

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, 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



Project research may be published in several languages as was this bilingual English-Arabic monograph from the Arab Subsistence Project (R-05), which also publishes in French and Swahili.

Research 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

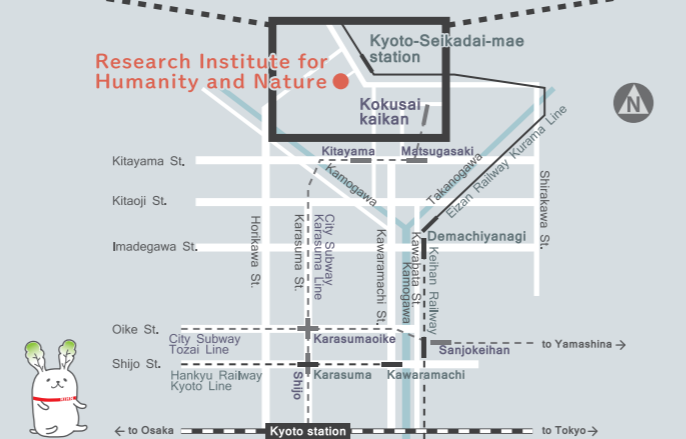


Laboratory technicians

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.



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Access

- By City Subway**
From Kyoto Station, take the Karasuma Line to Kokuzaikaikan Station (the last station), and transfer to Kyoto Bus.
- By Kyoto Bus**
From Kokuzaikaikan Station, take bus No. 40, 50, or 52 to Chikyuen-mae. RIHN is at the base of the hill on your left.
- By Eizan Railway**
From Demachiyangi Station in Kyoto City, take the Kurama Line. Get off at Kyoto-Seikadai-mae Station. RIHN is a 10-minute walk from the station.



Photo: ISHIYAMA Shun

Inter-University Research Institute Corporation
National Institutes for the Humanities
**Research Institute for
Humanity and Nature**

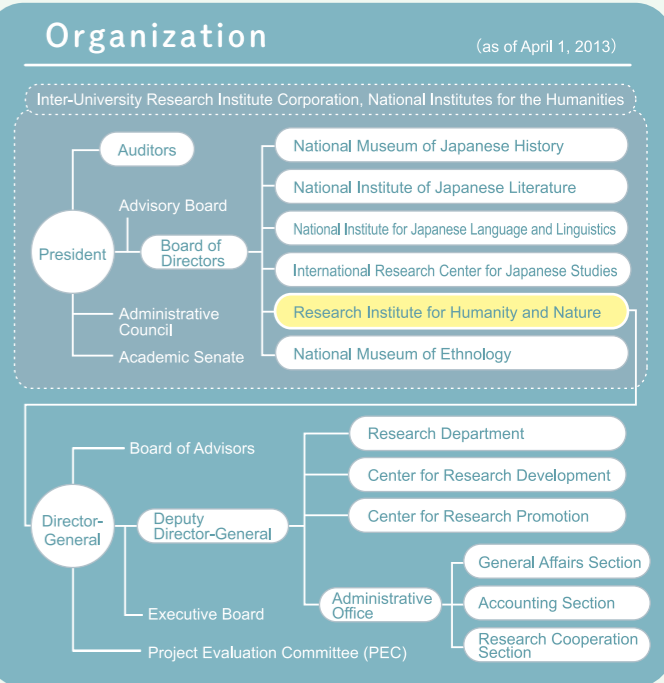
2013



YASUNARI Tetsuzo
Director-General
Research Institute for Humanity and Nature

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The Research Institute for Humanity and Nature was established in April 2001 by the Government of Japan to promote integrated research in the field of global environmental studies. As a national institute, RIHN solicits, develops, hosts, and funds fixed-term research projects on pressing areas of interaction between humanity and nature. RIHN thus promotes coordinated, problem-centered, context-specific, and multi-dimensional science. RIHN projects can last from three to five years; they are always multidisciplinary and employ multiple methodologies, and they are supposed to offer solutions to the problems under study. This is not an easy task, but it is a necessary one and our science must address it. As Director-General it is my privilege, and my burden, to further such efforts. I would like to reaffirm RIHN's commitment to conduct first-quality research and to make substantial contributions to the growing international efforts to address the linked social and environmental problems that we face as individuals, communities, nations, species, and planet. As always, your continued cooperation, support, and guidance are greatly appreciated.



