



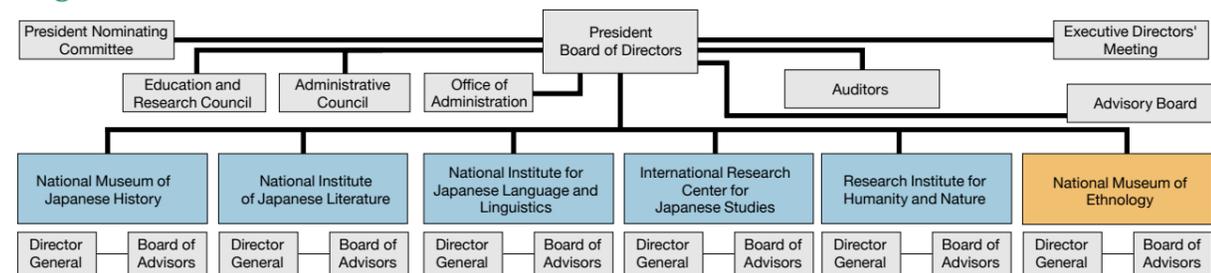
The National Institutes for the Humanities (NIHU), founded in 2004, was incorporated as an umbrella organization for Japan's major research institutes in the humanities. It promotes shared use of resources among researchers and collaborative research by six institutes, each with its own research fields: the National Museum of Japanese History for history, archaeology, and folklore; the National Institute of Japanese Literature for Japanese literature and archival research; the National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics for Japanese language and linguistics; the International Research Center for Japanese Studies for cultural research on Japan; the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature for global environmental studies from the human point of view; and the National Museum of Ethnology for ethnology and cultural anthropology.

NIHU encourages the six research institutes to connect and collaborate on interdisciplinary research topics. This function provided the basis for rescue of valuable cultural assets and other responses to the emergency resulting from the Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011. Starting in 2012, as part of its involvement in joint research, NIHU initiated projects contributing to reconstruction in the wake of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami and to the study of post-disaster society and human culture.

While encouraging the sharing of databases and their open access to the public, NIHU is also collaborating with sixteen universities and four research institutes on three area studies programs; two of those programs, on the Islamic region and on contemporary China, are in their second phase, and a third, on contemporary India, is in its first phase. In addition, a project to survey and research Japan-related documents and artifacts held overseas is going forward in cooperation with four Japanese research institutions and five overseas institutions with which we have agreements. The NIHU Prize in Japanese Studies, which was established as part of our efforts to support research on Japan overseas, is now in its fourth year.

While continuing our fundamental commitment to joint use and collaborative research involving individual researchers at research institutions in Japan and overseas as well as specialized research areas, we at NIHU seek to deepen our links with universities and research institutions and further strengthen our functional capabilities. We strive to promote research that contributes to the intellectual enrichment of our society and to the advancement of human culture.

## Organization Chart



## Governing Body

as of April 1, 2014

### Executive Directors

**President** TACHIMOTO Narifumi **Executive Directors** HIRAKAWA Minami IMANISHI Yuichiro **Auditors** HIROWATARI Seigo  
KONAGAYA Yuki EBARA Masaharu KOMAGATA Kiyonobu

## Promotion of Research in the Human Sciences

The most pressing tasks in the twenty-first century are the coexistence of all peoples in the world and the survival of humankind on this planet. The humanities continues to hold the keys for addressing these difficult challenges. NIHU promotes the development of new fields of study in the humanities and research activities aimed at development of advanced and international research. It coordinates inter-institutional resource sharing in Japan and overseas.

### Inter-Institutional Research

Bringing together the research results and resources accumulated by its six constituent institutes, NIHU plans and implements inter-institutional research that promotes the opening up of new perspectives and the further advancement of research. Under the second medium-term plan (FY 2010–2015), this program focuses on two themes: “Comprehensive Research on Human Cultural Resources” and “Historical Synthesis of the Multilayered Relationship of Nature and Culture in Asia”. Prompted by its rescue activities following the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011, NIHU has also supported the “Research in the Human Sciences on Catastrophic Disasters” project since 2012.

### Inter-Institutional Exhibitions

NIHU holds exhibitions to make the achievements of research conducted by its institutes open to the public. The National Museum of Japanese History and the National Museum of Ethnology maintain permanent exhibitions and mount special exhibitions as well. NIHU sponsors the holding of inter-institutional exhibitions through collaboration among two or more of its institutes. As a means of reporting on NIHU's support in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake, two exhibitions were held.

“The Great East Japan Earthquake and Kesenuma Daily Life Culture (March 19 – September 23, 2013)” and “Transforming Arms into Art: Peace – building in Mozambique (July 11 – November 5, 2013)”.

## Resource Sharing

NIHU is engaged in developing and managing research resource sharing systems to promote sharing in academia of information resources accumulated by the six NIHU institutes and area studies centers. The research resource sharing system is currently made up of two systems: the “nihuINT” (NIHU Integrated Retrieval System), which cross-searches more than 100 databases of the six NIHU institutes and area studies centers and NDL (National Diet Library) Search, and the time-space analysis system (GT-Map/GT-Time) for analyzing era/period information and geographic location and place-name information. The research resource sharing system is being released on the website.

## International Collaborative Research on Japan-related Documents and Artifacts Overseas

In 2010, NIHU embarked on an international collaborative research project to survey and study Japan-related documents and artifacts located in other countries. The aim of the project is to clarify the significance of Japanese culture in world history and promote international research on the subject. NIHU established the Committee for Survey and Research of Japan-related Documents and Artifacts Overseas, and in collaboration with the institutes in Japan and overseas, it is engaged in comprehensive survey and research of diverse materials held overseas. A network of international research is being created through links to institutions overseas. During the second medium-term phase, the following three projects are currently underway.

“Study of the Siebold Family Collection and Other Materials Collected in Japan and Taken Overseas in the Nineteenth Century”

“Survey and Study on Immigration of Japanese Modern and Contemporary”

“Survey and Research on the Preservation and Publication of the Mario Marega Documents in the Collection of the Vatican Library”

## Area Studies

In order to cultivate a comprehensive understanding of areas of academic and social importance to Japan, NIHU promotes area studies by jointly establishing research centers at related universities. Its “Islamic Area Studies” program was begun in 2006, “Contemporary Chinese Area Studies” program in 2007, and “Contemporary India Area Studies” in 2010.

Being one of the new “Contemporary India Area Studies” study centers and maintaining active collaboration with overseas institutes, the Museum is promoting the investigation of religions and cultures in the Contemporary India Area, where remarkable changes are happening due to the effects of globalization. The studies are implemented under two themes, “Religions: Religious Movements and Transformations in Contemporary India” and “The Circulation of Contemporary Indian Cultures”.

## Public Lectures and Symposiums

NIHU holds lectures and symposiums in order to make the scholarly achievements in humanities research as widely known as possible.

The 21st Public Lecture and Symposium

### Japanese Language across the Ocean

Date: September 1, 2013  
Venue: Hitotsubashi Auditorium, Tokyo



The 23rd Public Lecture and Symposium

### The Diverse Lifestyles and Well-Being of the Elderly

Date: March 8, 2014  
Venue: Iino Hall, Tokyo



The 22nd Public Lecture

### A New Perspective on Japanese Immigrants Based on Image Data: Manchuria, Brazil and the South Pacific

Date: October 11, 2013  
Venue: International Research Center for Japanese Studies, Kyoto



## Publication

### Human

NIHU supervises the publication of *Human* to provide information on the achievements in research on the humanities at its six institutes. The feature of the No.4 issue (June 2013) is “Mausolea and Kingship”, and that of the No.5 issue (December 2013) is “Sake and Japanese Culture”.

### Ningen Bunka (Human Culture)

Nineteen numbers have been published so far. From No.14 onward, the content has been made available on the NIHU website.

(<http://www.nihu.jp/sougou/jouhou/publication/ningen.html>)