

# NIHU TRANSDISCIPLINARY PROJECTS

## ACTIVITY REPORT 2016-2018





## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

National Institutes for the Humanities (NIHU) is one of the largest research organizations in Japan, with over 300 researchers in the humanities and sciences who gather together under the banner of humanities research.

Since our establishment, we have been working to advocate a new paradigm for humanities research, which aims to solve problems in order to creatively reconstruct the knowledge and traditions that human beings have accumulated—transcending the barriers of academic disciplines, society, and customs—and to truly enrich people's lives.

In particular, attempts to shape the future by utilizing science, technology and innovation have advanced in recent years. But when considering these advancements, it is essential to make use of the academic accumulation of humanities research relating to universal and fundamental issues such as the quantity and quality of human happiness, or social fairness and disparities.

During our Third Mid-Term target and planning period, which began in fiscal 2016, we established 17 NIHU Transdisciplinary Projects aimed at contributing to the resolution of contemporary issues by building a new research system, in collaboration with the six institutions that constitute NIHU, universities and other research institutes in Japan and overseas, and local communities and industries.

There are three types of NIHU Transdisciplinary Projects: (I) Institute-based Projects, dealing with core issues at each institution, (II) Multidisciplinary Collaboration Projects, conducting new transdisciplinary research through broad transdisciplinary cooperation across fields of specialization, and (III) Network-based Projects, promoting regional research in Northeast Asia, the modern Middle East and South Asia, and research

related to Japan-related materials in Europe and the United States, based on organized collaboration with universities and other institutions both in Japan and overseas. As well as making use of the diverse research resources and networks accumulated by the six institutions that constitute NIHU itself, we are also working to build new knowledge in cooperation with various parties, including members of local communities and industries, as well as universities and other research institutes in Japan and elsewhere. The research outcomes of these projects are communicated widely—both in Japan and overseas—through academic publications and presentations, and through various other methods and media such as publications, databases, video and exhibition productions.

They also contribute to the development of new educational programs at universities and the development of young researchers equipped with expertise and management skills.

This Activity Report highlights the initiatives and outcomes that were considered to be excellent in evaluations by outside expert committee members, based on the results obtained from the 2016 academic year through the 2018 academic year (the first half of the Third Mid-Term target and planning period).

Looking ahead, we would like to drive further research and expand the possibilities of new developments by receiving opinions from a wide range of people. We ask for your further support and assistance in the new challenges being tackled by NIHU.

President, National Institutes for the Humanities  
Inter-University Research Institute Corporation

Hirakawa Minami

# NIHU TRANSDISCIPLINARY PROJECTS STRUCTURE



## INSTITUTE-BASED PROJECTS

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Constructing Integrated Studies of Cultural and Research Resources, and Renovating Sharing Infrastructures of Research Resources in Japanese History and Cultures

**Rekihaku**  
( National Museum of Japanese History )

Project to Build an International Collaborative Research Network for Pre-modern Japanese Texts

**NIJL**  
( National Institute of Japanese Literature )

A New Integration of Japanese Language Studies based on Diverse Language Resources

**NINJAL**  
( National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics )

Historical and International Research into Popular Culture to Pursue New Images of Japan

**Nichibunken**  
( International Research Center for Japanese Studies )

Transformation Towards Sustainable Futures in Complex Human-Nature Systems in Asia

**RIHN**  
( Research Institute for Humanity and Nature )

Info-Forum Museum for Cultural Resources of the World

**Minpaku**  
( National Museum of Ethnology )



## MULTIDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

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**Rekihaku, NIJL, NINJAL, RIHN, Minpaku**

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Development of a Field of Comprehensive Bibliographical Studies from an Interdisciplinary Perspective

**Rekihaku, NIJL, NINJAL, Nichibunken**



## NETWORK-BASED PROJECTS

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Network-based projects examine critical issues about Japan from a global context by exploring societies and cultures. A wide network of universities and research institutions in Japan and overseas collaborate on comprehensive research programs that incorporate a vast array of fields. Network-based Projects consist of two themes; “Area Studies” and “Japan-related Documents and Artifacts Held Overseas.”

### NIHU Area Studies

Northeast Asia	<b>Minpaku and cooperating universities</b> (For details of universities, please refer to page 18)
Modern Middle East	<b>Minpaku and cooperating universities</b>
South Asia	<b>Minpaku and cooperating universities</b>

### Japan-related Documents and Artifacts Held Overseas: NIHU International Collaborative Research and Utilization

The Archives of the Dutch Factory in Hirado: Reconstruction, Research, and Analysis	<b>Nichibunken</b>
Insights into Japan-related Overseas Artifacts and Documents from 19th-century Europe, Research and Use: Developing the Foundation for International Collaboration in Transmitting Japanese Culture	<b>Rekihaku</b>
Research, Conservation and Utilization of the Marega Collection Preserved in the Vatican Library	<b>NIJL</b>
Survey, Study and Use of the Japan-related Documents and Artifacts in North America: Socio-historical Approach to ‘Modern Overseas Material Informatics’	<b>NINJAL</b>
Coordination between Projects to Make Effective Use of Research Results	<b>Nichibunken</b>





NIHU's six institutes have established priority research themes in accordance to their respective missions. They collaborate with Japanese and overseas institutions and researchers to conduct research that advances each institute's specialist areas.

