

Overview

The main objective of the meeting is to update recent new ideas on watershed (river-basin) management, discuss and explore a new methodology to overcome the conflicts among multiple stakeholders at multiple spatial scales towards consensus building.

The Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN) founded in Kyoto 2001 is a new interdisciplinary research institute for global environmental issue. The workshop is organized by a RIHN project "Multi-disciplinary research for understanding interactions between humans and nature in the Lake Biwa-Yodo River watershed" and supported by RIHN. The project aims to develop and test a methodology for watershed diagnosis and consensus building through field work in the Lake Biwa-Yodo River watershed.

In session 1, the outline of the RIHN project is explained at concept level and activity level by the two project members. "Hierarchical watershed management" concept, the core idea of the project is introduced. In session 2, two case studies of local resource management in Asia are presented. We discuss "governance" and how the ideas presented in session 1 is effective for management of Asian watersheds, where both natural and social systems are diverse. In session 3, papers on consensus building and empowerment for citizen participation are presented. In session 4, we discuss practical way of using watershed diagnosis tools, such as model and indicator in the context of governance towards consensus-building. Finally, in session 5, we summarize ideas and concepts integrated in this workshop and discuss the "hierarchical watershed management" concept proposed by the project. We also discuss how to manage interdisciplinary research, feedbacks between basic research and practice in the field. All the invited speakers and commentators join this session.