



Chairman **Iwao Takamuki**

Since its founding as a city in 1869, when the Hokkaido Development Commission was established, Sapporo has grown into a metropolis with a population of approximately 1.9 million, and the largest city in northern Japan.

Sapporo is also the seat of the Hokkaido prefectural government, and is a government-designated city and administrative, economic and cultural center of Hokkaido, fulfilling its role as the core metropolis of northern Japan.

Under these circumstances, the Sapporo Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI) has been contributing to regional economic growth through various activities since its establishment in 1906 as the organization representing Sapporo businesses.

With approximately 20,000 member companies, the SCCI today ranks as the third largest Chamber of Commerce & Industry in Japan in terms of numbers of members, after Tokyo and Osaka.

The proportion of enterprises affiliated with our organization is the highest among the larger cities in Japan.

Sapporo is at the heart of Hokkaido's economy, and many enterprises are gathered here. While tertiary industries consisting primarily of wholesale and retail businesses, restaurants and service industries account for the majority of these businesses, the food manufacturing industry thrives by taking advantage of Hokkaido's abundant agricultural and marine products.

Amid all this, the SCCI has been involved in fostering food industries that take advantage of Hokkaido's regional characteristics, and promoting growth areas including food, sightseeing, the environment, healthcare and nursing with the aim of developing tourism as an industry with potential.

In addition, with the wide range of conventions held in the city, including international conferences, academic meetings and various other events, larger numbers of people visit Sapporo from throughout Japan and overseas each year. Winter sports events, like the 1972 Winter Olympics, and the internationally renowned Snow Festival, as well as festivals that take maximum advantage of the northern climate and natural surroundings are held, attracting countless tourists to the city.

Ongoing globalization of the economy, the promotion of international economic exchanges, and the promotion and expansion of trade with overseas businesses, form a major part of our activities.

The SCCI is engaged in various business activities including development and establishment of overseas markets, strengthening of support systems for internationalization, and improvement of systems to accept overseas visitors, to enable member companies to expand their international business.

We hope this pamphlet will deepen your understanding of the Sapporo Chamber of Commerce & Industry.