

## Comment Form 【FR1】

February 7, 2018

<b>Title of the Project</b>	<b>The Sanitation Value Chain: Designing Sanitation Systems as Eco-Community-Value System</b>		
<b>Research Term</b>	<b>FR1</b>	<b>Project Leader</b>	<b>Funamizu Naoyuki</b>
<b>General advice and comments of the EREC:</b>			
<p>The Committee noted with appreciation that the project has achieved much in one year. A large number of concrete outputs were produced, including the establishment of an international journal and the publishing of many papers.</p>			
<p>The value chain concept was welcomed as innovative and promising. At the same time, what the idea concretely entails and how it will be turned into practical arrangements was still somewhat vague.</p>			
<p>Most of the EREC members commented on the importance of cultural factors surrounding sanitation. Such factors crucially affect the feasibility of any scheme developed and therefore thorough anthropological or ethnographic fieldwork is required. Similarly, the cost aspect was mentioned repeatedly. The new toilet technology developed by the project is currently still very expensive. In addition, further costs (e.g. collection, infrastructure) will ensue in the process of the value chain and need to be taken into account.</p>			
<p>The project works in a number of sites (Japan, Indonesia, Zambia) that differ highly along a number of dimensions (economic development level, existing sanitation infrastructure and practices, culture). It will be important to structure the comparison across the sites explicitly so that meaningful conclusions can be drawn from such comparison. In this context, it was also suggested that research on sanitation in India should be taken into account. The rural-urban dimension is also important. Finally, what strategy will the project employ to generalize and scale up the nitty-gritty technology and community-level work?</p>			