

The 20th World Winter Cities Conference for Mayors
Sapporo, Japan

Report



World Winter Cities Association for Mayors
The 20th WWCAM Mayors Conference
Sapporo, Japan



Period: December 17 – 21, 2024

Venue: Sapporo Convention Center



Remarks after the 20th World Winter Cities Conference for Mayors



Katsuhiro Akimoto

President of the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors
Mayor of Sapporo

All the meetings and related events scheduled for the 20th World Winter Cities Conference for Mayors held from December 17 to 21 have successfully been concluded.

I am glad that we have been able to have productive discussions and strengthen partnerships between participants through a variety of events during the conference, for which delegates from 21 cities and organizations in eight countries, including member cities, gathered in Sapporo.

With the main theme “New Possibilities for Winter Cities – Realizing a Sustainable Society –”, the conference provided a great opportunity for participants to present their current initiatives and have in-depth discussions about what new possibilities there are for winter cities in the pursuit of a sustainable society, as well as to share with the world the charms of urban development that only winter cities can offer.

Many citizens and companies in Sapporo participated in the 2024 Winter Cities Showcase, a promotional event for WWCAM member/participating cities, in the Winter Cities Forum where there were lectures on the global environment (a major theme of recent Mayors Conferences), in the Art Festival Collaborative Exhibition, and in the Business Networking Event which enhanced exchanges between companies from member cities. I hope that these events gave participants a deeper understanding of the activities of the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors and international exchange.

It is important for Sapporo and winter cities around the world to work together to achieve a sustainable society for the future by leveraging the knowledge and experiences obtained at the conference.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all those who provided their wholehearted support for and cooperation in the 20th World Winter Cities Conference for Mayors.



Report on the 20th World Winter Cities Conference for Mayors

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The background is a light blue gradient. It is decorated with various white and light blue snowflake patterns of different sizes and orientations. Vertical dotted lines are scattered across the page, with small dots interspersed between them. The overall aesthetic is clean and festive, typical of a winter-themed document.

The 20th World Winter Cities Conference for Mayors

Digest

With “New Possibilities for Winter Cities — Realizing a Sustainable Society —” as the main theme, 21 cities and organizations from eight countries engaged in discussions.

The 20th World Winter Cities Conference for Mayors (WWCAM Mayors Conference) and related events were held from December 17 to 21, 2024. The conference was held in Sapporo for the first time in eight years (since 2016).

Approximately 100 people from 21 cities and organizations from eight countries attended the conference, engaging in lively discussions about new possibilities for winter cities in pursuit of a sustainable society.

Related events included the Winter Cities Showcase, which featured promotional exhibits introducing member cities and participating cities, a collaborative exhibition with the Sapporo International Art Festival, and the Business Networking Event. The Winter Cities Forum was also held for local residents.

Day 1

Opening Ceremony



Opening remarks by Katsuhiro Akimoto, Mayor of Sapporo



Address by Ulla-Kirsikka Vainio, Mayor of Rovaniemi



Commemorative photo of conference participants

Group Session ①

Group Session ① featured presentations and discussions on “Urban Development for Winter Cities” and “Environmental Policies for Winter Cities.”



The facilitator was Professor Shin-ei Takano of Hokkaido University (pictured right).



Presenters used a projector while speaking from the front podium.



The lunch menu included salad, main dishes, desserts, and more.



Lunch & Coffee Breaks

The lunch and the coffee breaks took place at Restaurant SORA, where participants had further opportunities to connect with one another.



The coffee breaks featured coffee and Hokkaido sweets.



Midterm Reports on Environmental Action Goals

Rovaniemi, Sapporo, Inje, Taebaek, and Changchun presented reports on their respective action goals regarding “Efforts to convert to renewable energy sources and reduce energy consumption” and “Efforts Relating to Environmental Preservation, such as Tackling Air Pollution.”



Welcome Reception hosted by the Mayor of Sapporo

The welcome reception hosted by the Mayor of Sapporo was held in The Terrace Room, the banquet hall on the first floor of Sapporo Park Hotel.



Day 2

Group Session ②

Group Session ② featured presentations and discussions on “Tourism Policies for Winter Cities.”



The facilitator was Professor Johan Edelheim of Hokkaido University (pictured center).

Working Group Discussion ①

Working Group Discussion ① featured presentations and discussions on “Culture & Arts that Make the Most of Winter.”



Working Group Discussion ②

Working Group Discussion ② featured presentations and discussions on “Energy in Winter Cities.”



The facilitator was Associate Professor Juha Saunavaara of Hokkaido University



Lunch & Coffee Breaks

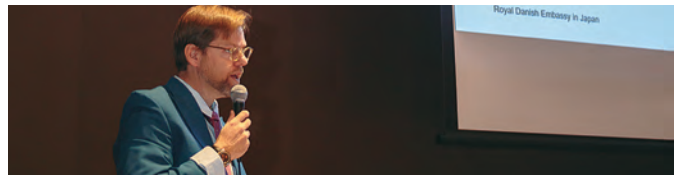


Participants enjoyed lunch and coffee breaks while networking.



Lecture on the Special Theme “GX (Green Transformation) in Winter Cities”

A presentation on green transformation (GX) initiatives being promoted by Sapporo and Hokkaido was given, along with lectures by representatives from the Royal Danish Embassy in Japan and Hokkaido University.



Presentations from CityNet and Almaty

Presentations were given by CityNet, an international network that promotes sustainable development, and one of its member cities, Almaty, Kazakhstan.



Reception hosted by the WWCAM President

The reception hosted by the President of the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors was held in Emerald, the banquet hall on the third floor of Sapporo Park Hotel.



Day 3

Presentation on City-to-City Collaboration and Presentation from Hokkaido University Students

There was a presentation on the city-to-city collaboration between Sapporo and Ulaanbaatar, followed by a presentation by students from Hokkaido University's Nitobe College on urban development in winter cities.



Plenary Session & Closing Ceremony

Following a summary from Mayor Akimoto, the Sapporo Declaration and the 20th World Winter Cities Conference for Mayors Resolutions were adopted, bringing the three-day conference to a close.



Lunch

Different menus were thoughtfully prepared and served on each of the three days.



Press Conference

After Mayor Akimoto presented a summary of the conference, and representatives from member cities shared their comments, a question-and-answer session was held.



Site Visits

In the afternoon, participants toured various facilities and events in the city.



Hydrogen station ▲

◀ Sapporo White Illumination



Participants also visited the venue for the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors (WWCAM) X Sapporo International Art Festival (SIAF) collaboration exhibition: *Transforming Sapporo's Winter! 10 Years of SIAF*.

