



Scenes from the WWCAM Working-Level Officials Meeting in Nuuk, Greenland in July.

Environmental Issues Concern Winter City Mayors

## 13th Mayors Conference Planned for Nuuk, Greenland

**A**t its annual Working-Level Officials Meeting, representatives of the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors (WWCAM) discussed plans for the thirteenth biennial Mayors Conference in 2008, including conference themes and the organization and operation of the Mayors Conference. The future operation of the association was also on the agenda of the meeting, which was held in Nuuk, the capital of Greenland.

### Global Warming

"Climatic Changes in the Arctic" will be the theme of the Mayors Conference and the Winter Expo and Winter Cities Forum, which run concurrently with the Mayors Conference.

Climatic changes in the arctic are represented by melting ice and glaciers, signs of global warming and warnings to the whole world. The consequences of global warming are serious issues not only for those living in the arctic; everyone everywhere will feel its effects.

If WWCAM winter cities present their challenges and solutions to environmental issues, share their experiences and wisdom at the Mayors Conference, and work together on these issues, some progress toward alleviating environmental problems of the arctic can be achieved.

At the Working-Level Officials Meeting, it was agreed that all WWCAM member cities will work

hard to make the Nuuk Conference meaningful, and for its part, the city of Nuuk has demonstrated great enthusiasm to make the 2008 Mayors Conference a very large and successful event by promoting the conference on global environmental issues in the arctic around the world.

Conference Dates:

January 17 to 20, 2008

Host City: Nuuk, Greenland

Main Theme: Climatic Changes in the Arctic

Subthemes: Measures for Reducing the Impact of Global Warming; Sustainable Development within Winter Cities

### Subcommittee on Winter City Environmental Issues

The Subcommittee on Winter City Environmental Issues, which was established in 2006 at the twelfth Mayors Conference in Changchun, China, held its first meeting in Nuuk. Themes and research activities of the subcommittee were discussed.

It was agreed to make "global environmental issues" the theme of the subcommittee, and the time remaining until the thirteenth Mayors Conference in Nuuk in

*Please see page 2*



WWCAM officials gather in Nuuk.

2008 was established as the period “for each member city to have a common awareness of environmental issues.” The two years from the Nuuk conference to the 2010 Mayors Conference in Prince George, Canada, were designated the period “to act upon environmental issues.” During this period, the outcome of research to be conducted by the subcommittee will be disseminated worldwide.

At the subcommittee meeting, the cities of Nuuk; Anchorage, U.S.A.; and Taebaek, Korea made presentations on environmental issues that they face.

### Anchorage Takes Action

Environmental issues in Anchorage were presented in a lecture by David Ramseur, chief of staff to Mayor Mark Begich.

The effects of global warming include melting ice, glaciers, and permafrost in Alaska. As a result polar bears drown because there is less sea ice for them to swim to.



*Global warming threatens wildlife in Alaska (above), and David Ramseur discusses environmental issues in Anchorage (below).*



Also, abandoned walrus calves have been discovered because of a lack of food resulting from increased water temperatures. There are other serious ecological problems as well,

such as new types of salmon diseases.

Anchorage has advanced environmentally friendly policies and initiatives to counter global warming, including the utilization of high winds and methane gas collection systems to generate electric power.

The city also promotes the recycling of cooking oil by blending small amounts of it with diesel oil for use as vehicle fuel, and Anchorage has a program that recycles glass by crushing it into a fine sand-like form to use for traction on railroad tracks.

In addition, a new convention center is under construction that will be a state-of-the-art model of energy efficiency. The center will utilize innovative heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems. It is expected that the new design will considerably reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and save significantly on operational costs. Finally, Anchorage is writing a city ordinance that calls for energy efficiency in public buildings.

### 2006 Collaborative Project

## Winter Promoted in Mid-Summer Beijing

WWCAM member cities Shenyang and Changchun, China; Taebaek, Korea; and Aomori and Sapporo, Japan shared a booth at the International Tourism Expo in Beijing, China, June 22 through 24, 2006. This collaborative promotion of tourism in winter cities was organized by the WWCAM to promote the unique attractions of winter cities. Popular tourist attractions in the participating cities were also highlighted. A similar arrangement was organized by the WWCAM in 2005.

