



# World Winter City News

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November 2007



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

## Nuuk Conference Tackles Global Warming

## Arctic Capital Hosts Winter Cities Conference

**T**he issue of global warming is growing in importance, in media interest, and in popular concern. Global warming is also a concern of the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors (WWCAM), which has adopted the topic as the theme of its thirteenth biennial conference in Nuuk, Greenland in January 2008.

Representatives from government, business, and academia will be actively involved in the conference, and each of these sectors will provide WWCAM conference participants with valuable new perspectives on climate issues.

Nuuk is a relatively small capital with a population of fifteen thousand, but the city's significance today is enormous. The residents of Nuuk are experiencing first hand the effects of climate change, and they are in the forefront of the fight against global warming. Perhaps more than anyone else, Greenlanders understand the seriousness of the phenomenon, which is so closely related to their lives. The Mayors Conference in Nuuk is one step in Greenland's appeal to the world to take countermeasures against global warming.

The WWCAM invites citizens of the world to join

Nuuk in its concern for the environment and in its involvement in efforts to educate the public on the threat that global warming poses to our world and to our children's world.

Please see the insert for more information on the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors.

## From the Mayor of Nuuk

Many conference participants will be visiting Greenland for the first time, and I promise their stay in Greenland and Nuuk will be an unforgettable experience. Greenlanders are known for the warm hospitality with which we welcome all to our country, and the people of Nuuk are very excited about meeting the WWCAM conferees.

The Mayors Conference theme, Climate Changes in the Arctic, increases daily in relevance. In Greenland, we can measure the effects of worldwide climate changes, and the effects of global warming on our country also affect the rest of the world.

Nuuk has invited a number of speakers for the Winter Cities Forum, not only from Greenland, but also from abroad, including Norway and Denmark. The forum will be an opportunity to hear leading experts on climate change, to exchange ideas, and to influence thinking worldwide.

At the Winter Expo, international as well as Greenland businesses and academic institutions will exhibit winter-related products, technology, and culture. The Winter Expo will not only be business related, it will also be a wonderful opportunity for all exhibitors to exchange ideas and culture and also to create new international networks.

I, along with the people of Nuuk, am looking forward to welcoming you to Nuuk in January 2008.

*Agnethe Davidsen, Mayor of Nuuk, Greenland*



*Mayor Agnethe Davidsen*

# Three Major WWCAM Events in Nuuk

The thirteenth biennial WWCAM conference in Nuuk, Greenland comprises three events: the Mayors Conference, the Winter Cities Forum, and the Winter Expo.

## Mayors Conference

The purpose of the Mayors Conference is to allow leaders of WWCAM cities to meet biennially to discuss issues that challenge winter cities.

The conference in Nuuk will offer a wide range of topics for discussion, with a main focus on the effects of global warming on ecology and business. The current situations in Greenland, Canada, and the United States will be introduced, and the necessity for accelerating local efforts to halt global warming will be emphasized. Other topics will include issues related to youth.

## Winter Cities Forum

The Winter Cities Forum, which is held in conjunction with the Mayors Conference, will involve experts who will address issues related to lifestyles, urban planning, and other winter-related topics. A question-and-answer session will provide an opportunity for the general audience to interact with the presenters.

Participants in the forum will include specialists from environment-related institutions, as well as media representatives reporting on global warming. Presentation topics will include the role of sea ice in the arctic region, the social impact of climatic change, and the present condition of the ozone layer, among others. The global warming issue, which can not be solved by government alone, will be discussed at Nuuk from various angles.

## Winter Expo

The Winter Expo is also held in conjunction with the Mayors Conference. Businesses from member cities exhibit winter-related products and equip-

ment and introduce new technologies.

At the Winter Expo in Nuuk, almost sixty booths will be set up for exhibitors, providing good opportunities

for interested parties to meet large Greenland companies in the fields of mineral mining, oil, and shipping, as well as local businesses, which will exhibit goods found only in Greenland. Local culture will also be displayed, and Greenland specialties will be avail-

able for purchase. Residents of Nuuk will participate in the event, and a variety of programs have been planned to welcome visitors.

## Other events

In addition to the official program, visitors will have opportunities to enjoy various uniquely Nuuk recreational events and activities. On January 19, all shops and facilities in Nuuk will be kept open throughout the night, and a Nuuk live show with local singers and dancers has been planned. Conference participants will also be able to visit local companies, Greenland parliament, and an igloo. Opportunities for snowmobiling will be available, and the world's second largest fjord system and other places of interest are also on the schedule.

### Nuuk Conference Schedule of Events

- Mayors Conference: January 18 to 20, 2008
  - Opening Ceremony and Keynote Speech: January 18
  - Mayors Conference and Nuuk Declaration January 20
- Winter Cities Forum: January 18 and 19
- Winter Expo: January 19 and 20



WWCAM members meet at the 2006 Mayors Conference in Changchun, China.

## For more information

For more information about the 2008 WWCAM conference, please contact Ulla Lynge, chairman of the steering committee, or Trine Kamp Larsen, project manager, at <[www.wintercitiesnuuk@nuuk.gl](mailto:www.wintercitiesnuuk@nuuk.gl)>, or see Nuuk's Winter Cities website, <[www.wintercitiesnuuk.gl/](http://www.wintercitiesnuuk.gl/)>.

E-mail questions about the WWCAM to the Secretariat at <[wwcam@city.sapporo.jp](mailto:wwcam@city.sapporo.jp)>, or visit the association's website at <[www.city.sapporo.jp/somu/wwcam/](http://www.city.sapporo.jp/somu/wwcam/)> for information.



