

Current Initiative-based Research Projects

C-09-Init
GAIA Initiative

Designing Local Frameworks for Integrated Water Resources Management
FR3 Project Leader **Jumpei KUBOTA**

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.



E-05-Init
OIKOS Initiative

Creation and Sustainable Governance of New Commons through Formation of Integrated Local Environmental Knowledge
FR2 Project Leader **Tetsu SATO** Co-Project Leader **Naoki KIKUCHI**

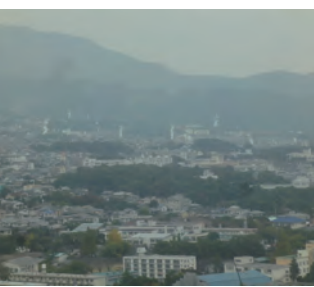
This project studies and develops processes of local knowledge production and circulation in order to understand how community-based adaptive governance systems emerge and function. It examines and facilitates dialogue between scientific explanation and everyday ways of understanding, and it monitors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



R-08-Init
GAIA Initiative

Human-Environmental Security in Asia-Pacific Ring of Fire: Water-Energy-Food Nexus
FR1 Project Leader **Makoto TANIGUCHI** Co-Project Leader **Aiko ENDO**

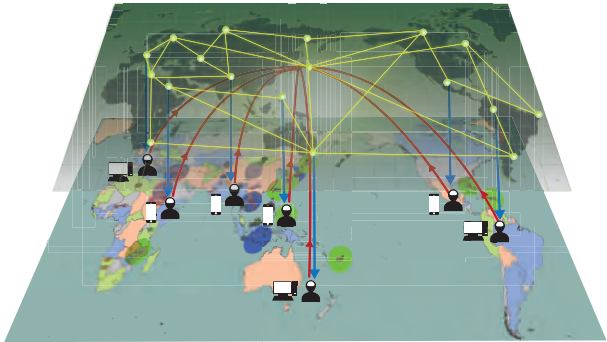
Climate change and economic development are increasing pressure on water, energy and food resources, presenting communities with difficult tradeoffs and potential conflicts among these resources. Therefore, the water-energy-food nexus is one of the most important and fundamental global environmental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



Recent and Future Activities

Consilience Cyberspace: A cyber platform embodying a co-creation between science and society towards the unity of knowledge


An online transdisciplinary platform dedicated to *consilience* is currently being developed upon the outcomes of RIHN projects, in collaboration with a wide spectrum of stakeholders in local and global environmental problems. To this end, we are to launch a smartphone App, Consilience Cyberspace, that traces the developing processes of environmental values and transdisciplinary activities in the globe by February, 2014, while maintaining an online survey, Consilience CENSUS (rihn-consilience-census.com).



Initiative-based Feasibility Study (FS)/ Full-Research (FR) Start-up Mission
● Initiative-based Research Workshop

Futurability Initiatives Mission
● Core Research Hub Learning Session
● Futurability Initiatives Seminar Series
● Initiative-based Research Project Symposium

Completed Research (CR) Follow-up Mission
● CR Review

 **Research Institute for Humanity and Nature**

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 **Research Institute for Humanity and Nature**

The Futurability Initiatives

GAIA	風水土
OIKOS	山野河海
ETHOS	生存知

The Futurability Initiatives: Mission Statement

The Futurability Initiatives emerge from our conviction of the need for design-oriented science. Whereas cognitive science has conventionally been employed to describe 'what is', design science asks 'what ought to be' the character of interactions between of humanity and nature.

The Initiatives are therefore dedicated to *consilience*, "a jumping together of knowledge... across disciplines to create a common groundwork for explanation" (E.O.Wilson 1998) and intended to enhance design-oriented, problem-solving approaches to contemporary environmental problems. Each Initiative focuses on a major field of thought roughly analogous to the ancient Greek realms described by Gaia, Oikos and Ethos.

Foci

- Futurability
- Design-oriented science
- Transdisciplinarity
- Earth System
- Consilience

We focus our efforts on conjoining the existing RIHN Domain Programmes (Circulation, Diversity, Resources, Ecohistory, and Ecosophy) through a set of cross-cutting initiatives towards the transdisciplinary field of Environmental Humanics of the Earth System.

GAIA Initiative

As human societies design their futures they require best understandings of the Earth's natural dynamism, and the significance of human action within it.

The Gaia Initiative therefore performs investigations of the physiospheric bases of humanity at multiple spatiotemporal scales. The Initiative emphasizes description of physical standards related to boundaries and thresholds so as to allow analysis of, and best eco-technological adaptations to, dynamic Earth environments.

Anthropospheric design within dynamic Earth environments

Foci

- Physiosphere
- Boundaries
- Environmental dynamics
- Natural catastrophe



Photo: Jumpei Kubota

Photo: A "Gaian Perspective" Partnership

OIKOS Initiative

The Oikos Initiative investigates the practices and knowledge systems through which cultures and communities humanize biospheric environments. It emphasizes the human ecologies and economies-from modern techno-centric to traditional-associated with environmental commons. The Oikos Initiative therefore brings special attention to the values associated with resource use, and the importance of linking range of eco-technologies and social equity.

Linking commons and community for long-term maintenance of ecosystem services

Foci

- Biosphere
- Ecosystems service
- Environmental economics
- Commons



Photo: Yasuyuki Kosaka

Photo: Ryosuke Koda

ETHOS Initiative

The Ethos Initiative examines the noöspheric values and dynamics affecting human ecological knowledge, especially in relation to the key areas of food production and human health. The Initiative describes the relationship between environmental knowledge, including that embedded as cultural value and sense of self, on quality of individual and community life.

Enhancing human capability and capacity for coexistence

Foci

- Noösphere
- Food and production
- Life style
- Health and medicine



Photo: Ken-ichi Abe

Photo: Yudai Ishimoto

Environmental Humanics of the Earth System

Consilience

