

Coordination



The RIHN Center provides the foundations and platforms for RIHN's research activities and supports engagement in interactive collaborations with academic and societal stakeholders. The Center also undertakes 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 the 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 hosts the Regional Center for 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 2017 recipients of the Earth Hall of Fame Kyoto Award were Prof. Miguel A. Altieri, professor emeritus of Agroecology at the University of California, Berkeley, Prof. Margaret Anne McKean, political economist and professor emeritus at the Duke University, and Prof. Dennis L. Meadows, scientist and professor emeritus of the University of New Hampshire.

RIHN Regional Community Seminars

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

Rediscovering agriculture: Learning from the fields

4 August 2017, Graduate School of Global Food Resources, Hokkaido University

Linking connectedness to the future: Change and continuity in globally important agricultural heritage systems

12 October 2017, Shiiba Village Development Center, Higashiusuki, Miyazaki

Community empowerment: How social capital helps enhance biodiversity

24 February 2018, Kafuka Shogai Gakushukan, Koka, Shiga

RIHN International Symposium

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



Professor Peter H. Verburg, of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Netherlands, giving the 2017 keynote address.

Trans-scale Solutions for Sustainability

20-21 December 2017

Keynote Address

Pathways to Global Sustainability: Multi-scale Tradeoffs
Peter H. VERBURG (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)

RIHN Public Seminars

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

Environmental regeneration starting from the 'Can't help caring' sentiment

16 June 2017

Future Design

4 July 2017

Our environment between present and future : A discussion with high school students

1 February 2018

Moving from management to care: The area capability approach to local resources

15 February 2018

China's environmental problems and prospects for Japanese cooperation

23 March 2018

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 2017 included:

Riverine and wetland environments: From niche construction to nutritional archaeology

Antony BROWN, professor, University of Southampton/RIHN
Invited Scholar
28 April 2017

Digital revolution and planetary boundaries

Stephane GRUMBACH, Senior Scientist at INRIA, Director of IXI, Rhône-Alpes Complex Systems Institute
18 July 2017

An introduction to applied systems science

Pavel KABAT, Director, IIASA
26 July 2017

The future of cities in a fossil-carbon constrained world

Stephanie PINCETL, Director, California Center for Sustainable Communities, RIHN Invited Scholar
12 December 2017

Sustainability challenges and opportunities in West Asia

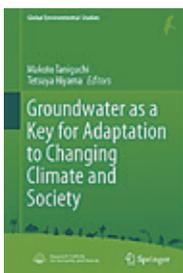
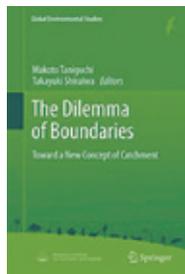
Mohammed Aly Raouf, Research Fellow, Gulf Research Center
17 January 2018

A nexus approach to "water, food and energy for climate smart agriculture

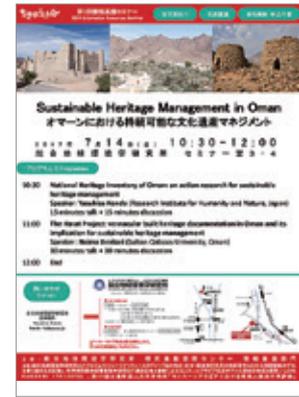
Parviz KOOHAFKAN, President, World Agricultural Heritage Foundation, RIHN Invited Scholar
5 March 2018

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.

