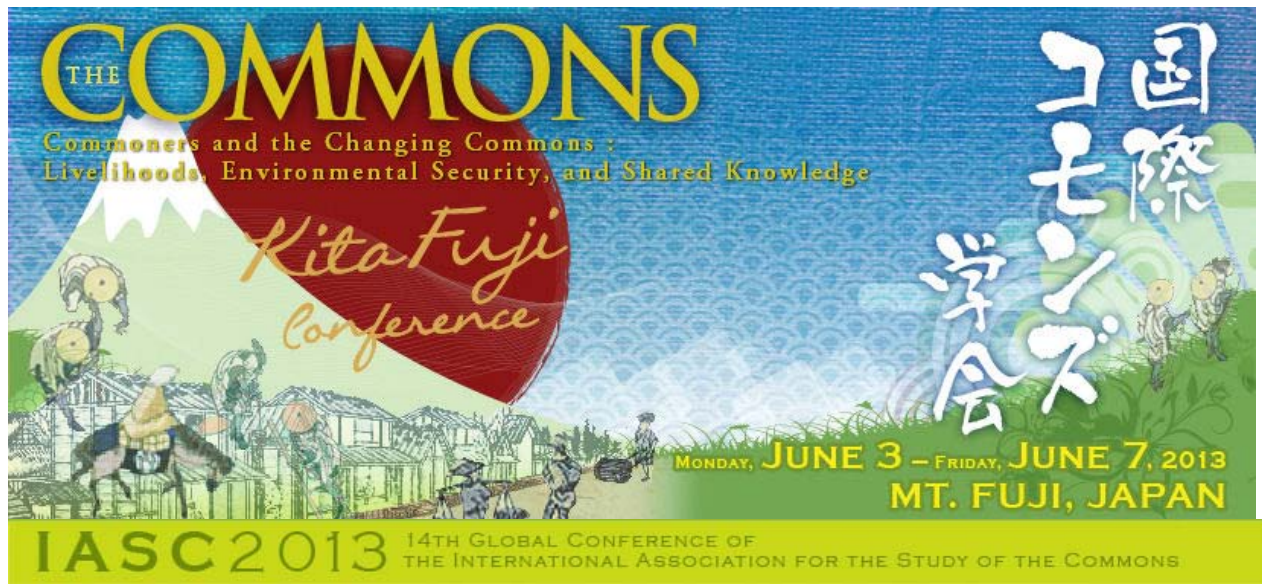


IASC'S 14TH GLOBAL CONFERENCE, 3-7 JUNE 2013, MOUNT FUJI, JAPAN



COMMONERS AND THE CHANGING COMMONS: LIVELIHOODS, ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY, AND SHARED KNOWLEDGE

The communities of Mount Fuji's north slope (Kitafuji) welcome the IASC to the next global conference, to be held on their resource commons at Kitafuji during 3-7 June 2013. This will be the first IASC meeting sponsored directly by resource users and commoners – that is, holders of common access rights [called *iriaiken* 入会権, or “enter-meet-rights” in Japanese]– and the first IASC meeting to be held on a commons. The Kitafuji commoners are organized into a federation of eleven former villages called Onshirin, which is sponsoring the IASC meeting along with Japan's Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN), based in Kyoto. The conference venue in Fujiyoshida City is easily reached from Tokyo's international airport at Narita, and the very favorable timing in the first week of June offers both Mount Fuji's sunniest weather and off-season pricing. This spectacular location – Mount Fuji was nominated this year as a world heritage site to UNESCO – with sponsorship from the Kitafuji commoners will surely make this a wonderful meeting with unique features. The meeting offers high participation by resource commoners and members of the sponsoring communities; ample opportunities for exchange and sharing among scholars, practitioners, and resource users; extraordinary field trips to commons of all types; as well as exposure to Japanese cultural traditions, folkways on the commons, and Japan's long history of experience and struggle to protect the commons.

Several formats are available for participation:

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS: Most IASC meetings are preceded by workshops offered on themes in which we anticipate there will be considerable interest among both well-established members of IASC and new researchers as well as resource commoners. Successful topics for these workshops include commons theory, the history of commons in the host country (Japan of course), game theory and laboratory experiments, research design, and law and commons.

POLICY FORUMS (FORA): Some sessions will deal with current policy issues that relate to the commons, offering the opportunity to combine theory with practice.



