



Hokkaido University Newsletter

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HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY

▲Hokkaido University Communication Mark
newly designed by Taku Sato (→ See page 5)



Activity by HUISD* International Symposium on Sustainable Development

*About HUISD

Aspiring to become a more international university, Hokkaido University launched the new "Hokkaido University Initiative for Sustainable Development (HUISD)" project in 2005. The headquarters responsible for this project was established, with the expectation of strengthening the foundation for HU's internationalization policy to be fulfilled in five years' time by March 2009 (FY 2008).
(→ See page 3)

Hokkaido University initiates a symposium in summer 2006 to contribute the realization of sustainable development. We invite speakers over the world and create a platform on which researchers and educators, from various disciplines, gather and discuss our future.

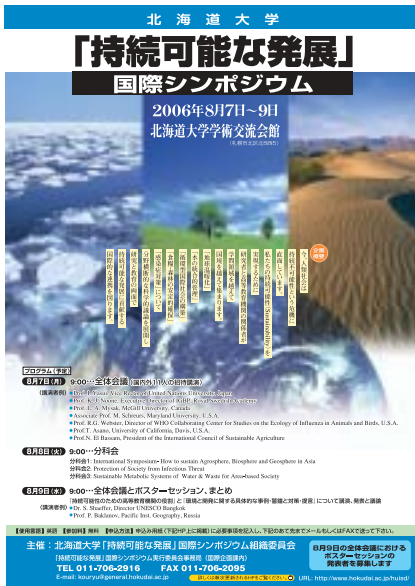
Human beings are currently facing a variety of crises, e.g. deterioration of the global environment, energy shortages, food shortages and global warming. All of these crises concern the survival of human beings and the sustainability of human society.

Hokkaido University has enough track record and accumulation of expertise to respond to international demands in extensive academic fields that constitute the foundation of sustainability. The representative academic fields are "Global Warming," "Integrated Water Management," "Establishment of a Recycle-oriented International Community," "Stabilized Securement of Food and Forest" and "Measures Against Zoonosis." These fields require competence in research, education and international cooperation. We are honored to host an international symposium on "sustainable development" with our initiatives in these areas. We hope this symposium will promote international collaboration in both education and research by transcending academic, national and regional boundaries.

For further information:

<http://www.hokudai.ac.jp/huisd/symposium.html>

<http://www.hokudai.ac.jp/huisd/en/symposium.html>



Hokkaido University International Symposium on Sustainable Development

Date: August 7 (Mon.) – 9 (Wed.), 2006

Venue: Hokkaido University Conference Hall

Expected number of attendants: 300 (including those who from our partner universities)



▲ Analyzing properties of pathogenic microbes and resulting vaccines



▲ Sea of Okhotsk covered by sea ice



Activity by HUISD
 Hokkaido University Sustainability Science Forum
 “Future of Humanity and Global Environment”
 – From the Forests and Sea in the North –

Hokkaido University and the Asahi Shimbun Company, which is one of the biggest news distributing companies, will hold a two-day forum in summer 2006. This forum is aiming to provide opportunity for people to think about Sustainable Development. Research projects in Hokkaido University have been bringing to the fore the fact that nature’s potential holds the key to realizing sustainable development. The forum aims to highlight the roles that the natural environment and people of Hokkaido can play for sustainability of the earth. Many famous individuals closely associated with Hokkaido, such as Mamoru Mohri (an astronaut graduated from Hokkaido University), So Kuramoto (Screenwriter living in Hokkaido), as well as Professors of Hokkaido University will discuss our sustainable future.

● **August 5 (Saturday) in Tokyo – Yurakucho Asahi Hall**

HU presentation “Sustainability that is explored through environmental technology”

Introducing recent world trends in environmental technology & the latest research results from HU in an easily comprehensible manner

Keynote speaker: *Motoyuki Suzuki (President of the Central Environment Council)*

Symposium

“Future of Humanity and Global Environment” – From the Forests and Sea in the North –

Introducing the roles that the nature of northern regions, such as Hokkaido and Okhotsk, play in global environment in an easy-to-understand manner

Keynote speaker: *So Kuramoto (screenwriter)*

● **August 6 (Sunday) in Sapporo – Hokkaido University Conference Hall**

Forum

“Future of Humanity and Global Environment” – In the Northern Area of Japan –

Exploring collaborative ways for researchers and citizens loving Hokkaido to tackle the sustainability crisis in the northern area of Japan.

