



Dec. 21, 2012

Dear AASHE STARS Steering Committee,

As President of Hokkaido University, I am pleased to enclose the 2012 AASHE STARS and to affirm the accuracy of the content and information regarding the self-assessment of our sustainability initiatives and progress using the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS). This submission outlines our multidisciplinary approaches toward sustainability.

Hokkaido University started its history in 1876 as Sapporo Agricultural College. Now we have 12 undergraduate courses, 3 institutes, and 8 graduate courses with 18,000 students and 4,000 staffs. Responding to arising interests with university's responsibility for global issues, we introduced a new environmental policy in 2005 to promote education and research for the global and local environment; public awareness through providing academic achievements; and reduction of environmental impact of university operations. One of our unique activities is Sustainability Weeks event that has been offering various workshops and symposiums every year since 2007 to researchers, students and general public in the world to discuss various sustainability issues. Regarding the international networking, we hosted G8 University Presidents Summit in which 27 leading universities in academia and United Nations University adopted the Sapporo Sustainability Declaration (SSD). In Asia-pacific region, as a founding member of ProSPER.Net (Promotion of Sustainability in Postgraduate Education and Research Network), we initiates AUA Project (Alternative University Appraisal Project) with an aim to create a learning community among universities which engage in Education for Sustainable Development.

To fulfil the pledges outlined in the SSD, we established Office for a Sustainable Campus (OSC) in 2010. The OSC developed the Action Plan for a Sustainable Campus in 2012 by reflecting the discussion held in "International Symposium of Sustainable Campuses" in cooperation with universities in the USA which participate in the STARS.

We would like to appreciate for your efforts at international level to standardize assessment mechanism for realizing sustainable campus. It helps OSC develop an original evaluation system for our Action Plan. STARS has been and will be an extremely important reference and inspiration for our challenge to make the evaluation system holistic enough to reflect our diverse activities toward sustainability while taking into consideration our history and regional conditions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hiroshi SAEKI".

Hiroshi SAEKI
President