



# Hokkaido University Newsletter

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Photo by Yumiko Gotoh  
(Hokkaido University Photo Club)



## The 9th Joint Symposium between Hokkaido University and Seoul National University



▲HU President Mutsuo Nakamura delivering welcome remarks



▲SNU President Jang-Moo Lee delivering a special address

The 9th Joint Symposium between Seoul National University and Hokkaido University was held at Hokkaido Kouseinenkin Kaikan and Hokkaido University (January 24-26, February 1-4, and February 23, 24).

Hokkaido University (HU) and Seoul National University (SNU) concluded an Inter-University Exchange Agreement in 1997, and the 1st Joint Symposium was held in Sapporo in 1998 in commemoration of the conclusion of the agreement. The Joint Symposium has since been held every year on a reciprocal basis, and this year marks the 9th Joint Symposium.

In addition to the keynote addresses delivered at the plenary session under the theme of “Sustainable Development and University,” parallel sessions were held in the fields of science, medical science, engineering, low temperature science, geoenvironmental science and so forth, in which research results were presented and research exchange sessions by graduate students were held.

During the plenary session at Hokkaido Kouseinenkin Kaikan on the second day of the symposium, President Mutsuo Nakamura’s welcome remarks and SNU President Jang-Moo Lee’s special address were followed by the keynote address of Prof. Takeo Hondoh, Global Manager of the HU Initiative for Sustainable Development, which was entitled “How to Share Scientific Understandings on Sustainable Development.” Prof. Jung Wk Kim from the SNU Graduate School of Environmental Studies then delivered a keynote address entitled “The Environmental Impact of Industrialization in East Asia and Strategies toward Sustainable Development.”

Parallel sessions were held under a record number of 11 themes, in which results of and findings in specialized research activities were presented and information was exchanged.

During the symposium, a total of 528 people participated including 390 people from HU and a record 121 people from SNU. This attests to the fact that HU’s exchanges with SNU have demonstrably been facilitated as one of HU’s most rigorous inter-university exchanges with the two Exchange Agreement Universities.



▲Keynote address by Prof. Takeo Hondoh, HU



▲Keynote address by Prof. Jung Wk Kim, SNU



In the wake of the 9th symposium, exchange programs have improved qualitatively and quantitatively, thus enhancing expectations that educational and research exchanges between the two universities will be broadened and their cooperative relationships will continue to thrive.



## Ceremony Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Conclusion of the Inter-University Exchange Agreement with the University of Science and Technology Beijing and the Joint Symposium

The ceremony commemorating the 20th anniversary of the conclusion of the Inter-University Exchange Agreement with the University of Science and Technology Beijing (USTB) and the joint symposium were held at the USTB Conference Center and Metallurgical Engineering School for five days from November 1 through November 5.

USTB and HU concluded their Inter-University Exchange Agreement in 1986, and have since held the joint symposium biennially on a reciprocal basis with this symposium being the 10th held. In addition, USTB and the HU Graduate School of Engineering established international collaboration offices to expedite research cooperation and exchange activities.

Approximately 35 HU faculty members and students travelled to Beijing to participate in the ceremony, including Vice President Takeshi Kishinami, Prof. Takashi Mikami, Dean of the Graduate School of Engineering, and Prof. Ken Suzuki, Director of Hokkaido University Beijing Office. Distinguished guests included Mr. Keiji Ide, Minister at the Embassy of Japan in China, Mr. Hideyuki Yamaguchi, Chief Representative of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Beijing Office, Prof. Li TieMin, Ex-General Consul of the Consulate of Sapporo of People's Republic of China, and Prof. Xu Yongji, Assistant of the Director-General of the International Cooperation and Communication Division of Education Ministry of the People's Republic of China. Participating from USTB were Prof. Luo Weidong, Chancellor of USTB, President Xu Jinwu and Vice President Zhang Yue among other prominent figures. In the presence of these eminent figures, a signing ceremony was held to renew both the exchange agreement and the agreement on international collaboration office. Concurrently, a memorandum concerning the increase of the annual upper limit of short-term exchange students from two to five was inked with the aim of further expediting exchanges between the two universities. In addition, students from HU handed complete works of Japanese literature and other mementoes to their counterparts at USTB, and President Xu presented a self-written commemorative book to HU.



