



Inter-University Research Institute Corporation
National Institutes for the Humanities

Research Institute for Humanity and Nature



Research Institute for Humanity and Nature 2009



TACHIMOTO Narifumi
Director-General
Research Institute for
Humanity and Nature

Office of Administration

AKIMICHI Tomoya
Deputy Director-General,
Planning and Coordination

SATO Yo-ichiro
Deputy Director-General, Research

Message from the Director-General

At RIHN we believe that the global environmental problems humankind faces today are finally rooted in human cultures. As a consequence, RIHN's mission is to conduct integrative and cooperative research into the interactions between human and biophysical systems, and to suggest how harmonious human-environmental relations can be established or enhanced. Both tasks demand conceptual and methodological innovation and flexibility across fields of knowledge. RIHN Research projects usually last 5 years, involve scholars from a wide range of academic disciplines, and are supported by cooperative agreements with universities and institutes at home and abroad. This fixed-term project structure and internationalist orientation allow RIHN to bring an uncommon range of specialists, methodologies and resources to bear on a particular research question, while also advancing the field of global environmental studies.

April 2009

Characteristics of RIHN

- 1 Integration** RIHN is developing a new, integrated approach to global environmental issues that involves bringing together knowledge and expertise from a variety of disciplines, including natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, engineering, land and food sciences, and medical sciences.
- 2 International Networking** RIHN carries out its research projects in close coordination with both international and domestic research organizations. A number of non-Japanese researchers are involved in each research project.
- 3 Leadership** Staff members at RIHN are expected to play leading roles in global environmental programs through cooperation with national and international research institutes and researchers.
- 4 Fluidity** RIHN's project-based structure and tenure system facilitate interaction with researchers from other institutions.



Research Projects in Fiscal 2009 (as of April 1, 2009)

RIHN solicits, hosts and funds integrative, cooperative research projects that advance one of five principal RIHN research domains: Circulation, Diversity, Resources, Ecohistory and Ecosophy. There are several stages of internal and external review as a proposal advances from Incubation Study (IS) phase, through Pre-Research (PR), to Full Research (FR). The results of Completed Research (CR) projects are also assessed, including their contribution to public environmental dialogue and to future RIHN research.

● CIRCULATION

- FR 5th year** Human Activities in Northeastern Asia and Their Impact on the Biological Productivity in North Pacific Ocean (Leader: SHIRAIWA Takayuki)
- FR 4th year** Human Impacts on Urban Subsurface Environments (Leader: TANIGUCHI Makoto)
- FR 3rd year** Effects of Environmental Change on the Interactions between Pathogens and Humans (Leader: KAWABATA Zen'ichiro)
- FR 1st year** Global Warming and the Human-Nature Dimension in Siberia: Social Adaptation to Changes in Freshwater and Terrestrial Ecosystems (Leader: INOUE Gen)

● DIVERSITY

- FR 4th year** A New Cultural and Historical Exploration into Human-Nature Relationships in the Japanese Archipelago (Leader: YUMOTO Takakazu)
- FR 2nd year** Human Life, Aging, and Disease in High-Altitude Environments: Physio-medical, Ecological and Cultural Adaptation in "Highland Civilizations" (Leader: OKUMIYA Kiyohito)
- FR 2nd year** Collapse and Restoration of Ecosystem Networks with Human Activity (Leader: YAMAMURA Norio)

● RESOURCES

- FR 3rd year** Historical Interactions between Multi-Cultural Societies and the Natural Environment in a Semi-Arid Region in Central Eurasia (Leader: KUBOTA Jumpei)
- FR 2nd year** Environmental Changes and Infectious Diseases in Tropical Asia (Leader: MOJI Kazuhiko)
- FR 1st year** A Study of Human Subsistence Ecosystems in Arab Societies: To Combat Livelihood Degradation for the Post-Oil Era (Leader: NAWATA Hiroshi)

● ECOHISTORY

- FR 4th year** Agriculture and Environment Interactions in Eurasia: Past, Present and Future — A ten-thousand-year history (Leader: SATO Yo-ichiro)
- FR 3rd year** Environmental Change and the Indus Civilization (Leader: OSADA Toshiki)
- FR 3rd year** Neolithisation and Modernisation: Landscape History on East Asian Inland Seas (Leader: UCHIYAMA Junzo)

● ECOSOPHY

- FR 3rd year** Vulnerability and Resilience of Social-Ecological Systems (Leader: UMETSU Chieko)

