

**WWCAM**  
**Subcommittee on Winter Environmental Issues**  
**- Final Report -**

**January 2010**



**Subcommittee on Winter Environmental Issues**  
**World Winter Cities Association for Mayors**

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## **1. Background of the Subcommittee on Winter Environmental Issues**

### **(1) Discussions at the 12th WWCAM Conference in 2006**

At the twelfth Mayors Conference in Changchun, China, discussions were held under the theme of “Winter Environmental Concerns.” Worldwide interest in the global environment has been increasing year after year, and this has been the case also in China, the host of the Mayors Conference.

The Mayors Conference included presentations by participants on the challenges unique to winter cities, such as the effective use of energy for heating, the use of biomass as a fuel, and the need for central heating systems that are kind to the environment.

### **(2) Changchun Declaration Adopted**

The Changchun Declaration was adopted on the last day of the Mayors Conference, following discussions by representatives of the winter cities. It expresses the determination of the winter cities to endeavor to promote environment-friendly activities.

The declaration states it this way: “Acknowledging that urban activities with reduced energy consumption and with less impact on the environment are important for dealing with environmental issues, . . . each city will deal with these issues with utmost wisdom and effort.”

#### **Changchun Declaration**

- Environmental issues such as global warming are serious issues that all cities have to urgently deal with no matter where they are located.
- In winter cities, with their low temperatures, heavy snowfalls, and harsh climatic conditions, the consumption of energy for heating and for snow removal and melting is enormous, and with rapid urbanization, excessive energy consumption has been adversely affecting the global environment year after year.
- Acknowledging that urban activities with reduced energy consumption and with less impact on the environment are important for dealing with environmental issues, we, the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors, hereby declare that each city will deal with these issues with utmost wisdom and effort.
- The Association also declares that the ideals of the declaration should be promoted to as many winter cities of the world as possible, and that the Association will make its utmost effort to promote these ideals through education and information.

### (3) Establishment of the Subcommittee on Winter Environmental Issues

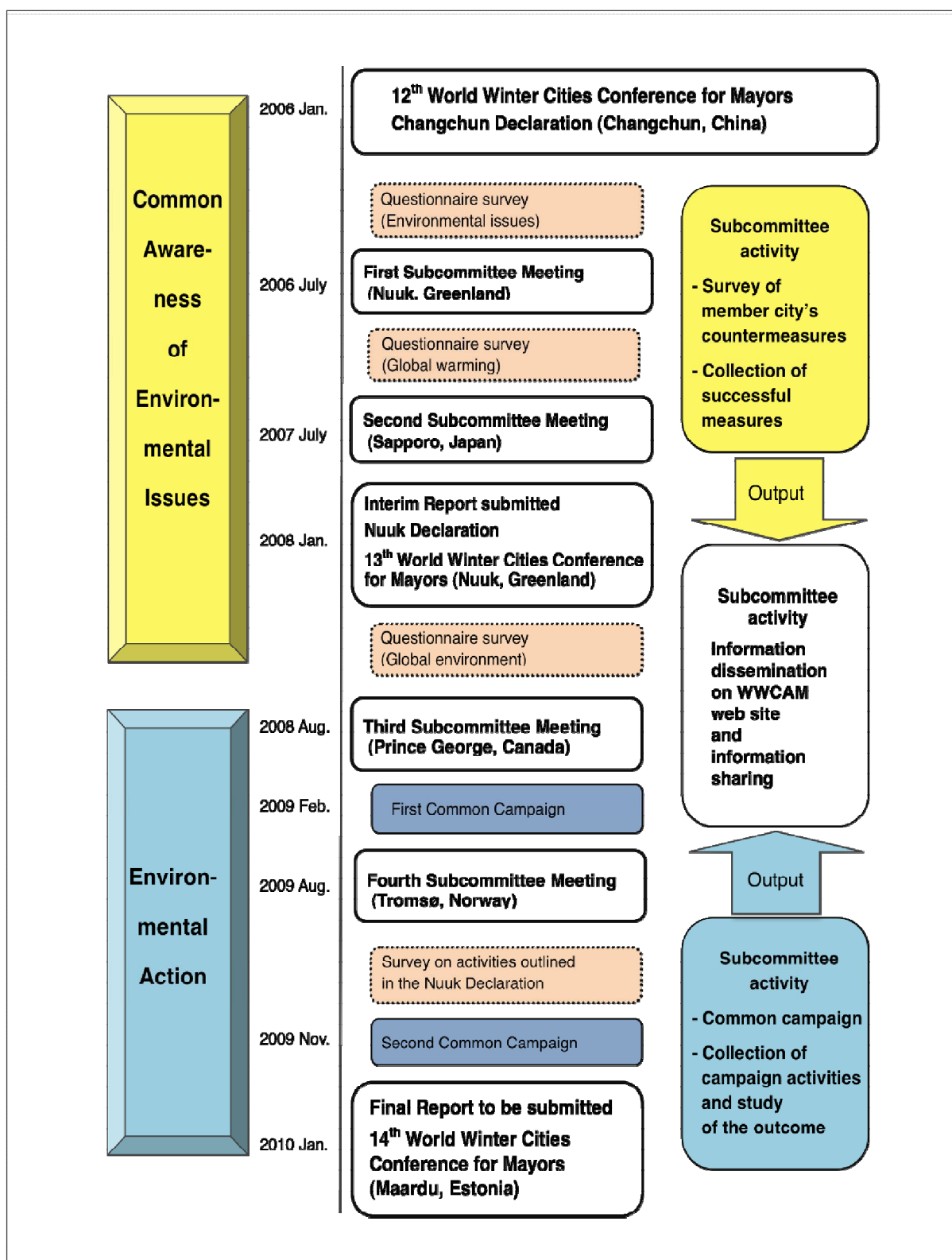
In response to the statements of the Changchun Declaration, the Subcommittee on Winter Environmental Issues was established at the 12th WWCAM Conference. The Subcommittee has as its goal to study measures that will counter threats to the environment in winter cities. The city of Sapporo serves as the secretariat of the Subcommittee.

