



# World Winter Cities Association for Mayors

## World Winter City News

Secretariat : Kita 1 Nishi 2 , Chuo-ku , Sapporo 060-8611 , Japan  
tel : +81-11-211-2032 FAX : +81-11-218-5168 e-mail : [wwcam@city.sapporo.jp](mailto:wwcam@city.sapporo.jp)  
website : <https://wwcam.org/en>

March,  
2022

## Rovaniemi Mayors Conference Held Virtually in November, 2021

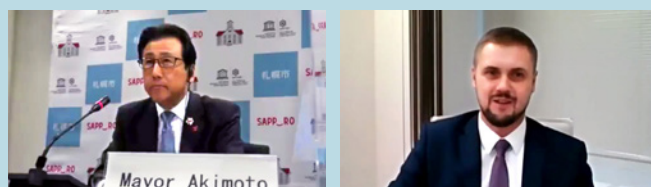
The 19<sup>th</sup> World Winter Cities Conference for Mayors (Mayors Conference), hosted by Rovaniemi, Finland, took place on November 5, 15, and 16, 2021. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference was held virtually for the first time in the WWCAM's history.

At the Working Group Discussion on Nov. 5 and the Group Session on Nov. 15, participating cities made presentations and exchanged their views and questions.

On Nov. 16, the Arctic Design Subcommittee presented the final report on their activities that had started in 2015. The Rovaniemi Declaration summarizing the entire conference and the 19<sup>th</sup> Mayors Conference Resolutions were adopted by unanimous approval of all member cities to conclude the three-day conference.



Mayor of Rovaniemi and Santa Claus giving opening remarks



Mayor of Sapporo (left) and Deputy Mayor of Norilsk (right) at the conference

## 2021 Rovaniemi Mayors Conference Summary

Period: Friday, Nov. 5; Monday, Nov. 15; and Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2021

Host City: Rovaniemi, Finland

Participating Cities (member & observer cities): 21 cities from seven countries

Main Theme: Aging Society in Winter Cities and Cold Climate

Main Events:

### Working Group Discussion

Working-level city officials and academics participated to give presentations on the discussion topic and exchange their opinions and questions.

Discussion Topic: Tourism Development in Winter Cities

### Group Session

Mayors and other representatives as a proxy for the mayor participated to give presentations on the sub-themes and exchange their opinions and questions.

Sub-themes: Challenges and Solutions to Social Marginalization, Elderly Empowerment, and Infrastructure and Architecture for All

### Final Report of the Arctic Design Subcommittee

### Voting on the Rovaniemi Declaration and the Rovaniemi Mayors Conference Resolutions

Participating cities (member cities): 14 cities from 7 countries

Country	City
Canada	Edmonton
China	Changchun, Daqing, Harbin, Jiamusi, Jilin, Qiqihar, Shenyang
Finland	Rovaniemi
Japan	Sapporo
Mongolia	Ulaanbaatar
Republic of Korea	Hwacheon
Russian Federation	Norilsk, Novosibirsk

Participating cities (observer cities): 7 cities from 3 countries

Country	City
Japan	Hakodate, Kagoshima, Kitahiroshima, Kitakyushu, Matsumoto
Republic of Korea	Chuncheon
Russian Federation	Khabarovsk

## Rovaniemi Declaration

World Winter Cities Association for Mayors (WWCAM) has been an active network of more than twenty cities from the northern areas. The work of the WWCAM has been going on for 40 years.

During the past decades, all the participating cities have seen the huge change the world has gone through both in good and in bad. Globalization has brought all of us closer together and enhanced logistical connections have improved the flow of goods and visitors to every corner of the globe. On the other hand, global warming has accelerated into a climate crisis and new fresh ideas, as well as concrete actions, are now needed to secure our future. Despite the challenges, winter cities look to the future with confidence.

The Covid-19 pandemic has ruled the world and greatly influenced human interaction for the past two years. We have learned to communicate virtually. However, virtual communication is not a substitute for face-to-face meetings. Hopefully, this WWCAM first virtual conference and general assembly will also be the last of its kind and we are able to meet face-to-face in the future.

The theme of the 19th Mayors Conference is Aging Society in Winter Cities and Cold Climate. The theme of the conference was decided before the pandemic, but pandemic has highlighted even more the loneliness and isolation of people, especially the elderly. Infrastructure, architecture, and urban planning are challenging in every city. However, in winter cities these challenges are of a particular nature due to climatic factors and winter conditions.