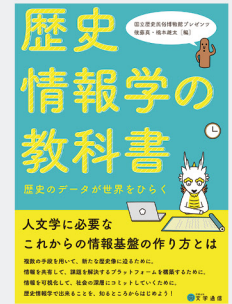
## Rekihaku (National Museum of Japanese History)

### Constructing Integrated Studies of Cultural and Research Resources, and Renovating Sharing Infrastructures of Research Resources in Japanese History and Cultures

Rekihaku conducts integrated research in history and related fields based on a digital network of historical resources under the slogan of "Constructing Integrated Studies of Cultural and Research Resources." In addition to building a system (khirin) that serves as a transdisciplinary data infrastructure for historical resources, Rekihaku has also published four books. In particular, the University of Michigan Press published an electronic collection of papers on the results of interdisciplinary collaborations such as scientific analysis of washi (traditional Japanese paper) used in

ancient documents, analysis of metal properties of koban (oval-shaped Japanese gold coins), and the state of data infrastructure construction, in both Japanese and English.

Rekihaku also published an e-book entitled "Textbook of Historical Informatics." It gives an easily understandable explanation of matters particularly relating to Digital Humanities and was created for young researchers who will study Digital Humanities in the future. These e-publications are open-access and available for anyone to view.



khirin  
<https://khirin-ld.rekihaku.ac.jp/>

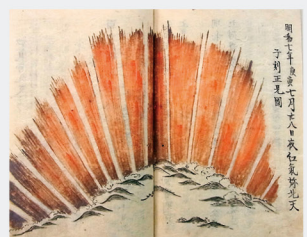
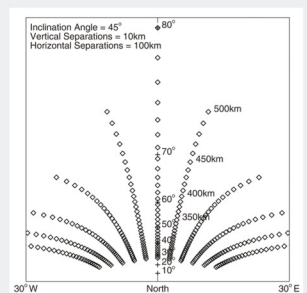
## NIJL (National Institute of Japanese Literature)

### Project to Build an International Collaborative Research Network for Pre-modern Japanese Texts

The aims of this NIJL project are to build comprehensive database of pre-modern Japanese texts (with approximately 300,000 images available for public viewing) and advance international joint research efforts. As one outcome of the project, patterns of continuous giant magnetic storms (aurora) in the Heian and Kamakura periods were uncovered from descriptions in *Meigetsuki* and other pre-modern texts in interdisciplinary research with the National Institute of Polar Research (NIPR). The findings were published in *Space Weather*, a peer-reviewed academic journal of the American Geophysical Union, in March 2017. In September of the same year, research findings based

on drawings of aurora and diaries from the Edo period and estimating what may have been the largest magnetic storm in history (surpassing the Carrington Event, which has been said to be the largest magnetic storm in recorded history), were also published in the same journal.

These research findings are remarkable results that have great significance in a wide range of fields such as society, economy and security, as they offer a forecast of the occurrence of magnetic storms on 1,000-year scale, created in collaboration between Japanese literary experts who decipher materials and astronomers who analyze them.



Top: The modeled geometry of the auroral appearance as seen from Kyoto on 17 September 1770  
Bottom: The painting of the red aurora of 17 September 1770 in the premodern Japanese text "Seikai," which is owned by the Matsusaka City

## A New Integration of Japanese Language Studies based on Diverse Language Resources

The Corpus of Everyday Japanese Conversation, CEJC (monitor version), released in the 2018 academic year, is a database to record various kinds of daily conversations on a large scale. Although everyday conversation is the most familiar form of communication, there has been no large-scale multimedia database to cover a diversity of everyday conversations. This corpus includes video available for public viewing, in addition to audio and written text, making it a world-first attempt.

In addition to enabling conversational research from different perspectives, including

gaze (line of sight) and gestures, the project is also attracting attention from both academia and industry as data that can be applied to information processing such as speech recognition and artificial intelligence technology development such as interactive conversational systems. Just one and a half months after the monitor version (50 hours) was released, there were more than 150 applications for use, from IT companies and other clients. In the 2022 academic year, NINJAL plans to release 200 hours of data.



Recorded video data

## Historical and International Research into Popular Culture to Pursue New Images of Japan

This project's main activities so far include holding the Media-mix Popular Culture symposium, a general international symposium by The Japanese Popular Culture Research Project (2018 academic year), which summarized the third year of the project, and an international workshop series session in Beijing (academic and educational programs) hosted in association with Tsinghua University, the Japan Foundation, Beijing Foreign Studies University, and Beijing Normal University (also in 2018).

