



Hokkaido University Newsletter

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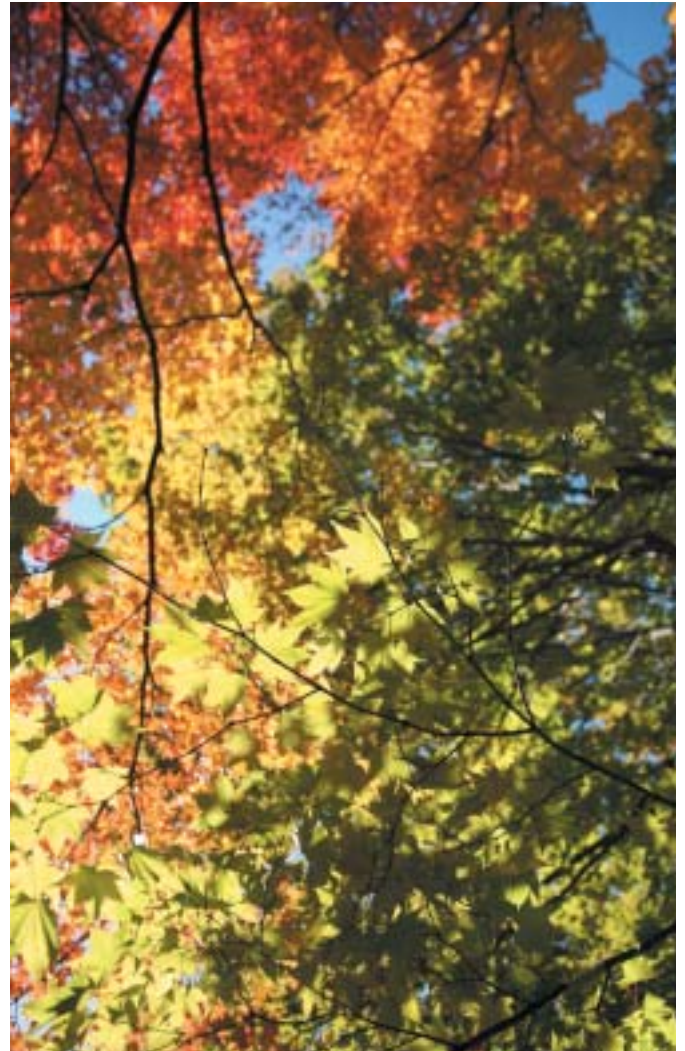


Photo by Kimihiro Ito
(Hokkaido University Photo Club)



Completion of the International Student Center's Intensive Japanese Language Course, Japanese Language and Culture Studies Program and Hokkaido University Short-Term Exchange Program (HUSTEP)

The Closing Ceremony for students who completed the International Student Center's Intensive Japanese Language Course, Japanese Language and Culture Studies Program and Hokkaido University Short-Term Exchange Program (HUSTEP) was held at the Clark Memorial Student Center at 4:00 p.m. on August 4 (Fri.).

The Intensive Japanese Language Course is a six-month training course designed to enable international students recommended by their respective embassies to develop their understanding and proficiency in Japanese before they enroll at graduate schools. Twenty-one students from 19 countries who began the course in April 2006 completed the course on this day. Seventeen of them will enroll in HU's graduate schools and the remaining four in other universities in October.

The two HU researchers who took the course were also present at the Closing Ceremony of the Intensive Japanese Language Course.

The Japanese Language and Culture Studies Program refers to a one-year training course intended to teach the Japanese language and culture as well as the state of affairs in Japan to undergraduate international students who are enrolled in departments that provide education concerning the Japanese language and culture in their respective countries. Eighteen students from 12 countries who took the course in October 2005 completed the course. They are the 25th-term graduates from this course.

Established in October 1997, the HUSTEP aims to provide international students from Exchange Agreement Students with an opportunity to study courses offered in English. Thirty-one students from 21 Exchange Agreement Schools who enrolled in October 2005 attended the Closing Ceremony.

During the Closing Ceremony, each student received his or her completion certificate from Dr. Takeshi Kishinami, Director of the International Student Center, under the watchful eyes of guests and instructors, which was then followed by the Director's congratulatory speech. The Ceremony was a memorable event for the students.

