**Basic Policies on Research Activities of the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature**

Management Board, Research Institute for Humanity and Nature

Approved on November 15, 2013

The following basic policies set forth the basic philosophy of the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (hereinafter referred to as the “Institute”) and policies and procedures on research and other activities undertaken by the Institute

**I. Basic Philosophy of the Institute**

Responding to the global environmental problems humanity is currently facing, the Institute strives to elucidate the interdependence of humans and nature with an interdisciplinary science approach, while at the same time to pursue the applicable countermeasures toward a truly wealthy human society in a design-science approach. To do this, it has instituted program domains that comprise five perspectives: the three issue clusters Circulation, Diversity, and Resources, and the Ecohistory and Ecosophy programs which explore the development and linkage among the three issue clusters in time and space. In this endeavor, the establishment of a global environmental science that takes a comprehensive perspective of the linkage between humanity and nature and integrates existing academic disciplines is indispensible. As an Inter-University Research Institute, the Institute will pursue its mission by promoting inter-, multi- and trans-disciplinary research projects in collaboration with other universities and research institutions in Japan and abroad which engage with global environmental problems.

**II. Research Activities in the Institute**

In order to realize its Basic Philosophy, the Institute shall perform its research projects, engage in various activities for the integration and communication of the outcome of such projects, and roll-out various research activities.

1. Research projects

### In order to realize the Basic Philosophy, the Institute will implement collaborative research based on the modality of project research. Thorough consideration and discussion among various researchers holding different expertise are required for project planning. And Project shall hold high feasibility. For project selection and also during the implementation phase, rigorous evaluation will be undertaken in accordance with the progress stages of the research by a Research Project Evaluation Committee (“PEC”) consisting of experts from Japan and abroad, in order to improve the quality of the research content and at the same time to ensure the transparency of research project selection. Specific evaluation procedures will be determined by the PEC separately.

### For the smooth implementation of the research project mode and to realize the Basic Philosophy of the Institute, the program domains and Futurability Initiatives have been established as per the attached table.

* 1. The Research Projects of the Institute are classified into: (a) Individual Collaboration Project, which is conceived by broadly inviting project proposals from communities of researchers and carried out by individual or a small group of researchers; (b) Initiative-based Project, which integrates accomplishments made so far by the Institute within a frame of the design-oriented science under the initiative selected by the Institute; and, (c) Institutional Collaboration Project, which is a joint study conceived by and jointly carried out with a university or a research institute with which the Institute currently has or is scheduling to have a certain agreement (hereinafter “Associated Institution”) in compliance with the requirements desired by the Institute.
  2. Research projects form the basis of research activities conducted by the Institute. Rules for the concrete process of their implementation shall be established separately.

2. Projects organized by the National Institutes for the Humanities

As a member organization of the National Institute for the Humanities (hereinafter NIHU), the Institute shall contribute to the creation of new academic disciplines concerning the humanities and proactively participate in the projects organized by NIHU to promote academic researches in general. Results of such projects shall be considered equivalent to the research outcome of the Institute.

3. Externally-funded research activities

The Institute may conduct research activities on externally funds, in addition to those funded by subsidies for operating expenses from the Government of Japan, provided that, any proposed research content must be designed so as to contribute to the realization of the Basic Philosophy of the Institute and efforts are made to utilize the outcome of such research activities for the broad range of research activities of the Institute.

Rules for implementation of externally-funded research activities shall be established separately.

4. Support/promotion of research activities

The Institute shall conduct the following activities for overall assistance and promotion of the aforementioned research projects and other research activities:

1. Formulation of mid and long-term research strategies and future plan of the Institute through promotion of collaboration with research institutes both in Japan and overseas, investigation and information gathering on worldwide trends of global environmental studies.
2. Support for research projects through analysis of information and networking information databases regarding global environmental studies, creation of archives, management and maintenances of experiment facilities, development of new experiment techniques, and etc.
3. Integration of any research outcome and discovery of new research seeds based on the fundamental framework of the Future-design Initiatives aiming to create of a truly affluent human society having a vision for the future.

**III. Public-release and Communication of the Outcome of the Research Projects**

All results and outcomes accomplished by the research activities of the Institute shall be subject to public release irrespective of whether they are performed by individual researchers or jointly with others.

End

The attached documents

Programming domains

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| Circulation | Projects in this domain trace human impact on the global cycles of elements and goods, i.e., nutrients, water, within the biosphere. As these cycles are characterized by great complexity and dynamism, research projects in this domain tackle problems caused by excess and deficiency, inequality distribution, deterioration of cycles etc. |
| Diversity | Projects in this domain address global environmental problems arising from or associated with the loss of diversity, whether biological (including genetic diversity and availability of niches or habitats), or cultural (including diversity of languages, social structures, religions and world-views). |
| Resources | Projects in this domain investigate the features of the planet that humankind finds to be of immediate utility: plants, animals, and materials that humankind uses to satisfy its material and cultural needs, and whose use in turn forms the cultural landscapes of a time and place. |
| Ecohistory | Projects in this domain elucidate the dynamics and changes of the global environmental problems in circulation, diversity, or resource questions fields. There is particular emphasis on using new technologies to examine ecological dynamics involved in past civilizational rise and decline, and so to advance empirical and theoretical understanding of human-environmental dynamics throughout human history. |
| Ecosophy  (Global Area Studies) | Projects in this domain examine the manner in which contemporary environmental problems both contribute to and result from global phenomena and processes. Description is focused on the specific social and environmental contexts in which environmental problems are found, their linkages to social and material phenomena in other places, and the conceptual models used to describe such interconnection. |

The Futurability Initiatives

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| Fu-sui-do (GAIA)  Air, water and land | This initiative performs theoretical and empirical investigations of the physiospheric bases for humanity in regional and global scales and in past, present and future, aiming at establishing a flexible anthroposphere in dynamic earth environments. |
| San-ya-ka-kai (OIKOS)  Mountains, fields, rivers and oceans | This initiative describes the practices by which cultures and communities humanize biosphere, thereby linking commons and community for long-term maintenance of ecosystem services. |
| Sei-zon-chi (ETHOS)  Life, existence and intelligence | This initiative quests for ‘better’ life-style of human beings that desires a wealth of food and health under a variety of cultures and environments, in order to enhance human capability and capacity for coexistence between humanity and nature. |