Keynote speaker: *Mamoru Mohri (astronaut)*



▲Asahi Shimbun (22 & 24/06/2006)



▲Asahi Shimbun (16/06/2006)



From HUISD Secretariat: What HUISD Tries to Achieve

Hokkaido University Initiative on Sustainable Development (HUISD) was established in November 2005. Professor Takeo Hondo at the Institute of Low Temperature Science has been appointed as Global Manager, and two Project Planners responsible for practical business have been appointed from outside the university (Riyuki Takemura and Masatomo Toyoda). This team will promote internationalization of Hokkaido University in cooperation with the other members of the International Affairs Division.

The single phrase “internationalization of universities” actually involves extensive areas and diverse approaches. Our first target is to strengthen our presence in the area of Sustainable Development (SD). We intend to implement strategies concerning research, education and social contribution, by focusing on enhancements of functions in the following four areas:

- (1) international research partnership
- (2) international education partnership;
- (3) international cooperation, public relations and brand equity; and
- (4) comprehensive support (services) for international exchanges.



▲HUISD official pamphlet

We are expected to create a model for the university’s internationalization in the SD area by March 2010. The model is to lead subsequent projects in other areas.

The details and our official pamphlet are available at: <http://www.hokudai.ac.jp/huisd/>

Our challenge in 2006 is to host a science forum for citizens and an international symposium as specified.

(See page 1 & 2)



▲Members of HUISD

Hokkaido University Beijing Office Open



▲President Nakamura, delivering a speech at the Opening Ceremony

We opened our Beijing Office on April 1 as our first university-wide liaison office overseas. The Opening Ceremony was held on May 8 in a large conference room in Resource Building, which is also home to the office, and attended by more than 150 people, including President Nakamura, Vice-President Saeki, Vice-President Kishinami, Dr. Suwa, Dean of the Graduate School of Agriculture, Mr. Suzuki, Director of the Beijing Office and nineteen other HU representatives in addition to representatives from the Embassy of Japan in China, Japanese academic institutions and companies in Beijing, our partner institutions, alumni and so forth. Compared with previous opening ceremonies for the overseas offices of other Japanese universities, ours can only be said to have been an unprecedented and grand event.

The Beijing Office was established with the aim of collecting and providing information that is intended to promote student and researcher exchanges

between HU and Chinese universities and institutions, support the Hokkaido University Alumni Association's activities and facilitate industry-academia collaborative efforts that involve universities and other institutions in China. Located in a building that is adjacent to Peking University in Zhongguancun, an area of Beijing that is characterized by a concentration of universities and other academic institutions, the office also features functional facilities, such as conference rooms of various sizes that we share with other associations and business offices in the building.

This office serves as HU's "window of international exchanges" that is opened to China, and exchanges within a variety of fields in China are expected to become increasingly dynamic through this window.



▲Building where the Beijing Office is located



▲Preview of the Beijing Office



▲Press conference in Beijing



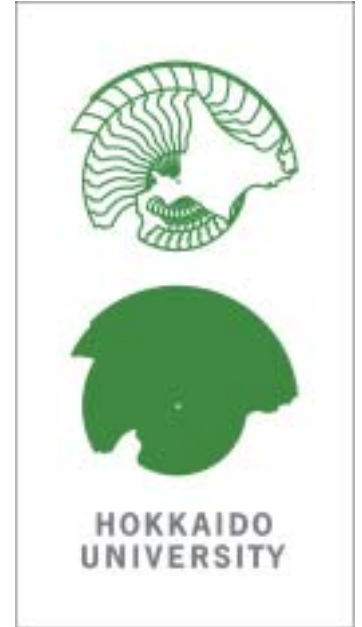
Hokkaido University Adapted Communication Mark

Hokkaido University (HU) has created a “Communication Mark” as part of its publicity activities to enhance HU’s brand image. This new symbol will be used when planning and merchandizing the university’s original goods to actively promote HU’s distinguishing characteristics. Taku Sato, who is one of the most famous graphic designers in Japan and has been creating lots of fine works, designed the new insignia.

The series of trails of Hokkaido rotated 130° indicates 130 anniversary of HU’s foundation. The rotation symbolizes ‘Idea,’ and the track of the rotation expresses ‘Knowledge’.

The existing symbol, which was modeled after the trillium, will also be used as before in printed materials related to HU (university catalogues, faculty brochures, as a letterhead, etc.) and websites, as well as on HU’s original goods in combination with the Communication Mark.

Communication Mark ►
designed by Taku Sato



Stamp Rally Involving Visit to Historical Facilities at Hokkaido University Commenced



The Hokkaido University Museum has begun a stamp rally to widely introduce Hokkaido University and related facilities of Sapporo Agricultural College and to attract more visitors.

