



2010 Mayors Conference Plans Revealed

Working-Level Officials Meet in Prince George

The World Winter Cities Association for Mayors (WWCAM) held a Working-Level Officials Meeting (WLOM) in Prince George, British Columbia, Canada, August 21 and 22, 2008. Officials from twelve cities of nine countries participated in the meeting and discussed proposed plans for the fourteenth biennial Mayors Conference scheduled for 2010 in Prince George, in addition to miscellaneous topics related to the management of the WWCAM.

According to the plan announced by Prince George, the Mayors Conference will be held in the late January 2010, immediately before the Winter Olympics in Vancouver. The main theme of the conference will be the environmental issues that the Association has been dealing with, while topics of the Winter Cities Forum, which is held in conjunction with the Mayors Conference, will include sustainable environmental policies, the impact of climate change, energy conservation, and alternative energy sources. The associated Winter Expo will include topics about indigenous peoples, as well as activities and projects related to immigrants and cross-cultural themes.



Prince George Civic Centre (top); representative of indigenous Canadians (right); and Connaught Hill Park.



Collin Kinsley, mayor of Prince George, addresses the 2008 Working-Level Officials Meeting.

Prince George plans a set of attractive programs organically and integrally linking the Mayors Conference, the Winter Cities Forum, and the Winter Expo.

Additional Business at the WLOM

- A report by Nuuk, Greenland on the thirteenth Mayors Conference held in January 2008.
- An invitation to apply for hosting the fifteenth Mayors Conference in 2012.
- The selection of a city to host the Working-Level Officials Meeting in 2009.

- The administration and management of the WWCAM, as well as other topics.

WLOM Participants

Twelve WWCAM Member Cities:

Prince George (Canada); Changchun, Harbin, Shenyang (China); Maardu (Estonia); Nuuk (Greenland); Sapporo (Japan); Taebaek, Hwacheon (Korea); Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia); Tromsø (Norway); Anchorage (U.S.A.).

Non-Member Cities

Fraser-Fort George Regional District, the Lheidli T'enneh Band (indigenous peoples group), Canada.



WWCAM Subcommittee Activities

City Operations for Mitigation of Climate Change

Subcommittee Report by Anchorage

Having experienced the consequences of global climate change, WWCAM member cities are acting locally to reduce its impact. Cities across the North are reducing wasteful energy consumption, increasing recycling, and encouraging their residents to become “eco-citizens.”

Those are some survey findings of a new WWCAM Subcommittee on City Operations for Mitigation of Climate Change. Based in Anchorage, the subcommittee surveyed member cities and reported its tentative results at the WLOM in Prince George. Findings also revealed that—

■ All member-city governments and

residents consider climate change an important issue.

■ The results of climate change vary widely, and include warmer temperatures and river ice jams; less snowfall and more drought; rising timberlines; increases in pests; retreating glaciers; and an adverse impact on wildlife.

■ WWCAM cities are working on ways to reduce the impact of climate change, including the use of energy-efficient city vehicles and lighting; increased recycling; a ban on plastic bags; more bicycle use; and the use of alternative energies, such as wind.

In the future, the Subcommittee will propose that WWCAM members adopt a charter or pledge to further reduce the impact of climate change.



Dick Stallone (left) and David Ramseur of Anchorage report on subcommittee activities.

Current Subcommittee Research

At Prince George, the city of Anchorage reported on the first meeting of the Subcommittee on City Operations for Mitigation of Climate Change, which was established at the Mayors Conference in January 2008. Anchorage indicated that the city has been working seriously on environmental issues and that the mayor of Anchorage was the first to sign the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

Anchorage also revealed the results of a questionnaire

and initiatives the city has taken. The Subcommittee will explore the idea of an agreement or charter to be adopted by WWCAM to conclude their research activity.

The city of Tromsø made a presentation on environmental issues, citing receding glaciers and an increase in seawater surface temperatures. Tromsø also described an electronic system for sorting biodegradable waste to recycle it for energy. The city has compiled an action plan to halve 1990-level CO₂ emissions by 2020.

