

## Report of ERECON Extension Programs in 2017

Following extension programs were implemented in the program year of 2017 from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 to the end of March 2018.

### 1. Program on Environmental Rehabilitation and Conservation in Asian countries

#### 1-1 Project of Green Promotion for Restoration of Satoyama in Mondulkiri, Cambodia (Phases 1 and 2)

This project aims to promote technique and knowledge about sustainable forest management for generating income through harvesting non-timber forest products among the local residents. The project includes various workshops and reforestation activities with local residents and school students. These activities were conducted in Laoka Village and Pu Trohm Village, Senmonorom, Mondulkiri Province in 2017.



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

#### 1-2 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 provides the local residents with the opportunities of reforestation activities through tree planting aiming at recovery of biodiversity and workshops for enhancement of knowledge and technique about sustainable forest management and environmental conservation. The activities were conducted in Snuol Kert Village, Snuol Commune and An Chan Village, Srey Cha Commune in Snuol District, Kratie in 2017.



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

#### 1-3 Project on Reforestation for Forest Restoration in Nakhon Ratchasima Province, Thailand

Natural forests are continuously decreasing due to land conversion in Thailand. At the same time, biodiversity has been damaged due to insufficient forest management. Deforestation is also observed in Nakhon Ratchasima Province through illegal logging and insufficient management of forests. Facing those issues, this project aimed to promote the reforestation activities among local residents, as well as to initiate forest restoration by setting up conservation systems. It is expected that this project contributes to "Sustainable Forest Management" in SDGs No.15.



Photo. 3 Reforestation activity in Nakhon Ratchasima Province, Thailand (Project 1-3)

#### 1-4 Project on Reforestation for Forest Restoration in Chai Nat Province, Thailand

The forest area has seriously decreased due to deforestation of natural forests through illegal logging and lacking effective forest management in Chai Nat Province. Accordingly, this project aimed to implement reforestation activities with local residents and private sectors. As the results of this project, it is expected that the community forests are managed well by local people that is described in SDGs No.15 as "Sustainable Forest Management".



Photo. 4 Reforestation activity in Chai Nat Province, Thailand (Project 1-4)

### 2. Program on Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in Asian countries

#### 2-1 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, Cambodia. There are three main activities: the first is holding ESD school monthly for disseminating the concept of SDGs; the second promoting community forest and natural resource management through production of non-timber forest products; and the third promoting organic farming including proper usage of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. In the last year 2017, the project was implemented in Krosang Village and Trapeang Leak Village, Snuol Commune, Kratie Province, Cambodia.



Photo. 5 ESD school in Kratie Province, Cambodia (Project 2-1)

#### **2-2 Project on Promoting Sustainable Agricultural Conditions for Poverty Reduction in Kampong Cham Province, Cambodia**

In Cambodia, the usage of chemical fertilizers and pesticides has significantly increased to promote agricultural productivity. However, due to the inappropriate use of agricultural chemicals such as overuse and application without sufficient knowledge, it has caused various problems to human and environmental health. Although agricultural productivity has increased temporarily, environmental issues such as soil degradation due to less organic contents, water degradation such as eutrophication, etc. have occurred. The target area of this project, Kampong Cham Province has faced the same issues. The former ERECON project reported that agriculture of the province has the average characteristics of the country without any peculiarity from viewpoints of agricultural conditions such as agricultural products or cultivating areas of individual farmers, etc. Therefore, it is expected that the outcomes from this project are applicable to the whole Cambodia. Based on these facts, this project aims to promote sustainable agricultural conditions for poverty reduction in Kampong Cham Province, Cambodia.

There are the following three steps in 2017: building capacity on sustainable agriculture based on cyclic use of natural resources among the officers of Provincial Department of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishery (PDAFF) and District Department of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishery (DDAFF) for extension skills and knowledge from soft (knowledge, skills) to hard (facilities) measures (1<sup>st</sup> step); making PDAFF and DDAFF centers for promoting sustainable agriculture under the collaboration with local universities (2<sup>nd</sup> step); and promoting sustainable farming practices based on cyclic use of natural resources among local farmers (3<sup>rd</sup> step).

There are three main themes in this project, which are the pest and disease control, the improvement of soil fertility and the irrigation technique in sustainable agriculture based on cyclic use of

natural resources. The 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> steps for the theme of soil fertility has been implemented by the end of March 2018.



Photo. 6 Training on sustainable farming practices based on cyclic use of natural resources in Kampong Cham Province, Cambodia (Project 2-2)

#### **3. Program on Environmental Education in Asian countries**

##### **3-1 International Green Volunteer Training in Thailand**

The International Green Volunteer Training was implemented from August 6 to 14, 2017 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, environmental conservation and international environmental cooperation. The ten Japanese trainees in total have experienced fruitful 9 days in Thailand. They attended lectures about forest facts of Thailand, visited several reforestation project sites, and conducted reforestation with local residents and private sectors. The achievements of this training was presented at "GLOBAL FESTA JAPAN 2017" held at Tokyo, Japan and shared with many visitors.



Photo. 7 Green Volunteer Training at ERECON reforestation project site in Nakhon Ratchasima Province, Thailand (Project 3-1)

##### **3-2 JICA Nikkei Training**

The mono-culture has been widely adapted in Latin America for producing cash crops. As it has degraded soil, local people increased awareness of importance of soil conservation for sustainable agriculture in Latin America. This course is arranged for Nikkei Trainees who are descendants of Japanese family under the support of JICA. In the third time of this project for ERECON, we accepted two Nikkei trainees from Brazil and Argentine from May to November 2017. In the course, trainees learned the methods and

technique on agro-biodiversity, soil conservation, sustainable agriculture, project cycle management, participatory rural appraisal, and Satoyama conservation, etc. The trainees are expected to apply the knowledge and technique from this training to their countries for sustainable development.



Photo. 8 Practical training on soil conservation through organic farming, Machida, Tokyo, Japan (Project 3-2)

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

ERECON provided a training program for 3 graduate students consisting of two Ph.D. course students in JICA project for the Promotion and Enhancement of the Afghan Capacity for Effective Development (JICA PEACE) and one Master course students in JICA project for the African Business Education Initiative (JICA ABE) belonging to Graduate School of Agriculture, Tokyo University of Agriculture. The training program is mainly consisted of farmland management for watershed management and project cycle management (PCM). The trainees learned how to manage farmlands in Onojo-Satoyama areas and how to form a project involving key stakeholders.



Photo. 9 Training on watershed management, Machida, Tokyo, Japan (Project 3-3)



Photo. 10 Practical training on sustainable agriculture, Machida, Tokyo, Japan (Project 3-4)

### **3-4 Re-Inventing Japan Project Internship**

This is the internship program that ERECON provides for the exchange students in Tokyo University of Agriculture from Latin America. For the 2017 fiscal year, the internship were held twice for ten students in total. The interns learned about the importance of sustainable use of natural resources in Japan, Asian countries and their own countries. The program contained introduction of ERECON's projects in Asian countries, several sustainable farming practices, Satoyama conservation, planning a project in their countries, etc. The trainees showed their interest during each training topic and high learning results in their presentations.

(Kumiko KAWABE, Ph.D., PM)