Nichibunken has also launched a project across each team to produce textbooks on Japanese popular culture, and is working on the production of prototype versions of these textbooks and on the implementation of mock classes overseas (since the 2017 academic year). We are also conducting exhibition projects such as *Nichibunken Collection Depictions of "Laughter" and "Fear": The Illustrated World of Shunga & Yokai* (co-hosted by Hosomi Museum, Kyoto and The Kyoto Shimbun newspaper).



**Top:** Flyer for a general international symposium for The Japanese Popular Culture Research Project

**Bottom:** Popular culture research international workshop series in Beijing (Beijing Center for Japanese Studies, Beijing Foreign Studies University)



## Transformation Towards Sustainable Futures in Complex Human-Nature Systems in Asia

RIHN undertakes large-scale, fixed term international projects that are interdisciplinary and solution-oriented, targeting Asia which is home to diverse natural environments, cultures, values and worldviews, but is also a hotspot for environmental problems in the midst of rapid economic growth. In undertaking these projects, RIHN is working closely with not only the academic community but also a diverse range of other stakeholders such as government agencies.

In one such initiative, RIHN analyzed the impact of climate change on Japanese history by using the oxygen isotope ratio of tree rings to successfully recreate annual precipitation data over the course of 5,000 years (the longest period in the world in terms paleoclimatological data), and comparing these data with historical records (2018). These projects are developing with field sites beyond Asia throughout the world and RIHN is building on these networks to function as an international research hub.



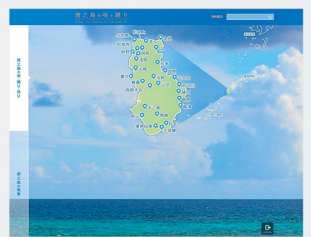
**Top:** Collecting annual ring core samples  
**Bottom:** Groundwater survey in the Philippines (photograph by Yoshitoshi Uehara)

## Info-Forum Museum for Cultural Resources of the World

Minpaku has carefully examined and released 38,744 resources (603,098 records), both public and in-house, with the aim of building a multilingual multimedia database of diverse cultural resources on a global scale. Even when considered globally, there is no other example of such a database of academic materials equipped with not only textual information but also multimedia content (photographs, videos, etc.) and its academic, social and international significance

is very high.

Minpaku is also engaged in cutting-edge research activities for the exchange of knowledge of anthropology, such as creating international joint research utilizing the constructed database, international collaborative exhibitions in partnership with Japanese and overseas research institutes, universities and museums, and source communities that are responsible for the cultural content itself.



Efforts to Pass on Culture in Source Communities Utilizing Databases: Using a Database of "Songs and Dances of Tokunoshima" at Tokunoshima Nishiagina Elementary and Junior High School



# MULTIDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

## NIHU Transdisciplinary Projects

NIHU's six institutes contribute their specialist expertise (history, literature, language, regional research and the environment) to develop new methodologies for human culture research and to grow new disciplines. The project is carried out in cooperation with universities, research institutions and local communities in Japan and overseas.

### Creating New Fields through Interdisciplinary Integration

#### Development of a Field of Comprehensive Bibliographical Studies from an Interdisciplinary Perspective

## Development of a New Genre in Japanese Humanities: Missionary Writings in the Vernacular

From Francis Xavier in the 16th century to modern missionaries, the activities of missionaries to spread the word of Christianity were the practice of multicultural fusion, and it has been discovered that they in fact left a huge number of works written in Japanese. NIHU institutes have developed the new literary genre of “Mis-

sonary Writings in the Vernacular” through efforts such as the publication of a collection of papers entitled *Japanese Literature by Foreign Missionaries* (September 2017), the book *Weaving St. Xavier's Dreams* (March 2018), and the hosting of the international workshop Legacies of Kirishitan Culture (August 2017).

**Top:** The collection of papers entitled *Japanese Literature by Foreign Missionaries: The Origin of Multi-lingual, Multi-cultural Communication*

**Bottom:** Scene from a workshop at The European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS) at the University of Lisbon



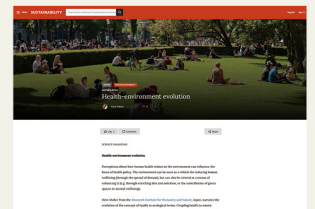
#### Rethinking Eco-health in Asia

## An Environmental Studies Approach to the Definition of the Concept of “Health”

The project's leader described the concept and importance of “ecohealth” research in Japan from the perspective of the humanities in the paper, “The evolution of health as an ecological concept,” which was published in *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, an international journal focusing on science research with

an impact factor of 5 or higher (April 2017).

In November 2017, the paper was praised highly by the editor of the journal *Nature Sustainability*, who said that it raised the new question of “If disease disappears, can we say that humans are healthy?”



<http://go.nature.com/2i4jByX>

#### Change of Local Communities and Reconstruction of Community Cultures after Disasters in the Japanese Archipelago

## Building a New Theory of Creation of Community Cultures

Local communities are currently facing a variety of problems, as regional diversity is being lost due to social transformation and disasters. In this project, researchers are working to establish a new theoretical framework that contributes to the creation of local culture by integrating together viewpoints such as language, historical materials, symbolic representational

systems and environmental protection. As of the 2018 academic year, eight volumes detailing these activities have been published as a series of booklets entitled *Seeking New Possibilities for Research on Community Cultures*. These are also useful for the revitalization of local communities.