The climate contrast between Beijing and WWCAM member cities may have helped draw attention to the WWCAM booth. Temperatures



*Winter Cities attracted Expo visitors.*

in Beijing rose to a very humid 30°C (86°F) during the Expo, and

the city's mild winters offer little opportunity for Beijing residents to experience extreme cold and deep snow. Many Expo visitors cooled off viewing the video and photo displays of the splendid winter scenery offered at the WWCAM booth.

In addition to the viewing public, visitors to the Expo and the WWCAM booth included representatives of tourism industries, who made inquiries about climate and access to sightseeing spots for the purpose of future tour planning.

More than 600 organizations from over 60 countries and regions participated in the Beijing International Tourism Expo.



# Magadan, Russia Expands WWCAM Membership to 20 Cities

## WWCAM Welcomes Twentieth Member City

The city of Magadan, Russia, which participated as an observer at the twelfth Mayors Conference in Changchun, China, officially became a member of the World Winter City Association for Mayors in July 2006, increasing WWCAM membership to twenty cities from eleven countries.

## The City of Magadan

Magadan, the youngest regional center in the Russian Far East will celebrate its 70th birthday in 2009. This capital of the golden land of the Kolyma region is characterized by geological and scientific discoveries, a romantic pioneering tradition, and the tragic past of the Soviet Republic.

Magadan is very picturesque. The Magadanka River flows through the city, and nearby rivers and bays are rich with fish. Magadan residents enjoy spending time in the city's outskirts, where woods are full of berries and mushrooms.

## Magadan's Winters

Magadan's climate is quite harsh. The average January temperature is  $-19.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-3.1^{\circ}\text{F}$ ), and the temperature can drop to  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-22^{\circ}\text{F}$ ). The first snow appears in October, and it can snow in May. The maximum height of the snow blanket is 105 centimeters (41 inches) in December and 115 centimeters (45 inches) in May. Summers are short and often quite rainy. It is fair in Magadan for 42 days a year and cloudy for more



*Winter street scenes in Magadan.*



than 176 days. The July temperature averages between  $8.8^{\circ}$  ( $48^{\circ}$ ) and  $11.1^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $52^{\circ}\text{F}$ ). Magadan experiences the polar nights from June to August.

## Magadan Economy

Magadan's production infrastructure is represented by engineering, transportation, machinery, metal working, fishing and seafood processing, processing plants, service companies, and agriculture. Magadan has partnerships with Pacific Rim countries, and the city has business ties in the export and import of bunker fuel with the partners from the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea.

Approximately 80 joint companies are successfully conducting

business in Magadan. Fifty-two percent of them are involved in production, and others are in the service and seafood processing industries. The offices of the leading regional companies are located in Magadan. A Special Economic Zone project allows Magadan to attract investment from large domestic and foreign companies.

Magadan's international seaport offers year-round navigation, in spite of the fact that Nagarevo Bay is locked in ice for eight months. The city's international airport serves all types of aircraft, and it provides good services for both passengers and cargo.

## Science, Culture, and Education

Magadan is a center for science, culture, and education.

It has six scientific institutes, the Northern International University, the branches of six central Russia universities, museums, theaters, and libraries. Sports activities are growing fast, especially winter sports.

## WWCAM Broadens Magadan's International Ties

Magadan is also strengthening its international ties. Magadan has three sister cities: Anchorage, U.S.A.; Dunhua, China; and Elgava, Latvia.

City authorities hope that participation in the WWCAM will contribute to the exchanges of experiences in the administration of local self-government, of information, and of new technologies dedicated to the development of cities in severe climatic conditions.

At Winter Cities Forum in Changchun

# Wood Pellets: an Earth-Friendly Fuel

*Twenty-eight professionals and academic researchers from a variety of disciplines made presentations on winter lifestyles and city planning at the Winter Cities Forum in Changchun, China in January 2006. The forum was held concurrently with the twelfth World Winter Cities Conference for Mayors. Wood pellets as an eco-energy was the topic of two presentations, and these are introduced below.*



Bo Lindholm of Kalmar discussed the promotion of wood pellets as a non-polluting solid fuel.



Masahiro Nakajima, chairman of the Ashoro Town Wood Pellet Study Group, presented the experience of Ashoro.

## Wood Pellets in Kalmar, Sweden

by Bo Lindholm

Wood pellets are used to produce 47 percent of the electricity generated in Kalmar, making the city the most advanced among Swedish cities noted for efficient use of biomass.

