



Hokkaido University Newsletter

No. 12

Winter 2008

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▲The Hokkaido University Museum in a winter morning



Sustainability Weeks 2008 Events Completed

The Sustainability Weeks 2008-G8 Summit Round hosted by Hokkaido University (HU) for the three-week period from June 23 – timed to coincide with the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit – was brought to a successful conclusion with the Closing Symposium on July 11.

Toward the end of the Sustainability Marathon, HU's promotion campaign that began September 2007, the Sustainability Weeks 2008 was held which was a concentration of International Symposia and Workshops. It started immediately after the news release stating that the main theme of the G8 Summit was to be concerned with countermeasures for global warming and environmental problems, and was based on the HU's accumulation of research and education geared toward tackling problems that threaten the sustainability of the earth and humanity.

Over the long term, the Marathon elicited the interest of researchers and educators at HU which carried over to Sustainability Weeks 2008 and led to an increase of the number of international symposia, student activities, and special exhibitions to 37. The popularity of the event exceeded the forecast given in the last Newsletter, and resulted in a total of 50 sessions during the Sustainability Marathon.

Among other events, the **G8 University Summit** (the first of its kind and featuring the HU president as deputy chair and host) had 140 participants, including presidents and other representatives from 35 universities in 14 G8-member and non-member countries as well as the United Nations University. The G8 University Summit adopted the Sapporo Sustainability Declaration, calling on the Group of Eight leaders to devise appropriate scientific policies to tackle climate change and other pressing issues (*see p.3 for details*). **The Dialogue Meeting between UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and HU students** was characterized by a robust question-and-answer session in which 330 participants discussed the food crisis and other global challenges (*see p.4 for details*).

More than 6,000 domestic and overseas experts, students, and ordinary citizens participated in numerous sessions during the event and engaged in animated discussions while sharing the latest results of research on the challenges facing humanity. Through these events, HU has shown its determination toward the realization of a sustainable society in Asia by collaborating in research and provoking the public interest. To attain further success, HU will hold another Sustainability Weeks in November, 2009.

HU is committed to promoting research and education on sustainability by capitalizing on the networks cultivated during the Sustainability Weeks among universities, researchers, and citizens and will redouble the effort toward a brighter future for humanity.

* To read the detailed report of SW2008, please visit: <http://www.sustain.hokudai.ac.jp/sw2008/english>

Events and Participants

Period: Apr.1 – Jul.11, 2008

- HU could cover various studies on Sustainability.
- Over 6,300 people participated.

* Number of Events (Symposium, Public lectures & exhibitions)

50
events

* Number of Lecturers

Number of Lecturers			
Lecturer	From Hokkaido University		82
	Others	From Japan	110
		From abroad (23 countries)	103
Total			295

* Participants

【Symposiums & Lectures】

【Special Exhibit at Museum】

From Hokkaido University		2,553	Period : Jun.15 – Aug.30		20,037
Others	From Japan	3,289	Total		
	From abroad	557			
Total		6,399			

▲ Many people participated in Sustainability Weeks 2008 from home and abroad.



▲ Opening symposium



Hokkaido University Sustainability Weeks 2008



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

(as of January 13, 2009)

Hokkaido University Sustainability Marathon

⋮		(Running since 2007)	Jun. 14	S	Environmental Forum in Lake Toya
May 17	S	Being Indigenous & Woman: Gender History for Self-Reliance and Borderless Development	Jun. 15	S	Human Dimensions of Invasive Alien Species Issues
May 22	S	Neighbors must share the Environment that links them: Dialogue with the Youth Delegation from Russia	Jun. 16 - 17	S	Int'l Symposium on "Nanotoxicology Assessment & Biomedical, Environmental Application of Fine Particles & Nanotubes" (ISNT2008)
May 24	P	Science Café Event: The Bio-diversity and Sapporo Maruyama Zoo	Jun. 19	P	Changing Polar Regions – Research Frontier & Its Education –
May 27	S	University-led Ventures Business Hokkaido Forum	Jun. 19	S	Hokkaido & Far-east Russia Environment Forum for Sustainable Development
Jun. 6	P	Sustainability Weeks 2008 – Pre Event "What We Can Do for the Sustainable Future"	Jun. 21	S	Environmental Leadership Initiative for Asian Sustainability (ELIAS)
Jun. 11 - 13	S	JST Presto Symposium on Mathematical Sciences towards Environmental Problems	Jun. 15 - Jul. 31	M	Museum Exhibit "Knowledge of University for All the People!"
			Jun. 17 - Aug. 30	M	Museum Exhibit "Environment and Resources of Lake Toya & Usu Volcano Area"
			May - July	O	Radio program: "Creating a Sustainable Society"