Winter Cities Showcase

At the Sapporo Ekimae-dori Underground Walkway (Chi-ka-ho), the 2024 Winter Cities Showcase was held from December 19 to 21, featuring a promotional exhibition showcasing member and participating cities.



Excursion

During the excursion, participants learned about traditional Japanese brewing techniques, visited city facilities including the Okurayama Ski Jump Stadium and Sapporo Hitsujigaoka Observation Hill, and enjoyed local cuisine such as Jingsukan (grilled mutton and vegetables). The participants thoroughly enjoyed their winter experience in Sapporo.



Fukuyama Jyozo Co. Ltd.



Sapporo Hitsujigaoka Observation Hill and Jingsukan lunch



▲ Sapporo Olympic Museum



◀ Shiroi Koibito Park



◀ View of Sapporo City from above the ski jump at Okurayama Ski Jump Stadium

▶ Toast at an izakaya (Japanese-style pub)

Business Networking Event

A business networking event with Mongolian companies was held in conjunction with the World Winter Cities Conference for Mayors. The seminar featured presentations on business activities conducted by Mongolian companies in Hokkaido and Hokkaido companies in Mongolia, followed by individual networking exchanges.



Remarks by Akiko Kikuta, Manager, Economic Strategy Promotion Section, Economic & Tourism Affairs Bureau, City of Sapporo



Remarks by Kazuaki Takeuchi, Honorary Consul of Mongolia in Sapporo



Remarks by Turkhuu Tsogtsaikhan, Head of the Water Supply and Sewerage Authority of Ulaanbaatar City



Presentation of a case study by Avarzed Agvaandorj, representative director of Farms Chiyoda Co., Ltd.



Participants attentively listening to the case study presentation



Networking session

Winter Cities Forum

On December 21, the Winter Cities Forum was held at Kyosai Hall. After Mayor Akimoto introduced the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors (WWCAM), Sakana-kun, an honorary doctor and visiting professor at Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology, gave a lecture on global environmental issues.



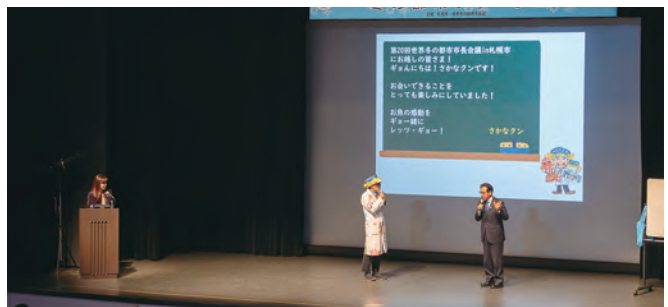
Panels introducing the WWCAM were displayed in the lobby



Introduction of the WWCAM by Mayor Akimoto



Lecture by Sakana-kun on Winter Fish and the Global Environment



There was also an enjoyable exchange between Mayor Akimoto and Sakana-kun.

Outline of the 20th World Winter Cities Conference for Mayors

Period:

Tuesday, December 17 – Saturday, December 21, 2024

Venue:

Sapporo Convention Center

Hosted by:

City of Sapporo & the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors

Themes:

Main theme: New Possibilities for Winter Cities — Realizing a Sustainable Society —

Special theme: GX (Green Transformation) in Winter Cities

Sub-themes: Environmental Policies for Winter Cities, Urban Development for Winter Cities, Tourism Policies for Winter Cities

Topics: Culture & Arts that Make the Most of Winter, Energy in Winter Cities

Main Conference Program:

1. Group Session

Participating cities gave presentations and engaged in discussions related to sub-themes.

2. Working Group Discussion

In addition to government officials, businesses and academic researchers took part in case study presentations and discussions on the designated topics.

3. Lecture on the Special Theme “GX (Green Transformation) in Winter Cities”

To introduce and share GX initiatives being advanced by Sapporo and Hokkaido, and to provide an opportunity to consider energy challenges common to winter cities, lectures were given by representatives from the Royal Danish Embassy in Japan, and Hokkaido University.

Attending Member Cities 7 Cities from 5 Countries

Countries	Cities	Representative	Title
China	1 Changchun	Xianwei Huang	Member of the Party Leadership Group and Deputy General-Director of Municipal Bureau of Ecology and Environment
Finland	1 Rovaniemi	Ulla-Kirsikka Vainio	Mayor
Japan	1 Sapporo	Katsuhiro Akimoto	Mayor
Mongolia	1 Ulaanbaatar	Nyambaatar Khishgee	Mayor
Republic of Korea	Hwacheon	GiSeon Ji	Deputy Mayor
	Inje	Hyun-bong Park	Deputy Mayor
	Taebaek	Insug Jeong	Director of Economy



Other Participants 9 Cities and Organizations from 8 Countries

Countries	Cities, Organizations	
China	1	Beijing (Archicity)
Finland	1	Tampere
France	1	Enghien-les-Bains
Japan	2	Fukuoka City, Hokkaido University
Kazakhstan	1	Almaty
Mongolia	1	Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Republic of Korea	1	CityNet Secretariat
Sweden	1	Stockholm (Baseload Power)

Online Observer Participants 6 Cities and Organizations from 2 Countries

Total: 21 Cities and Organizations from 8 Countries (Approx. 100 people)

Dinner:

■ Welcome Reception hosted by the Mayor of Sapporo

Date and time: Tuesday, December 17, 19:00 –

Venue: Sapporo Park Hotel 1F “The Terrace Room”

■ Reception hosted by the WWCAM President

Date and time: Wednesday, December 18, 19:00 –

Venue: Sapporo Park Hotel 3F “Emerald”

Site Visits & Excursion:

■ Site Visits

Date and time: Thursday, December 19, 14:00 – 20:00

Itinerary: Hydrogen station → Sapporo Ekimae-dori Underground Walkway (Chi-ka-ho) → Sapporo Community Plaza → Tsuruga Buffet Dining Sapporo (dinner) → Sapporo White Illumination & Munich Christmas Market in Sapporo

■ Excursion

Date and time: Friday, December 20, 9:30 – 19:00

Itinerary: Fukuyama Jyozo Co. Ltd. → Sapporo Hitsujigaoka Observation Hill (lunch) → Okurayama Ski Jump Stadium → Shiroyo Koibito Park → Kaisenya Hakodate Honten (dinner)

Related Events

■ 2024 Winter Cities Showcase

Dates & Time:

Thursday, December 19, 15:00 – 19:00

Friday, December 20, 11:00 – 19:00

Saturday, December 21, 11:00 – 17:00

Venue: Sapporo Ekimae-dori Underground Walkway (Chi-ka-ho) Ikoi-no-Kukan [W]

Event: Promotional exhibition showcasing member cities and participating cities of the conference

Hosted by the City of Sapporo and the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors

■ World Winter Cities Association for Mayors (WWCAM) in collaboration with Sapporo International Art Festival (SIAF) presents: *Transforming Sapporo's Winter! 10 Years of SIAF*

Dates & Time:

Monday, December 16, 18:00 – 20:00 (pre-opening)

Tuesday, December 17, 12:00 – 20:00

Wednesday, December 18, 12:00 – 20:00

Thursday, December 19, 12:00 – 18:00

Venue: Sapporo Community Plaza 1F, SCARTS Malls A & B (Kita 1-jo Nishi 1-chome, Chuo-ku)

Event: Introduction of the history of the Sapporo International Art Festival (SIAF) and programs implemented during winter

Hosted by the Sapporo International Art Festival Executive Committee and the City of Sapporo

■ Business Networking Event

Date and time: Wednesday, December 18

Seminar: 13:00 – 15:00

Networking session with Mongolian companies: 15:00 – 16:30

Venue: Sapporo Convention Center, Meeting Rooms 107 & 108

Event: Introduction of the business landscape in Mongolia and Hokkaido, followed by a networking session

No. of participants: 75 from 44 organizations (Japan: 58 from 36 organizations, Mongolia: 17 from eight organizations)

Hosted by the City of Sapporo, the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors and the Sapporo Chamber of Commerce and Industry

In cooperation with the Honorary Consulate of Mongolia in Sapporo and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

■ Winter Cities Forum

Date and time: Saturday, December 21, 14:00 – 16:00 (registration: 13:00 – 13:50)

Venue: Kyosai Hall (Kita 4-jo Nishi 1-chome, Chuo-ku)

Event: A lecture by Sakana-kun, an honorary doctor and visiting professor at Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology, on global environmental issues and more

No. of participants: 427

Hosted by the City of Sapporo and the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors



20th WWCAM Mayors Conference Schedule

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

10:00 –	General Assembly (for member cities)
11:00 – 11:20	Opening Ceremony Opening remarks (Mayor of Sapporo), introduction of participating cities, etc.
11:20 – 11:30	Photo Taking
11:30 – 13:30	(Lunch) *Bilateral meetings also held
13:30 – 16:00	Group Session ① Sub-theme: Urban Development for Winter Cities (1) [Sapporo, Japan] Initiatives to Promote a Walkable City in Winter (2) [Tampere, Finland] Winter Walkable City with Digital Twins. People-Driven. (3) [Hwacheon, Korea] GX (Green Transformation) in Winter City—The Four seasons coexist in harmony—“Economic activities in Hwacheon” (4) [Inje, Korea] Strategic Winter Development in Inje County for Climate Resilience Sub-theme: Environmental Policies for Winter Cities (1) [Sapporo, Japan] Decarbonization Initiatives for Sapporo’s Future (2) [Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia] Environmental Issues of Ulaanbaatar City
16:00 – 16:30	(Coffee break)
16:30 – 17:00	Midterm Reports on Environmental Action Goals

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

10:00 – 12:00	Group Session ② and Working Group Discussion ① Sub-theme: Tourism Policies for Winter Cities (1) [Rovaniemi, Finland] Rovaniemi as a Year-Round Tourist Destination (2) [Taebaek, Korea] Taebaek’s Winter Tourism Topic: Culture & Arts that Make the Most of Winter (1) [Changchun, China] Development of Winter Tourism in Changchun (2) [Enghien-les-Bains, France] City Networks and Culture as Drivers for Achieving a Sustainable Society (3) [Sapporo, Japan] Sapporo International Art Festival
12:00 – 13:45	(Lunch) *Bilateral meetings also held
13:45 – 14:30	Working Group Discussion ② Topic: Energy in Winter Cities (1) [Sapporo, Japan (Hokkaido University)] Academic Cooperation through Intercity Collaboration between Sapporo and Ulaanbaatar (2) [Stockholm, Sweden (Baseload Power)] Key Opportunities and Challenges for the Geothermal Industry
14:30 – 15:00	(Coffee break)
15:00 – 16:30	Lecture on the Special Theme “GX (Green Transformation) in Winter Cities” (1) Remarks by the Mayor of Sapporo (2) [Sapporo] Towards a Future as Japan's Green Powerhouse & Green Financial Hub (3) [Royal Danish Embassy in Japan] GX in Denmark (4) [Hokkaido University] GX (Green Transformation) Initiatives at Hokkaido University
16:30 – 17:00	Presentations from CityNet and Almaty (1) [CityNet] Introduction to CityNet (2) [Almaty, Kazakhstan] Almaty – Environmental Challenges

Thursday, December 19, 2024

10:00 – 10:40	Presentations on City-to-City Collaboration and Presentation from Hokkaido University Students (1) Presentation on City-to-City Collaboration between Sapporo and Ulaanbaatar (2) Presentation by Hokkaido University Students
10:40 – 11:30	Plenary Session & Closing Ceremony (1) Conference Summary (Mayor of Sapporo) (2) Sapporo Declaration and Resolution of the Mayors Conference (3) Remarks from the Participants and Feedback on the Conference (4) Closing Remarks (Mayor of Sapporo)
12:00 – 12:30	Press Conference (for Press)

Sustainable Conference Management

The main theme of the 20th World Winter Cities Conference for Mayors was “New Possibilities for Winter Cities — Realizing a Sustainable Society —.” In line with this theme, we implemented the following sustainability-focused initiatives when managing the conference.

■ Reduction of environmental impact through paperless practices

- Digitizing materials and sharing them via tablets and PCs

■ Reduction and control of CO₂ emissions

- Using venues powered by renewable energy
- Offering both in-person and online attendance, to reduce physical travel
- Utilizing locally produced ingredients to reduce CO₂ emissions from transportation while supporting the local economy

■ Reduction of waste and use of reusable supplies

- Using waste oil from food service to generate power
- Encouraging the use of reusable items, including tableware and personal bottles

■ Consideration for diversity

- Providing plant-based menus (including vegetarian and vegan options), halal menus, etc.

■ Implementation of initiatives that positively impact the local community

- Hosting public events focused on solving environmental issues in the host city
- Introducing local culture as entertainment at receptions

■ Dissemination of information

- Explaining sustainability initiatives to conference participants

Initiative Example 1 Upcycling of Waste Oil

Waste oil generated during the preparation and provision of reception meals was converted into biodiesel and used to power the Sapporo White Illumination that was taking place during the same period in the city’s Odori Park.

