

## **CORE Project FR: Final Evaluation Comments Sheet**

\*This evaluation occurs in the last year of CORE Project Full Research.

CORE Project Title	Information Asymmetry Reduction in Open Team Science for Socio-environmental Cases
Abbreviated Title	Open Team Science Project
Project Leader	KONDO Yasuhisa
Project Period	3 years Full Research

### **General advice and comments of the EREC:**

The Committee noted with satisfaction that, in spite of the constraints resulting from COVID-19, the project successfully completed a busy schedule of project activities centered on the engagement with local stakeholders at Lake Biwa.

While it was questioned whether the Open Team Science approach is fundamentally different from transdisciplinary research practices that have emerged recently, the project developed and implemented a distinct style of socially-engaged research, providing a good starting point for further analysis and validation.

Gaps in knowledge, awareness and understanding occur between researchers and stakeholders and among stakeholders. The project attempted to develop new ways to overcome such asymmetries. It did, however, not become entirely clear how the Open Team Science approach helped to overcome these asymmetries in the fieldwork in various places. More fundamentally, there was some doubt whether information asymmetries are the most important obstacle to transdisciplinary knowledge production. Asymmetries not only in knowledge but also power in settings where researchers interact with local stakeholders are important. Some of the ethical issues encountered were summarized in a checklist that was presented as a summary of the project findings and a prime output. While the points included in the list are important, it was considered that the list is too general and partial to be considered as the main achievement of the project. In further work, the project could benefit from greater awareness of how such issues have been explored and handled in similar research and practice settings in the past.