

Coordination



The RIHN Center provides foundations and platforms for RIHN's research activities and promotes engagement in interactive collaborations with academic and societal stakeholders. The Center also promotes capacity building activities related to global environmental studies.

The RIHN Center consists of four divisions. The Laboratory and Analysis Division develops and maintains the laboratory facilities necessary for research and fieldwork. The Information Resources Division maintains RIHN research databases and archive. The Communication Division develops a variety of communication strategies linking RIHN research to academic, public and user-specific communities. The Collaboration Division facilitates internal and external research networking as well as RIHN engagement with the international Future Earth initiative and manages activities of Future Earth in Asia.



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:

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 2015 recipients of the Earth Hall of Fame Kyoto Award were a well-known father and daughter as environmental activist, Prof. Dr. David SUZUKI, biologist and professor emeritus at the University of British Columbia, Ms. Severn CULLIS-SUZUKI, author, speaker and television host, and Prof. Dr. Herman E. DALY, ecological economist and professor emeritus at University of Maryland.

RIHN International Symposium

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



Professors Claudia PAHL-WOSTL (left), of the University of Osnabrück, Germany, and Marco TODERI (right) of the Marche Polytechnic University, Italy, giving the 2015 keynote addresses.

Beyond stakeholder engagement : The people, cultures, institutions, and ecologies of new water governance
17-19 June 2015

RIHN Public Seminars

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

Kyoto and the blessing of Mother Lake
19 May 2015

Water quality mapping with citizens
20 November 2015

Network of living organisms revealed by stable isotope ratios
4 December 2015

Heart, Life, Environment - A discussion with high school students
4 February 2016

RIHN Area Seminars

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

The futurability of Kitagatako: How to use the lake surroundings

6 March 2016, Seifuso, Awara city, Fukui

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 2015 included:

The importance and operation of small-scale fisheries in Thailand

Anukorn BOUTSON, Lecturer, Department of Marine Science Faculty of Fisheries, Kasetsart University / RIHN Visiting Research Fellow 16 June 2015

Sharing in the new economy: An alternative for a sustainable future?

Maurie COHEN, Professor, New Jersey Institute of Technology / RIHN Visiting Research Fellow 15 July 2015

Quantification of water balance in Subak managed paddy field in Saba watershed

Satyanto Krido SAPTOMO, Lecturer, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Bogor Agricultural University / RIHN Visiting Research Fellow 27 July 2015

Lessons from integrated local environmental knowledge and practices of Lake Malawi riparian communities to achieve sustainable development: Challenges and opportunities

Dylo PEMBA, Associate Professor, Department of Biology, University of Malawi / RIHN Visiting Research Fellow 28 September 2015

Development of integrated indices for Indonesia water-energy-food nexus: Case of Jatiluhur/Citarum basin

Hidayat PAWITAN, Professor, Department Geophysics & Meteorology, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Bogor Agricultural University / RIHN Visiting Research Fellow 29 September 2015

On the relation of Imanishi's "renatured science" (shizengaku 自然学) with mesology

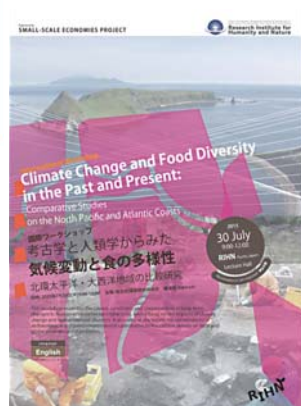
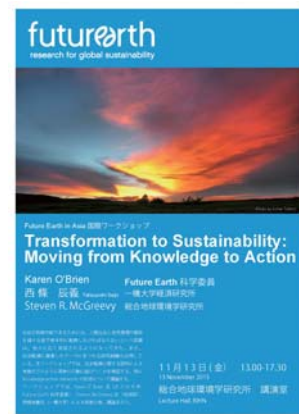
Augustin BERQUE, Professor, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales / RIHN Visiting Research Fellow 29 October 2015

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.



