

Interim FR Evaluation (FR2)

Title of the Project	Designing Local Frameworks for Integrated Water Resources Management
Project Leader	WATANABE Tsugihiko
General advice and comments of PEC: <p>This project tries to integrate local knowledge on water resource management through local case studies and hydrological modeling on global scale. The vision of the project is too abstract, while it may still meet RIHN's fundamental missions. Moreover, the project does not have concrete structure and methodology to accomplish its objectives. More precisely, 1) there is no clear rational explanation on selection of the present four sites, 2) field study is not designed in a way to collect data on humanities aspects and there are so far only few anthropological research made in this project, 3) research methods are not clear, especially it is difficult to understand the stance of the global model. PEC strongly recommends further clarification on project methodology, structure and goals before moving forward to the next step. Furthermore, PEC also believes that there is a need to re-structure and even reduce the number of sites to be able to conduct sound comparative research and reach eligible local level data.</p>	

Reply

In response to “General advice and comments of PEC”, considering two essential requirements of RIHN Initiative-based projects, 1) integration and 2) co-creation between science and society, we re-clarified the objectives of our project and re-crystallized directions and organizational structure, as follows:

1) Rationality of selection of the current four sites

We prioritize and focus more on Indonesia as a platform for implementing collaboration between science and society. There, we have already started attempts at integrated water management through co-creation with various stakeholders at local level. We'll apply the outcomes from Indonesia to the other areas, such as Turkey, Egypt and Japan. In addition to this regional scheme, organizing cross-cutting working groups based on subjects will drive mutual comparison and integration among local sites. As one of Initiative-based projects, we integrate outcomes from other RIHN projects from the viewpoint of IWRM. This helps us develop a GIS application “water management atlas”, consisting of useful information for local management, such as land use change, societal transition, flood and drought damage, etc., as one manifestation of integration.

2) Implementation of humanities and anthropological aspects

We requested one professor, a core project member and anthropologist, to contribute more to the progress of our project. We will also invite one senior researcher from Indonesia, who has been actually practicing co-creation between science and society and working with several stakeholders, to become project co-leader. Besides, we plan to recruit another project researcher who specializes in humanities and anthropological areas.

3) Clarification of the stance of the global model

The global model is supposed to be an integrated product of the co-creation in Indonesia as well as a basic tool to design water management in other study areas. We developed a novel integrated model that dynamically describes the interaction between different stakeholders and their natural and societal environments to assess possible strategies, which will be able to sustain local water availability for a changing future.