



World Winter Cities Association for Mayors

# World Winter City News

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## WWCAM Mayors Conference to be held in Sapporo for the first time in 34 years next Summer!

The World Winter Cities Association for Mayors (WWCAM) is a network which gathers winter cities from across the globe to learn from each other's technologies, experiences, and utilization of snow under the slogan, "Winter is a Resource and an Asset," convening member city mayors and representatives once every two years at the Mayors Conference.

While until now Mayors Conferences have traditionally been held during the winter, the upcoming Sapporo Mayors Conference will pilot the gathering's first summer edition in July, 2016. This conference aims to give new direction to WWCAM activities by offering members the opportunity to learn from one another's case studies on urban development which are unique to winter cities that experience both harsh winters and pleasant summers.

Thirty-four years having passed since the hosting of the first Mayors Conference in Sapporo in 1982, we are pleased to welcome members back to this city for a conference that weaves in new appeal. Interested cities may contact the WWCAM Secretariat for further information on how to attend this conference.

## Introducing Sapporo – Host City of the 2016 Mayors Conference

Ranked Japan's fifth largest city as a major metropolis of 1.9 million people, Sapporo is the political, economic and cultural capital of the nation's northern island of Hokkaido and features a harmonious blend of urbanity and nature. The city garnered international attention for hosting the 1972 Winter Olympic Games and is known for its picturesque scenery and abundant event line-up including the Sapporo Snow Festival, contributing to the city's continuing rise as one of Japan's leading tourist destinations. The 2016 Mayors Conference will give members the chance to experience Sapporo's delightful summer climate.



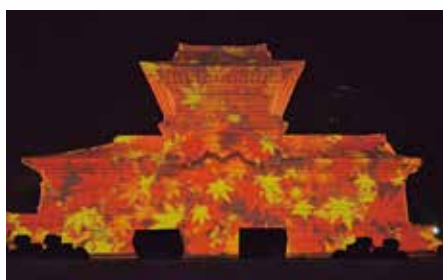
Sapporo cityscape



Night view from atop Mt. Moiwa – ranked one of Japan's new top three night views



Sapporo's "annex" Jozankei Hot Spring District



Projection mapping at the Sapporo Snow Festival ©HTB



Sapporo International Art Festival 2014



Sapporo Dome – an all-weather sports facility



Offering the great thrill of winter sports



Sapporo – a culinary center for Hokkaido

## Venue for the 2016 Mayors Conference

**Dates:** Wednesday, July 27 – Saturday, July 30, 2016

**Venue:** Sapporo Convention Center (main)

On the theme of urban development in winter cities, member cities will share and discuss best practices regarding city planning that makes use of the unique climatic traits of winter cities such as snow and ice, the coldness of winter and pleasant summers.

**Main theme:** "Winter City Urban Development: Uniqueness and its appeal"

**Sub-themes:** 1. Urban development arising from overcoming winter challenges; 2. Urban development utilizing winter; 3. Urban development that takes advantage of special climate features outside the winter season; 4. Eco-conscious sustainable urban development in winter cities.



Sapporo Convention Center Special Conference Hall

## Winter Cities Expo

**Dates:** Saturday, July 30 – Sunday, July 31, 2016

**Venue:** Sapporo Ekimae-dori Underground Walkway "Chi-ka-ho"

This expo will serve as a means for member cities from around the world to display and sell specialty goods from their regions to Sapporo residents. The tentative venue for this expo is an underground passageway spanning the city center which sees a large volume of traffic.



Sapporo Ekimae-dori Underground Walkway "Chi-ka-ho"

## Winter Cities Forum

**Date:** Saturday, July 30, 2016

Leveraging WWCAM's status as a registered NGO with the UN Economic and Social Council and the UN Department of Public Information, this forum hosted in collaboration with UN agencies will introduce the activities of WWCAM and UN agencies to residents of Sapporo.

## Greetings from the Mayor of Sapporo



It is with pleasure that I may say a few words in preparation of our city's hosting of the World Winter Cities Conference for Mayors for the first time in thirty-four years.

