



# Hokkaido University Newsletter

No.1

Autumn 2004

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**•Introducing the Activities of Hokkaido University**  
**•Quarterly (No. 1)**

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## Greetings from the President

National universities in Japan were reclassified as national university corporations in April 2004. They were previously internal entities within the national administrative organization that oversees education, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. As independent corporations, universities operate autonomously, under their own judgment and responsibility. As national university corporations, however, more than half of their running costs are still financed from national coffers, so tuitions did not particularly rise accordingly.



**President Mutsuo Nakamura**

With this reorganization as the trigger, we would like to shed light on some characteristics of Hokkaido University (HU) in both education and research. Since its foundation in 1876 as Sapporo Agricultural College – the first university in the nation that awarded bachelor's degrees – HU has upheld and nurtured four basic philosophies concerning education and research: "The Frontier Spirit," "Global Perspectives," "All-round Education" and "Practical Learning."

"Global Perspectives" refers to cultivating the students' skills of understanding foreign cultures supported by awareness of their own culture, fostering communication skills in foreign languages and developing students who can be active on the world stage. During its early years, Sapporo Agricultural College helped shape internationally minded individuals, as exemplified by Inazo Nitobe, who authored "Bushido: The Soul of Japan," the famous book that introduced the bases of Japanese people's morals and values to the rest of the world in English, and made great efforts to bring about peaceful solutions to international conflicts as the first undersecretary general of the League of Nations.

In the 21st century, where globalization continues to make great strides, HU's "Global Perspectives" are still inadequate. We are acutely aware of the necessity of actively promoting the enrollment of international students and researchers and further providing opportunities for Japanese students and researchers to study and research overseas. Although the number of international students has exceeded 700 over the past several years, it has not yet reached even 5% of the total of 17,000 enrolled students. As one of Japan's major and comprehensive universities, featuring 12 faculties and 15 graduate schools, HU would like you to be aware of its education and research activities.



## Joint Symposium with Seoul National University



Welcome remarks from President Nakamura



President Chung giving the keynote speech at the plenary session

The 7th Joint Symposium with Seoul National University (SNU) was held on July 8 and 9 at Hokkaido University (HU).

SNU and HU concluded the Inter-University Exchange Agreement in 1997, and the 1st Joint Symposium was held in Sapporo in 1998 in commemoration of the conclusion of that agreement. The Joint Symposium has since been held every year at either school on an alternating basis.

During this year's symposium, lectures and information exchanges were held under the theme of "the Incorporation of National Universities," which is also of significant interest to Korean national universities. During the Plenary Session on the first day, an address by Mutsuo Nakamura, President of HU, was followed by the keynote speech by Un-Chan Chung, President of SNU. That afternoon, a meeting for exchanges on university management was held, with participants asking many questions.

On the afternoon of the first day and on the second day, eight satellite sessions were held in several halls.

Having been held seven times, this symposium has improved the number and quality of exchanges between the two universities. It is expected that the Symposium will help the universities to further broaden educational and research exchanges and to develop inter-university cooperation.



Participants from both universities



## Exchanges between International Students and the Local Community

The Holiday In Hidaka program, which marked its 14th year in 2004, was held in the town of Hidaka on July 24 (Sat.) and 25 (Sun.). It saw the participation of 135 international students and their families from 22 countries.

This exchange project, which is held under the joint auspices of Hokkaido University and the Hidaka National Children's Center, an Independent Administrative Institution, aims for people from various countries to broaden a circle of friendship in Hidaka by having international students learn local lifestyles and cultures through their experience in Japan's traditional festivals and through contact with local residents.

On two fine days, participants interacted with local people and deepened friendships by participating in festivals and other events amidst the natural splendor of Hidaka.



International students enjoy various activities



## 2004 Summer Session Program

The 2004 Hokkaido University (HU) Summer Session Program was held for the five weeks from June 28 (Mon.) at the Clark Memorial Student Center, the International Student Center and in Hakodate. This was the first year for the program to include Hakodate.

This program has been held every other year since 1978 as part of student exchanges with universities in the U.S. and Canada, under HU's Inter-University Exchange Agreements.

Thirty-eight students and a total of five directors and assistants participated in the 14th Summer Session Program this year, coming from the University of Massachusetts, Portland State University and the University of Alaska in the U.S. and the University of Alberta in Canada.

