



World Winter City News

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October 2010



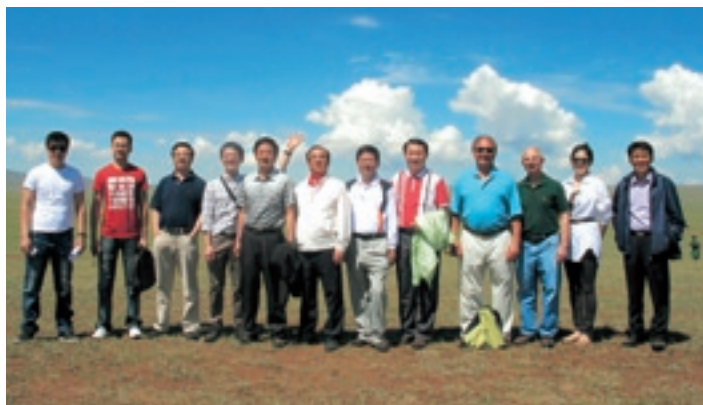
Munkhbayar Gombosuren, mayor of Ulaanbaatar, presented the plan for the fifteenth Mayors Conference.

In Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

WWCAM Working-Level Officials Meeting Held

The World Winter Cities Association for Mayors (WWCAM) convened its Working-Level Officials Meeting (WLOM) in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from July 8 to 10, 2010 at the Sunjin Grand Hotel. WWCAM representatives discussed the management of the association and the schedule, themes, and events for the fifteenth Mayors Conference in Ulaanbaatar in 2012. Twenty-five representatives from nine cities of six countries attended the meeting: Changchun, Harbin, Shenyang (China); Maardu (Estonia); Sapporo (Japan); Hwacheon, Taebaek (Korea); Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia); and Anchorage (U.S.A.).

Munkhbayar Gombosuren, mayor of Ulaanbaatar, opened the meeting and introduced plans for the fifteenth Mayors Conference in 2012.



WWCAM city representatives at the Working-Level Officials Meeting on a visit to a rural area of Ulaanbaatar to learn more about this winter city.

The WLOM also included a report on the fourteenth Mayors Conference by Georgy Bystrov, mayor of Maardu, Estonia, which hosted the conference in 2010, and the revitalization and management of the WWCAM was the topic of discussions at the meeting.

Finally, a technical tour of the city, a dinner party, and other activities were held to help participants deepen their understanding of the culture of Mongolia and to get to know each other better. The three-day conference was very fruitful.

2010 Mayors Conference Reviewed

An overview of the fourteenth Mayors Conference held in January 2010 was presented, and Mayor Georgy Bystrov of Maardu, Estonia, the host city of the conference, reported on the conference outcome. At the end of the report, WLOM participants viewed a video of scenes of the Maardu conference.



The Naadam Festival in Ulaanbaatar takes place during summer holidays in July.

Discussions on the Overall Plan for the 15th Mayors Conference in Ulaanbaatar

WLOM participants viewed a video of the city of Ulaanbaatar, followed by a presentation of the plan for the 2012 Mayors Conference by Mayor Munkhbayar. Highlights of the plan are—

- Date: For about three days, January or February 2012
- Venue: Mayors Conference — Ulaanbaatar Hotel; Winter Expo — Misheel EXPO Center
- Conference theme: “Energy Saving and Efficient Con-

sumption in Winter Cities.”

Mayor Munkhbayar noted that energy supply and efficient energy consumption are issues faced by cities everywhere, and that Ulaanbaatar presently faces challenges characteristic of rapid urbanization, including serious environmental pollution, which is partly due to migration of rural populations to the city.

Discussions of these issues will be of benefit not only to Ulaanbaatar but also to other member cities, the mayor indicated.

Forum

The Forum will focus on the following three themes: “Heat Energy Saving and Consumption,” “Electricity Energy Saving and Consumption,” and “Air Pollution.”

Winter EXPO

The Winter EXPO will be organized for the exhibition of winter items, including winter building materials, and energy-saving technologies.

Conference Venue

The 2012 Mayors Conference will be held at the five-star Ulaanbaatar Hotel situated in the city center. All the conference sessions and publications will be in English and Mongolian, and plans are to provide simultaneous interpretation into Japanese, Chinese, Korean, and Russian.

Registration

Registration and accommodation fees will be finalized and announced to member cities at a later date.



Ulaanbaatar's vice mayor, Ganbold Davaadorj, concluded the WLOM sessions.

Discussions on the Operation and Management of the WWCAM

The WWCAM was the focus of discussions on ways to revitalize the organization beginning in FY2010.

Hwacheon will open a WWCAM Exhibition Plaza during the Sancheoneo Ice Festival (January to February 2011) to introduce the WWCAM culture and features of member cities.

WLOM Concludes

Vice Mayor Ganbold Davaadorj of Ulaanbaatar concluded the WLOM with a discussion on how Ulaanbaatar has introduced efforts to improve air quality in the city. The vice mayor noted that



Participants enthusiastically exchanged opinions at the WLOM in Ulaanbaatar.

respect for nature is an integral part of Mongolian culture, and that rapid urbanization and modernization have led to water and soil contamination. The vice mayor stressed the importance of modern technology while maintaining traditional lifestyles.

