Conserving Traditional Community Houses of the Katu Ethnic Minority – A Case Study in Nam Dong District, Thua Thien–Hue Province, Central Vietnam

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By

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ABSTRACT

The traditional community house (TCH) named "*Guol*" is a unique architectural building which highlights the cultural identity of Katu ethnic minority, one of the ethnic minorities living in the Central Vietnam. In recent decades, the policies of Vietnam Central government of socio-economical development in mountainous and ethnic minority areas have helped local people significantly improve their quality of life. Especially, since *"Doi Moi"* period started in 1986, the rapid socio-economy has led to the lifestyle of Katu ethnics. Consequently, their TCHs have been rapidly dismantled or converted into various configurations. The research aims to find an approach for the conservation and restoration of this indigenous architecture into modern context. The main objectives are:

1) To identify the historical transformation of CHs and policies application towards CHs;
2) To clarify the current situation of the CHs in Nam Dong district;
3) To examine the possibility in conserving TCH in Nam Dong district in modern contexts.

The study focuses on community houses in six communes out of ten communes and one town of Nam Dong district, Thua Thien–Hue province, Central Vietnam where mainly Katu ethnics account for majority. All 36 Katu hamlets were surveyed, their residents were interviewed, and 43 E-CHs were taken photographs and were measured in detail.

The research found that the TCH in Nam Dong district have been changed dramatically during four periods. Recently, many reconstruction projects of community house with the participation of many different stakeholders made of both traditional and modern materials have made the E-CHs vary in form. The five types of E-CHs have been classified based on construction method and material use. Among them, the modern community houses account for majority while traditional community house present with a small number. Three main factors causing the alteration of commune houses are identified through the field surveys. The first reason involves a number of difficulties in material collection. The distance to the material resources is far due to the resettlement; forest resources are scarce due to the excessive and illegal exploitation; and the procedure of logging permission is hard due to the government policy of closing forests. Secondly, the decline in the community cooperation also proves challenging. This results from the change in the commune lifestyle affected by the outside, and less construction land caused by the privatization of land ownership. The third reason is related to the change in construction techniques and what's more, there is little chance to transfer these techniques to younger generations due to the decrease of experienced elderly. Besides, the study has found that currently, in Nam Dong district, only A Xang and Doi hamlets have still retained the TCHs for using, and residents of these hamlets have been making much effort in maintaining their TCHs

despite the challenges in material collection as well as labor mobilization. The study found that the reconstruction of the TCH in current condition is a hard mission. The Katu hamlets themselves do not have enough ability to rebuild the TCH; therefore, the restoration of the TCH needs the appropriate policies of local government, suitable support from outside organizations as well as consensus of the local community. In the future, the TCH of Katu ethnic minority should be preserved and restored as unique indigenous architectural value, simultaneously transforming them to adapt within the present context.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
CBRIP	Community based rural infrastructure project
CEMA	Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs
CH(s)	Community house(s)
CLIP	Central Livelihood Improvement Project
CPMU	Central Project Management unit
DFID	United Kingdom Department for International Development
E-CH(s)	Existing community house(s)
E-MCH(s)	Existing modern community house on stilts(s)
HEPR-JC	Hunger Eradication Poverty Reduction and Job Creation
ICCO	Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation-Netherlands
KH-UBND*	Plan – District people's committee
LDTBXH*	Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social affairs
MCH(s)	Modern community house(s)
MCH-E(s)	Modern community house on earth(s)
MCH-S(s)	Modern community house on stilts(s)
MCST	Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOLISA	Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social affairs
MPI	Ministry of Planning and Investment
NAV	Nordic Assistance to Vietnam
ND-CP	Decree – National Government
NQ/HDND*	Resolution / Provincial People's Council
NQ/HU*	Resolution / District Party Committee
NGOs	Non-government organizations
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PPMU	Provincial Project Management unit
PPMU	Provincial Project Management unit
PSG & TSG	Planning and Technical Support Groups
PSG & TSG:	Planning and Technical Support Groups
QĐ-TTg*	Decision – Prime minister

QD-UB*	Decision – Province people's Committee
S-MCH(s)	Semi-modern community house on stilts (s)
S-TCH(s)	Semi-traditional community house(s)
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
TCH(s)	Traditional community house(s)
TLIP	Thua Thien–Hue Livelihood Improvement Project
WB	World Bank

* Acronyms in Vietnamese

CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION

This chapter includes the background information of traditional community houses of the Katu ethnic minority in Central Vietnam as well as in Nam Dong district, and discussing issues about it. The objectives, the scope, the research structure, the contribution, and originality of the study are also presented in this chapter.

1.1 Research background

The traditional community house of the Katu ethnic minority (TCH) named *"Guol"* is a unique architectural building highlighting the cultural identity of the Katu ethnic minority, one of the ethnic minorities living in the Central Vietnam. Similar to community house (CH) named "*Dinh*" of Kinh major ethnic, *"Rong"* [1] of Gia Rai, E De, and Ba Na ethnic minorities in Central Highland, the TCH plays an extremely essential role in the Katu ethnic minority. Most of the key community activities take place here. In a former traditional Katu hamlet, there used to be a TCH for traditional cultural activities, spiritual rites; it is also a place for exchange of information, production and living experiences as well as for customary law trials. In other words, the TCH is the most effective connective space, the converging point of the members of different generations in a household, a family, a hamlet (or village) [2], among outside hamlets and ethnic groups through the community activities.

Over the last half of century, the residential environment of the Katu ethnics has had strong variation due to many different reasons. Among them, the policies on mountainous socio-economical development by the government can be seen the basic reason for this change. Especially, since *"Doi Moi"* [3] period started, the rapid socio-economy as well as the mutual influence among various cultures has led to the changes in environment, lifestyle, and cultivation activities of the Katu ethnics. To Nam Dong district where a large number of the Katu ethnics reside, the influence becomes stronger since residential area is near the lowland of Kinh people. In recent decades, due to the policies and projects of the government to improve livelihood, construct infrastructure, and so on, the physiognomy of Nam Dong district has speedily changed with the considerable improvement of people's life. However, this is one of the origins of change

[1] *Rong* is a kind of community house on stilts, can only be found in villages to the north of the Central Highlands, especially in Gia Lai and Kon Tum provinces. It is a large, imposing, beautifully decorated stilt house built in the middle of the village. It is the place for community activities, reception of guests, meetings, wedding ceremonies, or praying ceremonies. Each ethnic minority has specific architectural style for designing and decorating the *Rong*. However, most Rong houses share common features.

[2] There are two terms including "hamlet" or "village" to refer to a basic community unit of the Katu. The "village" is a traditional name, while the "hamlet" is mentions as administrative term since the Katu ethnics are managed by the government. In this thesis, the author uses consistently the term "hamlet" to avoid confusion.

[3] *Doi Moi* is the name given to the economic reforms initiated in Vietnam in 1986 with the goal of creating a "socialist-oriented market economy"

in inherent traditional values of the Katu ethnics, and their TCH is not an exception in this trend. From the 2000s, some CH construction projects by the government in which new materials and technique are used are the underlying reasons for rapid disappearance of TCH series in most hamlets in Nam Dong district. This is the explanation for the coexistence of TCH, semi-modern community house (S-MCH), and modern community house (MCH). Before the 1990s, most of the Katu hamlets in Nam Dong district used to have a TCH; however, currently, only two TCHs have the right traditional features. The TCHs in the remaining hamlets are only the new type simulating tradition or complete new type like the CHs in Kinh hamlets, which are entirely strange towards the Katu culture. However, modern community house is not suitable for traditional activities, leading to decline of traditional identify because First, the traditional activities have the nature of spirit, attached with the harvest ceremony, praying for the stability of villagers, having no disease, etc. In the Katu people's conception, only the community houses built by the hamlet residents themselves and made of traditional materials as well as complying with procedures during construction can have the appearance of "*Yang*" – the God in the Katu people's belief. The components constituting the house not only have "body" but also "soul". As a result, "*Yang*" will support and the hamlet residents' wish will come true. Meanwhile, the current modern community house in Nam Dong district is built by the outsiders, made of modern materials, does not comply with traditional construction rituals, and does not have traditional identity; therefore, if the traditional activities are organized here, the hamlet residents' wish cannot come true.

Second, the internal and external space of the modern community house is not conformable to the traditional activities since the traditional activities are attached with cooking, while all of the modern community houses in Nam Dong district have no stove. On the other hand, the front of the houses has no yard, or the yard is small as well as having no pillar for buffalo stabling – an inevitable element to perform the traditional festivals. In addition, according to the residents, inside the modern community houses, the new furniture is often hung such as credit, flag, speaker, TV, chair and table, hence, it is not suitable for traditional activities. Consequently, the gradual loss and replacement of traditional architecture is an obvious trend. This raises a great challenge in traditional cultural conservation in current context.

1.2 Research objectives

From the above-mentioned perspectives, the thesis, therefore, researches to analyze and clarify the features of the TCH of the Katu ethnic minority in Nam Dong district, at the same time, expounding the reasons and alterative trend of this type of house through different historical periods. Based on analyzing the relationship among the hamlet residents' demeanor and attitude,

the government's policies, and the impacts to the TCH projects, the study aims at finding out the appropriate approaches in sustainable conservation for this type of house for present context and future. Hence, this thesis concentrates on the following specific objectives:

The main objectives are:

1) To identify the historical transformation of CHs and policies application towards CHs;
2) To clarify the current situation of the CHs in Nam Dong district;
3) To examine the possibility in conserving TCH in Nam Dong district in modern contexts.

1.3 Research methodology

In order to deal with the objectives and research content, the research methods are used as follows:

(1) Method of using ethnographic fieldwork: This is the key method of the thesis in which the data are collected by observing, measuring, drawing, taking photograph of the CHs, and conducting interview with residents, local leaders, and researchers through the survey questionnaires. Whereby, the most visual view on characteristic of the Katu hamlet as well as the alteration of their TCH through different historical periods is recognized. This will be the main source of materials for the thesis. Four field surveys were conducted from 2013 to 2014. In the first field survey from January 2013 to February 2013, all 43 existing community houses (E-CHs) in 36 Katu hamlets of six communes (Thuong Lo, Huong Son, Thuong Nhat, Huong Huu, Thuong Long, and Thuong Quang) in Nam Dong district were observed, taken photo, measured and drawn with floor plans, sections and elevations to have an overview on the characteristic of each type of the house. The second field survey was implemented from August 2013 to September 2013; 82 residents of the entire 36 Katu hamlets, especially the experienced elders and the hamlet leaders were interviewed to enquire the history and characteristics of the CHs in their hamlets. The third field survey started between February 2014 and March 2014 which concentrated in Doi and A Xang hamlets to find out the manner that the hamlet residents construct, use and maintain both their existing TCH and MCH. The patriarchs, hamlet leaders of Doi and A Xang hamlets and representatives of Thuong Lo and Thuong Long communes are the key objects who were invited to the interview to exchange their opinions. The contents of the interview were prepared in advance in the principle of quantitative and qualitative so that the interviewees had many options when providing their viewpoints and on such basis, they will unanimously bring out the most adequate and comprehensive answers. Besides, 40 residents of these two hamlets were chosen in random to have a brief interview in order to gain the personal opinions on the issue related to the CHs. In the fourth survey from August 2014 to September 2014, 36 representatives from each hamlet were interviewed so that the potential of the TCH

conservation and reconstruction could be found out. In addition, the commune and district leaders were also interviewed to learn about the policies and projects towards the CH in their locality.

(2) Method of using available secondary data: In addition to the collection of primary data through the method of ethnographic fieldwork, the data from revealed researches on the Katu ethnic minority by the domestic and foreign scholars are used. Furthermore, the published statistical reports of agencies such as Ethnic Group Committee, Thua Thien–Hue province, Nam Dong district will be the valuable secondary information for reference and quotation.

(3) Method of information process: The data collected from the opinions of hamlet residents and leaders through the field surveys will be classified and synthesized by the quantitative and qualitative methods. The essential and important data will be converted into tables, graphs, drawings and maps; at the same time, they will be compared with the secondary data in such document as the basis for analysis and discussion to identify hamlet structure, architectural features, and construction technique of CHs through different periods and the policies affecting such alteration.

The above-mentioned scientific and realistic basis is the motivation for me to choose the topic **"Conserving Traditional Community Houses of the Katu Ethnic Minority – A Case Study in Nam Dong District, Thua Thien–Hue Province, Central Vietnam"** as a research topic.

1.4 Research scope

The research site is Nam Dong district, Thua Thien–Hue province, which has a high rate of ethnic minority. Among them, the Katu ethnic minority accounts for the overwhelming. In addition, this is an area where lifestyle and indigenous culture of the Katu ethnics have been more significantly changed than other areas. The research focuses on studying the characteristics and alteration of the TCHs of the Katu ethnic group in Nam Dong district from the past until now. The research is implemented in all 36 hamlets of six communes out of ten communes and one town of Nam Dong district where mainly the Katu ethnics live, which are Thuong Lo, Thuong Nhat, Huong Son, Huong Huu, Thuong Long, and Thuong Quang communes.

1.5 Literature review and research originality

So far, there have been some researches on the Katu ethnic minority in Central Vietnam; however, few of which concentrate on the Katu ethnic group in Nam Dong district, Thua Thien–Hue province. Generally, the Katu ethnic group in Quang Nam – Da Nang area is taken more interest since this is their original residential area.

Before the 20th century, there were few researches on the Katu ethnic minority. In some

works such as "Historians of Nguyen Dynasty", *"O Chau Can Luc"* by Duong Van An in 1555 or *"Phu Bien Tap Luc"* written in 1776 only partly mentioned to ethnic group. The history series "*Dai Nam Nhat Thong Chi*" (1910) under Nguyen Dynasty had some lines about this group. However, in these researches, those authors only considered the viewpoint of family, residence rather than referring the culture and social life of this ethnic minority group.

In the first decades of the 20th century, specifically, in the 1950s, some American and French came to Vietnam to study and describe the Katu ethnic minority. The most typical research is *"Interprètation du tatou age frontal des Moi Katu"* written by scholar L. Bezacire, especially is the research *"Le chasseurs de sang"* by Le Pichon published on the Journal "Hue friends" in 1938. To those who are interested in and study about the Katu ethnic minority, Pichon's work is not strange since it is the first study on this group in Vietnam with the documentations of which people and culture of the Katu ethnic minority in the 1930s of 20th century is reflected rather truthful. Not at random that all the latter studies on the Katu ethnic minority by the domestic and foreign researchers are more or less quoted from Le Pichon's work. Later on, there have been many Vietnamese scholars whose introductions are about Truong Son – Tay Nguyen. Among them, the Katu ethnic minority is written in *"Brief introduction about the Katu ethnic minority"* by Ngoc Anh, which was published on the Journal *"Ethnic minority group"* No. 16 in 1960. Until reunification, the government has created favorable conditions for the scholars to have more profound studies on the Katu ethnic minority. Accordingly, a series of studies on this group have been published in newspapers or published into books. Specifically, *"The ethnic minority group in provinces of the North Vietnam"* by Committee of Vietnam Social Sciences, Institute of Ethnography was published in 1984, and of which there is an introduction about the Katu ethnic minority; and at the same time, the book named *"The ethnic minorities in Binh Tri Thien province"* was written by Nguyen Quoc Loc in 1984, and the work "The *ethnic minorities in Vietnam"* published in 2000 by Dang Nghiem Van

Until the beginning of the 21st century, there have been many books, articles which research in more detail about the cultural and social life of the Katu ethnic minority. They were published in the journals such as Ethnography Magazine, Culture and Arts Magazine, Ethnography and Time Magazine, or Journal of Ethnography. Among them, the noteworthy studies by typical authors are Ta Duc with *"Understanding Katu Culture"* (2002), Dinh Hong Hai with *"The soul of the Katu ethnic minority's artworks"* (2003*);* Nguyen Huu Thong, chief author of *"the Katu living at the water-head" (2004),* and *"Culture of mountainous areas in Central Vietnam"* (2005*),* by Luu Hung with *"Contribution to study about the Co Tu culture"* (2006*).*

Another issue on the cultural life of the Katu ethnic minority which many ethnographers take

interested in is their TCH. Some scholars have thorough studies on the TCH of the Katu ethnic minority. In one chapter writing about the Katu ethnic minority in *"Ethnic minority in Binh Tri Thien province"* (1984), Nguyen Quoc Loc had a minor description of the TCH architecture. Whereby, the outline of the TCH is depicted and its initial insights are provided. Later on, the TCH was described by Luu Hung in the article *"Guol of the Katu ethnics"* published in Ethnography Magazine No. 3 in 2003. The article has a profound research on the TCH of the Katu ethnics; or with the same title, Nguyen Van Son had an article which contributed to find out the culture of the Katu ethnic minority through the TCH published in the Ethnography and Times Magazine. *"Guol of the Katu ethnic minority"* by Dinh Hong Hai (2006) can be considered as one of the most adequate monograph works on the TCH. The finding out of "individual voice" in visual language (geometry and image) of the TCH is the success of the study.

In addition, the events and cultural phenomena around the TCH are connected systematically. Whereby, there is a comparison with the types of TCH of other ethnic minorities in Vietnam and Southeast Asia to have an overview on the Katu culture. *"A contribution of Katu ethnography"* by Luu Hung is one of the parts of the research project on three ethnic minorities belong to the Katuic group in Vietnam (Bru-Van Kieu, Katu, and Taoi) of Vietnam Ethnography Museum cooperated with professor of anthropology Kaj Arhem. The book was conducted in three years, from 2003 to 2005, which introduces all aspects of the Katu ethnic minority, including history, hamlet, housing, cultivation method, religion and faith. All are systematically analyzed by the abundant source of documentation with the specific evidence accumulated from many field trips and Tay Giang and Dong Giang districts in Quang Nam province are specific objects. From the project results, a series of valuable report research have been born. Some typical works are the Katu Ethnography: *Livelihood and Culture* – Kaj Arhem (2005). In the "*Sacred Forest: Landscape, Livelihood and spiritual Beliefs among the Katu ethnics in Vietnam"* (2009*)* and *"The Katu hamlet – An interpretive Ethnography of A Vuong commune in Central Vietnam"* 336-page thick by Kaj Arhem (2010) can be considered as one of the most profound and comprehensive works about the Katu ethnic minority in A Vuong commune, Tay Giang district, Quang Nam province. Meanwhile, Ta Duc presents his research with 24 types of questions, topics, and answers such as *"Who are the Katu ethnics and what is their origin?", "What do the Katu ethnics do to choose good ground for housing and sepulcher?", "Housing of the Katu hamlet", and "Tomb and coffin of the Katu ethnics"*. This work has shown readers an overview based on the comparison with culture of other ethnic minorities in Vietnam and Southeast Asia. "The Cotu in Vietnam" by Tran Tan Vinh is covered with six primary topics: origin of residential distribution, hamlet and housing, livelihood, clothing and jewelry, habits and customs with vivid illustrations. However, this work is more relevant to the understanding of

general culture of the Katu ethnic minority in the current trend of cultural tourism of ethnic minority hamlet rather than a profound monograph study of specific issue on ethnic culture.

The work "*the Katu ethnics living at water-head*" by Nguyen Huu Thong (2004) is one of the valuable works writing about the Katu ethnic minority. Interleaving the past and present, integrating the descriptive art and analysis, the frame of the Katu ethnics – the ones living at water-head gradually comes up together with the traditional values and historical movement. An academic strength of this work is the literary synthesis to explain the name of ethnic identity, the reset of presence, the process of migration as well as the role of the Katu ethnic minority in history. The author group has a considerable part of surveying and describing the traditional hamlet and the TCH as an essential factor. Therefore, this is also a work which has valuable information, contributing to the overall research of socio-culture of the Katu ethnic minority. In addition, there are a significant number of researches by teachers and students in Department of History, Hue University of Sciences and some other researchers. Nevertheless, these documents merely introduced in general or study separated aspect; therefore, they only help us partly understand the spiritual and cultural life of the Katu ethnic minority.

Beside the above-mentioned studies, there are some researches on the Katu ethnic minority under the types of book, articles, thesis and presentations in conferences such as *"The current issues on Central Vietnam and Tay Nguyen"* (2002), *"Hamlet culture of ethnic minorities in Quang Nam province", "Rong, cultural Rong*" (2004), *"Culture and Art of Central Vietnam: achievements and problems", "Traditional architecture and community" (*2013), *"Conservation and promotion of architectural art of the Katu ethnic minority in Quang Nam province"* (2014) and so on. Most of these researches have provided some basic information and discussed issues of ethnic culture towards tangible and intangible aspect.

Therefore, it can be noticed that all above-mentioned researches have introduce rather adequately about the Katu ethnic minority in Vietnam in terms of social and cultural life by different approaches and research purposes. However, in general, the majority of studies have focused on the Katu ethnic group in Quang Nam province without paying much to the Katu ethnic group in Nam Dong district, Thua Thien–Hue province, in which the Katu ethnic minority is considered peripheral since the origin of the Katu ethnic group is Quang Nam province. In recent years, Kobayashi have conducted the several field researches about the indigenous building technology of Katu ethnic minority in Central Vietnam, especially in Nam Dong district, and finding the richness of their technology and the importance of conservation for inheriting it. Some his valuable researches can be mentioned such as *"Indigenous Construction Technology of Cotu Minorities in Central Vietnam – Case study of the traditional community house in Hong Ha*

commune, Thua Thien–Hue province" (2010), *"Research on Indigenous Building Technology of Cotu Minorities in Central Vietnam – Case study of traditional community houses in Thuong Quang and Thuong Lo commune, Thua Thien–Hue province"* (2012). Based on such findings, the author selects the TCH of Katu ethnic group in Nam Dong district as the main object of the thesis which will subjectively and adequately contribute the complete information on cultural picture of the Katu ethnic minority in Vietnam in general. Besides, there is no research among the above-mentioned studies focusing on specific issue of "Conservation of the TCH architecture of the Katu ethnic group in Nam Dong district", although this has been mentioned in some books, articles or scientific reports on the aspect of ethnic culture.

On the foundation of inheriting the studies of the domestic and foreign scholars so far, the thesis **"Conserving Traditional Community Houses of the Katu Ethnic Minority – A Case Study in Nam Dong District, Thua Thien–Hue Province, Central Vietnam"** is the new step which expresses the following viewpoints:

First, the thesis is the first research that has a systematic, overall and detailed overview on characteristics of the TCH of the Katu ethnic group in Nam Dong district, Thua Thien–Hue province. Through this study, the author would like to provide a comprehensive picture of the TCH in the researched area by clarifying the characteristics of this type of house through different historical periods.

Second, the thesis identifies and expounds the subjective and objective factors effecting the alteration of the TCH through the historical periods and especially in the present context, which creates the unique indigenous features of the TCH of the Katu ethnic group in Nam Dong district.

Third, the proposals for conservation of the TCH will be a necessary reference for the government to promulgate appropriate polices and implementation method to conserve the TCH in the present context. This thesis absolutely is not a breakthrough in research of the Katu ethnic minority since all issues of this ethnic minority have been mentioned. However, in terms of theoretical and practical conservation of indigenous architecture, this is the significance in approaching and systemizing the adequate frame on the Katu ethnic minority, on both TCH and MCH as well as the related policies in current context in Nam Dong district. Furthermore, the obtained results of the thesis are the practical contribution to the building of scientific foundation for the orientation of the conservation and promotion of the ethnic group's culture in general and the TCH in particular, which contributes to preserve the traditional culture of ethnic minorities in Vietnam.

1.6 Structure of the research

The thesis consists of eight chapters illustrated in figure 1.1, and described as follows:

Chapter 1 is an introduction mentioning the significance, objectives, research method, structure of the thesis and reviews fundamental background of the Katu ethnic minority and their TCH based on previous studies. The research site is all 36 hamlets of six communes out of ten communes and one town in Nam Dong district, Thua Thien–Hue province, which has a high rate of Katu ethnic minority. Four field surveys were conducted from 2013 to 2014.

In chapter 2, an overview of 54 ethnic groups in Vietnam is introduced. Besides, some essential policies and programs of Central and local government concerning ethnic minority as well as their application in case of Nam Dong district are discussed. So far, more than 40 programs, targets and main projects of Vietnam government have been deployed in these areas with the aim of investing for education and training, medicine, transportation, irrigation and essential infrastructure system; developing manufacturing and poverty-alleviation; exploiting potential strength of the region; protecting ecological environment; preserving cultural character and tradition of the groups, etc. The fact has shown that although there are certain limitations, but these policies and projects have promoted certain effects.

Chapter 3 introduces an overview of the Katu ethnic minority in Central Vietnam and their TCH. The features of hamlet structure, livelihood, housing, spiritual, and cultural activities, especially the architectural characteristics and roles of the TCH of the Katu ethnic minority in Central Vietnam are clarified.

Chapter 4 mentions the distinctive features of the Katu ethnic group living in Nam Dong district. By the interview with local residents, the alteration process of hamlet structure, living, cultivation style and their TCHs through four primary periods in the area (before 1960s, from 1960s to 1970s, from 1970s to 2000s and from 2000s until now) are analyzed and clarified. Besides, recent projects supported by local government and outside organizations related to CHs are exposed to influence the decline of TCHs.

In chapter 5, the characteristics of the existing CHs in Nam Dong district will be clarified by field surveys in all of 43 existing CHs in 36 Katu hamlets, attaching the profiles of them. They are classified into five types including type 1 – Traditional community house (two buildings); type 2 – Semi-traditional community house (four buildings); type 3 – Semi-modern community house on stilts (13 buildings); type 4 – Modern community house on stilts (14 buildings), and type 5 – Modern community house on earth (10 buildings). For type 1 and 2, the hamlet residents play a main role in designing, colleting materials, constructing, and using while outsides play the key role in financial donors and minor role in construction. For type 3 and 4, the local authorities organize and implement the projects, the outsides hold the key role, while the hamlet residents

are passive in every step. For type 5, the outside builders undertook entirely in construction process, and hamlet residents did not participate in any step.

Chapter 6 concentrates on studying one case in Doi and A Xang hamlets, where the hamlet residents have still retained their TCHs next to MCHs supported by government project in order to find that the residents in these hamlets recently have the difficulties for the maintenance by repair and replace in some parts of TCHs due to the exhaustion of natural resources, decline of community cooperation and the gradual loss of indigenous knowledge; although they have continued to build their CHs in a traditional way.

Chapter 7 is the discussion on the potential of traditional cultural conservation of the Katu ethnic group in Nam Dong district as well as their TCHs through the analysis of three primary factors which are potentialities of natural resources, human resources and intellectual knowledge. In addition to this, the related policies and projects of CHs are not effectively operated in the viewpoint of conservation. The study has indicated that so far, there have been many issued policies with many projects related to the CH in Nam Dong district, especially after 2000s. However, there are few policies and projects related to cultural conservation implemented in Nam Dong district, especially, there is no specific document related to the TCH restoration and conservation in Nam Dong district. Currently, many Katu hamlets in Nam Dong district still desire to rebuild a TCH. However, the restoration of the TCHs there in the future will be difficult due to the decline of traditional materials, community cooperation, and construction technique. To build a TCH in the future, they need the support from local government and outside organizations.

Chapter 8 summarizes the findings derive from above chapters. In addition, recommendations for sustainable conservation of the TCH in the particular condition of locality are suggested. This can be considered as a crucial reference for the government to promulgate appropriate policies and implementation methods to preserve the TCH in the present context.

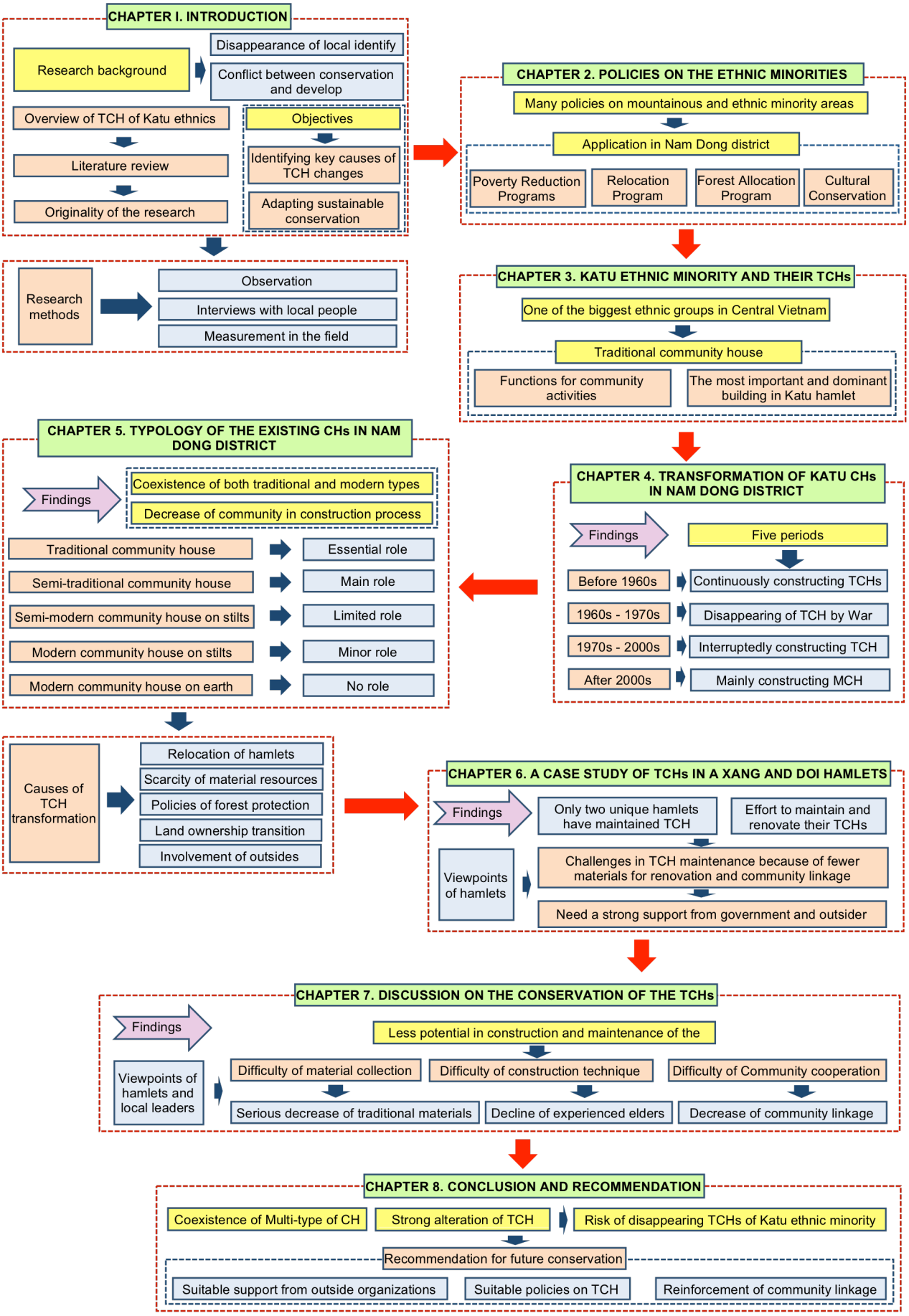


Figure 1.1 Scenario of the thesis

CHAPTER 2. GOVERNMENT POLICIES REGARDING THE ETHNIC MINORITIES IN VIETNAM

2.1 Overview of 54 ethnic groups in Vietnam

Vietnam is a multi-nationality country with the total of 54 ethnic groups divided into eight main groups pursuant to language as follows:

Viet – Muong group has four ethnic groups, *Tay – Thai* has eight, *Mon – Khmer* has 21, *Mong – Dao* has four, *Kadai* has five, South Island has three, Chinese has three and *Tang* has six ethnic minorities respectively. Except for Kinh, a major ethnic group, accounts for 86.2% of the total population, the remaining 53 ethnic minorities making up 13.8% of the total population (According to The 2009 Vietnam Population and Housing census). The ethnic minorities have unequal population: 12 ethnic minorities have the population of one hundred thousand and above (among them, four ethnic minorities have the population of more than one million); 21, 15, and five ethnic minorities have the population of from ten thousand to one hundred thousand, from one thousand to ten thousand, and under one thousand respectively.

The ethnic minorities reside scattered and alternately in all provinces and cities of the whole nation. The areas where many ethnic minorities live are mountainous areas, boundaries with the natural area of two-thirds of the total area. Among them, North-West, North-East, North Central and Central Highlands have the rate of ethnic minorities of 16.8%, 34.6%, 10%, and 13% respectively. The remaining 25.6% belong to South Central and South Vietnam.

The ethnic minorities have lower intellectual standards and socio-economical development than Kinh people and distribute unequally. The ethnic minorities living in lowland in South Vietnam have fatter land, more stable climate and weather, more convenient cultivation, more developed and stable socio-economical living than other areas. The North-West, North-East and the Central have the separate and complex terrain, barren land, many steep hills, rocky mountains, severe climate, frequent natural disasters, difficult cultivation; therefore, the life of the residents in these regions are more challenging, the rate of poor household is higher, and the economy is less developed. The ethnic minorities have diversified activities and cultural heritages of their own identity, among them are the unique tangible and intangible heritages of national and international stature. However, in daily activities, some groups still preserve many backward customs.

2.2 Main policies regarding ethnic minorities

Over the past decades, the government of Vietnam has devoted great attention to the development of ethnic minorities. The main reason for this is that ethnic minorities are one of the

poorest groups in Vietnam. For example, in 2004, ethnic minorities made up 12.6% of the population but accounted for 39.3% of the poor population according to the Vietnam Household Living Standard Survey of 2004. Most ethnic communities are located in remote and difficult areas accounting for three-fourths of the whole country's land area.

Therefore, numerous policies and programs have targeted at developing ethnic minorities. Prior to 1998, 21 national targeted projects were implemented to invest in the ethnic minorities and mountainous areas. A more logical policy system was improved afterwards. So far, more than 40 programs, targets and main projects of Vietnam government have been deployed in these areas with the aim of investing for education and training, medicine, transportation, irrigation and essential infrastructure system; developing manufacturing and poverty-alleviation; exploiting potential strength of the region; protecting ecological environment; preserving cultural character and tradition of the groups, etc. Some typical programs can be mentioned such as Hunger Eradication and Poverty Reduction Program, Program 135, Program 134, Forest Land Allocation and Afforestation Programs, and so on, which aimed to improve the economy, society and culture, gradually narrow the gap with Kinh people's area, and with plain areas.

2.2.1 National Targeted Program on Hunger Eradication and Poverty Reduction (Program 133)

National Targeted Program on Hunger Eradication and Poverty Reduction is an integrated and interdisciplinary program, under the strategy of social-economic development of Vietnam. The program consists of four phases: Phase 1 from 1998 to 2000 (according to Decision No. 133/1998/QD-TTg), phase 2 from 2001 to 2005 (according to Decision No. 143/2001/QD-TTg), period paragraph 3 from 2006 to 2010 (according to decision No. 20/2007/QD-TTg) and phase 4 from 2012 to 2013 (according to Decision No. 1489/QD-TTg). The overall objectives of the program are to improve and gradually raise the living conditions of the poor, prioritizing the poor ethnic minorities, the poor people living in poor districts, border communes and communal safety zones, extremely difficult communes and hamlets, coastal capes and islands, to create a comprehensive and powerful change in poverty alleviation in poor areas, to contribute to narrowing the gap in living standards between urban and rural areas, between regions, ethnic groups and residential groups.

The programs are implemented in the whole country. In the early years, the priority focused on the poor communes, extremely difficult upland areas, border areas, islands and remote areas with the capital of 10,000 billion VND (~476.190 million USD) [4] for phase 1; Phase 2 is 22,580

[4] Exchange rate between VND and USD in recent times is quite stable, fluctuating at 21,000 VND per 1 USD. Therefore, this exchange rate used for conversion in the thesis.

billion VND (~1.075 billion USD), 43,488 billion VND (~2.070 billion USD) for phase 3, and 27,509 billion VND (~1.309 billion USD) for phase 4 (including the government budget, international cooperation and other sources). The specific objectives of Phases 2 and 3 until 2010 are: to reduce the poverty rate from 22% in 2005 to 10-11% in 2010; the income of poor households will increase by 1.45 times compared to 2005. The objective of Phase 4 are: per capita income of poor households in the whole country increases by 1.6 times compared to the end of 2011 (particularly, the poor households in poor districts, communes and extremely difficult hamlets in ethnic minority and mountainous areas increase 2.5 times); the percentage of poor households in the whole country decrease on average of 2% per year (particularly, the poor districts and communes decrease to 4% per year) under the national poverty line period 2011-2015. 50% of extremely difficult communes, hamlets in coastal capes and islands, and 30% of extremely difficult communes, hamlets in ethnic minorities and mountainous areas overcome extremely difficult situation based on criteria defined by the Central Government.

In 2001, Program 133 was merged with the Employment Creation Program (Program 120) to become the National Targeted Program on Hunger Eradication Poverty Reduction and Job Creation (HEPR-JC) (Program 143). This program covers the period from 2001 to 2005 with 12-targeted sub-programs and social support policies. Program 143 is independent of other major development programs and therefore can geographically overlap with them (especially at the commune level). Its components are often integrated into other programs, especially Program 135 in the commune, district and provincial levels. One of the reasons for this is that Program 135 spreads across most provinces in the country (52 out of 64 provinces and also has some similar components such as infrastructure, extension service, and training to Program 143. The first phase of Program 143 ended in 2005, and its second phase covering the period from 2006 to 2010, approximately four billion USD was invested in prioritized mountainous areas in addition to providing funds for developing infrastructure in poor coastal and island communities. The program has had a significant impact on poverty reduction in Vietnam. The rate of poverty in Viet Nam steadily declined from around 58% in 1993 to 37% in 1998 then 29% in 2002 and to 24.1% in 2004. To create a new change in poverty reduction the next time, the Central government has approved the program for sustainable poverty reduction in the period from 2011 to 2020 in order to improve and gradually increase the living conditions of the poor. The program is firstly implemented in mountainous and ethnic minorities areas, then creates powerful and comprehensive change in poor areas in order to narrow the gap between urban and rural areas, between regions, ethnic minorities and Kinh group.

2.2.2 Program for the Socio-Economic Development of Extremely Difficult Communes in Ethnic, Mountainous, Boundary and Remote Areas (Program 135)

The Program for the Socio-Economic Development of Extremely Difficult Communes in Ethnic, Mountainous, Boundary and Remote Areas[5], also shortly called Program 135 was established in 1998.

The program is widely known under the name of Program 135 since the Decision approved by Vietnam Prime Minister has number 135/1998/QD-TTg. This is one of the key Programs on Hunger Eradication and Poverty Alleviation of the Vietnam government. The overall objectives of the Program are to quickly improve the material and spiritual life of the ethnic minority people in mountainous, deep-lying and remote communes with special difficulties, to create conditions for these areas to overcome poverty, backwardness and under-development and integrate themselves into the overall national development. These objectives contribute to ensuring the social order and safety, national security and defense. Program 135 originally had five components: infrastructure, the development of communal centers, resettlement, production support, and training. Then, in 2000, Decision 138/2000/QD-TTg moved the components of Program 133 concerned with resettlement and sedentarization, support for extremely difficult ethnic minorities, and communal center development in mountainous areas policies into Program 135. In 2006, the government issued Decision No. 07/2006/QD-TTg approving Program 135 phase 2 from 2006 to 2010, and Decision No. 551/QD-TTg for Phase 3 from 2012 to 2015. These three phases target at different objectives.

Phase 1 from 1998 to 2005 include following targets: to remove households to suffer from chronic hunger, decreasing by 4-5% annually, to reduce the percentage of poor households in the extremely difficult areas to 25% by 2005, to ensure the supply of sufficient water for the residents' daily life, to attract over 70% of school-age children into schools, to provide majority of residents with training and manufacturing experiences, scientific, cultural and social knowledge so that they can take initiative in applying such experience and knowledge to their manufacturing and life. Furthermore, the targets of the project are the ability of controlling most dangerous social diseases, to build inter-hamlet and inter-commune roads to the centers of commune clusters, and to boost the development of rural markets. In phase 1, 1870 of the most vulnerable communes in 248 districts of 49 provinces and cities were selected as program beneficiaries, representing nearly one-fourth of all communes nationwide and 15% of the total

[5] The ethnic and mountainous areas in Vietnam are divided into three regions accordingly to their development level: Region 1 (communities start to develop), Region 2 (communities with mainly stabilized development), and Region 3 (the poorest and most vulnerable communities). Region 3 communes are often described as ‘extremely difficult communes’. The latest criteria for these three regions are set-out in Decision 393/2005/QD-UBDT and include poverty, infrastructure, social factors (education, health, and information), production conditions, and location.

population (according to Decision No. 1232/1999/QD-TTg).

Phase 2 from 2006 to 2010 include following targets: to create the rapid evolution in manufacturing, to promote economic restructuring oriented agricultural production associated with the market, to improve and enhance the spiritual and material life of the residents, to decrease the development gap among the ethnic groups and the regions in the country. Striving to 2010, the district basically has no starving household and reduce the poor households to less than 30% under the defined poverty line. Over 70% of households achieve per capita income of at least 3.5 million VND/year (~166 USD); over 80% of communes have roads for motor vehicles (from the motorcycle and above) from the town center to all hamlets. At least 80% of communes have minor irrigation schemes to ensure the capacity for production for over 85% of land for wet rice cultivation; 100% of communes have enough solid schools and classrooms with boarding classes where necessary. Over 80% of hamlets have electricity in residential areas; to solve and satisfy the basic requirements of the CH; 100% of communes have solid medical stations in accordance with standard. 1,446 of communes in 45 provinces (according to Decision No. 164/2006/QD-TTg) are under investment scope in phase 2.

For phase 3 from 2012 to 2015, the rate of poor households reduces by 4% per year; per capita income reaches 50% of the common average income in the rural area of the whole country by 2015. Over 85% of the hamlets have roads for vehicles, in which at least 35% of the communes and 50% of the hamlets have standard traffic roads. 95% of the commune centers and over 60% of the hamlets are supplied with electricity. In phase 3, 2,333 extremely difficult, bordering and safe zone communes of 49 provinces and cities under the Central government are selected as program beneficiaries (according to Decision No. 164/2006/ QD-TTg). The capital is mobilized from three main sources: First is the support from Central budget to implement the objectives of the program which is allocated in the annual national estimate of localities. Second is the annual local budget and third is the voluntary contribution from domestic and foreign enterprises, organizations and individuals.

Directing principles

1) The socio-economic development in mountainous, deep-lying and remote communes with special difficulties must be, first of all, based on the promotion of the internal resources of every household and the community-based assistance. In addition, the active support of the government in order to tap local land and labor resources as well as the natural, and socio-economic conditions in the areas create new changes in the people's production as well as material and spiritual life.

2) The Government shall create a legal environment and adopt socio-economic development

policies, give priority to the allocation of the Government budget, funding of the programs and projects located in the areas and capital sources donated by foreign countries and international organizations to communes with special difficulties.

3) There should be comprehensive measures for implementing the program, first of all concentrating on the agricultural and forestry development, building rural infrastructure, and at the same time boosting the educational, medical, cultural and social development in the areas.

4) The provinces and cities directly under the Central government, the ministries and branches shall have to assist the communes covered by the program; socio-economic organizations, people's armed forces, socio-professional organizations, enterprises and the people of all strata throughout the country as well as overseas Vietnamese are encouraged to make active contributions to and support the program implementation.

Tasks of the program

1) To make a planning on the population re-distribution in places where it is so necessary, step by step rationally organize the daily life of the residents in mountainous and rural hamlets and hamlets in areas where conditions permit, particularly in border and island communes, create conditions for the residents to quickly stabilize their production and life.

2) To boost agricultural production and forestry in association with products processing and marketing so as to tap local natural resources and utilize the local labor force, create more opportunities of employment and income generation, stabilize the residents' life and gradually develop goods production.

3) To develop the rural infrastructure in line with the production planning and the population re-distribution planning, first of all, the communications system; the clean water supply systems, and the power-supply systems in areas where conditions permit, including small hydroelectric power stations.

4) To plan and build centers of commune clusters, focusing on the investment in building medical and educational establishments, commercial centers, handicraft and cottage-industrial establishments, production and service establishments, radio and television networks.

5) To train cadres for mountainous and rural communes and hamlets, help grassroots cadres to raise their administrative and economic management abilities in order to meet the local socio-economic development requirements.

In the 8-year implementation of phase 1 (1998 – 2005), the extremely difficult communes are invested to construct the infrastructure projects approximately 1 billion VND (~47,619 USD)

per year. Infrastructure in extremely difficult communes is significantly enhanced. Currently 56% of extremely difficult communes have enough seven kinds of indispensable works; 70% of communes have five works. Among them, many works have a direct impact on development of agriculture and forestry production such as more than 3,000 small irrigation works; transport systems to hamlets in many areas are connected to the backbone system. By the fund from Program 135 integrated with other programs and projects implemented in the district, after 6 years (1999 – 2004) the communes have built over 20,000 works, including 6,652 traffic works, 3,608 irrigation works, 4,654 schools, 2,346 drinking water supply works, 1,298 electricity works, 487 dispensaries and 237 markets.

The adding up the five-year implementation of phase 2 (2006 – 2010) has shown that the poor household rate in extremely difficult communes, hamlets decreases from 47% (in 2006) to 28.8% (in 2010). Income per capita is 4.2 million per person per year. The percentage of communes have roads for motor vehicles from the town center to the hamlet increases to 80.7%; 100% of communes have medical stations; 100% of residents are in need of free legal aid.

However, there are still shortcomings and limitations in implementing the program. For instance, the issuance of management and guiding documents on the implementation mechanism of the Central is untimely; the Central government allocates fund in dribs and drabs. In addition, there is the lack of encouragement mechanism for the localities well performing and quickly completing the program objectives as well as the lack of sanction to deal with the localities slowly deploying and making the fund inefficient.

2.2.3 Program on Support in terms of Production Land, Residential Land, Dwelling Houses and Daily-Life Water to Poor Ethnic Minority Households Meeting with Difficulties (Program 134)

Program on Support in terms of Production Land, Residential Land, Dwelling Houses and Daily-Life Water to Poor Ethnic Minority Households Meeting with Difficulties – is called Program 134 in abbreviation. It is the program which Vietnamese government has applied since 2004 in accordance with the Decision No. 134/2004/QĐ-TTg by Prime Minister. The program consists of two periods (period 1: 2004 – 2006; period 2: 2007 - 2008). The overall target is to support manufacturing, land, housing and water for the households of poor ethnic minority people in order to together perform the socio-economic programs. The government directly supports the poor ethnics so that they can have conditions to develop manufacturing, and escape poverty soon. The beneficiaries include the poor ethnics on the spot, local residents and the poor households living on the agriculture, forestry or having no or insufficient manufacturing land, housing and daily water use. The financial source to implement this program is undertaken by the

Central government. The local budget allocates the minimum funds of 20% in comparison with Central Budget guarantees, while raising additional legal funds to carry out this objective and policy. The main objectives of the project are:

- To ensure each ethnic minority household have at least 0.5 ha of upland, or 0.25 ha of upland rice paddies or 0.15 ha of rice fields to produce two crops of agriculture.

- To ensure each ethnic minority household in rural areas have at least a minimum of 200 m^2 of land.

- The Central government and local government will subsidize the poor ethnic minority household having no housing or temporary housing to build houses. Specifically, Central government supports of 5 million VND (~238 USD) per household for housing. Based on the situation and budget capacity, local government supports more and mobilizes help from the community. To the localities which have forests, and approved logging planning, the provincial People's Committees are allowed to exploit timber in accordance with regulations. It is prohibited to take advantage of logging for dwelling house to destroy forest.

- The Central government will subsidize with 0.5 tons of cement for each household to build rainwater tanks or supply 300,000 VND per household (~14 USD) to dig wells or create drinking water source for ethnic minorities dispersing in the highlands, rocky, and the areas having difficult in drinking water. For the hamlet with 50% of ethnic minorities or more, the Central government will subsidize 100% of funding for construction of centralized water supply projects. For the hamlet having from 20% to 50% of ethnic minorities, the Central government will subsidize 50% of funding to build centralized water supply.

The financial sources to implement this program are from the Central government. Local authorities, depending on conditions, may grant additional financing, but maximum of 20% compared with the total of funding of the Central government. In addition, other contributions in cash or at any kind at the community level are expected to be mobilized.

2.2.4 Policies of forest protect and management

Compared with the law on the protection and development of natural resources, law on forest protection and development is formed earlier. The law is marked by the Decision No. 72/TTg dated on July 07 in 1962 by the Prime Minister on Cuc Phuong national forest, the Ordinance on forest protection dated on September 06 in 1972 and so on. This indicates that the policy and law setters are fully aware of the importance of forest resources in all three aspects: economy, science, and environment.

Especially in recent years, many guidelines and policies on forestry development are drawn up, the law system on forest is gradually perfected; many programs and projects of national and international level have been deployed, creating a momentum to promote the forest management, protection and development. A number of related important policy documents which have been issued so far can be summarized as follows (Table 2.1):

Table 2.1 Major legal regulations related to forest policies in Vietnam

1991 Law on Forest Protection and Development
1992 Decree No. 327/CT aims at re-greening barren land in the country
1993 Law on land use management
1994 Decree No. 02/CP on contractual allocation of land for forestry purposes
1998 Decision No. 661/QD-TTg on the objectives, tasks, policies, and organizations for the establishment of five million ha of new forest
1999 Decree No. 163/1999/ND-CP on allocation and lease of forestry land to organizations, households and individuals for stable and long-term use for forestry purposes
2001 Decision No. 178/2001/QD-TTg on benefit sharing and responsibility of household and individual owning land and forest land through land allocation, rental or forest protection contracts.
2003 Land Law recognizing the legal status of communities in land tenure
2004 Forest Protection and Development Law recognizing common property as a legal forest management
2006 Decision No. 186/2006/QD-TTg promulgate the Regulation on forest management
2007 Decision 18/2007/QD-TTg: The Vietnam Forestry Development Strategy from 2006 to 2020
2010 Decree No. 117/2010/ND-CP date December 24, 2010 of the Government on organization and management of the special-use forest system
2012 Decision No. 57/QD-TTg approving the forest protection and development project during 2011-2020

Land Law in 1993 reinforces Law on Forest Protection and Development in 1991 by specifying that the land (such as production forests) should be formally allocated to the management units (household, household group, or an organization) within 50 years.

In 1994, Decree No. 02/CP guided the allocation of forest land to organizations, households, and individuals for long-term forestry purposes. Next, in 1999, the Government issued Decree No. 163/1999/ND-CP on the allocation and leasing of forest land to organizations, households and individuals for stable and long-term use for forestry purposes, which inherited, corrected and developed policies on allocation of forest land of Decree No. 02/CP in 1994. The objectives of program are to create jobs, increase income of local residents through activities of forest protections, to limit decrease of forest due to illegal exploitation situation, and to enhance local people's awareness in forest protection.

In 2001, Decision No. 178/2001/QD-TTg focused on sharing and responsibility of household and individual who own land and forest land through contracts of land allocation, leasing of beneficial protective forest.

Land law in 2003 and Law of Forest Protection and Development in 2004 defined more clearly the responsibility of locality and adjusted the overall management of local authorities in forest resources. These laws have empowered the local people by admitting the local communities as the legal receivers of land use.

In 2006, the Department of National Forestry proposed the program for community forest management. With approval from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the program was implemented in ten provinces with a total of 40 pilot communes.

In 2007, Decision 18/2007/QD-TTg approved the Vietnam Forestry Development Strategy from 2006 to 2020. This is the foundation for long term-oriented development. This strategy inherited forestry development strategy period 2001 – 2010 approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, added new viewpoints and orientations in order to satisfy the innovation requirements, integration and sustainable development.

In 2012, the Central government issued Decision No. 57/QD-TTg approving the forest protection and development project during 2011 – 2020. The objectives are to well manage the available forests, to use forest resources and land availability planed for forestry in an effective and sustainable manner, to increase the forest coverings to 42 – 43% by 2015 and 44 – 45% by 2020, and to increase the productivity, quality and values of forests, basically satisfying demands for timber and forest products for domestic consumption and export. Implementation activities of the project will generate more jobs, improving incomes for forest-dependent residents, contributing to hunger elimination and poverty reduction.

In summary, through the development of the policy contexts, forestry in Vietnam has undergone changes: first is the nationalization of forests and then is the gradual decentralization of management from the central to local government. These laws have provided local people with rights; especially they have recognized local communities as legal recipients of land use.

As a form of property rights, current policies in Vietnam have provided communities with natural forest, similar to the community forestry program of other Asian countries. This policy, initiated in 1995 through the pilots and experiments and latter is Law on Forest Protection and Development in 2004, has dramatically changed the people-forest relationship and it is also the result of a policy evolution beginning in 1975 after Vietnam reunification. Through the program, local people and communities are allocated forest and forest land for their own management.

However, objectively acknowledging, the forest management protection and development objectives in an equal and sustainable manner still have not achieved the desired results. Some programs and projects at national level are implemented with low quality and do not guarantee rate of progress.

2.2.5 Program "Conserving and developing the traditional culture of ethnic minorities in Vietnam until 2020"

In the policies related to ethnic minorities, the issue of conserving and developing the traditional culture is one of the key responsibilities of Vietnamese government. In the recent years, Vietnamese government had many policies to conserve and develop the traditional culture of ethnic minorities. The most considerable is the program named "Cultural conservation and development of ethnic minorities in Vietnam until 2020" which is responsible by the Ministry of Culture, Information and Communications and approved by the Prime Minister with the dispatch No. 1270/QD-TTg dated on July 27, 2011. The implementation of the Program is divided into two phases: Phase 1 is from 2011 to 2015 and Phase 2 is from 2016 to 2020. The program focuses on developing the culture of ethnic minorities and the groups having no conditions to self-protect and develop their own cultural heritages. The mountainous areas, ethnic minorities, remote areas, extremely difficult areas, borders, islands, relocated areas for economic development, areas having high risk of cultural identity oblivion, and key areas (Northwest, Central Highlands, and South West of Vietnam) are given priority. The capital is from the Central governmental and loan budget, support of domestic and international organizations and individuals, and the local residents' contribution.

The overall objectives of the project are:

- To mobilize the power of the whole society to develop national culture, contributing to making culture truly the spiritual foundation of the society as well as the target and motivation for socio-economic development while ensuring the national security and the national territorial integrity.

- To preserve and promote traditional cultural identity of the ethnic minorities in accordance with the actual situation; especially paying attention to the groups which are at high risk of cultural deformation (the unpopulous ethnic minorities which have no conditions to self-protect their culture; cultural conservation and development of ethnic minorities in border areas, islands and resettlement areas of hydropower projects). To promote the role of cultural subjects in the development of traditional culture of ethnic minorities.

- To honor the traditional cultural values of ethnic minorities, to encourage the creativeness

of new cultural values, to contribute to decreasing disparities in living standards and cultural enjoyment among regions, ethnic groups, harmonizing economic development with cultural conservation and development of ethnic minorities.

- To intensify the investment of the government, to boost the socialization of cultural activities, to mobilize all resources for the conservation and development of culture among ethnic minorities in Vietnam, associating economic development with cultural development, especially in the key areas including the ethnic minority, remote areas, extremely difficult areas, borders and islands.

2.3 Applications of policies in Nam Dong district

2.3.1 History of Nam Dong district

Nam Dong is a mountainous district of Thua Thien–Hue province, 50 km away from Hue city towards Southwest, 25 km away from National Highway to the East. The district is a valley located in the East of Truong Son mount with 37 km in length; the widest site is 27 km and the narrowest site is 14 km with the total area of 651 km^2. The West of Nam Dong district borders A Luoi district; the North borders Huong Thuy district; the East borders Phu Loc district, and the South borders Dong Giang and Tay Giang districts of Quang Nam province, and Hoa Vang district of Da Nang city.

Before 1975, Nam Dong district nowadays named district 4 including eight communes: Thuong Nhat, Thuong Quang, Thuong Long, Thuong Lo, Huong Huu, Huong Son, Huong Nguyen, and Huong Lam. After 1975, Nam Dong district was newly established on the basis of six communes of previous district 4 (Thuong Nhat, Thuong Quang, Thuong Long, Thuong Lo, Huong Huu, and Huong Son) and three new-economy communes consisting of Huong Loc (belongs to former Phu Loc), Huong Phu (former Huong Thuy), Huong Giang (coming from Hue city). Huong Lam and Huong Nguyen communes were then incorporated into A Luoi district. In 1997, Nam Dong district became a part of Phu Loc district, Binh Tri Thien province. In 1989, after being separated into Thua Thien–Hue province from Binh Tri Thien province, Nam Dong district was split from Phu Loc district including nine communes (six communes of the Katu ethnics and three new-economy communes). Until 1994, because of the establishment of district center, Huong Loc commune was divided into Huong Loc, Huong Hoa communes and Khe Tre town. Therefore, nowadays, Nam Dong district has the total of 11 administrative units with ten communes and one town.

2.3.2 Programs on Hunger Eradication and Poverty Reduction

1, Application of Program 135 in the district

Program 135 is one of the largest and comprehensive programs which have been applied in Nam Dong district so far. Four communes of the district including Huong Son, Thuong Nhat, Quang Thuong, and Thuong Long were placed under special difficult communes to be supported by Program 135 in Phase 1 (1998 – 2006). Then, four communes including Huong Huu, Thuong Long, Huong Phu, and Thuong Lo were placed under investment in phase 2 (2006 – 2010). In Nam Dong district, after 5-year implementation of Program 135 Phase 2, especially difficult communes in the district are invested around 15.9 billion VND (~0.751 million USD) to build infrastructure and develop manufacturing. Owing to the investment and support of Program 135, the district has made significant achievements in all fields. Transportation system and infrastructure item are basically perfected. Physiognomy of Nam Dong district has been increasingly prosperous. The gap between the poor and the rich communes and hamlets is narrowed. Material and spiritual life of local ethnics in extremely poor communes are significantly raised.

In mountainous Nam Dong district, there are seven out of ten communes being in difficult conditions. Currently, five communes have proposed to stop receiving funds from Program 135 since these communes have achieved poor riddance prescribed by the government. Notably, Program 135 has invested to asphalt and concrete 79 km of rural roads, and constructed eight solid bridges in Nam Dong district. Currently, Nam Dong district has the convenient traffic systems to the hamlets and residential areas leading to no congestion in the flood season. Irrigation system here is invested to construct with solid 13 dams, solidify 24 km of canals, and guarantee to irrigate for more than 90% of wet rice areas. The district constructs 16.3 km of new medium-voltage lines, 32.9 km of low voltage lines, and 17 substations; connects the electricity from the national grid up to 100% of communes, with over 95% of households use electricity. Agricultural settlement funds in this phase also invest 19.7 billion VND (~0.938 USD) for transportation, water wells, welfare projects; support to reclaim the paddy fields; help separate the households; create gardens for 276 poor households to settle accommodation. Program 135 combined with other programs have also helped Nam Dong district to plant 2,500 ha of rubbers, of which about 600 ha have latex. Huong Son and Huong Phu communes are the two first communes of Nam Dong district proposing to stop Program 135 thanks to the income from rubbers. Huong Phu commune has 562 households planting 600 ha of rubbers, of which 200 ha are in harvesting period, annually, from 150 to 200 tons of fresh latex is harvested, the turnover is from 600 million VND to 800 million VND (~28,571 USD – 38,095 USD). Huong Son commune has 214 households with 100% of the Katu ethnics planting 216 ha, of which harvesting area is around 100 ha. Many households have income from 20 million VND to 30 million VND per year (~952 USD – 1,428 USD). Currently, 292 poor households and ethnic

minority households are supported to fix the dwelling houses, plant variety, fertilizer, domestic animals with the total value of 742 million VND (~35,333 USD). Many households get riddance to poverty through these specific aids. A leader of Thua Thien–Hue province assesses that Program 135 has invested timely and in proper direction; therefore, it has promoted effectiveness in raising the life of ethnic minority people and the difficult regions in the province. Currently, the poverty rate in the regions where Program 135 is implemented has decreased from 5% to 7% per year. Nam Dong district decreases from 45% to 11,4%.

2, The Livelihood Improvement Project in Thua Thien–Hue province

Central Livelihood Improvement Project (CLIP), from 2002 to 2009 which loaned from Asian Development Bank (ADB) by the form of Official Development Assistance loan (ODA) [6], and was supported by the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) with the total capital of approximately 75.64 million USD, of which ADB supported 51.7 million USD, DFID's funding was 12.64 million USD and counterpart funding from the Vietnam government was 11.3 million USD. The project was carried out in the area of four provinces in the Central Vietnam and Central Highlands. Its overall aim is to assist the local government to ensure the poor in the upland communes of the participating provinces so that they can achieve sustainable livelihoods with their improved quality of life. The project consists of following main targets: First is to improve stability and long-term food security for households; second is to increase income for the poor by growing productivity from agriculture and non-agricultural activities; third is to intensify the capacity of the community in the use and management of limited resources to develop sustainable economy; fourth is to reinforce the capacity of governmental support agencies and other units to improve the services supply in the uplands; and fifth is to transfer management knowledge and project performance for the local managers through technical and financial support.

The Thua Thien–Hue Livelihood Improvement Project (TLIP) belonged to CLIP, which was mainly implemented in 30 poor communes of A Luoi and Nam Dong districts from 2005 to 2009 with the total funding of 15.61 million USD (according to the Decision No. 2189/QD-UB by Thua Thien–Hue province People's Committee), of which ADB accounted for 8.35 million USD, DFID was 3.61 million USD, counterpart funding from the government budget was 3.52 million USD, and 0.13 million USD were contributed by the local residents. Thua Thien–Hue province People's Committee was the investor. The project is implemented at 9 out of 11 communes and town of Nam Dong district, including: Huong Son, Thuong Nhat, Thuong Long, Thuong Quang,

[6] ODA loan is long-term loan with low interest rate for to the developing countries and has the liability of being paid back. Assistance can be given to major projects of developing countries that generate larger impact on the economic growth, environmental improvement and social development of the countries.

Thuong Lo, Huong Loc, Huong Phu, Huong Huu, and Huong Giang. These are the communes which are assessed as the poor communes by the standards of Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs in Decision No. 1143-2000/LDTBXH dated on November 01, 2000 and are selected in the list of beneficiaries of CLIP with total investment of 3.85 million USD. Among them, more than 70% of communities are ethnic minority communes, 41% of the populations are defined as poverty, and 9,922 people in 1,376 households benefited directly from the project.

