



HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY

Hokkaido University Newsletter

No. 5

2006

CONTENTS

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 1,2 | Accelerating Internationalization of Hokkaido University |
| 3,4 | Joint Symposium with the University of Oulu |
| 5,6 | The 8th Joint Symposium with Seoul National University |
| 7 | CRC International Symposium in Aachen on "Cross-Coupling & Organometallics," an Informative International Symposium, Hosted by the Catalysis Research Center |
| 8 | Completion Ceremony at the International Student Center |
| 9 | Meeting with Foreign Teachers |
| 10 | Siberian Mammoth Exhibition |
| 11 | Comprehensive Partnership / Conclusion of the Basic Agreement Concerning Partnership and Cooperation with Media Organizations |
| 12 | Holiday in Hidaka – Exchanges Between International Students and the Community |
| 13 | Orientation Before Going Abroad to Study |
| 14 | A Message from an HUSTEP Exchange Student |
| 15,16 | COE Programs Series 3 |
| 17,18 | Graduate School Introduction Series 3 (Graduate School of Fisheries Sciences / Faculty of Fisheries Sciences / School of Fisheries Sciences) |
| 19 | Hokkaido University Today |



Accelerating Internationalization of Hokkaido University

Hokkaido University (HU) has been accelerating its internationalization strategy in the fields of education, research and philanthropy as a characteristically international university.

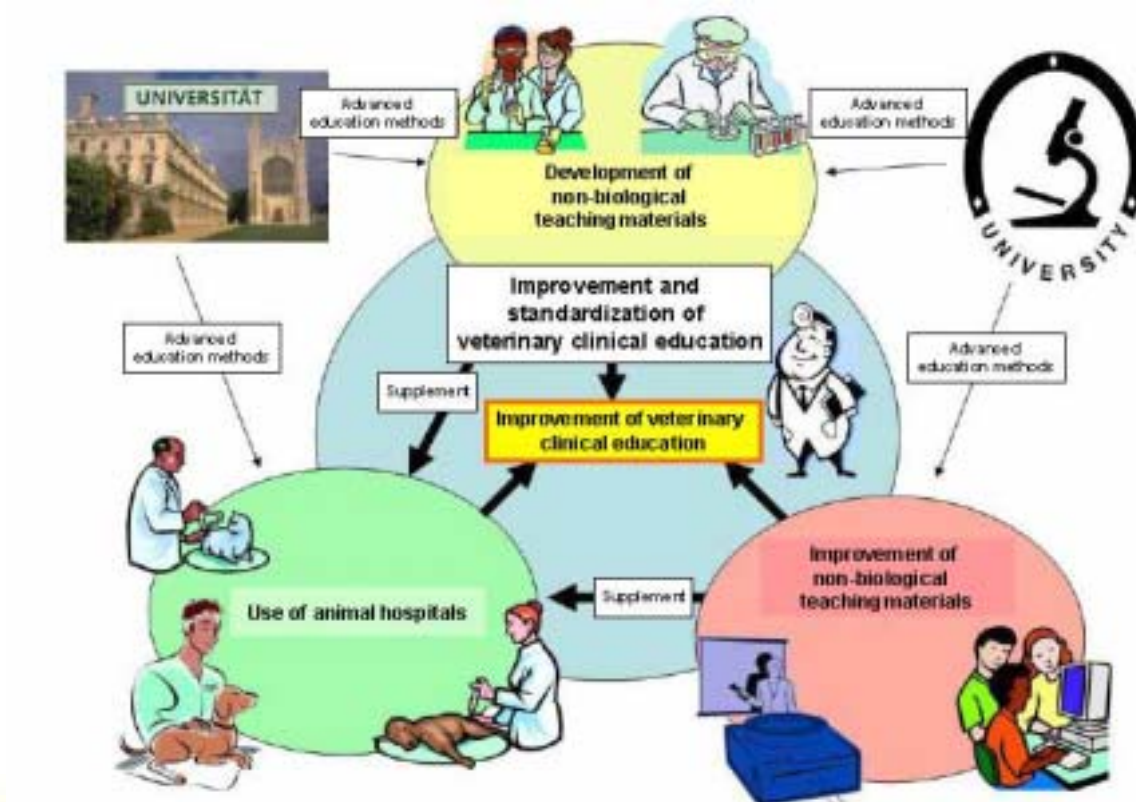
As introduced in the previous issue, starting this year, HU has highlighted “sustainable development” as the area to emphasize and to create a progressive model of sustainable development with characteristics and advantages that can serve as the foundations for promoting the wide-ranging internationalization of the “University International Strategy HQ’s Reinforcement Project.”

In September, HU “Programs for the Promotion of Internationalization of University Education” was adopted by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT).

