



Hokkaido University Newsletter

No.2

Winter 2004

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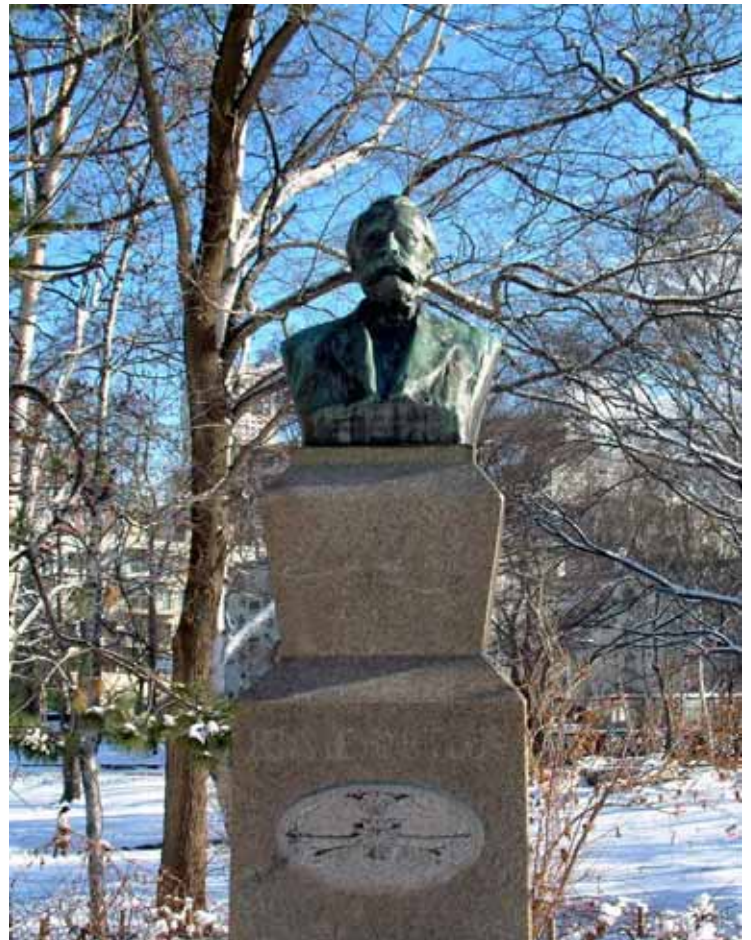
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President Nakamura Named “Officer of the Order of Academic Palms”

The French Government has bestowed on HU President Mutsuo Nakamura the prestigious title of “Officer of the Order of Academic Palms” (Officier dans l’Ordre des Palmes Academique).

Founded in France by Napoleon in 1808, the Order of Academic Palms recognizes those who contribute to education at all levels including university, especially those who actively introduce the academic research of France to Japan or who have contributed greatly to cultural exchanges between those two countries.

In a research paper published in 1973 based on his studies in France, President Nakamura introduced to Japan the ways in which that nation protects human rights. In February 2004 he published joint examinations of major constitutional issues facing France. President Nakamura has been instrumental in introducing the French Constitution to the people of Japan.

The title was conferred by Bernard de Montferrand, French Ambassador to Japan, at a ceremony in Centennial Hall of HU on September 15, 2004.



Ambassador Montferrand conferring the order to
President Nakamura



The Order of Academic Palms

Exchange Agreement with Jilin University

On September 21, 2004, HU concluded the Academic Exchange Agreement and the Memorandum of Understanding on Student Exchanges with Jilin University of the People's Republic of China. Participating in the signing ceremony at a hotel in Sapporo were three representatives of Jilin University, including Dr. Zhang Wenxian, Chairman of University Council, and seven representatives of HU, including President Nakamura, Vice President Ken'ichi Nakamura, Vice President Inoue and Dr. Yoshida, Dean of the Graduate School of Law.