According to the evaluation results, the project has made positive impacts to the socio-economic issues of the areas in project region and has contributed to the joint efforts of such areas and government in reducing poverty (poverty rate of Thua Thien–Hue province decreased from 18.42% in 2006 to 12.1% in 2008). Besides, the project has created jobs for local residents through their participation in manual labor paid by the contractor in the execution of small-scale infrastructure. In addition, through the project participation, capacity of community and local managers are significantly improved.

Table 2.2 The total value of investment in infrastructure construction of CLIP in Nam Dong district in 2005-2008

No.	Items	Quantity of works	Cost
1	Traffic roads, bridges	43	37,000 million VND (~1,761,804 USD)
2	Irrigation systems, concreting canals	24	10,410 million VND (~495,714 USD)
3	Clean water supply systems, wells	43	4,400 million VND (~209,523 USD)
4	Community houses	24	8,780 million VND (~418,095 USD)
	Total	349	60,590 million VND (~2,885,238 USD)

Source: Management Board of Thua Thien–Hue Livelihood Improvement Project (CLIP)

Infrastructure is a key activity of TLIP. The Project has invested to construct four out of five types of infrastructure works (except hydropower and solar power); all bring about the practical benefits which satisfy the residents' desire. With the objective of creating additional income for farmers through the development of infrastructure system, between 2005 and 2008, Nam Dong district was invested 60.59 billion VND (~2.885 million USD) with 349 projects for beneficiaries who are the residents of nine communes having project. Among them, 43 works of roads and bridges value at 37 billion VND (~1.761 million USD); 24 works of irrigation systems, concrete of canals cost 10.41 billion VND (~0.485 million USD); 43 works to provide clean water to people value 4.4 billion VND (~0.209 million USD); 24 CHs are 8.78 billion VND (~0.418 million USD) (Table 2.2).

TLIP has contributed to the alleviation of poverty and satisfied most urgent needs of poor communities. The project has brought about apparent socio-economic efficiency to the residents of the project region in particular and the province in general. In addition to these direct benefits,

the project has contributed to improving the quality and scale of rural infrastructure, improved the ecological and social environment of the region and contributed to accelerating the development of rural landscape. It can be said that the implementation of the project has improved the conditions of traveling and social services as well as improving quality of life for the residents in the district.

Besides these achievements, the project also has some shortcomings such as the project design includes too many small-scale activities. Many projects have slower rate of progress than expected. The residents Intellectual's standard of is low so the ability to digest and participate in the construction remains limited. The project is implemented in a short time; therefore, the highest sustainability is not good, especially the infrastructure component caused by the lack of funding for the renovation and maintenance.

3. Community-Based Rural Infrastructure Project

Community-Based Rural Infrastructure Project (CBRIP) was approved in the Decision No. 622/QD-TTg by Prime Minister. 611 communes of 98 districts in 13 provinces in the Central Vietnam from Thanh Hoa province to Binh Thuan province participated in the project. The project is implemented between 2001 and 2006 with the total expenditure of 123.41 million USD; 102.78 million USD of the capital is loaned from the World Bank (WB); the corresponding capital of Vietnam government is 16.81 million USD, and the residents' contribution is 3.28 million USD. The overall targets of CBRIP are to alleviate starving and poverty at the rural communes by enhancing capacity of the communes in making plan and management with decentralization towards the development activities, to provide small-scale infrastructure based on community and create direct income for the poor through employing labor for building project. The principle to select poor communes based on Decision No. 42/QD-TTg on the number of poor communes under Program 135. Each commune is funded from 63,000 USD to 186,000 USD over 3 years to build or repair the small public infrastructure works, primarily serving hamlet, commune and inter-commune works such as roads, electricity grids, irrigation, health clinics and schools. The structure of CBRIP's organization and the participatory planning process and the structure of CBRIP's Organization could be illustrated by Figures 2.1 and 2.2.

Four communes in Nam Dong district include Huong Son, Thuong Nhat, Quang Thuong, and Thuong Long are within the scope of this project with total investment of 5.219 billion VND (~0.248 million USD) for the items such as roads, bridges, irrigation, CH, school with the land area of around 15.6 ha.

In CBRIP, at least 80% of households participate in hamlet meetings; in general, most of them are aware of the basic information about the project such as project name, works of

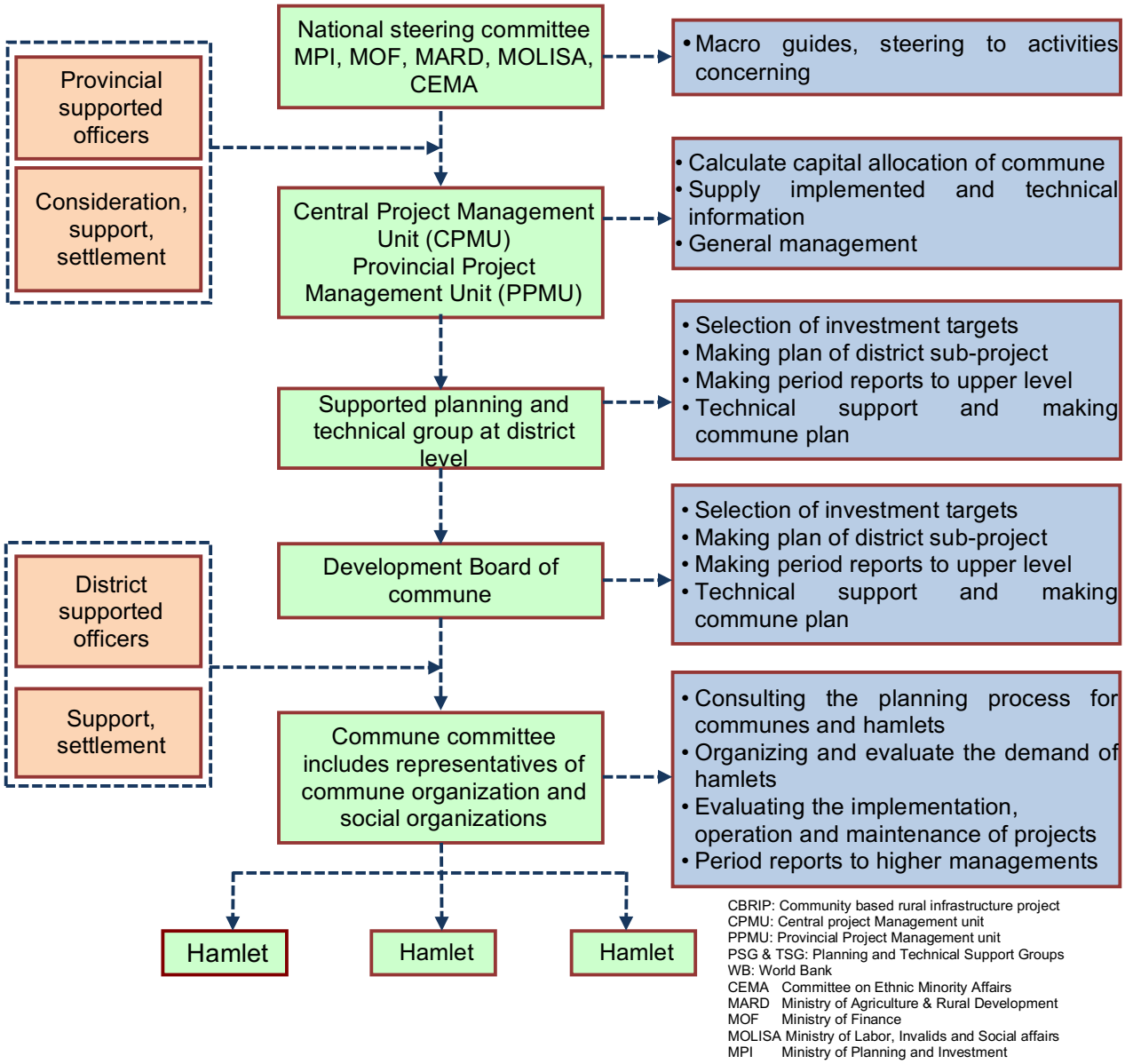


Figure 2.1 Structure of CBRIP's Organization

infrastructure investment, the responsibility of people involved. They even grasp the thorough information such as priority objects of the project, information on community management, rights and duties of work maintenance, and information of the project policies.

The project uses new approach "empowering the commune to be an investor", or in other words, assigning the commune and residents to allocate the labor force, select investment projects, implementation, supervision, use and work maintenance, thereby enhancing the administrative capacity at the commune level, realizing the democracy at the grassroots level, increasing transparency in the use of capital at all levels, and encouraging the involvement of the community. In addition, the project also supports the implementation of rural development programs supported by the Central government and foreign investors, including Program 135.

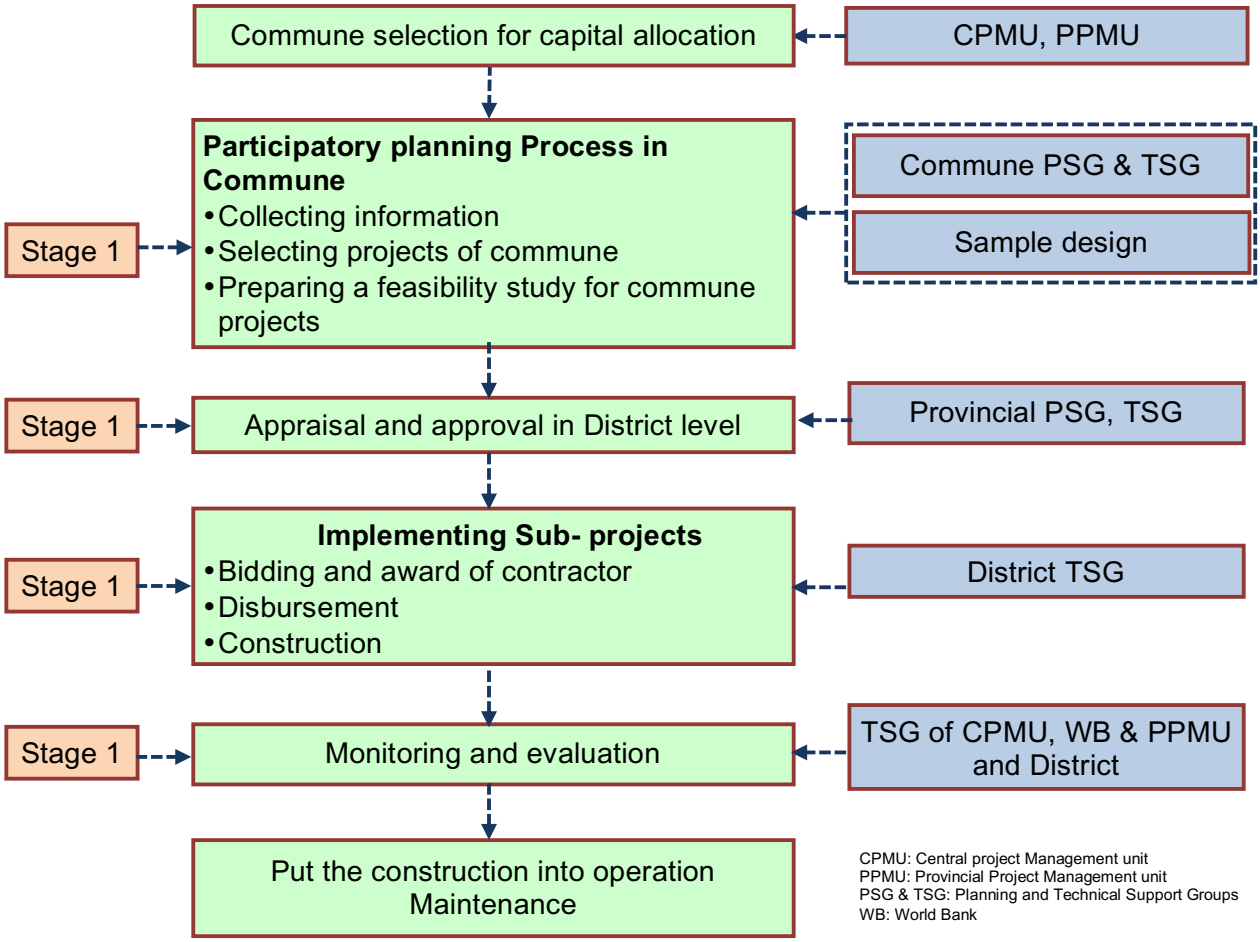


Figure 2.2 Steps of participatory planning of CBRIP

The project has brought the great efficiency on society. A number of small infrastructure projects are built, contributing to the development of essential infrastructure in remote areas in general and in Nam Dong district in particular, helping people to access more easily to social services, improving the residents' living conditions in the project area. With the new approach, the project has given the highest priorities to enhance capacity of implementing decentralization and empowering for grassroots level. The project has helped alleviate poverty, improving living standards, income and health for ethnic minority people, changing the manufacturing customs, taking full advantage of opportunity to enrich themselves. The beneficiaries of the locality participating in the work management and supervision have helped mitigate the negative and wasteful issues on construction investment, ensuring the transparency and enlighten the local residents' awareness on self-responsible for maintaining, preserving and promoting the efficiency of invested works.

2.3.3 Project of forest land management and use in Nam Dong district

Since 1976, through the guidelines and policies of the government, the exploitation of the potential of forest and land in mountainous areas in Central and Highlands have been widely

deployed associated with three major undertakings: developing state-owned farms, afforestation yards, arranging the people to build a new economy zones, and performing sedentary on the spot.

In 1997, Thua Thien–Hue province People's Committee issued Resolution No. 7C/NQ/ HDND to implement the laws to prohibit natural forests logging and increase plantations to rapidly cover barren hills and uncultivated land. Next, the Decision No. 667/QD-UB was enacted in 2002 to form the working groups to implement community forest management, lease forest and forest land to individuals, households, and communities in accordance with Decree No. 163/1999/ND-CP.

These policies have made the socio-economic frame of the Katu ethnic group in Nam Dong district in general and the characteristic of traditional ownership of the ethnics in particular change significantly. Forest land is no longer owned by the hamlet residents and is under management of state-owned farms and afforestation yards.

Nam Dong district covers an area of 64,777.88 ha of natural forests, in which the forestry land accounts for 84.37% ha; the forest covering is 79.88%. The production forest land is 16,888 ha; protective forest land is 11,733 ha; forest use land is 26,079 ha. After Decree No. 163/1999/ND-CP on the allocation of forest land to organizations, households and individuals using long-term stability in forestry purposes, so far, the district has allocated 6,756 ha of forest to local communities to manage and protect. It can be said that natural forest land allocation has had the consensus of the local people and government at all levels, initially brought about the certain effects in protecting, developing the forest, and limiting the illegal exploitation in the previous years. From 2004 until now, natural forests have been allocated under the three forms of communities, household groups and households to manage, protect and benefit under Decision No. 178/TTg of the Prime Minister. Table 2.3 indicates the number and status of forest land allocated to 24 communities in six Katu communes in Nam Dong district. In particular, the communities of Thuong Lo commune are assigned with the greatest forest area of 2,405.6 ha; followed by Thuong Nhat commune with 949.9 ha; Thuong Long commune has the forest area of 128.9 ha. 18 household groups (12 in Thuong Lo commune and six in Thuong Quang commune) are assigned with a total area of 939.6 ha. The result has shown that the forest receivers are mainly residential communities (hamlets), with 3,907.5 ha of forest, accounting for 80.6%; the remaining are household groups with 939.6 ha, making up 19.4%. For the state of assigned forests, it can be seen that they are mainly the poor forests with the total area of 2656.9 ha, accounting for 54.8%; followed are the medium forests with a total area of 1702.8 ha with 35.1%, the rich forests are least with 487.4 ha, accounting for 10.1%. The communities of three communes Huong Huu, Thuong Long, and Thuong Quang do not manage any rich forests and the

Table 2.3 Status of forest land allocated to 24 communities in six Katu communes in Nam Dong district

Commune	Community				Household group			
	Area (ha)	Rich forest	Medium forest	Poor forest	Area (ha)	Rich forest	Medium forest	Poor forest
Thuong Lo	1,854.5	204.1	688.1	962.3	551.1	114.4	270.9	165.8
Huong Sơn	329.1	4.3	168.5	156.3	0	0	0	0
Thuong Nhat	949.9	164.6	425.1	360.2	0	0	0	0
Huong Huu	169.8	0	78.6	91.2	0	0	0	0
Thuong Long	128.9	0	31.6	97.3	0	0	0	0
Thuong Quang	475.3	0	3.6	471.7	388.5	0	36.4	352.1
Total	3907.5	373	1395.5	2139	939.6	114.4	307.3	517.9

Source: Department of Agriculture and Rural development of Nam Dong district

current status of forests allocated to households is similar to forests of communities.

In effect after more than ten years of implementation, the allocation of land and forests in Nam Dong district is facing several problems which are: many areas of natural forest assigned to hamlets are exhausted forest and far away from the residence; the benefit regime depends on the amount of growth after from ten to 15 years; therefore, it is impossible to encourage local people to receive the forest; responsibilities and benefits of forest owners are still directional and lack specification. The policies on land allocation and leasing of forestry land, forest use, benefits are inconsistent and lack policies to support forest owners, especially households and individuals who receive forest. The allocation of forest and land through different periods without unity and coordination among departments has led to the fact that currently; consequently, the local people are no longer interested in receiving forests to manage.

The forest management and protection in Doi hamlet can be taken as an example. Currently, a household group of 25 people are assigned to manage about 30 ha of forest, near the hamlet. They patrol an averagely once a month. The government does not pay; meanwhile, one member of the management board is allowed to exploit from two to three m^2 annually. However, the assigned forest is the poor one with the timber of low or medium quality such as Sapele timber and White Meranti timber [7]. Mr. Doi, a member of the management board says currently, the residents living inside and outside the hamlet sneakily exploit the timber, and it is very difficult to control since they frequently exploit at night as well as there is no specific sanctions on illegal logging.

The result of allocating forest land to local communities to manage and protect during recent

[7] White Meranti and Sapele timbers are respectively of group 3 and 4 among eight timber groups in the classification of timber in Vietnam. These are average quality timber, which are used most commonly in the production of household furniture. Currently in Vietnam, the number of two types of timber is in decline due to overexploitation.

years is summarized as follows:

The policies of socializing the forest management, protection and development are being promoted. This is the fundamental evolution in the management, protection and development of forests, which makes forests have real owners, associates interest with responsibility, enables the residents to protect the forests, reassures to manage and invests to develop the assigned forest area.

The protection and development of forests has been the concern of the Central government, ministries and authorities at all levels; there are many preferential policies to support forest of ethnics in Nam Dong district, contribute to creating jobs, stabilizing the sedentary and reducing poverty.

Nominally, the majority of assigned forest area has been handed to the managers; in fact, the assignment of natural forests has the following limitations:

Assigned natural forest area is mostly degraded forest, far from residential areas, the benefiting regime depends on the amount of growth, and it is not until from ten to 15 years, the owners can reap the fruit; therefore, the residents have not been encouraged to receive forest yet.

Responsibility and the benefits of forest owners are still only indicative, unspecific so it is still confusing during implementation. The coordination, implementation of forest assignment is not close; the license of land use and forest use is still slow and asynchronous; the arrangement of responsibilities is overlapping, unclear and inconsistent. The supervision, monitoring, and evaluation of the effectiveness of the land, forest, and forest use allocation after assignment have not been done.

2.3.4 Hydroelectric projects in Ta Trach Lake

Hydroelectric project in Ta Trach Reservoir has been implemented since 2004 on Ta Trach river (a main tributary of Huong river) within a basin area of 717 km^2, with the total budget of 4,000 billion VND (~190.476 million USD) by ODA of Japanese Government. The main functions of the project consist of controlling early flood, reducing main flood for Huong river system, supplying water for daily life and industry, creating the stable source of water irrigation for 34,782 ha of arable land in the Huong river delta, supplementing sources of fresh water for the downstream of Huong river to reduce salinity, improving the environment in the lagoon, serving aquaculture and producing additional electricity for surrounding areas. The project has affected five communes and one town in three districts and towns. 855 households with 4,309 residents are forced to migrate. The total affected area is 3,548.78 ha, including agricultural land, forest, special-use land, rural land, garden land, and unused land. Three communes and one town

of Nam Dong district affected by the project are Huong Phu, Huong Hoa, and Huong Son communes and Khe Tre town. The total land area submerged in the lake of the district is 942.36 ha; the resettlement area of the reservoir area is 262.23 ha.

2.3.5 Thuong Nhat and Thuong Lo hydroelectric projects

Thuong Nhat and Thuong Lo hydroelectric projects are under the planning of small hydroelectric project in Thua Thien–Hue province which are approved and licensed by Thua Thien–Hue People's Committee in 2008.

Thuong Nhat hydropower Project has a total investment of 186 billion VND (~8.857 million USD), which is built on 154 ha of lake area, in the communes of Thuong Nhat commune. The greatest height of the dam is 48 meters; length of 355 meters and width of 6 m with the capacity of 6 megawatts. The work was built on the tributary of Ta Trach river which flows to Thuong Nhat commune of Nam Dong district. The construction begins in quarter I of 2009, and was scheduled to be completed in quarter III of 2010. Thuong Lo hydropower Project was built on Ba Ran river (a tributary of Ta Trach river) in Thuong Lo commune and Huong Loc commune of Nam Dong district, with the total investment of 181 billion VND (~8.619 million USD), and the capacity of 6 megawatts. As functional design, if two hydropower plans are put into operation, they will contribute to improving the annual electricity shortages in Thua Thien–Hue province and supplement the electricity power to the national electricity system. In addition, they also have a role of preventing flood in downstream areas, providing water for irrigation, clean water for local people living in the reservoirs. However, since the project is licensed by the province, the limited capacity of some investors in the preparation of investment and funding arrangements make the project slowly deployed compared with tentative plans. After eight years from the commencement date, these two projects are unclear in shape while residents in some hamlets of the two communes have been seriously affected due to lack of production land because a part of their land is in project area.

2.3.6 Program on cultural conservation and development of the ethnic minorities until 2020 in the district

Following the Decision No. 1270/QD - TTg of Prime Minister approving Program "Cultural conservation and development of the ethnic minorities until 2020", on December 19, 2012, Thua Thien–Hue province People's Committee issued Decision No. 105/KH-UBND on the implementation of the conservation plan, development of culture of ethnic minorities in Vietnam until 2020 in the province. Basically, this decision inherits the content of Decision No. 1270/QD-TTg based on adjustments to make the objectives and criteria accord local conditions. The object and scale of the project implementation involve five administrative units where ethnic minorities

live, including Nam Dong, A Luoi, Phu Loc, Phong Dien districts, and Huong Tra town.

On February 25, 2013, Nam Dong district People's Committee had the Decision No. 15/ KH-UBND on the implementation of the plan of conserving and developing culture of the ethnic minorities until 2020 in the district (see detail in appendices). Thereby, the objectives and specific content basically depend on project of the central and provincial governments but are adjusted to suit the characteristics of Nam Dong district. The program will be applied in six Katu communes of Nam Dong district including Huong Son, Huong Huu, Thuong Lo, Thuong Nhat, Thuong Long, and Thuong Quang.

According to a leader of Department of Culture and Information of Nam Dong district, the implementation is slow due to many reasons. The first reason is that there is no specific investment to implement related project components. Decision No. 1270/QD-TTg of the government was announced on July 27, 2011. However, more than one year later, on December 19, 2012, Thua Thien–Hue province had decision of plan implementation, and until February 25, 2013, the district promulgated decision. This slows down the project deployment. Besides, the capital from the Central government is not much; therefore, the arrangement, integration and mobilization of other funding sources as plan (from provincial, district budget; integrative source with socio-economic development programs; the national target program on culture; donations from organizations and individuals at home and abroad, funds contributed by the residents) face many challenges. Although there are many difficulties, Nam Dong district has deployed the project as planned objectives. Specifically, the gongs class in Thuong Long commune was held with 20 male trainees in 20 days. The trainees are taught with the basic rhythm by the local virtuosos; the gongs execution is frequently used in traditional festivals of ethnic minorities such as new rice, buffalo sacrifice and guest-welcoming festival.

Reportedly, after this class, annually, the district will go on opening gongs class in the remaining communes of the district in order to preserve and promote the cultural values to avoid oblivion due to time. In addition, the district will implement other conservation activities in accordance with Dispatch No. 15/KH-UBND of Nam Dong district People's Committee.

2.4 Conclusion of the chapter

Vietnam is a country in which many ethnic groups coexist. Up to now, there are 54 ethnic groups that have been found. Based on the geographical area of residence, the anthropometric characteristic, language and culture, they are divided into eight following main groups: *Viet – Muong, Tay – Thai, Mon – Khmer, Mong – Dao* Kadai, South Island, Chinese and *Tang*. Of the 54 ethnic groups, the Kinh group accounts for majority with 86.2% of the total population. Meanwhile, the total rate of population of remaining 53 ethnic minorities is merely 13.8%;

therefore, they are called ethnic minorities. Kinh people primarily live along the eastern coastal plains of the country, while the ethnic minorities live scattered mostly in the western mountains. These ethnic groups have unequal intellectual standards and socio-economic development, except for Kinh major group and some ethnic minorities in the Mekong Delta. The fertile soil, favorable weather and economic life help them have more developing life compared with retarded economic level, hard life, high rate of poor households of the remaining minorities. In order to eradicate hunger, alleviate poverty and narrow the gap between the plains and the mountains, between the Kinh group and ethnic minorities, since 1998, a poverty reduction strategy has been developed by the government, which is the foundation for establishment of national policies on poverty reduction. Along with the investment in developing agriculture and rural areas, the government has approved a national target program on poverty alleviation under Decision No. 133/1998/QD-TTg. This is an integrated program with interdisciplinary characteristic, belonging to the strategy for socio-economic development, including nine projects with the main contents consisting of investing infrastructure and rearranging residential areas; settling agriculture, migration and new economy; supporting difficult ethnic minority areas. So far, the program has completed phase 3 and phase 4 implemented from 2012 to 2015.

Another important program is Program for the Socio-economic Development of Extremely Difficult Communes in Ethnic, Mountainous, Bordering and Remote Areas (Program 135) deployed in 1998 to support the extremely difficult areas in economic and social development. The overall objective is to rapidly improve the material and spiritual life of ethnic minorities in difficult communes in mountainous, remote and isolated areas; facilitating so that these areas will be no longer poverty and backwardness, retardation, and integrating into the overall development of the country. Until now, the program has completed phase 3 and phase 4 and has been implementing period 4 (2012 – 2015) and further is period of 2016 – 2020. After that, in 2004, Vietnam government implemented Program 134. This program aims at supporting manufacturing and building land, dwelling house and clean water for households of poor ethnic minorities in order to accelerate the poverty eradication for ethnic minorities in Vietnam.

In addition to poverty alleviation program, the government has issued many policies to manage and protect forests. First is the Law on the forest protection and development issued in 1991. Decree 327 in 1992 started in the land and forest allocation to the minority communities. And then, a series of decrees and laws were supplemented. One of the most important programs is Program 661 with the objective of planting 5 million ha of forest in the period from 1998 to 2010 in order to increase forest covering to 43%, concurrently, creating jobs for ethnics and the poor in rural areas, increasing the productivity of forest products.

Compared with the poverty alleviation program, the program on traditional cultural conservation of the ethnic minorities is deployed more tardily. Until 2008, the Central government approved the Cultural Day of Vietnam ethnic minorities under Decision No. 1668/QD-TTg. In 2011, the Prime Minister issued Decision No. 1270/QD-TTg approving the project "Cultural Conservation and Development of Vietnam ethnic minorities until 2020", which focuses on urgent conservation, improves capacity of self-protection from the risk of cultural oblivion of the unpopulous ethnic minorities, and create conditions to conserve and promote cultural identity of populous ethnic minorities.

Being a mountainous district with a high rate of ethnic, Nam Dong benefited greatly from the policies for ethnic minorities and mountainous areas of the government. Many programs and projects on poverty alleviation, infrastructure construction such as Program 133, 134, 135, and the program of integrated rural development and community development are co-organized by some NGOs in this area. So far, Nam Dong district has achieved many positive results. 100% of hamlets, residential areas have traffic systems; the inter-commune, inter-hamlet roads are asphalted or concreted; 100% of communes and ethnic minorities have schools, clinic system to ensure education and health care of residents; 100% of communes and hamlets use national electricity system and over 98% of households use electricity; nearly 97% of households use clean water.

Ethnic minority communes in Nam Dong district have completely been supported with housing and clean water. Nam Dong district has become the leading mountainous district of Thua Thien–Hue province which has achievement in hunger eradication and poverty alleviation. The poverty rate in 1993 is 32%, and then in 2008 is only 11.42%. From a district having seven out of 11 communes and towns which are classified in extremely difficult cases; currently, Nam Dong only has two communes and four hamlets which are in extremely difficult cases. However, besides the achievements, there still remain the limitations in the program as follows:

The programs have overlapping objectives and components. For instance, both Program 133 and 135 have infrastructure and health components. Some programs have unrealistic objectives (Program 133 aims at eliminating hunger and alleviating poverty in the whole country to 10% in 2000) and lack of coordination among the programs. Infrastructure accounts for the great rate in the programs (60% of Program 135). Provincial and district levels play decisive role in project investment, while the communes and hamlets play the role in implementation and supervision. Therefore, there is deficiency of effectiveness in the coordination of construction process. Forest land allocation policies to local communities have obtained limited effectiveness since they merely focus on protective forest without being allowed to logging lacking permission as well as

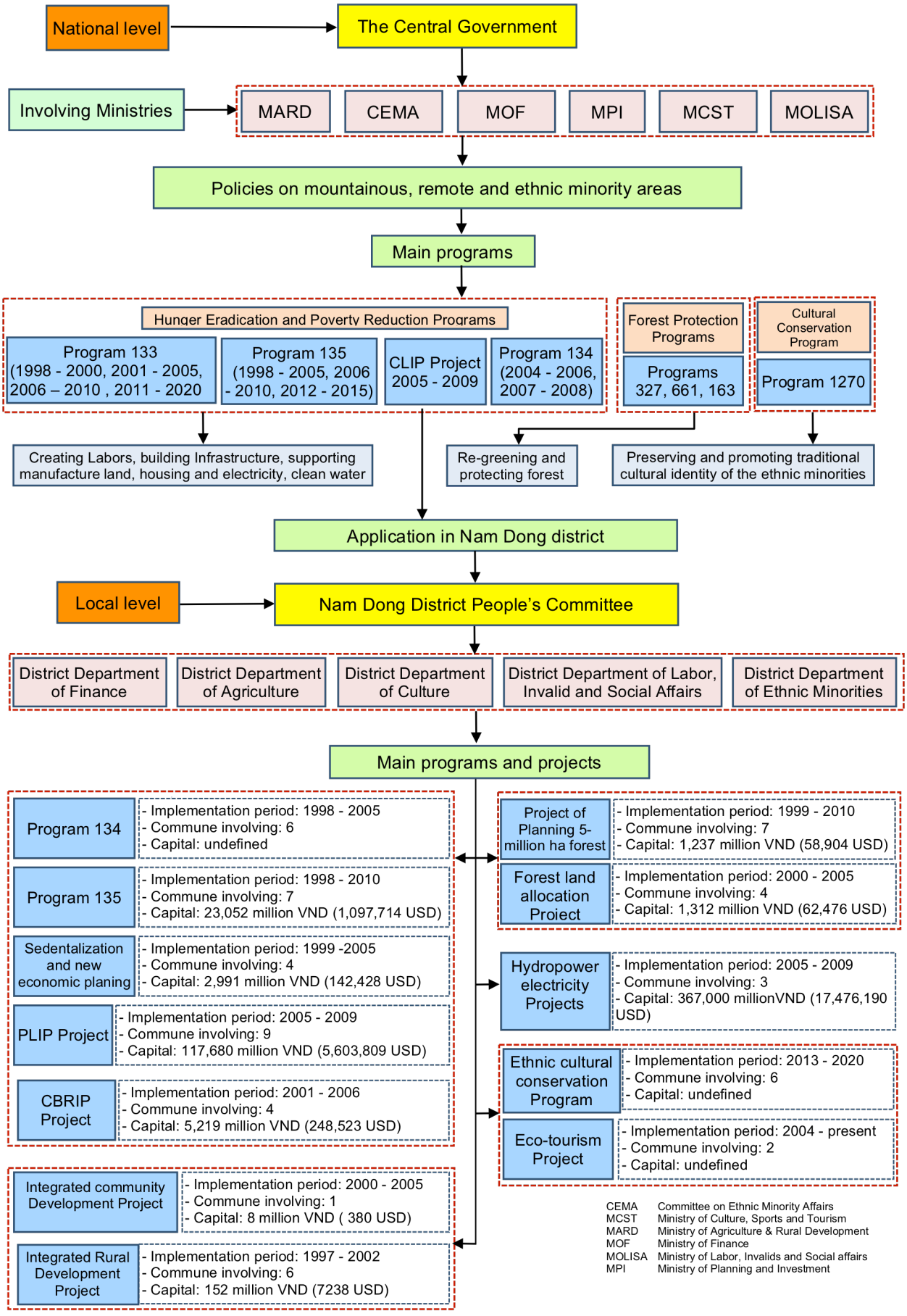


Figure 2.3 Policies and programs on ethnic minorities and their application in Nam Dong district

the lower remuneration for forest protection; therefore, local communities benefit little if they participate in the program. So far, the programs on cultural conservation of ethnic minorities in Nam Dong district are still scarce and not feasible due to limited funding, human resources on culture, as well as conflicting with the programs on socio-economic development. However, the Program No. 1270 by the government and Plan No. 15 of the district are expected to somewhat contribute to the conservation and restoration of traditional cultural identity which has been increasingly eroded in Nam Dong district. In summary, the relationship among policies on ethnic minorities and their application in Nam Dong district could be described in Figure 2.3.

CHAPTER 3. KATU ETHNIC MINORITY AND THEIR TCHs

3.1 Overview on the Katu ethnic minority

The Katu is the ethnic minority among 54 ethnic groups in Vietnam, who has the Katuic language sub-group, belonging to Mon – Khmer language group, South Asia system, distributing along North Truong Son mount with ethnic groups of Ta Oi, Bru – Van Kieu from Quang Tri, Thua Thien–Hue provinces to Quang Nam province and neighboring areas in Laos (Figure 3.1). In Vietnam, to 2009, there are approximately 61,588 people. In terms of population, the Katu ethnic minority ranks the 26th among 54 ethnic minorities of Vietnam. According to the Census in 2009, Quang Nam province had 45,715 Katu ethnics ranking the 2nd after Kinh people; Thua Thien–Hue province had 14,629 people living mainly in Nam Dong and A Luoi districts. In addition, there are the Katu ethnics who live in Se Koong and Xalavan provinces of South Laos with the number of 14,700.

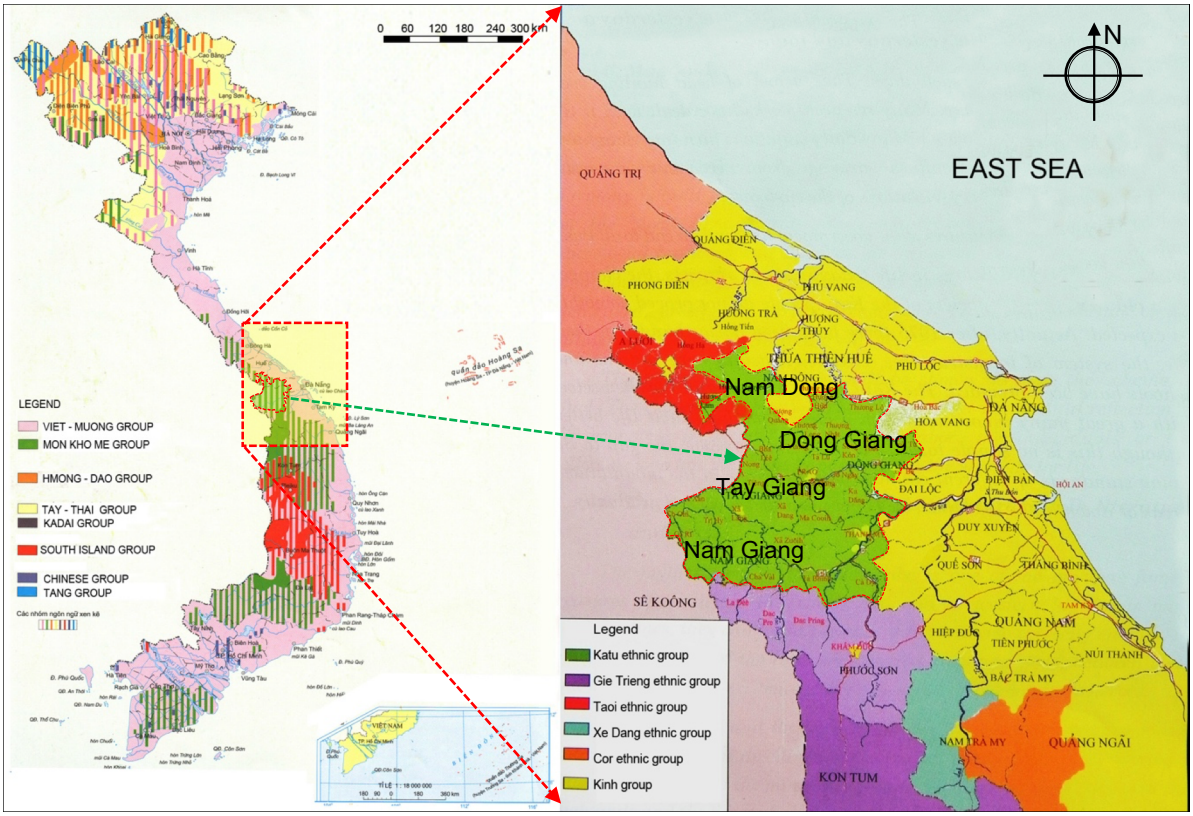


Figure 3.1 Distribution of eight main groups and the Katu ethnic minority
(Source: Vietnam Geographic Atlat with added illustration by author)

Ethnic identity is the essential criterion to locate a community as an independent group. The Katu ethnic minority has many transcriptions and names as follows: Co tu, Katu, Kato, Kha Tu, Phuang, Ha, A sap, A Pang, Attouat, Nguon Ta, and so on. Among them, the name "Co tu" is primarily used in administrative documents of the government, and the name "Katu" appeared in the studies of domestic and foreign researchers with different interpretations.

Le Pichon (1938) said “Katu” really is not intended to refer to ethnic identity, which is referred to the wild. Schrock (1966) also stated “the name Katu means savage, called by neighboring groups”. G. Hickey (1964) in the works mentioning the adaptation to survive in the Vietnam highlands in Vietnam War recognized Katu as the name to specify the people living in areas related water-heads.

Ta Duc (2002) suggested it is more likely that Katu is the old name of the Katu ethnics. According to the residents’ interpretation Katu literally means people living in water-heads and above ("Ka" means people, "tu" is water-head), and this name derived from long-standing residential custom of this ethnic minority.

Nguyen Huu Thong (2004), Luu Hung (2006) traced the interpretation of the meaning of ethnic minority’s name as well as comparing with the cases used in their daily language to determine that: the word "tu" in the Katu language is to indicate the position of the tips, such as "tu long" means tree top, "tom tu" means speaking from start to the end, "tu dak" means water-head. The word "coh" is to indicate the direction and azimuth. The combination of the words "coh" and "tu" is the palatable interpretation in the meaning of association in order to identify the residential area directs “coh” water-head “tu”. In addition, the data that in pronunciation of the word “coh”, people tilt in towards the sound “a” rather than “o”, therefore in this case, instead of calling “Co tu”, Nguyen Huu Thong chooses the pronunciation of the Katu, with the meaning of water-head. From the above analysis, in this thesis, the author uses the name Katu by name popularly used in domestic and foreign science books.

3.1.1 History of the Katu ethnic minority

So far, there has not been any research assuredly confirming the origin of the Katu ethnic minority. The the Katu ethnics believe that in the past, their ancestors reside in the Northwest of Quang Binh and Quang Tri provinces, and during their searching of land for cultivation, they moved to the South.

In current residential region of the Katu ethnics in Vietnam, L. Schrock confirmed “the residential zone of the Katu ethnics is inherently coastal areas and the reason for moving to current residence is due to the pressure of Kinh people during Southward.”

According to Nguyen Huu Thong, although so far, there has not been any written source of materials mentioning to residential area of the Katu ethnics; the legends or tales of the Katu ethnics themselves or of neighboring ethnic minorities reflect rather clearly to their residential locality and migration. In fact, the current residential area of the Katu ethnic minority is the result of immigration trend seen in many ethnic minorities in the Central Vietnam due to the gradual

shrinking of the forests inherently stretching out into the sea. With narrow terrain like the central country, the phenomenon of collective deployment and gradual extraction of advantage in the relatively favorable premise in the eastern side of Truong Son mount will lead people to the top of the hill. This is the reason for migration from East to West of this ethnic minority.

This research has also shown that the distribution of qualitative differences in various cultural activities between parts of the Katu ethnics living in different terrains in the height of steep hill and direction to Truong Son mount has been in the formation process of the local groups. The contraction of the current residential area, both their cultural activities and memories, is still maintained at different levels, indicating us the convergent migration from East to West coastal areas to the mountain side to form low Katu ethnic group, or higher to create middle Katu ethnic group. Meanwhile, there is also the migration of Katu parts from the highlands of Viet-Laos boundary who partly join in middle Katu ethnic group, and the remaining part reside stably in high regions, where people call high Katu ethnic group. Among them, high Katu ethnic group is the group which can reserves the intact elements of traditional culture owing to the distinction of communication and exchange.

3.1.2 Traditional layout of the Katu hamlet

The traditional hamlet of the Katu ethnics is call "*Vel*" or "*Buol*" in the Katu language. This hamlet can be one-way walk from that one. A *Vel* often has 20 to 30 dwelling houses, with the number of approximately of 150 to 250 members (Figures 3.2 and 3.3). They reside closely to each other; this house is only some-meter distance form that one. When establishing the hamlet, the residents always choose high and dry place, rather flat, at water-head or near the stream, but

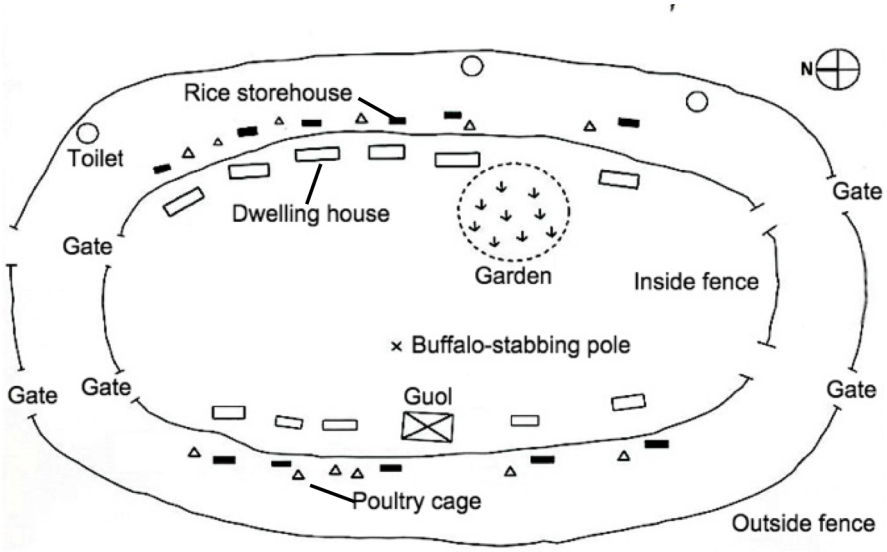


Figure 3.2 Layout of traditional Katu hamlet

(Source: Nguyen Khac Tung)

always lower than water source to make gutter for water use. Each *Vel* has separated boundary; the boundary can be a mountain, a waterfall, a stone jetty or a forest. The traditional Katu hamlet is dependent and relatively closed; it is restricted with surround bamboo or wooden fence with the height from 1.5 m to 2 m to prevent the wild animals and strangers. Therefore, the Katu hamlet can be considered as the characterized type of "defense hamlet". Each hamlet is a social unit, a community which owns land and natural resources, as well as being a community in cultural activities. The Katu hamlet consists of the families gathering together, and depending on terrain, it can have the shape of circle, long or crescent.

The main direction of the house is frequently towards the yard in the middle. In the right middle of the yard is the TCH. In front of the TCH, there is a buffalo-stabbing pole. Sometimes, there are cases that the TCH is located at the end of the yard or in the same direction of housing. Each Katu hamlet has its own territory, land for living, cultivation land, daily use water source, cemetery for burring the dead, and forests to exploit forest products and raise cattle. The existence time of a hamlet is not stable, not permanent. Due to the shifting cultivation characteristics, the hamlet is frequently moved from this place to that one. "Longevity" of the hamlet depends on the natural condition, epidemic disease. If the back luck comes many times like epidemic diseases of many bad deaths, they will look for the new land as they think the old position make the gods not pleased.



Figure 3.3 Katu hamlet in A Tieng commune, Tay Giang district, Quang Nam province (Source: Tran Tan Vinh)

3.1.3 Characteristics of traditional lifestyle

Having old-aged and closed-knitting feature along Truong Son mount, like other ethnic minorities in mountainous areas of Central Vietnam, the Katu ethnics live on shifting cultivation and hunting of the natural products. The shifting cultivation economy with method of "clearing, leveling, burning and sowing" is the primary type of previous economy life of the Katu ethnics. The field of the Katu ethnics is frequently cleared on thousands of meters high, far from the residence. Each field is only cleared from two to three years. When the land is exhausted, they search new field, and after the old land becomes fat again, they return to sow and grow alternately many kinds: rice, corn, sweet potatoes, cassava, beans, and fruits. These are the main products for their living. The productivity from the field is not stable, depends much on natural conditions and spiritual factors in the residents' conception.

The planting activities merely ensure the partly basic food source for people's life; therefore, to enrich the daily meals, the hamlet residents still maintain the form of picking, hunting and fishing in streams. These activities are complementary in nature but have essential effect on self-sufficiency in daily life, between crop periods or when there is crop failure. The popular traditional handcrafts of the ethnic minority are knitting, weaving, pottery making, forging, carpentry, which have created the essential products for daily life. In trade relations, the Katu ethnics also engage in product exchanges with residents in the area or in the lowland; the products are mainly from the forest such as honey, aloes, rattan, bamboo, timber and feather, etc.

3.1.4 Characteristics of dwelling house

The traditional housing of the Katu ethnics is house on stilts with round gables. The length and height of the houses are different due to its dependence on the number of member in each household and available material resources in local area. In terms of structural and residential form, the Katu dwelling house has two types: long houses on stilts for a big family with many generations (Figure 3.4, left) and small houses on stilts for small family with from two to three generations (Figure 3.4, right). The scope of long house on stilts depends on the number of members, popularly from 20 meter to 30-meter long, but sometimes, it can be from 50-meter to 60-meter long which is the domicile for the whole big family with many generations. The big long house on stilts is quite solid; the roof is thatched with rattan leaves; the partition is knitted with bamboo or timber, and the stairs are in the two sides of gables. There are two ways of arranging stove in long house. Style 1 – The stoves, which are divided with bamboo partitions, are arranged continually; the corridor is to the right, and there is an entrance for small families. Style 2 – The long houses on stilts is divided into smaller compartments; the two sides are equally arranged opening to a corridor in the middle, connecting with two stairs in the gables.

The general compartment is arranged in the middle and has bigger area. This is the place for community activities and for sleeping of unmarried male and female youngsters or the widowed people.

The small house on stilts is for a small family, which is the result of splitting of traditional long house. The house has oval shape, simple frame; the pillars are fixed into deep ground in order to create solidity for confronting nature. The floor is made of bamboo, from 50-centimeter to 60-centimeter high from the ground. To strengthen the bearing capacity, it is common to fix more sub-pillars with the height from the ground as the stand for the whole floor. The number of pillars depends on size of the house, but it is always an even number, usually between 12 and 14 pillars. The space inside is covered with a bamboo partition with the height from the floor to the attic edge. The roof is covered with thatch or *Non* leaves. Different from the TCH, the dwelling houses do not have main pillar; the two stoves are arranged in the two sides, one for man and guest and one for woman. Whether long or short form, the house has simple structure which is based on pillar, floor beam, and roof beam linked together by a traditional construction technique, is used with pressing and joining with string to create frame.



Figure 3.4 (left) Long dwelling house on stilts Small dwelling house on stilts (right) (Source: http://dantocviet.vn/ArticleDetail.aspx?articleid=61736&sitepageid=208 (Fig. 3.4, left) and Tran Duc Sang (Fig. 3.4, right)

3.2 Characteristics of the TCH

3.2.1 Typology and layout of the TCH

Similar to the "*Dinh*" of Kinh people, "*Rong*" of Gia Lai, Ba Na ethnics and so on, the TCH of the Katu ethnics plays a vital role in cultural life of this ethnic minority and is the symbol of the Katu hamlet. The TCH in the Katu language means "common property of hamlet". Previously, each Katu hamlet had a TCH. Within the scope of hamlet land, the TCH was frequently erected in the central, high and dry position in order to observe the whole hamlet, as

well as gathering the hamlet residents when there are eventuality or joint activities. The TCH is always the biggest and the most important building in the Katu hamlet with the contribution of the whole hamlet. Through the shape and size of the TCH, it can be recognized how big, powerful and talented the hamlet is. Most activities take place here. The Katu ethnic groups in Quang Nam province have some different classifications of the TCH.

Based on scope, decorative art and architecture of the two gables, Luu Hung, an ethnographer divided the TCH (Guol) into the following types:

1) **Guol Apooc:** This Guol is the smallest type, covered with double-splitted neohouzeaua (a kind of bamboo); the two gables are round and straight without decorative sculpture.
2) **Guol Adhu:** the two gables are imitated crescent and the head is circle like *Ron* vegetable (a local vegetable that grows on the mountain); the roof is covered with thatch or palm leaves; the partition is wattle or double-knitted neohouzeaua. This Guol has few decoration and and sculptures.
3) **Guol Azee:** This Guol has the same decoration of the two gables as Guol Adhu; the roof is covered with thatch, rattan or palm leaves; Its floor and partitions are made with vertical wooden boards, and the house has many decorations and sculptures.
4) **Guol Ga-ning la-lua:** the partitions are made with horizontal wooden board and the upper part of the partitions is uncovered The house has many decorations and sculptures
5) **Guol Ga-ning co-rnooch:** This Guol is the most beautiful and sophisticated type and has many decorative patterns, sculptures inside, outside and on the top of the roof.



Figure 3.5 Guol Patah (left) Guol Cho ri moc (middle) Guol Duon (right)
Source: Tran Tan Vinh (left and right figures) and the author (middle figure)

According to patriarch Briu Pram in B'hoong hamlet, Song Kon commune, Dong Giang district, Quang Nam province, based on the height of residential topography, the Katu ethnic minority has the three following types of the TCH (Figure 3.5):

1) **Guol Duon:** This Guol has circle shape, upturned-conical hat shape roof, popular in the Katu hamlet in the low region.

2) Guol Cho ri moc: This Guol has trapezoid shape, rounded at the two sides of gables, popular in the Katu hamlet in the middle region.

3) Guol Patah: This Guol has the valuable timber roof, popular in the Katu hamlet in high region.

Thus, the Katu ethnic minority has different types of the TCH. Whatever the type is, the TCH of the Katu ethnic minority is the medium house on stilts (from 6-meter to 7-meter height from the ground to the top of the roof). The curved roof is in the two sides of gables (shape of tortoise-shell), and the floor has oval shape. The house is made on the basis of wooden force-bearing frame; especially there is a central pillar (called father pillar) in the middle of the house, popped straight to the top, and it surrounded by many main pillars (called mother pillars) and lean-to pillars (called children pillars). The shape of roof and the central pillar are the distinctive features between the TCH of the Katu ethnic minority and *"Rong"* of Ba Na, Xo Dang and Gia Lai ethnic minorities. According to Luu Hung, this is a relatively special structure, along Truong Son – Tay Nguyen, such structure can only be seen in the TCH of the Katu ethnic minority. The form of erecting central pillar in the middle of the house evokes the harmonious association of the layout of traditional hamlet with a TCH in the center previously. It also embodies the prestigious hamlet patriarch, and is a symbol for the hamlet strength.

In the TCH, the popular number of main pillar and lean-to pillars is six. In the Katu ethnics' conception, even number is considered the good number. This reflects the dualistic thinking (dialectical thinking of the original) and attaches with the desire for balance, harmony and fertility of the universe. More specifically, the Katu ethnics adore number 6. There is an explanation that number 6 is the sum of number 2 and number 4. The number 2 represents the women, tied to the two-leg animals; number 4 is the number of men, associated with 4-leg animals. The number 7, the sacred number of *Ede, Jarai* is considered relevant to the moon, to the dominant symbol of the moon rituals in *Ede, Jarai*, and number 6 of the Katu ethnics deeply relates to dominant symbol of the sky and circle in a variety of cultural factors as we have seen (Ta Duc 2002).

The TCH has many stoves, but the most popular type is the two stoves symmetrically located either sides of the main pillar, one for hamlet residents and one for guests. These stoves have the great meaning to the hamlet residents' activities; they are not only used for heating, smoking for anti-timber-boring worm, cooking, creating light for activities but also have sacred religious significance, an expression of life, vitality of the hamlet.

3.2.2 Functions of the TCH of the Katu ethnic minority

To the Katu ethnics, the TCH is the most effective connecting space, converging point of the

members among the generations in a family, a hamlet, an ethnic group, and with other groups through community activities. Therefore, the TCH is a place to expose community strength. Overall, the TCH of the Katu ethnic minority has the three following functions:

1) Administration functions: the TCH is the space for community cultural activities, the trial court of customary law (resolving conflicts, violations of customary laws under the head of hamlet's management in the presence of patriarch, the place for referendum of the community from the internal activities like manufacturing, sacrifice to the external activities like twinning, land borrowing and marital relation of different hamlets; the TCH is also the meeting place of patriarchs, head of families, head of households when there is important events.

2) Military functions: In the overall structure of the Katu hamlet, the TCH is always erected in the central and spacious position, in order to easily observe as well as gathering the hamlet members in the quickest manner when there is upheaval. In front of the TCH, there is always an empty ground to gather the hamlet residents. Therefore, the TCH is regarded as defense and stronghold of the hamlet. To protect hamlet, the TCH must be primarily protected.

3) Functions of religious activities, beliefs, and folklore: the TCH is the place for rituals and religion, attached with a system of rituals related to the production cycle of the hamlet and the life cycle of human (the ceremony for peace, for the season, a new rice ritual, victory celebration, hamlet establishment and so on) together with buffalo sacrifice ceremony, folk performance (*Tung Tung – Ya Ya* dances, gongs performance and so on.).

4) Functions of sharing information, living and farming experience: the TCH is also the place for information transmission, manufacturing, and life experience. In the spare time, or sitting nearby the flickering fire every night, the younger generations frequently gather at the TCH to listen to the manufacturing experience, custom, and life experience by the patriarchs. Gradually, experiences to deal with people absorb into the young members and then these experiences are descended to the future generations.

5) Functions of conservation of traditional culture: the TCH is the place to keep booty and treasures such as cymbals, gongs, drums, jars, weapons and so on, especially hunted wild animal skull. Among them, the most sacred space of the TCH is for hanging hunted wild animal skulls. The custom of hanging wild animal skull at the TCH comes from the notion that in every living body, the soul and strength reside at the top. Therefore, the more wild animal skulls hung at the TCH, the stronger the hamlet is.

3.3 Conclusion of the chapter

This chapter mentions the characteristics of settlement history of the Katu ethnic minority in

the Central Vietnam. Typical features of the hamlet and the Katu ethnics' lifestyle are also introduced through the synthesis and analysis of historical documents and related figures. Notably, the characteristics of the typology and roles of the TCH are described. These characteristics can be summarized as follows:

So far, there has not been any research which assuredly confirms the origin of the Katu ethnic minority. There are several different hypotheses on this issue. The anthropologist L. Schrock argues that the residential zone of the Katu ethnics is inherently coastal area and the reason for moving to current residence is due to the pressure of Kinh people during Southward march. Meanwhile, Nguyen Huu Thong states that the Katu ethnics move from Eastern flat areas to Western mountainous areas due to the gradual shrinking of the forests inherently stretching out into the sea.

The Katu traditional hamlet (*Vel*) is often in a circle shape, placed in high and dry places, near water sources. They have relative closure and independence with autonomy regime under the control of hamlet patriarch councils based on its own customary laws. Members in a hamlet often have close relationships with each other and high community linkage. The traditional lifestyle of the Katu ethnics is self-sufficiency; they live on shifting cultivation and extraction of the forest products.

The Katu traditional dwelling house is the long house on stilts for many families and the small one for single family with tortoiseshell-shaped roofs. Traditionally, all the Katu hamlets had a TCH located in centre of hamlet. It is the most beautiful and dominant building and the soul of hamlet. Based on the architectural characteristics (size, decorative sculpture, etc.), the TCHs are divided into 5 categories, and based on the altitude of residential area, and they are divided into 3 categories.

Despite any type, the TCHs are houses on tilts with semicircular roof in the two gables or completely round roof. The structure with the biggest pillar erected in the center is the unique feature which is found in the TCH. Basically, the TCH has five following key functions: administrative function – a place for hamlet meetings; military function – a protection place against the invasion of enemies and wild animal skulls; cultural conservation function – a place for folklore rituals and traditional spirit. Function of sharing information, living and farming experience – a place to share and transmit the living experience and function of conservation of traditional culture – a place to preserve traditional cultures with the products on display. Hence, the TCH plays a very essential and indispensable role in the traditional life of the Katu ethnic minority.

CHAPTER 4. TRANSFORMATION OF KATU ETHNIC MINORITY AND THEIR CHs IN NAM DONG DISTRICT

4.1 Overview of the Katu ethnic minority in Nam Dong district

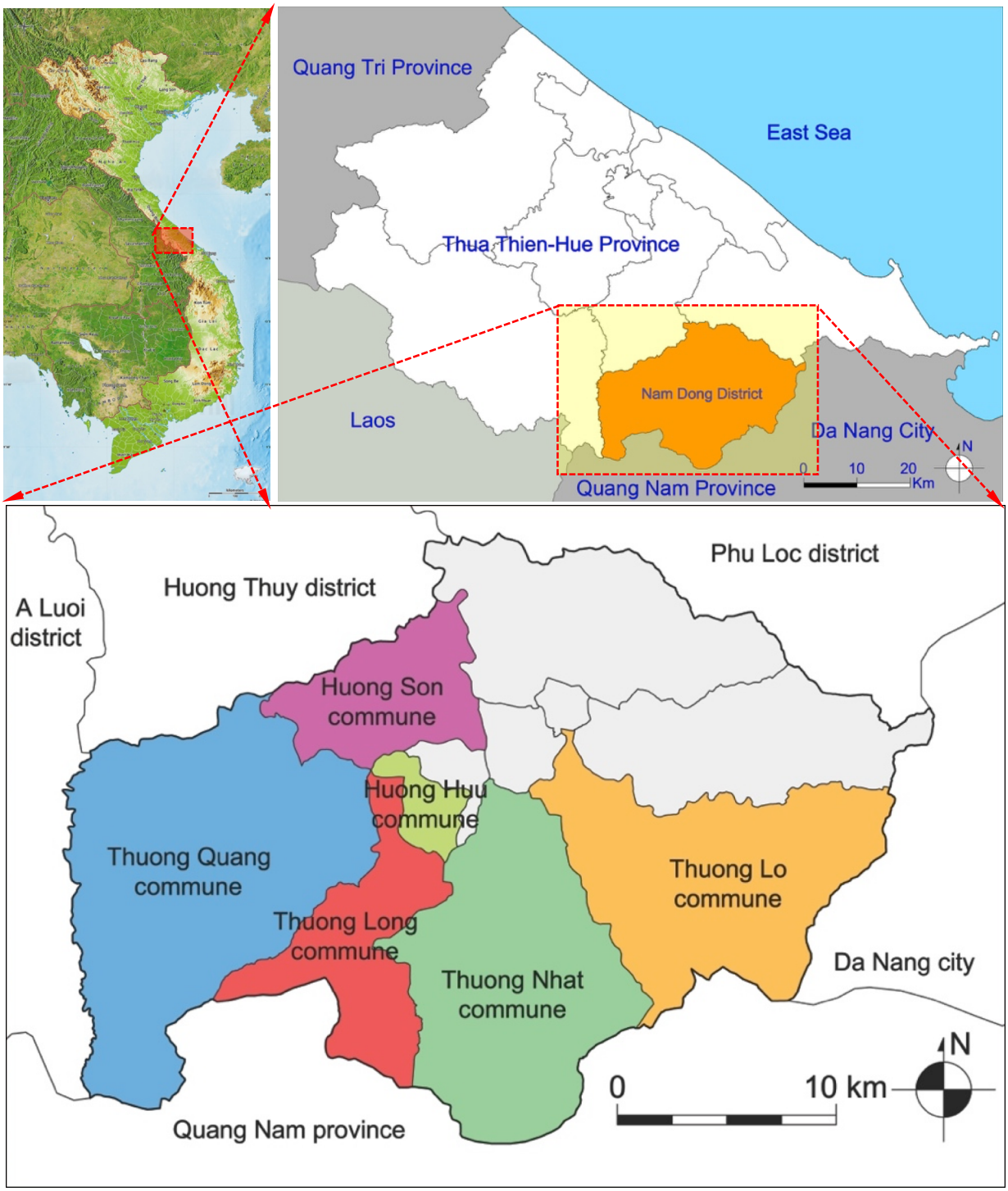


Figure 4.1 Location of six Katu communes in Nam Dong district, Thua Thien–Hue province

Presently, Nam Dong district is one of the two districts in Thua Thien–Hue province which has the high rate of ethnic minority. This accounts for high number with the population of around 11,044 (according to Nam Dong district annual publication in 2010, the ethnic minority makes up

around 43% of the population of the district including Katu, Taoi, Paco, Pahy, and Van kieu). Among them, the Katu, the biggest ethnic minority, makes up the overwhelming majority. The Katu ethnics live mainly in six communes including Thuong Lo, Huong Son, Thuong Nhat, Huong Huu, Thuong Long, and Thuong Quang. Figure 4.1 shows the location of six Katu communes in Nam Dong district, and table 4.1 indicates the area and population ratio of the Katu ethnics in total population of these six communes.

