



# World Winter City News

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: [wwcam@city.sapporo.jp](mailto:wwcam@city.sapporo.jp)  
web site: <http://www.city.sapporo.jp/somu/kokusai/wwcam>

April 2008



*Nikolaj Heinrich, mayor of Nuuk, Greenland addresses the thirteenth biennial Mayors Conference.*

## Nuuk Challenges Global Community

## Global Battle Against Climate Change Urged

**U**nder the theme “Climatic Changes in the Arctic,” the thirteenth biennial conference of the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors (WWCAM) was held successfully from 18 to 20 January 2008 in Nuuk, Greenland. Topics and discussions related to global warming dominated the three-day conference.

The Mayors Conference was attended by mayors and representatives of 22 cities from eight countries.

### **Mayors Conference**

City representatives engaged in active exchanges of ideas and opinions related to measures against global warming. With the pressing threat of global warming, it was clear that participant cities are embracing and implementing measures with a heightened sense of concern and awareness, and the Mayors Conference played host to a succession of informative reports on various leading-edge initiatives and projects.

### **Winter Cities Forum**

At the Winter Cities Forum in Nuuk, thirteen experts from Greenland, Denmark, Norway, the U.S., and Japan discussed topics related to the environment, including

youth and the environment, energy conservation, and new forms of energy.

### **Winter Expo**

Member city corporations and organizations displayed winter- and snow-related technologies and products at the Winter Expo. Greenland corporations occupied most of the Expo’s forty booths. Some displayed products related to climate change, and others provided tourism information or introduced traditional Greenland culture, which attracted the attention of visitors.

### **Nuuk Declaration**

On the final day of the conference, the WWCAM unanimously approved the Nuuk Declaration, which includes a recognition of “the duty that winter cities have to take a leading role in global society...”, and a pledge “to make every effort to tackle the problem of global warming.”

## **Greetings from Nuuk**

About a month and a half has passed since the successful thirteenth Mayors Conference. Not only was this my first time as a participating member of the WWCAM network, it was also the first time Nuuk hosted the conference—which we had all been looking forward to for a very long time.

The conference theme, “Climatic Changes in the Arctic,” was most relevant. Here we can virtually watch the glaciers melt, and fishers and hunters find it ever more difficult to maintain their subsistence. Yet this winter, we’ve had more cold and snow than ever. For sure, there’s something about the climate.

Many of you visited Greenland for the first time, and my impression is that you had a great time. Not only is Nuuk beautifully located, meeting the people here makes the visit worthwhile. Greenlanders are known for their warm hospitality, and Nuuk’s locals were so excited about meeting WWCAM members.

I am happy that we managed to sign the Nuuk Declaration 2008, which has committed all of us politicians to work towards bringing down CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and making the world a better place for the next generation. I am looking forward to my ongoing task of living up to the Nuuk Declaration 2008.

*Nikolaj Heinrich, Mayor of Nuuk*

# The Nuuk Declaration 2008

*The following is an excerpt from the Nuuk Declaration 2008. The Declaration also includes a pledge that WWCAM members “maintain an active awareness of movements on the national level and make every effort to realize” a number of objectives for taking a leading role in global society.*

There is little dispute that global climate change is one of the most serious threats to the world’s people. Scientists across the globe have documented that climate change is rapidly increasing, due largely to activities by industrialized society. According to the report published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in November of 2007, if the amount of greenhouse gases emitted globally continues to increase over the next 20 to 30 years, one can predict as a result that warming in the 21st century will occur on a scale greater than that which occurred during the 20th century.

Communities of the North, especially those in the Arctic and Greenland, find themselves on “ground zero” of the

effects of global climate change. The increase in temperatures during the winter season is having a significant impact on the daily life and traditional cultures of people of the North. As members of the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors and officials of the local

governments created by and for these residents, we recognize our collective obligation to send a global message underscoring the severity of global warming.

Sharing the climatic characteristics of cold weather and heavy snowfalls, winter cities consume a great deal of energy for winter heating, snow removal, and snow disposal. Given our contribution to increasing CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gas emissions, we winter cities must recognize the inconsistency evident as we ourselves contribute to global warming. We participant cities recognize the duty that winter cities have to take a leading role in global society. Therefore, we hereby pledge to utilize the collective wisdom of the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors to make every effort to tackle the problem of global warming.