PANELS: Organizations and researchers are encouraged to form their own clusters of papers exploring different aspects of the same theme or topic. Please limit your panels to a maximum of four papers. Please submit abstracts for the panel itself (a maximum of 300 words) as well as of the papers in your panel (also a maximum of 300 words each).

INDIVIDUAL PAPERS: Researchers may submit abstracts for an individual paper, which the Program Committee will group into panels consisting of related papers that complement each other. Please submit abstracts of up to 300 words with up to 5 keywords as provided for on the conference website. Final papers should be between 6,000 and 10,000 words.

ROUND TABLES: At Kitafuji we hope to encourage discussion and to include resource commoners and resource stakeholders in the dialogue. We encourage researchers and practitioners to submit proposals for round tables, whose members might speak with each other and especially with the audience rather than present written papers. We have additional suggestions later in this handout. If you have a proposal for a round table, please contact the Program Committee via info@iasc2013.org.

POSTERS: These are graphic displays for which verbal explanation and the amount of time that a PowerPoint slide can be displayed are insufficient. We encourage people with material that requires visual presentation (graphs, charts, photographs) and thoughtful viewing of these visual materials to propose posters for the conference. By having graphics (photographs, graphs and charts, diagrams) displayed in such a way that viewers can take adequate time to appreciate them, and discuss them with the presenter, we hope that posters will add a visual participatory element to the program. Posters will be displayed in public areas where they will receive ample attention in addition to time budgeted for poster sessions. We will have good facilities at Kitafuji for displaying posters in the lobby and corridor where we will have sessions, and we will be able to take our coffee breaks in those public spaces. Thus we can engineer an arrangement by which posters receive frequent and careful viewing by everyone in attendance at the conference. We will accept only the number of posters that can be displayed and viewed under highly favorable conditions. Proposers of posters need to submit an explanation (maximum of 300 words) of the suitability for visual presentation of their proposal as well as a conventional abstract (also maximum of 300 words) of the content of their presentation.

VIDEO PRESENTATIONS: The program will include dedicated time for video presentations in which the producer or director of the film may introduce the work in addition to screening it. We also hope to show a feature-length film (with English subtitles) on the struggle spanning four generations to save the commons in Kotsunagi. Please submit an abstract (maximum of 300 words) describing the content and message, conclusion, or findings of your video.



DEADLINES

Submission of Abstracts (papers, panels, posters, videos, round tables):	30 September 2012
Notification to proposers of acceptance for program:	mid-November 2012
Early registration (reduced rate):	15 April 2013
Participants must register by the early bird deadline in order to be assured that their names can be included in the final printed program	
Submission of finished papers :	15 April 2013
Participants must submit their papers by this date in order to have their papers included in the flash drive of all conference papers that will be distributed with registration materials.	
Standard registration:	15 May 2013





TRAVEL FUNDS

We hope to offer funding for some of the accepted participants, depending on the criteria required by those who provide funds for this purpose. We will post applications for travel funding at a later time.



DISCUSSION OF CONFERENCE THEME – COMMONERS AND THE CHANGING COMMONS: LIVELIHOODS, ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY, AND SHARED KNOWLEDGE

Naturally, the IASC welcomes proposals for panels, papers, and posters on all topics related to the commons, but the location of this meeting in Japan and on Mount Fuji, as well as the sponsorship by commoners who themselves have struggled to maintain their commons through 150 years of regime change, economic transformation, and political assault suggests certain themes for emphasis, reflected in the conference title, “Commoners and the Changing Commons: Livelihoods, Environmental Security, and Shared Knowledge.” Japan’s role in having a long history with well-documented management of commons, in maintaining these commons while becoming a technologically sophisticated economic power, and its recent confrontation with both natural disaster and energy crisis also move us to highlight certain themes, though of course as always there are no limitations on the geographic coverage of the meeting. The Kitafuji conference will be a wonderful opportunity to consider **the economic and social functions of commons with very long history as they move through the processes of legal change, industrialization, and urbanization.** Do commons assist commoners or their societies in the process of economic change? How do the economic and social contributions from common resources change through the process of economic development? What environmental services and amenities do protected commons contribute to the society around them as industrialization proceeds?

