



Message from the Director-General

TACHIMOTO, Narifumi

The Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN) was founded in 2001. This inter-university research institute, under the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology, was established to carry out integrated research for innovative solutions to problems related to the global environment. In 2004, parallel to corporatization of Japanese national universities, RIHN became one of the member institutes of the National Institutes for the Humanities (NIHU). In 2006, the number of institute staff reached the initially planned regular lineup. Provided with research and education staff from diverse academic areas, RIHN is ready to take innovative steps and make great progress as a world-class research institute, establishing its own identity.

Since the foundation of RIHN it has been our basic understanding that the root of the so-called global environmental problems lies with human culture in the broadest sense of the word, that is, the way of living in which humans wish to control nature. To reach solutions to global environmental problems, it is essential to elucidate human-nature interactions and to forge a new paradigm. Hence, symbolically, the institute's name is the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature.

The research project system employed at RIHN, in which researchers take part on the basis of a fixed-term, is intended to identify the true nature of global environmental problems. Projects conducted at RIHN have been strictly evaluated and selected by the Evaluation Committee for Research Projects, comprised solely of external parties including foreign researchers. This project system guarantees that RIHN, as a core inter-university research institute, has universal, international, and fluid characteristics.

RIHN is a unique research organization as mentioned above and intends to contribute to society by actively disseminating its research results. This inter-university research institute explores every possibility to achieve its fundamental goals, making full use of its corporate character. We welcome your constructive criticism as well as your understanding and support.

Aim and Purpose of Establishment

The Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN) was founded in April 2001. This inter-university research institute, under the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology, was established to carry out integrated research for innovative solutions to problems related to the global environment.

A major focus of studies in modern science has been the environment. The mission of RIHN is to elucidate the true nature of environmental problems and present a preferred human attitude toward nature. It is important to understand the following three aspects of environmental problems.

The first aspect has to do with environmental problems immediately associated with daily life, including those that must be solved for a harmonious relationship between the environment and humans, since these problems are related to the human body and lifestyle. The second aspect reveals itself in problems related to anthropogenic factors, such as global warming, biodiversity loss, and depletion of water resources, which are known as global environmental problems. For this aspect, it is important to identify social (political/economic) systems contributing to environmental problems. Stemming from the third aspect are “true” environmental problems, including those related to the mechanisms of and changes in the global system, concerning the air, water, land, and climate, primarily dealt with in natural science and geoscience.

Environmental studies should be carried out constantly as an ongoing process for survival of the human race in the future, rather than an a priori completed system of knowledge. The researchers should synthesize an ever-changing dynamic system.

RIHN views environmental problems as issues for the entire planet, and not only for mankind at the present but also for all other living things on the earth both present and future. RIHN pursues global environmental studies in an integrated manner. The phrase “integrated manner” refers to methodological integration of study fields on the one hand, and to activities intended to look at phenomena as a whole on the other hand.

If it is appropriate to say that global environmental problems originate from problems of human culture, global environmental studies should be a science investigating human lifestyle, or humanics. In this regard, RIHN believes that global environmental studies should return to the origin of environmental studies dealing with problems of the human or humanity.



Special Features of RIHN

Integration

In recent years many studies aimed at solving global environmental problems have been conducted in various ways in the world. RIHN is aware of the need for basic research conducted in a comprehensive framework encompassing relationships between human life and environmental problems rather than basic research involving geo-scientific monitoring and observation. Studies focused on human lifestyle and cultural problems are originally based on humanities and social scientific methods and viewpoints. RIHN believes it is important to combine such methods and viewpoints with natural scientific methods and standpoints. Global environmental studies can be integrated when conducted through an interactive approach, combining both natural and human/social sciences.

Fluidity

Professors, associate professors, and assistant professors at RIHN take part in research projects on the basis of a fixed-term system. Researchers leave the office when their project has been completed. Projects are organized to guarantee personnel fluidity. Research activities progress from incubation study (IS), through feasibility study (FS), to full research (FR). This step-wise research system makes it possible to take measures concerning research subjects and organizations in a flexible manner at each of the three research stages. Fluidity is also brought about by the constant exchange of persons among the eight domestic partner organizations. Participation by researchers from a wide range of fields allows RIHN to pursue construction of integrated global environmental studies in an evolutionary manner.

International Network

RIHN promotes research projects encouraging participation by foreign researchers, as well as domestic researchers, by means of collaborative agreements with international research organizations. The institute also positively takes part in the planning and operation of research projects organized by overseas research institutes and invites foreign researchers as visiting professors or research staff. Furthermore, RIHN held an international pre-symposium in 2005, the RIHN First International Symposium in 2006, and four satellite symposiums in 2006, inviting 32 researchers in total from within Japan (22) and abroad (10). The RIHN Second International Symposium is scheduled for October of 2007. The institute will invite over ten researchers from Japan and foreign countries for the symposium.

Leadership

To ensure integration, fluidity, and international networking, each project should be implemented under strong leadership provided by a dedicated leader. Furthermore, the Director-General and Program Directors shall play a central role in organizing research activities for the construction of global environmental studies at RIHN. The Executive Board shall also provide leadership when holding an international symposium, reviewing and assessing the institute's performance, and responding to evaluations made by outside parties.

← Rice shoot planting in rural areas of Nanking, China. The remarkable resemblance of the practice to the rice shoot planting once seen in every part of Japan suggests that the agricultural practice of rice shoot planting was brought from China to Japan. Since rice-planting machines have become popular in China in recent years, the practice as shown in the photo is expected to become extinct in China too.

