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Director's Note

Yoko Fujita

In March of 2020, the University of the Ryukyus' Research Institute for Islands and Sustainability (RIIS) began publishing a new international peer-reviewed journal, the *Okinawan Journal of Island Studies (OJIS)*. RIIS, which publishes this journal, was established in 2009 as a research institute at the University of the Ryukyus. Originally named the International Institute for Okinawan Studies (IIOS) at the time of its foundation, IIOS was established in response to requests for a global and dynamic base for the international expansion of Ryukyuan and Okinawan studies in Okinawa. In order to share our research internationally, we published the *International Journal of Okinawan Studies (IJOS)* every year for a total of nine volumes and 13 individual journals. Through the high quality papers published in *IJOS*, which were subjected to a strict peer review process and came not only from Japan but also from around the world, we are proud of our contributions to the development of the academic discipline of Ryukyuan and Okinawan studies.

Over time, we formed a plan to expand our collaborative activities to include researchers who studied not just Okinawa but also other island areas facing similar regional challenges. We therefore changed our name from IIOS to the Research Institute for Islands and Sustainability in 2018. Along with this change came the redesign of *IJOS* into the *Okinawan Journal of Island Studies (OJIS)*. *OJIS* is published as a medium for spreading research regarding various island regions, including Okinawa, to a broader audience around the world.

In the 10 years since this institute was established, we have worked together with numerous researchers, both domestic and international, focusing on island regions and Ryukyuan and Okinawan studies, to actively develop various outlets for the island studies community. In this way, based upon our years of cultivated cooperation, while additionally expanding our network, I would like *OJIS* to grow into a journal that the world's island studies researchers can utilize. I look forward to your contributions and subscriptions to our journal.