Institute of Environment Rehabilitation and Conservation, called ERECON, is the non-profit international organization established in April 2000. ERECON shall aim to contribute to sustainable use of natural resources in Asian countries. Therefore the organization shall pursue the environment rehabilitation, conservation and illuminating campaign for the harmony between the agricultural and urban development and the natural environment.

ERECON shall conduct the following non-profit programs.

1. Programs on environment rehabilitation and conservation in Asian countries.
2. Programs on sustainable use of natural resources in Asian countries.
3. Programs on illuminating campaign of environment in Asian countries.

For the international environment cooperation, following programs were conducted in the program year of 2006 from April 2006 to March 2007.

1. Programs on environment rehabilitation and conservation in Asian countries

1-1 Encouragement Program for Sustainable Agriculture in Salt Affected Area of Phra Yun, Northeast Thailand (Phase 3)

Salt accumulation is one of the biggest environmental concerns in Northeast Thailand. Deforestation spreading in Northeast Thailand degraded soil quality, and agricultural land productivity is decreasing in the area. This program focused on the rehabilitation and conservation strategies in salt affected soils, and on making sustainable agricultural system.

The following activities were conducted in 2006; model farming on vegetable cultivation, reforestation, workshops for enhancing rehabilitation and conservation in salt affected area, guideline distribution, and interview and questionnaire survey for evaluating farmers’ adaptability.

1-2 Research Program on Reforestation and Environment Rehabilitation of Degraded Mountainous Land in Pua of Nan Province, Northern Thailand

This research program focused on making a program proposal for reforestation of degraded mountainous land in Pua of Nan province, Northern Thailand. In Pua, the land degradation has been spreading due to conversion from forest to agricultural fields.

In 2006, the following activities were conducted; investigation on surviving rate and height of trees those planted last program year, test planting of 760 trees of Albizia lebbeck, surveys of topography, soil properties and meteorology, evaluation of amounts of CO$_2$ fixed by planted trees in CDM and workshops for deeper awareness and higher participation of local people.
1-3 Encouragement Program on Reforestation for Agro-forestry in Salt Affected Area in Northeast Thailand

This encouragement program aimed to initiate an agro-forestry system co-existing wood lands and agricultural fields in salt affected area on Kham Pom of Khon Kaen, Northeast Thailand.

In 2006, the following activities were conducted; reforestation of *Acacia mangium* and *Syzygium jambos* at 3 ha of salt affected area, brochure distribution and workshops for enhancing more participation through deeper perception of local people.

1-4 Program on Constructing Artificial Floating Islands for Improving Water Quality in Mekong River Watersheds

The water quality degradation is spreading in Mekong River Watersheds. Agricultural chemicals such as chemical fertilizer or pesticide are broadcasted for increasing land productivity. Eutrophication is one of common features of water degradation in the watersheds.

The following activities were conducted; constructing small-size floating islands, forming water environment conservation group, distributing brochures, and workshops on water environment conservation for more participation through deeper perception of local people in 2006.

1-5 Program on Soil Environment Rehabilitation of Tsunami Affected Farmlands in Ranong Province, Southern Thailand

The aims of this program are to provide guidance to local farmers on evaluating soil salinity or water quality, to improve physical characteristics of farmland soil after the Tsunami, to introduce measures against soil degradation, and to promote recycling agriculture by composting. The target area of this program is Suksamran district of Ranong province.

The following activities were conducted in 2006; preparation and distribution of brochures on soil rehabilitation and conservation, visiting individual farmers, training of leaders on agricultural land rehabilitation, investigation and evaluation of soil salinity and acidity, workshops, and questionnaire survey for program evaluation.

1-6 Reforestation Program for Environment Rehabilitation in Tsunami affected area of Southern Thailand

Tsunami disaster occurred in Southern Thailand proved the conservation effects of mangrove trees. However, many mangrove trees were damaged by Tsunami waves. So, this program dealt with the reforestation of mangrove trees for disaster prevention and environment conservation in coastal area located in Ranong and Phang Nga provinces.

In 2006, the following activities were conducted; reforestation of mangrove trees in coastal area damaged by Tsunami at 10 ha, making group of local people for sustainable
activity of reforestation and environment conservation, workshop for illuminating the importance of reforestation of mangrove trees for disaster prevention and environmental conservation in coastal area, investigation of planted trees, and contacting and discussing with local government for getting support in this program.

