

Field trip report for the Danish team during 26. May - 6. June, 2014

(Ole Bruun, Mette Fog Olwig and Olivier Rubin. Mogens Buch-Hansen has compiled separate travel report, see below.)

The overall aim of this field trip was to ask follow-up questions relevant to the manuscript each team member is preparing for the special issue. Mogens is working with Anh, Ngoc and Huy on drafting an article that is focusing on Quang Binh Province, and therefore Mogens only visited this province (see separate travel report). Olivier, Ole and Mette started off in Nghe An Province to visit the villages that are part of the study. Two members of the Vietnamese team also joined us and they filmed the interviews with households and local governments in the field areas in order to have extensive documentation of the trips.

As this was the first fieldtrip for Mette, her focus was to get acquainted with the field sites. She is interested in the interrelation between mobility and climate adaptation and therefore also wished to explore this topic during interviews. During our first interviews with randomly selected households we became aware of a few villages in Hung Nguyen District that had been offered the opportunity to relocate households from outside the dyke to inside the dyke in order to be better protected in case of flooding (this is only possible when the commune in question has land inside the dyke to which the village can be moved). Several of the people we interviewed in the two villages in our study had mentioned their desire to move out of their villages, but their land was not valuable (because of the frequency of flooding) and no one would buy their land from them, making it impossible for them to move. We therefore thought it would be interesting to visit some of the partially relocated villages in which many households had been able to move with support from the commune. In addition to the villages that were part of the study, we therefore visited a few villages in both Nghe An Province and Ha Tinh Province in which households had moved, as well as a village where there were only two households left in the original location.

What we learned from this is that when the commune provides the opportunity that a whole village can move, most households express as desire to move, but some did not have enough resources to support the move and therefore had to wait until they had enough. The new sites were close enough to the original sites and therefore the households could access their original land, but the family temples had been moved. This created new issues as it was more difficult to farm and protect land because of the distance between house and land. In general, several interviewees in Hung Nguyen District and Duc Tho District indicated that they wished to move away from the most flood prone area, even if the new location would be far away from the temples and ancestral graves. While many household members had moved away from the study villages in Quang Binh Province to the bigger cities with better job opportunities, it was stressed here that the entire village could not be moved because of the family temples. Furthermore, in several of the interviews, in the three study sites, it became apparent that while the entire young generation did not live in the villages, grandparents and grandchildren did, and thus these villages serve an important function, and will therefore not disappear entirely. This was especially the case in the villages where most households had safe houses and therefore were well prepared for flooding. However, when no younger household members are present, it makes it more difficult for the household to manage in the case of a natural disaster as the younger household members are stronger and more able bodied. Mette is planning on returning in order to

investigate further the interconnections between mobility and disaster adaptation.

During this field trip, we also investigated the possibilities for participatory dissemination of results. We asked members of the local government and household members what kind of information would be relevant to disseminate and how this dissemination should take place. We looked into the possibility of providing computers to the commune houses in the villages containing the relevant information. We were told that many villagers had access to the internet and that a computer-based solution could be possible. The computers would be well protected in the commune houses as there is someone protecting the house at all times. Members of the local government mentioned that it would be helpful for them to have a map indicating which areas will be inundated in case of rainfall and household members mentioned that it would be useful for them to know how other villages adapt to the natural disasters. The next field trip will look further into this important component of the project.

Brief travel report for visit to Vietnam 27th May- 6th June 2014

Mogens Buch-Hansen

27th May: Arrival in Hanoi

28-29th May: Working with Anh, Ngoc and Huy on my draft synopsis of the article: 'The Complexities of Causes of and Adaptation to Water Disasters. A Pilot Study from Quang Binh Province, Vietnam' and deciding on the division of labour drafting the article. It was decided that I proceed to Quang Binh for doing 12 in-depth interviews with respondents to the Household Survey in the communities of Truc Ly and Ha Thiep in addition to the interviews done at my previous visit in March.

30th May: Travel to Dong Hoi

31th May: Preparations for interviews including hiring of interpreter

1-2nd June: Conducting 12 in-depth interviews in the two communities

3rd June: Writing-up results from interviews

4th June: Travelling to Hanoi

5th June: Winding-up meeting with Anh, Ngoc and Huy reaching agreement on how to finalize the draft article within the deadlines of 20th June for contributions and 30th for comments to the contributions. Brief meeting with Tan to introduce Mette.

6th June: Travelling back to Denmark