

Research Structure



As of 2014, there are three kinds of research projects at RIHN: **Individual Collaboration Projects**, **Institutional Collaboration Projects**, and **Initiative-based Projects**. In most cases, researchers participate in research projects on the basis of fixed-term appointments, and the projects progress through several stages. At the **Incubation Study (IS)** stage, potential project themes are openly solicited from both inside and outside the Institute. Studies that are judged to have reached the planning phase then move to the **Feasibility Study (FS)** stage. If judged appropriate by the Project Evaluation Committee and approved by the Board of Advisors, projects pass through a transitional period of **Pre-Research (PR)** before advancing to the **Full Research (FR)** stage, which lasts from three to five years.

As of 2013, RIHN is also contributing to the creation of Future Earth in Asia, a new international network for global sustainability.

Project rooms



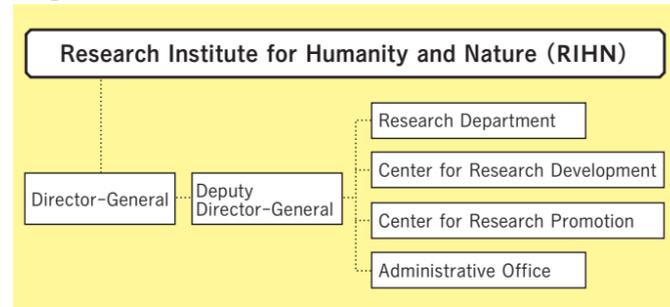
About RIHN

photo / SASAKI Yuko



The Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN) was established in April 2001 by the Government of Japan to promote integrated research in the field of global environmental studies. As a national institute, RIHN solicits, develops, hosts, and funds fixed-term research projects on pressing areas of interaction between humanity and nature. RIHN thus promotes coordinated, problem-centered, context-specific, and multi-dimensional science. RIHN projects can last from three to five years; they are always multidisciplinary and employ multiple methodologies, and they are supposed to offer solutions to the environmental problems under study.

Organization



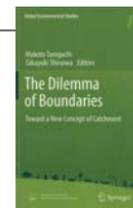
Laboratory

RIHN maintains eighteen laboratories, including specialized facilities for DNA and stable isotope analysis, mass spectrometry.

Social Outreach

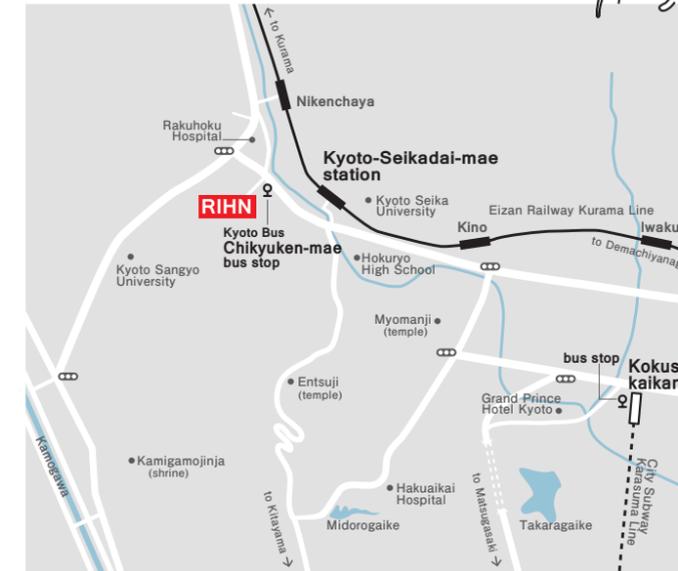


- 1 / **RIHN International Symposium**
Each year RIHN holds an international symposium describing the key findings of concluded RIHN research projects.
- 2 / **RIHN Forum**
An annual RIHN Forum is open to the public.
- 3 / Elementary students studying environmental education at RIHN.
- 4 / Students searching a variety of fish and shellfish at RIHN Open House.



RIHN Book Series: Global Environmental Studies

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



ACCESS

- By City Subway**
From Kyoto Station, take the Karasuma Line to Kokuzaikaikan Station (the last station), and transfer to Kyoto Bus.
- By Kyoto Bus**
From Kokuzaikaikan Station, take bus No. 40, 50 or 52 to Chikyuken-mae. RIHN is at the base of the hill on your left.
- By Eizan Railway**
From Demachiyana Station in Kyoto City, take the Kurama Line. Get off at Kyoto-Seikadai-mae Station. RIHN is a 10-minute walk from the station.

