

Final Evaluation at the end of FR

Title of the Project	Environmental Change and Infectious Disease in Tropical Asia
Project Leader	MOJI Kazuhiko
General advice and comments of PEC: <p>Focusing on the linkage between environment and health, the project has been well organized and implemented. Hence, this project is considered to be compatible with RIHN's founding mission and research. Interaction between medical science and environmental studies is a good example for other RIHN projects. At the same time, there is a need to further underline the rationale of the "ecohealth approach" and other aspects of this project if one would like to present this work as a valuable reference and applicable model with region-specific characteristics for Tropical Asia. There should have been further ethnographic investigation on residences in the area. It would also be helpful to delineate how local communities perceive the "ecohealth approach" and respond to your findings. PEC also suggests that you should communicate your research findings with other stakeholders like policy makers and international organizations working on similar issues.</p>	
Reply <p>We are grateful to the PEC members for kindly advising and commenting to our project. The RIHN Ecohealth Project finished duly in March 2013. In the "Completed Research (CR) follow-up phase of the project, we, the project team members, shall continue field studies and activities in Lao PDR, Bangladesh, Vietnam and China in collaboration with the many counterparts in each country. Especially, we continue to run the Health and Demographic Surveillance System (HDSS) in Lahanam, Songkhone and Sepon, of the Savannakhet Province of Lao PDR, in collaboration with Nagasaki University. In order to do so, we have already started several projects other than the RIHN CR project. One project is DIAS-GRENEei-Ecohealth Project (http://grene.jp/english/) led by Prof. Chiho Watanabe of the University of Tokyo. Another is the Lao Water Quality and Geo/Ecohealth Mapping Project of the JSPS/MEXT KAKENHI Grant Number 24241083 (PI: Moji AY:2012-2015). We also work together with the National Center for Global Health and Medicine (NCGM), Japan for research capacity building and ecohealth school education and policy making. Many members of the project have their own projects supported by MEXT/JSPS or other agencies. Among them are ethnographic studies (Nishimoto et. al.), ecohealth education studies (Tomokawa, Asakura et. al.), and health policy studies. In these projects we would like to further underline the rationale of the "ecohealth approach" more clearly. The Xepon Village Health Training Center will be officially established in October 2013 by the grass-roots support of the Japanese Embassy in Lao P.D.R. Based on this center we shall communicate more with local residents and government officers of the local as well as the central level. We also try to publish our research results internationally, so that we can communicate more with the world-wide researchers who are interested in the ecohealth approach.</p>	