Hokkaido University Sustainability Weeks 2008 — G8 Summit Round

Jun. 23	S	Sustainability Weeks 2008 Opening Symposium "Toward a Sustainable Low Carbon Society"	Jul. 2 - 6	S	Int'l Conference on Sustainable Agriculture & Environment
Jun. 24	S	How to make Sustainable Low Carbon Society – Synergy of Social & Engineering System –	Jul. 3 - 4	S	Environment & Health; Human Life in Changing Global Environments
Jun. 24	S	Drastic Change in the Earth System during Global Warming	Jul. 5	S	Symposium on Sustainable Management for Culture and Communities
Jun. 24	S	2008 Int'l Workshop on Multi-Media Signal Processing	Jul. 5	P	Let's talk about "Health of the Earth & People"
Jun. 25	S	Global Warming – Messages from Scientists	Jul. 5 - 7	S	Int'l Symposium: Sentinel Earth, Detection of Environmental Change
Jun. 25	S	Dynamics and Pathways of Land Systems Change	Jul. 6	S	Int'l Symposium on Sanitation in Hokkaido University
Jun. 25	S	Environmental Monitoring for Conservation of Ecosystems	Jul. 7	S	Catalysis Leading to a Sustainable Society
Jun. 26 - 27	S	Northeast Asia in the Cold War: New Evidence and Perspectives	Jul. 8	O	Challenge to Global Food Crisis – Discussion between the Secretary-General of the United Nations & Hokudai Students –
Jun. 27	S	Neo-Science of Natural History: Origin & Evolution of Natural Diversity	Jul. 9	S	Int'l Symposium "Peace, Reconciliation & Civil Society: Toward a Sustainable Peace in East Asia & Europe"
Jun. 28	P	Fuel Cell Experiments – Environment-Friendly Energy –	Jul. 10 - 12	S	Sustainable Should Be Female Scientists' Career! Environments for Gender Equality & Work-Life Balance in Science
Jun. 28	S	Sustainability Sciences for Protecting Aquatic Ecosystem & Marine Food	Jul. 11	S	Beyond the Double Helix ~Life Science for the Disease Free Society~
Jun. 28	P	Science Café Event "Outreach for the Most Recent Information on Global Warming"	Jul. 11	S	Sustainability Weeks 2008 Closing Symposium
Jun. 28 - 29	O	Efforts on Energy Service Company & Garbage Reduction in Hokkaido University	Jun. 23 - Jul. 11	O	Photo Summit "Planet Aqua" Photographic Exhibition
Jun. 28 - 29	S	Taxonomy Returns! – For the Better Understanding of our Mother Nature –	Jun. 30 - Jul. 11	O	Citizens Media Center Sapporo
Jun. 29	S	School Education for Establishing Sustainable Society in Hokkaido	Jul. 3 - 31	P	Sustainable Society & Hokkaido: The Changing Environment & People's Lives
Jun. 29	S	The Present & Future of Ainu Studies, Part I	Jun. 28 - 29	O	International Student Summit "UNI.SUMMIT2008"
Jun. 29 - Jul. 1	O	G8 University Summit	Early Jul. - Jul. 9	O	Team Sapporo Omotenashi
Jul. 2	S	Toward Stronger Ties between Agricultural and Medical Sciences			



▲Children riding an electricity vehicle in Public Lecture



▲Museum Exhibition about environment around Lake Toya and Usu volcanic area



G8 University Summit Held

The G8 University Summit, held under the theme of Global Sustainability and Roles of Universities, welcomed approximately 140 participants, including the presidents of 35 universities from fourteen G8 and non-G8 countries as well as the United Nations University. The conference was held in Sapporo from June 29 to July 1, 2008 and Hokkaido University (HU) played a central role in preparing for the event, and HU President Dr. Hiroshi Saeki served as Deputy Chair of the G8 University Summit Organizing Committee and Executive Director of the Secretariat.

The G8 University Summit began with a welcome party on the evening of June 29, held under the joint auspices of HU and the Hokkaido Toyako Summit Preparation Council. The Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and

Technology Mr. Kisaburo Tokai delivered a speech in person at the pre-event and a message from him was read out at the opening. Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda also sent a message for the June 30 opening. The event was brought to a close following the adoption of the Sapporo Sustainability Declaration (SSD), which called on the leaders participating in the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit to implement proper scientific policies toward tackling climate change and other pressing issues, and a summary of the conference by the Chair at a plenary session on July 1. After the conclusion of the summit, the participants met one last time for a farewell lunch at which they exchanged parting greetings.

