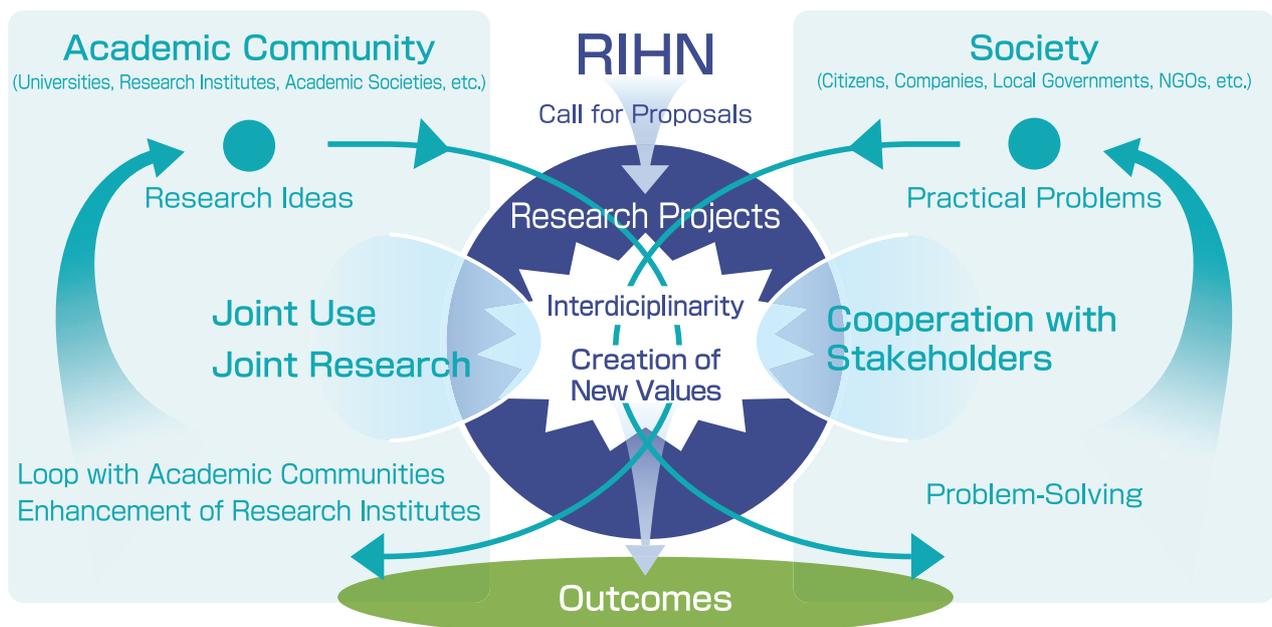


Organizational Structure

RIHN is a project-based institute, with research projects lasting from five to seven years. New research projects are publicly solicited. Initial proposals ideas are gradually developed through several stages into fully-fledged projects; they are finally evaluated by an international external review committee. At this point, the proponent joins the RIHN community as a faculty member of the Institute. Individual project include a core team of researchers based at RIHN and a much larger network of partners at research institutions throughout Japan and abroad.

RIHN Research Programs

RIHN research projects are organized into three programs, each of which is organized around central themes identified in RIHN's Phase III Medium-Term Plan (to be revised in 2021). Along with the RIHN in-house Core Program, each program is home to multiple projects that carry out research in line with its broad research agenda. The bundling and integration of projects within the programs facilitates synthesis of research results and strategic planning. Programs are subject to annual review by the External Research Evaluation Committee (see RIHN Project Trajectory on pages 6 & 7). RIHN endeavors to improve its research by making good use of the review results while also respecting the independence of each Program.



Program 1: Societal transformation under environmental change

This program aims at providing realistic perspectives and options to facilitate the transition to a society that can flexibly respond to environmental changes caused by human activities such as global warming and air pollution, as well as to natural disasters.

Program 2: Fair use and management of diverse resources

Taking tradeoffs into account, this program provides multifaceted options to stakeholders involved in production, distribution, and consumption of resources, in order to realize fair use, optimal management, and wise governance of diverse natural resources including energy, water and ecological resources.

Program 3: Designing lifeworlds of sustainability and wellbeing

Our “lifeworlds” are composed of the physical spaces and socio-cultural spheres of our everyday lives. They are continually reproduced, reimagined, and evolving through an interactive and reflexive relationship with society, culture, and nature. Program 3 proposes research aimed at illuminating reciprocal linkages between diverse rural and urban lifeworlds and contributing to the solution of sustainability problems by working with various societal partners such as governments, companies, and citizen groups. Special emphasis is placed on envisioning sustainable futures that improve wellbeing and gauging their feasibility.

