

The role of Traditional Ecological Knowledge in The Transformation Towards Adaptive Governance: Case Study of The Vietnamese Mekong Delta

LINH NGUYEN^{*1}, HIRONORI HAMASAKI¹

¹*Nagasaki University*

(a) Purpose of study or research hypothesis

This research aims to (1) assess current status and prospect towards adaptive governance of water and fisheries governance in the Mekong Delta (2) examine the reasons for the limited incorporation of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) in Vietnamese water and fisheries governance (3) present findings on the connection between TEK and adaptive governance in the context of Vietnam Mekong Delta.

(b) Key issue(s) or problem(s) addressed

The Mekong Delta is of significant importance for economic development and food security in Vietnam. To address the challenges facing this region, particularly climate change impacts, adaptive governance is recommended as the way forward. TEK has strong connection with adaptive governance. However, the recognition and integration of TEK in policy development and decision making in Vietnam is still limited. Thus, this study is conducted to explore how TEK can contribute to the process of transitioning to adaptive governance in the case of Mekong Delta.

(c) Methodology or approach used

Methodology of secondary data analysis was conducted. Content analysis involved the extensive reviews and analysis of diverse sources of data including policy documents, implementation plans and evaluation reports, journal publications, books, conference proceedings, scientific reports from the government agencies. To assess the prospect of adaptive governance, three dimensions were examined (i) integration of local, traditional and other kinds of knowledge, in addition to scientific knowledge in supporting policy (ii) policy-making process based on local community-driven initiatives (iii) decision-making process taking into consideration multiple stakeholders' needs and interests.

(d) Results or conclusions derived from the project

The findings show that there are opportunities for Mekong Delta to expedite a transition towards adaptive governance of water and fisheries. Specifically, community-based innovations have been taken into account in decision making process. The study suggests a framework of institutional structure that strengthens the integration of TEK and engagement with multiple stakeholders with different interests.

(e) Implications of the project relevant to congress themes

The implication of this study is that integration of TEK in water resources governance can contribute to building adaptive and resilient system to climate change .

Keywords : Adaptive governance, Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Vietnamese Mekong Delta