## Interdisciplinary Collaboration Beginning from the Humanities

### Collaborative Research on Ancient Foods by Historical and Fishery Studies

We regard the ancient Japanese legislative text *Engishiki* as an ancient encyclopedia. NIHU has established a cooperative system with researchers in various fields such as Digital Humanities, food science, botany and archaeology, conducting research based on new perspectives such as the modern utilization of ancient knowledge and technologies.

In the 2018 academic year, NIHU researchers developed food-related research with fisheries researchers using an approach not found in conventional literary history, and presented at the Fisheries Society of Japan, going beyond the conventional field of historical research (March 2019).



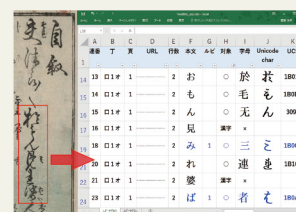
Top: *Engishiki* (fifty-volume)  
Bottom: Experimental preparation of abalone conducted with the cooperation of Tokyo Healthcare University

## Integration of Informatics and Bibliography

### Inclusion of Kana Character Variants in Unicode and Creation and Publishing of Kana Variant Font

Based on suggestions from this project, 286 kana variant characters were recorded in the international character code standards Unicode 10.0 and ISO/IEC 10646:2017/Amd 1:2019. In response to this, a font for displaying kana variants on a PC was also created and released in December 2018.

In this way, as a result of close collaboration between researchers in the field of information processing and Japanese language studies, a common international research base has been established, and the scope of use of these characters in various management data has been expanded.



Top: Assigning codes to kana variants  
Bottom: Kana variants included in Unicode

## Special Feature of The Japanese Journal of Health and Human Ecology *Rivalry and Integration between Traditional and Modern Health Views*

Based on the results of a special session (March 2018) co-organized by the three units that make up this project (Environmental Studies, History, and Cultural Anthropology), we wrote and edited the special feature for the journal of The Japanese Society of Health and Human Ecology

entitled *Rivalry and Integration between Traditional and Modern Health Views*, summarizing and publishing the results of interdisciplinary research into seven papers on themes such as health, disease and curing (January 2019).



## International Collaboration

### Rethinking Eco-health in Asia

#### International Symposium

### The 1st Asia Forum on Ecohealth Research and Tropical Disease Control

In November 2018, more than 150 participants from research institutions, government agencies, international organizations and NGOs, including universities in China, Laos, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia and the Philippines gathered together at the 1st Forum on Ecohealth

Research and Tropical Disease Control; an international symposium co-hosted by Hainan Provincial Center for Disease Prevention and Control, China. A system has also been established to promote joint research with overseas institutions.



Presentation by the project leader at the Asia Forum on Ecohealth Research and Tropical Disease Control

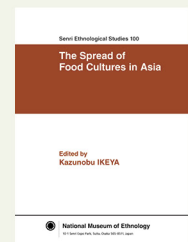
### Rethinking Eco-health in Asia

#### Internationalization of Food Culture and Wellness Research

In March 2019, Minpaku published *The Spread of Food Cultures in Asia: From the Past to Present (Senri Ethnological Studies 100)*, a collection of papers from the Food Exchange History Subcommittee of The 6th Asian Food Study Conference, which was held in December 2016.

In addition, through international research collaboration initiatives such as holding the

international symposium for East Asian Medicine and Ancient Book of Honzo in Beijing in January 2019 and the international symposium Making Food in Human and Natural History at Minpaku in March 2019, NIHU members are opening the way to the internationalization of food culture research and traditional Eastern wellness research in Japan.



International symposium for East Asian Medicine and Ancient Book of Honzo

### Change of Local Communities and Reconstruction of Community Cultures after Disasters in the Japanese Archipelago

#### International Symposium

### Learn About Communities with Citizens

At the international symposium *Studying the Region with the People: Methods for Utilizing Cultures of Local Regions in Japan and Taiwan*, held in Tokyo in November 2018, keynote speakers from Taiwan were invited to speak and participate in discussions on how local residents have been involved in the operation of muse-

ums. Through a comparison between Taiwan and Japan, from an international perspective, participants confirmed the importance of sharing information in regions with similar environmental conditions for natural disasters, especially the need to share international research results with other East Asian countries.





## Collaboration between Universities and Local Communities

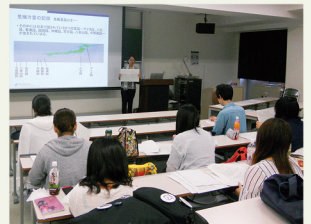
Change of Local Communities and Reconstruction of Community Cultures after Disasters in the Japanese Archipelago

### Collaborative Courses with Kagoshima University and Hirosaki University

In this project we conduct classes in cooperation with universities in order to discover and communicate the appeal of local culture, and to develop young human resources who will play a role in regional development.

