



Otaru University of Commerce,  
Research Group for Regional Studies

小樽商科大学地域研究会

"Globalism and Regional Studies" - Proposals for revitalizing Hokkaido

Finance

Global Economics

Empirical research  
Theoretical research

Environment/  
Social-  
Responsibility

EXPLORE

globalism

Public Finance

100

Regional Management

Regional Studies

Human Resource  
Development

Legal System

Corporate  
Management

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## Otaru University of Commerce, Research Group for Regional Studies

小樽商科大学地域研究会



### *On the establishment of the Research Group for Regional Studies*

*President, Makio Yamamoto*

I am happy to announce the establishment of the "Research Group for Regional Studies", the cross-departmental research organization united under the research theme of "Globalism and regional studies". Funded by a Special Operating Expenses Grant for Education and Research (Research Promotion), the "Research Group for Regional Studies" is a large research project for the field of Social Sciences and incorporates our university's regular faculty staff in addition to 3 full-time researchers.

Our university established a doctoral degree program in 2009 and since then we have set ourselves the goal to create an organization-wide research center commensurate with this level of learning, while reflecting the characteristics of our university. I greatly appreciate everyone's effort toward this goal, now realized in the form of the "Research Group for Regional Studies".

I now would like to reflect on the research theme, "Globalism and regional studies". In the spring of 2009 -just one year ago- Toyota announced record-breaking profits. However, triggered by the subprime mortgage crisis that started in United States, Lehman Brothers' bankruptcy in September 2008 shocked the world, and within half a month this led to a global economic crisis that is supposed to occur only once every 100 years. GM, the leading company of the United States that once people believed would last forever, went bankrupt. In our daily lives we are starting to feel the painful effects of this recession. We have been made keenly aware of the negative sides of globalism. Globalism, whether we are aware of it or not, is the reality we face.

In the midst of this reality imposed on us by globalism, and moreover, with the ever-widening gap between peripheral regional economies and the center of Japan's economic activity, the task we set ourselves with this research project is to mobilize all available academic resources of our university to discover measures toward regional economic revitalization. Traditionally, internationalization has been construed as the relationships between for instance Tokyo and Beijing, or Seoul, whereas internationalization of local regions such as Hokkaido or Otaru has been usually taken to mean indirect internationalization through Tokyo. However, I think that globalism can be understood in terms of direct interconnections throughout the world. The positive side of globalism provides local regions with the opportunity to directly reap the rewards for their efforts.

It is my hope that hereafter this "Research Group for Regional Studies" will become a research base for research on regional economies for Japan and for the world through continuous publication of research findings regarding how regional economies can thrive in these times of globalism. This research will be modeled on Hokkaido's economy but will hopefully also hold good in the rest of the world.



### *OUC Research Group of Regional Studies -*

The "Otaru University of Commerce Research Group for Regional Studies" will research the various issues that Hokkaido's economy faces as a result of globalization and will review each of these issues from the perspective of different academic specializations. The aim of the research group is to develop concrete countermeasures and to propose these to Hokkaido's stakeholders from an institutional standpoint as Otaru University of Commerce.

In order to accomplish our goal, we created 9 divisions in our research organization - Finance, Legal System, Corporate Management, Environment/Social Responsibility, Public Finance, Regional Management, Human Resource Development, Global Economics (empirical research), and Global Economics (theoretical research).

We intend to clarify the issues at hand from the perspective of each academic specialization and will make the results of our research public in the form of academic publications. In addition to this, our goal is to provide feedback to society at large, by educating the general public and by submitting a written proposal to Hokkaido.



**Director, Makoto Anazawa**

After a period of initial preparations, the activities of the "Research Group for Regional Studies" will move into high gear in fiscal year 2009. The research theme of the group is "Globalism and regional studies". The reason why we set this theme is that we felt the need for prescriptions for the Hokkaido economy, which is suffering hardships and -like the Japanese economy as a whole- is at the mercy of the increasing globalization of the world economy. We felt that these prescriptions need to be based on solid academic foundations and the calm observation of academic researchers.