During the Summer Session, Japanese language lessons, Japanese cultural activities, campus tours, city tours and other events took place.



**Ink painting**



**Flower arrangement**



**At the bust of Dr. William S. Clark**



**At the Faculty of Fisheries Sciences, City of Hakodate**



## The Graduate School of Information Science and Technology Established

On April 1, the Division of Systems and Information Engineering and the Division of Electronic and Information Engineering (Graduate School of Engineering), and the Research Institute for Electronic Science were reorganized. As a result, the Graduate School of Information Science and Technology was established with the cooperation of the Research Institute for Electronic Science, the Research Center for Integrated Quantum Electronics and the Information Initiative Center.

A lecture meeting, a ceremony and a banquet to commemorate the inauguration of the new graduate school were attended by about 160 involved people, both in and outside HU, including representatives of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, at a hotel in the city, starting at 3 p.m. on June 30 (Wed.).



**President Nakamura giving a speech at the ceremony**



**Former President Tambo giving a speech at the lecture meeting**



**Dean Homma giving a speech at the ceremony**

## Comprehensive Partnership

New Comprehensive Partnership Agreements were concluded as follows;

July 1, Fuji Electric Holdings Co., Ltd.

July 22, Development Bank of Japan

July 23, UFJ Capital Co., Ltd.



**Fuji Electric Holdings Co., Ltd.**



**Development Bank of Japan**

### What is the Comprehensive Partnership?

The Comprehensive Partnership refers to a partnership of technical (research) exchanges and also of personnel exchanges, human resource development, and the like. Agreements with Hitachi, Ltd. and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. have been concluded.

Now, Hokkaido University is strongly promoting government-industry-academia collaboration.



**UFJ Capital Co., Ltd.**





## Conferment of an Honorary Degree

On July 16 (Fri.), President Nakamura conferred an honorary doctoral degree on Dr. Povl Ole Fanger, a senior professor at Technical University of Denmark, Kingdom of Denmark, for his "outstanding contribution to the advancement of educational research through international cultural exchanges."

Over the past four decades, Dr. Fanger has advanced research on human-environmental engineering. He has had more than 300 articles published in distinguished academic journals at home and abroad, and has delivered more than 200 special and keynote lectures in 40 countries.

He also paid three visits to Hokkaido University (HU), always giving energetic lectures and deeply impressing HU students and faculty. In addition, he has contributed greatly to education and research in human-environmental engineering, through active exchanges with students and faculty at graduate schools over a long period of time.

At a commemorative lecture meeting that followed the conferment ceremony, a capacity audience enthusiastically listened to him speak.

Dr. Fanger is the 35th person to be awarded an honorary degree from HU.



Awarding Ceremony



Dr. Fanger in an academic gown



## Beijing Office of Catalysis Research Center, HU and Sapporo Office of Department of Chemistry, Peking University Opened Simultaneously

In February 2003, Hokkaido University (HU) and Peking University concluded the Inter-University Agreement. Toward implementing the Agreement, offices that can serve as strategic bases for overseas research were established in the Department of Chemistry at Peking University in May 2003 and in the Catalysis Research Center of HU in January 2004. The offices opened simultaneously at noon, on July 1 (Thu.).

The offices are available to students and faculty, and outside researchers including those from the private sector. The duties assigned to our office include the promotion of exchanges among researchers, the promotion of joint research, and the transmission and collection of information concerning catalytic chemistry in Japan and China.

Sapporo Office  
Open hour: 12:00-13:00 (weekday)  
Room No. 03-112  
3rd Floor  
Catalysis Research Center  
Contact: 090-6444-5741

Beijing Office  
Open hour: 12:00-13:00 (weekday)  
Room No. S637  
Department of Chemistry  
Peking University  
Contact: +86-1352-296-5804



Sapporo Office



Beijing Office



## Typhoon “Tokage”

Typhoon “Tokage” blustered through Hokkaido on September 8, causing major damage to HU. Trees were destroyed and campus facilities were damaged.

The University established the Hokkaido University Typhoon “Tokage” Damage Countermeasures Headquarters under the President, to confirm the state of damage, and examine and implement appropriate recovery measures.