This initiative was implemented smoothly thanks to the understanding and cooperation of the participating businesses, especially the hotel that served as the venue.



Initiative Example 2 Sustainable Gifts

We created sustainable items such as reusable stainless steel bottles and bamboo cutlery, as well as Fair Trade cotton congress bags as distinctive gifts from Sapporo City, a Fair Trade Town.



Congress bag

Stainless steel bottle and bamboo cutlery

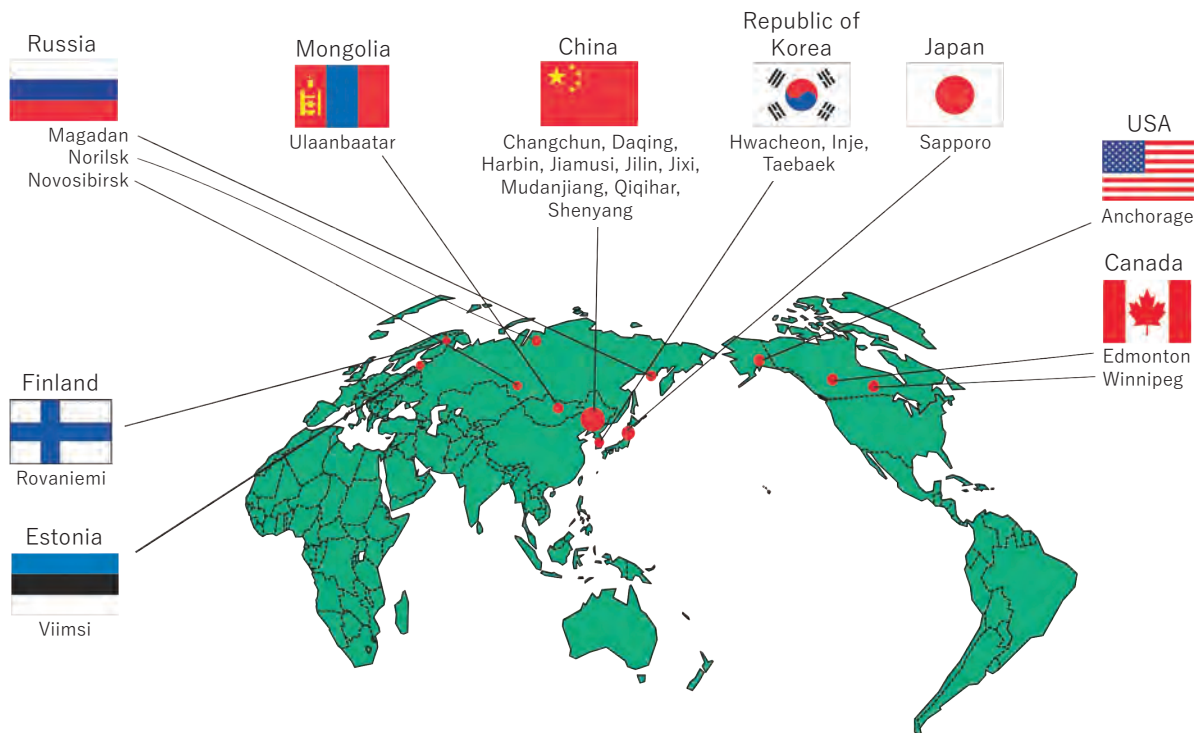
What is the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors (WWCAM)?

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.



Member Cities: 22 cities in 9 countries (as of December 2024)

Country	City
Canada	Edmonton, Winnipeg
China	Changchun, Daqing, Harbin, Jiamusi, Jilin, Jixi, Mudanjiang, Qiqihar, Shenyang
Estonia	Viimsi
Finland	Rovaniemi
Japan	Sapporo
Mongolia	Ulaanbaatar
Republic of Korea	Hwacheon, Inje, Taebaek
Russia	Magadan, Norilsk, Novosibirsk
USA	Anchorage

The 20th World Winter Cities Conference for Mayors
Conference





Opening Ceremony

Date and time: Tuesday, December 17, 2024, 11:00 AM – 11:20 AM

Venue: Sapporo Convention Center Conference Hall

Opening Remarks

Mayor of Sapporo **Katsuhiro Akimoto**



I am Katsuhiro Akimoto, Mayor of Sapporo. Welcome to Sapporo, everyone. On behalf of Sapporo’s 1.97 million citizens, I extend my heartfelt welcome to all of you.

The World Winter Cities Association for Mayors (WWCAM) is an international network where winter cities from around the world gather under the slogan “Winter is a Resource and an Asset” to learn from each other about winter technologies, experiences, and urban development initiatives.

Beginning with the first meeting in 1982, the WWCAM, held in principle once every two years, provides a valuable opportunity for mayors to personally introduce their urban development initiatives and engage in frank exchanges of opinions with fellow mayors.

This conference marks a memorable 20th Mayors Conference, and I am extremely delighted and honored that so many cities have gathered together here in Sapporo, having overcome the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The theme for this conference is “New Possibilities for Winter Cities — Realizing a Sustainable Society —.”

Since beginning my third term as Mayor of Sapporo last May, we have established the urban vision of Sapporo as “a sustainable, global city where the brilliance of its people, snow and greenery enriches life and creates new value.” We are now implementing various initiatives to realize this vision.

I very much look forward to discussing the new possibilities for winter cities aiming to realize a sustainable society with representatives from the member cities at this conference. I hope that the insights gained through this conference will contribute to the creation of comfortable urban environments in each of our cities.

I sincerely hope that we as winter cities will embark on a new journey together from Sapporo, the birthplace of this Mayors Association. With these words, I conclude my opening remarks.

Thank you.



Mayor of the City of Rovaniemi **Ulla-Kirsikka Vainio**

Honorable Mayor Akimoto of Sapporo, Dear colleagues and friends of winter,

It is a great pleasure to once again come together and greet you all at the start of our conference. When I departed from my home in Rovaniemi, Finland, the beautiful northern lights guided me towards Sapporo and Japan. And now, having arrived, I believe we all feel a deep sense of togetherness.

I think that our strong connection stems from the spirit of the North – the silence and beauty of winter unite us across nations and cultures. Snow-covered landscapes, crisp clear nights, and the vibrant play of colors in the sky uniquely connects winter cities together. Naturally, each city in our network carries its own winter heritage – stories, traditions, and ways of life shaped by the challenges and opportunities of a cold climate.

