

## Report of ERECON Extension Programs in 2019

Following extension programs were implemented in the program year of 2019 from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 to the end of March 2020.

### **1. Program on Environmental Rehabilitation and Conservation in Asian Countries**

#### **1-1 Project of Green Promotion for Restoration of Satoyama in Mondulkiri, Cambodia (Phase 3)**

This project conducted in Mondulkiri Province of Cambodia aimed to promote the technique and knowledge of sustainable forest management for generating income through harvesting non-timber forest products among the local residents. The project included various workshops and reforestation activities with local residents and school students. The reforestation activities were conducted at Lao Kar and Pu Tang Elementary Schools and Trom Somsok Sabey Temple in Mondulkiri Province in 2019.



Photo. 1 Reforestation activity in Mondulkiri Province, Cambodia (Project 1-1)

#### **1-2 Project of Reforestation for Biodiversity Conservation in Kratie, Cambodia (Phase 3)**

Biodiversity has been severely damaged due to sharp decrease and degradation of forest owing to land conversion and illegal deforestation in Kratie Province, eastern part of Cambodia. This project provided the local residents the opportunities of reforestation activities aiming to recover biodiversity and the workshops for deepening knowledge and technique on sustainable forest management and environmental conservation. The activities were conducted in Kbal Trach, Doung Meas 1, and Roha Villages of Snuol District, Kratie Province in 2019.



Photo. 2 Reforestation activity in Kratie Province, Cambodia (Project 1-2)

#### **1-3 Project of Reforestation for Sustainable Forest Management in Kampong Cham Province, Cambodia (Phase 1)**

The residents of Kampong Cham Province must deal with various global warming impacts, such as droughts and flooding, because of low density forests. This project aims to promote reforestation activities in pagodas and elementary schools by collaborating with local residents through workshops on forest conservation and management. It is expected this project contributes to “Sustainable Forest Management” in SDGs No.15.



Photo. 3 Reforestation activity in Kampong Cham Province, Cambodia (Project 1-3)

#### **1-4 Strengthening National Biodiversity and Forest Carbon Stock Conservation Through Landscape-based Collaborative Management of Cambodia’s Protected Area System as Demonstrated in the Eastern Plains Landscape (CAMPAS)**

This project aimed to establish the system of community-based forest management and rehabilitation in community protected areas (CPA) located in Mondulkiri Province, Cambodia. In 2019, a series of workshops and trainings were conducted in the project areas to enhance community awareness and understanding of reforestation and habitat restoration. Moreover, trainings about non-timber forest products utilization and value-added products were conducted to increase livelihood security of communities in CPAs. Native tree seedlings produced by local communities were used for reforestation and distributed to agro-forestry farms in the areas. After reforestation, CPAs members conducted maintenance and monitoring activities in the reforested areas, especially in the dry season.



Photo. 4 Reforestation in Veal Kambou Community Protected Area, Cambodia (Project 1-4)

#### **1-5 Project on Reforestation for Forest Restoration in Nakhon Ratchasima Province, Thailand (Phases 2 and 3)**

Natural forests are continuously decreasing due to land conversion in Thailand. Also, biodiversity has been declined due to insufficient forest management. Deforestation has also occurred in Nakhon Ratchasima Province due to illegal logging and inefficient management of the forests. Accordingly, this project has promoted reforestation activities with local residents, and established the forest restoration and conservation systems. It is expected that this project contributes to “Sustainable Forest Management” in SDGs No.15.



Photo. 5 Reforestation activity in Nakhon Ratchasima Province, Thailand (Project 1-5)

**1-6 Project on Reforestation for Forest Restoration in Chai Nat Province, Thailand (Phases 2 and 3)**

The forest area has been seriously decreasing due to deforestation through illegal logging and lack of effective forest management in Chai Nat Province of Thailand. Accordingly, reforestation activities were conducted with local residents for promoting participatory management of community forests. As a results of this project, it is expected that the community forests are well managed by local residents and contribute to SDGs No.15 as “Sustainable Forest Management”.



