

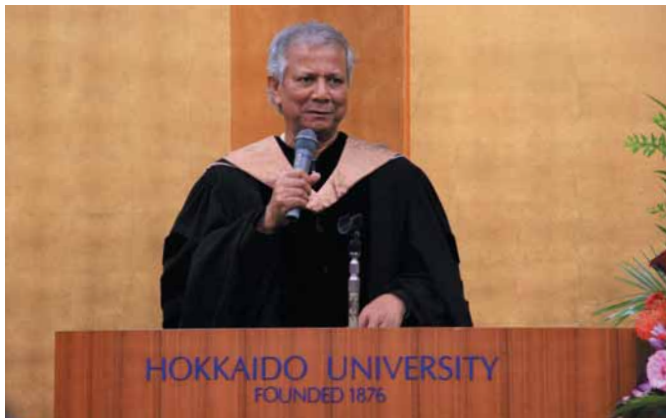


NEWSLETTER

No.14 Spring 2010

Nobel Prize Laureate Dr. Muhammad Yunus Receives Honorary Degree and Delivered a Commemorative Lecture

On September 29, Dr. Muhammad Yunus, Managing Director of the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, visited Hokkaido University and received an honorary doctorate from HU President Dr. Saeki. Dr. Yunus was deemed deserving of public commendation by HU for his outstanding contribution to academic and cultural development.



Commemorative lecture by Dr. Yunus

Dr. Yunus developed microcredit programs aimed at helping the poor support themselves, and has since promoted activities designed to eradicate poverty both at home and abroad as the Managing Director of the Grameen Bank, which he founded. His worldwide promotion of this novel program and his significant contribution to poverty eradication have earned praise in various fields, and he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006.

In a lecture meeting after the conferment ceremony, he talked about how he had come to practice support for the impoverished after becoming a university professor, and outlined the recent activities of the Grameen Bank and other related matters. He explained, "The causes of poverty lie not with individual people but with economic and social systems and policies. Poverty can be eliminated by changing systems and policies. We should make a world in which poverty exists only in museums."

His speech was followed by a lively Q&A session with participants that lasted about an hour.

Sustainability Weeks 2009

Hokkaido University hosted Sustainability Weeks 2009 from November 1 through 18 with the aim of assisting in the creation of a sustainable society. An intensive program of 33 related events were held during the Weeks.

This year marked the third year for the Weeks and encompassed a wide variety of topics including climate and environmental change, technological innovation, nature conservation, health, education, and human rights. International symposiums, a research poster contest, a debate competition, open lectures, a theater session organized by students, and a fair trade fair offered a variety of venues for attendees to participate. The challenges

of creating a sustainable society were highlighted at the events, and a roadmap to their resolution was discussed based on the results of the latest research and activities. These events were made possible by the cooperation of our overseas partner institutions and other domestic/overseas universities as well as international organizations, elements of the academic community, NPOs, and government-affiliated organizations.

To kick off the opening symposium on November 2, we were honored to welcome the President of Portland State University as the keynote speaker. The speech was followed by our policy recommendations in five areas that we had intensively addressed.

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NEWSLINE

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The six recommendations from Hokkaido University were titled as follows:

- ◆ Importance of Global Surveillance for the Control of Zoonotic Infections: Avian, Swine, and Pandemic Influenza
- ◆ Toward the Expansion of an Integrated Water Management System
- ◆ That the nations of East Asia should cooperate to develop a Global Green Center
- ◆ Independency of Japan's Agriculture Through Food and Energy Self-sufficiency — Hokkaido Model Toward the Sustainability of Food and Biomass Production —
- ◆ Establishment of an Amur-Okhotsk Consortium Toward Futurability in the Sea of Okhotsk
- ◆ Initiatives by Higher Education for Establishing a Sustainable Society

This year, we made great efforts to deepen cooperation with our partner institutions and welcomed representatives of 28 institutions from 16 countries. We also held joint symposiums with the seven partner universities.



Keynote speech by the President of Portland State University and the Q&A session

For the first time, we also held a meeting involving research presentations by students making contributions to the achievement of sustainability. A total of 72 outstanding research posters were submitted, exceeding the application quota, and judges from Hokkaido University and outside examined presentations by students and selected the winners of the First Hokkaido University Sustainability Poster Awards.

We plan to hold the Sustainability Weeks 2010 over a period of approximately two weeks from October 25. We will continue to provide a forum to encourage discussion and activities



Award ceremony for the Hokkaido University Sustainability Poster Awards

toward the resolution of specific related issues.

For more information:
<http://www.sustain.hokudai.ac.jp/sw2009/>

Sustainability Weeks 2009 Event and Activities

Ⓢ : Symposium Ⓟ : Public Lecture Ⓞ : Other Event

Number of events: 33 Number of participants: 8,440 (702 from overseas)