Research Project System

Research conducted at RIHN is organized on a five-year term basis as with projects under the 21st Century COE Program currently underway and the Global COE Program. RIHN's research project system incorporates several evaluation stages and completely differs from continuous five-year systems in style of research approach. More specifically, research seeds are planned through Incubation Study (IS). Six to twelve months later, the seeds become candidates for Feasibility Study (FS). If a research seed is permitted to proceed, FS is conducted for about one year. If then judged to be qualified by the Evaluation Committee for Research Projects and approved by the Advisory Committee, the FS proceeds to Full Research (FR). FR starts after a one-year pre-research (PR) period and is conducted for about five years. FR is subject to interim evaluation at the end of the second year and strict post-project evaluation after its completion (see page 15, Process Leading to FR Project Implementation).

The system ensures that a research plan is appropriate, and the plan's feasibility and accountability are reviewed and assessed repeatedly, so as to avoid adding just a plain stack of studies, while respecting the autonomy of each research project.

RIHN as a Member of National Institutes for the Humanities

National Institutes for the Humanities (NIHU) was established on April 1st, 2004 based on the National University Corporation Law. RIHN became one of the member institutes of NIHU along with the following institutes, National Museum of Ethnology, International Research Center for Japanese Studies, National Museum of Japanese History, and National Institute of Japanese Literature. RIHN undertakes its own research projects on the one hand and is actively engaged in various projects, on the other hand, organized by NIHU and the Inter-University Research Institutes, including joint research, research resource-sharing projects, new area studies projects, open lectures, and symposia. Regarding specifically the collaborative research project "Comprehensive Studies on Exchange between Eurasia and Japan," RIHN promotes "An Integrated Study of Water and People in Humid Asia" as the core organization.

Most members of National Institutes for the Humanities are humanities and social scientific research institutes. As an institute that conducts integrated global environmental studies as a humanities subject through a natural scientific approach, RIHN can facilitate collaborations between the other member institutes of National Institutes for the Humanities, domestic universities and research organizations.

National Institutes for the Humanities	
	General projects
Research Institute for Humanity and Nature	● Joint research
National Museum of Japanese History	● Joint exhibitions
National Institute of Japanese Literature	● Sharing of research resources
International Research Center for Japanese Studies	● Open lectures/symposia
National Museum of Ethnology	



Symposium "Water and Civilization" held under the collaborative research project "Water and People" of National Institutes for the Humanities



Research journal *Water and People* reporting on the National Institutes for the Humanities collaborative research project "Water and People." Volumes 0 to 2 have been published, each featuring a different topic.

The Mid-term Targets and Plans

Since 2004, RIHN has conducted research projects setting six-year midterm targets and plans as a member of National Institutes for the Humanities. Each team has made its efforts in accordance with the mid-term goals and plans of National Institutes for the Humanities and has inspected its own performance, compiling a report every fiscal year.

Achievements concerning the midterm targets are evaluated as requested by the National University Corporation Evaluation Committee of the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (the Corporation Evaluation Committee). The National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation evaluates the education/research-related part of achievements made during the mid-term period. Evaluation results are submitted to the Corporation Evaluation Committee for publication.

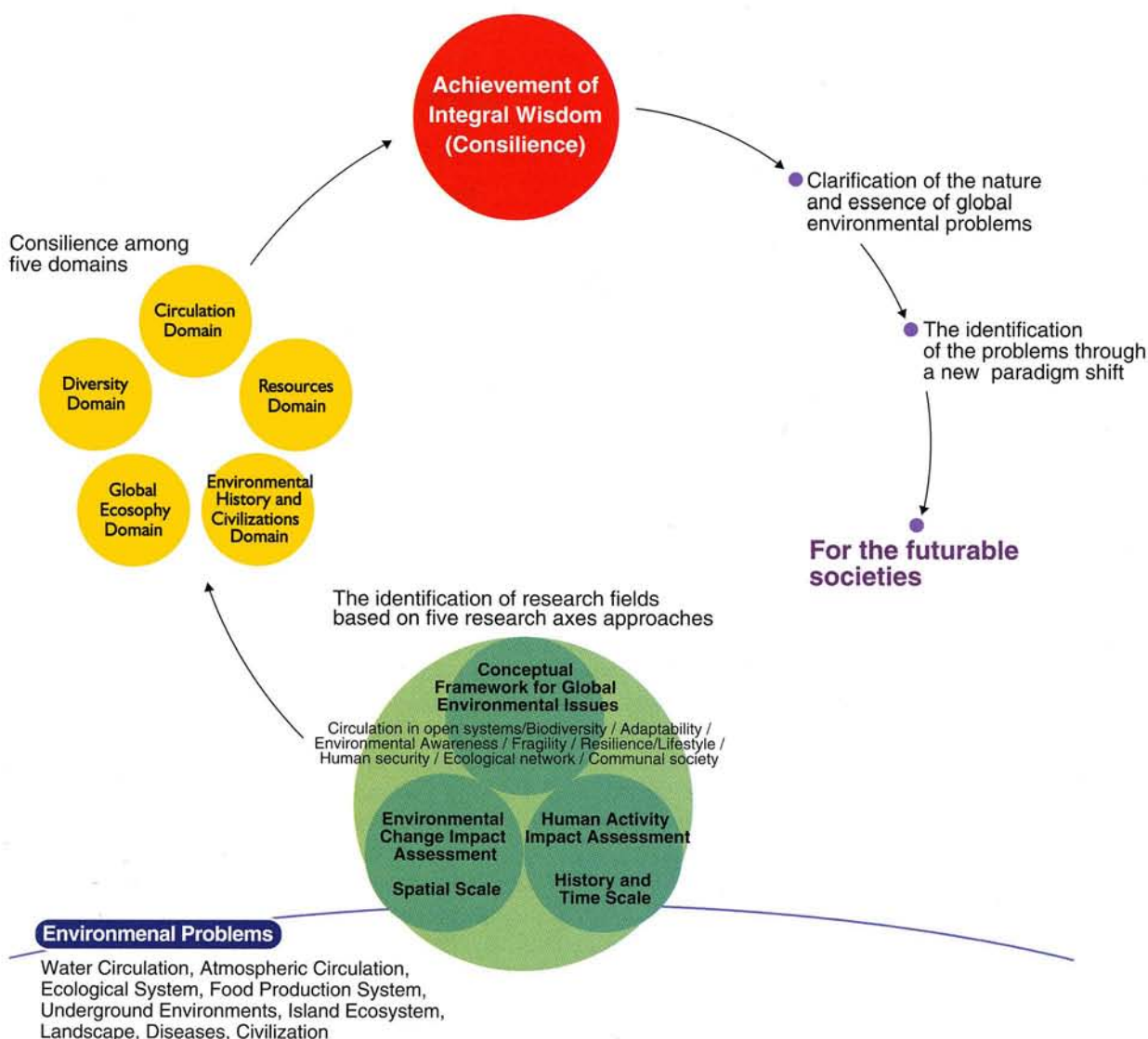
In fiscal year 2007, RIHN is preparing for provisional evaluation of the institute's achievements for the midterm period, as a preliminary step towards final evaluation. The institute will review and evaluate the status of its research activities in a proper and effective manner as a basis for the final evaluation. Furthermore, it will additionally receive feedback from an external party. Taking these steps, RIHN will compile an achievement report concerning the evaluation of the institute's educational and research performance.

