



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
web site: <http://www.city.sapporo.jp/somu/kokusai/wwcam>

April 2010



Winter city representatives at the fourteenth Mayors Conference in Maardu, Estonia, 20–22 January 2010.

Theme: Environmental Protection

14th Mayors Conference Concluded in Maardu

The fourteenth Conference of the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors (WWCAM) was successfully held in Maardu, Estonia, 20–22 January 2010.

Discussions at the conference centered around environmental protection and sustainable development in northern cities. A Maardu Declaration recommending action on environmental issues was approved unanimously on the final day of the conference.

The Mayors Conference was convened at a time when the international community is seeking solutions for global economic crises and cooperating to prevent ecological catastrophe.

In addition to its work involving environmental protection, the fourteenth WWCAM Mayors Conference is contributing to the strengthening of friendships, cooperation, and understanding between members of the WWCAM, as well as among the residents of member cities. This, in turn, fosters an environment in which information is acquired and shared, and that contributes to the sustainable development of communities.

A web site with photos of events at the Mayors Conference has been posted at www.maardu.eu.

Greetings From the Mayor of Maardu

Although the fourteenth Mayors Conference of the WWCAM has come to an end, the resulting outcomes of the conference—mutual understanding and productive discussions—will continue to promote the development and well-being of our winter cities.

Hosting the Mayors Conference was a great honor for Maardu, and we had great expectations for its success. I am very appreciative of the kind support of all the cities that sent delegates to our international forum.

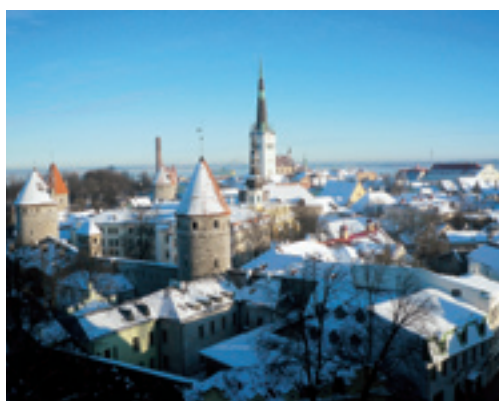
The conference also prepared us for the continued success of the WWCAM: the budget of the Association has been confirmed, and its directing bodies have been updated, including an extended term for the WWCAM president, Mr. Fumio Ueda.

We listened to the visions of experts about how to protect the environment in multicultural societies with an info-technological orientation. We came to an understanding that the future of our cities demands attention to issues of multicultural development and to broad information accessibility to promote a process of sustainable development.

Membership in the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors helps people of different countries and cultures get acquainted with new scientific and technological achievements and progress, to exchange cultural experiences, and to support strong and friendly mutual relations. This was confirmed with the approval and adoption of the Maardu Declaration at the conference.

I hope the next two years will pass quickly, bringing us soon to the fifteenth Mayors Conference in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, which we know will be as successful as the fourteenth in our fine Maardu.

Georgy Bystrov,
Mayor of Maardu



A wintery Tallinn was the venue for the fourteenth Mayors Conference.

Maardu Mayors Conference Report

The fourteenth WWCAM Mayors Conference was held 20–22 January 2010 in Maardu, Estonia with “Features of Environmental Protection in Northern Cities” as the main theme. Mayors and member city representatives exchanged ideas and opinions, and case reports were presented by participating cities at the conference site in the city of Tallinn.

Participants: 18 Cities From 11 Countries and One Organization

- WWCAM member cities (14):
Changchun, Harbin, Jiamusi, Jixi, and Shenyang (China); Maardu (Estonia); Nuuk (Greenland); Sapporo (Japan); Taebaek and Hwacheon (Korea); Kaunas (Lithuania); Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia); Tromsø (Norway); Anchorage (U.S.A.)
- Observer cities (4):
Sindi (Estonia); Jekabpils (Latvia); Longyearbyen (Norway); Iljitsovsk (Ukraine)
- Observer organization (1):
Norwegian State Housing Bank

Mayors Conference Session

Member cities presented case reports following presentations by environmental experts. The mayor of Sapporo reported on his city’s approaches, including examples of Sapporo’s vigorous efforts to introduce renewable energy sources, such as snow cryogenics, solar, and woody biomass. The mayor also noted that Sapporo has been promoting environmental protection to the world through initiatives like the Sapporo ‘Eco-Capital’ Declaration and by hosting international events, including the Children’s World Summit for the Environment. Also, at the Sapporo International Short Film Festival and Market, the city now gives an environmental award to an outstanding environment-related film.



