HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



SDGs Report

2025

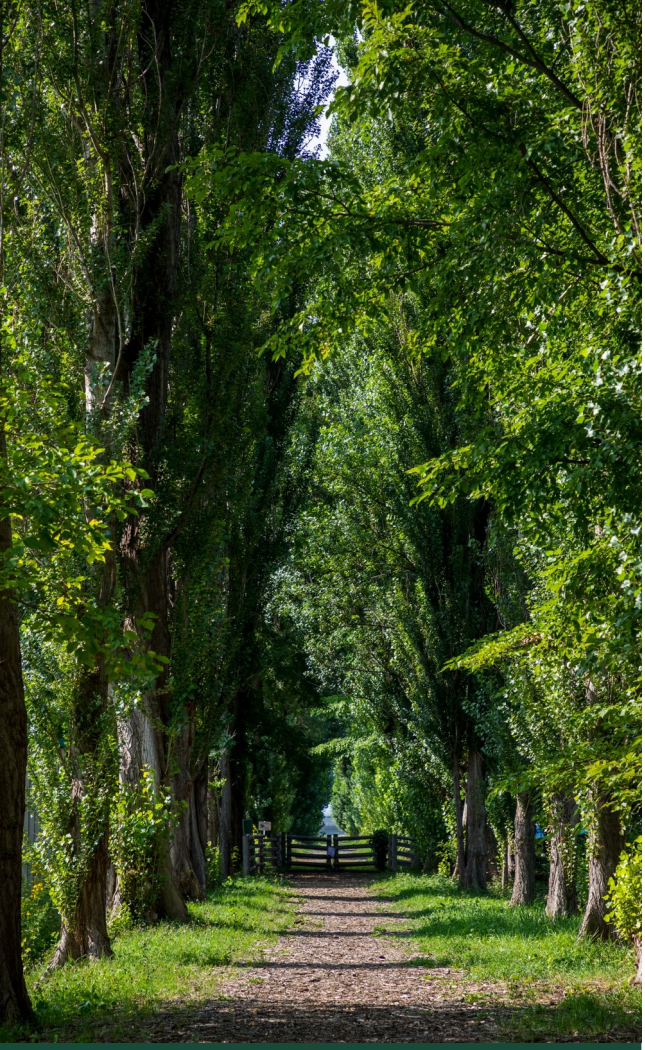
Hokkaido University
Sustainable Development
Goals Report

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ABOUT

HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY

About Hokkaido University

Hokkaido University is a flagship university with a strong emphasis on graduate studies, and its origins go back to Sapporo Agricultural College, established in 1876. The University will celebrate the 150th anniversary of its founding in 2026. As we approach this significant milestone, we are deeply aware of the importance of the role a university must serve in society and have been boldly and steadily advancing the university reform based on our core principles and long-term goals toward “contributing to the resolution of global issues.”

Value Creation Process at Hokkaido University

Aiming to Realize a Sustainable Well-Being Society through a Virtuous Circle of Excellence and Extension

With excellence in education and research in the fields of science and technology; and extension, the ability to expand education and research into society to solve regional issues as its two driving engines, Hokkaido University will steer its own innovation and move vigorously toward the realization of a sustainable well-being society.

HU VISION 2030

This medium-term vision of Hokkaido University targeting the year 2030 has to clearly visualize “Excellence” and “Extension” and create a virtuous circle and ecosystem through the integration of these two elements.

Novel Japan University Model

We aim to achieve a new university image through the realization of HU VISION 2030. It is a Japanese flagship university as a public good and management entity that dramatically strengthens partnerships with the international and local communities, and creates social impact and innovation through collaboration.



01

NO POVERTY

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

OVERVIEW

Hokkaido University helps students continue their education despite financial difficulties through admission and tuition fee assistance, scholarships, and emergency support. Its programmes include assistance for graduate and international students and those affected by sudden hardship or disasters. Beyond campus, the University conducts collaborative research on child poverty and educational inequality in Hokkaido, sharing findings with local authorities and community organisations to inform practical responses.

RESEARCH IMPACT

SCOPUS / 2021–2025

43
Scholarly Output

2.20
Field-Weighted Citation Impact

FWCI world average: 1.0

1,753
Citation Count



NO POVERTY

Reducing Admission and Tuition Fees to Support Educational Opportunities

Hokkaido University provides reductions and exemptions of admission and tuition fees, as well as deferrals of admission fee payments, to help students facing financial difficulties continue their education.

In 2025, the University implemented admission and tuition fee support under Japan's new higher education support system and its own assistance schemes. It invited applications for both the spring and autumn semesters. The national system mainly serves eligible Japanese undergraduate students, while the University's schemes also cover graduate students and international students through tuition assistance and admission fee payment deferrals, subject to applicable conditions.

From academic year 2025, the national system expanded support for households with three or more dependent children. Eligible undergraduate students could receive reductions of up to approximately JPY 540,000 in annual tuition and JPY 280,000 in admission fees, irrespective of household income. Hokkaido University informed students about the expanded system and administered the relevant applications.

01

NO POVERTY

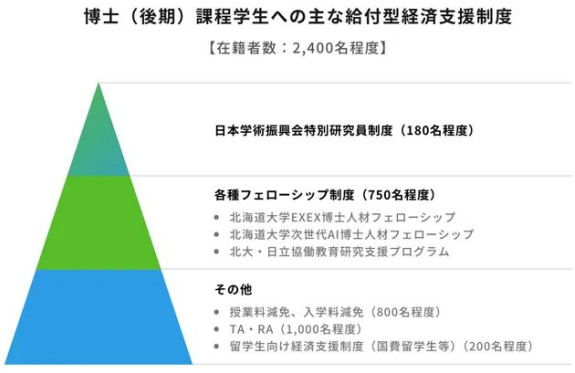
Scholarships to Reduce Students' Financial Burdens

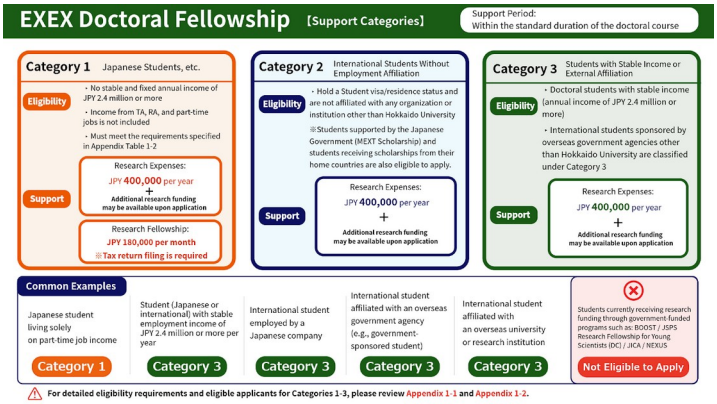
Hokkaido University helps students access scholarships from the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO), private foundations, companies, local governments and University programmes. These include the Kinotoya Scholarship, which provides non-repayable grants of JPY 40,000 per month to eligible first-year Japanese undergraduates from single-parent households facing financial hardship. Grant-type and loan-type programmes offer support for different financial circumstances and educational needs.

In 2025, the University accepted applications for JASSO grants, interest-free loans and interest-bearing loans in spring and autumn. It also provided guidance on private and local-government scholarships, including eligibility based on family circumstances, region of origin and field of study, and assisted students with University-mediated applications. . These scholarships complement national and University-specific assistance in helping students meet education costs.

As a research university, Hokkaido University places particular emphasis on supporting doctoral students so that they can devote themselves to their studies and research. Financial support for doctoral students includes fellowships offered by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), University fellowship programmes, tuition fee assistance, and paid teaching and research assistantships (TA/RA).

One example is the Hokkaido University EXEX Doctoral Fellowship, introduced in April 2024 under the Japan Science and Technology Agency's (JST) Program for Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (SPRING). The fellowship provides a basic research fund of JPY 400,000 per year, as well as a monthly living allowance of JPY 180,000 for eligible recipients. Through these programmes, Hokkaido University supports doctoral students in pursuing advanced research.







NO POVERTY

01

Emergency Assistance for Unexpected Financial Hardship

Hokkaido University maintains financial assistance for students and prospective students who experience sudden hardship following changes in household circumstances or natural disasters. Its Campus Life Guide 2025 introduced JASSO emergency and urgent loan scholarships, as well as grant scholarships available following sudden changes in household finances, for students affected by the death or unemployment of a financial supporter or disaster-related losses. The University also operates its own admission and tuition fee assistance for students in serious financial difficulty.

In 2025, the University announced special measures for applicants to the 2026 undergraduate entrance examinations who had been affected by designated severe disasters. Eligible applicants, including those whose main financial supporter had died or gone missing or whose homes had suffered qualifying damage, could apply for financial assistance equivalent to the relevant examination fee.

The University also maintained accommodation fee exemptions at Keiteki-Ryo for residents experiencing serious difficulty paying fees after a natural disaster affecting the student or their financial supporter. These arrangements address different stages of financial hardship, from the cost of applying to university to expenses arising during student life.



NO POVERTY

01

Financial Assistance for International Students

Hokkaido University helps international students access scholarships and support when unexpected financial difficulties threaten their studies. From April 7 to 14, 2025, the University accepted scholarship candidate registrations from privately financed international students, enabling eligible applicants to seek University recommendations for awards offered by private foundations and other organisations.

The University also maintains the Michiko Seki International Student Support Fund for enrolled international students facing serious hardship following unforeseen accidents, incidents or illness. Students can apply through their academic units for assistance to sustain daily life and continue their education.

The Hokkaido University Supporters' Organization operates a separate interest-free Lump-sum Loan scheme. Following screening, eligible international students can borrow up to JPY 50,000 for six months to meet temporary financial needs. The organisation also supports hospitalisation-related guarantor arrangements, provides financial assistance for illness or unexpected accidents, and offers grants to groups assisting international students. These measures complement the University’s scholarship application support and emergency assistance.



NO POVERTY

Collaborative Research on Child Poverty and Community Partnerships

The Research and Clinical Center for Child Development, Faculty of Education, Hokkaido University, conducts interdisciplinary research on the living conditions and poverty of children and families raising children, drawing on large-scale surveys.

In fiscal year 2025, the Center continued its Collaborative Research Project on Children's Living Conditions with a team of 13 researchers, comprising seven Center-affiliated researchers and six external researchers. The project conducted its first Hokkaido-wide survey of children's living conditions in 2016–2017 and a second survey in 2021–2022. The Center also participates in the Child Poverty Research Consortium, a nationwide collaboration of universities that conduct large-scale surveys on child poverty in cooperation with local governments and share survey data for joint use.

On February 26, 2025, the Center held a public lecture entitled “Considering Poverty and Support for Child-Rearing Families” as part of its efforts to share research findings with the wider community. The lecture introduced parents' perspectives revealed through the survey of children's living conditions and provided an opportunity to consider the support and services needed to create a society in which families can raise children with peace of mind.







02

ZERO HUNGER

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

OVERVIEW

Hokkaido University advances food security and sustainable food systems through field-based research, agricultural innovation, and collaboration with producers and local communities. In 2025, the University established the Institute for Regenerative Agri-Forest-Fisheries (IRAFF) to pursue food production that also supports ecosystem restoration. It advanced research on grass-based cattle production, offered online and hands-on training in smart agriculture, and promoted the cultivation of University-developed raspberry varieties. Through public farm programmes, producer–consumer exchanges, workshops on sustainable food systems, and international research events, the University also shared knowledge with students, families, and the wider community, connecting agricultural research with practice and education.

RESEARCH IMPACT

SCOPUS / 2021–2025

294
Scholarly Output

2.98
Field-Weighted Citation Impact

FWCI world average: 1.0

9,060
Citation Count

Scopus data updated 18 Oct 2026



ZERO HUNGER

Advancing Regenerative Agriculture through IRAFF and J-PEAKS

Hokkaido University established the Institute for Regenerative Agri-Forest-Fisheries (IRAFF) in April 2025 under its J-PEAKS research initiative. Bringing together agricultural science, environmental research and field expertise, the institute works to develop production systems that sustain food production while restoring ecosystems and conserving natural resources. Its activities draw on the University's research fields and partnerships across agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

To encourage new approaches across disciplines, IRAFF launched the J-PEAKS Future Creation Regenerative Research Support Program for early-career researchers. It received 55 proposals involving 165 researchers: 130 from 15 Hokkaido University departments and 35 external collaborators. Following an initial selection, 22 proposals advanced to a pitch competition, and 10 projects were chosen in July 2025 for support lasting up to two years.

The institute also brought research and regional partners together at its kickoff symposium on August 5 at the Clark Memorial Student Center. The event drew 207 participants from universities, research institutions, businesses and local governments, who discussed regenerative production and ways to apply research to challenges in Hokkaido. The combination of a new institute, funded research projects and regional dialogue established a foundation for joint work on sustainable food production and ecosystem restoration.



02

ZERO HUNGER

Developing Sustainable Beef Production through Smart Grazing

Hokkaido University advanced the Next-Generation Wagyu Nexus in 2025, combining its livestock research with grazing trials on Hokkaido's grasslands. Supported by the Japan Science and Technology Agency's COI-NEXT programme, the project works with cattle producers, companies and local governments to develop beef production based on regional forage resources and smart grazing management.

A key part of the research examines whether cattle can grow successfully on a diet based primarily on grass, with limited supplementary grain. In Shiraoi, nine cattle completed an outdoor winter under experimental grazing conditions, with supplementary grain and compound feed kept to no more than 2 kilograms per animal per day. On June 24, the first animal from the group was shipped for slaughter and meat-quality assessment. It had reached a live weight of 636 kilograms, enabling the team to examine beef produced through this feeding system.

The field research was accompanied by collaboration with the wider livestock sector. At a kickoff symposium on March 27, Hokkaido University brought together 212 participants, including 112 in person and 100 online, to discuss smart grazing and regional development. Together, the wintering trial, first shipment and exchange with producers advanced the practical evaluation of grass-based cattle production.





ZERO HUNGER

Providing Free Online Training in Smart Agriculture

Hokkaido University's Smart Agriculture Education Center offered free online training in 2025 to help agricultural instructors and producers apply digital technologies to food production. Conducted as part of a government-commissioned instructor training programme, the courses made specialist knowledge available to people in different regions without requiring them to travel to the University.

The programme covered the use of smart agriculture in the MIDORI Strategy for Sustainable Food Systems as well as practical digital tools. Topics included artificial intelligence for recognising crop images, image analysis for sorting fruit and vegetables, and virtual models of agricultural fields. Participants could also learn about smaller-scale smart farming suited to mountainous areas, where farm size and terrain call for different approaches from those used on large fields.

During the eight training sessions from October to December 2025, learning materials were provided through online lectures and video-based content. Participants could register for archive viewing to revisit technical explanations and examples. By combining free access with flexible learning formats, the Centre brought research-based information on farm management, precision agriculture and digital crop monitoring to agricultural educators and professionals working beyond the campus.





ZERO HUNGER

Practical Smart Agriculture Training in Otofuke

On September 9, 2025, Hokkaido University's Smart Agriculture Education Center and the Town of Otofuke jointly held a practical training event for large-scale crop production in Hokkaido. The programme took place at Miura Farm and the Otofuke Town Cultural Center, allowing agricultural instructors and other participants to see automated machinery in operation and discuss its use in working fields.

At the farm, an unmanned robotic tractor was demonstrated alongside a conventional tractor fitted with automatic steering. A robotic combine harvester was also shown in operation. The demonstrations illustrated ways to automate field work in a region where extensive farmland and agricultural labour shortages create strong demand for efficient production methods.

The afternoon session brought together Hokkaido University researchers, agricultural machinery specialists and representatives of agricultural organisations. Building on the morning demonstrations, they discussed the capabilities of robotic equipment, approaches to introducing smart technologies, and the future of large-scale farming in Hokkaido. Held as part of a government-supported programme for agricultural instructors, the event linked technical explanations with actual field operations, helping participants consider how automation could be applied to regional crop production.



ZERO HUNGER

Expanding Hokudai Raspberry® Cultivation and Agricultural Education

Hokkaido University continued to expand cultivation of Hokudai Raspberry® in 2025, bringing varieties developed at its Field Science Center for Northern Biosphere into regional farming and agricultural education. The breeding work addresses the difficulty of cultivating conventional raspberries in Japan's humid climate and supports the development of locally grown fruit for consumption and processed foods.

Working with agricultural producers, the University has promoted cultivation of the varieties across Hokkaido. By August 2025, Hokudai Raspberry® was being grown by 11 farms. This work reached a new audience in September, when students at Makkari High School planted the University's raspberry varieties. It was the first school outside Hokkaido University to introduce Hokudai Raspberry® into its agricultural education.

The school offers practical courses in organic agriculture and in growing, processing, developing and selling food products. Cultivating the raspberries gave students an opportunity to work with a crop developed through university research while studying local production methods and potential food uses. Through the collaboration, a breeding result already used by local growers became part of hands-on agricultural education, connecting the University's research with the next generation of regional food producers.

SELECTED HIGHLIGHT

11

HOKKAIDO FARMS

Growing Hokudai Raspberry® by August 2025





ZERO HUNGER

Hokudai Marché Award 2025

Hokkaido University held the fifth Hokudai Marché Award on October 25 and 26, 2025, bringing agricultural producers, consumers and graduate students together to discuss sustainable food production. Building on the Hokudai Marché initiative launched in 2009, the event combined an award programme with a public market where visitors could purchase products and speak directly with the people who grow them.

Graduate students planned and operated the event through an interdisciplinary University course. Under the theme “Changemakers in Agriculture,” the awards recognised initiatives in two categories: Consumer Ethics, highlighting the value of food beyond price, and the Environment, focusing on responsible farming practices. Six finalists presented their activities at the final judging event, and one top award was selected in each category.

Alongside the competition, a market with 14 booths introduced visitors to regional produce, food products and the cultivation methods behind them. The two-day event attracted approximately 3,500 people, creating opportunities for exchanges between producers and consumers. For the graduate students, organising the awards and market provided practical experience in planning an activity that connects agricultural production, environmental concerns and consumer choices.



SELECTED HIGHLIGHT

3,500

VISITORS

Approximately, over the two-day Marché



ZERO HUNGER

Food and Agriculture Education through Agri University

Hokkaido University's Faculty of Agriculture continued Agri University in 2025, an experiential learning programme run with the Hokkaido Shimbun Press since 2014. Children and their families visit the University's farms and educational facilities, where researchers and Faculty students help them explore the science behind familiar foods through observation and practical activities.

On September 20, the 44th session, "Milk Made from Grass," introduced dairy production. Participants observed cattle on pasture and learned how cows convert the nutrients in grass into milk. They explored milking and milk quality and visited a facility using cattle manure to produce methane gas, connecting food production with the circulation of resources and energy. Milking activities and a tasting of different kinds of milk brought these explanations into direct experience.

The November 1 session, "How Do Potatoes Grow?", turned to crop production. Through quizzes and microscope observations, children explored why a potato is a modified stem rather than a root. They examined growing tissues and the structures where potatoes store starch. Together, the two sessions used the University's researchers, animals, crops and scientific equipment to help families understand how food is produced and how biological processes support agriculture.







ZERO HUNGER

Learning about Cattle and Milk at Hokkaido University's Farm

On September 23, 2025, Hokkaido University's Research Faculty of Agriculture welcomed approximately 40 children and family members to "Let's Learn about Cows and Milk at Hokkaido University's Farm." Designed for pupils in grades three to six and their guardians, the programme combined the University's agricultural heritage with hands-on experiences at its working research farm.

Families began at Sapporo Agricultural College Farm No. 2, learning how livestock farming and agricultural education developed in Hokkaido. They then moved to the University's cattle barn, where researchers demonstrated mechanical milking. Participants watched a cow produce approximately 20 kilograms of milk in just a few minutes before trying to milk by hand, experiencing the effort involved in dairy production.

The visit continued on the campus pasture, where children observed grazing cattle and learned how grass, animals, manure and soil form a cycle that supports milk production. A tasting activity brought the programme to a close: families compared three kinds of milk by colour, aroma and flavour and tried to identify milk from the University's cattle. By moving from a historic farm to modern dairy facilities and the pasture, the programme made research on resource-circulating dairy farming accessible through direct experience.





02

ZERO HUNGER

Sharing Food and Agriculture Research through Free Public Clock Tower Lectures

Hokkaido University's Faculty and Research Faculty of Agriculture brought food and farming research to local residents through the Clock Tower Salon, a series of public lectures held at the historic Sapporo Clock Tower. Admission was free and no advance registration was required, enabling people outside the University to hear directly from researchers and specialists about the science behind food production.

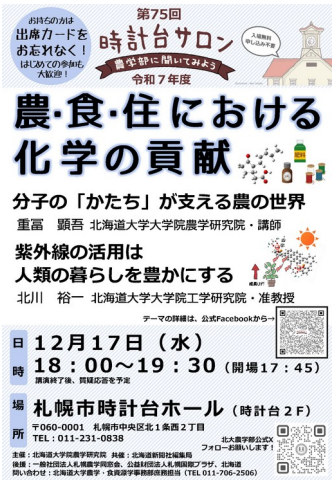
Four lectures were offered in 2025. On April 16, speakers explored differences in milk across animal species and how cows produce milk from their feed. The June 18 session moved to food quality, introducing methods for examining fruit and vegetables without cutting them open. Examples included X-rays used to detect internal decay in avocados and ultraviolet light used to identify defects in carrots.

The October 15 lecture examined the future of dairy farming in Hokkaido, drawing on examples from Japan and the Netherlands to discuss labour shortages, feed and energy costs, and environmental challenges. On December 17, the programme turned to chemistry in agriculture and daily life, including plant-related compounds and materials that convert ultraviolet light into red light for plant-growth research. Across these free sessions, the University shared scientific knowledge on food quality, crop production and dairy farming with the wider community.











ZERO HUNGER

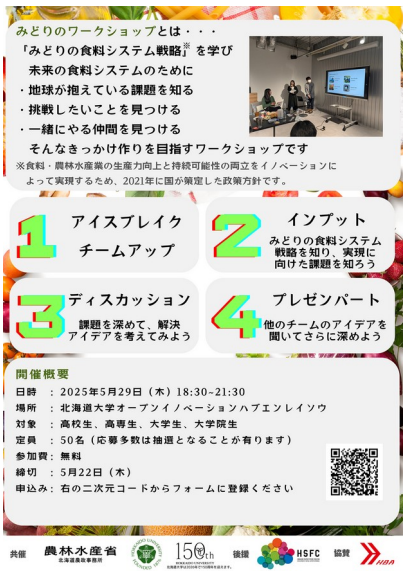
Green Food System Workshop with the Hokkaido District Agriculture Office

Hokkaido University and the Hokkaido District Agriculture Office jointly held the Green Food System Workshop on May 29, 2025, at the University's Open Innovation Hub "ENREISO". The event introduced the MIDORI Strategy for Sustainable Food Systems and invited students to examine how agricultural productivity and food supply could be improved while reducing environmental impacts.

Approximately 20 university and high school students participated, including students studying agriculture, fisheries and economics. After hearing about the national strategy from government officials, they formed five groups to discuss challenges across food production, processing, distribution and consumption. Each group drew on the participants' different backgrounds to develop and present practical proposals.

