

Research Coordination

Research at RIHN is facilitated by two units, the Centers for Research Development (CRD) and Promotion (CRP).

The CRD consists of four units. The Planning Unit is chiefly responsible for establishing RIHN's long term vision and organizing fundamental committees, including those related to project evaluation and personnel affairs. The Initiative Framework Unit serves as a cross-cutting mechanism to capture and synthesize key contributions of individual- and institutional-collaboration projects and to develop new research projects within RIHN (the 'initiative-based' projects). The Collaboration Nexus Unit facilitates the internal and external research networks. The Future Earth Unit coordinates RIHN engagement with the international Future Earth initiative.

The Center for Research Promotion (CRP) is divided into three units. The Survey and Analysis Unit develops and maintains the laboratory facilities necessary for research and fieldwork (see page 40). The Informatics Unit builds the databases and archives supporting ongoing research. Finally, the Communication and Production Unit determines how communication regarding RIHN research, processes and outcomes should be established with academic, public and user-specific communities (see pages 38-39).





Science Communication

As a national research institute, RIHN is expected to conduct exemplary science. It also must communicate its research agenda and results to the public and contribute to public awareness and discussion of contemporary environmentalism. A number of public symposia, seminar series, and publications are designed to reach specialist and general audiences. Recent activities and publications include:

The Earth Forum Kyoto and the Earth Hall of Fame Kyoto Award

The Earth Forum Kyoto invites world-renowned experts and activists to discuss the environmental and cultural bases of more responsible human societies. The Earth Hall of Fame Kyoto Award is given to those who have made exemplary contributions to the protection of the global environment. Organizers of the event are the International Institute for Advanced Studies, the Kyoto International Conference Center, and RIHN.



The 2013 recipient of the Earth Hall of Fame Kyoto Award was Dr. MIYAWAKI Akira, Director of Japanese Center for International Studies in Ecology (JISE) and Emeritus Professor of Yokohama National University.

RIHN Forum

The RIHN Forum is usually held at the Kyoto International Conference Center and is open to the general public. Since 2004 the proceedings were published as books intended for a general audience.

Our Global Environmental Research for Humanity,
29 June 2013

RIHN International Symposium

An annual symposium at RIHN describing the key findings of concluding RIHN research projects.



Prof. Dr. Heinz Gutscher, Professor Emeritus of Social Psychology at the University of Zurich, giving the 2013 keynote address

Risk Societies, Edge Environments: Ecosystems and Livelihoods in the Balance
23-25 October, 2013

RIHN Public Seminars

Public seminars are held throughout the year at RIHN or in the city center.

Living a nature you know as yourself 15 February, 2013

Transdisciplinary Science Supporting Sustainable Community Development : Goals of ILEK Project
24 April, 2013

Daily Life in Rural Areas
— **The Reality of Wild Beast Damage and Protection Mesures**
21 June, 2013

RIHN Area Seminars

RIHN Area Seminars take place in, and address specific environmental issues pertaining to, a particular part of Japan.

Co-creation of well-being: Commons
13 October, 2012, Fujiyoshida civic hall, Fujiyoshida, Yamanashi



RIHN Seminars

This seminar series is oriented towards researchers at RIHN, inviting a wide range of visiting scholars to present their most current research. Seminars in 2011 included:

Breakthroughs in EcoHealth and Trans disciplinary Research through Participatory Public Policies in Laguna Lake Watersheds in the Philippines

Jamie Galvez Tan, Professor, University of the Philippines College of Medicine /President of Health Futures Foundation, Inc./RIHN Visiting Research Fellow
5 July 2013

Reflection on Cultural & Morphological Sustainability

Johannes Widodo, Associate Professor, Department of Architecture School of Design and Environment, National University of Singapore/RIHN Visiting Research Fellow
26 July 2013

Water Ethics: A Values Approach to Solving the Water Crisis

David Groenfeldt, Director, Water-Culture Institute/RIHN Visiting Research Fellow
3 October 2013

Understanding Mesquite Risk Dilemma and Sophism in Sudan

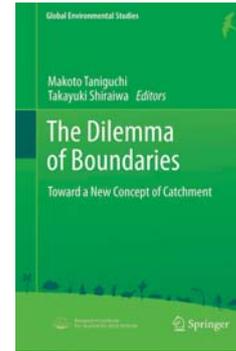
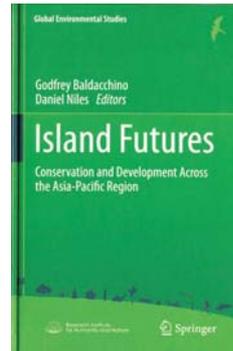
Mahgoub Suliman Mohamedain, Assistant Prof. at College of Forestry and Range Science, Sudan University of Science and Technology (SUST)/RIHN Visiting Research Fellow
12 November 2013

Environmental Humanities and a Transdisciplinary Response to Global Environmental Change. The experience of the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society.