In the 2018 academic year we conducted classes entitled Advanced Theory of Island Policy, in collaboration with the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences,

Kagoshima University, Theory of Regional Cultural Promotion and Practical Regional Cultural Promotion in collaboration with the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of Hirosaki University. In the class, students actively discussed issues such as the discovery and utilization of cultural resources, disasters and preservation of resources, and the role of museums.



Top: The final lecture at Kagoshima University, made open to the public  
Bottom: Collaborative classes at Hirosaki University

Change of Local Communities and Reconstruction of Community Cultures after Disasters in the Japanese Archipelago

### Use of Mobile Museums at Teaching Resources

At Hirosaki University, lecturers made use of the Mobile Museum exhibition kit as a teaching resource to give classes. The exhibition kit was produced by the NIHU Interactive Communication Initiative, using data on folklore and dialects collected by the project. The use of the

kit was well received, with students expressing the opinion that their image of regional cultural promotion had deepened, and that they would take up the promotion of regional culture and its dissemination as the theme of their dissertation.



Mobile Museum exhibited at Hirosaki University

Change of Local Communities and Reconstruction of Community Cultures after Disasters in the Japanese Archipelago

### Research Film *The Reminder: Life and Items in Kesennuma, A Tsunami-Hit Area*

*The Reminder: Life and Items in Kesennuma, A Tsunami-Hit Area* (March 2018) is a film that records conservation of material culture and research activities in areas affected by the 2011 Tohoku offshore earthquake, and visualizes the research process. The film focused on people touching things and tracing their memories of

the past.

Film is one of the action research methods that the Rekihaku unit aims to establish. Through screenings, issues relating to the passing on local culture are used as a theme to share and discuss with students and local residents in various regions, and have been well received.



A screening was held at Kumamoto University in October 2018



## NETWORK-BASED PROJECTS NIHU Transdisciplinary Projects NIHU Area Studies

This project focuses on three regions that are significant to Japan from cultural, social, political, economic and environmental perspectives but that are currently lacking in comprehensive research. The program aims to advance mutual understanding between Japan and each of the relevant regions.

### Aiming for Integrated Area Studies

#### Northeast Asia

## International Symposium Integrating Multiple Issues

In September 2018 an international symposium entitled “Regional Structure and Its Change in Northeast Asia: in Search of the Way to Coexist from the Point of View of Transborderism” was held at Minpaku, with the participation of all research centers. Participants discussed research results at each institution in a way that

transcends existing international borders and academic fields. This revealed the diversity of environments and livelihoods and the peculiarities of the Northeast Asian region, as symbolized by the historical presence of dynasties and socialist systems.



#### South Asia & Modern Middle East

## Collaborative Research Group Between NIHU Area Studies Projects

In December 2018, a collaborative research seminar between network-based NIHU transdisciplinary projects—under the overall theme of “Parsis and Iranis in the Cosmopolitan City Mumbai”—was held at Minpaku.

This seminar—in which researchers interested in different regions, namely South Asia and the Modern Middle East, discuss a specific theme—is an initiative to enhance inter-regional scope and understanding.



A Persian legacy in Mumbai

#### Modern Middle East

## Lecture Concert on Multicultural Coexistence from Music

In March 2019, a lecture concert entitled “Sound that Connects the Middle East to Japan: Exploring Human Coexistence in Global Society through Music” was held at the Todaiji Culture Center in Nara. In addition to holding a special lecture by the Abbot Emeritus of Todaiji temple, the event also featured col-

laborations with musicians playing instruments such as the oud, santour and shakuhachi in a new attempt to think—together with members of the public—about the roots of Japanese musical instruments and multicultural coexistence in the region.





## Creation of an International Research Network

### South Asia

## Asian Consortium of South Asian Studies (ACSAS)

The first and second international symposiums of the Asian Consortium of South Asian Studies (ACSAS) were held in Thailand in 2017 and in South Korea in 2018, with the collaboration of universities in those countries. ACSAS was

established with the aim of revitalization of South Asian area studies through international networking of institutes of Asian countries. The third international symposium will be held in Singapore in 2019.

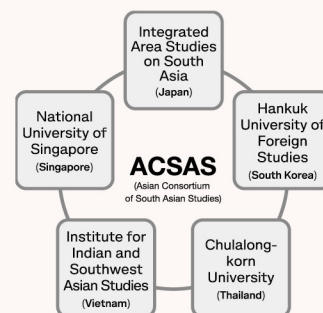


Diagram of ACSAS institutes and programs

### South Asia

## INDAS International Symposium

The INDAS International Symposium is held every academic year, focusing on the themes of sustainable development, peaceful development and inclusive development. Valuable presentations are made before many participants, leading to the sharing of new insights. Volumes of

collected research outcomes in English are to be published by Routledge (UK), and are expected to contribute greatly to the global dissemination of the findings of South Asian research in Japan, as well as having academic significance.