▲ Vice President Kishinami receiving a scroll picture drawn by the USTB President



During the academic symposium that followed the ceremony, 13 HU graduate students held a poster session, made presentations and enjoyed lively exchanges with their counterparts at USTB. Even after the symposium was concluded, students from both universities enthusiastically engaged in discussions.

As we reach the 20th anniversary, it is highly expected that educational and research exchanges between the two universities will expand their horizons, leading to ever-prospering inter-university exchanges.



## Hokkaido University Online Open University



▲Prof. Nishibori, Deputy Director,  
HU Information Initiative Center, talking online



▲Students sending messages to other sites

An event aimed at introducing HU online to Chinese students interested in studying at HU was held on November 21. Using a teleconference system, a presentation of the university by a professor and students was simultaneously broadcasted at three locations on a network connecting the HU Beijing Office, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, and HU Sapporo Campus.

In addition to the introductory presentation of HU and a slideshow depicting the four seasons at HU, Chinese students currently studying at HU and Chinese alumni of HU who have been working in Japan shared their experiences.

At the exchange event, numerous questions were fielded from Beijing and Shanghai. The participants appeared to have unlimited enthusiasm in their interest in the prerequisite qualifications for studying at HU, preparations for their majors, living expenses, part-time jobs, housing, differences in university study and more, and everyone came away much better informed. We wish to continue to introduce our university worldwide.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our profound appreciation to the students in Beijing and Shanghai, Chinese students studying at HU and Chinese alumni of HU for having participated in this event.



▲Communication conducted at three sites



## WHO-UNAIDS/Hokudai Regional Consultation on: **Expanding Research Capacity and Accelerating HIV Vaccine Development in Asia**



The Graduate School of the Medicine's Department of Global Health and Epidemiology held the WHO-UNAIDS/Hokudai Regional Consultation on: "Expanding Research Capacity and Accelerating HIV Vaccine Development in Asia" at the HU School of Medicine from October 30 through November 1.

This conference was jointly held by the World Health Organization (WHO), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and Hokkaido University under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), AIDS Vaccine Development

Association (AVDA) and other organizations amidst the AIDS pandemic in Asia, which has created an urgent need for the development of effective vaccines. Fifty-five prominent scientists and representatives of organizations participated from more than 10 countries, including the U.S., France and Asian countries. They analysed the status quo of global AIDS vaccine development and promoted the networking of relevant institutions and persons responsible for facilitating future R&D activities. The conference was brought to a close by adopting a resolution that the "Sapporo Declaration" concerning AIDS vaccine development in Asia shall be submitted to an international conference to be held in Australia at a later date.

Although two decades have already passed since the cause of AIDS, i.e. HIV, was discovered and scientists have energetically engaged in research activities worldwide, we have yet to develop any effective vaccines. Amidst the increasing urgency to develop vaccines, Japan and HU took the initiative for providing a forum for those concerned with AIDS vaccine development to assemble from around the world and hold in-depth discussions.

### **Participating Countries:**

Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Australia, China, South Korea, Japan, U.S.A., France, etc.

Hokkaido University has launched the Hokkaido University Initiative for Sustainable Development, and has been accelerating researches and education toward achieving a sustainable society. One of representative fields through which HU has the strength and competency to contribute toward a sustainable society is 'infectious disease control', which covers such diseases as HIV/AIDS, bird flu and the Ebola virus. Further information is available at <http://www.hokudai.ac.jp/huisd/en>.



