

Comment Form 【FR2】

February 14, 2019

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| Title of the Project | The Sanitation Value Chain: Designing Sanitation Systems as Eco-Community-Value System | | |
| Research Term | FR2 | Project Leader | Yamauchi Taro |
| General advice and comments of the EREC: | | | |
| <p>The Committee found the project well underway, having just navigated a leadership transition, with strong participatory research engagement in the field. The topic of sanitation is of global importance, affecting very large numbers of people in the developing world, while countries like Japan struggle with infrastructure renewal.</p> | | | |
| <p>The main concern for the project in the second half of its Full Research phase is the conceptual foundation. As it is, the project appears largely activity-driven and solution-oriented. The scientific and conceptual framework needs to be strengthened and more explicitly articulated. What is the final goal both in terms of practical innovation and of scientific understanding? What are the research questions for the various components?</p> | | | |
| <p>The value chain concept provides some conceptual anchoring for the research, but it could be strengthened by explicitly recognizing its relatedness to ideas such as circular economy and industrial ecology and to build on approaches developed there. Adopting a theoretical framework such as (for example) circular economy will help structure the analysis. This may tie the field sites more firmly to the overall project approach and form the basis for comparison or synthesis across the case studies. At the moment, the rationale for selection of the sites remains unclear and each site seems to have a different set of activities. The three dimensions examined (material level economic value, sociocultural value, health and well-being value of sanitation) also will become more useful when a framework and metrics are specified for them.</p> | | | |