



# Hokkaido University Newsletter

No. 11

Spring 2008

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Photo by Yasue Takeda  
(Hokkaido University Photo Club)



## “Sustainability Weeks 2008 – G8 Summit Round” from June 23 to July 11

A group of 8 leading industrialized nations (G8), which includes Canada, England, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, U.S.A, and Japan, annually hold a summit meeting (G8 Summit) to discuss current global issues. In 2008, Japan is the host of the 2008 G8 Summit whose main theme is countermeasures for global warming and environmental problems. The venue will be at a hotel by one of the most beautiful spots in Hokkaido, Lake Toya, a two-hour drive from Hokkaido University (HU) Sapporo Campus. HU looks at the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit 2008 as a tremendous opportunity to gather momentum in realizing a sustainable society, as we have focused on “Sustainable Development” in research and education during the last several years.

In September 2007, HU started a promotion campaign named, “**Sustainability Research & Education Promotion Marathon**,” to build a momentum toward the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit 2008. HU will host a succession of more than 30 symposia and workshops on environment and other related fields during the sustainability campaign. The most noteworthy event will be the “**Sustainability Weeks 2008 – G8 Summit Round**” in late June – early July, coinciding with the summit. During the Weeks, international symposia will be held intensively with the aim of offering an opportunity for researchers and educators around the world to bring together their knowledge and wisdom to address challenges for the realization of a sustainable society.

You are welcome to join the Sustainability Week 2008.

For more information, please visit: <http://sw2008.jp>



**S: Symposium M: Museum Exhibit  
P: Public Lecture O: Other Event**

(as of April 22, 2008)

Hokkaido University Sustainability Marathon			
:	(Running since 2007)		
May – July	O Radio Program: “Creating a Sustainable Society”	Jun. 16 – 17	S Nanotoxicology Assessment and Biomedical, Environmental Application of Fine Particles and Nanotubes (ISNT2008)
May 17	S Gender History for Self-Reliance and Borderless Development	Jun. 19	P Changing Polar Regions – research frontier and its education
May 24	P Science Café Events: The Bio-diversity and Sapporo Maruyama Zoo	Jun. 19	S Sustainable Development in Hokkaido and Far-east Russia
May 27	S University-led Ventures Business Hokkaido Forum	Jun. 21	S Higher Education for Sustainable Asia
Jun. 11 – 13	S Mathematical Sciences towards Environmental Problems	Jun. 15 – Jul. 31	M Knowledge of University for All the People!
Jun. 14	S Environment Forum in Lake Toya	Jun. 17 – Aug. 31	M Environment and resources at the Lake Toya and the Usu Volcano area
Jun. 15	S Human Dimensions of Invasive Alien Species Issues	Jun. 17 – Jul. 13	O Citizens Media Center Sapporo
Hokkaido University Sustainability Weeks 2008 – G8 Summit Round			
<b>Jun. 23</b>	<b>S Opening Symposium “Toward a Sustainable Low Carbon Society”</b>	Jun. 29 – Jul. 1	O G8 University Summit
Jun. 24	S How to make Sustainable Low Carbon Society	Jul. 2 – 6	S Sustainable Agriculture for Food, Energy and Industry 2008
Jun. 24	S Drastic change in the earth system during Global Warming	Jul. 3 – 4	S Environment and Health; Human life in changing global environments
Jun. 24	S Multi-Media Signal Processing	Jul. 5	S Sustainable Management for Culture and Communities
Jun. 25	S Environmental Monitoring for Conservation of Ecosystems	Jul. 5	S Let’s talk about “Health of the Earth and People”
Jun. 25	S Dynamics and pathway of land system change	Jul. 5 – 7	S Sentinel Earth, Detection of Environmental Change
Jun. 26 – 27	S Northeast Asia in the Cold War: New Evidence and Perspectives	Jul. 6	S Sanitation in Hokkaido University
Jun. 27	S Neo-Science of Natural History: Origin and Evolution of Natural Diversity	Jul. 7	S Catalysis Leading to a Sustainable Society
Jun. 28	P Sustainability Sciences for Protecting Aquatic Ecosystem and Marine Food	Jul. 9	S Toward a Sustainable Peace in East Asia and Europe
Jun. 28	P Science Café Events: The Most Recent Information on Global Warming	Jul. 10	S Strategy of Social Inclusion for Sustainable Development
Jun. 28 – 29	S Taxonomy Returns! – For the Better Understanding of our Mother Nature –	Jul. 10 – 12	S Environments for Gender Equality and Work-Life Balance in Science
Jun. 29	S School Education for Establishing Sustainable Society in Hokkaido	Jul. 11	S Beyond the Double Helix ~ Life Science for the Disease Free Society ~
Jun. 29	S The Present and Future of Ainu Studies, Part I (Tentative Title)	<b>Jul. 11</b>	<b>O Closing Symposium</b>