We winter cities share much in common, including an eagerness to learn from one another. We are resourceful and resilient, with the ability to create vitality in conditions where nature reveals its full strength. This spirit is evident in arctic innovations, architecture that harmonizes with the environment, and leadership in sustainable development.

The theme of this conference, “*New Possibilities for Winter Cities – Realizing a Sustainable Society,*” provides us with the opportunity to discuss timely and universally relevant topics such as year-round sustainable tourism, accessible urban centers, and environmental policies and solutions.

I want to express my gratitude to the City of Sapporo and everyone involved in organizing this event. This conference will surely be a success and will once again offer us the opportunity and promise of collaboration today and in the future.

Finally, I bring you warm greetings from Santa Claus, who is already busy with his holiday preparations. I wish us all a fruitful seminar and a joyful holiday season ahead!



Group Session ①

Date and time: Tuesday, December 17, 2024, 13:30 – 16:00
 Venue: Sapporo Convention Center Conference Hall

Sub-theme: Urban Development for Winter Cities
 Sub-theme: Environmental Policies for Winter Cities

Under the guidance of a facilitator, four cities gave presentations on the sub-theme “Urban Development for Winter Cities” and two cities on the sub-theme “Environmental Policies for Winter Cities.” The presentations were followed by discussions.

■ Facilitator profile

Shin-ei Takano

Professor, Laboratory of Infrastructure Planning and Management, Division of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Hokkaido University

Professor Shin-ei Takano specializes in transportation planning, urban and regional planning, and construction management. In the City of Sapporo, he is the former chairperson of the City Planning Council and currently serves as the chairperson of the Comfortable and Walkable Urban Center Development Working Group in the (tentatively named) Third Urban Center Development Planning Committee.



Sub-theme: Urban Development for Winter Cities

(1) Sapporo, Japan

Initiatives to Promote a Walkable City in Winter

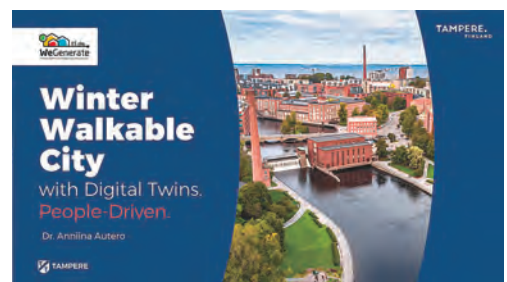
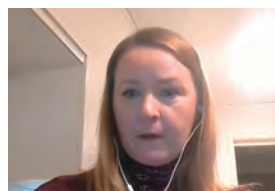
Presenter: Katsuhiko Akimoto, Mayor



(2) Tampere, Finland

Winter Walkable City with Digital Twins. People-Driven.

Presenter: Anniina Autero, Head of Development



(3) Hwacheon, Republic of Korea

GX (Green Transformation) in Winter City—The Four seasons coexist in harmony—“Economic activities in Hwacheon”

Presenter: GiSeon Ji, Deputy Mayor



(4) Inje, Republic of Korea

Strategic Winter Development in Inje County for Climate Resilience

Presenter: Hyun-bong Park, Deputy Mayor

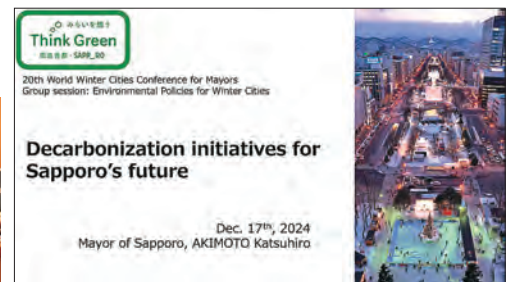


Sub-theme: Environmental Policies for Winter Cities

(1) Sapporo, Japan

Decarbonization Initiatives for Sapporo’s Future

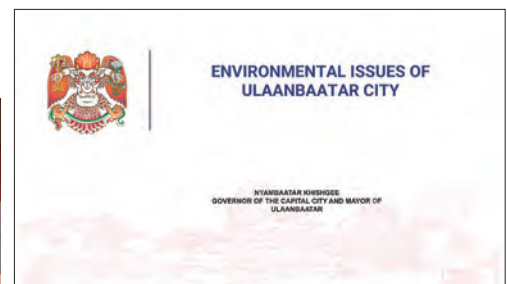
Presenter: Katsuhiro Akimoto, Mayor



(2) Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Environmental Issues of Ulaanbaatar City

Presenter: Ikhbayar Dashnyam, Member of Ulaanbaatar City Council



Midterm Reports on Environmental Action Goals

Date and time: Tuesday, December 17, 2024, 16:30 – 17:00

Venue: Sapporo Convention Center Conference Hall

At the previous WWCAM Mayors Conference held in Rovaniemi, it was resolved that each city would set realistic numeric goals regarding two items – “efforts to convert to renewable energy sources and reduce energy consumption” and “efforts relating to environmental preservation, such as tackling air pollution” – and report on the outcomes of their respective initiatives at this Mayors Conference in Sapporo. Based on the resolution, Rovaniemi, Sapporo, Inje, Taebaek, and Changchun presented midterm reports on their progress toward these action goals.

Presentations of Midterm Reports

(1) Rovaniemi, Finland

ROVANIEMI Report on Environmental Action Goals

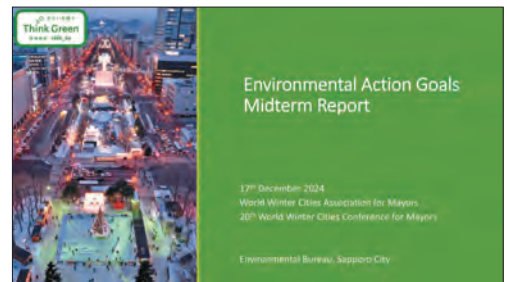
Presenter: Ulla-Kirsikka Vainio, Mayor



(2) Sapporo, Japan

Environmental Action Goals Midterm Report

Presenter: Sachio Sugawara, Director General, Environmental Bureau



(3) Inje, Republic of Korea

Progress on Inje-gun's Environmental Action Goals

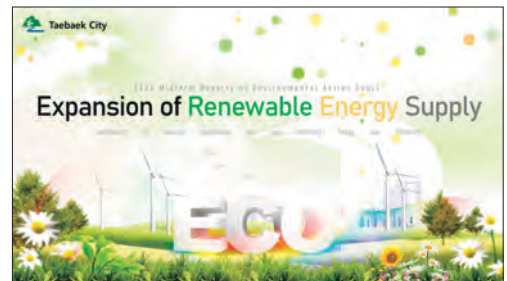
Presenter: Hyun-bong Park, Deputy Mayor



(4) Taebaek, Republic of Korea

Expansion of Renewable Energy Supply

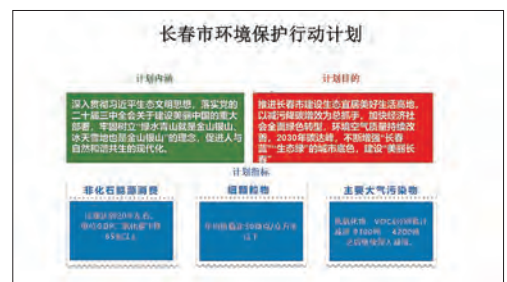
Presenter: Insug Jeong, Director of Economy



