



World Winter Cities Association for Mayors World Winter City News

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WWCAM Mayors Conference Held in Sapporo for the First Time in 34 years!

The 17th World Winter Cities Conference for Mayors (WWCAM Mayors Conference) was held in Sapporo for four days from July 27 to July 30, which 98 people from 32 cities in eight countries participated in. The very first Conference was held in Sapporo in 1982 and held here again for the first time in 34 years. During the early days of the Mayors Conference a series of discussions revolving around resolving issues in winter living were held: however, at the turn of the 21st century, global environment issues, which the world shifted its attention to, have been key issues in the Conference. In this Conference, based on "Winter City Urban Development: Uniqueness and its appeal" as the main theme, while aiming for the appeal of urban development distinct to winter cities, how to achieve and appeal this theme to the world was discussed in a frank manner.



■ Participating cities (Member Cities): 15 cities in seven countries

Country	City
Canada	Edmonton
China	Changchun, Harbin, Jiamusi, Jixi, Qiqihar, Shenyang
Finland	Rovaniemi
Japan	Matsumoto, Sapporo
Mongolia	Ulaanbaatar
Republic of Korea	Hwacheon, Inje, Taebaek
Russian Federation	Novosibirsk

■ Participating cities (Observer cities): 17 cities in three countries

Country	City
Denmark	Copenhagen
Russian Federation	Gubkinsky, Purovsky Area, Yamal-Nenets Autonomous District
Japan	Hirosaki, Kanegasaki, Fukuoka, Rumoi, Tomakomai, Bibai, Chitose, Takikawa, Eniwa, Niseko, Kutchan, Tsukigata, Shimokawa

The 17th WWCAM Mayors Conferences: Summary

- **Period:** Wednesday, July 27, 2016 – Saturday, July 30, 2016
- **Venue:** Sapporo Convention Center (Sapporo)
- **Main events:** Opening ceremony, General Assembly, Presentation of Case Studies by Member Cities, Mayors Discussion, Arctic Design Subcommittee, General Meeting/Closing Ceremony

Sapporo Declaration and the Resolutions adopted

To close the Mayors Conference, the General Meeting was held and the Sapporo Declaration and the 17th World Winter Cities Conference for Mayors Resolution, proposed by City of Sapporo and the Secretariat, were adopted by unanimous approval of all participating Member Cities. After being signed by representatives from participating cities, Mayor Akimoto of City of Sapporo, who is the host of the Conference, signed the Declaration.

Throughout discussions in the Conference, it was reaffirmed that the distinguished uniqueness of winter cities are strong sales points to develop city planning, and the WWCAM network, along with the cooperation of Member Cities, could be taken advantage of for city planning.

Furthermore, we also reaffirmed that this network, which has been fostered beyond the difference of countries and cultures, would help to solve a wide range of international issues, while commitments by each Member City would lead to solve the global issues such as environmental preservation.

Following comments that some participating cities made, such as "I learned about similarities among winter cities as well as the contrasts" and "it is very important to share knowledge and experiences to search the solutions to a better life in harsh climate conditions," Mayor Akimoto concluded that "while our association started from sharing wisdom to overcome winter challenges such as the cold and snow, we were able to share a new idea to promote intercity cooperation from a broad perspective, such as to tackle global environmental issues" and adjourned the Conference.

Sapporo Declaration

Possessing a thirty-four year history, the World Winter Cities Association began here in Sapporo with the Northern Intercity Conference of Mayors in 1982.

Facing the many challenges presented to cities in cold and snowy regions, we members of this Association have striven to advance winter city development through the sharing of wisdom and experience among our many fellows, coming to solidify our bond.

While distinguished for the signature snow and cold associated with their namesake, winter cities additionally possess charms lesser witnessed by other regions, such as being favored by four distinct seasons and contrastively brilliant summers. Leveraging these features, it is our mission to create cities in which our citizens take joy in living.

Making full use of our World Winter Cities Association for Mayors network, we continue taking our winter city development to the next level by overcoming nationality and status to understand our cultural differences, connect and cooperate in the spirit of friendly competition.

Not limited to the resolution of issues faced narrowly within our own cities, we hereby affirm that our activities within this Association may also contribute to the resolution of environmental issues and other challenges global in nature – activities that are indispensable for shaping the future of this planet.

Moreover, it is our hope that this network of winter cities, which has built up borderless relations of trust and cooperation over the course of its more than thirty years of continued activity, may assist the resolution of multifarious international conflicts involving complex grapples of differing cultures and interests.

Given the above, we winter cities hereby declare our commitment to further deepen our allied efforts and aspire for our organization to be a leader to the world's cold and snowy cities, taking together another stride forward into the future here from the grounds of the very birthplace of the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors.



Commemorative photo of the Member Cities' representatives

Presentation of Case Studies by Member Cities

Fourteen case studies were presented by thirteen member cities during a two-day presentation session from July 27 to 28. Common problems and corresponding measures, which would be insight for their future development in a variety of ways, were introduced.

