



## Message from the Director-General

The Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN) was established in April 2001 by the Government of Japan with the goal of promoting integrated research in the field of global environmental studies. RIHN's objective is to define how the interplay between human beings and Earth phenomena is the very source of environmental problems. Environmental degradation can be manifest as abnormality in this dynamic interplay between humanity and nature. RIHN thus attempts to go back to the drawing board and redefine such interactions from a global perspective, with due consideration given to regional characteristics and historical contexts. Based on the environmental knowledge gained through elucidation of interactions between humanity and nature that goes beyond existing frameworks of academic disciplines, RIHN research should propose innovative solutions to human-environmental problems.

RIHN is also part of the National Institutes for the Humanities, an inter-university research institute corporation. In order to promote futurability initiatives, which were suggested as part of Phase II of RIHN's medium-term targets and plans that began in fiscal 2010, a Core Research Hub was established within the Center for Research Development (CRD) so that research efforts can be further stimulated and integrated. In October 2010, research findings during the first decade were compiled in the RIHN Encyclopedia of Global Environmental Studies. Fiscal 2012 saw the launch of a

project to create a network-based repository of project data that, it is hoped, will facilitate RIHN's contributions to the solution of global environmental problems. In a bid to expand RIHN's functions and roles as an inter-university research institute, a full-fledged interactive base is being developed that may be used among universities and research institutes around the country. More recently, in fiscal 2013, a new system was introduced whereby RIHN collaborates with universities and other bodies to conduct joint research based on partnership agreements.

At present, Japan is joining forces with other countries to promote an international initiative called Future Earth, which is designed to create a sustainable global community through integrated global environmental studies. Accordingly, The Future Earth Unit was set up in October 2013, in the hopes that RIHN will make substantial progress as an institute of the forefront of global environmental studies.

I sincerely hope that this RIHN Prospectus will help you to deepen your understanding of these endeavors and achievements.

安成 哲三  
YASUNARI Tetsuzo

Director-General  
Research Institute for Humanity and Nature



Breezeway between buildings



Project rooms



Two views of the RIHN building and site in the north of Kyoto



## A Brief History of RIHN

- 1993 —Prime minister’s advisory panel on the Global Environment in 21st Century launched
- 1995 —“On the Promotion of Global Environmental Studies” published by The Science Council of Japan
- 1997 —Report “On the core research institute for Global Environmental Studies” published by MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology)
- 2001 —RIHN Established on the Kyoto University campus  
—HIDAKA Toshitaka, Director-General
- 2002 —RIHN relocated to the former Kasuga Primary School  
—5 FR projects implemented  
—The 1st RIHN Forum
- 2003 —5 Research Axes developed  
—3 FR projects implemented
- 2004 —RIHN becomes a member of the National Institutes for the Humanities  
—2 FR implemented  
—The 1st RIHN Public Seminar
- 2005 —1 FR implemented  
—The 1st RIHN Area Seminar
- 2006 —RIHN relocates to current facilities in northern Kyoto  
—3 FR implemented  
—The 1st RIHN International Symposium





2007

- TACHIMOTO Narifumi appointed as the second Director-General
- The Center for Coordination, Promotion and Communication established
- Research Axes redefined as five Research Domains
- RIHN-China established
- 5 FR implemented      First research projects concluded



2008

- 3 FR implemented
- The 1st Collaborative Symposium with the International Research Center for Japanese Studies



2009

- The Earth Forum Kyoto and Earth Hall of Fame Kyoto Award established
- 2 FR implemented

2010

- Core Research Hub established
- The RIHN Encyclopedia of Global Environmental Studies published
- 1 FR implemented

2011

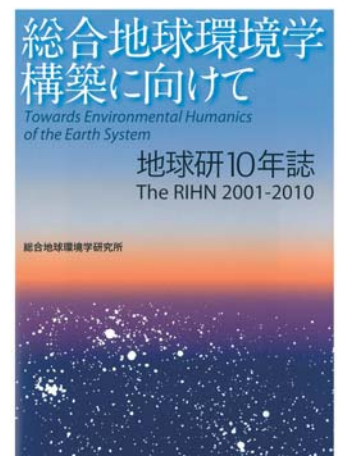
- RIHN 10 year anniversary and publication
- 2 FR implemented, including the first initiative-based project
- GEC-Japan network established

2012

- 3 FR implemented

2013

- YASUNARI Tetsuzo appointed as the third Director-General
- The Center for Coordination, Promotion and Communication reorganized into the Center for Research Development and the Center for Research Promotion
- 1 FR implemented



2014

- 2 FR implemented