RIHN Project Formation



Incubation Studies (IS) are proposed by individual researchers to the RIHN Project Review Task Committee. If approved, the researcher is granted seed money to prepare a proposal for Feasibility Study.

Feasibility Studies (FS) allow the study leader a period to develop a proposal for Full Research. If approved, the project proceeds into a transitional **Pre-Research (PR)** period in which the project leader formally assembles the team, establishes MOUs necessary for collaboration with other institutions, and makes other preparations to enable Full Research.

Full Research (FR) lasts from three to five years. It typically involves a research team at RIHN and concurrent activity with collaborators overseas, several periods of field study, workshops and presentations, and outreach or communication with relevant communities. FR projects are evaluated by the External Research Evaluation Committee at the beginning (selection), mid-term and the end (final evaluation).

Core Program

Based on the mission of RIHN and in order to realize the strategies and policies formulated by the Council for Research Strategy, the Core Program undertakes research on an ongoing basis. During Phase III, the Core Program will develop concepts and methodologies to solve global environmental problems in collaboration with society.

Core Project



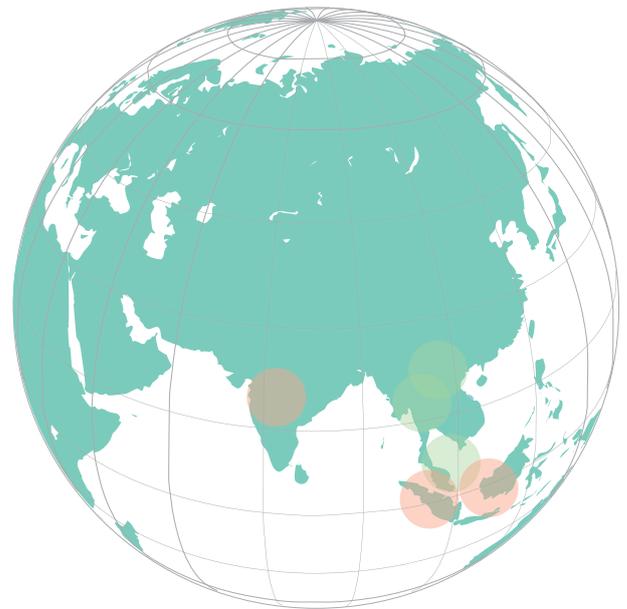
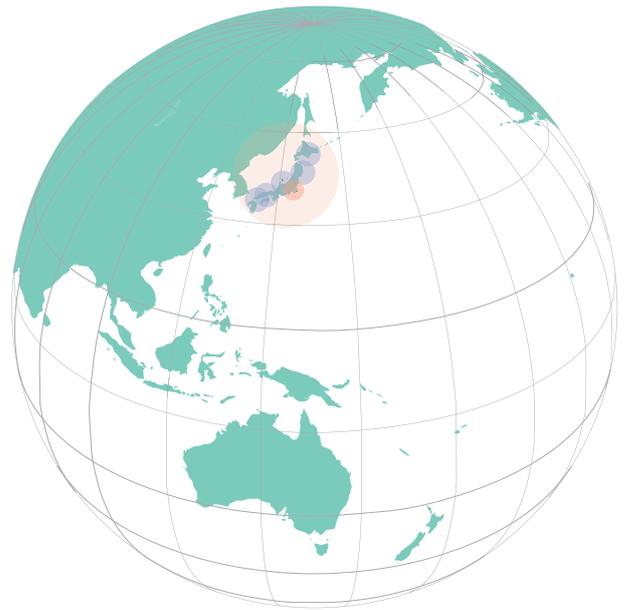
RIHN Center

The RIHN Center provides the foundations for RIHN collaborative research and surrounding activities. Its five divisions manage and operate the laboratories and the information systems of the Institute, and facilitate scientific and public communication, networking and capacity building. Faculty in the center also engage in research related to Center and Institute goals. The RIHN Center works closely with the Core Program and Research Programs by providing tools, facilities, and methods. It also collaborates with the wider academic community in support of RIHN's role as a joint-use Inter-University Research Institute, and engages a broad range of societal stakeholders in problem-solving research processes.

The RIHN Center consists of five divisions. The Laboratory and Analysis Division develops and maintains the laboratory facilities necessary for research and fieldwork. The Information Resources Division maintains the RIHN research databases and archive. The Communication Division develops a variety of communication strategies linking RIHN research to academic and public communities. The Collaboration Division facilitates internal and external research networking. The Future Earth Division engages with the international Future Earth initiative and hosts the Regional Center for Future Earth in Asia.



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