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

2-1 Encouragement Program on Enhancing Organic Farming for Sustainable Agriculture in Phra Yun, Thailand (Phase 3)

In Phra Yun of Khon Kaen province, eutrophication is one of severe environmental issues as well as salt accumulation. Although the farmers were interested in minimizing the costs to purchase chemical fertilizers with organic farming, they could not move to organic farming because of paucity of information.

The following activities were conducted in 2006; setting model farms for organic farming in the village, workshops for enhancing organic farming including demonstration of vegetable cultivation, distribution of brochures, and interview and questionnaire survey for program evaluation.

2-2 Encouragement Program on Natural Resources Recycling System for Sustainable Agriculture in Uttaradit, Thailand (Phase 3)

In Uttaradit province of Northern Thailand, the burning is the common practice. Every farmer conducts the burning once or twice every year. Also eutrophication problems occur as a result of using excess amounts of chemical fertilizer for increasing crop productivity. In 2006, an ERECON expert was dispatched for conducting the encouragement program to minimize the burning practice and to decrease the amounts of chemical fertilizer.

The activities in 2006 were as follows, training for organic farming groups, establishing compost center, making compost boxes, workshops for encouraging organic farming with minimizing the burning practice, and distribution of brochures.

2-3 Research Program on Farming System and Soil Fertility in Vientian Prefecture, Laos (Phase 2)

The average income of farmers in Laos is comparatively lower than other workers. Although there are many factors affecting to the poverty of farmers, one of the main factors is low crop productivity due to lacking soil fertility.

This program dealt with investigation on farming system and soil fertility in Vientian prefecture of Laos through the interview in 2006.

2-4 Participation Program on Organic Composting for Sustainable Agriculture in Phrea, Thailand

Farmers in Phrea could not move to organic farming because of paucity of information, although the farmers were interested in minimizing the costs to purchase chemical fertilizer with organic farming.

The following activities were conducted in 2006, setting concrete compost boxes, distributing brochures, workshops on organic farming, counseling farmers for composting guidance.
3. Programs on illuminating campaign of environment in Asian countries

3-1 Technical Guidance of Eco-Agriculture for Local Farmers (Phase 2)

The program site was Khiri Mat district located in marginal area in Sukhothai province bounded on Phitsanulok province. The degradation of water quality has been a serious environmental problem due to the excess amounts of chemical fertilizer applied.

In the aim to enhance organic farming in Khiri Mat district of Sukhothai province, the following activities were conducted in 2006; workshops, setting pellet machines and compost boxes in each village, distributing brochures, leader training, and interview and questionnaire survey for program evaluation.

3-2 Program on Food, Agriculture and Environment Education System under the Collaboration between NGO and University

This program focused on the discussion on effective education system regarding food, agriculture and environment under the collaboration between NGO and university through the activities at elementary schools in Khon Kaen of Thailand or Phnom Penh of Cambodia.

In 2006, the following activities were conducted, collecting and analyzing the cases of food, agriculture and environment education, workshops on supporting system for food, agriculture and environment education, seminars on food, agriculture and environment education through composting and organic farming at elementary schools, and questionnaire survey for evaluating the perception on organic agriculture and environment conservation at elementary schools in Khon Kaen and Phnom Penh.


In 2006, 4 work camps were conducted in ERECON.

1. ERECON work camps at Sukhothai in August 2006

Work camps for program supporting and program planning were conducted at Sukhothai in August 2006. There were 10 Japanese volunteers for program supporting and 4 volunteers for program planning.

2. ERECON work camps at Chiang Rai in August 2006

There were 3 Japanese volunteers for program supporting of ERECON work camp that was held at Chiang Rai province from 16 to 21 August, 2006.

All 3 Japanese volunteers joined the activities regarding the rural survey for organic farming and acquired the complete certificate of ERECON work camp.

3. ERECON work camp at Khon Kaen in August 2006

Work camp for program supporting was conducted at Khon Kaen in August 2006. There were 6 Japanese volunteers for program supporting that was held from 25 to 30 August, 2006.

All 6 Japanese volunteers joined the activities regarding the rehabilitation of salt affected soil and water including reforestation and the illuminating campaign of organic farming. All volunteers acquired the complete certificate of ERECON work camp.
In Southeast Asian countries, the burning of woods or plant residues is a common practice, although it is recognized the burning affects to the global climate system through the emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. So, ERECON has been strongly empowering the illuminating campaign of composting in organic farming at rural areas in Thailand and neighboring countries since 2000 program year.

ERECON programs, such as organic farming, erosion control, rehabilitation of Tsunami or salt affected soil and water, and reforestation continue to the programs in 2007 on the basis of the philosophy of ERECON.