President Nakamura and Dr. Zhang



Jilin University was founded in 1946 in Changchun, the capital of Jilin Province, North-eastern China. In 2000, five neighboring universities in Jilin merged, achieving a combined enrollment of about 62,000 students, faculty of 5,800 members and divisions totaling 11. In 1998, the Interdepartmental Exchange Agreement was concluded between the HU Graduate School of Law and Jilin University Law School, and active exchanges have continued. Expansion to the Inter-University Agreement was discussed on the occasion of the Japan-China Conference of University Presidents in August 2004, which led to the conclusion of that agreement.

The conclusion of the Inter-University Agreement in the wake of last month's signing with Fudan University (Shanghai) is part of a strategic reinforcement of exchanges with core universities in Northeast Asia. It is expected to invigorate international exchanges in HU's education and research.



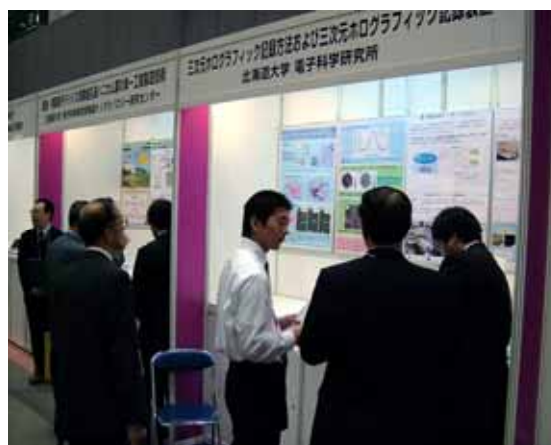
“The Innovation Fair for Government-Industry-Academia Collaboration in Hokkaido” and “Innovation Japan 2004”

“The Innovation Fair for Government-Industry-Academia Collaboration in Hokkaido” was held under the auspices of HU at a Sapporo hotel on September 17. It aimed to introduce intellectual property strategies taken by public universities after incorporation to members of local industry. Dr. Osada, Vice-President, Director-General of the HU Management Center of Intellectual Property, spoke on such strategies of HU to an attentive audience of about 200 corporate representatives.

“Innovation Japan 2004” was held at Tokyo from September 28 to 30. This forum is the first national event ever to match academia and industry on a national scale by introducing promising new technologies to venture businesses originating from universities. HU demonstrated its state-of-the-art activities in fields ranging from nanotechnology and materials science to medicine and biotechnology, and from information technologies to environmental and manufacturing technologies. People primarily from industry and academia thronged to the event, which saw 34,548 visitors over the course of three days, according to the organizer.



The Innovation Fair for Government-Industry-Academia Collaboration in Hokkaido



Innovation Japan 2004

The Entrance Ceremony for International Students

The entrance ceremony for international students enrolled in the Intensive Japanese Course, Japanese Language and Japanese Culture Studies Course, and the Hokkaido University Short-Term Exchange Program (HUSTEP) was held at the International Student Center on October 12.

The entrance ceremony began with an address by Ken'ichi Nakamura, Director of the International Student Center, followed by self-introductions from each student and a congratulatory address by President Nakamura.

HUSTEP

HUSTEP (Hokkaido University Short-Term Exchange Program) provides undergraduate students from affiliated universities with the opportunity to study courses offered in English in their fields of specialty and Japanese culture together with Japanese students, and thus develop deep mutual understanding. Students can also study the Japanese language.



Intensive Japanese Course



Japanese Language and Japanese Culture
Studies Course



HUSTEP



Poplar Avenue Restoration Project Commences

Typhoon Songda, which hit Hokkaido on September 8, 2004, blew down trees on the HU campus, causing severe damage to roads and other facilities here. The Poplar Avenue, a HU landmark and a favorite tourist spot, sustained heavy damage, with 19 of the 51 poplars completely uprooted and eight others partly uprooted. We were deluged with inquiries about restoration and offers of monetary aid from alumni and citizens who learned of the damage from the media.

