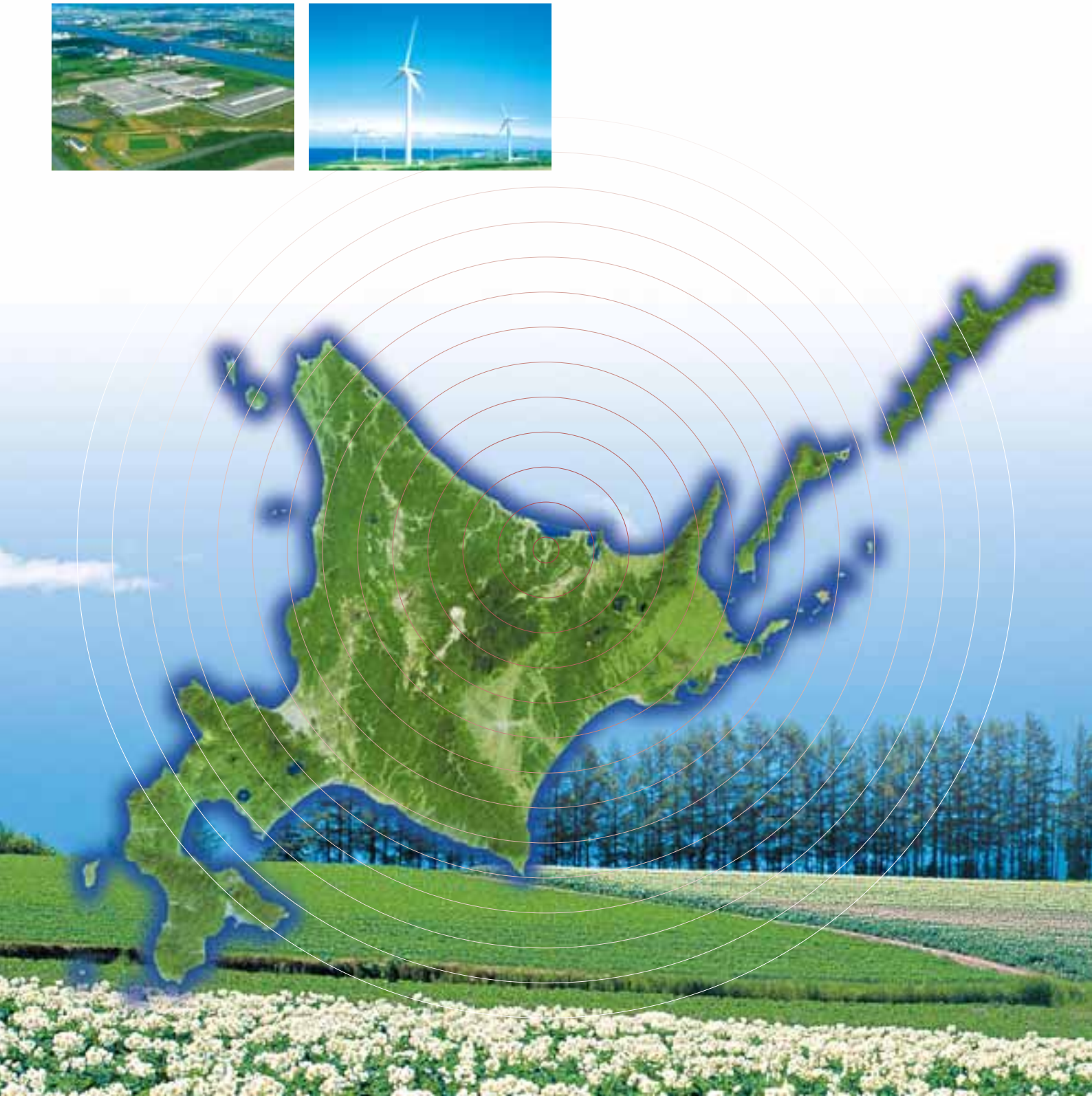


BUSINESS LOCATION GUIDEBOOK HOKKAIDO JAPAN

Hokkaido Business Location Guidebook



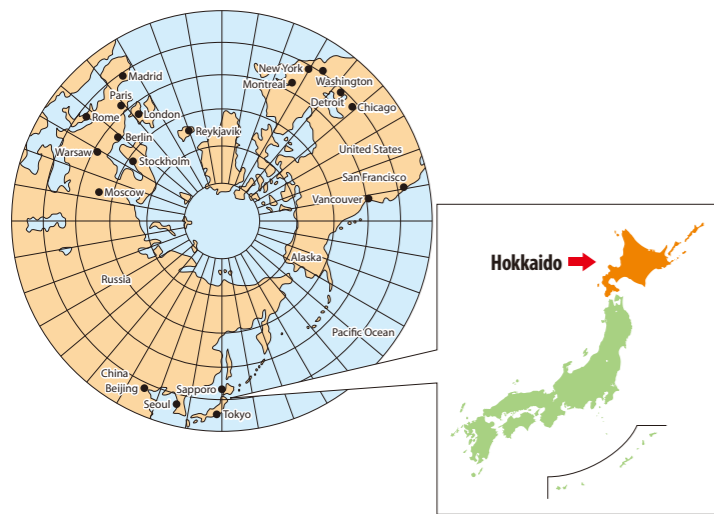
Outline of Hokkaido 北海道の概要

**Location: Latitude 41° 21' - 45° 33' north
Longitude 139° 20' - 148° 53' east**

The diamond-shaped area of Hokkaido forms Japan's northernmost island, and is located at almost the same latitude as Chicago, Boston, Rome, Changchun and Harbin.

