

October 20, 2021

Dear RIAS Director and staff members,

I am writing this letter under quarantine to thank you (especially Leontien) for facilitating as well as assisting in my stay at RIAS for approximately three weeks from late September to mid-October. Ever since I visited RIAS in 2019 where I met Dr. Giles Scott-Smith, it has been a dream to revisit the institute so that I could establish stronger academic ties with scholars based in Europe. Initially my visit had been planned for FY2020, but this became unfeasible due to the global COVID pandemic.

Fortunately, the Netherlands opened its doors to non-EU visitors who were fully vaccinated in autumn of 2021, so this opened a window in which I could finally spend time at RIAS. The process of getting all the paperwork and approval to travel was quite stressful along with the mandatory two-week quarantine imposed by the Japanese authorities upon my return—not to mention the grueling three-hour wait at the airport before reentry would be permitted—but my stay at RIAS was well worth all this trouble as I thoroughly enjoyed my time in Middelburg.

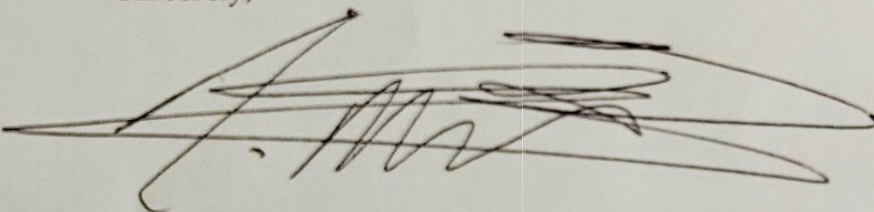
Particularly fruitful were my many conversations with Giles, where we shared our views toward international politics, US politics, current security issues, and of course, the Roosevelts. Also, meeting with Dr. Cees Heer was also invaluable as we shared many common research interests. That being said, the highlight of my visit was being able to give an in-person talk in The Hague for the Atlantic Commission which was co-sponsored by RIAS. Not only was the turnout incredible with many imminent experts and diplomats present, it was a true honor to have received such a wonderful audience that was genuinely interested in the subject matter. This was clearly attested by the flood of solid questions that I received, although I do regret not being able to field all the questions due to lack of time.

Of course, the chief reason for my visit to RIAS was because I am currently writing a monograph on Theodore Roosevelt for a Japanese publisher. Hopefully, this will be published next year as planned, and it will contribute to furthering the understanding of this American political leader in Japan since he was the first president to understand the geostrategic importance of this island nations and strove to strengthen US-Japan relations.

Lastly, it is my understanding that RIAS has been traditionally engaged more toward the Occident, whether it be continental Europe or across the Atlantic towards North America. With this in mind, I hope to be able to become the East Asian nexus for RIAS, where I can bring forth more exposure to this part of this world to your fine institution.

Looking forward to my continued collaboration with RIAS!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'T. Minohara', written over a horizontal line.

Tosh Minohara, Ph.D.  
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Professor, Graduate School of Law and Politics  
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