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### **3. Report of Sustainability Weeks 2009**

# Hokkaido University Sustainability Weeks 2009

A Step Toward the Future to Build a Sustainable Society

## Report



HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY

# Sustainability Weeks 2009 Event List

 Symposium  Public Lecture  Other Events

Date	Title	Organizer
<b>Pre-Events</b>		
Oct.4(Sun)~ 7 (Wed)	2009 Asia Pacific Signal and Information Processing Association Annual Summit and Conference (APSIPA ASC 2009)	Hokkaido University, Global COE Program APSIPA ASC 2009 International Organizing Committee
Oct.11(Sun)~ 14 (Wed)	The 9th SEGJ Int'l Symposium "Imaging and Interpretation - Science and Technology for Sustainable Development -"	The Society of Exploration Geophysicists of Japan (SEGJ), The Australian Society of Exploration Geophysicists (ASEG), European Association of Geoscientists and Engineers (EAGE), Environmental and Engineering Geophysical Society (EEGS), The Korean Society of Earth and Exploration Geophysicists (KSEG), The Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG), Vietnam Association of Geophysicists (VAG), Hokkaido University Faculty of Science Institute of Seismology and Volcanology
Oct.24 (Sat) 、 Nov.2 (Mon)	Students' Propositions of the Green New Deal: The 6th Debate Competition, School of Economics and Business Administration	Hokkaido University Graduate School of Economics and Business Administration
Oct.30 (Fri)~ Nov.3 (Tues)	CLARK THEATER 2009	Hokudai Theater Project Execution Committee 2009
<b>Sustainability Weeks Events</b>		
Nov.1(Sun)	Seminar on Climate Change Policy	Hokkaido Regional Environment Office, Ministry of the Environment, CLARK THEATER 2009, Hokkaido University Sustainable Low-Carbon Society Project
Nov.2 (Mon)	Sustainability Weeks 2009 Opening Symposium Hokkaido University Int'l Symposium on Sustainable Development -Recommendations for Tackling the 5 Challenges of Global Sustainability-	Hokkaido University
Nov.2 (Mon)	From Hokkaido University to the World - Entrance to International Career Paths - "SD on Campus"	Hokkaido University Executive Office on International Affairs
Nov.3 (Tues)	Joint Symposium "Urbanization and Health - Towards the World Health Day, 2010 -"	Department of Global Health and Epidemiology, Hokkaido University Graduate School of Medicine, World Health Organization Kobe Center, University of Geneva, De La Salle University
Nov.3 (Tues)	United Nations University Global Seminar Final Hokkaido Session Future Leaders for a Sustainable Society - Toward the MDGs to be achieved by 2015 -	United Nations University, Hokkaido University
Nov.3 (Tues)	Open Lecture "The 2nd Int'l Symposium on Sentinel Earth"	Hokkaido University, Asian Institute of Technology, University of Alaska, University of Palangkaraya, JAXA
Nov.4 (Wed)~ 5 (Thu)	Int'l Symposium "Toward a Sustainable Low Carbon Society -Green New Deal and Global Change-"	Hokkaido University Sustainable Low-Carbon Society Project
Nov.4 (Wed)~ 5 (Thu)	The 2nd Int'l Symposium on Sentinel Earth -Advanced Utilization Studies of Satellite Data and Imagery Data-	Hokkaido University, Asian Institute of Technology, University of Alaska, University of Palangkaraya, JAXA
Nov.6 (Fri)	Int'l Symposium on "The Impact of Climate Change on Region Specific Systems"	Hokkaido University Global COE Program "Establishment of Center for Integrated Field Environmental Science"
Nov.6 (Fri)	The 2nd Conference of Japanese Society of Ceramides (JSC)	Japanese Society for Ceramides (JSC), Knowledge Cluster Initiative, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology; Hokkaido University Frontier Research Center for Post-genome Science and Technology
Nov.7 (Sat)	Int'l Symposium on "Sustainability Science on Seafood and Ocean Ecosystems Conservation"	Faculty of Fisheries Sciences, Hokkaido University
