

【Evaluations and Comments Sheet (Institutional Collaboration FS)】
- Proposal for Full Research Stage –

February 27, 2015

Title of the Project	Toward the Regeneration of Tropical PeatLand Societies: Establishment of an International Research Network and Proposal for the Future		
Research Term	FS	Principal Investigator	MIZUNO Kosuke
<p>General advice and comments of the PEC:</p> <p>The PEC confirmed the importance of peat land destruction as a global environmental change issue and found much to be commended in the proposal. However, the project appeared to be very localized, with fieldwork only in Sumatra. PEC members wondered how to place this work in a wider context? Developing a regional peat land map and establishing an international research hub were seen as only partially overcoming the local nature of the project.</p> <p>While the presentation also highlighted the social aspects of the problems, the project appeared as mostly adopting an engineering approach to solving them. Fundamental issues such as weak governance, in-migration were not seen to be tackled. There seemed to be mostly a focus on restoring ecosystems, rather than to work on the causes of their destruction, including economic incentives and social drivers. There is a need for strong local engagement, including long-term anthropological fieldwork.</p> <p>The PEC found it relatively difficult to understand what the benefits of undertaking this as an Institutional Collaboration Project with RIHN. RIHN appeared as mainly providing funds. More support from the counterpart institution might be expected as well in this case.</p>			