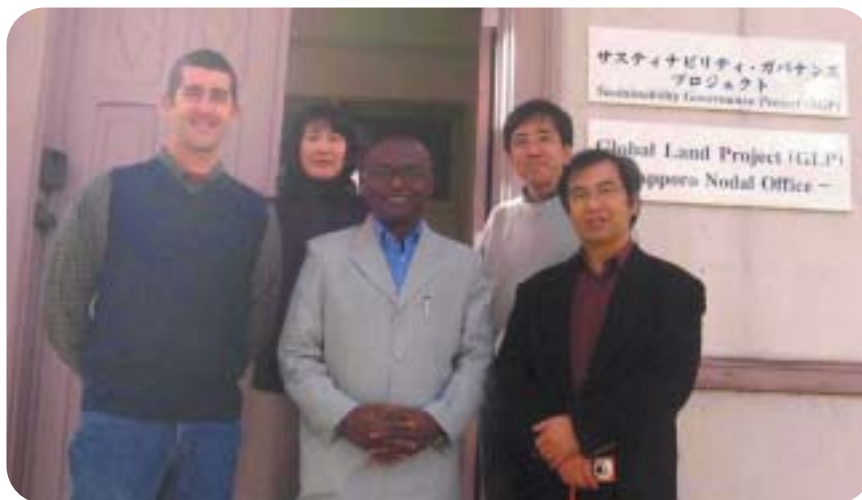
▲ President Nakamura giving an address



▲ Dr. Saladin Osmanov, Acting Coordinator, WHO-UNAIDS HIV Vaccine Initiative



## Dr. Ademola Braimoh Inaugurated as Executive Director of the Global Land Project Sapporo Nodal Office



▲Dr. Braimoh and staff: At the entrance of the GLP Sapporo Nodal Office

On November 1, 2006, Dr. Ademola Braimoh was inaugurated as Executive Director of the Global Land Project (GLP) Sapporo Nodal Office, established in Hokkaido University.

The GLP refers to an international project developed as a joint core project of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) and International Human Dimensions Programme on global environmental change (IHDP) organized under the umbrella of the International Council for Science (ICSU), and has been implemented since 2006. Regarding land as the result of interactions between humans and nature, this project aims to provide a scientific base from which the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and various nations can make policy decisions by investigating how globalization and other issues in human society affect, via land use, ecosystem services for human society as well as regional and global environments and by elucidating the land's feedbacks to human social systems.

As a result of worldwide public recruitment, Dr. Braimoh was selected as the most qualified person for the role of Executive Director. Being a geographer, he has been involved in research on land use and water management in the tropical zone as a research fellow of the United Nations University – Institute of Advanced Studies and has contributed to the Land-Use and Land-Cover Change (LUCC), an international project.

With Dr. Braimoh at the helm, the GLP Sapporo Nodal Office is committed to discharging its liaison, coordination and public relations functions with the aim of clarifying the vulnerability, resilience and sustainability of land systems.

**Global Land Project Sapporo Nodal Office:**  
<http://www.glp.hokudai.ac.jp>



▲Executive Director Ademola Braimoh receiving an appointment letter



## HU Alumni's Today – Dr. Abu Solomon Edet in Nigeria – Special Essay Contributed by Hidenori Takahashi, Director of the Hokkaido Institute of Hydro-Climate



▲Dr. Abu Solomon Edet  
Present posts: Head of Conservation Services National Commission for Museums and Monuments, National Museum, Nigeria; Curator in-Charge, National Museum of Unity, Enugu

Dr. Abu Solomon Edet, who received a Ph.D in environmental earth science in March 2000, was already 44 years old when he was enrolled in the first half of the doctoral course at the Hokkaido University Graduate School of Environmental Earth Science in 1995. Since all his campus mates were approximately 23 years younger than him, he was a similar age to their parents. With his characteristic cheerfulness, however, he readily got accustomed to the atmosphere of his laboratory. With his strong will to conserve the Cross River monoliths in Eastern Nigeria, he brought great success to his difficult fieldwork and thus earned his degree.

Upon returning to his country in March 2000, he embarked on activities to preserve the Cross River monoliths as a conservator for cultural properties at the National Commission for Museums and Monuments in Abuja, the capital, as well as activities to preserve antiquities throughout the country. The National Commission for Museums and Monuments, to which he is affiliated, is an organization under the direct control of Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Tourism, Culture & National Orientation, and supervises the maintenance and management of museums and monuments throughout Nigeria as its name suggests. Dr. Abu Edet was awarded a

bachelor's degree in the conservation science of archaeological relics from the University of London. He was assigned to the aforementioned important position as he is a man who is active internationally and who carries with him practical knowledge of academic research acquired at HU. He acceded to his present post in 2004 and has since been responsible for preserving the antiquities of Nigeria while rigorously developing activities as Curator in-Charge of the National Museum of Enugu, whose jurisdiction covers Eastern Nigeria. Since the National Museum of Enugu also covers the Cross River monoliths, Dr. Abu Edet's lifework, he initiated wholehearted undertakings to preserve them. The midstream of this Cross River is believed to be the cradle of the Bantu people, one of the major races in Africa and is extremely significant as a site of historic importance. Although exactly how old those monoliths are remains unknown due to insufficient archaeological research data, Europeans first witnessed these monoliths enveloped in thick tropical forest, where it was dark even during the daytime, in around 1900. With the subsequent development of transportation systems and population increases, the forest was converted into farmland and most areas surrounding the monoliths were turned into agricultural / weed land.