After the Closing Ceremony, a celebration was held at the lounge of the International Student Center. With the toast proposed by Dr. Okada, Dean of the School of Law, students began conversing with their instructors and guests. During the party, international students who represented their respective courses enlivened the atmosphere by sharing their memories of pleasant campus life, including their Japanese language lessons. With a pep talk from Dr. Koshiba, Dean of the Graduate School of Information Science and Technology, the celebration was brought to a close and the students reluctantly parted with their teachers and friends.



▲ Intensive Japanese Language Course trainees



▲ Japanese Language and Culture Studies Program trainees



▲ Hokkaido University Short-Term Exchange Program (HUSTEP) students



Activity by HUISD* The Hokudai Network for Global Sustainability Derived from SD Symposium in Summer 2006

The Hokkaido University International Symposium on Sustainable Development was the first multidisciplinary international meeting of its kind, bringing together educators of higher educational institutes and researchers together to share their views on sustainable development of the world. Around 950 educators and researchers from 19 different countries and regions, representing fields as diverse as Earth Science, Ecology, Veterinary, Engineering, Political Science, Education and more, gathered for three days in Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan on August 7-9, 2006.

The Symposium ended with proposals made for the creation of a network, named, the "Hokudai Network for Global Sustainability." ('Hokudai' is a very popular nickname for HU in Japan.) The purpose of the Network is to accelerate education and research on Sustainable Development by sharing ideas and information through the internet, therefore increasing exposure of its methods and increasing opportunities for collaborative activities. The information will be available soon at the following website.

Hokudai Network for Global Network: [http://www.hokudai.ac.jp/huisd/en/Partner Universities' contribution to Symposium](http://www.hokudai.ac.jp/huisd/en/Partner%20Universities%20contribution%20to%20Symposium)

Thirteen partner universities sent their faculty members to the Hokkaido University International Symposium on Sustainable Development with eight of them making posters and fliers to assist their respective institution. Their contribution made the symposium fruitful in academic terms, and enhanced our students' interests on exchange programs between partner schools.

*About HUISD

Aspiring to become a more international university, Hokkaido University launched the new "Hokkaido University Initiative for Sustainable Development (HUISD)" project in 2005. A headquarter 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).



▲Panel discussion



▲Poster session



▲Partner university introduction corner

Many Thanks to:

(Alphabetical order)

Chonbuk National University (The Republic of Korea)
 Chungnam National University (The Republic of Korea)
 Institute National Polytechnique de Grenoble (The Republic of France)
 Nankai University (The People's Republic of China)
 Portland State University (U.S.A.)
 Pukyong National University (The Republic of Korea)
 Seoul National University (The Republic of Korea)
 The University of Adelaide (Australia)
 The University of Alberta (Canada)
 The University of Auckland (New Zealand)
 Université Joseph Fourier (The Republic of France)
 University of Geneva (Swiss Confederation)
 University of Hawai'i (U.S.A.)
 University of Massachusetts (U.S.A.)
 University of Science and Technology Beijing (The People's Republic of China)
 Yeungnam University (The Republic of Korea)



Hokkaido University 2006 Summer Session Program Completed

Hokkaido University's 2006 Summer Session Program was held for four weeks from June 26 (Mon.) through July 21 (Fri.).

This is an exchange program between Hokkaido University and its Partner Universities in the U.S.A. and Canada that has been held in alternate years since 1978.

With this year marking its 15th anniversary, we received 40 students, five directors and assistants from the University of Massachusetts, Portland State University and the University of Alaska in the U.S.A. as well as the University of Alberta in Canada.

A variety of events were held during the program including Japanese language lessons, English lectures on Japanese politics, the economy, natural science, literature and education. Hands-on experiences in Japanese culture, including flower arrangement, ink painting and *bon* dancing, were also offered, as well as a campus tour, a sightseeing tour of the city (Mt. Okura, Hokkaido Shrine, Moerenuma Park), a visit to a local elementary school, a sightseeing trip to the outside of the city (including an excursion to Otaru and Noboribetsu Date Jidaimura, which is a historical theme park focusing on the Edo Period of Japan) and a student exchange program (soft volleyball competition) jointly hosted by the Schools of Dental Medicine and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

During the Closing Ceremony held on July 21 (Fri.), all participants received their completion certificates from Vice President Takeshi Kishinami, and then the representative of each participating university delivered a speech in both English and Japanese; sharing their memories of the one-month stay. The host families with whom the students stayed for four weeks and others attended the Farewell Party that followed the Completion Ceremony, along with students from Hokkaido University, who had become their friends. They all enjoyed the party, relaxing with each other and looking back on the experience with happy memories.