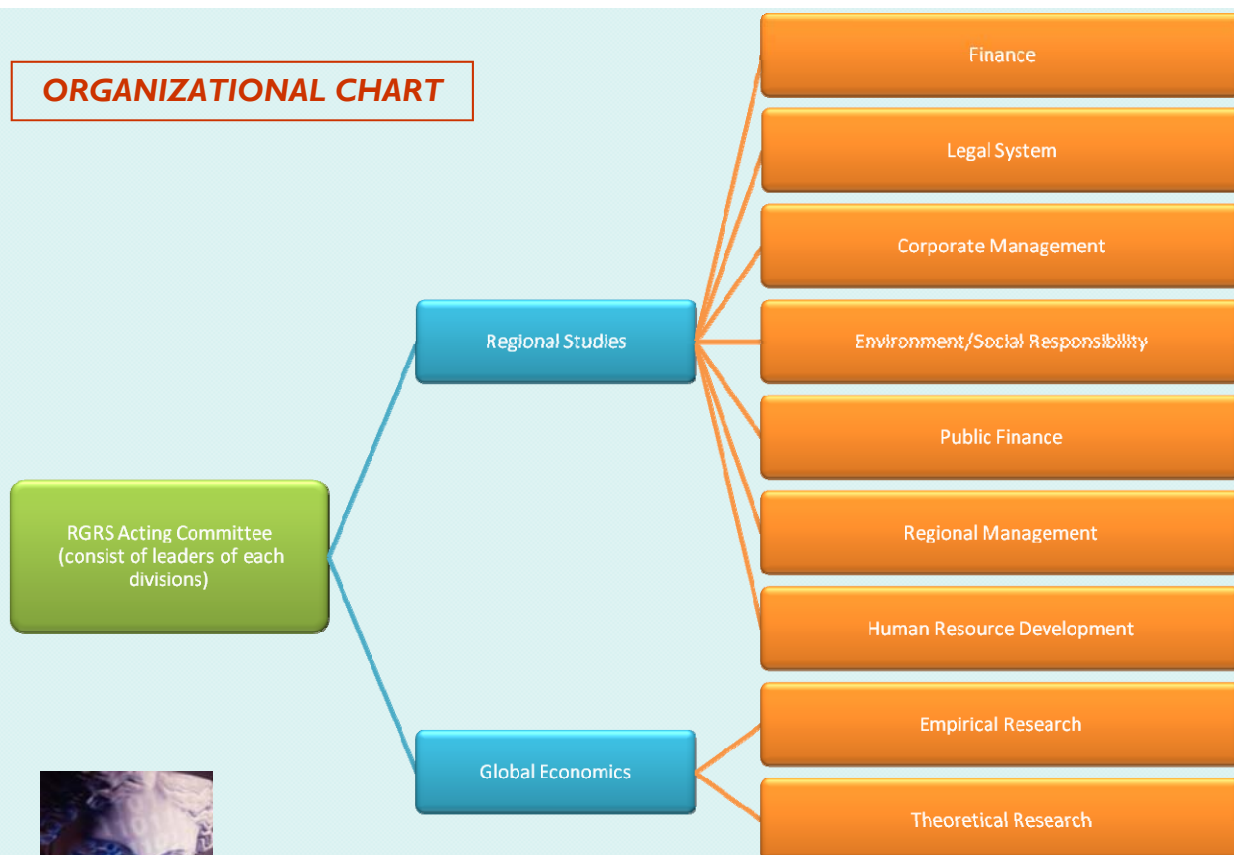
The "Research Group for Regional Studies" is the biggest research group in our university and subsumes a variety of research areas. In addition to our university's faculty members, the research group includes three newly hired academic researchers. As shown in the organizational chart, the characteristic of this research group is that it covers virtually all areas of social science, which also happens to be a distinguishing characteristic of our university. This makes truly interdisciplinary research possible. The trend in research segmentation observed in recent years has made it hard to keep track of developments even in adjacent research areas. Although it is important to pursue expertise, in this research group we think that in addition to the pursuit of expertise it is important to approach our research subject from as many perspectives as possible.

