

Submitted by Japan

Dear Members of the International Whaling Commission,

On behalf of the citizens of Yokohama, I announce our candidacy as a host city for the 61st Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission in 2009. It is my strong hope to hold this significant international conference in Yokohama.

About 150 years ago, whaling ships of the United States of America required a port of call in Japan to replenish food and fuel. Consequently, the Port of Yokohama was opened as Japan's gateway to the world after 300 years of national isolation. Yokohama was indeed the cradle of Japan's modernization, and was the point of exchange of information between Japan and the rest of the world. In 2009, Yokohama will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the opening of its port. I believe that the 61st Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission therefore holds a great significance for our city.

Yokohama has been highly evaluated as a convention city with a variety of conference and accommodation facilities and with its rich experience to host the final match of the 2002 FIFA World Cup™ and various international conventions. Pacifico Yokohama, a world-class comprehensive convention facility, has been a venue of large international conferences and events since its opening in 1987. The United Nations World Conference on Disaster Reduction, the International AIDS Conference, the United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues, just to name a few.

Comfortable and smooth operation of the meeting will be supported by such broad experience and the citizens' hospitality derived from the enterprising, open-minded character.

In addition, Yokohama assures attractive post-conference enjoyment for you with its scenic waterfront, and Sankeien which is a veritable showcase of traditional Japanese culture and gardening aesthetics, and the world's largest Chinatown, etc. Japan's renowned Mt. Fuji and Hakone are also within day-trip distance.

I sincerely hope that the Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission will be held in Yokohama in 2009, and I wish you continued success.

June, 2006



Hiroshi Nakada
Mayor, City of Yokohama

