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Cooperative Project to Make an Attractive Fishing Port in Vieux Fort Fishing Complex in St. Lucia

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[Background & Purpose]

St. Lucia is a small island surrounded by the Caribbean Sea and is steadily developing its agriculture and tourist business. The project site of Vieux Fort (VF) has the nation's largest fishing port and lands almost every day many kinds of fish that are distributed mostly to other regions. Therefore, regional vitalization in VF by improving the utilization of marine resources can be expected. On the other hand, some points need to be improved in the function of Vieux Fort Fishing Complex (VFFC) in order to revitalize it. These were identified by talking and conducting workshop with the residents. Furthermore, this graduation project is part of a joint program with the Department of Fisheries in St. Lucia (DoF), JICA, Hokkaido University and Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology. In this project, an improvement plan regarding the fish cooperative (FC) was designed together with the residents so that in the future they can continue with the activities by themselves.

[Activities]

A Project Design Matrix (PDM) and a tentative activity schedule were proposed by conducting discussions during several workshops, where problem analysis and objective analysis were carried out and the activities were scheduled and shared with the residents belonging to the FC after the stakeholder's analysis. Staff from the DoF and St. Lucia Fish Marketing Corporation Ltd., a Goodwill Fishermen's Corporation manager, boat owners, fish processors and retail vendors participated in these workshops to provide all kinds of standpoints from the FC.

[Achievement]

The PDM, which included the overall goal of "Activating the surrounding locality by functional improvement of VFFC", had the project purpose of "Improving the functions of VFFC" and two outcomes are expected: 1. "The environment will be maintained clean in the FC." 2. "The marine resources obtained from the FC will be fully utilized." As a consequence from these outcomes 5 activities will improve the cooperation, and they are the following: to stop throwing litter, to make an environmental symbol, to handle fish processing waste properly and to make the fish market environment clean. Furthermore, an additional 2 activities were included: to improve utilization and distribution of fish caught in VF and to sell fishery products effectively. This PDM and schedule are expected to be confirmed after some discussions with the participants, and to be started as soon as possible to improve the current situations.