The Goal of RIHN: Constructing the Integral Wisdom as Consilience

Through various research projects, RIHN studies the interactions that form the links between human and nature. Study areas and time spans are diversified. The institute believes it important to indicate a direction of integration for individual research projects. Our past research experience and opinions presented through discussions held within and outside the institute have indicated the following direction and guidelines for RIHN to follow.

RIHN's research projects have investigated environmental problems under diverse themes including: water circulation, atmosphere, climate, oceans, underground environments, island ecosystems, ecological systems, food production systems, diseases, landscapes, and civilization. These individual research projects have been divided according to specific research categories.

With these in mind, we consider it is an important mission for RIHN to achieve consilience in the area of global environmental problems. The true nature of global environmental problems becomes apparent through consilience, presenting a new paradigm to view problems. It will then become possible to draw up a plan for building a futable society.



● Programs and Research Projects ●

In actually conducting research activities in the new area of global environmental studies, basic methodology is of prime importance. In this regard, it is necessary to define research domains and create a new paradigm using acquired data.

To integrate research results based on the idea of consilience, it is essential to newly set domains as “programs” grouping individual projects into clusters. Program directors are responsible for compiling the results of programs.

This year RIHN has begun to formulate comprehensive strategies to rearrange results of research projects for consilience under the following programs.

Circulation Domain

Dealing with various kinds of problems as to the circulation of substances such as water, oxygen, carbon, and nitrogen in the human sphere and their imbalance and inappropriate uses

Diversities Domain

Dealing with global environmental problems derived from the loss and degradation of genetic-specific and ecological biodiversity, as well as cultural diversities related to language, social structure, religion, and cosmology.

Food and Resources Domain

Dealing with global environmental problems associated with food and energy resources and with the relevant economic activities (agriculture, forestry, fishery, and animal husbandry) for human survival.

Environmental History and Civilization Domain

Dealing with historical consequences of human-nature interactions, particularly of civilization as global environmental history.

Interdisciplinary Domain

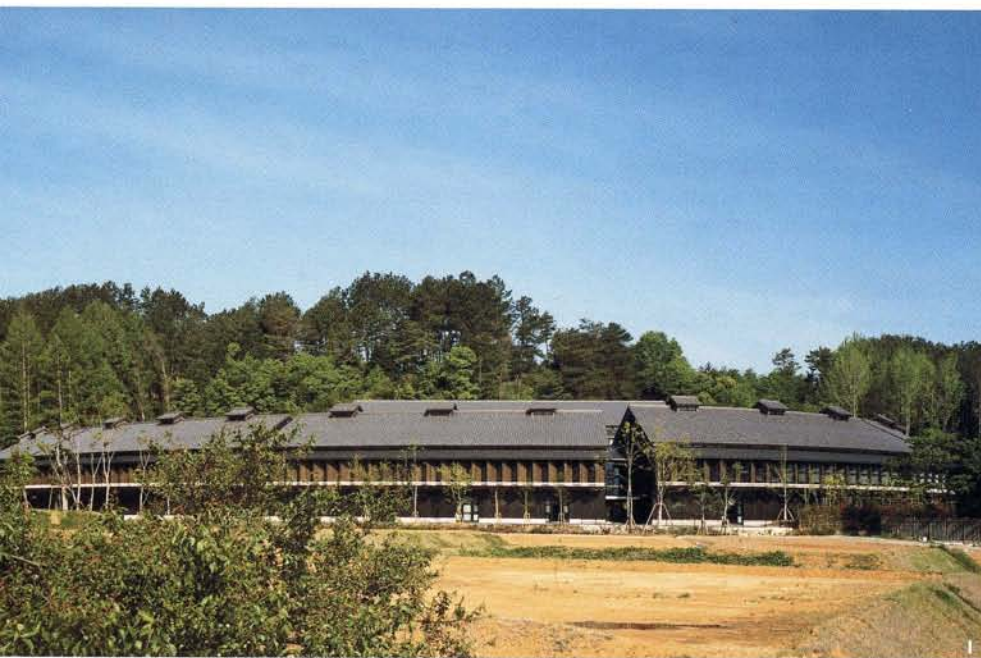
Seeking new approaches and methodologies to study global environmental problems.

A Guide to the Facilities

Our concept is that the root of global environmental problems lies in human 'culture' in the widest meaning of the word; and that solutions can be found through a culture of improved communications. RIHN aims to elucidate the complex and varied relationships linking humanity and nature. We are trying to synthesize new approaches beyond the existent, formal disciplines of natural, social, and human studies. This requires communication and encouragement among researchers. The RIHN campus is designed to provide an environment for that purpose.

