

Hokkaido Declaration of Environmental Conservation

—Making Hokkaido an Eco-Conscious Island —



In just the way that single trees become abundant forests, our individual actions shape Hokkaido's future.

If you look around right now, what kind of greenery can you see?

We live in Hokkaido, a green land whose forests account for one quarter of the forestland of the whole of Japan. In per-capita terms, there is one hectare of forest for each Hokkaido citizen. Like elsewhere, however, natural forests in Hokkaido are threatened by the global warming that is occurring due to the annual increase in CO₂ emissions. The average per-capita CO₂ emissions here are 1.3 times the national average. We must conserve our splendid natural environment and confidently pass our lands of green on to future generations.

The Hokkaido Toyako Summit, to be held in July 2008, is an opportunity for mankind to open a new door to the future. By considering this memorable year to be the first in which we begin our environmental actions, we have prepared an Environmental Declaration to express the resolution of Hokkaido citizens to think about new practices at home, work and as communities. Through joining in efforts to grow verdant forests, picking up the garbage around us, paying attention to biomass, wind power and other alternative eco-friendly energy sources, we are sure to affect the future of our children and grandchildren.

You may feel that what we can do individually is limited, but that is never the case. Hokkaido, a land of natural treasure and rich energy resources, is a wonderful island with the potential to be a worldwide model for environmental protection at the local level. Let's take the first step, however small, along this road path. We will be sure to see ahead of us to the 'Eco-Island Hokkaido', where people successfully coexist with nature. Now, let us get together under this declaration and deliver our resolution and actions to the rest of the world, as well as to our future generations.

April 21, 2008

Harumi Takahashi
Governor of Hokkaido

