About RIHN

photo: Yasuhisa Kondo

The Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN) was established in April 2001 by the Government of Japan to promote integrated research in the field of global environmental studies. As a national institute, RIHN solicits, develops, hosts, and funds fixed-term research projects on pressing areas of interaction between humanity and nature. RIHN promotes coordinated, problem-centered, context-specific, and multi-dimensional science. RIHN projects can last from three to five years; they are always multidisciplinary and employ multiple methodologies, and they are supposed to offer solutions to the environmental problems under study.

RIHN maintains extensive national and international research networks and serves as the Regional Hub for Future Earth in Asia.

Laboratory

RIHN maintains eighteen laboratories for environmental analysis, including specialized facilities for analysis of DNA and stable isotopes.

Social Outreach

photo: Yuko Sasaki

Events

1. RIHN International Symposium
Each year RIHN holds an international symposium describing the key findings of concluding research projects.

2. RIHN Forum
The annual RIHN Forum provides an opportunity for the public to engage with current RIHN research.

3. RIHN Open House
RIHN opens its doors to the public once a year with a special curriculum for children.

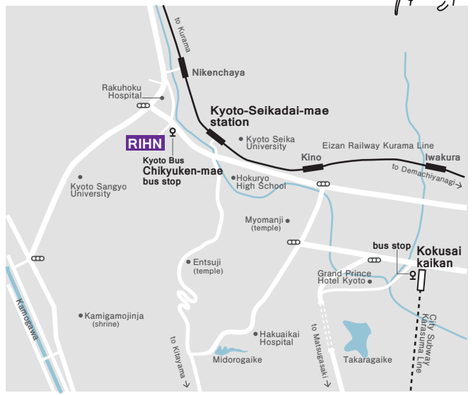
Publications

In addition to many individual publications for general and specialist audiences, 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.

International Collaboration

Memoranda of Understanding Research Cooperation Agreements
(As of April 1st, 2015)

- **Bangladesh**
  International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research
- **China**
  East China Normal University
  Peking University
  Yunnan Health and Development Research Association
- **Egypt**
  National Water Research Center
- **France**
  La Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme
- **India**
  Institute of Rajasthan Studies, JRN Rajasthan Vidyapeeth
  Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda
- **Indonesia**
  Indonesian Institute of Sciences
  The Center for International Forestry Research
  Universitas Hasanuddin
  Universitas Indonesia
- **Laos**
  National Institute of Public Health, Ministry of Health
- **Namibia**
  Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry
- **Niger**
  International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
  L'Organisation Nigeriennes des Educateurs Novateurs
- **Philippines**
  Laguna Lake Development Authority
  University of the Philippines Visayas
- **Russia**
  Far Eastern Federal University
- **Sudan**
  Sudan University of Science and Technology
- **Sweden**
  The Sven Hedin Foundation
- **Thailand**
  Faculty of Fisheries, Kasetsart University
  Rice Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
  Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center
- **Turkey**
  Adiyaman University
  Çukurova University
  Harran University
- **United Kingdom**
  Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures
- **United States of America**
  Mote Marine Laboratory
  The University of California, Berkeley
  University of the Virgin Islands
- **Zambia**
  Zambia Agricultural Research Institute, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock



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, 50 or 52 to Chikyuken-mae. RIHN is at the base of the hill on your left.

By Eizan Railway
From Demachiyanagi Station in Kyoto City, take the Kurama Line. Get off at Kyoto-Seikadai-mae Station. RIHN is a 10-minute walk from the station.

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Inter-University Research Institute Corporation
National Institutes for the Humanities
Research Institute for Humanity and Nature

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RIHN 2015-2016

Inter-University Research Institute Corporation
National Institutes for the Humanities
Research Institute for Humanity and Nature

photo: Shun Teramoto

Research Projects


photo: Shingo Hamada


photo: Hidetoshi Miyazaki

2011 2012 2013 2014 **2015**

Designing Local Frameworks for Integrated Water Resources Management

Project Leader **KUBOTA Jumpei**

This project conducts interdisciplinary investigation of the merits and demerits of distinct water management practices. Field and modeling studies are integrated to develop advanced description of the knowledge systems affecting water and to enable comprehensive analysis of Integrated Water Resources Management in collaboration with a wide spectrum of local and remote stakeholders, towards pro-humanistic water resources assessment and local governance.