We can also look at the **contemporary functions of commons in affluent post-industrialism.** If commoners in developing countries protect their commons during economic development, what will they end up with and what does the commons do – and not do -- for them? What is the role of commons in urbanized areas? Do industrialization and new technologies in an affluent society create demand for new kinds of commons? The history of the commons as well as current events around the world encourage us to consider **the importance of protest as a tool for expressing collective dissent and exerting influence on outcomes.** Nowhere in the world are commons protected through sheer luck; resource users and beneficiaries of commons must always mobilize to protect their commons. What factors influence the tactics and strategies that seem most successful? What advice can commoners with successful experience offer to others involved in more formative struggles? We might also ask if this **experience at mobilizing and managing shared resources creates a capacity to cooperate with some bearing on response to crisis.** Does historical experience building social capital through the management of common-pool resources improve the resilience of communities and their resource base in dealing with high variability in the natural environment or with human-made crises? In turn, what does recurrent crisis do to the commons?

Finally, our international meetings are always an occasion for examining **global commons** – resources that require joint effort of all or most peoples and in affect all or most peoples. Do rising concerns about global challenges offer new purposes and value to local commons? Can local commons contribute usefully to changing energy profiles or enhanced sustainability of local economies? Can local commons help us **in meeting or reducing our need for energy, with constructive impact on global climate change?** New global commons include some that have the non-rival or non-subtractable character of pure public goods rather than the subtractable or rival qualities of common-pool goods. Although the institutions for managing these goods would have to



be different in some ways, cooperation to solve the inherent collective action problems in both is necessary. Does historical experience with cooperation to manage local common-pool goods offer useful guidance for building institutions for managing **new commons, whether digital, genetic, biophysical, or cultural?**

Of course, as a meeting with special emphasis on the commoners, who in the case of a global conference are the participants who attend the meeting, we welcome all proposals. But the Program Committee would like particularly to suggest the following **sub-themes** in our call for abstracts of panels, papers, and posters. A vital goal for an international meeting is of course mutual discussion, in all directions, and this is particularly true at a meeting with sponsorship by commoners and high participation from commoners. We would like to ask that those who propose panels, papers, posters, and round tables consider interaction and discussion with the audience in the design of their proposals.



SUBTHEMES

1. Commons and Social Capital for Livelihood Security in Crisis

Smoothly-functioning commons go hand in hand with substantial reserves of social capital, but the ultimate test of that social capital is whether it can serve the community in a time of crisis. Does social capital help with sharing sacrifice as well as with sharing benefits of cooperative effort? Traditionally, many commons functioned to provide backup during disaster -- do the physical resources of the commons provide emergency sustenance and relief for communities? Do communities exposed over a long historical record to frequent difficulties (severe bouts of economic hardship, highly variable climate, monsoons and droughts, or even a high rate of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions) develop skills at cooperation and community-building more frequently than other societies? Do such skills emerge in the form of robust commons and/or high levels of social capital? Conversely, what is the impact of these difficulties on the commons?

2. Commercialization and the Commons

Many, though certainly not all, commons were traditionally managed to support subsistence living, and the arrival of commercial demand for sale of products from the commons to buyers beyond the community placed pressure on the commons. Yet the potential profit from sales could also be an incentive to protect rather than mine the commons in order to generate sustainable flows of such income well into the future. The contradictory evidence on this point demands historical and comparative investigation. When does commercial pressure stimulate the formation and careful management of commons? When does commercial pressure undermine sustainable extraction and lead to overharvesting that can destroy the commons? Are there differences between “manageable” types of commercial demand and “unacceptable” types? Are there defensive strategies that communities can adopt to manage demand and the temptation to overharvest in the face of these strong external pressures? Can we draw lessons from new commons to apply to tangible resource commons, or vice versa? How does commercial demand for genetic resources pose special challenges with respect to governance, risk, and ethics?

3. Urban Commons

We can think of urban commons in two ways – first, we might see urban infrastructure and networks of waterways, sewers, electricity grids, and transportation as commons that are shared, knowingly or otherwise, by urban citizens. Think of the circulatory or lymphatic systems in the human body – these do their work, operating as intact systems, whether we know or observe this work or not, yet they require care and maintenance, and their performance is a joint result of all



contributions to quality and performance. Second, urban areas contain in their midst smaller well-defined commons, both physical and social, from neighborhood parks and community centers to neighborhood associations and homeowner associations. How are urban commons governed? Why is there a trend toward “private urban governance” in some countries? How does past experience in other commons affect the ability of urbanites to develop new urban commons?