Pre-Events	
Oct. 4 - 7	Ⓢ 2009 Asia Pacific Signal and Information Processing Association Annual Summit and Conference (APSIPA ASC 2009)
Oct. 11 - 14	Ⓢ The 9th SEGJ Int'l Symposium "Imaging and Interpretation — Science and Technology for Sustainable Development —"
Oct. 24 - Nov. 2	Ⓞ Students' Propositions of the Green New Deal: The 6th Debate Competition, School of Economics and Business Administration
Oct. 30 - Nov. 3	Ⓞ CLARK THEATER 2009
Sustainability Weeks	
Nov. 1	Ⓟ Seminar on Climate Change Policy Sustainability Weeks 2009 Opening Symposium
Nov. 2	Ⓢ Hokkaido University Int'l Symposium on Sustainable Development — Recommendations for Tackling the 5 Challenges of Global Sustainability — From Hokkaido University to the World — Entrance to International Career Paths — "SD on Campus"
Nov. 2	Ⓞ
Nov. 3	Ⓢ Joint Symposium "Urbanization and Health — Towards the World Health Day, 2010 —"
Nov. 3	Ⓢ United Nations University Global Seminar Final Hokkaido Session Future Leaders for a Sustainable Society — Efforts toward the MDGs to be achieved by 2015 —
Nov. 3	Ⓟ Open Lecture "The 2nd Int'l Symposium on Sentinel Earth"
Nov. 4 - 5	Ⓢ Int'l Symposium "Toward a Sustainable Low Carbon Society — Green New Deal and Global Change —"
Nov. 4 - 5	Ⓢ The 2nd Int'l Symposium on Sentinel Earth — Advanced Utilization Studies of Satellite Data and Imagery Data —
Nov. 6	Ⓢ Int'l Symposium on "The Impact of Climate Change on Region Specific Systems"
Nov. 6	Ⓢ The 2nd Conference of Japanese Society of Ceramides (JSC)
Nov. 7	Ⓢ Int'l Symposium on "Sustainability Science on Seafood and Ocean Ecosystems Conservation"
Nov. 7	Ⓟ GAIA SYMPHONY No.5 Screening, and Director TATSUMURA's Commentary

Nov. 7 - 8	Ⓢ Int'l Symposium on Environmental Conservation of the Sea of Okhotsk: Cooperation between Japan, China and Russia
Nov. 8	Ⓟ Experimental Exhibition: Let's Science!!
Nov. 9 - 10	Ⓢ ILTS International Symposium "Frontier of Low Temperature Science"
Nov. 12	Ⓢ Business-Academia-Government Collaboration Seminar on "Developments of Geo-spatial Information and Future World"
Nov. 12	Ⓢ Int'l Symposium on "Comprehensive University Cooperation for Sustainable Asia between Japan and China"
Nov. 13	Ⓢ Symposium on "Asia and Africa Development Aid and Hokkaido University"
Nov. 13	Ⓢ Symposium on "Toward Sustainable Industry-Academia Collaboration. — Messages from Strategic Approach of Turin (Torino) —"
Nov. 14	Ⓟ Symposium on "Sharing a Vision of the Future of Japan and Hokkaido after the 'OIL' Peak"
Nov. 14	Ⓟ Japan-Korea Open Forum on Future Prospects for a Carbon Neutral Society as Seen from the Stance of Agriculture
Nov. 14	Ⓟ Open Forum: Collaboration Between the Public and Universities toward an Earth-Friendly Society
Nov. 14 - 15	Ⓟ The Report of the Letter Exchange Program Between Cambodian, Indian and Japanese Teenagers
Nov. 15	Ⓢ Int'l Symposium on "Indigenous Peoples and Natural Resources — A View of Sustainable Use —"
Nov. 15	Ⓢ Int'l Symposium on "Sustainable Development of Society and the Mission of Professions"
Nov. 16 - 18	Ⓢ Joint Japanese-Finnish Seminar on Northern Environmental Research
Long Term Events	
Nov. 2 - 14	Ⓞ 4th Fair Trade Fair Presented by YUI
Nov. 4 - 13	Ⓞ Experimental Exhibition: Integrative Science Reveals the Past and Future of Lake Toya and the Usu Volcanic Area
Post-Event	
Dec. 7 - 9	Ⓢ CRC Int'l Symposium on "Innovation Driven by Catalysis-past, present, and future" — dedicated to the 20th anniversary of CRC —



12th Seoul National University-Hokkaido University Joint Symposium Held

The 12th Seoul National University-Hokkaido University Joint Symposium was held at Seoul National University (SNU) from November 19 through November 21, 2009.

Hokkaido University (HU) and SNU held the 1st Joint Symposium in Sapporo in 1998 to commemorate the conclusion of the Inter-University Exchange Agreement in 1997. Both institutions have since hosted the event every year on a reciprocal basis, and this year marked the 12th in the series. Until the sixth year, the symposium was relatively small in size with a unified theme, but from the seventh year, plenary sessions and satellite sessions were included and the symposium evolved into a forum for researchers on a cross-generational as well as interdisciplinary scale for scholars from both universities to interact with one another on a variety of themes.

The Plenary Session on November 20 was held on the theme of *Working Together for Green Growth* with approximately 200 people attending. Following welcome addresses by SNU President Jang-Moo Lee and HU President Hiroshi Saeki, HU Executive and Vice-President Takeo Hondoh delivered the keynote speech in which he outlined HU's efforts toward creating a sustainable society and highlighted the challenges to reach this goal. From SNU, Dr. Joon-Sik Lee, Professor at the School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, delivered a lecture on the present situation regarding the development of green (environmentally friendly) technology in South Korea and related challenges.



Plenary Session (on stage: HU Executive and Vice-President Takeo Hondoh)

During the symposium, a total of 14 Satellite Sessions covered a wide range of fields: science, agriculture, medicine, engineering, information science, environmental science, education, and social science; and graduate students presented their research and had the opportunity to interact during a research exchange session.

Approximately 100 people attended the symposium from HU. HU is committed to strengthening our relationship with SNU — a preeminent institution of South Korea both in standing and in size — through continued close cooperation in the Joint Symposium and other programs.

President Saeki Attends the 6th Japan-China University Presidents Forum

On October 15 and 16, the 6th Japan-China University Presidents Forum was held in Tianjin City, with participants from Hokkaido University (HU) including President Saeki, Executive Office on International Affairs Executive Advisor, Ken Suzuki and Beijing Office Director, Toshitaka Nozawa. The conference has been held every other year since 2000 as a forum for presidents of leading universities in both countries to discuss issues involving higher education and the promotion of cooperation in the 21st century.