## G8 University Summit to be Held in Sapporo from June 29 through July 1

In the runup to the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit, the G8 University Summit will be held in Sapporo from June 29 through July 1 this year.

At the G8 University Summit, presidents of the major universities that play leading academic roles in academia in the G8 nations and elsewhere will discuss how we take on the challenge of global and human issues under the theme of "Global Sustainability and the Role of Universities." The presidents will ask the leaders of the G8 nations to support the results of their discussions and reflect them in international consensus-building efforts to achieve global sustainability.

Fourteen universities will participate from Japan (Hokkaido University, Tohoku University, the University of Tokyo, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Hitotsubashi University, Nagoya University, Kyoto University, Osaka University, Kyushu University, Tokyo Metropolitan University, Keio University, Waseda University, Doshisha University, and Ritsumeikan University).

With regard to overseas universities and international institutions, the participation of 23 universities from 13 countries has been confirmed to date (University of California, Los Angeles; Yale University; the University of British Columbia; University of Alberta; University of Cambridge; Imperial College London; École Polytechnique; Université Paris Sorbonne; Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich; RWTH Aachen University; Politecnico di Torino; Università degli Studi di Firenze; Lomonosov Moscow State University; Far Eastern National University; Peking University; Tsinghua University; Seoul National University; Australian National University; University of Delhi; Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur; University of Johannesburg; Universidade de São Paulo and United Nations University).

HU President will serve as a Deputy Chair of the Organizing Committee and the Executive Director of the Secretariat of the Organizing Committee. The Secretariat for the G8 University Summit and the Secretariat for Sustainability Weeks 2008 were inaugurated at HU in December 2007, with the aim of making the G8 University Summit a great success.

For more information about the G8 University Summit, please see the website below.

<http://g8u-summit.jp>



The G8 University Summit will make proposals from academia on the occasion of the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit.



Website of the G8 University Summit



Secretary staff



## Japan-Russia Student Forum 2007 “Japan and Russia – Sustainable Development of Future Oriented Relationship” Held

The Japan-Russia Student Forum 2007 was held at Hokkaido University on September 24 and 25, 2007. This forum, co-hosted by the Japan-Russia Youth Exchange Center <sup>(note)</sup> and HU, aimed to provide university students in Japan and Russia the opportunity to discuss future relationships between their countries, recognize through such discussions the importance of developing bilateral relations, and lay the foundation for future exchanges. The first forum was held at Lomonosov Moscow State University in 2006, and the second forum in 2007 witnessed the participation of 32 Japanese, including five HU students (two undergraduate and three graduate students) and 30 Russians.

In the opening ceremony, a Japanese student from the University of Tokyo and a Russian student from Lomonosov Moscow State University respectively delivered keynote speeches in English with the attendance of Mr. Mikhail Bely, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Japan, and Mr. Hitoshi KIMURA, Senior Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs. Students from both countries were then divided into three satellite sessions that were given under the main theme of “Japan and Russia – Sustainable Development of Future Oriented Relationship” and actively exchanged opinions in English. At the plenary session on the second day, results of opinion exchanges at individual satellite sessions were reported. It was pointed out that the reinforcement of Japan-Russia relations will contribute to the stable development of the entire Asia-Pacific region and that strengthened regional exchanges between the Russian Far East and Hokkaido, for example, (economic, educational and sister-city exchanges) will help improve bilateral relations. The importance of removing stereotypes through cultural exchanges, for example, was also pointed out. Dr. Akihiro Iwashita, Professor of the Slavic Research Center, HU then summarized the session and brought it to a close.