Nov.7 (Sat)	GAIA SYMPHONY No.5 Screening, and director TATSUMURA's Commentary	Hokkaido University GAIA Project
Nov.7 (Sat)~ 8 (Sun)	Int'l Symposium on Environmental Conservation of the Sea of Okhotsk: Cooperation between Japan, China and Russia	Pan-Okhotsk Research Center, Institute of Low Temperature Science, Hokkaido University; Slavic Research Center, Hokkaido University; Research Institute for Humanity and Nature; New Energy Resources Research Center, Kitami Institute of Technology; Hokkaido Regional Development Bureau; International Science and Technology Center (ISTC); Hokkaido University Initiative for Sustainable Development
Nov.8 (Sun)	Experimental Exhibition: Let's Science!!	Hokusui Science Assist
Nov.9 (Mon)~ 10 (Tues)	ILTS International Symposium "Frontier of Low Temperature Science"	Institute of Low Temperature Science (ILTS), Hokkaido University
Nov.12 (Thu)	Business-Academia-Government Collaboration Seminar on "Developments of Geo-spatial Information and Future World"	Non-profit Organization "Digital Hokkaido", Geographical Survey Institute, Hokkaido Regional Survey Department, Hokkaido University Faculty of Fisheries Sciences, Graduate School of Letters
Nov.12 (Thu)	Int'l Symposium on "Comprehensive University Cooperation for Sustainable Asia between Japan and China"	Hokkaido University Center for Sustainability Science
Nov.13 (Fri)	Symposium on "Asia and Africa Development Aid and Hokkaido University"	Hokkaido University Center for Sustainability Science
Nov.13 (Fri)	Symposium on "Toward Sustainable Industry - Academia Collaboration. -Messages from Strategic Approach of Turin (Torino)-"	Hokkaido University (Center for Innovation and Business Promotion, Graduate School of Information Science and technology, Hokkaido University Initiative for Sustainable Development), Politecnico di Torino
Nov.14 (Sat)	Symposium on "Sharing a Vision of the Future of Japan and Hokkaido after the 'OIL' Peak"	Hokkaido University Center for Sustainability Science
Nov.14 (Sat)	Japan-Korea Open Forum on Future Prospects for a Carbon Neutral Society as Seen from the Stance of Agriculture	Hokkaido University Research Faculty of Agriculture
Nov.14 (Sat)	Open Forum : Collaboration Between the Public and Universities Toward an Earth-Friendly Society	Hokkaido University Global COE Program "Establishment of Center for Integrated Field Environmental Science"
Nov.14 (Sat)~ 15(Sun)	The Report of the Letter Exchange Program Between Cambodian, Indian and Japanese Teenagers	Connecting the world's Children through Communication (CCC)
Nov.15 (Sun)	Int'l Symposium on "Indigenous Peoples and Natural Resources - A View of Sustainable Use -"	Hokkaido University Graduate School of Letters
Nov.15 (Sun)	Int'l Symposium on "Sustainable Development of Society and the Mission of Professions"	Center for Applied Ethics and Philosophy (CAEP), Hokkaido University Graduate School of Letters
Nov.16 (Mon)~ 18(Wed)	Joint Japanese-Finnish Seminar on Northern Environmental Research	Hokkaido University Institute of Low Temperature Science, Research Faculty of Agriculture, Graduate School of Environmental Science, Field Science Center for Northern Biosphere; University of Helsinki; University of Oulu; Arctic Centre, University of Lapland; The Finnish Institute in Japan
<b>Long Term Events</b>		
Nov.2 (Mon)~ 14 (Sat)	4th Fair Trade Fair Presented by YUI	International Cooperation Student Organization YUI
Nov.4 (Wed)~ 13 (Fri)	Experimental Exhibition: Integrative Science Reveals the Past and Future of Lake Toya and the Usu Volcanic Area	The Hokkaido University Museum
<b>Post Events</b>		
Dec.7 (Mon)~ 9 (Wed)	CRC Int'l Symposium on "Innovation Driven by Catalysis-past, present, and future" -dedicated to the 20th anniversary of CRC-	Hokkaido University Catalysis Research Center (CRC)

