



World Winter City News

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May 2007



Nuuk, Greenland, site of the 13th Mayors Conference in January 2008.

13th Mayors Conference Will Tackle Global Warming

Nuuk, Greenland Readies for WWCAM Conferees

Global Warming Challenges a Winter City

Global warming is threatening Nuuk, the capital and Arctic metropolis of Greenland. The Greenland Ice Sheet is melting, the sea level is rising, and the ecological system on the world's largest island is changing.

We who live in winter cities cannot ignore the reality of global warming. For that reason, the effect of climate change on our fragile environment is the focus of the thirteenth Mayors Conference in Nuuk, Greenland, from 17 to 20 January 2008. "Climatic Changes in the Arctic" is the conference theme, and mayors and representatives of winter cities will gather in Nuuk to learn, to exchange information, and to affirm their determination to deal with the problems caused by global warming.

What is happening in the Arctic?

In addition to the Greenland Ice Sheet, the permafrost is also melting. Hunting by dogsled is no longer possible, and polar bears drown due to losses of sea ice. On a global scale, the melting of the ice sheet and glaciers is causing a rise in ocean levels, and increasing temperatures are changing our ecological system. The Arctic and our lives are directly linked.

Three-Part Conference

The thirteenth World Winter Cities Conference of Mayors will comprise three components.

- **A Mayors Conference:** Mayors of winter cities will meet to exchange opinions and discuss topics such as "Measures for Reducing the Impact of Global Warming" and "Sustainable Development Within Winter Cities."

- **A Winter Cities Forum:** Speakers will present their research on topics related to global warming. Examples include "The Fate of the Ice Sheet," "Resources of the West Greenlandic Sea," "The Condition of the Ozone Layer," "The Permafrost Melts," and "The Global Climate in 2020—Should We Worry?" It is also hoped that speakers at Forum will encourage the mayors to make a Nuuk Declaration to the benefit of our environment.

- **A Winter Expo:** The Expo will feature winter- and snow-related exhibits, including machinery, commercial products, and winter-related technologies. Expo exhibits will be displayed in Nuuk's exhibition hall, Inus-sivik, and exhibitors will include large companies that work in the environmental field, businesses that wish to market goods that are of interest to residents of winter cities, and exhibitors from WWCAM member cities.

For information on Nuuk and the conference, please visit the Nuuk web site: www.wintercitiesnuuk.gl and the WWCAM web site www.city.sapporo.jp/somu/kokusai/wwcam/.

Additional Programmes

The city of Nuuk is planning an exciting array of Greenlandic experiences in a variety of cultural events, such as theatre, concerts, and a Culture Night. For the technical tours, it will be possible to ride a snowmo-



"Northern Lights" photographed by Carsten Egevang (Source: Greenland Tourism)

bile, visit an igloo, go skiing, visit a Nuuk-based business—or maybe the local brewery. Nuuk has plenty to offer!

Arctic Metropolis

With only fifteen thousand people, Nuuk is a small capital. However, it has steadily grown and developed and is now an Arctic metropolis with modern facilities. With a brand-new university, which will host the Forum, young Greenlandic academics have the best opportunities for getting an excellent education, and many more students will be able to come to Greenland to study on exchange programmes. In-



(Source: Greenland Tourism)

Greenland scenes.

ternational companies have not hesitated to establish themselves here, once they have discovered the opportunities Greenland offers. Recently, there has been great interest in making Nuuk the centre of mineral exploration and mining.

The famous Greenlandic hospitality also flourishes in Nuuk, and we are happy to be able to turn the thirteenth Mayors Conference into a winter cities celebration as all citizens of Nuuk are looking forward to welcoming our international guests. “Welcome to Nuuk,” or “Nuummut Tikiluaritsi!” as we say in Greenland.

Recent Activities of the WWCAM

Strong Determination to Tackle Global Environmental Issues

The WWCAM has long been concerned with issues involving winter city lifestyles, but recently more emphasis has been placed on environmental issues.

“Winter Environmental Concerns” was a theme at the twelfth Mayors Conference in Changchun, China in January 2006, where four cities presented their measures to counter threats to the environment. Among them, an electricity generation system using woody biomass in Kalmar, Sweden attracted keen interest for its ability to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Also, at the conference, the Changchun Declaration was adopted, recognizing that environmental issues are of global concern.