Research rooms on the RIHN campus are designed to provide a sense of openness. The design concept is to allow projects implemented to be loosely interconnected as they occur in one large curved space 150 m in overall length. The facilities will 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. In other words, this particular layout enables joint research while maintaining the independence of individual projects. At the center of the main building, a library and computer room is located for the convenience of many users, plus three lounge-like spaces 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.



1 RIHN Main Building

The exterior blends perfectly with the landscape.

2 Project Room

A row of five large spaces can each accommodate three projects. There are skylights in the ceiling, designed to make the most of natural light.

3 Assembly Hall, RIHN House

Visiting researchers can stay in the RIHN House from a few days to an extended period of time. The house has communal spaces to nurture friendship between guests and RIHN staff.

4 Detached Room "Hanare"

A Japanese-style common room that floats on the Water Garden.

2F: Administration Floor

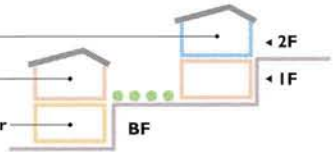
Entrance Hall
Exhibition Hall
Conference Hall
Administration Office
Seminar Rooms
Dining Hall

1F: Research Floor

Project Rooms
Research Rooms
Research Promotion Center
Library

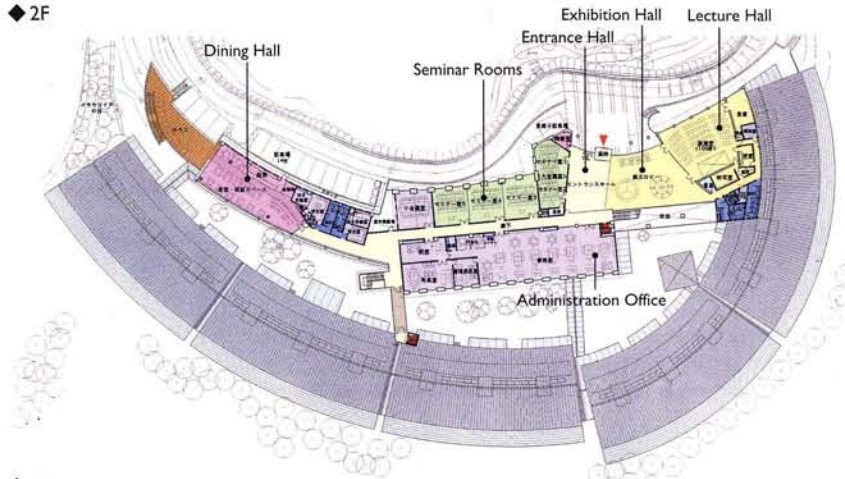
BF: Laboratory Floor

Experimental
Laboratories
Library Stacks
Utilities

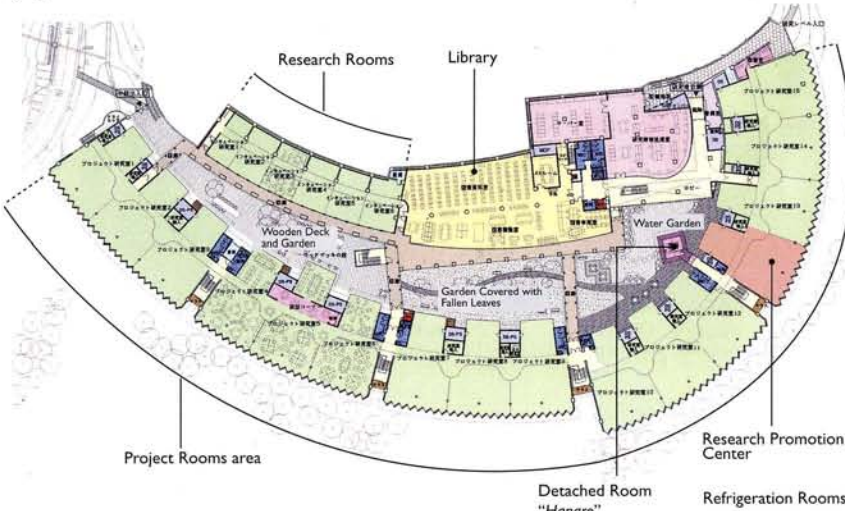


Floor Plan of PIHN Main Building

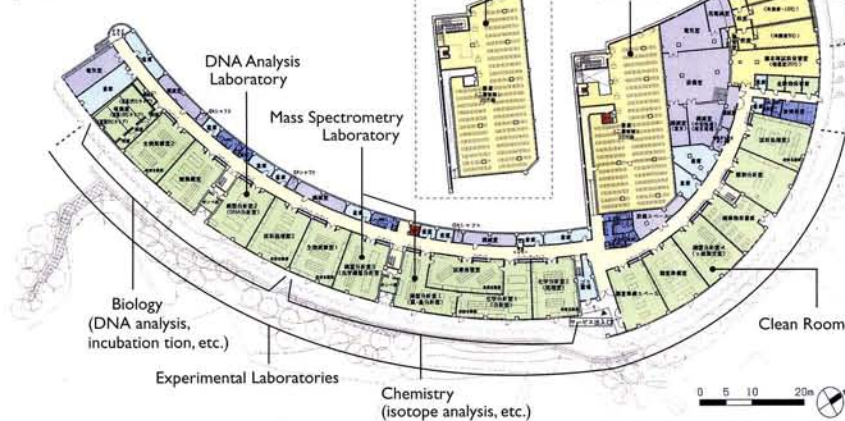
◆ 2F



◆ 1F



◆ BF



5 Entrance Hall and Exhibition Hall
Exhibitions are held to provide information about RIHN activities and completed research

6 Patio (Wooden Deck and Garden)
The patio comprises the Water Garden, the Garden Covered with Fallen Leaves, and the Wooden Deck and Garden to create a space in which humans, buildings, and nature are in harmony. Research rooms, project rooms, and the computer room are arranged on both sides of the patio.