位置：北緯 41度21分ー45度33分
東経 139度20分ー148度53分

北海道はダイヤモンド型をした、日本の一番北にある島で、シカゴ、ボストン、ローマ、長春、ハルビンなどとはほぼ同緯度に位置しています。



Land area: 83,456.58 km²

Hokkaido is the country's largest prefecture, accounting for 22% of the national land area. It is similar in size to countries such as Austria and the United Arab Emirates.

面積：83,456.58km²

日本の都道府県の中で最も大きく、日本の国土の約22%を占めており、オーストリアやアラブ首長国連邦とはほぼ同じ広さです。

Population: 5,543,961 (as of September 30, 2009)

The population of Hokkaido is approximately 5.54 million, which is almost the same as that of Denmark. Approximately 1.89 million people, accounting for more than 30% of Hokkaido's total population, live in the capital city of Sapporo.

人口：5,543,961人（2009年9月末現在）

北海道の人口は約554万人で、デンマークと同程度です。県庁所在地である札幌市には、そのうちの30%を超える約189万人が住んでいます。

Industries:

Blessed by a natural environment and abundant resources, Hokkaido boasts the country's highest levels of production in agriculture and fisheries, and food processing is a long-established active industry in the prefecture. In addition, many companies in the fields of biotechnology and IT have set up business bases in the region, and the number of companies in automobile-related industries has gradually increased in recent years.

産業：

北海道は、その恵まれた環境と豊富な資源により農水産業の生産額が全国一となっており、古くから食品加工業が盛んです。また、バイオ産業やIT関連産業の集積も進んでいるほか、自動車関連産業の集積も進みつつあります。

Climate:

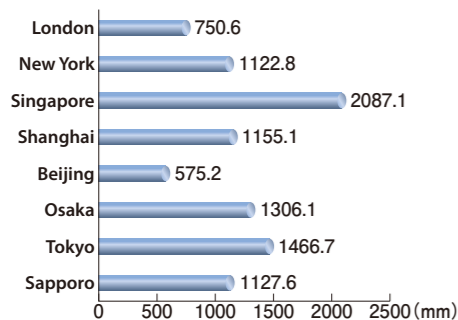
In contrast to the hot and humid conditions generally found in the island nation of Japan, Hokkaido is blessed with a cold climate, low humidity and four distinct seasons. The prefecture has Japan's lowest frequency of typhoon approaches (which can bring wind and flood damage due to rainstorms), putting it at lower risk of natural disaster than the rest of the country.

気候：

北海道は、高温多湿な日本の中では冷涼低湿で、四季の変化がはっきりした気候に恵まれた地域です。また、暴風雨によって風水害をもたらす「台風」の接近が国内で最も少なく、国内の他地域と比べ、自然災害等のリスクが小さい地域となっています。

Precipitation Annual mean precipitation
(Mean precipitation for the 30-year period from 1971 to 2000)

降水量 年平均降水量 (1971年～2000年〈30年間〉の平均)



Four distinct seasons 明瞭な変化のある四季



Spring: Shizunai Nijukken Road lined with cherry trees in Shinhidaka Town

春：新ひだか町 静内二十間道路桜並木



Summer: Toyohira River Water Garden in Sapporo

夏：札幌市の豊平川緑地ウォーターガーデン



Autumn: colored leaves at Daisetsuzan National Park

秋：大雪山国立公園の紅葉

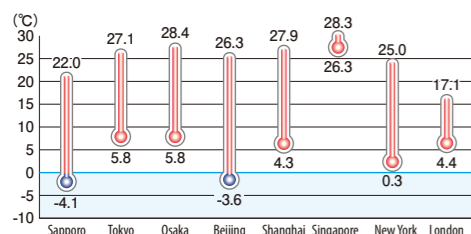


Winter: sky area in Niseko

冬：ニセコ町 スキー場

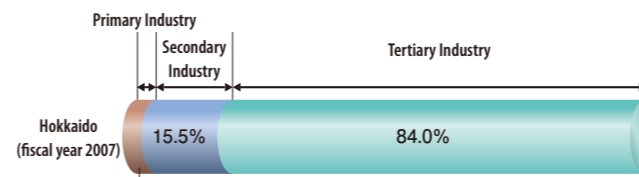
Temperature Max./min. monthly mean temperature
(Mean temperature for the 30-year period from 1971 to 2000)

気温 月別平均気温の最高・最低 (1971年～2000年〈30年間〉の平均)



Hokkaido's Economy 北海道の経済

Percentage distribution of gross product (nominal) by industrial sector 総生産(名目)の経済活動別構成比



