

## A discussion with John V. Roos, U.S. Ambassador to Japan

On Thursday Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>, undergraduate and graduate students from the Department of Economics held a discussion with John V. Roos, U.S. Ambassador to Japan, for about one and half hours. Arranged by the U.S. Consulate General Sapporo, it was held at Sapporo International Communication Plaza.

First, the Ambassador talked about his career; a personal narrative from his initial meeting with President Obama up to his decision to support Barack Obama as a Presidential candidate. He also talked at length about his own family. During a question period following his remarks, students asked him pointed questions concerning the current relationship between the U.S. and Japan, including the “Futenma issue”.

The topics of discussion ranged widely from Asian politics and economy to the way of thinking of Japanese youth, and the Ambassador answered to each question with sincerity.

To encourage students who will study or live abroad, the Ambassador said, “Please take a chance to go overseas and widen your view of global issues. With that experience, try to create a new and better U.S. - Japan relationship.” The time for this event was not long enough, but it was very productive for all of the participants.