This association gathers cities from cold and snowy regions across the globe to learn from one another's experience in urban development and use this knowledge as a reference to be applied in their own municipalities, contributing to improved city planning.

It is my hope that the Mayors Conference will serve as an opportunity for all winter cities to benefit from discussing how to generate city appeal from the snow, ice and cold winters of winter cities, as well as how to draw attention to the cooler summers and other seasons outside of winter and what possibilities these traits present in terms of specialized urban development. I am most excited to engage in such talks with all attending member cities.

On behalf of Sapporo and its 1.94 million residents, I wholeheartedly welcome you to attend the 2016 Sapporo Mayors Conference and make a significant contribution to the growth of winter cities of the world.

Katsuhiro Akimoto  
Mayor of Sapporo

秋元克広



## About the World Winter City Association for Mayors

The World Winter Cities Association for Mayors (WWCAM) is a network that gathers winter cities of the world to meet and learn from each other about winter technologies and experiences under the slogan, "Winter is a Resource and an Asset." The organization began at the initiation of the City of Sapporo in 1981 as the Northern Intercity Conference, the first conference being held the following year. In 2004, in aim of further advancing the organization, its name was changed to the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors. While allowing mayors of winter cities across the globe to meet under one roof and share information and technologies useful to the development of easily livable winter cities, WWCAM, as a member of the international community, also strives to resolve global environmental issues that require joint international efforts to tackle. These exchanges among global regions that experience the same snowy and cold environments bring both tangible and intangible benefits to all cities involved.

What is a winter city?

**A city that conducts city planning in snowy and/or cold climate conditions**

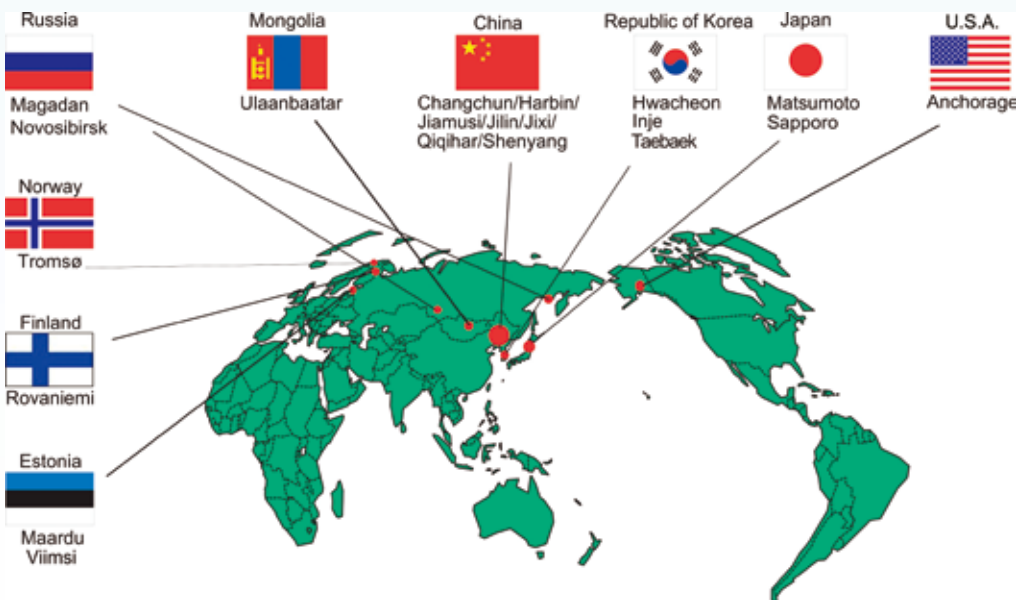
Measure of snow accumulation: At least 20 cm (8 in.) per year

Measure of cold temperature: At least one month per year with an approximate average temperature below 0°C (32°F)

### Member Cities

20 cities from 9 countries (as of Nov. 2015)

The World Winter Cities Association for Mayors is an NGO in Consultative Status (roster) with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and a registered NGO of the UN Department of Public Information.