The Hokkaido University (HU) campus, 1,760,000 m² in area, is located in the center of Sapporo. In addition to the educational and research facilities, there is a series of historical monuments (“Site of Old Village”), a virgin forest and a group of buildings of cultural importance (“Model Barn”). The campus, where elements of nature and history are united with research and

academic life, is familiarly referred to by many citizens as an “eco-campus.”

We hope that not only citizens but also HU students and faculty members will use this opportunity to become familiar with the campus facilities and HU’s history, thereby feeling the potential, spirit and tradition underlying the university, a repository of academic achievements. Information regarding the stamp rally is also available at our website:

<http://www.museum.hokudai.ac.jp/stampRally/s-rally.html>.



▲Booklet for the Stamp Rally





Intensive Japanese Language Course Entrance Ceremony



▲Entrance Ceremony attendees

The Entrance Ceremony for the Intensive Japanese Language Course was held on April 11 (Tuesday), 2006, at the International Student Center. Twenty-one students from 19 countries enrolled in the program participated. During the ceremony, all of the freshmen introduced themselves and stated their aspirations for their time in Japan after an announcement by Takeshi Kishinami, Director of the International Student Center.

Before the Entrance Ceremony, the International Student Center led an orientation event that introduced and explained clerical procedures and other details about the campus so that the new students could quickly become acclimatized to their new environment.

On April 22 (Saturday), a campus tour for freshmen was held with the cooperation of student volunteers, who guided them around the campus while explaining how to use University Library, Health Administration Center, the Hokkaido University Museum and other facilities.



▲International students enthusiastically listening to a speech



▲Vice-President Kishinami giving an address



Orientation for Studying Abroad

The Executive Office of International Affairs and the International Student Center (ISC) held a meeting on May 10 (Wednesday) at the center's meeting room to explain this year's short-term language training programs. In the opening speech, ISC Director Kishinami stressed the significance of studying abroad and encouraged participants to use these short-term programs as a stepping stone for future long-term overseas study. Subsequently, the Student Exchange Office explained the short-term language program scheduled for this summer at Portland State University and the University of Hawaii in the U.S. Then Hokkaido University (HU) Co-op gave an account of its own short-term language program, and two ex-participants from this program and two students, one of whom studied at Portland State University and the other at the University of Hawaii last spring, described their own experiences overseas.

Participants in the orientation attentively listened to the presentations given by former participants who are also around the age.

The Executive Office of International Affairs and the International Student Center are actively providing information by organizing regular sessions that focus on overseas study programs and explanatory meetings for each program (like this one) to help students feel more familiar with these programs. The Student Exchange Office welcomes inquiries about studying abroad.



▲The venue for the briefing session



▲Kumi Kono, Chief of Student Exchange Office



Message from a Student: The Culture of HUSTEP



▲Mr. Jones

Life at Hokkaido University isn't all about studying Japanese day in and day out. Everyone mentions the "huge plan" they had prior to coming to Japan, which typically consisted of learning a billion kanji every day, never speaking in their native tongue, avoiding speakers of our native tongue, and doing a wide range of other things we all dreamed of doing prior to coming to Sapporo.

However, the reality of the situation began to set in shortly after arriving here. Due to the close proximity of our classes at the International Student Center, we began forging close friendships among our classmates who came from different regions of the world. Learning became more than just focusing on Japanese culture, but also about the different cultures of our classmates. We began to realize that we were getting much more out of this exchange than we originally considered, and were happy to have this chance even if it broke several of the "rules" we had set for ourselves.

On top of that, we also had the chance to obtain many of our initial Japanese oriented goals in various ways. Ranging from regular meetings with our advisors and their students, joining activity clubs, and doing language exchanges, to traveling around to the various points of interests in Sapporo and beyond, we've all managed to find ways to immerse ourselves in the culture here at Hokkaido University and Japan in general.

All said and done, the hardest part about this exchange is returning home. We've all had such a great time getting involved in the various aspects of daily life here in Japan, and it's hard to let go of such a huge life changing experience. At the very least, we'll go home having realized our dream of experiencing Japan.

Brian Christopher Coulter JONES, Faculty of Engineering
(from University of Alaska Fairbanks)



▲In front of the Osaka Castle



▲With friends in the Campus



COE Programs Series 5 Making a Discipline of Slavic Eurasian Studies: Meso-areas and Globalization

Hokkaido University (HU) has deliberately maintained and developed a research framework to comprehensively study the former socialist block by consistently regarding it as the Slavic Eurasian areas even for the period after the end of the Cold War. The Slavic Research Center (SRC) has played a leading role in promoting this framework, organizing biannual international symposia, running a website, publishing academic journals, books, materials etc. Based on these activities, which are globally reputed, the SRC has launched the 21st Century Center of Excellence (COE) Program for research and education in these areas. With this program, the SRC intends to propose analytical methods for its pioneering studies pertinent to the age of globalization.

