



## Message from the Director-General

In the past 40 years or so, as a climate scientist, I have been devoted to research on Asian monsoon climate, including ecosystem-climate interaction, and anthropogenic impacts on climate. As part of my international activities, I have also been involved in the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Through these academic experiences, I can confidently say that we human beings have drastically been changing our planet by inducing “global warming” of the climate and degrading eco-systems. Particularly since the late 20th century, the impact of human activities has overwhelmed the entire earth, creating a new geologic era called “the Anthropocene”.

Obviously, an essential and urgent challenge for humanity today is how to achieve a harmonious relationship with nature on Earth. Since its establishment in 2001, RIHN has been devoted to this monumental issue by conducting diverse solution-oriented research under the mission of how human-nature interaction and relations ought to be. To achieve this mission, RIHN is committed to interdisciplinary research spanning the natural sciences,

humanities, and social sciences, and in recent years, has shifted towards transdisciplinary research that involves collaboration with various stakeholders in society.

To effectively promote interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research, in April of 2016 we launched a new research initiative by introducing three Research Programs, one Core Program, and the RIHN Center. With these new structures in place, we are now pursuing this initiative through enhanced collaboration within our institute, across the diverse research community, and with society in general. To enhance international activities of RIHN, we are also collaborating with the international research platform Future Earth, which aims to integrate global environmental change research for achieving global sustainability.

We are excited to implement these new research initiatives in 2019 and make progress on solutions to the many environmental challenges we face.

安成 哲三  
YASUNARI Tetsuzo

Director-General  
Research Institute for Humanity and Nature