Reference: Timeline and goals of international actions in relation to the global environment

Field	Title	Year & period	Remarks
Individual			
Global warming	Kyoto Protocol: First commitment period	12 years from 2008	Agreed at the COP3 in Kyoto in 1997
Sanitation & water environment	International Year of Sanitation International Decade for Action, "Water for Life"	2008 2005 to 2015	To monitor achievement of the goals agreed
Preservation of natural environment	2010 goal regarding biological diversity	Until 2010	To remarkably reduce biodiversity loss speed
	International Year of Biological Diversity	2010	Target year
	International Year of the Forest	2011	
Collaborative			
Education	UN Literacy Decade	2003 to 2012	Slogan: Education for All
	UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development	2005 to 2014	
Observation of the Earth	GEOSS 10-year Action Plan	2005 to 2015	Toward establishing Global Climate Observation System
Development aid	Gleneagles Action Plan (Aid to Africa)	Until 2010	Double the financial aid to Africa
Sustainable development	Millenium Development Goal	Until 2015	Goal: Halve absolute poverty

Source: Takashi Matsumura: "Global Environment: Overview of the past year,"  
*Journal of Resources and Environment*, December 2009,  
*Environmental Communications. Co. Ltd*, 2009.


## 2. Activities of the Subcommittee (2006 – 2010)











The web site of the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors (WWCAM) carries reports of the subcommittee meetings and results of the questionnaire surveys.

City of Sapporo (Home) [日本語](#) | [Chinese](#) | [Korean](#) | [Russian](#)

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**Results of WWCAM**

- ▶ Subcommittee on Winter City Environmental Issues
- ▶ [Subcommittee on City Operations for Mitigation of Climate Change](#)
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### Subcommittee on Winter City Environmental Issues

At the 12th World Winter Cities Conference for Mayors (WWCAM) held in Changchun, China in January 2006, it was resolved to establish a "Subcommittee on Winter City Environmental Issues" with the aim of studying environmental issues that are of concern to winter cities.

