

Report of ERECON Programs in 2013

Following programs were implemented in the program year of 2013 from 1st April 2013 to the end of March 2014.

1. Programs on environmental rehabilitation and conservation in Asian countries

1-1 *Project on Promoting Greening through Reforestation in Takeo, Cambodia (Phase 2)*

In commemoration of the International Year of Forests 2011, this reforestation project was initiated and has continued to 2013 in Tramkok of Takeo Province. Due to grazing damage of planted trees by cows, the reforestation activity was conducted in September 2013 with selected tree species which cows do not prefer to feed. In addition, workshop was held aiming to raising local people's awareness of the importance of reforestation and biodiversity. In March, survival survey of planted trees and additional planting were conducted.

1-2 *Project on Promoting Reforestation for Sustainable Development in Bohol, Philippines (Phase 2)*

In Bohol, soil erosion and the loss of biodiversity have become serious problems because of deforestation and slash-and-burn agriculture. Such phenomena are very remarkable in Southwestern Bohol. Therefore, reforestation activity is highly needed for sustainable environmental conservation measures in the area. This project promotes reforestation to mitigate soil erosion in sloping farmlands and to replace conventional slash-and-burn agriculture with agroforestry. The reforestation activities were implemented in collaboration with local residents in August and December, 2013. At the same time, workshop was held and pamphlets were distributed to raise awareness of local residents toward the importance of forests and its functions. Currently, the preparatory work for survival survey of planted trees is in progress.



Photo. 1 Reforestation activity conducted along roads in Takeo Province, Cambodia (Project 1-1)

2. Programs on sustainable use of natural resources in Asian countries

2-1 *Project on Natural Resources Utilization and Management through SATOYAMA Restoration in Rural Areas of Cambodia (Phases 3)*

In Kampong Cham, Mondulkiri and Battambang provinces, natural resources were heavily damaged by illegal logging and land conversion for agriculture. Accordingly, this project aims to promote

reforestation for soil and water conservation and sustainable use of natural resources through SATOYAMA restoration. This project has been implemented in collaboration with United Nations University, Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) and Ministry of Environment, Cambodia (MOE), and is approved by International Partnership of SATOYAMA Initiative (IPSI).



Photo. 2 Workshop on importance of forests and its functions in Bohol, Philippines (Project 1-2)

As a part of the project, "International SATOYAMA Symposium on Restoring SATOYAMA Landscapes in Cambodia" was held in Phnom Penh in September, 2013. In the symposium, not only the local leaders but also the experts from MOE and Royal University of Agriculture, Cambodia (RUA) attended and advanced discussions on the significance and importance of restoration of SATOYAMA and sustainable utilization of natural resources.



Photo. 3 International SATOYAMA Symposium held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia (Project 2-1)

2-2 *Project on Promoting Sustainable Agriculture through Eri-Culture in Greater Phnom Penh, Cambodia (Phase 3)*

This project aims to promote environmental conservation and sustainable agriculture through promoting eri-culture in rural areas in Kampong Cham Province, Cambodia. As eri silkworms are sensitive to chemical pesticide, farmers are needed to realize the harm of chemical pesticide and to reduce the amounts of pesticide applied in farmlands. In addition, it is also expected to increase their income by selling cocoons, and to improve their nutritious condition by eating pupas which are rich in protein and vitamin. In this way, eri-culture is expected to be incentive for local farmers to conduct sustainable agriculture.

In this project year, workshops were held in all target villages

and elementary schools in the project area. An excursion for observing the exhibition on “One Village, One Product” was conducted in December as a part of leader trainings. In order to promote eri-culture in Kampong Cham Province, the guidebook entitled ‘Eri-culture and Sustainable Agriculture’ was published and distributed.



Photo. 4 Workshop on weaving with eri silk yarn in Kampong Cham Province, Cambodia (Project 2-2)

2-3 Project on Promoting Sustainable Agriculture in Kampong Cham Province, Cambodia

This project aims to build sustainable agriculture based on cyclic use of natural resources at 11 villages and 10 elementary schools in Samroung Commune of Kampong Cham Province, Cambodia. In August and September 2013, technical trainings on vegetable cultivation and water leakage measures of reservoir were conducted for local farmers.

From October 2013, monitoring survey has been conducted by visiting 450 farming households to investigate agricultural activity and natural resource utilization. The construction of a store for selling agricultural products with low chemical input and the project evaluation were also conducted in March 2014.



Photo. 5 Training on preventing water leakage in Kampong Cham Province, Cambodia (Project 2-3)

2-4 Project on Promoting Eri-culture for Livelihood Improvement and Income Generation in Cambodia

This project aims to promote eri-culture with effective use of cassava leaves for feeding eri silkworms, as many farmers in mountainous areas of Mondulkiri Province are cultivating cassava. The set of workshops on eri-culture, spinning and weaving, the excursion for visiting rearing farmers in Kampong Cham Province

and the direct sales of eri silk products were conducted.

In addition for promoting eri-culture in Mondulkiri Province for livelihood improvement and income generation, the guidebook on eri-culture was published and widely distributed.



Photo. 6 Direct sales in Mondulkiri Province, Cambodia (Project 2-4)

2-5 Project on Promoting Non-formal Education for Sustainable Development in Kratie Province, Cambodia

This project aims to establish and manage the farmers school and to form and steer ‘Organic Agricultural Materials Producer Group’ for promoting sustainable agriculture and income generation in Kratie Province. This is a 3 years project from April 2013 to March 2016 and the target areas are 7 villages in Snuol Commune, Snuol District, Kratie Province, Cambodia. In 2013, Krang Village was focused among 7 villages. Farmers school was steered regularly and the members of ‘Organic Agricultural Materials Producer Group’ were actively working on producing organic materials through participating in technical trainings and various workshops.



Photo. 7 Farmers school on environment in Kratie Province, Cambodia (Project 2-5)

3. Programs on environmental education in Asian countries

3-1 NGO Internship Program

This NGO Internship Program aims to build capacity for Japanese youth through the internship in Japanese NGOs. In 2013, ERECON accepted one intern and provided various trainings on steering the international cooperative programs at the Extension Center as well as managing the human resources at the Administrative Center of ERECON Headquarters.

3-2 Project on Renovation of SATOYAMA Conservation Learning Facilities in SATOYAMA Gallery

ERECON has been offering various practical trainings on environmental rehabilitation and conservation and sustainable utilization of natural resources to the youth in SATOYAMA Gallery

of ERECON Headquarters. To respond to increasing trainees and visitors, this project aimed to renovate SATOYAMA conservation learning facilities in SATOYAMA Gallery of ERECON Headquarters with the partial exterior construction and the installation of tents and toilets.



Photo. 8 Reporting the outcomes from NGO Internship Program at the meeting in Tokyo, Japan (Project 3-1)



Photo. 9 Renovated SATOYAMA Conservation Learning Facilities in Tokyo, Japan (Project 3-2)

3-3 International Training Course in Cambodia for International Green Volunteers

The international training course was conducted for 9 days from September 8 to 16, 2013 in Cambodia. The participants of Japanese youths joined reforestation activity with local residents and visited land designated for economic land concession. They also visited ERECON SATOYAMA restoration site and organized a workshop on forest conservation for local residents. In the last stage of the course, they participated in “International SATOYAMA Symposium on Restoring SATOYAMA Landscapes in Cambodia” and deepened understanding of the importance of natural resource conservation in Cambodia.



Photo. 10 Observation of community forest in Takeo Province, Cambodia (Project 3-3)

(Machito MIHARA, PD)

