

## Preface

The project on “Vulnerability and Resilience of Social-Ecological Systems”, a member project of the RIHN’s Ecosophy program, is now in its fourth of the five-year Full Research (FR4) status. RIHN’s research projects have been organized by its dominant configurations into one of the five programs, i.e. Circulation, Diversity, Ecohistory, Ecosophy and Resources. This fiscal year coincides with the first transitioning year into the RIHN’s 2<sup>nd</sup> phase, the commencement of the RIHN’s Futurability Initiatives. The resilience project is expected to contribute to a transition to the new initiatives.

During the FY2010, we completed surveys for the 3<sup>rd</sup> cropping season. The rainfall continued to be above normal level for the last three consecutive cropping seasons. According to the Zambian government’s forecast, the 4<sup>th</sup> cropping season of 2010/2011, which just started, is also expected to have above normal rainfall. Our field studies reveal that farmers diversify their plots by geographic locations to hedge against risks associated with rainfall variations. Clearer pictures are emerging from our intensive survey data as to how households vary their consumption patterns in response to the unexpected shock of heavy rainfall and flood in December 2007.

In this year, we focused more on disseminating our project outcomes both domestically and internationally. In October, four project members presented their research findings at the first GLP Open Meeting 2010 held at the Arizona State University. In November, two members attended AIWEST-DR 2010 held in Indonesia’s Aceh, a province suffering the hardest hit from the 2004 Indian Ocean’s tsunami. The main theme of the conference was how to build community resilience. Also, we plan to attend the Resilience2011 Meeting at Arizona State University as well as EnvironmentAsia Conference in March 2011 to build academic network for potential international collaborations. In Japan, we organized a session at the JASID Meeting on resilience and attracted a large group of audiences.

With the fourth year of the project coming to its completion, I wish to express my appreciations to our project members for their efforts and contributions to the steady progress of our project. We also wish to thank all the member of Project Evaluation Committee (PEC), the Director, program directors, administrative staff and all the colleagues at RIHN for their kind support and for facilitating this integrated research program.

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Chieko Umetsu

E-04(FR4) Project Leader

Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Kyoto, Japan