

Report of ERECON Programs in 2014

Following programs were implemented in the program year of 2014 from 1st April 2014 to the end of March 2015.

1. Programs on environmental rehabilitation and conservation in Asian countries

1-1 Project on Promoting Reforestation for Sustainable Development in Bohol, Philippines (Phase 3)

Bohol has been causing severe soil erosion and biodiversity loss with deforestation and slash-and-burn agriculture under the pressure of economic development and the rapid population increase. Also, the Bohol Earthquake occurred on 15 October, 2013 damaged to human properties and natural environment in a massive scale.

Therefore, attention has been paid to reforestation activity as there are high needs for sustainable development and environmental conservation 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 collaborated with the local students and residents. At the same time, workshop and distribution of pamphlet guiding the importance of forests and its functions were conducted to raise the local awareness.

1-2 Project on Reforestation for Community Reconstruction in Typhoon Affected Areas in Leyte, Philippines

Typhoon Haiyan, one of the strongest typhoons ever recorded, hit the Philippines especially the Eastern Visayas region in November 2013. It brought enormous damage to infrastructure and livelihoods. The majority of the population in Leyte Province who are engaged in agriculture lost their means of income, mainly coconut trees. To support those farmers, this project aims to reconstruct its community in typhoon affected areas and to strengthen its resilience in farming practices to natural disasters by introducing rainforestation. Rainforestation is a method known as a sustainable reforestation way consisted of indigenous trees and fruit trees.



Photo. 1 Reforestation activity in Leyte, Philippines (Project 1-2)

1-3 Project on Mangrove Reforestation in Tsunami Affected Areas in Phang Nga, Thailand (Phases 2 and 3)

Phang Nga Province was one of the areas which were severely suffered from the Sumatra Earthquake on December 26, 2004. Since 2008, ERECON has promoted reforestation with the local group in Thung Lak Village of Phang Nga, and supported management of their 'Mangrove Learning Center'. Collaborating with the local communities and elementary schools, reforestation activities were

conducted by planting seeds of *Nypa fruticans* and seedlings of *Rhizophora mucronata* in June 2014. We are planning the next planting activity in June 2015.



Photo. 2 Mangrove reforestation in Phang Nga, Thailand (Project 1-3)

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

2-1 Project on Sustainable Use of Natural Resources with Conserving Socio Ecological Production Landscapes in Rural Areas of Cambodia

This project aims to promote technologies and knowledge on sustainable use of natural resources with conserving the socio-ecological production landscapes in Monduliri Province. The project includes various workshops and reforestation activities collaborated with local farmers and elementary school students. Also, the pamphlets on forest degradation and restoration are delivered. In addition, the networking among elementary schools in provinces of Monduliri, Kampong Cham and Battambang has been promoted.



Photo. 3 Reforestation activity with elementary school students in Monduliri, Cambodia (Project 2-1)

2-2 Project on Promoting Sustainable Agriculture in Kampong Cham Province, Cambodia (Phase 4)

This project aims to build sustainable agriculture based on the cyclical use of natural resources in 11 villages and 10 elementary schools in Samroung Commune, Kampong Cham Province, Cambodia. In 2014, "Samroung Safe Agricultural Product Shop" was set up to sell low chemical-input agricultural products that were produced by the target farmers in this project. In addition, two trainings were also given to the local farmers and the school teachers.

One was for local farmers to produce qualified compost with applying *Bacillus subtilis* as well as sterilizing *Escherichia coli*. The other for teachers of elementary schools to accumulate the experiences and to obtain the knowledge of educational practices of the food, agriculture and environment. The school teachers have learned various educational practices in Thailand.



Photo. 4 Samroung Safe Agricultural Product Shop in Kampong Cham, Cambodia (Project 2-2)

2-3 Project on Promoting Non-formal Education for Sustainable Development in Kratie Province, Cambodia (Phase 2)

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. The local farmers are accessible to the non-formal education on a regular basis. In the school, farmers are expected to acquire basic academic skills such as Khmer, mathematics and environment as well as knowledge about sustainable agriculture. On the other hand, 'Organic Agricultural Materials Producer Group' was established to promote production of organic agricultural materials from the natural resources in the local area. The farmers also have attended trainings in Cambodia and Thailand. Also in February 2015, pellet compost center was established in Snuol Commune.



Photo. 5 Pellet compost center set up in Kratie, Cambodia (Project 2-3)

3. Programs on environmental education in Asian countries

3-1 NGO Internship Program

In ERECON, this internship program has been initiated since 2013 for the aim of capacity building of the youth in the field of

international cooperation by being involved in NGO's activities. The intern of this year engaged various projects not only in the headquarters but also in Cambodia. The intern accumulated the experiences of various tasks in the Administrative, Extension and Research Centers of Institute of Environmental Rehabilitation and Conservation.

3-2 JICA Nikkei Training Program

It is significantly tangible that mono-culture for producing cash crops are extended widely in Latin America. Thus, soil conservation is regarded as needed for sustainable agriculture in Latin America. This course is arranged for the Nikkei Trainees under the collaboration with Tokyo University of Agriculture. In the course, trainees are expected to learn the technologies on soil conservation, the participatory strategy for applying sustainable agriculture techniques in local context, and the evaluation methods for extension projects, etc.

3-3 Project on Renovation of ERECON Extension Farm in the ERECON Headquarters

ERECON has been offering various practical trainings on the environmental rehabilitation and conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources at SATOYAMA Gallery and ERECON Extension Farm in the ERECON Headquarters. To respond to the increase in trainees and visitors, this year, some partial exteriors were constructed and renovated for adding three planning plots and installed a greenhouse in the farm.



Photo. 6 Renovated ERECON Extension Farm in ERECON Headquarters, Japan (Project 3-3)

3-4 International Green Volunteer Training in the Philippines

This international volunteer training became the 6th time organized by ERECON. This year, it was organized in Leyte and Bohol, Philippines from March 2 to 10 in 2015. Ten Japanese and trainees observed several rainforestation and reforestation project sites in the rural areas with ten Filipino buddies, and attended the international conference to make the presentation. The training aimed that the trainees deepen their understanding about the importance of reforestation, environmental conservation and international environmental cooperation through various lectures, study trips, discussion with the local people and Filipino buddies. The trainees mixed with Japanese and Filipino were expected to help each other understand better about the study topics and elaborate new ideas for achieving sustainable development in the future. Their new ideas were successfully presented in the 6th International Conference of Environmental and Rural Development (ICERD) held at Bohol Island State University on March 7, 2015.