Winter City Environmental Issues

Subcommittee Report by Sapporo

A meeting of the Subcommittee on Winter City Environmental Issues was held on the occasion of the Working-Level Officials Meeting in Prince George. The subcommittee expressed a commitment to research member-city experiences with civic education and the promotion of awareness of global environmental issues.

Sapporo's programs and efforts in civic education were introduced. The results of a questionnaire targeting member city programs for civic education, and the feasibility of a promotional campaign to be carried out by member cities were presented. Based on the survey results, a plan for a campaign by member cities was

suggested and agreed upon by the participants at the meeting.

Prince George Describes Civic Education Programs

The city of Prince George introduced “Smart Growth on the Ground” and “Turn it Off Challenge.” Prince

George took part in Smart Growth on the Ground beginning fall 2007, and promoted civic education first among many programs. The Turn it Off Challenge is a campaign to create awareness and behavioral changes that lead to reductions in energy consumption by turning off electricity at public facilities. The challenge is spread by the media, helping create awareness among citizens.



Naoki Miyasa presents in Prince George for the Environmental Subcommittee.



Tromsø's streets are busy with people.



A magnificent view of Tromsø from a cable car.



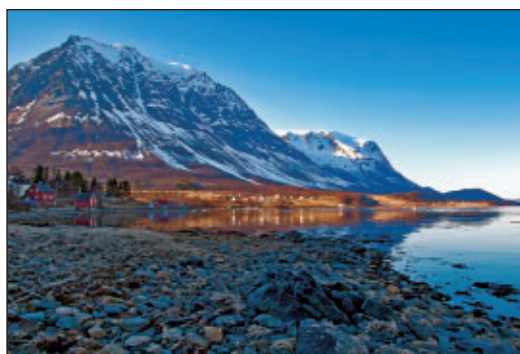
A night view of downtown Tromsø.

Tromsø to Host WLOM in 2009

Welcome to the city of Tromsø in northern Norway, host of the 2009 WWCAM Working-Level Officials Meeting.

Located at nearly 70° N, Tromsø is the region's largest city with 67,000 inhabitants. The municipality has traditionally been regarded as a fisheries and whaling center, but in recent decades this focus has changed somewhat.

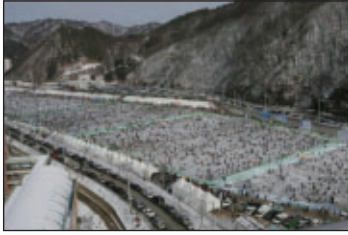
Today Tromsø is a center of education, research, and culture in the North. Its residents are among the best educated nation-wide. Tromsø's cultural diversity



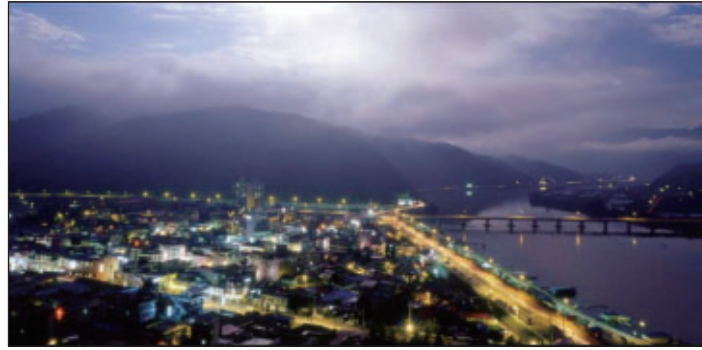
The pride of Norway—the grand fjords.

has vitality and commitment: Nature's own beautiful works of art take on their own shapes, colors, and sounds in the polar light. Action-packed, exuberant festivals inspire residents and fun-loving visitors. Tromsø's cuisine brings the aroma of locally-caught seafood and exotic spices. The city's famous nightlife is full of intense, humorous, and engaging

conversation, with a backdrop of local and international rhythms. Museums, exhibitions, and traditional wooden architecture serve both to inspire and educate.



Sancheoneo Ice Festival.



Twilight in Hwacheon, Republic of Korea.



Paroho Lake.

Welcome, New WWCAM Member

Hwacheon, Republic of Korea

On July 1, 2008, Hwacheon, Republic of Korea, became a member of the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors. Hwacheon is known as "Eco-paradise Hwacheon" and is located 125 kilometers northeast of Seoul. Hwacheon has a population of about 24,000 people.