The goal of this program is to present a new framework for perceiving the Slavic Eurasian areas (former Soviet and East European areas) and Eurasia as a whole in order to be the world leader in establishing Slavic Eurasian studies as a new discipline. This program also aims to contribute to overall innovations in regional studies by proposing a new analytical concept called the “meso-area,” which accounts for the openness and inter-connectedness of each region.

Each area in Slavic Eurasia, pulled from the outside by neighboring areas amid the wave of globalization, is being reorganized as a meso-area, such as Far East and Siberia, Central Eurasia and Eastern Europe. The borders separating the inside and outside of each meso-area have become fluid, causing a variety of conflicts related to ethnic divisions and resources. We recognize today’s Slavic Eurasian areas as a group of meso-areas where the cohesive power of the former socialist system and the centrifugal force from the outside world struggle with each other.



▲Dr. Pravda, a world-leading scholar of Russian studies, the University of Oxford, appraised the symposium and the idea of meso-areas initiated by SRC as “timely” and “at the forefront of global research trends.”



▲Prof. Ieda, program leader



At ICCEES World Congress, 2005 Berlin, ► the research findings of the program were delivered at the panels carried by SRC.

◀ The International Symposium on Ethnic and Minority Problems (Budapest, 2004) was organized by Prof. Ieda, the program leader, to analyze the multi-tiered regional recognitions in Eastern Europe based on the idea of meso-areas, and it received prominent coverage in the local media.



▲This program puts an emphasis on fostering young scholars, and for this aim SRC invites graduate and postdoctoral students nationwide as COE scholarship students or COE research fellows.



Graduate School Introduction Series 5 Graduate School of Economics and Business Administration



▲ Graduate School of Economics and Business Administration

Since being founded as the Graduate School of Economics in 1953, the Graduate School of Economics and Business Administration has been engaged in research and education in the fields of economics and business administration and has sent many brilliant individuals into the world. As a result of being reorganized in 2000, this faculty's curriculum and research systems now center on the graduate program. In 2005, the Graduate School of Economics and Business Administration established the Division of Accounting (Accounting School) to train public accountants and other accounting specialists.

The Graduate School of Economics and Business Administration is currently facing two problems. One of them relates to research.

The role of economics and business administration has become increasingly important in today's Japan. For example, these disciplines explore problems related to business cycle, public finance, financial problems, social security (pensions, healthcare, etc.), employment, business administration, accounting and other areas fundamental to social life. Therefore, we should free ourselves from narrow concepts of conventional research and endeavor to develop economics and business administration applicable to real problems, by clarifying the mechanisms at work in actual economic activities. The other problem the graduate school faces relates to education. We are required to nurture prominent experts, while also continuously fostering researchers that are active in front lines.

The Graduate School of Economics and Business Administration is now actively challenging these problems. In terms of the problem related to research, we are endeavoring to promote research in the fields of economics and business administration that helps solve various real problems while continuing to promote academic research within the traditional framework. We are also organizing joint seminars regularly with Yonsei and Yeungnam universities in South Korea, both Hokkaido University's partner schools, to develop common perspectives to solve economic problems exclusive to East Asia and to promote the development of economic theories. To address the educational challenges, we founded the Division of Accounting (Accounting School) for the specialized training of public accountants, a profession in short supply in Japan. The Graduate School of Economics and Business Administration is determined to promote these research and educational activities to further enhance research and to contribute more positively to society.



▲ "Economic Development in Korea and Japan" – Theory and Its Application – Joint International Seminar of Yonsei University and Hokkaido University (Sapporo, 2005)



▲ The Third Joint Seminar of Yeungnam University and Hokkaido University (Sapporo, 2005)





Workshop Between Hokkaido and South Africa Held

A workshop to explore opportunities for skills development by cooperation between local government, private sector, and universities in Hokkaido and South Africa in biotechnology, information and communication technology, advanced and new materials, nanotechnology and infectious diseases was held on June 20, 2006 at Hokkaido University.

His Excellency Dr. B.S. Ngubane, the Ambassador of South Africa in Japan, together with 17 delegation members from South Africa attended the workshop.



▲Prof. Tateo Shimozawa, Hokkaido University



▲Dr. Ben Ngubane, Ambassador, Republic of South Africa



▲Dr. Olive Shisana, CEO, Human Sciences Research Council, Republic of South Africa



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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