2012 2013 2014 **2015** 2016

Creation and Sustainable Governance of New Commons through Formation of Integrated Local Environmental Knowledge (ILEK project)

Project Leader **SATO Tetsu**

This project studies and develops processes of local knowledge production and circulation in order to understand how community-based adaptive governance systems emerge and function. It examines and facilitates dialogue between scientific explanation and everyday ways of understanding, and it monitors how this knowledge changes as it is utilized at different points and levels of social networks.

2013 2014 **2015** 2016 2017

Human-Environmental Security in Asia-Pacific Ring of Fire: Water-Energy-Food Nexus

Project Leader **TANIGUCHI Makoto**

Climate change and economic development are increasing pressure on water, energy and food resources, presenting communities with difficult trade offs and potential conflicts among these resources. This project establishes a method to manage and optimize the human-environmental security of the water-energy-food nexus.

2014 **2015** 2016

Long-Term Sustainability through Place-Based, Small-Scale Economies: Approaches from Historical Ecology

Project Leader **HABU Junko**

This project examines the importance of place-based, small-scale and diversified economies for the long-term sustainability of human societies. Archaeological, historical, ethnohistorical and paleoenvironmental studies will test our hypothesis that long-term community sustainability has been directly linked to community scale and food system diversity.

2012 2013 2014 **2015** 2016

Coastal Area-Capability Enhancement in Southeast Asia

Project Leader **ISHIKAWA Satoshi**

Many coastal areas with high biodiversity and biological productivity are located in tropical zones of developing countries, as is the case in Southeast Asia. In such areas, ecosystem services, local livelihood and culture are closely related. As the roles and importance of ecosystem services being different among persons who have different interests and conditions, we try to fully examine several good practices of ecosystem managements based on local community participation, in order to compile the conditions and functions of each actor as “Area-Capability”.

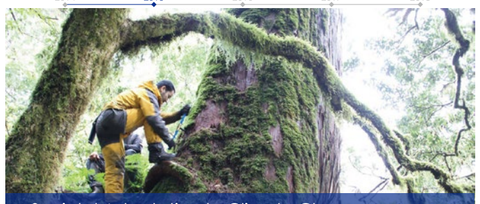
2012 2013 2014 **2015** 2016

Desertification and Livelihood in Semi-Arid Afro-Eurasia

Project Leader **TANAKA Ueru**

This project identifies the socio-ecological characteristics of livelihood in Semi-Arid Afro-Eurasia and adaptation strategies related to desertification. It re-examines techniques and approaches to desertification control and rural development assistance, and seeks feasible and practical solutions to encourage improved livelihood security for people living in fragile semi-arid environments.

2014 **2015** 2016 2017 2018



Societal Adaptation to Climate Change: Integrating Palaeoclimatological Data with Historical and Archaeological Evidences

Project Leader **NAKATSUKA Takeshi**

How have people adapted to abrupt climate change in the past? This project investigates the ways in which human societies in Japan have reacted to large abrupt climate changes since the Jomon era. Past climate variability can now be reconstructed with great precision in annual or monthly time resolutions due to recent developments in the analysis of palaeoclimatological proxies, such as tree-ring cellulose oxygen isotopic ratios.

2015 2016 2017 2018 2019

Biodiversity-Driven Nutrient Cycling and Human Well-Being in Social-Ecological Systems

Project Leader **OKUDA Noboru**

This project develops a transdisciplinary framework of adaptive watershed governance that can link nutrient cycling and human well-being, and so improve social involvement in biodiversity conservation and environmental restoration. It also establishes new methods to evaluate how biodiversity contributes to natural nutrient cycles and inspires citizens to practice community-based conservation activities.

RIHN Research Project Field Sites