Subcommittee on Winter City Environmental Issues

As the Changchun Declaration specified, a Subcommittee on

Winter City Environmental Issues was established to study environmental concerns related to winter cities. The subcommittee will deal with environmental issues closely related to civic life, such as energy conservation, environmental education, emissions from vehicles, and other issues.

The first subcommittee meeting was held in July 2006, and information and data regarding environmental concerns of each member city were collected. At the meeting, three cities, Nuuk, Greenland; Anchorage, U.S.A.; and Taebaek, Korea made presentations on environmental measures conducted in their cities.

The next Mayors Conference will be held in Greenland, where the impact of global warming is serious. Also, the WWCAM will continue to study environmental concerns, respecting the ideals of the Changchun Declaration and sharing wisdom and expertise.



Winter environmental issues were topics in Changchun.



WWCAM member Tromsø, Norway.

What's the WWCAM?

World Winter Cities Association for Mayors

“Winter is a resource and an asset.”

The World Winter Cities Association for Mayors (WWCAM) is a network of winter cities around the world that provides members with opportunities to meet and learn from each other about winter technologies and experiences under the slogan “Winter is a Resource and an Asset.” The association, originally the Northern Intercity Conference of Mayors, was initiated by the city of Sapporo in 1981, and the following year the first Mayors Conference was held. In 2004 the organization became the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors.

Major WWCAM Activities

■ World Winter Cities Conference for Mayors

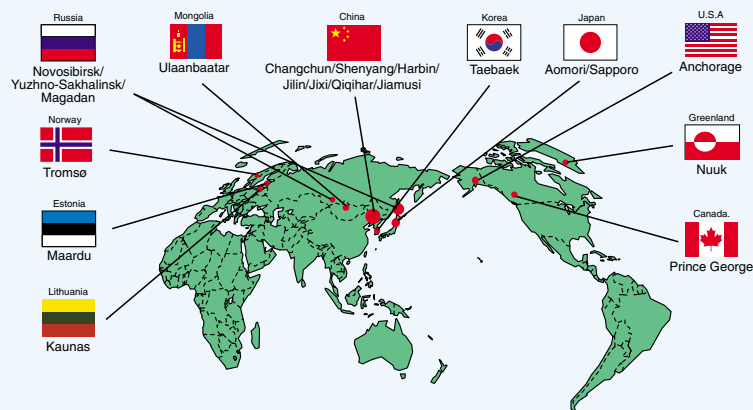
The biennial World Winter Cities Conference for Mayors (Mayors Conference), a major activity of the association, has been convened twelve times since its founding. The conference provides a forum for mayors and city administrators to share expertise and experience on city planning, urban transportation in winter, snow removal, recycling, winter tourism, and other topics common to member cities. Participants gain valuable suggestions on comfortable city planning and techniques to overcome challenges caused by harsh

What's a Winter City?

A winter city is defined by the WWCAM as one that faces harsh winter climatic conditions, including heavy snowfalls and cold temperatures. A winter city also has an annual snow accumulation of more than 20cm (8in.) and an average temperature of 0°C (32°F) or below during the city's coldest month.

twenty cities from
eleven countries as of
May 2007

WWCAM Members



climates. The site of the Mayors Conference rotates among member cities willing to host the event.

■ Winter Expo & Winter Cities Forum

The host city of a Mayors Conference may organize a Winter Expo and a Winter Cities Forum in conjunction with the conference. The host city, along with businesses and organizations of member cities, realizes an exhibition of a range of winter-related products at the Winter Expo.



First Mayors Conference, Sapporo, 1982.

The Winter Cities Forum provides experts and academic researchers, as well as local citizens, with an opportunity to make presentations on winter-related issues, such as lifestyle and city planning. Since the third conference in 1988, the Winter Cities Forum has been held in conjunction with each of the Mayors Conferences.

The addition of the Winter Expo and the Winter Cities Forum to the World Winter Cities Conference for Mayors has greatly increased the scale and significance of the conference.



Mayors Conference (above) and Winter Expo in Changchun, China, 2006.