Photo. 6 Reforestation activity in Chai Nat Province, Thailand (Project 1-6)

**2. Program on Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in Asian Countries**

**2-1 Project on Promoting Sustainable Agricultural Conditions for Poverty Reduction in Kampong Cham Province, Cambodia (Phases 2 and 3)**

More than 25 officers from Kampong Cham Provincial Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (PDAFF) and District Department of Agriculture (DDAFF) took the training on “Improvement of Soil Fertility (Pellet Compost)” and “Irrigation Techniques” in Cambodia and Thailand in 2019. In the former training, the officers mainly learned the functions of soils, the formula for making pellet compost and its application methods. In

the latter training, they learned various types of irrigation techniques. Based on what they have learned, the officers provided training and workshops in all 10 districts. On the basis of the collaboration system between universities and PDAFF/DDAFF built in this project, lecturers and interns from Royal University of Agriculture (RUA) and Kampong Cham National Institute of Agriculture (KNIA) supported the officers and farmers and helped them to understand the contents properly. In addition, various facilities in PDAFF and DDAFF were installed to make them become the center to promote sustainable agriculture. Two District Model Farms (DMF) set up in each district in previous year continued to disseminate knowledge and techniques of sustainable agriculture to the local farmers. Finally, a project evaluation meeting was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2019 with various stakeholders. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase starting in March 2020 till the end of February 2021, the project focuses on the establishment of collecting and shipping system in the target area.



Photo. 7 Signing ceremony held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia (Project 2-1)

**3. Program on Environmental Education in Asian Countries**

**3-1 JICA Nikkei Training**

The mono-culture farming has been widely adapted for producing cash crops in Latin America. As it has degraded soil conditions, local residents have increased their awareness of the importance of soil conservation for sustainable agriculture. This course was arranged for Nikkei Trainees, who are descendants of Japanese families under the support of JICA. ERECON accepted a Nikkei trainee from Cuba for its fifth JICA Nikkei Training that was held from May to November 2019. In the course, the trainee learned methods and techniques of agro-biodiversity, soil conservation, sustainable agriculture, project cycle management, participatory rural appraisal, Satoyama conservation, etc. The trainee is expected to apply the knowledge and techniques she gained from the training for sustainable development in agriculture in her home country, Cuba.



Photo. 8 Satoyama observation in Machida, Tokyo, Japan (Project 3-1)



### 3-2 International Green Volunteer Training in Thailand

The International Green Volunteer Training was conducted from August 7<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in Thailand. The training tour was organized by ERECON under the Green Fund of the National Land Afforestation Promotion Organization. This training aimed to deepen Japanese trainees' understanding and knowledge of the importance of reforestation and afforestation, environmental conservation, and international environmental cooperation. Eight Japanese trainees attended various lectures on the state of the forests in Thailand, visited several reforestation project sites, and conducted reforestation activities with local residents. The outcomes of the training were reported at the "Global Festa Japan 2019" held in Tokyo, Japan.



Photo. 9 Presentation of International Green Volunteer Training at Global Festa Japan 2019 in Tokyo, Japan (Project 3-2)

### 3-3 Re-Inventing Japan Project Internship

This is an internship program that ERECON provides for exchange students to the Tokyo University of Agriculture coming from Latin America. For the 2019 program year, the internship was held from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> August and from 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> September for 17 exchange students. The interns learned about the importance of sustainable use of natural resources in Japan, Asian countries, and their own countries. The program contained an introduction to ERECON projects across Asian countries, several sustainable farming practices, Satoyama conservation, project planning in their countries, etc. The trainees were eager to learn and the outcomes from the subjects were demonstrated during their presentation.



Photo. 10 Lecture on sustainable farming practices in Machida, Tokyo, Japan (Project 3-3)  
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