(5) Changchun, China

The Action Plan for Environmental Protection of Changchun City

Presenter: Xianwei Huang, Member of the Party Leadership Group and Deputy General-Director of the Bureau of Ecology and Environment



Group Session ②

Date and time: Wednesday, December 18, 2024, 10:00 – 12:00
(including the subsequent Working Group Discussion ①)
Venue: Sapporo Convention Center Conference Hall

Sub-theme: Tourism Policies for Winter Cities

Led by a facilitator, two cities gave presentations, after which participants engaged in discussion.

Facilitator profile

Johan Edelheim

Professor, Graduate School of International Media, Communication, and Tourism Studies, Hokkaido University

Professor Johan Edelheim is engaged in research in humanities and social sciences focused on tourism studies, and teaches courses where philosophy, cultural studies and tourism studies are combined.



Sub-theme: Tourism Policies for Winter Cities

(1) Rovaniemi, Finland

Rovaniemi as a Year-Round Tourist Destination

Presenter: Ulla-Kirsikka Vainio, Mayor



(2) Taebaek, Republic of Korea

Taebaek's Winter Tourism

Presenter: Insug Jeong, Director of Economy



Working Group Discussion ①

Topic: Culture & Arts that Make the Most of Winter

The Working Group Discussion involves case study presentations and discussions on designated topics, with participation from government officials, businesses, and academic researchers. Under the facilitation of Professor Johan Edelheim as in Group Session ②, three cities gave presentations, after which participants engaged in discussion.

Topic: Culture & Arts that Make the Most of Winter

(1) Changchun, China

Development of Winter Tourism in Changchun

Presenter: Weizhi Feng, Level III Principal Staff Member, Foreign Affairs Office of Changchun Municipal People's Government



(2) Enghien-les-Bains, France

City Networks and Culture as Drivers for Achieving a Sustainable Society

Presenter: Dominique Roland, UNESCO Creative Cities of Media Arts Cluster Coordinator and Director of Enghien-les-Bains' Art Center



(3) Sapporo, Japan

Sapporo International Art Festival

Presenter: Tai Kataoka, Secretary-General, Sapporo International Art Festival Executive Committee



Working Group Discussion ②

Date and time: Wednesday, December 18, 2024, 13:45 – 14:30

Venue: Sapporo Convention Center Conference Hall

Topic: Energy in Winter Cities

Led by a facilitator, two cities gave presentations, after which participants engaged in discussion.

■ Facilitator profile

Juha Saunavaara

Associate Professor, Hokkaido University Arctic Research Center

Dr. Juha Saunavaara has published papers in academic journals across various fields including Arctic studies, Asian studies, history, geography, international relations, and tourism studies.

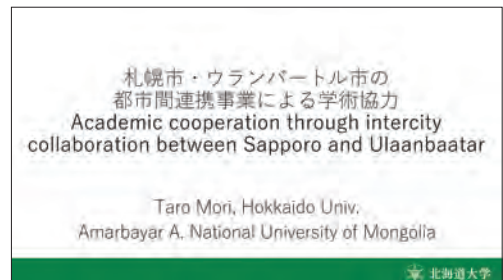


Topic: Energy in Winter Cities

(1) Japan, Sapporo

Academic Cooperation through Intercity Collaboration between Sapporo and Ulaanbaatar

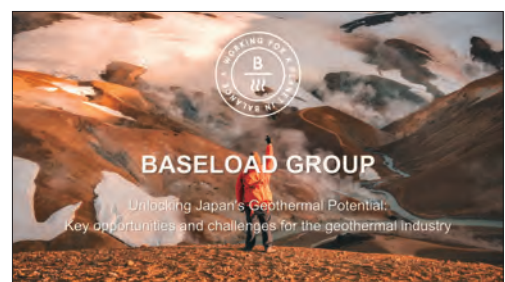
Presenter: Taro Mori, Professor, Faculty of Engineering, Hokkaido University



(2) Stockholm, Sweden

Key Opportunities and Challenges for the Geothermal Industry

Presenter: Akira Yokoyama, Senior Business Development Manager, Baseload Power



Lecture on Special Theme

Date and time: Wednesday, December 18, 2024, 15:00 – 16:30

Venue: Sapporo Convention Center Conference Hall

Special Theme: GX (Green Transformation) in Winter Cities

GX refers to transitioning from the fossil energy-centered industrial and social structures which have been around since the Industrial Revolution to clean energy-centered ones, leading to economic growth. In this lecture session, to introduce and share GX initiatives being advanced by Sapporo and Hokkaido and to provide an opportunity to consider energy related issues common to winter cities, lectures were given by representatives from organizations including the Royal Danish Embassy in Japan and Hokkaido University.

(1) Remarks by the Mayor of Sapporo

Katsuhiko Akimoto, Mayor of Sapporo

(2) Introduction to Sapporo City's initiatives

Towards a Future as Japan's Green Powerhouse & Green Financial Hub

Presenter: Shuji Amano, Vice Mayor of Sapporo



(3) Royal Danish Embassy in Japan

GX in Denmark

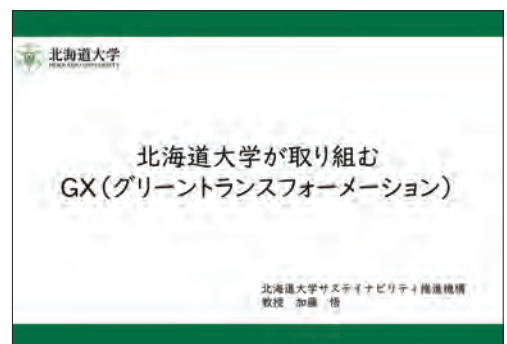
Presenter: Jacob Rasmussen, Minister Counsellor for Economic Diplomacy and Energy, the Royal Danish Embassy in Japan



(4) Hokkaido University

GX (Green Transformation) Initiatives at Hokkaido University

Presenter: Satoru Kato, Professor, SDGs Initiative Division, Institute for the Advancement of Sustainability, Hokkaido University



Presentations from CityNet and Almaty

Date and time: Wednesday, December 18, 2024, 16:30 – 17:00

Venue: Sapporo Convention Center Conference Hall

The World Winter Cities Association for Mayors aims to expand participation in discussions on global challenges like environmental issues and to build networks with cities other than winter cities. To achieve this, the Association collaborates with organizations and groups conducting international conferences in Japan and abroad to hold discussions that include non-member cities of the WWCAM.