Table 4.1 Population ratio of the Katu in total population in six communes in Nam Dong district (Source: Office of Ethnic minority-People's Committee of Nam Dong district)

No.	Commune	Area (km^2)	Total population	Katu population
1	Thuong Lo	106.4	1,222	1,143
2	Huong Son	43.8	1,386	1,386
3	Thuong Nhat	114.1	2,043	1,906
4	Huong Huu	9.9	2,577	2,483
5	Thuong Long	51.3	2,483	2,386
6	Thuong Quang	156.3	1,906	1,064

The origin of the Katu ethnic group in Nam Dong district is closely related to the Katu ethnic group in Quang Nam province and Laos. Besides the Katu ethnics who have lived in Nam Dong district for a long time such as in Thuong Lo, Thuong Quang, and Huong Huu communes, a number of the Katu ethnics have settled in Thuong Nhat and Thuong Long communes since the early 1970s. Some came from Quang Nam province, while others came from Laos, for example, the Katu ethnics in Huong Son commune. The four remaining communes and Khe Tre town are the main residential areas of the Kinh people, who have settled since 1975 under the New Economic Zone Planning Project. The Katu ethnics in Nam Dong district have lived in the low mountainous areas by the government's policy of settlement redistribution of ethnic minorities; thus, they live near Kinh people and the district center. As a result, they have been much affected by modern living styles, and they can inquire about the latest farming techniques as well. In addition to tilling and hunting, their main income in recent years is from wet rice, other food plant cultivation, cattle breeding and industrial plantation (rubber and acacia trees); therefore, their quality of life and intellectual standards have been rapidly improved. Changes in lifestyle have led to changes in the residential forms. The Katu hamlets in the Nam Dong district are currently located near the roads and on even and flat terrain. Consequently, traditional dwelling houses on stilts are no longer necessary and have been replaced by the houses on earth (like the Kinh people's), which are built with new materials. Thus, the hamlet residents must not mind collecting replacement materials; furthermore, this type of house is suitable for modern furniture,

which is reason why so far, the Katu ethnic groups in Nam Dong district have been losing their TCHs.

4.2 Historical features of the Katu hamlets

The obtained result from the surveys has shown that the characteristic of residence of the Katu ethnics in the communes of Nam Dong district has changed over periods, and basically, it is divided into four main periods: before 1960s, from 1960s to 1970s, between 1970s and 2000s, and from 2000s until now.

4.2.1 Period before 1960s

In some documents researching the Katu ethnic minority, it is said that the Katu ethnic group in Nam Dong district has the origin from the Katu ethnic group in Quang Nam province, where the Katu ethnics have resided hundreds of years ago. Through many historical events, these groups were separated and moved to new lands and Nam Dong district is one of those lands. The characteristic of the Katu hamlets in Nam Dong district at that time was similar to the Katu hamlets in Quang Nam province. The size of the hamlets was small with only from 20 to 30 households; close relatives lived together in the long houses on stilts or small houses on stilts. The materials for construction of these houses such as timber, bamboo, rattan leaves, *Non* leaves were easily exploited from the surrounding forests. These houses were arranged into circled, horse-shoed shape and sometimes are rectangular shapes depending on the terrain on the hilltop, in the valleys or by the mountain slope. The majority of these hamlets frequently had surrounding fences together with gates to protect the cattle as well as prevent strangers from penetrating. This hamlet was separated from another one by high mountains and forests; the distance of the hamlets was frequently long, even one-day walk. Their livelihood basically based on the shifting cultivation, hunting, grazing and forest exploitation in the surrounding forests. Similar to Katu ethnic groups in other areas, shifting cultivation is the popular characteristic of Katu ethnic group in Nam Dong district. With outdated farming techniques, using rudimentary tools for cultivation, low productivity, therefore they must constantly search for new fields where the land is more fertile, and then be back to the old ground. Since forest resources in this period were abundant, local people merely focused on exploiting without thinking of re-creating them.

The Katu ethnics not only had shifting cultivation, but also frequently changed their settlement. Formerly, in the Katu's conception, if one hamlet is attacked by diseases with many dead people or there is bad death (died of lightning struck, died while being in pregnancy or killed by predators and so on), the hamlet residents have to leave their old hamlet and find a new place to live. In this case, they had to leave everything of the old hamlet such as housing and the TCH. Most livestock such as pig, dog, cat, chicken, duck were killed to eliminate the germs of

plague but the cattle such as cows and buffaloes were taken with because according to their explanation, at that time, these animals were pastured in the forest, so they could not be the source of infection. The new settlement of the hamlet was not too far from the old position, about from one or two-hour walk; the dwelling houses and the TCH were completely newly built. The relocation of the hamlet with the above-mentioned reasons were common features of the Katu ethnic group at that time; as they thought the old land was not pleased by *"Yang"*, then they had to find new land. The Katu hamlet in Nam Dong district during this time was an independent social unit, under the management of the patriarch council and not under the control of the government. One more distinct characteristic is the common ownership and high solidarity among the members of the hamlet. Land belonged to the whole hamlet; the products from hunting and gathering often were shared for all the members of the hamlet at the TCH.

4.2.2 Period between 1960s and 1970s

It can be said that this was the period of dramatic variation of the Katu hamlets in Nam Dong district because of war. From the 1960s, the war between the North and South of Vietnam escalated. Nam Dong district was the border area, so it was seriously affected. To avoid the ravages of war, all Katu hamlets in Nam Dong district had to move into the jungle where the terrain was craggy with large tree canopy to shelter. Therefore, the hamlet was divided into small groups living separately but not too far apart; fence no longer existed. Many young Katu ethnics left for the North, under the revolutionary government; and the population of many hamlets at that time was mostly the elderly, women, and children.

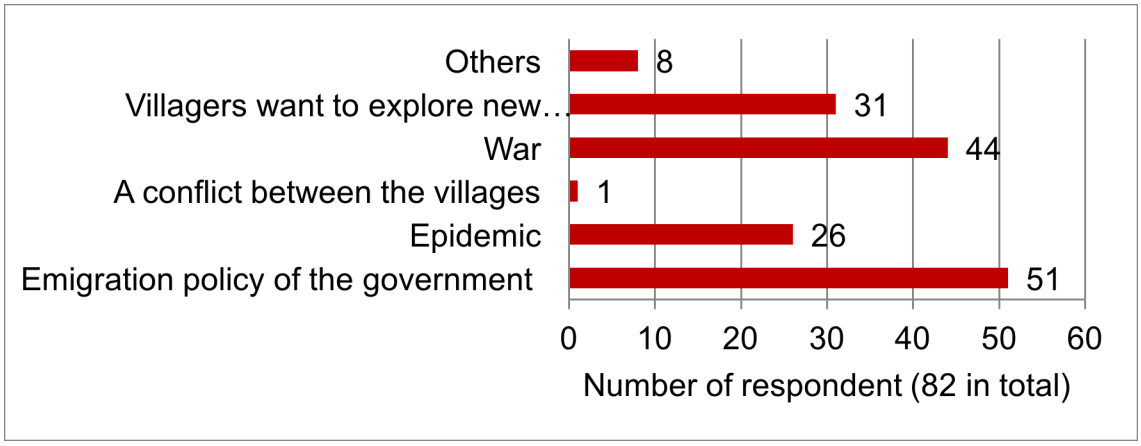


Figure 4.2 Causes of change of residence of the Katu hamlets

The long house on stilts in which many members of a family lived have no longer existed and were replaced with temporary house on earth, which sometimes were buried in deep ground as a cellar to avoid being discovered and the effect of antipersonnel weapons. The houses on stilts still exist but not as popular as before. The TCH mostly were not built in this stage; the

community activities decreased due to the difficult livelihood and suffered lurking danger; therefore, the house of hamlet leader was used for temporary community activities. Although this is a challenging time, the members in the hamlet still maintain their solidarity. Figure 4.2 shows the reasons for the changes of living places during different periods. There are five main reasons raised from 82 interviewed hamlet residents. Among them, the immigration policy of the government accounts for the largest proportion with 51 people, followed by the reason of war with 44 people. In addition, some reasons for the residential changes such as finding new land or epidemic diseases, etc are also mentioned by hamlet residents.

4.2.3 Period between 1970s and 2000s

This is the period of the strongest changes to the Katu hamlets in Nam Dong district. After the Paris Armistice Agreement and Peace Restoration in Vietnam was signed between the two governments in South and North Vietnam in 1973, the Revolution government of North Vietnam lobbied the Katu ethnics to get out of the forest and move to the lower area to make it more convenient for living and farming. Therefore, in 1973 and 1974, a series of the Katu hamlets moved to areas as today. From 1975, when the war ended, the Katu hamlets no longer had autonomous nature but were under control of local governments besides the direct administration of the patriarch council. The change of location of the hamlets was still popular, especially in the beginning. This is also the time when the hamlet was divided or re-joined resulting in the disturbance of the family. This explains why currently there are more than clans living in one hamlet in comparison with previously. Since the new settlement areas have relatively flat terrain; thus, the hamlets are close together and are not so far away, with free form or in the form of fish bones; the traditional round-shape hamlet has no longer existed. The features "hamlet defense" totally disappeared; the fence surrounding the hamlet was no longer erected.

The cultivation form at this time began to have changes. The new land area is far from the forest together with the sedentarization policies and agricultural development of the Central government in mountainous areas; therefore, except for the slash and burn cultivation, the hamlet residents gradually changed to plant wet rice with higher productivity; the shifting cultivation visibly decreased. At the beginning of moving back, the life of the residents faced many challenges, as they had to worry about housing issue, the TCHs mostly were not built. After settling the livelihood, the hamlets began to rebuild the TCHs for common activities. To the dwelling house type, at the beginning of this stage, the form of house on stilts were restored; however, they were not long houses on stilts, they were the small houses on stilts for small families. Until 1990s, the dwelling house began to transform due to the impacts of the outside factors when Kinh people moved to Nam Dong district for settlement and making economy by

the policies on building new economic zones of the Central government [8]. There are many reasons to explain for the presence of Kinh people and some other ethnic minorities in mountainous areas in Nam Dong district as follows: After 1975, the presence of Kinh people in Nam Dong district is primarily to develop culture, socio-economy in this area. They went to build new economy zones, participating in building State Forest Enterprise in Nam Dong district, the buffer zone of Bach Ma National Park, joining in all governmental levels, the commune and district unions, teaching system of primary, secondary and high school, working in medical stations, and so on. For other cases, the wives follow husbands and vice versa for business, or work transfer and so on. There were also many families migrating freely to earn their living or trade, create service in Nam Dong district.

With the land privatization policy implemented since the 1990s, most of the land was transferred into private ownership. The number of houses on stilts began gradually descending and was replaced by half-stilt half-ground or single-storey house with the form and structure similar to Kinh people's dwelling house made of both traditional and modern materials. The reason for this change is at this time, the source of traditional material began to decline due to excessive exploitation; furthermore, the forest was quite far away from their hamlets and the hamlet residents also recognized the advantages of the single-storey house of Kinh people as well. The the wooden frame was modified into the type of *"Ruong",* commonly found in wealthy or powerful and high social-position Katu families in the hamlet.

4.2.4 Period from the 2000s onwards

Since the 2000s, the policy on giving priority to developing economy among the ethnic minorities has made the physiognomy of Nam Dong district change rapidly. The hamlets are no longer closed, self-sufficient but expand, interact, and exchange goods with other hamlets in the commune and other regions. The number of residents has rapidly increased, few people die owing to better medical care. Infrastructure such as water systems, water irrigation have been invested; the lighting system has been covered the whole hamlet. The hamlet residents are taught new agricultural technology. With land and forest allocation policies, income from cultivation activities gradually becomes secondary. A part of natural forestland area has been converted to land for industrial crops like rubber and acacia trees. Revenues from industrial plants gradually become the main income of the Katu ethnics. In Nam Dong district today, many households have

[8] Establishing the new economy zones is a policy of Vietnamese government in order to organize, redistribute labor force and residents in the whole country, moving a great number of people from the plains and the city to the midland and mountainous areas, borders and islands. This policy was implemented in North Vietnam from 1961 and spread the whole country since the reunification until 1998. In 27 years, Vietnam has moved organizationally moved 1,368,691 households, of which the number of internal migration in the province is 702,761 households with 342,253 people, from this province to another one is 665,930 households with 2,809,373 people.

one hectare of rubber or acacia trees and more. In addition, many Katu ethnics, especially young people, search for jobs outside the hamlet with higher income, and most children have opportunity to go to school. The type of house on stilts almost no longer exists since this period, and they are replaced by solid house on earth with modern construction method, entirely made of new materials such as concrete pillars, tiled walls, corrugated iron roof, or tiled roof, similar to Kinh people's type. The type of *"Ruong"* appeared from the 1990s, which is common in affluent and high-social position families in the hamlet, continues to be built.

Currently, many Katu households possess modern means such as motorcycle, television. However, besides the positiveness, the negativeness arise such as the decline of relationship among the members in the hamlet, the increase of the private ownership, and the renouncement of traditional values have now become a common feature of the Katu ethnics. In summary, the alteration of the Katu hamlets in Nam Dong district during different stages can be described by table 4.2 as follows:

Table 4.2 Transformation of the Katu hamlets in Nam Dong district during four periods

Before the 1960s	Between the 1960s and the 1970s	From the 1970s to the 2000s	2000s onward
Hamlet structure • Located on steep hill or valley terrain • Long distance among hamlets • Round or oval shape with yard and the TCH located in center • Living in a few of long or small houses on stilts built with local materials • Abundance of forest resources	**Hamlet structure** • Located on steep hill in jungle due to the war • Very long distance among hamlets • Indefinite shape • Disappearance of the TCH due to unstable living • Divided into small groups living in small temporary houses on stilts or on earth • Abundance of forest resources	**Hamlet structure** • Located on less steep terrain • Close distance among hamlets and with Kinh people • Free of line shape • The TCH gradually restores and located near road • Living in small houses on stilts and earth built with local and modern materials • Less abundance of forest resources	**Hamlet structure** • Located on even and flat terrain • Very close distance among hamlets and Kinh people • Fishbone or line shape type • The TCH replaced with modern community houses • Living in many houses on earth built with modern materials • Scarcity of natural resources due to illegal forest exploitation
Lifestyle • Hamlet customary rules under the control of patriarch council • Slash and burn cultivation • Community ownership of land • Frequently changing in settlement place due to epidemics. • Holding frequently traditional activities at the TCH	**Lifestyle** • Hamlet customary rules unit under the control of patriarch council • Slash and burn cultivation • Community ownership of land • Frequently changing in settlement place due to epidemics and war • Decline of traditional activities because of disappearance of the TCH	**Lifestyle** • Under the control of hamlet leaders and management of local government • Slash and burn and wet rice cultivation • Gradual privatization of land ownership • Occasionally changing in settlement place due to epidemics • Gradual restoration of traditional activities, besides appearance of new activities	**Lifestyle** • Under the control of hamlet leaders and management of local government • Mainly wet rice cultivation • Complete privatization of land ownership • Stable settlement place • Decrease of traditional activities and increase new activities.
Hamlet relationship • Hamlet members are close relatives • Unpopulous hamlet • Strong community linkage among hamlet residents	**Hamlet relationship** • Hamlet members are close relatives • Decrease of population due to war • Temporary decline of community linkage because of group separation	**Hamlet relationship** • Many unrelated families live together • Gradual increase of population due to immigration from outside • Gradual decline of community linkage because of outside influence	**Hamlet relationship** • Many unrelated families live together • Increase of population due to immigration from outside • Strong decline of community linkage because of outside influence

4.3 Historical features of the TCHs

The previous TCH of the Katu in Nam Dong district was rather abundant in form, material, and there have been clear alternations through different historic periods. Based on field research in 36 Katu hamlets in Nam Dong district with the description in memory of the interviewees, collating with the collected images and documents, four primary periods of the alteration of the TCH can be identified as follows: before the 1960s, between the 1960s and 1970s, from the 1970s to 2000s and from 2000s till now.

According to the results of the surveys, before 1960s, when the Katu ethnics lived in the traditional hamlets in high mountainous areas, close to Quang Nam province and Laos, their TCHs were the most important and outstanding architectural buildings. Most of the Katu hamlets in Nam Dong district had the TCHs. The size, structural type, and material of the TCH were determined by the scale and conditions of each hamlet. Some populous hamlets with sufficient conditions could build large TCHs featuring a central pillar with precious timber that symbolizes the patriarch; other hamlets with limited capabilities could only build smaller TCHs; some might not have any central pillar and would be erected only with medium or low quality timber.

From the 1960s to 1970s, the Katu in Nam Dong district had to move to deep forest to avoid warfare; consequently, the traditional structure of the hamlets was changed into small parts. The TCHs were almost not erected as the hamlet residents had to continuously change their residence.

Between the 1970s and 2000s, the Katu ethnics moved to live in lowland, nearer to the Kinh people by the mobilization of Vietnam revolutionary government. Based on the conditions and capability of each hamlet and commune, the construction of the TCH in this period was gradually but not continuously restored. In this period, the TCHs began to change in structure, construction technique and material use. Especially, since 1990s, the comprehensive and opening economy development policies of the Vietnam government made many projects on agricultural development, infrastructural construction, traditional cultural restoration in Nam Dong district have the cooperation of international organizations; among them are the TCHs restoration projects. The TCHs were rebuilt in the traditional method with the financial assistance of several outside organizations.

However, since the 2000s, the physiognomy of the TCH has greatly changed due to the appearance of the MCH construction projects established by the government with the financial support of international organizations. These the sub-projects belongs to projects that aim to foster the economy in mountainous areas. The construction of the MCHs has been broadly deployed in most of the hamlets in Nam Dong district. For these construction projects, the role of hamlet residents is no longer appreciated. These CHs were built with some designs and

undertaken by outside builders. In the district leaders' explanation, from 1990s, a few hamlets in Nam Dong were invested to build the TCHs by some NGOs, and these houses are being used effectively. To 2000s, although some hamlets desired to build a TCH, the mobilization for cooperation of the hamlet residents as well as the exploitation of traditional materials to re-erect the TCH faced many challenges. In addition, the number of people who master the traditional technique of the TCH erection has become scarce. Meanwhile, the policy of the local government directs that every hamlet needs to have a CH to be used for hamlet common activities as an essential cultural institution. However, the government only has the capability of establishing the modern type which is designed by outside organization. Therefore, after many meetings, the hamlet residents agreed to construct a MCH in their hamlet.

4.4 Previous TCHs in original hamlets

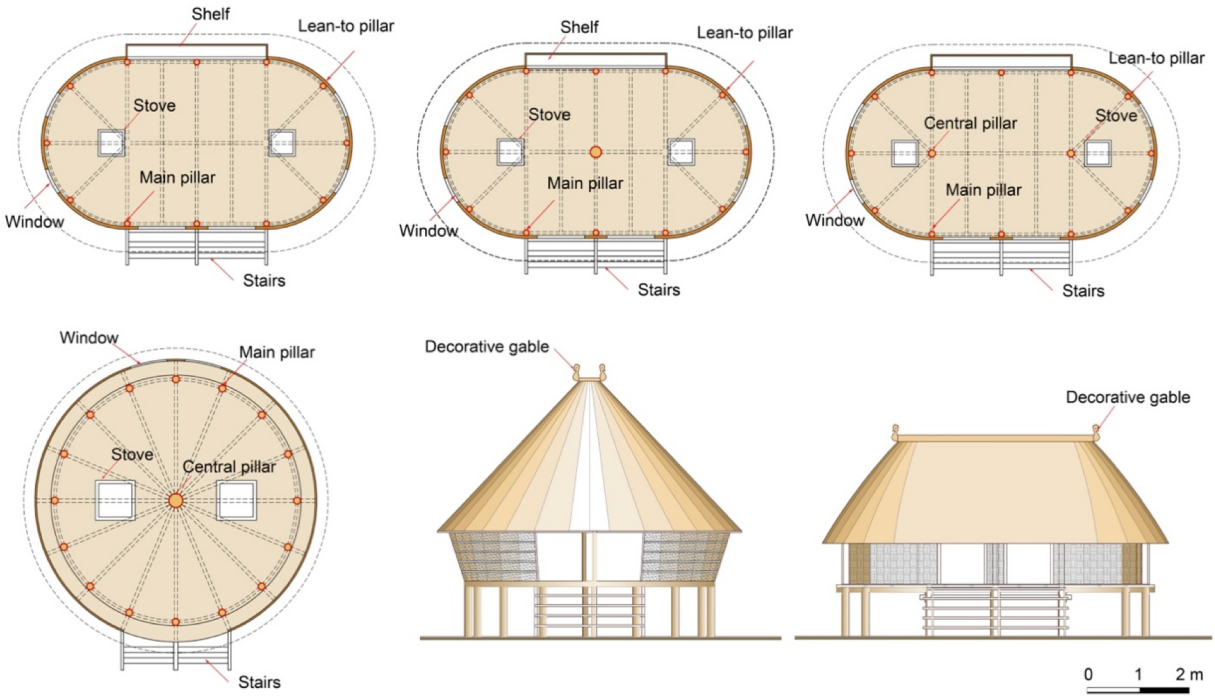


Figure 4.3 Typical forms of the TCH in Nam Dong district in the past

Some of the typical TCHs were identified in the previous hamlets in Nam Dong district through descriptions of hamlet residents (Figure 4.3). The first type is the most popular type, including two central compartments and two semicircle- shape lean-tos with the total of 13 pillars (six main pillars, six lean-to pillars and one central pillar). The central pillar is the most important component of the TCH, is not only considered as the element in supporting the roof but also as the symbol of house and hamlet. As the description, the central pillar of the previous TCH was big, with the circumference from five to six spans *(Châda)*, and there were often two stoves placed in the two lean-tos. There was one main entrance in front and two subsidiary entrances on

the two sides. The second type is similar to the first but wider with three central compartments. The third type is the variant with the two central pillars but these are smaller ones. The fourth type does not have any central pillar and is frequently smallest. In the hamlet residents' explanation, the limited workforce causes the disappearance of the central pillar because it is unable to collect timber for a big central pillar. The fifth type is the big circular-shape house with a very big central pillar supporting the whole roof. This type is often found in the hamlets with great workforce. Thus, this type was not widespread in the previous hamlets in Nam Dong district.

The previous TCHs, depending on terrain, often had floor separated from ground from 1 m to 1.8 m. In the hamlet residents' explanation, the previous dwelling house and the TCHs must be built in the stilt form because of the terrain condition: the former hamlets were frequently located on the sloping versant, so the house was built on stilt to create transversal floor and avoid wild beasts. In addition, the underneath space was used to put necessary things. The materials for constructing the TCH were different, depending on the forest characteristic of each area. For the pillar, the popular types of timber used were *Duoc, Doi Gung (Hranh* in the Katu language*), Ten Mat (Grlieng* in the Katu language*)*. The timbers for pillar must be old with big *"ron"* (inside pith), must not be attacked by timber-worm and must not be topless. Cross-beam, eaves beam, floor beam, and roof beam were often made by less precious timber, but the timber must be long and straight such as Parashorea *(Prao* in the Katu language*), Chi Tich*, Merawan Giaza [9] timber *(Zur* the Katu language*)*. Curved beam of the two lean-tos were often made of *Uoi (Aduong* in the Katu language*)* since this type of timber is very flexible. The material for roof popularly was rattan leaves because of its beauty and durableness, but it is difficult to collect. Some hamlets used *Non* leaves which is not as good as rattan leaves but easy to collect. Bamboo was the material for partition and floor mat. Most of these TCHs had decorative patterns in the two sides of gable (primarily the image of wooden cock). Inside the house, the components such as pillars, cross beams, eaves beams and so on were also decorated with simple patterns, not as many sculptural patterns as the TCHs in Quang Nam province due to the lack of skillful craftsmen as well as the simpler conception on aesthetics of the Katu ethnics in Nam Dong district.

4.5 Previous TCHs in current hamlets

The survey result has shown that after 1970s, when moving to the current area until there is

[9] Merawan Giaza is a timber of Group 2 in the classification of timber in Vietnam. Merawan Giaza has good characteristics such as hardness, durability in the air, little termite so it is widely used in construction (door frames, flooring, etc). This timber is commonly found in some areas such as Thua Thien–Hue, Dak Lak, Lam Dong, Kien Giang provinces. Currently, the remaining quantity of Merawan Giaza is little by excessive logging. Merawan Giaza is the kind of timber that the Katu most commonly used in TCHs construction .

Table 4.3 Features of the previous TCHs in Nam Dong district after 1970s

Commune	Hamlet		Duration	Main Pillars +A Central Pillar	Main materials	Stove	Size	Decoration
Thuong Lo	Doi	TCH 1	1984-1990	2 + 10 (2 CP, 4 MP, 6 LP)	*Trai* timber, Merawan Giaza timber, *Non* leaf, *Lo o*	2	Small	No
	La Ho	S-TCH 1	1989-1995	0 + 8 (No CP, 8 MP, No LP)	Merawan Giaza timber, Sapele timber, *Non* leaf	1	Small	No
	Mu Nam	TCH 1	1977-2006	1 + 10 (1 CP, 4 MP, 6 LP)	Merawan Giaza, *Non* leaf, *Lo o*	1	Medium	Yes
	Cha Mang	TCH 1	1982-2007	1 + 14 (1 CP, 8 MP, 6 LP)	Son (CP), Merawan Giaza, Sapele timber, *Non* leaf	2	Large	Yes
Huong Son	La Hia	TCH 1	1980-1983	0 + 8 (No CP, 4 MP, 4 LP)	Merawan Giaza, Sapele timber, Thatch leaf	2	Small	No
		TCH 2	1999-2004	0 + 8 (No CP, 4 MP, 4 LP)	White Meranti, Sapele timber, Thatch leaf	2	Small	No
	A Mut	CH 1	1979-1985	2 + 8 (2 CP, 8 MP, No LP)	Merawan Giaza, White Meranti timber, *Non* leaf	2	Small	Yes
		CH 2	1994-2005	0 + 8 (No CP, 8 MP, No LP)	Merawan Giaza, Sapele timber, Fibro-cement	1	Small	No
	Ka Che	TCH 1	1979-2005	1 + 10 (1 CP, 4 MP, 6 LP)	*Trai* timber (CP), White Meranti, Bark-tree, Thatch leaf	2	Medium	Yes
	A Lot	TCH 1	1985-2000	1 + 12 (1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	*Huynh Dan* timber (MP), rattan leaf, *Lo o*	1	Medium	Yes
	Ba Dược	No	-	-	-	-	-	-
	A Den	TCH 1	1981-2000	0 + 12 (No CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	Merawan Giaza (CP), White Meranti timber, Rattan leaf	2	Medium	Yes
	Ka Dang	TCH 1	1976-1996	1 + 14 (1 CP, 8 MP, 6 LP)	Merawan Giaza (CP), White Meranti timber, Rattan leaf	1	Medium	Yes
		S-TCH1	1996-2008	0 + 10 (No CP, 4 MP, 6 LP)	Merawan Giaza (concrete pillars below floor, Concrete floor), Rattan leaf	No	Small	Yes
Thuong Nhat	Ta Ring	TCH 1	1991-1995	1 + 12 (1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	Ironwood (CP), Merawan Giaza (MP, LP), *Lo o*, Rattan leaf	2	Medium	Yes
		TCH 2	1997-2008	1 + 12 (1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	Ironwood (CP), Merawan Giaza (MP, LP), *Lo o*, Rattan leaf	2	Large	Yes
	Lap	TCH 1	1973-1980	1 + 12 (1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	Merawan Giaza, *Uoi* timber, *Uoi* bark tree, *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Medium	Yes
		TCH 2	1982-1990	1 + 12 (1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	Merawan Giaza, *Uoi* timber, *Uoi* bark tree, *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Large	Yes
		TCH 3	1990-2007	1 + 12 (1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	Merawan Giaza, *Uoi* timber, *Uoi* bark tree, *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Medium	Yes
	A Tin	TCH 1	1978-2007	1 + 14 (1 CP, 8 MP, 6 LP)	Ironwood (CP), Merawan Giaza, *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Large	Yes
	Ta Lu	TCH 1	1974-1983	0 + 8 (No CP, 8 MP, No LP)	White Meranti, Sapele timber, *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	1	Small	No
		TCH 2	1983-2003	0 + 8 (No CP, 8 MP, No LP)	White Meranti, Sapele timber, *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	1	Small	No
		TCH 3	2003-2008	1 + 12 (1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	*Son* timber (CP), Merawan Giaza, Sapele timber, *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	1	Medium	Yes
	A Xach	TCH 1	1982-2004	1 + 12 (1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	Merawan Giaza (CP), Sapele timber, *Lo o*, N*on*, Rattan leaf	2	Medium	Yes
	La Van	TCH 1	1996-2004	1 + 14 (1 CP, 8 MP, 6 LP)	Merawan Giaza (CP), White Meranti, *Lo o*, *Non* and Rattan leaf	2	Medium	Yes
Huong Huu	Rong Ghenh	TCH 1	2000-2008	1+16 (1 CP, 16 MP) Round-shape	*Tau* timber (CP), White Meranti, Sapele timber, *Uoi* bark, *Lo o*, *Tro* leaf	2	Large	Yes
	Ra Rang	TCH 1	2000-2006	1 + 12 (1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	*A Ton* timber (CP), White Meranti, *Lo o*, *Uoi* bark, Rattan leaf	2	Medium	Yes
	Con Gia	No	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Ba Tang	TCH 1	2000-2008	1 + 10 (1 CP, 4 MP, 6 LP)	*Chi Soc* timber (CP), Merawan Giaza, *Lo o*, *Uoi* bark, Non leaf	2	Medium	Yes
	Ra Dang	CH 1	1985-2008	1 + 8 (1 CP, 8 MP, No LP)	Concrete (CP), White Meranti, *Lo o*, Fibro-cement (roofing)	1	Small	No
	Ga Hin	CH 1	2000-2008	0 + 10 (0 CP, 10 MP, No LP)	Merawan Giaza (CP), White Meranti, *Lo o*, Fibro-cement (roofing)	1	Small	No
	U Rang	TCH 1	1976-1979	0 + 8 (0 CP, 8 MP, No LP)	Merawan Giaza (CP), Merawan Giaza, *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	No	Small	No
Thuong Long	Ka Dong	TCH 1*	1977-1984	1 + 12 (1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	Merawan Giaza (CP), Merawan Giaza, White Meranti, *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Large	Yes
		TCH 2	1985-1989	1 + 12 (1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	Merawan Giaza (CP, MP, LP), White Meranti (Beams), *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Medium	Yes
		TCH 3	2003-2008	1 + 12 (1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	Merawan Giaza (CP), White Meranti (MP, LP), *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Large	Yes
	A Xang	TCH 1*	1977-1984	1 + 12 (1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	Merawan Giaza (CP), White Meranti (MP, LP), *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Large	Yes
		TCH 2	1985-1988	0 + 12 (No CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	Merawan Giaza (MP, LP), *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Small	Yes
		TCH 3	1988-1993	1 + 12 (1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	*H'ranh* (CP), *H'ranh* (MP, LP), Sapele, *Lo o*, Rattan leaf	2	Medium	Yes
		TCH 4	1993-1995	1 + 12 (1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	*H'ranh* (CP), *H'ranh* (MP, LP), Sapele, *Lo o*, Rattan leaf	2	Medium	Yes
		TCH 5	1995-1997	0 + 12 (No CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	Merawan Giaza (MP, LP), Sapele, *Lo o*, Rattan leaf	2	Small	Yes
	Cha Ke	TCH 1	1974-1986	0 + 10 (No CP, 4 MP, 6 LP)	Ironwood (CP), Merawan Giaza (MP, LP), *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Small	Yes
		TCH 2	1986-2001	1 + 10 (1 CP, 4 MP, 6 LP)	Ironwood (CP), Merawan Giaza (MP, LP,), *Lo o*, *Ke* leaf	2	Medium	Yes
		TCH 3	2001-2008	1 + 12 (1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	Merawan Giaza (CP, MP, LP), Sapele (partition), *Lo o*, *Ke* leaf	2	Large	Yes
	A Gon	TCH 1	1973-1978	0 + 12 (1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	Ironwood (CP), Merawan Giaza (MP, LP), *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Medium	No
		TCH 2	1978-1995	1 + 12 (1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	Ironwood (CP), Merawan Giaza (MP, LP), *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Large	Yes
		TCH 3	1995-2004	1 + 12 (1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	Ironwood (CP), Merawan Giaza (MP, LP), *Lo o*, tiled roof	2	Medium	Yes
	Te Vac	TCH 1	1977-1985	0 + 12 (No CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	Ironwood (MP, LP), Sapele (beams), *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Medium	Yes
		TCH 2	1987-1989	0 + 10 (No CP, 4MP, 6 LP)	Ironwood (MP, LP), Merawan Giaza, Sapele (beams), *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	1	Small	Yes
		TCH 3	1989-1996	0 + 10 (No CP, 4 MP, 6 LP)	Ironwood (MP, LP), Merawan Giaza, Sapele (beams), *Lo o*, *Non* roof	2	Medium	Yes
	A Chieu	TCH1	1976-1984	1 + 12 (1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	Merawan Giaza (CP, MP, LP), *Leu* timber beams), *Lo o*, *Non* roof	2	Medium	Yes
		TCH2	1984-1994	1 + 12 (1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	Merawan Giaza (CP, MP, LP), *Leu* timber beams), Lo o, *Non* roof	2	Medium	Yes
		TCH3	1994-2004	1 + 12 (1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	Merawan Giaza (CP, MP, LP), Leu timber beams), *Lo o*, *Non* roof	2	Medium	Yes
	A Dai	TCH 1	1975-1978	0 + 12 (No CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	Ironwood (MP, LP), White Meranti, *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Small	Yes
		TCH 2	1978-1993	0 + 12 (No CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	Ironwood (MP, LP,), White Meranti, *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Medium	Yes
		TCH 3	1993-2007	1 + 12 (1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	Ironwood (CP, MP, LP), Sapele (partition), *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	No	Medium	Yes
	Ap Rung	TCH 1	1980-1986	0 + 16 (No CP, 8 MP, 8 LP)	Merawan Giaza (MP, LP,), Merawan Giaza, *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Large	Yes
		TCH 2	1986-2008	0 + 08 (No CP, 8 MP, No LP)	Merawan Giaza (MP, LP), White Meranti, Sapele (beams), *Lo o*, tiled leaf	2	Small	Yes
Thuong Quang	Ta Rau	TCH 1	1974-1977	2 + 12 (2 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	Merawan Giaza (MP, LP), White Meranti, *Lo o*, Rattan leaf	1	Small	Yes
		TCH 2	1977-1985	2 + 12 (2 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	Merawan Giaza (MP, LP), White Meranti, *Lo o*, Rattan leaf	1	Medium	Yes
		TCH 3	1985-1995	2 + 14 (2 CP, 8 MP, 6 LP)	Merawan Giaza (MP, LP), White Meranti (beams), *Lo o*, Rattan leaf	1	Medium	Yes
	A Rang	TCH 1*	1973-1979	0 + 10 (No CP, 4 MP, 6 LP)	Merawan Giaza (MP, LP), White Meranti, *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Medium	Yes
		TCH 2*	1979-1983	0 + 10 (No CP, 4 MP, 6 LP)	Merawan Giaza (MP, LP,), White Meranti, *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Medium	Yes
		TCH 3	1983-2002	1 + 10 (1 CP, 4 MP, 6 LP)	Merawan Giaza (MP, LP), White Meranti, *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Medium	Yes
	A Ka	TCH 1	1973-1975	0 + 12 (No CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	*Ba tur* (MP, LP), White Meranti, *Lo o*, Rattan leaf	2	Medium	Yes
		TCH 2	1975-1978	0 + 12 (No CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	*Ba tur* (MP, LP,), White Meranti, *Lo o*, Rattan leaf	2	Medium	Yes
		TCH 3	1978-1983	0 + 12 (No CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	*Ba tur* (MP, LP), White Meranti, *Lo o*, Rattan leaf	2	Medium	Yes
		TCH 4	2000-2013	1 + 12 (1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	Sindoer (CP), Merawan Giaza (MP, LP), *H'ranh*, White Meranti, Sapele, *Lo o*, Rattan and Thatch leaf	0	Large	Yes
	A Ro	TCH 1*	1973-1979	0 + 10 (No CP, 4 MP, 6 LP)	Merawan Giaza (MP, LP), White Meranti, *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Medium	Yes
		TCH 2*	1979-1983	0 + 10 (1 CP, 4 MP, 6 LP)	Merawan Giaza (MP, LP), White Meranti, *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Medium	Yes

* Ka Dong and A Xang hamlets shared TCH 1 (1977-1984); A Rang and A Ro hamlets shared TCH 1 (1973-1979) and TCH 2 (1979-1983)

the presence of the E-CHs, most of the hamlets in six communes of Nam Dong district used to erect the TCH. However, the majority of them did not exist continuously due to some reasons such as unsettled livelihood, insufficient labor force or change of residence.

The interviews with residents in 36 Katu hamlets of six communes have indicated that 67 TCHs were built in this period (Table 4.3). However, the number of the TCHs is distributed unequally. The hamlets of Thuong Long and Thuong Quang communes used to build many TCHs (24 TCHs of eight hamlets in Thuong Long commune and ten TCHs of four hamlets in Thuong Quang commune). Especially, some hamlets had from four to five TCHs such as A Xang in Thuong Long commune (five TCHs) and A Ka in Thuong Quang commune (four TCHs). However, most of the hamlets in Huong Huu, Huong Son, Thuong Lo communes only had one TCH; some hamlets even had no TCH such as Ba Duoc in Huong Son commune, Con Gia in Huong Huu commune. The feature of the TCHs in Nam Dong district in this period basically inherited the feature of the TCHs before the 1960s such as simple structure, low roof, minor slope, few decorative patterns with many variants of space, pillar and stove. The number of compartments is commonly from three to five (including two round-shape lean-tos) with the number of pillars is from eight to fourteen. Among them, the most popular is the TCH with from 10 to 14 pillars (main pillars and lean-to pillars) and a central pillar with the two stoves in the two sides (31 TCHs of this type) (Figure 4.4, left). This is also the most popular type before the 1960s in Nam Dong district. Besides, there was a variant such as the type with two central pillars with the different number of main pillars and lean-to pillars; however, this type was not popular (five TCHs). In the hamlet residents' explanation, if the TCH has two pillars, only small pillars are required; therefore, it will be easy to collect, transport and erect as well. In addition, a rather popular type in this period was the TCH without central pillar (28 TCHs of this type). Another feature of this type compared with the TCH form is that this is the house on stilts but has smaller scale and has no circular lean-to. This type of house only existed in short time, in the transitional period as a temporary solution when the hamlet had no condition to build the house in a traditional form. The number of stoves in the TCHs is different; number of houses with two stoves accounts majority with 46 TCHs, the remaining were the type with one stove, and three houses had no stove. In terms of materials, there were many kinds of timber for the TCH construction; among them, the most popular timbers were Merawan Giaza timber and Ironwood for pillar, White Meranti timber and Sapele timber for other components such as floor beam, eaves beam, roof beam, etc. Rattan and *Non* leaves were the two common types of leaf for roofing and bamboo for floor mat and partition.

In this period, only Rung Ghenh hamlet in Huong Huu commune had the type of big circular house with 16 side pillars and a very big central pillar supporting the whole roof (Figures 4.4,

right). According to the hamlet residents, this house was built in 1999 and was one of the most beautiful TCHs at that time, but unfortunately, it was dismantled in 2007 and then was replaced by the CH belonging to TLIP.



Figure 4.4 Previous TCH in Cha Ke hamlet, Thuong Long commune (2006) (left) and previous TCH in Rong Ghenh hamlet, Huong Huu commune (2006) (right)
(Source: Book "Rong community halls in the Central Highlands of Vietnam" – Nguyen Van Ku, Luu Hung, 2007)

4.6 Construction methods of TCHs

Through the description of the interviewed hamlet residents from 36 surveyed hamlets, formerly, there used to be many different types of the TCH, but most of which were erected in the same method in terms of workforce organization, material collection, erection and so on.

The indigenous knowledge of hamlet residents passed from the ancestors and the experiences accumulated in the daily life on the manners of collecting materials; choosing ground aspect and time for construction have been found out through the interviews with the hamlet residents. However, the knowledge only focuses on the elderly people who used to have key position in the hamlet but rarely found among the young.

In terms of construction technique, in the early time of this period, the majority of the TCHs were still built in traditional way with simple tools such as axes, large kitchen-knives. However, later, the use of saws and chisels sold by the Kinh people helps the process of components like

floor beam, eaves beam, roof beam much more convenient and rapid. The technique of joining tenon learned from Kinh people is gradually applied widespread, which makes the structure of the TCHs more solid. The pillar of the TCHs later is propped onto the rock instead of being fixed into the deep ground like before (Figure 4.5).



Figure 4.5 Construction process of a traditional community house

(Source: Tran Tan Vinh)

To the Katu ethnics, the time for erecting the TCH is very important, and it decides the prosperity of the hamlet afterwards. Erecting the house on even days is good (peaceful and easy to hunt wild animals); erecting on odd days is bad (depending on calendar and moon observation). Summer is a good time for collecting materials because it is dry. To build a TCH, according to the hamlet residents, there should be the participation of the whole hamlet residents under the control of the patriarch council. The quantity of necessary collected materials for construction depends on the scale of the TCH. The patriarch is the key person who calculates material volume and assigns the labor to collect material. The experienced elders guide the youth to the forest for colleting timber. It takes from two to three months seeking for timber in forest to collect enough amount of timber. Chopping the timber and bamboos at the end of the month will help them not be attacked by timber-worm. In residents' experience, at the beginning of the month, bamboo sprout springs and has much water so it is easy to be affected by the timber-worm, but at the end of the month, the water absorbs into the land so the body of these plants is dry.

The timber after being chopped and roughly processed on the spot is transported to the hamlet entirely by human power. The best and big timbers are used to make the central pillar; the smaller ones are for main pillars and other components such as roof beam, cross beam, eaves beam and floor beam. Sometimes, all of the youth in the hamlet are mobilized for transporting the big timber for the central pillar. Meanwhile, women are often assigned to collect leaves for roof and ropes. After collecting enough materials, the patriarch selects the good date for house erection ceremony (the Katu ethnics choose the date based on lunar calendar by observing the moon, and only some old people have this ability). In the Katu's conception, the even days in a month are good days. If choosing these days for the TCH erection, the hamlet residents will get much good luck, help them easy to hunt wild animals. Next, the components are calculated and carefully processed in the construction area. After making traditional ceremony to ask for land, the house erection is carried out. The holes for fixing the pillar are dug first, then the main pillars *(Tanar acan)* are erected in the middle compartment (normally, there are from six to eight pillars with diameter from 20 to 30 cm), next are lean-to pillars with smaller diameter from 15 to 20 cm and string is stretched for exactness. After that, cross beams and eaves beam *(Ninang)* with the width from 20 cm to 30 cm and the thickness from four to six cm) and round beams *(Gravuong),* the width from 15 cm to 20 cm and the thickness from two to three cm) are put in the top of the pillar in open-mortise style *(Boopatac).* Then, two imitation pillars (are often big bamboo or straight and long timber to support and position ridge pole) are used; next central pillars *(Zrmang)*, main beams, roof beams, and sub roof beams are erected, after that, purlin made by bamboo and curved purlin at lean-tos made by rattan tree are fitted. The roof is then covered by leaves (the popular leaves are rattan or *Non*). Two roof gables are usually fixed with two wooden cock patterns. According to the hamlet residents, the image of cock decorated in two gable roofs symbolizes the man, the hamlet keeper. The crock-crow wakes the hamlet residents up to cook and till the fields (The TCHs of the Katu in Nam Dong district mostly use cock pattern to decorate the gables of the roof). The flooring is the next stage. In the traditional method, main floor beams are jointed with pillars by rattan strings and supported more by sub-pillars to the floor. On the main floor beams, there are the sub-floor joists, and on the top is small-split bamboo mat. The partition is kitted by bamboo split into small pieces and splinted by bamboo. Erecting stair is the last stage. It takes about one week for erecting a TCH.

4.7 Recent CH construction projects

4.7.1 Involvement of NGOs in the TCH reconstruction

In the latter half of the 1980s and especially in early 1990s, the "*Doi Moi"* policy of Vietnam government facilitated changes of foreign policy in the direction of multilateralization

and diversification which made Vietnam more "open" to the world. Vietnam was on its way to implementing its renovation process, and needed capital, technologies, and training for skillful human resources which could only be brought from developed countries. Finally, in the context of limited diplomatic relations with other countries, people-to-people relationships were the best channel to connect Vietnam and the world. It helped Vietnam to address to kind-hearted people around the world with its economic and social difficulties that the government did not have enough resources to cover. Therefore, by promoting the foreign NGOs activities in Vietnam, public attention from developed countries would be drawn to the issues that Vietnamese had been facing. Acknowledging the importance of funding by foreign NGOs for its development, Vietnam has issued policies to mobilize the funding from foreign NGOs, for instance, the establishment of the focal agencies for foreign NGOs to serve as a bridge between foreign NGOs and local recipients. There were from 70 to 100 NGOs with aid worth 20 – 30 million USD per year during the period 1986 – 1992. For over 10 years (1994 – 2006), the number of organizations having relations with Vietnam had increased 3 times, from 210 organizations in 1994 to about 650 organizations in 2006. Among them, over 500 organizations have regular activities, projects and Vietnamese partners. Aid worth continuously increased over the years, from 40 million in 1993, rising to 85 million USD in 2002, 140 million USD in 2004 and 217 million USD in 2006. The assistance of NGOs foreigners not only includes material aid but also includes the transfer of experience, technology, education, health care and so on.

Being a mountainous district, Nam Dong district has benefited many macroeconomic policies of the government. To create the motivation to accelerate the process of socio-economic development, Nam Dong district authority always advocates to encourage the organizations, especially the international organizations to involve in the projects in the districts. Therefore, in recent years many projects to reduce poverty, improve livelihoods, develop community have been invested in Nam Dong district with the participation of NGOs and other organizations and these organizations have played a very essential role and contribute to the success of these projects. Among them, CHs construction is one of the most important items of many projects. By 2014, three NGOs related to the CHs construction projects have been identified which are NAV, ICCO and SNV. The approach of these projects differs. This has caused a variety of forms of present CHs in Nam Dong district.

In the past, the image of the TCH cemented with the history of the Katu in general and in Nam Dong district in particular. Formerly, most of the Katu hamlets in Nam Dong district used to have TCHs. Since the 1970s in the last century, the emigration and resettlement policies of the government have led to the change in residential style. There were many hamlets which could build the TCHs but some hamlets could not, and they have to use houses of hamlet residents to

organize hamlet meetings. Up to 2000, many TCHs in the hamlets were degraded because of the short-term characteristics of traditional materials, especially bamboos and leaves. These materials had to be frequently replaced; meanwhile, the replacement of materials became more and more scarce the forest is far away the hamlet. Besides, the forest protection polices of the government made the material collection more difficult. Therefore, many hamlets had to dismantle their TCHs because they could no longer be used, and the hamlet residents's houses were reluctant choice for hamlet activities. Some other hamlets still used these degraded TCHs; however, the maintenance of these houses faced many difficulties. Since 1990s, especially since 2000s, there have been several the TCH construction projects established with partly support from NGOs such as "The Integrated Rural Development Project " deployed from 1990 to 2004 with fund support by Nordic Assistance to Vietnam (NAV) [10]; "The Integrated community Development Project in Thuong Long commune" implemented from 1999 to 2003 by Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation, Netherlands (ICCO) [11] ; "Eco-tourism Project" supported by Netherlands Development Organization (SNV) [12] since 2014 until now. However, these projects were only implemented in the hamlets including the TCH in U Rang hamlet, Huong Huu commune (1990); the TCHs in Ta Rinh and Ta Lu hamlets, Thuong Nhat commune; the TCH of Thuong Long commune ownership located in A Chieu hamlet (2000); the TCH in A Ka and A Rang hamlets, Thuong Quang commune (2000); and the TCH in Doi hamlet, Thuong Lo commune (2004). It can be identified that the above projects have had rather conformable approach in constructing the TCH. Specifically, the hamlet residents are fully empowered to design the house model, collect materials and erect the house. Under the control of the patriarchs, the youth in the hamlets seek and collect big timbers in the forest to make the main frame such as cross beam, eaves beam, floor beam, roof beam and so on. The households in the hamlets contributed the other materials such as leaves for roofing and bamboos for partition. The experienced elders designed and instructed to erect the houses in the traditional way, and the hamlet residents used and maintained these houses after finishing. The local government was

[10] NAV (Nordic Assistance to Vietnam) is a NGO with the target of contributing to eradicate hunger and alleviate poverty, improve the life of the poor and the disadvantaged, especially to support women, children and ethnic minorities in Vietnam, including Thua Thien–Hue province.

[11] ICCO (Interchurch organization for development cooperation) was founded in 1964. ICCO self-formulated its cooperative development programs in 1970s and 1980s. Concurrently, this organization closely involves in the implementation of co-funding program. ICCO aims to reduce and eliminate poverty and injustice. The activities of this organization include financial support, creating possibility for people to organize their lives and dwelling houses stably and sustainably in their own way. ICCO works in many African countries, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and Eastern Europe.

[12] SNV Netherlands Development Organization is a non-profit, international development organization, established in the Netherlands in 1965. SNV aims to alleviate poverty by enabling increasing income and employment opportunities and intensifying access to basic services. The organization currently works in 38 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

only responsible for organizing and supervising; partial fund supported by NGOs were just for labor and for inauguration ceremony. Therefore, basically, the houses of these projects still keep the traditional characteristics. These projects were only deployed in some hamlets of six Katu communes in Nam Dong district. The limited funding of the projects is one of the reasons; therefore, only a certain number of communes or hamlets compiling with the criteria and targets of the projects would be selected for support. The hamlets had no TCH at that time would be prioritized to build a TCH.

Among the TCH construction projects in Nam Dong district, the THC in Thuong Long commune funded by ICCO is a unique TCH which is owned by the commune. This project is described as follows: In order to help residents in Thuong Long hamlet alleviate poverty, Netherlands Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO) funded commune to implement the project of community development with five following main goals: supporting livelihood development; building capacity; restoring the cultural identity, improving public health, and creating gender equality.

Restoring the TCH is one of the main activities of the project to restore cultural identity. This operation was launched in the last quarter of 1999 and completed in April 2000, with a total capital of 17 million VND (~809 USD), of which the local people contributed 40% of the labor force and available locally materials such as rattan, thatch and bamboo. This TCH is for traditional cultural activities in the commune. For this project, the hamlet residents played the key role in all steps of construction process. A model was designed by patriarch Po Ling in A Gon hamlet, based on suggestions of experienced patriarchs in other hamlets in Thuong Long commune. To have enough construction materials, the commune organized many meetings and assigned material norm for each hamlet base on their strength. Because of the particularity of the TCH, most of the materials such as timber, bamboo and rattan could be locally exploited. Similarly, the elders were assigned to supervise the specific activities with their capacity.

It took nearly three months for collecting the materials, one month for constructing the house. ICCO supported 20.000 VND (~0.95 USD) per day per labor and 6 million VND (~285 USD) for the inauguration (the total budget of around 50 million VND (~2,380 USD)). The house has 13 pillars (six main pillar, six lean-tos pillar, and a central pillar) made of Ironwood. The roof beams and purlins were made of Sapele timber and White Meranti timber; the partition and mat were made of *Lo o;* the roof was made of Mangrove fan palm leaves. The wild animal skulls were hung under the roof and three stoves were put in the two sides. By 2009, the *Lo o* partition was replaced by Sapele timber for longer use; mangrove fan palm leaves roof was replaced by tiled roofs (according to Mr. Mao, head of Department of Culture of Thuong Long commune, at

that time, enough leaves for roof could still be collected; however, much labor was required since source of leaves was significantly reduced. The two stoves were then dismantled because it was not used for cooking during the use. The renovation expenditure (25 million VND (~1,190 USD)) was supported by Nam Dong district Department of Culture; the remaining expenditure is from residents' labor contribution. In reality, this project is a motivation to rebuild the TCH in the hamlets later on.

In the observation of the survey in September 2014, this TCH has degraded quite seriously. The main frame has been ramshackle; the wooden partition has been skewed and fallen down; the *Lo o* mat is seriously damaged. If there is no timely renovation measures, within a short time, it can be collapsed. According to leaders of Thuong Long commune, some traditional activities of commune have still been held here but with decreasing frequency. Realizing the degradation of house, the commune also intends to renovate but the lack of finance has made it impossible. Currently, the commune is waiting for support from higher authorities. It can be noticed that the successful implementation of this project has shown the important role of the ICCO in persuading and mobilizing local residents in Thuong Long commune to join the project at that time; however, local authorities are facing difficulties in maintaining this TCH.

4.7.2 CHs belonging to CBRIP

The alteration of the TCH in Nam Dong district have just rapidly occurred since the appearance of the two projects related to the CH construction supported by World Bank (WB) and Asian Development Bank (ADB). The first is the Community-Based Rural Infrastructure Project (CBRIP) which was deployed in 611 communes of 98 districts in 13 provinces in the Central from North Thanh Hoa to South Binh Thuan from 2001 to 2006 with the funding support of World Bank (WB) and corresponding capital of Vietnam government. The overall target of CBRIP is to alleviate starving and poverty in the rural communes by enhancing capacity of the communes in making plan and management having decentralization towards the development activities providing small-scale infrastructure based on community and creating direct income for the poor through employing labor for project construction.

In Nam Dong district, the TCH construction is a sub-project belonging to CBRIP. This sub-project was carried out from 2004 to 2006, supported to build 13 CHs in 13 hamlets of four communes including Thuong Nhat, Huong Son, Thuong Long and Thuong Quang.

The objectives of this sub-project are:

First, creating favorable conditions for hamlet residents in socio-politics activities such as meetings, community activities, studying, etc. Thereby, improving resident's intellectual

standards , making it convenient for interacting and inquiring among members of the community and the hamlets in commune and neighboring communes.

Second, the CH construction will create jobs, contributing to dealing with a part of labor and poverty alleviation. At the same time, it will improve the capacity for local residents as well as hamlet and commune leaders in the project management and implementation.

Third, strengthening infrastructure contributes to successfully implementing program of poverty alleviation in the hamlet and commune, preserving and promoting the traditional identity of the Katu ethnic minority.

The process of construction of CBRIP included the following steps:

Firsly, the selection of what form to build was discussed by hamlet residents. Two opposite opinions were mentioned during meetings, A number of residents, especially the old advocated the construction in which the traditional materials and form is used; however, some others agreed with the use of modern materials. Though the majority of them prefer the traditional type to modern type, but according to them, it is difficult to collect enough traditional materials to fully build a TCH. Finally, based on the discussed opinions and actual conditions, the project chief and the local authorities were unanimous to choose the new materials for frame and partition, the traditional materials for floor and roof. The hamlet residents collected and contributed the traditional materials such as timber for roof beams and floor beams, leaves for roof as well as taking part in some stages like leveling house foundation, digging, erecting floor and roof, and totally being responsible for the use and maintenance. Nevertheless, through the use process, the parts used with traditional materials such as roof and floor were degraded rapidly; meanwhile, the source of traditional materials for replacement has gradually been scarce. Hence, the thatched roof of some houses were replaced by corrugated iron sheets which is more durable and more easily to collect.

According to the results of surveys, at the time of the CH construction project of CBRIP was deployed, many hamlets have still maintained a TCH. However, since it was impossible to find the new ground for construction, many hamlets had to used the ground of this TCH to build the CH of the project. In some other hamlets, although there was new land area for construction and the old CH is degraded, impossible to renovate, as well as not being suitable with the new functional use, it was still dismantled when there was new one, more solid and wider. Therefore, wooden frame was sold for the outsiders with the price from 10 million VND to 20 million VND (~476 USD – 952 USD), and this sum of money was used in different purposes like buying buffalo for inauguration of the new CH or adding up to the funds to serve the hamlet activities.

According to the local leaders and the Katu residents, it was difficult to carry out the TCH reconstruction in conforming to the original form since to rebuild a CHs, a great quantity of timber, leaves, bamboo is needed. The decline of the primeval forest area has made it challenging to locate timber and leaves to construct traditional houses. In addition, because these materials are not durable, there must be a reserve of abundant resources for renovation at any time.

Table 4.4 Construction cost of the community house in A Mut hamlet Huong Son commune belonging to CBRIP

Name of subproject		Community house of A Mut hamlet – Huong Son commune		
Investor		Huong Son commune People's Committee		
Technical and architectural design		Thua Thien–Hue Construction Consultant Joint Stock		
Area of building		66.57 m^2		
Number of beneficiaries		207		
Item	Description	Amount		
A	**Construction cost**			**176,000,000 VND**
B	**Other cost**			**25,200,000 VND**
	Investment preparation	14.2% of construction cost		18,68,000 VND
	Construction supervision	2% of construction cost		3,520,000 VND
	Cost for management	1.7% of construction cost		2,992.000 VND
C	**Provision cost**	**5% of construction cost**		**8,800,000 VND**
A+B+C	**Total construction cost**			**210,000,000 VND**
	Major capital from WB	82.7% of total construction cost		173,712,000 VND
	Reciprocal capital from government	13.1% of total construction cost		27,488,000 VND
	Contributions of people	4.2% of total construction cost		8,800,000 VND
The contribution of beneficiaries				
No.	Item	Amount		
1	Digging land	40 m^3	30,000 VND/m^3	1,200,000 VND
2	Raising ground	20 m^3	25,000 VND/m^3	500,000 VND
3	Contributing wood (group 3)	0.6 m^3	5,000,000/m^3	3,000,000 VND
4	Collecting leaves for roofing	80 m^3	35,000 VND/m^3	2,800,000 VND
5	Contributing cash			1,300,000 VND
Total				**8,800,000 VND**

Table 4.5 Structural composition of the community house in A Mut hamlet

Main parts of	**Components**	**Materials**
Main structure	Pier foundation	Reinforced concrete, mark 200
	Central, main pillars	Reinforced concrete, mark 200
	Eaves, cross beams	Reinforced concrete, mark 200
Floor	Floor beams	Reinforced concrete, mark 200 (main beams), Sapele timber (secondary beams)
	Floor mat	*Lo o* (A kind of bamboo)
	Stair	Reinforced concrete, mark 200
Partition	Wall	Brick and cement mortar, painted layer
	Window, door	White Meranti timber (frame), glass
Roof	Roof beams	Merawan Giaza timber
	Purlin	*Lo o* (A kind of bamboo), rattan (round purlin)
	Ridge pole	Merawan Giaza timber
	Roofing	Thatched leaves
	Roof cresting	*Chua* timber (Cock pattern)

The tables 4.4 and 4.5 indicate the detailed construction cost and structural composition of the CH in A Mut hamlet, Huong Son commune belonging to sub-project of the CH construction of CBRIP. It can be seen that there are three sources of funding from several stakeholders in the CH construction project. However, the expenditure is primarily from the World Bank with

82.7%, while funding from the government is only 13.1%, and funding from local residents is minor, accounting for only 4.2%. This demonstrates that although the role of the community has been reviewed as the original objectives of the project, the level of community participation is still limited compared to the previous CH construction projects by NGOs since the construction is implemented with new method and material.

4.7.3 CH construction of Thua Thien–Hue Livelihood Improvement Project

The CH construction was one of the items of the sub-components of rural infrastructure development, under the component of income provision of TLIP. The targets of the project is to create place for meeting, academic exchange, democratic discussion to build community life of the hamlet and place for spirit of the ethnic minorities, whereby having good support for developing local community to acquire science and technology to serve their life, enhancing intellectual standards, and preserving national characters. The CH construction was one of the main tasks of the project. The project has built 99 CHs, averagely three houses in each commune. The first form is house simulating the TCH of the Katu ethnic minority but made of new materials such as brick wall, concrete pillar and beam, corrugated iron roof, or the second form is single-storey house on earth with roof in corrugated iron. Among 36 hamlets of six Katu communes in Nam Dong district, the project has built 21 CHs; among which 12 houses are simulated the TCH but are made of new materials; the ten remaining CHs are built in the form of single-storey house on earth. The CH construction process was primarily undertaken by the Kinh builders. The hamlet residents are only informed the plan. In the explanation of the board of project management and local leaders, the house was constructed by entirely modern materials because of the fact that, at that time, the hamlet residents could not be mobilized to collect traditional materials; there was only the labor contribution (including support pillar contribution, digging and material transportation). This could be explained by these two following reasons: Firstly, because of the forest protection polices of the government, the logging was illegal without the permission of the local authorities. Secondly, at that time, suppose that the application for logging was accepted, it was very difficult for the hamlet residents to collect enough necessary timber due to the serious decline of forest resources.

Figure 4.6 indicates the situation of the last previous TCHs in Nam Dong district and the treatment of hamlet residents with these TCHs when the MCHs belonging to government have been built there. 27 hamlets have own the TCH and the remaining nine hamlets have no TCH. There are three main ways to deal with these houses. Dismantling and selling is the most common way for 19 of 36 hamlets since, at that time, these houses were dilapidated and not capable of being renovated caused by the difficulties in collecting replacement materials.

Besides, the hamlet needs construction land and funds for the inauguration ceremony of new house. Four among 27 TCHs, according to the hamlet residents, have been too degraded which cannot be sold or renovated; thus, they are left alone. Only four TCHs in Doi hamlet, Thuong Lo commune; A Xang hamlet, Thuong Long commune, and A Ro and A Ka hamlet, Thuong Quang commune were retained when the CH by the government were built. However, only two of them have been used so far, and the TCH in A Ka hamlet was dismantled in 2013 due to serious degradation.