On the afternoon of the first day, HU held separate meetings with four universities, most of which have inter-university exchange agreements with HU, to discuss the promotion of future exchanges. The opportunity for interaction was also used to conclude an Academic Exchange Agreement



Plenary session of the Japan-China University Presidents Forum

and a Memorandum of Understanding on Student Exchanges with China's Sichuan University.

Representatives of 17 Japanese universities, 4 Japanese institutions, 18 Chinese universities and 2 Chinese institutions held discussions at the plenary session on October 16 on the general theme, *Internationalization of Creative Human Resource Development and Missions of High-level Universities*



President Saeki serves as chairperson

in China and Japan. President Saeki served as chairperson of a free discussion that marked the end of the event.

The next event in the series, the 7th Japan-China University Presidents Forum, will be held in Kyoto in 2011 under the joint auspices of Kyoto University and Ritsumeikan University.

Researchers Introduction Series ①

Dr. Nobuyoshi Kitaichi

Nobuyoshi Kitaichi is a certified clinician and scientist at the HU Hospital as well as an assistant professor in the Department of Ophthalmology in the Graduate School of Medicine.

His research focuses on ocular inflammatory diseases with an emphasis on Uveitis and Behcet's disease. His accomplishments in this field, namely his research in treating the sight threatening ocular inflammatory disease Uveitis with an intravitreal injection of anti-TFN-alpha antibodies using animal models have earned him the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology's (ARVO/Alcon) Award in May 2009. He also received the Distinguished Excellent Contribution Young Investigator Award from the Asia-Pacific Intraocular Inflammation Study Group (APIISG) in November 2009. Dr. Kitaichi was selected as one of the recipients of this newly established award in recognition of his outstanding achievement in leading one of the largest international epidemiological surveys on Uveitis in patients with Behcet's disease. The study was conducted in 25 institutions in 14 countries and regions.

Dr. Kitaichi enrolled in HU's School of Medicine in 1987. After completing his PhD, he attended Harvard Medical School's Basic Research Program in molecular eye disease. In 2003 he was a JSPS fellow and completed his fellowship at the Schepens Eye Institute, an affiliate of Harvard Medical School. In 2007 he returned to HU to fulfill his intense desire to work for his country at the institution that trained him. He remains in active collaboration with international researchers and believes that collaboration is the key to successful research.

The road to success for Dr. Kitaichi is upon reading, seemingly smooth, but he cites the language barrier as one of his biggest problems when he lived abroad. Trying to convince his superiors about the usefulness of his research in a different language was a challenge that he had to overcome; what



Dr. Kitaichi in his laboratory

helped him convince people was the empirical evidence of his data. At work, he always works till late in the night which is acceptable in Japanese society but he was asked to schedule his work in order to finish by 5:00 p.m. every day. All these culture shock were what he experienced abroad in the pursuit of his academic career. Dr. Kitaichi attributes his success to his colleagues in that they were encouraging and raised his morale by telling him, "You can do it!" whenever he is facing some difficulties. Dr. Kitaichi feels that giving encouragement is a necessary component in research training.

Dr. Kitaichi is not only an excellent clinician-scientist but also a good husband to his wife and a loving father to his son and daughter. He admits that it is not always easy to combine family life and research work but Dr. Kitaichi always plays his much needed role in his family. He always tries to keep his weekends and holidays as special days to be spent with his family.

Finally, Dr. Kitaichi Nobuyoshi is an accomplished Alumni of HU School of Medicine whose urge to continue in his research field is mostly influenced by the thought that his scientific research contribution will help to alleviate the suffering of his patients.

Written by Chinyere Nwafor-Okoli/

PhD Student, Graduate School of Medicine

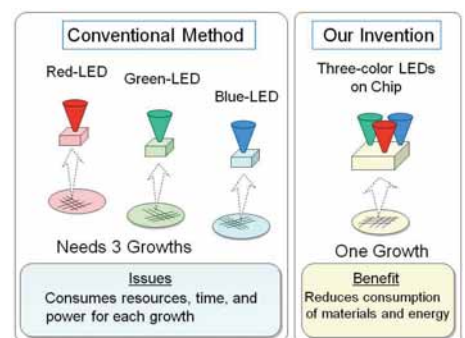
Method Established for Manufacturing Multiple-Wavelength Light-Emitting Diodes with *Only One Crystal Growth*

A group consisting of Prof. Takashi Fukui and his colleagues from the Hokkaido University Research Center for Integrated Quantum Electronics has developed a basic technology for manufacturing diodes capable of emitting multiple-wavelength light with only one crystal growth.

This study aimed to develop a technology to integrate semiconductor element arrays that directly emit light with multiple wavelengths onto the same silicon substrate. To this end, III-V compound semiconductor crystals, such as Gallium arsenide (GaAs), were selectively grown in a 100 nm-diameter opening formed in the insulating film

on a silicon substrate using vapor deposition from thermal decomposition of organometallic sources. Experiments confirmed that the array placement of semiconductor nanowires grown to approximately 100 nm in thickness and 1,000 nm in length in this pattern opening, as well as changing the thickness and length of these nanowires and the space between them for each array allowed emission wavelengths to be controlled as desired.

This technology is expected to play a key role in the manufacture of eco products such as light-emitting devices, transistors, photodetectors, and solar cells.



