

Statement of Respect for the Indigenous People of the Land on which Hokkaido University is Located

We acknowledge that Hokkaido University is situated on the traditional lands of Ainu People, an Indigenous People of Japan, who have lived here for generations and sustained their lives and livelihoods. We also recognize that along the Sakushukotoni River, a tributary of the Ishikari River that flows through the Sapporo Campus, traces of Ainu life from before the 17th century have been identified. We also recognize that in the early Meiji period, an Ainu *kotan* (village community) was located on what is now the University's campus grounds.

At the same time, we also acknowledge that, in the early Meiji period, projects described by Wajin as “kaitaku” (“development”) proceeded, and that Ainu were forced to leave this land as a result. We also acknowledge that students, faculty, and staff with Ainu roots have long studied and worked at this University, and that this historical reality was, for many years, not spoken of.

Hokkaido University expresses deep respect for Ainu People's long history on this land and their enduring cultural connections to it. As part of the University's mission, we commit to building an environment where our members with Ainu roots can study and work with safety and peace of mind, and to advancing initiatives toward coexistence together with Ainu People within and beyond the University, together with all members of the University community.

Hokkaido University, March 2026

Notes

- 1) In English and other languages that use the Latin script, the term used both for “human” and for the ethnicity is written as “Ainu.” In Ainu orthography, however, it is written as *aynu*, and Ainu-language (*aynu-itak*) words are conventionally written in lowercase.
- 2) *aynu* words are written in italics.