This program has been established in order to select outstanding activities from among the list of comprehensive international educational pursuits, such as the implementation of international joint programs in collaboration with overseas universities and other institutions.

Improvement and standardization of veterinary clinical education without sacrificing experimental animals

With Masahiro Okumura, an associate professor at the Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine, at the helm, this program aims to develop a teaching materials for veterinary clinical education without sacrificing experimental animals, satisfying international standards at the same time. This program is regarded as addressing a significant social and ethical question at our time and globally valuable.

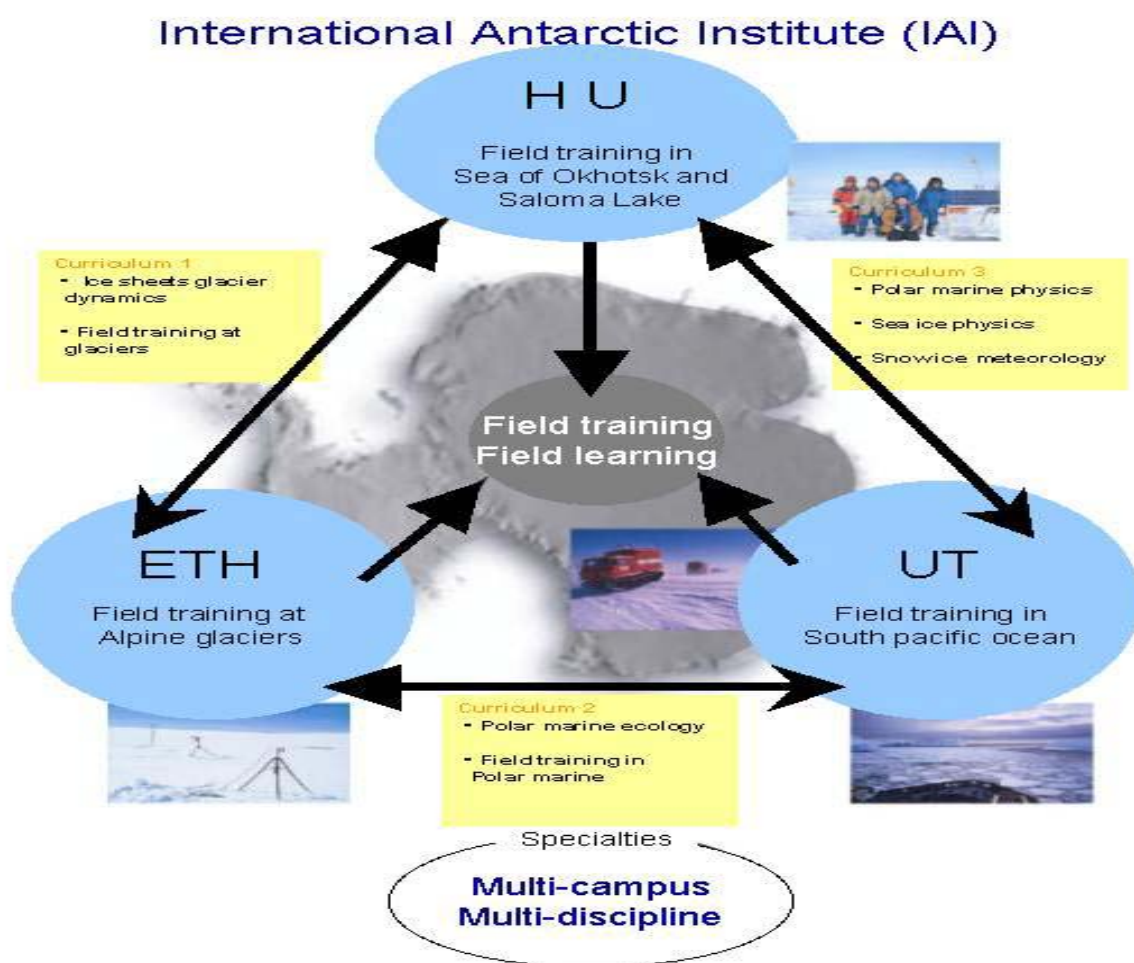


Project Leader: Associate Prof. Masahiro Okumura, Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine



“Establishment of International Antarctic Institute (IAI)”

Led by Takeo Hondoh, a professor at the Institute of Low Temperature Science (ILTS), this program aims to develop international joint cryosphere research programs in collaboration with the University of Tasmania (UT) and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) while simultaneously advancing the personal development of its participants as academic resources. This program is highly regarded for its uniqueness and the international acceptance of the academic merits and benefits that have been developed through this program, such as the curriculum for the International Antarctic University to be established in FY 2008 by nine countries around the world.



Project Leader: Prof. Takeo Hondoh, Institute of Low Temperature Science

These two programs for the Promotion of Internationalization of University Education and the previously developed Strengthening of the University Office for International Strategy have been adopted by MEXT. HU is among the four universities to have had a total of three programs receive recognition as international projects by MEXT.



