

Report of ERECON Extension Programs in 2020

Following extension programs were implemented in the program year of 2020 from 1st April 2020 to the end of March 2021.

1. Program on Environmental Rehabilitation and Conservation in Asian Countries

1-1 Project on Reforestation for Forest Restoration in Nakhon Ratchasima Province, Thailand (Phase 3)

In Thailand, natural forests are continuously decreasing due to land conversion. Also, biodiversity has been declined due to insufficient forest management. In Nakhon Ratchasima Province of Thailand, deforestation has also occurred 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. The project has been contributing to “Sustainable Forest Management” in SDGs No.15.



Photo. 1 Checking planted trees in Nakhon Ratchasima Province, Thailand (Project 1-1)

1-2 Project on Reforestation for Forest Restoration in Chai Nat Province, Thailand (Phase 3)

In Chai Nat Province of Thailand, the forest area has been seriously decreasing due to deforestation through illegal logging and lack of effective forest management. Accordingly, reforestation activities through this project were conducted with local residents for promoting participatory management of community forests. Through 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. 2 Watering planted trees in Chai Nat Province, Thailand (Project 1-6)

1-3 Project of Reforestation for Sustainable Forest Management in Kampong Cham Province, Cambodia (Phases 1 and 2)

The residents in Kampong Cham Province have been prone to facing hardships by climate change 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 residents through forest conservation and management workshops. It is expected this project contributes to conservation and management of the forest while promoting an objective of “Sustainable Forest Management” in SDGs No.15. The reforestation activity in Phase 2 was conducted at two elementary schools in Stung Trung District with the workshop on “Importance of forest”. Also, the residents formed a forest management group for continuous management of the forest in the area.



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

1-4 Project on Greening for Satoyama Regeneration in Eastern Cambodia (Phase 1)

Biodiversity has been severely damaged due to sharp decrease and degradation of forest owing to land conversion and illegal deforestation in Mondulhiri Province and Kratie Province, the eastern part of Cambodia. Local residents have interests in sustainably managing the forest; however, the knowledge and techniques are minimal. This project provided the local residents the opportunities for reforestation activities to recover biodiversity and workshops for deepening knowledge and technique on sustainable forest management and environmental conservation. The reforestation activities were conducted at Doh Kromom Village in Mondulhiri Province and Snoul Ker Pagoda in Kratie Province in 2020. Local forest management groups were formed in each area, and it is expected the residents of the groups advance the management of the planted trees.



Photo. 4 Reforestation activity in Kratie Province, Cambodia (Project 1-4)

1-5 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 and Ratanakiri Provinces, Cambodia. In 2020, a series of workshops were conducted in the project areas to enhance community awareness and understanding of reforestation and habitat restoration. Workshops on composting, bio-fertilizer, bio-pesticides, and easy facial mask and body scrub from natural ingredients were conducted to increase livelihood security of communities in CPAs. Native tree seedlings produced by local communities were planted for reforesting the degraded areas and creating the agro-forestry farms. After reforestation, CPAs members maintained and monitored the reforested areas, especially in the dry season.



Photo. 5 Reforestation in Veal Kambor Community Protected Area, Sre Pok Wildlife Sanctuary, Ratanakiri Province, Cambodia (Project 1-5)

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 (Phase 3)

In 2020, more than 25 officers from Kampong Cham PDAFF and DDAFF took the training on “Collecting and Shipping” led by an agricultural enterprise in Cambodia. In the training, the officers mainly learned the techniques and skills needed for the collecting/shipping process and also how they can disseminate the knowledge to the local farmers. Based on what they have learned, the officers provided trainings and workshops on “Collecting and Shipping” to

100 Collecting and Shipping Members as well as 800 local farmers in the region. Workshops on “Irrigation Techniques” for 800 farmers in all 10 districts were also conducted in the province. Based on a 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, selected Collecting and Shipping Members joined an agricultural exhibition held in Kampong Cham City. After attending the agricultural exhibition, the members realized the importance of choosing/planting their production based on consumer preferences and demands, the importance of establishing proper collecting and shipping systems, and the importance of adjusting the shipment method under uniformed regulation. The members have started to sell their low-chemical inputs products at the agricultural shops set up in each district. Additionally, a project evaluation meeting was held on 22 December 2020 with various stakeholders. The results from the evaluation meeting were shared widely through the newsletter.



Photo. 6 Shop for vegetable products with low-chemical inputs in Kampong Cham Province, Cambodia (Project 2-1)

3. Program on Environmental Education in Asian Countries

市民によるカーボンリサイクルの取り組みを通じた低炭素・循環型社会の形成促進事業



Photo. 7 Video screen in the online event of 13th Musashino Environment Festa, Tokyo, Japan (Project 3-1)

3-1 Project on Promoting Carbon Recycling by Citizens aiming to Low-Carbon and Recycling-Based Society

As climate change is one of the biggest issues facing the global environment, attention is being paid to carbon storage in forest and agricultural areas. From farmlands all the way down to kitchen

gardens, soil carbon storage in carbon recycling is expected to be promoted. This project has been implemented to disseminate awareness of the importance of carbon storage in carbon recycling from farmlands all the way down to kitchen gardens through online exhibitions such as “Eco Life Stage 2020”, “13th Musashino Environment Festa” and “14th Civic Collaboration Festival - Machi Cafe!”, as well as some seminars.



Photo. 8 Intern supporting PCM training for overseas trainees, Tokyo, Japan (Project 3-2)

3-2 NGO Intern Program

NGO internship program was conducted for skill development of youth in the field of international cooperation by involving them with NGO's activities. In the program year of 2020, ERECON offered the intern program at ERECON Headquarters in Machida, Tokyo. Although the intern could not go abroad due to COVID-19 pandemic, he could experienced various NGO tasks, such as planning, implementing and summarizing activities at each center of Administration, Extension or Research in ERECON Headquarters.

(Kumiko KAWABE and Mari ARIMITSU, Extension Center)