Primary industry: agriculture, forestry, fisheries
Secondary industry: mining, construction, manufacturing
Tertiary industry: industrial sectors not classified as primary or secondary types, e.g., retail and services

第1次産業：農業、林業、漁業
第2次産業：鉱業、建設業、製造業
第3次産業：小売業やサービス業など第1次・第2次産業に分類されない産業

Economic data 経済関連データ

Item	Hokkaido	Share of nat'l total	National	Fiscal year *Calendar year
Gross prefectural (domestic) product 道(国)内総生産	18,458.4	3.6%	515,857.9	2007
Prefectural (national) income 道(国)民所得	13,411.6	3.6%	374,768.2	2007
Per capita prefectural (national) income 1人当たり道(国)民所得	2,408	—	2,934	2007
Export 輸出額	412.7	0.5%	81,018.1	*2008
Import 輸入額	1,730.3	2.2%	78,954.7	*2008

Unit: Billions of yen, except for per capita prefectural (national) income (thousands of yen)

単位：「1人当たり道(国)民所得」は千円、その他は10億円

A rich source of safe, secure agricultural and marine products 安全・安心で豊富な農水産資源

Japan's largest food supply base

Hokkaido has a cultivated land area of approximately 1.16 million hectares, accounting for nearly a quarter of the nation's overall cultivated land.

The prefecture's agricultural output in 2008 made up roughly 12% of the national total with a value of 1,025.1 billion yen. Hokkaido plays a vital role as the nation's largest food supply base, producing larger amounts of many agricultural and livestock products than any other prefecture, including wheat, soybeans, potatoes, beets, onions, pumpkins, sweet corn and raw milk.

Hokkaido also encourages the practice of environmentally friendly agriculture (also called clean agriculture) to ensure that the many farm products delivered to consumers are safe and secure by minimizing the use of chemical fertilizers and synthetic agricultural chemicals.

我が国最大の食料供給地域

北海道の耕地面積は約116万haで、全国の耕地面積の4分の1近くを占めています。2008年の農業産出額は1兆251億円と全国の約12%を占め、小麦、大豆、馬鈴薯、てん菜、たまねぎ、かぼちゃ、スイートコーン、生乳など数多くの農畜産物が全国第1位の生産量となっており、日本最大の食料供給地域として重要な役割を果たしています。

また、豊富な農産物をより安全に、そして安心して消費者に届けるため、化学肥料や化学合成農薬の使用量をできるだけ減らした環境保全型農業(クリーン農業)に積極的に取り組んでいます。

Fisheries in Hokkaido - an island surrounded by sea on all sides

Surrounded by three seas (the Pacific Ocean, the Sea of Okhotsk and the Sea of Japan), Hokkaido has good fishing grounds, including those over the continental shelf spreading out to the north and Pacific coastal waters where warm currents blend with cold ones.

The prefecture's fishery production volume was 1.41 million tons in 2008, accounting for 25.6% of the nation's total with a value of 280.6 billion yen. This made Hokkaido top nationwide in terms of both production volume and value.

Some of the major fish catches are scallops, Alaska pollock, salmon and kelp, and the major fishing ports include Kushiro, Wakkanai, Nemuro, Otaru and Hakodate.

四方を海に囲まれた北海道の水産業

北海道は、太平洋、オホーツク海、日本海の3つの海に囲まれ、北方に広く展開する大陸棚や、暖流と寒流が交錯する太平洋沖などの好漁場を有しています。2008年の漁業生産量は、141万トンで全国の25.6%、生産額は2,806億円で、いずれも全国第1位です。

主な水揚げはホタテガイ、スケトウダラ、サケ、コンブなどです。

主な水揚げ港は釧路、稚内、根室、小樽、函館などです。



A steadily developing transportation network 着実に進展する交通ネットワーク

Transportation infrastructure development is in progress with steady improvements to key highways throughout Hokkaido and air/sea routes connecting to major cities outside the prefecture.

Major air and sea ports, including New Chitose Airport and the Port of Tomakomai, are being upgraded to prepare for increasing globalization in recognition of Hokkaido's important strategic location as the part of Japan closest to North America and Europe.

The speed of key railways is also being increased, as manifested by the opening of the Hokkaido Shinkansen (bullet train) route between Aomori and Hakodate in May 2005, and infrastructure improvement to air networks and highways is steadily progressing.

交通基盤整備は、道外主要都市との航空・航路網や道内地域間の幹線道路網の充実など着実に進展しています。新千歳空港や苫小牧港をはじめ、主な空港・港湾で国際化に向けた整備が進められ、日本で北米・ヨーロッパに最も近いという地理的条件はますます重要になっています。また、2005年5月、青森・函館間で北海道新幹線が着工されるなど幹線鉄道の高速化や、道内空港ネットワーク・高速道路の拡充・整備が進展しています。

Smooth road transportation with minimal traffic congestion

The length of expressways is being increased to further facilitate automobile transportation over Hokkaido's vast area. The planned 1,825-km network, of which 817 km is already in service, will connect major cities in southern, central, northern and eastern parts of the prefecture.

