



Photo: Chieko Umetsu

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information on events and news

([http://www.chikyu.ac.jp/index\\_e.html](http://www.chikyu.ac.jp/index_e.html))

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E-mail: [rihn-news\[at\]chikyu.ac.jp](mailto:rihn-news[at]chikyu.ac.jp) ([at]=@)

Tel: +81-75-7072100

## New RIHN Director General



After six years at the helm of RIHN, Dr. Tachimoto Narifumi has retired and from 1 April 2013 Dr. Yasunari Tetsuzo has taken over as Director General.

Dr. Yasunari holds a doctorate from Kyoto University and is a distinguished scientist in the fields of meteorology, climatology, and climate systems studies. As a student Dr. Yasunari had a keen interest in “exploration” and he spent a substantial period engaged in fieldwork in the Andes (Chili, Patagonia).

He continued this field orientation as a Ph.D. student, when he spent one year Nepal, observing glaciers and climate in the Himalayas at over 4000 meters altitude. It was in Nepal that his long-term interest in the dynamics of the Asian Monsoon started. As his career took him to Tsukuba and Nagoya Universities and involved him in major international research collaborations, his perspective widened as he began to consider interactions of atmospheric energy and water cycles with oceanic and land surfaces and further expanded to examine the relationship between climate and biosphere.

Dr. Yasunari sees RIHN become a global leader for the construction of new environmental knowledge that considers the harmonious and sustained interaction of people and nature. “Now that in many ways the boundaries of existence on earth are approaching, it will be important to explore what kind of new landscape and civilization can be constructed on earth.”

Dr. Yasunari is currently a council member of the Science Council of Japan, and Chairman of the Joint National Committee for IGBP, WCRP and DIVERSITAS under this council.

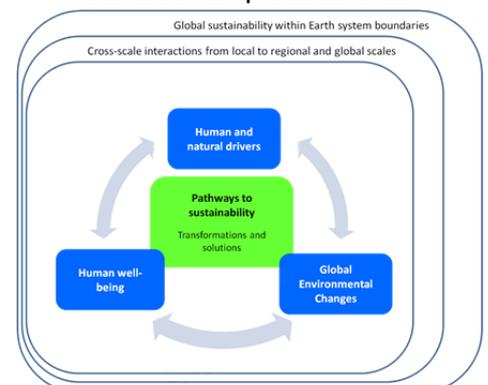
## GEC-Japan Platform Corner

### Future Earth Transition Report

Building on a broad range of consultations with the global environmental change research community, the Future Earth Transition Team has completed its report. Key highlights of the report include:

- How Future Earth will adopt an integrated and solutions-oriented approach to global environmental change issues to inform a transition to global sustainability.
- A proposed governance structure to ensure that excellence in research, across the range of natural and social sciences, engineering and humanities, and strategic stakeholder engagement, can be delivered under Future Earth.
- The importance of co-designing research with stakeholders, and initial thinking on how to address capacity building at global and regional levels, how to develop a strategic approach to communications and engagement
- Funding: current and future perspectives. Ways to open up the funding landscape for global environmental change research
- Concrete steps towards the implementation of Future Earth  
(See: <http://www.icsu.org/future-earth>)

### Future Earth conceptual Framework





## Recent Events

### -Futurability Initiatives International Workshop

January 21 (RIHN)

*"Transdisciplinary Research on Global Environmental Problems"*

### - 4<sup>th</sup> Kyoto Environmental Culture Academic Forum

February 17 (KICC, Kyoto)

### - 4<sup>th</sup> Earth Hall of Fame Kyoto Prize

February 17 (KICC, Kyoto)

### - RIHN International Survey:

#### Project Evaluation Mission

March 13-18 August

We visited EU DG Research & Innovation, European Science Council and UN Research Institute for Social Development to learn about approaches to project evaluation

### -RIHN International Workshop

March 16 (Kyoto University)

*"The Humanities Approach to Global Environmental Research"*

### -International Conference

March 14-15 (Monash University

Sunway Campus, Malaysia)

*"Climate Change & Natural Disasters in Asia: Emerging Food Security and Eco-Health Issues"*

### -LakeHEAD Project International Symposium on Laguna Lake

April 8 (RIHN)

See Volume Special (right)

## Volume Special: LakeHEAD Project International Symposium



On 8 April 2013, the RIHN LakeHEAD Project (R-06) organized a symposium addressing the Environment and Health Challenges of Laguna de Bay, the largest lake in the Philippines. The symposium started with a keynote speech by Dr. Juan Romeo Nereus O. Acosta, Presidential Advisor on Environmental Protection in the Office of the President of the Philippines and General Manager of the Laguna Lake Development Authority. Laguna Lake and its watersheds, which include Metro Manila and accommodate 20% of the population and 60% of GDP of the Philippines, are beset by a host of environmental problems, including deforestation and soil erosion in the upper reaches, sedimentation and flooding, industrial development, deteriorating water quality, over-exploitation by aquaculture, and eutrophication. The project researchers have found elevated levels of heavy metals in the lake and are examining to what extent this is influencing the health of the people around the lake. In doing so, the researchers work closely with communities, local government and the Lake Development Authority.

## New Research Project

### Human-environmental Security in the Asia Pacific Ring of Fire:

#### Water-Energy-Food Nexus

Principle Investigator: Makoto Taniguchi

Duration: 5 years from April 2013

Climate change and economic development are putting increased pressure on water, energy and food resources, presenting communities with increased levels of tradeoffs and potential conflicts among these resources and stakeholders. We will take a regional perspective on these global environmental problems. The geological and geomorphological conditions in our proposed study area are heavily influenced by the so-called Pacific Ocean "Ring of Fire". Within these areas, including Japan and Southeast Asia, the hydro-meteorological conditions are dominated by the Asia monsoon. The populations that live under these natural conditions face elevated risk and potential disaster, while also benefitting from positive ecological goods and services. This research project will strive to establish a method to manage and optimize the human-environmental security of the water-energy-food nexus.

We will hire five postdoctoral researchers for this project. The position announcement can be found at: [http://www.chikyu.ac.jp/rihn\\_e/position.html](http://www.chikyu.ac.jp/rihn_e/position.html)

## Upcoming Events

### -50<sup>th</sup> RIHN Public Seminar

May 24 (RIHN)

*"Science in Support of the Construction of Sustainable Regions"*

### - The Commons

14<sup>th</sup> Global Conference of the International Association for the Study of the Commons, June 3-7, 2013 (Mt. Fuji, JAPAN)

<http://iasc2013.org/en/index.html>

### -Future Earth in Japan Workshop

June 18 (Tokyo)

### -Future Earth in Asia Symposium

Mid-January 2014 (RIHN)

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

## Recent Publications

### RIHN Prospectus 2013-2014

The RIHN Prospectus provides a complete overview of the Institute, including:

- Philosophy, History & Structure
- Active project summaries
- Current Feasibility Studies
- Completed Research
- Research Coordination, Facilities & Science Communication

[http://www.chikyu.ac.jp/archive/brochure/2013/index\\_e](http://www.chikyu.ac.jp/archive/brochure/2013/index_e)

### RIHN Leaflet 2013-14:

[http://www.chikyu.ac.jp/archive/documents/leaflet/2013/RIHN\\_leaflet2013EN.pdf](http://www.chikyu.ac.jp/archive/documents/leaflet/2013/RIHN_leaflet2013EN.pdf)