HU has examined methods of restoring the devastated Poplar Avenue, including the feasibility of such restoration, toward meeting the expectations of people within and outside HU. Rigorous discussions addressed restoration methods. Participants expressed these views, among others: "It is unfortunate that these old trees have fallen, but since it was the work of Nature, efforts should be made to plant young replacement trees"... "Uprooted poplars should be restored as much as possible, even if complete restoration will be difficult." After carefully investigating the seven uprooted poplars for trunk damage caused by falling, workers righted them with a large crane and replanted



Lifting of fallen poplars by large crane



two whose chances of survival were promising. For the rest, we decided to plant saplings for restoration next spring.

On September 30, work on the "Poplar Avenue Restoration Project" began in earnest with the lifting of fallen poplars by large crane. Because these trees were to be replanted, they could not be cut up before being moved. The gigantic trees, weighing as much as 30 tons, were lifted intact by a 500-ton crane, which came onto the campus farm and performed the painstaking work.



On October 8, one month after the typhoon, the less damaged of the two trees was replanted. The upper ends of the trees that were to be replanted were stripped of branches and leaves and wrapped with special tape to avoid drying. The tree was hoisted by crane, and was planted inside a supporting steel frame.

It is very rare anywhere in the world to see the replanting of a towering 30-meter-tall poplar. The landscape is expected to take 15 to 20 years to regain its former splendor.

Present view

(Typhoon "Tokage" stated in the previous issue was a mistake. It should have been Typhoon "Songda".)



Poplar Avenue before the typhoon



Poplar Avenue after the typhoon



Hokkaido University Research and Business Park Symposium

Creative Research Initiative "Sousei" and the Japan Science and Technology Agency Innovation Plaza Hokkaido co-hosted the "Hokkaido University Research & Business Park Symposium" at a hotel in Sapporo on October 29.

Institutes at which government, industry and universities collaborate are concentrated on the HU North Campus. It is rare anywhere in the world to find a deliberately planned environment that is so conducive to such cooperation. The "Hokkaido University Research & Business Park Project," upheld throughout Hokkaido, has started to gain momentum.

The joint symposium explored the science and technology promotion in Hokkaido, including prospects for the future, toward advancing the Project.

The 300-some attendees were treated to a keynote speech by the Director-General of the Science and Technology Policy Bureau (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology), subcommittee meetings and panel discussions.



Hokkaido University Research and Business Park Project

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

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

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

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



Exchange Agreement with Budapest University of Technology and Economics

On November 4, the Academic Exchange Agreement and the Memorandum of Understanding on Student Exchanges were concluded with Budapest University of Technology and Economics (Hungary). The signing ceremony was held at Budapest University of Technology and Economics. Dr. Homma, Dean of the HU Graduate School of Information Science and Technology, took with him the Agreement bearing President Nakamura's signature, and was accompanied by others from HU. The Agreement was made official when Dr. Molnár, Rector of Budapest University of Technology and Economics, signed it.

An institution of great history and tradition, Budapest University of Technology and Economics was founded in 1782 and marked its 222nd anniversary in 2004. Students number about 24,000



Dean Homma and Rector Molnár holding the completed agreement

and faculty about 1,200. There are eight faculties: Architecture, Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Economics and Social Sciences, Electrical Engineering and Informatics, Mechanical Engineering, Natural Sciences and Transportation Engineering. Dr. John Von Neumann, who established the fundamental principles of the computer, was a student there. Other alumni include three Nobel Prize winners. The university can be described as one of the most important educational and research institutions in Central Europe.

The Interdepartmental Exchange Agreements that were concluded with the Faculty of Engineering in 1992 and the Faculty of Science in 1998 developed into the Inter-University Exchange Agreement above.



The Banks of the Danube which the campus of the university faces



Clearing the Sakushukotoni River and Restoring Its Flow

On November 4, 2004, fifty student volunteers and secretariat staff began the work of clearing debris from a 350-meter-long section of the Sakushukotoni River. The river sustained damage from trees downed by Typhoon Songda.