Joint Symposium with the University of Oulu

The 2nd Joint Symposium was held at the University of Oulu on September 20, 2005 in reciprocity for the inaugural symposium having been held in Sapporo last year.

A total of eighteen people from Hokkaido University (HU) participated in the event in addition to representatives from the Hokkaido Government, the Hokkaido Economic Federation and the Northern Advancement Center for Science & Technology. The participants were enthusiastically engaged in research exchanges with numerous people from the University of Oulu and other exchanges that were intended to facilitate inter-regional collaboration between Oulu and Hokkaido.



▲ Mr. Eino Siuruainen, Governor of the Oulu Province (center)



▲ President Nakamura and Dr. Luri Lajunen, President of the University of Oulu shaking hands

During the course of the symposium, Tauno Tönning Foundation announced that it would provide the University of Oulu with necessary financial backing to receive one or two senior researchers from HU for approximately one month.

In response, President Nakamura made the announcement that HU would earmark an equal amount to sponsor and invite researchers from the University of Oulu to HU.

It is expected that research exchanges in various fields, including engineering, environmental studies, biotechnology and northern regional studies, and relationship between students of both universities as well as inter-regional exchanges between Oulu and Hokkaido will be advanced in the future.



**Session 1:
Research Innovations: Business Incubation
(Information Technology and Biotechnology)**

Chair: Dr. Leila Risteli, Director, Research and Innovation Services

HU speakers:

Prof. Tateo Shimozawa, Associate Executive, Research Institute for Electronic Science

Prof. Tsuyoshi Yamamoto, Graduate School of Information Science and Technology

Prof. Seiichi Saito, Research Faculty of Fisheries Science



▲ Presentation by Prof. Shimozawa

Session 2: Environment

Chair: Prof. Marja-Liisa Sutinen, Thule Institute, the University of Oulu/ The Finnish Forest Research Institute (Meltla)

HU speakers:

Prof. Kazuomi Hirakawa, Faculty of Environmental Earth Science

Assoc. Prof. Gaku Kudo, Faculty of Environmental Earth Science

Research Associate Toshiaki Owari, Graduate School of Agriculture

Session 3: Regional Studies

Chair: Prof. Olavi Fält, Department of History, Faculty of Humanities, the University of Oulu

HU speakers:

Prof. Osamu Ieda, Slavic Research Center

Prof. Kimitaka Matsuzato, Slavic Research Center

Session 4: Intelligent Transport Systems

Chair: Dr. Pekka Leviäkangas, Senior Research Scientist, VTT

HU speaker:

Assoc. Prof. Takashi Nakatsuji, Graduate School of Engineering



▲ President Nakamura and overseas students from Hokkaido University



The 8th Joint Symposium with Seoul National University

The 8th Joint Symposium between Hokkaido University (HU) and Seoul National University (SNU) was held at SNU from October 14 to 18, 2005.

The 1st Joint Symposium was held in Sapporo in 1998 in commemoration of the conclusion of the Inter-University Exchange Agreement that was signed in October 1997. The joint symposium has since been held annually on a reciprocal basis and this year marked the 8th Joint Symposium.

At the plenary session, where approximately 130 participants from both universities assembled, Hajime Endo, HU Director-General, delivered a speech entitled "Incorporation of National Universities in Japan" after addresses by Mutsuo Nakamura, President of HU, and Chung Un-Chan, President of SNU. Since the incorporation of national universities is also being considered and discussed in South Korea, participants were highly interested in the subject matter and the speech was followed by a lively Q&A session regarding post-incorporation university administration, cost allocation and so forth.



▲ Chung Un-Chan, President of SNU



▲ Mutsuo Nakamura, President of HU

In conjunction with the symposium, we were able to introduce HU to 15 students, including SNU graduate students. The participants earnestly listened to the explanation about HU's exchange programs, the environment surrounding the university and so on. After two SNU students shared their experiences from when they studied at HU until August of this year under the Hokkaido University Short Term Exchange Program (HUSTEP), numerous questions were asked by the audience; indicating their enthusiasm for studying abroad.

Throughout this symposium, participants were able to engage in broad, substantive exchanges not only in research, but also in university administration and among the students. Thus, exchanges between both universities are expected to continue to flourish even further.