2017 INDAS International Symposium in Nepal

## Developing Next-Generation Human Resources

### South Asia

## Developing Young Human Resources through the South Asia Seminar

The South Asia Seminar is held once a year, planned and operated by research fellows assigned to each center, with lectures by South Asia researchers and research presentations by postgraduate students and PDs. By having young researchers (the research fellows) take the initiative—as the middle tier of a three-tier

structure consisting of mature researchers, young (next-generation) researchers and potential future fledgling researchers—this initiative not only helps to develop human resources for postgraduate students and PDs participating in seminars, but also drives the growth of the young researchers themselves.



South Asia Seminar 2017

## Modern Middle East

### Panel Presentation by Young Researchers at the World Congress in Middle East Studies

At the 5th World Congress on Middle East Studies (WOCMES) held in Seville in July 2018, five panels were organized under the themes of Religious Commodities, Visits to Saintly Places, Middle Eastern Literature, Identity, and Public Sphere. In addition to providing the opportu-

nity for young researchers from each institute to attempt the challenges of giving a presentation at an international conference, it was also useful in helping them to build up a network with other young researchers both in Japan and overseas.



## Domestic and International Dissemination

### Modern Middle East

### Publishing an Introduction to Middle Eastern and Islamic Culture

Project members, mainly young scholars, have published introductory books in 2018 so that promote interest in the Middle Eastern and Islamic culture among Japanese university stu-

dents and citizens. Both publications had dual positive effects in terms of publishing research results and giving research achievement back to society.



### Northeast Asia

### *Journal of Contemporary East Asia Studies*

*The Journal of Contemporary East Asia Studies* (JCEAS)—an English-language journal from The Waseda Institute of Contemporary Chinese Studies (WICCS) at Waseda University, one of the institutions conducting this project—is an open-access journal published twice a year by

Routledge (UK). The publication of this journal enables the broad and continuous communication of the project's research results in English, contributing to the construction of an intellectual platform between researchers in Japan and other countries.

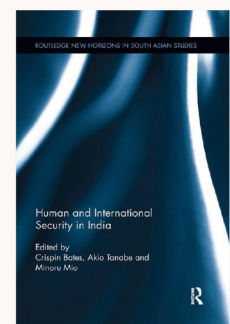


### South Asia

### *Routledge New Horizons in South Asian Studies*

South Asian studies in Japan have been actively conducted in a variety of fields, but in the past it was difficult to convey the unique insights abroad. This book series was launched as a medium to help cover this deficit, and to provide a medium for internationally communicat-

ing the findings of the “Contemporary Indian Area Studies” and “South Asian Area Studies” projects. From this academic year onward, we plan to publish a sequel to the series, based on the results of the INDAS International Symposium.







## NETWORK-BASED PROJECTS NIHU Transdisciplinary Projects Japan-related Documents and Artifacts Held Overseas: NIHU International Collaborative Research and Utilization

Countless invaluable resources relating to Japan in Europe and the Americas exist, however, due to the small number of researchers specializing in Japanese culture, and because many resources are held in private collections, information on whereabouts of these resources are not easily accessible. In many cases, detailed research to determine the value of the relevant resources is yet to be carried out. This project conducts research on a wide range of resources such as documents, audio and artifacts. We encourage and support overseas researchers who wish to specialize in Japan and who will endeavor to promote better understanding of Japanese culture by making our results available across the globe.

### Building a New Model for Japanese Culture Research through International Collaboration

#### Research, Conservation and Utilization of the Marega Collection Preserved in the Vatican Library

#### A study on the Spread and Acceptance of Christianity Combining Archives, Conservation Science and History

This project is based on archives research such as precise investigation, inventory preparation, preservation and restoration of historical Christian documents and resources, and has produced sophisticated results in historical research utilizing these historical resources. Project members are also engaged in activities to convey restoration techniques to overseas archivists, through initiatives such as the workshop “Preservation and Conservation of Japanese Archival Documents in the Vatican Library; The Marega Collection as a Case Study” held at the Vatican Library in December 2016.



#### Course on Deciphering of Cursive Script Held in Italy

In December 2018, classes on deciphering cursive script were held at the University of Rome and the University of Naples in Italy, utilizing discovered Christian documents as teaching resources. At the same time, in cooperation with these universities, the project is advancing methods for teaching the deciphering of cursive script and research on teaching resources, and making efforts to contribute to the training of researchers; such as by educating students conducting Japanese studies overseas and communicating teaching methods to university faculty members.



## Discovery of New Materials on the Siebold Incident in Collaboration with Overseas Research Institutions

This project has been conducting research for many years, through the descendants of Philipp Franz von Siebold, based on a research exchange agreement. In particular, the details of the maps that Siebold attempted to take out of the country in the Siebold incident but which were confiscated by the shogunate had remained in the realms of speculation for many years. In the course of research, however, important materials to support these conjectures were discovered, shedding light on a problem debated in academia for over 100 years.



