

Research Project FR: Final Year Project Evaluation Comments

Project Title	The Sanitation Value Chain: Designing Sanitation Systems as Eco-Community-Value System
Abbreviated Title	Sanitation
Project Leader	YAMAUCHI Taro
Project Period	5 years Full Research
Affiliated Program	Research Program 3 : Designing Lifeworlds of Sustainability and Wellbeing

General advice and comments of the EREC:

The Committee was very pleased with the way the Sanitation Project worked out. It noted the interesting results and insights the research had generated, as well as the excellent outputs including an English-language book. The establishment of a new journal is a major step towards creating a new field. By enabling researchers from lower- and middle-income countries to publish in the field, it contributes to levelling the academic playing field. The project put considerable energy into co-creation at community level in Zambia, Indonesia, West Africa and Hokkaido, with strong results. While the initial aspiration to create viable sanitation value chains in the real world was not completely realized, the Sanitation Triangle is a promising conceptual framework, which reflects the perspectives of the interdisciplinary team and interactions in the project. In particular, the emphasis on culture was found to be important. Visualization was used to good effect, especially the “photo voice” and digital story-telling approaches in Zambia. The meta-research reflecting on the research as it unfolded seemed interesting and may provide the basis for comparative studies.

The COVID pandemic made international travel impossible, which had a major constraining impact on the Sanitation Project, although efforts were made to engage with overseas partners online.

The direction for continuity of the project after completion was clearly indicated and the institutional collaborations (through MoUs, etc.) will be important in this respect. There is potential for the findings to improve international initiatives such as WASH and Community-led Total Sanitation. The Committee would like the project to make efforts to find resources to continue work and achieve measurable results.