

During the most recent years, Japan and the world have faced unprecedented crises and changes, including

- Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its impacts highlighting food and other security issues;
- COVID-19 restricting the flow of people around the world and illustrating Japan's vulnerability as a tourism nation; and
- Achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 as one of the world's most urgent missions.

Solutions to these challenges require a bountiful food supply, attractive tourism resources, and abundant renewable energy. Japan will not be able to overcome these issues without exploiting the enormous potential of Hokkaido.

This 9th Plan defines the areas of Hokkaido that deliver its notable value as "production spaces," and focuses on their "production potential." It is the activities of people living in these production spaces that maintain and realize their production potential. Thus, maintaining the conditions that enable residents to live in the production spaces constitutes the most important foundation for Hokkaido to continue providing value.

The irreplaceable value of Hokkaido stems from the simple fact that people live and visit there. To overcome Hokkaido's rapidly declining population, contracting 10 years faster than the rest of Japan, its widely dispersed society, and the need to maximize its value, it is crucial to involve various players to "create the future of Hokkaido together," looking ahead to 2050. These are the main messages of the current 9th Plan finalized in collaboration with many stakeholders.



# Overview of the 9th Hokkaido Comprehensive Development Plan (HCDP9)

- The Japanese government has promoted the **development of Hokkaido** to contribute to the stability and development of the entire nation by utilizing Hokkaido's abundant resources and vast land area.
- **HCDP**: A national plan that aims to take advantage of the resources and characteristics of Hokkaido –to contribute to solving national issues; and
  - -to promote vigorous development of the region.
- Period of the plan: Approx. 10 years from FY2024

#### Potential of Hokkaido



- About 24% of national food production (on a calorie supply basis)
- Largest producer of agricultural, livestock, and fishery products
  Wheat, potato, onion, raw milk, scallops, cod, salmon/trout, Atka mackerel, etc.

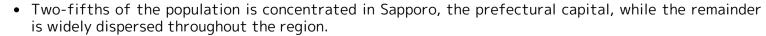
# Attractive Tourism Resources

- Over 3 million foreign visitors
- "Most attractive prefecture" in Japan for 15 years in a row

## Abundant Energy and Resources

- Unexploited reserves of renewable energy
  Officers (enchars wind pourse)
- Offshore/onshore wind power, solar power, biomass, smallhydraulic power
- High CO<sub>2</sub> absorption capacity

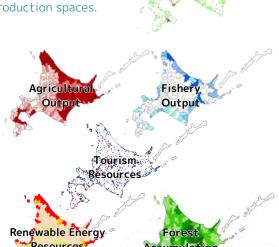
## Regional structure of Hokkaido



• But the potential and value of Hokkaido stem from the less-populated rural areas, or what we call "production spaces."

#### ▶ Production spaces lie in less populated areas

Population is concentrated in the **red** areas, while production activities characteristic of Hokkaido occur in the light green production spaces.

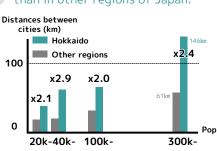


#### ▶ Production spaces feature severe settlement conditions

Many people fail to realize the scale of Hokkaido and try to tour the region in just one day.



The nearest cities in Hokkaido are two to three times farther away than in other regions of Japan.



Residents live in more dispersed settlements in rural areas of Hokkaido.





#### **Goals of HCDP9**

Goal 1

"Hokkaido supporting the prosperous life of Japan

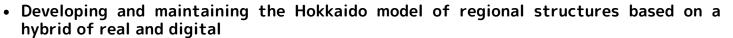
Food Security, Tourism Nation, and Zero Carbon Hokkaido"

Goal 2

"Hokkaido model of regional structures creating Hokkaido's value

 Maintaining and developing the production spaces and forming a resilient national land"

#### Methods of promoting HCDP9



The irreplaceable value of Hokkaido stems from the **simple fact that people live and visit there**. To maintain the living environment in the production spaces, infrastructures to support these realities, including transportation networks, are essential. At the same time, **digital technologies** must be employed to help overcome time and space constraints. In doing so, we will seek to maintain and develop the production spaces that embody Hokkaido's strengths.

Measures to enhance the Plan's effectiveness

"Co-creation" across public and private sectors

Promotion of DX/GX as the key to social change

Reinvigoration of the "frontier spirit"

Strategic and systematic infrastructure development



1

# Leading the way in solving current national issues by maximizing the "Irreplaceable value of Hokkaido"

**Primary** Measures Supporting the prosperous life of Japan by utilizing Hokkaido's potential – Food Security, Tourism Nation and Zero Carbon Hokkaido

The following measures will be promoted to further reinforce Hokkaido's existing strengths in "food" and "tourism" and to take full advantage of Hokkaido's resources and characteristics, including its "decarbonization" potential.