The work took about an hour, during which branches and fallen leaves were picked up by hand and piled at the roadside. They were removed by contractors.

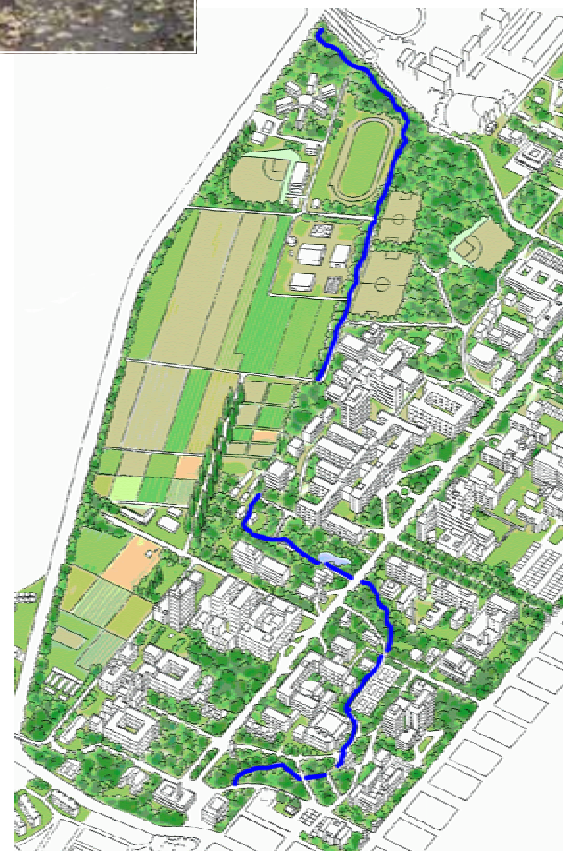
On November 10, water was sent through the cleared channel, remoistening the campus for the first time in a while.



What is the Sakushukotoni River?

Like many place names in Hokkaido, "Sakushukotoni" derives from words used by the Ainu, Hokkaido's indigenous people, to describe topographic features. This river, where salmon used to run, became dry around 1951 due to the development of the upper area. However, it was decided to bring this river back to life, and with support from the City of Sapporo, water began to flow again in May 2004.

It was the first step toward creating an Eco-Campus where the natural environment and educational research activities co-exist.



The flow of the river in the campus

The Great Sumatra Earthquake Emergency Fundraising

It is said that well over one million people fell victim to the Great Sumatra Earthquake and the subsequent devastating Indian Ocean Tsunami that occurred on December 26 of last year. More than 120 HU students are from eight countries, including Indonesia, that were affected by this tragic disaster. HU's international and Japanese students volunteered to request President Nakamura on January 18 to assist in university-wide fundraising activities so that donated funds can be used to help provide aid to devastated areas.

In the wake of the request, fundraising activities were conducted for nine days from January 20 through 28 at each department's administration office window, as well as on the campus. All donations will be given to the UNICEF in Japan.



Students requesting President Nakamura to assist in university-wide fundraising



Fundraising activities on the campus



80th Anniversary of the Faculty of Engineering

The Faculty of Engineering marked its 80th anniversary on September 25, 2004. Commemorative forums, a lecture meeting and a party were held on October 23 in Tokyo, with the participation of 635 people.

The forums were held simultaneously. Research directions and educational systems of all disciplines in the future were introduced, and views were exchanged in a lively manner.

The lecture meeting began with addresses by Dr. Nakayama, Dean of the Graduate School of Engineering, and Dr. Homma, Dean of the Graduate School of Information Science and Technology, followed by lectures from President Nakamura, Dr. Akira Suzuki, an HU professor emeritus, and Mr. Masatake Matsuda, Chairman of East Japan Railway Company (President, Hokkaido University Federation of Alumni Associations).