The ideas included using biochar in environmentally responsible farming and reducing food waste at wedding celebrations. As the discussion moved from agricultural fields to the decisions made by businesses and consumers, participants considered how production methods and everyday practices affect the wider food system. They also exchanged views directly with officials involved in agricultural policy. The workshop brought students from different fields together to apply their knowledge to concrete questions about food security and sustainability.







ZERO HUNGER

International Symposium on Sustainability in Agriculture, Food, and Health

Hokkaido University's Global Center for Food, Land and Water Resources held the international symposium "Sustainability in Agriculture, Food, and Health" on September 22, 2025. Organised with the Graduate School of Global Food Resources and the Graduate School of Health Sciences, the event brought researchers and students together at the University's Conference Hall to exchange findings across agriculture, food resources, biological sciences and health.

The English-language programme featured keynote and invited lectures by researchers from institutions in Japan and overseas, as well as oral presentations by early-career researchers. These sessions explored scientific questions connecting food production, environmental resources and human well-being, giving participants opportunities to consider issues that extend beyond a single discipline.

Seventy people attended, and 29 students from Hokkaido University's graduate schools presented posters in English. Alongside sharing their findings, the students discussed their work with visiting researchers and gained experience communicating research to an international audience. Following evaluations by invited speakers and University faculty, two oral presenters received Outstanding Presentation Awards and three students received Outstanding Poster Awards. The event combined international research exchange with practical opportunities for young researchers to present and discuss their findings.

SELECTED HIGHLIGHT

29

STUDENT POSTER PRESENTERS

Presented research in English at the symposium





03

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

OVERVIEW

Hokkaido University promotes health and well-being through prevention, research and community engagement. In 2025, the University brought health education into local communities, supported patients and students, and advanced international cooperation on infectious diseases and environmental health.

RESEARCH IMPACT

SCOPUS / 2021–2025

5,127
Scholarly Output

1.57
Field-Weighted Citation Impact

FWCI world average: 1.0

89,320
Citation Count



GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Promoting Community Wellness through H-ARTs

Hokkaido University brought preventive healthcare into residents' everyday lives through the Wellness Promotion Project "H-ARTs," run with the City of Sapporo and retail partners. In 2025, it held four free public health-check events at Super ARCS Kita 24-jo in Sapporo on March 9, June 1, August 24 and October 26. The programme began in 2023 to help residents monitor their health in a familiar shopping setting. The March event drew a record 364 participants, and approximately 220 attended in October.

Participants could check brain age and bone health, estimate vegetable intake through Veggie Check®, and try the TANO exercise programme, which assessed body alignment and encouraged movement. The organisers varied the activities by date. June offered a gut-age check, August added information on heatstroke prevention and healthy eating, and October included vascular-age measurement and consultations on care and community services for older people. Pharmacists and registered dietitians also discussed individual results with visitors, connecting basic measurements with practical advice on food, exercise and personal well-being.

To encourage continued participation, H-ARTs used early publicity, stamp cards and varied activities. Organisers reported rising repeat attendance and advance awareness. University students helped staff the events. By October 2025, the project had held 10 events since its launch in 2023, recording a cumulative attendance of approximately 2,300.







GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Supporting Cancer Patients and Their Families

Hokkaido University Hospital continued supporting people living with cancer through services addressing treatment, everyday concerns and relationships with others. Its Cancer Consultation Support Center provided guidance on medical care, treatment costs, welfare programmes and problems affecting patients and families. The Nanairo cancer salon offered a setting where patients and relatives could meet, exchange experiences and speak about their concerns. Throughout 2025, the Hospital continued announcing salon sessions, sustaining opportunities for peer support alongside medical treatment.

For patients whose illness affected employment, the Hospital worked with Hello Work, Japan's public employment service. Consultations covered searching for work, returning after medical leave and adjusting working conditions while receiving treatment. Staff trained in coordinating treatment and employment helped patients consider suitable arrangements and, with their agreement, communicate with treating physicians and workplaces. This support addressed the practical difficulties of maintaining income and professional relationships during cancer care.

The Hospital also shared specialist knowledge with families and the wider public. On September 7, its Oncology Center co-organized a free public lecture on childhood cancer, discussing treatment, long-term follow-up and the transition from paediatric to adult healthcare. Recordings were made available on demand from September 25, allowing people unable to attend the event to access the lectures. The consultation, employment and educational services provided different forms of support at successive stages of living with cancer.



GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Building Community Well-Being through the Nakaniwa Project

Faculty of Health Sciences at Hokkaido University launched the "Preparing an environment for the creation of a community-based social model based on collaboration with people with disabilities and elderly people with dementia" (commonly known as the Courtyard Project) in 2024.

Faculty of Health Sciences is a department that trains five medical professions and is home to these specialists. It is only at Faculty of Health Sciences that we are able to expertly assess the performance of people with disabilities, the elderly, and those living with dementia, and provide support that utilizes their respective strengths. The "Courtyard Project" was launched to become a model case for a new social coexistence, by creating, connecting, and expanding community circles while cleaning up courtyards and growing crops. The Nakaniwa Project remains an ongoing initiative, with activities focused on developing three community circles: "Student Circles," "Local Circles," and "Hokkaido University Circles."

Student circle

The "Courtyard Creation Division" and "Public Relations Division" include students from the Department of Health Sciences, School of Medicine, and from the Graduate School of Health Sciences, who work with faculty and staff to create the garden, plan and host events, and carry out public relations activities. The students also created the logo and characters, and posted about their activities on Instagram. Students from different majors and courses who normally have little contact with each other are deepening their interactions, and are livening up the project with their flexible thinking and initiative.

Community Circle

Aiming to become a place for casual interaction for the local community, we will work together, primarily with the elderly, to create a garden. We hope that through this fresh encounter between students and local people, not just local people, students will have new opportunities to have fun and learn new things, and that the circle of interaction will expand. In addition to working in the gardens in the courtyard, we also hold events such as radio calisthenics, curry making, and health checkups.

Hokkaido University Circle

Knowledge of soil, plants, and living things is essential when creating a courtyard. For this reason, the Hokkaido University Northern Biosphere Field Research Center is supporting the "Courtyard Project." Both Faculty of Health Sciences and the Northern Biosphere Field Research Center are participants in the Hokkaido University Future Earth Consortium, and are closely connected in terms of the SDGs. The Northern Biosphere Field Research Center's support extends beyond the creation and maintenance of the courtyard, to a wide range of activities, including the creation of benches using trees cut down during campus maintenance.



GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Public Education on Infectious Diseases and Vaccines

Hokkaido University provided two free opportunities for residents to learn about infectious diseases and discuss public health in November 2025. On November 3, its Institute for Vaccine Research and Development (IVReD) organized the public lecture “Understanding Infectious Diseases and Vaccines” at the Hokkaido University Conference Hall. Forty-five citizens attended presentations by university specialists on how infections arise and spread, the research behind preventive measures and preparations for future outbreaks.

The programme examined zoonotic infections and methods of diagnosis, treatment and prevention. Researchers also explained influenza viruses in their natural environments, the emergence of pandemic strains and the importance of preparedness. A further lecture addressed the global burden of tuberculosis, the role of BCG vaccination and research towards vaccines for adults. Videos and quizzes helped participants engage with the science and relate it to questions about preventing infectious diseases.

On November 30, the University’s science communication unit CoSTEP and IVReD jointly held the 145th Science Café Sapporo, attended by approximately 40 people. A public health official from the City of Sapporo discussed the experience of responding to COVID-19, including the effects of infection-control measures on daily life. Participants then shared their own experiences in small groups. Together, the lecture and science café offered both expert explanations and opportunities for citizens to reflect on public health decisions.



GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Advancing One Health Research and International Cooperation

Hokkaido University promoted One Health in 2025 by bringing research on human, animal and environmental health to residents and strengthening exchanges with overseas universities. At the Hokkaido One Health Fair in Sapporo on September 23, the University's One Health Research Center introduced tick-borne infections, antimicrobial resistance and veterinary medicine through exhibits and interactive activities. Visitors explored how preventing disease in animals and understanding environmental conditions relate to protecting human health.

The Center continued this public education in Kushiro on November 15 with a lecture on avian influenza in eastern Hokkaido's wildlife. More than 40 residents attended explanations of infections among seabirds and marine mammals, ways to respond to sick or dead animals and precautions for reducing exposure. By addressing local wildlife and human infection risks together, the programme made the One Health approach relevant to issues facing communities in Hokkaido.

International cooperation provided another avenue for sharing this expertise. In November, Hokkaido University and Seoul National University exchanged research on infectious disease control, veterinary science and diagnosis. On December 1–2, the University joined Rakuno Gakuen University and Thailand's Thammasat University in organizing the 10th One Health Lecture Series. In September, Hokkaido University was selected for an inter-university exchange initiative with universities in Zambia, Namibia and Botswana, establishing a framework for interdisciplinary One Health education.



GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Protecting Health through WHO Collaboration and Environmental Research

Hokkaido University's Center for Environmental and Health Sciences continued serving in 2025 as a World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health and Prevention of Chemical Hazards. First designated in 2015 and renewed for a third term from April 2023 to April 2027, it works on preventing health risks associated with environmental chemicals. Its activities address exposure affecting children, pregnant women and other groups especially vulnerable to environmental hazards, bringing research findings into international public health work.

The Centre cooperates with WHO on environmental health evidence, risk assessment and education for medical professionals. It has also translated WHO training modules on children's environmental health into Japanese, improving access to educational materials on chemical exposures. In June 2025, the Centre and the Faculty of Health Sciences offered "Environmental Health Science for a Healthier Tomorrow," a five-day English-language Hokkaido Summer Institute course. Through lectures and group work, participants examined environmental exposures, their effects on health and possible responses.

The University further expanded international academic ties on February 13, when the Centre signed a Letter of Intent with the University of Queensland's Child Health Research Centre in Australia, also a WHO collaborating centre. Representatives discussed collaboration in environmental child-health research, teaching and academic exchange. The agreement and educational activities brought together expertise relevant to preventing environmentally related health problems.



GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Supporting Student Health and Mental Well-Being

Hokkaido University supported students' physical and mental health in 2025 through medical examinations, professional counseling and a new central consultation service. The Health Care Center organized annual health examinations for new and continuing students, providing schedules and guidance on infection prevention and arrangements for students needing additional assistance. Students could also seek advice on physical concerns and day-to-day health management through the University's health consultation services.

Students experiencing anxiety, low mood, interpersonal difficulties or other pressures could receive confidential support from the Student Advice and Counseling Center. Qualified counselors offered individual consultations and guidance towards suitable specialist services. This service complemented routine medical examinations by providing a setting where students could discuss concerns affecting their studies, relationships and daily lives.

To make the range of university services easier to navigate, Hokkaido University opened the Hokudai One-stop Student Support Office (HOSSO) on April 1, 2025. The office receives questions about coursework, extracurricular activities and daily life and helps students reach the department best suited to their needs. It also coordinates with other student support offices, providing a starting point for students who are unsure where to seek assistance. The combination of preventive healthcare, psychological counseling and coordinated guidance supports students throughout university life.





04

QUALITY EDUCATION

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

OVERVIEW

Hokkaido University provides diverse learning opportunities for university students, working professionals and children, connecting academic education and research with society. In 2025, the University offered international and field-based education through collaboration with overseas universities, alongside practical learning in sustainable investment, decarbonisation and digital technologies in partnership with industry and local government. It also shared academic expertise through public lifelong learning courses, science communication training and hands-on science programmes for schoolchildren. Faculty and staff development sessions further provided opportunities to explore the University's sustainability commitments in education, research and campus administration.

RESEARCH IMPACT

SCOPUS / 2021–2025

109

Scholarly Output

2.45

Field-Weighted Citation Impact

FWCI world average: 1.0

2,453

Citation Count

Source: Scopus; updated 18 October 2026

04

QUALITY EDUCATION

Learning with International Scholars at Hokkaido Summer Institute

Hokkaido Summer Institute (HSI) brings researchers from universities and institutions worldwide to teach intensive courses alongside Hokkaido University faculty. Established in 2016, it offers subjects ranging from introductory lectures to advanced research, using discussion, practical exercises and fieldwork. Its English-medium courses enable students to engage with international scholarship while studying in Hokkaido.

In 2025, HSI invited approximately 180 researchers and recorded approximately 5,000 participants from Japan and abroad. More than 150 courses were offered between June and October across the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences. Field-based classes drew on Hokkaido's natural environment to connect academic questions with observation and hands-on investigation.

One 2025 course examined East Asian international relations and Japanese security policy through discussion among students of different national backgrounds. A participating Hokkaido University law student described how considering issues from several countries' perspectives informed subsequent studies of international politics. HSI has also accepted working professionals since 2021, enabling people outside regular degree programmes to attend its courses. In 2025, visiting academics, University faculty and students from different countries examined subjects together through lectures, discussions and field-based study.



2025 EDUCATION ACTIVITY

~5,000
Participants

150+
Courses

04

QUALITY EDUCATION

Joint Agricultural Learning in Japan and Singapore

Hokkaido University's School of Agriculture and Graduate School of Agriculture work with the National University of Singapore (NUS) on the Joint Summer Programme in Japan and Singapore, established in 2018. Students from both institutions examine food production, processing and distribution as activities shaped by climate, culture and industry, using the differences between Hokkaido and Singapore as a basis for shared fieldwork.

In 2025, seven Hokkaido University students and 14 NUS students participated. During the Japan component on 9–13 June, they studied the history of Hokkaido agriculture, planted rice in an experimental paddy field and visited the University's Yoichi Orchard. There they examined fruit breeding and made apple jam. Visits to a wholesale market and a biogas plant in Shikaoi introduced food distribution and the recovery of energy from livestock waste.

The Singapore component on 4–9 August examined food security, controlled-environment vegetable cultivation and insect farming that uses food waste. Students visited research and industry sites, discussed efficient production where land is limited and explored biodiversity at a natural history museum. During visits and discussions in both countries, students compared approaches to food production, waste reuse and resource management under different environmental and industrial conditions. With peers from the partner university, they discussed how local conditions influenced those approaches.





04

QUALITY EDUCATION

Teaching Sustainable Investment through Industry Collaboration

Hokkaido University's Faculty of Economics and Business worked with Mitsubishi UFJ Trust and Banking Corporation to deliver a new endowed undergraduate course in 2025. "Special Lecture on Economics II – Sustainable Investment and the Realisation of a Sustainable Future" was designed mainly for students in their third year or above who had already studied the fundamentals of economics. It brought practitioners into the regular curriculum to examine the role of finance in sustainability.

From 8 April to 29 July, the University delivered 15 lectures attended by 275 students. Contributors included University faculty, trust-bank specialists and people involved in regional Green Transformation (GX) finance initiatives supported by Team Sapporo-Hokkaido. The opening lecture examined the ecosystem of long-term investment and the growing importance of sustainability. Subsequent sessions addressed the history and methods of sustainable investment, the functions of the investment chain and policies encouraging responsible capital allocation.

Students examined how investors, financial institutions, businesses and public authorities make decisions that affect environmental and social objectives. Examples from Hokkaido and Sapporo's GX initiatives showed how financing arrangements and public policies can support regional projects. Through these cases, the course addressed the opportunities and challenges of applying sustainable investment within the regional economy.





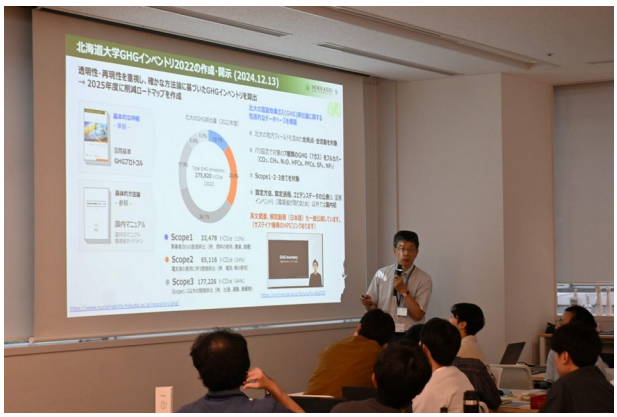
QUALITY EDUCATION

Designing a Zero-Carbon City in Graduate Education

Hokkaido University offered the graduate course Sapporo Zero Carbon Special Lecture with the City of Sapporo and cooperating businesses in August 2025. The three-day programme brought together municipal policy, energy engineering, field visits and group-based problem-solving, allowing students from different disciplines to address decarbonisation as a practical urban challenge.

Thirteen graduate students participated on 26, 28 and 29 August. The City of Sapporo explained how electricity generated from municipal waste incineration is used for its three subway lines. HOKKAIDO GAS CO., LTD. introduced locally sourced and distributed energy systems, while the University's sustainability specialists shared campus energy-use and greenhouse-gas data. Students then visited Sapporo's Komaoka waste incineration plant and energy facilities at Ishikari to examine their operations with staff on site.

Working in three groups, the students developed and presented proposals responding to briefs from the participating organisations. These addressed public communication and incentives for the waste-powered subway, possible research themes around cogeneration and local energy, and concepts for a carbon-neutral university campus. Municipal officials, company employees and University staff provided information and feedback during the work. The final presentations provided tangible outputs from a course that connected graduate education with decisions facing the city and its energy sector.







QUALITY EDUCATION

Building Digital Prototypes through Hokudai Tech Academy

Hokkaido University launched Hokudai Tech Academy in June 2025 as a practical programme bringing University students and working professionals into the same learning environment. Organised by the University's recurrent education division with support from the City of Sapporo and a donation from Classmethod, Inc., the programme focused on building working systems, not only learning technical concepts. Its curriculum combined generative AI, programming and hardware-based experimentation.

From 21 June to 23 August, 20 learners—14 Hokkaido University students and six working professionals—joined nine in-person sessions. Participants studied Python, application programming interfaces, speech recognition and synthesis, and Internet of Things technologies. Exercises centred on combining generative AI with Raspberry Pi computers to create voice-enabled workflows, connect software and hardware, and test ideas through simple prototypes.

Participants developed paper prototypes before moving to implementation and technical demonstrations. Student assistants helped with questions, coding problems and differences in participants' experience, while shared teaching materials and sample code supported further practice. At the conclusion, learners presented what they had built and explained their results to other participants and visitors. University students and working professionals exchanged technical approaches and practical perspectives as they reviewed one another's work and presentations.

04

QUALITY EDUCATION

Opening University Knowledge to the Public through Hokudai Doshin Academy

Hokkaido University and the Hokkaido Shimbun newspaper group jointly operate Hokudai Doshin Academy, a public continuing education programme launched in 2018. It offers members of the community a way to learn directly from University researchers outside regular degree programmes. The Academy organises linked lectures around a specific subject, drawing on multiple scholars rather than relying on one-off talks.

In spring 2025, its humanities course, taught by researchers in education, explored what it means to learn, teach and have access to lifelong learning. A parallel science course introduced pharmaceutical research, including work on cancer, infections, chronic conditions and future medicines. Each course ran for eight sessions from April to June. The autumn programme offered two further courses, each comprising six sessions: one explored a century of scientific inquiry in physics, chemistry and biology, while the other examined Hokkaido's emerging wine industry, regional culture and research into sustainable production.

The Academy recorded 181 course enrolments in the first half of 2025 and 132 in the second, a combined total of 313 enrolments across the four courses. Through its partnership with a regional media organisation, Hokkaido University made academic teaching accessible to adults interested in education, medicine, natural science and local industries. Researchers from several University departments taught the courses, enabling participants to study different disciplines in successive sessions.



2025

313

Course enrolments

04

QUALITY EDUCATION

Training Science Communicators

Hokkaido University's Communication in Science and Technology Education Program (CoSTEP) trains graduate students and working adults in science communication and dialogue with the public. Participants study writing, visual communication, presentations and participatory event design through lectures and practical exercises. In 2025, the main and elective courses were also offered within the University's certificate-based continuing education framework.

In 2025, 75 learners enrolled in the main, elective and advanced courses. The main course involved campus-based projects, while the elective course combined online teaching with intensive practical sessions. Participants practised preparing written and visual explanations of research and facilitating discussions with people from different backgrounds.

Unit for Communication in Science and Technology Education Program



04

QUALITY EDUCATION

Exploring Semiconductor Research through Hands-On Education

Hokkaido University's Institute for Frontier Education and Research on Semiconductors organised Semiconductor Week 2025 from 25 July to 7 August. Four programmes served elementary pupils, secondary-school students, University students and the public. They combined industry dialogue, laboratory visits and hands-on experiments to explain both the science of semiconductor devices and the people who work with them.

At the opening talk on 25 July, Hokkaido University graduates employed by six semiconductor manufacturers described their engineering work and career paths. Attendees could also visit company booths and question the speakers. On 6 August, the Institute joined the children's Science Park event, where pupils opened everyday electronic devices to inspect semiconductor parts and observed tiny structures using microscopes.

On 7 August, junior and senior high school students visited the University's semiconductor research facilities. Wearing protective clothing, they entered a cleanroom and learned about fabrication equipment and controlled research conditions. University students demonstrated a four-legged walking robot and a robotic arm operated by electrical signals from muscles. Visitors asked questions about how robots process sensor data and how their electronics behave. The discussions covered the equipment, experiments and engineering skills involved in developing semiconductor technologies.





04

QUALITY EDUCATION

Sharing the Sustainability Declaration through Faculty and Staff Development

Hokkaido University conducts faculty and staff development (FD/SD) sessions on its Sustainability Declaration, adopted in August 2024. Organised by the Institute for the Advancement of Sustainability, the sessions introduce the University's sustainability commitments and discuss their relationship to education, research and campus administration. They are delivered directly to faculties, research institutes and administrative units, allowing participants to consider the Declaration in their own professional contexts.

The programme continued in 2025, with sessions for departments including education, agriculture, medicine, economics, law, science and engineering. A University-wide online session was also held in March. In approximately one-hour meetings, including questions and answers, members of University leadership explained the aims of the Declaration and its relationship to the HU VISION 2030 strategy. Discussions addressed how academic and administrative activities across different departments relate to the University's sustainability commitments.

The University also provided on-demand access to training materials for faculty and staff unable to attend scheduled meetings. These arrangements combined department-level discussion with online learning, giving staff in different roles ways to study the same institutional policy. The 2025 sessions addressed sustainability within the daily work of educators, researchers and administrative personnel across the University.







05

GENDER EQUALITY

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

OVERVIEW

Hokkaido University promotes gender equality in education, research and employment under its Diversity and Inclusion Promotion Statement. In 2025, the University supported women researchers in developing their careers and pursuing academic leadership, provided career development opportunities for female students, and encouraged girls and young women to consider engineering education and careers. It also supported faculty and staff in balancing research, employment and childcare responsibilities, provided digital skills training for women staff members, and promoted gender equality through education, community outreach and international collaboration.