- PR** Mega City Impact Upon the Global Environment: Investigating Its Mechanism and Proposing Urban Sphere Models (Leader: MURAMATSU Shin)
- FS** Environmental History of Nomads and Farmers in Central Asia (FS Proposer: UNO Takao)
- FS** Interaction of Human Activity and Nature in Changjiang Basin, China (FS Proposer: TANAKA Hiroki)
- FS** Ecosystem and Social Sustainability in the Coastal Area, Southeast Asia (ESSCA-SEA) (FS Proposer: ISHIKAWA Satoshi)
- FS** Developments, Environmental Changes, and Flowing Local Populations: Their Interactions and the People's Adaptive Strategies (FS Proposer: SUDA Kazuhiro)
- FS** Genetic Pollution of Farming Ecosystem Caused by the Rapid Expansion of Cultivation for New Energy Crops in the Tropical Asia (FS Proposer: SATO Masashi)

Center for Coordination, Promotion, and Communication (CCPC)

The CCPC guides and supports the overall RIHN research trajectory, and coordinates its interaction in varied academic and public fora.

AKIMICHI Tomoya, Director

WATANABE Tsugihiro, Head, Division of Coordination / NAKANO Takanori, Head, Division of Promotion / ABE Ken-ichi, Head, Division of Communication

Facilities

Located on the northern outskirts of Kyoto City, RIHN's principal building—a low horizontal arc nestled at the base of forested hills—contains research, meeting, laboratory and administrative spaces. The building's open-plan layout allows flexible workspaces and facilitates communication between project researchers. It blends elegant features of traditional Japanese architecture, such as interior gardens and secluded spaces, with late technology lighting and energy management systems. The RIHN House accommodates short-term visitors as well as research fellows on extended stays.



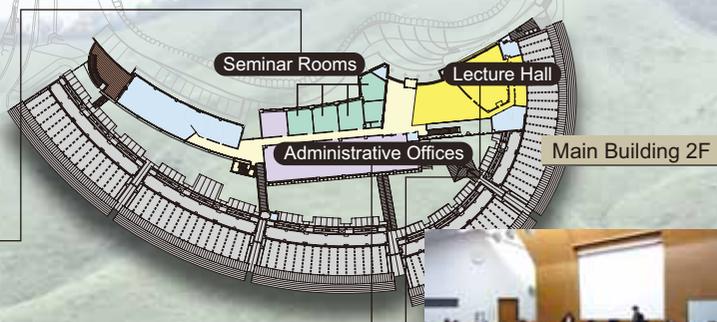
Administrative Offices

This complex houses the offices of the Director-General and the Administrative Director, as well as those of the General Affairs, Finance and Research Cooperation sections.



Seminar Rooms

Designed for flexibility with movable partitions, these facilities can accommodate a variety of types and sizes of events from small-audience seminars to large-scale events with around 150 participants.



Main Building 2F



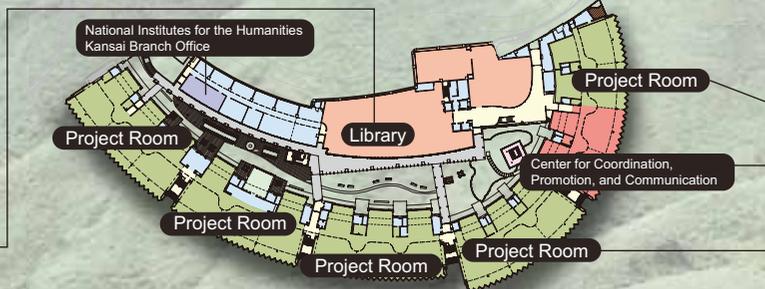
Lecture Hall

This hall holds about 120 people and is equipped with a mobile stage and an audio booth for simultaneous translation.



Library

As of March 2009, the library's holdings include approximately 16,000 volumes of books and around 120 journal titles.

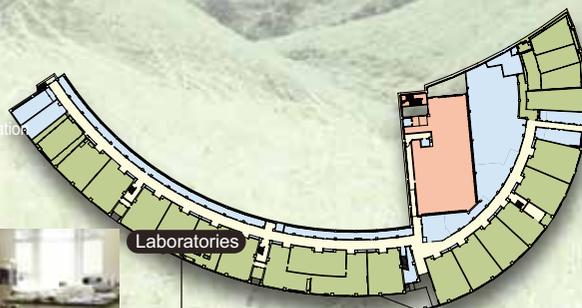


Main Building 1F



Project Rooms

The spacious first floor of the building accommodates all project areas and the Center for Coordination, Promotion, and Communication (CCPC). Its open-plan layout encourages free circulation by, and discussion between, researchers.



Main Building BF



Laboratories

RIHN has facilities for conducting a range of experimental activities, including isotope, DNA and chemical analysis, as well as separate clean and refrigerated rooms.



RIHN House

A small complex of one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments is available for short- and long-term guests. Shared kitchen and lounge space is also available, and provides opportunity for guests and RIHN staff to gather informally.