7 Dining Hall
The RIHN staff can relax in this bright and open space, which has a wooden deck.

8 Experimental Laboratories
The laboratories are designed for the performance of various advanced experiments and are being furnished with equipment such as a state-of-the-art mass spectrometer (see photo) to support research projects.

Dissemination of Research Results

International Symposium

RIHN held its first international symposium on November 6th through 8th, 2006 under the title of “Water and Better Human Life in the Future.” On November 6th, Gordon Young, Coordinator of the UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme and Hidaka Toshitaka, former Director-General of RIHN presented open lectures for an audience of about 1,300. On November 7th and 8th, researchers from throughout the world had lively discussions in two sessions, “Water Imbalances” and “Dynamic Interactive Systems Involving Humans and Nature around Water.” The symposium was reported in English (RIHN 1st International Symposium Proceedings). Prior to the international symposium, we held two pre-symposia in 2005 and gained valuable experience.

RIHN’s second international symposium is scheduled for October 29th through 31st, 2007 under the title “Asian Green Belt — Past, Present and Future.”



Satellite symposium “World Heritage, Water and People” held in sync with the RIHN First International Symposium



Keynote speech presented by HIDAKA Toshitaka, former Director-General

Forum

RIHN has held the RIHN Forum for the general public once every year. During the period from 2002 to 2006, the forum has been organized five times and reports have been published. Since 2004, forum achievements have been compiled and issued as a book. Easy to understand, RIHN Publications have been offered to gain the understanding of the general public and have attracted many readers. In fiscal year 2007, the RIHN Forum will feature “Food as a Global Environmental Problem.” Discussions will be held from a broad perspective on the impact of present-day food production/consumption on the global environment, self-sufficiency ratio imbalance, and what the Japanese food production/consumption should be in the future.



2006 RIHN Forum

No.	Title / Date / Venue
1st	The global environmental problems – Toward an integrated approach 17 May, 2002 Kyoto International Conference Hall
2nd	Global warming – Nature and culture 13 June, 2003 Kyoto International Conference Hall
3rd	What comes after biodiversity loss? 10 July, 2004 Kyoto International Conference Hall
4th	Water Exhaustion 9 July, 2005 Kyoto International Conference Hall
5th	Forests and People in Asia – Eco-historical Perspective 8 July, 2006 Kyoto International Conference Hall
6th	Food as a Global Environmental Problem 7 July, 2007 Kyoto International Conference Hall



At the venue of a Public Seminar held for the general public

Seminars

RIHN provides seminars for the general public. The regular Public Seminar is held on a monthly basis, while the RIHN Area Seminar visits a venue outside the Institute and is focused on specific local nature and culture with participants including local researchers and citizens.

Public Seminars

The first seminar being held in November 2004, eighteen seminars had been offered by April 2007. The Public Seminar explains global environmental problems in plain terms using concrete examples. In every session, we receive enthusiastic questions from the audience.

No.	Title	Date	Speaker
1st	The fascination and the reality of the Silk Road Region	5 November, 2004	NAKAWO, Masayoshi (Professor, RIHN)
2nd	A Multi-disciplinary challenge towards the Lake Biwa watershed management	3 December, 2004	YACHI, Shigeo (Associate Professor, RIHN) NAKANO, Takanori (Professor, RIHN)
3rd	Iriomote island with its subtropical nature and life	4 February, 2005	TAKASO, Tokushiro (Professor, RIHN) Mr. KOMI etc.
4th	World water issues in the 21st century	4 March, 2005	KANAE, Shinjiro (Associate Professor, RIHN)
5th	Global warming, is it real?	1 April, 2005	HAYASAKA, Tadahiro (Professor, RIHN)
6th	Impacts of climate change on life and environment	3 June, 2005	WATANABE, Tshugihiko (Professor, RIHN)
7th	Kamo river and Hwang Ho — The blessing and misfortune	3 September, 2005	FUKUSHIMA, Yoshihiro (Professor, RIHN)
8th	Fish and food culture in Southeast Asia	7 October, 2005	AKIMICHI, Tomoya (Professor, RIHN)
9th	Species rich forests are necessary for sustainable human life	2 December, 2005	NAKASHIZUKA, Tohru, (Professor, RIHN)
10th	Narrative theory of environment ? Environmental quality and environmental consciousness	3 February, 2006	YOSHIOKA, Takahito (Associate Professor, RIHN)
11th	New environmental hypothesis entitled "Megascala Fish Feeding Forest" applied to Amur River, the Sea of Okhotsk and the World Nature Heritage Shiretoko	3 March, 2006	SHIRAIWA, Takayuki (Associate Professor, RIHN)
12th	A prologue to environmental history in Eurasia — from Monsoon Asia to Silkroad	14 April, 2006	SATO, Yo-ichiro (Professor, RIHN)
13th	How wil become Japanese nature? How should we plan Japanese land?	9 June, 2006	YUMOTO, Takakazu (Professor, RIHN)
14th	Why did the Indus Civilization decline?	22 September, 2006	OSADA, Toshiki (Professor, RIHN)
15th	Global environmental problems under the ground	20 October, 2006	TANIGUCHI, Makoto (Associate Professor, RIHN)
16th	Landscape is alive!	1 December, 2006	UCHIYAMA, Junzo (Associate Professor, RIHN)
17th	Different types of illness — Doctors for humans and doctors for the environment	9 June, 2006	KAWABATA, Zen'ichiro (Professor, RIHN) OKUMIYA, Kiyohito (Associate Professor, RIHN)
18th	The Silk Road — Historical Interactions between Human and Nature	20 April, 2007	KUBOTA, Jumpei (Associate Professor, RIHN)

RIHN Area Seminars

The RIHN Area Seminar began in 2005. The first session was held in Toyama under the title "Snow and People — Sustaining Life in the Japan Sea Area." Three researchers each from RIHN and Toyama Prefecture participated in the seminar and had animated discussions on the functions of snow. The second session titled "Rethinking Volcanoes, Water and Food in Kagoshima Area" was held in Kagoshima in 2006. Three RIHN researchers and three from Kagoshima Prefecture had enthusiastic discussions on the indigenous nature and food of the Kagoshima area. The third RIHN Area Seminar for fiscal year 2007 is scheduled to be held in Ito, Shizuoka Prefecture.

