# About RIHN


Photo : Hideaki Higashi

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 Hub for Future Earth in Asia.

## Laboratory

Our laboratories specialize in stable-isotope analysis and a wide range of equipment is available for use by RIHN projects and outside users.

# Social Outreach

## Events

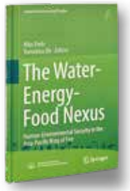

1. RIHN International Symposium
Each year RIHN holds an international symposium with leading academic figures from around the world.

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.

YouTube

iTunes

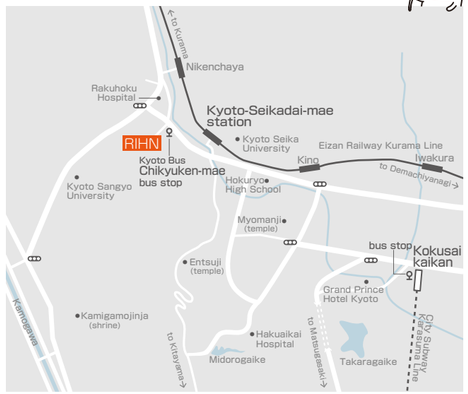
# International Collaboration

Memoranda of Understanding and Research Cooperation Agreements (As of April 1st, 2019)

- AUSTRIA
  International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis
- BHUTAN
  College of Natural Resources, Royal University of Bhutan
- BURKINA FASO
  l'Association des Jeunes pour la Protection de l'Environnement et d'Elevage
- CHINA
  East China Normal University
  Eco-environmental Protection Institute, Shanghai Academy of Agricultural Sciences
  Hainan Provincial Center for Disease Control and Prevention
  Peking University
  People's Government of Changzhou City
- FRANCE
  La Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme
- INDONESIA
  Indonesian Institute of Sciences
  The Agency of Peatland Restoration
  Universitas Riau
- LAOS
  Lao Tropical and Public Health Institute, Ministry of Health
- THE NETHERLANDS
  Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development, Utrecht University
- OMAN
  Sultan Qaboos University
- PHILIPPINES
  Laguna Lake Development Authority
  University of the Philippines Diliman
  University of Santo Tomas
- SWEDEN
  The Sven Hedin Foundation
- THAILAND
  Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Mahidol University
  Rice Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
- UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
  University of California, Berkeley
- ZAMBIA
  University of Zambia


Photo : Keiichi Oshiumi

## 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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# Research Institute for Humanity and Nature

2019-2020


Photo : Satoe Nakahara

Program 1

## 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 KOZAN Osamu 2017～2021


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

Tropical peatlands are in crisis. The peatlands drained for industrial purposes often suffer from great fires that threaten local people' s life and emit enormous amounts of $CO_2$. The haze also causes health hazards over a wide area. This project aims to create solutions to this problem, mainly in Indonesia. The project takes transdisciplinary approaches, in which researchers explore the effective ways of rewetting, reforestation and paludiculture on peatlands in collaboration with local communities and other stakeholders, paying special attention to the transformability of environmentally vulnerable societies.

Project Leader YOSHIDA Takehito 2018～2022

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

The rate of natural disaster occurrence has been increasing, partly due to contemporary climate change, and adaptation to natural disaster risks is increasingly important to the sustainability of human societies. At the same time, many societies are experiencing shrinking populations. Eco-DRR takes advantage of the multi-functionality of ecosystems and biodiversity, including their capacity to mitigate natural disasters while providing multiple ecosystem services, and population decline provides ample opportunity for implementing Eco-DRR. Our project will develop practical solutions for implementation of Eco-DRR.

Program 2

## 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 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.

Project Leader KANEMOTO Keiichiro 2019～2023

### Mapping the Environmental Impact Footprint of Cities, Companies, and Households

Economic growth in China and other developing countries is associated with severe global environmental problems, such as climate change and loss of biodiversity. Studies have shown that consumption in developed countries drives environmental emissions in developing countries. Unlike most studies, which focus on environmental emissions and international trade, this is the first study to clarify the effect of global supply chains on environmental impacts. In addition to countries and regions, we will estimate the environmental footprint of cities, companies and households.

Program 3

## 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 MCGREEVY, Steven R. 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 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 "lifeworld" concept 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 YAMAUCHI Taro 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.

Project Leader SAKAKIBARA Masayuki 2019～2023

### Co-Creation of Sustainable Regional Innovation for Reducing Risk of High-impact Environmental Pollution

In order to reduce Hg pollution from artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) in ASEAN countries, this project investigates a way to co-create sustainable societies using a transdisciplinary approach. It does this through regional innovations in ASGM areas, interregional networks generating Hg-free societies, and strengthening environmental governance. Using theory and practice, the project develops transformative boundary objects and transdisciplinary communities of practice.

## 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

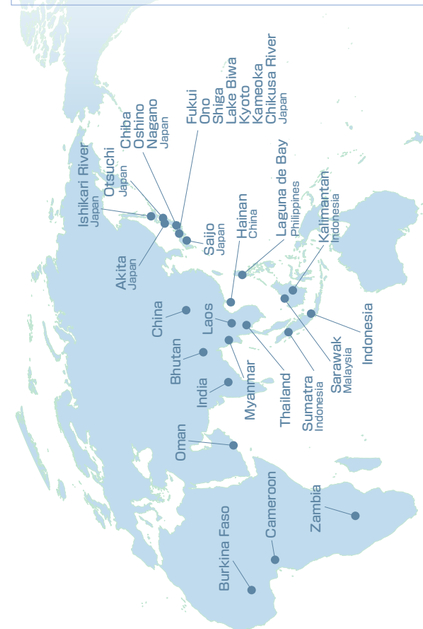
### Proposal and Verification of the Validity of Isotope Environmental Traceability Methodology in Environmental Studies

In this project, we investigate environmental traceability as a key concept needed to solve environmental issues for various stakeholders. This study seeks to establish methodologies for the use of environmental traceability in environmental studies. A combination of quantitative and qualitative tools, including "Multi-Isoscapes" (the use of multiple elements and multiple isotope ratios, together with GIS-based mapping techniques), social surveys, and workshops, are deployed to investigate the role of environmental traceability in addressing environmental issues.

Project Leader KONDO Yasuhisa 2018～2020

### Information Asymmetry Reduction in Open Team Science for Socio-environmental Cases

The Open Team Science Project develops a methodology to reduce socio-psychological asymmetry between actors in team-based science for socio-environmental cases. In our hypothesis, such asymmetry can be reduced through a combination of (1) discovering and sharing the goals that actors with different interests can tackle together (transcending); (2) participation and empowerment of marginalized (or "small voice") actors; (3) fair data visualization; and (4) dialogue. This hypothesis is being tested through case studies in collaboration with other research projects.




RIHN Research Project Field Sites