RESEARCH IMPACT

SCOPUS / 2021–2025

46

Scholarly Output

3.26

Field-Weighted Citation Impact

FWCI world average: 1.0

1,383

Citation Count

Scopus · Updated 18 October 2026



GENDER EQUALITY

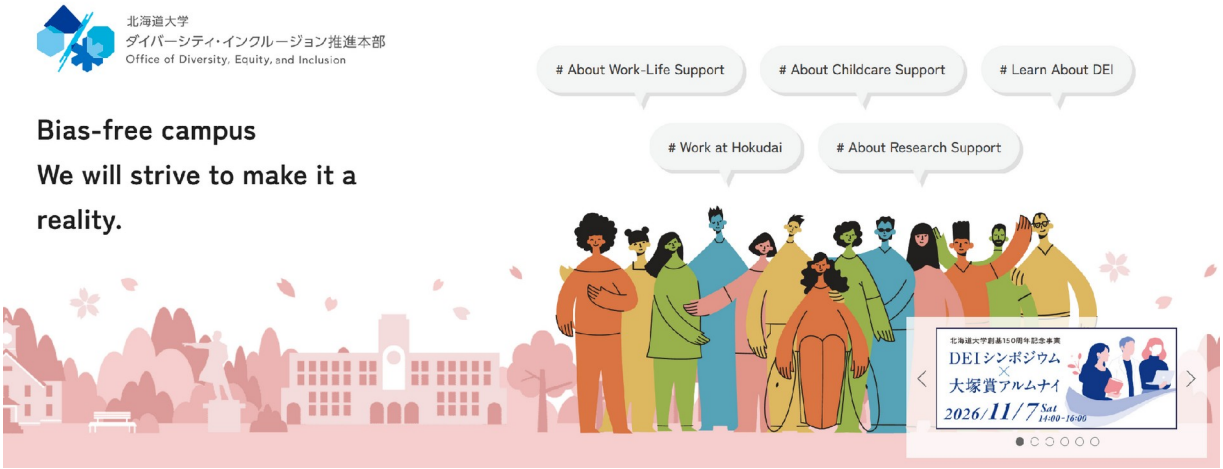
05

Supporting Women Researchers and Academic Leaders

Hokkaido University continued its Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)-supported Initiative for Realizing Diversity in the Research Environment (Female Leader Development Type). The initiative seeks to support women researchers and their progression into academic leadership. In 2025, the University's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) invited applications for funding for research meetings led by women aspiring to become principal investigators and for events hosting women researchers from other institutions. The schemes were intended to strengthen research networks and professional development.

On 11 March, the second Hokkaido University Women Professors Networking Meeting brought together 27 participants, including ten online. Women professors discussed research management, leadership and professional challenges with colleagues from other disciplines. On 8 December, the third Yoshie Katsurada Award ceremony recognised three women researchers for their contributions to education and research.

The DEI Office also published four interviews with women academic leaders in its LILAS series during 2025. The profiles presented their research, career paths and approaches to leadership. Taken together, the programmes provided opportunities for professional exchange, recognition and visibility for women in academic careers.



GENDER EQUALITY

Expanding Career Opportunities for Female Students

Hokkaido University offered female undergraduate and graduate students opportunities to consider doctoral study, research careers and other professional pathways. On 3 March 2025, the University's DEI Office and partner units held Woman's Career Canvas, with approximately 20 women students participating. Doctoral students and women graduates working in business and entrepreneurship discussed postgraduate decisions, career development and the relationship between work and family responsibilities.

On 14 March, the University held an award ceremony and networking event for the ten recipients of the FY2024 Hokkaido University Otsuka Prize. The award supports outstanding female doctoral students who aspire to become researchers. The gathering provided a setting for recipients to meet former awardees and women researchers and discuss their academic and professional plans. The award and the gathering formed part of the University's support for women pursuing research careers.

Career exploration also extended to the legal profession. On 4 August, the University's law-related faculties and units organised the Open Campus event "Gather, Future Women Legal Professionals — Meet Lawyers, Judges and Prosecutors!" The published programme included a panel on the work and lives of women legal professionals, information about routes into legal careers and small-group discussions. Participation was open regardless of gender, with younger students among the intended audience.





GENDER EQUALITY

Increasing Women's Participation in Engineering through We are Engine.

School of Engineering at Hokkaido University, with the cooperation of The Hokkaido Shimbun Press and Dentsu Hokkaido Inc., and partner companies both within and outside of Hokkaido, has launched a project called "We are Engine. -- Female engineers are the engine of the world-" with the aim of increasing the number of women who aspire to become engineers.

The "We are Engine" project aims to increase the proportion of women in the engineering field by highlighting women who are active in the field and visualizing role models for junior and senior high school students. Furthermore, it aims to promote innovation in companies and universities and strengthen the industrial competitiveness of Japan.

A press conference was held on Friday, June 13th, and was attended by many members of the press. In addition, to coincide with International Women in Engineering Day on Monday, June 23rd, a 30-column double-page advertisement for this project was placed in the Hokkaido Shimbun newspaper's morning edition.

In December 2025, the project received a Challenge Rail distinction at the NEW RAIL AWARD, which recognises initiatives addressing gender-related challenges in Hokkaido. The initiative brought university, media and industry partners together in support of wider career choices for women.





GENDER EQUALITY

Developing Digital Skills among Women Staff Members

Hokkaido University provided women staff members with a practical opportunity to learn how generative artificial intelligence can be used in administrative work. On 13 November 2025, its Digital Transformation Office held HOKUDAI × Microsoft Copilot DAY Autumn 2025, including a face-to-face workshop designed specifically for women employees. Twenty women staff members participated.

The targeted workshop was planned in response to published evidence of lower generative AI usage among women. The programme, entitled “Making Copilot More Familiar: An Introduction to Customisation”, introduced custom instructions, Copilot memory and the agent builder through demonstrations. Rather than requiring participants to follow a single work scenario, it focused on functions they could adapt to different administrative responsibilities.

In hands-on sessions, participants configured custom instructions and created AI agents, with staff available to answer questions. They then shared their work and discussed ideas in small groups. The University’s event report records active exchanges and requests from participants for materials they could share with colleagues. The session provided a dedicated setting in which women staff could practise digital skills, exchange ideas and discuss their application to daily work.





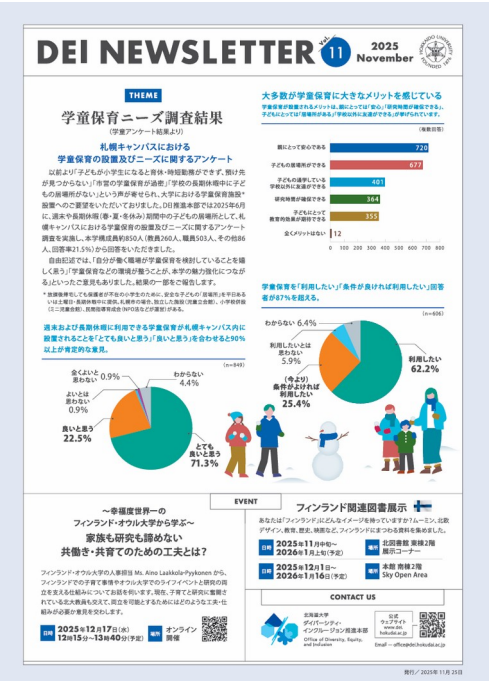
GENDER EQUALITY

Supporting Research, Employment and Childcare

Hokkaido University maintained schemes to help faculty and staff balance research, employment and family responsibilities. In 2025, the DEI Office offered eligible researchers the opportunity to apply for partial funding to employ research assistants when childcare or other life events affected their research time. A separate scheme supported women researchers with substantial leadership and administrative duties. The schemes sought to help eligible researchers maintain their research activities alongside other responsibilities.

From April 2025, eligible employees, including qualifying non-regular staff, could obtain electronic discount vouchers for approved babysitting services. The University also introduced an additional measure for newly appointed women faculty members, covering their remaining out-of-pocket babysitting costs for up to five eligible uses, subject to programme conditions.

To assess further childcare needs, the DEI Office surveyed the Sapporo Campus community in June 2025 about a possible after-school childcare service. It received 850 responses. Among 849 respondents to the relevant question, 93.8% were positive about the proposal; among 606 answering a separate question, 87.6% expressed interest in using such a service, depending on conditions. The findings documented demand for further consideration. They did not mean that an after-school childcare facility had opened.


DEI NEWSLETTER 11 2025 November

THEME

学童保育ニーズ調査結果

（学童アンケート結果より）

札幌キャンパスにおける
学童保育の設置及びニーズに関するアンケート

大多数が学童保育に大きなメリットを感じている

学童保育を「利用したい」と条件が良ければ「利用したい」回答者が87％を超える。

週末および長期休暇に利用できる学童保育が札幌キャンパス内に設置されることを「とても良いと思う」「良いと思う」を合わせると90％以上が肯定的な意見。

わからない 6.4%
利用したいとは思わない 5.9%
利用したい 62.2%
（今より）条件がよければ利用したい 25.4%

全くいいと思わない 0.9%
わからない 4.4%
よいとは思わない 0.9%
良いと思う 22.5%
とても良いと思う 71.3%

EVENT

～幸福度世界一の
フィンランド・オウル大学から学ぶ～
家族も研究も諦めない
共働き・共育てのための工夫とは？

フィンランド関連図書展示

CONTACT US



GENDER EQUALITY

05

Promoting Gender Equality through Education and Community Outreach

Hokkaido University brought research-based discussion of gender inequality into secondary education and staff development. On 14 February 2025, a faculty member from its Faculty of Education delivered the outreach lecture “The World of Work from a Gender Perspective” at Hokkaido Shikaoi High School. Seventy-four first-year students attended. The lecture addressed gender differences in employment, inequalities in the labour market and the relationship between work, marriage and childcare.

The University’s published report included students’ reflections on what they had learned. Some noted the extent of differences between women and men in employment, while others considered how childcare responsibilities can affect working lives. The lecture offered students a specific opportunity to discuss gender and work before making further educational and career choices. The activity connected university teaching and research with young people’s consideration of their future careers.

Within the University, an online faculty development lecture was held on 27 January with 72 Hokkaido University faculty and staff members participating. A speaker from Institute of Science Tokyo introduced that institution’s approaches to women’s participation in science and engineering, including examples concerning admissions and faculty recruitment. The session drew on another university’s experience to inform discussion among Hokkaido University faculty and staff about gender equality in science and engineering.

GENDER EQUALITY

International Collaboration on Gender Equality

On 16 December 2025, Hokkaido University held a symposium with the University of Oulu in Finland to exchange information about gender equality in higher education. Four specialists from Oulu in diversity, gender and human resources took part. The event brought the institutions together to discuss both formal policies and the conditions affecting researchers' academic and working lives.

The programme addressed the history of gender equality measures in Finland, diversity and inclusion policies at European universities, and the inclusion of gender perspectives in research and education. Other topics included ways to encourage fathers to take parental leave and university initiatives supporting the careers of researchers. The discussion considered both institutional policies and everyday practices affecting academic careers in Finland and Japan.

Hokkaido University presented its measures to support women researchers and academic leaders, including the MEXT-supported Initiative for Realizing Diversity in the Research Environment (Female Leader Development Type). The exchange provided opportunities for staff and specialists from both universities to share practices and discuss future challenges. The symposium provided a shared forum for examining gender equality measures and challenges in higher education.





CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

OVERVIEW

Hokkaido University promotes sustainable water and sanitation through campus water management, accessible facilities, public education, and disaster preparedness. In 2025, the University continued to provide free drinking water through refill stations, encourage reusable bottle use, and monitor water consumption and wastewater quality. It also published an accessibility map of its Hakodate Campus, providing information on facilities including accessible toilets. Beyond campus operations, the University shared scientific knowledge about mine wastewater purification and carbon dioxide removal through a public seminar. In addition, its disaster and crisis management regulations, which address the procurement of drinking water during emergencies, were revised in 2025. These activities connect everyday water use, environmental management, accessibility, public learning, and emergency preparedness.

RESEARCH IMPACT

SCOPUS / 2021–2025

407
Scholarly Output

2.57
Field-Weighted Citation Impact

FWCI world average: 1.0

12,085
Citation Count

Scopus data updated 18 Oct 2026



CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Providing Drinking Water and Promoting Reusable Bottles on Campus

In 2025, two filtered water refill stations at Hokkaido University's North Cafeteria continued to provide free drinking water to students, faculty, staff, and members of the public. Installed in November 2024 through cooperation between the Institute for the Advancement of Sustainability and the Hokkaido University CO-OP, the stations allow users to fill their own reusable bottles with room-temperature or chilled water.

At a university-wide sustainability meeting held on December 2, 2025, Hokkaido University reported that the volume of water dispensed in July was equivalent to approximately 8,000 plastic bottles of 500 mL each. This figure was calculated from the amount of water dispensed and does not represent a verified count of plastic bottles actually avoided.

By making drinking water freely available to people carrying reusable bottles, the initiative combines access to drinking water with efforts to encourage reusable bottle use and reduce single-use plastic consumption.

SELECTED HIGHLIGHT

≈8,000

500-mL BOTTLE EQUIVALENTS

July 2025 water dispensed; not verified bottles avoided.

NORTH CAFETERIA WATER REFILL



CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Managing Water Consumption and Wastewater Quality

Hokkaido University continuously monitors and manages water consumption and the quality of wastewater discharged from its facilities. At the Sapporo and Hakodate campuses, the University records municipal water and well water consumption as part of its water resource management.

In FY2024, total water consumption across the two campuses was 917,989 m³, comprising 174,723 m³ of municipal water and 743,266 m³ of well water. The graph below shows annual water consumption by campus and water source from FY2020 to FY2024.

The University also manages wastewater from its educational and research activities. Experiment-related liquid waste is collected separately, with final treatment outsourced to external contractors. Other wastewater is discharged into public sewer systems. Hokkaido University conducts monthly water-quality inspections along campus drainage routes, reports the results to local governments, and carries out additional voluntary inspections.

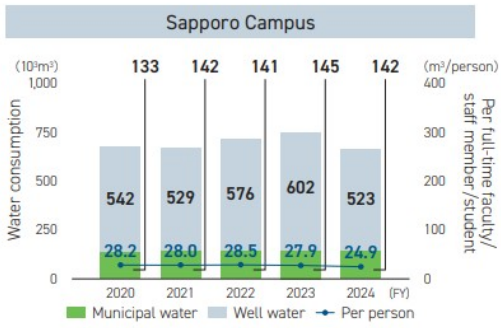
Through these measures, the University continuously monitors water use and wastewater quality and works to prevent water pollution associated with campus operations.

Water consumption

Water consumption (FY 2024)

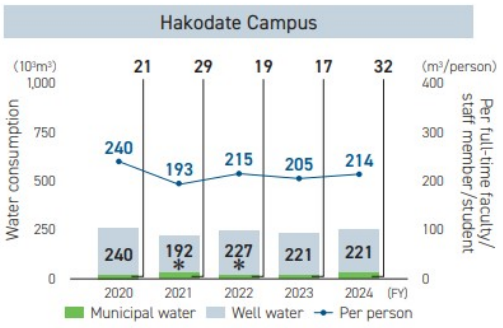
Municipal water
174,723m³

Well water
743,266m³



	Municipal water (㎥)	Well water (㎥)	Per person (㎥/person)
FY 2020	132,952	541,755	28.2
FY 2021	141,756	529,138	28.0
FY 2022	141,151	575,954	28.5
FY 2023	144,627	601,987	27.9
FY 2024	142,474	522,514	24.9

Note: Per capita consumption figures include temporary faculty/staff.



	Municipal water (㎥)	Well water (㎥)	Per person (㎥/person)
FY 2020	20,518	240,420	240
FY 2021	28,845	191,679	193
FY 2022	18,950	226,859	215
FY 2023	17,317	220,752	205
FY 2024	32,249	220,752	214

*The amount of well water used at the Hakodate Campus is an estimate because the meter is presently out of order.

Note: Well-water consumption at the Hakodate Campus includes estimated values due to a malfunctioning water meter.

CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

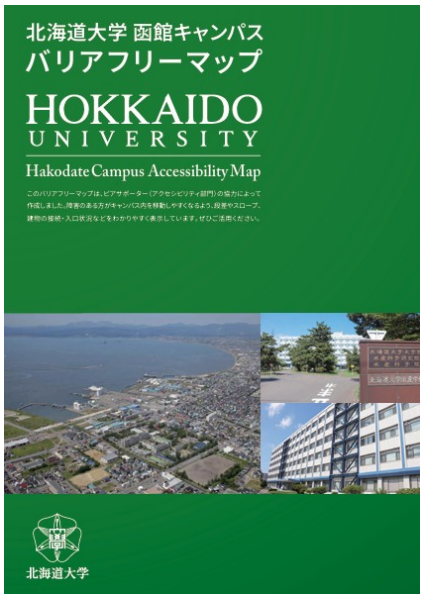
Improving Access to Toilet Information through Campus Accessibility Maps

On March 25, 2025, Hokkaido University's Student Advice and Counseling Center announced the publication of an accessibility map for the Hakodate Campus. The map was developed by the Accessibility Services Office with the cooperation of student peer supporters.

The map provides information on accessible toilets and their facilities, including toilets spacious enough for wheelchair users, equipment for ostomates, and baby-changing tables. It also identifies elevators, building entrances, slopes, steps, and other features relevant to moving around the campus. By presenting toilet facilities alongside information on accessible routes and buildings, the map allows users to identify facilities suited to their needs.

A separate accessibility map had already been published for the Sapporo Campus in August 2024. With the addition of the Hakodate Campus map in 2025, information on accessible facilities became available for both campuses.

These maps make practical information about toilet accessibility and campus facilities available to students, staff, and visitors, supporting access to sanitation facilities for people with different needs.





CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Sharing Research on Mine Wastewater Purification through a Public Museum Seminar

On September 20, 2025, the Hokkaido University Museum held a free public seminar titled "Mine Wastewater Purification and Carbon Dioxide Removal: Two Benefits in One Approach." Fifty people attended the event.

The seminar introduced the topic of purifying mine wastewater while also addressing carbon dioxide removal. Through this public lecture, the University provided an opportunity for people outside the academic community to learn about research related to treating contaminated water.

By offering the seminar free of charge, the Hokkaido University Museum made scientific knowledge concerning water purification available to the wider public.





CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Maintaining Disaster Preparedness Regulations for Drinking Water Procurement

Hokkaido University has established regulations on disaster and crisis management to protect members of the University community and maintain its activities during emergencies. These regulations were revised during 2025, with amendments taking effect on January 1, April 1, and July 1.

Article 38(5) of the regulations requires heads of University departments and other units to implement measures for procuring drinking water, food, medicines, and other essential supplies needed during disasters.

The regulations also address the continuity of essential services. Article 33 requires efforts to secure and promptly restore lifelines, including water supply, electricity, gas, and telecommunications. Article 39 requires departments and other units to prepare disaster response manuals suited to their circumstances.

Through this regulatory framework, which was updated in 2025, Hokkaido University maintains institutional provisions addressing drinking water procurement and water supply continuity during emergencies.



07

AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

OVERVIEW

In 2025, Hokkaido University advanced SDG 7 through campus-wide energy conservation, interdisciplinary research, education, and collaboration with regional partners. The University promoted seasonal energy-saving measures and established the Green Transformation Innovation Center to bring together expertise in renewable energy, hydrogen, and other energy-related fields. Through interuniversity educational programmes and student-led activities, it provided opportunities to examine carbon neutrality and regional energy use. The University also worked with local governments, businesses, and communities to discuss hydrogen use, renewable energy development, and regional energy systems, while considering environmental conservation and the needs of local communities.

RESEARCH IMPACT

SCOPUS / 2021–2025

883
Scholarly Output

1.21
Field-Weighted Citation Impact

FWCI world average: 1.0

21,864
Citation Count

SciVal / Scopus · 2021–2025

AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Primary Energy Consumption

Primary energy consumption (FY 2024)

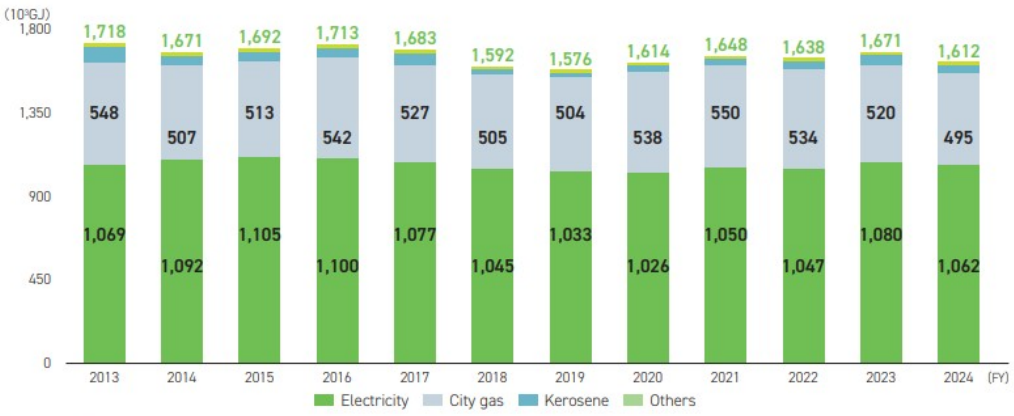
Electricity
1,062,426GJ

City gas
494,865GJ

Kerosene
39,484GJ

Others
15,269GJ

Conversion factors by energy type
Electricity 8.64MJ/kWh
Gas 45.0 MJ/m³
Kerosene 36.5 MJ/L
Heavy oil 38.9 MJ/L

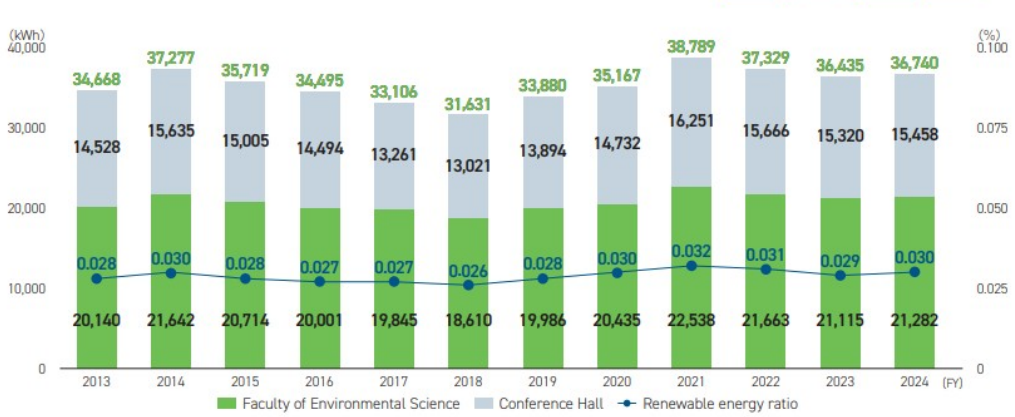


	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Electricity (GJ)	1,068,864	1,091,822	1,105,409	1,099,966	1,076,914	1,044,658	1,032,764	1,026,282	1,050,234	1,047,236	1,080,287	1,062,426
City gas (GJ)	547,867	506,731	512,536	541,512	526,538	504,812	503,506	537,868	550,303	534,310	520,109	494,865
Kerosene (GJ)	78,178	52,511	54,671	51,373	61,321	24,861	21,760	33,333	28,657	39,995	55,510	39,484
Others (GJ)	23,354	20,006	19,862	19,936	17,803	18,065	17,964	16,741	18,771	16,827	15,285	15,269
Total	1,718,263	1,671,070	1,692,477	1,712,786	1,682,577	1,592,396	1,575,993	1,614,224	1,647,965	1,638,368	1,671,191	1,612,044

Renewable Energy (Solar) Generation

Self-generated power/solar (FY 2024)

Self-generated power/solar
36,740kWh



	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Faculty of Environmental Science (kWh)	20,140	21,642	20,714	20,001	19,845	18,610	19,986	20,435	22,538	21,663	21,115	21,282
Conference Hall (kWh)	14,528	15,635	15,005	14,494	13,261	13,021	13,894	14,732	16,251	15,666	15,320	15,458
Total	34,668	37,277	35,719	34,495	33,106	31,631	33,880	35,167	38,789	37,329	36,435	36,740
Renewable energy ratio (%)	0.028	0.030	0.028	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.028	0.030	0.032	0.031	0.029	0.030



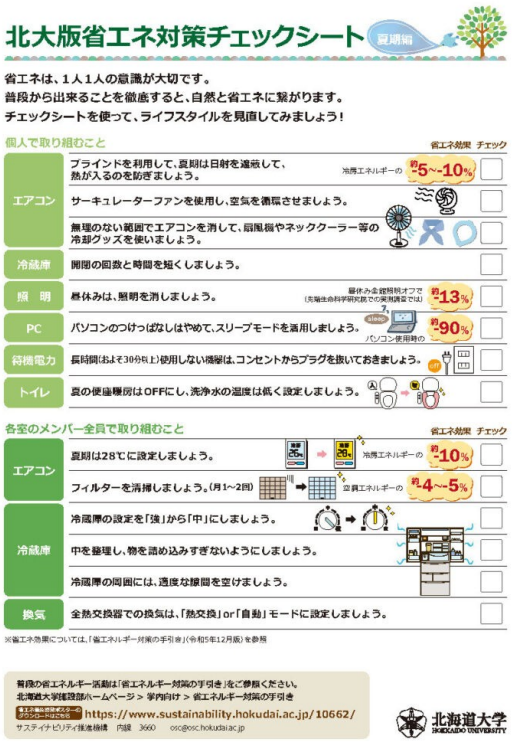
AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

University-Wide Energy Conservation Measures

Hokkaido University coordinated energy conservation measures across its faculties, research institutes, and administrative units during 2025. Through its Sustainability Promoters system, the University communicated seasonal guidance for the operation and maintenance of campus facilities. The measures addressed energy use in buildings while encouraging participation by faculty members, administrative staff, and students.