▼ Visiting Shiseikan Elementary School;
in front of students



▲ International students experiencing flower
arrangements



▲ At Noboribetsu Date Jidaimura



▲ Making straw sandals



“Holiday in Hidaka,” an Exchange Project between International Students and Local Residents

The Holiday in Hidaka, an exchange project that marked its 16th anniversary this year, was held in Hidaka Town for two days on July 22 (Sat.) and 23 (Sun.) with the participation of 130 international students and their families from 12 countries.

The aims of this exchange project, which is held under the auspices of the HU International Student Center, 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 first day began with the “Meeting for Encounters” and participants practiced traditional dance in order to participate in the “Hidaka Jukon Festival” parade, which was held in the town. They then enjoyed marching to the rhythm of the dance song together with local citizens, working up a good sweat.

Stalls stood side by side at Hidaka Mountain Villa Park, where the festival was held. The traditional work songs of “Kiyari” and “Sangaku Drums” were jointly performed; town citizens who participated in the Yosakoi SORAN Festival also demonstrated their dancing and local children played drums. Following the entertainment, HU’s international students performed their folk dances and songs on stage, to which local residents gave rounds of appreciative applause.



▲Practicing a traditional Japanese dance



▲International students participating in a log cutting competition



▲Log-carrying race

At the closing of the first day, fireworks were set off on the bank of the Saru River and the students squealed for joy with the light flowers blooming in the darkness.

On the second day, the students enjoyed a variety of games. They appeared to enjoy a competition on the speed of cutting logs although they had a hard time getting accustomed to the saws.

They then formed five five-member teams to participate in a log-carrying race and one of them finished in second place. They were all smiles without showing any trace of fatigue.

In the “Farewell Party” held at the end of the second day, a student from El Salvador delivered words of appreciation on behalf of all the participants to those who planned and prepared this project. Blessed with fine weather on both days, the participants enjoyed friendly exchanges with local residents and deepened their friendship amongst themselves through festivals and events held in the midst of the natural splendor of Hidaka.

The Faculty of Fisheries Sciences Accepting Trainees from Pukyong National University (Korea)



▲Trainees observing cultured kelp



▲Trainees interacting with the nature of southern Hokkaido

The Faculty of Fisheries Sciences received 20 students from Pukyong National University as trainees for four weeks from July 31 (Mon.) through August 25 (Fri.) and offered them a training program with the cooperation of researchers and international students from South Korea.

Pukyong National University, one of HU's Partner Universities, initiated a program of dispatching its students abroad for a short period of time when they are selected for the regional university revitalization project of the Ministry of Education of South Korea, to have them receive lessons on foreign languages, culture and so forth. The Faculty of Fisheries Sciences accepted trainees again this year following last year.

The trainees received 30 lessons (120 minutes per lesson) that encompassed specialized basic subjects, i.e. marine production system science, fishery stock enhancement science, fisheries oceanography and marine food science, lectures on the Japanese language (divided into two courses: elementary and intermediate course and advanced course) and the study of Japanese history and culture during exercises in which the Japanese language is spoken. This way, they learned the basics of marine science and the Japanese language.

They also went on a two-day trip on August 14 (Mon.) and 15 (Tue.). On the first day, they observed the fishery science facilities in Hakodate and enjoyed local nature and history at the Onuma Quasi-National Park, one of the best-known tourist spots in Southern Hokkaido. On the second and last day, they engaged in experiments and practical training all day long at the Usujiri Fisheries Station, HU's waterfront facility.

As the training coincided with the Hakodate Port Festival, the trainees were also able to enjoy the local festival.

The students and researchers from South Korea, who rendered support to the entire program, including interpreter services, realized their role in promoting international exchanges.