渋滞の少ないスムーズな道路輸送

広大な北海道では、高速自動車道等の整備が進んでいます。道南～道央～道北～道東へと、主要都市間を結ぶ総延長は1,825kmにおよび、現在817kmが開通しています。



Tomakomai Higashi Interchange
苫小牧東インターチェンジ

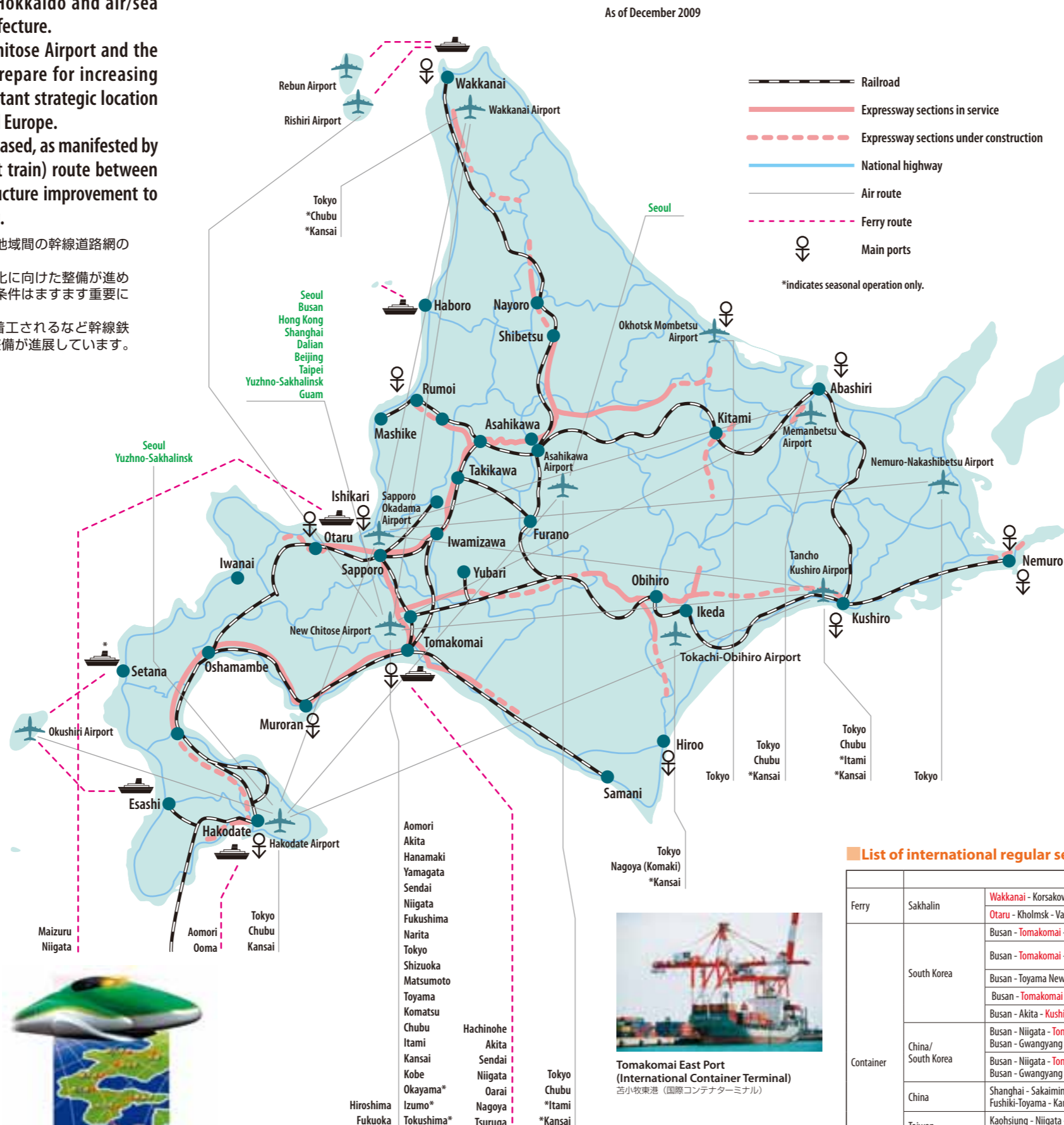
Hokkaido Shinkansen - creating business opportunities

Construction of the Hokkaido Shinkansen's Shin-Aomori to Shin-Hakodate route, currently in its fifth year, is progressing smoothly toward the section's scheduled opening in 2016.

If a possible extension to Sapporo is materialized, the line will allow transportation between Sapporo and Tokyo within approximately 4 hours (at speeds of up to 360 km/h), thereby further strengthening the connection between Hokkaido and the Tokyo metropolitan area.

北海道新幹線がビジネスチャンスを拡大

北海道新幹線「新青森・新函館」間は着工から5年目を迎え、2016年の開業を目指し建設工事も順調に進んでいます。今後、札幌延伸が実現すれば、札幌から東京まで約4時間（360km/h走行の場合）で結ばれることになり、首都圏とのつながりが更に強まります。



As of December 2009

- Railroad
 - Expressway sections in service
 - Expressway sections under construction
 - National highway
 - Air route
 - Ferry route
 - Main ports
- *indicates seasonal operation only.