Research Project Presentation

The leaders of the research projects at RIHN present for discussion a report on the progress of each research project to an audience comprising RIHN education/research staff, the institute's administration staff, and external joint researchers. Over 500 people take part in the three-day presentation. These institute-wide efforts and lively exchanges of views constitute an important part of research activities at RIHN, facilitating the institute's self examination and evaluation. (Scheduled: December 13th-15th, 2007)

Other Meetings for Research Exchange

In order to increase communications among the RIHN staff, the institute holds the following meetings and seminars for research exchange on a regular basis.

RIHN Seminars

RIHN Seminars are organized monthly, as a rule, to provide opportunities for RIHN's scientists to share the latest topics and research trends in different fields of global environment research with speakers invited from Japanese or foreign institutes, and to find inspiration for new directions of research.

Luncheon Meeting (Danwakai)

At RIHN, the luncheon meetings provide a unique opportunity for mutual inquiry and exchange of opinions among institute members, as well as visiting professors, part-time researchers, foreign researchers and so on. Participants have discussions on diverse research areas and methods. Like RIHN Seminars, the Danwakai plays an important part as a casual place for research exchange. It is held on a biweekly basis.

Evening Seminars

The evening seminars are intended to promote the free exchange of opinions and to stir up discussion. Ordinarily these study meetings are held on a monthly basis, beginning at five p.m. and lasting for approximately two hours.

Publications/Newsletter



Publications

These publications provide the general public with easy-to-understand introductions to RIHN's study results.

- Volume 1, "Biodiversity, why it is important?" (Japanese), Showado (April 2005)
- Volume 2, "Ecological Immigration" (Japanese), Showado (July 2005)
- Volume 3, "The Water and Greenery of the Silk Road. Where did they disappear to?" (Japanese), Showado (March 2006)
- Volume 4, "Who claims forests ownership?" (Japanese), Showado (March 2007)



RIHN Library

RIHN has also published academic books dealing with the research activities of the RIHN staff, including: *Kusunoki to Nihonjin* (History of Japanese camphor trees), Yasaka Shobo; *Sekai Isan o Shika ga Kuu* (World heritage eaten by deer), Bun-ichi Sogo Shuppan; *Himaraya to Chikyu Ondanka* (Himalayan glaciers under global warming), Showado; *Indus Civilization-Texts and Contents*, Manohar; and *Hito wa Naze Hana o Mederu noka* (Origin of human beings' love for flowers — Why do humans love flowers?), Yasaka Shobo.



Mori wa Dare no Mono ka (Who claims forests ownership?).

Edited by HIDAKA Toshitaka and AKIMICHI Tomoya.

This book on the achievements of the 2006 RIHN Forum describes the complex historical consequences of human interactions with forests in Asia, including Japan, and sheds light on appropriate guideline for the future.

Hito wa Naze Hana o Mederu noka (Origin of human beings' love for flowers — Why do humans love flowers?).

Edited by HIDAKA Toshitaka and SHIRAHATA Yozaburo.

A good source book for ideas and thoughts on the origin of human's love of flowers from pre-historic archaeology, Japanese history, anthropology, art history, and the cultural history of plants, based on the open symposium and lectures provided by National Institutes for the Humanities in fiscal year 2006.

Himaraya to Chikyu Ondanka (Himalayan glaciers under global warming).

Edited by NAKAWO Masayoshi.

Reports on the rapid shrinking of Himalayan glaciers using latest observation data and discusses the causes.

■ Humanity & Nature Newsletter

This newsletter provides the research community and society with information such as a profile of the institute and its activities. The first issue was published in 2006. The A4-sized, full-color newsletter issued bimonthly offers readable articles.



■ Other Publications

Future of the Earth: Narrative for Children published in 2006 by Kodansha describes global environmental problems for readers who have children. This book is based on achievements by projects conducted at RIHN.

Results of RIHN research projects have been successively published beginning with the five projects completed in fiscal year 2006, including *Journal of Regional Oasis History — A Sketch of 2000 Years of the Heihe River Basin* (Shokado) and *Anthropological and Environmental Studies Dealing with Khara Khoto* (Proceedings of the International Symposium on the Environment and History of Khara Khoto) (Renmin University of China Press). Furthermore, *A Study of Eco-Historical Anthropology* (in Chinese) (China Social Sciences Press) and *An Illustrated Eco-History of the Mekong Basin — History and Ecology* (Koubundou Publishers) report on projects still underway.

Additionally, RIHN takes the initiative in publishing *Water and World Heritage Sites* (Shogakukan) as part of the National Institutes for the Humanities collaborative research project “An Integrated Study of Water and People in Humid Asia.”



Future of the Earth: Narrative for Children.

Edited by HIDAKA Toshitaka and Research Institute for Humanity and Nature.

This book provides basic ideas and views on global environmental problems for future generations.

Journal of Regional Oasis History.

Edited by INOUE Mitsuyuki, KATO Yuzo, and MORIYA Kazuki.

A result of the Oasis Project, this book is a collection of papers on the 2000-year history of the Heihe River Basin based on literature and archaeological data.

Anthropological and Environmental Studies Dealing with Khara Khoto.

Edited by SHEN Weirong, NAKAWO Masayoshi, and SHI Jin-Bo.

