

## Report of ERECON Programs in 2015

Following programs were implemented in the program year of 2015 from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 to the end of March 2016.

### **1. Program on environmental rehabilitation and conservation in Asian countries**

#### **1-1 Project on Encouragement for Rehabilitating Soil**

##### ***Environment in Salt Affected Area of Northeast Thailand***

Salt accumulation is a big environmental concern in northeast Thailand. Spread of deforestation in northeast Thailand degraded soil quality in the area. This project aims to rehabilitate soil environment and to promote sustainable condition for agriculture in salt affected area of Khon Kaen. In 2015, reforestation activity was implemented for promoting agro-forestry system.



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

#### **1-2 Project on Reforestation for Community Reconstruction in Typhoon Affected Areas in Leyte, Philippines (Phase 2)**

Typhoon Haiyan, one of the strongest typhoons ever recorded, hit Philippines, especially eastern Visayas region in November 2013. It brought enormous damage to infrastructure and livelihoods. Although coconut is a major crop for agricultural income in Leyte Province, local farmers lost many of coconut trees by this natural disaster. Accordingly, this project aims to reconstruct the communities affected by the typhoon and to strengthen its resilience in farming practices to natural disasters by introducing rainforestation, which is one choice for sustainable reforestation consisted of indigenous trees and fruit trees. Various activities such as workshops and reforestation activities were held to promote rainforestation in typhoon affected areas.

### **2. Program 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 (Phase 2)**

This project aims to promote technologies and knowledge on sustainable use of natural resources for conserving the socio-ecological production landscapes in the provinces of Monduliri, Kampong Cham and Battambang. The project included various workshops and reforestation activities collaborated with local farmers and elementary school students, including delivering pamphlets on forest degradation and restoration. Also, the networking among the elementary schools in Monduliri, Kampong Cham and Battambang Provinces was enhanced.

#### **2-2 Project on Promoting Sustainable Agriculture in Kampong**

#### ***Cham Province, Cambodia (Phase 5)***

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 2015, the final year of this project, technical training on collecting and shipping low chemical input agricultural products was held for deepening the perception of local farmers. At the elementary schools, the textbook on Food, Agriculture and Environment Education was published and delivered among 10 elementary schools. In addition, the final presentations and reports were shared and acknowledged among stakeholders.



Photo. 2 Project site in Kampong Cham visited by Agricultural Association from Takeo, Cambodia (Project 2-2)

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

This project dealing with steering farmers schools and promoting organic agricultural materials was a 3-years project from April 2013 to March 2016. The target areas were 7 villages in Snuol Commune, Snuol District, Kratie Province, Cambodia. The local farmers have become accessible to the non-formal education of Khmer, mathematics and environment on a regular basis through this project. Also at the pellet compost center, the steering committee of pellet compost center has been promoting to produce and sell organic agricultural materials made by the organic agricultural materials producer groups in Snuol Commune.



Photo. 3 Technical training for production and sale of organic agricultural materials in Kratie, Cambodia (Project 2-3)

### 3. Programs on environmental education in Asian countries

#### 3-1 JICA ABE and PEACE Training Program

ERECON accepted one Ph.D. course student in JICA project for the Promotion and Enhancement of the Afghan Capacity for Effective Development (JICA PEACE) and two Master course students in JICA project for the African Business Education Initiative (JICA ABE), who study at Graduate School of Agriculture, Tokyo University of Agriculture. The trainees could accumulate the experiences on soil environmental evaluation and soil conservation measures.

#### 3-2 JICA Nikkei Training Program

The mono-culture has been adapted widely in Latin America for producing cash crops. Thus, soil conservation is recognized as needed for sustainable agriculture in Latin America. This course is arranged for JICA Nikkei Trainees under the collaboration with Tokyo University of Agriculture. In the course, one trainee learned the methods and technologies on soil conservation, participatory approach for achieving to promote sustainable agriculture in local context, as well as the evaluation methods for extension projects, etc.



Photo. 4 Training of charcoal making by JICA Nikkei Trainee in Tama, Japan (Project 3-2)

#### 3-3 International Green Volunteer Training in Philippines

The International Green Volunteer Training was implemented from March 22 to 30 in 2016 in Leyte, Philippines. The training tour became the 7th time organized by ERECON under the Green Fund from the National Land Afforestation Promotion Organization. The objective was that Japanese trainees deepen their understanding and gain knowledge about the importance of reforestation as well as afforestation, environmental conservation and international environmental cooperation. The ten selected Japanese trainees experienced educational and fruitful 9 days in Philippines. They attended lectures about forest facts of Philippines and Haiyan Typhoon, visited several reforestation and reforestation project sites, conducted research on several environmental topics and presented in the international symposium. In this time, ten students from Visayas State University accompanied and helped the Japanese trainees learn the local forest and environmental issues as well as local culture and language.



Photo. 5 Green Volunteer Training at ERECON reforestation project site in Leyte, Philippines (Project 3-3)

(Kumiko KAWABE, PM)