Thirteen airports connecting major cities (Approx. 90 minutes between New Chitose and Haneda)

Nine of Hokkaido's thirteen airports operate direct services to Tokyo's Haneda airport and to other major cities outside the prefecture. New Chitose, Hakodate and Asahikawa are international airports with regular overseas flights. New Chitose has flights to nine overseas airports including hubs in China, South Korea and Russia, and to relieve congestion in its existing international facilities, a new international terminal building is being built to enter service in 2010.

主要都市間を結ぶ13空港【新千歳～羽田間約90分】

北海道内13空港のうち、道外主要都市を結ぶ空港は9空港で東京とは全て直結しています。新千歳と函館、旭川は国際空港として海外へ定期便が運行しています。新千歳空港は、中国、韓国、ロシア等の9空港と結ばれているほか、現国際線施設の混雑緩和を図るため、2010年の供用開始に向けて新国際線旅客ターミナルビルの整備が進められています。



New Chitose Airport
新千歳空港

Marine transportation facilitating large-scale logistics

Marine transportation facilitates large-scale logistics by seamlessly connecting air and land transportation networks. There are 35 ports in Hokkaido, including the specially designated major ports of Muroran and Tomakomai. A total of nine routes are operated between Hokkaido and Honshu along with eleven routes for overseas container ships operating from Ishikari Bay New Port, Tomakomai and other ports.

大量輸送を可能にする海運

空路、陸路を有機的に結び、大量輸送を可能にする海運。室蘭や苫小牧の特定重要港湾をはじめ道内には35の港湾があり、北海道～本州間は9航路が運航。石狩湾新港や苫小牧港など外航コンテナは11航路運航しています。



Tomakomai East Port (International Container Terminal)
苫小牧東港（国際コンテナターミナル）

List of international regular sea routes 国際定期航路一覧

(As of January 2010)

	Sea route	Ferry company name	Number of services	
Ferry	Sakhalin	Wakkanai - Korsakov	Heart Land Ferry	76 services/year (2009)
		Otaru - Kholmsk - Vanino	Sakhalin Shipping Co.	Service discontinued in August 2005
Container	South Korea	Busan - Tomakomai - Ishikari Bay New Port - Busan	Korean Marine Transport Co.	1 service/week
		Busan - Tomakomai - (Muroran) - Busan		1 service/week (Muroran, 1 service/every two weeks)
		Busan - Toyama New Port - Niigata - Tomakomai - Busan	T.S.K. Line	1 service/week
		Busan - Tomakomai - Akita - Niigata - Busan	HEUNG-A Shipping Co., Ltd.	1 service/week
		Busan - Akita - Kushiro - Busan		1 service/week
	China/South Korea	Busan - Niigata - Tomakomai - Hachinohe - Sendai - Busan - Gwangyang - Ningbo - Shanghai - Busan	Namsung Shipping Co., Ltd.	1 service/week
		Busan - Niigata - Tomakomai - Hachinohe - Hakodate - Toyama New Port - Busan - Gwangyang - Dalian - Qingdao - Busan		1 service/week
	China	Shanghai - Sakaiminato - Kanazawa - Niigata - Fushiki-Toyama - Otaru - Fushiki-Toyama - Kanazawa - Shanghai	Kambara Kisen Company	1 service/week
	Taiwan	Kaohsiung - Niigata - Tomakomai - Hachinohe - Sendai - Keelung - Taichung - Kaohsiung	Pacific International Lines (Pte) Ltd.	1 service/week
	China/South Korea/Taiwan	Busan - Mokpo - Keelung - Hong Kong - Mokpo - Busan - Tomakomai - Akita - Niigata - Toyama New Port - Busan - Kobe - Osaka - Busan	Yanghai Shipping Co., Ltd.	1 service/week
	North America	Vancouver - Seattle - Tomakomai - (Hachinohe) - Hakata - Busan - Osaka - Nagoya - Shimizu - Tokyo - Vancouver - Seattle	Westwood Shipping Lines	1 service every 2 weeks (skips Hachinohe)

The next destination is Sapporo !!

Environmentally friendly natural energy

環境にやさしい自然エネルギー

Snow and ice energy and free cooling

Snow and ice energy - a technology by which snow and ice are collected during winter and preserved for use in air conditioning in summer - has attracted widespread attention as an eco-friendly resource, and is extensively used in many parts of Hokkaido.

Another technology is free cooling, which generates cold water through the direct use of cold outdoor air from cool and cold seasons (i.e., seasons other than summer) by way of heat exchange instead of using cooling machines. This technology is expected to allow significant energy savings, especially in facilities that require air conditioning even in winter.

The use of these new forms of energy that capitalize on cold-climate features not only reduces the cost of cooling products/machinery and expenses incurred in running air-conditioning facilities, but also contributes to energy savings and reduced CO₂ emissions. As a result, their widespread use is expected in factories and other facilities in the future.

