

Table 3

Hokkaido Companies Involved in High-Technology Industries

Industry	Company
Mechatronics/New Materials	Densei Elm Data Hikari Gokin Manufacturing
Metal Processing/Industrial Robots	Kitahara Dentom Kogakkyo Engineering Koa Denki Seisakusho Maeda Denki Seisakusho Nichijo Manufacturing Nihon Josetsuki Seisakusho Tomatsukuri Ueno Denki
Fine Chemicals/Biotechnology	Amino-up Kagaku Hokusan Cerotech Hoshi Ito Engan Chosa Kaihatsu Sapporo Sanki San 'ei Riko

The Japanese have a seemingly endless appetite for theme parks and many such attractions have sprouted in Hokkaido. One of the latest is "Canadian World," an Anne of Green Gables theme park that opened in Ashibetsu in 1990. The park's developers plan to offer full resort facilities by 1995.

Seibu Saison is developing a number of new tourist attractions, including a joint venture with Club Med at Sapporo. Kabuto Decom, a local firm, has embarked upon a ¥100-billion project at Lake Toya and Hokkaido Shinko is developing a ¥25-billion marina at Hakodate. Several coal companies are also planning to turn their vast tracts of land into golf and ski resorts. Facilities on the island now include 130 golf courses, as many ski resorts and 8 marinas and leisure parks.

Foreign Trade

Providing accurate foreign trade statistics for Hokkaido is a difficult task because a large portion of the island's exports and imports are cleared through Yokohama or other Honshu ports.

In 1989, Hokkaido's major export markets were Taiwan (23 per cent) and Korea (13.5 per cent). The United States accounted for 13 per cent of all exports, followed by Spain (9 per cent), Belgium (5 per cent) and Germany (4.1 per cent).

Machinery and equipment (24 per cent) and steel and steel products (22 per cent) were the island's main exports, with most of the region's resource products going to satisfy domestic demand.

In 1987, Hokkaido's imports included 87 product categories purchased from 65 countries. North America was the main supplier, with 21 per cent of all imports coming from the United States and 16 per cent from Canada. Other suppliers included neighbouring Asian countries (37 per cent), the United Arab Emirates (10 per cent), Australia (7 per cent), and the former Soviet Union (7 per cent).

Fossil fuels accounted for 34 per cent of all 1987 imports, followed by lumber and wood products (19 per cent) and seafood (16 per cent). Other noteworthy imports were cereals, fertilizers, materials for the paper industry, salt, and sulphur.