The G8 University Summit was the first time a forum of presidents from major universities in G8 nations had assembled concurrent to the G8 Summit. The participants recognized the role universities play in achieving sustainability (such as investigations, research activities, and education), and also pledged to step up their efforts to achieve sustainability in their respective establishments.

The participants committed themselves to continue spreading sustainability programs to other universities and to eliciting responses toward policy at the governmental level. They agreed to hold the next G8 University Summit in Italy to coincide with the next G8 Summit.

Thirty-two HU students served as Student Ambassadors for the event and got a favorable reception from

university presidents from abroad and other officials in response to their attentive escort and support services. Many of these students also expressed their excitement about the invaluable experience they gained in providing their services.

Also well received among participants was the Spouse Program, which was designed to introduce aspects of Japanese culture. Excursions to the Hokkaido University Museum, Moerenuma Park and other places of interest were also well received.

Representatives of the G8 University Summit including HU President Dr. Saeki met Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda at his office on July 4 to hand over the SSD and report on the accomplishments of the G8 University Summit.



▲Plenary Session



▲The Sapporo Sustainability Declaration is handed over to Prime Minister Fukuda

The Dialogue Meeting between UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and HU Students



▲United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon delivers a speech

Hokkaido University hosted a special lecture meeting entitled, "Challenge to Global Food Crisis – Discussion with the Secretary-General of the United Nations & Hokudai Students" on July 8 for Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon's visit as part of the Sustainability Weeks 2008 event. The lecture was attended by 215 HU students.

Dr. Hiroshi Saeki, President of HU, delivered the welcome address at the opening of the lecture and stated that he was grateful because it was an opportune moment for HU, which is tackling the issue of sustainability, to host Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, who could shed light on the food crisis issue from a global perspective. Dr. Takeo Hondoh, Vice President and Executive of HU, gave a speech and explained the purpose of the lecture meeting. This was followed by the keynote speech from Mr. Ban Ki-Moon. During his lecture, Mr. Ban reiterated the

seriousness of current food issues in the international community, and called for the leadership of Japan and other advanced nations to provide food aid to developing nations, strengthen agricultural production, and establish stable food markets. His speech was followed by a dialogue meeting of approximately 30 minutes in which he answered students' questions and commented on their opinions. In response to a question on what roles the United Nations could play in addressing the food crisis – believed to be a result of globalization amidst widening economic disparities between developed and developing nations – Mr. Ban explained that the U.N. could help address the issue in an impartial manner because institutional and structural issues must be tackled over the medium and long terms.

After the session, Mr. Ban delivered a message to those studying at HU, "Students are the future of our society. I have been truly impressed by your global efforts as well as the quality of your questions and the depth of your awareness. Many people around the world are in situations so dire that it brings tears to my eyes to see them. I hope you will open your hearts and share with them. Please maintain a bright vision of the world's future, interact with people and society, enhance your awareness, and fulfill the roles you are destined for."



▲Students raise their hands to ask questions of Mr. Ban Ki-Moon



The 11th Hokkaido University-Seoul National University Joint Symposium



▲All the participants in the plenary session

Hokkaido University (HU) and Seoul National University (SNU) have held a joint symposium every year on a reciprocal basis since 1998 to commemorate the conclusion of an Inter-University Exchange Agreement between the two establishments in 1997.

This year's joint symposium – the 11th in the series – was held between November 6 and 8 with the participation of Dr. Hiroshi Saeki, President of HU, Dr. Hasuck Kim, Vice President of SNU, numerous faculty members, young researchers, and students from HU and SNU.

On November 6, the plenary session and the reception were held at the Keio Plaza Hotel Sapporo with the participation of approximately 100 representatives from HU and SNU. During the plenary session, Dr. Tadayuki Hayashi, Executive and Vice President of Hokkaido University delivered a keynote speech based on the theme "The Roles of Universities in the Changing Global Environment." He highlighted the circumstances behind the incorporation of national universities in Japan and HU's vision for future development. From SNU, Dr. Jin-Ho Seo, Dean of the Office of Research Affairs, talked about the new roles to be played by SNU toward the realization of a sustainable society. At the reception that followed the plenary session, faculty members and students from both universities deepened exchanges.

On November 7 and 8, satellite sessions were held at individual departments. During these sessions, faculty members as well as young researchers and students from both universities presented their research results and actively exchanged opinions based on a number of predetermined themes.

HU is committed to promoting partnerships with SNU through this symposium as well as on other occasions.