Main Events

● RIHN 8th Forum

Human Well-being and the Environment: Designing Global Ecohealth
Date: 5 July, 2009
Kyoto International Conference Center

● RIHN Public Seminars

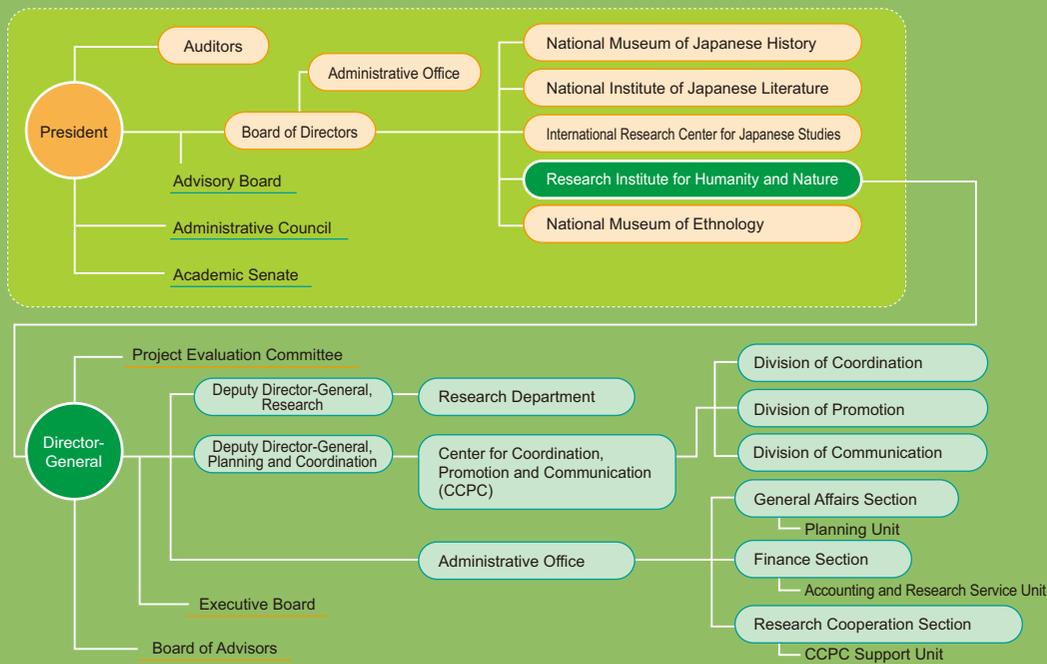
Eight public seminars will be held in Fiscal 2009.

● RIHN 4th International Symposium

The Dilemma of Boundaries: Toward a new concept of catchment
Date: 20-22 October, 2009
RIHN Lecture Hall

Organization

Inter-University Research Institute Corporation, National Institutes for the Humanities



Research Institute for Humanity and Nature

■ Access

By City Subway

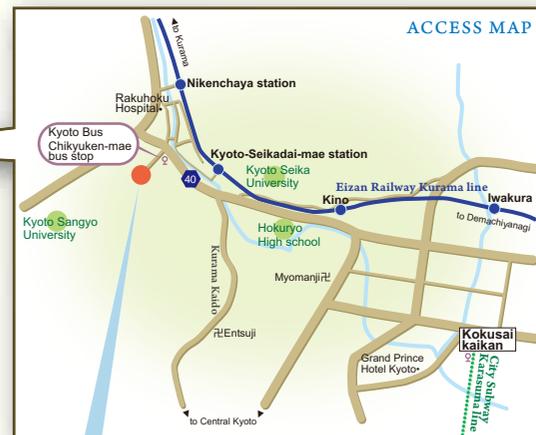
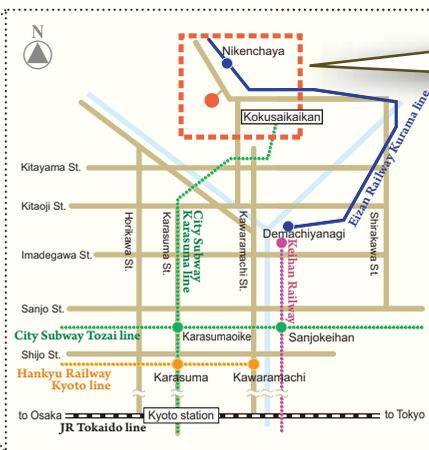
From Kyoto Station, take the Karasuma Line to Kokusaikaikan Station (the last station), and transfer to Kyoto Bus.

By Kyoto Bus

From Kokusaikaikan Station, take bus No. 40 or 50 to Chikyuken-mae. RIHN is at the base of the hill to your left.

By Eizan Railway

From Demachiyangi Station in Kyoto City, take the Kurama line. Exit at Nikenchaya Station. RIHN is a 10 minute walk to the South.



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