The wood pellet is a solid fuel manufactured from the waste products of sawmills and other wood processing industries. No chemical additives are used. When burning, wood pellets do not generate carbon dioxide. Products reusing forest resources have recently been attracting attention as fuels with little adverse environmental effect.

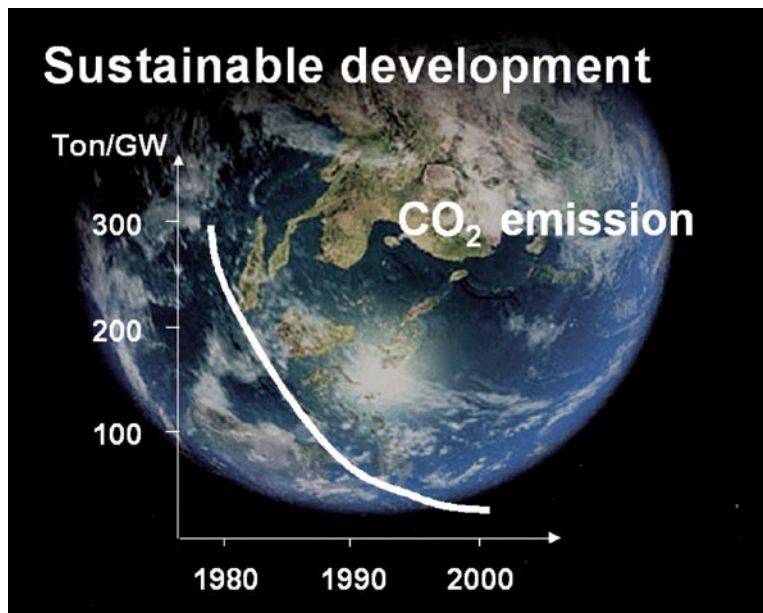
Kalmar has acknowl-

edged the advantages of the wood pellet for more than 20 years and has been promoting its use. At present, wood pellets are used for heating private homes and for ther-

mal power generation, supplying electricity to various sectors. As a result, emissions of carbon dioxide have been reduced to less than one tenth of their levels 20 years ago.

The city of Kalmar plans to continue promoting the use of wood pellets through legislation, by imposing taxes on energy use and carbon dioxide emissions, by providing subsidies for the use of wood pellets, and by deregulating electricity trading.

The final goal of the city of Kalmar is to achieve a situation that is a hundred percent free from dependence on fossil fuels, such as coal and oil.



CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have dropped dramatically in Kalmar.



# Wood Pellets in Ashoro, Japan

by Masahiro Nakajima

Ashoro is a small town of 8,500 residents. About 80 percent of the total land area is forest, and key industries are agriculture and forestry.

Four years ago, Ashoro started producing wood pellets from lumber remnants as part of the town's revitalization plan. Prior to the start of production, we visited Sweden to learn about the use of wood pellets there, and Mr. Bo Lindholm provided us with valuable information.

In March 2003, after much trial and error, we

established the Ashoro Town Wood Pellet Study Group, composed of private-sector businesses, public

research institutes, and local and national governments. In 2005, the Tokachi Pellet Cooperative was established.

Challenges to marketing wood pellets include weak demand, and other forms of eco-energy have emerged. The competitive benefits of wood pellets need to be increased.

To free our dependence on fossil fuels, and to promote measures against global warming, we believe that wood pellets are the most suitable alternative energy, and we will continue to promote the use of them.



Wood pellets are produced from waste wood.

At Winter Expo in Changchun

## Energy-Efficient Housing Displayed

Ikesugi Construction Co., Ltd. displayed its Outside Insulation House at Winter Expo in Changchun in January 2006. The Japanese company uses a highly energy-efficient construction method it calls the Styro House System (SHS), which minimizes heat loss and reduces the need for cooling and heating. SHS completely covers the framework, the foundation, beams, and pillars of a new home with several kinds of heat shields and insulators. As a result, temperature differences among rooms in a home are smaller compared to traditional homes, providing comfort throughout the year.