Mayors Nikolay Heinrich of Nuuk (left) and Ueda Fumio of Sapporo (right) sign the Nuuk Declaration.

## 2008 WWCAM Conference Participants

### ■ WWCAM Member Cities

Changchun, Harbin, Jiamusi, Jixi, Shenyang (China); Nuuk (Greenland); Sapporo (Japan); Taebaek (Korea); Kaunas (Lithuania); Tromsø (Norway); Anchorage (United States)

### ■ Non-Member Cities

Aalborg (Denmark); Aasiaat, Iltoqqortoormiit, Ivittuut, Nanortalik, Paamiut, Qaqortoq, Sisimiut, Upernavik, Uummannaq (Greenland); Hammerfest (Norway)

## Subcommittee on Winter Environmental Issues

The Subcommittee on Winter Environmental Issues, which was established in 2006, presented an interim report of the Subcommittee activities at the Mayors Conference in Nuuk. Major points of the report include—

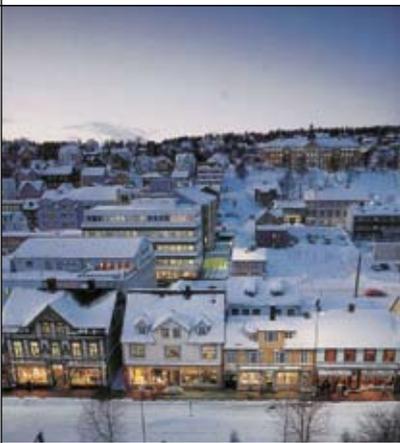
- Environmental concerns are common to all the member cities of the WWCAM;
- Many cities are keenly aware



An interim report of the Subcommittee on Winter Environmental Issues is presented at Nuuk.

of abnormal weather caused by climate change. Additionally, many cities conduct educational activities for their residents, indicating that local governments are seriously acknowledging global warming.

- Member cities have been steadily dealing with countermeasures, including the development of plans to counteract global warming.



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

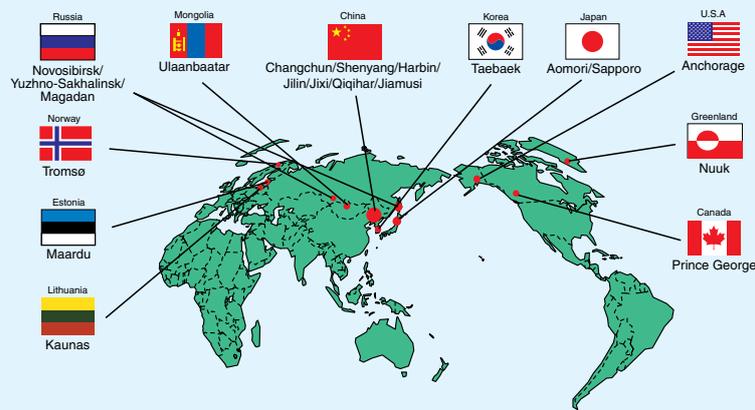
The biennial World Winter Cities Conference for Mayors (Mayors Conference), a major activity of the association, has been convened thirteen times. The conference provides a forum for mayors and city administrators to share expertise and experience on city planning, urban transportation in winter, snow 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 climates.

### 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  
April 2008

## WWCAM Members



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.

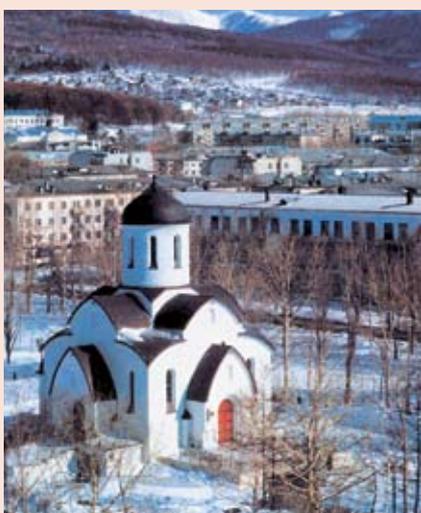
## Membership in the WWCAM

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/)