On 3 July, the University held its first Sustainability Promoters Meeting of the fiscal year, attended by 91 participants from academic and administrative units. The meeting introduced summer energy-saving measures and requested that departments use the University's energy conservation guidelines and checklist. It also shared plans to coordinate the cleaning of air-conditioning units and heat exchangers across departments, and called for energy-saving information to be communicated throughout the University.

On 2 December, a second meeting brought together 87 participants. The agenda focused on winter energy use, including air-conditioning temperature settings, filter cleaning, and the continued application of departmental energy-saving checklists. The University used these meetings to coordinate measures suited to Hokkaido's seasonal conditions and to share practical guidance with departments responsible for everyday facility management.



07

AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Establishing the Green Transformation Innovation Center

In April 2025, Hokkaido University established the Green Transformation Innovation Center to bring together research relevant to the transition towards a low-carbon society. At its launch, the Center involved 84 faculty members from 10 University units. Its fields include renewable energy, hydrogen, materials, and energy systems, alongside other areas needed to address technological and societal aspects of green transformation.

On 27 May, the Center held a kick-off symposium attended by 292 people, including 251 general participants. Researchers introduced the Center's activities and shared perspectives on technologies and cooperation for green transformation. The symposium brought together University members and external participants, including representatives interested in research collaboration and the application of new technologies.



The Center also organised smaller research exchanges during 2025. A researcher salon held on 6 August brought together 14 participants to discuss ammonia, while a session on 19 December was attended by 12 participants and addressed regional heat supply and the use of thermal energy. The two meetings provided opportunities for researchers to discuss energy topics across disciplinary boundaries. Through its establishment, symposium, and researcher salons, the Center created a University-wide framework for coordinating expertise and developing further collaborative research on energy-related challenges.



AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Renewable Energy Development and Regional Environmental Considerations

Hokkaido University's Renewable Energy Research and Education Center (REREC) studies the development of renewable energy alongside environmental conservation and the interests of local communities. Its research covers the life cycle of renewable energy projects, including planning, environmental impact assessment, operation, and decommissioning. This approach is relevant to Hokkaido, where potential sites for renewable energy projects may overlap with ecosystems and local economic activities.

On 14 March 2025, Hokkaido University and the Japan Securities Dealers Association jointly organised a symposium on sustainable development and green transformation finance. A total of 115 people attended, including participants from academia and the securities and financial sectors. During a panel discussion, the Director of Hokkaido University's Field Science Center for Northern Biosphere spoke on behalf of REREC about approaches to green transformation that support both nature-positive outcomes and local communities.

The discussion examined renewable energy investment in relation to environmental protection, regional development, and finance. A University executive also presented Hokkaido University's sustainability activities and cooperation with external organisations. Researchers and financial-sector participants exchanged views on renewable energy development that considers both the natural environment and local communities.





AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

A Joint University Programme on Carbon Neutrality and Regional Energy

Hokkaido University cooperated with Hosei University, Kansai University, the City of Sapporo, and Shimokawa Town in a short-term educational programme on carbon neutrality. Its theme was energy in the context of local characteristics, including renewable energy and regional approaches to lowering emissions. The programme combined an online preparatory session with field visits, lectures, group work, and student presentations.

Held on 3 and 10–12 September 2025, the programme involved 27 students from the three universities. Participants examined decarbonisation activities in different regions before taking part in fieldwork in Sapporo. During the visit, they learned from municipal staff about local policies and visited facilities operated by Hokkaido Gas and Hokkaido District Heating. Topics included cogeneration, the effective use of otherwise unused heat, and energy provision in a city with long, snowy winters.

Working in six groups, the students developed proposals for how local governments could work towards carbon neutrality by 2050. They compared current conditions with future targets, considered the roles of businesses and municipal authorities, and presented their ideas to fellow participants. The programme connected students from different universities with energy-related organisations in Hokkaido and gave them a shared framework for examining the practical challenges of regional energy transitions.

SELECTED HIGHLIGHT

27

STUDENTS

Across 3 universities

07

AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Student-Led Renewable Energy Dialogue in Kushiro

Hokkaido University students participated in the Kushiro City–Hokkaido University Exchange Festival on 6 August 2025. Seven students visited Kushiro and organised activities with municipal officials to encourage exchange between the University and local residents. One part of the programme addressed renewable energy development and its relationship with the distinctive natural environment of eastern Hokkaido.

The students organised an evening discussion on renewable energy strategies and the future of Kushiro. A professor from Hokkaido University's engineering faculty and two Kushiro City officials joined the session. They addressed the region's renewable energy potential and issues surrounding solar power facilities near the Kushiro Wetlands, a landscape of considerable ecological importance. The discussion included questions about land use, nature conservation, and the interests of local communities.

The seven students took responsibility for organising the talk session, which brought a University researcher and municipal officials into the same discussion. Working with Kushiro City, Hokkaido University addressed local questions about solar power development, land use, and nature conservation through a programme planned by its students.







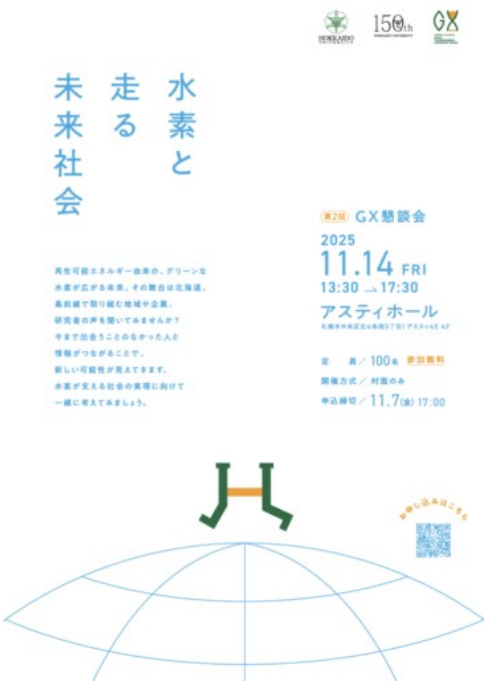
AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

A GX Roundtable on Hydrogen Use in Hokkaido

Hokkaido University's Green Transformation Innovation Center held its second GX roundtable on 14 November 2025 in Sapporo, focusing on the implementation of hydrogen technologies in Hokkaido. Organised with the University's Graduate School of Engineering, the event brought together speakers from academic research, local government, and the energy industry. Participation was free, and the programme addressed technological, regional, and institutional aspects of a hydrogen-based energy system.

A Hokkaido University professor delivered a keynote presentation on hydrogen technologies and regional innovation. The programme also featured contributions on Ishikari City's green hydrogen initiatives, Hokkaido Electric Power's approaches to hydrogen and carbon neutrality, and Air Water's work on a hydrogen supply-chain model using regional resources. Speakers considered hydrogen production and supply in relation to renewable energy resources and the needs of local industries.

The event included a panel discussion on cooperation among technology developers, government, industry, and communities. Its central questions concerned how hydrogen could be produced, transported, supplied, and used in Hokkaido, and how different organisations could contribute to that process. By convening the roundtable, Hokkaido University provided a forum for sharing current initiatives and discussing the conditions for applying hydrogen technologies in the region.





AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Regional Energy at FUTURE DESIGN SUMMIT 2025

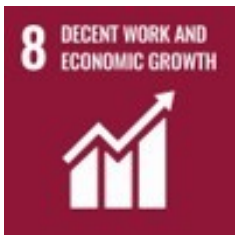
On 17 December 2025, Hokkaido University co-hosted FUTURE DESIGN SUMMIT 2025 with Air Water Hokkaido and the STARTUP HOKKAIDO organising committee. Approximately 90 participants from universities, industry, public administration, and related organisations gathered at Air Water no Mori in Sapporo. The event included sessions on green transformation and space-related innovation, with one session specifically dedicated to regional energy use.

The energy session, Future Perspectives on Regional Energy Use, brought together a Hokkaido University professor, a City of Sapporo official, and an Air Water representative. They discussed fuel-cell research involving hydrogen, the use of biogas derived from livestock waste in Hokkaido, and measures for reducing energy consumption in the greater Sapporo area. In a keynote lecture, a representative of Japan's Agency for Natural Resources and Energy described national hydrogen policy and examples of its application.

Hokkaido University contributed perspectives from its fuel-cell research, while the City of Sapporo and Air Water presented issues and initiatives relating to regional energy use. The session brought together the roles of university research, municipal energy planning, and business activities in considering energy use in Hokkaido.







08

DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

OVERVIEW

Hokkaido University promotes decent work and sustainable economic growth by improving working conditions, supporting career development and fostering entrepreneurship in collaboration with local communities and businesses. In 2025, the University advanced hybrid working, assessed the use of generative AI in administrative operations, and strengthened staff development and workplace safety. It also expanded opportunities for students to explore careers and engage directly with employers. Beyond the campus, the University worked with businesses, municipalities and educational institutions to provide entrepreneurship education for school students, university students and working adults. Through practical programmes, participants developed business proposals, addressed challenges faced by companies and explored new possibilities for regional development. These initiatives connect the University's responsibilities as an employer and educator with its broader contribution to skills development, business innovation and sustainable economic opportunities across Hokkaido.

RESEARCH IMPACT

SCOPUS / 2021–2025

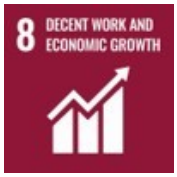
242
Scholarly Output

1.86
Field-Weighted Citation Impact

FWCI world average: 1.0

7,597
Citation Count

Scopus data updated 18 Oct 2026



DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Reforming Administrative Work through Hybrid Working and Digital Tools

Hokkaido University is improving administrative working conditions and creating time for new responsibilities under its Administrative DX Strategy. Following an earlier trial, hybrid working became part of regular administrative operations in 2025, allowing employees to combine remote and office-based work according to their duties. The reform reflects a broader effort to reconsider how work is organised and how digital systems can support services across the University.

As part of that effort, the University trialled Microsoft 365 Copilot in administrative work from January to September 2025. A June assessment involved 22 employees, with 16 providing results. Across those respondents, the estimated reduction in working time totalled 249.9 hours per month, an average of 15.6 hours per person. The assessment covered 20 scenarios, including proofreading documents, drafting email replies, preparing meeting records, searching for information and using Microsoft 365 applications.

The trial brought the effects of generative AI into day-to-day administrative work, where staff must manage large volumes of documents and communications. Participants described using the time gained from routine tasks for improving the quality of their work and taking on other assignments. Together with hybrid working, the initiative provided a practical basis for improving administrative processes while maintaining support for the University's students, educators and researchers.

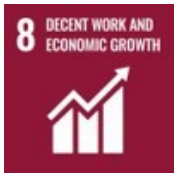
SELECTED HIGHLIGHT

15.6

HOURS

Estimated monthly time saved per respondent

June 2025, 16 respondents



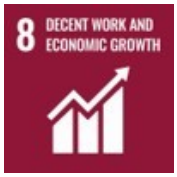
DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Developing Staff Capabilities and Safer Working Practices

Hokkaido University combines professional learning with improvements in workplace practices. Its Mind Transformation (MX) management programme helps administrative staff strengthen team communication, develop leadership and identify ways to improve their own workplaces. The second cohort began in February 2025 and the third in May; by November, participation across the first three cohorts had reached 50 employees. Follow-up activities introduced in November supported the application of learning to everyday management, including one-to-one meetings and sharing useful practices among colleagues.

Practical training extended to digital and industry-related work. Beginning in November, around 20 finance employees studied robotic process automation using Microsoft Power Automate for desktop, exploring applications to recurring accounting tasks. Between October 23 and November 13, five faculty and staff development sessions on industry collaboration drew 105 participants. The sessions addressed intellectual property, joint research contracts, confidentiality and research integrity, equipping employees to handle cooperation with external partners.

Alongside these programmes, the Faculty of Engineering addressed risks in laboratories and other workplaces. Its August 5 occupational safety briefing attracted more than 100 faculty and staff and covered fire prevention, accident response, the duties of safety officers and workplace inspections. Management development, technical training and safety education formed complementary parts of the University’s work to improve how staff carry out their responsibilities.



DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Connecting Students with Employers and Career Opportunities

Hokkaido University expanded students' access to information about employers and careers in 2025. In March, it launched a student-only Company Research Navigator with a technology partner, providing details of participating companies, job roles, internships and graduates working in different organisations. The online service gave students a way to investigate workplaces and compare prospective employers as they prepared for their careers.

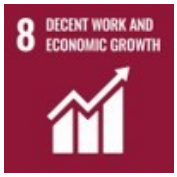
The University complemented this resource with direct contact between students and businesses. On June 14 and 15, its Career Center and alumni association organised the University's first campus-wide recruitment-focused company meeting. Eighty-four companies and organisations participated, with 468 student attendances recorded. Following short presentations, students could speak individually with recruiters, seek interviews and hear from graduates about their experience of working in different industries.

Opportunities for more extensive company research followed at a six-day seminar on October 24–26 and November 7–9. The event brought 236 companies and organisations to campus and recorded 2,364 student attendances. Meeting recruiters from different sectors allowed students to explore job responsibilities, workplace environments and career paths, including options they had not previously considered. Held annually since 2004, the seminar and the new digital service together gave students multiple opportunities to learn about employment before entering the labour market.

2025 COMPANY RESEARCH SEMINAR

236
Companies and organisations

2,364
Student attendances (cumulative)



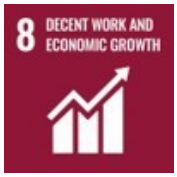
DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Training Regional Business Leaders through RIPS and RIAS

Hokkaido University's Regional Innovation Producer School (RIPS) and Regional Innovation Adviser School (RIAS) develop two groups essential to regional enterprise: people who lead new businesses and professionals who support them. Working with Tohoku University's regional innovation education network, the University provides practical learning in business planning, management and the assessment of new ventures, bringing participants from companies and business-support organisations into the same educational setting.

The 2025 basic courses opened on May 31, when eleven participants entered RIPS and three entered RIAS in Hokkaido. Their introductory training examined the business model of an existing company, giving participants a basis for discussing how promising ideas become workable proposals. Exercises combined creative thinking with financial and commercial considerations, including the decisions required to move from planning to implementation.

A former RIPS participant who had started a business shared his experience, connecting the course material with decisions encountered in practice. The programmes combined online classes with face-to-face sessions so that participants in different locations could learn together. Advanced courses followed later in the year, with eight RIPS and two RIAS participants recorded by December. By educating prospective business leaders alongside advisers, the University supported both the development of new ventures and the regional expertise available to guide them.

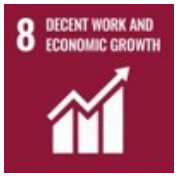


DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Creating Regional Business Plans through Tsukibizu Camp

In 2025, Hokkaido University worked with local partners to turn regional needs into practical business proposals. From February 8 to March 21, the University, Tsukigata Design, Sorachi Shinkin Bank and other organisations held Tsukibizu Camp in Tsukigata, a rural town confronting population decline. Eleven university students and working adults studied local resources, explored potential customers and prepared plans for businesses that could operate within the community.

The proposals included producing lamb from pasture-raised sheep, offering family tours based on local attractions and opening restaurants featuring ingredients from the town. Participants presented their plans at a March 20 DemoDay attended by 86 people, where a judging panel including the town's mayor reviewed the ideas. Entrepreneurial learning also reached younger residents in July, when 13 local junior high school students took part in Tsukibizu Camp Junior, exploring product design, advertising and business finances.



DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Bringing Entrepreneurship Education into Schools and Communities

Hokkaido University introduced younger generations to entrepreneurship through programmes that made business planning part of direct experience. In January 2025, Entre Machinaka Ryugaku brought 24 high school students from Hokkaido to Okinawa. During stays with international host families, they encountered questions of multicultural coexistence, spoke with young entrepreneurs and developed proposals responding to challenges identified through their experiences.

The approach continued closer to home. At Startup Base U18, held at Sapporo Nishi High School on January 14 and 15, 35 students formed teams and developed business plans with guidance from entrepreneurs and university students. Their ideas included affordable spaces for early-morning study and ways to finance overseas learning. In February, Spread Your Entrepreneurial Wings invited 25 elementary and junior high school students to experience simulated company formation, borrowing, product development, sales and accounting. Eleven university and graduate students supported the activities as mentors.

These programmes formed part of a wider network of entrepreneurship education. At HOKKAIDO INNOVATION HUNTER 2025 on March 8, 215 people attended presentations sharing outcomes from programmes conducted during the preceding academic year. Twelve teams comprising 35 children and teenagers presented their work, while 18 university and graduate students reported on their activities. The event connected learning in schools with university-level entrepreneurship and gave participants opportunities to share ideas across generations.

DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

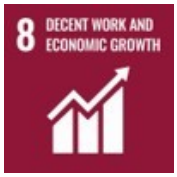
Developing Student Ventures through Future Skills and the Hult Prize

Hokkaido University supported students in developing business ideas that respond to social and economic challenges. Between April 21 and July 14, 2025, it worked with STARTUP HOKKAIDO and Otaru University of Commerce on a nine-session Future Skills course. Students learned from entrepreneurs and mentors as they examined changing needs in workplaces and communities, then developed possible services and ventures in teams.

The course produced proposals from 23 teams, five of which advanced to the final presentation on July 14. The winning team, KIMITO, designed an AI learning assistant intended to ease excessive workloads among schoolteachers. Other finalists proposed ways to improve road safety for international visitors using rental cars, connect primary-industry workers with people seeking practical experience and support emergency preparedness among students living alone. A panel including business and university representatives and the mayor of Sapporo evaluated the proposals.

The University also hosted the 2024–25 Hult Prize OnCampus competition, providing another setting for students to present social-purpose ventures. The campus final took place on February 15, followed by presentations and an awards ceremony on February 17. Three teams reached the final, with MICHI taking first place, Satsoil Carbon second and Ilmora third. Through the two programmes, students refined their proposals with outside perspectives and practised explaining their business ideas to evaluators.





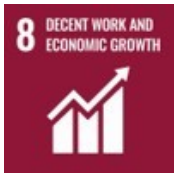
DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Addressing Real Business Challenges through DEMOLA HOKKAIDO

DEMOLA HOKKAIDO is a programme in which students and company representatives work together to develop solutions to specific business challenges. In 2018, Hokkaido University became the first institution in Japan to introduce the Finnish-origin DEMOLA model and continued the programme in 2025. Rather than working on hypothetical classroom assignments, students addressed actual challenges presented by participating companies and developed ideas for creating new value.

The second cohort in 2025 ran from August 9 to October 5, bringing together 12 undergraduate and graduate students with Sohgoh Shouken Co., Ltd. and Nissan Tokyo Sales Holdings Co., Ltd. The companies presented two distinct challenges: what constitutes a rich food experience for today's consumers, and how to create new value as a comprehensive mobility company amid the transformation of the automotive industry. Over approximately two months, students worked with company representatives to develop their ideas and presented their proposals at the final session.

The third cohort, held from October 11 to November 29, involved seven undergraduate and graduate students working with Mikawa Tansuigyo Co., Ltd. Their task was to develop common criteria for assessing the value of eel that both producers and consumers could accept. After visiting sites related to eel and consulting a taste research institution, the students proposed a grading system, assessment methods and ways to promote its adoption among producers and consumers. Across the two cohorts, students gained experience developing proposals in response to real business challenges. Participating companies also praised the students' fresh perspectives and the quality of their proposals.



DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Creating New Value for Communities with JR Hokkaido

Hokkaido University and Hokkaido Railway Company (JR Hokkaido) invited students to reconsider the relationship between transport and regional life through their 2025 New Value Creation Contest. Undergraduate and graduate students were asked to propose an eighteenth Sustainable Development Goal that the two organisations could pursue together. The theme directed attention to challenges facing Hokkaido, including the role of railway services and stations in supporting communities and local industries.

The contest accepted entries from August through October and received 147 proposals. Students explored how transport infrastructure, local knowledge and public spaces might offer new possibilities for residents and visitors. On December 4, the partners displayed the submissions at Hokkaido University's Conference Hall. The following day, they held a lecture and awards ceremony at which a JR Hokkaido executive discussed the railway's operating conditions, including severe weather, service maintenance and coexistence with wildlife.

The top prize went to a proposal imagining railway stations as welcoming hearths where people and knowledge could gather. By linking station spaces with the University's expertise, the idea suggested opportunities for new activities and industries centred on regional connections. The contest provided a setting in which students and a major Hokkaido transport company could consider the future of economic activity and local communities together.