Satellite Sessions

(1) *International Strategies of the Universities*

HU representative: Prof. Mamoru Kobayakawa

SNU representative: Prof. Kyongsoo Lho

(2) *SNU-HU 3rd Joint Symposium on Mathematics*

HU representative: Prof. Tohru Ozawa

SNU representative: Prof. Seung-yeal Ha

(3) *1st SNU-HU Symposium on Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering*

HU representative: Prof. Yoshihiro Narita

SNU representative: Prof. Woo-II Lee

(4) *Veterinary Medicine-Zoonosis Control*

HU representative: Prof. Ikuo Takashima

SNU representative: Prof. Yong Ho Park

(5) *Regional Implications and Consequences of Global Change*

HU representative: Prof. Motoyoshi Ikeda

SNU representative: Prof. Kuh Kim



▲ Opinion exchanges on International Strategies of the Universities with Prof. Kyongsoo Lho



▲ Seoul University students earnestly listening to explanations of overseas studies

▼ Information Technology Group



(6) *Environmental Monitoring of North East Asia-Damage Control of Boreal Forest Fire*

HU representative: Prof. Masami Fukuda

SNU representative: Assistant Prof. Kiyun Yu

(7) *Information Technology*

HU representative: Prof. Toshihisa Honma

SNU representative: Prof. Heonshik Shin



CRC International Symposium in Aachen on “Cross-Coupling & Organometallics,” an Informative International Symposium, Hosted by the Catalysis Research Center



▲ Prof. emeritus Akira Suzuki

This international symposium was held at RWTH Aachen University (Germany) on October 12, 2005 and organized by Hokkaido University Catalysis Research Center. This symposium was planned based on the unprecedented concept of “disseminating progressive research results that Japan takes pride in abroad under the initiative of research institutions in Japan.”

International symposiums hosted by Japanese national universities are conventionally held in Japan with foreign speakers and a Japanese audience. As a result, Japanese researchers are not able to present their achievements. Therefore, the Catalysis Research Center concluded that it was necessary to hold an informative international symposium in a new manner so that Japanese presenters could speak to a foreign audience, and planned for this symposium to be held overseas.

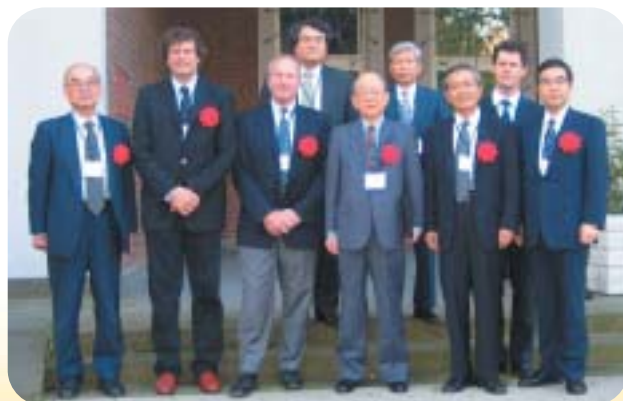
The cross-coupling reaction was the main theme of this symposium. Being a very useful carbon-carbon bond forming reaction, it is assumed to have industrial importance. In particular, it is widely known that liquid crystal for flat LCD screens is synthesized by using cross coupling. It is considered as one of the fields that will compete for a Nobel Prize since it has contributed greatly to our daily lives. What is worthy of special mention is that numerous Japanese researchers, including those at HU, are involved in discoveries and improvements in this field. To this symposium, we invited three speakers from universities in Germany: Prof. A. de Meijere (Göttingen); Prof. P. Knochel (München); and Prof. M. Beller (Rostock), in addition to four Japanese researchers who played pioneering roles in this field: Prof. Akira Suzuki, a professor emeritus from Hokkaido University; Prof. Ei-ichi Negishi from Purdue University (U.S.); Prof. Kohei Tamao, Director of the RIKEN Frontier Research System; and Prof. Tamejiro Hiyama from Kyoto University.

The Catalysis Research Center (Director: Prof. Tamotsu Takahashi) organized and hosted a symposium in Aachen in collaboration with the Hokkaido Branch of the Chemical Society of Japan (Director General: Prof. Masaaki Miyashita, Graduate School of Science, HU).

The more than 250 participants were greatly impressed with the high quality speeches given by Nobel-prize candidates, which provoked so many questions and discussions.

The Catalysis Research Center hosted the post symposium two days later, on October 14. The post symposium was intriguing and the larger than expected audience enjoyed the conversations and discussions.

Although it was our first attempts to hold an international symposium outside Japan, HU has received congratulations for its success and favorable comments including questions regarding the plans for the next symposium.



▲ Lecturers' get-together photo



Completion Ceremony at the International Student Center

Intensive Japanese Language Course is a six-month training course opened to provide international students recommended by their embassies with preparatory education prior to their enrollment in graduate schools.

Japanese Language and Culture Studies Course is a one-year training course aiming to further educate international students enrolled in Japanese language and culture departments in their home countries in the language, culture and the state of affairs in Japan.

Hokkaido University Short Term Exchange Program (HUSTEP) is a program in which lessons are basically provided in English to international students received in accordance with agreements concluded between HU and overseas universities.