Professor Emeritus, Dr. Akira Suzuki giving a lecture

The audience far exceeded the normal capacity of the venue, and the events ended in a great success

Although this was the first time for commemorations to be held in metropolitan Tokyo, away from the seat of the university, they were brought to a successful close thanks to the cooperation of alumni and faculty members.



Commemorative party

50th Anniversary of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences

In honor of the 50th anniversary of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, a commemorative ceremony, lecture meeting and party were held at a hotel in Sapporo on November 20. The event saw the participation of approximately 340 people, including representatives from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, the presidents of pharmaceutical universities, deans of graduate schools of pharmaceutical sciences, professors emeritus, graduates and numerous other guests.

The ceremony featured an address by Dr. Nomura, Dean of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, a speech by President Nakamura and congratulatory speeches by guests.

In the commemorative lecture meeting that followed, Mr. Keizo Inoue, President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Japan, gave a talk entitled "The Past, Present and Future of Pharmaceutical Sciences: Expectations of the HU Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences."



Dean Nomura giving a speech

During the commemorative party, the President of the Alumni Association for the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences delivered an address, followed by the congratulatory remarks of guests. The party kicked off with a toast from Vice-President Inoue. It concluded with an address of gratitude from Dean Nomura, following the singing of "Miyako zo Yayoi," a famous school song, by all participants.



Mr. Inoue giving a speech



Commemorative party



International Symposiums

“The 15th CRC International Symposium on Catalytic Reaction Dynamics and Surface Nano-structures”

Date: 27-29 October, 2004

Venue: Creative Research Initiative “Sousei”

Organizer: Catalysis Research Center, Hokkaido University



“The Status Law Syndrome: a Post-communist Nation Building or Post-modern Citizenship?”

Date: 14-16 October, 2004

Venue: the Institute of Legal Studies (HAS), Budapest, Hungary

Organizers: JSPS 21st Century COE Program, Making a Discipline of Slavic Eurasian Studies,
Slavic Research Center, Hokkaido University

Institute of Legal Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Minority Studies Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Teleki László Institute, Budapest





Decision to Establish Professional Graduate Schools

Following the inauguration of the Law School in April 2004, the establishment of the Public Policy School and the Accounting School was authorized by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. They will be inaugurated in April 2005.

Amid the progress of globalization and decentralization, many activities have begun to cross boundaries between the public and private sectors, between regions and nations, and so on. This calls for people who are blessed with integrated knowledge that transcends those boundaries. It also demands that these people have a great facility with policymaking. Aiming to provide a forum for the aforementioned human resource development, the HU Public Policy School will be established.

The HU Public Policy School is distinctive in integrating disciplines from the Graduate School of Law, the Graduate School of Economics and Business Administration, and the Graduate School of Engineering.

Recently, corporate management style has become diversified and increased in complexity. From the viewpoint of protecting stakeholders of companies, it has become increasingly vital to promote the disclosure of business finances and to improve credibility of audits performed by certified public accountants within Japan and abroad. In light of the above, HU has decided to establish the Accounting School with the aim of educating certified public accountants who are able to meet the challenges of the new era.

Along with that of Tohoku University, HU's Accounting School will be the first such ever to be established at a national university corporation.

Three Courses

>Public Management
>International Policy
>Technology Policy

Curriculum Features

>Small group instruction
>Practical and problem solving lectures



HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY PUBLIC POLICY SCHOOL





Thank you for your response!

We thank you very much for receiving many responses from all over the world. To improve this newsletter by reflecting your comments, it would be highly appreciated if you could continue to send us your comments.

If you would like to change your post address, remove it from our mailing list, or start receiving this newsletter by post, please contact us.

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**PUBLISHED BY
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

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Hokkaido University Today

International Exchange Agreement as of January 2005

37 inter-university agreements

79 interdepartmental agreements

TOTAL 116 Agreements