A collection of papers presented at the international symposium held in Ejina in September 2006, containing abstracts in English. Almost half the book is papers from the Oasis Project.

A Study of Eco-Historical Anthropology.

Edited by YIN Shaoting and AKIMICHI Tomoya.

This is the first contribution by scholars from Yunnan, China who have been involved in the Eco-History Project (FR4-2) and contains results of a three-year joint study conducted in various parts of Yunnan Province.

An Illustrated Eco-History of the Mekong Basin.

Edited by AKIMICHI Tomoya.

Describes regional eco-historical consequences in the Mekong Basin during the past few decades. Fifty-five items are included from various academic disciplines with full-color illustrations.

Water and World Heritage Sites.

Edited by AKIMICHI Tomoya.

An outcome of the International Symposium “World Heritage, Water and People” held in November 2006. Focusing on water, this book deals with various environmental, cultural, and social issues in World Heritage Sites in Japan and Asia.

Research Activities

2007 Research Projects

Completed Research

Leader	Theme
1-1 CR WATANABE, Tsugihiro	Impact of Climate Changes on Agricultural Production System in the Arid Areas
2-1 CR HAYASAKA, Tadahiro	Emissions of Greenhouse Gases and Aerosols, and Human Activities in East Asia
3-1 CR YACHI, Shigeo	Multi-Disciplinary Research for Understanding Interactions between Humans and Nature in the Lake Biwa-Yodo River Watershed
4-1 CR NAKAWO, Masayoshi	Historical Evolution of the Adaptability in an Oasis Region to Water Resource Changes
5-1 CR KANAE, Shinjiro	Global Water Cycle Variation and the Current World Water Resources Issues and Their Perspectives

Full Research

5 th year	
1-2 FR FUKUSHIMA, Yoshihiro	Recent Rapid Change of Water Circulation in the Yellow River and Its Effects on Environment
2-2 FR ICHIKAWA, Masahiro	Sustainability and Biodiversity Assessment on Forest Utilization Options
4-2 FR AKIMICHI, Tomoya	A Trans-Disciplinary Study on the Regional Eco-History in Tropical Monsoon Asia: 1945-2005
4 th year	
3-2 FR TAKASO, Tokushiro	Interactions between Natural Environment and Human Social Systems in Subtropical Islands
5-2 FR NAKAWO, Masayoshi	Interaction between Environmental Quality of the Watershed and Environmental CONSCIOUSNESS: With Reference to Environmental Changes Caused by the Use of Land and Water Resource
3 rd year	
2-3 FR SHIRAIWA, Takayuki	Human Activities in Northeastern Asia and Their Impact on the Biological Productivity in North Pacific Ocean
2 nd year	
2-4 FR TANIGUCHI, Makoto	Human Impacts on Urban Subsurface Environments
2-5 FR SATO, Yo-Ichiro	Agriculture and Environment Interactions in Eurasia: Past, Present and Future —The ten-thousand-year history
5-3 FR YUMOTO, Takakazu	A New Cultural and Historical Exploration into Human-Nature Relationships in the Japanese Archipelago
1 st year	
3-3 FR OSADA, Toshiki	Environmental Change and the Indus Civilization
1-3 FR UMETSU, Chieko	Vulnerability and Resilience of Social-Ecological Systems
4-4 FR UCHIYAMA, Junzo	Neolithisation and Modernisation: Landscape History on East Asian Inland Seas
4-5 FR KUBOTA, Jumpei	Historical Interactions between the Multi-cultural Societies and the Natural Environment in a Semi-arid Region in Central Eurasia
5-4 FR KAWABATA, Zen'ichiro	Effects of Environmental Change on the Interactions between Pathogens and Humans

Pre-Research

2-8 PR MOJI, Kazuhiko	Environmental Changes and Infectious Diseases in Tropical Asia
3-4 PR OKUMIYA, Kiyohito	Human Life, Aging, and Disease in High-Altitude Environments: Physio-medical, Ecological and Cultural Adaptation in the Three Great "Highland Civilizations"
3-5 PR YAMAMURA, Norio	Collapse and Restoration of Ecosystem Networks with Human Activity

Feasibility Study

2 nd year	
2-7 FS ZHENG, Yuejun	Relationships between Human Activities and Atmospheric Changes, Possibilities of Harmonious Society for Environmental Issues in the East Asia
2-9 FS SATO, Tadashi	Sustainable Food Production Concept Based on Evaluation of Traditional Agricultural Practices
1 st year	
2-10 FS MURAMATSU, Shin	Migration, Sojourn, and Possibilities in Cities
2-11 FS YAMAUCHI, Taro	Environmental Problems and Human Security for Children as Our Future: Asia-Pacific Children and the Environment (ACE) Project
3-6 FS NAWATA, Hiroshi	A Study of Human Subsistence Ecosystems among Arab Societies: To Combat Livelihood Degradation
3-7 FS KITAZAWA, Daisuke	The Effects of Economic Activities on the Ecosystem in the Caspian Sea and Cooperative Environmental Protection System

