



International Collaboration

Memoranda of Understanding and Research Cooperation Agreements [As of April 1st, 2026]

ALGERIA

- > Ferhat Abbas Setif 1 University (Twinning Agreement)

CHINA

- > East China Normal University
- > Hainan Provincial Center for Disease Control and Prevention / Hainan Provincial Preventive Medicine Association

GABON

- > National Center for Scientific and Technological Research (CENAREST)

GHANA

- > University of Ghana

INDIA

- > Indian Institute of technology - Delhi
- > Manbhumi Ananda Ashram Nityananda Trust (MANT)

INDONESIA

- > Universitas Riau > Wakatobi Regency
- > Institut Teknokigi Dan Bisnis Muhammadiyah Wakatobi
- > Halu Oleo University

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

- > Institution for Marine and Island Cultures, Mokpo National University
- > Mineral Resources Division of Korea Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources (KIGAM)

LAOS

- > Lao Tropical and Public Health Institute, Ministry of Health, Lao PDR

MALAYSIA

- > Universiti Malaysia Sabah

NETHERLANDS

- > Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development, Utrecht University

OMAN

- > Sultan Qaboos University

PHILIPPINES

- > Ateneo de Manila University

UGANDA

- > Kyambogo University

UNITED KINGDOM

- > University of Gloucestershire

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- > University of California, Berkeley

ZAMBIA

- > University of Zambia

Publications

Many individual publications for general and specialist audiences, RIHN has partnered with Springer Nature and established the Global Environmental Studies book series. Titles in the series reflect the full breadth of RIHN scholarship.



Message from the Director-General

Juichi Yamagiwa
Director-General
Research Institute for Humanity and Nature

The modern era is known as the 'Anthropocene', when human influence has begun to be noticeably left behind in the strata. Global warming, ocean pollution and other changes in the global environment are becoming major threats to humans. If we continue down the current civilizational path, however, weather and water-related natural disasters will intensify, ecosystem degradation and loss of biodiversity will increase, and human livelihood, health, and safety will be at ever-greater risk. Modern civilizations have incessantly expanded the scale of production and consumption, but at nature's expense, and humans are both the perpetrators and victims of this path of development. The Covid-19 pandemic clearly shows the result, as it was caused by ever-expanding global human activities.

New technological fixes will not offer fundamental solutions to such complex problems, unless human lifestyles also change to achieve harmonious relationships with nature on Earth. For the last 20 years RIHN has conducted research with the awareness that the roots of global environmental problems are found in human culture. Based on the results of our past projects, it is time for us to promote new practical research.

Cultural diversity is based on the diversity of nature. However, nature forms ecosystems in which regions are connected through the circulation of materials and energy, while cultures insist on their uniqueness and are sometimes in conflict. Solutions to global environmental problems therefore depend on connecting cultures through common environmental ethics. Great traditions of Eastern environmental wisdom and experience still exist, as do those of other regions; their valuable insights can help to break the deadlock in modern science and capitalism. It is for this reason that RIHN undertakes interdisciplinary research spanning the natural sciences, humanities, and social sciences, and in recent years, has evolved towards transdisciplinary research seeking to expand the kinds of knowledge that are considered valid in scientific inquiry.

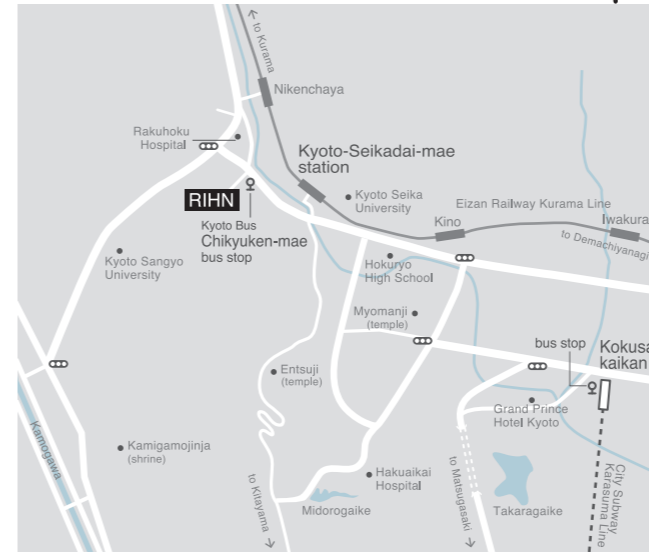
RIHN has established three Research Programs to promote such research.

We have enhanced collaboration within the institute, across the diverse research community linked to RIHN research projects, and with society in general. RIHN also collaborates with the international research platform Future Earth, which aims to integrate global environmental change research and contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. As part of this effort, RIHN hosts the Japan Hub of the Future Earth Global Secretariat to strengthen research collaboration and capacity building across the region.

We will strive to expand these activities in the coming years, and implement new research initiatives in the search for solutions to the many environmental challenges of our planet.



RIHN original mascot character "Chikyu-ken" ▶



Access

By City Subway

From Kyoto Station, take the Karasuma Line to Kokuzaikaikan Station (the last station), and transfer to Kyoto Bus.

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.

By Kyoto Bus

From Kokuzaikaikan Station, take bus No.40・特40, 50 or 52 to Chikyukuen-mae. RIHN is at the base of the hill on your left.