Recognizing these challenges, winter cities hereby declare the commitment to strengthening cooperation, looking for solutions to slow down climate change, improving urban planning, and taking more into account the needs of an aging population. We will work together in the spirit of partnership, with mutual respect and seeking the way to common success.

### Working Group Discussion

Six cities made presentations on the theme of "Tourism Development in Winter Cities". In the discussions, participants exchanged their opinions and questions with regard to winter tourism.

#### [Presentation Summaries]

##### **Norilsk, Russia**

The Arctic tourism cluster created to develop tourism industry on the Taimyr Peninsula, winter tourism featuring natural locations, and a digital tourist platform offered in multiple languages.

##### **Edmonton, Canada** (video presentation)

Edmonton's strategy for transforming into a world-leading winter city, creating winter tourism experiences, and marketing campaigns to increase tourists to the city.

##### **Rovaniemi, Finland**

The COVID-19 impact on the tourism and the future of the tourism in Rovaniemi.

##### **Sapporo, Japan**

Joint educational projects related to tourism between Hokkaido University and universities in the northern region.

##### **Shenyang, China**

Ice and snow sports in the city, the Shenyang International Ice and Snow Festival, and tourism resources including the World Cultural Heritage sites.

##### **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**

Development, challenges, and improvements for winter tourism utilizing the city's traditional culture.

#### [Questions & Topics Discussed by Participants]

Change in the timing and amount of snowfalls due to global warming, efforts to close the gap between the number of tourists in summer and winter, and public organizations' support for tourism and how public events were affected amid the COVID-19 pandemic.



Norilsk City facilitated the discussion



Presentation (Edmonton City)



Presentation (Ulaanbaatar City)

## Group Sessions

### 1. Group Session 1

Four cities made presentations on the sub-theme of “Infrastructure and Architecture for All”, and participants exchanged their opinions and questions in the follow-up discussions.

#### [Presentation Summaries]

##### Rovaniemi, Finland

The circular economy to realize architecture and infrastructure for everyone and measures to address seasonal challenges.

##### Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Air pollution, traffic congestion and other challenges due to population growth, and a polycentric city system to evenly distribute the population.

##### Hwacheon, Republic of Korea

Building infrastructure to continually hold the city's winter festival in a global warming climate.

##### Norilsk, Russia

Large-scale investment in socio-economic development and urban renovation projects of the city.

#### [Questions & Topics Discussed by Participants]

Priority issues each city is facing with regard to infrastructure and architecture; potential migration associated with climate change in the future, how to collect opinions and feedback from citizens when formulating new city projects.

### 2. Group Session 2

Three cities made presentations on the sub-theme; “Challenges and Solutions to Social Marginalization” or “Elderly Empowerment”, and participants exchanged their opinions and questions in the follow-up discussions.

#### [Presentation Summaries]

##### Rovaniemi, Finland

How the Senior Citizen Council acts as an advocate of senior citizens in Rovaniemi and its roles and activities.

##### Sapporo, Japan

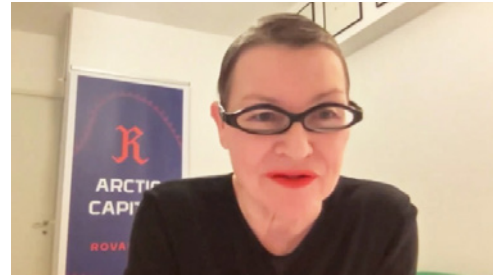
Aging population of Sapporo, Japanese social security system, and the city's support for the elderly to participate in society.

##### Shenyang, China

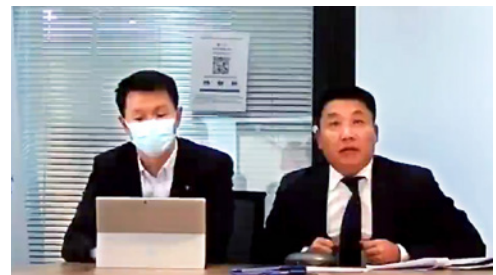
Creating policies and other systems that enable the elderly to play an active role in society, expanding more channels and PR activities to encourage social participation by the elderly.

#### [Questions & Topics Discussed by Participants]

Availability of digital services for the elderly in each city, how the elderly use these digital services, conducting surveys to assess achievement of local government policies, social isolation and elderly well-being that are expected to become major challenges in the aging society.



