

## 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.



**I** magine our world, as a giant puzzle. We all have a piece, so we can choose to leave it out or put it in place.



## 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 2016 recipients of the Earth Hall of Fame Kyoto Award was Professor Augustin Berque, geographer, Orientalist, philosopher and professor at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS).

### RIHN Area Seminars

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

**Let's think about tomorrow's food for the future of Noshiro in 30 years! - The possibility of food transition in Noshiro**  
5 December 2016, Plaza Miyako, Noshiro city, Akita

**Globally important agricultural heritage system: Change for the better**  
21 January 2017, Takachiho-cho municipal center, Nishi-Usukigun, Miyazaki

### RIHN International Symposium

An annual symposium at RIHN exploring the key concepts of RIHN Research Programs.



Professor Augustin Berque, of the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), France, giving the 2016 keynote address.

**Asia's Transformations to Sustainability:  
Past, Present and Future of the Anthropocene**  
10-11 March 2017

#### Keynote Address 1

Anthropocene and Transhumanism – or the ecumene as an anthropocene –  
Augustin BERQUE (École des hautes études en sciences sociales)

#### Keynote Address 2

Does Chinese History Suggest a Sustainable Growth Trajectory?  
Kenneth POMERANZ (University of Chicago)

### RIHN Public Seminars

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

**An environmental history perspective of modern Asia:  
From the growth paradigm to the sustainability paradigm**  
28 November 2016

**Mainstreaming of biological diversity**  
24 January 2017

**Trying to think about "environment" with high school students**  
9 February 2017

**Science contributing solutions of global environmental problems: The quest for transdisciplinary research learning together with diverse societal actors**  
24 March 2017

## 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 2016 included:

### The energy and justice footprint of water supply for Southern California

Joshua NEWELL, Assistant Professor, University of Michigan/ RIHN Invited Scholar  
14 April 2016

### Agroecology and food sovereignty: experiences from Latin America

Miguel ALTIERI, Professor, University of California, Berkeley / RIHN Invited Scholar  
30 May 2016

### An overview of the evolution of research and thinking about human-environment interaction (Lecture Series)

Eduardo BRONDIZIO, Professor, Indiana University Bloomington/ RIHN Invited Scholar  
2, 6 and 9 June, 2016

### From fieldwork to systems thinking in contemporary environmental studies (Lecture Series)

Sander van der LEEUW, Professor, Arizona State University/ RIHN Invited Scholar  
13 and 20 October, 9 November, 19 December, 2016

### Metastability, communication and change: Observations from the Shinano-Chikuma River

Simon Charles KANER, Professor, Head, Centre for Archaeology and Heritage, Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Culture/ RIHN Invited Scholar  
6 January, 2017

### Fixing the world - Excess, leftovers and innovation

Frederic JOULIAN, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales  
Yann-Philippe TASTEVIN, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique  
Yoann MOREAU, École des Mines  
TAKEZAWA Shoichiro, National Museum of Ethnology  
Mikaëla LE MEUR, Université Libre de Bruxelles  
10 January, 2017

## 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.