Sub-theme 1: Urban development utilizing winter

City planning based on the “Winter City Strategy” adopted in 2012 from Edmonton, Initiatives to utilize winter resources such as snow and ice for tourism from Jiamusi, Jixi, Qiqihar and Hwacheon, initiatives to utilize winter sports for winter tourism from Changchun and Rovaniemi, and case studies on the facility construction under severe climate conditions from Novosibirsk were introduced. Furthermore, the City of Sapporo which hosts the Mayors Conference made a presentation about city planning through hosting the Winter Olympics and Paralympics.

Sub-theme 2: Urban development that takes advantage of special climate features outside the winter season

Inje introduced that they aim to becoming 100 % energy independent by 2045, taking initiatives to be energy independent starting from the city area by using all kind of natural energy resources.

Sub-theme 3: Eco-conscious sustainable urban development in winter cities

The innovative project to reduce food loss which the city of Matsumoto began in 2010, initiatives to improve the environment at water reservoir areas being implemented over a decade in Harbin, and initiatives with regard to the construction of environmental friendly buildings which the city of Shenyang has promoted from 2011 were introduced. The City of Sapporo made the presentation on eco-conscious sustainable urban panning in the downtown area.



Environmental Action Goals

Based on the Declaration approved in the 16th WWCAM Mayors Conference held at Hwacheon in January 2014, cities that set their own action goals for environmental conservation gave reports and cities that did not set goals also introduced their initiatives.

In the Conference, continuing efforts relating to environmental preservation while each city will set a new action goal, and reporting their achievements at the 18th WWCAM Mayors Conference held in Shenyang in 2018 were decided.

Mayors Discussion

Since the WWCAM was founded, the Mayors Discussion has been put on by the attending city representatives in order to provide an opportunity for mayors to learn from each other by candidly exchanging opinions on common issues that challenge winter cities.

Under the theme of “strategies to create economic vitality in urban areas,” opinions with various approaches were showcased, such as regional vitalization initiatives by using Sancheoneo Ice Festival from Hwacheon, vitalization initiatives through sports from Inje, and a scheme of corporate support from Novosibirsk, and it became a platform for active exchanges.

Arctic Design Subcommittee

The Arctic Design Subcommittee was held to learn successful case studies and knowhow from each other by using design as problem-solving approach. The results of the questionnaire conducted prior to the Conference on successful case studies from subcommittee participant cities was reported by City of Rovaniemi, which is the Subcommittee Secretariat.

In the report, case studies such as a new economic model “Circular Economy” focusing on reusing resources and delivering added values toward products from Rovaniemi, “Hot tour in winter” which includes visiting venues in the city based on the historical documents and traditions from Novosibirsk, and “International Cross Country Skiing Festival” which has been conducted over 10 years by Changchun were introduced. Based on the result of questionnaire, to deepen the understanding for the design and share successful case studies on city planning were confirmed.



Arctic Design Subcommittee

About the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors

The World Winter Cities Association for Mayors (WWCAM) is a network that brings together 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." Formerly called the Northern Intercity Conference, the association was initiated by the city of Sapporo in 1981, and the following year the first Mayors Conference was held. In 2004, aiming for further development, the name was changed to the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors. While coming together to discuss useful information and technologies regarding comfortable winter city planning, mayors of winter cities work together as members of the international community to solve issues that need global cooperation to fix, such as global environmental issues. Such exchanges with global cities which face similar cold, snowy environments leads to building both tangible and intangible assets for each city.

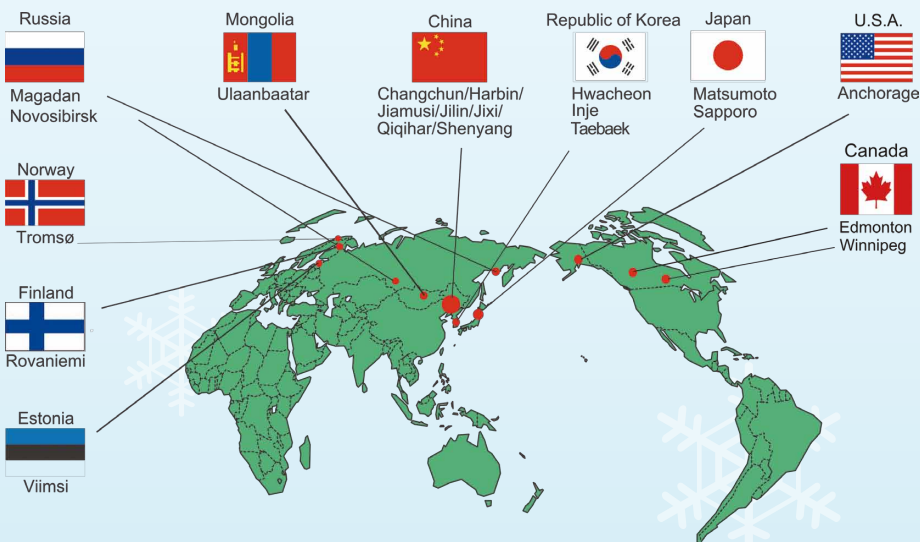
What is a Winter City?