457-4 Motoyama, Kamigamo, Kita-ku, Kyoto
603-8047, JAPAN

Tel. +81-75-707-2100 Fax. +81-75-707-2106

<http://www.chikyu.ac.jp>



Inter-University Research Institute Corporation
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**Research Institute for
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RIHN



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**Research Institute for
Humanity and Nature**

2014-2015

photo / ENDO Hitoshi

Research Projects



Megacities and the Global Environment

Individual Collaboration Projects

Project Leader **MURAMATSU Shin**

How can megacities—cities of more than ten million inhabitants—become earth-friendly, and how can the present and future welfare of their inhabitants be improved? Focusing on Jakarta, Indonesia, project researchers identify the potential advantages in being a “latecomer” megacity, and the relevance of customary patterns of behavior and urban life to contemporary social and ecological problems.



Coastal Area Capability Enhancement in Southeast Asia

Individual Collaboration Projects

Project Leader **ISHIKAWA Satoshi**

Coastal area ecosystems have been deteriorating rapidly, as they are often affected by environmental change and intensive human activity both on land and at sea. This interdisciplinary project develops the concept of area capability in tropical Southeast Asia to permit consideration of the socio-ecological dynamics and tradeoffs in rural coastal area development.



Creation and Sustainable Governance of New Commons through Formation of Integrated Local Environmental Knowledge (ILEK project)

Initiative-based Projects

Project Leader **SATO Tetsu**
Co-Project Leader **KIKUCHI Naoki**

This project studies and develops processes of local knowledge production and circulation in order to understand how community-based adaptive governance systems emerge and function. It examines and facilitates dialogue between scientific explanation and everyday ways of understanding, and it monitors how this knowledge changes as it is utilized at different points and levels of social networks.

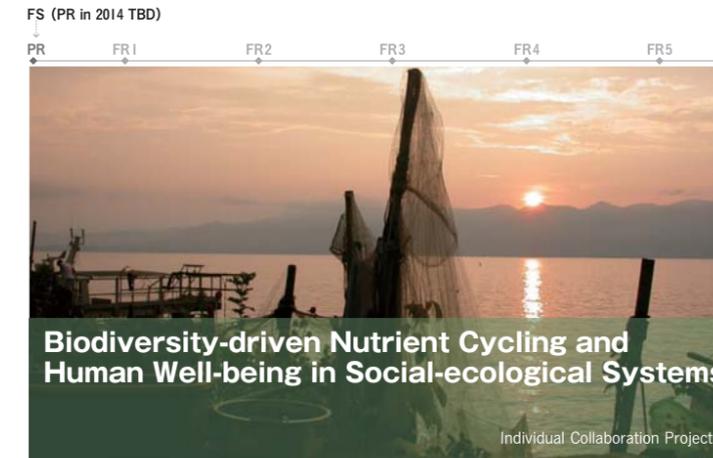


Long-term Sustainability through Place-Based, Small-scale Economies: Approaches from Historical Ecology

Individual Collaboration Projects

Project Leader **HABU Junko**

This project examines the importance of place-based, small-scale and diversified economies for the long-term sustainability of human societies. Archaeological, historical, ethnohistorical and paleoenvironmental studies will test our hypothesis that long-term community sustainability has been directly linked to community scale and food system diversity.



Biodiversity-driven Nutrient Cycling and Human Well-being in Social-ecological Systems

Individual Collaboration Projects

Project Leader **OKUDA Noboru**

This project develops a transdisciplinary framework of adaptive watershed governance that can link nutrient cycling and human well-being, and so improve social involvement in biodiversity conservation and environmental restoration. It also establishes new methods to evaluate how biodiversity contributes to natural nutrient cycles and inspires citizens to practice community-based conservation activities.



Designing Local Frameworks for Integrated Water Resources Management

Initiative-based Projects

Project Leader **KUBOTA Jumpei**
Co-Project Leader **RAMPISELA, Dorotea**

This project conducts interdisciplinary investigation of the merits and demerits of distinct water management practices. Field and modeling studies are integrated to develop advanced description of the knowledge systems affecting water and to enable comprehensive analysis of Integrated Water Resources Management in collaboration with a wide spectrum of local and remote stakeholders, towards pro-humanistic water resources assessment and local governance.



