



## Research Coordination

Research at RIHN is facilitated by the Center for Research Development (CRD) and the Center for Research Promotion (CRP).

The CRD consists of four units. The Planning Unit is chiefly responsible for establishing RIHN's long term vision and organizing fundamental committees, including those related to project evaluation and personnel affairs. The Initiative Framework Unit serves as a cross-cutting mechanism to capture and synthesize key contributions of individual and institutional collaboration projects and to develop new research projects within RIHN (the 'initiative-based' projects). The Collaboration Nexus Unit facilitates the internal and external research networks. The Future Earth Unit coordinates RIHN engagement with the international Future Earth initiative.

The Center for Research Promotion (CRP) is divided into three units. The Survey and Analysis Unit develops and maintains the laboratory facilities necessary for research and fieldwork (see page 40). 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 user-specific communities (see pages 38-39).



## 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. Recent activities and publications include:

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### The Earth Forum Kyoto and the Earth Hall of Fame Kyoto Award

The Earth Forum Kyoto invites world-renowned experts and activists to discuss the environmental and cultural bases of more responsible human societies. The Earth Hall of Fame Kyoto Award is given to those who have made exemplary contributions to the protection of the global environment. Organizers of the event are the International Institute for Advanced Studies, the Kyoto International Conference Center, and RIHN.



The 2014 recipient of the Earth Hall of Fame Kyoto Award was Mr. HATAKEYAMA Shigeatsu, founder of the NPO Mori wa Umi no Koibito "The forests are lovers of the sea" and Professor of Field Studies and Practical Learning, Kyoto University.

### RIHN Forum

The RIHN Forum is usually held at the Kyoto International Conference Center and is open to the general public. Since 2004 the proceedings were published as books intended for a general audience.

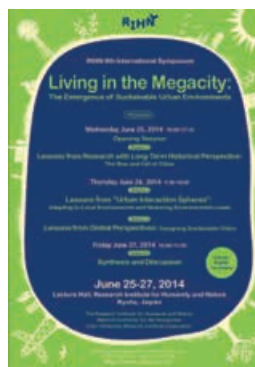
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**How to co-design the global environment and our future?**  
12 July 2014

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### RIHN International Symposium

An annual symposium at RIHN describing the key findings of concluding RIHN research projects.



Prof. Dr. Terry McGee, Professor Emeritus of Geography at the University of British Columbia, giving the 2014 keynote address

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**Living in the megacity: The emergence of sustainable urban environments**  
25-27 June 2014

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### RIHN Public Seminars

Public seminars are held throughout the year at RIHN or in the city center.

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**Did the Heike collapse out of arrogance?  
What tree rings tell us** 18 July, 2014

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**Tasting coffee and chocolate more deeply - Linking local production and consuming regions** 19 September, 2014

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**Hear the story from a Hanamachi mother - Food, clothing, housing and environment in Kyoto** 17 October, 2014

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**"Kyoto, Town, Environment" - A discussion with high school students** 12 February, 2015

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### RIHN Area Seminars

RIHN Area Seminars take place in, and address specific environmental issues pertaining to, a particular part of Japan.

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**The future of the Earth and regional knowledge - Towards a solution for environmental problem**  
11 February 2014, Tottori University of Environmental Studies, Tottori City, Tottori

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## RIHN Seminars

This seminar series is oriented towards researchers at RIHN, inviting a wide range of visiting scholars to present their most current research. Seminars in 2014 included:

### Environmental conditions of the bivalves culture area in Bandon Bay, Southern Thailand

Jintana Salaenoi, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Fisheries, Kasetsart University /RIHN Visiting Research Fellow  
23 June 2014

### Agrarian change and livelihood dynamics among small scale farmers in South Tamil Nadu, India

Jegadeesan Muniandi, Assistant Professor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University /RIHN Visiting Research Fellow  
29 July 2014

### Some future scenarios of Jakarta Megacity (Jabodetabek) urban expansion and beyond: West Java conurbation scenarios and potential impacts

Ernan Rustiadi, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Bogor University of Agriculture /RIHN Visiting Research Fellow  
5 August 2014

### The present and the past: Environmental services, biodiversity, metastable ecosystems, and the cultural categorisation of the landscape

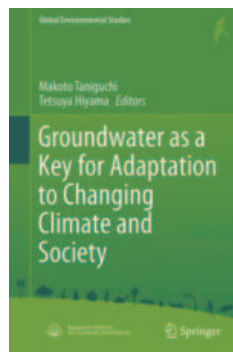
Liliana Janik, Assistant Director of Research, Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge / RIHN Visiting Research Fellow  
18 August 2014

### Moving beyond case studies in social-ecological systems research

Tom Evans, Professor, Indiana University/RIHN Visiting Research Fellow  
18 November 2014

## RIHN Book Series: Global Environmental Studies

RIHN has partnered with Springer Publishers to establish the Global Environmental Studies book series. Titles in the series reflect the full breadth of RIHN scholarship.