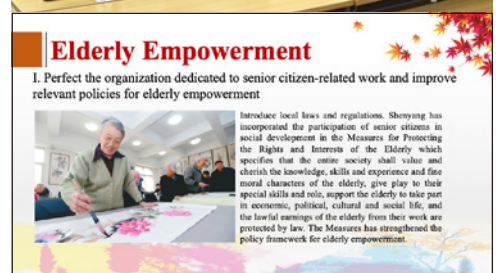
Rovaniemi City facilitated the sessions



Ulaanbaatar City made the presentation



Hwacheon-gun made the presentation



Shenyang City made the presentation

## Arctic Design Subcommittee Final Report

The Arctic Design Subcommittee was formed in February, 2015 to learn from each other about the best practices and know-how of member cities in applying design as a method to solve problems. The city of Rovaniemi, the Arctic Design Subcommittee Secretariat, presented the final report on their activities. The report highlighted the following;

- The WWCAM network has massive potential for collaboration that will benefit all participating cities.
- We can now get connected more directly as online communication has become ubiquitous around the globe. Having online communication as often as possible will help us make progress.
- While there are limitations on human resources and budgets, we should set our goals high and move forward toward the goals.



## Upcoming Mayors Conference

The 20<sup>th</sup> Mayors Conference is scheduled to take place in Norilsk, Russia in 2023. The conference dates, agenda, and other details will be finalized at the Working-Level Officials Meeting in 2022.

## Introduction of Norilsk, the host city of the 2023 Mayors Conference

Norilsk is a world's northernmost city with the resident population around 180,000 people. It is situated at the 69° parallel within the Arctic Polar circle which means that it has polar days, with the sun not setting from May 20 to July 24, and polar nights, when the sun doesn't rise from November 30 to January 13. Occasionally Norilsk has displays of Aurora Borealis.

As the climate in the region is harsh, Norilsk is one of the coldest cities in the world (as low as -56°C) with 280 days of lasting frost period and 130+ days of snowstorms. During wintertime over 2,000,000 metric tons of snow falls. Moreover, Norilsk is listed in the world's top-5 settlements with the strongest wind – to counter this, the city building plan was developed in a compact loop layout. Most of the buildings themselves were constructed using the unique pile foundation technology which reduces the costs and effort in the permafrost.

Norilsk was founded 68 years ago, and today it is a modern city with highly-developed infrastructure that meets the requirements for comfortable living in the Far North, including 41 kindergartens and 36 schools, as well as one higher education institution, Norilsk State Industrial Institute, with over 3,000 students. These specialists are in great demand for the "Norilsk Nickel MMC" which is a base of one of the largest Russian industrial centers.

Norilsk is a gateway to the "lost world" of the Putorana Plateau, a UNESCO World Natural Heritage site with an area of 250,000 square km, and the highest waterfall density in Russia. Being reachable only via airplane (and through the Yenisei river during summer), it is home to many unique species that are facing habitat loss around the world.



## 2019 Working Level Officials Meeting (WLOM) Report

Participants discussed the plan for the Rovaniemi Mayors Conference and selection of the conference themes.



### Meeting Summary

Period: Thursday, Nov. 14–Sunday, Nov.17, 2019

Host City: Norilsk, Russia

Venue: Palace of Culture

Participants: 17 cities from seven countries

Meeting Contents:

- Shenyang reported on the 2018 Mayors Conference.
- Secretariat explained the call for candidate cities to host the 20<sup>th</sup> Mayors Conference, the changes in member cities, and the candidacy for the election of officials.
- Member cities discussed the details on the Rovaniemi Mayors Conference including the dates, conference themes, and new meeting formats (Group Session and Working Group).
- The Arctic Design Subcommittee presented their activity report and their plans for how to share information and facilitate communication in the subcommittee.

Participating cities (member cities): 13 cities from seven countries

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

Participating cities (observer cities): 4 cities from one country

Country	City
Russian Federation	Dudinka, Monchegorsk, Murmansk, Yakutsk

### WLOM Related Events

#### Academic Forum at the Norilsk State Industrial Institute

Representatives from universities and private entities made presentations and exchanged ideas on issues in infrastructure and logistics to improve energy efficiency in winter, challenges in development in cold regions, and protection of indigenous cultures and lifestyles.

#### Public Talk in Norilsk City

Representatives of Norilsk as well as the WLOM participants from Magadan, Edmonton, and Sapporo gave presentations and talked about the attractions of each city, their advanced initiatives, and challenges unique to winter cities.



## Environmental Initiatives

At the 2016 Sapporo Mayors Conference, it was resolved that each WWCAM member city would make their utmost efforts to convert to renewable energy sources and reduce energy consumption, as well as their efforts to preserve the environment, such as tackling air pollution.

Based on this resolution, the member cities reported their environmental initiatives in November, 2021. The summary of their initiatives is presented below.

