

# **New Challenges for Hokkaido University towards Russia: Development of the Networks with Universities in the Far East and with Arctic Studies**

**Shinichiro Tabata**

*Slavic-Eurasian Research Center, Hokkaido University, Nishi 7, Kita 9, Kita-ku, Sapporo, 060-0809, Japan,  
shin@slav.hokudai.ac.jp*

## **Abstract**

I am Director of Helsinki Office of Hokkaido University that was established in 2012 to promote research and education collaboration with universities in Europe, including Russia. I am also Chief Representative of Hokkaido University Research Network with North Eurasia that was organized at the beginning of 2014 in order to facilitate cooperation between colleagues of our University in the research in Russia and neighboring areas. I will explain new challenges that Hokkaido University faces today in relations with Russia, i.e., the development of the network with universities in the Russian Far East and the network with Arctic studies.

Since our proposal was adopted by the Ministry of Education and Science, Hokkaido University is beginning a new education program with five universities located in the Russian Far East, i.e., Far Eastern and North-Eastern Federal Universities; and Sakhalin, Irkutsk and Pacific State Universities, which aims to increase student mobility between Hokkaido and these Russian universities.

Concerning the Arctic study network, in Japan only Hokkaido University is a member of the University of Arctic (UArctic), i.e., research and education network of universities and other institutes involved in Arctic studies in the world. In addition, our University is planning to strengthen the network of Arctic studies together with National Institute of Polar Research (NIPR) and Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC).