



**Integrated History and future Of People on Earth (IHOPE, an initiative sponsored by
AIMES and PAGES core projects of IGBP)**

24-28 March, Akita Prefecture, Japan

Venue: Hotel Sun Rural Ogata, <http://www.ogata.or.jp/sr/>

***IHOPE Asia Workshop: 'Human-Environmental Pathways in Asia: IHOPE
Implementation Priorities'***

Sponsored by:

Akita Prefecture

International Research Center for Japanese Studies (IRCJS)

Science Council of Japan (SCJ)

Ministry of Environment in Japan

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

International Research Center for Japanese Studies (IRCJS)

International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP)

Analysis, Integration and Modeling of the Earth (AIMES)

Integrated History and future Of People on Earth (IHOPE)

Past Global Changes (PAGES)

Goals of the Workshop:

To better understand the dynamic interactions between human societies and their environment by linking various forms of knowledge on human history and environmental change at multiple temporal scales (millennial, centennial, decadal and future scenarios).

Discussions will integrate formal scientific knowledge with traditional knowledge, data and models (including narrative, agent, system perspectives) and will cover processes that span multiple spatial scales, from the local to the regional /Asian. More specific questions to be addressed at the IHOPE AKITA Workshop include:

According to the long-term goals and building on the IHOPE draft Science Plan (downloadable from <http://www.aimes.ucar.edu/>), the Akita workshop will address five specific questions:

1. What *causes* socio-ecological systems in the Asia-Pacific regions to be more or less successful in perceiving and adapting to decadal and longer changes (e.g. land use, climate, disease, governance)? Are some types of environmental stress in Asia-Pacific regions inherently more likely to cause collapse than others?
2. What are the *resilience* characteristics of socio-ecological systems of the Asia-Pacific societies and civilizations that lead to either sustainability or collapse? What makes socio-ecological systems resilient or brittle at various points in the evolution of the Asia-Pacific civilizations?

3. What might have been the long-term human contributions to changes in the *rates and composition of Earth System processes* in the Asia-Pacific regions? Historically, what are the effects of human impact on the natural environment and on the dispersal of other species (i.e. diseases, invasive species) and vice-versa?
4. How can we use our understanding of past socio-ecological interactions of the Asia-Pacific regions to help *map modern spatial variations in resilience, system trajectory and sustainability worldwide*, thus allowing classification and ranking of the state of world systems at different scales?
5. How do the societies and civilizations in the Asia-Pacific regions respond to the *closing of frontiers*? Can technology of the Asia-Pacific regions create new frontiers indefinitely?

Additional overarching concerns will also need to be addressed:

- To evaluate the current level, scope, resolution, and quality of historical data available in both the biophysical and social sciences over the last 10,000 years (with higher resolution in the last 1000 and 100 years) and the potential for their integration.
- To develop strategies for achieving the long-term goals of the IHOPE activity.
- To disseminate the results for implementation of individual research projects.

Your Role in the Workshop:

See Enclosure 1: the workshop will include 15-minute oral presentations of background papers, followed by c. 10 min. group discussions. Abstracts of your intended presentation should be submitted to Kathy Hibbard at kathyh@ucar.edu and Yoshinori Yasuda at yangtze@nichibun.ac.jp by **20 February 2007**. Session group moderators and rapporteurs will also be chosen among the participants.

Travel, Board, and Lodging:

The *International Center for Japanese Studies* will cover your travel expenses (economy class and ground transportation) as well as provide room and board during the conference.

Please complete and return the enclosed registration form to us by email or fax as soon as possible, but no later than January 15, 2007.

We look forward to seeing you in Akita for an exciting and productive meeting.

On behalf of the Organising Committee,



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