SELECTED HIGHLIGHT

147

PROPOSALS

Submitted to 2025 contest

August–October 2025



INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

OVERVIEW

In 2025, Hokkaido University strengthened its research infrastructure and worked with companies and regional partners to advance technological innovation and the industrial application of research. The University established the Institute for Integrated Innovations (I^3) to promote interdisciplinary research, translate research outcomes into practical applications, and advance large-scale research projects that could lead to the creation of new industries. The University established a new organisation for semiconductor research and education and was selected as a regional hub for semiconductor workforce development. It also demonstrated remote operation of agricultural machinery with NTT and introduced the Grand Chariot 2 supercomputer to expand advanced computing capabilities. Through HSFC DemoDay, NoMaps Dream Pitch and a new technology presentation meeting, the University connected researchers with companies and investors, supporting the commercial application of research and the development of research-based startups.

RESEARCH IMPACT

SCOPUS / 2021–2025

379
Scholarly Output

1.16
Field-Weighted Citation Impact

FWCI world average: 1.0

7,512
Citation Count

Scopus data updated: 18 October 2026

INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Establishment of the Institute for Integrated Innovations (I³)

The Institute for Integrated Innovations (I³, pronounced “I-cube”), established in January 2025, comprises five organizations responsible for promoting research and research support, three research centers under the direct supervision of the President, and 17 education and research organizations.

Building on the policies of its predecessor, the Creative Research Institution, I³ actively promotes the establishment of new interdisciplinary research hubs and shared research facilities within the University, as well as the development of research projects with the potential to create new industries into large-scale initiatives, with the aim of advancing interdisciplinary research and translating research outcomes into practical applications.

The Institute seeks to build an ecosystem in which world-class “Excellence” and “Extension”—the University's capacity to extend its strengths in field science, particularly in agriculture and fisheries, into society—generate synergies, thereby contributing to the realization of a sustainable well-being society and the resolution of global challenges.







INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Strengthening Semiconductor Research and Advanced Skills

On 1 April 2025, Hokkaido University established the Institute for Frontier Education and Research on Semiconductors (IFERS) by reorganising its semiconductor promotion headquarters. IFERS brings together the University's semiconductor research and education activities and coordinates cooperation with universities, research institutes and companies. The Institute has five research divisions covering materials, manufacturing processes, devices, functional analysis and next-generation applications. It also includes an office responsible for semiconductor education and research strategy.

On 27 August 2025, Hokkaido University was selected as the regional hub for a semiconductor workforce development programme funded by Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. The selected programme brings together Hokkaido University and nine partner universities and colleges of technology to develop graduate-level training. It addresses specialists who manufacture semiconductors, use semiconductor technologies or combine them with expertise in other fields. The programme draws on Hokkaido University's research in AI, data science and field sciences.

The University also supported international research experience through its Semiconductor Human Resource Development Support Fund. From September to November 2025, two graduate students from the Graduate School of Information Science and Technology undertook research placements at imec, a research and innovation centre in Belgium. Their work included photonics-related semiconductor research and reservoir computing for environmental monitoring sensors.



INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Demonstrating Remote Agricultural Machinery with NTT

From 8 to 15 June 2025, Hokkaido University and Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation (NTT) demonstrated remote agricultural technology at Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai. The presentation formed part of an exhibition on the future of food and agriculture. Hokkaido University's Vehicle Robotics Laboratory participated in the programme, giving visitors an opportunity to operate agricultural machinery located far from the exhibition site.

The demonstration connected a robotic tractor at the University's farm in Hokkaido with the venue in Osaka, approximately 1,200 kilometres away. NTT Group provided its IOWN All-Photonics Network to transmit live video and operating commands with low latency. Hokkaido University contributed a display system that overlays distance gauges and guiding lines on camera images from the tractor. Visitors used a game-style controller to steer the machine while viewing the live images and information about its surroundings.

The exhibition also included a virtual farm using digital-twin technology to present simulations of agricultural operations. The remote-control system addressed situations in which an autonomous tractor requires assistance because of obstacles or difficulties receiving satellite positioning signals. During the eight-day exhibition, visitors experienced the live connection between Hokkaido and Osaka and learned about the communications and robotics technologies used in remote farm operations.

INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Supporting Research-Based Business Development through HSFC

On 11 September 2025, the Hokkaido Startup Future Creation Development by Mutual Support Networks (HSFC) held HSFC DemoDay 2025 at Keio Plaza Hotel Sapporo. Hokkaido University serves as the lead institution of HSFC, which brings together universities and support organisations in Hokkaido to develop startups based on academic research. The event was organised to introduce the results of supported research projects and provide opportunities for researchers to meet companies and investors.

At DemoDay, researchers presented 19 projects selected through the HSFC GAP Fund programme in fiscal year 2024. The projects covered life sciences, biotechnology, nanotechnology, artificial intelligence, medicine and agriculture. Each presentation was followed by a poster session, where researchers explained technical results and discussed potential business applications with participants. The event attracted 136 people to the venue and 76 online viewers, including representatives of venture capital firms, companies and startup support organisations.

HSFC's GAP Fund programme combines financial support for research development with mentoring and assistance in preparing business models. The 2025 event also coordinated with NoMaps activities held in Sapporo during the same period, bringing investors from outside Hokkaido into discussions with researchers.



INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Connecting University Research with Industry at NoMaps Dream Pitch

On 10 September 2025, the NoMaps Dream Pitch business-plan competition was held in Sapporo, co-organised by STARTUP HOKKAIDO, HSFC and other partners. Hokkaido University participated through HSFC, for which it serves as the lead institution. The programme invited researchers, entrepreneurs and startups to present technologies and business ideas to investors and company representatives. Nine teams were selected from 20 applicants, including three pre-startup teams and six teams representing established businesses.

SUMInium, a team led by Associate Professor Kotaro Takeyasu of Hokkaido University's Institute for Catalysis, received the NEDO Award and the Special Jury Award. The team's presentation, 'Platinum-Free Fuel Cell Catalysts Supporting Disaster Resilience and a Hydrogen Society', described a potential business application of the University's catalyst research. Its proposal concerned fuel cell catalyst materials that could be developed without using platinum, connecting research in materials chemistry with hydrogen and energy technologies.

The programme also featured talks by the leaders of two Hokkaido University-certified startups: HILO Inc. and Okuma Diamond Device Co., Ltd. Both speakers had participated in earlier editions of the competition and discussed their experience of building technology-based businesses. Participants also exchanged questions and business contacts during a networking session.





INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Introducing Hokkaido University Technologies to Industry

On 16 October 2025, Hokkaido University held its New Technology Presentation Meeting online in cooperation with the Japan Science and Technology Agency. The University's Institute for the Promotion of Business-Regional Collaboration organised the programme to introduce research technologies to businesses interested in licensing, product development and joint research. Eleven researchers from Hokkaido University presented eleven technologies from fields including engineering, agriculture, chemistry, medicine and life sciences.

The presentations covered new polymer materials made from cellulose-derived compounds, very small manganese dioxide nanoparticles, and functional lipid nanoparticles for applications involving gene delivery. Other topics included bioplastics produced from non-edible biomass, durable sensors using inorganic two-dimensional materials, and methods to improve the accuracy of proton-beam cancer treatment.

More than 600 people registered for the online presentations. The University made recordings available to registrants for two weeks after the meeting, allowing them to review the technologies and their potential applications. Companies also contacted the University with enquiries about the technologies presented.

TECHNOLOGY PRESENTATION

11

Technologies introduced to industry



INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Expanding Research Infrastructure with Grand Chariot 2

In April 2025, Hokkaido University's Information Initiative Center introduced Grand Chariot 2 as part of an upgrade to its interdisciplinary large-scale computing system. Full operation began in July. The supercomputer provides processing and storage resources for computational science, computer science, data science and artificial intelligence. Researchers use these shared facilities for numerical simulations, analysis of large datasets and research requiring advanced computing resources.

Grand Chariot 2 has a theoretical peak performance of 9 petaflops, approximately 2.27 times that of the previous system. It consists of 480 CPU computing nodes and 24 GPU nodes, each equipped with four NVIDIA H100 GPUs. The system also includes 16.95 petabytes of all-flash storage, connected through a high-speed InfiniBand network. This configuration supports both large-scale numerical computation and data-intensive workloads, including AI and machine learning research.

The Center provides access through shared-use and dedicated-use arrangements. The computing resources also support the nationwide High Performance Computing Infrastructure (HPCI) and joint research programmes involving other universities and research institutes. Eligible users include researchers from private companies as well as academic institutions. The Center also makes the system available for education and training in computational science, data science and related technical fields.



REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Reduce inequality within and among countries

OVERVIEW

Hokkaido University works to reduce barriers to equitable participation in education and campus life for people with diverse abilities, identities and cultural backgrounds. In 2025, the University revised its manual for supporting students with disabilities and continued peer support and faculty and staff training. It also organised training on harassment prevention, structural discrimination and inclusive communication, while providing public education on sexual minority rights. The University improved access to information and opportunities for exchange for international students. Beyond campus, Public Policy School students submitted policy recommendations to Noboribetsu City to promote multicultural coexistence.

RESEARCH IMPACT

SCOPUS / 2021–2025

74	3.39	2,906
Scholarly Output	Field-Weighted Citation Impact	Citation Count
	FWCI world average: 1.0	

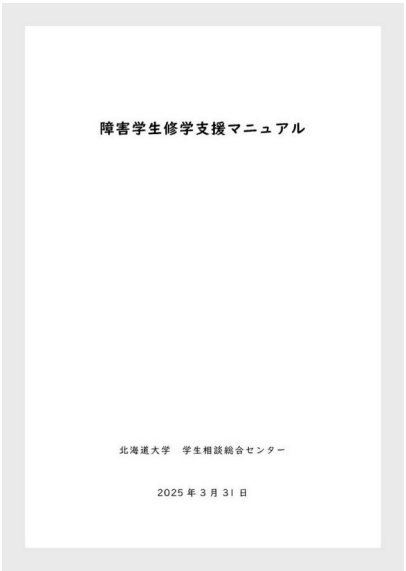
Scopus data updated 18 Oct 2026



REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Strengthening Reasonable Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Hokkaido University revised its Manual for Supporting Students with Disabilities in 2025, the first update in four years. The Accessibility Services Office of the Student Counseling and Support Center announced the revision on 23 April. The manual explains procedures for requesting and providing reasonable accommodation, with examples of responses to different types of disabilities and forms for use by university departments.


障害学生修学支援マニュアル

北海道大学　学生相談総合センター

2025 年 3 月 31 日

The office coordinates support for students who encounter barriers in study or research because of disabilities or impairments. Depending on individual circumstances, assistance includes note-taking, digitisation of reference materials, mobility support and adjustments to teaching and learning activities. Specialist staff consult with students, families and faculty members, while trained peer supporters help provide practical assistance. The University determines accommodation through consultation rather than applying identical measures to every student.

The revised manual gives faculty and administrative staff a common reference for managing requests and coordinating support across departments. Together with the University's existing disability non-discrimination rules and specialist services, this 2025 revision strengthened the documented procedures through which students can request adjustments needed to participate in academic life.



REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Supporting Diverse Students through Peer Assistance and Staff Development

Hokkaido University held two faculty and staff development sessions in 2025 to improve responses to students with disabilities and diverse support needs. On 16 May, the Faculty of Humanities and Human Sciences organised training on harassment prevention and reasonable accommodation, attended by 58 faculty and staff members. The session addressed procedures and practical considerations when supporting students in academic settings.

On 24 September, the Student Counseling and Support Center organised a University-wide session entitled “Understanding and Responding to Increasingly Diverse Students”, jointly with the Center for Teaching and Learning. Fifty-eight faculty and staff members attended. An invited specialist from the University of Tokyo examined students’ circumstances and four hypothetical cases, followed by discussion of appropriate responses. Of those who answered the post-event questionnaire, 92% reported overall satisfaction.

These activities complemented the University’s student peer support services. Trained students provide consultation and support in student life, accessibility and international student assistance. This combination of staff training and peer support enables the University to address both the professional and everyday aspects of students’ participation in education. The 2025 sessions provided documented opportunities for faculty and staff to develop their responses to varied student needs.



REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Preventing Harassment and Promoting Respectful Learning Environments

On 30 September 2025, Hokkaido University and the Hokkaido FD/SD Council held a free online seminar on building trustful communication with students to prevent academic harassment. The event attracted 125 participants from 40 institutions, extending the University's faculty and staff development activities to a wider higher education community.

Naohiro Sato, a specialist counsellor at the University's Harassment Counseling Office, introduced the Ability, Benevolence and Integrity (ABI) model of trust. The session examined how everyday communication between students and supervisors influences mutual confidence, and how recognising difficulties early may help prevent inappropriate conduct. Faculty, staff and graduate students from higher education institutions could attend; on-demand viewing was also made available to eligible personnel.

Hokkaido University maintains an institutional harassment-prevention framework, including formal regulations and a dedicated counselling office that receives concerns and coordinates appropriate responses. The 2025 seminar linked this ongoing support structure with preventive training based on counselling experience. Its participation figures demonstrate the reach of the University's practical education on respectful academic relationships across multiple institutions.

2025 HARASSMENT PREVENTION SEMINAR / EVENT REACH

125
Participants

40
Institutions

REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Addressing Structural Inequality and Promoting Inclusive Communication

Hokkaido University held two development activities in 2025 addressing structural discrimination and inclusive communication. On 30 May, the University's Diversity and Inclusion Promotion Headquarters organised a lecture entitled "Considering Diversity from the Majority Perspective: Making Invisible Privilege Visible". Makiko Deguchi, a professor at Sophia University, discussed the advantages associated with majority status and how unrecognised privilege can contribute to structural inequality and discrimination.

The session invited participants to examine assumptions about whose experiences are treated as normal within educational and organisational settings. On 26 November, the Headquarters organised a separate online seminar for university staff, particularly those responsible for publicity. A specialist from TOPPAN Editorial Communications introduced considerations for DEI-conscious wording and information accessibility. Participants discussed examples from communication work and expressions that may unintentionally exclude audiences.

The May lecture focused on understanding social and institutional mechanisms of disadvantage, while the November session addressed their implications for everyday information practices. Through these distinct activities, Hokkaido University provided its members with opportunities to reflect on unequal treatment and to consider clearer, more inclusive communication in university operations.



REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Advancing Understanding of Sexual Minority Rights through Education

Hokkaido University made academic and public discussions about sexual minority rights available through two educational initiatives in 2025. On 11 January, the Public Policy School held a free symposium on the circumstances facing sexual minorities and the reduction of discrimination, prejudice and violence. The event was co-organised with Broken Rainbow-Japan, with cooperation from Queer Life Project.

The symposium addressed responses to LGBTQ+ people in healthcare and schools, accounts of sexual violence expressed by survivors, and violence affecting LGBTIQA+ communities. Speakers from university and community organisations examined how people encounter barriers in different institutions. The programme brought education, health services and personal safety into a shared discussion of rights and unequal treatment.

The University also offered public access to two lectures from its graduate course “Introduction to SOGIESC: Studies of Sex, Gender and Sexuality” in November. Organised in cooperation with the Diversity and Inclusion Promotion Headquarters, the lectures covered LGBTQ+ issues in Asia, including Taiwan’s same-sex marriage legislation, and queer feminist film criticism. By combining a public symposium with specialist university teaching, Hokkaido University provided opportunities for informed discussion of discrimination and social inclusion beyond regular degree programmes.





REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Supporting Multicultural Coexistence through Local Policy Research

In February 2025, students from Hokkaido University's Public Policy School submitted a policy report to the mayor of Noboribetsu City, Hokkaido, on improving multicultural coexistence. The project responded to a request from the city, where the increasing number of foreign residents had prompted discussion of additional community support. The students investigated residents' needs and developed proposals rather than administering municipal services.

From June 2024 to January 2025, the team interviewed local stakeholders. It also surveyed Japanese and foreign residents between October 2024 and January 2025, with cooperation from municipal offices, schools and community organisations. The research examined communication, participation in neighbourhood activities, access to information and support sought by foreign residents. The team reviewed its findings at the University in January 2025.

The final report proposed improvements to information about the foreign resident support desk, broader access to Japanese-learning resources, clearer guidance on daily-life rules and more opportunities for neighbourhood exchange. It also suggested testing activities in a model district before wider implementation. In February, the students presented the report to the mayor and discussed its recommendations with local stakeholders. This submission was the project's documented 2025 outcome.

REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Improving Information Access and Exchange for International Students

On 4 April 2025, Hokkaido University announced the launch of its new online Handbook for International Students. Available in Japanese and English, the website brings together information on university procedures and daily life in Japan. It offers a central reference for international students preparing for arrival or managing administrative matters during their studies.

The University also updated its Language Corner programme from April 2025. English conversation sessions were scheduled on Tuesdays and Japanese sessions on Fridays, each lasting 40 minutes. International and Japanese students could participate without advance registration. The programme, coordinated by the International Student Support Desk, created regular opportunities for informal conversation and exchange across language backgrounds.

These initiatives formed part of the University's wider information and peer support provision. At the International Student Support Desk, student supporters help with practical enquiries, university procedures and communication in Japanese. The handbook supplies written guidance, while Language Corner provides a recurring setting for direct interaction. Together, the two activities addressed different barriers that international students may encounter when finding information and taking part in campus life.





SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

OVERVIEW

Hokkaido University contributes to sustainable cities and communities by opening its campuses, green spaces and cultural resources to the public and working with residents, local governments and businesses. In 2025, the University promoted public use of its grounds, preserved and shared historic buildings and scholarly collections, and managed campus traffic to support safe access. It also expanded opportunities for community participation and dialogue. Through student-led activities in Furubira and Hakodate, the University connected education and research with local priorities and community revitalisation.

RESEARCH IMPACT

SCOPUS / 2021–2025

463
Scholarly Output

1.43
Field-Weighted Citation Impact

FWCI world average: 1.0

7,144
Citation Count

Scopus data updated 18 Oct 2026

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Opening the Campus and Green Spaces to Local Communities

In April 2025, Hokkaido University adopted its Basic Policy for an Open Campus, setting out how its campuses, experimental forests, farms and other field facilities can be shared with society while protecting their educational and research functions, natural environments and historic assets. The University further developed this approach in November by establishing an accreditation framework for organisations offering campus tours and educational or research-related programmes. These measures provide a common basis for welcoming people to the University's facilities and resources.

The Sapporo Campus also served as a place for residents to enjoy outdoor activities. The University's Laboratory of Floriculture and Landscape Architecture worked with the community group Manabi Design to organise Hokudai Play Park on the Central Lawn, combining opportunities for children's self-directed outdoor play with research on safe public use of the space.

Public engagement continued through the student-led 14th Golden-Leaf Festival on November 1 and 2. The illuminated ginkgo avenue and activities for different generations brought visitors into contact with the campus's seasonal landscape. Alongside the open-campus policy and nature-based programmes, the festival helped make the University's grounds places for recreation, learning and exchange with the surrounding community.





SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Creating Inclusive Communities through Participation

Hokkaido University provided opportunities to develop people who can support inclusive community activities. In October 2025, it launched Sasapro, a continuing education programme for community managers who connect people and organisations. Eighteen participants in its first cohort attended an opening workshop on October 19, considering their learning goals and how to contribute to the places where they live and work. The programme focuses on the skills needed to sustain community participation.

Community issues were also discussed in a wider public setting. On October 30, students organised Yoriyoku Kurasu Kaigi, an event developed from an earlier workshop involving students and Sapporo City. Participants from the city government, businesses and the University joined exhibits and discussions about decarbonization, local development and new uses for closed school buildings. Together, these activities connected opportunities for direct participation, community-oriented training and dialogue about everyday life.



SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Protecting Historic Buildings and Cultural Landscapes

Hokkaido University continued to preserve and open historic properties that reflect the development of Sapporo and Hokkaido. From April 29 to November 3, 2025, Sapporo Agricultural College Farm No. 2, a nationally designated Important Cultural Property, offered free public access to historic agricultural buildings, including the model barn, granary and cowshed. By entering these buildings, visitors could encounter the University's agricultural heritage in the setting where it has been preserved.

The University also made its historic landscape easier to explore. In March 2025, it published the fourth English edition of its Historic Property Guide Map, followed by the seventh Japanese edition in July. Both guides introduce buildings, archaeological sites, trees and landscapes across the Sapporo Campus. On September 26 and 27, the University Botanic Garden held a special programme for 21 participants, opening normally closed historic building interiors and introducing museum collections and materials associated with their history. Both activities provided opportunities to learn about cultural assets beyond their everyday appearance.

Continued educational use is another part of this approach. The Center of Education and Research for Hokkaido Wines occupies a former educational building constructed in 1901 and renovated in 2023. On October 1, 2025, the building, which incorporates birch timber from the University's experimental forests, was registered as a HOKKAIDO WOOD BUILDING, the first Registered Tangible Cultural Property recognized under the programme. Public access, historical interpretation and adaptive use thus form complementary aspects of the University's stewardship of cultural heritage.







SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Sharing Museum, Library and Archival Collections

Hokkaido University continued to share scientific collections and cultural materials with the public in 2025. The Hokkaido University Museum in Sapporo offered free admission, while a special exhibition jointly presented with NHK Sapporo Broadcasting Station from March 22 to April 6 introduced Kamuysaurus, the dinosaur discovered in Mukawa, Hokkaido. Held at NHK Sapporo, the exhibition featured a reconstructed mounted skeleton, fossil specimens and interactive activities, bringing paleontological research to visitors of different ages.

The University also expanded opportunities to encounter collections in its other facilities. On April 24, the Fisheries Science Museum on the Hakodate Campus reopened renewed displays of marine animal specimens, fisheries education and research, and historical materials, with access to a collection storage area. On September 12, the Hokkaido University Museum opened a free exhibition on whale fossils in cooperation with the Sapporo City Museum Activity Center, introducing specimens associated with the region's natural history.

Libraries and archives added a historical perspective to these public activities. From September 18 to October 8, the Main Library displayed high-resolution reproductions of old maps depicting Hokkaido, Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands. On September 27 and 28, the University Archives presented materials on the Sapporo Campus and microbiologist Jun Hanzawa, drawing 38 participants. The Main Library, North Library and specialized libraries also continued to provide access to eligible external users. These exhibitions and services enabled residents and visitors to explore research collections, local history and the University's scholarly heritage.





SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Managing Campus Traffic and Supporting Pedestrian Safety

Hokkaido University continued traffic management across its Sapporo Campus in 2025, where research and teaching facilities, historic buildings, pedestrian paths and green spaces are used by University members and visitors. Keeping movement through these different areas safe is an important part of maintaining a campus that also serves as a place for walking, recreation and public events. The University therefore combines routine vehicle-entry controls with guidance on considerate use of roads and paths.

Under the campus rules, vehicle entry is generally limited to University business and other authorized purposes, and students are prohibited from commuting by private car or motorcycle. Guidance on bicycle parking and safe circulation helps pedestrians, cyclists and drivers share the grounds responsibly. The University also continued its internal shuttle bus service between campus facilities and introduced a revised route map on June 12, providing information for travel across the extensive site.

