

# **IS and FS Review Procedural Manual, Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN)**

October 23, 2012

Decided by the RIHN Director-General

This procedural manual stipulates the basic policies for reviews of Incubation Studies (hereinafter, "IS") and Feasibility Studies (hereinafter, "FS"), as well as reviews for the adoption of candidate projects for Pre-Research (hereinafter, "PR"), by the Project Review Task Committee (hereinafter, the "PRT"), the process of which is provided in Article 2, Sections 1-3 of the Rules for the Project Review Task Committee of the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature.

## **Article 1. Review Guidelines**

The basic principles for reviews of research projects for adoption as IS and FS shall be as follows: IS and FS must be in line with RIHN's founding mission and philosophy (basic plan). In other words, a successful joint research plan must deal with academic and interdisciplinary themes that share RIHN's fundamental recognition and contribute solutions to certain clear and concrete issues related to global environmental problems and, after a certain research period has elapsed, announce to the general public a coherent account of its research findings and their significance.

### **1) Domain-based FS and Domain-based project:**

Special attention must be paid to originality and innovativeness for reviews of research projects for adoption as Domain-based FS and Domain-based project. Evaluation shall be made with focus on items as follows:

- a. Integrative/interdisciplinary: Whether the project aims at finding solutions to issues related to the global environment with an integrated perspective which transcends the conventional framework of academic disciplines, in line with the purpose of RIHN's Founding Mission.
- b. Innovative/academic: Whether the project leads to the formation of academic foundations, which create fundamental solutions to issues related to the global environment.
- c. International: Whether the project promises RIHN a leading position with an international research cooperation framework.
- d. Social contribution: Whether the project is expected to meet social demands with possible solutions for the current critical issues facing the global environment.
- e. Feasibility: Whether the project is well-planned and able to be implemented in a steady and feasible manner.

In addition, the project is expected to contribute to the research domain programs and to RIHN's Futurability Initiatives.

2) Initiative-based FS and Initiative-based project:

Initiative-based FS and Initiative-based projects are expected to present innovative frameworks that both integrate completed and ongoing RIHN research projects and lead to design science outcomes in line with RIHN's Futurability Initiatives. Evaluation of research projects for adoption as Initiative-based FS and Initiative-based projects shall be made with focus on items as follows:

- a. Integrative/interdisciplinary: Whether the project integrates past RIHN research outcomes (concepts, methods, and research networks) into new innovative frameworks.
- b. Innovative/academic: Whether the project will likely to produce to innovative academic outcomes, which contribute to framing and designing futurability and a more desirable society.
- c. International: Whether the project promises RIHN a leading position with an international research cooperation framework.
- d. Social contribution: Whether the project aims at creating knowledge with a wide spectrum of stakeholders (i.e., co-creation or co-design/co-production between science and society), and proposes a futable society.
- e. Feasibility: Whether the project is well-planned and able to be implemented in a steady and feasible manner.

**Article 2. Project Adoption Procedures**

Candidate research projects shall be reviewed for adoption as IS, FS, or PR at a public hearing in accordance with Article 3, Sections 1 and 4 and Article 4, Sections 1, 2, and 8 of the Operational Rules for Research Projects of the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, and shall be decided by the Executive Board after deliberation by the PRT. For adoption as IS, research projects which are reviewed at a public hearing shall be decided after screening of documents in designated forms, the qualifications of the applicants, and the contents of the proposed research.

**Article 3. Others**

Reviews for adoption shall be conducted in an integrated manner by taking into account the opinions of RIHN staff members at a public hearing, etc., as well as evaluation by PRT committee members.

**Supplementary Clauses**

This manual shall go into effect on October 23, 2012.