Prof. Takashi Fukui

Director of the Research Center for Integrated Quantum Electronics, Hokkaido University

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Hokkaido University Hospital Director Dr. Asaka Receives the 2009 Asahi Cancer Award

Dr. Masahiro Asaka, Director of Hokkaido University Hospital, has received the 2009 Asahi Cancer Award in recognition of his work on preventing gastric cancer through the eradication of *Helicobacter pylori* bacteria.

The accolade was established in 2001 by the Japan Cancer Society in conjunction with the Asahi Shimbun as a special category of the Japan Cancer Society Award, which is given to individuals and organizations making significant contributions in tackling against cancer. The Asahi Cancer Award is intended for contributors involved in promising programs and activities in the field of cancer research, and Dr. Asaka is the first winner of the award in Hokkaido. The award-winning impressed high evaluation of his research again as he was also awarded the Princess Takamatsu Cancer Research Fund Prize in February 2009.

Dr. Asaka unveiled the infection rate of *H. pylori* by age for the first

time in Japan. He also elucidated the relationship between *H. pylori* infection and gastric mucosal atrophy, followed by the relationship between *H. pylori* and gastric cancer, especially early gastric cancer.

While the relationship between *H. pylori* infection and gastric cancer had mostly been elucidated in the past based on numerous epidemiological research programs and laboratory animal research activities, there was a lack of scientific research on the effectiveness of *H. pylori* eradication in preventing the development of gastric cancer among humans. Given this, Dr. Asaka and his colleagues chose early gastric cancer patients who underwent endoscopic resection (i.e., those with the greatest risk of developing gastric cancer) because the number of such cases was relatively small and the research results would become available with a short period of observation. The three-year examinations and analysis carried



Dr. Asaka at the award ceremony

out revealed that the incidence rate of secondary gastric cancer among those in whom *H. pylori* had been eradicated was about one-third of the rate for those who did not undergo eradication treatment. This result was reported in *The Lancet* (a leading British medical journal) in August 2008, sending a wave of excitement through the domestic and overseas media.

Based on this data, Dr. Asaka has proposed the elimination of gastric cancer by combining *H. pylori* eradication as a primary prevention measure and endoscopy as a form of secondary prevention.

Insights into the Molecular Mechanisms of Down Syndrome

The research group headed by Professor Masayuki Noguchi and Assistant Professor Futoshi Suizu of the Division of Cancer Biology of Hokkaido University's Institute for Genetic Medicine has determined for the first time in the world that the excessive expression of a specific class of enzymes, or E3 ubiquitin ligase is possibly responsible for Down syndrome.

Down syndrome, caused by a trisomy in chromosome 21, is a widely known genetic condition that causes definitive physical characteristics in facial features and stature, as well as various other health complications such as combined heart defects, leukemia, mental retardation, and early-onset Alzheimer's disease. However, beyond these symptoms, the clinical pathology and the detailed molecular mechanisms detailing the condition have been unknown until recent breakthroughs in research.

The research group looked into the relationships between the ligase tetratricopeptide repeat domain 3 (TTC3) and the development of clinical signs and pathological conditions using a molecular imaging technique (a biochemical approach) and cell strains from patients with Down syndrome. The results showed that when TTC3 on human chromosome 21 binds specifically to Akt (an important serine threonine kinase that determines the life or death of cells), cell proliferation and cell cycle control undergo a disturbance, which is related to the

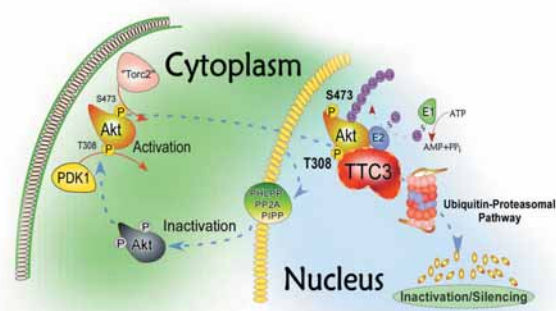
onset of the disease.

The outcome of this study is expected to aid understanding of the onset of today's most common genetic disorder and also lead to understanding the causes of common complications for Down syndrome patients such as Alzheimer's disease (a serious problem for Japan's graying population) and combined congenital heart defects.

Prof. Masayuki Noguchi

Institute for Genetic Medicine, Hokkaido University

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TTC3 is a novel E3 ubiquitin ligase for Akt



COE Program Series 12

Reshaping Japan's Border Studies

This Global COE Program, adopted in FY 2009, developed from the 21st Century COE Program, *Making a Discipline of Slavic Eurasian Studies: Meso-areas and Globalization* by providing a framework for a comprehensive understanding of the whole Slavic and Eurasian region since the collapse of the Soviet Union while continuing to foster young researchers.

The objectives of the program are to integrate previously separate studies on conflicts in the Slavic and Eurasian regions as border studies, to contribute to the understanding and resolution of real problems across national boundaries, and to become a part of the global border studies community.

On the Eurasian continent, the end of the Cold War gave rise to a number of conflicts between realities (i.e., physical national boundaries) and representations (the consciousness of the people) stemming from the dissolution and reorganization of national boundaries that had been delineated during the

former Soviet era and borders artificially formed by the socialist block. As a result, a large number of border-related issues have surfaced. However, research structures in Japan are fragmented and have weak connections beyond regional boundaries; this is in addition to inadequacies related to a lack of strategy and dynamism. Analyzing these regional questions in the context of border studies allows them to be put together and enables their investigation in comparison with other regions. In this program, we perform such analysis in terms of both realities and representations.

