

## Afforestation Development Project on Acid Sulphate Soils in Mekong Delta, Vietnam

(Period of the study: 1 month from November, 1997    Our assignments: Environmental Monitoring)

### Background of the Study

Approximately 40% (1.6 million ha) of Mekong Delta (4.0 million ha) extending in the southern part of Vietnam belongs to the area of acid sulphate soil. This area is not effectively utilized due to soil acidity and the productivity remains low. The objective of this project is the improvement of living standards of the local community especially poor classes in the selected model area. The project has been implemented for about three years since 1997 as a technical cooperation program on the reclamation of acid soil, the selection of suitable tree species and the development of afforestation technology. Since the target area is located within the delta and inundated during rainy season, embankment is needed for afforestation. Acidification due to embankment is expected to be an environmental problem in the surrounding area.

### Outline of the Study

The short-term expert for the environmental study was requested to implement the entire environmental study related to the afforestation project. The contents of the study were to collect and analyze the information on administration, organization and legislation related to the environmental conservation and EIA, to examine the environmental impacts for the similar project and to formulate the monitoring plan for the current afforestation project.

### Our Assignments

- Comprehensive understanding of environmental conservation policy of Vietnam: Collection and analysis of information on administration, organization and legislation related to the environmental conservation and EIA,
- Examination of environmental impact for the project: Investigation on positive and negative impacts on soil, water and forest by the similar projects, and
- Formulation of environmental monitoring plan: Give advice to the on-going water quality monitoring and the formulation of future environmental monitoring plan.