During the two-day forum, all sorts of programs continued, such as the luncheon hosted by President Saeki on the first day, the lamb barbecue party (“Genghis Khan” in Japanese) on the evening of the first day, and strolling in downtown Sapporo and the hands-on experience of Japanese culture at Jozankei Hot Springs on the second day. Japanese and Russian students deepened their mutual understanding through these programs. After the programs in Sapporo, Russian students participated in programs in Tokyo before heading home.

By co-hosting the forum, we could publicize HU’s strong relations with Russia as well as strategic activities concerning sustainable development. We believe it was also one of the successes of the forum that we could extensively arouse people’s interest in Sustainability Weeks 2008, which HU will host concurrently with G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit 2008.



Address by Mr. Mikhail Bely, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Japan



Discussion at a satellite session

(Note) International institution established in 1999 according to the agreements reached at the Japan-Russia Summit Meeting



## JBIC Chinese Human Resources Development Project's Special Training Course "Henan Province Waste Treatment Training" Held

Hokkaido University (HU) held the "Waste Recycling and Treatment Technology" for 10 university teachers from Henan Province, China, over approximately one month from July 8 through August 4, 2007. This training is part of the Yen Loan Project and a special training course in the Chinese Human Resources Development Project under the auspices of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

This training course was established by HU based on a survey consigned by the JBIC, and aims to improve waste management in inland China and to lay the important foundation of infrastructure development. In addition to lectures, the training included inspection tours. With the cooperation of regional governments and businesses, participants acquired an in-depth knowledge of recycling and waste treatment by inspecting 15 waste treatment and recycling facilities around Sapporo. Furthermore, through their visits to laboratories, they enjoyed interacting with researchers at HU. In their training sessions in Tokyo, they visited the Ministry of the Environment, where they learned about the Government of Japan's waste and recycling policy.

During the training period, they also had opportunities to touch Japanese culture, e.g. hands-on experience in tea ceremony, kimono wearing and Japanese music concerts. Participants expressed their impressions about the training course by saying that they could not only acquire knowledge about waste, but also deepen their understanding of Japanese culture.

It is Hokkaido University's expectation that this training course will be utilized for activities to solve waste problems in Henan Province in the future.



Closing Ceremony of the Waste Treatment Training for Henan Province, China

## The 7th Hokkaido Session of the UNU Global Seminars Held on "Forests and the Environment in the Era of Globalization"

The 7th Hokkaido Session of the United Nations University (UNU) Global Seminars was held at the Hokkaido University (HU) Tomakomai Experimental Forest and Sapporo Campus from August 22 to 25, 2007. The 7th Hokkaido Session was held under the joint auspices of HU and UNU, with 33 students from across the nation, including 10 from HU. Two students were also invited from the University of Massachusetts and Fudan University, which are partner institutions of HU.

With "Forests and the Environment in the Era of Globalization: Considering Global Sustainability in Hokkaido" as the general theme, this session was planned as a seminar in which participants would consider, by working in forests, what to do to pass on a better environment to future generations amid an increasing awareness of environmental problems worldwide.



Fieldwork at the Tomakomai Experimental Forest

Participants stayed at the Tomakomai Experimental Forest for three days and made inspections and discussed forest issues from the viewpoint of sustainability through fieldwork in three groups. Also held were lectures by HU professor and an inspection tour to research facilities. On the last day, participants presented their research results in groups at the Sapporo Campus. The presentation was followed by Public Lectures titled "The present and future of forest deterioration," and then by the closing ceremony.

HU is committed to continuing to cooperate with international institutions in education and research.



## The 10th Seoul National University – Hokkaido University Joint Symposium

The 10th Seoul National University – Hokkaido University Joint Symposium was held at Seoul National University for three days from January 24 to 26.

