



# World Winter City News

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Officials from WWCAM cities convene in Hwacheon, Korea, for a Working-Level Officials Meeting to plan the 16th Mayors Conference in Hwacheon in 2014.

## Planning Underway for 16th Mayors Conference

The World Winter Cities Association for Mayors (WWCAM) held its Working-Level Officials Meeting in Hwacheon, Korea, from August 3 to 5, 2012. Representatives of the city of Hwacheon, which will host the sixteenth biennial Mayors Conference in January 2014, introduced plans for the conference, including the conference themes and schedule.

Among other topics for the 2014 Mayors Conference, Hwacheon proposed “conserving the natural environment” and “making good use of the environment while realizing sustainable city planning.”

The main theme of the 2014 Mayors Conference is the “Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources in a Winter City and Sustainable Application Methods.”

Conference documents will be prepared in Korean and English, and interpretation at the conference will be provided in Korean, English, Chinese, and Japanese.

Registration and accommodation fees for the Mayors Conference will be determined at a later date.

### Background to the Mayors Conference Theme

One of the major issues facing winter cities is the en-

vironmental change and degradation caused by global climate change. With increasingly rapid urbanization, natural resources have been used by cities for urban and economic development. These efforts have led to side effects that have had global impacts. To maintain the global environment in a way that people will be able to continue to have the comfortable lifestyles that they are enjoying at present, it is important to place top priority on efforts to conserve natural resources and to focus on sustainable development.

### 2014 Winter Cities Forum

The Winter Cities Forum in 2014 will be organized as part of the Mayors Conference programs under the following two themes, which are, however, subject to change.

Session A: The enhancement of the reputation of winter cities through efforts for environmental protection.

Session B: The development of tourism contents and the promotion of the tourism industry using natural resources.

Along with WWCAM member cities, a wide range of

participants are expected to attend the forum, ranging from local Hwacheon residents, academics, and researchers to those from with interests in forum topics from abroad.



Hwacheon, located two hours from Seoul in northern South Korea, is a vibrant city of 25,000. The bucolic North Hang-gang River runs through the center of Hwacheon County.



Lee Hyun Sook, Director, Administrative Management Division, Hwacheon, presents a plan for the 16th Mayors Conference.



*WWCAM city representatives at the Working-Level Officials Meeting in Hwacheon.*

## Working-Level Meet Kicks Off 2014 Conference Plans

Thirty-six officials from 13 cities of six countries participated in the WWCAM Working-Level Officials Meeting at the Hwacheon Social Welfare Center in August. Plans for the sixteenth Mayors Conference in 2014 and a report on the fifteenth Mayors Conference in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in January 2012 were presented at the meeting.

The Working-Level Officials Meeting agenda included—

- the introduction of a new WWCAM member city, Matsumoto, Japan;
- a report on the fifteenth Mayors Conference in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, in January 2012;
- a discussion on plans for the sixteenth Mayors Conference;
- a discussion on the operation of the WWCAM;
- revitalization project report by the county of Hwacheon, Korea.

The environmental action goals that member cities expect to achieve by the time of the Hwacheon Mayors Conference in January 2014 were also announced at the meeting.

Represented at the Working-Level Officials Meeting were Changchun, Harbin, Jiamusi, Qiqihar, and Shenyang, China; Maardu, Estonia; Matsumoto and Sapporo, Japan; Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; Hwacheon, Taebaek, and Inje (observer), Korea; and Anchorage, USA.

### Discussion on the Operation of the WWCAM

Ideas were exchanged among member cities on the progress report given by the WWCAM Secretariat on revitalization projects and member city initiatives for action goals for environmental protection that were agreed upon during the fifteenth Mayors Conference in Ulaanbaatar.

### Setting Action Goals

At the January 2012 Mayors Conference held in Ulaanbaatar, it was decided that member cities would set a quantifiable goal for the promotion of the efficient use of energy and heat, as well as for public education on energy conservation, and that cities would announce the progress toward meeting their goals at the Sapporo Working-Level Officials Meeting planned for 2013. Cities will announce the final project results in January 2014 at the Hwacheon Mayors Conference.

Seven cities—Changchun, Jiamusi, Maardu, Sapporo, Kaunas, Hwacheon, and Taebaek—have already set action goals.

### Action Goals of Seven Member Cities

*Changchun, China:* Urban environment and infrastructure as well as living conditions to be improved by 2015.

*Jiamusi, China:* Wind power generators (870,000kWh) to be installed.

*Maardu, Estonia:* Waste burning facilities to be constructed to protect the environment and increase electricity generation by 17MW and heat generation by 50MW.