At the Rovaniemi Mayors Conference, the WWCAM members agreed that they would continue the above environmental efforts.



City	Summary
Qiqihar	Qiqihar is taking the following initiatives; implement green development led by new energy industries, manage air pollution and reduce carbon emissions by taking multiple measures at the same time, improve the city's water environment such as its sewage treatment capacity, enhance management of industrial solid waste and hazardous waste, promote green agriculture, and strengthen its ecosystem protection.
Shenyang	By the end of 2020, the percentage of coal in Shenyang's energy consumption fell to 69.2 percent; non-fossil energy accounted for 8.6 % of primary energy consumption. The PM2.5 concentration dropped to 42 micrograms per cubic meter.
Rovaniemi	The vast majority of basic waste in Rovaniemi is managed by the city-owned company. From the waste collected from the residents of the town of Rovaniemi, 57% is used to generate energy, 38% is material that is recycled (e.g. recycled paper), 4% goes to the landfill, and 1% elsewhere.
Sapporo	Percentage of airtight and well-insulated houses out of all newly built detached houses across Sapporo in FY 2019 reached to 47 %. In FY 2019, the number of next-generation vehicles owned across Sapporo grew to 155,000 units, electricity demand in the industrial and business sector amounted to 5.8 billion kWh, and electricity generated by renewable energy sources increased to 0.21 billion kWh.
Hwacheon	Hwacheon has permitted the following number of solar power generations: 143 in 2017, 417 in 2018, 25 in 2019 and 80 in 2020. Hwacheon is aiming to increase the percentage of the houses and buildings using green energy to more than 20 % by 2024.
Taebaek	Taebaek is using the nation's best wind resources for the commercial operation of the 171MW wind power generation complex in its jurisdiction. The city also works with private sectors to push for the 106MW Taebaek Gadeok New Wind Power Generation Project. Taebaek is working with power generation operators to form a consensus for returning to local communities any profits from developments that use the city's wind resources.
Novosibirsk	To convert to renewable energy sources, a facility for electricity generation using biogas is planned to be built at a decommissioned landfill area after its restoration. The "Energy saving and energy efficiency improvement in the city of Novosibirsk" program is being implemented to reduce energy consumption. For environmental preservation, the "Housing and Public Services of the city of Novosibirsk" program is being implemented, including the centralized collection of used mercury-containing lamps and devices.
Norilsk	The municipal energy saving program reduced energy and water consumption in Norilsk. A large-scale project involving the utilization of sulfur dioxide was implemented and significantly reduced pollutant emissions. Norilsk is developing the concept of greening the city with the completion of work in 2022. Our city will also carry out the elimination of unauthorized landfills from 2022 to 2024, and begin to construct a vehicle recycling facility in 2023 to eliminate abandoned vehicles. Construction of snow dumps will begin in 2024, and wastewater treatment facilities will begin to be reconstructed in 2022. Moreover, there are plans underway to purchase buses running on diesel fuel of the Euro 5 ecological class, as well as buses running on gas engine fuel and electric buses.

## About the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors (WWCAM)

The 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.” The association was initiated by the City of Sapporo in 1981 and the following year the first Mayors Conference was held. The next Mayors Conference is scheduled to take place in Norilsk in 2023, and this will mark the 20th Mayors Conference.

While coming together under one roof 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 temperature:** at least one month per year with an approximate average temp. below 0°C (32°F).

## Main Activities

### Mayors Conference

The Mayors Conference, held once every two years, is the association's major event. Mayors of the member cities participate in the conference to present their city planning efforts, exchange information and technology, and discuss how to create a comfortable winter city. The host city is selected from among candidate cities by vote at the General Assembly. The host city can organize the following events in conjunction with the Mayors Conference.



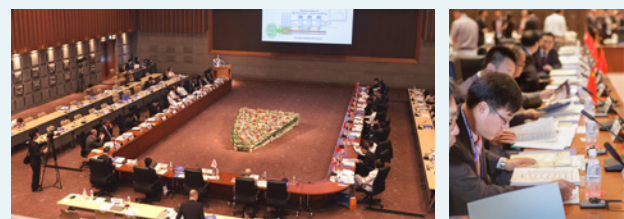
18<sup>th</sup> Mayors Conference held in Shenyang, China (Sep., 2018)

### Winter Expo

Companies from member cities set up booths to exhibit their products and introduce various technologies for winter. Winter Expo serves as a place for economic exchange as well as an opportunity for members to promote their cities.

### Winter Cities Forum

Experts in various fields make presentations with regard to winter lifestyle and city planning, and exchange their views with citizens.