## Youth Against Global Warming

Broad-based citizen support is crucial to ensuring the success of measures for mitigating global warming. It is particularly important that youth groups are involved; they represent the future of our planet. The city of Tromsø, Norway gives particular attention to this segment of the population, and the city's report on this important topic, "Working with Youth to Fight Global Warming," was presented at the Mayors Conference. Tromsø reported on the Nordic Youth Film Festival, a short film event that encourages youth involvement and participation in current issues. The theme for the 2007 Festival was global warming, and a humorous film on food in the fridge proved popular among Mayors Conference participants. Through the creation of short films, youths have gained a greater appreciation for the issue of global warming, and thereby realizing one of the goals of the Festival.

The city of Anchorage, US reported on Alaska Youth for Environmental Action, a program that includes hands-on educational experiments and measures for energy conserva-



*Suzanne Fleek-Green reported on Alaska Youth and Global Warming.*

tion. The program emphasizes the importance of children taking the initiative for action. Sapporo presented on "Food Recycling," a school lunch program that instills in children an appreciation for the importance of the environment. Conference chair and mayor of Nuuk Nikolaj Heinrich made a strong impression on participants at the conference with his comments at the closing ceremony. "The future of our planet belongs to the children, and it is our responsibility to preserve that future on their behalf," the mayor noted, once again highlighting the importance of actively promoting the participation of youth in environmental issues.



### What is Food Recycling?

A program begun by the city of Sapporo in 2006, "Food Recycling" entails the composting of school lunch leftovers, with the resulting fertilizer supplied to farms for use in growing ingredients for future school lunches. The program has also proved effective as an educational tool for promoting environmental awareness among children.

## Energy Conservation on Winter City Agendas

The heavy snowfalls and cold temperatures of winter cities make them consumers of large amounts of energy for heating and snow removal, and as a result they contribute to global warming. Many winter cities are striving to reduce this negative impact on the environment, and presentations at the Mayors Conference were made by cities that are dealing with energy-related issues in a variety of ways.

Sapporo, Japan reported at the Winter Cities Forum on how snow is put in storage, and the cold energy is used in summer to air condition office buildings. The idea that their heavy snowfalls contribute to energy con-

servation may help Sapporo residents feel better about the unpleasant chore of snow shoveling in winter. Sapporo's presentation attracted keen attention among conference participants.



*WWCAM members confer in Nuuk.*

Anchorage, Alaska reported that city traffic lights have been replaced with energy-efficient Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights. Although an initial investment is necessary to make the change to LEDs, the cost is recovered by energy savings. Compared with conventional lights, LEDs consume a smaller amount of electricity and emit less heat radiation, consequently contributing to a reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>.



Residents of Prince George enjoy a day at the city's Street Fest, a great summer attraction here.



Prince George offers many winter activities, including this popular outdoor skating rink.

## Prince George to Host 2010 Mayors Conference

Prince George, Canada, will host the fourteenth WWCAM conference in 2010. Known as British Columbia's Northern Capital, Prince George is located 786 kilometers north of Vancouver, and is a bustling city of over 77,000 people.

Prince George offers the richness of the wilderness and the comfort of the city all at the same time and features attractions such as championship golf, a casino, and invigorating outdoor activities. Fifteen minutes in any direction brings you into contact with the breathtaking great outdoors, and more than 1,600 lakes and rivers. The city also offers hundreds of kilometers of hiking, biking, and cross-country ski trails, as well as great theaters and cafes and restaurants. The University of

Northern British Columbia is a popular tour stop as the campus is a showpiece of wood construction and offers panoramic views of the city.

The Prince George economy is varied and includes forestry, with modern saw milling and high-tech pulp mills. Other industry includes chemical plants, an oil refinery, a brewery, a dairy, machine shops, aluminum boat building, log home construction, value-added forestry product, and specialty equipment manufacturing. Prince George is also a staging center for mining and prospecting and is a major regional transportation hub. Daily scheduled air service is available between Prince George's International Airport and other major cities in British Columbia, Alberta, and points beyond.

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Secretariat  
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060-8611 JAPAN



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