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Heavy snowfalls in the winter of 2010/2011 as related to the abnormal atmospheric circulation in the Northern Hemisphere

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The snowfall in the winter of 2010/2011 is characterized by the fact that we had abnormally heavy snowfalls in southern regions such as the western part of Fukushima, the Hokuriku region and the San-in region, rather than in Hokkaido. The snowfalls were apparently caused by the atmospheric circulation driven by the pressure patterns in which lows were pushed towards the west of the Seas of Okhotsk or Japan, or placed in the relatively southern latitudes. On inspecting the daily weather charts, it has been found that these pressure patterns were realized by the westward migration of the pressure system in higher latitudes in the Far East region.

Keywords: heavy snowfall, pressure pattern, atmospheric circulation