If we can successfully strengthen the relationship between our researchers and people from outside our university this can generate an unprecedented and big synergy effect. In order to accomplish this, we would like to open our research seminars and research activities to people both inside and outside of our university. The effective deployment of our university's human resources will have a huge positive effect on the local community. On many occasions in the past our faculty members have individually dealt with regional issues. However, there is only so much individual effort can accomplish. We feel that in order to go beyond this limitation it is necessary to address the variety of challenges as an organization, and we believe that also in this respect the "Research Group for Regional Studies" can make a substantial contribution.

Hereafter, we would like to offer solutions to the problems that Hokkaido is facing by actively sharing an awareness of the issues with regional stakeholders through a variety of seminars, symposiums, and study groups. We want to function as a regional think-tank and become a base station that transmits information, firmly based on academic knowledge. In this way we would like to operate as an organization that will think together with all regional stakeholders about what Hokkaido should be like.



**ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**



Research Group for Regional Studies Website  
<http://www.otaru-uc.ac.jp/hsyomu/globalism/>

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## Regional Studies

Finance		
1	Major in Entrepreneurship	Ichiro Saito
2	Dept. of Economics	Qingfeng Liu
3	Dept. of Commerce	Shigeo Ohya
4	Research Fellow	Toshiaki Kanzaki
5	Research Fellow	Tomochika Toguchi

Legal System		
1	Major in Entrepreneurship	Hideo Nakamura
2	Dept. of Law	Yoshimichi Saihara
3	Dept. of Law	Junkou Toyama
4	Dept. of Law	Seiji Hayashi
5	Dept. of Law	Tateo Wada

Corporate Management		
1	Major in Entrepreneurship	Kimihiko Kondo
2	Major in Entrepreneurship	Kenichi Tamai
3	Major in Entrepreneurship	Masahiko Sakai
4	Dept. of Commerce	Sakichi Otomasa
5	Dept. of Commerce	Kazuhiro Kagata

Environment/Social Responsibility		
1	Dept. of Economics	Susumu Egashira
2	Dept. of Commerce	Kazuhiro Kagata
3	Dept. of Information and Management Science	Masanobu Numazawa

Public Finance		
1	Dept. of Economics	Susumu Egashira
2	Dept. of Economics	Naoki Kojima
3	Dept. of Economics	Hirofumi Sano
4	Dept. of Economics	Atsue Mizushima
5	Dept. of Economics	Qingfeng Liu
6	Research Fellow	Mitsunari Ishida

Regional Management		
1	Dept. of Commerce	Makoto Anazawa
2	Dept. of Information and Management Science	Shou Ohtsu
3	Dept. of Information and Management Science	Yasutomo Kimura
4	Dept. of Information and Management Science	Masanobu Numazawa
5	Dept. of Information and Management Science	Hidemi Fukada

Human Resource Development		
1	Dept. of Commerce	Fukuo Oda
2	Dept. of Economics	Susumu Egashira
3	Professional Education for Teachers	Yoshihei Okabe
4	Professional Education for Teachers	Shigeru Sugiyama
5	Dept. of Information and Management Science	Shou Ohtsu
6	Center for Educational Development	Yoshihito Tsuji

Otaru University of Commerce



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## Global Economics

Empirical Research		
1	Dept. of Commerce	Makoto Anazawa
2	Dept. of Commerce	Neil Clymer
3	Dept. of Commerce	Carolus Praet
4	Center for Business Creation	Makoto Ebina

Theoretical Research		
1	Major in Entrepreneurship	Jemin Lee
2	Dept. of Economics	Chisato Shibayama
3	Dept. of Law	Tomohiko Kobayashi

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