

MINUTES OF MEETING

Steering Committee meeting in Piteå on 13 June 2019

I. Information of the meeting:

1. Participants:

MC's members from both sides: Mrs. Brith Fäldt, Mr. Anders Lundkvist, Prof. Jan Dahl, Mr. Bo Wiberg, Mrs. Åsa Wikman, Mr. Nguyễn Thanh Bình, Mrs. Đinh Thị Việt Huỳnh, Mrs. Phạm Ngọc Xuân and Mrs. Nguyễn Thị Vân Hà.

Mrs. Karin Norlin Bogren, Program Director from ICLD

PG's members: Mrs. Maria Widman, Mr. Göran Dahlén, Mr. Nguyễn Công Kha, Ms. Trịnh Thị Kim Vô

2. Chairwoman: Mrs. Brith Fäldt

3. Time and place: 09.00 - 10.30 Ovalen

II. Contents of the meeting:

1. Opening the meeting by Brith Fäldt

Welcome An Giang delegation to Piteå and informed to start the meeting

Seft-introduced of all participants

2. Information about ICLD by Karin Norlin Bogren

Mrs. Karin Norlin Bogren briefly itntroduced about herself and ICLD as well as four core areas which aims to sustainable development.

She pressed that steering group plays an important role in supporting the commitment to implement project activities. Member of steering group will decide to apply those results in a sustainable way. She shared that ICLD focuses on 3 activities: Municipal Partnership programme, Training programmes and knowledge center.

She had positive comments about the project. She also emphasized that the cooperation program between An Giang and Piteå is one of the most successful programs she has ever approved.

3. Minutes from the last meeting in March

Approved contents of the minutes of Monitoring committee meeting in An Giang in March 2019.

4. Update on today's situation in An Giang province concerning growth from 2011 in different sectors like income, social welfare, etc.: Mrs. Phạm Ngọc Xuân

Mrs. Pham Ngọc Xuân had a short report on average growth rates in periods: 2012-2015; 2016-2018 of An Giang province.

Mr. Ho Viet Hiep supported on explaining why GDP decreased. He suggested that we can overcome by trying to develop the depth of the products. It is necessary to exploit the value chain of rice as well as fish value chain such as pine. To do that we need technical and technology support to develop.

Representing An Giang, he thanked Piteå for accompanying the development of An Giang during years. In upcoming congress, An Giang will put above issues into development-oriented.

❖ *Comments:*

Regarding impact of the project on socio-economy from 2012:

Mr. Bo Wiberg reminded that from waste is rice husk and straw now has brought profits to the people. Even so we are trying to continue turning rice by-products into energy and valuable products. We can also learn from other countries (China). We have demonstration models in the project. Importantly, the project has done very well with communication with farmers. We also explained to the people about price volatility but we believe that one day, people will take advantage and increase income from the rice value chain.

In the process of implementing the demonstration models, we need to choose some good farmers as the focal points to contact and support other households.

Mr. Göran Dahléń had a question about expanding demonstration models and what farmers have been supported.

Mrs. Đinh Thị Việt Huỳnh confirmed that there are difficulties in calling investment in turning rice husk into energy. However, Ministry of Science and Technology is willing to support. The main issue is lack of investors.

5. Progress report from the project: Mr. Bo Wiberg

Got through results of the project in 2018. Almost activities were implemented but online meeting between young students from both sides. To carry out this activity, Piteå's side need more time for preparation and discussion with their students

❖ *Activity in 2019:*

An Giang and Sweden Project Management Unit in An Giang province will list what activities need budget support and send to Mr. Bo Wiberg.

MC members from An Giang side suggested having first MC meeting in Piteå next year (March).

6. What remains to be done/ plan for that

Online meeting between students, project group meeting in Vietnam in October 2019 and other activities

7. Financial report: There are many things that arise but are still in control of funding

8. Evaluation of the project: Göran Dahlén and Phạm Ngọc Xuân will work together to evaluate all activities.

9. Program for visit in October

Tentative date for departure from Piteå is on 18 to 20 October 2019. Mr. Bo Wiberg will discuss with Mrs. Helena Karlberg to arrange time for conduct training and workshop in An Giang. Then, Helena and project group of An Giang will go to Da Lat for meetings. Other project members from Piteå side will go to Da Lat as well.

18 October	Mrs. Helena Karlberg departs from Piteå
20 October	project group of Piteå departs from Piteå
21-22 October	Training and workshop in An Giang
23 - 28 October	Mrs. Helena Karlberg, project group of An Giang and Piteå meet to each other in Dalat city for meeting and site visit

Mr. Bo Wiberg, Mr. Göran Dahlén, Mrs. Phạm Ngọc Xuân and Ms. Trịnh Thị Kim Vô will meet and discuss to each other in detail in beginning of October 2019.

10. Discussion and decision about dissemination of the project in An Giang as well as Piteå

In Piteå, Mrs. Nguyễn Thị Vân Hà had a great presentation at Biobased Conference at Piteå Science Park. Besides, we had dissemination activity at city hall to inform about our project. We need 1 dissemination workshop in An Giang as the last project. We will build up plan and apply it to ICLD for getting budget in order to implement workshop in 2020.

11. Discussion and decision about an application to ICLD for a one year broadening project: Bo Wiberg

Project team will write a 6-month project proposal then prepare for a new project proposal 2021-2023. This proposal must be revised and submitted to ICLD by 15 October 2019; If it is granted, we will start to implement at the first 6 months of 2020. The details will be discussed next.

12. Closing of the meeting: Brith Fäld