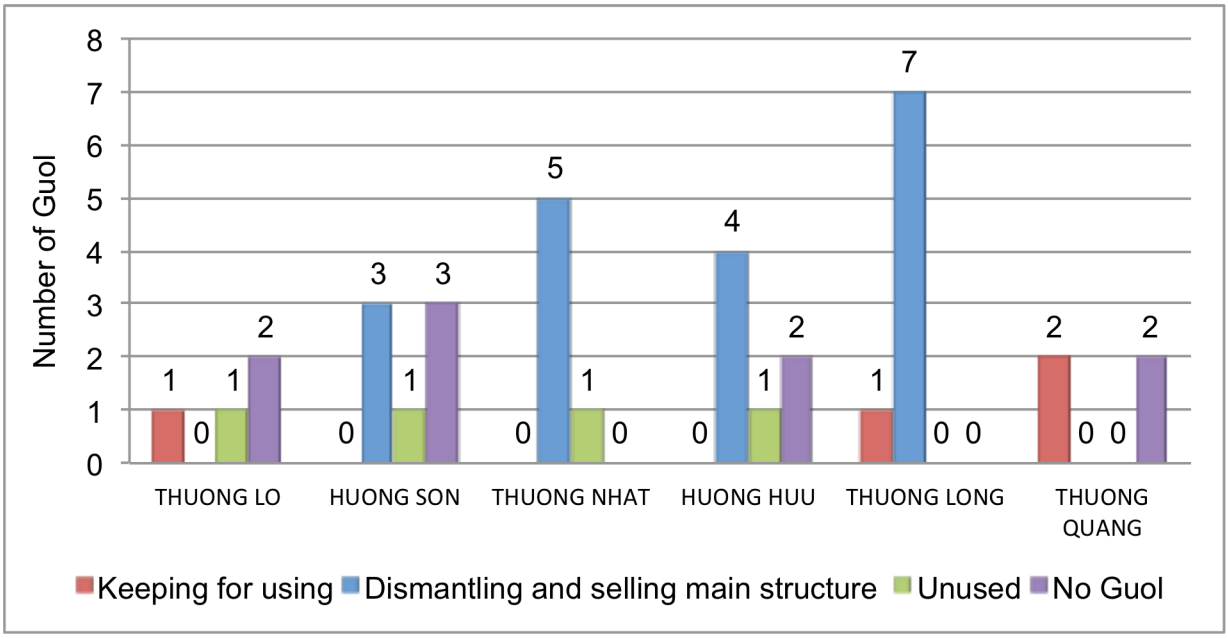


Figure 4.6 Treatment of hamlets towards previous TCH during establishment of CHs of government

4.7.4 Sub-project of TCH reconstruction belongs to Prodetour Project

The Prodetour Project is the abbreviation name of the Program of Ecotourism Development in Thua Thien–Hue province approved in the Decision No. 687/QD-UBND by Thua Thien–Hue province People's Committee with pilot model in Park Bach Ma national buffer zone and then expands to other areas. The project lasted three years (2011 – 2013) with the total budget of 632,320 EUR (~700,000 USD), primarily supported by Poitou-Charentes Council and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France. The project has six main components, in which there is a component of the CH construction with the funding of around 500 million VND (~23,809 USD) complying with traditional architectural form of the Katu ethnic minority, using available locally resources, specifically in the resettlement area of Ta Rinh hamlet [13], Thuong Nhat commune,

[13] Ta Rinh resettlement area was established in 2010 consisting of 44 households from three hamlets (Ta Rinh hamlet has 27 households, Lap hamlet has 14 households and A Tin hamlet has three households). The reason for the establishment of this resettlement area is that in the old hamlets, there were so many narrow resulting in the lack of cultivation land; therefore, when separating households, there is no land for living and cultivation and they have to

Nam Dong district, Thua Thien–Hue province. Initially, the house was managed by the hamlet; however, in the future, it will be delivered to the residents of the resettlement area when it is separated from the hamlet. The objective of this sub-project is to improve the livelihood of local residents through the participation in the TCH restoration, creating a place for community activities and tourism products through sightseeing and studying tours. According to Mr. Bien, Chairman of Thuong Nhat commune, the project encountered some difficulties, basically is the matter of land selection and clearance. The originally planned land area was in a different position; however, the contested compensation with hamlet residents resulted in selecting a different one. It was opposite the original land and owned by two households. The level of compensation has been agreed as follows: one was allocated with different land and one received compensation of 25 million VND (~1,190 USD). During the project, there were some changes compared with the original target. First is the change in construction manner. In the initial target, the hamlet residents would participate in activities such as collecting materials, processing and building the CH. However, according to a project manager of the project, due to difficulties in collecting materials, the demand of hamlet residents in remuneration, the investors changed the plan. A group of Kinh builders and carpenters from the plain were hired (40 million VND (~1,904 USD) for carpenters and 25 million VND (1,190 USD) for bricklayer), and they undertook all steps of construction process (Figure 4.7). Second was the kind of materials. In the original design, timber for the frame must be timber group 2, but in fact, the pillars were made of low-quality timber purchased from Quang Binh province. According to Mr. Bien, in fact, the house after completion had many features unlike with design drawings as the TCH are not jointed by steel brace and not nailed. For the roof, in the original unanimity, the hamlet residents would participate in covering the mangrove fan palm leaves roof (with remuneration), but, in fact, according to a leader of Thua Thien–Hue province Institute of Planning, because the local residents demanded high pay (17 million VND (~809 USD)), the roof was thatched by the builders of the project. A unique item which people in Ta Rinh hamlet were hired with ten million VND (~476 USD) was flooring with *Lo o* mat.

As observation in the survey in August 2014, although the CH is not officially used, it had signs of damage; the thin thatched roof results in signs of leakage; the *Lo o* mat has some broken parts due to the use of young and not soaked *Lo o*; some barks of partition is also peeled off.

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move to here. Each family is allocated two *"Sao"* (a unit of area called in Vietnamese traditional way; a "Sao" is equivalent to 497 m^2) including garden and building land. The government supports 15 million VND (~714 USD) per households for building the dwelling house. The hamlet residents here are mostly young families. The government assigns these households to plant rubber or acacia tree with the amount depending on the land they used to have in the old hamlet. Among them, there are a few household groups assigned to protect the forest.

The TCH construction Project in Ta Rinh hamlet has shown the efforts of local government to restore the Katu traditional culture in the current difficult conditions. However, the project has also shown a lack of cooperation between local communities and outside support organizations. Hamlet residents grasp very little information about the project and hardly participate in the construction process. Form of the house is incompatible with local traditional features and climate condition (high roof, small pillars) and made of poor quality materials. This is one of the causes for the degradation of the house even when it has not been used yet.

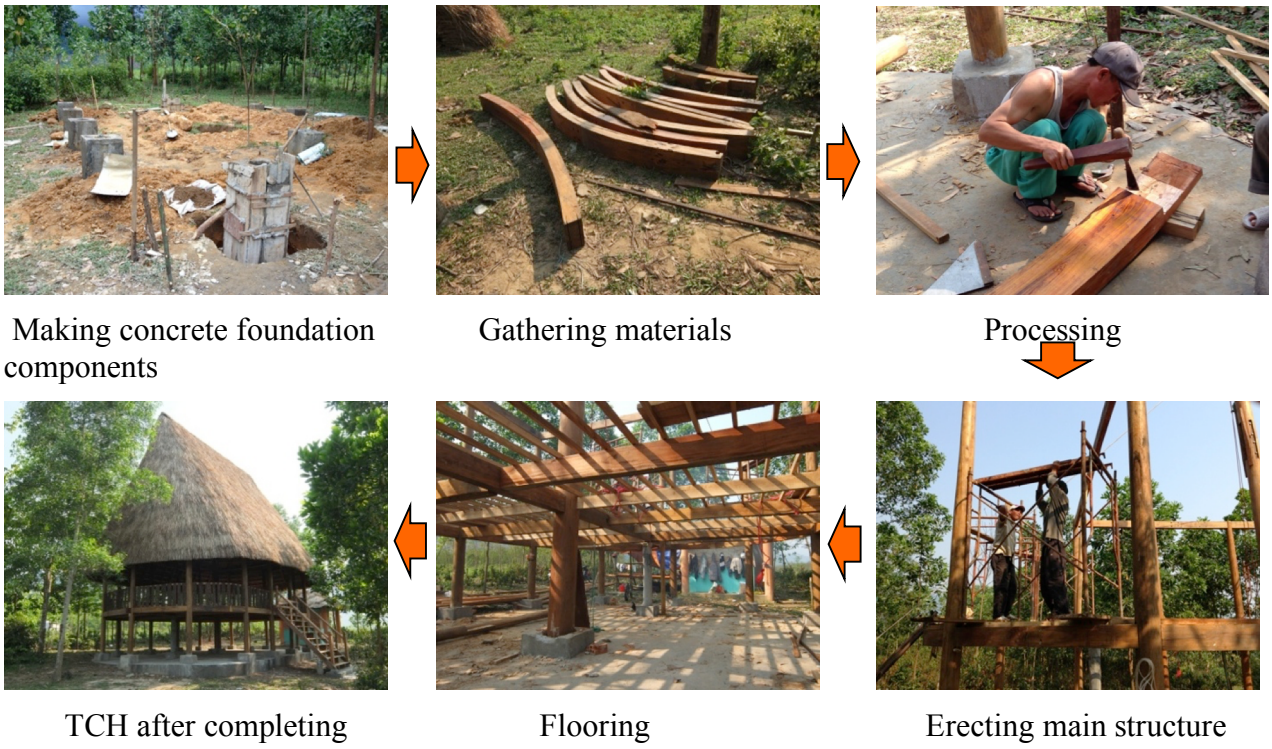


Figure 4.7 Steps of the S-TCH construction in Ta Rinh hamlet, Thuong Nhat commune

4.8 Causes of the transformation of TCHs in Nam Dong district

The causes of the Katu TCH transformation can be summarized as follows:

- **Long distance due to relocation**

The change in living environment from the high mountains which has abundant forest resources to the lowlands, far from forest resources since the 1970s due to the government's policies has made the capacity to build the TCH more difficult since the hamlet residents need to go further to collect materials.

- **Decline of forest resources**

In the past, the Katu ethnics merely exploited an amount of timber sufficient for the needs of communities and individuals of hamlets (mainly for building and maintaining the CH and dwelling house). At that time, forestry products, especially timber was very abundant and was not

a commercial product like present. However, in recent decades, when timber is increasingly becoming a valuable commercial product, the need for timber of society is increasingly. This causes illegal forest products exploitation including timber of the local residents to sell to the outside for profit. This has led to the decline of current forest resources.

- **Changes in livelihoods**

The transformation in the livelihood from nomadic to sedentary farming and wet rice planting has made the Katu ethnics lose the linkage with the forest. Besides, the conversion of a part of natural forest land to industrial plantation such as rubber, acacia trees has made natural forest areas considerably narrow.

- **Decline of community linkage**

Previously, the Katu hamlet was located separately from other communities. Most of the members of the hamlet had a close relationship with each other. The TCH was the unique place for community activities and played an indispensable role. Currently, living in the open hamlet, close to the other communities, the Katu ethnics, especially young people have favorable conditions to contact outside. Therefore, they have gradually been affected by alien cultures. Besides, members in some hamlets are not only the original residents of the hamlet but also the people immigrating from other ethnic groups, mainly the Kinh. That leads to the conflict in solving some affairs of hamlet due to cultural differences, including the TCH construction and conservation.

- **Policies on forest of the government**

Due to serious decline of forest resources, Vietnam government has issued several policies on forest protection. Presently, the annual amount of timber permitted for logging in Nam Dong district is very limited and only in a number of certain sub-areas. Since 1990s, the logging needs permission from local government; however, the permission procedure for logging is complex and needs relevant multi-departments. Previously, local authorities also had policies to allow local people to exploit a certain amount of timber to build dwelling house through Program 134. Currently, the logging for individual and community needs is limited and is primarily undertaken by forestry companies.

- **Policies on land ownership**

In the past, land resources are very abundant in the Katu hamlets, belonging to common ownership. Therefore, choosing a good position to build the TCH is very easy. Since 1993 when the Land Law was promulgated, residential and farming land gradually owned by the residents. Consequently, the common land area is gradually shrunk. Therefore, the selection of favorable

position of land for constructing the TCH is difficult. In fact, there are many areas of land of E-CHs now must be solicited or purchased from residents.

- **Policies on CH construction**

In recent decades, local governments have implemented several projects to build the CHs in the Nam Dong district. As a result, all current Katu hamlets in the district have the CHs. Among them, some TCHs have been restored in the traditional methods in some earlier projects. However, policy of local government on modernizing the CH of the later projects has caused the appearance of many MCHs and the disappearance of some TCHs which used to exist before.

- **The decline of patriarch council's role**

The change from autonomous hamlet with the supremacy of the patriarch council to semi-autonomous hamlet under the management of the local government has made the role of the patriarch council become secondary. They are unable to decide some affairs of the hamlet. They merely play as a reference role for local authorities in some important work. In some TCH construction projects, the opinions of elders have not been respected. This is also one of the causes contributing to the appearance of the CHs like today.

- **The decline of indigenous knowledge in the communities**

The change from lifestyle closely associated with forest to the lifestyle separated from the forest has made indigenous knowledge to select suitable timber more difficult. Besides, the application of new techniques in the TCH construction has caused the decrease of traditional construction techniques in communities since they have no opportunity to apply them in practice as well as transferring these techniques to the next generations. The residents who hold the traditional construction techniques become less and less. This is also an obstacle to rebuild the TCH in their hamlets.

- **The appearance of modern materials**

New materials such as concrete, bricks, tiles, cement have obvious advantages such as durability and easy to collect, while traditional materials have short-term characteristic in use, and difficult to seek; therefore, the tendency to use new materials in the construction of dwelling house of the Katu residents recently becomes very popular. The Katu hamlets located in areas which are very close to the Kinh areas, and the transportation is also convenient, so it is easy to purchase new materials. This is also the cause for a majority of Katu residents to accept to construct MCHs in their hamlet.

- **The change in functional use**

The community activities of the Katu ethnics currently have changed a lot compared to the past. The traditional activities have been gradually decreasing while new activities have been increasing. The TCH is not conformable to some new activities such as training activities (illiterate eradication education and agricultural techniques propagation) since some equipment such as tables, chairs, boards, television, and loudspeakers are needed. Therefore, the TCH seemed no longer appropriate for some new functions.

4.9 Conclusion of the chapter

Nam Dong district was formed based on the two communities. One is the indigenous community who are mainly the Katu ethnics living in this area for a long time ago, and one alien community who are mainly Kinh people come from the plains by the policy on building new economic zones of the Central government since the 1975. The interaction between these communities has led to the strong change in traditional lifestyle of the Katu ethnics here.

One of the significant findings of the research is identification of the changes in the characteristics of the 36 Katu hamlets in Nam Dong district through four periods. In the period before the 1960s of the 20th century, the Katu hamlets lived separately in mountainous areas bordering Quang Nam province, Laos or A Luoi district; the form of the hamlet was basically a circular shape with some clans living in big or small houses on stilts directing towards the TCH. Between the period of the 1960s and 1970s, the hamlet residents had to move into the jungle and divided into small groups; dwelling houses were built simply for both shelter and war evasion. Then they moved to lowland areas to settle by the movement of revolutionary government since 1970s. From the role of an independent social unit, self-contained, self-sufficient, the Katu hamlet then became a social unit in the management system of the government. The cultivation form transferred from nomadic to sedentary; the housing form transferred from the house on stilts made of traditional materials to the single-storey house on earth with the combination of traditional and modern materials or with completely modern style at the later time.

The alteration of the hamlet leading to the change of the TCH is an inevitable impact. Four periods of the CH alteration in Nam Dong district has been identified, and it can be summarized in table 4.6. Before 1960s, the TCHs were one of an integral part of the hamlet structure. These houses existed continuously during a long period in the Katu hamlets with similar form and materials; however, from 1960s to 1970s, the TCHs temporarily did not exist since there were no conditions for re-erection by the war impacts. Since 1970s, the TCHs have been gradually rebuilt; however, different conditions in the hamlets result in uniformity. 68 previous TCHs had been identified in 36 current hamlets after 1970s. To the characteristics of these TCHs, the result of the research has indicated that the elements such as position, the abundance of natural resources, and

the unity decide the TCHs characteristics. Some hamlets in Thuong Long, Thuong Quang communes during this period were far from district center, less influenced by outside, close to natural resources; therefore, they remained somewhat identity and had condition to rebuild many TCHs. Meanwhile, some hamlets in different communes such as Thuong Lo and Huong Huu merely erected one TCH and even no TCH since they are located near the district center, far away from material resources and mixed-group settlement (Katu and Kinh groups). The research has also shown that the existence of the TCHs in this period had interruption in terms of time, and although the traditional materials were still used, there were differences in size, structure (number of compartments, number of pillars). The number of the TCHs which have two middle compartments, two lean-tos, and one central pillar made up majority. Besides, the variations of this type with two central pillars or no pillar, from three to five compartments and lean-tos were rather popular during this time.

Table 4.6 Transformation of community houses of Nam Dong district

Before the 1960s	Between the 1960s and the 1970s	From 1970s to 2000s	2000s onward
• Uniform structures (oval or round shapes) • Completely used with local traditional materials • Unfailingly having stoves, Skull of wild animals below roof • Simple decoration on components (pillar, cross and eaves beam, etc.) • Head-cock cresting gables • Pillars fixed deep into the ground • Using sub-pillar to support floor • Rough-hewn technique • Whittling – grafting binding joints	Disappearance of the TCH because of temporary living condition due to war (The TCH still existed in some hamlet during this period but it is rare)	• Uniform structures (oval or round shapes) • Completely used with local traditional materials • Disappearance of stoves, wild animal skull in some cases • Simple decoration on components (pillar, cross and eaves beam, etc.) • Head-cock cresting gables • Pillars fixed deep into the ground • Using sub-pillar to support floor • Rough-hewn technique • Whittling – grafting – binding joints	• Diversity in form (five types identified) • Diversity in materials (timber, leaves, bamboo, concrete, brick, tile, etc.) • Application of modern construction technique (• Change and variety of using function • No stove (types 3, 4, 5) • No decoration on components (types 3, 4, 5) • Head-cock cresting gables • Disappearance of sub-pillar in some cases • Mortise-and-tenon join technique • Pillars propped onto the rock

The alteration of the CHs strongly has taken place after 2000s with the variety of forms, construction methods, and materials resulting from different CHs construction project supported by the government and NGOs. Many projects of the CH construction under the poverty alleviation and livelihood improvement programs of the local government have been established in Nam Dong district. The first projects of NGOs (NAV, ICCO, SNV) applied traditional methods to build the CHs in a few hamlets, while the projects of CBRIP or CLIP focused on quantity of buildings rather than consideration of conserving the traditional elements; therefore,

these CHs were built with partly or entirely new material. The role of stakeholders (communities, local government and outside organizations) in the CH construction projects in Nam Dong district can be summarized in table 4.7 as follows:

Table 4.7 Role of stakeholders in CH construction projects in Nam Dong district

Community house supported by NAV, ICCO and SNV	Community house of CBRIP supported by WB	Community house of CLIP supported by ADB
Preparation process • Oriented by NGOs and local government • Partly funding supported by NGOs • Design by experienced elderly in hamlet	**Preparation process** • Orientation and organization by CBRIP and local government • Main cost is supported by WB • Corresponding fund by central government • Designed by consulting company with legal status	**Preparation process** • Orientation and organization by CLIP and local authorities • Main cost supported by WB • Corresponding fund by central government • Designed by consulting company with legal status
Construction process • Undertaken by the hamlet people in all steps (materials collection and process, house erection, inauguration ceremony and so on) • Direction and financial support by project staff	• Construction process • Construction contractor selected by the commune People's Committee. • Construction and supervision by the Kinh team designated by commune. • Materials collection and roof and floor erected by hamlet residents	**Construction process** • The construction contractor is selected by the provincial government • Contribution on formwork and material transportation is of hamlet residents
Operation and maintenance process • Undertaken by designated hamlet group • Maintenance cost contributed by hamlet residents and local government	**Operation and maintenance process** • Undertaken by designated hamlet group • Maintenance cost contributed by hamlet residents and local government	**Operation and maintenance process** • Undertaken by hamlet designated group • Maintenance cost contributed by hamlet residents and local government

CHAPTER 5. TYPOLOGY OF THE E-CHs IN NAM DONG DISTRICT

Among the projects invested in Nam Dong district from the past until now, the CH construction is one of the main targets of the project. These CHs help the hamlet residents organize the public activities. Depending on the conditions of the project and the characteristics of each commune, the number of hamlets in these communes participating in these projects would be different. One common characteristic of these projects is the participation of many stakeholders such as local authorities, NGOs, and local community. Through these projects, many E-CHs have been built in many hamlets of the communes in Nam Dong district. However, the different approaches of these projects have created the variation of form of the E-CHs in this area.

Out of all the 36 Katu hamlets in six communes, 43 E-CHs were identified by the field surveys, and their distribution is shown in Figure 5.1. Based on the criteria of building forms, using materials, and construction methods they can be classified into the five following types (Table 5.1):

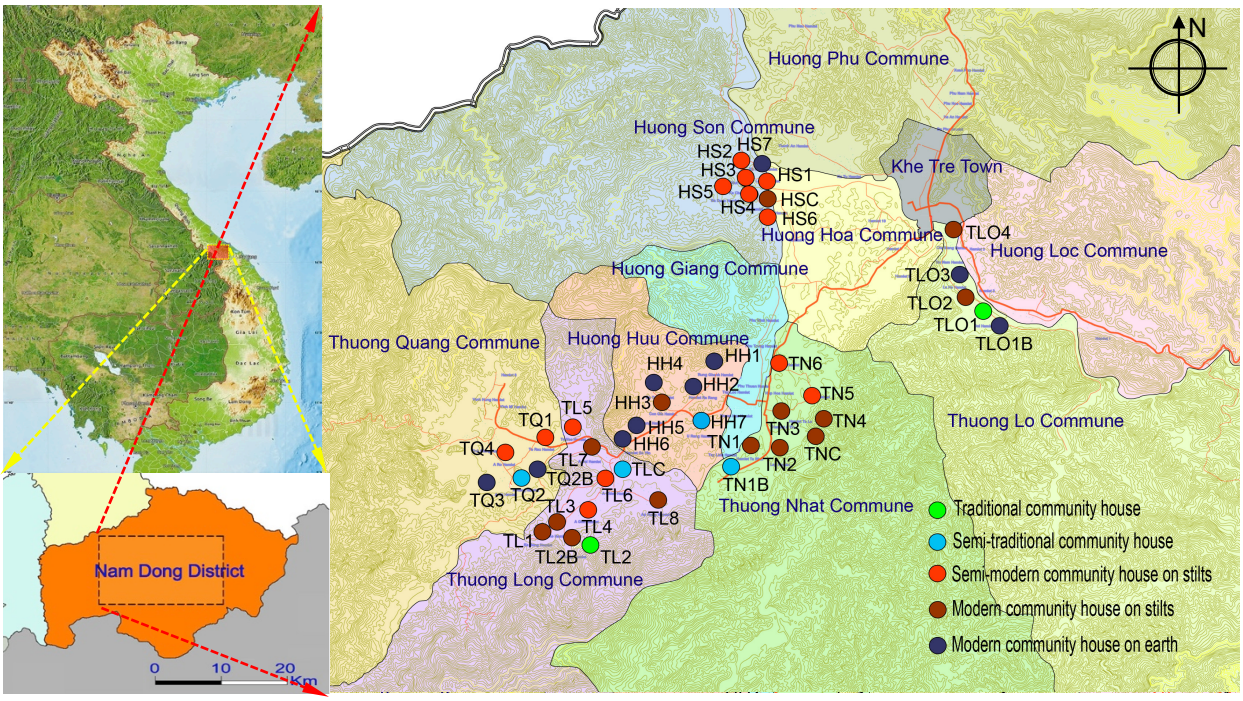


Figure 5.1 Distribution of 43 surveyed existing community houses in Nam Dong district

Table 5.1 Typology and profile of existing community houses in six commune of Nam Dong district

Commune	No.	Hamlet	Type	Donating Organization	Construction Year	Construction Cost
Thuong Lo	TLO1	Doi	**Type 1**	**SNV**	**2004**	**20 million VND (~952 USD) + Residents' labor**
	TLO1B		Type 5	CLIP	2008	180 million VND (~8,571 USD)
	TLO2	La Ho	Type 4	CLIP	2006	169 million VND (~8,047 USD)
	TLO3	Mu Nam	Type 5	CLIP	2006	140 millions VND (~6,666 USD)
	TLO4	Cha Mang	Type 4	CLIP	2006	169 million VND (~8,047 USD)
Huong Son	HS1	La Hia	Type 3	CBRIP	2004	105 million VND (~5,000 USD)
	HS2	A Mut	Type 3	CBRIP	2006	210 million VND (~10,000 USD)
	HS3	Ka Che	Type 3	CBRIP	2005	145 million VND (~6,904 USD)
	HS4	A Lot	Type 3	CBRIP	2004	105 million VND (~5,000 USD)
	HS5	Ba Dược	Type 3	CBRIP	2006	210 million VND (~10,000 USD)
	HS6	A Den	Type 3	CBRIP	2005	145 million VND (~6,904 USD)
	HS7	Ka Dang	Type 5	CLIP	2008	180 million VND (~8,571USD)
	HSC	Commune Ownership	Type 4	Vietnamese Central Government	2012	4.9 billion VND (~233,333 USD)
Thuong Nhat	TN1	Ta Ring	Type 4	CLIP	2008	280 million VND (~13,333 USD)
	TN1B		Type 2	Poitou-Charentes	2014	500 million VND (~10,500 USD)
	TN2	Lap	Type 4	CLIP	2007	225 million VND (~10,714 USD)
	TN3	A Tin	Type 4	CLIP	2007	225 million VND (~10,714 USD)
	TN4	Ta Lu	Type 4	CLIP	2008	280 million VND (~13,333USD)
	TN5	A Xach	Type 3	CBRIP	2004	95.5 million VND (~4,574 USD)
	TN6	La Van	Type 3	CBRIP	2004	95.5 million VND (~4,574 USD)
	TNC	Commune Ownership	Type 4	Budget by Bach Ma National Park	2010	2 billion VND (~95,238 USD)
Huong Huu	HH1	Rong Ghenh	Type 5	CLIP	2008	200 million VND (~9,523 USD)
	HH2	Ra Rang	Type 5	CLIP	2008	200 million VND (~9,523 USD)
	HH3	Con Gia	Type 4	Vietnamese Central Government	2007	500 million VND (~23,809 USD)
	HH4	Ba Tang	Type 5	CLIP	2008	200 million VND (~9,523 USD)
	HH5	Ra Dang	Type 5	CLIP	2008	200 million VND (~9,523 USD)
	HH6	Ga Hin	Type 5	CLIP	2008	200 million VND (~9,523 USD)
	HH7	U Rang	Type 2	NAV	1990	15 million VND (~714 USD) + Residents' labor
Thuong Long	TL1	Ka Dong	Type 4	CLIP	2007	225 million VND (~10,714 USD)
	TL2	A Xang	**Type 1**	**No**	**2003**	**Residents' labor**
	TL2B		Type 4	CLIP	2008	240 million VND (~11,428 USD)
	TL3	Cha Ke	Type 4	CLIP	2008	240 million VND (~11,428 USD)
	TL4	A Gon	Type 3	CBRIP	2005	147 million VND (~7,000 USD)
	TL5	Te Vac	Type 3	CBRIP	2004	97.6 million (~4,674 USD)
	TL6	A Chieu	Type 3	CBRIP	2005	147million VND (~7,000 USD)
	TL7	A Dai	Type 4	CLIP	2007	225 million VND (~10,714 USD)
	TL8	Ap Rung	Type 4	CLIP	2008	240 million VND (~11,428 USD)
	TLC	Commune Ownership	Type 2	ICCO	2000	6 million VNĐ (~285 USD) + Residents' labor
Thuong Quang	TQ1	Ta Rau	Type 3	CBRIP	2004	105 million VND (~5,000 USD)
	TQ2	A Rang	Type 2	NAV	2002	25 million VND (~1,190 USD) + Residents' labor
	TQ2B		Type 5	CLIP	2008	234 million VND (~11,142 USD)
	TQ3	A Ka	Type 5	CLIP	2008	234 million VND (~11,142 USD)
	TQ4	A Ro	Type 3	CBRIP	2004	145 million VND (~6,904 USD)

5.1 Type 1 – Traditional community house

Traditional community house (TCH) having an oval-shaped floor which was connected by wooden frames, erected conforming to the traditional materials and constructed by hamlet residents. The number of these houses is becoming fewer. Currently, there are only two TCHs in A Xang (TL2) and Doi hamlets (TLO1) which have still been used until now (Figure 5.2).

Among them, only the TCH in A Xang hamlet was completely built by the contribution of hamlet residents, ICCO only supports one million VND for inauguration. While the TCH in Doi hamlet belongs to the sub-projects of the TCH restoration of the government and partially funded by SNV (see details of these houses in Chapter 6). Regarding the construction method and material collection of the TCH in Doi hamlet, the hamlet community was the key factor in its organization and construction. The roles of the commune, district, and SNV were limited to orientation, supervision, and financial support. These TCHs were designed by the patriarch; meanwhile, the residents themselves sought and collected materials from three to six months. Then, under the supervision of the patriarch, the Katu builders erected the TCHs in the traditional method within one month. According to patriarch Ra Pat Grooc, until recently, these houses have been degraded, especially the roofs and floors, and it is difficult to collect enough replacement materials for renovation. In the first and second field trips in 2013, except for the two above-mentioned, there was one more TCH in A Ka hamlet, Thuong Quang commune was found. According to the hamlet leader, when the house was in use (before 2007), it was one of the most beautiful TCHs in Nam Dong district. After 2007, however, the appearance of the adjacent MCH-E belongs to CLIP project funded by the ADB, along with the difficulty in collecting traditional replacement materials, has rendered this TCH useless. A hamlet leader has pointed out that some outside people have asked to buy the frame, but the hamlet decided to retain and hoped to have aids of local authorities or some organizations for renovation of this house. It was a pity that the house was dismantled in December 2013 due to mostly complete corruption and impossibility of reconstruction.



TLO1 – Doi hamlet



TL2 – A Xang hamlet

Figure 5.2 Type 1 – Traditional community houses

5.2 Type 2 – Semi-traditional community house

Semi-traditional community house (S-TCH), a kind of the TCH but changed on using



HH7 – U Rang hamlet, Huong Huu



TLC – Thuong Long commune



TN1B – Ta Ring hamlet, Thuong Nhat



TQ2 – A Rang hamlet, Thuong Quang

Figure 5.3 Type 2 – Semi-traditional community houses

materials and form in some parts, or in construction method, seen in the projects by Interchurch Organization for Development Co-operation, Netherlands (ICCO) and Nordic Assistance to Vietnam (NAV) and Prodetour – France. Four S-TCHs were identified, three of which were built between 1990s and 2000s (Figure 5.3). For these three S-TCHs, the hamlet residents were active in designing, collecting materials, and constructing with the financial support of NAV (HH7 and TQ2) and ICCO (TLC); nevertheless, there were changes in the shape and materials in some parts of the house such as the S-TCH in U Rang Hamlet, Huong Huu commune with square main pillars, no central pillar, and tiled roof (it was a thatched roof before 1996), or the S-TCH in Thuong Long commune's ownership (it was a thatched roof before 2009). At present, it has degraded, despite its renovations, due to infrequent use and lack of maintenance. Two central pillars were seen in the S-TCH in A Rang hamlet, Thuong Quang commune, and its roof in traditional rattan leaves was replaced by corrugated metal sheets in 2011. The 4th S-TCH of this type belonging to Prodetour Project located in the Ta Ring hamlet was recently completed in May 8th in 2014 (TN1B). This S-TCH was built mainly with traditional materials, yet it was

constructed by outside builders with materials purchased from outside.

5.3 Type 3 – Semi-modern community house on stilts

Semi-modern community house on stilts (S-MCH) simulates the TCH but are made of both traditional and modern materials. All of these houses belong to the Community Based Rural Infrastructure Project (CBRIP) and supported by World Bank (WB). 13 S-MCHs were built and scattered in four communes, including La Hia (HS1), A Mut (HS2), Ka Che (HS3), A Lot (HS4), Ba Duoc (HS5), and A Den (HS6) hamlets in Huong Son commune; A Xach (TN5) and La Van (TN6) hamlets in Thuong Nhat commune; A Gon (TL4), Te Vac (TL5), and A Chieu (TL6) hamlets in Thuong Long commune; Ta Rau (TQ1) and A Ro (TQ4) hamlets in Thuong Quang commune (Figure 5.4). These are the subprojects within the scope of the government's CBRIP that was deployed from 2004 to 2006, costing 95.5 million VND to 210 million VND (~4,574 USD – 10,000 USD) for each, depending on the construction time and ability of each hamlet. Among them, WB is the primary financial support, accounting for 80% of the total capital, 15% of which is the corresponding capital of the government; the hamlet residents contribute 5%.

For this type, the hamlet first organized a meeting to collect ideas for choosing the prior work of small projects among designated works of the project (road, kindergarten, health center and so on). After that, they submitted the report to the commune. The work which was chosen most from hamlet residents would be the first priority. Next was a meeting at the commune level to decide which work to construct. Finally, they submitted to the district to make the last decision. Most of the hamlets decided to choose the CH as a prior work. These S-MCHs were designed by outside design companies guided by the ideas of the hamlet's commune leaders.

The Kinh workers built the main frame, simultaneously coordinated with the hamlet residents to contribute traditional materials such as timbers for roof beam and purlin, leaves for roofing, *Lo o* for floor mat, and also participated in erecting the floor and roof (some households could contribute from 200,000 VND to 300,000 VND (~9.5 USD – 14 USD) instead of the materials). These houses were deployed between 2003 and 2006, first in two hamlets of Thuong Nhat commune and then to Huong Son, Thuong Long, and Thuong Quang communes. During use, some parts of a several houses have been replaced by more durable materials, such as thatched roof to corrugated iron sheet roof or bamboo partition to wooden board partition. The expenditure for renovation was partly covered by Program 135 of the government.

Architectural form of the type 3 is basically structure of house on stilts with from ten to 12 surrounding pillars and one central pillar prolonging to the roof; besides, there are some sub-pillars to support the mat. The main power-bearing frame such as foundation, pillars, roof beams,



TN5 – A Xach hamlet, Thuong Nhat



TN6 – La Van hamlet, Thuong Nhat



HS1 – La Hia hamlet, Huong Son



HS2 – A Mut hamlet, Huong Son



HS3 – Ka Che hamlet, Huong Son



HS4 – A Lot hamlet, Huong Son



HS5 – Ba Duoc hamlet, Huong Son



HS6 – A Den hamlet, Huong Son



TL4 – A Gon hamlet, Thuong Long



TL5 – Te Vac hamlet, Thuong Long



TL6 – A Chieu hamlet, Thuong Long



TQ1 – Ta Rau hamlet, Thuong Quang



TQ4 – A Ro hamlet, Thuong Quang

Figure 5.4 Type 3 – Semi-modern community houses on stilts

stairs is made of reinforced concrete, 220 cm-thick brick wall. The floor beams are made of timber, above is the *Lo o* mat (TN6, HS2, HS3, HS4, HS5, HS6) or wooden planks (HS1, TL4, TL5, TL6, TQ1, TQ4) and reinforced concrete (TN5).

The roof of all the S-MCHs is originally covered with rattan leaves or mangrove fan palm leaves, bamboo rafters, and wooden roof beams, but then some of them have been replaced by corrugated metal sheets and wooden purlin (TN5, TN6, HS3, HS4, TL4, TL5, TL6, TQ1, TQ4). Figure 5.5 shows the roofing replacement of the CH in A Gon hamlet, Thuong Long commune from originally traditional material (thatched leaves) to modern material (corrugated iron sheets) due to lack of traditional materials resources in surrounding areas.



Figure 5.5 Thatched leave roof (left) Replaced by metal sheets since 2012 (right)

According to local people, initially, the mats of all houses were made of *Lo o*; the roof were covered with leaves, but due to the undurable characteristic of these materials, every few years, hamlet residents had to strenuously collect the leaves and *Lo o* to renovate. Some hamlets have replaced *Lo o* by wooden planks, the thatched roof by corrugated metal sheets for long-term use, although most of the residents still prefer thatched roofs and *Lo o* mat.

Most of the houses of type 3 have two doors (except HS2, HS5 with four doors) and six windows in wooden frame (mainly is Merawan Giaza timber). The interior is not decorated; on the wall, the merits of the hamlet are hung; some furniture such as tables, chairs, podiums, and screens is arranged for meetings. The area is basically the same (65 – 67 m^2). The HS5, HS6 were built later (2006) and based on the people's suggestions; therefore, there is surrounding corridor and two side doors for practical activities.

5.4 Type 4 – Modern community house on stilts

Modern community house on stilts (MCH-S) which simulates the TCH but is completely built with modern materials and construction method, mostly seen in the Central Livelihood



TLO2 – La Ho hamlet, Thuong Lo



TLO4 – Cha Mang hamlet, Thuong Lo



HSC – Huong Son ownership



TN1 – Ta Ring hamlet, Thuong Nhat



TN2 – Lap hamlet, Thuong Nhat



TN3 – A Tin hamlet, Thuong Nhat



TN4 – Ta Lu hamlet, Thuong Nhat



TNC – Thuong Nhat ownership



HH3 – Con Gia hamlet, Huong Huu



TL1 – Ka Dong hamlet, Thuong Long



TL2B – A Xang hamlet, Thuong Long



TL3 – Cha Ke hamlet, Thuong Long



TL7 – A Dai hamlet, Thuong Long



TL8 – Ap Rung hamlet, Thuong Long

Figure 5.6 Type 4 – Modern community houses on stilts

Improvement Project (CLIP), mostly supported by Asian Development Bank (ADB) and 5% of contribution from the hamlet residents. The project was deployed from 2005 to 2009, and 11 MCH-Ss were built with the financial support from 169 million VND to 280 million VND (~8,047 USD – 13,333 USD) for each. This type of house can be found in Cha Mang (TLO4) and La Ho (TLO2) hamlets, Thuong Lo commune; Ta Ring (TN1), Lap (TN2), A Tin (TN3), and Ta Lu (TN4) hamlets, Thuong Nhat commune; Ka Dong (TL1), A Xang (TL2B), Cha Ke (TL3), A Dai (TL7), and Ap Rung (TL8) hamlets, Thuong Long commune (Figure 5.6). These houses were designed by outside design companies, and the outside builders almost undertook all construction steps. The hamlet residents only participated in transporting materials, leveling foundation, and contributing formwork-propping pillars. According to the hamlet and commune leaders, the houses sponsored by ADB were deployed later, and at that time, it was harder to mobilize the hamlet residents to collect traditional materials because of the government's forest protection policy; therefore, the hamlet residents no longer assume responsibility for the project. Basically, the type 4 are the type of house on stilts like type 3 with the power-bearing reinforced concrete frame, wooden purlin, corrugated metal sheets, 220 cm-thick brick wall, tiled floor, glass doors, windows with wooden frame. However, there are three different forms based on the years of construction. The sub-type 1 is TLO2 and TLO4 having the largest scale (90 m^2) with the total expenditure of around 169 million VND (~8,571 USD), built in 2006 without surrounding corridor. The sub-type 2 (TN2, TN3, TL1, TL7) are the houses having floor area of 75 m^2, built in 2007 with 17 surrounding pillars, three central pillars, surrounding corridor, three doors and 12 windows. The sub-type 3 (TN1, TN4, TL2B, TL3, TL8) have the same scale as sub-type 2, built in 2007 with the total expenditure of 280 million VND (~13,333 USD) with 12 side pillars, one central pillar, surrounding corridor and four doors, and 12 windows (TL2B, TL3, TL8) or no surrounding corridor and two doors, and 14 windows (TN1, TN4). Since the roof is covered with corrugated metal sheet, there is an expanse between the roof and the wall so that the air can be convected, and the house will be cooler in the summer; yet, colder in the winter.

In addition, in Nam Dong district, there are three large-sized MCHs to use for whole commune), which also belong to type 4. The first is the MCH-S in Huong Huu commune (HH3), which was built in 2007 with the funding of 500 million VND (~10,500 USD), supported by the Ministry of Culture, Sport and Tourism. This MCH-S has later been handed over to Con Gia hamlet to manage and use since 2009. The next is the MCH-S in Thuong Nhat commune (TNC), which was built in Ta Lu hamlet, Thuong Nhat commune in 2010 with capital of two billion VND (~95,238 USD), supported by Bach Ma National Park with the aim at using for the activities of the commune and Bach Ma National Park. Another one is the MCH-S in Huong Son commune (HSC), built in 2012 with the expenditure of 4.9 billion VND (~233,333 USD) by the

governmental budget. One common characteristic of these projects is that all of them are simulated traditional type but made of completely new materials, undertaken by the outside builders, and there was no community participation in any of these projects.

5.5 Type 5 – Modern community house on earth



TLO1B – Doi hamlet, Thuong Lo



TLO3 – Mu Nam hamlet, Thuong Lo



HS7 – Ka Dang hamlet, Huong Son



HH1 – Rong Ghenh hamlet, Huong Huu



HH2 – Ra Rang hamlet, Huong Huu



HH4 – Ba Tang hamlet, Huong Huu



HH5 – Ra Dang hamlet, Huong Huu



HH6 – Ga Hin hamlet, Huong Huu



TQ2B – A Rang hamlet, Thuong Quang



TQ3 – A Ka hamlet, Thuong Quang

Figure 5.7 Type 5 – Modern community houses on earth

Modern community house on earth (MCH-E) also belongs to CLIP supported by ADB, which is similar to the Kinh ethnics'. Ten MCH-Es were built with the construction cost from 140 million VND to 234 million VND (~6,666 USD – 11,142 USD) for each, and they can be

found in Doi and Mu Nam hamlets in Thuong Lo commune (TLO1B, TLO3); Ka Dang hamlet in Huong Son commune (HS7); Rong Ghenh (HH1), Ra Rang (HH2), Ba Tang (HH4), Ra Dang (HH5), and Ga Hin (HH6) hamlets in Huong Huu commune; A Rang (TQ2B) and A Ka (TQ3) hamlets in Thuong Quang commune (Figure 5.7). All the MCH-Es of type 5 are houses on earth, use completely new materials such as foundation, and pillars are made of reinforced concrete, 220 centimeters-thick brick wall, steel roof beams, corrugated iron sheet, type 3 wooden doors, windows, and tiled floor. Among them, TLO1B, HS7, HH1, HH2, HH4, HH4, HH6, TQ2B, and TQ3 have similar form, while TLO3 and HH5 have different form from above-mentioned MCH-Es. For this type, outside workers undertook entirely in construction process; hamlet residents did not participate in any step.

5.6 Location and orientation of existing CHs

In the construction manner of the Katu ethnics, the direction of the house frequently plays an essential role, and it is one of the elements to be initially considered. According to them, the TCH cannot direct to the West since the Katu ethnics believe the West is of ghosts and the dead. The best direction is the South so that the direction of life can easily be seen and help avoid the direct sunlight. However, later, the direction becomes secondary because of the land position and construction conditions. In the survey result, 43 E-CHs in 36 hamlets have different directions.

Figure 5.8 shows the direction of E-CHs. There are seven directions to be found, 14 E-CHs direct to Northeast, accounting the most, next is Southeast with eight E-CHs, and six E-CHs direct to the Southwest. Only two E-CHs direct to the West, and especially, no E-CH directs to the East. In the hamlet residents's explanation, the current structure of the hamlet is very different from previously. The people primarily live along the main road; therefore, the E-CHs depends on position of the road (often directs to main road so that it will be convenient for gather residents at

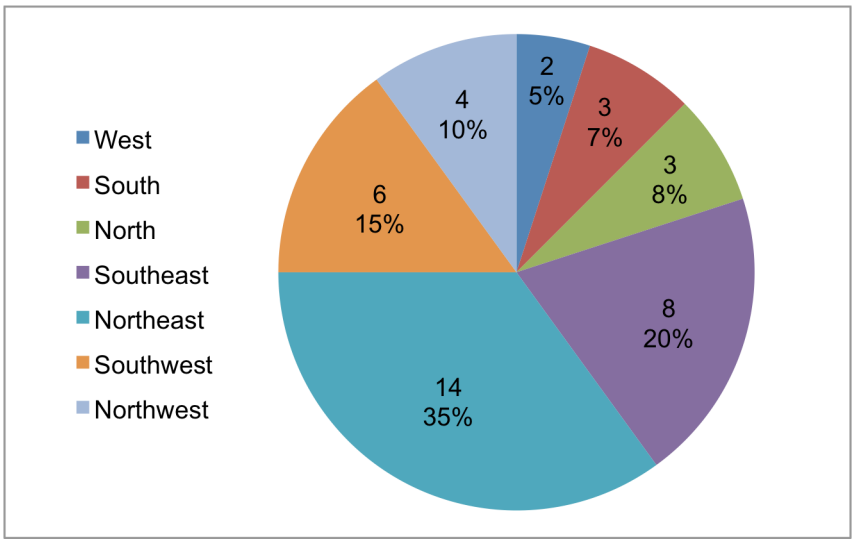


Figure 5.8 Orientations of existing community houses

CH).

In terms of the position of construction, according to result of the survey, among 43 E-CHs, 41 E-CHs are built in the center of the hamlet, only two E-CHs TLO1B (type 5) and TL2 (type 1) are located at the end of the hamlet (three hamlets currently have two E-CHs co-exist).

5.7 Effectiveness of using process of E-CHs

According to the assessment result, the project has created the place for the hamlet residents to hold the public activities. Accordingly, they do not have to frequently maintain the E-CHs like previous TCHs or borrow the hamlet residents's house to organize meetings like before. However, in the residents' opinion, some E-CHs are simulated the traditional form but made of modern materials, so the traditional character is lost. In addition, some E-CHs are covered with the corrugated metal sheets, so they are hot in the summer and noisy in the rainy season as well as being not conformable to organize the traditional activities; consequently, the hamlet residents rarely visit this place.

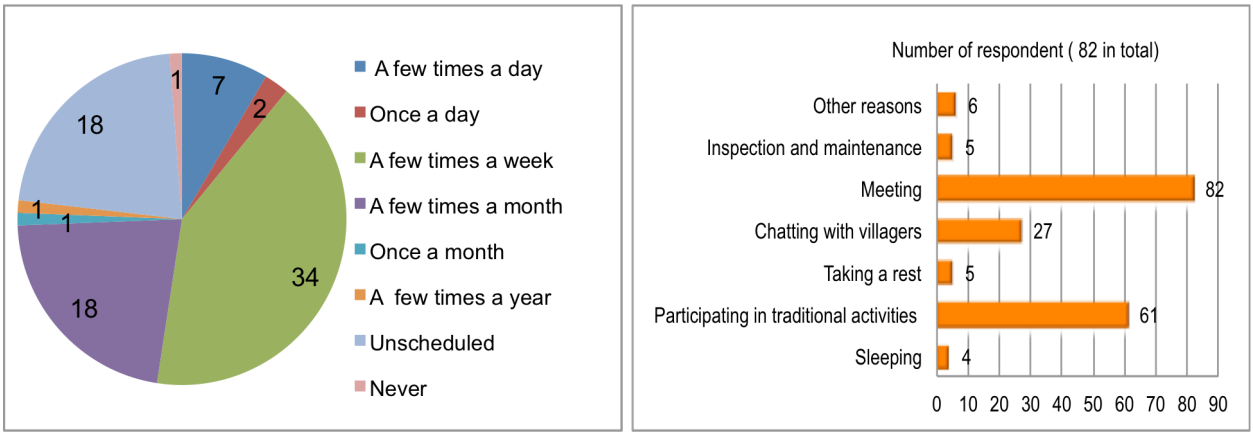


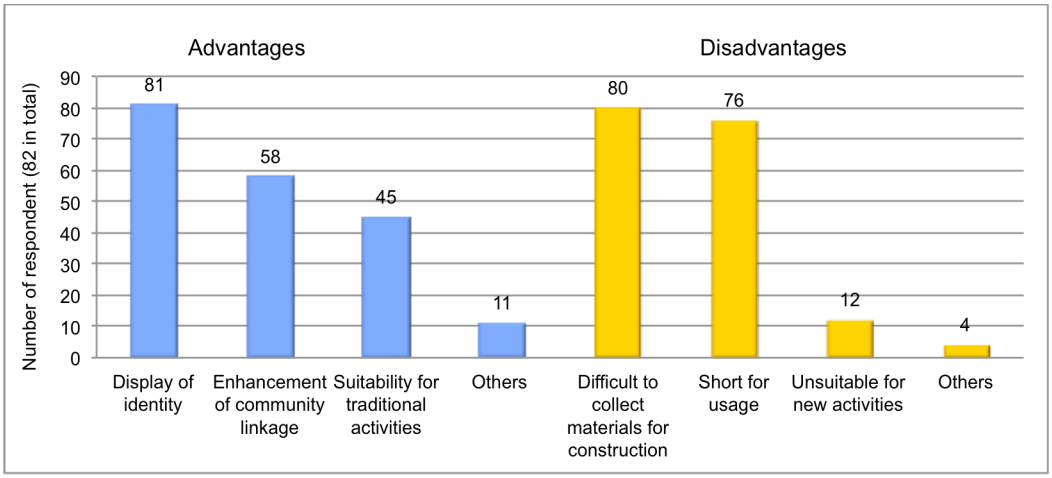
Figure 5.9 Visiting frequency to hamlet community house of hamlet residents (left)
Reasons for visiting frequency of hamlet residents to community house (right)

Figure 5.9 (left) shows the visiting frequency to the E-CHs of hamlet residents. There are different selections. Among them, the most choice is a few times a week with 34 respondents. Figure 5.9 (right) indicates the various reasons for visiting frequency of hamlet residents to the E-CHs. Visiting for meeting is the main reason, accounting for the majority with 82 people. According to the hamlet residents, formerly, when the TCH still played the role of the heart and was the only place for spiritual activities, they frequently visited to participate in traditional festivals and share life experiences. However, currently, the new E-CHs is gradually losing its inherent role; therefore, they visit less, especially the youth.

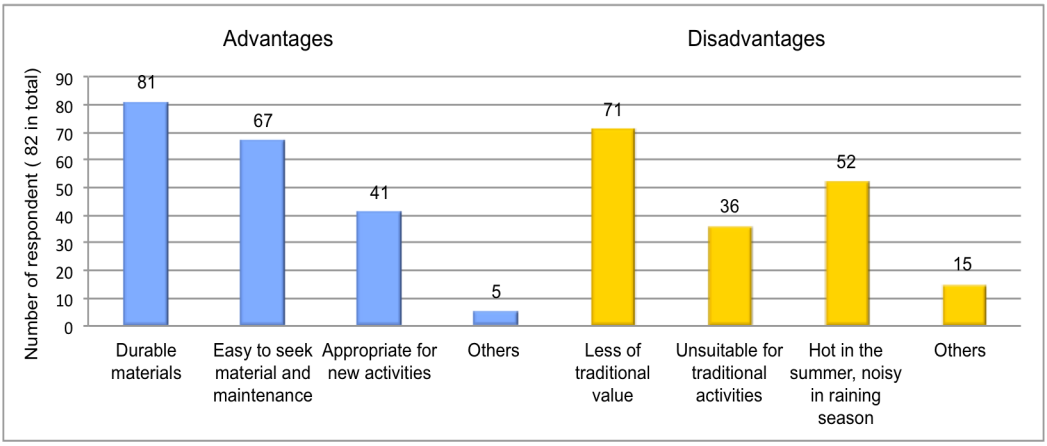
During use, some parts made of traditional materials are degraded, especially the thatched roof. To 2012, many thatched and rattan roofs of the E-CHs were replaced by corrugated metal

sheets because of the lack of resource of replacement materials caused by excessive exloitation and the use of chemical substances to clear thatch for cultivated land. The renovation expenditure was mainly from Program 135 and other sources (population policy). For instance, to renovate the roof, the commune supported five million VND (~238 USD), the hamlet residents in A Gon hamlet, Thuong Long commue contributed their labor or money (200,000 VND per household (~9.5 USD)). .

Regarding usage function, the E-CHs have no longer had functions like before. The TCH in the past was only used for cultural activity center of the hamlet residents, the place to keep the fruit of the people after times of hunting, the place for organizing traditional festivals; working place of patriarch council, the place for imparting living experience, sleeping place of unmarried boys. However, currently, the TCH has no longer been the only cultural activity center of the hamlet residents. There are some traditional function which are gradually disappearing and



Traditional community house



Modern community house

Figure 5.10 Advantages and disadvantages between traditional and modern community house

replaced with new functions to accord with current conditions like administrative meeting, project and government's policies dissemination, the studying place and so on. The places for

hanging the wild animal skull, hunting and cooking tool are replaced by hanging merits, bookshelves and modern equipment such as TVs, speakers and radios, etc.

The advantages and disadvantages between the TCH and the MCH are mentioned by hamlet residents (Figure 5.10). There are many ideas given. Most of the interviewees say that the TCH can express their groups' identity with 82 respondents. However, it is very difficult to maintain and collect replacement materials like timber and leaves (80 respondents). Meanwhile, most of the interviewees (81 out of 82) say that the MCH can be in long-term use because of durable

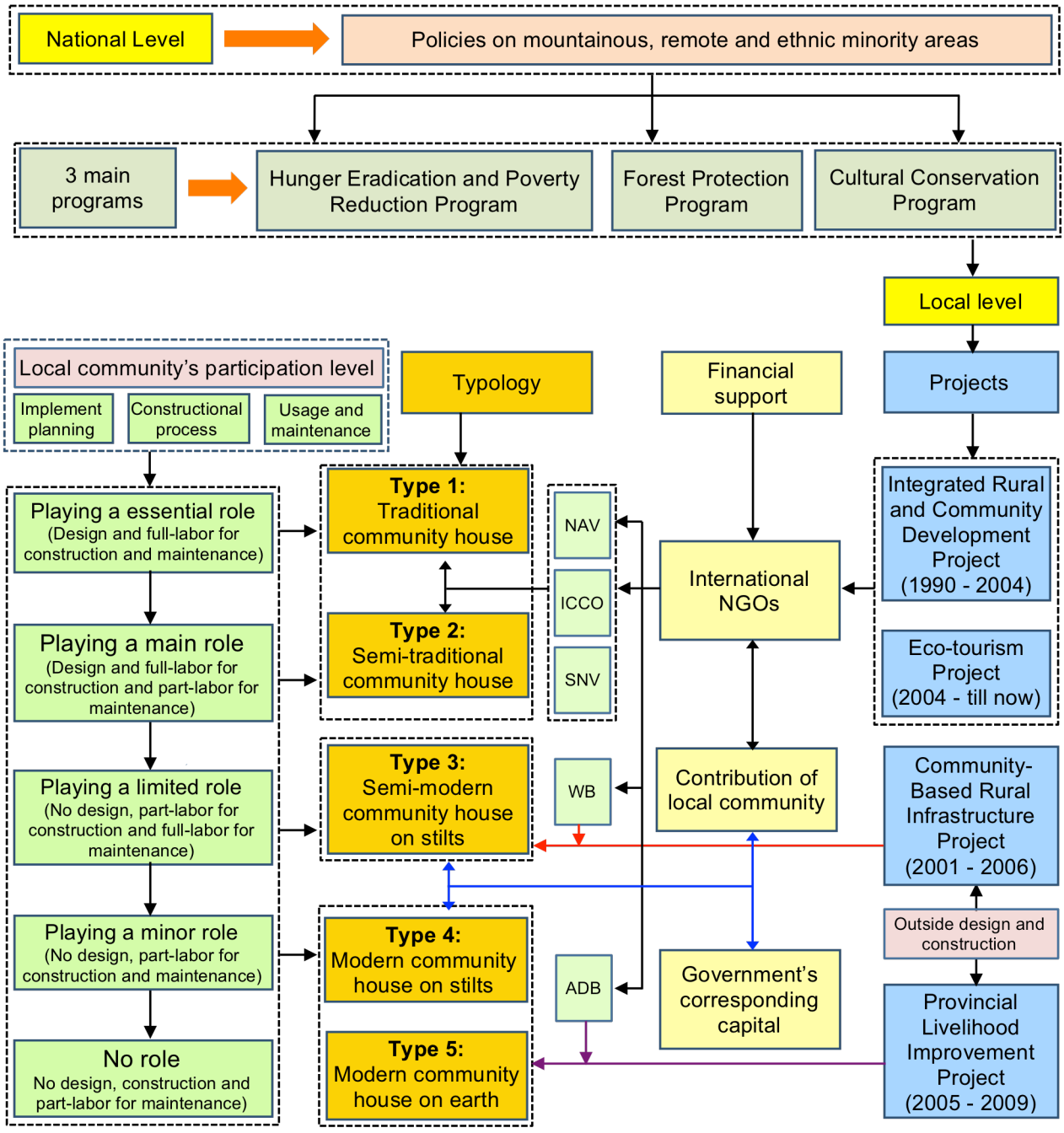


Figure 5.11 Relationship among factors affecting typology of the E-CHs of the Katu ethnic group in Nam Dong district

materials, and the maintenance and material collection are also easier, but it makes their identity lose (71 choices).

Figure 5.11 summarizes the relationship among factors affecting typology of the E-CHs in Nam Dong district. In recent decades, many national policies have been established for the mountainous area and ethnic minorities. Among them, there are three main programs (Hunger Eradication and Poverty Reduction Program, Forest Protection Program and Cultural Conservation Program). The overall target of these programs is to alleviate poverty and narrow the gap between the highland and lowland area by supporting livelihood and infrastructure, creating jobs, increase income of local residents through activities of forest protections, conserving and restoring traditional local identities. For local level, four projects directly involving the E-CHs in Nam Dong district follow from these programs. Depending on the conditions of each project and of each commune, the number of hamlets participating in these projects is different. One common characteristic of these projects is the participation of many stakeholders such as local authorities, NGOs, and local community. However, the participation level in construction processes of these stakeholders is different. Regarding the E-CHs belonging type 1 and 2, the hamlet people play a main role in designing, colleting materials, constructing and using while outsides play the key role in financial donors and minor role in construction. To type 3 and 4, the outsides take the decisive role in these steps, and the local communities play a limited role, and the role of the local communities completely were removed in the E-CHs of type 5. According the explanation from authorities, when these projects were implemented, it was too difficult to collect traditional materials for construction and maintenance by the exhaustion of forest resources. This is the reason why the modern materials were used for these projects.

5.8 Conclusion of the chapter

Regarding the typology of E-CHs in Nam Dong district, at present, all of the 36 hamlets of six Katu communes in Nam Dong district have CHs, and they varied in forms construction methods, and material use. However, TCHs erected by the hamlet residents are scarce, while most of the E-CHs are the products of the government projects, designed by the outside companies, built by the outside builders, and made of modern materials. Based on material use and construction method, they are classified into five types. 42 out of 43 E-CHs in Nam Dong district are completely or partly funded by outsides, and most of them were built after 2000s (42 among 43 houses). Of the 43 E-CHs in 36 hamlets of Nam Dong district, a few (six houses, making up 13.95%) are purely TCHs or partly modified (type 1 and 2). The most popular type of E-CHs is built conforming to the modern method imitating the TCH (type 3 and 4). This type is completely used, or partly used with modern materials, including 27 houses (accounting for

62.7%), and eight Katu hamlets have CHs like the Kinh's CHs (accounting for 23.2%).

In terms of construction participation, the gradual decrease of the Katu residents' role in construction process of the E-CHs can be seen through their decreasing participation in all steps. For type 1 and 2, the hamlet residents play a main role in designing, colleting materials, constructing, and using while outsides play the key role in financial donors and minor role in construction. For type 3 and 4, the local authorities organize and implement the projects, the outsides hold the key role, while the hamlet residents are passive in every step. For type 5, the outside builders undertook entirely in construction process, and hamlet residents did not participate in any step.

To the usage function, since these CHs are not the products of the Katu residents with the strange form, currently, they only play the role of a place for organizing the common and administrative activities of the hamlets, while the traditional activities are rarely held. Regarding aspects of E-CHs, they are diversified. Seven aspects are found in 43 E-CHs. This demonstrates that E-CHs no longer comply with strict rules as in the past. Some parts using traditional materials of many E-CHs were replaced with modern materials such as from thatched roof to tile roof, from *Lo o* floor mat to wooden floor mat because local residents have no capacity to maintain original materials due to their unstable and scarce characteristic.

CHAPTER 6. A CASE STUDY OF TCHs IN DOI AND A XANG HAMLETS

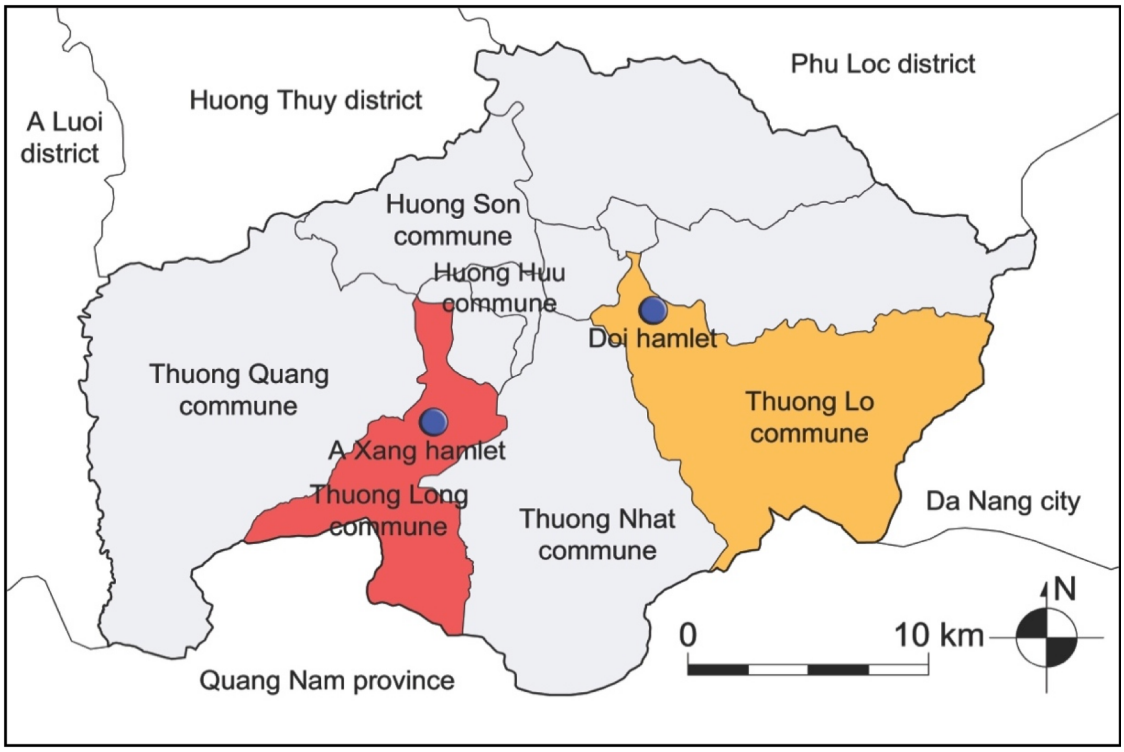


Figure 6.1 Locations of A Xang and Doi hamlets

In this chapter, the research selects two hamlet including Doi hamlet, Thuong Lo commune and A Xang hamlet, Thuong Long commune (Figure 6.1) as a case study to aims at identifying the historical alteration of their TCHs and discussing the possibility of their conservation in modern contexts. The main reason for choosing these hamlets is that they are the only two hamlets in Nam Dong district which currently have still maintained a pure TCH with wooden materials erected by the hamlet residents beside a MCH built by outsiders with the financial support from international organizations. This research also desires to find out the motivation that



Figure 6.2 A meeting with A Xang hamlet leaders (left) and Doi hamlet leaders (right)

helps these two hamlets conserve their TCHs until nowadays, meanwhile it is impossible for other hamlets. The explanation for the above-mentioned question will be a necessary suggestion to apply in the TCH restoration in Kau hamlets in Nam Dong district in the future. To collect necessary information, the author conducted field surveys in A Xang and Doi hamlets in January and September 2014. Leaders of the two hamlets were invited at the TCHs to discuss all issues related their hamlet (Figure 6.2). The obtained information is really valuable for the research.