▲SNU Vice President Kim and HU President Saeki



Prof. Watanabe, Center for Environmental Nano & Bio Engineering, Wins the IWA Award 2008

Dr. Yoshimasa Watanabe, a professor at Hokkaido University's Center for Environmental Nano and Bio Engineering, received the International Water Association (IWA) Award 2008 for Outstanding Contribution to Water Management and Science at the IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition. The event was held in Vienna from September 7 to 12 with the participation of approximately 3,000 people from 130 countries around the world. Dr. Watanabe achieved the outstanding feat of being the first Japanese person ever to receive the IWA's most prestigious accolade. The award was presented during the Opening Ceremony on September 7.

Dr. Watanabe's fields of research in regard to the water environment are far-reaching, and his study achievements have been presented in the form of countless scientific papers and books. In particular, his research on element technologies for water and sewerage treatment as well as treatment systems using flocculation, biological slime and separation membranes have brought international acclaim. He was chosen for the IWA Award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to research and education as well as international activities over the past 35 years.



▲Prof. Watanabe at the ceremony

Associate Professor Dr. Toshiyuki Nakagaki and His Colleagues Win the Ig Nobel Prize



▲Associate Prof. Nakagaki holding a plaque

The Ig Nobel Prizes, which are given for achievements that "first make people laugh, and then make them think," were presented at Harvard University, Boston, MA, U.S.A. on October 2. Dr. Toshiyuki Nakagaki of Hokkaido University's Research Institute for Electronic Science, Researcher Atsushi Tero, and four others won the Cognitive Science Prize.

The accolade was awarded in recognition of their discovery that true slime molds, a class of unicellular organisms with no brain, can solve puzzles. Eight years ago, Dr. Nakagaki also published a paper in *Nature* (a UK international journal of science) on the outstanding information-processing functionality of slime molds.



The Ceremony to Mark the Completion of Sapporo Dental College and Hospital's New School Building in Bangladesh



▲ The renewed school building of Sapporo Dental College and Hospital

A ceremony to mark the initial completion of the new school building for the Sapporo Dental College and Hospital (referred to below as the College), a private dental college established by graduates of Hokkaido University's Graduate School of Dental Medicine, was held in the Bangladeshi capital of Dhaka on Sunday, November 9. At the invitation of the College, 11 HU representatives participated in the ceremony, including Executive and Vice-President Minoru Wakita, Masamitsu Kawanami (Dean of the Graduate School of Dental Medicine), Professor Emeritus Masamitsu Kawamura, and Professor Emeritus Akira Amemiya and his wife.

Since 1983, HU's Graduate School of Dental Medicine has received more than 20 Bangladeshi dentists aspiring to pick up Japan's advanced techniques and knowledge in this field. The Graduate School has systematically trained a number of students every year in various departments to produce experts specializing in periodontology, oral surgery, prosthodontics, orthodontics, pathology, anatomy, and pharmacology. These activities are based on the ambitions of Prof. Dr. M. A. Hannan (the current College Principal and the first Bangladeshi student at HU's Graduate School of Dental Medicine) and Prof. Dr. Mohiuddin Ahmed to establish a dental clinic that provides high-quality

treatment in their home country.

College Principal Hannan and Prof. Dr. Ahmed opened a dental clinic named Sapporo Dental Care in Dhaka in 1993 as the first step toward fulfilling these ambitions. In the autumn of 2000, they and five Bangladeshi dentists who had acquired advanced techniques in their field through their studies at HU, pooled funds to establish Sapporo Dental College and Hospital to realize a larger ambition of improving the level of dentistry treatment and developing human resources in their country. The College is located near a slum area of northern Dhaka, and shares its premises with a hospital that provides medical care to patients from low-income families at affordable prices. The founders included the word "Sapporo" in the College's name as it recalled fond memories of their time in Hokkaido.

Although many Bangladeshi students study in Japan, the foundation of a private educational establishment by graduates from a specific university was unprecedented in Bangladesh as it was the first institution ever established under such circumstances. We feel that the frontier spirit cultivated at HU lives on in faraway Bangladesh. HU is committed to ongoing close collaboration with the College to reinforce the partnership toward the development of dentistry in Bangladesh.



▲ Masamitsu Kawanami, Dean of the Graduate School of Dental Medicine, delivers an address at the ceremony

HU Alumni's Today – Dr. Lamiya Chowdhury



▲Dr. Lamiya Chowdhury

Dr. Lamiya Chowdhury, an associate professor and one of the founding members of Sapporo Dental College and Hospital (referred to below as the College), studied at Hokkaido University between 1994 and 1999 following a one-year internship after graduating from Dhaka Dental College. She took up these studies in line with the advice of Dr. M. A. Hannan, President of the College, Prof. Dr. Mohiuddin Ahmed, and her other seniors at Dhaka Dental College who had already returned home from their studies at Hokkaido University (HU), and decided to work with them in the future to help those in need in their home country.