Special arrangements supported public access during major events. For the 14th Golden-Leaf Festival on November 1 and 2, the University temporarily restricted vehicle access to North 13th Street, where visitors gathered to enjoy the ginkgo avenue, and encouraged travel by public transport. Combining daily traffic rules, the shuttle service and event-specific measures, Hokkaido University maintained the movement of people and vehicles through a campus used for academic activities and by the surrounding community.



SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Supporting Resident-Led Community Planning in Furubira

Hokkaido University's Graduate School of Public Policy worked with Furubira, a coastal town in Hokkaido, through a policy discussion seminar conducted during the 2024 academic year. Facing population decline and challenges in making use of local resources, the town provided a setting for students to examine community development in practice. The team reviewed municipal documents, interviewed local stakeholders and carried out fieldwork to understand Furubira's economy, history and priorities for the future.

Drawing on these findings, the students developed proposals concerning fisheries, tourism, cultural heritage and planned renewable-energy development. They explored ways to encourage visitors to stay longer, connect locally generated energy with local demand and help residents identify cultural assets that could strengthen attachment to their town. The team also examined approaches adopted in other municipalities and exchanged views with people involved in community development across Japan. A key part of the proposals was the creation of a resident-led discussion body and an organisation to coordinate agreed initiatives.

In February 2025, the students returned to Furubira and presented their completed policy report to the mayor and deputy mayor. They subsequently discussed the ideas with local stakeholders, including people involved in energy development. The meetings brought proposals on tourism, energy use and community participation into direct dialogue with municipal leaders and residents, connecting the University's policy education with the town's consideration of its future development.



SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Students Working with Communities to Revitalize Hakodate

In Hakodate, Hokkaido University's Regional Fisheries Co-Creation Center continued its work with ISARIBI with, a student organisation exploring ways to address community challenges. During 2025, its Ikiru Aki Project considered new uses for vacant buildings and land, including properties near Hakodate Station and a former municipal facility. Related initiatives introduced restaurants that accommodate different dietary practices, encouraged students to join neighbourhood associations and created occasions for exchange between younger and older residents.

These activities were shared with the wider community on December 14, when the Center and ISARIBI with jointly held Co-wave at Hakodate Arena. Students presented progress across four projects and exchanged ideas directly with residents, businesses and other participants. The meeting provided a setting to discuss the use of existing spaces, food information and connections between generations, while bringing students into contact with people involved in local community life.

The University also collaborated on a separate initiative to communicate Hakodate's attractions. On June 14, its Institute for the Promotion of Business-Regional Collaboration co-hosted Hakodate Re-Discovery with Hakodate City and SCSK Hokkaido. Twenty-two students and other young participants explored local resources and products from Hakodate businesses and used Japanese and English to develop ideas for sharing their appeal with wider audiences. Through these projects, students engaged with the city's places, people and economic resources from several complementary perspectives.





RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

OVERVIEW

In 2025, Hokkaido University advanced responsible consumption and production through campus waste management, the reuse of materials, and the effective use of underutilised resources. The University maintained the responsible management of laboratory chemicals and experimental waste. Initiatives such as book donations, household-goods garage sales, and the use of compost made from fallen leaves in campus gardens helped keep materials and resources in circulation. Research into the use of underutilised kelp as livestock feed, together with biochar research on recovering resources from waste biomass and public lectures on environmental chemistry, connected the University's operational practices with research, education, and collaboration with local communities.

RESEARCH IMPACT

SCOPUS / 2021–2025

341
Scholarly Output

1.27
Field-Weighted Citation Impact

FWCI world average: 1.0

7,818
Citation Count

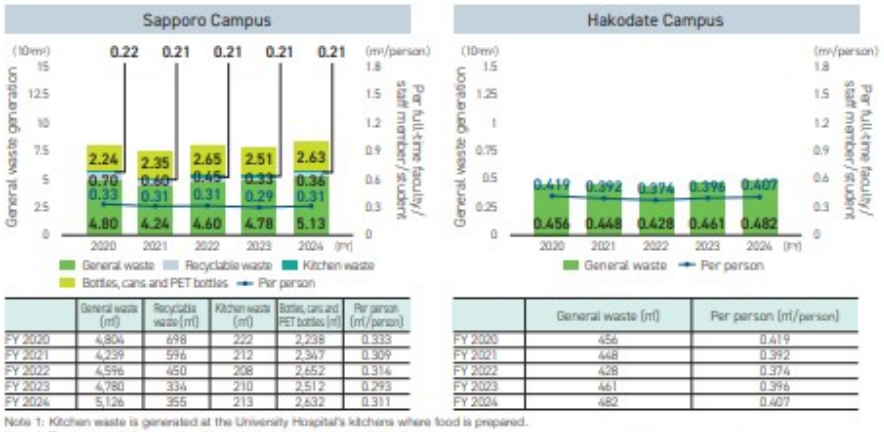
Scopus data updated 18 Oct 2026

RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Waste Generation

General waste generation (FY 2024)

General waste
8,809m³



	General waste (m³)	Recyclable waste (m³)	Kitchen waste (m³)	Bottles, cans and PET bottles (m³)	Per person (m³/person)
FY 2020	4,804	698	222	2,238	0.333
FY 2021	4,239	596	212	2,347	0.309
FY 2022	4,596	450	208	2,652	0.314
FY 2023	4,780	334	210	2,512	0.293
FY 2024	5,126	355	213	2,632	0.311

	General waste (m³)	Per person (m³/person)
FY 2020	456	0.419
FY 2021	448	0.392
FY 2022	428	0.374
FY 2023	461	0.396
FY 2024	482	0.407

Note 1: Kitchen waste is generated at the University Hospital's kitchens where food is prepared.
Note 2: The "per capita" generation figures include temporary faculty/staff.
Note 3: The Hokkaido University Sustainability Report 2022 contained an error in the FY 2020 general waste figures for the Sapporo Campus. Please see this revised report for the corrected data.

Industrial waste generation (FY 2024)

Industrial waste
1,733t

Infectious waste
355t



	Industrial waste (t)	Infectious waste (t)	Total
FY 2020	1,835	309	2,144
FY 2021	1,823	327	2,150
FY 2022	1,965	639	2,604
FY 2023	1,760	625	2,385
FY 2024	1,713	355	2,068

	Industrial waste (t)	Infectious waste (t)	Total
FY 2020	14.20	0.03	14.23
FY 2021	11.12	0.03	11.15
FY 2022	17.16	0.05	17.20
FY 2023	16.77	0.02	16.79
FY 2024	20.32	0.02	20.34

Note: The figures for the Sapporo Campus exclude items that fall under the Act on the Recycling of Specified Kinds of Home Appliances. The figures for the Hakodate Campus include discarded electrical appliances.

Experimental liquid waste generation (FY 2024)

Organic
113,847L

Inorganic
16,878L



	Organic (L)	Inorganic (L)	Total
FY 2020	102,392	16,102	118,494
FY 2021	99,561	18,081	117,642
FY 2022	108,129	17,202	125,331
FY 2023	106,326	17,425	123,751
FY 2024	107,751	16,450	124,201

	Organic (L)	Inorganic (L)	Total
FY 2020	2,946	542	3,488
FY 2021	3,756	959	4,715
FY 2022	3,097	865	3,962
FY 2023	3,025	621	3,646
FY 2024	6,096	428	6,524

Note: Including local facilities

Source: Hokkaido University Sustainability Report 2025, p. 25 (FY2024 data).

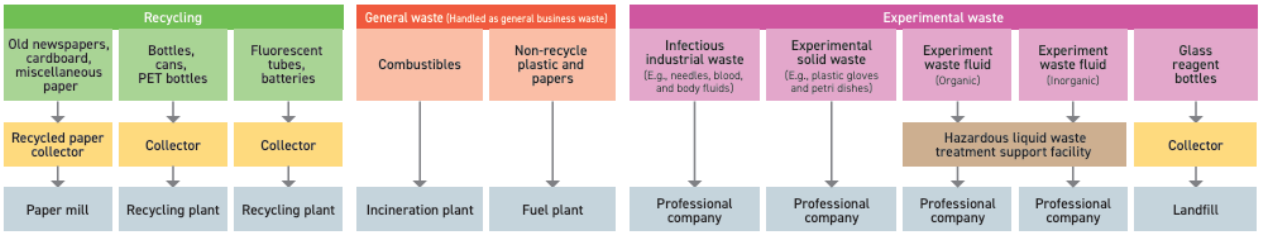
RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Responsible Management of Laboratory Chemicals and Experimental Waste

Hokkaido University continued its university-wide management of chemicals and experimental waste in 2025, supporting teaching and research activities across laboratories and facilities. Its chemical management regulations establish procedures for storing, handling and collecting hazardous substances, while a centralised management system and safety training support their consistent application. The University also maintains separate collection arrangements for experimental liquid waste, which requires treatment according to its chemical properties.

As part of these arrangements, laboratories segregate organic and inorganic liquid waste before collection. Specialist contractors carry out final treatment, including incineration of organic waste and processes such as precipitation for inorganic waste. Residues arising from treatment are handled through established disposal procedures. By separating liquid waste at the point of generation and coordinating its subsequent treatment, the University manages chemical substances throughout their use and disposal in research activities.

Flow of recycling and waste disposal (main items)





RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Giving Books a Second Life through Library Donations

Hokkaido University Library continued its Furuhon Bokin (Used Book Donation) programme in 2025, inviting members of the university community and the public to donate books they no longer needed. Rather than being left unused, donated books are passed to a contracted second-hand bookseller, and the proceeds support the Library's educational and research activities. The programme has operated since 2016 as an ongoing way to combine the reuse of books with support for learning.

Books can be deposited at collection stations in the Central Library and North Library on the Sapporo Campus. The proceeds are used for purposes such as purchasing books for students and equipment for library users. This arrangement allows individuals to contribute existing materials while helping the Library develop resources shared by students and researchers, connecting an everyday act of donation with the University's academic activities.

Between 1 January and 31 December 2025, the programme collected 7,623 books and generated JPY 496,338 in purchase proceeds. The donations brought books back into circulation through the second-hand market, while their resale value was directed towards the Library's educational and research support. The annual figures record how the Library continued to turn donated books into resources for students and researchers.

2025 USED BOOK DONATIONS

7,623

Books collected

RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Reusing Household Goods through Spring and Autumn Garage Sales

The Hokkaido University International Women's Club held garage sales in spring and autumn 2025 to make donated household goods available to international students and researchers. Organised at Clark Memorial Student Center, the events brought together useful items contributed by university staff and other supporters. For people settling into life in Sapporo, the sales offered opportunities to obtain household essentials while allowing products to remain in use beyond their original owners.

The spring sale, held on 13 May, attracted approximately 150 visitors. Items included tableware, cooking utensils, clothing, bedding, suitcases and small electrical appliances, with a separate area offering goods free of charge. Students and researchers could select items suited to their new accommodation, from cooking pots to fans and travel cases, drawing on donations gathered from across the university community.

The Club organised a second sale on 7 October, when approximately 300 people attended —the highest turnout since the COVID-19 pandemic. The autumn event again offered a broad selection of donated goods, including household items and clothing. Through the two sales, the Club connected the needs of international members of the University with reusable products provided by staff and supporters, extending their useful lives and reducing the need to buy everything new.





RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Resource Circulation through Kitamite Garden SDGs Farm

Hokkaido University has been cultivating vegetables and herbs at Kitamite Garden SDGs Farm using leaf mould made from fallen leaves collected on its Sapporo Campus. In 2025, the project expanded beyond the existing garden in the courtyard of the Hokkaido University Museum to include a new growing area on the North Campus. University staff and students worked with the Hokkaido Marathon Organising Committee and student volunteers to extend the use of campus organic materials in food production.

Produce from the gardens was served at a meal for runners on 30 August, ahead of Hokkaido Marathon 2025. The menu included rice with campus-grown radishes and whitebait and mint-infused water, alongside dishes using other University-related ingredients, such as a dressing made from sake lees, a by-product of sake production. Produce from the project was also incorporated into meals at Museum Café Polus, bringing the harvest into food served on campus.

The gardens provided opportunities for children from a nearby nursery school to take part in planting and harvesting with student volunteers. The children later used some of the produce to make pizza and shiso juice. Alongside the establishment of the North Campus garden and the meals served during the marathon, these activities connected the reuse of fallen leaves with cultivation, food preparation and participation by the local community.







RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Using Underutilised Kelp in Livestock Production and School Meals

Research supported by Hokkaido University's Regional Fisheries Co-Creation Center has explored using underutilised kelp from Shikabe, Hokkaido, as feed for sheep. The work brings together local fisheries resources and livestock production, with a graduate student examining the properties of lamb raised on kelp-based feed. In January 2025, the research was introduced to local children through a school lunch featuring the resulting meat.

On 29 January, lamb donated to Shikabe by the representative of Onuma Nagareyama Farm was served at Shikabe Elementary School as jingisukan, a grilled lamb dish familiar in Hokkaido. A Hokkaido University master's student supported by the Center visited the sixth-grade class and explained how parts of the locally harvested kelp had been incorporated into the sheep's feed. The pupils learned about the connection between fisheries, livestock farming and their school meal while tasting the product.

The student also introduced results from a comparison of meat composition: the kelp-fed lamb contained 24% more amino acids associated with savoury taste than the comparison lamb. The event was made possible through cooperation among the farm, the town and the school, alongside the University's research and educational contribution. During the visit, the pupils discussed the feeding trial with the graduate student and learned how locally sourced kelp had been used to raise the lamb served for lunch.

KELP-FED LAMB RESEARCH

+24%

Savoury-associated amino acids



RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Turning Waste Biomass into Resources through Biochar Research

Professor Kazunori Iwabuchi of Hokkaido University's Research Faculty of Agriculture studies ways to turn waste biomass into useful resources. His work centres on biochar produced by carbonising agricultural residues and livestock waste, with potential applications in renewable fuels, organic fertilisers and carbon storage. Rather than treating these materials solely as waste to be disposed of, the research investigates how they can be returned to productive use within agricultural and regional resource cycles.

In March 2025, Iwabuchi and his colleagues published research comparing the recovery and release of nutrients from chicken manure treated as biochar, hydrochar or compost. Under the conditions examined, biochar recovered 76.4% of the manure's nitrogen, compared with 37.4% for hydrochar and 36.2% for compost. The researchers also found that biochar supplied more plant-available nitrogen and showed greater carbon stability in soil. The findings point to opportunities to recover nutrients from agricultural waste and use them more effectively in soil fertilisation.

On 27 May 2025, Professor Kazunori Iwabuchi gave a lecture at the kickoff symposium of Hokkaido University’s Green Transformation Innovation Center entitled “Resource Recovery through the Carbonisation of Waste Biomass, with a Focus on Resource Circulation and Low Environmental Impact.” In the lecture, he introduced his research on recovering resources through the carbonisation of waste biomass, with particular attention to resource circulation and reducing environmental impacts. The symposium brought together University researchers and students as well as representatives from businesses and local governments, providing an opportunity to share research findings with a broad range of stakeholders within and beyond the University.



RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Public Lectures on Environmental Chemistry and Sustainable Materials

Hokkaido University's Faculty of Environmental Earth Science held a five-part public lecture series, 'Chemistry for a Greener Planet: The Challenge Toward a Sustainable Future,' between 26 August and 24 September 2025. Offered both on campus and online, the programme invited people beyond the University's regular courses to learn how chemical research relates to environmental protection and the sustainable production and use of materials.

Five University researchers covered the production of industrial materials from plant resources, environmentally considerate antifouling agents for ships, catalysts used to address air pollution and chemical reactions in the atmosphere. A further lecture explored hydrogen, oxygen and water in future energy systems. The sessions linked scientific concepts to applications in manufacturing and environmental management, and participants could put questions directly to the researchers.

The programme welcomed 61 participants ranging in age from their teens to their eighties, of whom 41 received certificates after attending at least three sessions. High-school, college-of-technology and university students could participate free of charge.





CLIMATE ACTION

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

OVERVIEW

In 2025, Hokkaido University advanced climate action through greenhouse gas management, decarbonisation research, disaster preparedness, international cooperation, and education. The University strengthened the disclosure of its greenhouse gas emissions and worked with industry and financial institutions to evaluate technologies and strategies supporting decarbonisation.

Drawing on its expertise in cold-region and environmental sciences, Hokkaido University also investigated changes in polar ice and extreme weather. Through public lectures, school programmes, and professional training, the University shared scientific knowledge with citizens, students, communities, and practitioners, contributing to wider understanding of climate change and responses to its impacts.

RESEARCH IMPACT

SCOPUS / 2021–2025

651

Scholarly Output

Scopus data updated 18 Oct 2026

1.42

Field-Weighted Citation Impact

FWCI world average: 1.0

16,367

Citation Count



CLIMATE ACTION

Strengthening Greenhouse Gas Disclosure and Campus Climate Action

In May 2025, Hokkaido University published a revised edition of its GHG Inventory 2022, strengthening the foundation for University-wide greenhouse gas management. The inventory covers all University sites and calculates emissions of seven greenhouse gases using the Scope 1, Scope 2, and Scope 3 classifications of the GHG Protocol. By providing a comprehensive account of emissions for fiscal year 2022, it supports the identification of major emission sources and the development of measures for reducing the University's environmental impact.

The University also expanded public access to its emissions information. Alongside the revised inventory, Hokkaido University released an English-language summary and a Japanese explanatory video to communicate its findings to a wider audience. In November, the University received the Sustainable Campus Award 2025 from the Campus Sustainability Network in Japan (CAS-Net JAPAN) for its comprehensive approach to greenhouse gas accounting and disclosure. Hokkaido University also responded to the 2025 CDP Climate Change Questionnaire and received a B rating.

These institutional activities were accompanied by opportunities for students and staff to participate in planning the University's future environment. On 24–25 May, ten students and five faculty and staff members joined a workshop examining the future of the Sapporo campus from the perspectives of carbon neutrality and nature-positive development. Through field observations, group discussions, and design exercises, participants prepared proposals for the future use of campus spaces and infrastructure, incorporating environmental considerations into their visions for campus development.


CAS-Net JAPAN

Sustainable Campus Award 2025

サステイナブルキャンパス賞2025
大学運営・地域連携部門

国立大学法人 北海道大学 殿

下記の取組は、サステイナブルキャンパス実現に向けた大変優れた取組として認められるので、これを賞します。

北海道大学GHGインベントリ

2025 年 11 月 8 日

一般社団法人サステイナブルキャンパス推進協議会
代表理事 朴 恵淑





CLIMATE ACTION

Launch of the “Green Transformation Innovation Center”

Hokkaido University established the Green Transformation Innovation Center in April 2025 with the aim of creating a "GX Knowledge Hub" at the University, which has strengths in SDG-related activities.

Hokkaido has some of the highest renewable energy potential in Japan and is making full use of this potential to promote the development of GX industrial clusters and the strengthening of financial functions that support them. To contribute to GX industries and regional revitalization in Hokkaido, Hokkaido University established the Center with the aim of serving as a hub for GX research and industry collaboration. The Center will accelerate outstanding interdisciplinary research conducted by researchers in a wide range of GX-related fields and promote GX through collaboration with local governments, industry, financial institutions, and other organisations both within and outside Hokkaido. Beyond contributing to regional revitalization, the Center will also disseminate its research outcomes from Hokkaido to the world.

On May 27, a kick-off symposium was held to commemorate the establishment of the Center. Center Director Hiroki Habazaki introduced the Center's activity plan. Presentations were also given on initiatives related to the GX Finance and Asset Management Special Zone in Hokkaido and Sapporo, as well as GX-related research conducted by Hokkaido University researchers.



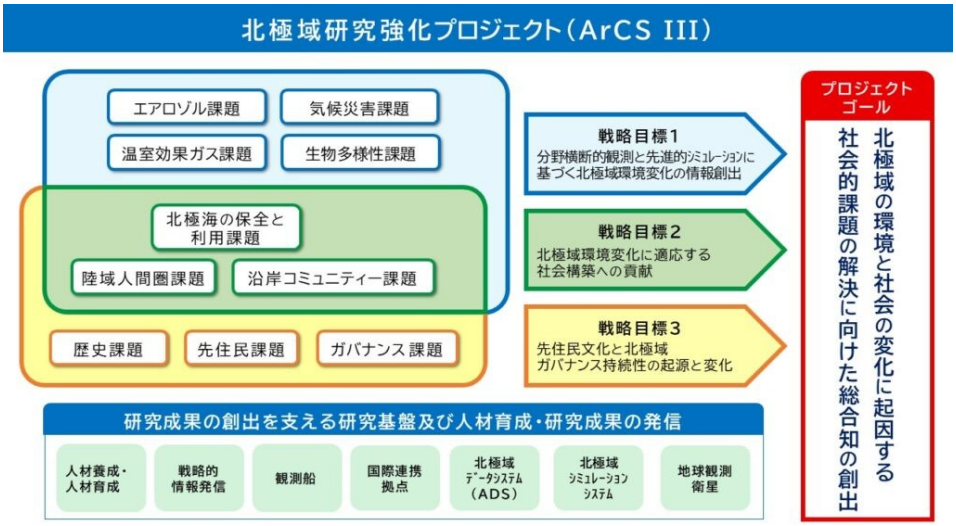
CLIMATE ACTION

Launching the Arctic Challenge for Sustainability III (ArCS III)

Hokkaido University, in collaboration with the National Institute of Polar Research and the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC), has launched the Arctic Challenge for Sustainability III (ArCS III). ArCS III is the largest comprehensive Arctic research project in Japan, and will be carried out from April 1, 2025 to the end of fiscal year 2029 with the support of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology's Subsidy Program for Promoting Environmental Technology and Other Accelerated Development.

The Arctic is the region where the effects of global warming are most evident, and the rapid changes in its natural environment are having a major impact on the environment and ecosystems of the entire planet, including the mid-latitudes. Therefore, the development of interdisciplinary research is required to contribute to solving social issues related to the sustainability of the Arctic. In addition, it is an urgent task to eliminate the observation gaps in the Arctic, understand the actual state of environmental changes, and improve the reliability of future predictions based on that understanding.

This project is a further development of Japan's Arctic research projects, which have been continued by the GRENE Arctic Climate Change Research Project, ArCS, and ArCS II since FY2011. It consists of 10 research topics based on three strategic goals and 7 research platforms that support them.



Continued on next page



CLIMATE ACTION

13

ArCS III (continued)

By utilizing observation infrastructure (research vessels, Earth observation satellites, etc.), simulation systems, data systems, etc., we will advance understanding of the polar environment, while also developing new fields by leveraging the strengths of the interdisciplinary Arctic research community, nurturing the next generation of researchers, and fostering awareness of social issues. We will achieve the project goal of "creating comprehensive knowledge to solve social issues caused by changes in the Arctic environment and society" and contribute to Japan's international mission in Arctic research and Arctic policy.

From Hokkaido University, researchers from a wide range of fields, including natural sciences, humanities and social sciences, and engineering, are participating in the ArCS III project. In particular, Professor Tomonori Sato Faculty of Environmental Earth Science will lead the research on the "climate disaster issue" as the representative of the project, and Professor Hiromichi Ueno Faculty of Fisheries Sciences will lead the research on the "biodiversity issue" as the representative of the project. In addition, we will continue our interdisciplinary research in Greenland, where we have had a proven track record, in collaboration with the local community. Furthermore, we will be responsible for human resource development projects to train the next generation of Arctic researchers, centering on the Arctic Research Center. In addition to sending young researchers and graduate students overseas, including to the Arctic region, we will provide a comprehensive polar education program, including practical training and special lectures both domestically and overseas.