6.1 Characteristic of Thuong Long and Thuong Lo communes

Thuong Long is one of the 11 communes and town of Nam Dong district. Currently, Thuong Long commune has eight hamlets, and it is one of the six Katu communes in Nam Dong district. Previously, the commune had nine hamlets (Tavac and Atu hamlets combined into one), and all hamlets are near A Vuong commune, Tay Giang district, Quang Nam province. They are separated by one hill (around one-day walk). The form of the hamlets is similar. Before 1963, all of the hamlets had the TCH. However, from 1963 to 1967, they moved to forest, one-day walk apart, and no more the TCH was erected. In 1973, after moving back to current position, although the life was not settled; realizing the important role of the TCH, many hamlets erected some TCHs. First was the TCH in A Gon hamlet in 1973, then Cha Ke hamlet was erected the TCH in 1974, and the remaining hamlets had the TCH in the next years. During this period, basically, the TCH structure of these hamlets was alike; however, the TCH of A Gon Hamlet was the biggest and the most beautiful since the population is great, and they continuously maintained the TCH until 1990s. At this time, the hamlets were very united because they still practiced the old customs and maintained self-provision economy, rarely exchanged with the outside because to traffic restriction; therefore, they were not much affected by the lowlanders, especially the Kinh people. After 1990s, the life began to change by the government's policies on building infrastructure, developing economy towards the ethnic minorities; this led to the increase in goods exchange owing to increase in productivity; many inter-hamlet and inter-commune communication routes were built. In this period, the TCHs still existed, but began to gradually decrease for the decline of the community linkage among hamlet residents; they were no more enthusiastic to search for materials for maintenance. In 2000, only Ap Rung hamlet still had the TCH but which was degraded. However, from 2001, with the appearance of the Integrated Community Development Project under the support of ICCO, The TCH in Thuong Long commune was built with the labor contribution of all hamlets in commune; since then, the movement of erecting the TCH in the hamlets has been restored. Among them, A Xang hamlet and Chake hamlet first erected TCH in 2003; to 2004, all the hamlets re-erected the TCH; however, some TCHs were small and unstable. From 2004 to 2008, with the appearance of the projects of the MCH construction supported by WB and ADB, most of the TCHs in Thuong Long

commune were dismantled, only A Xang still retained. The interview results from hamlet leaders has shown that since there is the solid concrete house of the project, it is not necessary for them to retain the TCH because of the difficulties in preservation, especially the scarceness of the traditional resources. On the other hand, the hamlet residents have to conform to the project, and some hamlets have to use the land of the old TCH because there is no more land since it now belongs to the household ownership.

Thuong Lo is one of the 11 communes and town of Nam Dong district. Currently, Thuong Lo has four hamlets and is one of the six Katu communes in Nam Dong district. Previously, it has three hamlets (Ta Ruoi, La Ho và Mu Nam) with four families locating on the other side of La Ho stream, not far from the current position. Similar to Thuong Long commune, before 1960, all of the hamlets of the commune had the TCH. From 1960 to 1974, the hamlet had to move near Cha Mang stream to avoid war, so no TCH was erected. Since 1974, the four hamlets have resided in current position by the mobilization of evolutionary government. From 1974 to 1977, when moving to new position, the hamlets in Thuong Lo commune did not have any TCH because of unstable life. In 1977, Mu Nam hamlet erected the first TCH, after that were the TCH of La Ho hamlet in 1977, the TCH of Doi hamlet in 1984, and the TCH of La Ho hamlet in 1989. Among them, the TCH of Doi, Cha Mang, and Mu Nam hamlets had the same structure with two circular lean-tos and one central pillar, while the TCH of La Ho hamlet was smaller, had square shape and had no central pillar because of unpopulousness. In the hamlet residents' explanation, the hamlets erected the TCH because they realized the necessity of having a CH for common activities. At this time, collecting materials for erecting the TCH was rather easy as the material source round the hamlet was still abundant. From 1974, when moving here, the government only prohibited to clear the forest, not to exploit timber. To 1990s, there was stricter control; however, local people could exploit timber without asking for permission if the objective was not to sell but to build dwelling house and the TCH. The first TCH of Doi hamlet was erected in 1984 with two central pillars, ten edged pillars, two stoves, bamboo partition, and the roof was covered with rattan leaves. The erection of the TCH was completely performed by hamlet residents under the control of patriarch Tran Van Sao. Most of the hamlet residents participated in the TCH construction; the healthy youngsters collected big timbers, while the elderly collected roof beams, purlins, and the women collected leaves for roof and binding strings in Ta Gung and Ka Giang forest right near the hamlet. Experiencing some times of renovation, eventually, it was dismantled in 1990 because of the damage of pillars. From 1990 to 2004, the TCH was not re-erected since the hamlet enlarged the road, and there was no more common land as well as difficulties in mobilizing the hamlet residents; therefore the hamlet had to use the hamlet residents' house to organize meetings.

6.2 History of A Xang and Doi hamlets

(1) A Xang hamlet

A Xang hamlet is one of the eight Katu hamlets in Thuong Long commune. The previous A Xang hamlet was located in Gia Vua valley, in the old Thuong Long commune bordering with A Vuong commune, Tay Giang district, Quang Nam province, around a one-day walk from the current hamlet. At that time, the hamlet had a circular shape and located on a hillside, protected by a fence made of small timber and bamboo, with the TCH in the center. Around 70 people lived in five stilted long dwelling houses with from three to five compartments; each house was four to five-arm width and between 12 and 16-arm length (one arm-length is called "*A Chieng"* in the Katu language) (Figure 6.3, top and left). These dwellings surrounded the TCH yard. The hamlet residents lived on hunting and mountain field cultivation in the surrounding forests. In order to avoid lethal weapons, between 1963 and 1973, during the Vietnam War, the hamlet

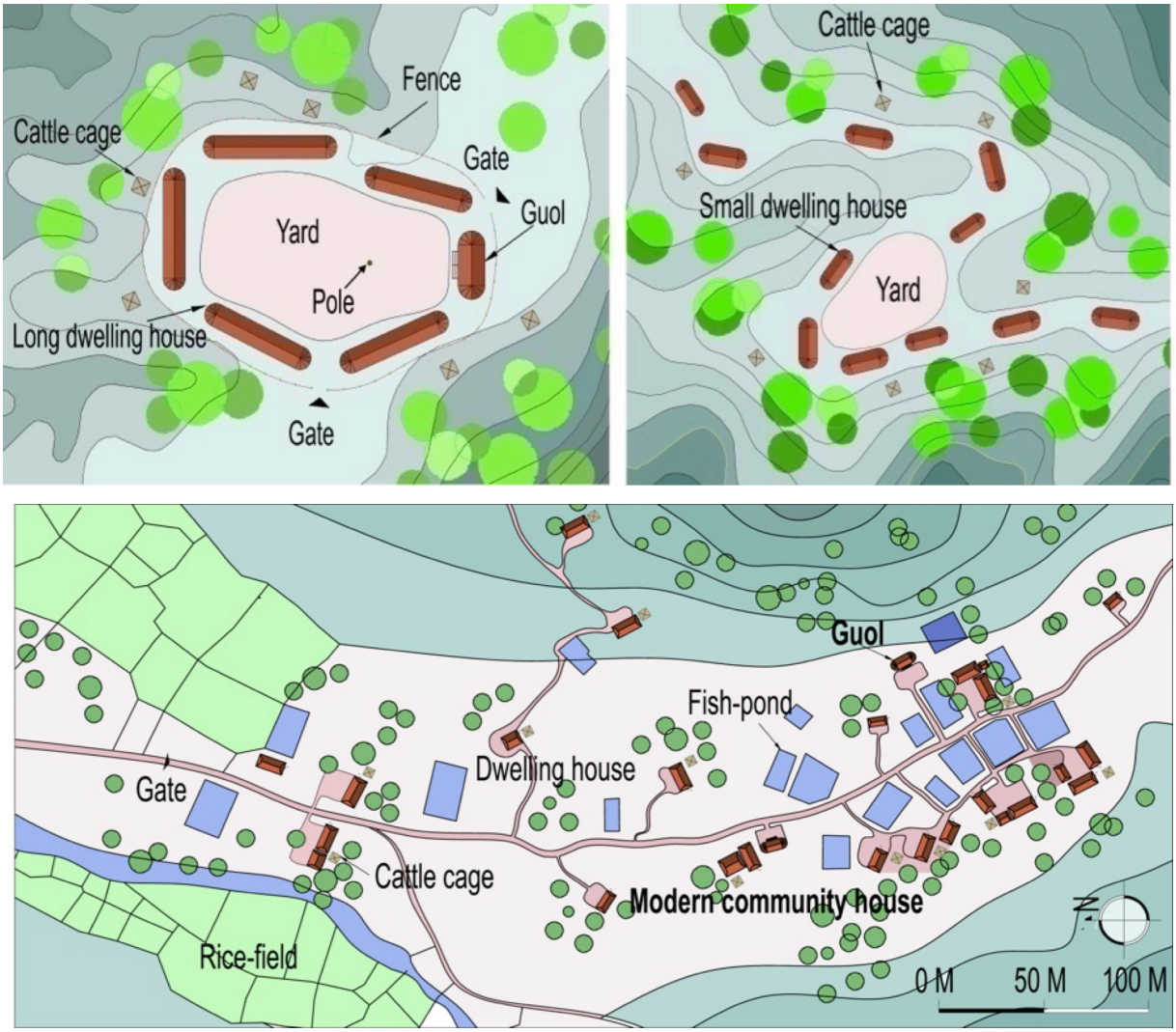


Figure 6.3 Layout of A Xang hamlet before the 1963 (top, left), between the 1963 and 1973 (top, right), and at present (bottom)

residents moved to deep forest that was a one-day walk from their home. During this period, the hamlet residents were separated into small groups and lived in single story houses without a TCH due to the lack of construction capacity (Figure 6.3, top and right)[14]. In 1973, the hamlets moved to their current location. A Xang hamlet and another hamlet (Ka Dong) joined into one, which continued until 1985. The two hamlets eventually separated and only A Xang hamlet migrated to the La Dang valley, which is flat, large, and more suitable for living and cultivated activities; the valley is a 30-minute walk from the hamlet's previous location. Due to many deaths occurred during the resettlement process, in 1993 the hamlet residents moved again to settle near Cha Ke hamlet before resettling in their current location in 1997. Currently, A Xang hamlet comprises two main clans (Ra Pat and Kim) consisting of 27 households with 120 people who live along opposite sides of the road (Figure 6.3, bottom) and is one of the hamlets which have smallest area and population in Nam Dong district.

Previously, the hamlet was in high mountain near Quang Nam province, the Katu ethnics lived on shifting cultivation, hunting and gathering in traditional manner. From 1973 to 1990, after moving to current position, these forms were still maintained; however, they are gradually replaced by the new cultivation such as planting wet rice. From 2000 until now, agricultural crops are transferred into industrial crops by the policies on agriculture of local authorities; the residents completely plant wet price and transfer mountain field land into industrial crops. Currently, the hamlet has three ha of paddy fields, 27 ha of acacia tree, 23 ha of rubber tree, 17 ha of cassava tree, 1.2 ha of fish pond, 61 cattle. The hamlet residents still maintain 25 valuable gongs. The hamlet elders knowing folk songs, ancient melodies still live such as Mr. A Ray and Mr. Grooc. These traditional activities are performed when the hamlet has festivals or the family has wedding or engagement. The living and intellectual standards of hamlet residents have increased considerably; the number of high-school level residents has grown; especially, some residents have university degree or study at universities. Most of households use modern equipment such as motorbike, TV set and cellphone. However, in comparison with other Katu hamlet in Nam Dong district, A Xang has changed much but it is still a poor hamlet which still maintains the most traditional features.

In terms of hamlet structure, currently, A Xang is the hamlet that has the smallest area and least population among 36 Katu hamlets in Nam Dong district; therefore, the households live near each other; between the houses there is no fence since majority are relatives. In the hamlet, there

[14] Layouts of A Xang hamlet before 1963 and between 1963 and 1973 are drawn based on memory description of patriarchs, while layout of A Xang hamlet after 1973 is drawn based on tracing an aerial photograph and field survey.

are still some houses in half-stilt half-ground manner, made of traditional materials, which cannot be found in the remaining Katu hamlets in Nam Dong district. Especially, in 2014, Mr. A Ray, one of the experienced elders, erected a traditional dwelling house. The house is the fruit of one year of material collection in surrounding forest and erection. According to Mr. A Ray, the reason for erecting the house is to create a place for resting and conversation with the hamlet residents after hard-working day; it is also a place for welcoming distinguished visitors and for educating the descendants to be aware of conserving the traditional identities, he is very proud of this house.

(2) Doi hamlet

Doi is one of four hamlets in Thuong Lo commune. Previously, Doi hamlet was located at Sap hill, near Doi stream, a two-day walk from its current location. Before 1960, the hamlet was inhabited by around 200 people living in wooden dwelling houses covered with thatched roofs in the style of half-stilt half-ground houses with rectangular or oval-shaped floors. Disease epidemics forced the hamlet to relocate several times, and it was frequently situated on a slope or valley location. A 1.5-meter bamboo fence designed to prevent wild animals or strangers from entering the hamlet. There were two gates: a main gate in front to welcome guests and a sub-gate that allowed access to the fields. Similar to other Katu hamlets, Doi had to be moved into deep forest after 1960 and was separated into smaller groups that were two to three hours walk apart. From 1960 to 1973, the fence and the TCH did not exist. After the Paris Peace Accords in 1973, the hamlet transferred to its current location and remains in the same site today. Currently, Doi is inhabited by four main clans (A Rat, A Vo, A Phuoc, and Pa Ria), consisting of 154 households with 702 people, who live along the opposite sides of two roads.

Similar to A Xang hamlet, previously, Doi hamlet residents lived on shifting cultivation and hunting. This form lasted until 1990s and then transferred into planting wet rice and industrial crops. Currently, the hamlet has eight ha of paddy fields, 122 ha of acacia tree, 80 ha of rubber tree, 17 ha of cassava tree, 88 cattle. The main income of hamlet residents is from acacia and rubber trees (each household has an average from one to two ha of acacia tree, 0.5 to one hectare of rubber).

Currently, Doi hamlet can be considered as one of the hamlets having largest area and the most population among the Katu hamlets in Nam Dong district. The dwelling houses are arranged along the main roads. Since living near the district center, strongly affected by the outside, the lifestyle of the hamlet residents has many changes. The traditional dwelling house have no longer existed and replaced by the houses on earth made of modern material like Kinh ethnics'. Between the houses, there is a fence (since 1980s there has been division in garden borders, paddy fields).

Similar to A Xang hamlet, the intellectual standards of Doi hamlet residents increase; many residents have university degree and some have high positions in commune. However, Doi hamlet is one of the scarce hamlets where traditional activities like *Ting Ting Ya Ya* dancing, gongs, and traditional instruments are still maintained through ecotourism program.

6.3 Feature of CHs in A Xang and Doi hamlets

6.3.1 TCHs in A Xang hamlet before the 1970s

To the elders in A Xang hamlet, the image of the TCH is still deep in their minds. According to them, the TCHs before 1960s were frequently bigger and more beautiful than now. At that time, the TCH is an indispensable component of hamlet structure. All the strong men directly participated in erecting the TCH. To erect the TCH, the hamlet residents used the simple tools such as axes, large-kitchen knives, and chisels bought from Kinh people. The forms of TCH are similar; they had elliptical shape with semicircular lean-tos, straight partition, windows, and shelf at the back to put furniture. There were two front entrances and two side entrances for the hamlet residents to go in and out when it is crowded. The TCH had 13 pillars (six main pillars, six lean-to pillars, and one central pillar) fixed in from 60-centimeter to 100-centimeter ground depth to confront wind. In addition, there were sub-pillars to support the floor. Most of the components had circular shape (using intact tree); the eaves beam and cross beam were shaved into rectangle (all previous TCHs had eaves beam and cross beam to make it steady. *Gravuong* was frequently made of *Drboc* timber due to its flexibility. The central pillar has 10-meter height with diameter up to 50 cm. The primary timbers were *H'ranh*, *Ten Mat*, *Grliêng* since they are strong and are rarely attacked by timber-boring worm. The floor beam and roof beam were made of *Chi Tich, Hnai, Doi* timbers as they are straight and beautiful. It was hard to find out Ironwood, Merawan Giaza timber and Sapele timber in previous areas. The partition was made of *Bop Bop* (a small bamboo); the mat was made of *Lo o,* and the roof was mainly covered with mangrove fan palm leaves. To joint the components, residents used technique of piercing and pressing instead of mortise. Some components such as pillars, cross beam, and eave-beams were decorated with patterns of stylized animal and foliage but not as sophisticated and complicated as the TCHs in Quang Nam province. The roof is lower and less sloping. The gables were decorated with wooden pattern of cock. This can be explained by two main reasons: labor force and experience. First, the hamlets in Quang Nam province are bigger and more populous; therefore, their TCHs with great roof can be mobilized to make. Second, Nam Dong district frequently suffers storm, therefore, the roof must be low to minimize the impacts of strong wind.

6.3.2 TCHs in A Xang hamlet after the 1970s

Since moving to current location in 1970s, A Xăng and Doi hamlets have constructed the

TCHs several times. Table 6.1 shows the historical features of the TCHs in A Xang and Doi hamlets based on the interview surveys to the patriarchs.

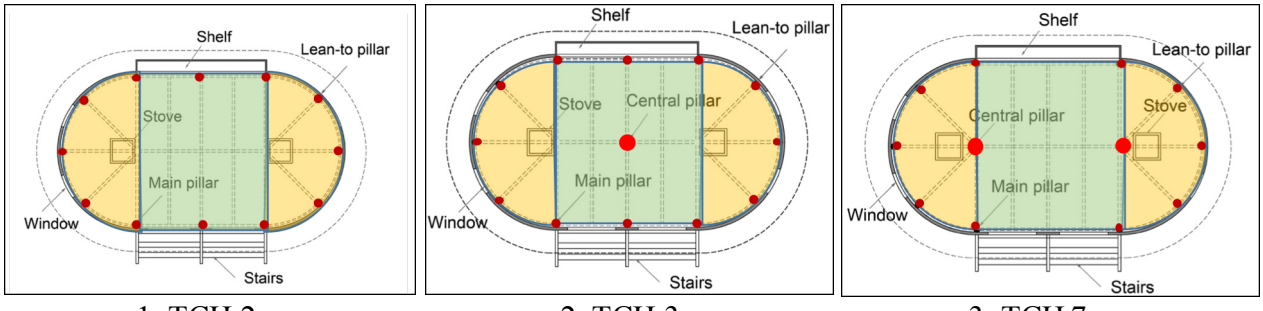
Table 6.1 Historical features of the TCHs in A Xang and Doi hamlets

No.	Duration	Main elements of TCHs in A Xang and Doi hamlets		
		Main Pillar + Lean-to pillar + Central Pillar	Size*	Interior Decoration**
TCHs in A Xang hamlet				
TCH 1	1977 - 1984	6 + 6 + 1	Large	Yes
TCH 2	1985 - 1988	6 + 6 + 0	Small	Yes
TCH 3	1988 - 1993	6 + 6 + 1	Medium	Yes
TCH 4	1993 - 1995	6 + 6 +1	Medium	Yes
TCH 5	1995 - 1997	6 + 6 + 0	Small	No
TCH 6	2003 - present	6 + 6 + 1	Medium	Yes
TCHs in Doi hamlet				
TCH 1	1984-1990	4 + 6 + 2	Medium	No
TCH 2	2004 - present	6 + 6 +1	Large	No

* Size of TCH is identified by the number of Katu arm-span (1.5m – 1.6 m) (small: < 4 arm spans; medium: 4 – 6 arm spans; Large: > 6 arm spans)

** Interior decoration is identified by yes or no of painting and sculpture pattern on components such as pillar, cross-beam, eaves-beam)

In case of A Xang hamlet, between 1973 and today, there have been six TCHs built in A Xang hamlet. The first TCH was constructed in 1977 when A Xang and Ka Dong hamlets merged, and was used until 1984. The 1977 structure was larger than the current TCH, but it had a similar floor plan; all components were made of high-quality materials and there were copious interior decorations. The second TCH (1985 – 1988) was used after the separation of the two hamlets; it had six main pillars, six lean-to pillars and no central pillar (Figure 6.4, left), and was smaller than the current TCH. The third TCH, which stood from 1988 to 1993, had six main pillars, six lean-to pillars and a central pillar (Figure 6.4, middle). The fourth TCH was constructed in 1993 and was used until 1995 looking similar to the current TCH. The fifth TCH (1995 – 1997) was smaller in scale and had no central pillar. These TCHs were constructed on slope terrain, a prominent geographical feature of the area; the third TCH, which was built in the La Dang valley, is the exception. After returning to the current location in 1997, the hamlet maintained only a temporary CH for meetings because of unstable living conditions during this period. In 2003, the hamlet elders decided to construct the current TCH (Figure 6.5, left) in



1. TCH 2 2. TCH 3 3. TCH 7

Figure 6.4 Floor plan of the previous TCHs in A Xang and Doi hamlets



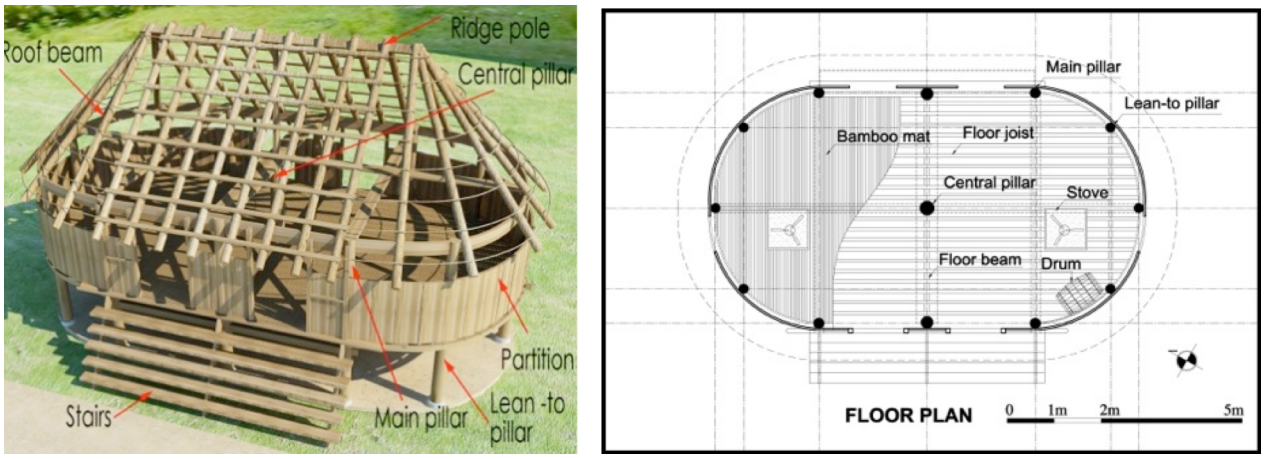
Figure 6.5 TCH (left) and MCH-S (right) in A Xang hamlet

traditional methods due to residents' demands to honor indigenous customs. The construction site was donated by a hamlet patriarch. The patriarch council and hamlet leaders instructed all households in the hamlet to participate in constructing the TCH. A group of 15 to 16 younger members, under the instruction of experienced patriarchs, ventured into Quynh Thom forest (~5 km away) for two months to search for timber and leaves. According to one hamlet patriarch, the materials in the surrounding forest at that time were still abundant and the local government did not enforce strict control of forest protection. After collecting enough materials, it took five days to process the components and around 16 days to erect the main structure. The sequence of the TCH erection is as follows: the worshipping (including cock and pork) is performed under the chairmanship of the patriarch, and then the strongest youngsters will participate in erecting the TCH. First, six main pillars will be erected, jointed by eaves beams and cross beams *(Ninang),* and main floor beams. After that is erecting central pillar. In the next step, six lean-to pillars were erected and jointed by lean-to beams *(Gravuong).* To erect ridge-pole, except for putting onto main pillar, the two fake pillars were used to support two sides. After that, the roof beams were put from eaves beams onto ridge-pole, and the fake pillars were removed. Next, the purlins were put onto the roof and the roof is covered. The next step is to make sub-floor, mat, stoves and then assemble partition. Making stairs is the last phase. In the end, inauguration was held with the participation of district and communal leader representatives.

A new technique learned from the Kinh people was partly applied to join the components in a mortise-and-tenon style instead of the traditional practice of whittling and grafting joints. A skilled hamlet carpenter explained that this building method would make the house stronger; in addition, it would be unnecessary to fix pillars deep into the ground. Instead, the pillars could be propped onto rocks, which would help avoid timber-boring worms in the soil. The main wooden structure of the TCH is shown in Figure 6.6. This TCH has the total of six main pillars, six lean-

to pillars and a central pillar with a diameter of 33 cm. The central pillar was decorated and carved with traditional motifs. The TCH was renovated with a thatched roof in 2004, 2007, and 2009 and a bamboo mat in 2009 and 2013. For the 2009 renewal, the hamlet solicited a donation from Nam Dong district of 25 million VND (~1,190 USD), which was rewarded to residents who collected materials from the forest. According to a leader of Nam Dong district, hamlets are awarded financial aid for the renewal of their CHs depending on annual funding capacity and policy of district.

In 2008, A Xang hamlet was funded by the local government to build a MCH-S (Figure 6.5, right), which costs 240 million VND (~11,428 USD). This funding support was part of an award for CLIP project that had started in Nam Dong district in 2006. According to the hamlet leader, although the hamlet already has a TCH, residents still wished to own a MCH for new activities, for which the TCH was not suitable (e.g. administrative meetings, training activities); these activities sometimes required modern equipment such as tables, chairs, television, and speakers. Although the MCH structure does not have cultural significance, it is durable and does not require much maintenance. However, an available common site could not be found for construction, as most of the land in the hamlet was allocated to residents for housing or farming. Eventually, the hamlet leader persuaded one patriarch to offer his land for construction. After the project was approved, the hamlet residents also had to discuss how to deal with the existing TCH. A few residents suggested dismantling it and selling the components in good condition like many other hamlets had done, but most of the hamlet residents agreed to preserve this TCH. Eventually, residents unanimously agreed to retain it because the traditional activities in the hamlet required the survival of a TCH in spite of the cumbersome maintenance.



1. Main structure 2. Floor plan

Figure 6.6 Floor plan and main structure of the TCH in A Xang hamlet

During the five-month construction process, because of being unfamiliar with modern

construction techniques, the hamlet residents only contributed simple labor such as land digging and shifting, ground leveling, and formwork-propping pillars providing. Meanwhile, the main construction process was undertaken by outside builders. Thus, presently, two CHs (a TCH and a MCH) coexist in A Xang hamlet (Figure 6.7).



Figure 6.7 The TCH and MCH coexist in A Xang hamlet

According to Mr. A Ray, in 2008, there were five among eight hamlets in Thuong Long commune which were invested to construct current MCH-S by the government. Therefore, when the government proposes to construct a MCH in the hamlet, some hamlet residents suggested using this expenditure for renovation of the current TCH instead; however, the project side did not agree. If the hamlet does not agree, there will be no project, and it will be more disadvantaged compared with other hamlets.

In hamlet residents' assessment, the frequency of using of the MCH is few since the form and material do not confront to their habit, it is primarily for administrative activities. In addition, the quality is not good; currently, some parts of the MCH have been degraded (the door have been broken due to low quality timber; the floor has also been rubbed off). However, until now, there is not any maintenance solution because of lack of expenditure (the expenditure getting from the population policy is given priority for renovating the TCH).

6.3.3 TCHs in Doi hamlet before 1970s

Previously, condition decided the structure of the TCH in Doi hamlet. It may have from one to two central pillars, from four to six pillars in the middle compartments, and the lean-tos always had three pillars; however, the type of one central pillar was the most popular. Similar to A Xang hamlet, the central pillars of previous TCHs were very big (diameter from 40 cm to 50 cm) which was made of *Trai* or Merawan Giaza timbers. The main and lean-to pillars were smaller (diameter from 20 cm to 30 cm) which was made of Merawan Giaza or White meranti timbers. The sub-pillars were also used to support the floor. All the pillars were fixed in deep ground. Depending on terrain, the floor could be from 80-centimeter to 160-centimeter in height. Inside the TCH, there was always the stove for cooking and creating smoke to prevent the components (especially the roof leaves) from being rotten. The surroundings were covered with hermetic partitions (not uncovered like current CH), and windows were in three sides. There was the shelf at the back to put the tools like gongs. On the roof, there were many wild animal skulls which were hunted products [15]. The skulls were dried and hung in the TCH and considered as the achievement of the hamlet. The floor of the TCH had four layers (two wooden layers and two *Lo o* layers). A different feature from A Xang hamlet was at this time, the technique of using mortise was applied to build TCHs in Doi hamlet (it took more time to process but create stronger linkage than use of traditional technique). However, the pillars were not carved completely but only a half so that the pillar will not be weak. According to a patriarch, this technique was acquired from Kinh people. Similar to A Xang hamlet, the wooden pattern of cock always presented in the two gables [16].

6.3.4 TCHs in Doi hamlet after 1970s

Since moving to its current location in 1973, Doi hamlet had two opportunities to build TCHs, in 1984 and 2004. The first medium-scale TCH was constructed in 1984 without funding support; it consisted of four main pillars, six lean-to pillars, and two central pillars (Figure 6.4, right). The interviewed patriarch explained that the two center pillars were rather popular because of their small size and the easiness during collection.

All the hamlet residents participated in the TCH erection under the chairmanship of Mr. Tran Van Sao. The strong youngsters came into Ta Gung, Ka Giang forests near the hamlet to collect pillars, the elders collected roof beams, and the women were in charge of cooking. According to a patriarch, in 1977 and 1978, only deforestation was forbidden, not logging for dwelling house and TCH. Until the 1990s, the regulation was under stricter control, the hamlet residents still

[15] Previously, when hamlet residents hunted wild animal, they brought to the TCH for public enjoyment

[16] The Katu ethnics in Nam Dong district do not use Tring or Gooc bird to decorate since these birds live in Quang Nam province.

chopped down tree for constructing dwelling house; to the 2000s, it was obligatory to propose permission. The buffalo-stabbing festival was not held in inauguration since the hamlet did not have enough condition. This house was severely degraded and scheduled to be dismantled in 1990.

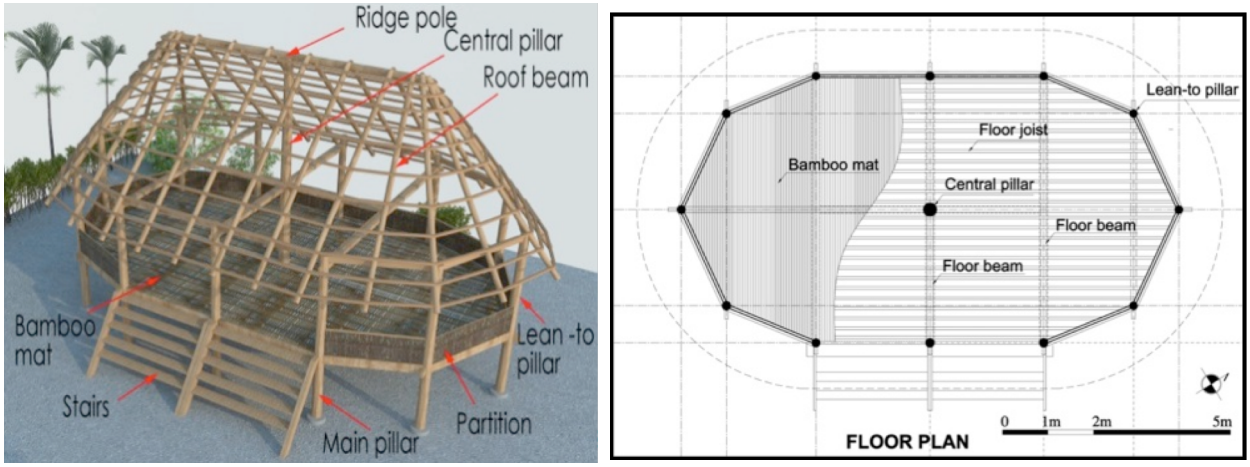
The second TCH was constructed in 2004 and remains standing (Figure 6.8, left). The construction was implemented in conjunction with an ecotourism project sponsored by the Netherlands Development Organization (SNV). Doi hamlet was selected by SNV as an ecotourism destination because it has an advantageous location near the central area of the district, favorable terrain, and a beautiful landscape that includes a nice waterfall. SNV approved 20 million VND (~952 USD) to support the project. Three million VND (~142 USD) is for two outside builders, 4.5 million VND (~214 USD) is for the hamlet residents to collect materials (six main pillars, six lean-to pillars and a central pillar), additional funds for roof beams, leaf sheets for roofing, bamboo for flooring and partition, and five million VND (~238 USD) is for a completion ceremony. This TCH was designed by Mr. Dinh based on the survey of the TCH in Cha Ke hamlet, Thuong Long commune where there used to be very beautiful TCH at that time. The construction was carried out under the supervision of Mr. Dinh and Mr. Su. For the material collection, engaged persons received 50,000 VND (2.38 USD) per day. During construction, all hamlet residents contributed labor to support the outside builders, who used modern tools such as saws and chisels. It took one month to collect materials from Ta Gung forest, one month to process the components, and one more month to construct the house. The construction process is basically similar to A Xang hamlet.



Figure 6.8 TCH (left) and MCH-E (right) in Doi hamlet

The design and construction basically followed traditional methods to form an oval-shaped floor with two semicircular lean-tos (Figure 6.9). The six main pillars and six lean-to pillars were not fixed deep into the ground by the traditional method, but rather, were propped onto the rocks

because solid mortise joints were implemented for the pillars, floor beams, and eaves beams. Meanwhile, the central pillar was still fixed 80-centimeter in depth into the ground so as to withstand the wind of the seasonal cyclones. The interior was not adorned with decorative patterns like the current TCH of A Xang hamlet because Doi did not have a passable artist. A stove was not installed in order to keep as much space as possible for tourists and traditional dance performances as well as eliminating fire hazards.



1. Main structure 2. Floor plan

Figure 6.9 Floor plan and main structure of the TCH in Doi hamlet

The ecotourism project in Doi hamlet has been deployed from 2005 until now. The objective of this project is to introduce visitors about the community and culture of the Katu ethnics through practical experience in the area. From ten to 15 tourist groups are welcomed per year. The most crowded year was in 2005 with 20 groups. The main tourist objects are primarily Japanese (there were tourists from the USA, Netherland, Singapore, etc. in the 2013). The specific activities are visiting the hamlet, exchanging cultural and music performance, enjoying traditional foods, and visiting Kazan waterfall nearby.

After several years of use, the hamlet residents replaced the bamboo mat in 2007. The replacement of bamboo roof beams by the timber roof beams, and renovation of the thatched roof were supported with a 5-million VND (~238 USD) grant by Nam Dong district in 2010 after the request from the hamlet. Conserving the TCH in Doi hamlet for eco-tourism is one of the priorities of the government of Nam Dong district. Additional financial support of 100 million VND (~4,761 USD) from the Cultural Emergency Response Program (CER) was given to the hamlet in 2011 to raise the floor from 1.2 m to 1.4 m, to replace a degraded bamboo partition with tree bark partition, to renovate the bamboo floor mats, and to pave a yard with cement mortar. Most of the work was undertaken by outside builders although the hamlet residents did contribute to material collection.

Until now, the TCH has been used for hamlet activities as well as tourism activities (Figure 6.10). A tourism manager in the hamlet explained that 12 international tourist groups contribute to ecotourism each year, and the hamlet can receive 1.4 million VND (~66 USD) for each tour with around 40,000 VND (~1.9 USD) per person per day for traditional dancing, music performances, and cooking activities).




Figure 6.10 Exchange activities between residents and tourists at the TCH in Doi hamlet

In addition, Doi hamlet also has a MCH-E (Figure 6.8, right). The house was built in 2008 with approximate funding of 180 million VND (~8,571 USD) from CLIP with financial support by ADB. This structure, which was made of modern materials and was built in a single-story type on earth in the rectangular shape, brick walls, metal roof beams, and a corrugated metal roof, similar to the CH of the Kinh people's hamlets in the district. The construction was entirely undertaken by outside builders. A hamlet leader explained that the hamlet is populous; therefore, the local government supported construction of the second TCH to avoid conflict between traditional and new activities. According to a hamlet leader, the first intention was to build

Table 6.2 Functions of TCH and MCH in A Xang and Doi hamlets

Functions		A Xang hamlet		Doi hamlet	
		TCH	MCH	TCH	MCH
Traditional functions	Meeting of the patriarch council	•		•	
	Unmarried men sleeping area	•		•	
	Hanging wild animal skulls	•		•	
	Storing traditional instruments	•		•	
	Collective worship ceremonies	•		•	
General functions	Musical and dance activities	•	•	•	•
	Reception of guests	•	•	•	•
	Hamlet people meetings	•	•	•	•
New functions	Administrative meeting		•	•	•
	Training activities		•		•
	Ecotourism tour			•	

current TCH near Kazan waterfall and current MCH-E was built at the current TCH position as the proposal of the project. However, the hamlet residents suggest Kazan waterfall is full of obstacles and causes difficulties in management and maintenance; thus, in the end, the project management board agreed with the current position.

Table 6.2 lists some of the traditional, general, and new activities held in the current TCHs and MCHs in A Xang and Doi hamlets. Most traditional activities occur in the TCHs, not in the MCHs. Meanwhile, general activities take place in both buildings and new activities associated with modern society are held in the MCH. Doi hamlet sometimes hosts special ecotourism activities. However, for Doi hamlet, the activities mostly take place in TCHs since it is in central position as well as its cool and beautiful view.

Among 40 resident interviewed in A Xang and Doi hamlets, 40 out of 40 respondents said that they prefer existing TCHs to existing MCHs in their hamlets and want to keep these TCHs. However, only 4 out of 20 interviewees in A Xang and Doi hamlets stated that they master TCH construction techniques. Besides, only 9 interviewees in A Xang hamlet and 7 interviewees in Doi hamlet said that they are willing to participate in TCH construction in future without labor remuneration, while remaining interviewees say that they only joint with labor payment.

6.4 Maintenance of the TCHs in A Xang and Doi hamlets

Table 6.3 Current conditions and maintenance plan of the TCHs in A Xang and Doi hamlets

	TCH in A Xang hamlet		TCH in Doi hamlet	
Components	Current conditions (Material)	Plan of repair or renewal	Current conditions	Plan of repair or renewal
Central pillar	Good (*Hranh* timber)	- (Used for 15 years)	Good (*Son* timber)	- (Used 10 – 15 years)
Main and lean-to pillars	Fairly good (Merawan Giaza and Red-wood timber)	- (Used for 10 years)	Good (Iron wood)	- (Used 10 – 15 years)
Floor beams	Fairly good (Sapele and White Meranti timber)	- (Used 5 – 10 years)	Fairly good (White Meranti timber)	- (Used 5 – 10 years)
Cross beams	Fairly Good (*Doi* timber)	- (Used 5 – 10 years)	Good (Sapele timber)	- (Used 5 – 10 years)
Eaves beams	Fairly Good (*Doi* and Sapele timber)	- (Used 5 – 10 years)	Good (Sapele timber)	- (Used 5 – 10 years)
Roof beams	Fairly Good (Sapele and White Meranti timber)	- (Used 5 – 10 years)	Good (Sapele timber)	- (Used 5 – 10 years)
Roofing	Severe damage (Rattan and Mangrove Fan Palm leaf)	Decided (in 2015, 30 laborers/1 week)	Slight damage (Rattan leaves)	Yes (not yet decided) (in 2015, 50 laborers/2 weeks)
Flooring	Severe damage (*Lo o* [a kind of bamboo])	Decided (in 2015, 30 laborers/2 days)	Slight damage (*Lo o* [a kind of bamboo])	Yes (not yet decided) (in 2015, 30 laborers/2 days)
Ridge pole	Slight damage (*Doi* timber)	- (Used for 5 years)	Fairly good (Sapele timber)	- (Used 5 – 10 years)
Stair	Severe damage (*Doi* timber and Ironwood)	Decided (in 2015, 6 laborers/2 days)	Slight damage (Ironwood)	Yes (not yet decided) (in 2015, 10 laborers/2 days)
Partition	Slight damage (White Meranti and Sapele timber)	- (Used 3 – 5 years)	Slight damage (Bark of Malva Nut tree)	Yes (not yet decided) (in 2015, 10 laborers/1 day)

A Xang and Doi hamlets are the rare hamlets in Nam Dong district that have maintained their TCH in modern society. The current houses have been maintained for ten years with regular renovations. Table 6.3 indicates the current conditions and maintenance plan of TCHs in A Xang and Doi hamlets. The main pillars, lean-to pillars and the central pillar in both TCHs are in good condition and will last from 10 to 15 years due to the high-quality wooden materials; also, the beams should withstand another five to ten years of use if they are protected from rainwater. On the other hand, the roof and floor of the TCH are seriously damaged in A Xang hamlet (Figure 6.11), and slightly damaged in Doi hamlet (Figure 6.12). The leader of A Xang hamlet has stated the components will quickly degrade if the damaged roof parts are not renovated soon. Thus, both hamlets must make renovation as soon as possible in 2015. However, the two hamlets have different renovation plans.



Figure 6.11 Roof and floor conditions of the TCH in A Xang hamlet (Sep. 2014)



Figure 6.12 Roof and floor conditions of the TCH in Doi hamlet (Sep. 2014)

A Xang hamlet has an advantage in terms of community cooperation, since most hamlet residents are relatives. However, the hamlet is unpopulous and the current TCH was constructed as an endeavor of the hamlet residents themselves. Moreover, A Xang hamlet has recently

received 50 million VND (~2,380 USD) from Thua Thien–Hue province to continue to honor a two-children policy [17] that has been in place for the past five years; these funds can be used for maintenance activities. Residents are planning to renovate roof in May and June 2015. Meanwhile, Doi hamlet has less community cooperation despite its high population. The current TCH belongs to an ecotourism organization, thus the hamlet residents have to wait for the approval of its management board as well as financial support from outside organizations before proceeding with their TCH renovation in 2015.

In general, two opinions are voiced about the roofs during hamlet meetings: they could be replaced with corrugated metal sheets or with thatched covering. Corrugated metal sheets will last much longer but will be hot in the summer, noisy in the rainy season, and diminish traditional character; in addition, they cost a great sum of money to purchase. If the roof is thatched, traditional character will be maintained and it will be cool in the summer and warm in the winter. However, collecting the proper kind of leaves is difficult because of scarcity, and much effort must be expended trekking into the deep forest (two- to four-hour walk time). Furthermore, due to the unstable characteristics of thatch construction, the roof will need to be replaced every four or five years. After many meetings of the patriarchs' council, residents of A Xang hamlet unanimously agreed to cover the roof with rattan leaves and replace the floor mat with bamboo. Thirty rattan sheets (5 m x 1.5 m per sheet) are needed to cover one roof; therefore, each household must contribute at least one sheet and 30 hamlet residents are needed to collect enough rattan leaves from the surrounding forest over the course of a week. Bamboo collection is easier to obtain and 30 people can be mobilized in two days. In addition, six people are needed to find good timber to replace the stairs. After collecting enough material, it takes about two weeks to process and assemble the components. In terms of the case of Doi hamlet, although the hamlet still has not made a final decision about its renovation, the hamlet leaders have also estimated the materials and labor needed to complete the work. The current estimation is as follows: 50 people collect 50 rattan sheets to replace the roof (two weeks), 30 people collect bamboo to replace the floor mat (two days), ten people collect enough suitable timber to renovate the stairs (two days), and ten people seek tree bark to replace the partition (one day). With support from the ecotourism project and local authorities, the hamlet plans to adhere to this tentative schedule.

According to hamlet patriarchs, the TCH construction materials used to be abundant, hamlets could freely make use of natural resources without supervision by the local government. However, in recent years, especially from the 2000s onward, because of the serious decline of

[17] Two-child policy is a government-imposed limit of two children allowed per family or the payment of government subsidies only to the first two children

forest resources, the central and local government have promulgated many policies to manage and protect the forest. Among these regulations, there is a policy that allows the hamlets to exploit a finite amount of timber in the forest that they are allocated to protect. However, the hamlet's local forest is considered "poor quality" (i.e., timber is classified as group 3 or below) and much of the timber is not suitable for construction, especially as pillars. Therefore, in order to gather the appropriate timber, it is compulsory to obtain a permit from the province and district authorities. However, the procedure for obtaining permission is complicated and takes a relatively long time (1–3 months). Moreover, requests are unlikely to be approved because it depends on annual timber exploitation volume are set in place for the district and commune as well as for the type and amount of timber gathered. If permission is granted, hamlet residents have to travel very far to a primeval forest. Even then, strong woods such as Ironwood and Merawan Giaza timber are gradually becoming extinct, and there are fewer patriarchs who possess master construction skills. These obstacles pose great challenges, making leaders of the two hamlets perpetually anxious about the current condition of their TCHs.

Although the TCH preservation is difficult work, the hamlet residents seem determined to complete their renovations. Mr. Rapar Aray, a patriarch of A Xang hamlet, said that TCH is a symbol of the culture, faith, and spirit of the Katu hamlet. A hamlet without the TCH is considered soulless, so hamlet leaders remain determined to conserve the TCH for their descendants and as a testimonial to traditional culture.

6.5 Possibility of conserving the TCHs in A Xang and Doi hamlets

Based on field surveys in A Xang and Doi hamlets where the TCHs are still maintained, it is possible to summarize the difficulties associated with conserving the TCH. The conservation process for A Xang and Doi hamlets can be summarized as follows:

(1) Difficulties in materials collection

Relocating from the high mountains to a lowland area has made it difficult for the hamlets to collect the necessary materials for the erection and maintenance of the TCH. Compounding this problem is the fact that some parts of the TCH need frequent replacement (e.g., roof, floor mat, partition). In the past, the hamlets were surrounded by forests with good timber, but today, the natural forest is regulated after decades of excessive and illegal exploitation. Therefore, it is very hard to find appropriate timber: residents must walk for many hours to reach timber resources, and herbicides for agricultural production have reduced the number of leaves available for roofing. In addition, the hamlets need to obtain permission from the local authorities before logging the forest.

(2) Difficulties in community cooperation

Government policy regarding land privatization has gradually begun to favor individual ownership. Starting in the 1990s, communally owned land in A Xang and Doi hamlets gradually transferred to personal ownership; cultivation land remained distributed between hamlets. At the same time, CHs must be positioned in the central of a hamlet, so it can be very hard to find an appropriate site for construction. (In general, hamlet residents are reluctant to donate land to build a CH.) The current TCH in A Xang hamlet, which is located on land donated by a patriarch, had to be situated near the outskirts of the hamlet because there was no suitable land in the hamlet's center.

Finally, there is a considerable generational gap in how elder and younger residents of A Xang and Doi hamlets view TCHs. For most patriarchs, the TCH is a profound and powerful cultural symbol that should be maintained, whereas younger residents – many of whom are in frequent contact with the outside world – are more pragmatic. Currently, it is very hard to mobilize young people to renovate TCHs. Most youth demand high remuneration despite the fact that the TCH represents the hamlet they live in. This issue cropped up during meetings in both hamlets.

(3) Difficulties in indigenous knowledge

Indigenous knowledge of construction techniques for TCH is starting to vanish. Currently, there are only four or five people in A Xang and Doi hamlets who understand technical construction methods, and most of them are aged. Meanwhile, there are fewer opportunities to impart knowledge to the descendants because nowadays, TCHs have not been seldom restored whereas MCHs with new construction techniques and materials have become commonplace.

6.6 Conclusion of the chapter

A Xang and Doi hamlets are two unique hamlets in Nam Dong district up to now have been retaining the pure traditional community houses with wooden materials erected by the hamlet residents beside a MCH built by outsiders with the financial support from international organizations since the leader of the hamlet are determined to keep the house in order to preserve the traditional identity of their group although they have accepted the new community house in their hamlet. Furthermore, the material resources during that time were still abundant. Hamlet residents in A Xang hamlet are close relatives each other; therefore, it is easy to gather residents for constructing TCH. Meanwhile, TCH in Doi hamlet belongs to ecotourism project; therefore, hamlet has to have responsibility to maintain it. However, currently many components of the TCHs in both hamlets such as leaves roof, floor mat are in damaged situation.

Results indicate that since moving to their present location, eight TCHs were built in both hamlets (six TCHs in A Xang hamlet and two TCHs in Doi hamlet). Much effort has been made to conserve and maintain the TCHs for traditional activities. Both hamlets have a plan to renovate the house in near future; especially, A Xang hamlet has a detailed plan to renovate the structure in 2015 regardless of difficulties. Besides, both hamlets have agreed to construct a MCH with support from the local government and outside organizations. These MCHs are used for new activities and is seen as an essential component of the development policy of the government for ethnic minorities.

Conserving the TCHs in the two hamlets has become more and more challenging due to the exhaustion of natural resources, decline of community cooperation and the gradual loss of indigenous knowledge. Thus, outside support is a necessity. For maintenance of the TCHs in the future, it will be necessary for hamlet residents to exert great effort, and they will need to receive reliable support from authorities and outside organizations. In the future, preserving the TCH in A Xang and Doi hamlets will be a reference point and a valuable symbol of conservation efforts in Central Vietnam as well as in Nam Dong district.

CHAPTER 7. DISCUSSION ON THE CONSERVATION OF THE TCHs

7.1 Policies regarding the Katu ethnic group in Nam Dong district

Being one of the two mountainous and ethnic minority districts of Thua Thien–Hue province, recently, there have been several policies and projects to be established in Nam Dong district. The overall target of these policies and projects is to alleviate poverty and narrow the gap between the highland and lowland and between Kinh people and the Katu ethnics by supporting livelihood and infrastructure. These policies and projects have been bringing about active impacts. Some typical projects can be listed such as New Economical Zones Construction Program deployed from 1975, National Target Program for Poverty Reduction (Program 133), Socio Economic Development in Ethnic Minority Areas Program (Program 135), and National Target Program for New Rural Construction. Owing to these projects, the life of the ethnics in general and the Katu ethnics in Nam Dong district in particular have had many changes. The residents have no longer had a nomadic life; they have settled into a stable agriculture instead and shifted the structure of domesticated plant and domestic animals rearing; the inherent attribute of living apart and segregation have disappeared. They have learned many preeminent advantages from other groups, especially from Kinh people. As a result, their life has been more prosperous, and the intellectual standards of the people have been enhanced. However, besides the positiveness, the rapid change has lost the Katu ethnic minority's traditional identity. The imposing and spreading approach of some projects together with the strained acceptance of hamlet residents have gradually losing the TCHs and the new CHs have not proved the desired effect.

Besides, Nam Dong district has a few policies and projects related to conservation of traditional culture of the ethnic minorities, among them is the TCH conservation. Before 1990s, the TCH construction had been the demand and responsibility of the hamlets; therefore, the hamlets were completely self-control and plenipotentiary in the TCH construction. The local government rarely took interested in this issue. However, since 1990s, due to the change of lifestyle, together with the decrease of natural resources, the construction has faced challenges. When the number of the TCHs began to decrease, the local authorities took more interest in conservation and restoration of this type of house. According to the local leaders, the conservation and restoration of the Katu culture, in which the TCH has always been included in the resolutions of the district and commune. However, the gap between proposed objectives and the realization of these objectives is still long. It can be seen that, so far, Nam Dong district still has not had any long-term strategically policy in the conservation and restoration of the Katu TCH.

One of the most rare policies on national cultural conservation implemented in the recent years is the Project No. 15/KH-UBND on "Implementation of the plan of conserving and developing culture of the ethnic minorities until 2020 in the district". This project is based on the Decision No. 1270/QD-TTg dated in 2011 by Prime Minister and Plan No. 105/KH-UBND dated in 2012 of Thua Thien–Hue province on the implementation of project "Conservation and development of culture of Vietnamese ethnic minorities until 2020". According to the leaders of district Department of Culture, the project is the essential legal basis to deploy the activities on cultural conservation more effectively in the future. The relevant departments of the district are also coordinating to gradually realize the assigned missions; and in order to achieve this, the maximum mobilization of central and local resources is needed. However, it can be seen that the objectives of Plan No.15 dated in 2013 of Nam Dong district are basically general oriented, does not consider the specific conditions of each commune, hamlet, and detailed plan for minor phases, and especially it does not mention the plan to restore and preserve the TCH.

7.2 Efficiency of projects of the CH construction

Most of the projects of the CH construction implemented in Nam Dong district so far have the participation and financial support of outside organizations such as the projects sponsored by NGOs (NAV, ICCO, SNV), CBRIP by WB and CLIP by ADB. The approach of these projects during deployment is different. The first projects implemented in 1990s generally have minor scale; only some hamlets have the TCH projects by NAV in Ta Lu hamlet, Thuong Nhat commune; U Rang hamlet, Huong Huu commune; A Rang, A Ka hamlets, Thuong Quang commune; the TCH projects in Thuong Long commune by ICCO, in Doi hamlet by SNV, etc. It can be seen that these projects have the conformable approach by the empowerment to the hamlet residents to collect the materials and erect the TCHs. However, according to the residents, the hamlet faces challenges in maintenance after the finish of the projects since there is no more financial support. Most of these TCHs have brought the certain effect despite their short-term use. Unfortunately, some TCHs among them are dismantled (the TCHs in Ta Lu, Ta Rinh hamlets, Thuong Nhat commune; in Cha Ke hamlet, Thuong Long commune; in A Ka hamlet, Thuong Quang commune because of the appearance of MCHs). A few of these TCHs still exist but is not frequently used such as the TCHs in A Ro hamlet, Thuong Quang commune, and the TCH in Thuong Long commune. Only the TCHs in Doi and A Xang hamlets, in Thuong Lo commune are still uesd effectively.

2000s onward is the difficult stage in maintenance of the TCH in the hamlets since the materials for the TCH construction become scarce caused by the excessive exploitation. This forces the local government to manage the forest resources exploitation more strictly. By the time

of appearance of the CH projects made of new materials, many hamlets still have their TCHs; however most of them have deteriorated, especially thatched roof; therefore, they are no longer able to be used. Meanwhile, the hamlets need a solid CH to hold the meetings and disseminate the policies and projects of the government to the residents. In addition, the ownership of CH is one of the criteria in assessing the hamlets and communes to reach standards of culture at grassroots level. Therefore, the local authorities have agreed to rebuild the CH in this type.

According to Mr. Hien, the chief of Department of Culture of Nam Dong district, there has not been the close coordination of relevant departments when deploying the CH projects in Nam Dong district. When these projects were deployed, the Department of Culture of the district which is the advisory agency knows nothing. Meanwhile, the local residents expect and have faith in projects of government.

Mentioning the context of appearance of the E-CHs, Mr. Ho Van Chien, leader of Rong Ghenh hamlet, Huong Huu commune said, "when there was the project of CH construction, the hamlet held a meeting to propose to build the TCH like A Xang hamlet's one but the local leaders say there was not enough expenditure. The district and commune leaders promise when there is capital, TCH will be built, so the CH is only temporary. The project board of management did not hold a meeting with hamlet residents to ask for their opinions and decided to build the E-CH themselves. Some residents objected to the E-CH since it is not like TCH but the district and commune leaders have already decided, the residents have no right to contribute their ideas." Another idea from Mr. Pham Van Noc, patriarch of Ap rung hamlet, Thuong Long commune: "Everything must be done in the plan the project that has drawn up, and the residents' ideas are not respected. The project implemented to build the CH itself without asking hamlet residents for method and type of the house. The meeting with residents merely ask for the construction land; other tasks are arranged by the commune and the project, and the hamlet only obeys and cannot oppose". However, according to Mr. Le Dinh Khanh, Deputy Manager of Thua Thien–Hue province Department of Planning and Investment affirms: "Before the construction, the project had had from five to seven samples of CH for the local residents to refer. After having unanimity of community and the patriarchs for the model, the construction begins." Mr. Khanh also emphasizes the project by ADB at that time has the objective of poverty alleviation; apart from objective of culture, there are objectives of agriculture, economy and education; therefore, it is impossible to gather resources to build the CH as traditional style. Moreover, using concrete in CH construction is unavoidable because it is unable to deforest for timber to build the TCH for the hamlets.

In the district leaders' explanation, the main reason for the difference among the E-CHs of

the six Katu communes in Nam Dong district is the shortage of expenditure for constructing the CH in all hamlets in Nam Dong district. Therefore, the communes must assess, consider to select hamlets which are given priority to build the CHs based on the criteria of the project's involvement of communes, conditions of current CHs at that time, the participation ability of the hamlet residents, etc. For cases of Thuong Long and Thuong Nhat communes, in 2004, when there was CBRIP, all eight hamlets of Thuong Long proposed to build a CH as a prior work. The commune based on the practical situation of each hamlet, whereby three hamlets including A Gon, Te Vac and A Chieu were chosen because of the degradation of the TCH (A Gon, A Chieu hamlets) or absence of TCH (Te Vac hamlet). The remaining hamlets still had the TCH in good conditions. Until 2007, when there was CLIP, the commune continued to approve. Ka Dong and A Dai hamlets were chosen, and in 2008, the CHs were built in the three remaining hamlets (A Xăng, Cha Ke và Ap Rung). However, in these eight hamlets, only A Xang hamlet still maintains the old TCH.

Assessing the role of involving sides during the CH construction, the survey result shows that so far in majority of the projects of CH construction in Nam Dong district, except for a few CHs projects sponsored by NAV, ICCO and SNV in some hamlets (Ta Lu, Doi, A Ka, etc.) in which the residents are empowered to erect the CHs, the role of local community is disregarded (typically in the projects by CBRIP, CLIP, PRODETOUR, etc). In these projects, the residents mostly have no considerable role, and their ideas are not appreciated. The types and methods of CH construction had the nature of imposing, uniformity, and lack of conformable research on form and implementation method. In addition, there was the lack of the supervision or loose supervision of the commune and district authorities during construction. Meanwhile the investment for construction is rather great. Therefore, the TCHs are damaged for short time in use (like the TCH by Prodetour Project in Ta Ring hamlet).

According to Mr. Bien, the Chairman of Thuong Nhat commune, NAV only sponsored to construct the TCHs in A Tin and Ta Ring hamlets since at that time, these two hamlets did not have any TCH. However, during the use, the roof and floor mat must be frequently replaced, and especially it was badly damaged by the typhoon in 2006. This is the reason why in the later CHs projects, the new materials are used because of its long-term characteristics. However, the form and interior arrangement are not right with tradition; there are some limitations during the use (noisy and hot), and it is difficult to mobilize the maintenance expenditure. Also according to Mr. Bien, the residents did not participate in the TCH construction project in Ta Rinh hamlet in 2013 for two reasons: first, they think this project is of commune, not of hamlet; second is the limit expenditure while it is difficult to collect traditional materials, especially pillars. Besides, during

discussion with the hamlet residents, the model of the CH had been chosen before, and there was not unanimity in supporting expenditure so they did not participate.

Assessing the effect during the use of E-TCs, there are many ideas of the residents. They are very excited to get the regards of the government. Some say that the new TCH has brought certain effect and satisfied the demands of meeting and activity organization of the community. However, there are some ideas raising the limitations of these projects. For example, the deployment and management are not good, and there is lack of inspection and supervision during construction. The investment expenditure for the project is unclear. The project is not synchronic; in some hamlets, the CHs have window and door holes without door and window-frame, and the residents had to contribute by themselves to make them.

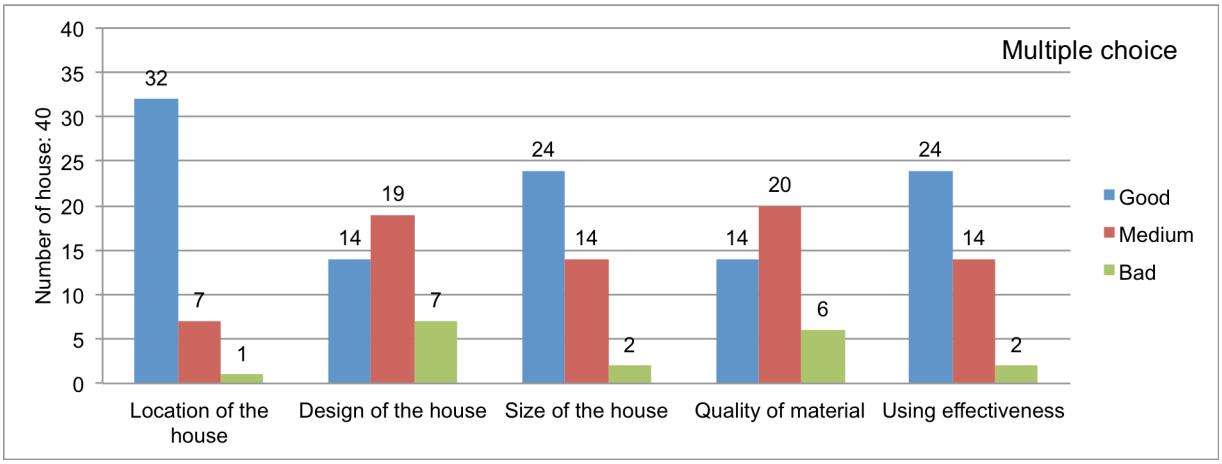


Figure 7.1 Evaluation of hamlet residents on use effectiveness of the E-CHs in the hamlets

Figure 7.1 shows the opinions of the residents to the effect of E-CHs in the hamlets in Nam Dong district. In terms of position of the E-CH, 32 over 40 CHs [18] are assessed to be convenient for approaching; seven E-CHs are evaluated to be at the medium level, and only one E-CH is said to be in disadvantaged position. Regarding form of the E-CHs, 14 E-CHs are said to be conformable in form, concentrating in the hamlets which have type 1, 2 and 3; 19 CHs are assessed to be at medium level (there are both good and bad points); Seven E-CHs are stated to be unconformable (primarily type 5). In terms of scale of CH, 24 E-CHs are assessed to have appropriate are to hold hamlet meeting, 14 E-CHs has medium area, and only two CHs are too small. In terms of construction material, according to respondents, 14 E-CHs have good quality, 20 E-CHs have medium quality (some components are reliable but some are not); six E-CHs are said to be degraded. In terms of effectiveness during use, 24 CHs are said to have good effect, 14

[18] Only 40 out of 43 CHs in Nam Dong district belonging to 36 hamlets are selected to conduct field survey and discuss in this chapter. Three remaining CHs are communes' ownership.

