



### Nuuk Declaration 2008

While awareness of the danger posed by climate change has increased in recent years due to the efforts of international society, actual conditions appear as dictated by progressive deterioration as ever. According to the report published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in November of 2007, if the amount of greenhouse gases emitted globally continues to increase over the next 20 to 30 years, one can predict as a result that warming in the 21<sup>st</sup> century will occur on a scale greater than that of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The effects of warming are experienced firsthand by local residents of areas with distinct winter weather, with the most severe effects noticeable in Greenland and the Arctic. The increase in temperatures during the winter season has a significant impact on people's lifestyles, and the influence on daily life and traditional culture cannot be overlooked. As members of the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors and officials of the local governments created by and for these local residents, we hereby recognize our collective obligation to send a global message highlighting the severity of global warming.

Sharing the climatic characteristics of cold weather and heavy snowfall, winter cities consume a great deal of energy for winter heating and snow removal/disposal. Given our contribution to increasing emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases, we must recognize the inconsistency evident as we ourselves contribute to global warming. Therefore, as the Nuuk Declaration of the World Winter Cities Association for Mayors, we participant cities recognize our duty to take a leading role in global society and pledge to call upon our collective wisdom as we make every effort to tackle the problem of


warming.

On the international level, considerations of a “post-Kyoto Protocol” framework for implementation starting in 2013 dominated discussions at the December 2007<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP13), and the issues of climate change and the environment are planned as main themes for the 2008 G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit. In our position as local government bodies, we pledge to maintain an active awareness of movements on the national level and make every effort to realize the following objectives as we strive to take a leading role in global society:

- 1) Work towards establishing a Member City framework for global warming countermeasures (goals for reduced emission of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases, etc.) based on the precedents set by advanced Member Cities.
- 2) Take the initiative as winter city governmental bodies to pursue measures for energy conservation and environmental preservation, and actively embrace our guiding role by urging and encouraging local residents in their actions and measures.
- 3) Break free from our reliance on fossil fuels by actively pursuing the use of such renewable energy sources as biomass and natural energy.
- 4) Work to expand the network of winter cities engaged in dealing with global environmental issues by having Member Cities share information regarding countermeasures for global warming with other cities in their region.
- 5) Monitor the advancements made with regard to the aforementioned points through the current Subcommittee on Winter Cities Environmental Issues and the Subcommittee planned for establishment based on the city of Anchorage’s proposal.



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