Poplar Avenue before the typhoon



Poplar Avenue after the typhoon



Damaged buildings

## Exchange Agreement with Fudan University



**Main gate of Fudan University**  
(From the website [www.fudan.edu.cn](http://www.fudan.edu.cn))



**Holding the completed agreements, Vice-President Nakamura and President Wang shake hands**

On the occasion of the Japan-China Conference of University Presidents, which was held in Beijing on August 3 (Tue.), Hokkaido University (HU) concluded the Academic Exchange Agreement and the Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Student Exchanges with Fudan University. The signing was conducted by President Wang Shenghong of Fudan University and Ken'ichi Nakamura, Vice President in charge of international exchanges at HU, who had with him copies of the Agreement signed in advance by HU President Mutsuo Nakamura.

Established in 1905 in Shanghai, a commercial city, Fudan University is one of the most prestigious universities in China. It has some 26,000 students and 2,400 faculty members in its 15 departments and graduate schools and 77 research institutes and centers. This agreement dates back to 1988, when HU Institute of Language & Culture Studies and Fudan University International Cultural Exchange School concluded the Interdepartmental Exchange Agreement, which has blossomed into the Inter-University Exchange Agreement.

With the conclusion of this agreement, HU's Inter-University Exchange Agreements have risen to number 35 with 11 nations, and our Interdepartmental Exchange Agreements have increased to number 77 with 18 nations and one region.





## Adoption of COE Programs

With regard to the screening and selection in FY 2004 by the 21st Century COE Program Committee, 320 applications for the public offering, whose area is limited to the establishment of research and educational bases that aim to explore “innovative academic fields,” were submitted from national, public and private universities. Those applications were screened by the Program Committee, which announced 28 approved programs from 24 universities on July 21.

Two of the five applications submitted from Hokkaido University (HU) were selected, and it was informally decided that the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) would grant to HU subsidies for the establishment of a research center.

Twelve programs have been selected from HU submissions: 4 in FY 2002, 6 in FY 2003 and 2 in FY 2004. This is the sixth highest in the nation.

### What is the 21st Century COE Program?

The 21st Century COE Program was launched with “subsidies for the establishment of a research center,” as a new project at MEXT in FY 2002, based on the University Structural Reform Plan (June 2001).

This program aims to make our nation’s university bases at the world’s most advanced levels of research and education in various academic fields, to improve research and to foster creative workers who will lead the world. It does this through prioritized support that promotes those universities which are distinguished by their international competitiveness.

	Programs	Leader
1	Center of Excellence for Advanced Life Science on the Base of Bioscience and Nanotechnology	Dr. ODASA Yoshihito
2	Meme-Media Technology Approach to the R&D of Next-Generation Information Technologies	Dr. TANAKA Yuzuru
3	Center for the Study of Cultural and Ecological Foundations of Mind	Dr. YAMAGISHI Toshio
4	Prediction and Avoidance of an Abrupt Change in the Bio-geosphere System	Dr. IKEDA Motoyoshi
5	Program of Excellence for Zoonosis Control	Dr. TAKASHIMA Ikuo
6	Mathematics of Nonlinear Structures via Singularities	Dr. OZAWA Tohru
7	Sustainable Metabolic Systems of Water and Waste for Area-Based Society	Dr. WATANABE Yoshimasa
8	The Law and Policy of Intellectual Property: Building a New Global Framework	Dr. TAMURA Yoshiyuki
9	Neo-Science of Natural History-Origin and Evolution of Natural Diversity	Dr. OKADA Hisatake
10	Making a Discipline of Slavic-Eurasian Studies: Meso-area and Globalization	Dr. IEDA Osamu
11	Marine Bio-Manipulation Frontier for Food Production	Dr. YAMAUCHI Kohei
12	Topological Science and Technology	Dr. TANDA Satoru

Please visit our website for further information concerning the programs.

<http://www.hokudai.ac.jp/bureau/e/news-e.html>

## Regional Cooperation Agreement

On July 30 (Fri.), five Hokkaido organizations (Hokkaido University, the Hokkaido Government, the Sapporo Municipal Government, the Hokkaido Economic Federation and the Hokkaido Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry) concluded the Regional Cooperation Agreement. This concord aims at revitalizing Hokkaido by strengthening cooperation while maintaining the excellence of each organization in its respective area of expertise. An example is the promotion of the Hokkaido University Research & Business Park Project.