**Top:** A copy of the map confiscated in the Siebold Incident  
**Bottom:** Examining materials from the Siebold collection

## Exhibition in the UK to Introduce Japanese Culture in Cooperation with Local Communities

From June through September 2018, National Museum Wales in the United Kingdom held an international collaborative exhibition entitled KIZUNA: Japan | Wales | Design. The exhibition was well received—including the appreciation of Prince Charles, HRH the Prince of Wales—and attracted many visitors (58,535 people), contributing to the promotion of Japanese studies and understanding of Japanese culture overseas.



## International Joint Research Based on Academic Exchange Agreements with the Nationaal Archief and Leiden University

This project has achieved various results through close cooperation with overseas academic institutions. For example, in collaboration with the Nationaal Archief (National Archives of the Netherlands in the Hague), project members scanned all relevant historical resources for the creation of a database of documents related to the Dutch Factory in Hirado, which is a treasure trove of information for the

study of the history of Japanese foreign relations during the early Edo period. The project also invited researchers from Leiden University specializing in Japan-related documents of the East India Company every year to work together in analyzing the documents of the Dutch Factory, and the results of this work were presented both in Japan and overseas.



**Top:** The academic exchange agreement concluded with the Nationaal Archief  
**Bottom:** The academic exchange agreement concluded with Leiden University



Survey, Study and Use of the Japan-related Documents and Artifacts in North America:

## Fostering Young Researchers in Collaboration with Universities and Communicating Results through Special Exhibitions

Materials on the history of people of Japanese descent in Hawaii collected by this project were used at a seminar held at Ryukoku University Faculty of Agriculture in the 2018 academic year. Two students from the class participated in agricultural training at a coffee plantation

in Hawaii, and prepared their undergraduate dissertations. From October through December of the 2019 academic year, Rekihaku held a special exhibition entitled “Hawai’i: 150 Years of Japanese Migration and Histories of Dream Islands,” displaying their research findings.



Coordination between Projects to Make Effective Use of Research Results

## Symposium Focused on New Possibilities as an “International Ocean City”

In February 2019, an international symposium entitled “Yearning for Foreign Cultures: An International Symposium in Hirado—New Aspects of Japanese Studies based on Overseas Documents—” was held in Hirado City, Nagasaki Prefecture. The event was hosted in collaboration with representatives and members of each overseas resource research project, as

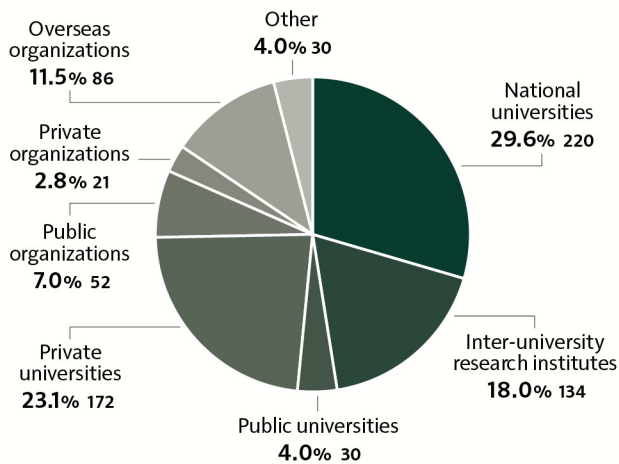
well as the city of Hirado, Matsura Historical Museum and the Hirado Dutch Trading Post. Local researchers, local government officials and experts took the stage, creating an opportunity for the presentation and communication of the outcomes of this collaborative project, and contributing greatly to social and regional collaboration.



## ACTIVITY DATA

Extracted from National Institutes for the Humanities (NIHU) basic IR data for the 2018 academic year

### Researchers Collaborating with NIHU

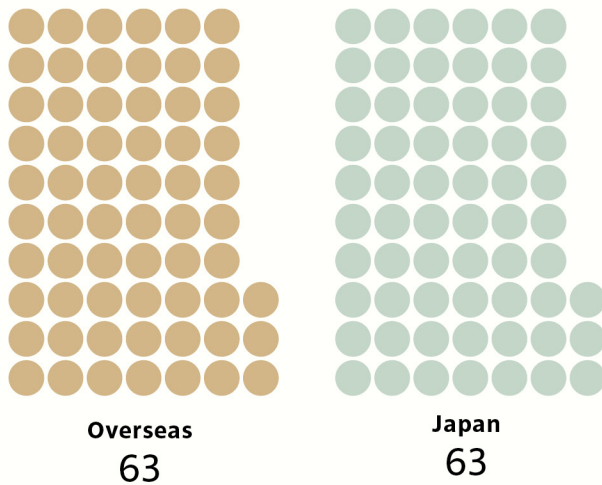


### Affiliations of Researchers Collaborating with NIHU

University of Tokyo	42
Kyoto University	32
Tokyo University of Foreign Studies	26
Waseda University	18
Sophia University	15
Tohoku University	14
Ryukoku University	12
Ritsumeikan University	10
Hokkaido University	9
Akita University	8

Top 10 Institutions (Numbers of Collaborators)

