

Science Communication

As a national research institute, RIHN is expected to conduct exemplary science; it also must communicate its research agenda and results to the public and contribute to public awareness and discussion of contemporary environmentalism. A number of public symposia, campaigns, seminar series, and publications are designed to reach specialist and general audiences.



2013 Conference of the International Association for the Study of the Commons (IASC), which is to be co-organized by RIHN

RIHN International Symposium



Facilities

The RIHN campus is centered around one large curved building 150 meters in overall length that contains project research rooms and basement laboratories. Research rooms are designed with an open plan in order to facilitate interaction between researchers and interconnection between projects. The main building also houses administrative offices, a library and computing center, a lecture hall and several seminar and other meeting rooms. At the base of the campus, the RIHN House offers accommodation for visiting guests and resident fellows.



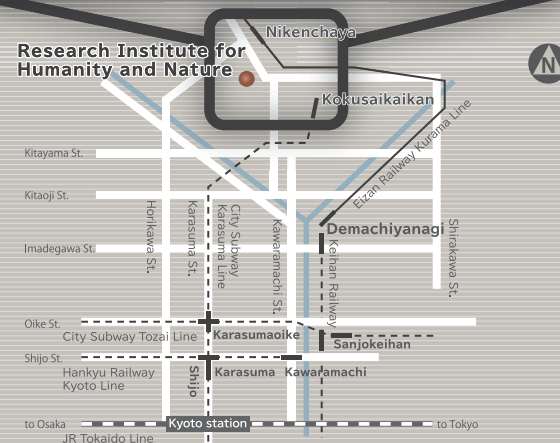
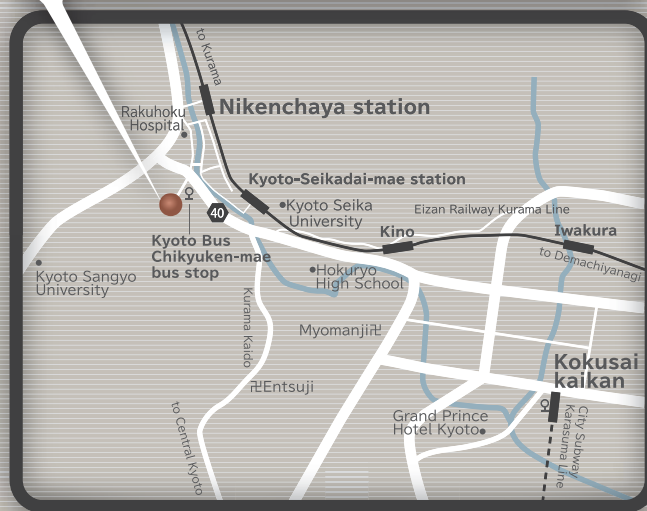
Research rooms



Laboratory technicians

RIHN maintains eighteen laboratories, including specialized facilities for DNA and stable isotope analysis, mass spectrometry, and several rooms for chemical and biochemical analysis, microscopy, incubation, hazardous materials, fieldwork and sample preparation, and cold storage.

RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUMANITY AND NATURE



- By City Subway**
From Kyoto Station, take the Karasuma Line to Kokusaikaikan Station (the last station), and transfer to Kyoto Bus.
- By Kyoto Bus**
From Kokusaikaikan Station, take bus No. 40 or 50 to Chikyuen-mae. RIHN is at the base of the hill to your left.
- By Eizan Railway**
From Demachiyangagi Station in Kyoto City, take the Kurama Line. Exit at Nikenchaya Station. RIHN is a 10 minute walk to the South.

INTER-UNIVERSITY RESEARCH INSTITUTE CORPORATION, NATIONAL INSTITUTES FOR THE HUMANITIES

RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUMANITY AND NATURE

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RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUMANITY AND NATURE