Other Symposia



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 RIHN Center 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 Laboratory and Analysis Division of the RIHN Center continues to develop new methods of data analysis and application. In conducting this research in collaboration with RIHN projects, universities and affiliated institutions throughout Japan, the division enhances the sophistication of experimental techniques and exchange of research information, and promotes the shared use of facilities.



Main building



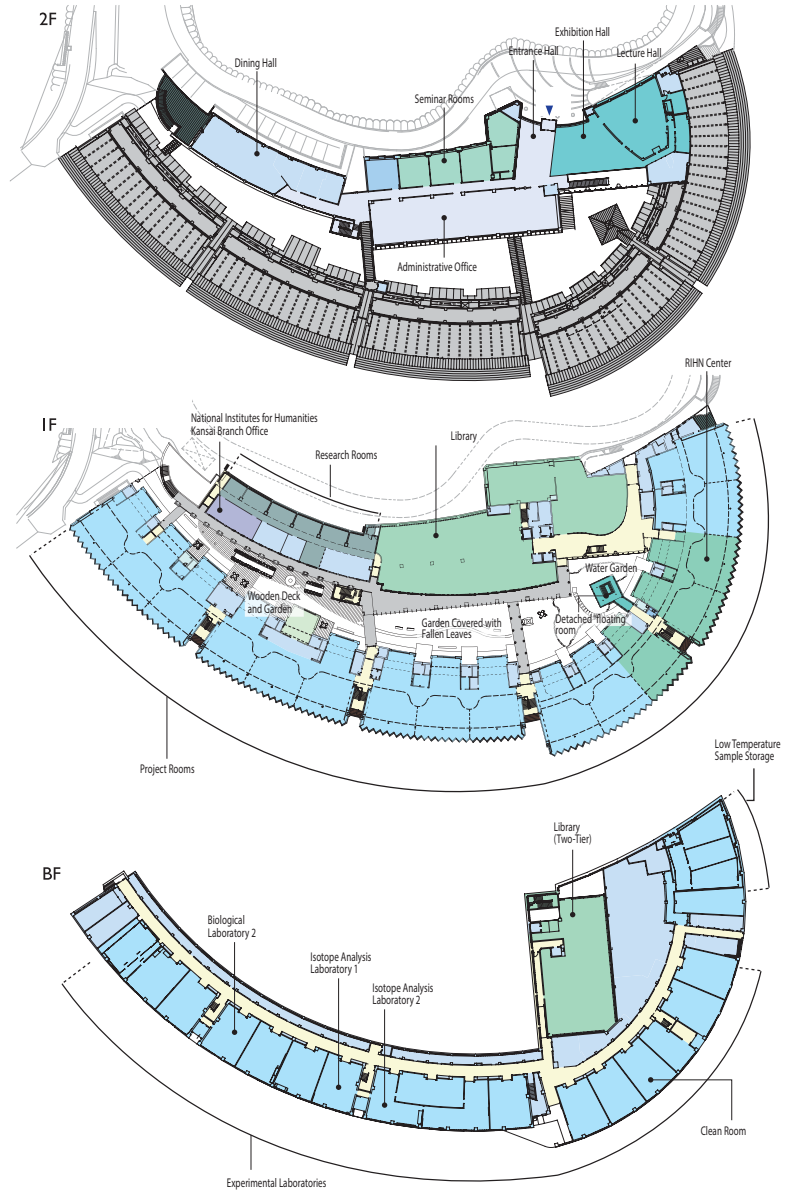
Main entrance hall



Basement laboratories



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



2F
Main Entrance Hall
Administration
Lecture Hall
Seminar Rooms
Dining Hall

1F
Employee Entrance
Research Project Rooms
RIHN Center
Library
Media Center
National Institutes for the Humanities Kansai Office

Basement
Laboratories
Book Repository
Field Research Equipment and Facilities
Cold Storage

