

FORUM for a Sustainable Humanosphere



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Prospectus for the Establishment of the Forum for a Sustainable Humanosphere

Some of the most important social issues in the 21st century are global warming and other environmental changes occurring on a global scale in recent years, and shortages of energy and resources accompanying the increase in global population. There has been an increasing demand for reliable future projections based on an accurate understanding of current conditions, and for the presentation of problem-solving measures that will contribute to the construction of a society that is capable of sustainable development.

Based on this situation, the Research Institute for Sustainable Humanosphere (RISH) of Kyoto University has been conducting research in four areas since its establishment in 2004, as part of an urgent “Humanosphere Mission” aimed at the creation of Humanosphere sciences: (1) the assessment and remediation of the humanosphere, (2) the development of science and technology through biomass and solar power satellite research toward a solar energy society, (3) the study of space environment and its utilization, and (4) the development of technology and materials for cyclical utilization of bio-based resources. Furthermore, in order to broadly publish scientific and technological information cultivated through research and to promote an exchange of opinions, RISH has held a total of 100 Humanosphere Symposiums (as of July 12, 2008), and has also endeavored to transmit information through the publication of an “International Newsletter” and other media, the distribution of a mail magazine, and the RISH Homepage.

The primary goal of this Forum is to create a tight network for diverse research activities related to these Humanosphere sciences. We look forward to participation by Forum Members from a wide range of fields in industry, government, and academia in Japan and overseas, including experienced academics and university instructors and students, as well as Academic societies, public research organizations, and related research institutions, companies, and government agencies. The Forum will also call for participants from overseas research institutions and universities, work toward establishing “Fundamental Humanosphere sciences and technologies” based on cooperation in Japan and in the international community, and endeavor to strategically return the practical benefits of these activities to society.

The goal of this Forum is to broadly promote “Sustainable Humanosphere Sciences” that will act as a platform for the construction of a Sustainable Humanosphere, and to promote the education and training of students and young researchers in Japan and around the world. Specific activities will include sharing the latest information based on educational and research activities at RISH. In other words, Forum Members will be able to “Create information” through the shared use of RISH’s functions (equipment and facilities) by researchers from across Japan and around the world, and through participation in joint research projects; “Accumulate information” through the effective use of the Humanosphere database; and “Transmit and exchange information” through Humanosphere symposiums and other venues.

Through the Forum’s activities, we hope to promote a broad exchange of information regarding the current issues and future outlook in relation to Humanosphere sciences. We are determined to see this Forum become an organization that can provide signposts for mankind to follow in building a recycling-oriented society that is capable of sustainable development.