Participatory Field Workshop about Environment of Ly Ly River

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Binh Quy and Binh Lanh communes locate in Thang Binh district – Quang Nam province the Central Vietnam where hurricanes represent a constant natural threat to human lives and physical infrastructure. Both of communes (Binh Quy and Binh Lanh) are located in the upstream Ly River.

To understand deeply the current status of natural and environment in Binh Lanh and Binh Quy, we undertaken field workshop with the participants including:
- 4 pupils of Tran Quy Cap and Hoang Hoa Tham School
- 2 local teachers
- 2 lecturers of Da Nang University
- 2 partners of project and 02 partners from Tottori University.

The field workshop team divided into 2 groups surveyed along the side of Ly Ly River for collecting information on fauna, flora, human activities and their impacts on the river. One group went down stream and another one followed opposite direction in each commune. Each group equipped a collecting data form, a GPS Camera to determine geographical location and record specific information at each point. The information at each point was recorded by the pupils following their thought.

After finishing field workshop, pupils in each group drew a colored story map on A0-size paper only by what they memorized in field workshop and took note impressive information at each sampling point. This will help local pupils perceive the characteristics of current nature and environment surrounding them.

“Story Maps”, an online application of ESRI has been used popularly in over the world. This technique uses a visible representation to help student organize a tour with a map and associated with images, much information that you want describe. Especially “Story Maps” is available application.

For establishing “Story Maps” of Ly Ly River, team work collected 17 sampling points together with its specific information and location. After that, we edited the table with columns:
- Name of point
- Its main information: type of flora, fauna, usual human activities (swimming, fishing,…), human impacts (dam building, sand exploiting,…).
- Link of images uploaded on internet (small size and large size).

The table will be uploaded on “Story Maps” of ESRI to create tour map that we already carried out in survey. It provides a map with location, image and information of sampling points.

After creating tour map, we represented it for all of participants and checked and corrected uploaded information for each sampling point. The “Story Maps” received much concern from local pupils and teachers, and they desired to know how they can make “Story Maps” by themselves. Therefore, we provided and guided them steps for releasing story map.

The workshop on Environment of Ly Ly River focused on spatial analysis techniques used by social and rather than environmental scientists (teacher in secondary school). The first section of the workshop, we discussed the environment problems in Ly Ly catchment. The second section summarizes discussions of participants includes: Teachers and students in Tran Quy Cap Secondary School, lecturers in Dang Nang University, Nong Lam University and graduate student from Tottori University, Japan. In the final section we review opinions and conclusions regarding directions for further research.

The workshop on Environment of Ly Ly River will support the participants to understand deeply the existing of natural resources and environment in Ly Ly Catchment. Using GIS, the “story map” has been established for Binh Quy Commune and Binh Lanh Commune. The both of Binh Lanh and Binh Quy locate in upstream Ly Ly River. Based on the “story map”, we can assess the changing natural and environment in Ly Ly Catchment. The online “story map” will be updated in the real time to help the farmer who is living in Binh Quy and Binh Lanh to know the situation. The “story map” allows easy access to information on the relative locations of objects and events, and proximity can indeed suggest insight. Finally, the distance between events or objects is often an important factor in interactions between them.