Hwacheon is located in a mountainous area in the northernmost part of South Korea (38° N). The area enjoys an inland climate and a clean natural environment with fresh water and air and wonderful natural scenery provided by the mountains.

Hwacheon is only about nine kilometers from the Korean Demilitarized Zone, a proximity that makes it an ideal place for peace-loving world leaders to actively participate in and support the cause of overcoming the tragedy on the Korean Peninsula and to pray for the cessation of strife in all regions of the world and for world peace.

Peace Park

Thirteen different kinds of empty cartridge cases were collected from thirteen countries where ideological, racial, and religious conflicts exist. Hwacheon has melted the cartridges down and plans to make a Peace Bell from them. The Peace Bell with its wish for world peace will be installed in the DMZ where South and North Korea confront each other. Messages of peace by Nobel laureates will be displayed at the Peace Bell Park and Peace Art Park, contributing to the reconciliation of the North and South and to world peace.

In addition, Hwacheon is South Korea's representative festival site where famous festivals like the Bimok [monument to the unknown soldier] Cultural Festival, the Jjokbae [raft] Water Festival, the Hwaak Mountain Tomato Festival, and the Sancheoneo [mountain trout] Ice Festival are celebrated. The Sancheoneo Ice Festival, with its more than one million annual visitors, is especially well known in Asia.

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



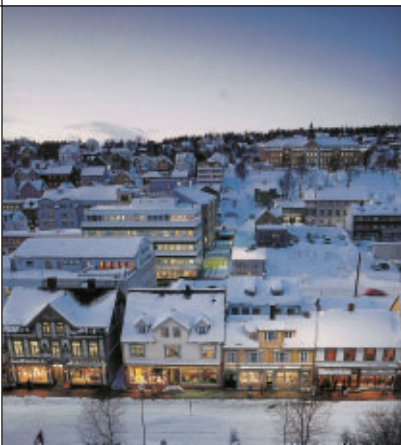
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WWCAM member Tromsø, Norway.

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

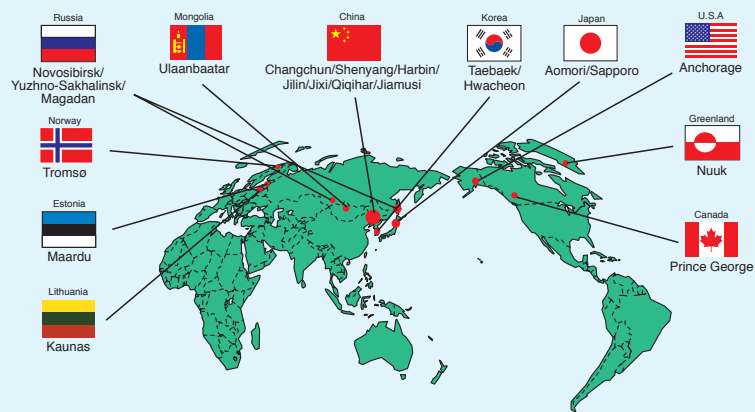
The biennial World Winter Cities Conference for Mayors (Mayors Conference), a major activity of the association, has been convened thirteen times. The conference provides a forum for mayors and city administrators to share expertise and experience on city planning, urban transportation in winter, snow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

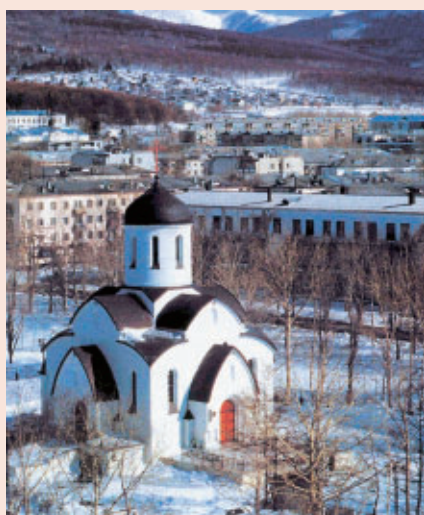
Membership in the WWCAM

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).

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/