◀ Mr. Justin Eugene HOYT making a toast

On August 5, 2005, the Completion Ceremony was held and hosted by the International Student Center.

Twenty-one students from sixteen countries, who enrolled in April of this year, completed **the Intensive Japanese Language Course**.

Thirteen students from nine countries, who were admitted in October of last year, completed **the Japanese Language and Culture Studies Course**.

Twenty-seven students from nineteen Exchange Agreement Universities, who enrolled in October of last year, completed **HUSTEP**.

Each and every student was handed a completion certificate from Takeshi Kishinami, Vice-President and Director, the International Student Center in front of the watchful eyes of their families and guests. During the subsequent celebrations, graduates enjoyed talking with their instructors and international students from all the courses boosted the festive atmosphere by sharing their fond memories while studying the Japanese language at HU. Although they felt the sorrow of parting with their instructors and friends, the celebration came to a successful close.





Meeting with Foreign Teachers

Aiming to discuss the services that are to be provided to international students and foreign researchers and international strategy at Hokkaido University (HU), an informal meeting was held with a number of foreign teachers, the President, the Vice-President in Charge of International Affairs and the Executive Assistant attending on September 30, 2005.

President Nakamura, Vice-President Kishinami, Prof. Kobayakawa, Executive Assistant, Prof. Shing-Jen Chen (Graduate School of Education), Prof. Jian Ping Gong (Graduate School of Science), Prof. Anthony Edgar Backhouse (International Student Center), Associate Prof. Joo Young Cha (Field Science Center for Northern Biosphere), Dr. Boris M. Golman, an assistant (Graduate School of Engineering) and several others attended the meeting and exchanged opinions actively.

The foreign teachers in attendance pointed out the importance of recognizing HU's own unique characteristics and also expressed other valuable opinions about HU's international activities for the future.



▲ Brisk opinion exchanges

Major opinions

- Horizontal ties:** networking of teachers
Exercising ingenuity for curriculum development: instruction in communication and essay writing in English
- Use of volunteers:** utilizing local residents, people who have experience in studying abroad and the like
- Off-campus support:** housing placement service and support for alien registration, signing insurance contracts, opening bank accounts, and so on



Siberian Mammoth Exhibition

At the exhibition held in the Hokkaido University Museum from July 2 to August 27, 2005, more than fifty invaluable mammoth specimens, rare stoneware from the glacial age and numerous other exhibits were displayed. In addition, the mystery behind the extinction of mammoths was pursued with explanations of the latest research results. Those who saw the buttocks voiced various opinions, such as "It is a specimen of significant value" and "I was able to view it more carefully than at EXPO 2005 Aichi Japan." The many attending elementary students and the conversations they had with their parents made for an impressive scene.

On August 30, the 200,000th visitor to the exhibition, an elementary school boy, was handed a special honorary diploma and mementos from the museum director. He said, with a smile, that he enjoyed the exhibition and that he wanted to study at Hokkaido University (HU) in the future.



▲ Director Fujita (left) and Prof. Fukuda (right) cutting ribbon with local elementary school students

The buttocks of a mammoth



With skin, hair and organs remaining intact in a dried condition, this specimen is unparalleled in the world and therefore invaluable. The protruding tail is approximately half the length of an elephant's tail. The anus is located below the tail and would discharge about 10 kg of dung every day. Discovered on Bol'shoy Lyakhovskiy Island, Russia, in 2003, it was brought to Japan by Nippon Television Network Corporation as an exhibit at EXPO 2005 Aichi Japan. The exhibit has subsequently been put on display to the public at HU thanks to the efforts of Prof. Masami Fukuda, Institute of Low Temperature Science (ILTS).



Comprehensive Partnership

New comprehensive partnership agreement was concluded as follows:

June 24, 2005 North Pacific Bank, Ltd.



▲ Iwao Takamuki, President of the Hokuyo Bank, Ltd.

What is the comprehensive partnership?

“Comprehensive partnership” refers to not only collaboration through technological (research) exchanges, but also wide-ranging collaboration, including personnel exchanges and their development.

Hokkaido University has been rigorously promoting government-industry-academia collaboration.

Conclusion of the Basic Agreement Concerning Partnership and Cooperation with Media Organizations

Hokkaido University (HU) reached a basic agreement with The Asahi Shimbun Company, Hokkaido Television Broadcasting Co., Ltd. and The Hokkaido Shimbun Press on July 20 on “jointly promoting educational and research projects to which HU and each counterparty agree.”

Poplar Project

Partnership and cooperation with
The Asahi Shimbun Company and
Hokkaido Television Broadcasting Co., Ltd.

Specific activities:

- Support for Hokkaido University Initiative for Sustainable Development
- Joint investigation into volcanic activities on the Kuril Islands.