# Sustainability Weeks 2009

**Sustainability Weeks** is a project

hosted by Hokkaido University (HU)

with the aim of promoting research and education to help create a sustainable society.

The first session was organized in 2007,

and it has since been held every year with the involvement of the entire university.

This year marked the third year of the event, and HU encouraged more young researchers to participate.

The assembly of researchers, educators, students, and citizens

from home and abroad to share and discuss the latest scientific knowledge enabled us

to identify the next steps toward a better future.



## [ Sustainability Weeks 2009 by the Numbers ]

Period : November 1-18, 2009

( Pre-events were held from October 4 - 31, a post-event was held December 7 - 9, 2009. )

Number of Events

33

( Including 4 pre-events, 1 post-event )



Number of Events Hosted by Students 5

Number of Events by Issues

( Some projects are counted in multiple issues )



Climate and Environment Change 19



Technological Innovation and Social Change 16



Biodiversity and Nature Conservation 13



Food, Water and Health 12



Education and Communication 19



Human Rights, Culture and Peace 8

Number of Participants

8,440

( 702 participated from overseas )

Number of Participants from Partner Institutions

16/24\* Countries 28/76\* Partner Institutions

( Of these 2 university presidents and 3 university vice-presidents attended )

\*as of Nov.1, 2009

Number of Website Visitors

25,776

( Period: April 1 to December 9, 2009 )

## Feedback

( questionnaire excerpts )

Sustainability is really important. I hope the event is held in a sustainable way.

I hope HU's efforts will spread on the level of ordinary people.

I eagerly await proposals of specific actions from HU to citizens, universities, business, and government.

I look forward HU's further growth in research, education, and contribution to society as well as more cooperation between professionals that transcend academic discipline.

Please continue HU's research activities to realize a low-carbon society. I personally make an effort to live simply, and I was very impressed with the concept of Sustainability Weeks.

## Opening Symposium

**“International Symposium on Sustainable Development -Recommendations for Tackling the 5 Challenges of Global Sustainability-”**

“The International Symposium on Sustainable Development -Recommendations for Tackling the 5 Challenges of Global Sustainability-” was held to mark the opening of the Sustainability Weeks event. Based on the themes of five particularly pressing issues chosen from among a host of challenges, “Infectious Diseases”, “Integrated Water Management”, “Recycle-oriented Society”, “Securing Food & Forests”, and “Global Warming”, people in various positions gave addresses and engaged in lively exchanges of opinion. Participants included government officials, including some from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, the Ministry of the Environment, and other professionals such as researchers, fishermen, dairy farmer and newspaper reporter.



The venue of the opening symposium



Answering questions from the audience

## First Hokkaido University Sustainability Research Contest

This contest was held with the aims of encouraging students to review their current research programs from the viewpoint of contribution to efforts toward the creation of a sustainable society and producing outstanding individuals who will tackle issues affecting all humanity.

There were 72 Participants from 12 faculties and 4 graduate schools of Hokkaido University. It was a great opportunity for students to exchange their opinions on sustainability beyond their disciplines. Hokkaido University Sustainability Poster Awards were announced at the reception and award ceremony held on the night of the contest.

## United Nations University Global Seminar Final Hokkaido Session

A total of 48 students from nine universities across the nation who wished to contribute to resolving issues facing the international community assembled for an event entitled, “Future Leaders for a Sustainable Society - Toward the MDGs to be achieved by 2015”, and learned about the state of achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) common to humanity. Parallel sessions witnessed lively exchanges of opinion between attendees and lecturers, and participating students were grateful for the opportunity to consider their future career plans by learning directly from those actually involved.



Group photo of the participants



Discussion at a parallel session

## Joint Symposium with Partner Institutions

This year, HU focused on closer cooperation with leading universities around the world with which it has concluded exchange agreements, and welcomed researchers from 28 institutions in 16 countries and regions during the period of the Sustainability Weeks 2009 event. HU held joint symposiums with a variety of institutions including the Asian Institute of Technology (Thailand), the University of Oulu (Finland), the University of Palangka Raya (Indonesia), the Politecnico di Torino (Italy), DeLa Salle University (Philippines), the University of Geneva (Switzerland), and the University of Alaska (U.S.A.).

These gatherings provided opportunities to deepen cooperative relationships throughout the organizations in a variety of fields, including the global environment, health, and partnerships between academia and industry.



Joint-Symposium with Politecnico di Torino  
“Toward Sustainable Industry-Academia Collaboration”



Joint-Symposium with University of Oulu  
“Joint Japanese-Finnish Seminar on Northern Environmental Research”

## University Research Poster Contest



Lively exchanges of opinion



Commemorative photo of award winners with President Saeki

## Promotional Event with Affiliated Universities

University presidents and faculty members from seven overseas partner institutions visiting HU for Sustainability Weeks 2009 gathered together and outlined their individual educational programs regarding sustainable development (SD) and ways students are involved in SD both in and outside the classroom. Many of the participating students said that the event was a valuable experience for them. The gathering was also well-received by partner institutions as the perfect opportunity for them to promote their establishments directly to students, who assembled in greater numbers than the venue could accommodate.