The 1st joint symposium was held in Sapporo in 1998 to commemorate the Inter-University Exchange Agreement concluded between the two universities in 1997. The joint symposium has since been held every year on a reciprocal basis.

At the plenary session on January 24, “Energy, Environment and Sustainability” was proposed as the theme, and Dr. Hisatake Okada, Executive and Vice President, introduced Hokkaido University’s major activities on sustainability in his keynote speech following the opening remarks by Dr. Hiroshi Saeki, President of Hokkaido University, and Dr. Jang Moo Lee, President of Seoul National University. Dr. Sun-Jin Yun, from Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Seoul National University then delivered a keynote speech entitled “The State and Future of Energy, Environment and Sustainability in Korea in an Era of Climate Change.”

On the following day, eight satellite sessions were held, in which research results were presented and graduate students exchanged information about their research activities. The satellite session for the faculties, including administrative staff, on the theme of the internationalization of universities, was also held as it has been held since the 8th Joint Symposium. During this session, participants exchanged views on how student exchanges and university partnerships should function in the future.

In the 10th Joint Symposium, a record number of 86 people participated from Hokkaido University, enhancing the depth of the exchange in terms of both the quality and quantity. On the occasion of the joint symposium, the signing ceremony of the renewal of the Inter-University Exchange Agreement was also held, heightening expectations that research and educational exchanges between two universities will be broadened and that cooperative relations will thrive even more.



Keynote speech by Dr. Okada



Keynote speech by Dr. Sun-Jin Yun



All the participants in the plenary session



President Jang-Moo Lee and President Saeki after the signing ceremony

## Hokkaido University Days Held in Beijing

Hokkaido University (HU) held an event named Hokkaido University Days in Beijing, China, on March 8 and 9. The event aimed to publicize HU and, in particular, increase the number of excellent international students at HU. The event was held at the University of Science and Technology Beijing, one of the partner institutions of HU. Dr. Hiroshi Saeki, HU President; Dr. Takeo Hondoh, Executive and Vice President; Dr. Ken Suzuki, Director of the Beijing Office, and approximately 25 faculty members and students from eight faculties and graduate schools participated from HU.

Approximately 200 people took part in the event's Opening Ceremony held on March 8, including Dr. Xu Jinwu, President of the University of Science and Technology Beijing; Mr. Hisashi Michigami, Minister of the Embassy of Japan in Beijing, China; Dr. Hiroshi Fukunishi, Director of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, JSPS Beijing Office; university professors and other faculty members from Japan and China; HU alumni and students of Chinese universities. After introducing HU's history and educational philosophies, Dr. Saeki expressed his commitment, saying HU will continue to attach importance to its exchanges with China and improve the environment surrounding international students, including scholarships, so that an increasing number of international students will choose HU as the institution at which to advance their studies. After the Opening Ceremony, Dr. Suzuki and those representing the graduate schools held an explanatory meeting.



Opening Ceremony

On the morning of March 9, individual overseas-study counseling sessions were held, with approximately 50 students from Chinese universities visiting the booths of the eight faculties and graduate schools that participated in the event, enthusiastically asking questions of HU's faculties and students.

In the afternoon, the "Japan-China Student Session" was held, in which HU students and Chinese students who had studied at HU, and approximately 40 other students discussed mutual understanding between Japan and China, among other topics.

One of the Chinese students joining the event said, "Having participated in *the Hokkaido University Days*, I learned what a wonderful place Hokkaido University is, and I have now made up my mind to study at HU." HU is committed to increasing the number of excellent international students by stepping up its publicity campaigns.



President Saeki delivering a speech

In the afternoon session, HU students first explained about their campus life. In the following panel discussion, HU faculty members and faculty members of Chinese universities who had studied at HU discussed research guidance provided at HU and how subsequent research programs have developed, thus publicizing HU's research characteristics and enthusiasm in educating young researchers.