Northern Project

Partnership and cooperation with
The Hokkaido Shimbun Press

Specific activities:

- Research on and analyses of matters that concern communities, including the regional administrative system



Holiday in Hidaka - Exchanges Between International Students and the Community

With this year marking its 15th anniversary, the Holiday in Hidaka exchange project was held in the central Hokkaido town of Hidaka from July 24 to 25, 2005, with the participation of 135 international students and their families from twenty-two countries.

The aims of this exchange project are for international students to have hands-on experience in traditional Japanese festivals, learn local lifestyles and culture by coming in contact with local residents and enlarge Hidaka's circle of friends to include people around the world. The project has been held jointly by the Hidaka National Children's Center since its inception.

In the first event of its kind, international students from four countries explained their traditional ethnic clothing in fluent Japanese. In addition, an entirely female team of students participated in a log-carrying race. Unfortunately, the log proved to be too heavy for them to move forward. The team managed to cross the finish line with the help of some male students, evoking laughter from the town residents.

The weather was fine on both days, and the participants were able to promote friendly exchanges with local residents and cement friendships through the festivals and various events held amid Hidaka's magnificent natural surrounds.



▲ Explanation of native costumes



▲ Traditional dance parade



▲ Log-carrying race



Orientation Before Going Abroad to Study

An orientation session was held for students scheduled to participate in exchange programs at Exchange Agreement Universities on July 29, 2005.

Mamoru Kobayakawa, Executive Assistant, encouraged students to go abroad to study by telling stories about some of the personal blunders he committed while studying abroad with them.

Students listened in earnest to detailed explanations regarding precautions for studying abroad.

Study Abroad



▲ Mamoru Kobayakawa, Executive Assistant of the Executive Office of International Affairs



After the orientation, students introduced themselves to each other and held an informal discussions session while enjoying drinks and snacks in an amicable atmosphere.

Thirty students will be participating in foreign exchange programs this year. The size is more than double the number from the last fiscal year.

We will continue to hold orientation sessions for potential students wanting to study abroad approximately once a month to promote overseas study as a whole.



▲ Kumi Kono, Chief of Student Exchange Office



▲ Shin Kawashima, Associate Professor of Faculty of Public Policy



A Message from an HUSTEP Exchange Student



▲ Aki Moilanen from the University of Oulu

live, Keiteki ryo, the dormitory has actually been one of the more pleasant surprises because of the wholly different culture compared to dormitories in Finland. The place feels *alive* because of the multitude of colorful events throughout the year and because of the hearty *itterasshai* and *okaerinasai* whenever I leave or return.

There are only a few things I miss, and most of them food: what I would pay to get my hands on some proper *lenkkimakkara*, rye bread, or, the recent 'specialty' of Oulu: cheap pizza!

Having only visited Honshu before, when I arrived in Sapporo a couple of months ago, I was surprised how different Hokkaido was. I spent my first few days inside the campus area, and I was also surprised at how *similar* it seemed to my *home country*: the open areas, forests, fields, the large amount of people on bicycles, and, the cool and refreshing autumn weather. For a while, it was only the mountains in the horizon that reminded me I was not in Finland. But, after leaving the campus, exploring the city on foot and climbing the Television Tower, I was struck by the fact that Sapporo is, after all, larger than any city in my country.

Perhaps because of the similarities (in appearance, at least!), I have not had any trouble accustoming to life in Sapporo. Despite the hearty chuckles (sometimes pitiful ones) I hear from my Japanese acquaintances when mentioning where I



▲ Enjoying a game of go



▲ Sumo wrestling



▲ Tea ceremony



COE Programs Series 3 Center for the Study of Cultural and Ecological Foundations of the Mind (CEFOM/21)

Our CEFOM/21 program is unique among the 20 similar programs awarded grants in the general area of humanities nationwide in fiscal year 2002.

(1) Research / Education focusing strategy

Many programs share the research strategy that emphasizes “integration” of a wide range of topics, theories, and methodologies. However, this is not our research strategy. Rather, we focus on the issue that we consider most important in the area of humanities and social sciences over the next few decades that is the elucidation of the psychological mechanisms that enable us to create, build and maintain a society.

Our mission is to collect the scientific foundation for the construction of a new, scientific conception of human nature.



▲ Shot of a seminar

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

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



▲ Project Leader Prof. Toshio Yamagishi

(2) International Center of Excellence

We aim to establish an international center of excellence that promotes new understandings of the relationship between the human mind and society. We also aspire to establish a training program for future researchers who seek ways to assimilate research in the human and social sciences.