Katuaq Culture Centre, site of the 2008 Mayors Conference.

# Unique Nuuk Experience Awaits WWCAM Conferees

Nuuk was founded in 1728 by the Norwegian missionary Hans Egede, who established a colony at the present-day Nuuk. For almost 250 years the city's official name was Godthåb (meaning Good Hope in English). The name was officially changed to Nuuk, meaning headland, in 1979. Today Nuuk is the largest city in Greenland and is the country's administrative centre.

With an active urban and cultural environment, Nuuk has much to offer its visitors: the National Museum of Greenland, the Home Rule Building, Town Hall with Hans Lynge's tapestries, the Katuaq Cultural Centre, the harbour, and the many colorful houses and buildings all over the city.

## The Fjord

Godthåbfjord is approximately 100 kilometers long and is one of the greatest fjord systems in



*Inussivik Multipurpose Hall, site of Winter Expo January 19–20*



*Snowmobilers enjoy winter in Nuuk.*

the world. The fjord is never iced over and is navigable all year round. The fjords and mountains offer visitors a unique experience and form

the basis for the city's leisure activities, including sailing, hunting, fishing, and hiking. Long-distance and alpine skiing, snow scootering, and ice skating are



*Whale watching attracts tourists to Nuuk.*

winter sports enjoyed here. Godthåbfjord offers visitors experiences of great natural beauty, with mountains of rock and ice, whales, and a varied animal and bird life. Old Inuit and Norse settlements can be observed along the fjords.

## Hans Lynge Tapestries

In the council meeting room at the Town Hall, there is a special attraction. The hall is decorated with thirteen tapestries with motifs from paintings by the famous Greenland artist, politician, and social activist, Hans Lynge (1906 - 1988). The tapestries were woven by Danish artists using Greenlandic wool and plant colors from Greenland's fauna. Greenland is full of attractions for visitors!



*Summer is also a beautiful season in Greenland.*



*Snow is the playmate of young Greenlanders.*

## Working-Level Officials Meeting 2007

The sixth annual Working-Level Officials Meeting was held in Sapporo, site of the WWCAM secretariat, July 26 to 28, 2007 in preparation for the Nuuk Mayors Conference in January 2008.

The Working-Level Officials Meeting functions as an opportunity to review plans for an upcoming Mayors Conference and for WWCAM subcommittees to make reports on their research. Sapporo hosted the first Working-Level Officials Meeting in 2002, and the recent meeting in July was the city's second. Approximately



Participants at the Working-Level Officials Meeting in Sapporo gathered to prepare for the 13th biennial Mayors Conference in January 2008. The WWCAM Subcommittee on Winter City Environmental Issues also made a presentation at the meeting in preparation for the Nuuk Mayors Conference.

thirty administrators from member cities enthusiastically exchanged opinions, and planned for the success of the Mayors Conference and for the prosperity of the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors.

Twelve cities from eight countries participated in the Working-Level Officials Meeting in July, including Prince George (Canada), Changchun, Harbin, Qiqihar, Shenyang (China), Maardu (Estonia), Nuuk (Greenland), Aomori, Sapporo (Japan), Taebaek (Korea), Tromsø (Norway), and Anchorage (U.S.A.).



Trine Kamp Larsen, project manager for the Nuuk Mayors Conference, introduced exciting plans for the 13th biennial Mayors Conference. Nuuk's plans for the conference were enthusiastically received by participants at the Working-Level Officials Meeting in Sapporo in July.

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



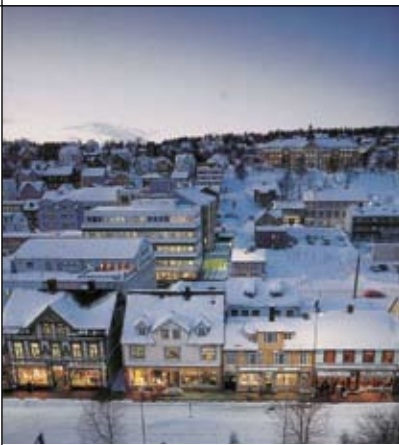
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WWCAM member Tromsø, Norway.

# 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

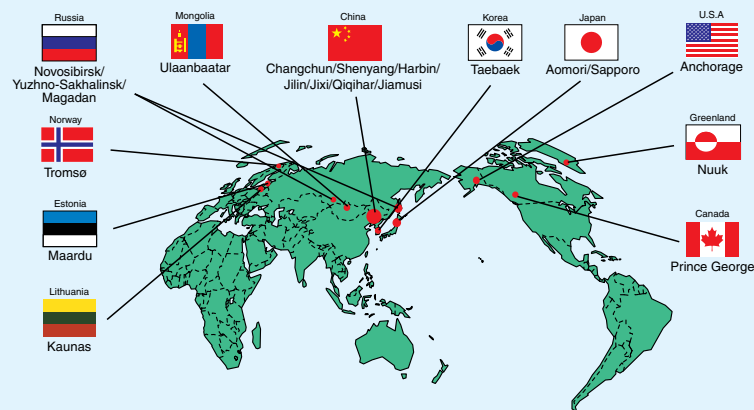
The biennial World Winter Cities Conference for Mayors (Mayors Conference), a major activity of the association, has been convened twelve times since its founding. The conference provides a forum for mayors and city administrators to share expertise and experience on city planning, urban transportation 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  
November 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.



Fumio UEDA, WWCAM President and Mayor of Sapporo, speaking at the Opening Ceremony of the 2006 Mayors Conference in Changchun, China.

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 City 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](mailto: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/](http://www.city.sapporo.jp/somu/kokusai/wwcam/)