CHs have medium effect (some functions are not conformable) and two E-CHs have bad effect.

According the residents, the projects were deployed within certain time and did not have thorough research on the CH types as well as long-term maintenance method; therefore, after the projects finish, they have to self-manage and maintain the E-CHs, while not having experience, the residents have faced many challenges during maintenance.

7.3 Potential in construction and maintenance of TCHs

The TCH plays an essential role in the life of the Katu ethnic minority in general and the Katu ethnic minority in Nam Dong district in particular. Therefore, two questions are mentioned: why does the number of the TCHs in the Katu currently decrease? And what is the possibility to conserve and restore the TCH here in the future? The research result has shown that the TCH conservation and restoration in Nam Dong district depend on many different factors; among them, three main factors need discussing; first is the potentiality of natural resources; second is the human resources, and third is the indigenous knowledge source of the community.

7.3.1 Natural resource

The prerequisite factor to construct a TCH is the local traditional source of materials. Previously, when living in high mountainous area, the Katu ethnics' life attached with and depended on the forest. Most of their products were made of forest resources; among them is the TCH. The Katu ethnics chopped down the big timbers around their living place to erect the TCH. At that time, timber was not a trading product and did not have great value as nowadays. However, later, the collection of appropriate material meets difficulties. A great amount of forest is assigned to the business to deploy and manage. The amount of both legal and illegal annually exploited timber is rather great; meanwhile the regenerated forest area is not balanced. On the other hand, in recent years, there are many natural forests to be transferred into industrial planting forest such as rubber and acacia tree. According to the residents, to build the TCH, it is necessary to have high-quality timbers, especially timbers for pillars (it is obliged to have timber group 2 and above, and the diameter from 50 cm to the central pillar and from 30 cm to the main pillar and lean-to pillar. However, currently, it is very difficult to collect timbers which are conformable with the above-mentioned criteria. The forests allocated to community are primarily poor forests with low-quality timber (from group 3 and below) which are only used for components such as roof beam, eaves beam, floor beam and so on. In order to collect appropriate timbers, it is necessary to go into natural forests (protective forest and special-used forest), tens of kilometers away from the hamlet. Source of leaves for roofing is one of the challenges. Previously, the leaves for roofing like rattan and mangrove fan palm leaves were popular and easy to exploit in surrounding forest; currently, these kinds of leaves have been significantly

decreased and it takes long walk to collect. In addition, because of the decrease of forest resource, the management and exploitation of forest product are tightened. Previously, natural forest belonged to community, and the residents could freely exploit without permission. Since the 1990s, the timber exploitation has gradually been limited and nowadays, it is obliged to have permission when logging. However, according to the residents, the procedure to propose permission is rather complicated, takes much time even its target is for the TCH construction.

The interview result has shown the procedure of proposing permission and logging for the purpose of community as follows: The hamlets draw up petition including specifies objective, amount, and type of timber and then submit to the communes. The communes synthesize the demands of timber of each hamlet and make statement to propose to the districts. The districts synthesize the needs of communes and propose to the province. The province approves and allocates the norms to each district. After that, the districts allocate norm to each commune with the project of expoitation showing the type of timbers and sub-areas for explotation, and the communes allocate norms to each hamlet. If the hamlets are chosen, they will draw up petition again to submit to the districts; the districts license to the community; when there is the permission, the community exploits timber following the instruction of forestry officers. After exploitation, the timber is gathered in a certain place so that these officers can measure and weigh the volume, tabulate the forest product and confirm in the enumeration. According to Mr. Bien, the Chairman of Thuong Nhat commune People's Committee, in recent years, the district has no exploitation norms of timber. However, in the Policy No.22, Thua Thien–Hue province allocated Nam Dong district to exploit 500 m^3 of timber (from group 2 to group 6) in 2014 because of the road-opening project provincial road No. 74 jointing Nam Dong district and A Luoi district. The households in the commune have to register the norm with the preferential price of 8 million VND (~380 USD)/m^3 of Merawan Giaza timber and 2.6 million VND (~123 USD)/m^3 of White Meranti timber, and each household can buy 0.5 m^3 maximum (the residents are not allocated like before).

Taking situation of TCH construction of Thuong Long commune for an example, according to Mr. Cuong, the commune chairman, before 2010, there were many projects related to many aspects including cultural conservation supported by the outside organizations. However, in recent years, many programs have been ended; therefore, the number of projects decreases. Explaining for the decrease of the TCH in Thuong Long commune, Mr. Cuong states since the hamlets do not have land, the old TCHs are dismantled to use the land for new CHs. Presnetly, the commune plans to construct communal cultural center in which the small-scale TCH models are displayed. When being asked why real TCH are not built in the hamlets, Mr. Cuong explains

it is not feasible because of lack of expenditure and possibility on materials and community mobilization. Currently, only Te Vac and A Dai hamlets are assigned to manage the community forests which primarily poor forests because most of the medium and rich forests are managed by forest enterprises. If the hamlets desire logging, there must be permission from the province. Formerly, a few households propose exploitation permission to build family house of worship, but they were not authorized. According to Mr. Cuong, the commune leaders always support the TCH construction project; however, the restoration of the TCH in all hamlets in current context faces many challenges.

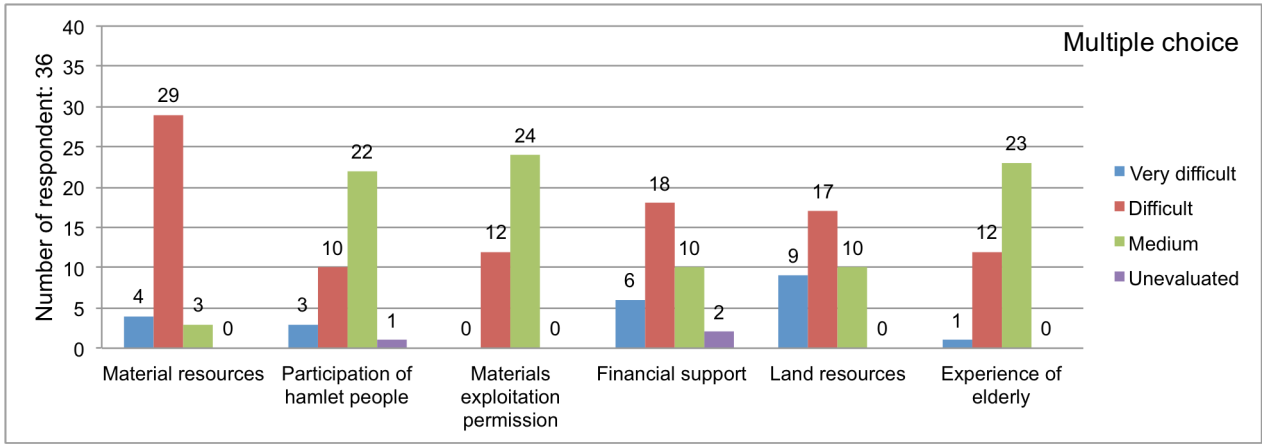


Figure 7.2 Evaluation of hamlet residents on factors for a TCH construction project

The fourth survey result in 36 hamlets in Nam Dong district has indicated that there are many factors related to the CH construction possibility in the hamlets, including source of materials, community participation, exploitation permission from local authorities, financial support, the source of land and the elderly's experience with different levels (Figure 7.2). Among them, the source of materials is the most difficult factor. Four and 29 out of 36 residents respectively state that it is very difficult and difficult to collect enough appropriate materials. They explain that most forests assigned to the community are poor or medium forest with low-quality timber. The rich forest having many kinds of valuable timbers, primarily special-used forest and protective forest are managed by government, belonging to prohibitive or limited exploitation forests. The next challenges are the source of land, mentioned by 26 out of 36 and 24 out of 36 referred to expenditure to build the TCH. The residents say that in current context, the financial support is the prerequisite condition to build a TCH. No hamlets in Nam Dong district have enough potential to build the TCH like before. Besides, they need the support of local authorities in legal procedure, especially logging permission. Meanwhile, 13 out of 36 state that it is very difficult or difficult to mobilize the residents to participate as well as the decline of people who have understandings in the TCH construction technique. 12 out of 36 residents say it is

difficult to make logging procedure because of the residents' limited knowledge, they do not grasp complicated procedure, but the majority (24/36) think it is not difficult to propose permission if the objective of logging is for the TCH construction.

In terms of the possibility of participating in the TCH construction in 36 surveyed hamlets, 5 factors are raised, including possibility of material collection, TCH design, TCH erection, component processing, financial contribution, use and maintenance of TCH after finish (Figure 7.3). 29 residents mention that it is very difficult or difficult for the residents to participate in collecting materials. According to the residents, the design and erection of the TCH are also difficulties, although the number of people who have thorough understanding on the TCH technique compared with previously. Ten residents say it is very difficult to find out the people who expert in the TCH construction technique, but 26 people say in their hamlet; there are still people who have deep understanding of the TCH technique. However, according to them, the majority of these people are old, and they do not have opportunity to descend to the future generation; this means no one will master this technique in the future.

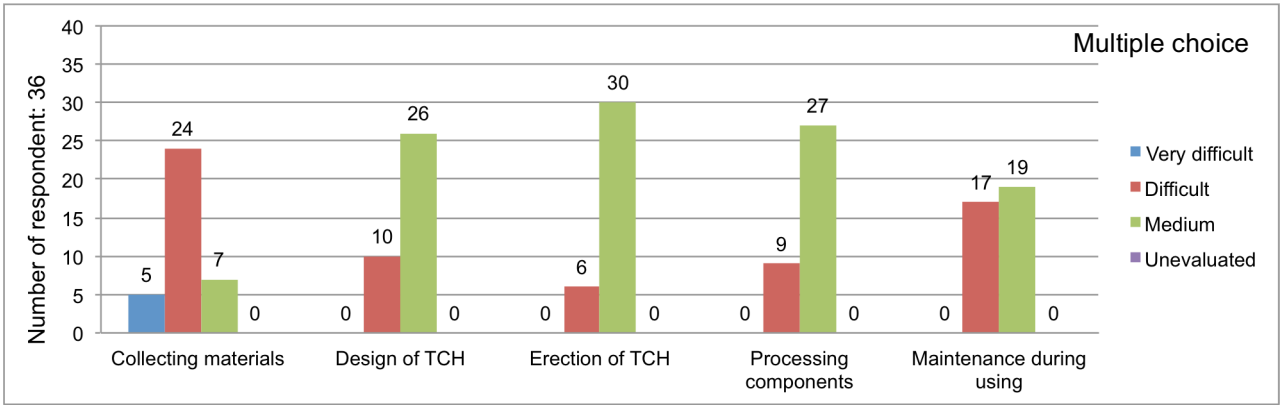


Figure 7.3 Evaluation of participation capability of hamlet residents in a TCH construction project

The TCH is composed from many parts such as pillar, floor beam, roof beam, cross beam, eaves beam, roof beam, wall, thatched roof, and so on. Each part needs different materials (timber, leaves, bamboo, etc.). These materials must be local materials and have conformable characteristics. The survey result of 36 residents in 36 hamlets has shown that there is difference in ability of collecting these materials (Figure 7.4). Collecting appropriate timber to make pillar is the most difficult. 32 out of 36 people say currently, to collect high-quality timber to make pillars is very difficult since the number of appropriate timbers (type 1 or 2, diameter of 40 cm minimum) remains little. In terms of the timber for making floor beams, eaves beams, roof beams, only low-quality and not big timbers (type 3 and 4) are needed; therefore, they can be collected in surrounding forest. However, it is not easy to collect enough volume (12 out of 36 people say it is difficult to collect conformable timbers). Collecting leaves is a hard work. The

distribution of leaves for covering roof such as mangrove fan palm leaves, *May* leaves, etc.is different in the district; currently, the number of leaves has decreased since the majority of these areas are transferred into industrial planting forests. 21 out of 36 people state that it is very difficult or difficult to collect leaves for roofing. Bamboo is a popular material for floor mat, partition, and door. Currently, the source of natural bamboo is minor, primarily bamboo planted by the residents. The amount of bamboo for the TCH construction is rather great. The feasible amount of bamboo exploitation in each hamlet is different; some hamlets are abundant but some are scarce (9 out of 36 people say it is difficult to collect enough for floor mat, partition and door). In addition, collecting enough rattan trees to make string is also a difficulty since this kind is scarce.

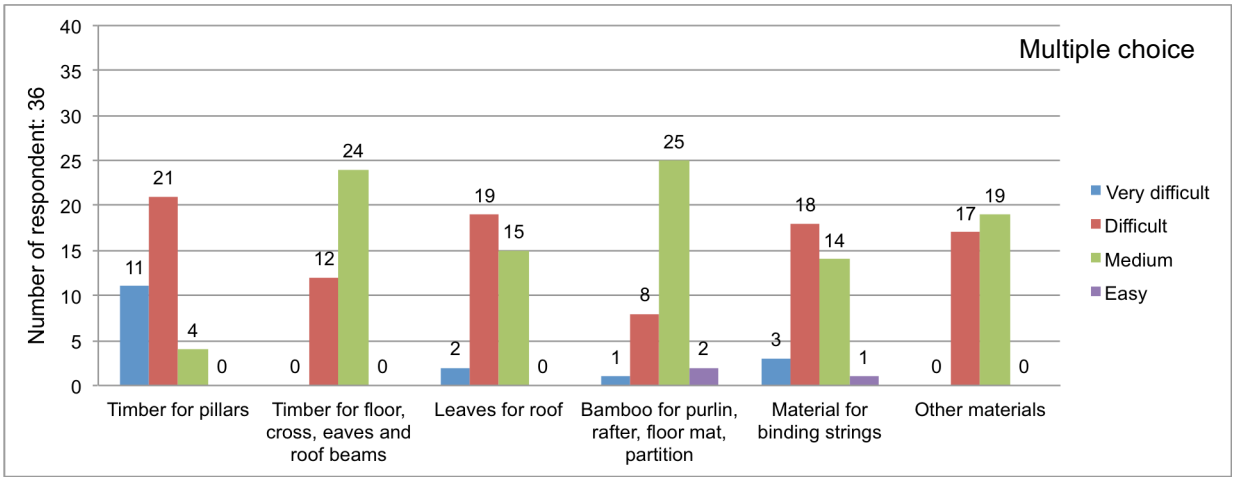


Figure 7.4 Evaluation of ability of collecting materials in a TCH construction project

7.3.2 Human resources

Potential of human resource in the community also plays an important role in contributing and conserving the TCH. Previously, the relationship among the hamlet members was close. The TCH was the fruit and contribution of the whole hamlet residents. The TCH could be considered as a unique place for cultural activities; therefore, the residents participated in and maintained the TCH with the high voluntary spirit and self-consciousness. Currently, the community solidarity in the hamlets in Nam Dong district has been considerably decreasing due to the change of lifestyle. When the life is improved, the cultural life becomes more abundant with many activities and means of entertainment imported from outside. In common sense, the need of sharing in the community decreases; the practicality and ownership increases. The TCH is no longer extremely important to them.

In terms of the viewpoint of the TCH construction intention in the future of the hamlets, according to survey result, 20 out of 36 people say after having the current CH, their hamlets never hold meetings to discuss the TCH reconstruction. Only 16 out of 36 hamlets used to have

intention to re-erect a TCH (Figure 7.5, left). The desire to rebuild a TCH concentrates in the hamlets which currently have the CH on earth like some hamlets of Huong Huu commune and some hamlets in Thuong Lo, Huong Son, and Thuong Quang communes. However, the fact shows that so far, no hamlet can realize this intention. Explaining for no intention of the TCH reconstruction, some residents state since their hamlets have already had the solid CH made of new materials, it is not necessary to reconstruct the TCH, while some ideas indicate the disability of the TCH reconstruction in source of land, material and so on.

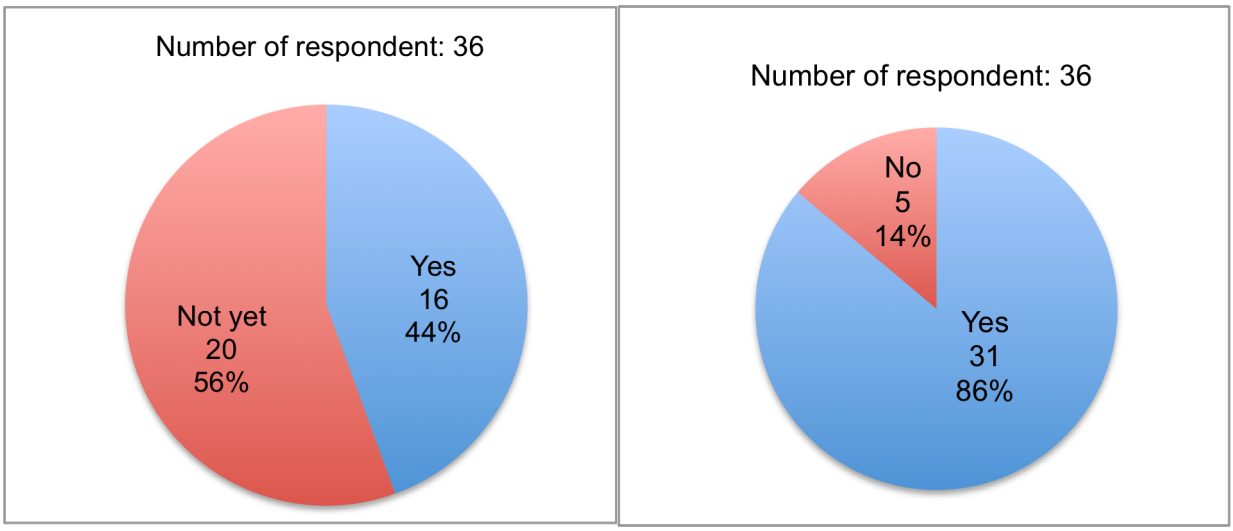


Figure 7.5 (left) Intention in a TCH construction the future in the hamlets
(right) Residents' desire of having a TCH in their hamlet

In terms of the individual opinions on desire of having a TCH in their hamlets, 31/36 residents say they wish to have one and the same number of residents say if there is a TCH construction project in the future, they are willing to participate. Only 5 residents do not desire and will not participate if there is a TCH construction project. (Figure 7.5, right).

However, the participation ability of the residents in the TCH construction is different. Figure 7.6 shows the participation ability of the interviewees with the specific work if there is a TCH project. It can be seen that to the work of requiring much effort like collecting materials in the forests, only 9, 11 out of 36 people are willing to participate in collecting wood and leaf since according to them, this is a hard task, long distance, and they must be strong. The on-site work of mobilizing the residents to participate in designing, erecting and maintaining the TCH seem to be easier to them. Specifically, 30 out of 36 respondents say they will play the role of mobilizing the residents to participate; 26 respondents agree to participate in erecting the TCH, and 23 people can design and contribute money. The majority of interviewees (29/36) agree they will maintain the TCH during use.

Figure 7.7 shows resident's estimation of the TCH construction expenditure. According to

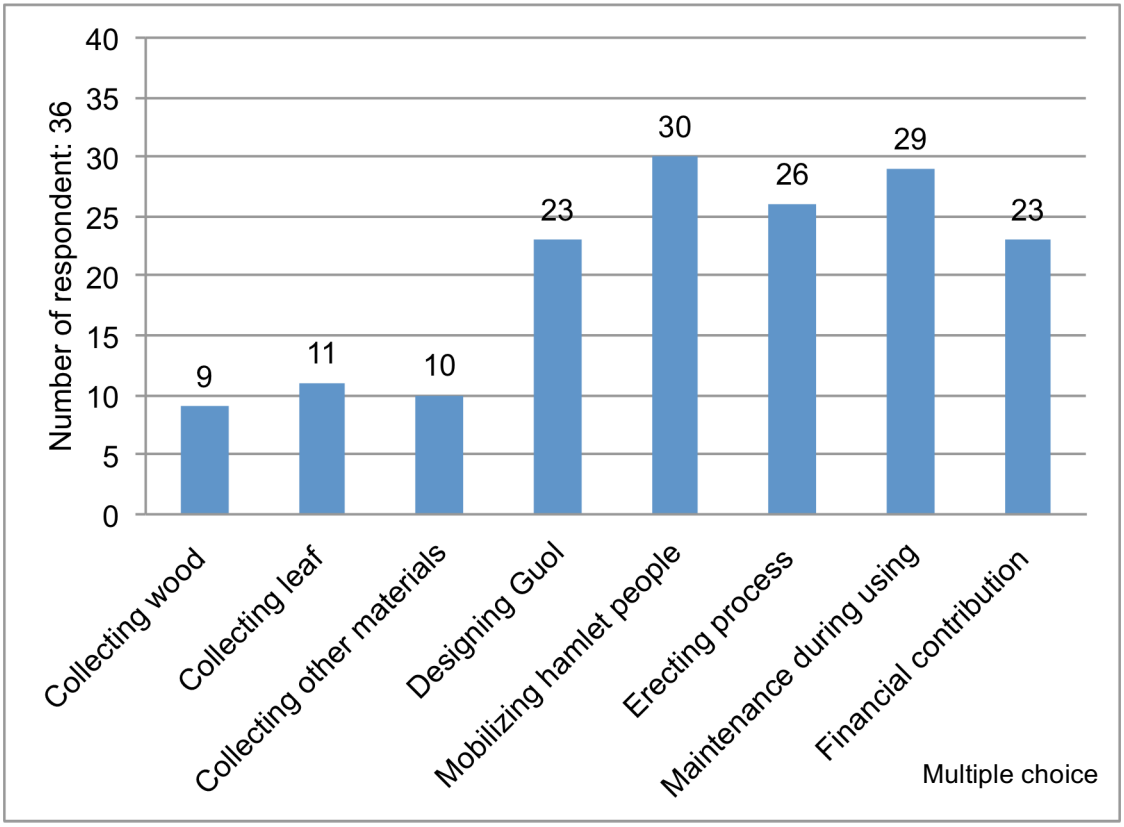


Figure 7.6 Participation ability of the residents in a TCH construction

the interviewees, this is rather great. 20 out of 36 respondents say the TCH construction currently costs around 200 million VND to 400 million VND (~9,523 USD – 19,047 USD). The expenditure is estimated on the converting from the participation of the residents (200,000 VND (~9.5 USD)/labor), material transportation and processing, inauguration and so on. Seven people

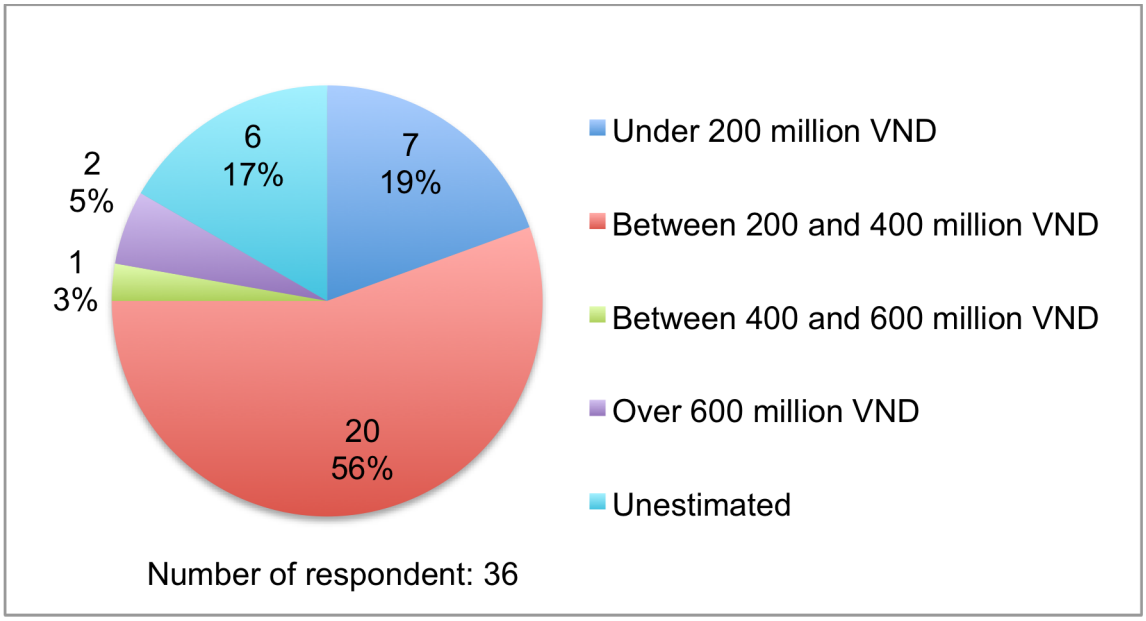


Figure 7.7 Estimated cost for constructing a TCH

estimate under 200 million VND (~9.5 USD), two respondents estimate over 400 million VND (~19,047 USD) and only one respondent estimate 600 million VND (~28,571 USD). Six interviewees cannot calculate the specific expenditure. The above-mentioned result indicates that currently, to build a TCH, it costs around 200 million VND to 400 million VND (~9,523 USD – 19,047 USD), which exceeds the residents' ability.

Source of land is one of the essential factors in the TCH construction. Similar to forest resources, land previously belonged to the community ownership, and it was very easy to choose a conformable area for the TCH construction. However, since the Land law was enforced in 1993 assigning that each individual can have land ownership and attach with other rights, residents of Nam Dong district began to be issued the land ownership certificate. Until 2000, most of the living land and cultivating land in the hamlets are divided into small lots and belong to the residents' ownership. Evidently, the common land area no longer exists.

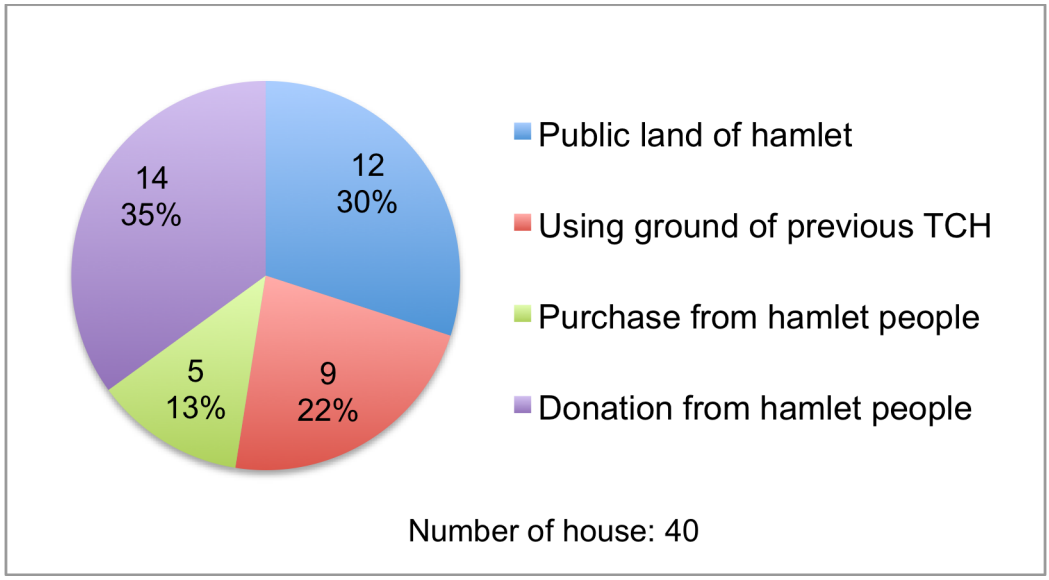


Figure 7.8 Land resources of E-CHs

The survey result in 36 Katu hamlets in Nam Dong district has indicated that land for the E-CH construction has different sources (Figure 7.8). 14 interviewees say land of the E-CH in their hamlets is donated by the residents; 12 E-CHs use the common land of the hamlets reserved for CH construction. Nine E-CHs use the land of the previous TCHs. Five lands of E-CH are bought from the hamlet residents. Taking Thuong Lo hamlet for an example, according to Mr. Tien, vice chairman of the People's Committee of the commune, in current hamlets in the commune, only Doi hamlet is able to conserve the TCH, while the remaining hamlets face many challenges. Besides, the source of land is also difficult, especially La Ho and Mu Nam hamlets. The mobilization of donators is not impossible, and if buying, there is no expenditure. Currently, the criteria of culture and new-rural areas building, especially the CH is very necessary because the

CH is the place to popularize the guidelines, policies of the government and organize the common activities of the hamlet.

Figure 7.9 indicates the potentiality in source of land for the TCH construction if there is a TCH construction project in the future. 12 out of 36 interviewees say currently their hamlet does not have common land as well as ability to persuade the residents to donate or sell their land. 11 residents state that to construct a TCH, the hamlet has to dismantle current E-TH since there is no more resource of land (this solution primarily concentrates on the hamlets which have the MCH-E). Six residents reveal the hamlet has spare land for new TCH, and only three interviewees say the hamlet is able to persuade the residents to donate or sell land for new TCH in the future.

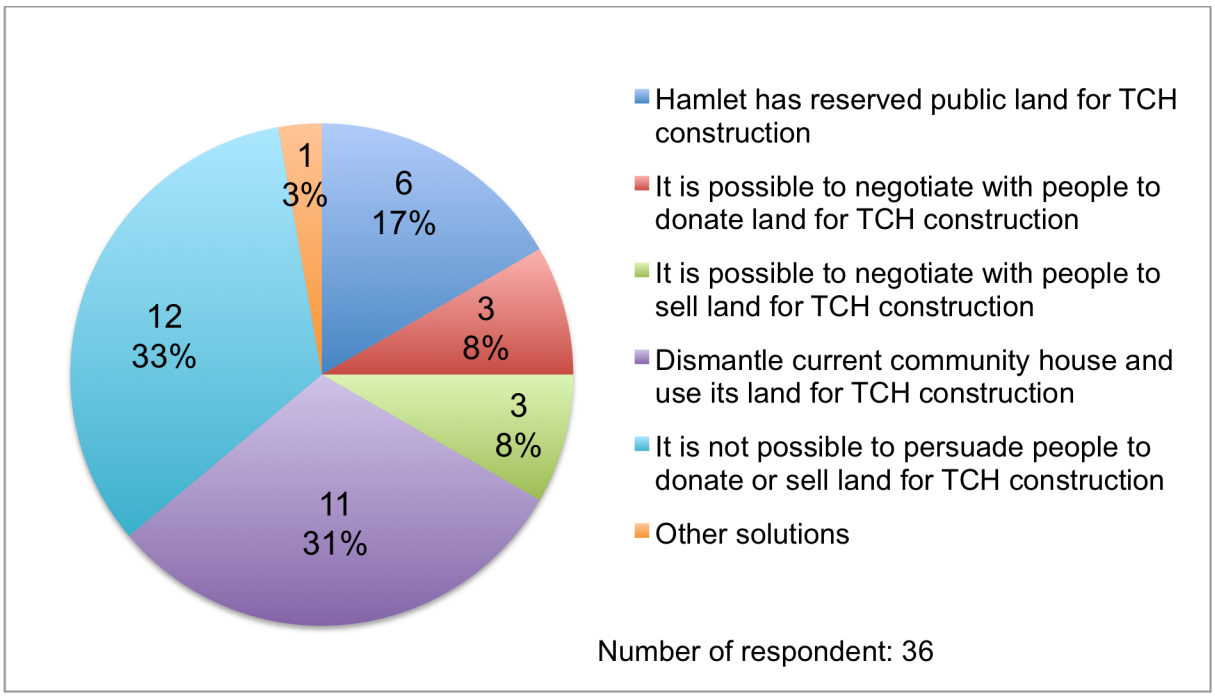


Figure 7.9 Potentialities in source of land for a TCH construction

7.3.3 Intellectual resources

Indigenous knowledge is the understanding which is accumulated in the living process of the local residents through many generations. Among them, the TCH construction technique is one of the valuable sources of knowledge of the Katu ethnics. However, currently, due to the change of living environment, the indigenous knowledge, especially the TCH erection technique, has been losing since there is no condition to apply and descend to the future generations. Figure 7.10 indicates the potentiality of the indigenous knowledge on the TCH construction technique among the interviewees. It can be seen that currently the TCH construction technique is still remained in a few elderly. Among 36 interviewees, 35 people have the knowledge on the TCH construction but at different levels. 12 people say they master the TCH construction technique such as

selection of materials, use of body measurement, and house erection steps; 13 people reveal they understand the TCH construction technique rather well, and ten people answer they know a little. According to them, these techniques are accumulated through the observation, participation erection of previous TCH, and transference from previous generations. Only one person says he has no knowledge on TCH erection [19].

However, according to the interviewees, currently, the number of people who master knowledge on TCH construction in the hamlets is few, only some people in each hamlet, and the majority of them are elderly. The adjacent generations mostly do not have experience and condition to inherent this knowledge because of no TCH construction in recent time. This is also a great challenge.

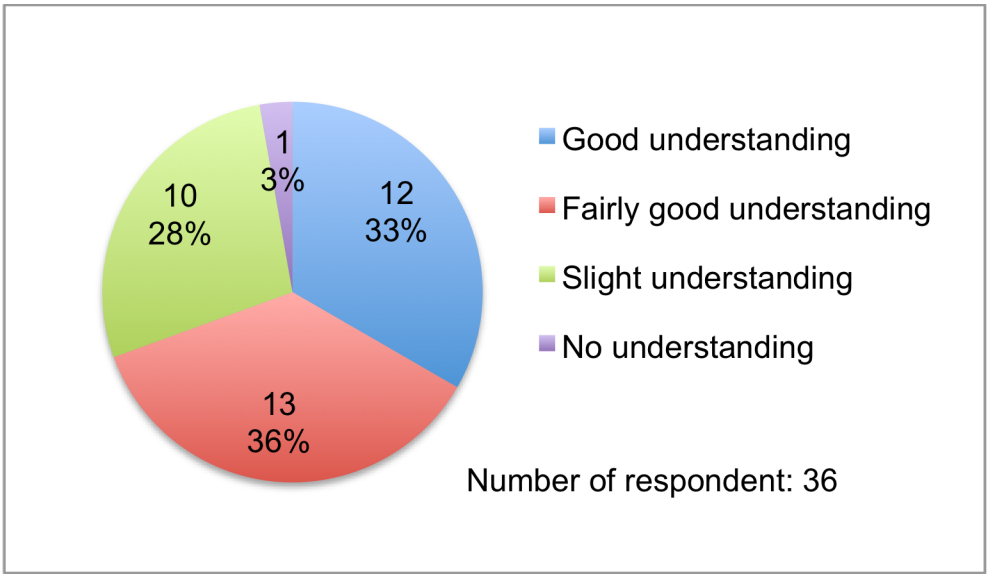


Figure 7.10 Indigenous knowledge on TCH construction technique of hamlets resident

7.4 Viewpoints and roles of stakeholders for conservation of the TCHs

The conservation and development is an arguing issue at present. Conserving the TCH to maintain the traditional feature as well as adapting to the current condition in a context of incessant and rapid change is not easy. The survey result has shown the different viewpoints among local authorities, residential community and experts in the TCH conservation in Nam Dong district.

7.4.1 Local authorities

In terms of the viewpoint of district in the TCH conservation and restoration, according to Mr. Ngo Van Chien, the district always supports the TCH restoration to conserve tradition culture

[19] This can be explained for the choice of surveyed elderly objects who used to be or currently are the hamlet and commune leaders or prestige elderly.

of the Katu ethnic minority since currently, the number of the TCHs like original type is little; however, reconstructing the TCH is very difficult in current context, especially the scarceness of traditional materials. Mentioning the reasons of the deformation of the TCHs, Mrs. Le Thi Huong – Vice Chairman of Nam Dong district People's Committee says, the district has 45% of population who are the ethnic minorities; however, traditional cultural value and role of the TCH have been disappearing. The reason partly caused by the natural materials such as bamboo, timber, rattan, thatch, etc. are becoming exhausted. Some projects of CH construction only simulated the TCH form of which cement and steel rod are used since they are convenient for construction. The residents and local authorities desire to conserve and restore the TCH but it is very difficult.

When being asked about the ability of logging permission for the TCH construction, Mr. Son, chief of district Department of Agriculture answered, "the norm of annual timber exploitation is of Thua Thien–Hue province People's Committee's authority. The district merely has authority to issue permission for the residents to exploit group 3 timber and under, while timber group 1 and 2 belong to the authority of the province". In fact, the annually permitted amount of timber in the district is limited. According to district authority, so far, no hamlet proposed the official document to the district asking for the TCH construction. The reason is that currently, 100% of the Katu hamlets have the CH, so the demand of the TCH reconstruction is not high. Furthermore, the expenditure for the TCH construction is great, the district itself does not have ability to undertake, and therefore the outside support is very necessary. These projects should be attached with the programs of community development and eco-tourism like Doi hamlet to introduce to tourists about the traditional culture and create maintenance fund.

The interview result has shown that the leaders of six communes support the TCH construction in the hamlets. The commune will play the role of organizing and making involving procedure, mobilizing the residents to participate and donate land for CH construction. However, the communes do not have capacity of supporting the expenditure. According to Mr. Bien, the Chairman of Thuong Nhat commune, the residents can be persuaded to donate land for CH construction if there is intervention from the district and commune.

According to Mr. Tien, vice chairman of Thuong Lo commune, the commune always encourages the residents of Doi hamlet to maintain their existing TCH, especially the thatched roof. The commune desires to assist the hamlet, but they do not have funding; the district has financial capacity, but it is unlikely to support. The collection of conformable source of timber is difficult, especially timber group 1 and 2. Thuong Lo commune has community forest but primarily poor forest while the forest of Bach Ma National Park is the special-used forest which

bans exploitation. In addition, the complicated in proposing logging permission is the great obstacle to the residents in the TCH reconstruction. The guideline of the commune is supporting the TCH restoration at all time; however, the inner force of the hamlets is insufficient to build the TCH, they need the great support from district and outside organizations. Specifically, in the proposal, the outside supports timber; the community contributes leave for roofing, and labor force (70% of expenditure is from the outside and 30% is from the community).

According to Mr. Det, the Chairman of Huong Son commune, the commune advocates restoring the traditional characteristic of Katu ethnic group in commune area, but has no specific plan. The commune always supports the TCH construction project in the future. Currently, the commune has no financial source to support if there is a TCH project. However, the residents can be mobilized to participate in (1 person per household) if there is the project.

7.4.2 Local communities

The TCH plays the essential role in the Katu residents, ' life, the one who directly use and are responsibility to maintain them. Figure 7.11 (left) indicates the opinions of the residents about the role of the TCH towards the Katu community in the past and at present. Among them, 30 interviewees state that the TCH is very necessary in their life in the past while only 14 interviewees say that it is still very necessary in current context. This demonstrates that presently, the role of the TCH has been decreased. Figure 7.11(right) shows the viewpoint of the hamlets to deal with E-MCHs if there is a TCH construction project in the future. The majority of interviewees (29/36) say the hamlet should maintain the E-MCH since this is a great property supported by government, and continues use it for the new activities. Only five people say the hamlet should dismantle the E-MCH for a new TCH since according to them, if it is not dismantled, there will be no land for new TCH. Besides, the E-MCH does not have significance of Katu identity (this opinion concentrates on the hamlets which have MCH-E).

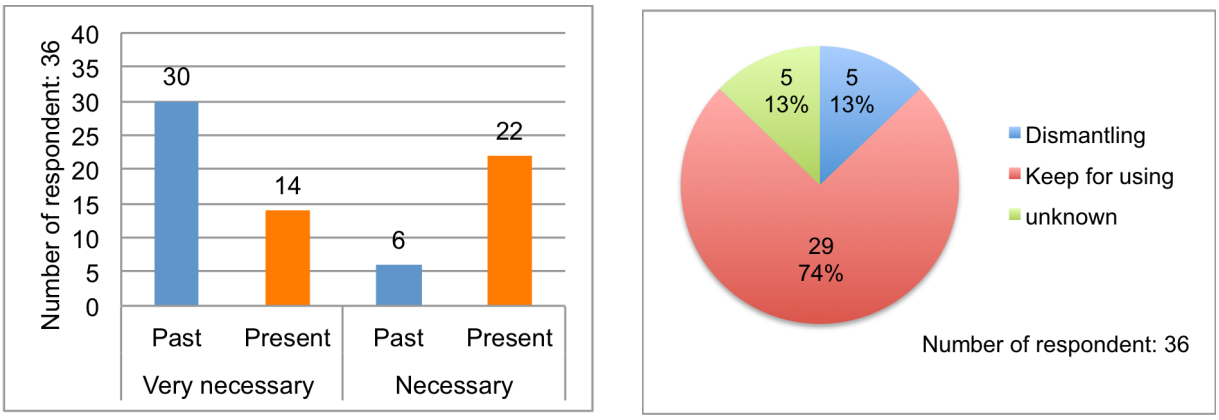


Figure 7.11 (left) Role of TCH towards the Katu community in the past and present, (right) Viewpoint of the hamlets to deal with MCH if there is the TCH project in the future.

In terms of the residents' viewpoint in the method of deploying a TCH construction project in the future, 25 out of 36 people suggest that the hamlet should play the main role in construction process; however, they need adequate support on finance and relevant policies of local authorities and outside organizations. Four out of 36 residents propose the local authorities and outside organizations should play the key role, and the hamlet only play the supporting role. The remaining 7 people say currently, the hamlet does not have capacity to reconstruct TCH whatever the outside support (Figure 7.12).

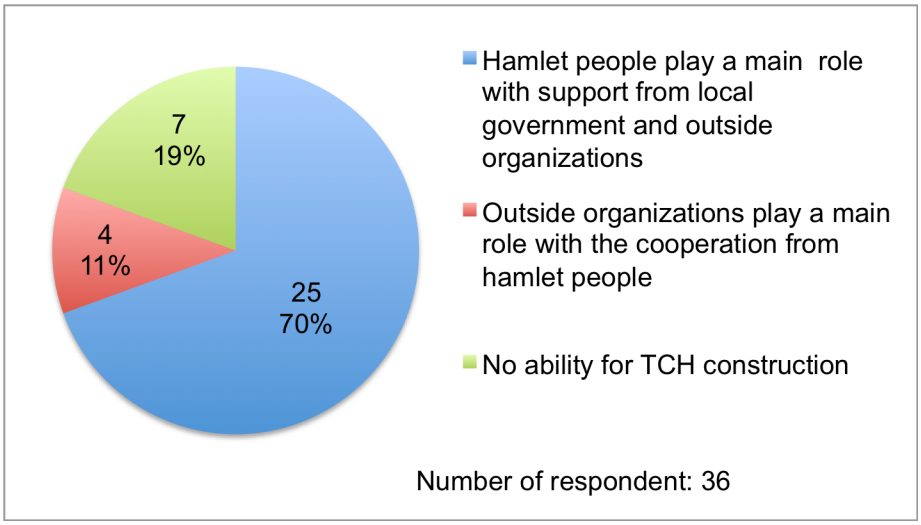


Figure 7.12 Application methods for a TCH reconstruction in the future

7.4.3 Professionals

So far, there are controversies in the conservation and restoration of traditional communities of Katu from researchers. Some researchers argue that it is necessary to conserve the TCH as its original form, while others support the viewpoint of the conservation in the traditional manner but there is adjustment in construction method and materials to accord with new circumstance. Meanwhile, some people state that when the TCH is not conformable in current context, it is necessary to replace by the new appropriate architectural form.

According to researcher Nguyen Huu Thong "Ideological axis decides the sustainable existence of the TCH in Truong Son – Tay Nguyen must start from a feeling of closeness, and association with memorial habits". Such intimacy must start from the material, appearance, structure and interior equipment which are not dramatically integral to avoid psychological shocks in the habits of cultural behavior. Therefore, currently, the creation of conformable model for TCH of ethnic minorities is not simply the mission of architects; it must be the product of intellect of many experts who are ethnographer, culturist, psychologist, sociologist and so on in order to create a TCH to solve the two demands: conservation and development, tradition and modernity."

The researcher Nguyen Xuan Hong, lecture at Hue College of Sciences, has given out three key viewpoints in the TCH conservation as follows:

1) The external resources are important, but internal resources are decisive. However, to have the internal resources of the poor communities, the work of encouragement must be well done; the pride and responsibility of each individual and organization must be aroused. Those virtues will be highly promoted when they are enlightened, attached with the real physical and spiritual interest of the ethnics.

2) The TCH of the Katu ethnic minority is not the something for which to be. The TCH is of the residents; therefore, from the idea, design to the construction, use, and maintenance, etc. must express the role of residents. It means in restoration process of the TCH, the role of residents and community must be dignified.

3) Though the conservation is "static" or "dynamic", the traditional element must be dignified as the key axis in restoration process. The renovation and transformation in the current society is reliable and unavoidable. However, the disregarding of traditional element in restoration will lead to an unexpected consequence. The learning from the residents, especially the elderly – the ones who keep the indigenous knowledge, is very necessary.

According to researcher Hirohide Kobayashi, Kyoto University, at present, in many Katu hamlets in Nam Dong district, the primitive methods of TCH construction have been replaced by new and modern methods. This has led to the disappearance of one of the cultural characteristic of the Katu ethnic minority. Building the TCH by primitive method is a possible way to conserve Katu ethnic identity. The successful construction of the TCH by primitive method in 2007 supported by JICA in Hong Ha commune, A Luoi district can be considered as a typical model to apply to Nam Dong district and Quang Nam province. Besides, the policies on the TCH need studying and developing to suitably enforce.

7.5 Discussion on possibility of reconstructing the TCH in A Ka hamlet, Thuong Long commune, Nam Dong district

Among all the Katu hamlets in Nam Dong district, A Ka hamlet is one of the most potential in rebuilding a TCH. Therefore, it was selected for the deep survey in order to identify the possibility of participation of resident in the TCH construction. Several field surveys were conducted. The first survey was conducted on August 9th, 2014. Some meetings with A Ka hamlet leaders and residents were held. The objectives of the meetings were to examine viewpoints of hamlet residents in establishment of the TCH reconstruction project in their hamlet. The result of discussion has shown that all hamlet residents are willing to participate in the THC

reconstruction in their hamlet. The second and third surveys were on August 13th and August 29th and 30th, 2014. The objectives of the meetings were to discuss with hamlet leaders the issues related to implementation (construction land, human resource, materials resource and tentative estimated cost, etc.). During the next surveys (on October 21th 2014 and January 13th 2015), the research group has some meetings with A Ka hamlet, Thuong Quang commune and Nam Dong district leaders in order to reconfirm the TCH reconstruction, reconsider pledge rights and responsibilities of the stakeholders (local government, hamlet, and outside organizations).

7.5.1 Brief history of the TCH in A Ka hamlet

A Ka hamlet is one of the four Katu hamlets in the total of seven hamlets of Thuong Quang commune (four Katu hamlets and three Kinh hamlets). Throughout the history, there are many TCHs which used to be built in the hamlet, and the latest was the TCH built in 2000 by effort of the whole hamlet residents with financial support of 25 million VND (~1,190 USD) by NAV (Figure 7.13). This is one of the most beautiful TCHs at that time with a good timber frame and the abundant and vivid decorative patterns inside. However, in 2008, the appearance of MCH-E of CILP project (although the hamlet has already had a TCH, the hamlet residents proposed to build MCH-E for new activities) as well as difficulties in collecting leaves for renovating the roof make this TCH no longer be used. To December 2013, due to serious degradation of the TCH and no ability to restore, it was dismantled. Through the discussion with hamlet leaders, the certain potential to rebuild the TCH have been found out since A Ka hamlet has enthusiastic leaders, and they have experience in the construction of the previous TCHs. Besides, the majority of hamlet residents desire to rebuild a TCH, and they are willing to contribute effort and money for this work. In addition, the leaders of Thuong Quang commune also support and create conditions on administrative formalities to deploy the project. Moreover, although the forest resources in Thuong Quang commune though are much decreased; it is still feasible to exploit the suitable



Figure 7.13 Previous TCH (2000 – 2013) in A Ka hamlet

materials for the TCH construction.

7.5.2 Construction and deployment methods

The discussions with the hamlet residents have identified the possibility of participation of the hamlet in constructing the TCH as well as their proposals for the level of participation of stakeholders in the TCH construction if there is a TCH project in the future. Specifically, the implementation method will rely on hamlet human resources. The hamlet residents will mainly undertake erecting the TCH. They will take part in all stages. The TCH will be the common property of the hamlet. Hamlet residents are responsible for the use and maintenance of this TCH. Professionals will assist the hamlet in analysis of current situation, orientation, and propose implementation methods and technical support.

Construction method and form of the TCH follow traditional style using local materials with essential elements such as wooden frame, thatched roof, bamboo mat stoves, festival yard and buffalo sacrifice column; combining the use of human-body units with the use of modern tools in design and construction to reduce construction time. and using of the site of the previous TCH; however, moving forward around 3 m and keeping the same aspect (Pros: Southeast – a good aspect and view)

According to the suggestions of the hamlet, in order to build a TCH, outside organizations should finance 50% of construction cost and further support some other expenditure such as project management, procedure making, equipment purchase. In addition, they should prepare the next investments in order to maintain the activities in the TCH such as equipment furnishing, training, festivals, cultural activities, maintenance, etc. Professionals can supply the design drawing, support to consult architectural technique and construction, supervise the execution to ensure the community participation and compliance of traditional architecture, support to make procedures on logging permission, coordinate to hold training and experience inquiry, and support to consult the culture, customs and rituals.

A Ka hamlet will draw up the application for logging permission, supervising and speeds up residents in the hamlet to take part in the TCH construction; ensures the task to follow the plan, quality and the form to follow the design drawing, writing the construction diary; maintain the construction and use the method conformable to the target. Thuong Quang commune will supervise and speed up the participation of members in the hamlet in the TCH construction process, considering and submitting the application for logging permission and proposing to the competent governmental levels and financing a part of corresponding expenditure. According to the residents' opinion, the procedures of logging permission are the first important condition in the TCH construction. If there is assent for logging from local authorities, the materials collection

and the TCH erection can be completed within 3 months.

7.5.3 Estimated construction cost

Table 7.1 Estimated cost of the TCH construction for materials preparation

Items	Name of components	Materials kind	Amount, volume and area	Labor contribution of hamlet people (Labor day/ participants)	Remuneration (200,000 VND/1 labor/day)	Suggested support from external organizations
Pillar	Central pillar	Merawan Giaza	1 big tree (0.98m3)	10 people/2 days (Group 1)	4,000,000 VND (~190 USD)	50%
	Main pillars	Merawan Giaza	6 trees (1.68 m3)	10 people/3 days (Group 2)	6,000,000 VND (~285 USD)	50%
	Lean-tos pillars	Merawan Giaza	6 trees (1.60 m3)	10 people/3 days (Group 2)	6,000,000 VND (~285 USD)	50%
Floor	Horizontal floor beams	White Meranti	2 trees (1.65 m3)	10 people/3 days (Group 3)	6,000,000 VND (~285 USD)	50%
	Vertical floor beams	White Meranti	1 tree (0.87 m3)	5 people/3 days (Group 4)	3,000,000 VND (~142 USD)	50%
	Floor mat	Lo o	50 trees (70 m2)	25 people/1 day (Group 1)	5,000,000 VND (~238 USD)	0%
	Stairs	White Meranti	1 tree (0.8 m3)	5 people/3 days (Group 4)	3,000,000 VND (~142 USD)	50%
Partition	Wattle	Neohouzeaua	650 trees	75 people/1 day (Household)	15.000,000 VND (~714 USD)	0%
	Windows and doors	Neohouzeaua	150 trees	10 people/1 day (Household)	3,000,000 VND (~142 USD)	0%
Roof	Cross beams, Eaves beams, Lean-tos beams	White Meranti	2 trees (2.13 m3)	10 people/3 days (Group 3)	6,000,000 VND (~285 USD)	50%
	Roof beam	White Meranti	2 trees (1.58 m3)	10 people/2 days (Group 3)	4,000,000 VND (~190 USD)	50%
	Purlin	White Meranti	1 tree (0.58 m3)	5 people/3 days (Group 3)	3,000.000 VND (~142 USD)	50%
	Round purlin (for 2 lean-tos)	Lauan	1 tree (0.23 m3)	5 people/3 days (Group 3)	3,000,000 VND (~142 USD)	50%
	Leaves for roofing	Rattan	90 sheets (184 m3)	90 people/2 days (household)	36,000,000 VND (~1,714 USD)	0%
	Ridge pole	White Meranti	1 tree (0.2 m3)	3 people/2 days (Group 5)	1,200,000 VND (~57 USD)	50%
	Cord for strings	Rattan	3000 strings	6 people/2 days (Group 6)	2,400,000 VND (~114 USD)	0%
Total				**528 labors**	**106,600,000 VND (~5,076 USD)**	**22,600,000 VND (~1,076 USD)**

Table 7.2 Estimated cost of the TCH construction for materials processing and erecting

Items	Specific works	Labor contribution of hamlet people (Labor day/ participants)	Remuneration (200,000 VND/1 labor/day)	Suggested support from external organizations
Main structure of house	Raising and leveling foundation	20 people/1 day (Group 7)	4,000,000 VND (~190 USD)	0%
	Processing and erecting pillars	20 people/3 days (Group 7)	12,000,000 VND (~571 USD)	50%
	Processing and assembling cross and eaves beams, round beams	20 people/3 days (Group 7)	12,000,000 VND (~571 USD)	50%
	Processing and assembling vertical and horizontal floor beams, roof beams, Ridge pole	20 people 5 days (Group 7)	20,000,000 VND (~952 USD)	50%
Floor	Processing and fixing bamboo mat, making fireplaces	20 people/2 days (Group 8)	8,000,000 VND (~380 USD)	40%
Partition	Processing and fixing partition (Wattle)	20 people/2 days (Group 8)	8,000,000 VND (~380 USD)	40%
	Processing and fixing windows and doors	20 people/1 day (Group 8)	4,000,000 VND (~190 USD)	40%
Roof	Processing and fixing purlin	10 people/1 day (Group 9)	2,000,000 VND (~95 USD)	50%
	Processing and fixing round purlin (for 2 lean-tos)	10 people/1 day (Group 9)	2,000,000 VND (~95 USD)	50%
	Processing and thatching roof sheets	90 people/1 day (Household)	18,000,000 VND (~857 USD)	40%
Stairs	Processing and fixing	6 people/2 days (Group 8)	2,400,000 VND (~114 USD)	50%
Decoration	Carving and decorating	2 people/10 ngày (Group 10)	4,000,000 VND (~190 USD)	50%
Inauguration ceremony	1 buffalo (35 million VND), 1 pig (4 million VND), 1 goat (3 million VND) and other things (0.5 million VND)		42,500,000 VND (~2023 USD)	70%
Total			**138,900,000 VND (~6,614 USD)**	**72,150,000 VND (~3,578 USD)**

Table 7.1 shows the estimate on type and volume of material, contribution of labors, and financial support of outside organizations during preparation and collection of material. This is the result of suggestion from hamlet leaders. To build a TCH, 13 Merawan Giaza timbers (4.26 m2), ten White Meranti timbers (7.61 m^2), 850 *Lo o* and Neohouzeauas, 90 rattan sheets and 300 rattan strings will be needed. To collect enough materials, around 528 residents divided into six groups will be mobilized with the total expenditure of 106.6 million VND (~5,076 USD), and the outsiders will support 22.6 million VND (~1,076 USD). Table 7.2 indicates the estimate on specific work, volume of labor force, and contribution of the people and financial support from outside organizations for the TCH construction. The construction needs the steps of ground leveling, components processing, erection, drawing, carving of decorative patterns, and inauguration. These steps need 482 people divided into four groups with the total expenditure of 138.9 million VND (~6,614 USD) and the outsiders support 72.15 million VND (~3,435 USD).

The results obtained from the deep survey in A Ka hamlet have indicated that A Ka residents still desire to rebuild a TCH in their hamlet. Presently, A Ka hamlet is one of the rare hamlets in Nam Dong having the ability to build a TCH. However, to make that become a reality, the hamlet needs the support of the commune, district and outside organizations.

7.6 Conclusion of the chapter

It can be seen that many programs and projects having the TCH sub-projects have been implemented in Nam Dong district. These projects have strong effect on economy and society, creating many jobs; many beneficiaries have been reported. The socio-economic aspect has been considerably changed, and the infrastructure has been invested and upgraded. However, besides the active aspects, that rapid change has lost the traditional character of the Katu ethnics in this area. The approach, which has imposed nature, values the quantity above quality of some projects with a forced acceptance of residents. This causes the disappearance of the TCHs and appearance of new CHs, which do not promote effect as desired. The research result has indicated that most of the E-CHs nowadays merely play the role of a place for administrative common activities; the traditional activities are rarely organized; the spiritual and metaphysical roles therefore no longer exist.

In terms of conservation policies, so far, there has not been any specific regulation of Nam Dong district authority related to the TCH preservation. Although the cultural conservation issue is included in annual resolutions of the districts and communes, the content is unspecific, lacks concrete programs and has no long-term strategy. The majority of these programs have not been realized. According to the district leaders, the key reason is that the locality does not have enough expenditure, and the staff undertaking cultural affair are weak at quantity and quality. The

Program No. 15 dated in 2013 of Nam Dong district on the project "Cultural conservation and development of Vietnamese ethnic minorities until 2020 in the district" has just began to be deployed. The content is unspecifically oriented, does not consider the specific condition in each commune, hamlet, and specific plan for each specific stage; especially, the TCH restoration and conservation plan have not been mentioned in the program. In fact, the local authorities are passive in the TCH reconstruction projects, which up to now are the result from outside organizations. The role of the district and communes in the TCH restoration and maintenance is limited.

A problem can be found is the lack of closeness in managing the exploitation and use of forest resources. Although there have been specific legal documents as a sanction for managing forest, in fact, the illegal timber exploitation still occurs, the district authority has no effective management method. Meanwhile, some hamlets desire to reconstruct the TCH, but it is very difficult to propose exploitation permission.

The capacity of the TCH conservation and restoration in six communes in Nam Dong district is different but in general, it is difficult. The most identified difficulty is the source of material to build the TCH; the exhaustion of forest resources has led to the policies on restriction of forest exploitation from the local authorities. One more considerable difficulty is the lack of land resource to build TCH. Most of the land belongs to the residents, and there is no more common land in their hamlets. The population is increasing; the residents need land to reside and cultivate; therefore, it is not easy to persuade them to donate or sell their land.

At present, the decrease of community linkage is also a challenge. The change of lifestyle has created the gap in viewpoints among the generations. While the elderly desire to conserve traditional character, the youth pursue new things and are not interested in traditional identity. Therefore, it is difficult to mobilize them to construct the TCH.

In terms of knowledge resources, currently, in the Katu hamlets, there are still some elderly having thorough understanding on the TCH construction techniques; however, these techniques are in danger of being lost when most of them are old, and they have no opportunity to impart to descendants.

In terms of the TCH conservation, local authorities always affirm they will support and create favorable conditions to the hamlets in the TCH conservation and restoration. However, they cannot create appropriate and specific policies to realize such guidelines.

An important finding of the research is that capacity of reconstructing a TCH has been identified in A Ka hamlet. This is one of the rare hamlets in Nam Dong district which have

prerequisites for the rebuilding of the TCHs. Leaders and residents of the hamlet wish to restore a TCH; a suitable land is reserved; some residents still master the traditional construction techniques. However, to make this wish become a reality, the hamlet needs the suitable support of the local government and outside organizations.

CHAPTER 8. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

8.1 Summary of research findings

This study indicates the impact of change of living environment and the role of local authorities' policies towards the TCH of the Katu ethnic minority in Nam Dong district through the residents' and local leaders' viewpoints and opinions. The findings from above discussions and analyses in previous chapters will be summarized and they are the rationales for the suggestions related to the TCH conservation and restoration in present context, which will be mentioned in this chapter.

Chapters 1 and 2

The ethnic backgrounds in Vietnam are copious with 54 ethnic groups (53 ethnic minorities and Kinh – a major ethnic group), distributed over the entire territory from North to South. Each group has its distinct and cultural identity. So far, especially after the reunification in 1975, Vietnam government has issued many policies concerning ethnic minorities in order to improve the living conditions in this region, narrowing the gap with the Kinh people, between the mountain and lowland, typically the Programs 133, 135, 134, etc. These programs and policies have paid attention to a wide range of socio-economic issues related to ethnic minority development. Some components of these programs (such as the infrastructure component of the Programs 135, 143, and 134) have focused on the construction of public infrastructure to create the basic conditions for economic development. Besides, some other components of the programs have provided support for farming techniques, skills, health, knowledge, production and marketing particularly, or soft socio-economic infrastructure development in general. The fact has shown that although there are certain limitations, but these policies and projects have promoted certain effects.

Being a mountainous district with high rate of ethnic minorities, many policies on economic – social development have been applied there. Ethnics start to reach the market, focusing on creation of productive land, establishing garden, planting economic forest; gradually abandoning shifting cultivation methods, nomadic, burning forest for cultivation. Infrastructure is invested synchronously; most rural roads have been asphalted and concreted; many solid bridges have been built. Transportation system is therefore connected to hamlets and residential clusters. Until now, program of eradicating temporary dwelling house for poor households of the district has basically completed. Beside the positive points mentioned above, the rapid development of social economy, strong exchanges with outside cultures also make ethnic minorities in Vietnam in general and Nam Dong district in particular gradually lose their identities. Although in recent years, the central and local governments have issued policies on conservation of traditional

culture of ethnic minorities, these policies lack the practicality and not efficient enough to compensate for the negative impacts in terms of traditional culture by the policies on economic and social development.