GES titles #4 and #5 published in 2014.

## Other Symposia



The Small-scale Project organized a workshop at the University of California at Berkeley that allowed Japanese and U.S. archaeologists, anthropologists, and agroecologists, among others, to explore the lessons that can be learned from the long histories of human inhabitation of Japan and the Northwestern coastal zone of the U.S.. The workshop was co-sponsored by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, the Center for Japanese Studies at U.C. Berkeley, and RIHN.

## New Volume: Humanity and Nature in the Japanese Archipelago

In 2015 the CRP published *Humanity and Nature in the Japanese Archipelago*, an English language illustrated volume based on research conducted at RIHN between 2000-2009 and originally published in Japanese in *The Encyclopedia of Global Environmental Studies* (2010).

Working with several authors of the original texts as well as a number of current RIHN researchers and a skilled team of scientific illustrators and artists, the original entries were brought into a single narrative describing key themes in the study of long-term human-environmental change in Japan. The volume includes a core section on

the Jomon period in Japan, a fascinating segment of human and environmental history about which there is little written in English for a non-specialist audience.



Yama no imo  
Yam  
(*Dioscorea japonica*)



Tanuki  
Raccoon-Dog  
(*Nyctereutes procyonoides*)

## Research Facilities

Research rooms on the RIHN campus are designed to provide a sense of openness. The design concept is to allow implemented projects to be loosely interconnected as they occur in one large curved space 150 meters in length. The facilities help external researchers as well as RIHN research staff to meet one another, since they are designed with the maximization of shared use in mind. At the center of the main building, a library and computer room are located for the convenience of many users, and three common rooms are provided for casual discussions. On the basement floor, a cluster of fully functional laboratories has been designed with emphasis on convenience for shared use, as with the research rooms.

The separate RIHN House is a guesthouse. The assembly hall and a dining lounge located to the left of the house entrance serve as meeting spaces for the RIHN staff as well as for guests.

Appropriately for an institution researching the global environment, RIHN is housed in a tile-roofed building suited to the Kyoto landscape, where as many as possible of the trees already on the site have been retained. Lighting and air-conditioning also employ the latest designs to minimize the building's impact on the environment. The design has won acclaim, receiving awards from the Illumination Engineering Institute of Japan, the Japan Institute of Architects, the Green Building Award from MIPIM Asia, and the Architectural Institute of Japan.



### Management

RIHN researchers work across the breadth of global environmental studies. If the diverse knowledge they produce is the warp, then the unifying weft is provided by field measurement, laboratory analysis, data and information management, and academic and social communication of research progress and results. In maintaining and supporting RIHN research capacity to collect and analyze data and to communicate research in numerous professional and public fora, the Center for Research Promotion enhances our collaborative research around the world and contributes the kind of integrated knowledge that can solve global environmental problems.

### Laboratories

RIHN research projects are multi-disciplinary and multimethod; in common they share the need for high quality physical observation and chemical and biological analysis of the surface environments of the earth. As a national institute, RIHN houses eighteen basement laboratories designed to address this need. There are state-of-the-art laboratories dedicated to microscopic, DNA and stable isotope analysis. Additional facilities include two fieldwork preparation rooms for storage and maintenance of observational and sampling equipment, three low-temperature rooms for organism and ice core storage, three incubator rooms for storage of organisms requiring specific temperatures, and a clean room in which samples can be processed in a contamination-free environment.

### Instruments

RIHN research projects conduct a variety of studies around the world and collect a diverse range of samples that contain valuable information that will help illuminate human-nature interactions. Stable isotope and DNA data in particular can give very precise descriptions of how materials and species interact, change, and move through time and space. In addition to maintaining state-of-the-art laboratories, the Survey and Analysis Unit continues to develop new methods of data analysis and application. In conducting this research in collaboration with RIHN projects and universities and affiliated institutions throughout Japan, the division enhances the sophistication of experimental techniques and research information and promotes the shared use of facilities.



Main building



Main entrance hall



Basement laboratories



The RIHN House with one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments for guest researchers and their families.