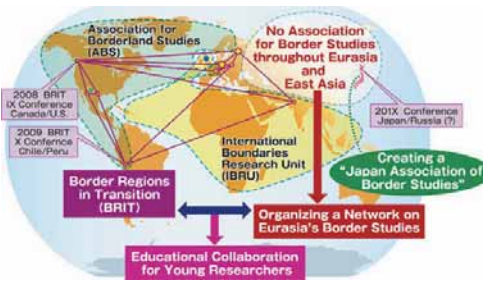
We also aim to establish a research network center covering and integrating these regional border studies on the Slavic and Eurasian regions in cooperation with institutions representing international border studies, including ABS, IBRU and the BRIT.

This Global COE Program is also characterized by efforts to integrate its results into society through educational programs, museum exhibitions, and

a variety of seminars. In Japan, the Northern Territories problems and other matters involving national boundaries have attracted attention, but there has been a lack of comparison to international examples, and there is a strong tendency for such issues to be argued based on theories unique to Japan. Border problems have also been discussed from the viewpoint of the national government in general which results in remarks with little relevance to the realities of actual border areas. One of the objectives of this Global COE Program is to contribute to the understanding and resolution of problems involving national boundaries in cooperation with governments, government-businesses, and collaborative ventures at home and abroad. To this end, we aim to collaborate with international border studies networks to highlight in Japan how other international conflicts have been resolved and to disseminate local opinions from border areas beyond conventional academic disciplines.



Commemorative photo at the International Symposium, Program Leader Prof. Akihiko Iwashita (far left)



Proposed research network center covering the Slavic and Eurasian regions

For more information, please visit the Hokkaido University Global COE Program's *Reshaping Japan's Border Studies* Website. <http://www.borderstudies.jp/en/>

Accelerating Internationalization at Hokkaido University (Double Degree Programs, Erasmus Mundus, etc.)

Designating the 10 years from FY 2009 as the Decade of Accelerated Internationalization, Hokkaido University (HU) is working toward the establishment of campus infrastructure for credit transfer systems and double degree programs (DDPs) as well as developing pilot programs for Faculty Development (FD) in order to offer courses in English as part of efforts to accelerate internationalization.

DDPs allow students to study at universities with which HU has concluded DDP agreements and to

acquire degrees at both institutions within a shorter time than usual. Relevant graduate schools of HU have been preparing for the launch of a DDP in FY 2010. At the same time, in order to establish campus infrastructure and provide information to support DDP plans at other HU graduate schools in the future, **the first information session on credit transfers and double degrees was held in June 2009. In October of the same year, HU and the Delegation of the European Union to Japan**

co-organized the Erasmus Mundus Mobility Program in Europe Information Event. Through these sessions, we highlighted the status of double degree implementation in Japan and other countries and introduced related support structures available to the HU community. We also extensively publicized the Erasmus Mundus Program, which was launched in Europe in 2004 and has opened doors for students worldwide.

In addition to development of the credit transfer systems and DDPs,



Faculty of Science/Graduate School of Science/School of Science

Clarifying the rules of nature and creating knowledge in the northern environment of Hokkaido

The purpose of science education and research is to plumb the depths of natural science and clarify the rules of nature. Our efforts are aimed at collaborative work to reveal the truths of the natural world on a vast campus surrounded by the Elm Grove in Hokkaido.

School of Science

Hokkaido University's School of Science was established in 1930 as the institution's fourth undergraduate school. When the university reorganized its former graduate schools into graduate schools and faculties in April 2006, the School of Science was reassigned with the five departments (six divisions) of Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biological Sciences (two divisions: Biology and Macromolecular Functions) and Earth Sciences.

Although individual departments offer different educational programs, all of them cover fields of natural science, and students can take a wide variety of course programs offered by departments other than those in which they are enrolled. The educational purposes of the School of Science are threefold: 1. to discern the true workings of the natural world and cultivate an eye for pursuing the laws behind it; 2. to develop originality that will lead to the establishment of new theories and the development of fresh knowledge; and 3. to provide the basics needed to help address the problems faced by mankind and advance technological innovation.

Participants in the educational programs of the School of Science and the Graduate School of Science include not only academic staff at the Faculty of Science but also those at the Faculty of Advanced Life Science, the Faculty of Environmental Earth Science, and other research institutes of Hokkaido University.

In terms of students' career paths after graduation, approximately 80% of School of Science graduates advance

to graduate schools. Slightly less than 30% of those who complete master's degree programs advance to the latter period of doctoral degree programs, and roughly 70% find jobs in private businesses or government/municipal offices.

Faculty of Science/Graduate School of Science

The former Graduate School of Science was reorganized to form the Graduate School of Science and the Faculty of Science in April 2006. The Faculty of Science – an organization for academic staff – consists of the five departments of Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Natural History Sciences and Biological Sciences. It aims to develop the natural science system that has been built up by humans and to develop new technologies instrumental to improving life in society by taking advantage of the fresh knowledge obtained through basic research.

The Graduate School of Science is tasked with graduate education in all natural science fields, and April 2010 marks its division into the four departments of Mathematics, Quantum and Condensed-Matter Physics, CosmoSciences, and Natural History Sciences. Since research and graduate education are inseparable from each other, graduate students and faculty members engage in educational and research programs concerning the basics and application of natural science together at the Graduate School of Science.