In addition, condensation rarely forms inside a house with SHS insulators, and this keeps founda-

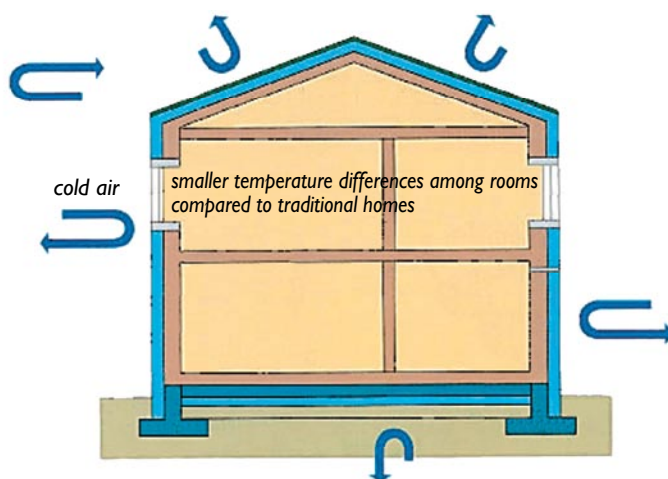


Ikesugi's energy-efficient construction methods on display at Winter Expo.

tions and pillars free from rotting, and the structure's life is extended. Condensation is also a source of mold, and mold feeds ticks, which can cause allergic contact dermatitis, infantile asthma, and atypical dermatitis. The SHS construction method is decidedly good for the health of residents.

Ikesugi Construction Co., Ltd. displayed models of wall sections of large and small houses, offering Expo visitors an opportunity to view the unique features of the Outside Insulation House.

Ikesugi was one of 24 Japanese companies that exhibited at Winter Expo, which was held in Changchun, China in conjunction with the twelfth World Winter City Conference for Mayors.



Ikesugi's Outside Insulation House.

## WWCAM's City-to-City Exchange

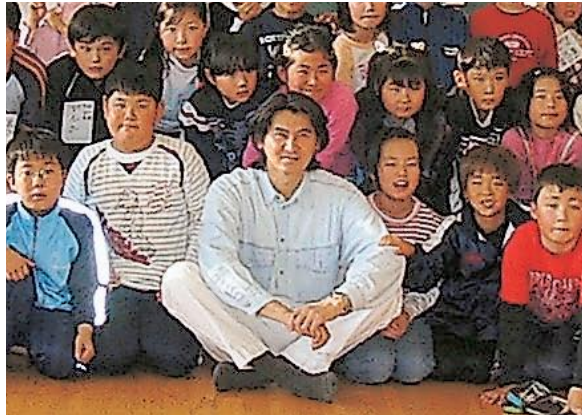
# Ulaanbaatar Trainee at Sapporo City Hall

*In an agreement among members of the WWCAM to conduct personnel exchanges, the city of Sapporo has, since 2001, invited officials from Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia to train in Sapporo. Bold Khayangarav of the International Relations Department of the city of Ulaanbaatar had an on-the-job training in administrative affairs in Sapporo from June to November 2005. An interview with Mr. Khayangarav appears below.*

**WWCAM Secretariat:** *What's your impression of Sapporo?*

Khayangarav: Before coming here, I heard that Sapporo was a beautiful city, and it was really true. The climate here is similar to that of Ulaanbaatar—not too hot or too cold. It is very comfortable here, and I like it. I am very impressed by the city's extensive transportation network, which is different from Ulaanbaatar.

*Please tell us about the purpose*



**Bold Khayangarav** sits among elementary school children after talking to them about Mongolia.

*of your training here and your thoughts about your experience.*

The primary purpose of my training was to study administrative organization in Japan. Because Japanese administration is extremely efficient, I learned a lot. I hope to be able to take back to Ulaanbaatar as many lessons as possible.

*What issues related to winter does Ulaanbaatar have?*

Air pollution—in particular, the smoke produced by coal and wood used for heating—is increasingly a problem. There are many people

flowing into Ulaanbaatar from outside the city, and the city has been rapidly expanding. The majority of these immigrants set up yurts in open land without notifying the city. In these yurts, wood and coal-burning stoves are used without proper ventilation, and this has led to increased air pollution.

As a countermeasure, low-polluting, high-quality coal is being imported from overseas; however, for some it is not affordable, so thermal power generation remains one of the main causes of air pollution.

*As a member of the WWCAM since 1998, in the future what kinds of winter activities do you think that your city will be involved in?*

Snow removal and environmental pollution are currently big issues, so we would like to learn more about the winter environmental measures of other member cities through WWCAM activities and apply them to our city planning.

From  
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