The signing ceremony, held at a hotel in Sapporo, was attended by representatives from the aforementioned institutions and the media.

The Agreement stipulates that the five institutions shall work closely together and that matters concerning the following shall constitute the range of cooperation regarding personnel exchanges, human resource development, and the like:

- Promotion of the Hokkaido University Research & Business Park Project
- Promotion of science and technology in Hokkaido
- Revitalization of the Hokkaido economy

### Hokkaido University Research & Business Park

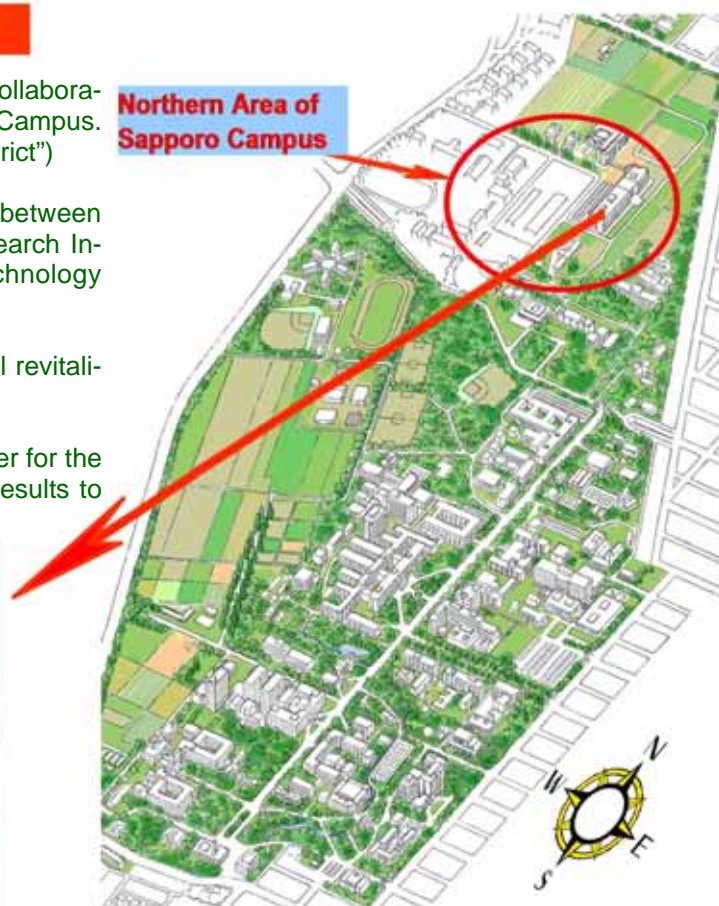
#### Research & Business Park Project

Major R&D base of government-industry-academia collaboration located in Northern Area (30 hectares) of Sapporo Campus. (authorized as "Sapporo Venture Creation Special District")

Partnership research promotion entities are formed between Hokkaido Univ. and Prefectural Experiment and Research Institutions in Hokkaido, the Japan Science and Technology Agency, etc.

Science and technology-driven economic and regional revitalization is pursued.

Creative Research Initiative "Sousei" serves as a center for the promotion of "knowledge creation" and the return of results to society.





## Completion Ceremony for International Students

The completion ceremony for students enrolled in the International Student Center's Japanese Study Course and Japanese Language & Culture Study Course, as well as the Hokkaido University Short-Term Exchange Program (HUSTEP) was held at the Clark Memorial Student Center on August 6 (Fri.), 2004.

In the presence of families and other guests, Ken'ichi Nakamura, Director of the International Student Center, awarded a completion certificate to each student. This was followed by a congratulatory speech by the Director, which made the ceremony particularly memorable for the international students.

After the ceremony, a banquet was held at a lounge in the International Student Center, where students enjoyed friendly discussion with guests and instructors, who had been kind to them. The banquet gathered momentum when international students fondly recalled their campus life and Japanese language studies.