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

RIHN Search



note



Research Institute for
Humanity and Nature
大学共同利用機関法人
人間文化研究機構 総合地球環境学研究所

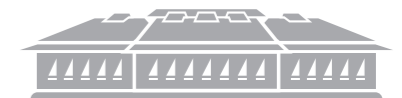


English

Marlon del Aguila Guererro
"Bright and shine smile" (Cameroon)



Research Institute for
Humanity and Nature



2026-2027



About RIHN

RIHN is a national research institute established by the Government of Japan in 2001. Based on the idea that global environmental problems are ultimately rooted in human societies, cultures and values. RIHN research seeks concepts, theories and mechanisms capable of describing and enabling transformation of human-environment interactions.

RIHN conducts research under the “Program-Project system”, accepts proposals from the international research community.

Environmental Isotope Study Collaborative Research Program

RIHN has developed experimental equipment that can obtain the “fingerprint” information of stable isotope ratios for various environmental substances and many elements. Through advanced stable isotope ratio analyses that contribute to solving global environmental problems, this research is called “Environmental Isotope Studies” and joint research with researchers nationwide has been conducted since 2012.



Program-Project System

At RIHN, research is conducted under a “Program-Project System,” in which multiple research projects are organized under programs. Each research project advances its work in accordance with the research priority set for each program.

Research projects take on challenging themes by progressively deepening their studies through internal and external evaluations. Currently, seven research projects are being implemented.

Project Formation for Research Projects



Global Environmental Culture Program

Program Director: **MATSUDA Motoji**

Towards solving global environmental crises, this program strives to change our behaviors and values not only by advanced science and technology but also by combining science and culture.

Organic Material Circulation Project 2024-2028 **FR3**

Building up organic material circulation system among urban and rural area: Toward the integration of local perception and scientific knowledge

Project Leader: **OYAMA Shuichi**

Main Field Sites
Japan (including Kyoto and other regions),
Africa (Niger, Uganda, Zambia, Ghana, Djibouti)



Pearl millet growth by fertilizing sewage sludge.(Republic of Niger)



ScENE Project 2024-2028 **FR3**

High-resolution reconstruction of resilient indigenous lifestyle in environmental changes to future collective knowledge deduced from the fusion of science and arts

Project Leader: **WATANABE Tsuyoshi**

Main Field Sites
Japan (Kikai Island, the Amami Islands)



Performances of plays produced in this project. (Kikaijima)



Fashloks Project 2025-2029 **FR2**

Fair and Sustainable Hunting Management through Dialogues between Local Knowledge and Science

Project Leader: **HONGO Shun**

Main Field Sites
Cameroon, Colombia, Malaysia (Sabah), Gabon, Congo



An Indigenous hunter in Amazon, shouldering his shotgun as he traverses the rainforest. (Colombia)



Combining Knowledge for a Fundamental Innovation of Land Use Program

Program Director: **SHOBAYASHI Mikitaro**

This program, with interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches, strives to fundamentally change land use in order to mitigate and adapt to the impacts on the global environment caused by socio-economic activities and changes in land use.

SATOCNN Project 2025-2028 **FR2**

Satoyama Reconnections: Engaging Communities in Resilient, Nature- and Climate-positive Land Use Futures

Project Leader: **DWYER, Janet**

Main Field Sites
United Kingdom, Europe (Portugal, Sweden),
Switzerland, Japan



Landscape of a project study site, showing enclosed inbye farmland and common moorland.(Chagford, Dartmoor)



Pluriverse Project 2026-2030 **FR1**

Pluriversal Land Use: Exploring Institutions, Values and Worldviews

Project Leader: **TAMURA Norie**

Main Field Sites
Japan (Kyoto, Hyogo, Tokushima, Ehime, Nagano, Shiga)



Concept graphic for the Pluriverse Project "A paddy landscape where all life co-exists and thrives"
© AOI Landscape design



※ **FR1** Indicates the first year of FR (Full Research)

Since its establishment in 2001, RIHN has carried out 53 research projects.

Some projects have involved more than 150 researchers. To date, more than 4,000 researchers have been involved in RIHN projects.

For detailed information on current and completed projects, please visit the RIHN website.

https://www.chikyu.ac.jp/rihn_e/activities/project/



Co-creation of the Earth-human System Program

Program Director: **TANIGUCHI Makoto**

This program strives to understand the various thresholds and linkages in the earth-human system, and to transform the relationship between humanity and nature for the sustainable future.

LINKAGE Project 2022-2026 **FR5**

Adaptive Governance of Multiple Resources Based on Land-Sea Linkages of the Water Cycle: Application to Coral Reef Island Systems

Project Leader: **YASUMOTO Jun**

Main Field Sites
Japan (Ryukyu Arc), Indonesia (Wakatobi Islands), Fiji



Investigating the environmental impacts originating from land-based sources. Field observation (Northeastern Viti Levu, Fiji)



Sustai-N-able (SusN) Project 2023-2027 **FR4**

Towards Sustainable Nitrogen Use Connecting Human Society and Nature

Project Leader: **HAYASHI Kentaro**

Main Field Sites
Japan and worldwide



Introducing the nitrogen issue at a public event in Miyakojima City, Japan



ECOIP Project 2026 **PR**

Towards an Ethical Economy: Addressing the Impacts of Commodity Trade and Consumption on Indigenous Land and Survival

Project Leader: **NGUYEN, Tien Hoang**

WEDiEA Project 2026 **PR**

A World Ecology of Disasters in Development in East Asia: Integrating Values into Decision-Making by Shifting Worldviews

Project Leader: **ITO, Takeshi**