「雪氷エネルギー」と「フリークーリング」

冬場に確保した雪や氷を、夏まで保存して、冷房に活用する「雪氷エネルギー」は、環境にやさしいエネルギーとして注目されており、道内各地で広く導入されています。また、冬期から中間期の寒冷な外気を直接熱交換に利用し、冷凍機を稼働させずに冷水をつくる「フリークーリング」は、特に冬期も冷房が必要な施設では大きな省エネルギー効果が期待できます。こうした冷涼な気候を活かしたエネルギーの活用は、製品・機械の冷却や建物内の冷房などのコスト削減につながるだけでなく、省エネルギーに貢献し、CO₂排出量の抑制が可能となることから、今後、工場などでの利活用が期待されています。



Stocking the snow room: the International Media Center at the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit
2008年北海道洞爺湖サミット国際メディアセンター 雪室への雪搬入状況

Photovoltaic power generation

Photovoltaic power generation - a technology that directly converts sunlight into electricity - is expected to become a major contributor to the creation of a low-carbon society because it generates no CO₂, making it a clean energy source.

In areas of Hokkaido with high solar radiation levels (particularly Kitami and other eastern regions), photovoltaic power generation systems have been introduced in public facilities and houses. In addition, five-megawatt-class (one of Japan's largest) verification research on grid stabilization with large-scale photovoltaic power generation systems is underway in Wakkanai.

太陽光発電

太陽の光を直接電気に変換する「太陽光発電」は、発電段階で二酸化炭素を発生しないクリーンなエネルギーとして、低炭素型社会実現の切り札として期待されています。北海道には、北見など道東方面を中心に日照に恵まれた地域があり、公共施設や住宅などで導入されているほか、稚内市においては、日本有数の規模である5メガワット級の太陽光発電システムの大規模実証研究が実施されています。



Demonstrative research facilities for photovoltaic power generation systems (Wakkanai)
Photograph courtesy of Hokkaido Electric Power Co., Inc. (HEPCO)
太陽光発電実証研究施設 (稚内市) 提供:「北海道電力」

Wind power generation

The introduction of wind power generation - a technology that converts wind energy into electricity using wind turbines - is increasing in Hokkaido, particularly in areas along the Sea of Japan where wind conditions are ideal for such activities. Hokkaido has become one of Japan's leading wind power generation locations, with 266 wind turbines and approximately 256,000 kilowatts of installed capacity as of March 31, 2009.

風力発電

風力発電は風車を回して発電する「風力発電」は風況に恵まれた北海道の日本海側を中心として導入が進んでおり、2009年3月末では設置基数266基、設備容量約25万6千キロワットと、日本有数の風力発電先進地となっています。



Uehira Green Hill Wind Farm (Tomamae)
上平グリーンヒルウィンドファーム (苫前町)

Expansion of natural gas usage in Hokkaido

Natural gas in Hokkaido is produced locally in the Yufutsu area of Tomakomai City. Mainly composed of methane, natural gas contains virtually no impurities and is safe and clean, generating 20 to 40% less carbon dioxide than coal, petroleum and other fossil fuels. It is a high-BTU energy source with a heat capacity 2.2 times that of conventional petroleum-based gas.

In addition, the construction of a base station to accept Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) is underway in the Ishikari Bay New Port area to establish a stable supply system in response to anticipated increases in demand. The station is scheduled to start operation in 2012.

道内で広がる天然ガス利用

北海道では天然ガスが苫小牧市勇払地区で産出されています。天然ガスはメタンを主成分とした不純物を含まない可燃性天然ガスで、二酸化炭素の発生量は、石炭、石油など他の化石燃料と比べ2~4割少なく、安全でクリーンです。しかも従来の石油系ガスの2.2倍の熱量をもつ高カロリーエネルギーです。さらに、石狩新港地区では拡大が見込まれる需要の増大に対応して定期的に供給できる体制を整えるため、LNG受入基地の建設が開始され、2012年に運転開始を予定しています。

Well-established bases to support new corporate activity

新たな企業活動を支える充実した拠点

More than 100 industrial complexes to meet a variety of needs

100を超える工業団地は様々なニーズにお応えします



Ishikari Bay New Port Area
石狩湾新港地域



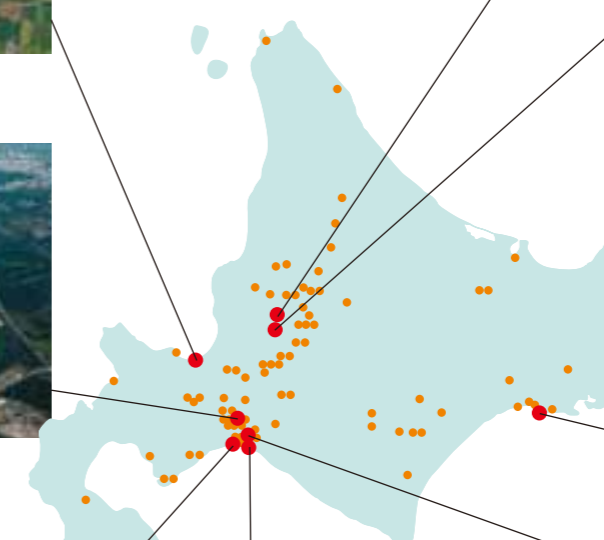
Central Hokkaido Sunagawa Industrial Complex
道央砂川工業団地