*Sapporo, Japan:* Solar power generation systems to be introduced in municipal facilities: approx. 2,600KW at 180 locations.

*Kaunas, Lithuania:* Lighting network to be upgraded and modernized by reducing the lighting power by 50 percent at night from 2010 to 2015.

*Hwacheon, Korea:* Five percent of electronic energy use in local public buildings to be reduced during peak season (June to September).

*Taebaek, Korea:* Production of new and renewable energy to be increased by 360 percent from 2011 to 2014.



*A carnival atmosphere with creatively designed boats and rafts takes place at the Hwacheon Raft Festival.*



*Panels installed at the Sancheoneo Festival site introduced WWCAM member cities to Korean and international visitors.*

## Hwacheon WWCAM Revitalization Project

At Hwacheon's Sancheoneo Ice Festival in January 2012, the activities of WWCAM member cities were displayed on twenty panels at an WWCAM exhibition space at the festival. The exhibit had more than 36,000 visitors from Korea and abroad, who enjoyed viewing the panels and had special interest in the WWCAM member cities with similar climates and living environments, as well as the cities' experiences as members of the WWCAM.

A report on Hwacheon's WWCAM PR Project as well as the project's future was approved at the 2010 Working-Level Officials Meeting in Ulaanbaatar. Revitalization projects of the WWCAM will be organized at the Sancheoneo Ice Festival in 2013 and 2014 as well.

## Two New WWCAM Members *Matsumoto, Japan*

Matsumoto, Japan, became a member of the WWCAM in August 2012. The city of approximately 244,000 residents is situated between Tokyo and Nagoya, almost at the center of Japan's main island, and by air about an hour and a half from Sapporo, the WWCAM secretariat.

Matsumoto is proud of the natural beauty of the nearby Japan Alps and the rivers that have their sources in those surrounding mountains. Sixty-one percent of the Matsumoto area is forested.



Matsumoto is noted for its four-hundred-year-old Matsumoto Castle, a national treasure, as well as many scenic spots, such as Kamikochi, which attracts a large number of tourists annually. Matsumoto's attractions are referred to as the three A's—Academics, Art, and the Alps.

The city of Matsumoto has initiated a new gen-

## Subcommittee on Environmental Protection

Wang Xiaodong, vice director-general of the Changchun Environmental Protection Bureau, presented a report on Changchun's research on air pollution related to snowfall at the Working-Level Officials Meeting in Hwacheon. Changchun is the Secretariat of the WWCAM Environmental Protection Subcommittee.

Mr. Wang's working team will complete related research before January 2014, and all of the WWCAM winter cities will benefit greatly from the results of the



*Vice director-general of Changchun Environmental Protection Bureau, Wang Xiaodong, delivers a report.*

study, according to Mr. Wang. Finding a solution to air pollution related to snowfall is one of the key environmental issues that challenges winter cities. Changchun is willing to share its experience and research know-how on the topic with all the WWCAM member cities.



*Picturesque Matsumoto Castle—a beautiful sight in winter.*

eral project called "The Sustainable Healthy City Matsumoto" with the intention to build a model city of the future. The city has been working hard to become an urban model of a "mature-type society" where residents support and learn from each other and live comfortably and securely toward the next 20 to 30 years.



*The city of Matsumoto with Matsumoto Castle in the foreground and the Japan Alps in the background.*

## Viimsi, Estonia

Viimsi, Estonia, in northern Europe became a member of the WWCAM in May 2011. Its land area is 72.9 square kilometers, and the municipality includes several islands. Viimsi is nine kilometers from the center of Tallinn, the capital and largest city in Estonia.

The population of Estonia is about 1.3 million residents, eighteen thousand of whom live in Viimsi, making the municipality the seventh largest in the country. One fourth of the population is 18 years of age or younger, so the city has a relatively young citizenry. As a result, the city focuses on



the education of its youthful population, allocating a large amount of the city's budget to education and to the improvement of learning opportunities. A prime example of this effort is the 25-year-old Viimsi School of Art at which approximately a hundred students are enrolled in art programs.

The city is also proud of the various opportunities for recreational activities that Viimsi provides. Residents of all ages enjoy various activities at culture centers and youth centers. Viimsi

municipality also promotes sports activities among residents at 42 sports clubs.

Viimsi is favored by a beautiful natural environment, which is treasured here. Viimsi has many interesting facilities and sightseeing spots including museums and archives where visitors can learn about the long history and rich culture of Estonia and the Baltic Sea area.



*Art students at the Viimsi School of Art.*



*Aerial view of Viimsi, Estonia.*

From  
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