



Orientation and Structure of RIHN in Phase III

In 2016 RIHN will initiate its Phase III Medium-Term Plan, with the following three goals

- Promotion of environmental studies that elucidate the interaction between humanity and nature and critically examine the future potential of human culture, based on the accumulated body of RIHN research and the results of global environmental research in Japan and abroad;
- Promotion of solution-oriented global environmental studies involving close collaborations with stakeholders, starting from the research community;
- Contribution to problem-solving by applying research results in support of, and participation in, on-site multi-stakeholder arrangements in society.

RIHN's priority issues and areas of research are the following:

- Exploration of the future potential of localities and of the Earth, centered on issues in modern society that are at the root of global environmental problems, including climate change, ecosystem degradation, rapid urbanization, changing population composition, depletion of resources, diversification of disaster risk.
- Developing research globally, but with the Asia Pacific region – a hotspot of global environmental problems – as a core focus area.

Organizational Structure

The overall structure of RIHN consists of four Programs and a Center. The programs are to guide the development of global environmental studies by organically integrating RIHN research results, while the Center provides their operational foundation, helps RIHN engage in two-way collaborations with society, and at the same time is the locus of capacity building activities.

RIHN Programs

RIHN research is organized into Programs and Projects, rather than pre-existing academic disciplines or domains. Three Research Programs and one Core Program each include multiple projects which carry out research in line with the Programs' thematic foci. The bundling and integration of Projects within the Programs is expected to facilitate the production of synthesized results at a level not possible otherwise. Programs are subject to annual review by the External Research-Evaluation Committee whose members include domestic and international researchers (See RIHN Project Trajectory on page 7 & 8). RIHN endeavors to improve its research by making good use of the review results, while respecting the independence of each program.

Research Programs

Research Programs are organized around three themes identified in the Phase III Medium-Term Plan. In addressing environmental problems, technological and institutional developments are important, but RIHN recognizes that these need to build on the foundation of people's awareness, value systems and culture. The programs collaborate closely with society in developing and proposing options that contribute to the transition of society.

Program 1: Transition to a society that can flexibly deal with environmental changes

This program proposes specific options for planning the transition to a society that can flexibly deal with anthropogenic environmental changes, such as global warming, air pollution, and with 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.

Program 3: Design of wellbeing-enhancing living spaces and life styles

In collaboration with local governments and residents, this program provides feasible options to realize enhanced prosperity through the dynamic interplay between life-worlds and rural and urban residential environments.

RIHN Project Trajectory : Research Project



Incubation Studies (IS) are proposed by individual researchers to the RIHN Project Review 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.

In the transitional **Pre-Research (PR)** period, 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 to relevant communities. FR projects are evaluated by the External Research-Evaluation Committee at the beginning (selection) and the end (final evaluation).

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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.

RIHN Project Trajectory : Core Project



RIHN Center

Within the structure just described, the RIHN Center is to play the roles described below. See pages 38-39 for detailed description of the Center's divisions.

Collaboration with the Core Program

The Center will identify and propose Core Projects designed to make continued use of research conducted by the Programs by analyzing and enhancing its foundations (including identification and refinement of key research methods, devices, resources, and data) while also promoting collaboration within and between RIHN and its research partners.

Collaboration with Research Programs/Projects

The Center will also engage in collaborative research with the Research Programs that enhances research resources and enables the Research Programs to carry out research in line with the thematic focus of RIHN.

Collaboration with the Academic Community as an Inter-University Research Institute

The Center will facilitate the role of RIHN as an Inter-University Research Institute and operate as an international research networking hub by promoting collaborative research with domestic and international institutions as well as contribute to capacity building and education.

Cooperation with Diverse Stakeholders

The Center will guide and promote transdisciplinary research processes involving domestic and international stakeholders in the entire research process, from problem identification to solution development, while also reflexively developing the methods of transdisciplinary scholarship.

Above: WATANABE Kazuo, Men who sell floral decoration, Tamil Nadu, India

Left below: ABE Ken-ichi, Commute, Indonesia

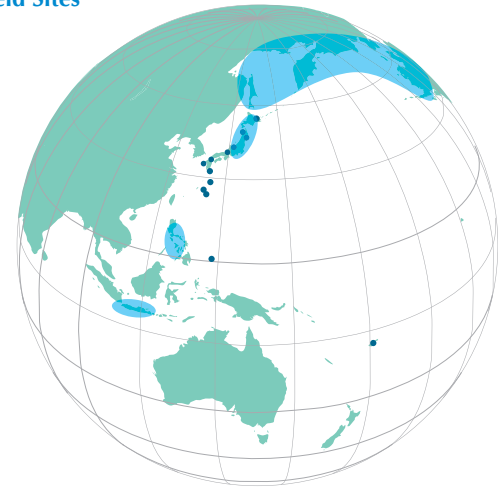
Right below: MUTO Nozomu, Tending the store, Panay Island, Philippines



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Full Research

FR

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