CLIMATE ACTION

Engaging Children and High-School Students in Climate Action

Hokkaido University worked with schools and community partners in 2025 to provide children and young people with opportunities to explore climate change through practical activities. On 7 June, the University's Food and Medical Innovation facilities hosted the SDGs × Business Expo, where schoolchildren and families participated in hands-on learning. Activities included Carbon Quest, which introduced the movement of carbon through natural and human systems, and a workshop using building blocks to explore environmental challenges. University students helped organise and deliver the educational activities.

Opportunities for experiential learning also extended beyond the campus. In August, Assabu Town and KitchHike Inc. organised two sessions of the Assabu Summer Camp 2025, attended by forty elementary school children in total. Hokkaido University's Graduate School Education Reform Organisation supervised the educational programme, while students supported participants during the camp. Ezolink LLC, a Hokkaido University-certified startup, designed and delivered workshops combining Carbon Quest with LEGO Serious Play. Children used these activities to explore decarbonisation and the relationship between people and nature.

For older students, the University collaborated with the Rumoi District Board of Education on the Rumoi High Schools–Hokkaido University SDGs and Zero-Carbon Project 2025. On 11 December, twelve students from five high schools participated alongside six teachers and four education officials. They visited Sapporo's Komaoka waste-treatment plant to learn about recovering energy from waste, and discussed zero-carbon initiatives and sustainability challenges in their home communities. The programme connected practical examples of energy use with students' own investigations into regional environmental issues.







CLIMATE ACTION

Developing Skills for Climate Action and Disaster Risk Reduction

Hokkaido University provided education in 2025 for professionals and students seeking to address the transition towards a low-carbon society, climate adaptation, and disaster risk reduction. Its GX Innovation Center offered the GX Future Society Design Practice Program, with eight basic-course sessions between October and December 2025, attracting 115 participants, of whom 63 completed the programme. The course introduced policies, technologies, finance, and practical approaches associated with GX and nature-positive development. Hybrid teaching and on-demand materials provided learning opportunities for professionals and other participants.

In July, the international collaborative learning programme One Program for Global Goals (OGGs) offered the SDGs Practicum: Northern Regions Design School (NJE3). Twenty-three students participated in four days of study on energy efficiency in cold-climate buildings, climate adaptation, and disaster shelter planning. The programme linked specialised knowledge with situations encountered in regional planning and practical responses to climate change.

On October 1, 2025, the Center for Natural Hazards Research launched the Natural Hazard Resilience Program (N-HRP) for disaster-response personnel working in municipalities, businesses, and non-profit organisations. The programme combines scientific knowledge from researchers with the experience of disaster-response practitioners, covering preparedness for complex disasters, crisis management, and recovery and reconstruction.



CLIMATE ACTION

Center for Natural Hazards Research and Kushiro City sign a partnership agreement

Center for Natural Hazards Research and Kushiro City have signed a collaboration agreement to work toward reducing damage from wide-area complex disasters. The signing ceremony for this collaboration agreement was held at the Hokkaido University Conference Hall on May 27th.

A massive earthquake along the Japan Trench and the Kuril Trench, one of the biggest threats to Hokkaido, is expected to cause enormous damage, especially along the Pacific coast, and Kushiro City is expected to suffer the greatest tsunami in the prefecture. Hokkaido University's Center for Natural Hazards Research and Kushiro City have recently signed a partnership agreement to work together to promote efforts to prevent and mitigate wide-area complex disasters caused by such massive earthquakes, as well as to foster human resources with specialized knowledge, with the aim of reducing damage in the event of a large-scale disaster.

Contents of cooperation

1. Kushiro City's participation in research meetings, lectures, and research projects conducted by Center for Natural Hazards Research
2. Advice from Center for Natural Hazards Research on disaster prevention policies and projects implemented by Kushiro City
3. Advice from Center for Natural Hazards Research on Kushiro City's disaster response
4. Human resource development and research exchange on disaster prevention and mitigation
5. Mutual cooperation in disaster prevention awareness activities for local residents

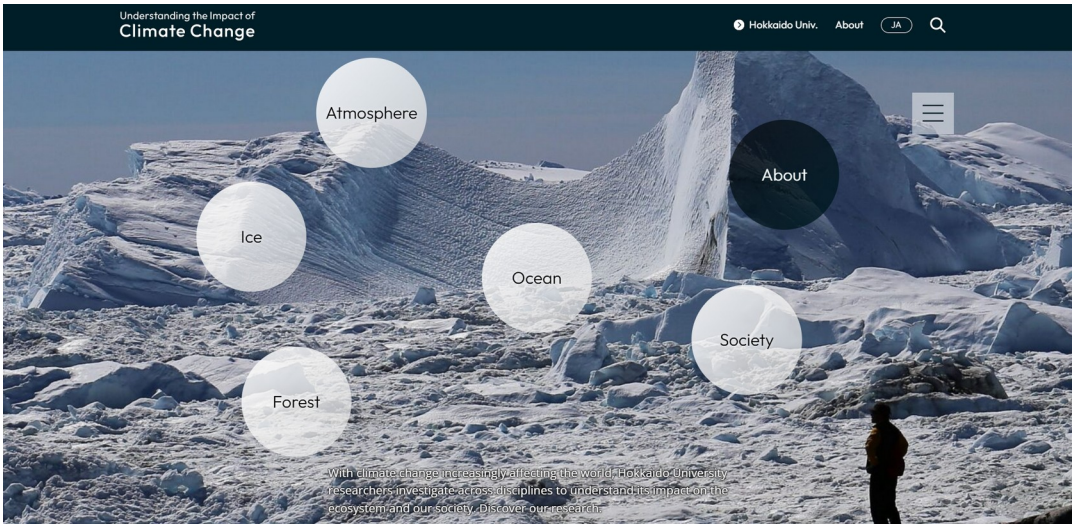
CLIMATE ACTION

Enhancing Transparency of Climate Action through CDP Disclosure

Hokkaido University actively utilizes external assessment systems to enhance the transparency and credibility of its sustainability-related activities. Since FY2022, the University has submitted annual responses to the CDP Climate Change Questionnaire administered by CDP, which operates a global environmental disclosure system. In FY2025, the University received a B score (Management Level) for the fourth consecutive year.

Understanding the Impact of Climate Change

With climate change increasingly affecting the world, Hokkaido University researchers investigate across disciplines to understand its impact on the ecosystem and our society. Discover our research.



https://www.global.hokudai.ac.jp/climate-change/



LIFE BELOW WATER

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

OVERVIEW

Hokkaido University advances the conservation and sustainable use of marine ecosystems and resources through scientific research, long-term environmental monitoring, practical education and international cooperation. In 2025, the University reported advances in king salmon and kelp aquaculture, alongside findings on coastal ecosystem change, ocean acidification, fisheries resources and the behaviour of marine species. Research and training vessels supported ocean observation and hands-on learning, while exchanges with fisheries officials from other countries contributed to sustainable resource management. The University also expanded opportunities for marine science education through school outreach, public lectures and online learning, and engaged coastal communities and industry representatives in discussions on marine environmental change and fisheries sustainability. Through these activities, Hokkaido University connected scientific knowledge with practical experience to support the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources.

RESEARCH IMPACT

SCOPUS / 2021–2025

517
Scholarly Output

1.04
Field-Weighted Citation Impact

FWCI world average: 1.0

6,642
Citation Count

Scopus data updated 18 October 2026

LIFE BELOW WATER

Advancing Sustainable Aquaculture through Marine Research

In 2025, Hokkaido University reported advances in two marine aquaculture research programmes. The Hakodate Mariculture Project, conducted with Hakodate City and the Hakodate International Marine and Fisheries City Promotion Organization, develops cultivation techniques for king salmon and makombu kelp. A separate collaboration with the Hokkaido Research Organization focuses on breeding black rockfish, a fisheries species found in northern Japan.

In October, the Hakodate research team announced Japan's first complete aquaculture cycle for king salmon descended from wild-caught fish. Eggs from 16 females were fertilised with sperm from 36 males. The team obtained approximately 26,000 eggs, including around 11,000 that developed into eyed eggs, and subsequently produced about 9,000 fry. These results provide a basis for domestic seed production and further breeding research. At a project meeting on June 20, approximately 140 participants heard reports on salmon and kelp cultivation.



2025 / KING SALMON AQUACULTURE

~9,000

King salmon fry produced

LIFE BELOW WATER

Connecting Fisheries Education with Industry and Government

Hokkaido University connects fisheries education with the experience of producers, businesses and public authorities. The Regional Fisheries Co-Creation Center's CREEN curriculum provides field-based learning at cultivation and processing facilities. In December 2025, a separate University forum brought industry and government representatives together with researchers to discuss challenges facing the fisheries sector.

During 2025, CREEN students visited kelp cultivation facilities in the Toi area and undertook practical training in makombu seed production. Laboratory activities introduced kelp reproduction and interactions between kelp and sea urchins. On October 24, four students visited sea urchin seed-production and intermediate rearing facilities in Shiriuchi, using an underwater drone to examine equipment and learning about fisheries operations from local practitioners.

On December 1, the Faculty of Fisheries Sciences and the University's organisation for industry and regional collaboration held 'The Future of Fisheries Business: What Can Universities Do?' in Tokyo. Approximately 150 participants from companies and related organisations discussed production, distribution, resource management, technological development and workforce needs. University researchers introduced work on aquaculture, blue carbon and marine monitoring. These programmes shared fisheries research in two settings: practical learning with regional producers and discussion of industry-wide issues with organisations involved in the fisheries economy.





LIFE BELOW WATER

Marine Science Education through School Outreach and Hands-on Learning

Hokkaido University provides marine science education for children through school outreach and hands-on learning at its Hakodate Campus. The Regional Fisheries Co-Creation Center develops STEAM activities with schools in Hakodate, giving pupils opportunities to learn about aquatic organisms, blue carbon and environmental processes through presentations, quizzes and practical activities.

On October 23, 2025, approximately 60 sixth-grade pupils and accompanying teachers from Minato Elementary School visited the Hakodate Campus. Graduate students explained blue carbon through presentations and quizzes, then led hands-on activities using alginate derived from seaweed. Pupils also toured laboratories and museum facilities, where they could examine research instruments and marine specimens. Further outreach lessons introduced marine topics, including whales, dolphins and kelp, at schools in the Hakodate area.



LIFE BELOW WATER

Sharing Marine Science through Free Lectures and Online Learning

Hokkaido University shares fisheries and ocean science beyond its degree programmes through public lectures and online educational resources. The Faculty of Fisheries Sciences offers free lectures for residents and other interested learners, while the LASBOS platform provides access to courses and videos on aquatic environments and fisheries research. Both activities make scientific knowledge available outside regular classes.

Between June 14 and July 26, 2025, the Faculty held four sessions of its public lecture series, 'Science of the Entire Ocean'. The thirty-ninth edition explored oceanographic processes, warming, marine heatwaves and their effects on fisheries organisms. Sessions were provided free of charge at the Hakodate Campus and online, attracting a cumulative total of 355 attendances. Participants also had opportunities to ask questions of researchers about the findings presented.

Throughout 2025, the University continued to provide LASBOS educational materials on fisheries and marine sciences. By July, the platform offered more than 1,400 courses and approximately 540 videos, with video descriptions available in Japanese and English. Learners could use the online collection independently of scheduled lectures and explore subjects ranging from marine biology to fisheries techniques. Together, free public events and digital materials widened access to marine science for audiences in Hokkaido and beyond.



LASBOS / JULY 2025

1,400+

Online courses available



LIFE BELOW WATER

Discussing Coastal Environmental Change with Communities

In 2025, Hokkaido University organised events in Sapporo and Hakodate that invited participants to consider the connections between changing marine environments and coastal communities. The programmes used photographic records, visits to local sites and public discussion to explore how the sea relates to fisheries, tourism, urban history and everyday life.

On June 28, the Research Center for Regional Economics and Business Networks held ‘Shiretoko Night’ to mark the twentieth anniversary of Shiretoko’s designation as a UNESCO World Natural Heritage site. Underwater photographer Katsunori Seki presented photographs and footage gathered over many years in the region. His presentation addressed changes affecting pink salmon, drift ice and coastal waters, and examined their significance for scallop cultivation and tourism. The event gave participants an opportunity to discuss environmental change through visual records and experience from the region.

On October 18 and 19, the University’s organisation for industry and regional collaboration held ‘Save the Ocean in Hakodate’, attended by 18 students and working adults. Participants visited waterfront facilities and historical sites to examine the role of the sea in the port city’s development and livelihoods. A public talk session involving the Future Food Institute then shared observations from the visits and considered the sustainable use of marine resources. Both programmes brought coastal issues into discussion with people outside the University.



LIFE BELOW WATER

Understanding and Protecting Coastal Ecosystems

Hokkaido University contributes to long-term monitoring of coastal ecosystems at Akkeshi and Muroran through Japan's Monitoring Sites 1000 programme. University researchers serve as site representatives, coordinating surveys of seagrass and seaweed habitats that support aquatic biodiversity. The observations provide a record of vegetation and habitat conditions against which changes over time can be assessed.

In 2025, teams surveyed seagrass beds at Akkeshi in July and September and seaweed communities at Muroran in July. They recorded the species present and the extent of vegetation cover, adding to the national monitoring record. The University also published findings in January from a 21-year study of rocky intertidal communities at four sites along the Akkeshi coast, based on observations made between 2003 and 2023.

COASTAL ECOSYSTEM STUDY

21

Years of observations (2003–2023)



LIFE BELOW WATER

Marine Education and Observation aboard Research Vessels

Hokkaido University operates the training and research vessels Oshoro-maru and Ushio-maru for practical education and marine observation. Work aboard the vessels allows students to use oceanographic instruments, observe fisheries organisms and examine floating debris in the field. The University also shares selected observations to support research and learning after the vessels return to port.

From September 2 to 5, 2025, approximately 40 students took part in a four-day course aboard the Oshoro-maru in the Tsugaru Strait. Students from fisheries science and other disciplines undertook oceanographic measurements, acoustic surveys, fish sampling and activities concerning marine plastics. The course provided opportunities to apply classroom knowledge to observations made under actual conditions at sea.

During the same voyage, three administrative and two technical staff members joined a separate professional development programme. Their activities included vessel operations, fish sampling and dissection, and surveys of drifting waste, helping them understand the University's research and education facilities. The Ushio-maru continued observation cruises in 2025 and made acoustic Doppler current profiler measurements available online together with wind-direction and wind-speed data. These activities show how the University's vessels serve both as training environments and as platforms for gathering and sharing marine information.



LIFE BELOW WATER

Supporting Sustainable Fisheries through International Cooperation

Hokkaido University supported international learning in sustainable fisheries during 2025 through programmes involving public officials from coastal and island countries. Its Faculty of Fisheries Sciences contributed research expertise, practical examples from Hokkaido and opportunities to visit local fisheries organisations. Two activities connected the University's work with the responsibilities of fisheries administrators abroad.

As part of a Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) training programme on sustainable small-scale fisheries and the blue economy, the University received two government officials from Cabo Verde and the Maldives in Hakodate. They met researchers and visited fisheries facilities to learn about aquaculture and marine resource use. On July 15, participants studied the Hakodate Mariculture Project, including king salmon cultivation and challenges facing regional aquaculture, and discussed how these topics relate to their own countries.

On May 12, six senior officials from Thailand's Department of Fisheries visited the Hakodate Campus and fisheries-related organisations in the area. The visit addressed resource assessment, fishing operations and management practices. It built on an institutional cooperation agreement signed in 2016; a Hokkaido University professor also advises a Thai policy council on fisheries resource assessment. Through training and professional exchange, the University shared knowledge relevant to the sustainable management of marine resources in different national contexts.







LIFE ON LAND

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss

OVERVIEW

Hokkaido University protects terrestrial ecosystems across its campuses and research forests, including sites recognized under Japan's biodiversity conservation programmes. Its activities combine habitat management, invasive plant control and rare plant conservation with long-term forest monitoring and research into natural regeneration. The University also promotes the sustainable use of forest resources through regional timber markets, while working with local communities and businesses to provide field-based education and opportunities to learn about forests.

RESEARCH IMPACT

SCOPUS / 2021–2025

479
Scholarly Output

1.25
Field-Weighted Citation Impact

FWCI world average: 1.0

6,978
Citation Count

Scopus data updated 18 Oct 2026

LIFE ON LAND

Conserving Biodiversity on Campus and in the Uryu Forest

Hokkaido University conserves diverse terrestrial habitats across its campuses and extensive research forests. Among these sites, Uryu Experimental Forest in northern Hokkaido contains 24,953 hectares recognized under Japan's natural-site certification programme. Of this area, 24,170 hectares were registered in the international database of other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) in 2024. The forest's mixed and coniferous stands are managed as places for biodiversity conservation, long-term ecological observation and field education.

In 2025, the University advanced conservation of its urban green spaces under Japan's Regional Biodiversity Enhancement Act. On September 16, a plan covering 126 hectares of Sapporo Campus was certified under the legislation introduced that April, and the University received its certificate on September 30. The plan builds on existing protection of campus woodland, lawns and other habitats used by wildlife in central Sapporo. Its implementation is guided by the University's ecological environment conservation policy, which addresses the management of vegetation and land use.

The University also brought residents into the conservation area to learn about its ecology. On September 20, 27 people joined a nature observation walk organized by the City of Sapporo, with explanations provided by University specialists. The group visited the Central Lawn, Keiteki Forest and other campus green spaces to observe plants and wildlife. The walk connected the University's land management with public understanding of habitats maintained within the city.





LIFE ON LAND

Managing Forest Regeneration at Uryu Experimental Forest

Hokkaido University combines forestry operations with field research to manage the regeneration of Uryu Experimental Forest. In northern forests, young trees must establish themselves among dwarf bamboo and other competing vegetation. The University has therefore continued trials of forest-floor scarification, topsoil replacement and subsequent stand tending, examining how different treatments affect natural regeneration. These studies provide information for managing birch stands and planted forests over longer periods.

One focus in 2025 was a Japanese ash plantation established in 1985. Birch had grown among the planted ash after many years without tending, resulting in a dense stand where the two groups competed for space and light. In spring 2025, forest staff carried out tending and removal of competing trees. In conjunction with the operation, the University began a research project on April 1 to investigate how the ash and birch had grown together and what management would be appropriate for the stand.

The project was designed around three 0.05-hectare survey plots, measurements of standing trees and analysis of growth rings from selected ash and birch. It builds on continuing experimental work at Uryu comparing ordinary scarification with methods that return different quantities of topsoil to the forest floor. By examining the responses of naturally regenerated and planted trees, the University is developing practical knowledge for choosing treatments and maintaining future forest growth.



LIFE ON LAND

Sustaining Natural Forests and Community Partnerships at Nakagawa

Nakagawa Experimental Forest combines long-term management of natural woodland with cooperation involving the communities around it. Hokkaido University has studied a 113-hectare forest area since the late 1960s, recording individual trees and the effects of selective cutting. A continuing project running through fiscal 2025 examines changes in stand structure and tree growth to inform adaptive management. The accumulated records allow forestry decisions to be considered over decades rather than a single cutting cycle.

The same emphasis on caring for future trees was reflected in community activities during 2025. On May 31, University staff guided 10 participants through woodland plants and local forest landscapes. On October 18, the Forest and the Osashima Center of the Ecomuseum held an autumn observation and planting event for 16 participants. Each visitor planted a young Sakhalin spruce descended from the locally valued Bikky Tree. The Forest and the Ecomuseum had raised the seedlings from seeds collected in 2014, preserving a connection with a tree closely associated with the area's cultural history.

Cooperation was strengthened on November 10, when Nakagawa Experimental Forest and Otoineppu Village signed a comprehensive agreement covering academic research, nature education and sustainable forest management. The agreement provides a framework for joint activities with the village, alongside the long-term forest surveys and community observation events already carried out by the University.





LIFE ON LAND

Removing Invasive Plants from Sapporo Campus

Hokkaido University carries out invasive-plant control as part of the ecological management of its Sapporo Campus. The grounds contain woodland, ponds and other habitats within the city, and the University works to maintain their native vegetation while supporting education and public use. In 2025, this work involved both a participatory removal operation and a separate response to a potentially harmful plant growing in an accessible area of campus.

On June 30, approximately 40 students and staff worked around Ono Pond, the archery facilities and the Graduate School of Environmental Science. With guidance from University specialists, they spent about one hour removing approximately four cubic metres of unwanted vegetation. Species collected included cutleaf coneflower (Rudbeckia laciniata), regulated in Japan as an invasive alien species, and poison hemlock. The collected material was removed from the managed sites as part of the University's continuing programme of campus conservation.

Earlier that month, another large plant resembling giant hogweed had been reported near a campus route used by the public. After consulting the Ministry of the Environment, Hokkaido Prefecture and the City of Sapporo, the University removed its flowers and leaves on June 25 and collected samples for botanical and chemical analysis. Staff subsequently cut down the remaining aboveground growth. Researchers from the University Museum and pharmaceutical sciences examined the specimens, linking immediate site management with specialist investigation.



LIFE ON LAND

Conserving Rare Plants through Cultivation and Field Discovery

Hokkaido University's Botanic Garden conserves rare and endangered plants through the management of living collections and ex situ cultivation. The Garden maintains approximately 4,000 kinds of plants, primarily species native to Hokkaido, including endangered species and plants endemic to Japan and Hokkaido. These collections serve as living specimens and genetic resources for research and education. Records of plant introductions, flowering and growth also provide valuable information for scientific studies.

For ex situ conservation, the Garden collects seeds from wild populations with permission from the relevant authorities and within limits that do not threaten their survival. Taking advantage of its relatively cool climate, the Garden places particular emphasis on conserving cool-temperate and alpine plants. Its alpine rock garden incorporates structures that retain water beneath the rocks to reduce summer heat, supporting the cultivation and display of endangered species such as Teshio-kozakura, Musha-rindo and Hidaka-misebaya.

The Garden also conducts experimental cultivation in a nursery closed to the public to develop methods for growing and propagating rare plants. For example, it has successfully propagated Hidaka-sou, a species that grows in specialised serpentine soil environments, by adapting cultivation methods to its requirements. Propagated plants are also used as research materials, reducing the need for repeated collection from threatened wild populations. These activities contribute to rare-plant conservation while supporting botanical research.



LIFE ON LAND

Connecting Research Forest Timber with Regional Wood Use

Hokkaido University makes selected wood from its research forests available to regional industries as part of its forest operations. The University's long-term studies of tree growth, selective cutting and regeneration provide a foundation for decisions about forest resources. In 2025, the route from forest to use was highlighted through the sale of hardwood logs, the recognition of a campus building incorporating research forest wood and discussions with local makers.
On December 19, the Teshio, Nakagawa and Uryu Experimental Forests supplied oak, Japanese ash and other hardwood logs to the Hokkaido Premium Log Auction in Asahikawa. Wood businesses assessed the dimensions, grain and quality of the timber before bidding. Sales of the University's logs totalled approximately JPY 3.08 million, while oak from Nakagawa Experimental Forest achieved a price of JPY 262,900 per cubic metre. The auction placed timber produced in University-managed forests in a regional market serving furniture makers and other wood users.