A student is awarded the certificate



Japanese Language & Culture Study Course Students



Japanese Study Course Students



HUSTEP Students



## 2004 Brief Sketch of the University in Chinese

Exchanges with China have been intensifying every year, with visitors from abroad and international students accounting for more than one-third of the total. China has become important in promoting international exchanges at HU. In light of this, the University has prepared its first HU outline in Chinese. This is in addition to the English version that is published every year to introduce Hokkaido University internationally. Web surfers are invited to download the PDF file from our homepage at:

<http://www.hokudai.ac.jp/bureau/e/briefsketch.html>



### 校长致辞



中村 隆夫  
北海道大学校长

北海道大学创立于1878年，其前身为札幌农学校，是日本首次授予学士学位的大学。第一代附校长立花立先生在离开札幌时，向学生留下了“Boys, be ambitious!”之学训，现已成为本校的敬学理念。同时也是日本年轻人印象最为强烈的宣言。

#### 向世界展现研究成果

北海道大学以研究生教育为重点，拥有设备完善且与世界并肩的教育研究基础设施。本校的专业领域涉及至多种多样，研究生院研究所及研究所，并拥有四季变化丰富的辽阔校园。以不屈不挠的精神开展具有大学特色的基础研究，并且，运用这些资产将其作为自然、人文及社会等各学科的综合性学术研究据点，并向世界展现出研究成果。

#### 充实的学生教育

北海道大学通过大学全体教育及各系的专业教育使学生掌握专业知识和技术，并且培养出具有积极性和综合性的掌握全方位敬学的人才。因此，在一年级的大学基础教育中，设有在学习专业教育时不可或缺的敬学教育课程。此外，还进行一般教育专题讨论及论文指导等，加强了少人数教育，使学生们提高洞察力和表达能力。

#### 与社会的合作

北海道大学为了使高中生了解研究内容及敬学内容，以其为对象举办了一日体验入学和校园开放活动。并且，在网络上还公开了教员的研究项目、业绩及敬学内容。此外，还设置了尖端科学技术共同研究中心及创成科学研究机构等，与产业界共同地推进了研究开发。在地区的大力支持之下发展至今的本校，通过与社会合作而祈望有更进一步的飞跃发展。



### Your response would be highly appreciated!

We would like to improve this newsletter by reflecting your comments.

If you would like to change your post address, or remove it from our mailing list, please contact the following address.

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## HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY

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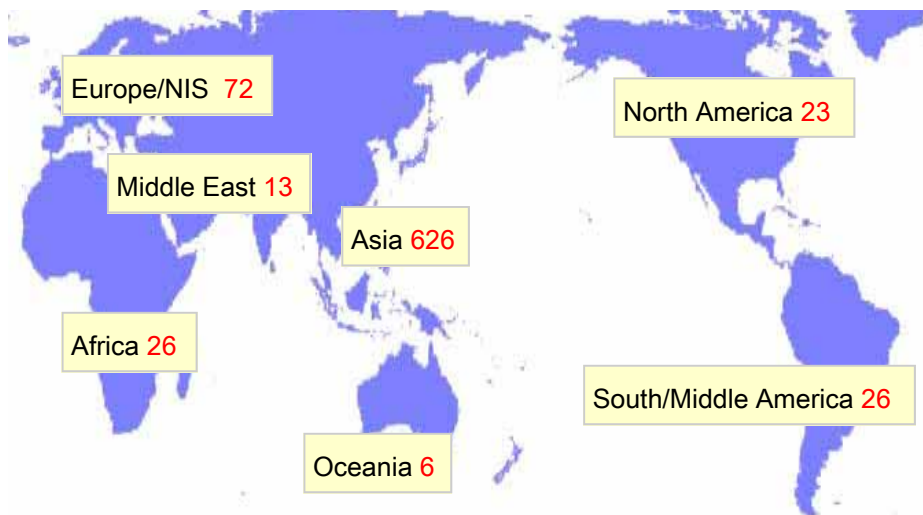
<http://www.hokudai.ac.jp/bureau/e/index-e.html>

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## Hokkaido University Today

### 792 International Students from 78 Countries

as of November 1, 2004



Letters	92
Education	22
Law	77
Economics	54
Science	39
Medicine	54
Dental Medicine	15
Pharmaceutical Sciences	9
Engineering	152
Agriculture	101
Veterinary Medicine	22
Fisheries Sciences	37
Environmental Earth Sciences	41
International Media and Communication	25
Information Science and Technology	14
Others (Research Institutes, etc)	38
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>792</b>