▲Pleasantly enjoying deepening exchanges



Offering Waste Treatment and Disposal Training for Chongqing City with Yen Loans (ODA) to China



▲Trainees touring a compost facility

Hokkaido University received 10 university faculty members from Chongqing and provided them with research training concerning waste treatment and disposal for four weeks from July 10 through August 4 as part of the Japanese Government's Yen Loan Projects to China.

This training was brought to fruition after our one and a half years of preparations following a proposal-based survey for special training course development under the "Chongqing Higher Education Project," which we proposed and were consigned to by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). Waste treatment and disposal have posed serious problems in Chongqing, in particular, and elsewhere in China, where the rate of urbanization is sup-

posedly the world's highest. The training was provided primarily for a couple of reasons. Firstly, it is of the utmost importance for university instructors in applicable fields to learn about waste treatment, disposal and management, such as waste separation and collection, landfills, various types of recycling technologies and so forth, to improve their qualifications and devise educational curricula. Secondly, to establish the comprehensive waste treatment and disposal system for which China is currently striving, it is necessary for us to provide a training course where participants can comprehensively learn about waste issues in both theory and practice. This training consisted of lectures (theory) in which the trainees used the Chinese edition of a textbook and inspections at relevant facilities and organizations (practice), coupled with stories of success and failure in Japan. Dr. Toshihiro Matsuo, Dr. Juzo Matsuda, and Dr. Fumikazu Yoshida were main lecturers in this course. Moreover, lectures that reviewed the ODA to China were also offered in cooperation with the JBIC with the aim of having the trainees better understand the fact that their training was made possible with yen loans. All the trainees, apparently in high spirits, received their completion certificates from Dr. Takeshi Kishinami, Vice President, at the Closing Ceremony held on August 4.

Furthermore, since we consider deepening cross-cultural exchanges between Japan and China as part of the training, we incorporated opportunities for the trainees to experience playing the *koto* (thirteen-stringed Japanese harp), Japanese tea ceremony and other aspects of Japanese culture. The trainees also stayed at hot spring inns and went on a tour that included the Toyohira River Fireworks Festival among other events. These were well received by the trainees.

It is expected that the results of this training will be utilized in the educational fields of waste treatment and disposal as well as recycling in Chongqing, help support measures adopted by the government and ultimately facilitate the cooperative relations in research between Hokkaido University and universities in Chongqing and elsewhere in China.

Based on our experience, we are committed to planning and implementing similar projects in the future as part of our new endeavor to make social and international contributions, which is one of our university's philosophies.



▲Completion certificate conferment ceremony

Sapporo Dental College (SDC)



▲Sapporo Dental College & Hospital

Do you know where the Sapporo Dental College is? It is surprisingly, not in Sapporo city, but located in a suburb of Dhaka city, the Capital of Bangladesh.

Four members who had completed their PhD from Hokkaido University, Graduate School of Dental Medicine, founded the SDC in 2000. They first founded a dental clinic named Sapporo Dental Care, which provided the people of Bangladesh with the latest technologies in dental care. They then proceeded to establish a new dental college to fulfill their ambitions in Dental Medicine.

At present, three thousand dental surgeons are giving oral care to a population of more than one hundred and forty million; such a large amount of patients treated by so few dentists. There was also not enough infrastructure in place for the practical training of pre and postgraduate dental students in Bangladesh.

The four main members and their associates, who were also dentists that had acquired a doctoral degree from Hokkaido University, raised funds by themselves to realize their dream of establishing a Dental College. Five years after their decision to proceed with the project, they founded the Dental College and made all their dreams come true.

The College was named the Sapporo Dental College, from their fruitful time at Hokkaido University, along with the bright memories of Sapporo city.

The founders have been training dental students, practically in a Japanese style, while doing collaborative research work with their Alma Mater, Graduate School of Dental Medicine, Hokkaido University.

The College has been producing dentists of distinguished talent, year after year.

As of June 2006, the College has 150 graduates practicing dentistry.

Sapporo Dental College and Hospital

Principal: Prof. Ali Ashraf

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Founders



Dr. Md. Abadul Hannan
Vice principal of SDC
(1983-1988)



Dr. Mohiuddin Ahmed
Professor
(1987-1992)



Dr. A. Assad-Uz-Zaman
Professor
(1990-1996)



Dr. Musharraf Uddin Chowdhury
Professor
(1989-1995)

*Figures within the parentheses above represent the duration of their stay at Hokkaido University.



