Comment Form [Research Project FS]

February 17, 2017

Title of the Project	Co-creation of regional innovation for reducing risk of high-impact		
	environmental load using transformative boundary objects		
Research Term	FS	FS Manager	SAKAKIBARA Masayuki

General advice and comments of the EREC:

The committee found this an interesting project on an important topic, but also felt the proposal needs to be further strengthened before it is ready to go into the Full Research phase.

The project proposes a promising transdisciplinary approach by introducing ideas such as boundary objects and communities of practice. There is a need, however, to further develop this local stakeholder approach, in particular by considering how poor people as well as industry or government agencies can be engaged more closely in the process. The project would also benefit from taking on board more of the international literature on transdisciplinary tools and processes, which will help generate concrete ideas on facilitating collaboration among diverse interest groups.

The use of mercury in artisanal mining and the resulting health impacts is an important problem, which is the subject of much research by Japanese and international researchers. The problem is also being tackled on the ground by governments and international organizations and an international convention is dedicated to it. The proposal needs to review this literature and the relevant international experiences and firmly embed the project within this international body of work. Reference should also be made to the existing literature on poverty. This would strengthen the project and also bring out its original contribution better.