4. Collisions in Law and Culture

We typically see many difficult conflicts between indigenous people and states, between village custom and formal state law, between indigenous concepts of property rights and resource knowledge and newer or foreign or imported ideas about rights and resources. How has the collision between traditional or historically-rooted notions of resources and ownership, and promoters of new “modern” (?) institutions and modes of economic production affected transformations on the commons? How do communities that do not have a traditional concept we might call “ownership” achieve recognition of their claims when negotiating with governments that have very different concepts of resources and ownership? What new legal forms have been created to accommodate rights to the commons? What is the impact of these various new legal forms on use and protection of the commons during economic modernization? What does “modernization” of rights turn out to mean – does it vacate, weaken, or strengthen these rights?

5. Mobile Resources and Fluid Spaces:

Mobile resources, whether visible or invisible, aquatic or land-based, tangible or digital, pose special problems for managing the commons. The physical expanse occupied by migratory animals (birds, fish, grazers) can change over time and can even be invisible. Herders must move their herds in order to tread “lightly” on available grazing lands, so mobility is crucial to the survival of most pastoralists. How can resource users secure rights to resources that must move? How do we overlap systems of mobile use through open space on top of systems with fixed boundaries? How do we manage monitoring and enforcement when resources are mobile or the spaces in which they move are themselves fluid or intangible?

6. Equity and Distributive Justice within the Commons:

Communities managing their commons differ a great deal in their internal arrangements to make decisions, divide benefits, apportion labor, and choose leaders. Some opt for direct democracy, some delegate decisions to a few representatives, some have “bosses,” and some practice strict equality. Often with “modernization” comes an externally-driven push to create uniformity among and even within different communities. What can we learn from deep historical analysis about why some commons regimes develop internal hierarchy and a “boss” system of local elites while others do not? Over time, what seems to be the basis of the leaders’ legitimacy in hierarchical regimes? What different historical conditions drive other communities to practice internal democracy or to opt for egalitarian distribution of benefits and duties? What is the impact on community cohesion of different distribution rules? What is the impact of asymmetries within the collectivity on the group’s ability to cooperate, on its ability to get the group’s work done, on members’ sense of fairness? How do different communities define internal distributive justice? Are there noticeable trends over historical time in how commons communities function internally? Is there a relationship between how communities function internally and how they relate to higher authority? Are groups with “bosses” more easily co-opted than egalitarian groups, or does having an internal elite provide a bulwark against assault from the outside?

7. State-Society Relations and the Protest Politics of Commons:

Very few common property regimes emerge without considerable struggle over historic time by the commoners to convert their claims into more robust rights. They may have to deal with invaders from other areas and with governments that might prefer to nationalize resources or to grant concessions from the commons to their supporters. We are reminded by the story of Kitafuji, as well as by Arab Spring and the Occupy movement, of the important role that protest

plays in changing outcomes. Local and national governments may interfere with commons management in several ways – aiming to confiscate the resource, seeing the resource as government property so demanding royalties on extraction of resources, attempting to limit the autonomy of communities managing the resource, or even wanting to interfere in relationships within communities as they manage the commons (perhaps claiming the right to appoint leaders, veto decisions, set up preferred decision-making arrangements, or allocate benefits from the commons). How do state-commons or state-community relationships affect management of the resource, community survival, economic and environmental outcomes? Under what conditions do communities bargain successfully with states? What conditions produce co-management, and under what circumstances do communities find co-management to be an acceptable outcome?

8. Commons and Complexity

Commons that (i) are physically large, (ii) involve many people, (iii) generate an assortment of common-pool goods with varying attributes or produced over different scales, and (iv) collide or overlap with multiple layers of formal government are so complex that they elude our understanding. How do we simultaneously manage resources with different traits in the same space? How do nested commons function? Are there effective and ineffective ways to organize this nesting? Is multi-level governance for complex commons at multiple scales efficient or effective? What are the options available when problems arise with multi-level governance? Does multi-layered governance for complex commons multiply points of conflict and total difficulty, or does this layering displace and even mitigate conflict?

9. Commons as Local Energy Sources and Carbon Storage affecting Climate Change

Our need to sequester more carbon and burn less of it and to conserve energy often leads to calls for reduced transportation of fuel and materials and tighter connections between production and consumption. Do resource commons offer a way to localize solutions and enhance sustainability? Can commons serve as local sources of biofuels and electricity co-generation, as renewable sources of other materials, and as local destinations for waste? Since global results are simply the sum of local effort and local results, we need to subdivide global goals into local efforts that can be monitored. Can commons serve as the venue for monitoring and enforcing local limits on fuel use, conservation, and emissions to enable us to achieve globally desirable results in climate change? Does our need to build local contributions to global goals mean that we really need to be reviving communities and commons as front-line environmental managers for a planet in jeopardy?