Sorachi Industrial Complex
空知団地



Chitose Airport Industrial Complex
千歳臨空工業団地



Nishiko Waterfront Industrial Complex
西港臨海工業団地



Tomakomai Western Industrial Zone
苫小牧西部工業基地



Tomakomai Tobu Area
苫小牧東部地域



Toyosawa Industrial Complex
豊沢工業団地

Major industrial complexes in Hokkaido (those with land areas of 20 ha or more for sale)

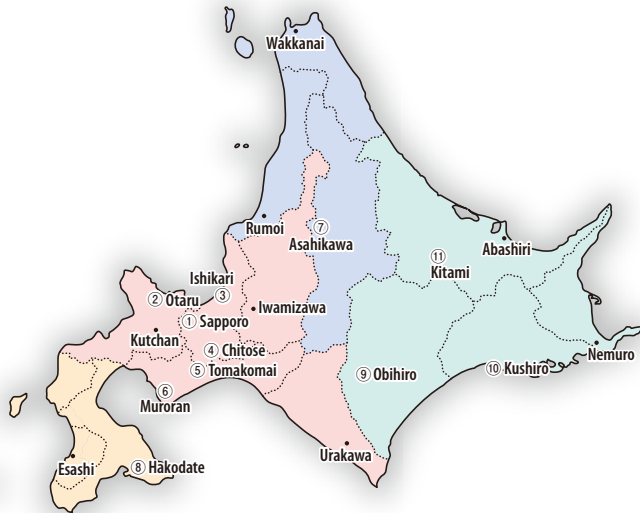
道内の主な工業団地 (※分譲中の面積が20ha以上の工業団地)

(As of September 2009)

Name	Location	Land area of factories, etc. (ha)	Lot price (yen/m ²)		Distance to nearest transportation points (km)				
			Lowest	Highest	National highway	IC	Port		
Tomakomai Tobu Area	苫小牧東部地域	Tomakomai, Abira, Atsuma	5,500.0	4,476.0	9,000	15,500	0	0	0
Ishikari Bay New Port Area	石狩湾新港地域	Ishikari, Otaru	1,296.0	168.2	12,000	15,000	0	7	0
Sorachi Industrial Complex	空知団地	Bibai, Naie	247.3	109.0	920 (*\$90 for large-scale project land)	1,450	0	7	85
Chitose Vvi World	千歳美々ワールド	Chitose	108.4	79.3	14,400	18,720	1	8	22
Nishiko Waterfront Industrial Complex	西港臨海工業団地	Kushiro	228.2	59.6	18,450	21,992	0	95	0
Akenokita Industrial Complex	明野北工業団地	Tomakomai	131.1	65.5	11,500	12,200	2	8	7
Kushiro-Shiranuka Industrial Complex	釧路白糠団地	Kushiro, Shiranuka	248.8	60.3	630 (*\$240 for large-scale project land)	1,000	0	80	11
Utonai Housing/Commercial Complex	ウトナイ住宅・商工業団地	Tomakomai	65.8	58.8	15,500	23,000	0	0	7
Tomakomai Western Industrial Zone	苫小牧西部工業基地	Tomakomai	1,155.5	55.7	9,300		1	8	0
Chitose Airport Industrial Complex	千歳臨空工業団地	Chitose	214.4	47.6	11,583		4	3	24
Central Hokkaido Kurisawa Industrial Complex	道央栗沢団地	Iwamizawa	28.4	26.9	1,540	2,330	0	4	50
Chitose Delivery Complex	千歳流通業務団地	Chitose	30.2	23.9	18,150	27,225	2	5	25
Hirosato Industrial Complex	広里工業団地	Fukagawa	49.2	24.6	10,000~		0	2	50
Central Hokkaido Sunagawa Industrial Complex	道央砂川工業団地	Sunagawa	74.8	26.9	3,000	9,650	0	7	60
Minami Sorachi Distribution Complex	南空知流通工業団地	Iwamizawa	31.5	24.0	11,500 (Avg. price)		0	0	67
Toyosawa Industrial Complex	豊沢工業団地	Atsuma	27.1	23.7	4,000 (Plain land)		10	10	13
Nanporo Industrial Complex	南幌工業団地	Nanporo	36.9	20.1	10,000 (Negotiable)		3	15	50

Open communities with individual characteristics

開放的で個性的な地域社会



① Sapporo

Population: approx. 1.89 million

Sapporo is the administrative, cultural and economic center of Hokkaido. It is a burgeoning city with a comfortable living environment, as manifested by its repeated top rankings in surveys on desirable areas to live.