The following research projects are currently being carried out at CEFOM/21:

- The mind that creates a society
- The mind as an adaptive tool
- The generation of norms
- Mind and culture mediated by social institutions

Please visit the following website for more details: <http://lynx.let.hokudai.ac.jp/COE21/index.html>

At a laboratory ▼▶





Graduate School Introduction Series 3 Graduate School of Fisheries Sciences / Faculty of Fisheries Sciences / School of Fisheries Sciences

100 Years of Fisheries and Fisheries Sciences

The Faculty of Fisheries Sciences will celebrate its centenary in 2007, marking 100 years since the establishment. Approximately 13,000 outstanding students have graduated over the years to go on to work in a wide variety of fields.

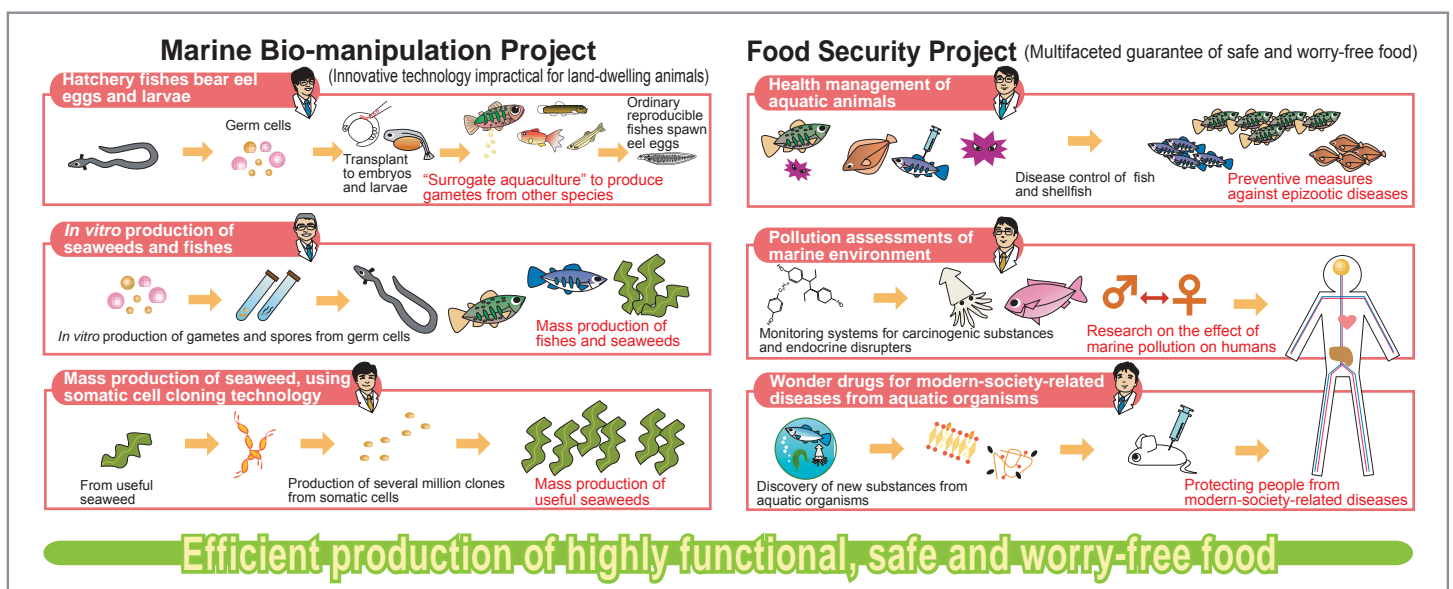
In 2000, the school was the only one to take the initiative in research on the fisheries industry.

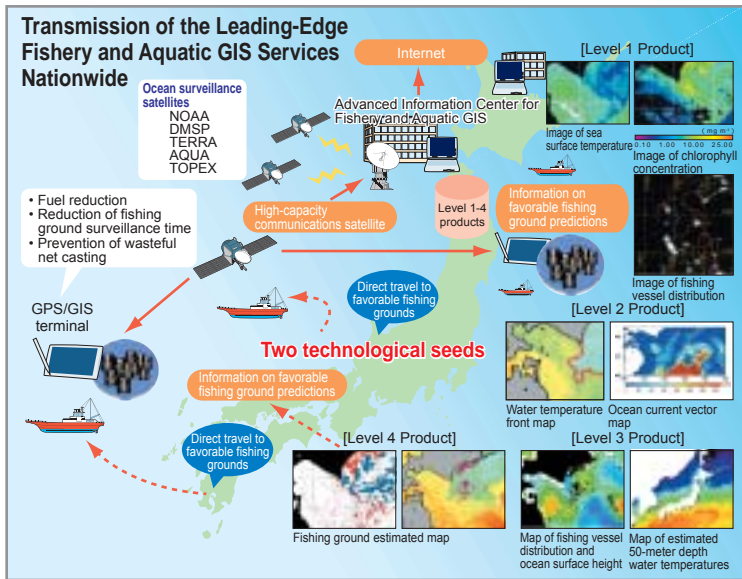
Paving the way for other departments at Hokkaido University, the School established a research institute in April 2005 to create the various arms of the University's Fisheries Department and provide a wealth of research education.