Global Commons:

Global commons like the oceans and the atmosphere are well-recognized even if not well understood, but new global commons emerge all the time along with our changing definition and appreciation of what is a resource. We encourage proposals on global commons but particularly want to highlight the following three challenging areas in which the very character and distribution of the resources, what we find useful and valuable about them, and the size of the community with an interest in these resources are moving incredibly fast. Three specific subthemes of interest on the global commons follow:

10. The Global Digital Commons:

New technologies have created completely new resources (from radio waves to geostationary orbits to bandwidth) for which we are struggling to create appropriate institutional arrangements. Some of these technologies have rapidly converted resources that used to be the monopoly of powerful elites into information readily available around the globe (digital information traveling via the internet), so that a child holding a smart phone now has access to more information than all that the intelligence services of the world's superpowers could muster just two decades ago. The debate over intellectual property – the ownership of information and cultural production – is vigorous and heated. How can humans cope with knowledge, information, proprietary knowledge and technology, so as to promote innovation, preserve valuable knowledge, and gain the greatest available social (planetary) benefit from information?

11. Biodiversity and Genetic Resources as Commons:

We are becoming more keenly appreciative of genetic resources (both genomes and species) that were not “owned” in any classic sense before by anyone but have now become valuable and subject to contestation and claims by many. How do we manage the “biodiversity commons”? How do we conserve genetic resources and species? What institutional arrangements can be created to govern the production and sale of new genetic material through genetically modified organisms?

12. Cultural Commons with Non-Consumptive Uses

Cultural resources of certain types are as endangered as species – cultural production like language, folklore, and historical memory of dwindling populations -- but are also of interest and value not only to the dwindling populations that created them but to all of us. And other cultural resources that were once thought to be quite appropriately the personal property of a narrow elite (the Taj Mahal, the Forbidden City in Beijing, the funeral pyramids at Giza) are now claimed by millions and even billions as their heritage too. Viewscapes, landscapes and ecosystem habitat that we want not only for wildlife to live in but to see ourselves; cultural production like language and music, belief systems of indigenous knowledge and cultural rituals and festivals; historically and culturally precious components of the built environment, natural and human-made world heritage sites – all of these are commons that we increasingly value for non-consumptive uses. How can we create arrangements to protect these commons – very old, but newly appreciated by a wider global community? Under what conditions are governance arrangements for non-consumptive use effective at conserving this global heritage? Are our uses of these resources really non-consumptive or non-subtractable?

13. Campaigning On the Commons: Practical Lessons and Strategy

Commoners, researchers, and other observers have many years of experience from which we can now distill lessons about practical methods and strategies for dealing with the political environment surrounding a commons. Under what conditions do various methods prove successful or faulty? When are campaigns for the commons effective? What tactics help and what tactics put commons campaigns at risk? What are the pitfalls the commons campaigners encounter? How do campaigns for the commons resemble or differ from other kinds of campaigning and activism? How do political and social contexts affect which strategies work well?

14. Advancing research on the commons: methods, comparable data, and theoretical research frontiers

What has been the relationship in the past between theoretical advances and empirical information about the commons? How do the qualities of the resource itself -- fugitive or stationary, subtractable or non-rival, self-reproducing (wildlife) or not (historical monuments) -- affect the institutions we need for managing these resources? Our theory must become intimately conversant with these distinctions in order to develop effective and efficient institutional designs. Game theoretic understandings of cooperation and free-riders underlie most work on the commons by explaining the fundamental dilemma, but how can game theoretic analysis and formal modeling offer additional insights? How have laboratory experiments, on cooperation or other issues, advanced the study of the commons, and what additional contributions can this approach offer? How have the resources of the digital age – the information commons! – be used to promote advances in the study of other commons? How can our studies of individual cases be cumulated as the foundation for generalizations and theory-building? In what areas can the study of commons advance social science theory, and conversely in what ways can existing theory from the social sciences improve the way we study the commons?



