

About RIHN

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 two 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 Centre for Future Earth in Asia.



Photo : Shun Ishiyama



Laboratory

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

Social Outreach

Events



- 1. RIHN International Symposium**
Each year RIHN holds an international symposium describing the key findings of concluding research projects.
- 2. RIHN Public Seminars**
Public seminars are held throughout the year at RIHN or in the city center.
- 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.



YouTube iTunes U

We have YouTube and iTunes U accounts for reporting RIHN International symposiums and seminars.



International Collaboration

Memoranda of Understanding Research Cooperation Agreements (As of March 31st, 2017)

- AUSTRIA**
International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis
- BANGLADESH**
International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research
- CHINA**
East China Normal University
Peking University
People's Government of Changzhou City
Yunnan Health and Development Research Association
- FRANCE**
La Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme
- INDIA**
Institute of Rajasthan Studies, JRN Rajasthan Vidyapeeth
Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda
- INDONESIA**
The Agency of Peatland Restoration (Badan Restorasi Gambut)
The Center for International Forestry Research
- LAOS**
National Institute of Public Health, Ministry of Health
- MALAWI**
University of Malawi
- NAMIBIA**
Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry
- NIGER**
L'Organisation Nigériennes des Educateurs Novateurs
- PHILIPPINES**
Laguna Lake Development Authority
University of the Philippines Diliman
University of the Philippines Visayas
University of Santo Tomas
- RUSSIA**
Far Eastern Federal University
- SUDAN**
Sudan University of Science and Technology
- SWEDEN**
The Sven Hedin Foundation
- TAIWAN**
Research Center for Environmental Changes, Academia Sinica
- THAILAND**
Faculty of Fisheries, Kasetsart University
Rice Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center
- UNITED KINGDOM**
Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures
- UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**
Mote Marine Laboratory
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 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.

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Photo : Ken-ichi Abe

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

2017-2018

Societal Transformation under Environmental Change

This program aims at providing realistic perspectives and options to facilitate the transformation towards a society that can flexibly respond to environmental changes caused by human activities such as global warming and air pollution, as well as to natural disasters.

Program Director **SUGIHARA Kaoru**

Project Leader **NAKATSUKA Takeshi** 2014 ~ 2018



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

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.

Project Leader **MIZUNO Kosuke** 2017 ~ 2021



Toward the Regeneration of Tropical Peatland Societies: Building International Research Network on Paludiculture and Sustainable Peatland Management

The objective of this research project is to generate solutions to the current crisis of peat degradation and the resulting fire and haze in tropical regions (especially Southeast Asia). This is done through implementation of alternative practices, such as rewetting and reforestation, in collaboration with local people, academia, government, NGOs, and international organizations. The project conducts multidisciplinary research including all stakeholders to clarify the entire picture of peatland degradation, paying special attention to the vulnerability and transformation of tropical peatland society.

Fair Use and Management of Diverse Resources

Taking tradeoffs into account, this program provides multifaceted options to stakeholders involved in production, distribution, and consumption of resources, in order to realize fair use, optimal management, and wise governance of diverse resources including energy, water and ecological resources.

Program Director **NAKASHIZUKA Tohru**

Project Leader **ENDO Aiko** 2013 ~ 2017



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

Climate change and social changes are causing increased pressure on water, energy and food resources, presenting communities with increased levels of tradeoffs and potential conflicts among these resources. The purpose of the project is to design optimal policy to increase human-environmental security within the complexity of water-energy-food nexus system.

Project Leader **OKUDA Noboru** 2015 ~ 2019



Biodiversity-driven Nutrient Cycling and Human Well-being in Social-Ecological Systems

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.

Designing Lifeworlds of Sustainability and Wellbeing

This program proposes research aimed at illuminating reciprocal linkages between diverse rural and urban lifeworlds and contributing to the solution of sustainability problems by working with various societal partners. Special emphasis is placed on envisioning sustainable futures that improve wellbeing and gauging their feasibility.

Program Director **SAIJO Tatsuyoshi**

Project Leader **Steven R. McGREEVY** 2016 ~ 2020



Lifeworlds of Sustainable Food Consumption and Production: Agrifood Systems in Transition

The FEAST project takes an action research approach to explore the realities and potential for sustainable agrifood transition at sites in Japan, Thailand, Bhutan, and China. We will analyze patterns of food consumption, food-related social practices and their socio-cultural meanings, and the potential of consumer-based agency to change deeply-held cultural notions and institutions. The notion of "lifeworld" captures the meaning behind the shared everyday lived experience of food consumption and production, and allows us to more deeply investigate and understand the "inner dimensions" that can catalyze socio-cultural change.

Project Leader **FUNAMIZU Naoyuki** 2017 ~ 2021



The Sanitation Value Chain: Designing Sanitation Systems as Eco-Community-Value System

The project proposes a new concept, the Sanitation Value Chain, which has the following dimensions: 1) Places the values of people and community in the center of discussion, and prepares the sanitation system to correspond to this value chain; 2) Recognizes a sanitation system as an integrated system with social and technical units. The project designs several pilot studies demonstrating the significance of societal, academic, and professional involvement in the co-creation of this value chain.

Core Program

Based on the mission of RIHN and in order to realize the strategies and policies formulated by the Council for Research Strategy, the Core Program undertakes research on an ongoing basis. During Phase III, the Core Program will develop concepts and methodologies to solve global environmental problems in collaboration with society.

Program Director **TANIGUCHI Makoto**

Project Leader **TAYASU Ichiro** 2017 ~ 2019



Proposal and Verification of the Validity of Isotope Environmental Traceability Methodology in Environmental Studies

In this project, we hypothesize that environmental traceability is a key concept needed to solve environmental issues for various stakeholders. We seek to establish a methodology for how to use the concept of environmental traceability. A combination of quantitative and qualitative tools, including "Multi-Isoscapes" (use of multiple elements and multiple isotope ratios, together with GIS-based mapping technique), social surveys, and workshops, are deployed to investigate the role of environmental traceability in confronting environmental issues.

Pre-Research (PR)

※This project will be converted to PR status in mid-2017.

Program 1

Research and Social Implementation of Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction as Climate Change Adaptation in Shrinking Societies

Project Leader **YOSHIDA Takehito**

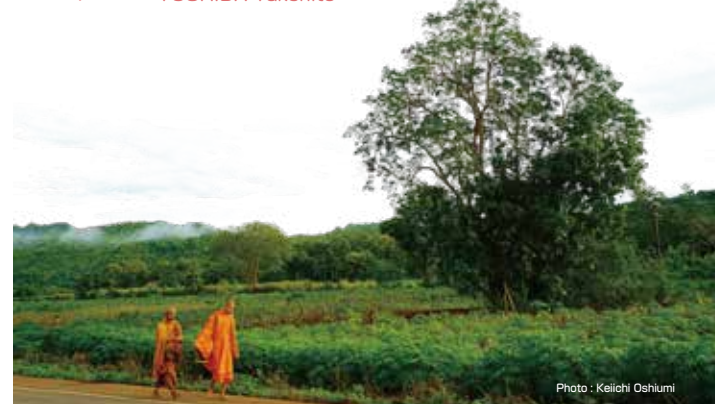


Photo: Keiichi Oshumi