Individual overseas-study counseling sessions



## HU Alumni's Today – Dr. William B. Cleary

Dr. William B. Cleary (Bill) graduated in March 1990 from the Faculty of Law, and under the supervision of the late Dr. Hiroyuki Nose, and became the first American to receive a doctorate of law from a Japanese university. He came to Hokudai in October 1983 as a Japanese Government (Monbusho) scholarship student. His main research dealt with the exclusion of illegally obtained evidence. He wanted to know how Japan dealt with this issue and how the Japanese courts handled the problem of evidence that had been obtained in violation of the Constitution. He wrote many articles on the subject and enjoyed reading and analyzing Japanese cases. He owes his success to the help and assistance of his professors at Hokudai, including Dr. Hiroyuki Nose, Dr. Yuji Shiratori, and Dr. Yasuo Watanabe.

During his years in Sapporo he also became a well-known radio talent with a daily live broadcast called “The Six O’Clock Rock” at FM Hokkaido. After graduation Bill went to New York for a year as an attorney and assisted Japan Airlines in their negotiations with the airport authority at JFK Airport. He returned to Japan in 1993 as a visiting professor at Tsukuba University, and later worked as a foreign legal advisor to both the government and a private law firm in Tokyo.

In addition to being an academic, he is also a lawyer admitted in New York, California, Guam, West Virginia and the Federated States of Micronesia, and has been assisting Japanese clients for more than twenty years in both Japan and abroad.

In 2004 he was appointed by Iwate University as an associate professor of criminal procedure and taught that subject in Japanese to Japanese students on the same basis as a Japanese professor.

In order to improve his professional career and to experience another location in Japan, Bill moved to Hiroshima in March, and from April began teaching both comparative law and foreign law as a full professor at Hiroshima Shudo University. He still enjoys basketball and tennis and is looking forward to eating lots of oysters in his new locale.



Dr. William B. Cleary



With his family

Bill was recently requested by the defense team in the Kazuyoshi Miura legal matter in Saipan and California, and you may have seen him on television or read about the case in the media. Bill is acting as an expert witness on Japanese criminal procedure and comparative law.

Bill can be contacted at [japanlaw\[at\]justice.com](mailto:japanlaw[at]justice.com).



## COE Program Series 9 Program of Excellence for Zoonosis Control



Dr. Ikuo Takashima,  
Project leader

Recently humans are facing the threat of emerging and re-emerging zoonoses in the world. Pathogens of zoonoses are microorganisms which have perpetuated in wildlife reservoirs for many years in nature. Recent drastic changes in the earth environment caused disturbances of ecology of reservoir hosts, introduction of the agents into new hosts, and further dissemination within the new host populations, resulting in outbreaks of a variety of infectious diseases. Risks of invasion of emerging zoonoses into Japan are increasing more and more in accordance with the increased international travel and commerce such as importation of meat and meat products, feeds, wild animals, and pets. Prompt planning of research projects for the control of zoonoses is needed in the subjects of diagnosis, epidemiological information, detection of reservoir animals, and vaccine development. Immediate arrangements for research organization and training of personnel to be specialists for zoonosis control are required.

At HU, in order to solve the problem, experts from Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine, Graduate School of Medicine, and Research Institute of Genetic Medicine collaborate in promoting researches and education for zoonosis control. We promote researches and education in cooperation with leading research organizations across the world, exchanging information and techniques, as well as establishing six research and education centers overseas.

Towards the prevention and control of zoonoses, the COE program mainly deals with BSE, West Nile fever, influenza, SARS, rabies, echinococcosis, tick-borne encephalitis, and hantavirus infections, and performs the following research subjects of above zoonoses; (1) Development of early and rapid diagnostic methods, (2) Development of vaccines, (3) Epidemiological investigations, (4) Risk analysis, (5) Genetic characterization of pathogens and (6) Pathogenesis-By putting all the results together, the preventive measures will be established for the control of zoonoses causing problems in Japan and abroad.

We also make effort to train promising young scientist and overseas trainees for zoonosis control specialists and perform research collaboration programs with overseas institutes to encourage international exchanges. We wish to establish "Center for Zoonosis Control" in the future, which plays the core role for international contribution through research and education to protect humans from zoonoses.