### Academic Exchange Agreements Signed



### Major Academic Exchange Agreements

#### Overseas

Beijing Center for Japanese Studies,  
Beijing Foreign Studies University  
College of Natural Resources,  
Royal University of Bhutan  
National Museum of Iran  
Museum of Anthropology,  
University of British Columbia  
Salesian Pontifical University  
Museum Five Continents, Munich  
Berlin State Library

#### Japan

Noshiro, Akita Prefecture  
Saijo, Ehime Prefecture  
Shiiba, Higashiusuki, Miyazaki Prefecture  
National Diet Library  
Edo-Tokyo Museum  
Inter-University Research Institute Corporation  
Research Organization of Information and Systems (ROIS)  
(Joint Support-Center for Data Science Research (ROIS-DS))

For universities that have signed agreements in relation to area studies promotion projects, please refer to page 18.

### Exhibitions Utilizing Research Results



### Representative Exhibition Venues

Hirosaki University  
Shizuoka University of Art and Culture  
Usuki Historical Museum  
Osaka Municipal Central Library  
Gifu Nagaragawa Ukai Museum  
National Museum Wales  
Bishop Museum, Hawaii



# NETWORK-BASED NIHU AREA STUDIES RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

(Partner Universities)

## Northeast Asia

Research Theme	Organizational unit with responsibility within institution / partner university	
Natural environment and structure of culture and civilization	National Museum of Ethnology (Minpaku)	Northeast Asia area studies hub (Central Hub)
International relations for the establishment of a regional collaboration system	Hokkaido University	Slavic-Eurasian Research Center
Comprehensive studies on socio-cultural process and policy-making for environmental and resource issues	Tohoku University	Center for Northeast Asian Studies
Evolution of international specialization and sustainable utilization of resources	University of Toyama	Center for Far Eastern Studies
Ideological and historical identity	University of Shimane	Institute for North East Asian Research
Neighboring countries' response to the rise of China	Waseda University	Waseda Institute of Contemporary Chinese Studies, Comprehensive Research Organization

## Modern Middle East

Research Theme	Organizational unit with responsibility within institution / partner university	
<b>Cultural resources</b> The transformation of cultural resources and the reconfiguration of the personal sphere in the modern Middle East	National Museum of Ethnology (Minpaku)	Center for Modern Middle East Studies (Central Hub)
<b>Human resources (institutional aspects)</b> Human mobility, network building, and transformation of states, societies and religions	Tokyo University of Foreign Studies	Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa (ILCAA) Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies (Secondary Hub)
<b>Human resources (non-institutional aspects)</b> Pluralistic development of public spheres and social ethics in the Middle East	Center for Islamic Studies (SIAS) of Sophia University	
<b>Intellectual resources</b> The formation and problems of the mainstream-moderate in Islam: modernization of intellectual resources and multidimensional movements	Center for Islamic Area Studies (KIAS) at the Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies (ASAFAS), Kyoto University	
<b>Natural resources</b> Incubating a multi-level perspective on environmental issues and natural resources of the Middle East	Akita University	Graduate School of International Resource Sciences

## South Asia

Research Theme	Organizational unit with responsibility within institution / partner university	
Environment and politics in South Asia	Kyoto University	Center for South Asian Studies, Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies, Kyoto University (Central Hub)
Culture and society in South Asia	National Museum of Ethnology (Minpaku)	Centre for South Asian Studies (MINDAS) (Secondary Hub)
Economic development and historical change in South Asia	The University of Tokyo	Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Institute for Advanced Global Studies (IAGS) The Center for South Asian Studies
Spatial structure and developmental issues in South Asia	Hiroshima University	Center for Contemporary India Studies
Literature, social movements, and gender issues in South Asia	Tokyo University of Foreign Studies	Centre for South Asian Studies
Fundamental changes in thought and values in South Asia	Ryukoku University	Research Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in Religion, Science and Humanities The Center for South Asian Studies



Inter-University Research Institute Corporation  
**National Institutes  
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The National Institutes for the Humanities (NIHU) is a comprehensive research hub for humanities. While each one of the institutes is deeply involved in foundational research in their field as a core research center of Japan and as an international research center, six institutes interact in a complementary fashion and transcending the frameworks of previous scholarship. They also cooperate with research institutes in Japan and other countries in their attempt to identify and solve issues in contemporary society. To achieve a truly enriched human life, NIHU promotes research on the human sciences and aims to create new value.

**MEMBER INSTITUTES**

- National Museum of Japanese History ..... **Rekihaku**
- National Institute of Japanese Literature ..... **NIJL**
- National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics ..... **NINJAL**
- International Research Center for Japanese Studies ..... **Nichibunken**
- Research Institute for Humanity and Nature ..... **RIHN**
- National Museum of Ethnology ..... **Minpaku**

Inter-University Research Institute Corporation  
**National Institutes for the Humanities**

**ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS**

2nd Floor, Hulic Kamiyacho Bldg.  
 4-3-13 Toranomom, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0001 Japan  
 Tel. 03-6402-9200  
<https://www.nihu.jp/en/>

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