As in each of its previous conferences, mayors and city officials gathered to present and discuss important winter topics of interest to the many winter city members of the WWCAM. Highlighting the Mayors Conference were issues related to winter environmental concerns and winter life-style solutions.

Winter Environmental Issues

The city of Changchun kicked off the Mayors Conference with a

presentation on environmental pollution, energy conservation, urban transportation, and the greening of the city.

Changchun also expressed keen interest in learning how other WWCAM member cities deal with winter-related environmental and life-style issues, and how they use applicable technologies.

Woody Biomass in Canada and Sweden

The first case presentation was made by the city of Prince George, Canada on heating systems utilizing woody biomass, including wood pellets, a solid fuel produced by

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Representation from Around the Globe at Changchun

Mayors and officials from twenty-nine cities representing thirteen countries participated in events at the twelfth Mayors Conference, including—

Canada: Leduc, Prince George

China: Baiyin, Changchun, Harbin, Jiamusi, Jilin, Jixi, Kunming, Mianyang, Qiqihar, Shenyang, Siping, Tianjin, Tonghua, Urumchi

Estonia: Maardu

Greenland: Nuuk

Japan: Aomori, Sapporo, Sendai

Korea: Taebaek

Lithuania: Kaunas

Norway: Tromsø

Russia: Magadan

Serbia and Montenegro: Novi Sad

Slovakia: Zilina

Sweden: Kalmar

U.S.A.: Anchorage



Visitors gather at the site of the Winter Expo in Changchun.

Facts on Changchun

Changchun is the capital of China's northeastern province of Jilin. The city has a population of 7.18 million, an area of 20,571 km², and an average annual temperature of 5.2°C. Automobile and film industries prosper in Changchun.

crushing and densifying waste wood products, such as sawdust, forestry residue, and waste paper. The use of woody biomass, the Forum audi-

ence learned, is an effective way to reduce heating costs and reliance on fossil fuels.

Wood pellets for heating also had a role in the presentation by the city of Kalmar, Sweden, which has been very progressive in the area of conservation and environmental protection. The presenter for Kalmar discussed the use of wood pellets in Sweden and noted how well the pellets help reduce CO₂. The city of Kalmar also demonstrated, using graphs and charts, how the city has set a goal to eliminate the use of fossil fuels from every area of community life.



Presentations were made at the Mayors Conference on the use of wood pellets for heating by Kalmar, Sweden (left) and by Prince George, Canada.



heating and cooling system in which cold and hot water and steam are supplied to buildings from local heat supply facilities. The city also introduced its

District Heating and Cooling System in Sapporo

The city of Sapporo, Japan introduced its environment-friendly

refuse-derived fuel (RDF), which is made from refuse wood, paper, and plastic waste and is used as one of various heat sources in the downtown heat supply facility.



Mayors and city officials confer at the Changchun Mayors Conference.

Maardu Plans for Environmental Protection

The city of Maardu, Estonia introduced its environmental preservation plan, which incorporates energy-saving measures.

Members of the audience paid careful attention to the unique environmental solutions that each of the presenting cities is developing and implementing.

Changchun Declaration

On the last day of the Mayors Conference, a Changchun Declaration was adopted by the WWCAM, urging cities to collaborate on solutions to environmental issues, and acknowledging that environmental issues are of global concern. The Changchun Declaration proclaims that—

- Environmental issues such as global warming are serious issues that all cities have to urgently deal with no matter where they are located.
- In winter cities, with their low temperatures, heavy snowfalls, and harsh climatic conditions, the consumption of energy for heating and for snow removal and melting is enormous, and with rapid urbanization excessive energy consumption has been adversely affecting the global environment year after year.
- Acknowledging that urban activities with reduced energy consumption and with less impact on the environment are important for dealing with environmental issues, we, the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors, hereby declare that each city will deal with these issues with its utmost wisdom and effort.
- The Association also declares that the ideals of the declaration should be promoted to as many winter cities of the world as possible, and that the Association will make its utmost effort to spread these ideals through education and information.