Based on the Changchun Declaration adopted at the Conference, the Subcommittee hopes to gather information about the kinds of environmental problems member cities are facing so that the data can be shared among them to improve winter city planning.

The Secretariat of the Subcommittee is located in the city of Sapporo.



### Activities of the Subcommittee

- Hosting of Subcommittee meetings
  - [First meeting \(July 26, 2006\)](#)
  - [Second meeting \(July 26, 2007\)](#)
  - [Interim report \(January 20, 2008\)](#)
  - [Third meeting \(August 21, 2008\)](#)
- [WWCAM Electricity-Saving Campaign](#)

*(in English, Japanese, Chinese, Russian and Korean)*

WWCAM web site

<http://www.city.sapporo.jp/somu/kokusai/wwcam/winterenviromental.html>

### 3. First Subcommittee Meeting

< July 26, 2006; Nuuk, Greenland >

Participants: Changchun and Qiqihar (China); Nuuk (Greenland); Sapporo (Japan);  
Taebaek (Korea); Anchorage (U.S.A.)

#### Agenda 1. Briefing of the results of the first questionnaire survey

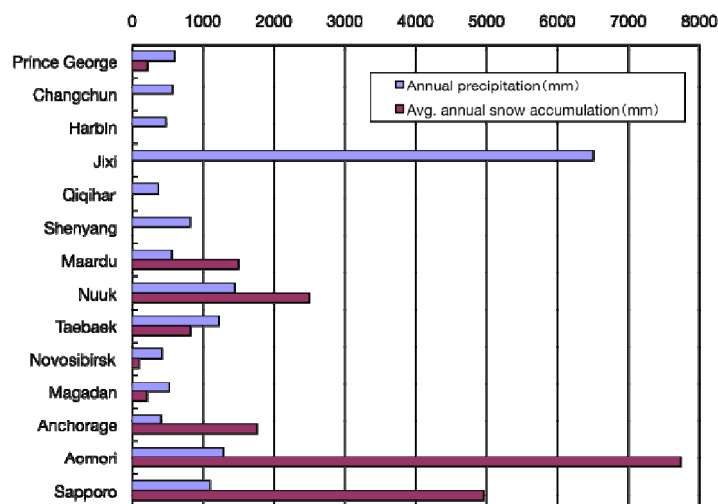
A wide variety of environmental issues, such as air pollution, water and soil contamination, waste, energy conservation, global warming, and vehicular pollution are common to all the member cities regardless of the size of the city or its regional characteristics. Among all the issues, global warming is the concern of not only national government, but also of local governments. The result indicates that the member cities are highly aware of the abnormal climate, local governments are responsible for environmental measures in most of the cities, and a large number of cities have been educating residents on environmental issues.

On the other hand, citizens' awareness of environmental issues beyond global warming, such as air pollution and water contamination, varies from city to city.

#### (1) Outline of member cities

The chart indicates annual precipitation and snow accumulation.

Some Chinese cities have no snow accumulation. On the other hand, the depth of snow in Aomori is as great as 7.7 meters.



The chart below indicates population and land area of member cities. Population varies from approximately 9.7 million in Harbin, China to 15 thousand in Nuuk, Greenland.

	Canada	China							Estonia	Green-land	Korea	Russia			U.S.A.	Japan
	Prince George	Changchun	Harbin	Jiamusi	Jixi	Qiqihar	Shenyang	Maershi	Niuk	Tielshak	Novosibirsk	Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk	Megadan	Anchorage	Aomori	Sapporo
Population (thousand)	80	7,240	9,700	2,380	2,000	5,610	7,200	16.5	15	53	1,405.6	181	990	278	320	1,880
Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	316	20,571	53,000	32,700	22,531	42,489	12,980	26	105,000	304	506	82	2,950	5,083	825	1,121

(2) Environmental issues in member cities

Replies from member cities revealed that the following are major environmental concerns in their cities.