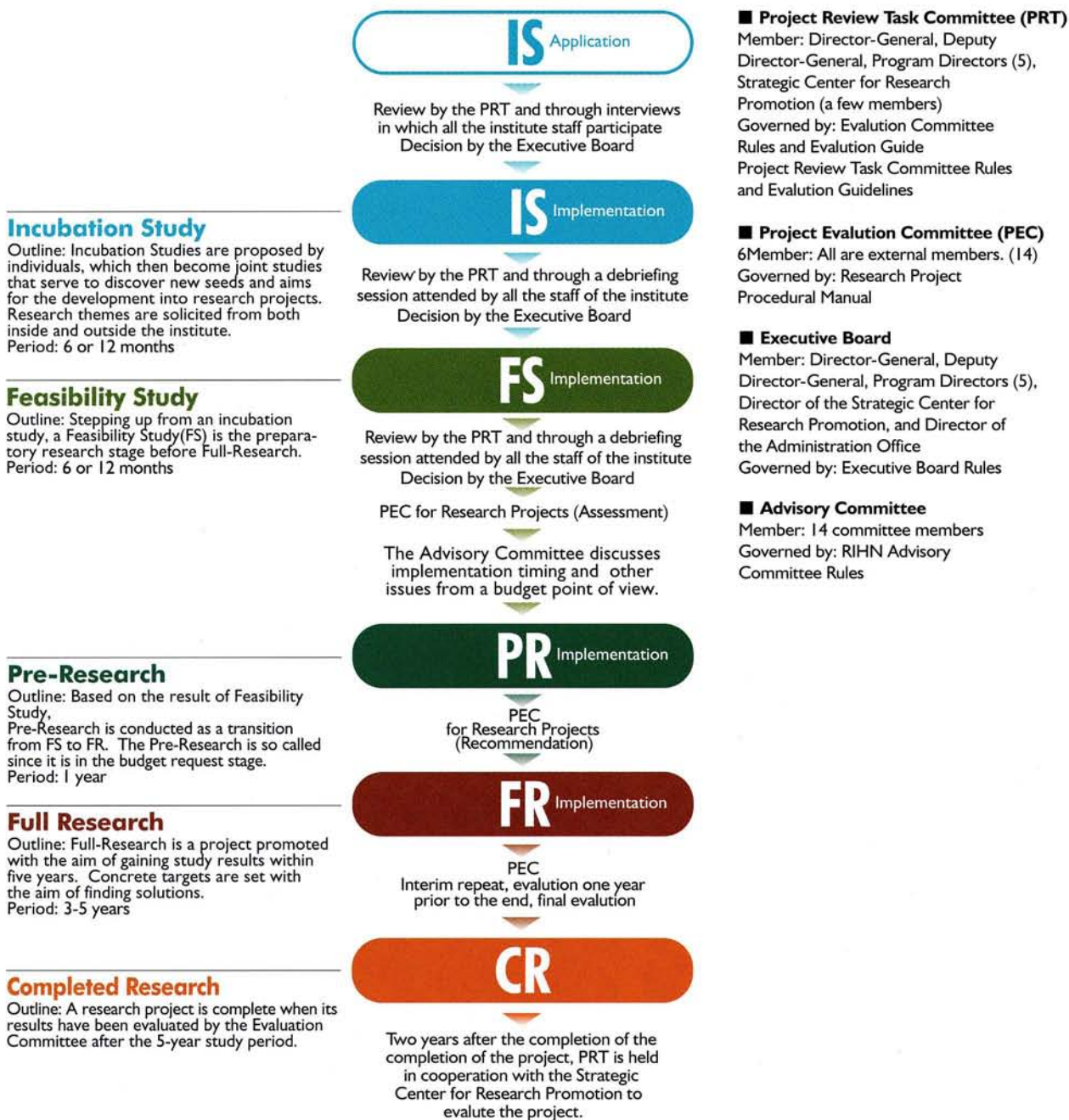
Incubation Study

● Process Leading to FR Project Implementation ●

In project-type research, RIHN research staff must be joined with the team as a co-researcher in order for the applicant becomes well aware of RIHN's mission and is able to propose an appropriate research project.

Project-type research is a type of research collaboration where researchers from various disciplines work together for a particular research theme that will realize a mission of RIHN

*Excerpted from the Policies on Implementation of Research Projects at RIHN



Evaluation of Completed Research

The five research projects pursued since RIHN's founding have concluded this year. These first research projects will determine the future of RIHN and its research activities. The project achievements are attracting attention both from within and outside the institute.

The five projects differed in study field, research technique, and the global environmental problem studied. However, a common feature was that specialists from diverse fields of study conducted each project, in other words, they were crossdisciplinary research projects, as represented by the term "integration." Each research project has undergone post-project evaluation carried out by the RIHN Evaluation Committee for Research Projects, as required by the institute's policies. The evaluation results are shown below. For detailed information on the evaluation results of each project, you can visit RIHN's Website.

Information on these research projects is available as individual reports. In addition, some of them have published books targeted at the general public.

The five research projects were all strongly related with water, although it was not intended at the initial stage to hold a presentation under a common theme. Consequently, last November, RIHN held its first international symposium "Water and Better Human Life in the Future" and shared the research results with researchers from other countries. The symposium was reported in a specialized publication titled "RIHN 1st International Symposium Proceedings." A readable book in Japanese on the symposium achievements is currently planned.

1-1CR Impact of Climate Changes on Agricultural Production System in the Arid Areas

Project Leader: WATANABE, Tsugihiko

The research objective was in line with the RIHN Guidelines. Objectives of the initial research project have been fairly well achieved.

2-1CR Emissions of Greenhouse Gases and Aerosols, and Human Activities in East Asia

Project leader: HAYASAKA, Tadahiro

The research objective was in line with the RIHN Guidelines. Objectives of the initial research project have been fairly well achieved.

3-1CR Multi-Disciplinary Research for Understanding Interactions between Humans and Nature in the Lake Biwa-Yodo River Watershed

Project Leader: YACHI, Shigeo

The research objective was well in line with the RIHN Guidelines. Objectives of the initial research project have been almost completely achieved.

4-1CR Historical Evolution of the Adaptability in an Oasis Region to Water Resource Changes

Project Leader: NAKAWO, Masayoshi

The research objective was in line with the RIHN Guidelines. Objectives of the initial research project have been fairly well achieved.

5-1CR Global Water Cycle Variation and the Current World Water Resources Issues and Their Perspectives

Project Leader: KANAE, Shinjiro

The research objective was well in line with the RIHN Guidelines. Objectives of the initial research project have been almost completely achieved.



Poster session at RIHN 1st International Symposium



Enthusiastic discussions held in the conference hall at RIHN 1st International Symposium