Desertification and Livelihood in Semi-Arid Afro-Eurasia

Individual Collaboration Projects

Project Leader **TANAKA Ueru**

This project identifies the socio-ecological characteristics of livelihood in Semi-Arid Afro-Eurasia and adaptation strategies related to desertification. It re-examines techniques and approaches to desertification control and rural development assistance, and seeks feasible and practical solutions to encourage improved livelihood security for people living in fragile semi-arid environments.

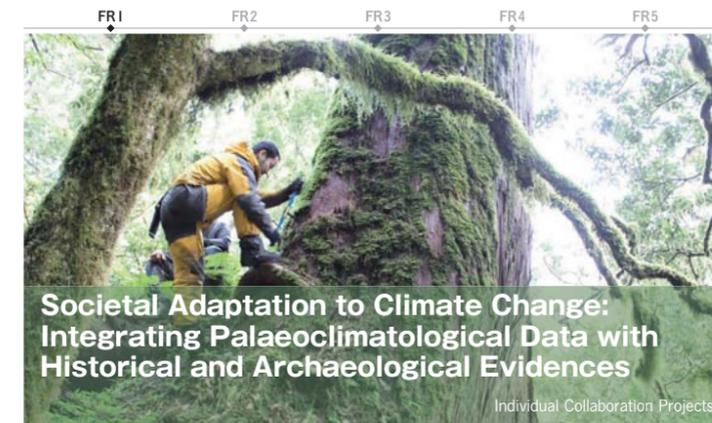


Human-Environmental Security in Asia-Pacific Ring of Fire: Water-Energy-Food Nexus

Initiative-based Projects

Project Leader **TANIGUCHI Makoto**
Co-Project Leader **ENDO Aiko**

Climate change and economic development are increasing pressure on water, energy and food resources, presenting communities with difficult tradeoffs and potential conflicts among these resources. Therefore, the water-energy-food nexus is one of the most important and fundamental global environmental issues facing the world.



Societal Adaptation to Climate Change: Integrating Palaeoclimatological Data with Historical and Archaeological Evidences

Individual Collaboration Projects

Project Leader **NAKATSUKA Takeshi**

How have people adapted to abrupt climate change in the past? This project investigates the ways in which human societies in Japan have reacted to large abrupt climate changes since the Jomon era. Past climate variability can now be reconstructed with great precision in annual or monthly time resolutions due to recent developments in the analysis of palaeoclimatological proxies, chiefly tree-ring cellulose oxygen isotopic ratios.

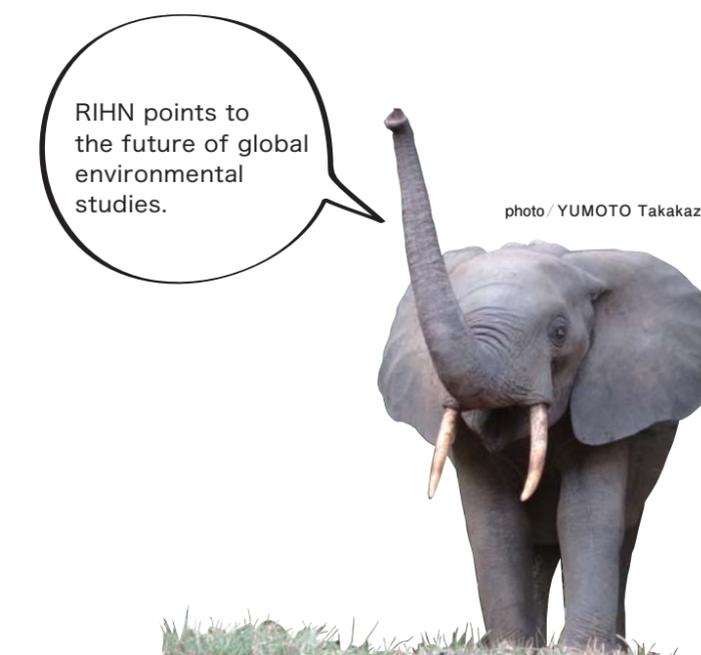


photo / YUMOTO Takakazu