A city that faces challenges related to development due to harsh winter climate conditions with heavy snowfall and cold temperatures

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

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

WWCAM Member Cities 21 cities from 10 countries (as of Jan. 2017)



Sancheoneo Ice Festival, Hwacheon, South Korea



Aurora Borealis Rovaniemi, Finland

The WWCAM is a United Nations Economic and Social Council Registered NGO (roster), and a United Nations Information Center Registered NGO

Main Activities

◆ Mayors Conference

The World Winter Cities Conference for Mayors, held once every two years, is the main activity. In the past 17 conferences, mayors have shared their wisdom and experiences in their pioneering cities regarding global environmental problems, urban planning, winter transportation, and snow clearing and removal, and have learned tips for city planning and means to overcoming severe weather conditions.

The Mayors Conference is a wonderful and unique opportunity where, each mayor, as chief executives of urban management, shares case studies of their city and engages in lively discussions while honestly exchanging opinions.

◆ Subcommittees

Subcommittees are where strategists and engineers from winter cities research advanced case studies. In the past, subcommittees on winter recreation and tourism, snow management, countermeasures against natural disaster, sustainable winter cities planning, winter urban environmental research, environmental protection, etc. have been established and gathered the results of each various theme. The current existing subcommittee is the Arctic Design Subcommittee which is currently conducting research under the theme of "design as a problem solving approach," investigating how this can be used for urban development.

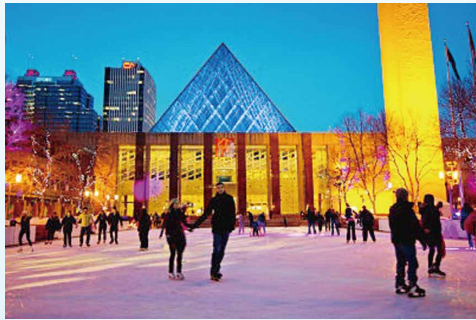
◆ Working-Level Officials Meeting

This meeting is where administrative officials from member cities gather to discuss the preparations for and theme of the next Mayor's Conference as well as management of the WWCAM. The Working-Level Officials Meeting is held, in principal, every two years in the city where the Secretariat is located.

Introduction of new member city (Edmonton)

City of Edmonton has just taken action towards further development in winter cities, and its culture has changed day by day. Citizens in Edmonton bless the existence of winter, and commit themselves to develop the quality of life with enabling the latent potential of harsh yet beautiful seasons.

“Winter City Strategy” in Edmonton was adopted in 2012 and the plan for implementation was approved in 2013. In the process of its approval, Edmonton City Council announced their official support to the vision which is based on the idea that Citizens themselves will like its winter. This vision was drawn out under the leadership of “Winter City Think-tank” which is an organization of community leaders. We are highly proud of our process on drawing out this strategy over the years.

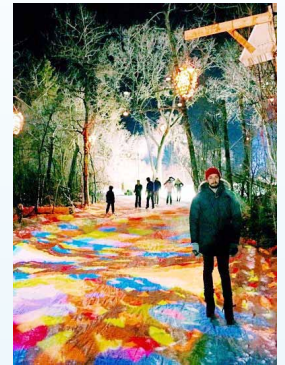


This Winter City Strategy is consist of four themes - life in winter, winter design, economy in winter, and a story in winter-, and proposes ten goals, including testing a snow removal program on bicycle lanes, drawing out the master plan on lighting, and initiatives toward the development and sustainability of winter festivals.

City of Edmonton recognizes winter as great asset which brings social and economic values/benefits into the city.

For the details on “Winter City Strategy” and its implement plan, please see the following website:

The website of “Winter City Strategy”: www.edmonton.ca/wintercitystrategy



Membership Procedure

Application for membership: Any mayor wishing to become a member of the Association will apply to the President for membership. The decision will be made after consulting with the Board of Directors.

Membership fee: Member cities must pay an annual membership fee which is calculated in accordance with their per-capita GDP and their population. The fee for the first year will be half the amount of the calculated annual membership fee.

Advantages of Membership: The Members will be qualified to attend the General Assembly and Mayors Conference, speak at meetings, and vote. They will receive all publications of the Association, including newsletters. They are also qualified to apply for hosting the Mayors Conference Winter Cities Showcase. In addition, they are eligible to utilize the network system established among members.

Apply to: World Winter Cities Association for Mayors Secretariat

Detailed information on the latest conference details and results so far is published on the webpage of the World Winter Cities Association. Feel free to check out the link below: (<http://www.city.sapporo.jp/somu/kokusai/wwcam/>)

The World Winter Cities Association for Mayors is recruiting member cities to come together to discuss comfortable winter city planning. For detailed requirements for membership, please contact the WWCAM Secretariat.

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