



# Creating Eco-Island Hokkaido

The Hokkaido Government implements the following three measures in collaboration with citizens, aimed at creating the 'Eco-Island Hokkaido', where people successfully coexist with nature by practicing environmentally conscious lifestyles suited to Hokkaido, based on the three branches of the Hokkaido Environmental 'spirit' and eight defined actions.



**1 Prepare the Hokkaido Environmental Action Plan based on the Guide for Environmental Actions by Hokkaido Citizens and Businesses, a document attached to this declaration, to encourage citizens, businesses, municipalities and NPOs to cooperate in promoting eco-friendly activities.**



**2 Actively contribute to the prevention of global warming through reforestation, and implement new forest environment policies that allow all parties involved to support Hokkaido forests by protecting and improving various functions of the forests that serve not only to replenish water sources but also as wildlife habitats, healing spaces for people and, furthermore, serve to adjust climate and control floods.**



**3 In celebration of the Hokkaido Toyako Summit to be held in July 2008, we designate 2008 as the first year of environmental action, and July as the month for environmental action by Hokkaido citizens, to be observed annually. Moreover, by designating the second Sunday of May, July, October and January as days for environmental action by Hokkaido citizens, we intend to organize Hokkaido-wide campaigns for environmental activities each season, in which citizens can enjoy participating.**

Hoping that our steady environmental efforts, based on citizens' consensus to make Hokkaido an island in harmony with nature – Eco-Island Hokkaido – will lead to the bright future of Hokkaido and serve as a worldwide model for environmental protection at the local level, the Hokkaido Government delivers this declaration to the rest of the world for the benefit of the world and for the future of mankind.

#### **Guide for Environmental Actions by Hokkaido Citizens and Businesses**

To convert daily and business-oriented activities into environmentally conscious ones, we have prepared this guide containing action goals to help citizens understand the necessity of environmentally friendly actions and actually put them into practice, as well as a specific action menu and examples of activities to accomplish the goals.

## [ The Symbols of Hokkaido ]



Bird: Red-crested Crane



Tree: Ezo Spruce



Flower: Rugosa Rose

1

### Geographical features and climate of Hokkaido

- Hokkaido is a large island with an area of 83,456km<sup>2</sup>, which accounts for approximately 22% of Japan's total land area.
- Hokkaido has four distinct seasons and a refreshing climate owing to its low temperatures and humidity.
- About 70% of the island is covered with forests. Rivers of good water quality are abundant in Hokkaido.

2

### Rich, unspoiled natural environment

- Hokkaido has six national parks, including the World Natural Heritage site of Shiretoko, five quasi-national parks and 12 prefectural natural parks.
- Various species of wildlife, including the brown bear and the Blakiston's fish owl, inhabit Hokkaido.
- Hokkaido has 12 wetlands designated under the Ramsar Convention, including Kushiro Marsh – Japan's first Ramsar site.

3

### Hokkaido's advantages and potential

#### Rich natural resources

Hokkaido has a wealth of natural resources; its per-capita forest area and amount of water resources are respectively five and three times larger than those of the national average.

#### Diverse and rich energy resources

Renewable energy using various biomass resources (forestry and farm products, etc.) and natural energy (wind power, snow and ice, natural gases, etc.) are available in Hokkaido.

#### Use of technologies suited to Hokkaido

Technologies for more efficient energy use, such as super-insulated and air-tightened northern-type houses and the DMV (dual mode vehicle) that runs either on the road or railways, have been developed. Hokkaido is also promoting research and development on the manufacture of eco-friendly transportation fuels, such as bioethanol and BDF, which contribute to the reduction of the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted into the atmosphere.

#### Promotion of environmentally friendly industries

Environmentally conscious agriculture, forestry and fisheries and eco-tourism have been promoted by making use of the abundant natural resources.

#### Culture and character with potential

Hokkaido has developed by overcoming unfavorable natural conditions, such as cold winters and heavy snowfalls. We Hokkaido citizens have a frontier spirit and an open mind, as well as the wisdom and enthusiasm inherited from our ancestors.