

Comment Form [Research Project FS]

February 9, 2018

Title of the Project	Mapping the environmental impact footprint of cities, companies, and households		
Research Term	FS	FS Manager	Kanemoto Keiichiro
General advice and comments of the EREC:			
<p>The Committee found this proposal to link micro-level behavior to global environmental problems by way of more detailed and powerful life cycle analysis and global supply chain analysis interesting and important. Most members commented that the project is very ambitious and thus somewhat risky but potentially very rewarding. It was noted that the proponent has mobilized a strong team of collaborators.</p>			
<p>The Committee also raised two sets of concerns. First, the data requirements to realize the plans are enormous and highly complicated. The project plans to address household, company, and city levels and link these to environmental impacts. The data for each of these are scattered and were produced for different uses. Questions therefore remain about how the data can be acquired and how different levels and types of data can be combined.</p>			
<p>At the same time, the project needs to go beyond the creation of databases and platforms and consider the use of the results. Ideas about transdisciplinarity and engagement with users were seen to be relatively underdeveloped. How are the final results of the project going to be useable? How will they be communicated or made accessible? The answers to these questions will differ for households, companies and cities. Furthermore, the issue extends beyond the use of outputs in the sense that, in order to change behavior or people and organizations, a good grasp of the understandings, decision making, and constraints of these different actors is needed. At a more general level, a conceptualization (or critique) of the role of knowledge in consumption or purchasing behavior is called for in order for the project to contribute to real-world change.</p>			