Essay by Researcher of Hokkaido University Research Training Program Supported by JBIC*



▲Mr. Chen Daqing, Professor,
Yangtze University, Hubei

Research and Life Experience at Hokkaido University

I came to beautiful Hokkaido University in February this year. I am serving as a postdoctoral fellow at Professor Kotaro Yamamoto's laboratory, which specializes in biological function in the Graduate School of Science's Division of Biological Sciences.

My research life here reminds me of important things I usually tend to forget: interpersonal relations; succeeding in research; cherishing every moment of our life; being diligent and so on.

Dr. Yamamoto is benevolent and calm, and an outstanding researcher who is knowledgeable about academic fields. He has been attentive to my private life, as well, and offered me superb conditions for my research activities. He generously gave me an opportunity to participate in the Congress of the International Society for Plant Molecular Biology in Adelaide, Australia, where I enhanced my knowledge through my brief encounter with leading-edge research.

Immediately after I arrived in Sapporo, Ms. Akiko Sugawara from the International Planning Section of the International Academic Department lent me a helping hand despite her busy schedule. Thanks to her kindness, I could become accustomed to my new environment right away. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation to her.

Although I was very busy, I managed to find time to take a Japanese language course at the International Student Center, where I not only learned the fact that the Japanese and Chinese languages have much in common, but also got acquainted with many people from around the world.

In August this year, my wife and son visited me in Sapporo. We traveled around Japan, following in the footsteps of Japan's development: the beautiful mountains and rivers in the Japanese archipelago; the ancient architecture of Kyoto; the modern hustle and bustle of Osaka; historical remnants of Nara; China Town in Yokohama; and the modern skyscrapers of Tokyo. Shinkansen trains that travel as if they were flying reminded us how fast Japan had achieved its development. Shiretoko, a World Natural Heritage site, made us feel that the natural environment of Japan is in perfect harmony with its beauty.

Although I have lived in Japan only for a short time, I keenly feel that Japanese people are diligent, knowledgeable and good at learning. I believe that it is the Japanese national character that has made this nation wealthy and beautiful. I have also become strongly aware of the need for China and Japan to forge friendly relationships with each other as neighbors as we have a long history of cultural exchange.

Mr. Chen Daqing
October 20, 2006

* About Hokkaido University Research Training Program Supported by JBIC

With the aim of helping the capacity development of Chinese researchers, this program has been promoted by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) as one of the important pillars of its yen loan policy toward China. It serves to assist in the strengthening of partnerships and joint research activities between the industrial worlds, universities and communities of Japan and China. Hokkaido University also receives individual researchers from China through this program.



▲At the Farewell Party

COE Programs Series 6 Neo-Science of Natural History



▲ Prof. Hisatake Okada,
Project Leader

The salient characteristic of the 21st Century COE (Center of Excellence) Program “Neo-Science of Natural History” is the union of the nation’s two largest academic/research groups, one conducting research in the geosciences and the other on biodiversity, to create a novel cross-disciplinary field.

This COE Program promotes vigorous research and educational programs with the objective of a comprehensive understanding of natural diversity and the evolution of life in relation to the Earth’s various spheres (lithosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, and biosphere) that sustain life in general and human life in particular.

Our primary goal is to create a modern scientific and academic discipline, the “Neo-Science of Natural History,” – derived from the natural history of the past by the integration of various sub-fields of the earth sciences (e.g., geochemistry, geophysics, stratigraphy) and life sciences (e.g., taxonomy, evolutionary biology). In addition to continuing already well-established research programs that study the earth’s surface and biodiversity, the COE has been introducing new research programs, both independent and participatory, aimed at advancing the research begun by several international science initiatives such as the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP), the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI), and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). It is notable that our COE Program Leader served as the first President of the Board of Governors of IODP Management International, Inc. (IODP-MI), which is responsible for program-wide scientific planning. Furthermore, the Japan Office of IODP-MI is located at Hokkaido University.