For six months after her arrival in Japan, Dr. Chowdhury took an intensive Japanese language course. By the time she completed these

classes, her husband had joined her and they pursued their studies on the Doctoral Program at HU's Graduate School of Dental Medicine. While at HU, they followed a busy schedule providing dental treatment together with other dentists at Hokkaido University Dental Hospital (now Hokkaido University Hospital Center for Dental Clinics) during the day and devoting themselves to their research activities at night. Dr. Chowdhury fondly reflects, "Since people in Hokkaido were very friendly to us and we have lots of fond memories from our time there, we believe that the period we studied at Hokkaido University were five of the golden years of our lives." She also became good at riding bicycles at HU due to the need to travel around the university's vast campus. Although cycling is dangerous in Dhaka due to its transportation conditions, she enjoyed the activity in Sapporo because of the beautiful campus, which is characterized by its seasonal variations.

Dr. Chowdhury currently teaches at the College and has found pleasure in her educational activities. She gives lessons there from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. before providing treatment at a different clinic for three hours later in the afternoon. Although she could work as a dentist solely, she prefers sharing her knowledge with students as the teaching staff at HU did for her.

When the recruitment of students for the College's inaugural class was approved in 2000, other colleges had already concluded their recruitment for the year, and therefore only seven students were enrolled. However, the operation of the College is now stable, and has a student body of approximately 250. The establishment also accepts three or four students from Nepal every year. If possible, Dr. Chowdhury would like to return to HU – which she feels has excellent educational programs and a great environment – to brush up her skills in order to help further improve dentistry in Bangladesh.



Opening Ceremony of the Hokudai Center for Zoonosis Control in Zambia

The Hokkaido University Research Center for Zoonosis Control held an opening ceremony for the Hokudai Center for Zoonosis Control in Zambia (HUCZCZ) on August 6, 2008 to mark the completion of a Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) microbial containment facility at the University of Zambia Samora Machel School of Veterinary Medicine in the Republic of Zambia.

The facility was established under the Program of Founding Research Centers for Emerging and Reemerging Infectious Diseases, a science and technology experiment and research project commissioned by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). The program aims to establish overseas research centers in countries with a high risk of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases with the cooperation of local research institutions. It also aims to establish a system for the promotion of integrated research programs beyond medical science, veterinary science and other academic disciplines with researchers from the Research Center for Zoonosis Control stationed at the centers.

The ceremony began with opening remarks by Dr. Hiroshi Kida, Director of Hokkaido University's Research Center for Zoonosis Control, and Dr. Aaron Mweene, Dean of the University of Zambia Samora Machel School of Veterinary Medicine and many congratulatory addresses were delivered by the attendees. At the end of the ceremony, Dr. Kida delivered a memorial lecture on the control of influenza and other emerging and re-emerging infections. He spoke enthusiastically about research into the ecology of influenza viruses and efforts to overcome zoonoses. Approximately 100 people attended the opening ceremony, including HU staff and other Japanese participants, representatives of the University of Zambia and those from Zambia's neighboring countries. At the reception that followed the ceremony, the first president of Zambia, Mr. Kenneth Kaunda, delivered a congratulatory address.

With the installation of Zambia's first BSL-3 laboratory, joint research between Japan and Zambia toward the conquest of zoonoses is expected to develop further.



▲ Group photo of ceremony participants

Participation in Study Abroad Fairs in India, Vietnam and Sweden

Hokkaido University (HU) has recently participated in Study Abroad Fairs held in various parts of the world, and a summary of each is given below.

Study Abroad Fair in India

The Study Abroad Fair in India was held in New Delhi (October 31, 2008) and Pune (November 1, 2008). India's population of over one billion people, many of them university age, makes it a prime market and HU expects to receive increasing numbers of students from the country in the future.

A combined total of approximately 250 people (including high school and university students) visited HU's booths at the two venues. Starting this year, faculty members from the HU's Graduate School of Engineering acted as booth staff. They introduced the Advanced Education Program for the Career Development of Foreign Students from Asia, provided information on the Graduate School and the Faculty of Engineering, and answered specific questions about graduate majors and more.

Study Abroad Fair in Vietnam

The Study Abroad Fair in Vietnam was held in Hanoi (November 15, 2008) and Ho Chi Minh City (November 16, 2008). The country has recently witnessed rising levels of interest in studying in Japan as well as a year-on-year increase in the number of students studying Japanese.

A combined total of around 200 people (including high school, university and Japanese language school students and their parents) visited HU's booths at the two venues. Starting this year, faculty members from the HU's Graduate School of Engineering and staff from the Entrance Exam Division also acted as booth staff and used their expertise to answer inquiries from visiting students.