Jüri Martin, rector of Eurouniversity, acted as a facilitator at the session.

Multicultural Society and the E-State

In a session on multicultural society, Anne-Ly Reimaa (Cultural Heritage Department of Estonia) contended that cultural stability and popular political participation and involvement are important conditions for development, including sustainable development.

Focusing on the e-state, Margus Püüa (RISO, Ministry for Economic Affairs and Communications of Estonia)



The mayors of Maardu (left) and Sapporo at the Mayors Conference.

maintained that progress in computerization would help prevent the waste of resources. Mr. Püüa reported on the efficient functioning of the public sector using IT solutions (such as electronic voting) in Estonia. An Estonian “Let’s Do It” cleaning campaign, in which volunteers have collected 10,000 tons of illegal dumping in forests, was also

described.

The city of Tromsø introduced its on-line services that allow residents to find information on what is under ground on their property, such as water pipes, and trash collection dates are published on a city web site.

Maardu Declaration

The Maardu Declaration proposed by the city of Maardu at the end of the conference was unanimously adopted and signed by the mayor of Maardu and the mayor of Sapporo (president of the WWCAM).

With the Maardu Declaration, member cities have confirmed that winter cities play a leading role in international society in the battle against global warming, and that they must work on immediate environmental issues as organizations closer to the people. With sustainable development as a key concept, member cities share the need for their own active involvement in the creation of unique winter cities.



The representative of Ulaanbaatar addressed the Maardu Mayors Conference.

Other News

■ Hwacheon, Korea was officially announced the host of the sixteenth

WWCAM conference in 2014.

■ A new environment-related subcommittee was established, and the secretariat will be located at Changchun, China.

■ Ulaanbaatar was appointed host city of the fifteenth Mayors Conference in 2012.

Subcommittee Report from Sapporo on

Winter City Environmental Issues

The Subcommittee on Winter City Environmental Issues presented its final report at the Maardu Mayors Conference. The report included the two common campaigns conducted with the leadership of Sapporo, the subcommittee secretariat, as well as a discussion of current initiatives and activities and a summary of the four-year work of the subcommittee.

Subcommittee Activities

As recommended by the Changchun Declaration, an outcome of the twelfth Mayors Conference, the Subcommittee on Winter Environmental Issues was established to research environmental initiatives taken by winter cities. From 2006 to 2009, the subcommittee collected and shared information about useful activities and advanced techniques among the WWCAM member cities. Additionally, the subcommittee promoted activities that cities could implement in common with other member cities in order to achieve the goals of the subcommittee as reflected in the Changchun Declaration.



Masakazu Yuasa of Sapporo's Environmental Bureau presents the final subcommittee report.

As a result of its activities, including research on city initiatives, questionnaire surveys and analyses, and common campaigns, the subcommittee stresses the need for continual application of environmentally friendly policies, and to that end, the subcommittee recommended the following guidelines at the Maardu Mayors Conference.

Guidelines for Environmental Actions in Winter Cities

* We will protect and nurture the blessings of nature, such as water and greenery.

* We will not use resources wastefully, and we will reduce trash.

* We will try to end dependence on fossil fuels and promote the use of renewable energy.

* We will promote the use of energy-saving devices.

* We will decrease personal car use and develop eco-friendly cities.

* We will increase citizen awareness of the environment through education and encourage citizens to take action.

City Operation for Mitigation of Climate Change

Anchorage Makes Subcommittee Report

Dick Stallone, chairman of Anchorage Winter Cities, and George Canelos, vice chair, updated the mayors in Maardu on the progress of Anchorage as a winter city and its approach to climate change.