Therefore, the dry season's glaring sun and frequent wildfires accelerated the damage and deterioration of the monoliths. It was Dr. Abu Edet's thesis that shed light on the scientific mechanism of such damage and deterioration. We wish him continued prosperity and truly hope that his research results at HU will be applied to the preservation of antiquities throughout Africa.



Cross River monoliths ▲▶ under conservation

▲National Museum of Unity, Enugu



## Message from a HUSTEP Student – Life in Hokkaido –



▲ Favourite Japanese food – Okonomiyaki

My name is Bel and I am an exchange student from Australia taking part in the HUSTEP program this year, and loving it. When I first arrived in Sapporo I was feeling quite nervous and excited all at once as I really couldn't imagine what life in Sapporo and studying in HU would be like. However as I settled in, began to study and get to know those around me I could quickly see that taking part in the HUSTEP program was going to be both an amazing and challenging adventure.

Life in Sapporo so far has definitely been full of interesting experiences, for example, living and studying with amazingly interesting people from all around the world, tasty local cuisine like miso ramen and soup curry, seeing snow for the first time and just enjoying the beautiful nature of Hokkaido. During Autumn I spent many an hour walking around the HU campus taking photos of the stunning autumn leaves and I am very much looking forward to seeing the cherry blossoms later this year.

A definite highlight so far has been taking part in a cultural exchange in Shakotan, which I was informed about in one of my HUSTEP classes. During the first day of the exchange, myself and the other participants were taken sight-seeing around the Shakotan peninsular and were able to visit incredibly beautiful areas such as Cape Kamui and Shimamui Coast. I can honestly say the scenery I saw there was some of the most beautiful I have ever seen – absolutely stunning! The following day we were taken to local schools and allocated to different classes to teach the students about our countries and learn from them about Japan. This was such a wonderful experience! The students in the class I went to were so friendly and it was fantastic to be able to play games with them, laugh with them and learn from them despite the language barrier.



◀ A view from Mt. Teine

Another highlight has been taking part in a homestay in Teine over New Years which the HU International Student Centre kindly organised for me. During the homestay I was not only able to learn about the various customs which take place during this time of year in Japan but I also got to ski for the first time, taste many different delicious Japanese dishes and enjoy the experience of living with a Japanese family.

Overall I am very thankful for the enjoyable times and things I have been able to learn already during my time studying in HU so far. I am very much looking forward to learning more about the language, people and culture of Japan.



◀ Cooking with kids during the culture exchange program in Shakotan



▲ Beautiful Cape Kamui





## COE Programs Series 7 The Law and Policy of Intellectual Property: Building a New Global Framework



▲Project leader  
Prof. Yoshiyuki Tamura

This program aims to establish next generation of the “Laws and Policies of Intellectual Property” and is training intellectual property law researchers and legal practitioners who would internationally be active.

Unlike ownership rights of tangible objects, intellectual property rights are designed to control information, which can be freely used by anyone and anywhere in a physical sense. Intellectual property system is a legal scheme that artificially endows exclusive rights to information. The conventional jurisprudence of intellectual property, however, has not systematized the whole area of law with a consistent theory that takes the nature of information into consideration.

The “next-generation intellectual property laws and policies” proposes a new interdisciplinary field intended to address these issues.

Our project is guided by following perspectives.

First, we suppose three perspectives in considering the issues: 1) market-oriented, 2) functional and 3) liberty-controlled intellectual property. That is, when we systematize intellectual property law and make proposals about policy issues on intellectual property, we shall make judgments with three viewpoints: 1) the interaction between market and law; 2) role sharing between entities making legal judgments; 3) and securing liberty of private citizens. In this COE program, with these viewpoints in mind, we will make interactive discussions with other fields of law and policy studies; are held and theories are academically developed by combining property right justification theories, public policy issues including human rights, as well as market theories and organization theories in order to create the new jurisprudence of intellectual property that takes information characteristics into consideration.