札幌市 人口約189万人
北海道の行政、文化、経済の中心である札幌。「住んでみたい都市」のアンケートにしばしばトップにランクされるなど生活環境にも恵まれた若々しい街です。

② Otaru

Population: approx. 140,000

Otaru is a port city based on commerce. In addition to fisheries, tourism there also flourishes thanks to its many popular spots including glassworks studios and the city's famous canal.

小樽市 人口約14万人
港町小樽は商業の街。水産業の他に、ガラス工芸や運河などの観光産業が盛んです。

③ Ishikari

Population: approx. 60,000

Residential land development has expanded in Ishikari due to its role as a dormitory town for Sapporo. The town has achieved rapid growth with the construction of Ishikari Bay New Port and industrial-complex development.

石狩市 人口約6万人
石狩は、札幌市のベッドタウンとして宅地化が進み、石狩湾新港の建設と工業団地の造成で急速に発展しました。

④ Chitose

Population: approx. 90,000

Chitose has continued to develop as an important transportation hub connecting Hokkaido to the rest of the world thanks to its proximity to the Port of Tomakomai, its convenience for railways and expressway interchanges and the presence of New Chitose Airport. With its backdrop of abundant water resources, the city attracts businesses from a wide variety of industrial sectors, including those of food production and electronic parts/semiconductor manufacturing.

千歳市 人口約9万人
千歳市は、新千歳空港をはじめ、苫小牧港、鉄道、高速道路ICなどが近接し、世界を結ぶ交通の要衝として発展を続けています。水資源が豊富で、食品製造、電子部品・半導体製造など多業種の産業集積が進んでいます。

⑤ Tomakomai

Population: approx. 170,000

Tomakomai serves as an ocean gateway connecting Hokkaido to Japan's mainland (Honshu) and the rest of the world. It is the largest industrial city in Hokkaido, and is home to plants run by Toyota Motor Corporation and Isuzu Motors Limited.

苫小牧市 人口約17万人
北海道と本州、国外を結ぶ海の玄関口苫小牧。苫小牧市は北海道最大の工業都市で、トヨタ、いすゞ自動車が出産しています。

⑥ Muroran

Population: approx. 100,000

The Port of Muroran played a leading role in the development of Hokkaido through its status as a favorable natural port. The city's industry is centered on manufacturing activities such as steel production, shipbuilding, cement manufacture and oil refining.

室蘭市 人口約10万人
天然の良港として北海道開発の先導的役割をはたしてきた室蘭港。産業は鉄鋼・造船・セメント・石油精製などの工業が中心です。

⑦ Asahikawa

Population: approx. 350,000

Asahikawa is Hokkaido's second-largest city, and offers fine views of the Daisetsuzan Mountain Range. It is also well known for its high-quality furniture - an industry that capitalizes on the area's abundant forest resources. The city also widely seeks to attract visitors by leveraging its rich tourism resources.

旭川市 人口約35万人
大雪山連峰をあおく、北海道第2の拠点都市。豊富な森林資源を活用した「家具の街」としても有名で、恵まれた観光資源を活かした広域観光の推進にも力を入れています。

⑧ Hakodate

Population: approx. 280,000

Located at the southern end of Hokkaido, Hakodate is renowned for its beautiful night views from Mt. Hakodate. It has long been a key sea-route base connecting Hokkaido to Honshu, with Hakodate Airport and the Seikan Tunnel making it a transportation crossroads.

函館市 人口約28万人
北海道の南端に位置し、函館山からの夜景が有名。古くより北海道と本州を結ぶ海路の拠点であり、函館空港や青函トンネルは交通の要所です。

⑨ Obihiro

Population: approx. 170,000

Obihiro is a core city located in a large farm belt area typical of Hokkaido. The nation's largest dairyland has formed here on the vast Tokachi Plain, and the region also produces soybeans, adzuki beans, beets and more.

帯広市 人口約17万人
北海道を代表する大農業地帯の中核都市。壮大な十勝平野では大豆・小豆・ビートなどのほか、国内きつめの酪農地帯が形成されています。

⑩ Kushiro

Population: approx. 190,000

Kushiro is a core city of eastern Hokkaido, and its urban area coexists with nature right next to the vast Kushiro Wetland. The food manufacturing industry thrives in the city thanks to its abundant agricultural, forestry and fishery resources. It has developed based on Kushiro Port - a distribution base providing connections to the rest of the country and beyond.

釧路市 人口約19万人
広大な釧路湿原のおひざ元。自然と都市が共生する北海道東部の中核都市。豊富な農林水産資源を活用した食品製造業が盛んで、国内外と結ばれた物流拠点釧路港を中心に発展しています。

⑪ Kitami

Population: approx. 130,000

Kitami has one of the highest sunshine-hour totals in Japan, and therefore prioritizes the popularization and promotion of solar power systems. The city is also a favorite site for sports training camps, particularly with rugby teams.

北見市 人口約13万人
国内有数の日照率の高さを誇りソーラーシステムの普及、振興に力を入れています。また、ラグビーを中心としたスポーツ合宿が盛んです。

*Population figures are as of September 30, 2009.
※人口は2009年9月末現在

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Hokkaido Government/Committee for the Promotion of Investment in Hokkaido

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