

Completion Report

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SUMMARY

Recent years, Vietnam has achieved significantly in social and economic development, particularly in the poor rural communities. The achievement of community development is consolidated many factors in which the method of enhancing capacity of the local people and communities plays very important. Rural and community development in Vietnam have been implementing by different organizations, of which Japan's organizations have also been involved. The research project "Assessment of Japanese *"Arumono sagashi"* and *"Takara sagashi"* approaches for community development in Vietnam: Challenge and opportunity" was funded by the Sumitomo Foundation with the aims at investigation of Japanese approach applied for community development in Vietnam. The study were conducted on the cases which were supported from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), including: "Enhancing Community Resilience and Livelihood Security to Cope with Natural Disasters in Central Vietnam", "Integrated Approach to the Vulnerable People to Cope with Natural Disasters in Central Vietnam" from 2006 to 2013, implemented by Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry and Kyoto University; "Supporting the development of rural potential based on the initiative of the ethnic minority community in the Nam Giang district, Quang Nam province" from 2012 to 2020, implemented by the Japan International Development Assistance/Development Organization (FIDR); and "Community-based tourism project in Yen Khe commune, Con Cuong district, Nghe An province", from 2016 to 2020, implemented by Nghe An Department of Tourism.

The study in 5 communities showed that bottom-up approaches with enhancing the participation of local people and organizations named *"Arumono sagashi"* or *"Takara sagashi"* was applied. These methods paid much attention on the process of community development at the beginning of project implementation. Local assets and its valuables of community are the foundation to facilitate the innovation of the villagers. Local existing values are recognized by villagers and community development workers. It takes time to understand the community, particularly the potentials for development. Implementing activities were identified by local people and based on their capacity rather than what they need. Therefore, building the capacity for communities, particular the vulnerable and disadvantages people that would help villagers to be confident on their activities. Japanese approaches need a fully understanding the local realities to encourage the innovations for sustainable development. Many activities of these projects have been implemented and sustained after project end, such as community based tourism in Yen Khe and Ta Bhing communes, community house and ethnic minority culture conservation in Hong Ha commune, farming of households in Huong Van and Huong Phong communes.

It is recommended that the Japanese approaches of *"Arumono sagashi"* or *"Takara sagashi"* in community development should be applied in the Vietnam to empower the local capacity for sustainable community development.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)

1) AN Van Le, 2022. Experiences of Japanese “Arumono sagashi” and “Takara sagashi” approaches for Community Development in Vietnam: Challenge and Opportunity. Training on Community Development of JICA project in Tay Bac University, 10-11 June 2022.

2) AN Van Le, 2022. Experiences of Japanese “Arumono sagashi” and “Takara sagashi” approaches for Community Development in Vietnam: Challenge and Opportunity. NGO-JICA Training on Community Development, October 2022 (planning).

Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)

Le Van An, 2022. Assessment of Japanese “Arumono sagashi” and “Takara sagashi” approaches for Community Development in Vietnam: Challenge and Opportunity. Science and Technology Journal of Agriculture & Rural Development ISSN 1859-4581 (the manuscript will be submitted)

Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.)