### Realizing the sustainable development of agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and food-related industries that support food security

- (1) Increasing the production capacity of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries that lead Japan
- (2) Establishing value chains that meet domestic and overseas market demands
- (3) Developing sustainable agriculture, forestry, and fisheries
- (4) Developing rural areas that support the sustainability of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries



▲ Improving productivity through the introduction of smart agriculture (Plowing by unmanned tractor / Iwamizawa City)



▲ Developing rural areas that support the sustainability of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries (Support for local activities in rural areas / "Making Our Village Beautiful – Hokkaido" campaign)

#### Creating world-class tourism regions that lead a tourism nation

- (1) Creating and enriching new tourism content for the global market and enhancing the industry's earning power
- (2) Developing a safe and secure reception environment to attract a wide range of travelers to rural areas
- (3) Creating sustainable tourism regions where tourism is compatible with the preservation of the natural environment and culture



▲ Creating sports content throughout the four seasons (Furano ski resort and Mt. Taisetsu)



Attracting travelers through adventure travel (Adventure Travel World Summit Hokkaido 2023)

### Realizing Zero Carbon Hokkaido that leads in climate change countermeasures

- (1) Creating a sustainable decarbonized society by taking advantage of Hokkaido's regional characteristics
- (2) Developing energy bases
- (3) Demonstrating Hokkaido's CO<sub>2</sub> absorption capacity



Promoting the introduction of offshore wind power generation (Ishikari Bay New Port Offshore Wind Farm)



Realizing a hydrogen society – hydrogen fueling station (Producing and utilizing hydrogen from biogas derived from livestock manure / Courtesy of

#### Fostering growth industries that utilize regional advantages

- (1) Promoting industrial development that utilizes renewable energy
- (2) Creating advanced industrial bases that contribute to national economic security
- (3) Promoting industrial development that utilizes geographical and climatic advantages
- ▼ Creating advanced industrial bases that contribute to national economic security (Construction of a next-generation semiconductor manufacturing base developed by Rapidas Corporation with cooperation by Kajima



#### Establishing a society in harmony with nature and a sound material-cycle society

- (1) Establishing a society in harmony with nature by utilizing Hokkaido's characteristics
- (2) Establishing a sound material-cycle society that maximizes efficient resource use
- ▼Creating an ecosystem network utilizing flood control basins

(Family of Japanese cranes at the Maizuru flood control basin in



#### Revitalizing the Region neighboring the Northern Territories and the border areas

- (1) Stabilizing and revitalizing the Region neighboring the Northern Territories
- (2) Revitalizing the border areas
- ▼Stabilizing and revitalizing the Region neighboring the Northern Territories (Hokkaido seen from the Sea of Okhotsk / Courtesv of JAXA)





## Promoting the Ainu culture

Promoting the Ainu culture

▼ Promoting the Ainu culture, disseminating knowledge and raising awareness about Ainu traditions

(Musical workshop to learn how to play the mukkuri (a kind of



# Maintaining the conditions for settlement in the production spaces as a source of Hokkaido's value

Primary Measures Maintaining the Hokkaido model of regional structures creating Hokkaido's value – Maintaining and developing the production spaces and forming a resilient national land

The following measures will be promoted to create and preserve the Hokkaido model of regional structures by maintaining and developing the production spaces as a source of Hokkaido's value.

#### Maintaining and developing the production spaces by utilizing digital technologies

- (1) Developing digital infrastructure suitable for the vast region of Hokkaido
- (2) Forming a society where necessary services can be accessed through digital technologies



▲ Ensuring the education and training of digital talents in higher education institutions, government agencies, and companies (Courtesy of the Laboratory of Media Dynamics, Graduate School of Information Science and Technology, Hokkaido University)



▲ Promoting logistics DX, including social implementation of drone logistics (Courtesy of the New Smart Logistics Promotion Council)

## Creating diverse and prosperous local communities

- (1) Investing in people and co-creating with diverse talents and players
- (2) Realizing diverse lifestyles and work styles
- (3) Forming city centers that support people's lives in the production spaces and creating lively places



▲ Investing in people and co-creating with diverse talents and players

(Fostering the younger generation who can contribute to the community / Courtesy of the Nonprofit Organization Hokkaido Studies Promotion



▲ Realizing diverse lifestyles and work styles (Promoting remote work and workcation)

### Creating passenger and freight transportation networks that support the Hokkaido model of regional structures with global perspectives

- (1) Creating transportation networks that support a widely dispersed society
- (2) Developing logistics infrastructure to support industry while maintaining logistics systems and improving their efficiency
- (3) Ensuring a safe and secure transportation environment
- (4) Strengthening urban and transportation hub functions in Sapporo
- ▼ Creating transportation networks ▼ Maintaining and improving the that support a widely dispersed
  - (Hakodate Shinsotokan airport road (Akagawa IC - Hakodate Airport IC))

efficiency of logistics systems to support industry (Loading of trucks onto roll-on/roll-off vessels /Tomakomai West Port)



▼ Strengthening urban and transportation hub functions in view of extending the Hokkaido Shinkansen to Sapporo (Architectural rendering of the Sapporo Station area)



### Building a resilient national land that protects the production spaces and allows people to continue to live safely and securely

- (1) Promoting watershed flood control based on Hokkaido's regional characteristics in response to water-related disasters intensifying with climate change
- (2) Strengthening the resilience of production and social infrastructure against large-scale disasters such as a trench-type earthquake in the Japan Trench or Chishima Trench areas
- (3) Strengthening disaster prevention capabilities against winter disasters and complex disasters
- (4) Promoting infrastructure maintenance and technological development using digital technologies
- (5) Strengthening disaster resistance and redundancy and decentralizing facilities to ensure the functions of lifelines in the event of a disaster
- (6) Diversifying risk in the event of a national-scale disaster

Promoting watershed flood control (Construction of the Ishikari River and Kitamura