Chapter 3

There are many hypotheses about the origin of the Katu ethnic minority. There is a hypothesis that the residence of ancient ancestors of the Katu ethnics was in present western Quang Binh and Quang Tri provinces. When searching for living land, they migrated to the South. Another hypothesis says that the Katu ethnics migrated from the valley of upstream Mekong river and another hypothesis states that the ancient living land of the Katu ethnic minority is formerly the coastal area and then they have to move to western mountainous area by the pressure of the Kinh group in the southward march.

The traditional Katu hamlet was called *Vel, Crol* or *Buol,* located in high and dry place, near the water head. From 20 to 30 dwelling houses with the number of members from 150 to 250 directed to the TCH located in the center. The Katu hamlet was independent and relatively closed, often protected by bamboo or wooden fence.

The Katu ethnics live on mountain fields and natural products hunting. They have the characteristic of migration due to epidemic or better cultivation land. The dwelling house on stilts with the round-shape gables made of local materials is the typical indigenous architecture. The scale of the TCH depends on the number of members living there.

The TCH is the biggest, most beautiful and important construction in the Katu hamlet, made of high-quality timber with the central pillar and many decorative patterns. It is the place for common activities of the hamlet. The scale of the TCH expresses the talent and power of each hamlet. Based on scale and decorative art, the TCH is divided into five types; based on residential position, the TCH is divided into three types.

Chapter 4

The ethnic minorities account for 44% of the total population of Nam Dong district, and the Katu ethnics make up majority, gather in 6 communes including Thuong Lo, Huong Son, Thuong Nhat, Huong Huu, Thuong Long and Thuong Quang. The transformation of the Katu hamlets is identified and divided into four following periods: before 1960s, from 1960s to 1970s, from 1970s to 2000s and from 2000s until now.

For the period before 1960s, the Katu hamlet had round shape and located in valley. The dwelling house was short or long house on stilts; its main elevation faced the TCH, which always existed at this time. The residents lived on mountain fields, cattle and poultry raising and forest

products. The location of the hamlet is frequently changed due to epidemic or bad death.

Between 1960s and 1970s, the majority of the hamlets had to move to deep forest to avoid war effect. The hamlets were divided into small groups with unidentified shape. The dwelling houses were temporary with low roof, there may be underground hideout, and the TCH was mostly not built. From 1970s to 2000s, all hamlets moved to low and flat land due to the mobilization of revolutionary government. The shape of hamlets was free, and the dwelling houses were arranged in the two sides of the road. The number of dwelling houses on stilt was gradually decreasing and replaced with dwelling houses on earth, made of both traditional and new materials bought from outside. The TCH was gradually rebuilt, made of traditional materials but did not exist continuously due to unstable living. The residents lived on both mountain fields and wet rice planting. The residential position sometime was changed in early stage but was rather stabilized in later stages, and the population increased rapidly since there was the immigration among the hamlets.

Since 2000s, the scale of the hamlets has been widen due to rapid increase of the population. The residential position became more stable. The infrastructure is invented (concrete road, electricity, and water supplies) owing to the presence of the projects. The dwelling houses on stilts mostly no longer exist and were completely replaced by dwelling houses on earth, made of new materials. The mountain fields, wet rice and industrial crop planting are used.

The study has indicated that with the phases of change of the Katu hamlet, the transformation of the TCH in Nam Dong district are identified through corresponding stages. Before 1960s, the TCHs always existed in all hamlets. From 1960s to 1970s, the TCHs were mostly not built due to temporary living and lack of labor force caused by war. From 1970s to 2000s, the TCH was gradually restored. Since 2000s, beside some hamlets which are supported by outside organizations to construct the TCH in traditional method, the majority of hamlets have built the MCH in new form with modern materials. Some typical forms of the TCHs are identified. The most popular type is the TCH with six middle compartments, semicircular lean-tos, 12 side pillars (six main pillars, six lean-to pillars) and a central pillar. The variant types of this kind of the TCH have 12 or 14 pillars, with two central pillars or without central pillars. One type which is not popular and has circular form with from 12 to 18 side pillars and a very big central pillar.

The previous type of the TCH of all current Katu hamlets in Nam Dong district has been identified. It can be seen that all the Katu hamlets in Nam Dong district after moving to the current position used to build the TCH. However, the form, quantity and scale are different. In the hamlets of the commune which are far away from in district center such as Thuong Long and

Thuong Quang communes, many TCHs were rebuilt, while in some communes such as Thuong Lo, Huong Huu located near district center, the number of rebuilt TCHs is fewer. Basically, the form is similar to the TCHs in the old hamlets before 1960s. The TCH in Nam Dong district has less steep roof, smaller scale and has less decorative patterns than the TCH in Quang Nam province. This can be explained that Nam Dong district is the area which suffers many storms since it is located in the northern slope of Bach Ma mount. Meanwhile, the small scale and less decoration of the TCH is due to shortage of labors, materials and experienced people.

There are many reasons to explain the decline of the TCH and increase of the MCH. First is the difficulty in exploiting the materials and the primary cause is the change of residential places from the mountainous areas with rich forest resources to the new residencial place in the flatlow lands with limited forest resources. The increase in the commercial value of timbers in recent decades has made the need for timber increase that leads to a shortage of high-quality timber resources to make the TCH. The policy of "closed forest" to limit the exploitation of forest products and the complexity of the logging permission are also obstacles to the logging to construct the TCH.

Another reason is the decline in community collaboration due to the change of lifestyle of the Katu residents. They spend much time on outside and livelihood activities (planting industrial trees and wet rice, etc.). Perceptions of the Katu residents, especially the young people on traditional values also decline due to the impact from the outside. In addition, the presence of new materials, the change in functional use of the TCH, the scarcity of common land caused by the transformation from community land ownership into private ownership are significant obstacles in reconstructing the TCH. Furthermore, the presence of recent MCH construction projects of the government together with the imposition and lack of proper consultation from the local community are the main causes of rapid disappearance of the TCHs.

Chapter 5

For the E-CHs in Nam Dong district, the research has shown that there are varied in construction method, form and materials with the participation of many outside organizations such as NAV, ICCO, SNV, WB, ABD, etc. 43 E-CHs are found and these E-CHs are divided into five types including two buildings of type 1 – TCH; four buildings of type 2 – S-TCH; 13 buildings of type 3 – S-MCH; 14 buildings of type 4 – MCH-S, and 10 buildings of type 5 – MCH-E. It can be noticed that as time goes on, the form of E-CHs has changed compared with the TCH in terms of construction method, form, and material. For type 1 and 2, community plays the key role; for type 3, community plays a minor role; for type 4, community plays negligible role, and for type 5, community does not have any role. Many E-CHs have been changed in materials use in comparison with the original materials due to the difficulty in collecting

replacement materials. In fact, presently, most of E-CHs are merely used as a completely administrative building; traditional functions and spiritual roles have no longer existed there. Maintenance of E-CHs is difficult since the Katu ethnics do not master new construction techniques and have no budget to buy materials and have E-CHs repaired.

Chapter 6

The study has chosen A Xang and Doi hamlets which still maintain the TCHs as a typical example to analyze and discuss the historical feature of the TCHs as well as potentiality in the use and maintenance of E-CHs in current context. The findings of these two hamlets are summarized in Table 8.1 as follows:

Table 8.1 Findings derived from the detailing survey in A Xang and Doi hamlets

Features of TCHs	- Eight TCHs were built in both hamlets (six TCHs in A Xang hamlet and two TCHs in Doi hamlet) since moving to their present location (since 1974). - Two unique hamlets in Nam Dong district up to now have been retaining the pure traditional community houses. However, Their components such as leaves roof, floor mat are in damaged situation.
TCHs maintenance plans	- Hamlets have made much effort to conserve and maintain the TCHs for traditional activities. - Both hamlets have agreed to construct a MCH with support from the local government and outside organizations for new activities - Especially, A Xang hamlet has a specific plan to renovate the structure in 2015.
Possibility of conserving TCHs	- The TCH conservation in the two hamlets has become more and more challenging because of the exhaustion of traditional material resources, decrease of community linkage and the gradual loss of indigenous knowledge. Outside support is a necessity for the TCH maintenance and renovation in current context.

Chapter 7

The study has indicated that so far, there have been many issued policies with many projects related to the CH in Nam Dong district, especially after 2000s. The different approaches of these projects explain for the abundance of the E-CH models at present. Basically, the CH projects bring about the certain effectiveness in creating space for community activities; however, due to massive and spreading investment, lack of thorough research, as well as the role of community and indigenous identity are not judiciously acknowledged, many projects are not affective. The projects in the first period have conformable approaches, the community is dignified, the architectural form is appropriate; however, later on, the role of community is disregarded, the architectural form of houses is transformed a lot. Currently, there are few policies and projects

related to cultural conservation implemented in Nam Dong district, especially, there is no specific document related to the TCH restoration and conservation in Nam Dong district.

Currently, many Katu hamlets in Nam Dong district still desire to rebuild the TCH. However, the restoration of the TCHs there in the future will be difficult due to the decline of traditional materials. Residents have thorough understanding in the TCH construction techniques still remain but accounts for minority. The discussion results reveal that although some hamlets are facing difficulties, it is still possible to mobilize people to contribute labors, construction land and money to rebuild the TCH with condition that they receive the support of procedure and finance from local government and outside organizations.

8.2 Recommendations for conserving TCHs for contemporary context

Conserving and developing traditional cultural identity in present context is one of the policies which the Vietnamese government takes interest in and prioritize. This has brought much positive significance in the cultural life of ethnic communities. In fact, there are different approaches in conservation to each heritage, locality, and ethnic minority. The TCH of the Katu ethnic minority has exceedingly important significance in spiritual life of this ethnic minority. The TCH is considered as the "soul" of the community, place for spiritual and religious activities. At present, the TCH restoration to conserve tradition is a greatly necessary and urgent work. Conserving the TCH is not merely maintaining or reconstructing a house, but arousing the pride of the Katu ethnics, contributing to the preservation and restoration of the traditional identity of the Katu ethnic minority. The project "Conserving and developing culture of Vietnamese ethnic minorities until 2020" of the government is the essential foundation in conserving traditional culture of the Katu ethnic minority of which the TCH restoration is an item. Thus, this research would like to suggest some ideas for the conservation and use of the TCH in current context.

8.2.1 Regarding E-CHs

The presence and replacement of the TCH by MCH construction projects with new form, made of modern materials have been losing the traditional identity of the Katu ethnic minority in Nam Dong district. Currently, the number of CHs in traditional manner in Nam Dong district is minor; there are only six TCHs of type 1 and 2. Among them, only two houses are purely traditional (TLO1 in Doi hamlet and TL2 in A Xang hamlet). Therefore, the community of the two hamlets must maintain these TCHs as the valuable property of the Katu ethnics in Nam Dong district. These houses need surveying in overall actual status, assessing to consider which parts are in good condition, which parts are damaged to have timely maintenance and repairing. The most preferential work is the repairing of the TCH in A Xang hamlet (TL2). Currently, this TCH has been seriously degraded, especially the thatched roof, *Lo o* mat and stair. The hamlet,

commune and district authorities should hold the meetings to suggest a most appropriate repairing method. The district should create conditions for the hamlet in complying procedure for collecting replacement materials, supporting expenditure as well as mobilizing the support from outside.

(1) Restoring the materials as the original

For the four E-CHs of type 2 (TN1B, HH7, TLC, TQ2), the replacement of some parts like thatched roof, *Lo o* mat by the new materials such as corrugated iron sheet and tile has lost the traditional and original feature of this house. Therefore, the restoration of originally traditional materials is necessary. The collection of thatched roof in present context is difficult; however, it is possible to be implemented if there is funding support.

For the E-CHs of type 3 and 4, the hamlets need to assess the actual state and repair the door and tiled floor. Among them, the hamlet should maintain the E-CHs of type 3 of which the roof is covered with leaves and mat is made by *Lo o,* concurrently, searching for the support sources for periodical renovation of roof and mat.

For the E-CHs on earth of type 5, the local government should give preferential policies to build TCHs which replace E-CHs if there is the project in the future since according to the residents, the E-CHs is not conformable in use as well as traditional identity, and in fact, majority of these hamlets residents desire to rebuild the TCH.

8.2.2 Implementation methods of the TCH construction in future

(1) Dignifying the traditional factor as the key axis in restoration process

The TCH of the Katu ethnic minority has the particular features which create the distinct identity in compared with other groups. Most of the TCHs in Nam Dong district have changed somewhat in comparison with traditional structure. Only the TCH in A Xang hamlet in Thuong Long commune is still in the traditional form. Other TCHs have changes such as: the TCH in Doi and Ta Rinh hamlets have no stoves, decorative patterns, place for hanging wild animal skull, and shelf for putting furniture; the TCH in A Rang hamlet has wooden mat and corrugated iron roof, and the TCH in Thuong Long commune has tiled roof.

The TCH restoration process must rely on traditional factor for decisive idea, from the design, material collection to construction. Specifically, the TCH must be stilt structure; the two gables must be semicircular; the materials must be exploited locally and surrounding areas; it must have full of components such as central pillars, side pillar, eave-beam, cross beam, roof beam, and so on together with traditional sculptural and painting patterns inside and on two gables. The number of components must be even in traditional conception. Besides, some

preeminent new method should be applied like mortise jointing so that the main frame becomes more solid and the sub-pillars can be eliminated. The pillar system should be put on the stone board (such as the TCHs in Doi and A Xang hamlets), or fixed in the concrete hole instead of being fixed directly to the ground (like the TCH in Ta Rinh hamlet) to avoid the infiltration of the insects from the ground to destroy the wooden pillar. In fact, some current TCHs in Nam Dong district have been applied with this method and had effectiveness. The importance is that the house design can be undertaken by experts, but the appropriate ideas of the residents are respected and acquired. The TCH construction should adhere some essential etiquettes, worshipping, traditional customs such as "*Aroh Allong*" festival (asking permission from Yang to use timber from forest for the TCH construction), "*Choh*" festival (house erection), and "*Pa Chien*" festival (inauguration ceremony); The role of community and collective consciousness must be massively mobilized and promoted through the democratic meetings which respect and dignify the residents' ideas, especially the patriarchs'. Stove is an important factor of the TCH; therefore, new TCH must have stove for cooking. Besides, the smoke will help the components, especially the thatched roof, restrict the infiltration of the insects, expanding the time of use. In addition, some new maintenance method should also be applied such as soaking leaves into salt water before roofing, spraying chemical into components to kill the insect and so on.

Beside the use of traditional tools such as axes, large-kitchen knives and traditional construction method based on body units, the use of modern tools such as mechanical saws, planes, chisels, metric rule to shorten the construction time and to create the fineness and preciseness for the components can be accepted in present context.

(2) Harmonious combination of traditional and new functions

New TCH need studying so that it can both be used for traditional activities (buffalo sacrifice, lunar new-year, harvest praying festivals, etc.) and be transformed for new activities. There must be place for both storing the traditional tools and installing the modern equipment and furniture for new activities (such as agricultural technique training, administrative meetings). Some inappropriate functions and conceptions in the present context such as defending, wild animal skull hanging, and restriction women to get into the TCH should be eliminated. Hanging certificate of merit, posters for environmental education and agricultural encouragement should be done. Therefore, the TCH will promote its effectiveness as a place for conserving and introducing traditional culture as well as adapting to new activities.

(3) Restoring the traditional activities associated with the TCH

The image of the Katu TCH cannot separate from the traditional activities. Therefore, beside the TCH restoration, the collection, maintenance, training and introducing the traditional cultural

activities (such as folksong, dancing, costume and traditional cuisine) are very necessary in the impending stage. At present, many hamlets no longer have music bands since the traditional activities are mostly not organized. Therefore, the restoration of musical performance team in the hamlets is very necessary. The class for teaching gongs in Thuong Long commune and singing folksong in Huong Son commune is positive signals to be replicated in other communes.

8.2.3 Suggestion of management policies of the TCHs

It can be said lack of specific and long-term plan in the TCH conservation and restoration by the local authorities as well as being compliant in assessing the CH construction projects are one of the main reasons to create physiognomy of the CH like nowadays. Up to now, there has not been any specific policy as well as rule for the TCH conservation. This has hampered the local communities and outside organizations to create foundation for cooperating and deploying the project. Therefore, to facilitate the TCH restoration, the following issues need considering:

(1) Forming an overall and specific plan for the TCH conservation and restoration

Nam Dong district authority should establish overall survey project on the actual situation of CH as well as potentiality of material source, labor force, and indigenous knowledge of the Katu hamlets to create an appropriate plan in the TCH restoration and conservation. Currently, some hamlets of some communes such as Thuong Long, Thuong Quang have more potentiality in the TCH restoration. Therefore, there should be a strategy which gives priority to restore the TCH in these communes. The importance is that the TCH restoration must be based on the desire and suggestion of the community. The residents should not be forced to construct a TCH when they feel it is not their groups' house model. In fact, many recent CH projects has imposing nature, does not start from the desire, does not listen to opinions of the community; therefore, they do not promote the expected effect.

(2) Adjustment for management policies, exploitation and reforestation

Giving priority to the exploitation of traditional materials used for community purposes

Traditional material resource is an important and prerequisite factor for capacity of the TCH restoration in Nam Dong district. So far, based on the common policy of the Central government, the district authority has issued some policies towards forest exploitation and protection in the district. At present, the amount of high-quality timber though decreases a lot, still remains, primarily concentrate in protective and special-used forest. Annually, the exploitation volume of timber both legal and illegal for commercial purposes is rather great, while the amount of timber for the CH construction and renovation (including traditional and new one) hardly significantly. In order to have material resource for the TCH construction, the local authorities should

reallocate the annual exploitation amount of timber, cutting down the logging for commercial purposes, increasing annual norm for community purposes, sparing the areas where have conformable resource of timber so that the residents can exploit under the supervision of local authorities for the TCH renovation and construction. Besides, for a long-term strategy, the local authorities should set up more projects of allocating land and forest with the reasonable financial support to the residents to plant raw material trees (Ironwood, Merawan Giaza timber, rattan leaves, etc.) in order to create alternative resources of materials when the materials are increasingly scarce.

(3) Simplifying the procedure of material exploitation license

It can be noticed that the recent massive forest exploitation is the result of the lack of strict management of local authorities. Therefore, the promulgation of regulations to tighten excessive exploitation of forest resources is essential. However, according to the residents, licensing procedure for timber exploitation is still complicated, time-consuming while their intellectual standards remain low, so they are afraid of making these procedures. This is an obstacle to the desire of the TCH construction in hamlets. Therefore, local authorities should facilitate and simplify the procedure of material exploitation license with the purpose of constructing the TCH for community.

(4) Creating material sources for the maintenance and construction

The material for constructing TCH such as timber for pillars, beams, leaves for roof, bamboo for floor and partition become damaged over time, while these materials existing in surrounding forest are increasingly becoming scarce due to the illegal and overexploitation. Therefore, the local government should establish project to restore material resources by making a contract with local communities to plant and look after the trees. This solution helps restore traditional living environment as before and can meet the demand for materials in a sustainable way for the construction and maintenance of the TCH in the future.

(5) Training human resources on culture

Currently, the number of officers working in cultural aspect as well as experting in the ethnic minority's culture in the district, commune and hamlet become fewer; therefore, there should be policy to retrain cultural officers to be the core for conserving and developing culture in ethnic minority area. This staff will play the role of advisor for local leaders in planning traditional ethnic cultural conservation.

(6) Organizing classes on traditional culture

Indigenous knowledge is the best tool to help preserve and protect traditional values. This

knowledge remains hidden and in the local communities. The patriarchs are the ones who retain the most indigenous knowledge. However, currently, the number of experienced people in Nam Dong district has been decreased, meanwhile they do not have opportunity to impart to their descendants since the TCH has mostly not been built. In order to maintain this valuable knowledge, the local authorities should organize classes to impart the young generation the indigenous knowledge, among them is the TCH construction technique. The teachers are not only the ones who live in Nam Dong district but also from Quang Nam province which is the origin of the Katu ethnic minority. Besides, this knowledge should be recorded and noted as the essential document source for future use.

(7) Preferential policy to artisans and patriarchs

The remaining artisans and patriarchs in the communities are the valuable property, being the essential living source of knowledge. They always play the important role in the TCH conservation and restoration. Adequate attention and support to them are very necessary. At present, there are many preferential policies to these objects but not yet appropriate and insufficient.

(8) Collecting, maintaining and restoring the items related to the TCH

The TCH is not simply a house but also includes the tools displayed there for traditional festivals such as drum, gong, pan pipe and many kinds of musical instruments. At present, some items are still scattered in the communities. Therefore, the collection, restoration and display of traditional musical instruments and manufacturing tools to serve daily life (axe, large-kitchen knife, weaving, hunting tool and so on) are very necessary. The collection should be conducted not only in Nam Dong district but also in other areas such Quang Nam province and Laos.

(9) Maximally promoting the role of relevant stakeholders in the TCH conservation.

The TCH conservation and restoration of the Katu ethnic minority nowadays in Nam Dong district is not only the responsibility of the community like previously but also the responsibility of many stakeholders including residential community, local authorities (district, commune), and professionals (architecture, cultural researcher, ethnographer, etc.). The survey result has shown that in the current context, to construct the TCH, the internal force of the community like in the past is not enough, the support from the outside is extremely necessary. For the conservation of the TCH to be effective, the representatives in the areas where the Katu ethnics live such as some mountainous districts in Quang Nam province, Nam Dong and A Luoi districts in Thua Thien–Hue province should organize the workshops to exchange viewpoints in order to propose the most appropriate solutions in the context of each area.

The local authorities need to create favorable conditions for the outside organizations (domestic and abroad) to survey and set up projects, support expenditure to rebuild the TCH in the area. In the present context, the TCH reconstruction in all hamlets in Nam Dong district is impossible; however, the research to choose the potential hamlets to the TCH is possible. In terms of deployment method, the role of community must be maximally promoted. The residential community must be the central in construction process (material collection, house erection and maintenance). Meanwhile, the outside organizations play the main role in planning, financial support; the local authorities manage, supervise, and support expenditure, and the professionals undertake the consultancy of the model and construction technique.

(10) Developing the sustainable eco-tourism programs and typical cultural Katu hamlet

Nam Dong district is one of the potential regions to develop eco-tourism with the beautiful landmarks such as Bach Ma National Park; Mo, Kazan Waterfalls, etc. The community tourism project in Doi hamlet which deployed since 2004 promoted certain effects. Through the activities of the project, typical cultural values of the Katu ethnic minority have been introduced to tourists. Some traditional activities have been restored; the residents have more income though not much through community tourism activities. Therefore, the TCH of the hamlet is well maintained. The community tourism model like Doi hamlet need multiplying to other potential hamlets. This will help maximally promote value of the TCH, be the motivation for the community to be responsible for long-term protection of their CH. However, to promote more effect, these models need receiving the interest and support from local authorities and outside organizations. Therefore, in tourism development strategy, local authorities should integrate the TCH restoration mission, helping promote the traditional culture of the Katu ethnic minority to the tourists.

8.2.4 Experienced lesson from the TCH reconstruction in Hong Ha commune, A Luoi district, Thua Thien–Hue province

The TCH of ethnic minorities of Hong Ha commune, A Luoi district was built within the framework of project "Enhancing the adaption capacity and sustainable livelihoods of communities to cope with natural disasters in Central Vietnam" (Figure 8.1). This project was established by Hue College of Agriculture and Forestry, Vietnam and Graduate School of global environmental studies, Kyoto University, Japan under the sponsorship of JICA – Japan.

The implementation method applies the principles based on community to promote the participation of local residents and enhance the optimal use of indigenous knowledge and locally available traditional materials. The TCH of the ethnic minorities in Hong Ha commune was built within nine months (from February to September 2007) with the positive participation of residents of five hamlets in Hong Ha commune from the choice of materials, meetings for design,

the unanimity of house model, erection method, contribution of labors and maintenance method. This is a long building on stilts with 12 m long, 6.5 m high; five compartments and 36 pillars (12 main pillars, 6 lean-to pillars 17 sub-pillars and one central pillar); the area is around 90 m^2 and completely made of locally exploited materials. The TCH was basically restored in the traditional architecture of the Katu ethnic group in the commune; therefore, the TCH is the reflection of the ethnic minorities of Hong Ha commune, not any other specific ethnic minority.



Figure 8.1 The TCH of ethnic minorities in Hong Ha commune, A Luoi district

(1) Experience from the management, use and maintenance of the TCH

Currently, the commune management board of the TCH consists of 15 people who are representatives of division of the commune such as Youth Union, Women Union, Veterans Union, Department of Culture and so on. However, there is no participation of representatives of five hamlets because in the commune leader's explanation, the hamlets are far away and the maintenance is simple. The mission of the management board is assigning the members to check and clean the components (pillars, beams floor mat, thatched roof, etc.) weekly. In addition, they are responsible for reminding the hamlet residents to protect the TCH.

According to Mr. Nam, a key member of the previous project, the TCH conforms to indigenous architecture which is well ventilated and cool; therefore, the number of visitors is rather great. The common and traditional activities of the commune such as training for agricultural and breeding technique, policies of the government, music performance to commemorate the national holidays and ethnic group festivals are held here; the administrative meetings are held at meeting hall of the commune. Previously, when the project with Hue College of Agriculture and Forestry still existed, the hamlet residents were supported expenditure to buy traditional weaving equipment and the weaving was often done at the TCH. In addition, the traditional festivals used to be frequently held and some traditional tools were displayed. However, after the ending of the project in 2009, the traditional activities have been gradually

decreased; the tools have not been displayed in the TCH since there is no permanent custodian.

Annually, the commune has the evaluation on the actual situation of the TCH. Currently, it is still in good condition, especially the wooden frame. The roof of the TCH has been not replaced yet, only the leaves on the top of the roof have been renovated (the *Doac* leaves under and the thatch leaves above); the mat has been renovated once. Each hamlet was assigned to contribute five *Lo o* leaves to replace the corrupted mat. The leaves would be collected in the surrounding areas; *Lo o* was planted by the hamlet residents. The youngsters were responsible for the repair under the instructions of experienced elders. The present maintenance methods are still simple, mainly spray engine oil in the pillar foot, no more methods of chemical substance are used.

The commune authority has had plan to renovate entire leaves, mat and partition in the summer 2015; the other parts are still in good condition; therefore, they are not necessary to be replaced. According to community leaders, currently, there is not any funding for the TCH conservation. Tourists merely visit, not pay any fee. The commune has no suggestions to create fund for the TCH conservation. The expenditure of conservation is expected primarily from the contribution of the hamlet residents. The commune will mobilize the hamlet residents to collect materials. According to Mr. Nam, although the collection of leaves is rather challenging, it is able to be performed, and it is estimated from 15 to 20 days to collect enough leaves. Some skillful hamlet residents are responsible for covering the leaves.

(2) Conservation policies to restore the traditional culture of ethnic minorities in Hong Ha commune

Following the eighth and ninth resolution of the Central government, Resolution No. 11-NQ/HU 2012 of A Luoi district on conservation and restoration of traditional cultural identities of ethnic minorities in the district, Hong Ha commune piloted to organize dancing classes for the Katu young people in the commune. The goal of the class was to train adjacent people to understand and be able to use traditional instruments, sing folk songs of their ethnic minorities. The class consisted of ten people at the age from 18 to 28 chosen from the five hamlets (6 females and 4 males). The course took place in 42 days (from July 17 to August 27, 2014) at the TCH under the training of the experienced artisans. The teachers and trainees were supported finance by commune and district (50,000 VND (~2.4 USD) per teacher per day and 15,000 VND (~0.7 USD) per trainee per day). The course obtained good result; the trainees have mastered the traditional music and dance performances and they performed in graduation day at the TCH in front of representatives of the district, commune and residents. The next plan is that two classes will be opened in A Ngo commune for Ta Oi ethnic minority and Huong Kim commune for Paco ethnic minority.

(3) Lesson learned

The construction of the TCH in the ethnic minorities in Hong Ha commune has satisfied the expectation of local authorities, residents and project members. There are many reasons for the success of the plan. The active support from outside organizations in planning, financing, mobilizing the residents to participate and the support of the local authorities play a important role; however, the contribution in terms of labor force, money, and mental power of the hamlet residents are the decisive factor. There are still many difficulties in the life of ethnics, but if their enthusiasm is woken up, they will positively contribute to the work. The indigenous knowledge despite being fallen in oblivion more or less, it still exists in some elderly and promotes its effect if it is timely applied. The construction of the TCH would be an opportunity for them to prove that.

After 8-year use, although there are many challenges, the authorities and residents of Hong Ha commune have determined to maintain the TCH, which is still in good condition, and in fact, it plays the role of a place for essential community activities of the ethnic minorities in the commune. Furthermore, the TCH has been the place where attracts the domestic and foreign tourists for visit and experience. So far, Hong Ha commune is the unique commune which has the TCH, some other hamlets have CHs but are primarily made of modern materials.

However, there are still many difficulties in maintenance and use. The lack of expenditure has caused certain challenges in mobilizing the hamlet residents' participation. The decrease of material resource is also a considerable issue if the TCH is desired to exist long term. And how to make the TCH adapt to the new functional use such as convenience and safety is also a challenge. The current desire of the hamlet residents is to receive further care and support of authorities at all levels as well as outside organizations in maintenance of this TCH, contributing to maintaining and restoring the indigenous culture, which has gradually been disappeared

These will be the valuable experience and model for other locals to refer and inquire to formulate the suitable program in the TCH restoration in particular and traditional cultural conservation in general.

8.3 Recommendation for further study

For the issues of the TCH of the Katu ethnic minority, this thesis tries to provide a thorough understanding on historical characteristics, explain the reason of TCH transformation through the historical stages as well as assessing the effectiveness of the projects and policies in the TCH conservation and restoration in Nam Dong district. The obtained result of the study can be a useful reference for further and more detailed research in cultural heritage conservation of ethnic

minorities in general and the Katu ethnic minority in particular. However, due to limited time, the research does not focus on vernacular architectural aspect of the TCHs such as construction technique and decorative art, traditional sculpture – the factors to create unique feature of the TCH of the Katu ethnic minority. Therefore, it is necessary to study further on the architectural characteristic, construction technique in order to have a more profound insight into this kind of architecture. In addition, this study merely concentrates on the Katu TCH in Nam Dong district. Hence, in order to have a comprehensive view on the Katu TCHs conservation, the next studies need implementing in the TCHs in Quang Nam province, the place where the Katu ethnics still maintain many identities of ethnic minority.

To end this chapter, the thesis hopes the research result can contribute to the TCHs conservation in present context and maintain the harmonious relationship among architecture, use and the Katu ethnic minority.

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APPENDICES

QUESTIONNAIRE 1

(For hamlet people)

Information of questionnaire maker:

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Purpose: The conflict between tradition and modernity as well as between conservation and development is a matter of concern for the cultural heritages of ethnic minorities in Vietnam including the Katu group. To clarify this issue, the research focuses on finding out the transformation of the Guol – a type of architecture which plays an essential role in the life of the Katu ethnics. Thereby, the feature of the Katu hamlet in Nam Dong district and their community houses through many periods, the people's awareness, the policies of locality and government as well as the factors effecting this transformation will be identified. They will become the basis for making recommendations of conservation, restoration and promotion of values of this unique indigenous architecture in the context of contemporary society.

Your honest, profound and accurate opinions, ideas and advice are useful source of information and knowledge for this study. Thus, it deeply appreciates if you would feedback your opinion in the below questions

1. General information

1.1. Interviewer……

1.2. Date of interview……

1.3. Interviewee's Name (Daily name and ID name):……

1.4. Gender:……

1.5. Ethnic group:……

1.6. Interviewee's hamlet (Commune, District)

1.7. Date of Birth:

1.8. Education level: ☐ University ☐ High school ☐ Secondary school ☐ Primary school ☐ Other

1.9. Birth hamlet (Commune, District) if relocated:

1.10. Occupation……

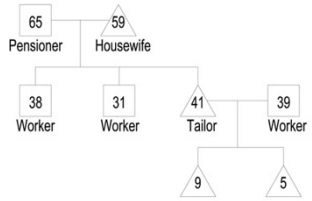
1.11. Position in your hamlet if applicable (or commune, district)

In the past: ……Present:……

1.12. How long have you lived in this hamlet? …… Years……

1.13. Where did you live before? (if you have moved into your current hamlet)

1.14. Your family structure: For example…



2. INFORMATION ON HISTORY OF INTERVIEWEE'S HAMLETS

2.1. Where were the locations of the previous hamlets? (Specify the name and describe generally of these hamlets)

……..……

……..……

……..……

2.2. How many households and people were there in your previous hamlets in the past during different periods? (Percentages between the Katu, Kinh and others.)

……..……

……..……

……..……

2.3. What were the reasons for these changes of places?

☐ Emigration policy of the State

☐ Epidemic

☐ A conflict between the hamlets

☐ War (before 1975)

☐ Hamlet residents want to explore new lands themselves

☐ Others (……..……)

(Please clarify each case selected above ……...……..……...……...……...

……...……

……...……

……..……)

2.4. Were there any Guol in your previous hamlets? (If yes, please describe and sketch out these houses generally) (Roof shape, central pillar, stove…?)

House 1 ……

……

……

……

House 2 ……

……

……

House 1

House 2

3. <u>INFORMATION ON CHs OF INTERVIEWEE'S EXISTING HAMLET</u>

A. IN THE PAST

3.1. In the past, were there any Guol in your existing hamlet?

☐ No ☐ One ☐ Two ☐ Three ☐ Others

3.2. If No, please explain the reason why and where did your hamlet use to organize common activities of hamlet?

……

……

If yes, move to question from 3.3 to 3.7

3.3. Please describe and sketch out these houses generally

House 1……

……

……

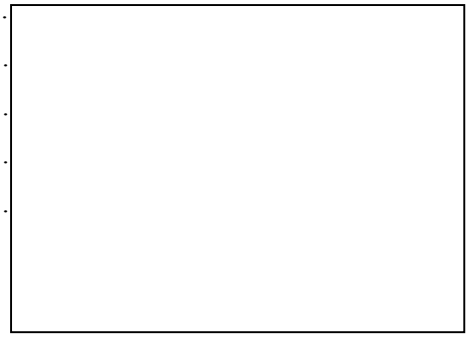
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House2 ……

……

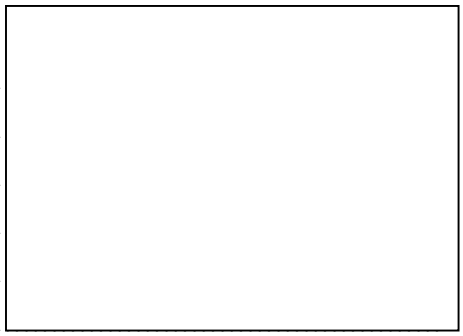
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3.4. What was aspect of the Guol?

☐ East ☐ West ☐ South ☐ North ☐ Other (…….....)

(If you know, please explain the reason for this choice…….....……..

……...

……..……...)

3.5. What was situation of the Guol in your hamlet?

☐ Center of hamlet ☐ Head of hamlet ☐ End of hamlet ☐ Other (…….....)

(If you know, please explain the reason for this choice…….....……..……

……...

……..……...)

3.6. Where is the budget of the construction from? (Donation or Self-payment)?

☐ Self-payment

(Sources and way to collect…….....

……)

☐ Donation (Local, the Central government, NGOs, others)

(Name of the organization:…….....Expenses:…….. …….....)

☐ Association between self-payment and donation

(Way for sharing:……...…….

……)

☐ Others (……..

3.7. Which material sources are used to build the Guol?

☐ Purchase

(Purchase sources: …….....)

☐ Exchange

(Exchange sources: ……)

☐ Self-collection

(Self-collection sources: ……)

☐ Other sources ……

(If you know, please specify for each case selected above

……..……...

……..……...

……..……..)

3.8. What are the construction methods for Guol?

☐ Self-construction (Traditional method)

☐ Hired construction

☐ Association between self-construction and hired construction

☐ Others (……..……)

(If you know, please specify for each case selected above (How and How long to build, how many people involve)

……

……

……

3.9. What is appropriate construction time and season?

(Ex: Good time for logging follow lunar calendar, but not concerned with the season. 2nd, 6th, 16th, 26th are good days, especially 6th and 16th are very good?)

……

……

……..……

……...……

3.10. What are the functions of Guol in your hamlet?

☐ Function for religion and belief
☐ Function for military
☐ Function for administration activities
☐ Function for cultural conservation activities
☐ Others (……)

3.11. How often does your hamlet organize traditional activities? (New-rice ceremony, new-Guol ceremony, oath-talking ceremony, Lunar New Year ceremony, etc).

What are the meanings of these ceremonies?

……

……

……

3.12. Which materials were used for building each component of previous community house s in your hamlet?

	Ground	Structural frame			Floor			Wall		Roof				
		Central, main, lean-to pillars	Eaves, cross, roof beams	Ridge pole	Stairs	Floor joist, Floor beam	Floor mat	Partition	Window, door	Binding Cord	Purlin	Rafter	Roofing	Roof cresting
House 1														
House 2														

B. AT PRESENT

3.13. At present, are there any community house in your hamlet?

☐ No ☐ One ☐ Two ☐ Others

3.14. If No, please explain the reason why and where did your hamlet use to organize common activities of hamlet?

……

……

……

……

…

If yes, move to question from 3.15

3.15. What kind are community house in your hamlet?

☐ Traditional pure wooden community house
☐ Traditional wooden community house but using modern material in some parts
☐ Community house simulated a traditional type and used both traditional and modern materials
☐ Community house simulated a traditional type but used completely modern materials
☐ Modern community house on ground floor
☐ Other (……)

(Please explain more each choice……

……

……

……

3.16. What is the situation of Guol in your hamlet?

☐ Center of hamlet ☐ Head of hamlet ☐ End of hamlet ☐ Other (…….....…)

(If you know, please explain the reason for this choice……..……

……

……

3.17. What is aspect of the community house?

☐ East ☐ West ☐ South ☐ North ☐ Other (……..……)

(If you know, please explain the reason for this choice…….....……...

……

….

3.18. What is appropriate construction time and season?

……

……

……

3.19. Why did your hamlet vote for current style of the community house? How was the implementation process?

(Meeting and opinion of stakeholders, difficulties facing, regulations)

……

……

……

3.20. Had there been any Guol before the current community house was built? If yes, how was the treatment of your hamlet with these Guol?

☐ Dismantle and selling main structure
☐ Dismantle and use for rebuilding
☐ Keeping for using
☐ Others
(……..……)

If you know, please explain more each case selected above (Reasons for above choice, selling price, how to use this money, land condition, etc)

……

……

……..……..…

3.21. Where is the budget of the current community house construction from? (Donation or Self-payment)?

☐ Self-payment
(Sources and way to collect……..…….……

☐ Donation (Local, Central government, NGOs, others)

(Name of the organization:…….....expenses:…….……)

☐ Association between Self-payment and Donation
(Way for sharing:……

……

……

……

☐ Others (……..……..

3.22. Which material sources does your hamlet use to build the current CH?

☐ Purchase
(Purchase sources: ……)

☐ Exchange
(Exchange sources: ……)

☐ Self-collection in the forest

☐ Other resources ……
(If you know, please explain more each case selected above……

……

……

……)

3.23. What are the construction methods for the current community house?

☐ Self-construction (Traditional method)

☐ Hired construction

☐ Association between Self-construction and hired construction

☐ Others
(……...)
If you know, please specify for each case selected above (How, how long to build and how many people involve)

……

……

……

3.24. What are the functions of the current community house in your hamlet? (Multiple answers)

☐ Function for religion and belief
☐ Function for military
☐ Function for administration activities
☐ Function for cultural conservation activities
☐ Others
(……)

3.25. Which materials are used for building each component of the current community house in your hamlet?

	Ground	Structural frame				Floor			Wall		Roof			
		Central, main, floor pillars	Eaves, cross, round, roof	Hip rafter	Ridge pole	Edged , Center threshold	Floor joist	Flooring	Partition	Window , door	Purlin, and round purlin	Rafter	Roofing	Roof cresting

			beams											
House 1														
House 2														

3.26. Has the current community house in your hamlet been changed in any parts? If yes, which materials are used for these parts? Where are financial sources from? And how is the role of local community for maintenance process?

……

……

……

……

3.27. According to you, what are the advantages and disadvantages between traditional community house and modern community house? (Multiple answers)

traditional community house	**traditional community house**
Advantages	**Advantages**
☐ Display of identity	☐ Durable materials
☐ Enhancement of community linkage	☐ Easy to seek material and maintenance
☐ Suitable for traditional activities	☐ Appropriate for new activities
☐ Others (……)	☐ Others (……)
Disadvantages	**Disadvantages**
☐ Difficult to collect materials for construction	☐ Loss of traditional value
☐ Short time for usage	☐ Unsuitable for traditional activities (no stove…)
☐ Unsuitable for new activities	☐ Hot in the summer, noisy in raining season
☐ Others (……)	☐ Others (……)

3.28. According to you, how is the role between stakeholders in construction processes of the current traditional community house? (Implement planning – Constructional process – Usage and maintenance)

Steps / Stakeholders	Implement planning				Constructional process				Usage and maintenance			
	Full powers	Equal Collaboration	Consult	Inform	Full powers	Equal Collaboration	Consult	Inform	Full powers	Equal Collaboration	Consult	Inform
Hamlet people												
Local government												
NGOs												

4. KNOWLEDGE ON KATU TRADITIONAL COMMUNITY HOUSE

4.1. What are the rules for housing aspect?

☐ No special orientation (It only follows that shorter side of Guol should not face mountain direction)

☐ Based on situation of hamlet

☐ Parallel to the road

☐ Facing South

☐ Others (…….....……)

(Meaning of each choice……..

……

……

4.2. Do you know the function and significance of the central pillar (*Cho Rong Mong, R'mang*)?

(Do only the Katu have the culture of the center pillar?)

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4.3. Do you know the significance of roof cresting? (Pago, T'ring bird, cock and hen, buffalo horn, moon crescent).

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4.4. Do you know the significance of sculptural and painting patterns on components of Guol? (Central pillar, partition, beam etc.)

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4.5. Do you know the significance of the number and composition of pillar and fireplace? (e.g. usually 2 places in opposite side, even number of pillar).

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4.6. Do you know the significance of forms of Guol? (such as extremely high roof, round shape in gable-end)

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4.7. Do you have any experience in the Guol construction?

(Guol or long house (How many times? When? And how did hamlet residents organize the team in the construction process?).

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……

4.8. Do you know what tools are used for building Guol?

(E.g. Kinh's tools: plane, saw, chisel, rammer, slitting tool, etc.)

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4.9. Do you know which traditional festivals related to or organized in Guol?

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5. PROBLEMS IN TERMS OF CONSTRUCTION OF GUOL OF THE KATU

5.1 What are the biggest difficulties for the construction of the Guol at present? Choose three.

- ☐ Scarcity of material resources
- ☐ Policies of forest protection of the Government
- ☐ Lack of experienced people to organize
- ☐ Lack of cooperation of the hamlet residents
- ☐ Lack of construction workers
- ☐ Others (……)

If you know, please explain more for each case selected above……..……..

……

……

……)

5.2 For constructing a Guol, which materials of components are the most difficult to seek? (Choose three)

- ☐ Central pillar
- ☐ Partition
- ☐ Main pillar
- ☐ Flooring
- ☐ Roof beam
- ☐ Roofing
- ☐ Floor and eaves Beam
- ☐ Others (……..)

If you know, please explain more for cases selected above……

……

……

5.3 Do you know why the traditional community houses have been replaced by the modern community houses until now? (Multiple answers)

- ☐ Traditional materials for building and replacement are more and more scarce.
- ☐ TCH is no longer suitable for functional use
- ☐ The modern house is more suitable for new functional use
- ☐ The modern house is more durable and easy to maintenance
- ☐ Other reasons (……)

If you know, please explain more for cases selected above……..……..……..……..

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……

5.4 How often do you visit the current community house of your hamlet?

How often?	**Reason?**

☐ A few times a day	☐ Sleeping
☐ A few times a week	☐ Participating in traditional activities of hamlet
☐ A few times a month	☐ Taking a rest
☐ A few times a year	☐ Chatting with hamlet residents
☐ Never	☐ Meeting
☐ Others (……..)	☐ Others (……...….)

6. THE POLICIES AND PROJECTS RELATED ETHNIC MINORITIES

6.1. Have you ever known any policies of central and local governments and projects related to this ethnic minority in general and the Katu in particular? If yes, please specify

(Eg: Program 133, 134, 135, Eco-tourism project, New Economic Zone Planning Project, Objective National Poverty-Alleviation Program, National Target Program on Building New Rural Area)

(If yes, please specify for each project you know……..…….……

…….……

……..……

……..……

……..….

……..…….

6.2 According to you, what are the advantages and disadvantages of the policies and projects implemented?

Advantages	Disadvantages
☐ Improvement of agriculture product	☐ Decrease of identity
☐ Improvement of infrastructure	☐ Difficulties in exploiting forest product
☐ Improvement of housing	☐ Struggle for living with Kinh people
☐ Enhancement of educational level	☐ Decrease of the role of patriarch and hamlet people
☐ Improvement of cultural activities	☐ Disappearance of traditional activities
☐ Others (……)	☐ Others (……)

6.3. Have you ever participated in any project on the community house construction projects (including traditional style and modern style)? If yes, please specify.

Eg. Guol rebuilding program of the government; Community-Based Rural Infrastructure Project (CBRIP); Eco-tourism project; Provincial Poverty Alleviation Project,

……..……...……..……

…….……...……

…….…….…….……

6.4. How do you evaluate the policies and projects related to preservation, restoration and rebuilding of Guol House you have ever known?

…….……

……..…..……

…….…….……

6.5.According to you, which solutions should be used to maintain the Guol?

- ☐ Transmitting constructional technique to next generations
- ☐ Growing tree to provide replacement building materials
- ☐ Smoking the house by burning in stove continuously
- ☐ Spraying termite-killing chemical
- ☐ Developing ecotourism to raise funds for maintenance
- ☐ Others (……)

Please explain more for each case selected above ……

……

……

……

6.6. In the future, if there is a project for rebuilding the community house in your hamlet, which type will you vote?

- ☐ Traditional community house
- ☐ Traditional community house but using modern material in some parts
- ☐ Community house simulated a traditional type and used both traditional and modern materials
- ☐ Community house simulated a traditional type but used completely modern materials
- ☐ Modern community house on earth
- ☐ Others (……)

Please explain for each choice……

……

6.7. If there are such projects in the future, will you be ready to participate in? If yes, how would you involve and how should these projects be implemented?

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6.8. Please give your suggestions to preserve Guol house to adapt to the current context.

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QUESTIONNAIRE 2

(For hamlet people)

INFORMATION OF QUESTIONNAIRE MAKER:

Name: Truong Hoang Phuong

PhD candidate at Global Environmental Architecture, Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies, Kyoto University, JAPAN

E-mail: hoangphuongkts@yahoo.com

Cell phone: +84 (0) 914.351.460 (Vietnam) or +81 (0) 80.47072606 (Japan)

Purpose: The conflict between tradition and modernity as well as between conservation and development is a crucial problem of not only the Katu traditional community house but also cultural heritages of other ethnic minority. To solve the conflict, this research focuses on transformation of traditional community house to find out appropriate solutions so that it can help to balance tradition and development towards the traditional community house, which should be conserved and restored for preserving one of the most significant cultural and architectural assets of the Katu, but still adapting to contemporary context.

Your honest, profound and accurate opinions, ideas and advice are useful source of information and knowledge for this study. Thus, it deeply appreciate if you would feedback your opinion in the below questions

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1. Interviewer's name:……1.2. Date of interview….....…

1.3. Interviewee's name:……..…… 1.4. Gender:…....……

1.5. Ethnic group:…….……....1.6. Age:.....

1.7. Interviewee's hamlet:…….……..Commune:……Nam Dong District

1.8. Educational level:…….....……

1.9. Occupation and position:

Past:…….....……Present:…….....……

1.10. How long have you lived in this hamlet? ……..……Years

1.11. Your family structure: …….

……..……..……

2. ROLE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF TRADITIONAL COMMUNITY HOUSE

2.1. How do you evaluate on the role of the Guol towards the Katu ethnics?

☐Very necessary	☐Necessary	☐Neither	☐Unnecessary	☐Complete unnecessary

Explanation...……

……..……

……..……

2.2. How do you evaluate on the effectiveness of the use of current community house in your hamlet?

	☐Very good	☐Good	☐Neither	☐Bad	☐Very bad
Location of the house					
Design of the house					
Size of the house					
Quality of material					
Using effectiveness					

Explanation..……

……

……

3. POTENTIALITY OF HUMAN RESOURCE OF THE HAMLET IN CONSTRUCTION OF GUOL

3.1. Do you desire to have a traditional Guol in your hamlet in future?

☐Yes	☐No

Explanation..……

……

……

3.2. In the future, if there is the Guol construction project, are you willing to participate in?

☐Yes	☐No

Explanation..……

……

……

3.3. If yes, which specific work will you undertake? (Multiple choices)

☐Collecting timber	☐Collecting leaf	☐Collecting other materials	☐Designing Guol
☐Mobilizing hamlet people	☐Erecting process	☐Maintenance during using	☐Financial contribution

Explanation..……

……

……

3.4. If there is a Guol construction project in the future, in your opinion, which methods should be applied?

☐Hamlet people build completely by themselves
☐Hamlet people build by themselves but with the financial support from outside organizations
☐Hamlet people play an essential role with the cooperation from local government and outside organizations
☐Outside organizations play an essential role with the cooperation from hamlet people
☐Outside organizations undertake all the steps of the construction process

Explanation..……

……

3.5. In your own experience, to build a Guol, how much does it cost (including materials, working day and secondary expenditure which are converted)?

☐Under 200 million VND	☐Between 200 and 400 million VND	☐Between 400 and 600 million VND	☐Over 600 million VND

Explanation..……

……

3.6. How is the ability among factors for a project of Guol construction in your hamlet?

Material resources	Participation of hamlet people	Materials exploitation permission	Financial support	Land resources	Experience of elderly	Other
☐Very easy	☐Very easy	☐Very easy	☐Very easy	☐Very easy	☐Very easy	☐Very easy
☐Easy	☐Easy	☐Easy	☐Easy	☐Easy	☐Easy	☐Easy
☐Difficult	☐Difficult	☐Difficult	☐Difficult	☐Difficult	☐Difficult	☐Difficult
☐Very difficult	☐Very difficult	☐Very difficult	☐Very difficult	☐Very difficult	☐Very difficult	☐Very difficult

☐Others	☐Others	☐Others	☐Others	☐Others	☐Others	☐Others

Explanation..……

……...……

……...……

3.7. How do you evaluate the participation capability of your hamlet people in Guol construction project?

Collecting materials	Design of Guol	Erecting Guol	Processing components	Financial contribution	Maintenance during using
☐Very easy	☐Very easy	☐Very easy	☐Very easy	☐Very easy	☐Very easy
☐Easy	☐Easy	☐Easy	☐Easy	☐Easy	☐Easy
☐Difficult	☐Difficult	☐Difficult	☐Difficult	☐Difficult	☐Difficult
☐Very difficult	☐Very difficult	☐Very difficult	☐Very difficult	☐Very difficult	☐Very difficult
☐Others	☐Others	☐Others	☐Others	☐Others	☐Others

Explanation..……

……

4. POTENTIALITY OF INTELLECTUAL RESOURCE OF THE HAMLET IN CONSTRUCTION OF GUOL

4.1. How do you understand Guol technique construction?

☐good understanding	☐ fairly good understanding	☐ Slight understanding	☐ No understanding

Please clarify..……

……

4.2. Do you know who masters the Guol technique design and construction (using body modules), ritual ceremonies and can gather hamlet people for participating Guol construction project in your hamlet?

☐Yes	☐No

If yes, please introduce them

1,...……

2,……

3,……

5. POTENTIALITY OF NATURAL RESOURCE OF THE HAMLET IN CONSTRUCTION OF GUOL

5.1. At present, in your hamlet, where is the ground of current community house from?

☐Public	☐Using ground of previous Guol	☐Purchase from hamlet people	☐Donation from hamlet people	☐Other

Explanation..……

……

5.2. If there is a project of Guol construction, where is the ground for Guol construction from?

☐Hamlet has reserved public land for construction of Guol
☐It is possible to negotiate with people to donate land for construction Guol
☐It is possible to negotiate with people to sell land for construction Guol
☐It is not possible to persuade people to donate or sell land for construction Guol
☐Dismantle current CH and use its land for construction Guol
☐Other solutions

Explanation..……

……

……

5.3. How is the ability of collecting materials for the Guol construction in your hamlet?

Wood for pillars	Wood for floor, cross, eaves and roof beams	Leaf for roof	Bamboo for rafter, purlin floor mat and partition	Materials for strings to bind	Other materials
☐Very easy	☐Very easy	☐Very easy	☐Very easy	☐Very easy	☐Very easy
☐Easy	☐Easy	☐Easy	☐Easy	☐Easy	☐Easy
☐Difficult	☐Difficult	☐Difficult	☐Difficult	☐Difficult	☐Difficult
☐Very difficult	☐Very difficult	☐Very difficult	☐Very difficult	☐Very difficult	☐Very difficult
☐Others	☐Others	☐Others	☐Others	☐Others	☐Others

Explanation (Place, how and how long to collect materials)..…….....……...……

……...……

……....……

5.4. In your opinion, how are roles of the district and commune towards the Guol construction in your hamlet?

Support on legal documents	Mobilizing and encouraging hamlet people	Financial Support	Mobilizing resources from outside	Other roles
☐Very important	☐Very important	☐Very important	☐Very important	☐Very important
☐Important	☐Important	☐Important	☐Important	☐Important
☐Unimportant	☐Unimportant	☐Unimportant	☐Unimportant	☐Unimportant
☐Others	☐Others	☐Others	☐Others	☐Others

Explanation..……

……

……

5.5. After having current modern community house, has your hamlet ever organize a meeting to discuss to construct the Guol? (This question for hamlet without Guol in present)

☐Yes	Why cannot the hamlet deploy in the reality?	☐No	Why has not your hamlet desired to build Guol?
	……..……		……...……
	……..……		……...……
	……..……		……...……
	……..……		……...……

5.6. If the new Guol is built in your hamlet, how should the hamlet deal with current community house?

☐ Dismantle	☐Keeping for using	☐Other

Explanation..……

……

……

5.7. According to you, which solutions should be used to restore and maintain the Guol? (Multiple choices)

Solutions	Very important	Important	Unimportant	Fully Unimportant
Transmitting constructional technique to next				

generations				
Growing tree to provide replacement building materials				
Smoking the house by burning in stove continuously				
Spraying termite-killing chemical				
Developing ecotourism to raise funds for maintenance				
Other (specify)				

Explanation...……

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……

5.8. Please give your suggestions for restoration and maintenance of Guol to adapt to the current context in your commune in particular and in Nam Dong district in general.

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QUESTIONNAIRE 3

(For local leaders)

Information of questionnaire maker:

Name: Truong Hoang Phuong

PhD candidate at Global Environmental Architecture, Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies, Kyoto University, JAPAN

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1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1. Interviewer's name:……1.2. Date of interview……

1.3. Interviewee's name:……..…… 1.4. Gender:……

1.5. Ethnic group:……..…...…….1.6. Age: ……

1.7. Interviewee's commune:…….……Nam Dong District…….....……

1.8. Educational level:…….....……

1.9. Occupation and position:

Past:…….....……Present:…….....……

1.10. How long have you lived in this hamlet? ……..……

Years

2. EVALUATION OF CH PROJECTS

2.1. How do you evaluate the construction projects of community house having deployed in your commune (district) so far?

☐Very effective	☐Quite effective	☐Neither	☐ Ineffective	☐Very ineffective

2.2. From the past till now, in your commune, has there ever been any Guol construction project with the support from the outside organizations (NAV, ICCO, SNV, etc.)? If yes, would you please briefly describe this project? (the appearance background, the mode of cooperation among the hamlet people, local authorities and outside organizations)

Explanation...……

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……

2.3. Would you please mention the appearance background of the current community houses in the hamlets of the commune (district)? Why is there the difference in the type of the CH among the hamlets?

Explanation...……

……

……

2.4. What are the roles of the commune towards the current community houses? (Multiple choices)

☐ Support on legal documents	☐ Mobilizing resources from outside
☐ Mobilizing and encouraging hamlet people	☐ Other roles
☐ Financial support	

Explanation...……

……

……

3. POLICY AND VIEWPOINT OF THE COMMUNE TOWARDS CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF THE GUOL.

3.1. In the future, if there are Guol construction projects, will the commune (district) authority agree?

☐Yes	☐No

Explanation...……

……

……

3.2. What should the roles of the commune (district) towards this Guol construction project be? (Multiple choices)

☐ Support on legal documents	☐ Mobilizing resources from outside
☐ Mobilizing and encouraging hamlet people	☐ Other roles
☐ Financial support	

Explanation.

……..……..

……

……

3.3. How do you evaluate on the Guol restoration capacity in your commune (district)?

Natural resources	☐Very favorable	☐Quite favorable	☐ Difficult	☐ Very difficult
Human resources	☐Very favorable	☐Quite favorable	☐ Difficult	☐ Very difficult
Intellectual resources	☐Very favorable	☐Quite favorable	☐ Difficult	☐ Very difficult

Explanation...……

……...……

……...……

3.4. In your opinion, which hamlet in your commune (district) is the most potentiality in restoring the Guol?

Explanation...……

……...……

……...……

3.5. Would you please mention the necessary procedure related to the establishment of Guol construction project in your commune (district), especially to the projects which have the participation of the foreign organizations?

……...……

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……

3.6. What is the viewpoint and policy of the commune (district) towards the Guol construction in the future?

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3.7 As a commune (district) leader, please give your suggestions for restoration and maintenance of Guol in your commune (district) in particular and in Nam Dong district in general to adapt to the current context

……..……

……

NAM DONG DISTRICT PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE

DECISION No. 15/ KH – UBND

SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Independence – Freedom – Happiness

Nam Dong, February 25, 2013

DECISION

Performance of the scheme on "Cultural conservation and development of Vietnamese ethnic minorities through 2020" in district

Performing Decision No. 1270/QD – TTg dated on July 27, 2011 by Prime Minister on approving the scheme on "Cultural conservation and development of Vietnamese ethnic minorities through 2020" and Decision No. 105/KH dated on December 12, 2012 by Thua Thien–Hue People's Committee on implementation of the scheme on "Cultural conservation and development of Vietnamese ethnic minorities through 2020" in district. Nam Dong District People's Committee promulgates Decision No. 15/ KH – UBND of scheme implementation in the district with the following specific contents:

I. OBJECTIVES:

1. General objectives:

a) To mobilize the strength of the entire society for developing ethnic culture, contributing to making culture truly the spiritual foundation of the society, the objective and concurrently the motive for socio-economic development while maintaining security and defense.

b) To conserve and promote traditional cultural identities of ethnic minorities based on the respect of languages, habits and customs suitable to the practical situation; to conserve and develop culture of ethnic minorities in border areas, islands and resettlement areas of hydropower projects to serve socio-economic development. To promote the role of cultural subjects in developing the traditional culture of ethnic minorities.

c) To promote fine traditional cultural values of ethnic minorities; to encourage the creation of new cultural values; to contribute to gradually narrowing the gap in living standards and cultural

enjoyment between regions and ethnic minority; to associate economic development with cultural conservation and development of ethnic minorities.

d) To increase governmental investment; to boost socialization of cultural activities; to raise all resources for cultural conservation and development of Vietnamese ethnic minorities in the district; to associate economic development with cultural development, especially in key areas, resettlement areas, remote areas, and areas with exceptional difficulties.

2. Specific objectives:

a. Objectives through 2015:

- To basically lift ethnic minorities in district from the status of pavilion and in need of urgent protection and initially promote their typical cultural heritages in Nam Dong district.

- 80 – 85% of hamlets of ethnic minorities will have culture house (*"Rong"* or culture house, CH) which can organize community activities.

- To form and develop a cultural life in ethnic minority resettlement areas.

- 80 – 85% of cultural officers in ethnic minority areas will be indigenous residents who have been professionally trained in Culture, Sport and Tourism.

- Each commune in an ethnic minority area will receive support to develop at least one typical traditional trade; folksong, folk dance or tourist costume, cuisine are identified to promote; to formulate typical culture-tourism hamlet contributing to hunger eradication and poverty reduction and socio-economic development.

- To organize the survey; to give out statics of typical cultural heritages, and to fulfill the index of cultural development of ethnic minorities in district.

b. Objectives through 2020:

- To promote the exploitation, conservation of typical cultural values; and to prove the role of cultural heritages in formulating and developing the culture of ethnic minorities.

- 95 – 100% of hamlets will have cultural house for programs and activities.

- 100% of cultural officers specializing in Culture in ethnic minority areas will be indigenous residents who have been professionally trained in Culture, Sport and Tourism.

- Each commune, town in an ethnic minority area will receive support to develop at least two typical traditional trades.

- To promote the cultural activities, folksong, folk dance or typical tourist activity, contributing to socio-economic development.

- To basically fulfill the urgent conservation, and to promote the typical cultural heritages of ethnic minorities.

II. RANGE OF DEPLOYMENT:

Huong Son, Huong Huu, Huong Phu, Thuong Lo, Thuong Nhat, Thuong Long, Thuong Quang communes.

III. MAIN CONTENTS:

1. To survey, give out statics, assess the actual state of traditional cultural values of ethnic minorities in the district.

2. To urgently conserve or to support and promote the conservation capacity, cultural development of ethnic minorities; and to abolish unsound customs in ethnic minority areas in the district.

3. To formulate the cultural life and cultural environment in ethnic minorities in the district. To closely associate the formulation of cultural life with socio-economic development suitable to each region, area, ethnic minority.

4. To promote the active role of residential communities of ethnic minorities in conservation and promotion of traditional cultural heritages of their groups.

5. To implement programs on conservation and promotion of fine traditional values; to formulate and develop new cultural, literary and art values, especially supporting the development of ethnic minority languages and scripts.

6. To prioritize investment in the conservation and promotion of traditional performing arts of ethnic minorities; to collect, restore and develop some types of traditional art which are at risk of loss.

7. To boost the conservation and promotion of cultural identities of ethnic minorities associated with programs on economic development, traditional craft development, community tourism contributes to hunger eradication and poverty reduction.

8. To develop and modernize mass information; to enhance the cultural product quality, and to promote the role of radio, TV suitable for ethnic minority people.

