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You can visit our homepage for further information on events and news

(http://www.chikyu.ac.jp/index_e.html)

You can also send us your feedback about our RIHN News and also share your questions, comments,

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The 5th Belmont Forum

We were honored to host the 5th Belmont Forum meeting at our facilities in Kyoto during January 16-18, 2012. Belmont Forum was initiated by collaborative efforts of the International Group of Funding Agencies for Global Change Research (IGFA) and the International Council for Science (ICSU) with other international organizations to improve communication and funding opportunities for research on global change. New CRA (Collaborative Research Action) possibilities and further collaboration with Future Earth initiative of ICSU were discussed during the meeting. Please check the official website of the Belmont Forum for detailed activities and the ongoing process of the Forum. <http://www.igfagcr.org/index.php/belmont-forum>

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



The Earth Forum Kyoto

RIHN is one of the organizing partners of the Earth Hall of Fame KYOTO and the Earth Forum Kyoto with Kyoto Prefecture, Kyoto City, Kyoto Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Japanese Ministry of the Environment, International Institute for Advanced Studies, and the Kyoto International Conference Center to honor and support the achievements and dedicated of those who have long contributed to protection and awareness of global environment. The inductees of the third Earth Hall of Fame KYOTO are Professor Klaus Töpfer, executive director of the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies and Mr. Lester Brown, president of Earth Policy Institute. The award ceremony and following the Earth Forum was held in the historic Kyoto International Conference Center during February 11 and 12. <http://www.pref.kyoto.jp/en/1264665552641.html>

The 12th PEC (Project Evaluation Committee) Meeting

Every year in February, all RIHN community get very excited as almost two third of our projects come to the front of the external Project Evaluation Committee (PEC) to present their overall performance and get advice for future direction of projects. PEC is composed of 14 distinguished scholars who are acclaimed for excellent work in their fields and environmental studies. This year's PEC meeting took place during February 16 and 17.

GEC-Japan Platform Corner

RIHN has initiated GEC-Japan (Global Environmental Change- Japan) platform in order to facilitate and promote institutional and research collaboration among Japan representatives of the GEC Programs. Having its emphasis and starting point in Japan, the initiative endeavors to focus on establishment of sound and innovative research community to be the channel for Asia Vision on global change and sustainability development. You can follow the recent activities on our website.

<http://www.chikyu.ac.jp/gec-jp/>





Upcoming Events

Planet under Pressure-New Knowledge towards Solutions,
March 26-29, 2012 (London)

RIHN Sessions:

1. Asian Vision on Transdisciplinary Sustainability Development and Environmental Research

(Day 2: Options and Opportunities, Theme B: Transforming our way of living: development pathways under global environmental change)

March 27, Tuesday, 10:30-12:00
(Room 8)

Poster Session 2, 17:30-19:30 (ICC Capital Hall, N11)

2. Water: Integrated Assessment, Governance and Management in Changing Conditions at Global, Regional and Trans-boundary Levels

(Day 2, Theme A: Meetings global needs: food, energy, water and other ecosystem services)

March 27, Tuesday, 16:00-17:30
(Room 8)

http://www.chikyu.ac.jp/archive/topics/2012/e-topics_120326-29.html

Volume Special: Annual RIHN Project Presentation Meeting



Before PEC meeting of February, RIHN community gets together towards the end of the year to present each RIHN project's annual research performance and findings. We usually spent three days as all RIHN researchers and other colleagues, who are usually previous RIHN researchers or board members and invited as commentators, presenting each project and have open discussion on any matter related with the ongoing progress and future plan of the projects. There are two main purposes of this annual gathering: help the projects that will present at the PEC meeting in the following February to get prepared and promote dynamic and stimulating discussions for better research progress and organization of projects as well as encourage young researchers to actively join RIHN endeavor of promoting integrated environmental studies.

Research at RIHN

Vulnerability and Resilience of Social-Ecological Systems (Leader: Assoc. Prof. Chieko Umetsu, FY2007-FY2011)

This project aimed at “tackling challenging issues of poverty, human security and environmental degradations in a semi-arid area's rain fed agricultural economy that is highly vulnerable to climate and other environmental variability” (project website). The project has developed a method based on assessment of resilience according to four research themes.

The first theme focus was the soil and forest resources to analyze ecological resilience. The second theme was based on conducting interviews with farm households/communities and identifying the factors affecting social resilience. The third theme looked at the historical changes in land tenure system made by government policies and their effects on the natural environment. This theme also covered the socio-political factors of increasing vulnerability and the process of collapse and recovery of resilience in different communities. The last theme selected was a group of issues like utilizing statistics, remote sensing data and aerial photographs to help trace long-term changes in soil and forestry resources in addition to the analysis of data on rainfall and temperature.

The project has extensively published and communicated its research findings via public and research seminars held both in Japan and in fields where the project was implemented with local partners. <http://www.chikyu.ac.jp/resilience/>

Recent Events

- **The 10th RIHN Regional Collaboration Seminar,**
January 14 (Shiga Prefectural Museum of Lake Biwa, Otsu)
“Preservation of Water Vicinities and Futurability of Lake Biwa”

- **Project Symposium**
February 1 (RIHN, Kyoto),
“Agro-megacities: The role of farming for sustainable development of mega-urban regions”

- **Project Conference,**
February 9 (RIHN, Kyoto)
“Third Conference of the Japanese Consortium for Lao Health Research”

- **International Symposium,**
February 18-19 (RIHN, Kyoto)
“Rice and Human Migration in Asia”

Notice Board

• Project Applications

- If you are interested in initiating a research proposal at RIHN, you can first apply with your proposal to be evaluated for Incubation Study. Deadline for this application is usually end of March or beginning of April. For further details on research project application procedures and exact deadlines, please contact our office. Contact: RIHN Research Cooperation Section, kenkyou[at]chikyu.ac.jp ([at]=@)

• Job Openings

- Please check our homepage for the recent and updated job openings.
http://www.chikyu.ac.jp/index_e.html

Recent Publications

- RIHN Leaflet 2011

http://www.chikyu.ac.jp/archive/documents/leaflet/index_e.html

- RIHN Prospectus 2011

http://www.chikyu.ac.jp/archive/brochure/2011/index_e.html

- RIHN Annual Report 2009

http://www.chikyu.ac.jp/archive/annual_report/index_e.html

- RIHN Book Series: Global Environmental Studies

Island Futures: Conservation and Development Across the Asia-Pacific Region (Baldacchino and Niles, eds., Springer, 2011)

http://www.chikyu.ac.jp/archive/publication/rhn-series_e/index_e.html