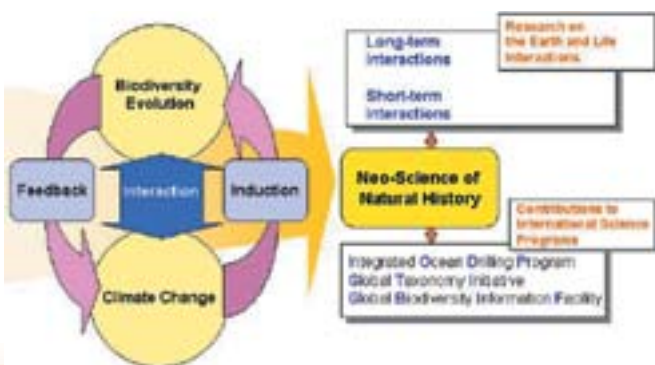
We will continue to develop research programs concerning the origin and evolution of the diversity of the Earth’s surface under the initiatives of COE members. We will also strive to contribute significantly to Asia and the rest of the world by training international taxonomists, taking advantage of the enormous quantity of specimens accumulated at HU and an environment highly conducive to research and education.



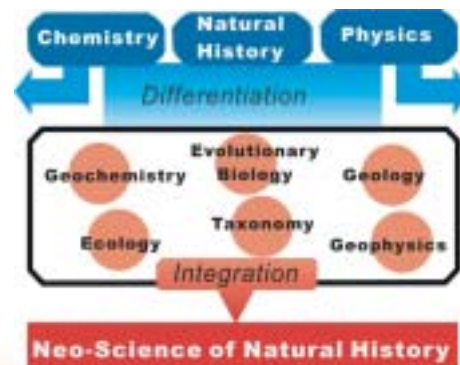
▲ Organization of and research on samples by taxonomists of the COE



▲ “Chikyu,” a riser drilling vessel, for the IODP project in which the COE cooperates



▲ Summary of research plan of the COE for the Neo-Science of Natural History.



▲ Conceptual diagram depicting the integration of various subfields of natural science into the Neo-Science of Natural History.



Graduate School Introduction Series 6

Graduate School of Medicine / School of Medicine



▲ Graduate School of Medicine /
School of Medicine

The School of Medicine, which had been established at Hokkaido University in 1919, was reorganized as the Graduate School of Medicine and the School of Medicine in 2000 with an intensified research function.

The Graduate School of Medicine has one hundred and thirty-seven research and educational staff members, who work energetically to produce a high number of research results in an academic atmosphere, where they are active in their respective international medical research fields. The Master's Course (two years) and Doctoral Course (four years) are offered for graduates. The Master's Course is structured to develop researchers working in medical and interdisciplinary research fields. The Graduate School of Medicine has promoted international co-

operation in research fields, concluding academic exchange agreements with the graduate schools of medicine at Peking Union Medical College (China), Harbin Medical University (China) and the University of Ottawa (Canada). To handle the increasing work associated with international exchanges, the International Relation Office was settled in August 2006. A full-time staff member is allocated at the office. The staff members of the International Relation Office give them advice and information for their comfortable campus life, and will provide a pleasant environment where overseas students and researchers can talk freely with local medical students and researchers.

The School of Medicine consists of the Departments of Medical Sciences and Health Sciences. The Department of Medical Sciences offers a six-year course. Students take the Liberal Arts Course for 1.5 years, Basic Medical Course for one year, Basic Clinical Course for 1.5 years and Practical Training Course for two years. Graduates from this department become medical doctors after passing the National Examination for Medical Practitioners. The staff members of the Graduate School of Medicine double the number of the Department of Medical Sciences.

The Department of Health Sciences was established as part of the School of Medicine in October 2003 and has admitted students since the following year. The department offers a four-year course in five majors: nursing, radiological technology, medical technology, physical therapy and occupational therapy. Graduates from this department who pass the National Examinations in their specialist fields become nurses, radiological technologists, clinical technologists, physical therapists and occupational therapists. The Department of Health Sciences has 70 staff members engaging in research and education.

As of November 2006, 35 international students from Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe are enrolled in the Graduate School of Medicine and the School of Medicine. It is expected the number of international students will further increase in the future.



▲Hokkaido University Hospital



▲Exchanges with visitors