■ WWCAM Subcommittees

The WWCAM subcommittees conduct research and case studies and exchange information on winter technology. The subcommittees for “Waste Reduction and Recycling,” “Winter Recreation and Tourism,” “Sustainable Winter Cities Planning,” and “Measures Against Terrorism in Northern Cities” are examples of WWCAM subcommittees that have compiled research reports.



WWCAM subcommittee reports.

At present, the Subcommittee on Winter Environmental Issues (secretariat in Sapporo) with “global scale environmental issues” as its main theme, has been collecting information on environmental education and vehicle-related issues; on measures and technology for reducing air and water contamination; and on advanced energy-saving technology. Please visit the web site of the WWCAM for more information.

■ Working-Level Officials Meeting

Working-Level Officials Meetings allow senior administrators of WWCAM member cities to meet and discuss the theme of upcoming Mayors Conferences, as well as important matters related to the management of future conferences.

Membership in the WWCAM

To join the WWCAM, a mayor shall apply to the president for membership. Submit applications to the Secretariat, World Winter Cities Association for Mayors.

■ Benefits of Membership

Members may—

- attend, speak at, and vote at the General Assembly and the Mayors Conference;
- bid to host the Mayors Conference;
- utilize the WWCAM network to conduct information and personnel exchanges with other WWCAM members.



Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Russia.

Now that you're interested...

The WWCAM invites you to join us to make winter cities more livable. Please contact us for more details on membership and registration. The World Winter Cities Association for Mayors Secretariat (Tel: 81-11-211-2032; Fax: 81-11-218-5168; E-mail: wwcam@city.sapporo.jp).

The WWCAM web site contains the latest information on the conference and details of conference outcomes. Your visit to the WWCAM web site is welcomed.

www.city.sapporo.jp/somu/kokusai/wwcam/

Changchun Declaration

- 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 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.

Unique Electric, Stainless Steel Snow-Melter

Meet Mr. Tokasu—

Mr. Tokasu (“Mr. Snow Melter”) was exhibited at the Winter Expo in Changchun, China by the Northern Life Study group of Aomori, Japan. The Expo was held in conjunction with the twelfth Winter Cities Conference for Mayors. Winter-related products of China and other countries were also displayed at the Expo.

The Northern Life Study Group dates back to an Aomori snowstorm in 1984, which resulted in the organization of the Snow Countermeasure Study Committee to deal with snow removal in a shopping mall. In 1989, the committee was renamed the Northern Life Study Group. Since then the group has been promoting snow-related activities in collaboration with government organizations. Three years ago the Group developed

Mr. Tokasu, a new snow-melting device.

Mr. Tokasu uses a stainless steel plate as a heat generator and has many unique features and uses; it can be

used for road heating, snow-melting, or as a heater for walls and floors. Features of the device include—

- temperature can be set up to 1,200°C;
- uniform temperature;
- no exposed wires to break; cannot be damaged by heat;
- runs on either AC or DC;
- installation and repair is easy;
- can be manufactured in any shape;
- operates at a third the cost of other electric snow-melting devices.

The Group has applied for a patent for Mr. Tokasu, which has been approved as a new business product by national, prefectural, and municipal governments.



Mr. Tokasu brochure.



Mr. Tokasu display at Winter Expo in Changchun.



Installation of Mr. Tokasu is easy.

Nordic Sapporo Project

Sapporo, Tromsø Benefit from Collaboration

A delegation from Tromsø, Norway, including Mayor Herman Kristffersen, vice president of the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors, visited Sapporo to promote the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships. The championships were held in Sapporo from 22 to 27 February 2007.

The Tromsø delegation comprised a large group of musicians, circus performers, and representatives of the tourism industry led by the mayor of Tromsø. The musicians and circus performers demonstrated their talents at Odori Park in the center of Sapporo and at the children's theater, Yamabikoza, to



Tromsø circus performers.

promote the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships.

A tourism seminar was organized for those involved with the tourism industry. Tromsø promoted its winter attractions, including the aurora borealis, for which the city is famous.

The cities of Sapporo and Tromsø have been engaged in a range of exchange activities since 1988 through the Winter Cities Association for Mayors, and the strong friendship between these two winter cities fostered through many years of exchanges made this event a success.



Members of Kultra, a circus from Tromsø, entertain children.



Aurora Borealis is one of Tromsø's major tourist attractions.

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