17<sup>th</sup> Mayors Conference held in Sapporo, Japan (July, 2016)

### Working-Level Officials Meeting (WLOM)

Working-level city officials of member cities gather once every two years to discuss the preparations for and themes of the next Mayors Conference, as well as the management of the association.



2018 Working-Level Officials Meeting

### Subcommittee

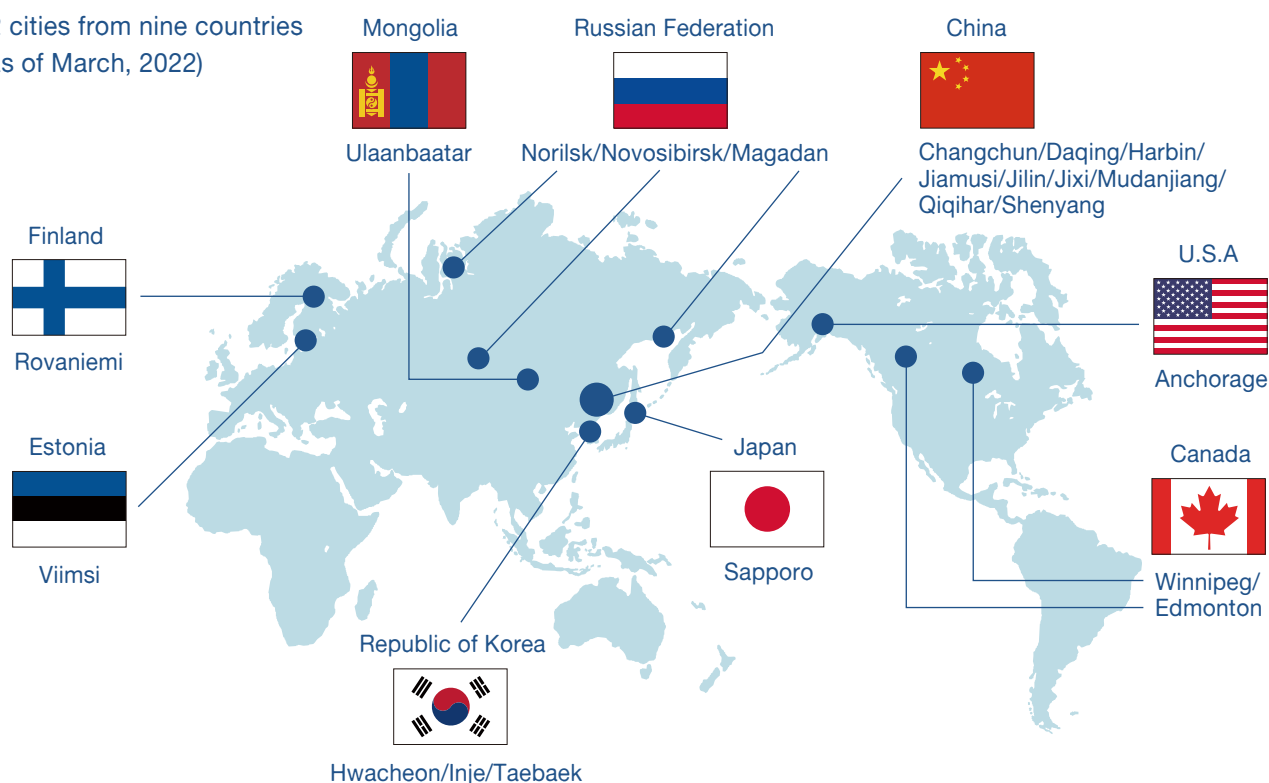
Subcommittees can be formed to conduct technical research and exchange technical information among administrators of municipal governments and technocrats. In the past, various subcommittees including the Subcommittee on Environmental Protection and the Arctic Design Subcommittee had launched and compiled the final report on the findings of their research and studies.



Arctic Design Subcommittee Report

## Member Cities

22 cities from nine countries  
(as of March, 2022)



The WWCAM is a registered NGO with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) (Roster status), and with the Department of Global Communications (DGC).

## Become a Member

<b>Application for Membership</b>	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.
<b>Membership Fee</b>	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.
<b>Advantages of Membership</b>	The members will be qualified to attend the General Assembly and Mayors Conference, speak and vote at the meetings. They are qualified to apply for hosting the Mayors Conference. In addition, they are eligible to utilize the network system established among members.
<b>Apply to</b>	WWCAM Secretariat

Detailed information on the latest conference and results so far is published on the WWCAM website (<https://wwcam.org/en>). 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.