Use of research forest wood was also recognized in October, when the Wine Education and Research Center Building, incorporating birch from the University's forests, was registered as a HOKKAIDO WOOD BUILDING. At a science café on October 7, around 30 participants discussed birch wood and its use in furniture and other products. University staff and regional partners exchanged information on making use of the wood, bark and branches of locally grown trees.







LIFE ON LAND

Bringing Forest Resources into Community Workshops

Hokkaido University's forest staff worked with local event organizers in 2025 to introduce residents to the uses of trees and wood. Through craft workshops, firewood splitting and activities with seedlings, visitors could handle forest materials and learn about the work involved in making use of them. The programme reached families and residents at several events in northern Hokkaido, extending the activities of the research forests beyond their usual field sites.

The first of these events was Nakagawa Town's Woodcutter Festival on February 23, where the University exhibited for the first time. Staff organized fire-making and woodworking activities, including the production of bird-call whistles, and displayed objects made from forest materials. Thirty-two groups joined the workshops and 17 visitors purchased wooden products. The research forests then participated for the first time in the Forest Market in Asahikawa on July 27, offering firewood splitting, handmade wooden objects and miniature forest displays made with pine and oak seedlings.

On August 24, the University continued the programme at the Nayoro Industry Festival. Visitors could split logs, make bird-call whistles and examine fir seedlings and products prepared by Uryu Experimental Forest. Twenty-seven children and other visitors took part in the bird-call workshop. Across the three events, participants encountered forest materials through practical activities and spoke with University staff responsible for managing and using research forest resources.



LIFE ON LAND

Teaching Forest Ecology through Seasonal Field Experiences

Hokkaido University provides outdoor programmes in its experimental forests and Botanic Garden so that children and residents can learn about terrestrial ecosystems in different seasons. Researchers and technical staff guide participants in observing vegetation, wildlife and changes in forest conditions, drawing on the University's field facilities. In 2025, activities were held across several sites, from snow-covered northern woodland to summer forests around Sapporo.

Winter programmes began on January 9–10, when 25 elementary school children joined Forest Explorers at Uryu Experimental Forest. They explored the snowy woodland and learned about trees and winter conditions. On February 22–23, the Botanic Garden welcomed 14 families, comprising 32 people, for a winter observation tour with nature activities and crafts. As the seasons changed, a Forest Science Café on April 29 brought 24 residents from four municipalities together to examine winter buds, birds and woodland plants through guided observation and sketching.

Summer activities extended this field-based learning. On July 30, Sapporo Experimental Forest contributed to a Green Youth Corps exchange event, while an August 1 research forest science tour welcomed 16 participants to examine young trees and signs of wildlife. The events combined explanations by University specialists with direct observation, allowing participants of different ages to investigate forest life and the environments maintained at the University's research stations.





LIFE ON LAND

A Century of Forest Learning and Local Cooperation in Wakayama

In 2025, Hokkaido University's Wakayama Experimental Forest marked a century of research and education in the warm-temperate woodlands of Kozagawa Town. Established in 1925 as the University's only research forest outside Hokkaido, it has long worked with residents of the neighbouring Hirai settlement. The centenary year brought together practical student learning, public forest tours and events recognizing the forest's ties with the local community.

In February, 18 undergraduate students joined a five-day field course organized with Kozagawa Town and local residents. They studied forest-related livelihoods and wildlife damage while taking part in everyday village work, including clearing irrigation channels and helping maintain community spaces. The students also discussed local challenges with residents, connecting their field education with the needs of a rural community. On May 17 and 18, public exploration tours attracted eight and 14 participants, introducing natural forest landscapes and the history of forestry and settlement around Hirai.

The year's activities culminated on October 30 with a centenary event attended by approximately 150 residents, University members and guests. Visitors toured the Omoriyama preserved forest and learned about the extension of a monorail track that improves access to steep research terrain. The ceremony included contributions from University members and local residents, who had also cooperated in the February field course. The programme reviewed the Forest's research and education and its century-long relationship with the Hirai community.





LIFE ON LAND

Practical Forest Stewardship Education with Industry Partners

Hokkaido University used its research forests in 2025 to connect academic knowledge of ecosystems with practical decisions about forest management and resource use. One such programme brought students, researchers, technical staff and company representatives into the forest to consider how trees are monitored, managed and used. Field observation was combined with group discussions so that participants could apply what they had learned to questions facing businesses and local communities.

On November 29–30, the University worked with Mitsui & Co. and Oji Holdings on a sustainability learning programme at Tomakomai Experimental Forest and the Sapporo Campus. Eighteen undergraduate and graduate students formed five teams. University specialists introduced ecological monitoring and research in the forest, while company representatives discussed forest-related businesses. The students developed proposals for regional challenges involving forest resources and, on the second day, presented their ideas to the partner companies for feedback.







PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

OVERVIEW

Hokkaido University contributes to SDG 16 through transparent governance, institutional accountability and public-policy education. In 2025, it publicly reported on Administrative Council deliberations, governance-code compliance, presidential selection and audits. The University also maintained its Code of Conduct and whistleblowing safeguards. Through the Public Policy School, students investigated municipal policy challenges, and seminars addressed human rights and social issues.

RESEARCH IMPACT

SCOPUS / 2021–2025

86

Scholarly Output

1.00

Field-Weighted Citation Impact

FWCI world average: 1.0

900

Citation Count

Scopus data updated 18 Oct 2026



PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Decision – Making Structure

2 Auditors
Auditing operations

Office of Audit Support
Support for auditors

Education and Research Council
Members: President, Executives, Deans, Council Members

Deliberations on important matters related to education and research,
Hearing opinions on important matters, liaison and coordination

President

Selection of President, confirmation of performance

Presidential Selection and Supervisory Committee
Members:
5 external members
5 members from the University
*Executives shall not be members (assurance of neutrality)

Board of Executives
Deliberations on important matters concerning the University
Members:
President,
7 Executives

Deliberations on important matters related to management

Administrative Council
Members:
13 external members
9 members from the University

Executive Board
Prior discussion of matters to be deliberated by the Board of Executives, Administrative Council, and Education and Research Council, as well as exchanging of opinions and liaison and coordination among the executives
Members: President, 7 Executives

Organization to Strenghen Support for the President and Chief Executive Vice President

Planning and formulation

Organization of ongoing planning/drafting to realize the mid-term goals

Office of Management and Planning
Strategic Planning for Key Initiatives

Executive Offices
Planning and drafting of important matters related to operations
Executive Office for Education Reform
Executive Office for Research Strategy
Executive Office for Facilities and Environmental Planning

Organization of the planning, drafting and implementation of university-wide, cross-functional operations



PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Transparent and Accountable University Governance

Hokkaido University brings perspectives from both inside and outside the institution into its management through the Administrative Council, which includes external experts. The Council considers major administrative and financial matters, while the University makes its assessment of compliance with the National University Corporation Governance Code publicly available.

At its meeting on June 16, 2025, the Council considered the previous fiscal year's accounts, budget requests, facilities planning, and the selection of members of the Presidential Selection and Supervisory Committee. The discussions also addressed the financial circumstances facing Hokkaido University and national universities more broadly. When the Council met again on September 26, it examined compliance with the Governance Code and discussed the implications of Japan's declining population of 18-year-olds for higher education.

The University's public reporting complemented these deliberations. On October 27, it published its 2025 report on compliance with the Governance Code, including the university auditors' examination, their observations on individual governance matters, and the University's responses. The report made both the findings of the review and the actions taken in response accessible to the public.



PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Transparent Presidential Selection Process

Hokkaido University's 2025 presidential selection proceeded through several stages in which candidates' plans for university management and development could be examined. The process combined nominations, public questioning, consultation with eligible members of the University, and deliberation by the Presidential Selection and Supervisory Committee.

Three candidates were nominated during the period from June 30 to July 31. They presented their views at a public questioning session on October 20, after which the University conducted an online consultation from October 29 to November 4. Eligible members were asked to choose the candidate statement they most supported in each of three areas: management objectives, an assessment of the University's current circumstances, and implementation strategies.

The online consultation received 1,226 responses from 1,583 eligible members. Following the consultation, the Committee interviewed the candidates on November 10 and selected HOUKIN Kiyohiro, through deliberation, as the next President for the term beginning April 1, 2026. In reaching its decision, the Committee considered the candidates' professional records and statements, their answers during the public questioning session and interviews, and the consultation results. Hokkaido University published the procedure, response figures, and selection outcome.



PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Audits and Financial Accountability

Hokkaido University's oversight framework comprises three forms of audit: audits by university auditors, internal audits conducted by the Audit Office, and financial-statement audits by an independent accounting auditor. Each addresses a different aspect of institutional accountability, from administrative operations and internal controls to the reliability of financial reporting.

The university auditors reported on June 9, 2025, on operations during the fiscal year from April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025. Their examination covered the execution of duties by university officers, progress on medium-term objectives, and the establishment and operation of internal control systems. To carry out this review, they inspected important documents, attended meetings, and received reports from officers and staff. They found no matters requiring particular attention in the conduct of operations or the operation of internal controls.

Financial reporting was reviewed separately by the University's independent accounting auditor. In its opinion issued on the same day, the auditor concluded that the financial statements fairly presented the University's financial position, operating results, and cash flows in all material respects under the applicable accounting standards. Hokkaido University made both audit reports publicly available as part of its institutional and financial disclosures.

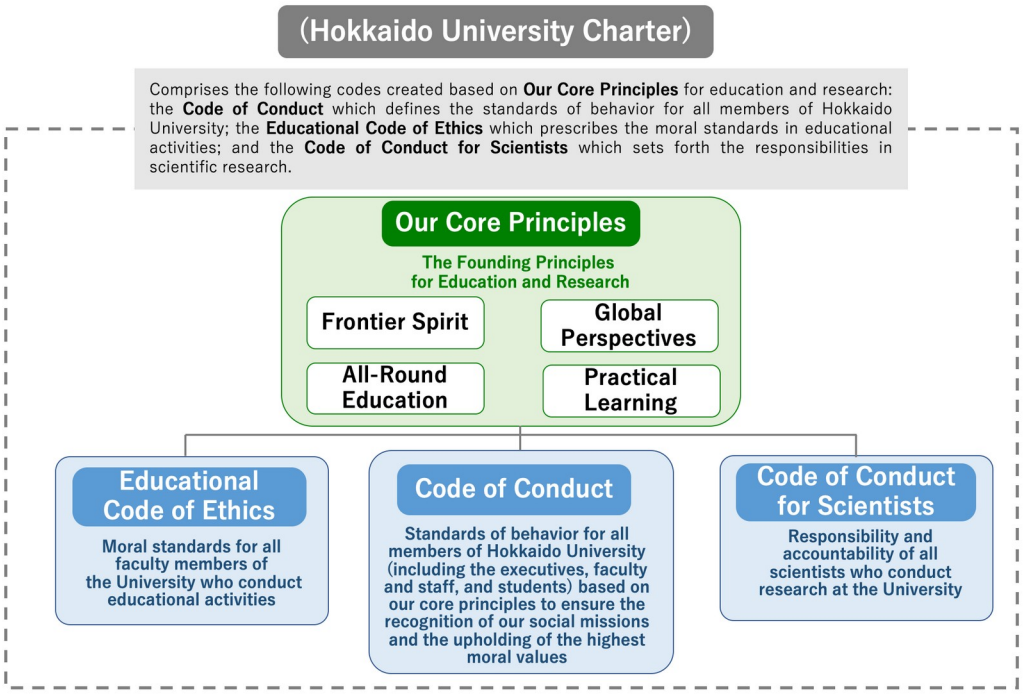


PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Code of Conduct and Whistleblowing Safeguards

Hokkaido University has established the Hokkaido University Code of Conduct to set out the fundamental principles that all members of the University are expected to uphold in ensuring fair and transparent governance. The Code is structured around two pillars: strict adherence to ethical standards and compliance, and the creation of a sustainable society. It calls for compliance with laws and University regulations, protection of personal and confidential information, and proper management of University resources and funds. It also affirms respect for human rights and diversity, the prevention of discrimination and harassment, academic freedom and institutional autonomy, and the appropriate public disclosure of important information to ensure transparency and fairness in University operations.

Alongside these principles, Hokkaido University operates a whistleblowing system through which suspected breaches of laws, University regulations, or ethical standards can be reported. Concerns may relate to education, research, medical practice, or administration. The University maintains two reporting channels—one within the Audit Office and another at an external law firm—and publishes procedures covering who may make a report, how reports are handled, confidentiality, and protection against disadvantageous treatment.





PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Public Policy Education and Community Engagement at HOPS

Hokkaido University's Public Policy School (HOPS: Graduate School of Public Policy), a professional graduate school that trains policy experts, offers a summer school for local assembly members and local government officials as part of its community engagement activities. It also holds various seminars and public lectures on social issues and public policy.

Through field-based policy seminars, the School connects student research with questions facing local governments. Students investigate regional challenges, interview residents and other stakeholders, and develop recommendations for municipalities.

In May 2025, the School began field research in Date, where students examined the revitalisation of the city centre and its public transport network. They interviewed municipal officials, business and shopping-street associations, and residents, and studied privately led community-development practices in Furano as material for developing their policy proposals.

On January 11, 2025, HOPS held a seminar entitled "Current Conditions and Challenges Surrounding Sexual Minorities: Toward Reducing Discrimination, Prejudice, and Violence." On February 15, it held a HOPS Career Seminar/Public Lecture entitled "Considering Social Issues," inviting a speaker with experience in both public administration and the private sector who supported rulemaking between government ministries and companies.

On May 22, HOPS held a seminar entitled "Support for Women and Mothers with Children Who Have Nowhere to Go." On June 1, it held a seminar entitled "Japan's Human Rights from a Global Perspective."

Every year, the Summer School for Local Assembly Members and Public Officials attracts many participants committed to revitalizing local assemblies, improving local administration, and promoting regional development.



PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

OVERVIEW

Hokkaido University advances the Sustainable Development Goals by connecting its research and education with the expertise and resources of governments, international organisations, universities, research institutions, businesses and local communities. In 2025, the University strengthened cooperation with municipalities and JICA, delivered SDGs education jointly with other universities and helped develop a regional network for research data management. Through cross-sector seminars, innovation workshops and a regional partnership supporting high-school students' SDGs proposals, these partnerships also created opportunities to exchange knowledge and develop collaborative responses to environmental and regional challenges in Hokkaido and beyond.

KEY INDICATORS

OFFICIAL DATA / 2025

790
International Exchange Agreements
(1 Apr 2025)

44
Industry–Academia–Government Collaboration Agreements
(1 May 2025)

6
Participation in International Consortia
(1 Apr 2025)

Sources: Integrated Report 2025; Hokkaido University Guidebook 2025

PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Cross-sector Dialogue at the SDGs Hokkaido Seminars

Hokkaido University, the Hokkaido Prefectural Government and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Hokkaido jointly organised two SDGs seminars in 2025. The partnership brought together participants from education, local government, business and the wider community. While both meetings addressed sustainable regional development, the January programme concentrated on education and community life, and the October programme examined innovation and initiatives already being undertaken in Hokkaido.

Approximately 200 people joined the SDGs Hokkaido Seminar on January 28, either in person or online. A Hokkaido University academic delivered a keynote lecture on the role of education in building communities. Four panellists then introduced educational approaches from different regions, prompting discussion about how schools, municipalities and residents can respond to population decline and changes in the local learning environment. The exchanges considered not only educational institutions themselves but also their links with the places and people around them.

On October 20, approximately 100 people attended the SDGs Hokkaido Practice and Exchange Seminar. Lectures and a panel discussion considered innovation and the sustainable development of regional businesses and communities. An accompanying exchange session featured booths and posters from 19 companies, municipalities and other organisations, whose representatives explained their activities and spoke with participants directly. The programme thus extended beyond presentations to include discussion among people carrying out initiatives in different parts of Hokkaido.





PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Connecting Municipalities with University Research

In June 2025, Hokkaido University established the Hokkaido University–Municipality Collaboration Forum to promote institution-wide collaboration with local governments. Led by the University's Public Relations and Social Collaboration Headquarters, the Forum aims to support institutional and interdisciplinary cooperation between the University and local governments by making existing municipal partnerships and the faculty members and researchers involved more visible, while serving as a university-wide point of contact for inquiries from local governments.

The inaugural symposium, held on June 21, attracted 204 participants in total, with 148 attending on site and 56 online. Participants included 61 representatives from 25 local governments, including the Hokkaido Prefectural Government, among them mayors, deputy mayors and other senior officials, as well as 46 Hokkaido University faculty members and researchers and representatives from private-sector organisations and other groups.





PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Continuing Development Cooperation with JICA

On June 12, 2025, Hokkaido University renewed its cooperation agreement with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). First concluded in 2005, the agreement has been renewed at five-year intervals, with the 2025 signing marking its fourth renewal. It brings the University's academic expertise, including knowledge developed through field research, together with JICA's international development experience to support research, education and human resource development in regions facing development challenges.

The agreement sets out eight areas of cooperation covering several forms of exchange. Hokkaido University receives JICA trainees and international students, while academic specialists and research teams can contribute to overseas activities. The two organisations also support students' involvement in JICA programmes, coordinate education and research, and cooperate through internships, personnel exchanges, overseas projects and the use of facilities. These arrangements allow participation by researchers, students and practitioners in different disciplines, rather than confining the partnership to a single research field.

Over the years, the two organisations have cooperated through the reception of trainees and the dispatch of specialists, and their research activities have also included programmes related to the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS). These activities bring university researchers and JICA practitioners into contact through training and development research. The June 2025 renewal maintained the agreement under which such cooperation can continue, extending a relationship that has linked the University with international development work since 2005.





PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Sharing SDGs Education through the United Nations University Platform

Hokkaido University works with other Japanese universities through the United Nations University SDG–Universities Platform (SDG-UP), established by the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability. Participating universities draw on their different academic strengths to prepare common teaching resources for Introduction to the UN SDGs. Hokkaido University contributed two video lectures, making its expertise available to students beyond its own campus.

Following a pilot stage that began in 2022, the shared course entered full operation in the 2025 academic year and was offered at Hokkaido University as a general education subject available from the first undergraduate year. Students studied the environmental, social, economic and governance dimensions of sustainable development. They also examined familiar products by drawing supply-chain maps, tracing how production and distribution relate to responsible procurement and corporate responsibility. In this way, issues discussed in the video lectures were connected with examples encountered in everyday life.

The course also included learning with students from other institutions. On July 26, an online exchange brought together 38 students from five universities, including two from Hokkaido University. Participants compared what they had learned and discussed how sustainable development might be approached beyond 2030. In 2025, the shared lectures were used in regular undergraduate teaching, and students had the opportunity to consider the same themes alongside peers taking the course at other universities.





PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Developing a Regional Network for Research Data

In 2025, Hokkaido University helped establish the Research Data Ecosystem Hokkaido Consortium to support cooperation in research data management among universities and research institutions. Associated with a national programme led by the National Institute of Informatics, the network brings together people involved in research administration, libraries and information infrastructure. Its work focuses on the policies and practical services needed to organise, preserve and share research data appropriately.

The inaugural symposium took place at Hokkaido University on August 28 and attracted 220 participants, including 98 on site and 122 online. Specialists from universities and related organisations presented approaches to research data management, repositories and digital research infrastructure. Discussion continued on November 14 at a study meeting attended by 44 people, who examined institutional support arrangements and issues emerging from the use of artificial intelligence in scientific research.

On December 23, the Consortium and the National Institute of Informatics jointly held an online seminar for 92 participants. Speakers from several institutions explained the purposes of research data policies and shared experience of drafting and applying them. The series brought together both researchers and the staff responsible for turning institutional policies into routine practice. Through the August symposium and the two subsequent meetings, participants could compare procedures and support systems being used at different research organisations.



PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Developing Regional Solutions through the Society 5.0 Workshop

Hokkaido University's organisation for industry and regional collaboration and SCSK Hokkaido Co., Ltd. jointly organised the Hokkaido Society 5.0 Future Creation Workshop in 2025. Designed to connect entrepreneurial learning with the needs of local communities, the programme encouraged participants to develop proposals using digital technology. It covered the steps from identifying a problem and forming an idea to preparing a business model and presenting a plan to others.

Eight sessions were held from October 11 to December 20, with 60 participants. Working with people from different backgrounds, participants considered challenges relating to forestry, healthcare and resource management and explored possible uses of artificial intelligence and other technologies. They developed their ideas through discussion and feedback while considering the people and organisations that might use the proposed services. The programme was supported by regional partners, including the Tokachi Foundation.

At the final event on December 20, eleven teams presented their business proposals. YAMAMORI won the top award for a concept using drones and artificial intelligence to improve safety and efficiency in forest management. Other recognised teams proposed ways to use patient-centred medical data and develop services for restoring paintings. Further presentations covered women's healthcare and the reuse of sports equipment across national borders. The proposals reflected the different community and business challenges examined by participants throughout the course.

PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Conclusion of a Comprehensive Partnership Agreement with Hakodate City

On January 31, 2025, the University concluded a comprehensive partnership agreement with Hakodate City, where our Hakodate Campus is located. Under this agreement, both parties confirmed their commitment to cooperate on the following initiatives:

(1) Regional revitalization through industry–academia collaboration
(2) Development of human resources who will lead the future of the region
(3) Creation of added value through integration of the University's expertise and regional development efforts
(4) Promotion of the SDGs





PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Connecting Young People and Regional Partners through the SDGs QUEST Competition

Hokkaido University contributes to SDGs education beyond its campuses through the involvement of Makoto Demura, Presidential Special Advisor and Professor Emeritus, in the SDGs QUEST Mirai Koshien Hokkaido Competition. Demura chaired the regional executive committee, which brought together specialists from government, education, business and civic organisations. The competition was organised by the committee and co-organised by HBC Hokkaido Broadcasting, with support from public institutions and regional businesses. It encouraged high-school students to investigate social and environmental challenges and develop practical ideas for action.

On March 20, 2025, the final ceremony for the 2024 academic-year competition was held at Sapporo Sosei Square. Twelve finalist teams participated after preliminary selection. Hokkaido Urakawa High School received the top Action Idea Award for a project entitled “Connecting Us through Picture Books”, while Sapporo Kaisei Secondary School received the Excellence Award for a career-card project addressing gender stereotypes. Yubari High School received the Credit Union Award for a produce-preservation transport bag designed to reduce food loss. The team incorporated a material developed at Hokkaido University into its prototype and tested its effectiveness.

The competition connected students’ ideas with the expertise and resources of regional partners. Its cross-sector framework brought together educators, public authorities, businesses and community organisations to support young people’s engagement with sustainability challenges. Through Demura’s leadership of the executive committee, Hokkaido University participated in a regional partnership that provided opportunities for high-school students to share their research, present proposals and learn from initiatives developed by other teams.

HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY

SDGs Report 2025

Hokkaido University and the Sustainable Development Goals