Furthermore, we will develop the intellectual property jurisprudence into a systematized policy theory and make concrete proposals on practical topics.

Ultimately, this program communicates the above-mentioned to major players in the field of intellectual property laws of future generations.



▲Project member making a presentation at the International Symposium



## Graduate School Introduction Series 7

### Graduate School of Environmental Science / Faculty of Environmental Earth Science

#### Establishment of the Graduate School of Environmental Science on the basis of Hokkaido as its foundation as a research field

The Graduate School of Environmental Science was opened in FY2005 with the aim of conserving the global environment, with the fields of Hokkaido as its foundation. We took the lead in introducing a new type of graduate school with a main focus on the education of students rather than research, which is mainly conducted at the Faculty of Environmental Earth Science. At HU, this approach plays a central role in environmental education based on natural science.



▲ Graduate School of Environmental Science /  
Faculty of Environmental Earth Science

#### Present situation of the global environment

The global environment is undergoing profound changes while ecosystems and the atmosphere, ocean and land all affect each other. As illustrated in Fig. 1, global warming induced by carbon dioxide emissions, ozone depletion caused by CFCs\* and deforestation brought about by development are not independent factors in the deterioration of the environment. Decreased carbon dioxide absorption due to shrinking forestland accelerates global warming in turn. If global warming threatens forests, they adversely affect each other and accelerate each other's changes. This is referred to as a positive feedback.

Although the deep water that circulates throughout the global ocean is formed in the northern North Atlantic, the amount of such water has been on decline due to global warming. Since this weakens the conveyor belt and thus causes climate change on a global scale, the nutrient salt in the sea that supports the growth of phytoplanktons will no longer be transported up to the sea surface. Hence, the Pacific Ocean loses its ability to absorb carbon dioxide.

#### Objectives of the Graduate School's establishment

Concerted multi-disciplinary efforts are required to address global environmental problems, such as global warming. That is, environmental science is an integrative science in the opposite direction of finer disciplines, which has characterized modern civilization. The Graduate School of Environmental Science consists of three majors based on natural science – Earth system science, Biosphere science and Environmental materials science – and the Division of Environmental Science Development, where the above-mentioned majors are integrated to directly tackle environment issues (Fig. 2). Specifically, we will establish an educational system that addresses critical issues such as global warming, an increase in ultraviolet rays due to ozone depletion and environment pollution caused by chemical substances, and mobilize capacities to counteract such issues.

\*CFC: chlorofluorocarbon



### Education accessible to cutting-edge research activities

The Faculty of Environmental Earth Science launched the "Prediction and Avoidance of an Abrupt Change in the Bio-geosphere System," a 21st Century COE Program designed to enhance research and education in cooperation with the Institute of Low Temperature Science HU. An abrupt change in the bio-geosphere system relates to a drastic change that takes the order of 100 years and disable the self-sustaining recovery of environment through mutual impact between ecosystems and atmospheric / oceanic geospheres.

This program attempts to comprehend and predict future prospects of these phenomena through the comparison between cold regions and tropical / temperate zones, from both field observation and modelling, with respect to diversified mutual impacts between ecosystems and geospheres.

### Characteristic educational system

Students at the objective-oriented Division of Environmental Science Development select a subject from global warming, sustainable system development and other important environmental subjects and tackle research activities in which several fields are integrated. Students who belong to the three fundamental fields take each course of each division, promoting new academic development. On the other hand, faculty members may be responsible for more than one subject or course to maximise their expertise. Unlike the conventional courses, we will group students according to their educational goals while faculty members will support the educational system.

Starting in FY 2007, we will initiate "educational collaboration for sustainability" with other graduate schools in HU. Students will study a wide range of academic fields to create a sustainable society by auditing lessons and receiving research guidance at other graduate schools in addition to receiving education at the graduate schools to which they belong. We are committed to training new generation researchers who will strive to realize sustainability through the combination of academic viewpoints.