Environmental Issues			Serious in (number of cities)	
			Most serious in	
Air pollution	Exhaust gas from factories and other facilities	13	4	
	Exhaust gas from vehicles	14	5	
Water and soil contamination	Treatment of domestic waste water	15	8	
	Water drained from factories and other facilities	12	3	
	River water quality control	12	2	
Waste treatment	Treatment of household waste	12	1	
	Treatment of waste from businesses and factories	11	2	
	Recycling of waste	13	5	
	Prevention of the illegal disposal of waste	11	1	
	Waste reduction	11	5	
Energy conservation	Technological improvement for energy conservation	15	5	
	Promotion of energy-saving lifestyles	13	3	
Nature and greenery	Preservation of natural environment	16	5	
	Tree planting in downtown area and at parks	13	3	
Environmental education	Promotion of environmental education among citizens	13	5	
	Education of people who will work for environmental protection locally	11	2	
Global warming	Reduction of CO <sub>2</sub> emissions	11	3	
Exhaust gas	Control of exhaust gas from vehicles	15	7	

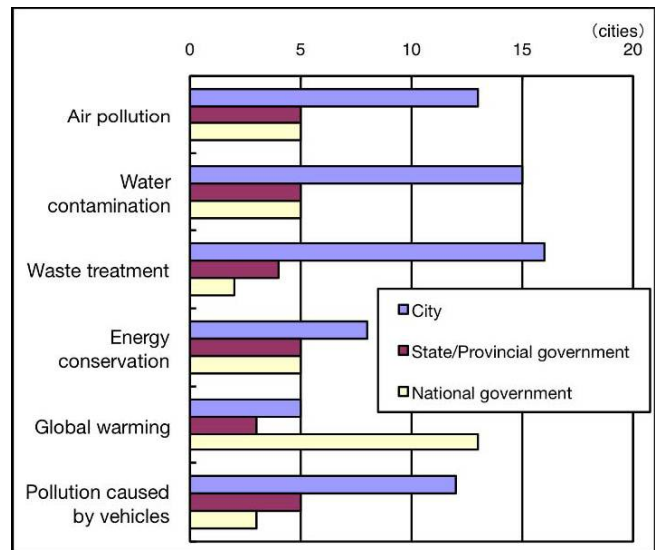
Member cities replied that all the items listed are serious issues to them, which means they are dealing with a multiple number of issues at the same time.



### (3) Administrative body responsible for environmental measures

To the question “Who is responsible for environmental measures, the city or national government?” most of the respondents stated that the city government has responsibility for most of the items listed.

However, global warming countermeasures are the responsibility of the national government in most of the member cities.

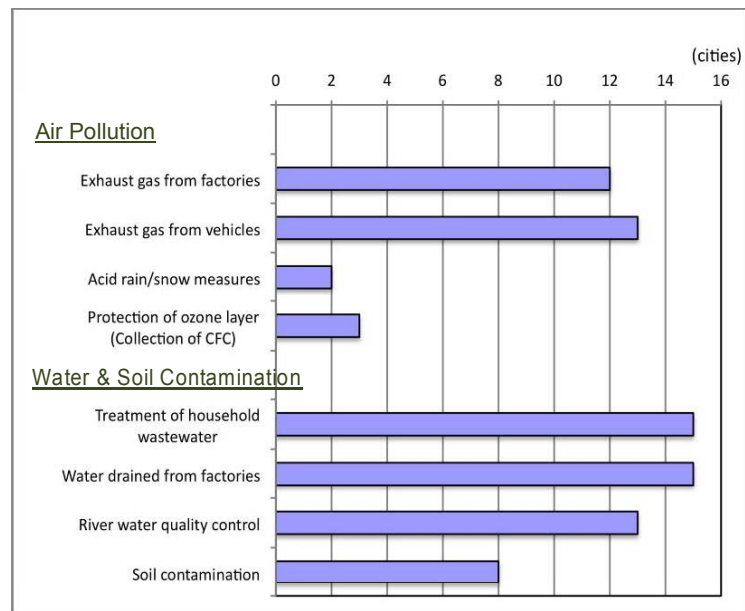


(Multiple choices accepted)

### (4) Impact of the global warming and countermeasures

#### a. Environmental measures to be taken

Investigation was done on what measures among many global environment-related issues member cities think it necessary to take.



(Multiple choices accepted)