ROUND TABLES

Round tables are a special type of panel, with the focus on discussion and exchange rather than presentations, and can be suggested by program committee or drawn from paper and panel proposals. Kitafuji conference is IASC's first meeting ON a commons and the first meeting sponsored BY commoners who are eager to share their experiences and to learn from scholars as well as commoners from around the world. This meeting is a particularly appropriate occasion for round-table exchange, but not just within members of the round-table. Please maximize the opportunity for drawing in participation and discussion from the audience at all round tables. We welcome all topics, and offer a few suggestions below:

Can commoners who have lost resources, or protected and maintained them, as the surrounding economies industrialized, offer advice to those in other countries embarking on similar journeys?)

What advice, warnings, or encouragement can commoners offer each other on

- dealing with formal “modernization” of property rights regimes;
- effective methods of preventing/protesting against government land grab;
- managing ecotourism to increase local income and employment without environmental damage;
- finding new uses for traditional commons; and
- transforming commons from traditional support for livelihoods and environments to new methods of support for livelihoods and environments.
- organizing internally to maintain cohesion and also to transmit the commons legacy to the next generation of commoners



CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS

TOMOYA AKIMICHI

Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Kyoto, Japan

Professor Akimichi is a leading scholar of marine commons in Japan and Southeast Asia, having conducted ecological, anthropological, and maritime anthropological research in Asia and the Pacific. His most recent work focuses on the ecological-historical study of interactions between humans and nature. Professor Akimichi first attended an IASCP meeting in 1993 in Manila. He was formerly based at Japan's National Museum of Ethnology in Osaka, and is now affiliated with the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature in Kyoto, where he has also served as Deputy Director.



MARGARET MCKEAN

Department of Political Science and Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, USA

Professor McKean began her work on the commons by studying the Kitafuji commons in Japan, and is delighted to see our 14th conference take place on that same commons. She was a member of the National Academy of Sciences panel on Common Property and Environmental Management in the 1980s. She was a founding member of the IASC/IASCP in 1989 and organized the first global conference of the Association, in 1990 at Duke University.



CONFERENCE HOSTS



ONSHIRIN

Onshore Regional Public Organization is a governmental unit created to protect common land, originally held free and clear by commoners, that then passed through ownership of the imperial family and prefectural governments during Japan's political transformation of the 19th century. Below the north slope of Mount Fuji sits Lake Yamanaka, below the western slope sits Lake Kawaguchi, and scattered across these lands are the 11 villages that have traditionally managed this commons. There are also additional expanses of land that are managed by 1, 2 or 3 villages at a time, including the Lake Yamanaka Commons Group, which also manages a single-village commons owned in the name of Yamanaka Sengen Shrine. Through centuries of struggle, the commoners of this area have successfully persuaded the courts (1736), the Japan's new Meiji government (1911, 1917) and even the Japanese military (1973) to acknowledge their common access rights even on land that has been formally captured by government (1889, 1936). Onshirin, as an administrative body governed by a legislative assembly of commoners, is the present-day embodiment of the 11-village commoner organization that managed the northern and western slopes of Mount Fuji for several centuries.



RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUMANITY AND NATURE

The Research Institute for Humanity and Nature was established in April 2001 by the government of Japan as an inter-university research institute to promote integrated research in the field of global environmental studies. It is a unique research institute working in a field of urgent global concern. RIHN's objective is to define, conduct and debate integrative research capable of describing the true dynamism of Earth phenomena and humanity's place in it. To this end, RIHN solicits, funds, and hosts fixed-term research projects on key areas of interaction between humanity and nature. In 2011 RIHN celebrated its first decade of activity. Publication of the RIHN Encyclopedia of Global Environmental Studies demonstrates RIHN's impressive accomplishments in the realm of cognitive science to date. In the next decade, RIHN has identified several key tasks that are critical to the progress of contemporary environmental studies and reaffirms its commitment to conduct coordinated, problem-centered, context-specific, innovative, and multi-dimensional society-science research projects.



CONFERENCE VENUE

The conference will take place in Fujiyoshida City, Yamanashi Prefecture, Japan, at various venues on, in sight of, or representing the Kitafuji commons. Formal sessions will take place at the Fujiyoshida Citizens' Hall and the Fuji Calm Resort. This area is easily reached from both of Tokyo's International Airports (Narita and Haneda) using either trains (using the Chuo Line to Fujisan station) or Fuji Express buses.



The North Fuji Commons in June, as seen from the conference venue at Fuji Calm.