### Education and Research Networks



Laboratory



## Graduate School Introduction Series 9

### Faculty of Engineering and Graduate School of Engineering



Faculty of Engineering and Graduate School of Engineering

#### Outline of the Organization

The Faculty of Engineering was established in 1924 as the third faculty of Hokkaido University, following the Faculty of Agriculture and the School of Medicine. It consists of four Departments – Department of Applied Science and Engineering, Department of Information and Electronics, Department of Mechanical and Intelligent Engineering and Department of Socio-environmental Engineering – and 16 courses, and is one of the university's largest faculties with approximately 3,000 students.

The Graduate School of Engineering was established in 1953. Eight hundred Master' Course students and 250 Doctoral Course students are pursuing their studies in the school's 15 divisions.

#### New Endeavors

##### • CEED activity

The Graduate School of Engineering established the Center for Engineering Education Development (CEED) in fiscal 2005 and has continued to strive to improve the educational environment for students. The CEED offers three programs – International Relations Program; Industry Collaboration Program; and Continuing Education Program. To be more specific, it provides lessons to enhance students' technical writing and presentation skills, financial support to attend international conferences, an internship program and a support program to develop e-learning materials.

Last year, approximately 80 students participated in the internship program and worked at businesses and universities at home and abroad. A recent survey revealed that internship helps students to boost their confidence. Presently, 15 e-learning lectures are available and are popular among people studying in doctoral courses but who are working in remote locations and cannot afford to attend schooling.



CEED: overseas internship  
(at an automobile repair shop in Oman)

##### • Global COE Program

"Catalysis as the Basis for Innovation in Material Science" led by Dr. Norio Miyaura, a professor at the Graduate School of Engineering, was selected for the Global COE Program, which was launched in fiscal 2007, and has already begun its activities. Under this program, the Asian Graduate School of Chemistry and Materials Science (tentative name) was established, and cooperation with Peking University, Seoul National University, National Taiwan University and other universities in East Asia are being promoted.



### • *e<sup>3</sup> Program*

Currently, approximately 160 international students are studying at the Graduate School of Engineering and Faculty of Engineering. The Graduate School of Engineering launched the English Engineering Education Program, or e<sup>3</sup> program for short, in fiscal 2007, in which all lessons are conducted in English. Currently, 11 divisions are providing lectures to a total of approximately 60 overseas and Japanese students. As a result of a questionnaire aimed at students attending the lectures, the majority of Japanese students are in favor of the program, showing strong interest in improving their abilities to be active internationally.



e<sup>3</sup>: Welcome party

### • *Other international exchange activities*

The Graduate School of Engineering held the Symposium on International Corporation in Engineering Research and Education 2007 and 2008 (SICE 2007 and SICE 2008), respectively, and held in-depth discussions about international cooperation with partner institutions (with which HU has concluded agreements on academic exchanges). In addition, the Graduate School of Engineering decided to establish its International Affairs Office in fiscal 2008 in order to enhance the international atmosphere at the Graduate School.



SICE2007: Participants gather for a commemorative photo shoot



SICE2007: Discussion

As described above, the Graduate School of Engineering is making tireless efforts to become a research and education organization of international standards. Why not come and pursue your studies or research themes at the vibrant Graduate School of Engineering and Faculty of Engineering?



## Minamishinkawa International Residence Opens

Minamishinkawa International Residence (North 23, West 13, Kita-ku) has been completed to the north of the Sapporo Campus as a new housing complex for international students, and tenants began moving in on Wednesday, January 9. This refurbished facility was formerly a residence for Hokkaido University staff. Facilities include 86 rooms with free Internet access, a communal lounge, a kitchen, a dining hall and shower rooms. Foreign researchers can also stay at the residence when it is not fully occupied.

With the completion of this residence, Hokkaido University now has a total of 246 rooms for overseas students. Since Hokkaido University is committed to the continued promotion of international exchanges, it intends to further increase and improve housing for international students.



Minamishinkawa International Residence

We would be grateful to hear your candid views and impressions, as we are hoping to improve its content. Please contact us in the event that you have changed your e-mail address or wish to unsubscribe.

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