Improving Winter Life Styles

Following the Mayors Conference presentations on winter environmental issues, participating cities discussed solutions to issues related to winter life styles, introducing the innovations they have established in their cities.

Unique Winter Horticulture in the City of Aomori

The city of Aomori, Japan introduced a unique system of horticulture, "kanjime," in which vegetables can be grown in severe winter conditions. Kanjime is a method of growing vegetables, such as spinach, which have high cold-resistance, in a green house covered by double-layer vinyl sheets. Neither fuel for heating nor agricultural chemicals are necessary in the kanjime system, and the vegetables cultivated this way have high nutritional value. Aomori's presentation attracted a lot of interest among the conference participants.

From a Coal Mining Town to a Winter Resort

A presentation by Taebaek, Korea, introduced the city's efforts to transform Taebaek into a winter tourist resort, putting into use the beautiful landscape of nearby snow-covered mountains that now offer large-scale ski resort facilities. Taebaek's transformation has led to a large volume of tourists and has made a favorable impact on the city's economy.



The Winter Expo (left) and the Winter Cities Forum attracted many interested persons.

Subcommittee Reports

The Subcommittee for Sustainable Winter Cities Planning (secretariat: the city of Aomori) and the Subcommittee for Countermeasures Against Terrorism in Northern Cities (secretariat: the city of Anchorage) presented in Changchun final reports on the research they conducted.

Aomori conducted research on the concept of the compact city, and the final report reveals that compact city planning is very effective in reducing energy used for heating and snow removal and disposal, and in reducing CO₂ emissions and administrative costs.

A compact city is a sustainable urban form that resolves problems created by urban expansion. In a compact city, residences and workplaces are close together, reducing traffic congestion caused by commuters in cars and enabling

residents to reach nearby shopping areas and public facilities on foot by revitalizing the city center.

The city of Anchorage stressed, in its final report of the Subcommittee for Countermeasures against Terrorism in Northern Cities, that terrorism is an extraordinary situation in terms of crisis management for which cities have to be well-prepared. The need to establish crisis management centers to coordinate activities with related organizations was proposed in the report.

A new WWCAM subcommittee was established in Changchun to research environmental issues in winter cities. The secretariat will be assumed by the city of Sapporo.

Winter Cities Forum and Winter Expo

The Winter Cities Forum and Winter Expo were held in conjunction with the Mayors Conference in Changchun.

At the Winter Cities Forum, thirty academics and professionals from China and other countries made presentations on winter environmental issues and life styles, including topics related to winter city planning, snow removal, and tourism promotion.

More than 300 companies and organizations from China and other countries exhibited at the Winter Expo. Large numbers of local residents and businesses visited the booths and learned about the latest winter-related products and technology.



Final reports from WWCAM subcommittees.



**WWCAM Interests
Magadan, Russia**

Yuriy F Grishan, vice mayor of Magadan, Russia, was interviewed in Changchun about his experience at the Mayors Conference.

Vice Mayor Grishan:

I was impressed with the WWCAM conference. Participating cities deal with many challenging issues, and I learned so many important things that I felt as if I were in school here in Changchun.

The city of Changchun went out



The Traffic Control Center was one of the sites offered in a technical tour of Changchun.

of its way to welcome the conference participants. I am sure it is very difficult to manage such a large-scale conference; however, I

think all of the events were very successful.

Magadan is a city keenly interested in energy conservation, and we hope to exchange ideas and information about the energy-related measures and policies of the member cities, once we are accepted as a member.

Last but not least, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to staff members of the city of Changchun and the Association Secretariat for their hard work to make the conference a great success.



WWCAM mayors pose with young dancers after a performance of traditional Chinese dance attended by conference participants.



See you in Nuuk! Nuuk, Greenland will host the 13th biennial Mayors Conference in 2008.

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