

AIRIES

Association of International Research Initiatives
for Environmental Studies

PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Industrialization and growth of human society have had an increasingly visible effect on the environment. Once considered boundless, nature has been shown to have a limited capacity to absorb the impact of human activity. Many people have become aware of local environmental problems. Global environmental problems, on the other hand, span much larger areas and time frames, and much remain unknown about them. We do know, however, that by the time global environmental damage becomes apparent, as in the case of global warming, it is too late to prevent further damage.

Thus the Association of International Research Initiatives for Environmental Studies (AIRIES) was established under the auspices of the Environment Agency of Japan in 1996 with the goal of organizing efforts to predict these problems before they happen, learn as much and quickly as possible about them, and take appropriate countermeasure. To do this, it brings specialists from diverse scientific and academic fields together, aiming to provide opportunities to share their knowledge.

AIRIES also encourages people in industry, government, and academia to unite and bring all of their knowledge to bear on solving these problems. It promotes cooperation among advance and developing countries, a focusing of efforts through international cooperative research projects, and better technology for handling global environmental problems.

ACTIVITIES OF AIRIES

1. Publishing Periodicals
 - (1) The Japanese periodical "Chikyu Kankyo"
 - (2) The English periodical "Global Environmental Research"

In addition, there are meetings of AIRIES members for exchange of information
2. Providing information to AIRIES members on environmental research overseas
3. Conducting investigatory and corroborative research related to global environment protection
 - (1) Global environmental research initiatives
 - (2) Satellite technology initiatives
 - (3) Anti-desertification initiatives
4. Administration of Eco Frontier Fellowships
5. Administration of the Secretariat of the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research
6. Other activities, business on contract
7. Liaison with international global change research organizations such as the Global Change System for Analysis, Research and Training (START), the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP), the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP), and the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), etc.

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