▲HU's booth at the Hanoi venue

Study Abroad Fair in Sweden

The Study Abroad Fair in Sweden was held in Stockholm on November 20 and 21, 2008. Approximately 350 students – more than the expected figure – visited HU's booth, indicating a high level of interest in Japanese language and culture.

In Sweden, an increasing number of high schools now offer Japanese language programs. Along with the introduction of pop culture elements such as cartoons and animations, this has helped make Japan a popular country among young people in particular. Although only two Japanese booths were set up at the fair, many students visited HU's booth and other outlets providing information on Japanese universities, graduate schools and researchers, as well as booths established by Japanese language schools that featured calligraphy, martial arts and other aspects of Japanese culture. Some students asked their questions in fluent Japanese.

As a result of our participation in these fairs, we feel it is important to increase the number English-language lecture classes and English-only degree programs for students who have had little opportunity to study Japanese. We also acknowledge the need to hold entrance examinations in foreign countries and attempt to mitigate economic burdens on students through measures such as the expansion of scholarships. HU is committed to ongoing improvement of the study environment for students from overseas.



COE Program Series 10

New Global Law and Policy for Multi-agential Governance



▲ Program leader,
Prof. Yoshiyuki Tamura

Hokkaido University's School of Law, was selected by the FY 2008 Global COE Program to developmentally succeed the 21st Century Center of Excellence Program known as The Law and Policy of Intellectual Property: Building a New Global Framework.

Traditional legal studies are structured in two dimensions: private law, which regulates the rights and obligations of two parties in a static relationship, and public law, which regulates problems relating to the public in general. Recently, however, an increasing number of cases have defied to be corralled into simplistic frameworks such as these. Examples of policy areas that have multi-dimensional nature include: conflicts between users and right holders in the context of the Internet; clashing interests between developed and developing countries over production of AIDS medicine; and diverse views on urban planning and industrial and environmental policies in the context of landscapes, development of nuclear power plants, and global warming. These are so multi-faceted that traditional ways of thinking of private/public dichotomy in traditional legal studies does not work properly.

Traditional approaches to these issues include balancing interests between right holders, and using standards such as efficiency and welfare of the parties concerned. Today, however, both approaches are difficult to apply and leave residual problems. The proposed methodology of this project (a new global law and policy theory) utilizes these two perspectives and adds a new third axis to the combination. Namely, to make an effort to legitimize not only laws and policies but also processes, including the process of law/policy making. Measuring efficiency and welfare is difficult despite the need to reconcile many conflicting interests, and the establishment of rights or regulations influences the right holders or other parties concerned. To implement the above, our research project explores the structure of intergovernance among the market, the legislature, the administration, the judiciary, and other societal organizations from the point of expertise and competence, democratic initiative, and advocacy of freedom.

Based on the new theory of global law and policy, our research project will develop a new educational program that allows comprehensive understanding of various methodologies while providing an overview of a myriad of laws. In doing so, we will foster researchers who conduct studies from a broader perspective as well as experts who address current challenges while recruiting talented young researchers both from home and abroad to establish a community of them who will work together with HU's doctoral students.



▲ Prof. Tamura making a presentation at the International Symposium

Entrance Ceremony Held for the Intensive Japanese Language Course, Japanese Language and Culture Studies Course and Hokkaido University Short Term Exchange Programme (HUSTEP)

The entrance ceremony for international students enrolled in the October 2008 Intensive Japanese Language Course, Japanese Language and Culture Studies Course and Hokkaido University Short Term Exchange Programme (HUSTEP) was held on October 9. At the entrance ceremony, President Saeki delivered a congratulatory speech to new students.

16 students from 14 countries enrolled in the Intensive Japanese Language Course. 12 students from 8 countries entered the Japanese Language and Culture Studies Course, and 38 students from 9 countries entered HUSTEP.



▲HUSTEP new students

The six-month Intensive Japanese Language Course aims to enable students at the graduate level and in teacher training programmes to develop understanding and proficiency in Japanese language necessary for campus life before they enroll in their universities, faculties or graduate schools. Students in the Intensive Japanese Language Course include five international students in their ninth term of the Japan-Korea Joint Exchange Programme for Undergraduate Students in Science and Engineering, which was inaugurated in FY 2000. They will have lessons on the Japanese language, math, physics and so forth for six months, after which they will become undergraduate students in the Faculty of Engineering in April 2009.

Donations for Victims of China's Great Sichuan Earthquake

Following China's Great Sichuan Earthquake of May 12, 2008, Chinese students at Hokkaido University (HU) launched a campaign on May 21, 2008 to collect donations with the aim of providing assistance in the reconstruction of the devastated area.