2012-2013



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TACHIMOTO Narifumi

Director-General
Research Institute for Humanity and Nature

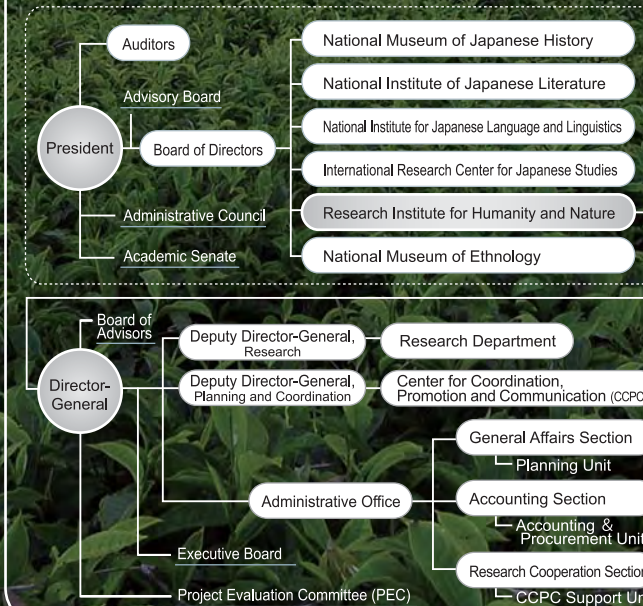
At RIHN we believe that the global environmental problems humankind faces today are basically rooted in human cultures. As a consequence, RIHN's mission is to conduct integrative and cooperative research into the interactions between human and biophysical systems, and to suggest how harmonious human-environmental relations can be established or enhanced.

RIHN research projects last from three to five years, involve scholars from a wide range of academic disciplines, and are supported by cooperative agreements with universities and institutes at home and abroad. This fixed-term project structure and internationalist orientation allow RIHN to bring an uncommon range of specialists, methodologies and resources to bear on a particular research question, while also advancing the field of global environmental studies.

As always, we invite your continued support of, and critical engagement with, RIHN activities.

Organization

Inter-University Research Institute Corporation,
National Institutes for the Humanities
(as of April 1, 2012)



RESEARCH PROJECTS

RIHN solicits, hosts and funds integrative, cooperative research projects that advance one of five principal RIHN research domains: Circulation (Program Director **NAKANO Takanori**), Diversity (Program Director **KADA Ryohei**), Resources (Program Director **MOJI Kazuhiko**), Ecohistory (Program Director **TANIGUCHI Makoto**) and Ecosophy (Program Director **KUBOTA Jumpei**).
(as of April 1, 2012)

Human Life, Aging and Disease in High-Altitude Environments: Physio-Medical, Ecological and Cultural Adaptation in "Highland Civilizations"

D-03 FR5 Project Leader · **OKUMIYA Kiyohito**



This project examines the long- and short-term effects of high-altitude environments on human physiology and health. Focusing on several common health problems associated with aging and contemporary lifestyle in the Himalaya-Tibet region, researchers examine human cultural, physiological and ecological adaptations to high-altitude environments, and how recent changes in lifestyle have affected the health and quality of life of the elderly.

A Study of Human Subsistence Ecosystems in Arab Societies: To Combat Livelihood Degradation for the Post-oil Era

R-05 FR4 Project Leader · **NAWATA Hiroshi**



This project examines the life support mechanisms and self-sufficient modes of production of Arab peoples who have survived in arid environments for more than a millennium. It examines key environmental problems such as desertification and invasive species, and identifies the "keystones" to successful human-ecological interaction on which social life in the post-oil era will depend.

Desertification and Livelihood in Semi-Arid Afro-Eurasia

R-07 FR1 Project Leader · **TANAKA Ueru**



This project identifies the socio-ecological characteristics of livelihood in Semi-Arid Afro-Eurasia and adaptation strategies related to desertification. It re-examines techniques and approaches to desertification control and rural development assistance, and seeks feasible and practical solutions to encourage improved livelihood security for people living in fragile semi-arid environments.

Collapse and Restoration of Ecosystem Networks with Human Activity

D-04 FR5 Project Leader · **SAKAI Shoko**



Many ecosystems on the planet have been seriously degraded by human activity and are in critical condition. There are no simple solutions to this problem due to the complexity of interactions between society and nature. This project utilizes the concept of ecosystem network to address tropical rainforest decrease in Sarawak, Malaysia and grassland degradation in Mongolia.

Megacities and the Global Environment

C-08 FR3 Project Leader · **MURAMATSU Shin**



How can megacities—cities of more than ten million inhabitants—become earth-friendly, and how can the present and future welfare of their inhabitants be improved? Focusing on Jakarta, Indonesia, project researchers identify the potential advantages in being a "latecomer" megacity, and the relevance of customary patterns of behavior and urban life to contemporary social and ecological problems.