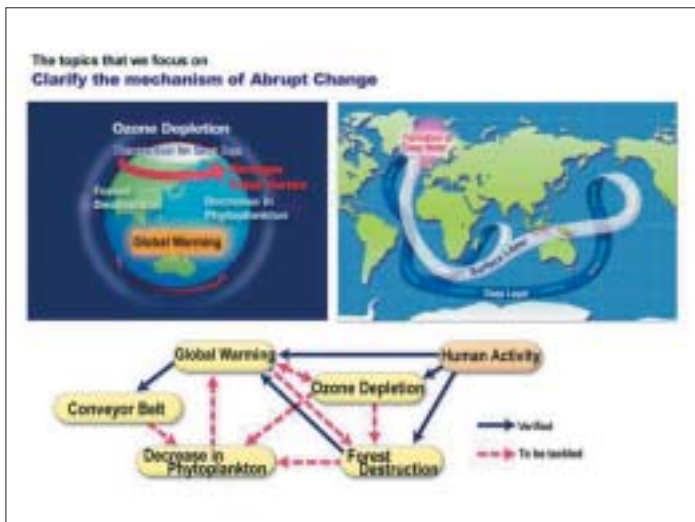


Fig. 1

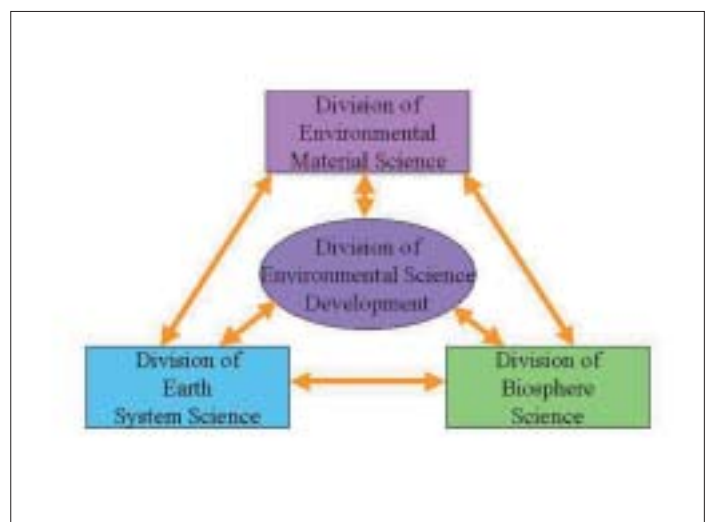


Fig. 2



## Executive and Vice President Hiroshi Saeki Selected as Next President



▲Dr. Hiroshi Saeki,  
Next President of HU

Due to the impending expiration of incumbent President Mutsuo Nakamura's term of office, Dr. Hiroshi Saeki, Executive and Vice President, was selected as the next president after screening candidates.

In conformity with the President Selection Committee Regulations, he was chosen by a vote during the President Selection Committee meeting held on December 7, following the primary recommendations of the candidates, open question and answer sessions and on-campus hearings.

Having devoted himself to the development of such fields as coastal engineering, harbor engineering, ice engineering and cold region marine engineering, Dr. Saeki has been honoured with various world renowned awards, including the Ice Engineering and Technology Award, which is conferred to those who have made remarkable contributions to the development of the field, in 2004 by the International Association of Hydraulic Engineering and Research.

After serving as the Dean of the HU Graduate School of Engineering since April 2001, he assumed his current post of Vice President in charge of education in May 2003, greatly contributing to the promotion of overall educational activities at HU. In the fields of academic organization and administration outside HU, he also takes part in social activities by serving as a member of many organizing committees and advisory councils.

His tenure will be for three years and 11 months from May 1, 2007, through March 31, 2011.

### HU Official Goods Shops

HU's original goods are for sale at the University Goods Shop and the Museum Shop.

The University Goods Shop deals in a wide array of unique products including wooden craftworks made of water oak from the HU Uryu Experimental Forest (research forest) and food products developed in cooperation with private companies. The Museum Shop deals in unique products representing the Desmostylian skeleton exhibited on the third floor of the Hokkaido University Museum. Sales profits from the Museum Shop are appropriated to the fund for museum planning and exhibition.

Please drop by the shops when you come to HU! (Online shopping is only available for domestic customers. We wish to see you at the shop.)



▲University Official Goods Shop

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.

**International Affairs Division, Hokkaido University**

TEL +81-(0)11-706-2334

FAX +81-(0)11-706-2095

Email: [news@general.hokudai.ac.jp](mailto:news@general.hokudai.ac.jp)

## HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY

Kita-8, Nishi-5, Kita-ku, Sapporo 060-0808 JAPAN  
<http://www.hokudai.ac.jp/bureau/e/index-e.html>

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