Comment Form【FR5】

February 6, 2020

Title of the Project	**Biodiversity-driven Nutrient Cycling and Human Well-being in Social-Ecological Systems**		
Research Term	**FR5**	**Project Leader**	**OKUDA Noboru**

General advice and comments of the EREC:

(Final Evaluation)

The Committee was very pleased with the project's achievements, which were demonstrated in a clear and comprehensive presentation. The project has worked at Lake Biwa in Japan and Lake Laguna in the Philippines to visualize the problems of nutrient loading in the watersheds, analyze their drivers, and has attempted to begin to address these in close collaboration with local communities and government agencies. A number of solid natural science findings have already been published. The project made skillful use of the new scientific understandings in stimulating the engagement of local communities and facilitating local action centered around characteristic local "icons" (frog in Japan and spring in the Philippines). From the Lake Biwa fieldwork a storyline emerged that suggests a positive role for "eco-friendly" agriculture and points to some of the conditions under which farmers engage in such agricultural practices in an infrastructure-dominated post-industrial countryside. How to ensure these positive outcomes continue once the project is completed is a challenge.

As the project winds down, it will be important to publish the results provided by the project as a whole, including the societal aspects. Also, building on the comparison of the two lake sites, insights can be crystallized that are of relevance to other lake-centered socio-ecological systems in the world. In this, the policy implications should be further drawn out and made widely available.