To help with this fundraising campaign, the students asked the Departments to place donation boxes and collected contributions on the Sapporo Campus. Donation boxes were also set up at Chinese food outlets during the Hokkaido University Festival.

Thanks to generous contributions from a great number of faculty members including University President Dr. Saeki, as well as from students and people from Sapporo and its environs, more than 1.86 million yen was raised. These donations were sent to the China Education Development Foundation in two installments. The donations will be used to help reconstruct the educational infrastructure of the affected area via the Foundation.



▲Fundraising campaign



Graduate School Introduction Series 10 The Research Faculty of Agriculture and the Graduate School of Agriculture

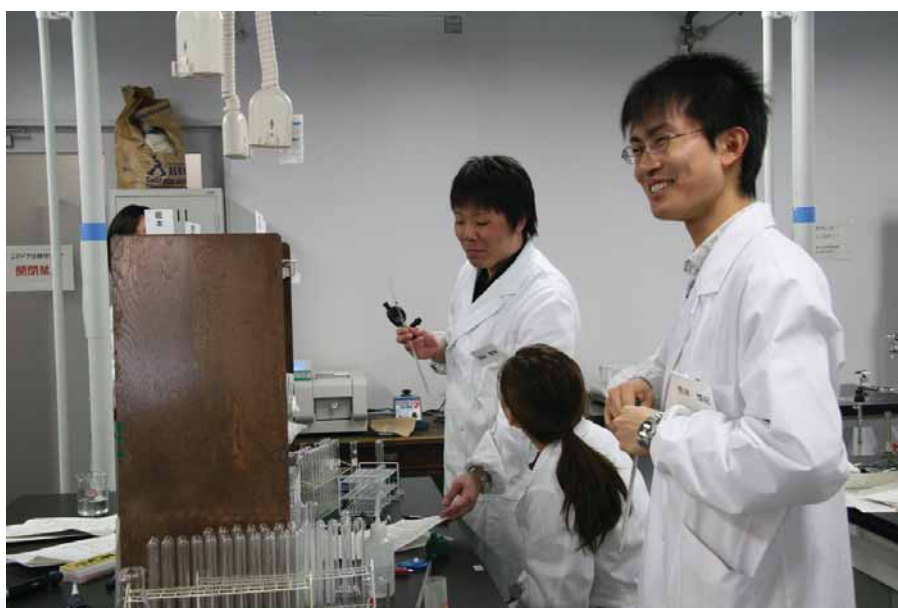
– Efforts to Advance the Frontiers of Research in Agricultural Science from Its Fountainhead –



▲ Graduate School of Agriculture

Sapporo Agricultural College was founded in 1876 as the nation's first institute of higher education to award bachelor's degrees, and laid the foundation for the current Hokkaido University with its fundamental principles of *Frontier Spirit*, *Practical Learning*, and *All-round Education*. These principles have been upheld and cultivated as the university's basic philosophies on research and education. Sapporo Agricultural College became part of the Agricultural College of Tohoku Imperial University in 1907 before being transferred to Hokkaido Imperial University in 1919. The college has developed into one of Japan's leading research facilities for agriculture.

Agricultural science, which is a branch of biology and applied life sciences, is a research area closely linked to food and the environment, which are indispensable for human living. Agriculture encompasses a broad span of industries and is not limited to food, but includes eco-friendly services, medicine, and energy. We are now at a crucial turning point in history as globalization gains momentum, and are faced with the major challenge of providing for the world's people; who will feed a population that is projected to surpass eight billion in the near future, and how? The field of agroforestry is gaining increasing importance against this backdrop through its efforts to combine biotechnology with ecology. To respond to these changes, the Research Faculty of Agriculture established four divisions to form the Graduate School of Agriculture in 2006 and strengthened its interdisciplinary education and research structure.



▲ Student experiment



The Division of Bio-systems Sustainability is the nation's first division focusing on present-day issues in new fields of agricultural science. To respond to ever-increasing concern in food safety and security and the sense of crisis over excessive dependence on fossil fuels and environmental destruction, the division aims to create new research fields and industries to realize a sustainable society and achieve harmonious coexistence between human beings and other beings. Students will learn about food safety, biomass energy, and new approaches to global symbiosis in a manner that integrates the sciences and humanities.