At this conference, CityNet, an international network promoting sustainable development, and its member city Almaty, made presentations on their activities.

(1) CityNet

Introduction to CityNet

Presenter: Hui Qian, Senior Program Officer,
CityNet Secretariat



(2) Almaty, Kazakhstan

Almaty – Environmental Challenges

Presenter: Kalamkas Beissenbayeva, Senior
Officer in the Department of
Analytics of Almaty Development
Center



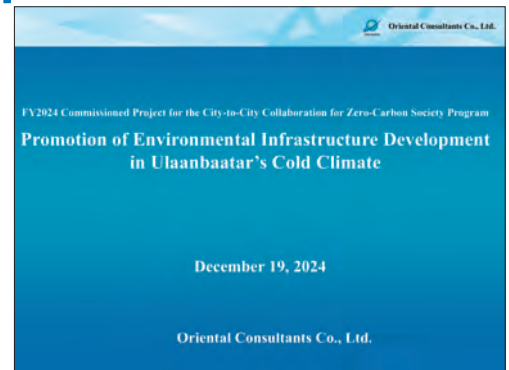
Presentations on City-to-City Collaboration

Date and time: Thursday, December 19, 2024, 10:00 – 10:40

Venue: Sapporo Convention Center Conference Hall

Promotion of Environmental Infrastructure Development in Ulaanbaatar's Cold Climate

Presenter: Masanori Fujii, Assistant Manager, International Projects
Division, Oriental Consultants Co., Ltd.



A presentation was given on the city-to-city collaboration between Sapporo and Ulaanbaatar, as a case study on utilizing the international network of the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors.

Presentation by Hokkaido University Students

Inclusive Winter: Enhancing Safety and Accessibility for Vulnerable Groups

Presenter: Students from Hokkaido
University's Nitobe College



Nitobe College at Hokkaido University is a multidisciplinary educational program for students who wish to acquire the mindset and skills necessary to succeed in global society, in addition to the specialized education and research in their respective undergraduate and graduate schools. Students from the college who have been investigating the unique challenges faced by winter cities and their solutions, both of which have been important discussion themes at WWCAM Mayors Conferences, presented their proposals in relation to urban development in winter cities.

Plenary Session & Closing Ceremony

Date and time: Thursday, December 19, 2024, 10:40 – 11:30

Venue: Sapporo Convention Center Conference Hall

After Mayor Akimoto of Sapporo provided a summary of the three-day conference, the Sapporo Declaration and the 20th World Winter Cities Conference for Mayors Resolutions, a compilation of the outcomes of the discussions held during the conference, were adopted.



Sapporo Declaration

Under the slogan “Winter is a Resource and an Asset,” the City of Sapporo established the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors in 1981 and held the first Mayors Conference in the following year.

During the early days of the Mayors Conference, a series of discussions revolving around “issues encountered in winter living” were held with the aim of achieving livable winters for the inhabitants of cold, snowy regions.

Entering the 2000s, as the world shifted its attention to “global environmental issues”, we have had discussions on this topic and have been communicating winter cities’ environmental protection efforts to the international community.

Since 2016, the theme of “Urban Development inspired by Winter Cities” has provided a new direction for future Mayors Conferences.

The theme of this Mayors Conference is “New Possibilities for Winter Cities — Realizing a Sustainable Society —”. As we work toward a sustainable society, I hope you used this opportunity to present the efforts of your city, to further discuss what new possibilities are available to winter cities, and to share with the world the attractive advancements in city development specific to winter cities.

We also had a special theme, “GX (Green Transformation) in Winter Cities,” which provided an opportunity to share related advanced topics and discuss energy challenges common to winter cities.

Fostering utilization of renewable energy is a common challenge among winter cities that tend to be visibly affected by climate change. We recognize that our activities contribute to solving global issues such as environment problems through decarbonization initiatives, and we commit to continue to put in maximum effort.

Here in Sapporo, the birth place of the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors, we hereby declare that as winter cities we will further deepen our collaboration and work to realize a sustainable society in the future; through doing so, we aim to make the WWCAM the leading organization for cold and snowy cities.

The 20th World Winter Cities Conference for Mayors Resolutions

1. That we were able to overcome the impact of COVID-19 and resume in-person attendance and exchange is thanks to the strong bonds that the Mayors Conferences have nurtured over the years, and we hereby reaffirm our solidarity at this Mayors Conference.
2. In line with the Sapporo Declaration approved at this conference, each city shall make their utmost efforts toward the following items, as well as decide on realistic numeric goals, and report on these efforts at the next Mayors Conference.
 - 1) Efforts to convert to renewable energy sources and reduce energy consumption.
 - 2) Efforts relating to environmental preservation, such as tackling air pollution.
3. In order to enhance the benefits of sharing winter city know-how and mutual learning, we aim to boost the activities of the Mayors Conference and thereby increase its value as an international network by having presentations and discussions on a wide range of themes delivered by various groups, including not only governments, but businesses and academic researchers as well.
4. Honorary membership shall be granted to the Honorable Choi Moon-soon, Mayor of Hwacheon, for his contributions to the growth of the WWCAM.
5. We commend the supportive efforts of the citizens of Sapporo in hosting this conference.



Press Conference

Date and time: Thursday, December 19, 2024, 12:00 – 12:30

Venue: Sapporo Convention Center Mid-sized Hall

Following the end of the three-day Mayors Conference held at the Sapporo Convention Center, a press conference was held.

At the conference, the Mayor of Sapporo, who also serves as the President of the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors, first presented a summary of the conference, announced the Sapporo Declaration and the Resolutions of the Mayors Conference, and shared his impressions as the Mayor of Sapporo.

