

Comment Form 【Research Project FS】

February 9, 2018

Title of the Project	“Co-creation of sustainable regional innovation for reducing risk of high-impact environmental pollution”		
Research Term	FS	FS Manager	Sakakibara Masayuki
General advice and comments of the EREC:			
<p>The issue of mercury in artisanal mining is one of great importance and of particular salience given the history of struggle with mercury in Japan. The Committee noted with approval the bottom-up transdisciplinary approach proposed by the project. The use of “transdisciplinary boundary objects” to engage stakeholders is promising as it directs attention explicitly to the people and organizations involved.</p>			
<p>Several EREC members raised concerns about the extent that the problem can really be solved. Any fundamental solution to the problem will need to provide alternatives to mining that help improve livelihoods and reduce poverty. The Committee felt that this may be very difficult for the project to achieve and some members suggested finding a more limited focus (e.g. concentrating on minimizing the health impact of mercury use in mining). The scope for technical solutions or alternatives to mercury use may also be explored. The need for engagement with many stakeholders across a range of issues may make it difficult to keep focused on the main objectives of the research.</p>			
<p>The fieldwork at the community level will be very demanding and success will depend on the work of local communicators who understand the stakeholders and speak the language. A proper grasp of the social and economic dimensions (e.g. around migratory workers, connections to powerful financiers) will also be required.</p>			