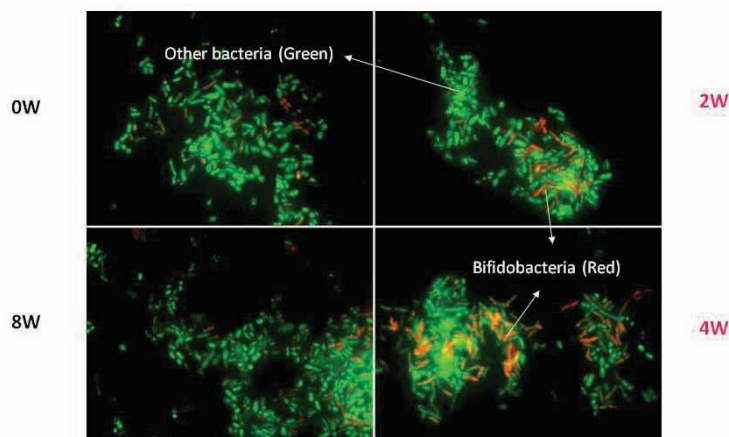
The Division of Agrobiology is aimed at developing and utilizing the functions of plant and animal resources and establishing sustainable production technologies. This division covers fields directly connected to food production such as plant breeding science and crop science as well as applied molecular biology, which strives to elucidate the gene expression mechanism and the expression of protein functions.

The Division of Applied Bioscience deals with research fields that are closely related to biotechnology. Research activities are under way in dairy farming, nutritional biochemistry, applied microbiology, microbial physiology, plant nutrition, and advanced science at the micro level, such as the study of symbiotic relationships involving microorganisms in the rhizosphere.

The Division of Environmental Resources conducts research on a range of biological resources from the viewpoint of the global environment. Fields of research include forest science, forest product science, soil conservation, and environmental informatics among other areas. Students study material cycles and energy flows involving agricultural land and forests to help create sustainable communities. Research programs on global sustainability and technologies for monitoring material cycles over a wide area are in progress.

Due to its location in Hokkaido, a prefecture characterized by its cold climate and rich natural environment, the Research Faculty of Agriculture has developed new community-based research fields in surroundings that are significantly different from those of other prefectures. There is no doubt that the unique research programs cultivated in this northern land (such as wet-paddy rice agriculture for cold regions, peatland development, afforestation in northern regions and applied microbiology) will influence world standards and continue to help solve global food and environmental problems.

In recent years, international students from around the world have taken English courses at the graduate school, studying together with many Japanese students. We hope that the 21st century ambition will be nurtured here through education and research programs in agricultural science that will contribute to advancing the welfare and prosperity of the human race.



▲Bacteria in human intestines



▲New year party for foreign students



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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PUBLISHED BY
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

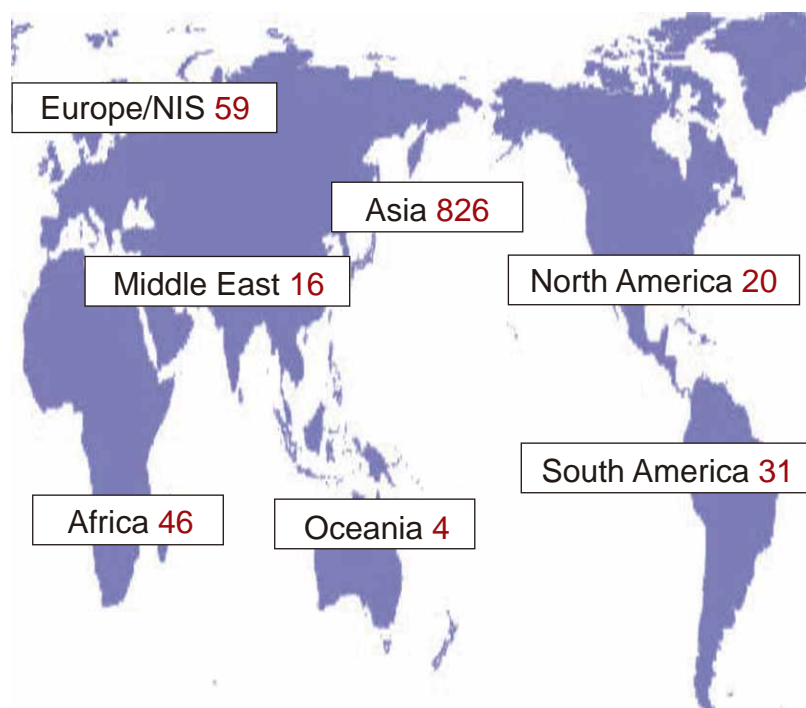
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Hokkaido University Today

— International Students Exceeded 1,000! —

1,002 international students from **81** countries
as of November 1, 2008



Letters	117
Education	38
Law	82
Economics	69
Science	52
Medicine	20
Dental Medicine	11
Pharmaceutical Sciences	20
Engineering	183
Agriculture	100
Veterinary Medicine	33
Fisheries Sciences	49
Environmental Earth Science	51
International Media and Communication	65
Information Science and Technology	68
Others (Research Institute, etc.)	44
Total	1,002