

## **Comments on the Research Programs**

The process for advice will be broadly guided by the following criteria:

- The program has clear objectives, strategy and identity;
- The program provides individual projects with a sense of identity by offering novel perspectives beyond each project, and by seeking synergy between them;
- The program contributes to the implementation of RIHN mission through collaboration between programs and with other sections of RIHN community.

### **Program One Comments Summary**

Generally speaking, the report and presentations of Program One were well received, providing a clear rationale and aims for the research. The Committee found that Program One has continued to develop the historical framing of the research. The evolving focus on the reinterpretation of the position in Asia and the ways in which local oceanfront development in Japan was tied in with the fossil fuel-based economic growth in Asia and its global environmental footprint, was received with considerable interest. This long-term historical approach gives the Program and RIHN a unique perspective. This strand is combined with a second one, on the livelihoods nexus and the motivations of local actors, which is more integrated in the research carried out by the three ongoing projects. These are concerned with the pressing issues of the present and future, but the awareness of the longer historical context helps draw out the significance of the research on a wider scale. There remains, however, a need for the projects to become aligned more closely with the overarching themes of the program to enhance the overall coherence.