Graduate School of Science



Student experiment



Demo lesson in English by Vice-President Hondoh

we also began offering support to the faculty as part of an effort to provide more courses in English to improve the global currency of our education. **In FY 2009, we held the FD Program for Teaching in English for the Graduate School of Letters (a series of six sessions), the FD Program at Leiden**

University in the Netherlands, and the FD to Accelerate Internationalization – Toward a Bilingual University. The FD Program for Teaching in English for the Graduate School of Letters aimed to develop pilot programs that will lead into versatile FD programs for our graduate schools planning to introduce or increase English classes. A total of 15 faculty members from nine different fields were sent to the FD program at Leiden University. At the FD to Accelerate Internationalization – Toward a Bilingual University colloquium, program participants reported on the internationalization strategies of Leiden University, which began to change over to courses in English at its graduate

schools in 2005. The session also included lectures and a panel discussion on the objectives of internationalization strategies and related challenges at HU as well as demo lessons in English. HU made a fresh start toward becoming a truly bilingual university with President Saeki's comment in his closing remarks: the realization of a university open to the world and the establishment of a world-class human resource development system would be important key concepts in the next Medium-term Goals and the Medium-term Plan of HU.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.hokudai.ac.jp/en/relations/kasoku.html>

[HU Alumni's Today — Dr. Jun-You Liu

Dr. Jun-You Liu, a graduate of Hokkaido University's Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine, opened the Hokkaido Veterinary Hospital in his homeland of Taiwan in July 2008. The clinic's name was influenced by memories of his campus life in Hokkaido — a place he recalls fondly — and by his gratitude for professors and friends from his college days to whom he owes much.

His deep love for animals since childhood brought him to Japan to train as a veterinary specialist. During a one-and-a-half-year stint at a Japanese language school in Tokyo, he became impressed with wild-animals in Hokkaido through magazines and other media, and developed the aspiration to study at Hokkaido University (HU). He enrolled in the university in 1998. At first he could comprehend only 30% of what he heard. To help him through this trying period, he borrowed his classmate's notes and copied them to study. Many of his peers were outstanding students, and he was stimulated by their enthusiasm for veterinary medicine. They were also very kind to international students and helped him in his studies as well as in daily life.

One part of his campus life that formed a lasting impression was anatomy class. In one instance, after a cow was dissected and disemboweled, his classmates played around by

climbing inside the carcass. He was surprised that the Japanese students had no qualms about playing with the dead animal. By his third year, he was able to understand roughly 80% of the lessons in Japanese and began to enjoy his studies — particularly dissection despite his original aversion to blood.

Hokkaido's climate is quite different from that of Taiwan, and the distinct changes of the prefecture's four seasons left a lasting impression on him: winter creates a wonderful snow-white landscape and three or four times a year he enjoyed skiing. The lack of sunshine during the five-month winter season did not deter his studies by making him melancholy, but instead he looked forward to the snow thawing and the trees began to bud in the spring. Although the summers are short, he enjoyed watching animals in the wild and sea bathing in Otaru. In autumn he thought the ginkgo leaves

turning yellow and the roads lined with golden-leaved ginkgo trees were splendid.

What he liked about studying at HU was the chance to become acquainted with experts in various research fields and learn much from them, and the opportunity to make many friends was an invaluable opportunity. In terms of his studies, he found that the examinations were particularly tough. Sometimes when he studied all night long for exams, he found that help from his friends was very reassuring and strongly felt the importance of taking good care of them. Even now, he sometimes receives wedding invitations from his friend in Japan.

He currently spends most of his time from morning till night examining animals at the clinic. His ambition for the future is to keep cattle and horses and engage in agriculture in a rural area.



Dr. Jun-You Liu



Hokkaido Veterinary Hospital in Taipei City, Taiwan

[Hokkaido University Taiwan Alumni Association Established

The Hokkaido University (HU) Taiwan Alumni Association was established on November 5 in Taipei with approximately 20 Hokkaido University graduates and President Hiroshi Saeki on hand to mark the occasion. Attendees enjoyed catching up with one another and reminiscing about their days at HU.

Sue-Fong Lin (a professor at Central Police University), who studied at the Graduate School of Law, was inaugurated as the president of the organization. Her first order of business was to set up the operation of the association by soliciting member's opinions regarding the association's regulations.

HU will provide support to the alumni association to ensure that Taiwanese students currently attending HU will be able to foster their friendships after returning home and also stay connected with HU.

Hokkaido University Taiwan Alumni blog:
<http://hokudai-taiwan-dousoukai.blogspot.com/>



Commemorative photo at the meeting of HU Taiwan Alumni Association



Studying in Hokkaido University – the Voice of International Students

Maria Stefanie Dwiyanti (from Indonesia), Graduate School of Agriculture, PhD 2nd Year

I enrolled to Hokkaido University in 2002 as an undergraduate student in the Faculty of Agriculture. I heard about Hokkaido University when I was in Tokyo, and almost all the people I met recommended Hokkaido University for its famous agriculture faculty and lush nature.

In fact, Hokkaido University has a lot of greenery and it is one of the best places to do outdoor activities. In summer, I enjoy barbeque, lunch on the Central Lawn while watching people do painting, or children playing in the Sakushu-Kotoni River. Outside campus, I usually take a train or bus to visit places in Hokkaido: lavender farm in Furano, patchwork field in Biei, and the sunflower field in Hokuryu are the best places to see and enjoy nature.

Some things I do not like about life in Hokkaido... Winter. It lasts for more than four months and sometimes temperature falls below zero! However, if you would like to try winter sports, this is the best place to do so! A place called Niseko is well-known for its powder snow, and many people come to ski or snowboard. I myself can not do either, but I like the tube-slipping and ice cream making in the middle of winter. Another thing is that there is no direct flight from Sapporo to my home country, Indonesia, so it is a bit inconvenient when I have to go back home. I hope some day there will be a direct flight from Sapporo. Now I enjoy transits to other countries whenever I go back home.