Research Projects

RIHN solicits, hosts and funds integrative, cooperative research projects that advance one of five principal RIHN research domains: Circulation, Diversity, Resources, Ecohistory, and Ecosophy. The RIHN Initiative Framework Unit may also develop new research projects, designated by the suffix 'Init' below.

(as of April 1, 2013)

Research Coordination

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
FR5 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.

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



R-05
FR5 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.

Megacities and the Global Environment



C-08
FR4 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.

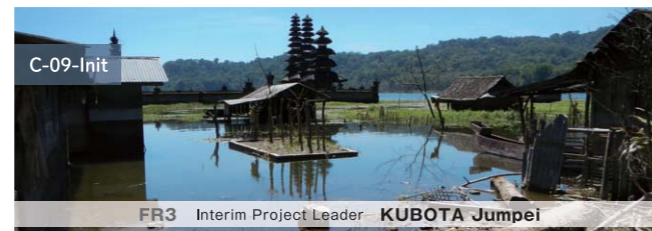
Managing Environmental Risks to Food and Health Security in Asian Watersheds



R-06
FR3 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.

Designing Local Frameworks for Integrated Water Resources Management



C-09-Init
FR3 Interim Project Leader **KUBOTA Jumpei**

This project conducts interdisciplinary investigation of the merits and demerits of distinct water management practices. Field and modeling studies are integrated to develop advanced description of the knowledge systems affecting water and to enable comprehensive analysis of Integrated Water Resources Management in collaboration with a wide spectrum of local and remote stakeholders, towards pro-humanistic water resources assessment and local governance.

Coastal Area Capability Enhancement in Southeast Asia



D-05
FR2 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.

Desertification and Livelihood in Semi-Arid Afro-Eurasia



R-07
FR2 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.

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



E-05-Init
FR2 Project Leader **SATO Tetsu**
Co-Project Leader **KIKUCHI Naoki**

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.

Human-Environmental Security in Asia-Pacific Ring of Fire: Water-Energy-Food Nexus



R-08-Init
FR1 Project Leader **TANIGUCHI Makoto**

Climate change and economic development are increasing pressure on water, energy and food resources, presenting communities with difficult tradeoffs and potential conflicts among these resources. Therefore, the water-energy-food nexus is one of the most important and fundamental global environmental issues facing the world.

The Center for Coordination, Promotion and Communication (CCPC) has thus far been responsible for the research, infrastructure, coordination, and management that concern the institute as a whole. As of April 2013, the CCPC is divided into two centers, namely the **Center for Research Development (CRD)** and the **Center for Research Promotion (CRP)**.

The **Center for Research Development (CRD)** consists of three units. The **Planning Unit** is chiefly responsible for establishing RIHN's long term vision and organizing fundamental committees, including project evaluation and personnel affairs. The **Initiative Framework Unit** serves as a cross-cutting mechanism to capture and synthesize key contributions of domain-based research projects and develop new research projects for RIHN's Futurability Initiatives. The **Collaboration Nexus Unit** facilitates the internal and external research networks. Its efforts are most recently manifest in the formation of the Global Environmental Change-Japan network.

The **Center for Research Promotion (CRP)** is also divided into three units. The **Survey and Analysis Unit** develops and maintains the laboratory facilities necessary for research and fieldwork. The **Informatics Unit** builds the databases and archives supporting ongoing research. Finally, the **Communication and Production Unit** determines how communication regarding RIHN research, processes and outcomes should be established with academic, public and userspecific communities.