Robert Emmett, Director of Academic Programs, Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society
3 December 2013

RIHN Book Series: Global Environmental Studies

RIHN has partnered with Springer Publishers to establish the Global Environmental Studies book series. Titles in the series will reflect the full breadth of RIHN scholarship.



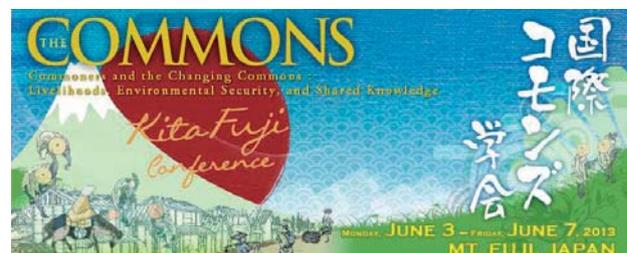
Other publishing



The Humanity and Nature Newsletter presents short articles in Japanese describing recent developments and discussions at the institute as well as emerging stories from the field. It is published six times a year in editions of 3000.

The 14th Global Conference of the International Association for the Study of the Commons

RIHN was co-organizer of the 14th Global Conference of the International Association for the Study of the Commons (IASC), which took place 3-7 June 2013 on the common lands located on at the base of the grand slope of Mt. Fuji. Fuji-san was an undeniable presence throughout the conference, surprising to see again and again looming above the conference venues, events, and city streets in all its majestic stature and silence. The first IASC conference to be co-organized by commoners and take place on common lands, the conference attracted over 400 participants from 57 different countries, and involved a full complement of plenary and paper sessions, workshops, field trips, performances, and other events. By all accounts it was a great success, with many participants thrilled at the chance to experience small-town and semi-rural Japan and learn of the rich history of the commons there. Thousands of local people contributed to the conference as direct participants in academic sessions and in many other ways that lent the conference a special human touch.



Research Facilities

Research rooms on the RIHN campus are designed to provide a sense of openness. The design concept is to allow implemented projects to be loosely interconnected as they occur in one large curved space 150 meters in length. The facilities help external researchers as well as RIHN research staff to meet one another, since they are designed with the maximization of shared use in mind. At the center of the main building, a library and computer room are located for the convenience of many users, and three common rooms are provided for casual discussions. On the basement floor, a cluster of fully functional laboratories has been designed with emphasis on convenience for shared use, as with the research rooms. The separate RIHN House is a guesthouse. The assembly hall and a dining lounge located to the left of the house entrance serve as meeting spaces for the RIHN staff as well as for guests.

Appropriately for an institution researching the global environment, RIHN is housed in a tile-roofed building suited to the Kyoto landscape, where as many as possible of the trees already on the site have been retained. Lighting and air-conditioning also employ the latest designs to minimize the building's impact on the environment. The design has won acclaim, receiving awards from the Illumination Engineering Institute of Japan, the Japan Institute of Architects, the Green Building Award from MIPIM Asia, and the Architectural Institute of Japan.

Management

RIHN researchers work across the breadth of global environmental studies. If the diverse knowledge they produce is the warp, then the unifying weft is provided by field measurement, laboratory analysis, data and information management, and academic and social communication of research progress and results. In maintaining and supporting RIHN research capacity to collect and analyze data and to communicate research in numerous professional and public fora, the Center for Research Promotion enhances our collaborative research around the world and contributes the kind of integrated knowledge that can solve global environmental problems.

Laboratories

RIHN research projects are multi-disciplinary and multimethod; in common they share the need for high quality physical observation and chemical and biological analysis of the surface environments of the earth. As a national institute, RIHN houses eighteen basement laboratories designed to address this need. There are state-of-the-art laboratories dedicated to microscopic, DNA and stable isotope analysis. Additional facilities include two fieldwork preparation rooms for storage and maintenance of observational and sampling equipment, three low-temperature rooms for organism and ice core storage, three incubator rooms for storage of organisms requiring specific temperatures, and a clean room in which samples can be processed in a contamination-free environment.



Instruments

RIHN research projects conduct a variety of studies around the world and collect a diverse range of samples that contain valuable information that will help illuminate human-nature interactions. Stable isotope and DNA data in particular can give very precise descriptions of how materials and species interact, change, and move through time and space. In addition to maintaining state-of-the-art laboratories, the Survey and Analysis Unit continues to develop new methods of data analysis and application. In conducting this research in collaboration with RIHN projects and universities and affiliated institutions throughout Japan, the division enhances the sophistication of experimental techniques and research information and promotes the shared use of facilities.



Main building



Main entrance hall



Basement laboratories



The RIHN House with one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments for guest researchers and their families.