I am studying plant genetics at the Laboratory of Plant Genetics and Evolution. Since I started here as undergraduate



Enjoying the flowers in the Takinoue Park

student, I was lucky to have a chance to visit several labs before I decided to enter my lab now. I have wonderful lab members who are not only helpful in experiments, but also include me in lab events (barbeque, ski, traveling, and cake buffet). The Lab here has quite complete equipments where I can do broad range of experiments. My professor allows me to expand my research while the associate professor and assistant professor are very helpful in advising details of my experiments.

For you who are interested in studying at Hokkaido University, I would say that exceling in Japanese is not compulsory, but knowledge of some Japanese would be an advantage. Because having a good communication with your lab mates is very helpful in daily experiments, and lab events that will be more enjoyable.

Natalya Shmakova (from Russia), Graduate School of Law, Master's Course 2nd Year

Hello, my name is Natalya Shmakova. I am from Russia. I came to Japan to study welfare politics and experience a new culture.

"What would it be like to take a space ship to another planet?" – I wondered while packing my suitcase. "What should I bring, maybe everything from a frying pan to linens or absolutely nothing?" This was my first time to go outside of Russia and I really did not know what to expect. Although I read about Japanese culture, economics, politics I had no idea how everyday life in Japan is, and I was afraid that it would be completely different from what I was used to.

I stepped in new world and discovered that it is not a cold inanimate cosmos, but world full of life and energy. I was surprised how many other foreigners are in the Hokkaido University and how intensive their life is. My studies started from improving my

Japanese, for this purpose I came to International Students Centre. There I found new friends, from all over the world; together we have been discovering a world of Japanese language. At the beginning, studies were not easy and I wish I learned more at Russia, because now too much unknown surrounded me! And as more I learned as more new horizons opened to me, in communication with people and research.

For the first year I got an opportunity to live in Dormitory. To tell the truth, word "Dormitory" was quite a fearsome for me, but soon my fears were cleared up. Minami Shinkawa international students' residence appeared to be a clean building with single rooms and all facilities needed. I spent a lovely time with my neighbors – cooking in the kitchen, watching movies and making parties in the first floor's lounge. Being far away from home I never felt lonely,

because I found a new one.

I fell in love with Hokudai's campus, a green island at the heart of the Sapporo, a city within a city. It is a place where I have everything to spend my student days – studying and resting, meeting with friends and learning other cultures.



Autumn in Kamakura

The 1st Hokkaido University-Academia Sinica Joint Symposium and the 7th Symposium for Future Drug Discovery and Medical Care Held

On October 7 and 8, the 1st Hokkaido University-Academia Sinica Joint Symposium and the 7th Symposium for Future Drug Discovery and Medical Care were held with 298 participants.

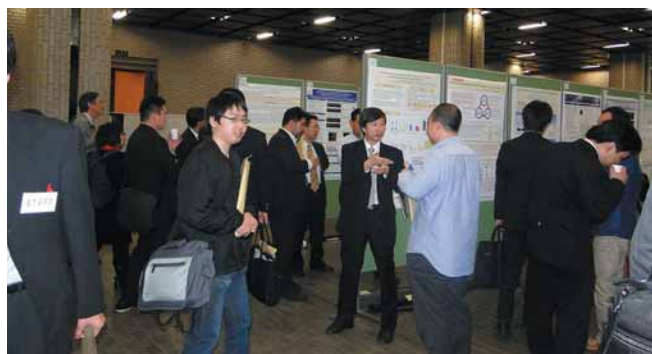
This symposium was held to mark the commencement of projects based on the exchange agreement concluded by Hokkaido University (HU) and Academia Sinica, which have released numerous results of international research programs, under the joint auspices of both institutions. The event was also held as a regular symposium of the Innovation COE Program for Future Drug Discovery and Medical Care, a HU program selected as part of the Formation of an Innovation Center for the Fusion of Advanced Technologies scheme financed by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology's (MEXT) Science and Technology Promotion Adjustment Expenses Fund, and was made possible through

Academia Sinica's involvement in collaborative research on the program.

The 7th Symposium for Future Drug Discovery and Medical Care began with memorable speeches by HU President Dr. Hiroshi Saeki and Academia Sinica President Dr. Chi-Huey Wong as well as by speakers from outside the two institutions, including 1986 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry Dr. Yuan-Tseh Lee (Honorary President of Academia Sinica), Dr. Yuan-Chuan Lee (Johns Hopkins University) and Dr. Satoshi Minoshima (University of Washington) – a specialist doctor in nuclear medicine working actively in the U.S. Representatives from the business world also delivered speeches. This symposium was a great success and offered a rare opportunity for participants to hear the latest results of research related to international cooperation and industry-academia collaboration in one place.



Presentation by Dr. Yuan-Tseh Lee



Poster Presentation

Joint seminar with Yeungnam University's College of Commerce and Economics Held at HU's Graduate School of Economics and Business Administration

On September 4, the Graduate School of Economics and Business Administration held the Fifth Joint Seminar with Yeungnam University's College of Commerce and Economics. This seminar has been organized biennially since 2001 on the basis of the academic exchange agreement.

The program ran from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in three sessions, and a total of eight lecturers – including five from Yeungnam University – made presentations in English. The themes of the presentations covered a wide range of fields in economy, business administration and accounting, including “Presidential Diplomacy and International Trade: The Case of Korea,” “Two Approaches to the Private Sector's Accounting Method in the Governmental Accounting of Japan,”

“Oil and the Macroeconomy: The Case of Korea,” “Outperformance of Socially Responsible Investing: Evidence in Korea,” “Behavioral Consequences of Changes in the Design and Use of Performance Measurement Systems,” “A Study of Factors Affecting Usage Intentions of Mobile TV Service” and “A Network of ROSCAs (Rotating Savings and Credit Associations): Empirical Analysis in Uzbekistan.” With a variety of participants, including the Dean, faculty members and students of the Graduate School of Economics and Business Administration as well as overseas researchers, the subsequent Q&A exchange became so lively that the session ran out of time.