In ERECON programs, efforts should be made to build confidence in farmers so that they make decisions on how to solve the facing problems. ERECON has a supportive role, providing some guidance, advices, comments, and training for building farmers’ confidence. Grouping of farmers is a way for facilitating among farmers through exchanging knowledge and experiences related to agricultural practices in sustainable ways.

In 2007 program year, the main target countries of ERECON programs will be Thailand, Cambodia and Laos.

(Machito MIHARA)

ERECON directors, advisor and officers in 2007 are as follows.

1. Directors
   MAKITA Toichi, Dr.
   Professor at Obarin University, Japan.
   MIHARA Machito, Dr. PD. <Director-General>
   Professor at Tokyo University of Agriculture, Japan.
   TAKEUCHI Yasushi, Dr.
   Professor at Tokyo University of Agriculture, Japan.
   YAMAJI Eiji, Dr.
   Professor at The University of Tokyo, Japan.
   YASUTOMI Rokuro, Dr.
   Emeritus Professor at Tokyo Univ. of Agri. and Tech., Japan.

2. Advisor
   SOMBATPANIT Samran, Dr.
   Past President at World Association of Soil and Water Conservation.

3. Officers
   SIRIWATTANANON Lalita, PM.
   Representative and Secretariat-General of ERECON SeA Office.
   UENO Takashi, Dr. PM.
   Secretariat-General of ERECON Headquarters.

In 2007, including above 2 officers of Secretariat-General, 8 officers of full-time or part-time implement the various ERECON programs under the collaboration with 8 registered Experts of International Environment Cooperation.

(PD: Program Director, PM: Program Manager, PC: Program Coordinator)
1. ERECON Membership

The organization shall be comprised of members as follows; regular, international regular, associate and organization members. Regular members shall receive 2 ERECON Newsletters written in Japanese by mail and more than 50 of ERECON News by e-mail. Also, international regular members shall receive an ERECON Annual Report written in English and decades of ERECON News by e-mail. All members can join ERECON programs.

1-1 Regular members

Persons and organizations those agree with the aims of ERECON and promote the international environment cooperative activities in Asian countries including Japan.

1-2 International regular members

Persons and organizations those agree with the aims of ERECON and promote the international environment cooperative activities in specified country of Asia. The persons and organizations staying in Japan can not be International regular member.

1-3 Associate members

Students those agree with the aims of ERECON and promote the international environment cooperative activities only in Japan.

1-4 Organization members

Organizations those agree with the aims of ERECON and support ERECON international environment cooperative activities in Asian countries including Japan.

At present, there are 109 regular members, 22 international regular members and 10 association members in ERECON.

2. ERECON Scholarship

2-1 Objectives

The ERECON scholarship is aimed to support financially the young people, who has a strong will to conduct the environment rehabilitation and conservation in Asian countries through ERECON activities. The objective and planning of the research traveling or the studying abroad should be in the field of environment rehabilitation and conservation.

2-2 Application

Person must apply the ERECON scholarship with submitting the application form, C.V. and certification of your graduation and GPA.

2-3 Selection

The committee in ERECON selects a few people as a scholarship fellow according to the following points.

1) Ability and potential concerning the environment rehabilitation and conservation in Asian countries.
2) Subjects majored and grade obtained. Normally, GPA should be higher than 3.00.
3) Former ERECON activities conducted by the applicant.

3. ERECON Awards

There are two kinds of awards in ERECON. Members can be award candidate with submitting the reports of one’s activities. Please don’t hesitate to contact us.

3-1 Scientific Award of Environmental Agriculture

This award is for scientists, who are conducting researches for the environmental agriculture.

3-2 Technical Award of Environmental Agriculture

This award is for farmers, engineers, and technicians, who are conducting activities for the environmental agriculture.

In 2006, ERECON presented Technical Award of Environmental Agriculture to Dr. Naoyuki YAMAMOTO and Dr. Rangsatir STRIMUANG for their excellent contribution in ERECON program at Uttaradit province, Thailand.

4. ERECON Books

The book titled ‘Environmental Science of Water’ was published in April 2004. This book written in Japanese is the 1st book published by ERECON. The price is 1,500 yen including tax.

In November 2004, the book titled ‘Participatory Strategy for Soil and Water Conservation’ was published as a result of international symposium organized by ERECON. The price of the book written in English is 3,000 yen including tax.

For ordering, please contact to ERECON Headquarters.