Portland State University's president introduces his institution



A student from a partner institution gives an explanation

## Events Organized by Students

Five student organizations engaging in positive activities from the viewpoint of youth previously selected as Hokudai GENKI Projects participated in the Weeks with sustainability as the main concept. The students planned and implemented various projects including: the installation of a 5 day film, festival, exhibition and sale of fair-trade products, organization of lecture meetings, a debriefing session on assistance for developing nations through exchanges with local children, showing of the Gaia Symphony movie, and planning scientific experiments for elementary school students. A numbers of local residents, students, and researchers attended these events, which were aimed toward the creation of a sustainable future and were run by students – the very people who will lead the next generation. All the events were deemed a great success.



Scientific experiments for elementary school students, "Let's Science"

The exhibition and sale of fair-trade products, "Fair Trade Fair"

## Open Lectures

HU offered a number of outreach programs for the general public to enable ordinary citizens to enjoy participating in programs related to fields of interest to them (such as global warming, energy resources, and technologies for sustainable agriculture), and extensively publicized the results of leading-edge research. These programs were designed with the intent of categorizing information concerning the creation of a sustainable society in today's information-rich world. The approach provided a golden opportunity for participants to learn things they had always wanted to know, and was also a good chance for researchers to listen directly to people's expectations regarding the university.



Open Forum "Collaboration Between the Public and Universities Toward an Earth-Friendly Society"



Many locals enjoyed participating in programs

# Future Activities of Hokkaido University

In order to fulfill the pledges outlined in the Sapporo Sustainability Declaration from the G8 University Summit, Hokkaido University is focused on the four items outlined below.

## 1 Hosting Sustainability Weeks

Each year, Hokkaido University will host the 2–3-week long Sustainability Weeks through which we will contribute toward the creation of a sustainable society by promoting research and education in related areas. During Sustainability Weeks, international symposia, conferences, and open seminars will be conducted. Many specialists from academia, business, industries, and NGOs, as well as students and citizens, gather from all over the world to discuss possible solutions regarding various issues of concern worldwide. Ideas and plans for the forthcoming Sustainability Weeks from October 25, 2010 are now being tendered from the world community.

## 2 Leading the Sustainability Network

“Collaboration” is the keyword when we are facing a problem that cannot be easily solved by a nation or a region alone. Hokkaido University will exercise leadership to build networks with other universities and research institutes, as well as international organizations. Our website, “HU Network for Global Sustainability” transmits information and reports gathered from various institutes within Japan and overseas, and even from our own faculties. Hokkaido University also will collaborate with member institutions of ProSPER.Net, a network of the leading postgraduate educational institutions in Asia and the Pacific region, involved in creating a learning community for education for sustainable development (ESD).



Hokudai Network for Global Sustainability  
<http://www.sustain.hokudai.ac.jp>

## 3 Development of Human Resources for Future Sustainability

In order to develop experts who can cooperatively work on issues commonly faced by all humanity, we provide short training courses for professionals, including technicians, policymakers, educational service providers, and researchers in different parts of the world. The themes of the courses include: prevention of avian influenza, preventive measures for HIV infection, water supply and sewage management in cold climates, waste treatment, and forest ecotourism. Hokkaido University Center for Sustainability Science (CENSUS) has educational programs to train students to develop specialized expertise while fostering an understanding of the importance of creating sustainable societies and the ability to see society's issues from a broader perspective.

## 4 Creating Sustainable Campus

We view the campus of Hokkaido University, which is used and visited by tens of thousands of people each day, as an experimental field to test new models for a sustainable society. We combine results of the most advanced research. The vitality of our students creates a campus that is sustainable in every aspect, including study, research, operation, and daily life. Through this attempt, students of Hokkaido University develop knowledge and skills as well as behavior patterns that are essential in building a sustainable future.

Hokkaido University Initiative for Sustainable Development (HUISD)

Address : North 8, West 5, Kita-ku, Sapporo, Hokkaido, 060-0808, Japan  
TEL: +81-(0)11-706-2093 FAX: +81-(0)11-706-2095 E-mail:office1@sustain.hokudai.ac.jp

For more details and reports on Sustainability Weeks 2009,

<http://www.sustain.hokudai.ac.jp/sw2009/>



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Editor: - Secretariat of Sustainability Weeks, Hokkaido University

Kita 15, Nishi 8, Kita-ku, Sapporo, Hokkaido, JAPAN 060-0815

TEL: +81-11-706-8031 / E-mail: [contact@oia.hokudai.ac.jp](mailto:contact@oia.hokudai.ac.jp)

- Division of International Planning, Institute for International  
Collaboration, Hokkaido University

Kita 15, Nishi 8, Kita-ku, Sapporo, Hokkaido, JAPAN 060-0815

E-mail: [planning@oia.hokudai.ac.jp](mailto:planning@oia.hokudai.ac.jp)

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