Seminar participants were able to learn about the directions of interest and the details of work by Japanese and

Korean researchers in fields outside their areas of expertise, and enjoyed extensive discussions. The joint seminar provided a splendid opportunity for international interdisciplinary academic exchanges. It is considered that participants gained invaluable experience that could not have been obtained at regular academic conferences in their areas of expertise.



Professor Ki-Su Kim from Yeungnam University makes a presentation



HU Student Team Participates in the Inter-University Climate Action Workshop

An eight-member student team led by Takahiro Okabe, a freshman in the Graduate School of Public Policy participated in a two day student event titled Inter-University Climate Action Workshop at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark from December 13 to 14, 2009. The event, held in connection with the COP15, was hosted jointly by Yale University and the University of Copenhagen. Representatives from a total of 15 universities around the world, including the U.S., China and Denmark presented their on campus approaches of ways toward an environmentally friendly campus.

The HU team highlighted an issue particular to Hokkaido — how to reduce the large amounts of energy dedicated to heating in the winter — and proposed two solutions: the Warm Biz campaign, and competitions for reducing energy consumption. The Warm Biz campaign is the winter equivalent of the Japanese Government's Cool Biz campaign (a promotional campaign to encourage people to wear lighter clothing in the office during the summer to reduce air conditioner usage) which was introduced as a way to encourage people to change their lifestyles. The Hokkaido University team proposed that exhibitions and



Commemorative photo at the venue

fashion shows in various high traffic locations in HU and the JR Sapporo Station could be a way to popularize the burgeoning energy conservation initiative. Competitions for reducing energy consumption were proposed as an effective way to promote voluntary energy savings and to motivate people to contribute toward reducing their energy demands.

Exchange Meeting with Delegates from Taiwan's National Yunlin University of Science and Technology Held

On August 5, a 22-member delegation from Taiwan's National Yunlin University of Science and Technology (YunTech), led by President Yeong-Bin Yang, visited Hokkaido University and deepened exchanges with HU students.

An exchange meeting held in the Humanities and Social Sciences Classroom Building began with introductions to both universities. Shingo Kurokawa (representative of the Sharing All Cultures and Languages Association (SACLA) international exchange club) introduced HU, explaining that the university covers a wide range of research fields and has recently focused heavily on activities to achieve sustainability. His presentation was followed by an introduction to YunTech by three students from the delegation, who stressed the high ratio of ambitious students advancing to doctorate level courses and the popularity of student group activities at YunTech.



Commemorative photo in front of the Bust of Dr. William S. Clark

After the introductions, the visitors took a tour of the campus. Mr. Kurokawa served as the guide, and took the delegates to HU places of historical importance mainly on the southern side

of the campus. The weather cooperated throughout the day, and the participants appeared to be having a great time and had animated conversations throughout the tour.

Certificate Presentation Ceremony Held for the HU Scholarships

A ceremony was held on October 22 for two events awarding scholarships to international students. The President's Fellowship and the Special Grant Program for International Students are both aimed at privately funded foreign students with outstanding academic performance and a deep interest in the university's education and research programs.

University President Saeki and others involved with the scholarships presided at the ceremony, and President Saeki personally gave the scholarships to all the recognized students.

The President's Fellowship aims to increase the quality and number of international students entering Hokkaido University at the graduate level. To be eligible, students should be either enrolled in or have graduated from partner institutions and are planning to enter either a master's degree program, the latter period of a doctoral degree program (or a doctoral degree program in the case of the Graduate School of Medicine, the Graduate School of Dental Medicine and the Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine) or a professional degree course. The program was launched in fiscal 2006, and this year, four students were awarded scholarships.

The aim of the Special Grant Program for International Students is to develop individuals who will contribute on an international scale. Eligibility is limited to self-supported



Commemorative photo at the ceremony

international students planning to enroll in the latter period of a doctoral degree program (or a doctoral program in the case of the Graduate School of Medicine, the Graduate School of Dental Medicine and the Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine). The program was initiated in fiscal 2008, and 12 students were awarded grants at the ceremony this year.

The detailed information about the scholarships, please refer to the website linked below.

http://www.isc.hokudai.ac.jp/www_ISC/index-e.cgi

Useful Links

Official Website of Hokkaido University

General Information, Recent News, etc.

<http://www.hokudai.ac.jp/en/>

International Student Center

Japanese Course, Scholarship, Lodging/Apartment, Studies/Lifestyle Support, etc.

http://www.isc.hokudai.ac.jp/www_ISC/index-e.cgi

Graduate School Website for Prospective International Students

Admission to Graduate Courses

<http://grad.isc.hokudai.ac.jp/cgi-bin/index-e.pl>

Admission Center

Admission to Undergraduate Courses

<http://www.hokudai.ac.jp/bureau/nyu/english/en/>

Beijing Office

Current Students, Prospective Students and Alumni in China

<http://www.hokudai.cn>

Alumni Association in Taiwan

For Alumni in Taiwan

<http://hokudai-taiwan-dousoukai.blogspot.com/>

Access to Campus

Campus Guide Map Including Sightseeing Information (English, Chinese, Hangul)

<http://hokudai.ac.jp/en/pickup/accesstocampus.html>

Previous Editions

<http://www.hokudai.ac.jp/en/pickup/publicrelations.html>

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