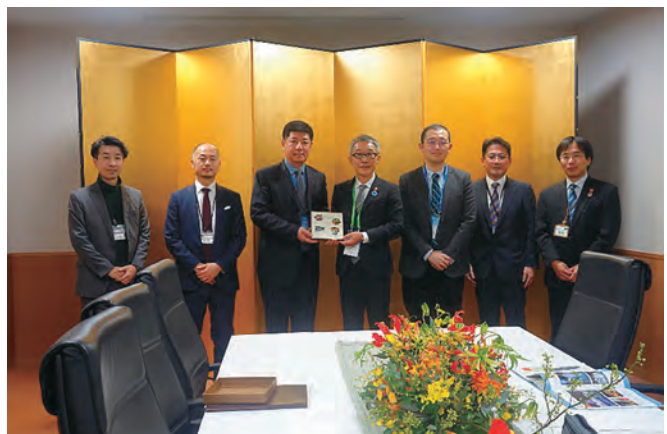
Then, representing the member cities, Mayor Vainio of Rovaniemi, Finland, and Deputy Mayor Park of Inje County, Republic of Korea, provided comments. A question-and-answer session with reporters followed, which involved the Ulaanbaatar City representatives who were also attending the press conference.



Bilateral Meetings

Utilizing the network of the WWCAM, bilateral meetings between participants, including member cities and academic institutions, were held during breaks at the Mayors Conference.

By asking participants about their desired partners and topics in advance, we could make good matches, which resulted in fruitful and in-depth meetings that led to the strengthening of the WWCAM networking function.



The background is a light blue gradient. It is decorated with various white and light blue snowflake patterns of different sizes and orientations. Vertical dotted lines are scattered across the page, with small dots interspersed between them. The overall aesthetic is clean and festive, typical of a winter-themed conference document.

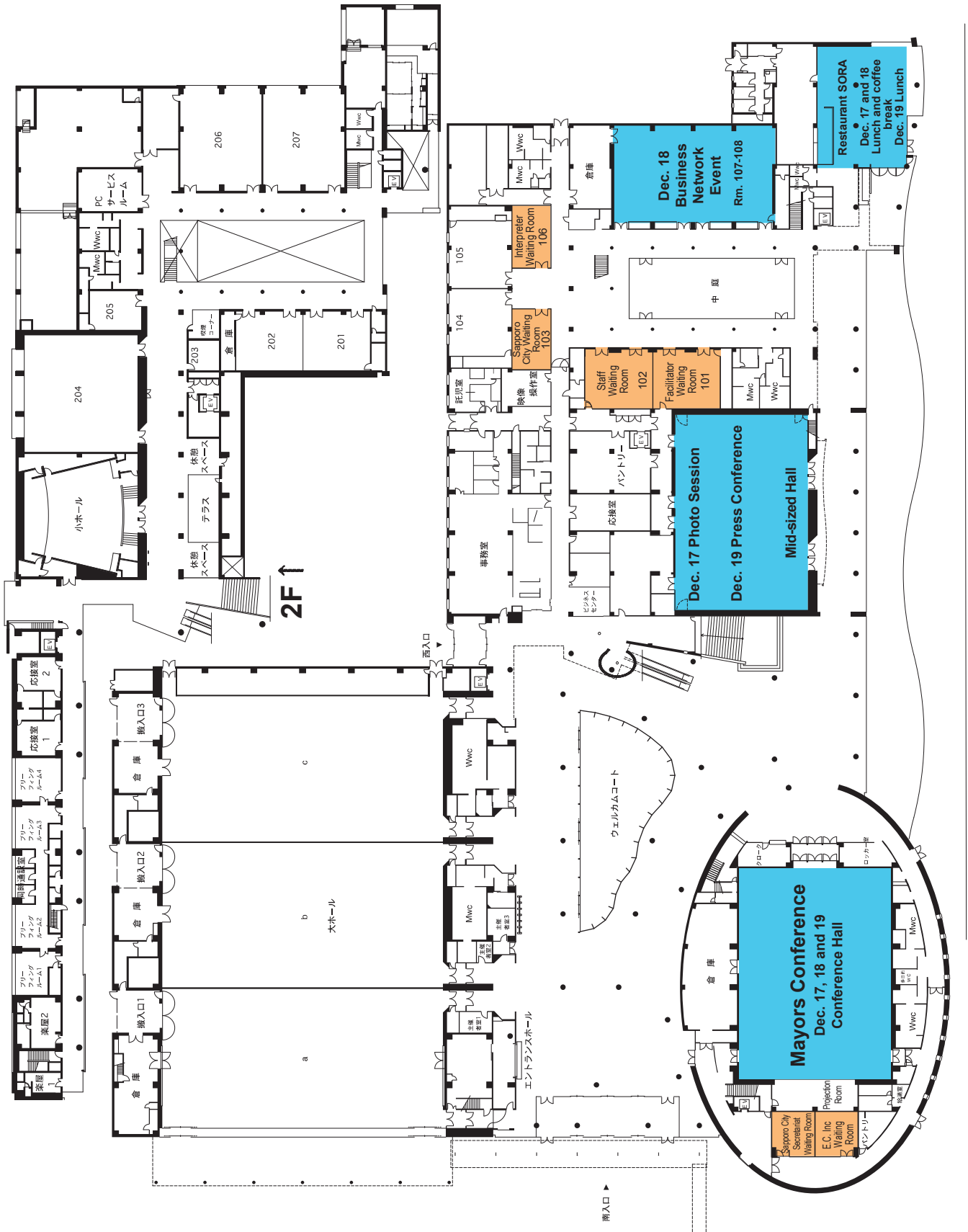
The 20th World Winter Cities Conference for Mayors

Miscellaneous Information



Venue Map

Sapporo Convention Center



Stage Signage, Backdrop, and Gifts



Hanging signage



Stage backdrop for a photo session



900 × 2700mm



900 × 2100mm

Standing signs



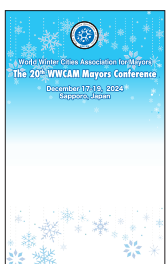
Gifts (snacks, cutlery set, and stainless steel bottle)



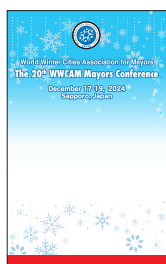
Gift for representatives (fine snow-patterned small plates)



Congress bag



133x83mm



代札者用 133x83mm

Name badges

Name badge lanyards





Publicity and Public Relations



Website of the World Winter Cities Conference for Mayors



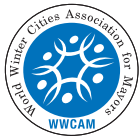
Poster/flyer



Digital signage at Sapporo Station

Report on the 20th World Winter Cities Conference for Mayors

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The 20th World Winter Cities Conference for Mayors (Sapporo, Japan)
Report