Formation of a World-class Research and Education Base

In 2004, The Marine Bio-Manipulation Frontier for Food Production was adopted by the Graduate School for the category of Innovative Academic Fields of the 21st Century COE Program. Numerous industries are anticipating world-class results from this large project.

We at the Faculty of Fisheries Sciences are fulfilling our social and academic commitments by making every possible effort to develop new technologies and to train superior graduates who will doubtless make valuable contributions to the international community.





The Effect of Collective Wisdom on Regional Society

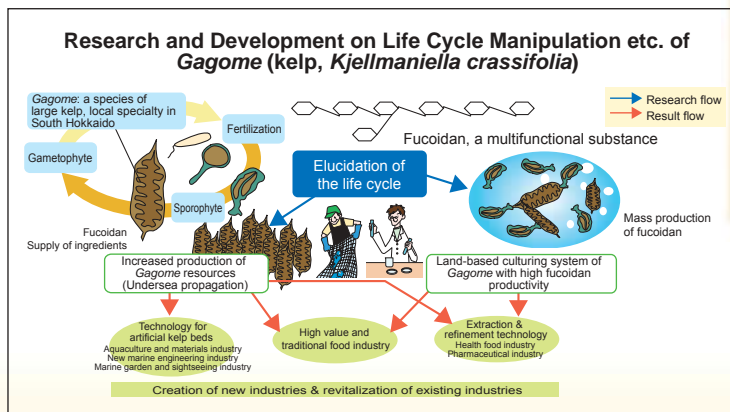
With the Faculty of Fisheries Sciences forming the core of academic, business, and governmental collaboration in Hakodate, various projects are currently underway to revitalize the local industry.

This concentration of educational and research power allows the university to cooperate with regional industries in creating a superior setting for academic development. This cooperation will ultimately lead to new industries, which will be of immense benefit to society.

Message for the Future

Located in the regional hub of Hakodate, the university plays a large role in contributing to regional industries as a world-class education and research facility.

As with any university of this magnitude, we have the responsibility to provide details of all research, education, and social contributions. The Faculty of Fisheries Sciences is continually advancing its academic base to meet the ever-changing needs of society and education. As long as the Graduate School of Fisheries Sciences and the Faculty of Fisheries have a target to work towards, they will not be content with the *status quo*.





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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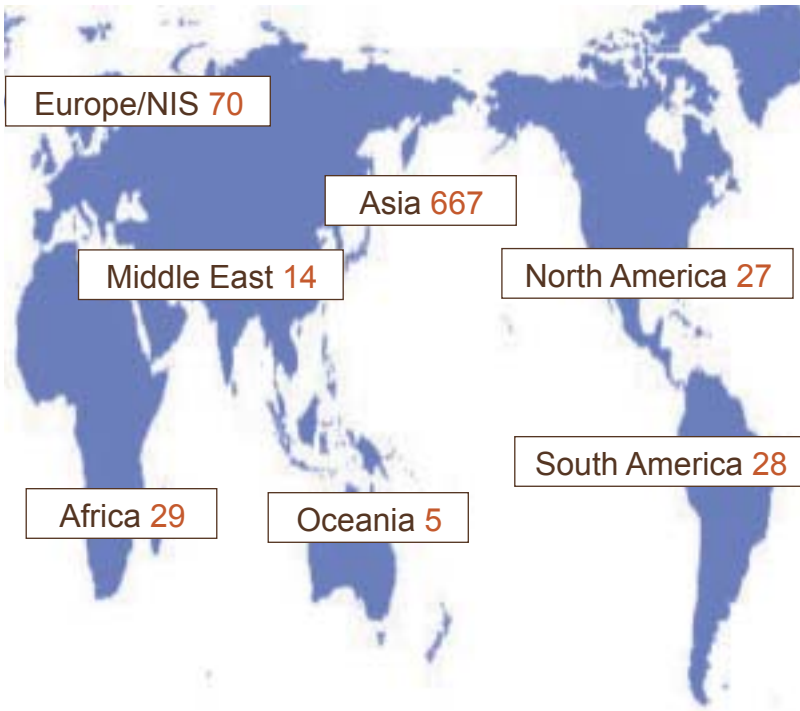
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Hokkaido University Today

840 international students from 76 countries as of November 1, 2005



Letters	125
Education	20
Law	78
Economics	57
Science	44
Medicine	42
Dental Medicine	14
Pharmaceutical Sciences	7
Engineering	149
Agriculture	101
Veterinary Medicine	17
Fisheries Sciences	42
Environmental Earth Science	37
International Media and Communication	24
Information Science and Technology	33
Others (Research Institute, etc.)	50
Total	840