

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 in a "clean room"

RIHN research projects are multidisciplinary and multi-method; in common they share the need for high quality physical observation and chemical and biological analysis of the surface environments of the earth. In order to meet this need, 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.

Main Events

*Titles are tentative

- **RIHN Public Seminars**
Eight public seminars will be held in fiscal year 2010.
- **International Research Center for Japanese Studies-Research Institute for Humanity and Nature Joint Symposium** (Co-host with Nichibunken)
22 May, 2010 Nichibunken's Auditorium
- **RIHN 9th Forum**
Biodiversity in our Lives
10 July, 2010 Kyoto International Conference Center
- **NIHU 13th Open Lecture and Symposium** (Co-host with NIHU)
Food as an Interface between Biodiversity and Cultural Diversity
16 July, 2010 Yurakucho Asahi Hall, Tokyo
- **RIHN 8th Area Seminar** (Co-host with Nagoya University)
10 October, 2010 Nagoya University
- **RIHN 5th International Symposium**
Cultural and Ecological Diversity in Humanized Landscapes
13-15 October, 2010 RIHN Lecture Hall
- **The Earth Forum Kyoto International Symposium**
(Co-host with Kyoto Prefecture and others)
Global Commons
mid-February, 2011 Kyoto International Conference Center

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 as below.
- **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 Demachiyana 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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Inter-University Research Institute Corporation, National Institutes for the Humanities

2010

Research Institute for Humanity and Nature



TACHIMOTO Narifumi

Director-General
Research Institute for
Humanity and Nature

Message from the Director-General

At RIHN we believe that the global environmental problems humankind faces today are finally 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. We must bring the full range of human intelligence to this task.

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.

Organization

Inter-University Research Institute Corporation, National Institutes for the Humanities
(as of April 1, 2010)



2010 Research Projects (as of April 1, 2010)

RIHN solicits, hosts and funds integrative, cooperative research projects that advance one of five principal RIHN research domains: Circulation, Diversity, Resources, Ecohistory and Ecosophy.

Circulation Program Program Director • TANIGUCHI Makoto

Human Impacts on Urban Subsurface Environments



FR5 Project Leader • TANIGUCHI Makoto
This project investigates subsurface environmental conditions in Tokyo, Osaka, Bangkok, Jakarta, Seoul, Taipei and Manila. Using combined methods of GRACE satellite observation and isotope analysis, it has developed benchmark assessments of urban groundwater resources, including rates of recharge and flow, and the risks posed by chemical contamination and the urban "heat island" effect.

Effects of Environmental Change on the Interactions between Pathogens and Humans



FR4 Project Leader • KAWABATA Zen'ichiro
This project examines the direct and indirect human actions that create favorable ecological conditions for infectious disease. Field study examines the intertwined ecological and social causes and effects of Koi Herpes Virus disease, which has caused episodic mass mortality of common carp raised for human consumption, as a model of pathogen-human interactions.

Global Warming and the Human-Nature Dimension in Siberia



FR2 Project Leader • INOUE Gen
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.

Megacities and the Global Environment



FR1 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.

Ecohistory Program Program Director • SATO Yo-ichiro

Agriculture and Environment Interactions in Eurasia: Past, Present and Future



FR5 Project Leader • SATO Yo-ichiro
This project examines human agricultural history and its impact on the surrounding environment in three Eurasian climate zones. It takes an interdisciplinary approach to the concept of "genetic diversity" in agriculture in order to better describe the history of agricultural development and to focus human thought on future agricultural potential.

Environmental Change and the Indus Civilization



FR4 Project Leader • OSADA Toshiki
This research project examines the social character and environmental context of the ancient Indus civilization. Drawing on archaeology, Indology, and paleo-environmental investigation, researchers reconstruct the social and environmental histories of several Indus cities in order to determine whether environmental factors contributed to the civilization's short life and rapid decline.

Neolithisation and Modernisation: Landscape History on East Asian Inland Seas



FR4 Project Leader • UCHIYAMA Junzo
This project examines the long-term landscape history around the East Asian Inland Seas. Comparing "Neolithization" and "Modernization", the two most important historical stages in which humans changed their landscapes on a large scale, project researchers examine the cultural and natural factors that have significantly affected the landscape formation process in the past and may do so in the future.

