

Comment Form **[FR3]**

February 25, 2016

Title of the Project	Human-Environmental Security in Asia-Pacific Ring of Fire: Water-Energy-Food Nexus		
Research Term	FR3	Project Leader	TANIGUCHI Makoto
General advice and comments of the PEC:			
<p>The PEC noted improvements and progress compared to last year including a clear articulation of the project's focus on geothermal water and its relation to fisheries. At the same time, the committee was almost unanimous in raising two lingering concerns with the project.</p>			
<p>First, the case studies appeared fragmented, disjointed, locally oriented, and sites seemed not selected in a systematic way. How are the cases linked to the water-energy-food nexus framework and how to link this global framing of the project with much localized approach to the fieldwork? There is an urgent need for a conceptual scheme or model to integrate these case studies. Furthermore, how can the localized studies be up-scaled and produce policy-relevant results? Ways need to be found to reformulate the bottom-up results in a language that links to the top level. One suggestion was to add the notion of social capital to the center of the nexus triangle.</p>			
<p>Second, a clear picture of the work overseas did not emerge and it seemed rather superficial and thus a gap was noted between the sites in Japan and abroad. During the last two years, it may be necessary to strengthen the work in the overseas sites for a better balance.</p>			