Aurora in Anchorage, U.S.A



Cranes in Qiqihar, China

### 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 held 16 times. The conference provides a forum for mayors to share expertise on topics including global environmental issues, city planning, winter transportation and snow removal. Participants gain valuable suggestions on how to overcome formidable challenges presented by winter climates.

The conference offers a unique opportunity for mayors themselves to present their cities' initiatives and take part in discussions with fellow mayors as representatives of their municipal governments.

#### WWCAM Subcommittees

WWCAM Subcommittees present an opportunity for working level officials and technical experts of winter cities to conduct surveys and research on progressive case studies. Up until now, subcommittees for "Winter Recreation and Tourism," "Snow Management," "Countermeasures against Natural Disasters," "Sustainable Winter Cities Planning," "Winter Environmental Issues," and "Environmental Protection" have compiled and presented reports on their respective research. An Arctic Design Subcommittee has recently been established and is planning upcoming activity.

#### Working-Level Officials Meeting

Working-Level Officials Meetings allow senior administrators of WWCAM cities to meet and discuss the themes of upcoming Mayors Conferences and matters related to the management of the association. These meetings are generally held biennially in Sapporo, where the WWCAM Secretariat is located.

## ■ ■ ■ Evolution of focus areas within WWCAM ■ ■ ■

### Phase 1: Solutions to issues encountered in winter living

(1<sup>st</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Mayors Conferences [1982-2000])

Discussion in the first phase of Mayors Conferences revolved around resolving issues in winter living – in other words how to overcome the hardships of the snow and cold to achieve livable winter cities.

### Phase 2: Global environmental issues in winter cities

(10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> Mayors Conferences [2002-2014])

This topic began to be discussed at Mayors Conferences as the world shifted its attention to global environmental issues at the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The environmental protection efforts of winter cities gained appeal with the international community.

### Phase 3: Unique urban development inspired by winter cities and shared with the world

(17<sup>th</sup> Mayors Conference onward [2016-])

On the theme of urban development in winter cities, member cities will discuss city planning that makes use of the unique climatic traits of winter cities at the 2016 Mayors Conference. The association will additionally continue to discuss solutions to environmental issues, as agreed upon in the Hwacheon Declaration announced at the 2014 Hwacheon Mayors Conference.



2014 Hwacheon Mayors Conference

#### Hwacheon Declaration

In Hwacheon, the land surrounded by abundant natural beauty which gives birth to the pristine waters home to the mountain trout, we, the members of the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors, have reacknowledged that the realization of environmentally friendly cities is an important task for winter cities.

We, standing before the North Han River where people are enjoying Korea's largest winter festival, have advanced to a new stage in the quest to utilize natural blessings as resources to revitalize our cities without damaging the natural environment.

While reaffirming that it is the role of winter cities to lead the international community in tackling environmental issues, we, the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors, hereby declare that we will put forth our utmost efforts in addressing these issues and will continue working to advance discussions on global warming, energy policies as well as other environmental issues, sharing our discoveries with the world and instilling environmental awareness in the young generation which will lead future efforts.

## Becoming a Member

**Entry procedures:** The mayor of the city which wishes to join must submit a petition to the WWCAM President expressing the city's willingness to join. The petition will then be evaluated by the Board of Directors before the city is admitted to the association.

**Membership fees:** Annual membership fees are paid on a scale calculated by city population and national GDP per capita. Fees for the first year of membership are to be only half the calculated amount.

**Why join?:** Members may play an active, decision-making role in the General Assembly and Mayors Conferences, as well as announce candidacy to host the Mayors Conference in their city. Members may also make use of the global member network to conduct individual exchanges.

**Apply to:** WWCAM Secretariat

For more details on the latest conference content and past achievements of the association, please visit the WWCAM website:  
<http://www.city.sapporo.jp/somu/kokusai/wwcam/>

The World Winter Cities Association for Mayors is currently seeking cities who wish to join the discussion on city planning for livable winter cities. Please contact the WWCAM Secretariat for further details and requirements regarding admission to the network.

From  
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