Diversity Program Program Director • YUMOTO Takakazu

A New Cultural and Historical Exploration into Human-Nature Relationships in the Japanese Archipelago



FR5 Project Leader • YUMOTO Takakazu
The Japanese Archipelago has been densely populated since the Neolithic Age and its natural environment has been greatly influenced by human activities. Japan is extraordinarily rich in biota—but today many plants and animals are in danger of extinction. This project describes the history of human-nature relationships in the area and suggests how future species extinction can be prevented.

Human Life, Aging and Disease in High-Altitude Environments



FR3 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.

Collapse and Restoration of Ecosystem Networks with Human Activity



FR3 Project Leader • YAMAMURA Norio
This project applies new network science to the problem of ecosystem deterioration and collapse, and to the prospects of ecosystem restoration. The project examines social-environmental interactions in two distinct ecosystems that are being dramatically altered by humans, and attempts to identify general properties of productive and destructive ecological change.

Resources Program Program Director • WATANABE Tsugihiko

Historical Interactions between Multi-Cultural Societies and the Natural Environment in a Semi-Arid Region in Central Eurasia



FR4 Project Leader • KUBOTA Jumpei
This project utilizes ice-core, lake sediment-core, and tree-ring evidence in combination with archaeological and textual analysis to describe the historical interactions of humanity and nature in semi-arid Central Eurasia. Focusing on the ecological effect of human boundaries and subsistence patterns through time, the study will suggest how such semi-arid regions can best be managed in the future.

Environmental Change and Infectious Disease in Tropical Asia



FR3 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.

A Study of Human Subsistence Ecosystems in Arab Societies



FR2 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 "key-stones" to successful human-ecological interaction on which social life in the post-oil era will depend.

Ecosophy Program Program Director • ABE Ken-ichi

Vulnerability and Resilience of Social-Ecological Systems



FR4 Project Leader • UMETSU Chieko
This project uses the concept of social-ecological resilience in order to evaluate the attempts of agricultural peoples in Sub-Saharan Africa to adapt to environmental and socio-economic change. Project researchers investigate how households and communities recover from specific social and environmental perturbations, the factors influencing their capacity to adapt, and the role of institutions in strengthening the overall resilience of social-ecological systems.

The Center for Coordination, Promotion and Communication (CCPC)

The Center for Coordination, Promotion and Communication is responsible for cross-project, cross-domain investigation, research and support that concerns the entire institute.

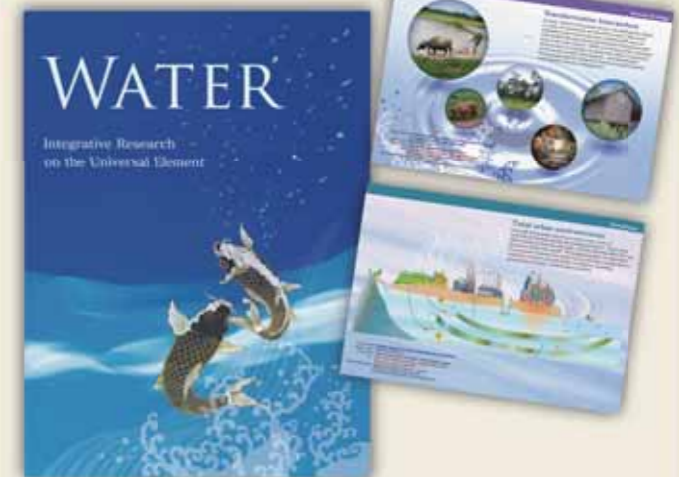
The Division of Coordination guides the institute's research trajectory. It evaluates the domestic and international trends in environmental studies and facilitates collaborative interaction with other institutes.

The Division of Promotion maintains the laboratory facilities and information systems necessary for research, and guides the adoption and implementation of new research technology and infrastructure.

The Division of Communication promotes inter-project collaboration on key research topics and the publication and dissemination of institute findings to both academic and public audiences.



SEEDer, the newsletter of the Regional Environmental Information Network



The CCPC publishes a variety of materials, such as SEEDer and the pamphlet on water above, for both academic and general audiences. It organizes symposia and, beginning in 2010, proposes research projects to highlight and develop synergies between existing research projects.