Environmental Change and Infectious Disease in Tropical Asia

R-04 FR5 Project Leader · **MOJI Kazuhiko**



How is the health of a human community affected by its environment? Beyond the conventional medical description, individual and population health can be described in part as an ecological phenomenon. This project develops the concept of "ecohealth" to describe this wider context and facilitate appropriate health policy in Southeast Asia.

Managing Environmental Risks to Food and Health Security in Asian Watersheds

R-06 FR2 Project Leader · **KADA Ryohei**



This project combines the social, medical and physical sciences in order to develop strategies of ecological risk management for sustainable food production, health security and watershed planning in the Laguna Lake region, the Philippines. Organized by researchers from Japan and the Philippines, this project critically examines resource degradation and pollution, its origin and effect on aquatic life, food production, food quality, and public health.

Global Warming and the Human-Nature Dimension in Siberia: Social Adaptation to the Changes of the Terrestrial Ecosystem, with an Emphasis on Water Environments

C-07 FR4 Project Leader · **HIYAMA Tetsuya**



This project uses multiple satellite and surface systems to track changes in the circulation of carbon and water in Siberia, and the effect of their change on ice, snow and permafrost environments. Project researchers assess the interactions of such change and their cumulative significance to human and animal populations in the region.

Coastal Area Capability Enhancement in Southeast Asia

D-05 FR1 Project Leader · **ISHIKAWA Satoshi**



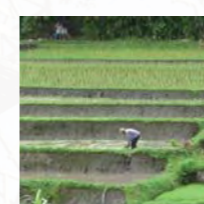
Coastal area ecosystems have been deteriorating rapidly, as they are often affected by environmental change and intensive human activity both on land and at sea. This interdisciplinary project develops the concept of area capability in tropical Southeast Asia to permit consideration of the socio-ecological dynamics and tradeoffs in rural coastal area development.

Initiative Projects

GAIA Initiative

Designing Local Frameworks for Integrated Water Resources Management

C-09-Init FR2 Project Leader · **WATANABE Tsugihiko**



This project conducts interdisciplinary investigation of the merits and demerits of distinct water management regimes, especially related to irrigation, in several semi-arid and humid contexts. Field and modeling studies are integrated to develop advanced description of the knowledge systems affecting water and to enable comprehensive analysis of improved basin management.

OIKOS Initiative

Creation and Sustainable Governance of New Commons through Formation of Integrated Local Environmental Knowledge (ILEK project)

E-05-Init FR1 Project Leader · **SATO Tetsu**



This project studies and develops processes of local knowledge production and circulation in order to understand how community-based adaptive governance systems emerge and function. It examines and facilitates dialogue between scientific explanation and everyday ways of understanding, and it monitors how this knowledge changes as it is utilized at different points and levels of social networks.

The Center for Coordination, Promotion and Communication (CCPC)

The Center for Coordination, Promotion and Communication (CCPC) is responsible for research, infrastructure, coordination, and management that concern the institute as a whole. It is divided into three divisions.

The **Division of Research Development** is chiefly responsible for establishing RIHN's long term research trajectory and facilitating the internal and external projects and collaborations necessary for its realization.

Since 2011 the Division also houses the **Core Research Hub**, which serves as a cross-cutting mechanism to capture and synthesize key contributions of domain-based research projects and develop new research projects. Its efforts are most recently manifest in the formation of the Global Environmental Change-Japan network.

The **Division of Promotion** develops and maintains the laboratory facilities necessary for research and fieldwork, and builds the databases and archives supporting ongoing research.

The **Division of Communication** determines how communication regarding RIHN research, processes and outcomes should be established with academic, public and user-specific communities.



Professor SATO Yo-ichiro, Director of the CCPC.



The CCPC also regularly organizes events for students and the general public. Past events have included talks and activities on animals, insects and story-telling, enriching normal science curricula and expanding students' ideas of who is a scientist and what scientists do. RIHN also regularly provides tours of the research rooms and laboratories to groups of primary-, middle-, high-school and university students, and conducts an annual open house for the surrounding community.