

## Report of ERECON Programs in 2016

Following programs were implemented in the program year of 2016 from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 to the end of March 2017.

### **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***

In northeast Thailand, salt accumulation is a big environmental concern. Spreading deforestation has degraded soil qualities in this area. Accordingly, this project was conducted to rehabilitate soil environment and to promote sustainable condition for agriculture in salt affected area of Khon Kaen Province. In 2016, reforestation activity was implemented for promoting agro-forestry system.

#### **1-2 Project of Green Promotion for Restoration of Satoyama in Monduliri, Cambodia**

This project aims to promote technologies and knowledge of local residents on sustainable forest management for generating income through harvesting non-timber forest products. The project includes various workshops and reforestation activities with local residents and school students in Monduliri Province. At the same time, a set of training for planting trees and subsequent survey of survival rate as well as additional tree planting was conducted.

#### **1-3 Project of Reforestation for Biodiversity Conservation in Kratie, Cambodia**

Biodiversity has been severely damaged in Kratie Province of Eastern Cambodia due to sharp decrease and degradation of forest owing to land conversion and illegal deforestation. This project deals with reforestation activities through tree planting aiming at recovery of biodiversity as well as enhancement of knowledge and techniques of local residents on sustainable forest management and environmental conservation.



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

#### **1-4 Project on Promoting Participatory Management of Community Forest in Nakhon Ratchasima, Northeast Thailand**

Natural forests are continuously decreasing due to land conversion in Thailand. Also, biodiversity has been damaged due to insufficient forest management. Deforestation is also observed in Nakhon Ratchasima Province due to illegal logging and inefficient management of forests. Accordingly, this project was implemented to support the reforestation activities of local residents, as well as to establish participatory management system of community forest. It is

expected that the established management system contributes to generation of stable local livelihoods and biodiversity conservation through forest rehabilitation and conservation.

### **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 3)**

In Cambodia, soil degradation and water pollution have become serious problems due to illegal deforestation and excessive usage of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Accordingly, this project was conducted to promote technology 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 promoted.

#### **2-2 Sustainable Rural Development through Natural Resource Management and Organic Farming in Kratie Province in Cambodia**

This project aims to promote sustainable rural development through natural resource management and organic farming in Kratie Province of Cambodia. There are 3 main activities; the first is holding ESD school monthly for disseminating the concept of SDGs, the second promoting adequate forest and natural resource management including production of non-timber forest products, and the third promoting organic farming including proper usage of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. At ESD school, local farmers were provided the opportunities to learn Khmer language, mathematics, in addition to environmental issues related to SDGs on a regular basis. Also, indigenous trees are planted in collaboration with local farmers to improve bio-diversity in the forest.



Photo. 2 Workshop on organic farming in Kratie, Cambodia (Project 2-2)

#### **2-3 Project on Eliminating Global Warming by Soil Carbon Pool**

It is indispensable to enhance the absorption and the reduction of GHG (greenhouse gas) in human activities. It is still at an early stage in terms of actual practices of SCP (soil carbon pool) in agricultural sectors, although the subject is attracting worldwide and carbon offset is comparatively widely tackled. Accordingly, this



project was conducted to deepen the recognition of the importance of soil carbon pool by local residents, visitors and volunteers through holding various exhibitions at local events as well as information dissemination on the internet.

#### **2-4 Project on Planting Salvia, Machida City Flower, in Onoji SATOYAMA “One of 100 Best Local Landscapes in Japan”**

This program was implemented for enhancing attraction of Onoji SATOYAMA, where is nominated only one in Tokyo as one of 100 best local landscapes in Japan. There are many visitors walking around Onoji SATOYAMA. In this project, the flowers of salvia, Machida City’s flower, was selected and planted for decorating alongside of “Somen Street” with local residents and volunteers.

#### **2-5 Project on Weekend Cleaning in Onoji SATOYAMA “One of 100 Best Local Landscapes in Japan”**

The walking route of Onoji SATOYAMA is widely known as a visiting place by many hikers and also utilized as daily road for local residents. However, the route has steep slope and slippery with fallen leaves, especially for aged people and bicycle drivers. So, the route should be regularly cleaned by removing fallen leaves. Accordingly, the activity was implemented to keep the road clean in collaboration with the local residents and school students.



Photo. 3 Demonstration workshop in Kampong Cham, Cambodia (Project 3-1)

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

#### **3-1 Fundamental Survey on Setting up and Steering Agricultural Training Center for Promoting Sustainable Agriculture in Kampong Cham Province, Cambodia**

This project was implemented to conduct fundamental survey on setting up and steering agricultural training center for promoting sustainable agriculture in Kampong Cham Province, Cambodia. As a result of the survey, it became clear that setting up agricultural training center in Kampong Cham Province is an appropriate place for training the officers of PDA (Provincial Department of Agriculture) and DOA (District Office of Agriculture) as well as local farmers, as the agricultural conditions in Kampong Cham Province is in the averaged level among neighboring provinces and the learned farming practices can be easily disseminated to other provinces. Also in this project, a demonstration workshop and seminar were conducted with PDA and DOA officers as well as local farmers. In addition, the guideline for promoting sustainable agriculture were openly shared with relevant stakeholders through the internet.

#### **3-2 International Green Volunteer Training in Cambodia**

The International Green Volunteer Training was implemented from February 12 to 20, 2017 in Cambodia. 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 as well as afforestation, environmental conservation and international environmental cooperation. The trainees attended some lectures about forest facts in Cambodia, where the degradation of forest is the serious problem. The trainees expressed their impression as ‘the experience was very new and unique to me as unlike our daily life’, and ‘I enjoyed the experience of conducting reforestation and sharing the hours with the local elementary school students’.



Photo. 4 Green Volunteer Training at ERECON reforestation project site in Mondulkiri, Cambodia (Project 3-2)

#### **3-3 Project on Human Resource Development for Soil Carbon Pool Meister to Achieve Low-Carbon & Recycling-Based Society**

There is a growing expectation among agriculture sectors that carbon pool in agricultural lands contributes to reducing greenhouse gases. Accordingly, this project implemented to disseminate the importance of carbon pool in agricultural land through various exhibitions, such as Global Festival Japan 2016 an so on. Also, five training sessions of Carbon Pool Meister course were opened and 26 trainees obtained diploma of Carbon Pool Meister. In addition, the diffusion via the internet website of UNDB-J (Japan Committee for United Nations Decade on Biodiversity) was very successful since the project was approved as a collaborating venture by UNDB-J.

#### **3-4 NGO Intern Program**

NGO internship program was conducted for capacity building of the youth in the field of international cooperation by being involved in NGO’s activities. The intern of this year was engaged in various projects not only in ERECON Headquarters but also in Thailand and Cambodia. The intern accumulated the experiences of various tasks in Administrative, Extension and Research Centers in ERECON.

#### **3-5 JICA ABE and PEACE Training Program**

ERECON offered the training to two Ph.D. course students 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.

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