Comment Form

February 8, 2018

Title of the Program	Fair Use and Management of Diverse Resources
Program Director	NAKASHIZUKA Tohru

Program Comments Summaries of the EREC:

The Committee appreciated the clear description of Program Two and the efforts to summarize and build on the work of the projects in the Program. The emergence of a framework for integrating the projects' perspectives, approaches and findings was noted with appreciation. This not only includes the broad multi-scale resources and ecosystem services framework, but also the notion of fair resource governance. The idea of fairness helps make conceptual bridges to the stakeholder involvement and the wellbeing and happiness concepts that the projects are grappling with. Fairness is a difficult notion, but the Program is now exploring the meanings and implications of the concept, among others by means of a useful literature review on equity. This provides opportunities for beginning to address vulnerability and inequity issues.

The framing of the program is usefully incorporating an understanding of the nexus concept beyond water-energy-food towards multiple and multi-scale connections, trade-offs and possible win-win situations among resources, including both natural and human resources. Members commented that this development can be extended and given more traction by more fully adopting a complex systems approach. The Program mostly frames trade-offs in ecological terms, but there is potential to move towards human dimensions (economics, inequality, poverty, power asymmetries) through the work on stakeholders and governance.

With such rich, wide-ranging conceptual foundations, the Committee pointed out that there is a need to set final goals for the program and indicate pathways how these goals are to be reached.

The Nexus Project adopted a very broad framing with case study fieldwork in many small sites, while the Lake Biwa Project is working bottom-up and still developing an approach to comparison and upscaling. Here is a potential for the program to facilitate comparison, link across scales, and explore the global relevance of the projects' research.