“We hope to learn from member cities that might have faced similar challenges 20 or 30 years ago,” the vice mayor said.



A restaurant featuring traditional Mongolian architecture adds cultural class to meals.



The traditional Mongolian Ger residences are common outside cities and towns.

Report from the Secretariat, Anchorage, USA

Subcommittee on City Operations for Mitigation of Climate Change

Dick Stallone and George Canelos of Anchorage updated the WLOM on their city's progress towards becoming a sustainable winter city. They also urged cities to take the lead in achieving sustainability.

The speakers emphasized that for cities to be truly effective, they need good leadership from their regional and national governments. In this regard, the state of Alaska recently passed two important energy laws with ambitious goals:

- to reduce electricity consumption per capita by 15 percent by 2020; and
- to obtain 50 percent of its electricity from renewable sources by 2025.

The laws also provide 250 million dollars to retrofit public buildings in the state. Alaska also offers grants for pursuing emerging energy technology, and tax credits to power producers to encourage alternative energy projects.

Report from the Secretariat, Changchun, China

Subcommittee on Environmental Protection

Ye Chunmin, vice director-general of the Changchun Environment Protection Bureau has announced the research topics for the newly established WWCAM Subcommittee on Environmental Protection, for which Changchun serves as secretariat. Mr. Ye spoke at the WLOM in Ulaanbaatar.

Mr. Ye reported that the Changchun Subcommittee will conduct research on two topics during its four-year term: "An Analysis of Sources of Particulate Matter in the Air in the Winter Season," and "The Negative Impact of Snowmelt Agents on the Environment."

Mr. Ye spoke about the causes of many environmental problems in the winter season in terms of environmental protection. He pointed out that winter cities should give high priority to promoting citizens' living conditions, and that good air quality and ecological balance are among the most important factors.

The Changchun Municipal Government has offered to provide support to the WWCAM Subcommittee on Environmental Protection.

Also, two major local research institutes, the Chang-



Anchorage works toward sustainability.

The speakers noted that of all the measures cities can take, the most important and the easiest is energy efficiency. They cited the example of the United States, where buildings consume 40 percent of total energy and produce 38 percent of greenhouse gases. In the United States, 60 percent of all computers are left on over night.

Alaska ranks among the worst states in the country for energy efficient buildings. The Anchorage School District has an excellent energy efficiency program, however.

Mr. Stallone and Mr. Canelos also discussed progress in improving air quality in the city, which tracks carbon monoxide, particulate matter PM-10 (such as dust), PM-2.5 (such as smoke), lead, and benzene. These pollutants relate directly to the health of Anchorage citizens.

Anchorage has also joined many other cities in placing real-time air quality information on the Internet.



Ye Chunmin, vice director-general of the Changchun Environmental Protection Bureau, addressed the WLOM.

chun Environment Protection Research Institute and the Jilin Petrochemical Design and Research Institute, have agreed to deliver academic and professional instruction to the Changchun Subcommittee projects.

The Changchun representatives at the WLOM also high-

lighted the replies to a WWCAM survey of member cities, which provided helpful information for getting the city's research started. The Changchun delegation indicated it would fulfill its commitment stated in the report to the WWCAM meeting, and that it hoped its research would bring inspiration to the other winter cities.

City's Exhibition Plaza Will Promote Winter Cities

Hwacheon Works to Revitalize the WWCAM



Jeong Gab-Cheol, mayor of Hwacheon County, Korea.

An exhibition whose purpose is to promote the culture of winter and contribute to the revitalization of the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors was announced by Jeong Gab-Cheol, mayor of Hwacheon County, Korea, at the Working-Level Officials Meeting in Ulaanbaatar in July.

The exhibit will be held in Hwacheon from January to February 2011, coinciding with the Sancheoneo Ice Festival.

WWCAM Members Participation Desired

Hwacheon's Exhibition Plaza will be divided into one display for the WWCAM and one for WWCAM member cities. The WWCAM display will mainly focus on the activities and the role of the association, while the member cities display will celebrate the traditional customs and folk culture of winter.

Hwacheon will put on display traditional winter artifacts that are submitted by member cities for the exhibition, and all WWCAM member cities are encouraged to make submissions.

Hwacheon expects to get traditional winter costumes, such as outdoor winter clothing, unique traditional toys—those used during winter months, in particular, examples of special craft work, and other items that illustrate the winter traditions in member cit-

ies. Hwacheon hopes the project will attract the interest and participation of all WWCAM member cities.

Active in WWCAM

The exhibition is not the first effort by Hwacheon to promote and publicize WWCAM work. The project characterizes Hwacheon's interest and participation in the association since it became a WWCAM member in July of 2008.



A view of Hwacheon during the Sancheoneo Ice Festival.

From
World Winter Cities
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