

Prospectus by Foundation for Shiretoko Institute of Wildlife Management, Inc.

Since modern era, the development and growth of industry has been one of the major causes for environmental problems such as destruction and pollution of natural environment on a global scale. The civilized world once believed to be superior to natural life is now open to questions. Human kind must humbly take the plunge to learn how to maintain the perfect balance of nature.

Today, we see many problems rising between wildlife and human society; Protection of endangered species, conservation of their habitat, countermeasure for alien species problem, damage caused by wildlife to agricultural and fishing industries, and so on. In order to mitigate such existing problems, society desperately needs young researchers and other professional staffs with new ideas, new strategies or technologies.

Shiretoko Peninsula was registered as one of the World Natural Heritage Sites in 2005, and was considered the most appropriate place to set up a research and educational institution that brings solutions to the abovementioned problems. Shiretoko Peninsula is covered by primeval nature from seacoast to highland. The Sea of Okhotsk, with its abundance of seasonal sea ice, delivers the ecosystem of the sea into contact with that of the land. It is breeding and wintering ground to endangered species such as Blakiston's fish owls and Steller's sea eagles, and also to superpredators of the food chain such as Brown bears and Killer whales. While the region has spearheaded efforts in the preservation of biodiversity balance, it has also faced its own shares of issues related to protection of the ecosystem or allowing area development. As a result, various entities including government, local citizens and specialists have gathered to address such problems. Meanwhile, a large number of tourists visit this area to enjoy the bountiful environment. The main body of the peninsula is located as one of the richest agricultural fields in the country and fishing industries at the surrounding sea have been continuously well managed. Having developed such strong networks over the long years, this place has been blessed with social as well as natural resources.

Since the concept was first formulated in Shari-town's 1986 comprehensive plan, the outline of "Shiretoko Institute of Wildlife Science" has been discussed for more than twenty years by Shari town office and by the private working group, and by a joint committee comprised of public and private sectors.

Finally, in light of such rich background, we have founded this general incorporated foundation, and are now striving towards opening "Shiretoko Institute of Wildlife Science". We expect this institution to be one of the highest educational institutions in Japan with world class quality, and to provide research activity and human resource that would contribute to the coexistence of human world and wildlife.

Founder Sakae Gorai

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