Improved energy efficiency and conservation are major initiatives for the city. Anchorage also actively supports the development of local renewable energy, including wind, hydropower, geothermal, and tidal sources. The Fire Island wind project, which comes online in the next two years, will help reduce demand for fossil fuels.

Climate change can impact water supplies, and Anchorage closely monitors Eklutna Glacier, which feeds Eklutna Lake, the city's major drinking water source.

The city passed a new Sustainable Building Ordinance promoting green architecture and design. New city buildings, including major renovations, must now

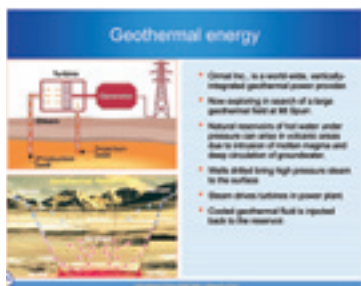
be LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified. Anchorage reduces development fees for the private sector if new construction is LEED quality.

The new Dena'ina Convention Center in Anchorage has many green features. Covered walkways and heated sidewalks connect the new center with major

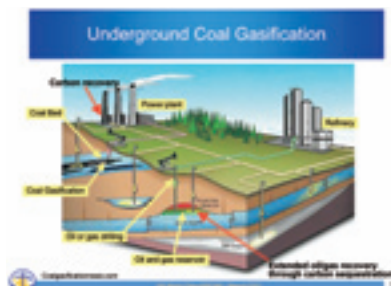
downtown venues.

Anchorage is especially proud of its leadership role in converting inefficient high pressure sodium streetlights to new LED (light emitting diodes) lights. These new white lights save significant energy, are suited to cold climates, and offer less light pollution.

The presenters also brought greetings from Dan Sullivan, Anchorage's newly elected mayor. Mayor Sullivan served on the Anchorage Assembly for many years and is a longtime supporter of the WWCAM.



Advanced environmental measures in Anchorage were introduced at the Maardu Mayors Conference.



Ulaanbaatar Will Host 2012 Mayors Conference

Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia, will host the fifteenth WWCAM Mayors Conference in 2012 under the theme “Energy Saving and Efficiency Consumption in Winter Cities.”

A preeminent winter city, Ulaanbaatar rests atop a sporadic permafrost zone, and ranks among the world’s coldest capitals. Winters in Ulaanbaatar are typically long and dry and summers short and wet.

Like for other winter cities, energy supply and air pollution are challenges for Ulaanbaatar. The city is particularly vulnerable to fluctuations in energy cost and supply, as well as to emissions from motor vehicles and from the so-called “ger areas”—suburban residential areas where residents live in traditional wood/coal-fueled tents, or *gers*.

Ulaanbaatar also faces challenges that are characteristic of rapid urbanization: energy utilization and exploitation, environmental pollution, urban transportation, urban health, and delivery of municipal services.

Features of Ulaanbaatar City

Mongolia is located in Central Asia, neigh-

boring Russia in the north and China in the south.



Sukhbaatar Square, the city center, surrounded by government buildings and cultural sites.

Ulaanbaatar, the political, economic, and cultural center of the country, is situated on the banks of Tuul, Uliastai, and Selbe Rivers, surrounded by the beautiful foothills of the Bogd, Songino, Chingeltei, and Bayanzurkh Mountains. Ulaanbaatar’s population is 1.2 million, about half the population of Mongolia.

Ulaanbaatar is unique and manages, despite the prevalence of modern buildings, to preserve its places of historic and cultural value, most of which have been turned into museums and sightseeing attractions.

Ulaanbaatar is conducting an open-door policy in its international relations. The Ulaanbaatar city government sees in expanding its foreign ties

one of the factors in developing the city. A new epoch of foreign relations was initiated in 1990, and the Mayor’s office has been adhering to this new policy and principles in foreign relations.

Ulaanbaatar has been a member of the WWCAM since 1998 and is planning to hold a Working-Level Officials Meeting of the WWCAM 8-10 July 2010.



Khangardi, symbol of the city of Ulaanbaatar.

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



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