9. To synchronously formulate, and raise then quality and effectiveness of community cultural institutions; to truly promote the role of communities in organizing community activities.

10. To increase cultural exchange activities at local, regional and national levels.

11. To formulate policies to encourage research, collection, preservation, teaching and introduction of intangible cultural heritages of ethnic minorities in the district.

12. To train and use source of labor force specializing in Culture towards the communes having ethnic minorities.

13. To formulate a set of cultural development indicators of Nam Dong district ethnic minorities; to totally inventory the cultural heritages of ethnic minorities.

14. To participate and coordinate to organize Cultural, Sport and Tourism Festival with ethnic minorities in Thua Thien–Hue province; to organize the activities of commemoration of Vietnamese Cultural Ethnic Minorities Day on April 19 annually; to participate in the Vietnamese Cultural Ethnic Minorities Festival held by Ministry of Culture, Sport and Tourism annually in order to extend cultural exchanges among ethnic minorities in the great community of Vietnamese ethnic minorities.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION SOLUTIONS:

1. To train key personnel for conservation and promotion of ethnic culture from district to locality levels. To associate conservation and development of ethnic culture with socio-economic development in areas and localities; to ensure harmony between cultural development and economic development and between conservation, promotion and development.

2. To increase public information and communication: to help the society widen their knowledge on cultural conservation and development of ethnic minorities; to prioritize the use of ethnic languages and scripts.

3. To link and integrate the programs and projects on development culture of ethnic minorities and programs on new-rural area building and the national target program on culture.

4. To raise funds from the government budget, the society; to encourage and create conditions for organizations and individuals to invest in cultural institutions and activities; to restore traditional trades of ethnic minorities in the district.

5. To formulate and promulgate the mechanisms, policies on conservation and development ò cultural life in ethnic minorities. To remark the policies, preferential regime, to encourage the artisans to transfer cultural heritages and the officers who are in charge of propagandizing and conserving culture at grassroots levels.

V. FUNDS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION:

1. Government budget funds (Central, province, district)

2. Funds raised from the society and other legal sources.

VI. ASSIGNMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION:

1. Department of Culture and Information

a. To direct and guide the masses information agencies to propagandize the related contents of cultural conservation and development of ethnic minorities in the district.

- To formulate a plan to integrate and implement the national target programs in of giving information to remote areas.

b. To coordinate with related agencies, departments, communes and towns to formulate specific plan to deploy the identified contents.

c. To preside and coordinate with related agencies, departments, communes and towns, project components in scheme "Cultural conservation and development of Vietnamese ethnic minorities through 2020" deployed by Ministry of Culture, Sport and Tourism and Plan No. 105/ KH – UBND dated on December 19, 2012 by Thua Thien–Hue People's Committee on conservation and development of ethnic minorities through 2020.

d. To coordinate with Department of Finance and Planning to advise and arrange funds for plan implementation.

e. Annually, before November 11, the results of plan implementation will be synthesized and reported to Nam Dong District People's Committee.

2. Department of Finance and Planning:

a. To preside and coordinate with Department of Culture and Information, related departments, communes and towns to balance funds; to integrate socio – economic programs to implement the plan, arrange annual budgets; to ensure the objectives and defined plan progress.

b. To guide and inspect the implementation of expenditure from the funds of national target program to deploy the plan contents.

3. Department of Ethnic Minority:

To coordinate with Department of Culture and Information, the related departments, organizations and People's Committee of the communes and towns to deploy the plan contents.

4. Propose the Vietnam Fatherland Front Committee of Nam Dong District and organizations, unions to:

Base on the functions, duties to formulate the plan of intensifying to propagandize, mobilize the members of Youth Union, members at all level and people to implement the guidance and policies of Communist Party and the government law on cultural conservation and development

of Vietnam ethnic minorities in the district. Coordinate with the departments, governmental levels to mobilize the people to participate in implementing the defined plan contents.

5. People's Committees of Huong Son, Huong Huu, Huong Phu, Thuong Lo, Thuong Nhat, Thuong Long, Thuong Quang communes:

- To implement, inspect and supervise the plan implementation in the district in accordance with the defined plan contents.

- To mobilize and arrange the local budget funds to deploy the plan.

VI. IMPLEMENTATION:

Base on the Plan, the agencies, departments, communes and towns formulate their plans, annually (before November 15), the implementation results are reported (to Department of Culture and Information) to synthetically report Nam Dong District People's Committee and Provincial Department of Culture, Sport and Tourism.

Receivers:
- Provincial Department of Culture, Sport and Tourism;
- District Party Committee;
- People's Council;
- Assigned units;
- Office, chief of the secretariat, vice chief of the secretariat of People's Council – District People's Committee;
- Records.

REP. PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE

PP CHAIRMAN

VICE CHAIRMAN

Le Thi Thu Huong

GENERAL INFORMATION OF 36 SURVEYED HAMLETS IN NAM DONG DISTRICT AND 43 THEIR COMMUNITY HOUSES

General information of hamlet

Hamlet name: **Doi**, Thuong Lo commune, Nam Dong district. Population: 702 people (154 households)

History of hamlet

The previous hamlet named also Doi, at Sap hill, near Doi stream, a two-day walk from the current location, and belongs to Thuong Lo commune, district 4 (previous name of Nam Dong district)
Before 1960, the hamlet had four main clans, 30 households with around 200 people living in 30 small dwelling houses on stilts encircling a Guol located in center.
Between 1960 and 1973, the hamlet moved into deep forest and was separated into small groups, from two to three-hour walk apart, and Guol no longer existed.
After 1973, because of mobilization of the Vietnam revolutionary government, the hamlet moved to current location for better living and cultivation condition. Presently, it is one of four hamlets of Thuong Lo commune, Nam Dong district.

History of community house

No	Duration	Central pillar (CP), main pillar (MP), lean-to pillar (LP)	Materials	Stove	Size	Decoration
CH 1	1984 - 1990	2 CP, 4 MP, 6 LP	*Trai* timber, Merawan Giaza timber, *Non* leaf, *Lo o*	2	Small	No

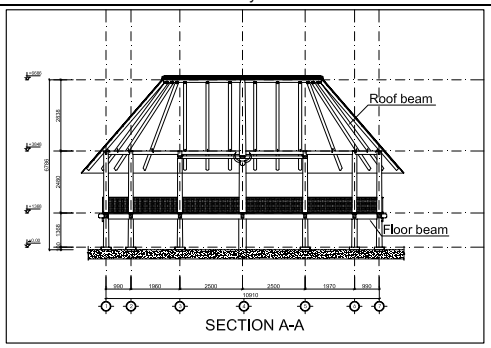
Features of current community house (Community house ID: TLO1 – Type 1)

Construction year	Construction cost	Supporting organization	Construction method
2004	20,000,000 VND (~952 USD) + Hamlet resident labor	Eco-tourism Project Netherlands Development Organization (SNV) - 3,000,000 VND (~142 USD) for the remuneration of two outside builders, the material collection of hamlet people -1,500,000 VND (~71 USD) for a central pillar, 3,000,000 VND (~238 USD) for 12 pillars, and other funds for roof-beams, leaf for roofing, bamboo for flooring and partition - 5,000,000 VND (~238 USD) for completion ceremony - 50,000 VND (~2.3 USD)/days/labor for material collection	The hamlet residents almost undertook all construction steps. The outside carpenters supported in construction technique. It took one month to collect enough materials in Ta Gung forest, the next one month to process the components, and the one last month to construct the house.
Building area 55.44 m^2			
House aspect Southeast			

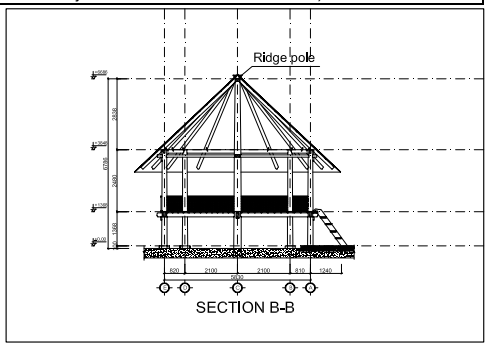
Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Concrete (mark 200)	Good
Central, main pillars	*Son* timber (CP) Ironwood (MP, LP)	Good
Eaves, cross beams	Sapele timber	Good
Floor beams	White Meranti timber	Good
Floor mat	*Lo o* (a kind of Bamboo)	Slight damaged
Stairs	Iron-wood	Severe damage
Wall	Bark of Malva Nut tree	Slight damaged
Window, door	No	-
Roof beams	Sapele timber	Good
Purlin	Sapele timber	Fairly good
Ridge pole	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Roofing	Rattan leaves	Slight damaged
Roof cresting	Cock pattern (White Meranti timber) damaged by typhoon in 2009	No
Stove	No	No

Maintenance activities

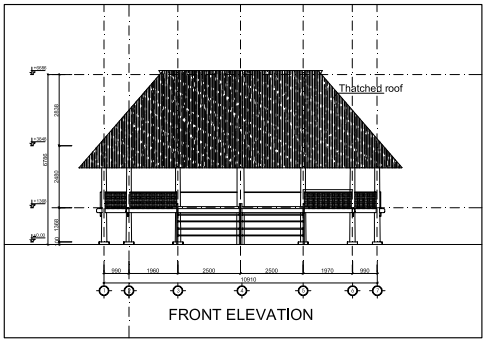
- Re-flooring with bamboo mat in 2007.
- Replacing from bamboo to timber roof-beams, and the renewing of thatched roof in 2010 (supported with 5,000,000 VND (~238 USD) by Nam Dong district).
- Raising the floor from 1.2 m to 1.4 m, replacing bamboo partition to partition of tree barks, renewing bamboo floor mat, and paving a yard with cement mortar in 2011 (financial support of 100,000,000 VND (~4,761 USD) from the Cultural Emergency Response Program, and most of the works were undertaken by outside builders while the hamlet residents just contributed material collection)



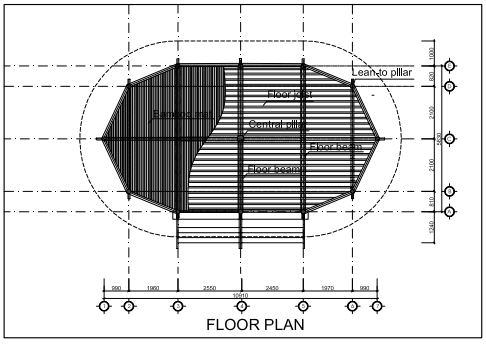
SECTION A-A



SECTION B-B



FRONT ELEVATION



FLOOR PLAN






Front view perspective


Interview with hamlet leaders


Traditional dance performance


Ecotourism activities


Pillar- eaves beam - cross beam joint detail


Pillar - floor beam - floor mat joint detail

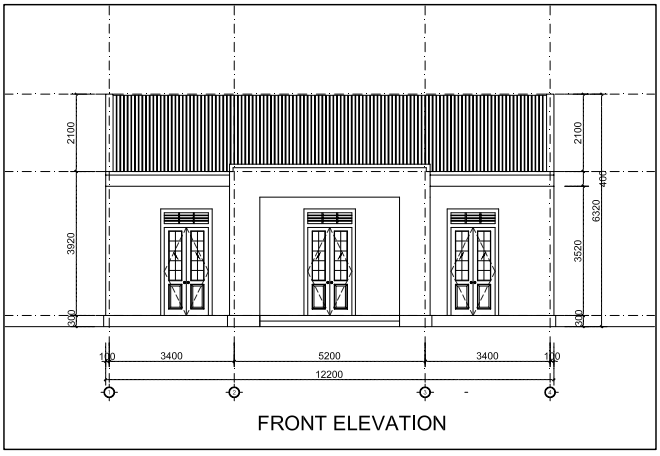

Interior and roof structure of the TCH

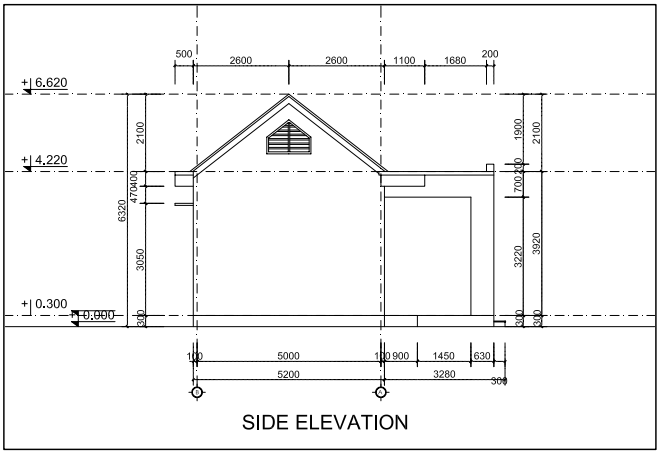
Features of current community house (Community house ID: TLO1B – Type 5)			
Construction year	Construction cost	Supporting organization	Construction method
2005	180,000,000 VND (~8,571 USD)	Central Livelihood Improvement Project (CLIP)	Outside workers undertook entirely in construction process; hamlet people did not participate in any step.
Building area			
84 m^2		Capital from Asian development Bank (ADB) and United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID)	
House aspect			
Northeast			

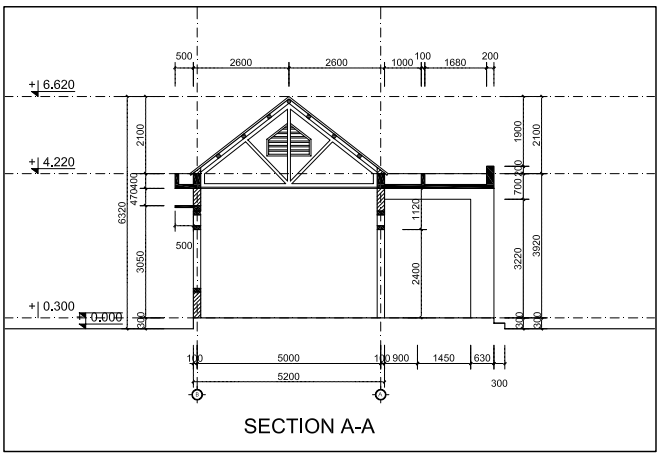
Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200), paved with ceramic tiles	Fairly good
Main pillars, No central pillar	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Eaves beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Floor beams	No	No
Floor mat	Ceramic tiles	Slightly damaged
Stairs	No	No
Wall	Brick and cement mortar, painted layer	Fairly good
Window, door	White Meranti timber (frame), glass	Severely damaged
Roof beams	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Slightly damaged
Purlin	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Slightly damaged
Ridge pole	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Fairly good
Roofing	Corrugated metal sheets	Slightly damaged
Roof cresting	No	No
Stove	No	No
Maintenance activities		
Not yet		

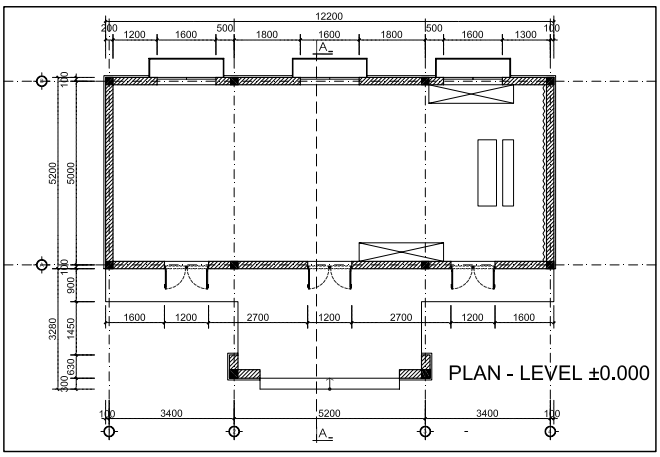


Perspective









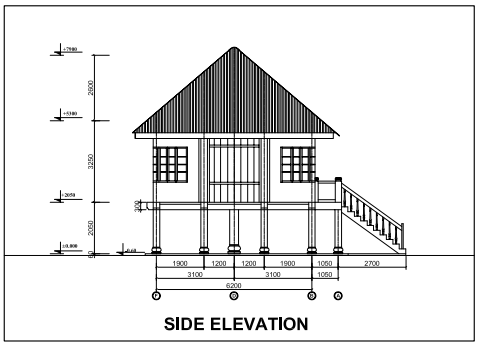
General information of hamlet
Hamlet name: **La Ho**, Thuong Lo commune, Nam Dong district Population: 170 people (96 households)
History of hamlet
Before 1973, the previous hamlet named also La Ho, at Chanh hill and Dau stream, near Quang Nam province, around a one-day walk from current location and belongs to Thuong Lo commune, district 4 (previous name of Nam Dong district). The hamlet had three clans, 13 households with around 70 people living in 13 dwelling houses on stilts encircling a Guol located in center. Since 1973, because of mobilization of the Vietnam revolutionary government, the hamlet moved to current location for better living and cultivation condition. Presently, it is one four hamlets of Thuong Lo commune, Nam Dong district.
History of community house

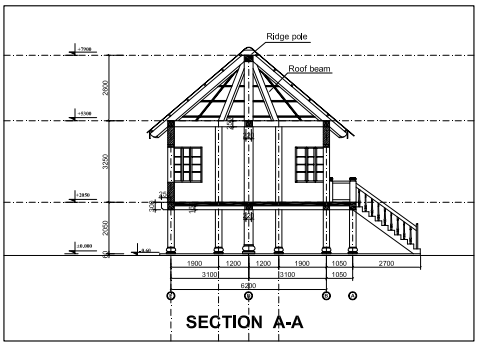
No	Duration	Central pillar (CP), main pillar (MP), lean-to pillar (LP)	Materials	Stove	Size	Decoration
CH 1	1989 - 1995	0 CP, 8 MP, 0 LP	Merawan Giaza timber, Sapele timber, *Non* leaf	1	Small	No

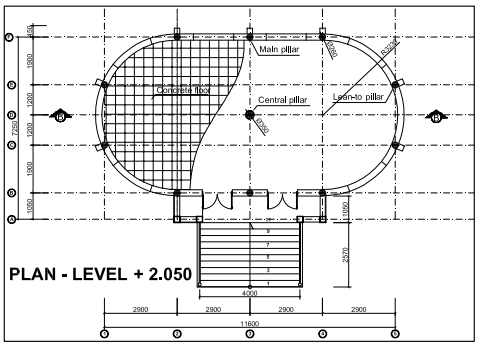
Features of current community house (Community house ID: TLO2 – Type 4)			
Construction year	**Construction cost**	**Supporting organization**	**Construction method**
2006	169,000,000 VND (~8,047 USD)	Central Livelihood Improvement Project (CLIP)	The outside builders almost undertook all construction steps. The hamlet residents only participated in transporting materials, leveling foundation, and contributing formwork-propping pillars.
Building area		Capital from Asian development Bank (ADB) and United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID)	
90 m^2			
House aspect		Contribution of resident	
Northeast			

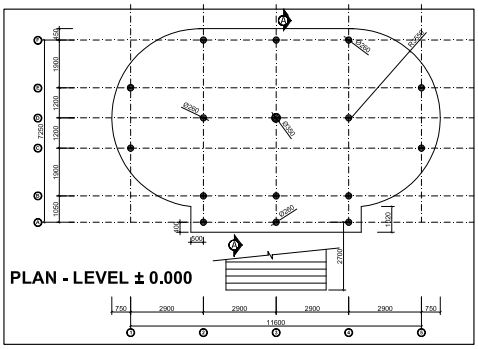
Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Central, main pillars	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Eaves, cross beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Floor beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Flooring	Reinforced concrete (mark 200), paved with ceramic tiles	Good
Stairs	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Wall	Brick and cement mortar, painted layer	Fairly good
Window, door	White Meranti timber (frame), glass	Severely damaged
Roof beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Purlin	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Fairly good
Ridge pole	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Roofing	Corrugated metal sheets	Fairly good
Roof cresting	Cock pattern (White Meranti timber) damaged by typhoon in 2009	No
Stove	No	No

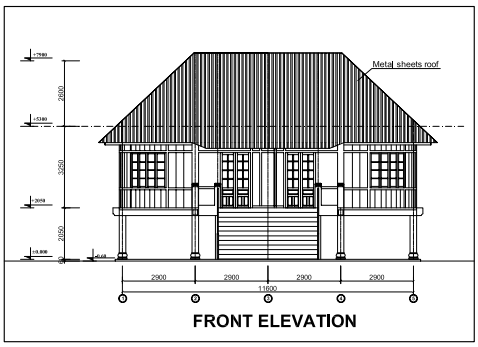
Maintenance activities
Not yet

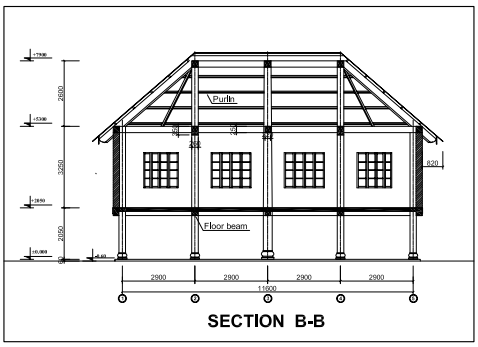













Front view perspective


Interior


Roof structure


Floor beam-pillar joint detail


Interior


A meeting of hamlet leaders


Back view perspective

General information of hamlet						
Hamlet name: **Mu Nam**, Thuong Lo commune, Nam Dong district. Population: 132 people (30 households)						
History of hamlet						
The previous hamlet named also Mu Nam, belonging to Thuong Lo commune, district 4 (previous name of Nam Dong district). Before 1961, previous hamlet located next to Ta Trach river, next to current position, had around 60 households with 300 people living in also 60 small houses on earth facing a Guol. Between 1961 and 1976, the hamlet moved into deep forest and was separated into small groups, a one-day walk from current position, and population of hamlet dropped to 34 to 40 people (seven to eight households) because of the war. Since 1976, because of mobilization of the Vietnam revolutionary government, the hamlet moved to current location for better living and cultivation condition. Presently, it is one of four hamlets of Thuong Lo commune, Nam Dong district.						
History of community house of current hamlet						
No	Duration	Central pillar (CP), main pillar (MP), lean-to pillar (LP)	Materials	Stove	Size	Decoration
CH 1	1977 - 2006	1 CP, 4 MP, 6 LP	Merawan Giaza timber, White Meranti timber, Rattan leaf, *Lo o*	1	Medium	Yes

Features of current community house (Community house ID: TLO3 – Type 5)			
Construction year	Construction cost	Supporting organization	Construction method
2006	140,000,000 VND (~6,666 USD)	Central Livelihood Improvement Project (CLIP)	Outside workers undertook entirely in construction process; hamlet residents did not participate in any step.
Building area			
100 m^2		Capital from Asian development Bank (ADB) and United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID)	
House aspect			
South			

Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200) paved with ceramic tiles	Fairly good
Main pillars, No central pillar	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Eaves beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Floor beams	No	No
Floor mat	Ceramic tiles	Slightly damaged
Stairs	No	No
Wall	Brick and cement mortar, painted layer	Fairly good
Window, door	White Meranti timber (frame), glass	Severely damaged
Roof beams	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Slightly damaged
Purlin	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Slightly damaged
Ridge pole	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Fairly good
Roofing	Corrugated metal sheets	Slightly damaged
Roof cresting	No	No
Stove	No	No
Maintenance activities		
Not yet		



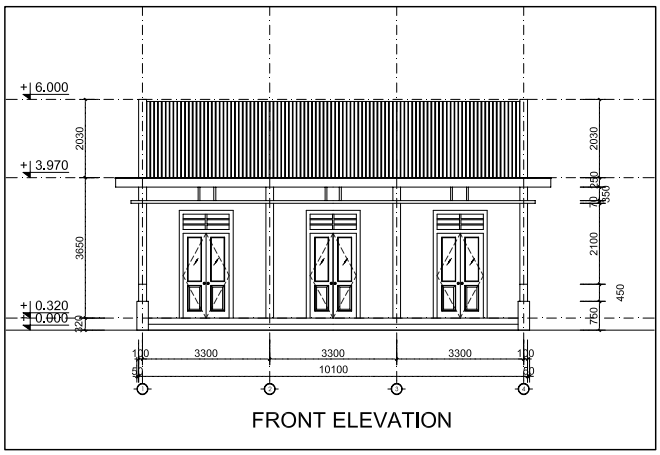
Side view perspective



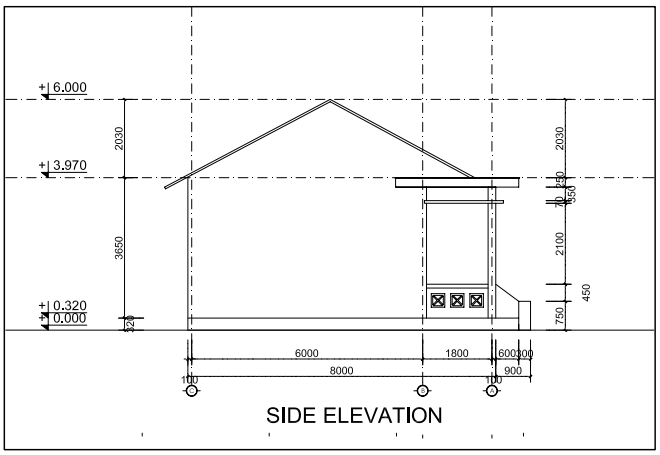
Front view perspective



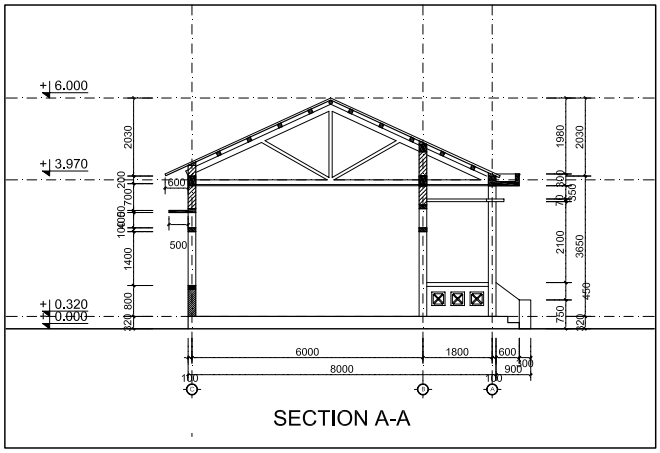
A pillar of previous Guol presently used to support a small temple



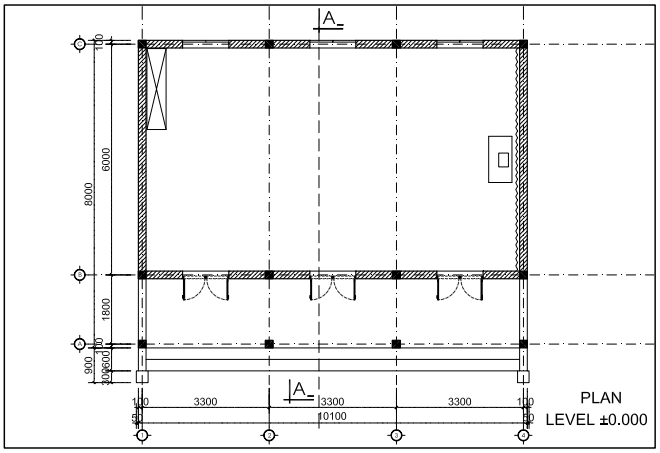
FRONT ELEVATION



SIDE ELEVATION



SECTION A-A



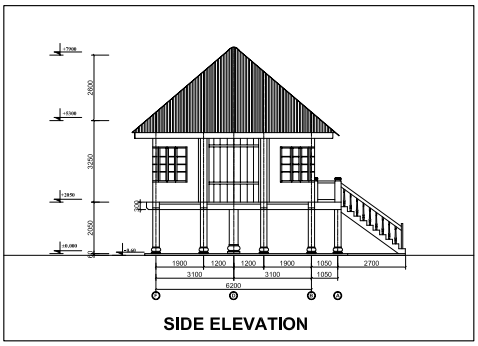
PLAN
LEVEL ±0.000

General information of hamlet						
Hamlet name: **Cha Mang**, Thuong Lo commune, Nam Dong district. Population: 304 people (76 households)						
History of hamlet						
Before 1973, the previous hamlet named also Cha Mang located by Cha Mang stream, near Quang Nam province, around eight-hour walk from current location and belongs to Thuong Lo commune, district 4 (previous name of Nam Dong district). The hamlet had three clans, 13 households with around 300 people living in 25 to 30 dwelling houses on stilts encircling a Guol located in center. Since 1973, because of mobilization of the Vietnam revolutionary government, the hamlet moved to current location for better living and cultivation condition. Presently, it is one of four hamlets of Thuong Lo commune, Nam Dong district.						
History of community house						
No	Duration	Central pillar (CP), main pillar (MP), lean-to pillar (LP)	Materials	Stove	Size	Decoration
CH 1	1982 - 2007	1 CP, 8 MP, 6 LP	*Son* timber, Merawan Giaza timber, Sapele timber, *Non* leaf	2	Large	Yes

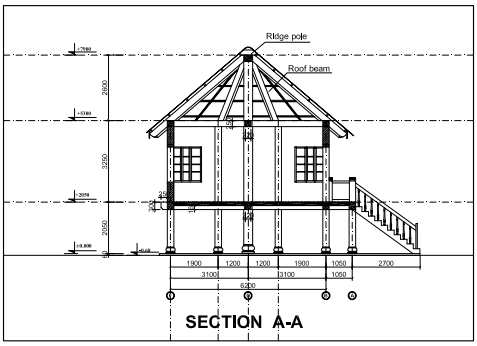
Features of current community house (Comunity house ID: TLO4 – Type 4)			
Construction year	Construction cost	Supporting organization	Construction method
2006	169,000,000 VND (~8,047 USD)	Central Livelihood Improvement Project (CLIP)	The outside builders almost undertook all construction steps. The hamlet residents only participated in transporting materials, leveling foundation and contributing formwork-propping pillars.
Building area		Capital from Asian development Bank (ADB) and United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID)	
90 m^2			
House aspect		Contribution of hamlet residents	
South			

Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Slightly damaged
Central, main pillars	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Eaves, cross beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Floor beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Flooring	Reinforced concrete (mark 200), paved with ceramic tiles	Good
Stairs	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Wall	Brick and cement mortar, painted layer	Fairly good
Window, door	White Meranti timber (frame), glass	Severely damaged
Roof beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Purlin	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Fairly good
Ridge pole	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Roofing	Corrugated metal sheets	Fairly good
Roof cresting	Cock-head pattern (White Meranti timber) damaged by typhoon in 2009	No
Stove	-	No

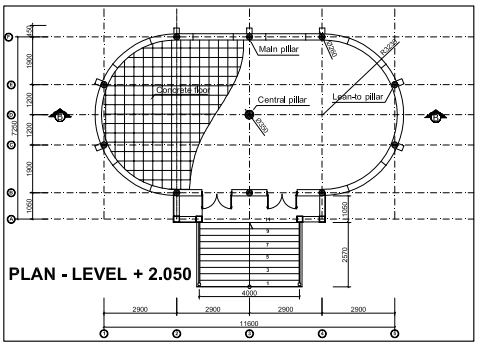
Maintenance activities
Not yet



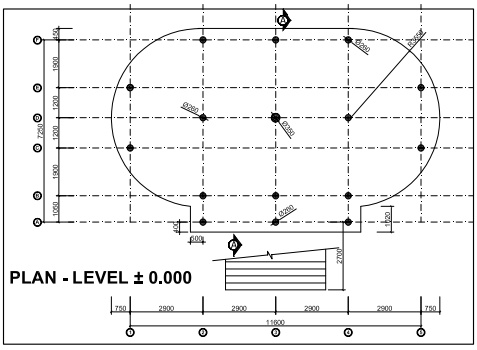
SIDE ELEVATION



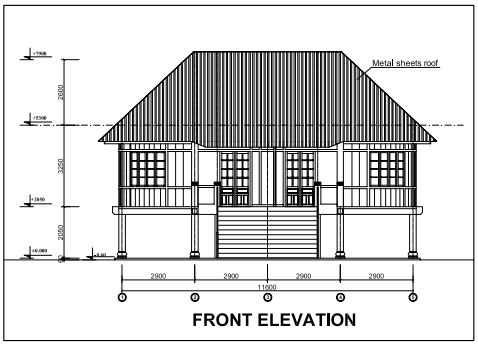
SECTION A-A



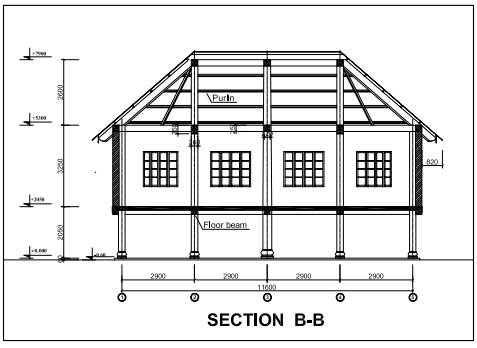
PLAN - LEVEL + 2.050



PLAN - LEVEL ± 0.000



FRONT ELEVATION



SECTION B-B



Front view perspective



Interior



Roof structure



Floor paved with ceramic tile



Floor beam-pillar joint detail



Drums for traditional activities

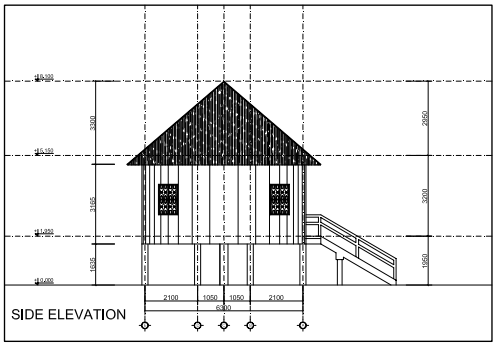


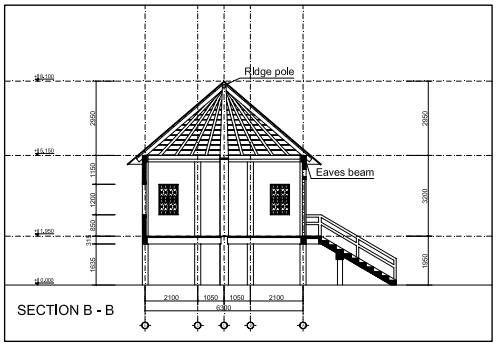
Back view perspective

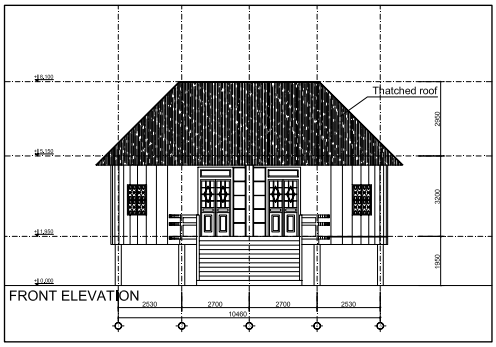
General information of hamlet						
Hamlet name: **La Hia**, Huong Son commune, Nam Dong district. Population: 207 people (44 households)						
History of hamlet						
Before 1976, the previous hamlet was located in Laos, named also La Hia, and belongs to Huong Son commune. There were three clans, 15 households with around 70 people living in six dwelling houses on stilts encircling a Guol located in center. Since 1976, because of mobilization of the Vietnam revolutionary government, the hamlet moved to current location for better living and cultivation condition. Presently, it is one of seven hamlets of Huong Son commune, Nam Dong district.						
History of community house						
No	Duration	Central pillar(CP), main pillar (MP), lean-to pillar (LP)	Materials	Stove	Size	Decoration
CH 1	1980 - 1983	(No CP, 4 MP, 4 LP)	Merawan Giaza, Sapele timber, thatch leaf	2	Small	No
CH 2	1994 - 2004	(No CP, 4 MP, 4 LP)	White Meranti, Sapele timber, thatch leaf	2	Small	No

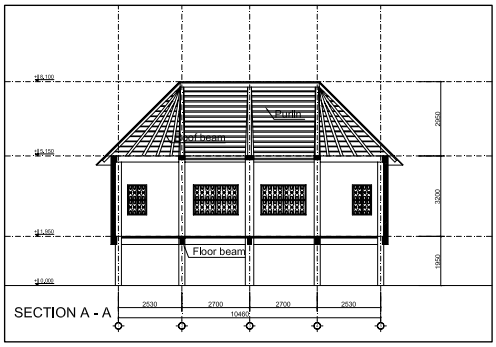
Features of current community house (Community house ID: HS1 – Type 3)			
Construction year	Construction cost	Donating organization	Construction method
2004	105,000,000 VND (~5,000 USD)	Community-based rural infrastructure Project (CBRIP)	Outside builder undertook the main frame of building (foundation, pillar and beam frame) Hamlet residents contributed traditional materials (timber, bamboo) and erecting the floor and roof.
Building area			
65.89 m^2	88,800,000 VND (A) (~4,228 USD)	(A) Major capital from World Bank (WB) (84.6%)	
House aspect	11,700,000 VND (B) (~557 USD)	(B) Reciprocal capital from government (11.1%)	
West	4,500,000 VND (C) (~214 USD)	(C) Contributions of residents (4.1%)	

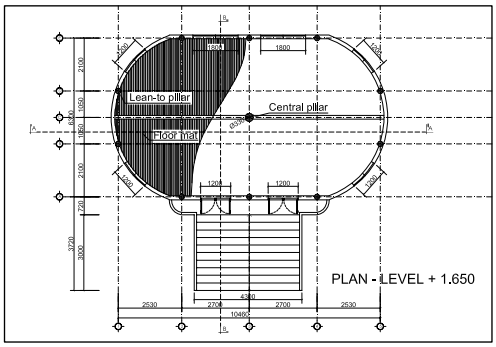
Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Central, main pillars	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Eaves, cross beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Floor beams	1.Reinforced concrete (mark 200) (main beams), 2.Sapele timber (secondary beams)	1.Good, 2.Fairly good
Floor mat	*Lo o* (A kind of bamboo)	Severely damaged
Stair	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Wall	Brick and cement mortar, painted layer	Fairly good
Window, door	Merawan Giaza (frame), glass	Severely damaged
Roof-beams	*Mo* timber	Slightly damaged
Purlin	*Lo o* (A kind of bamboo), rattan (round purlin)	Slightly damaged
Ridge pole	Sapele timber	Fairly good
Roofing	Rattan and Mangrove Fan Palm (*Non*) leaf	Severely damaged
Roof cresting	No	No
Stove	No	No
Maintenance activities		
Re-roofing	Renewing thatch roof in 2012 (keeping original material) undertook by hamlet residents	

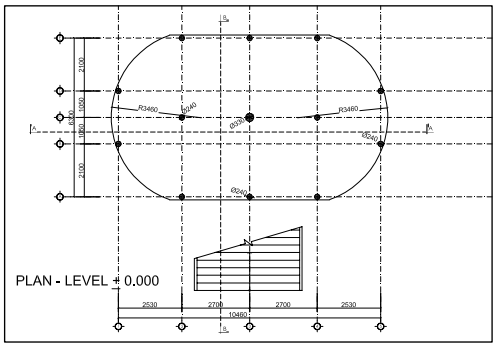













Front view perspective


Interior


Roof structure


Roof joint detail


Pillar - floor beam - floor mat joint structure


Floor mat structure



General information of hamlet
Hamlet name: **A Mut**, Huong Son commune, Nam Dong district. Population: 175 people (40 households)
History of hamlet
Before 1976, the previous hamlet was located in Laos, named also A Mut, and belongs to Huong Son commune, a three-day walk from current location. There were from four to six households with around 30 people living in six dwelling houses on stilts facing to a Guol located in center. Since 1976, because of mobilization of the Vietnam revolutionary government, the hamlet moved to current location and settled until now, and presently, it is one of seven hamlets of Huong Son commune, Nam Dong district.

History of community house

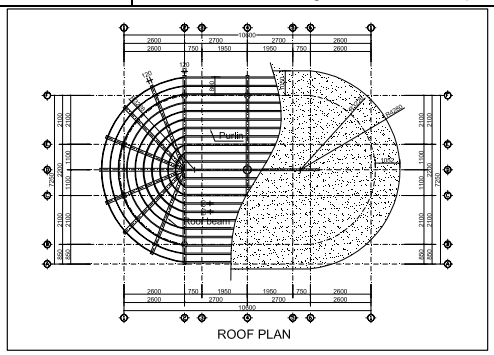
No	Duration	Central pillar(CP), main pillar (MP), lean-to pillar(LP)	Materials	Stove	Size	Decoration
CH 1	1979 - 1985	(2 CP, 8 MP, No LP)	Merawan Giaza, White Meranti timber, *Non* leaf	2	Small	Yes
CH 2	1994 - 2005	(No CP, 8 MP, No LP)	Merawan Giaza, Sapele timber, fibro-cement	1	Small	No

Features of current community house (Community house ID: HS2 – Type 3)

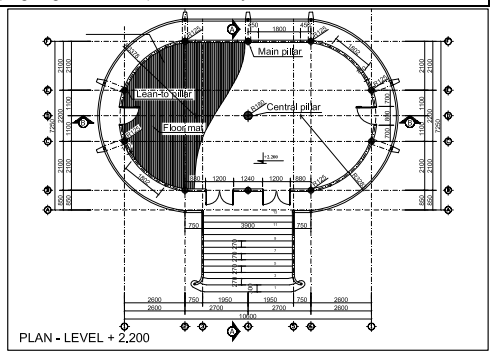
Construction year	Construction cost	Supporting organization	Construction method
2006	210,000,000 VND (~10,000 USD)	Community-based rural infrastructure Project (CBRIP)	Outside builder undertook the main frame of building (foundation, pillar and beam frame) Hamlet residents contributed traditional materials (timber, bamboo) and erecting the floor and roof.
Building area			
66.57 m^2	173,712,000 VND (A) (~8,272 USD)	(A) Major capital from World Bank (WB) (82.7%)	
House aspect	27,488,000 VND (B) (~1,308 USD)	(B) Reciprocal capital from government (13%)	
Northeast	8,800,000 VND (C) (~419 USD)	(C) Contributions of residents (4.1%)	

Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Central, main pillars	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Eaves, cross beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Floor beams	1. Reinforced concrete (mark 200) (main beams), 2. Sapele timber (secondary beams)	1.Good, 2.Fairly good
Floor mat	*Lo o* (A kind of bamboo)	Severely damaged
Stair	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Wall	Brick and cement mortar, painted layer	Fairly good
Window, door	White Meranti timber (frame), glass	Severely damaged
Roof beams	Merawan Giaza timber	Good
Purlin	*Lo o* (A kind of bamboo), rattan (round purlin)	Slightly damaged
Ridge pole	Merawan Giaza timber	Fairly good
Roofing	Thatch leaf	Severely damaged
Roof cresting	Cock pattern (*Chua* timber) damaged due to typhoon in 2009	No
Stove	No	No

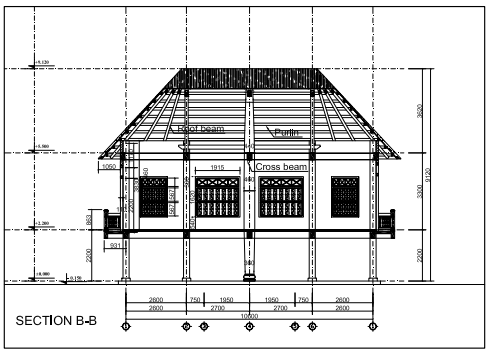
Maintenance activities	
Re-roofing	Renewing thatch roof in 2012 (keeping original material) undertook by hamlet residents



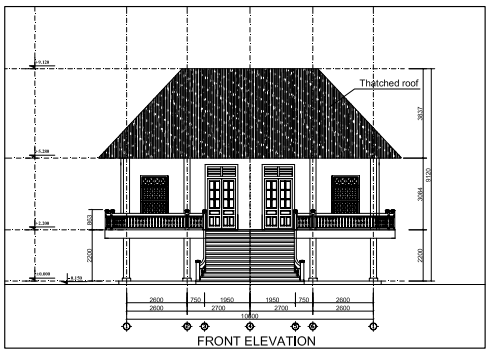
ROOF PLAN



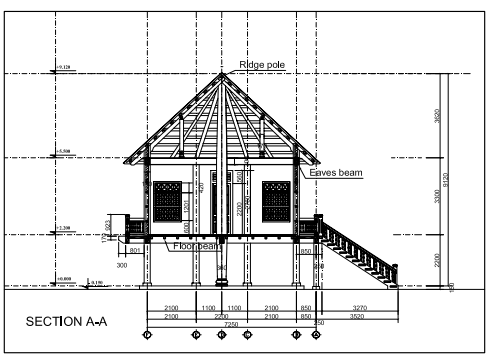
PLAN - LEVEL + 2.200



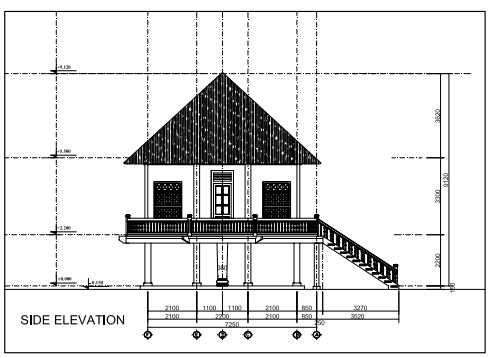
SECTION B-B



FRONT ELEVATION



SECTION A-A


SIDE ELEVATION


Front view perspective


Interior


Roof structure


Pilar - roof bean - purlin joint detail


Floor beam - pillar joint detail

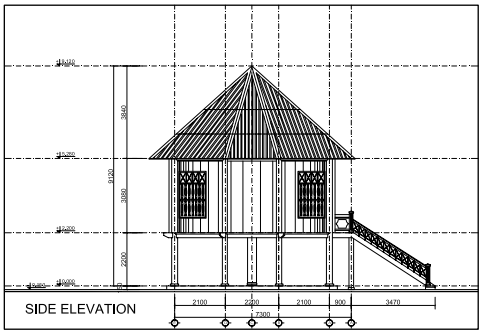

Floor structure

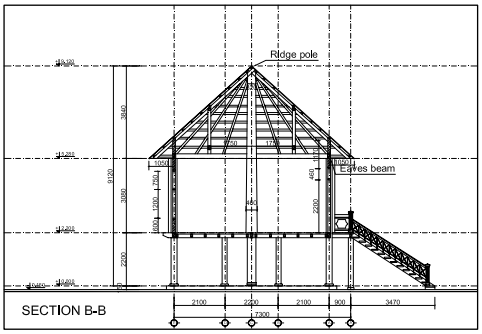

Damaged floor mat

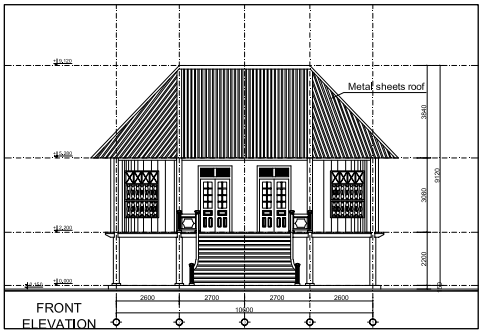
General information of hamlet						
Hamlet name: **Ka Che,** Huong Son commune, Nam Dong district. Population: 179 people (41 households)						
History of hamlet						
Before 1976, the previous hamlet was located in Laos, named also Ka Che, and belongs to Huong Son commune. There were three families, 13 households with around 70 - 80 people living in six dwelling houses on stilts encircling a Guol located in center. Since 1976, because of mobilization of the Vietnam revolutionary government, the hamlet moved to current location for better living and cultivation condition. Presently, it is one of seven hamlets of Huong Son commune, Nam Dong district.						
History of community house						
No	Duration	Central pillar (CP), main pillar (MP), lean-to pillar (LP)	Materials	Stove	Size	Decoration
CH 1	1979 - 2005	(1 CP, 4 MP, 6 LP)	*Trai* timber, White Meranti timber, tree bark, thatch leaf	2	Medium	Yes

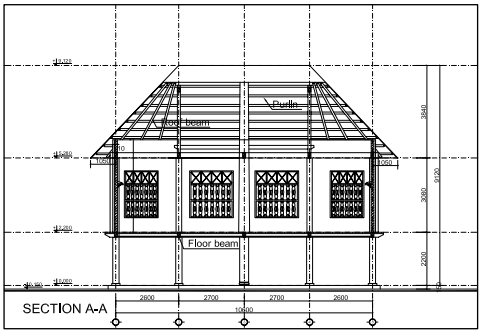
Features of current community house (Community house ID: HS3 – Type 3)			
Construction year	Construction cost	Donating organization	Construction method
2005	145,000,000 VND (~6,904 USD)	Community-based rural infrastructure Project (CBRIP)	Outside builder undertook the main frame of building (foundation, pillar and beam frame). Hamlet residents contributed traditional materials (timber, bamboo) and erecting the floor and roof.
Building area			
66.57 m^2	124,362,000 VND (A) (~5,922 USD)	(A) Major capital from World Bank (WB) (86%)	
House aspect	14,338,000 VND (B) (~682 USD)	(B) Reciprocal capital from government (9.8%)	
Southwest	6,300,000 VND (C) (~300 USD)	(C) Contributions of residents (4.2%)	

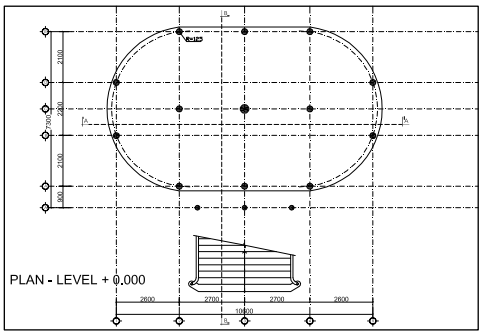
Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Central, main pillars	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Eaves, cross beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Floor beams	1.Reinforced concrete (mark 200) (main beams), 2. White Meranti timber (secondary beams)	1.Good, 2.Fairly good
Floor mat	*Lo o* (A kind of bamboo)	Severely damaged
Stair	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Wall	Brick and cement mortar, painted layer	Fairly good
Window, door	Merawan Giaza (frame), glass	Severely damaged
Roof beams	White Meranti timber	Slightly damaged
Purlin	*Lo o* (A kind of bamboo), rattan (round purlin)	Slightly damaged
Ridge pole	White Meranti timber	Fairly good
Roofing	Corrugated metal sheets	Fairly good
Roof cresting	Cock pattern (*Chua* timber) damaged due to typhoon in 2009	No
Stove	No	No
Maintenance activities		
Re-roofing	Rattan leaf roof was replaced by corrugated metal sheets in 2012. Hamlet residents undertook and contributed finance for renewal	

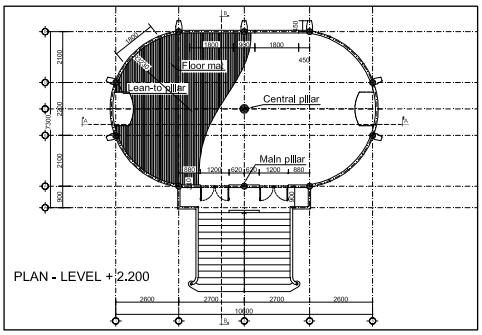













Front view perspective


Interior


Roof structure


Pillar - roof beam - purlin joint detail


Interior

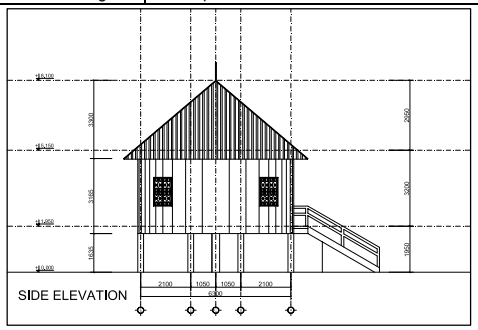

Lo o floor mat

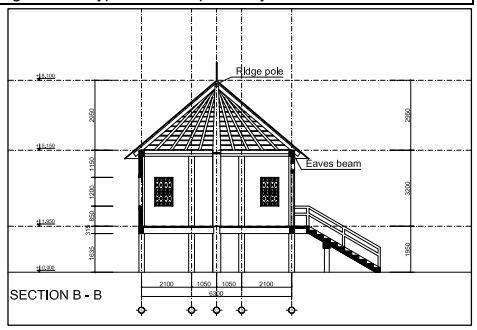

Pillar - floor beam - floor mat joint structure

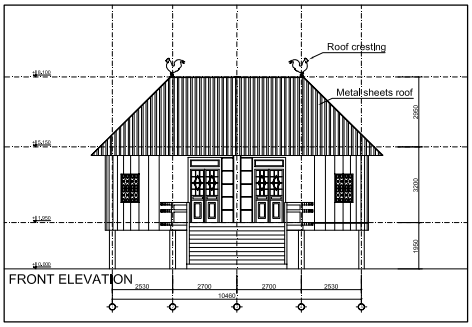
General information of hamlet						
Hamlet name: **A Lot**, Huong Son commune, Nam Dong district. Population: 265 people (61 households)						
History of hamlet						
Before 1976, the previous hamlet was located in Laos, named also A Lot, and belongs to Huong Son commune. There were three families, 15 households with around 45 - 50 people living in three long dwelling houses on stilts facing a Guol located in center. Since 1976, because of mobilization of the Vietnam revolutionary government, the hamlet moved to current location for better living and cultivation condition. Presently, it is one of seven hamlets of Huong Son commune, Nam Dong district.						
History of community house						
No	Duration	Central pillar (CP), main pillar (MP), lean-to pillar (LP)	Materials	Stove	Size	Decoration
CH 1	1985 - 2000	(1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	*Huynh Dan* timber, White Meranti timber, Rattan leaf, *Lo o*	2	Medium	Yes

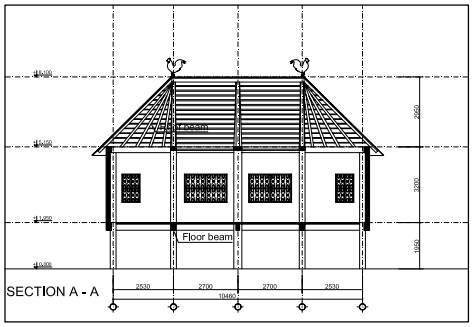
Features of current community house (Community house ID: HS4 – Type 3)			
Construction year	Construction cost	Supporting organization	Construction method
2004	105,000,000 VND (~5,000 USD)	Community-based rural infrastructure Project (CBRIP)	Outside builder undertook the main frame of building (Foundation, pillar and beam frame) Hamlet residents contributed traditional materials (timber, bamboo) and erecting the floor and roof.
Building area			
65.89 m^2	88,800,000 VND (A) (~8,224 USD)	(A) Major capital from World Bank (WB) (84.6%)	
House aspect	11,700,000 VND (B) (~557 USD)	(B) Reciprocal capital from government (11.1%)	
Southwest	4,500,000 VND (C) (~214 USD)	(C) Contributions of residents (4.1%)	

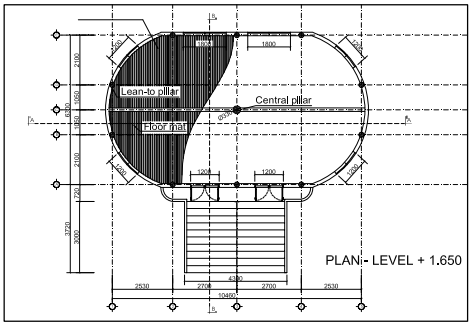
Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Central, main pillars	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Eaves, cross beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Floor beams	1. Reinforced concrete (mark 200) (main beams), 2. White Meranti timber (secondary beams)	1.Good, 2.Fairly good
Floor mat	*Lo o* (A kind of bamboo)	Severely damaged
Stair	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Wall	Brick and cement mortar, painted layer	Fairly good
Window, door	Merawan Giaza (frame), glass	Severely damaged
Roof-beams	Merawan Giaza timber	Slightly damaged
Purlin	*Lo o* (A kind of bamboo), rattan (round purlin)	Slightly damaged
Ridge pole	White Meranti timber	Fairly good
Roofing	Corrugated metal sheets	Fairly good
Roof cresting	Cock pattern (White Meranti timber)	Fairly good
Stove	No	No
Maintenance activities		
Re-roofing Roof cresting	- Rattan leaves roof was replaced by corrugated metal sheets in 2012. Hamlet residents undertook and contributed finance for renovation - Cock pattern in White Meranti timber was damaged due to typhoon and replaced by metal one in 2012	

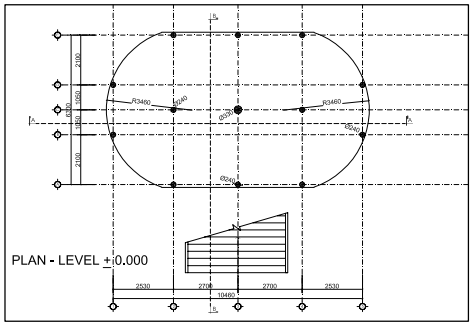













Perspective


Interior


Pillar-roof beam-purlin joint detail


Pillar - floor beam - floor mat joint structure

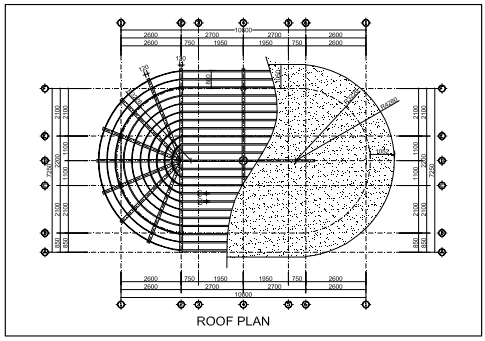


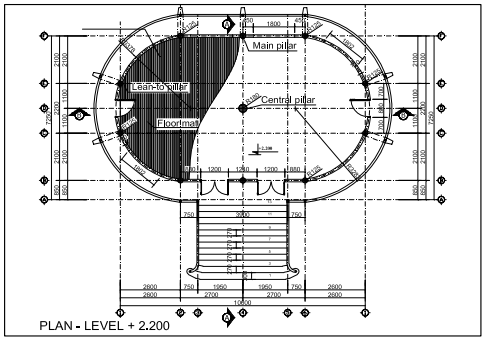

Damaged floor mat

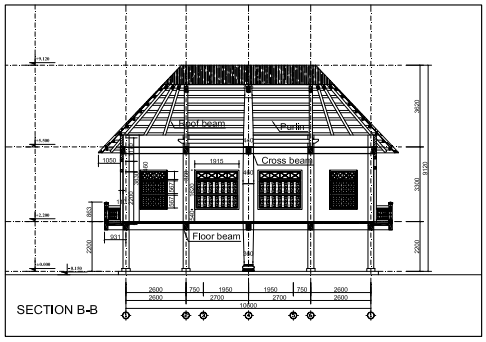

Cock roof cresting

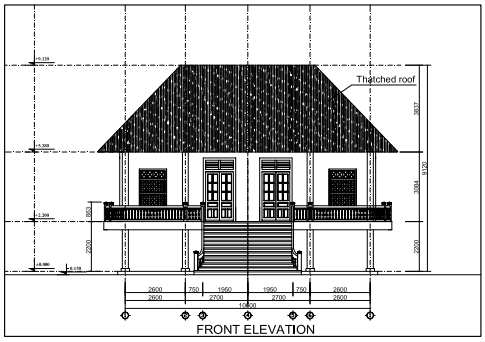
General information of hamlet			
Hamlet name: **Ba Duoc**, Huong Son commune, Nam Dong district. Population: 170 people (34 households)			
History of hamlet			
Before 1976, the previous hamlet was located in Laos, in Chan A Lu valley, next to Mut stream, named also Ba Duoc, and belongs to Huong Son commune, a three-day walk from current location. There were from four to six households with around 150 people living in four long dwelling houses on stilts facing to a Guol located in center. Since 1976, because of mobilization of the Vietnam revolutionary government, the hamlet moved to current location and settled until now, and presently, it is one of seven hamlets of Huong Son commune, Nam Dong district.			
History of community house			
Before constructing the current community house, the hamlet had never built any traditional community house due to instable conditions and insufficient human resource. Thus, the hamlet used private dwelling house for common activities.			
Features of current community house (Community house ID: HS5 – Type 3)			
Construction year	Construction cost	Supporting organization	Construction method
2006	210,000,000 VND (~10,000 USD)	Community-based rural infrastructure Project (CBRIP)	Outside builder undertook the main frame of building (foundation, pillar and beam frame) Hamlet residents contributed traditional materials (timber, bamboo) and erecting the floor and roof.
Building area			
66.57 m^2	173,712,000 VND (A) (~8,272 USD)	(A) Major capital from World Bank (WB) (82.7%)	
House aspect	27,488,000 VND (B) (~1,308 USD)	(B) Reciprocal capital from government (13%)	
North	8,800,000 VND (C) (~419 USD)	(C) Contributions of residents (4.1%)	

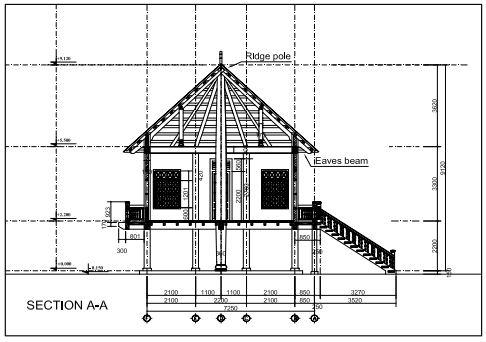
Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Central, main pillars	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Eaves, cross beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Floor beams	1.Reinforced concrete (mark 200) (main beams), 2.Sapele timber (secondary beams)	1.Good, 2.Fairly good
Floor mat	*Lo o* (A kind of bamboo)	Fairly good
Stair	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Wall	Brick and cement mortar, painted layer	Fairly good
Window, door	Merawan Giaza (frame), glass	Severely damaged
Roof beams	Merawan Giaza timber	Good
Purlin	*Lo o* (A kind of bamboo), rattan (round purlin)	Slightly damaged
Ridge pole	Merawan Giaza timber	Fairly good
Roofing	Thatch leaf	Severely damaged
Roof cresting	Cock (*Chua* timber) damaged due to typhoon in 2009	No
Stove	No	No
Maintenance activities		
Re-flooring Re-roofing	Renewing floor mat twice in 2009 and 2012 Renewing thatch roof in 2012 (keeping original material) undertook by hamlet residents Having a intention of renewing thatch roof with corrugated metal sheets because the hamlet can not afford to collect leaves for roofing every three or four years	

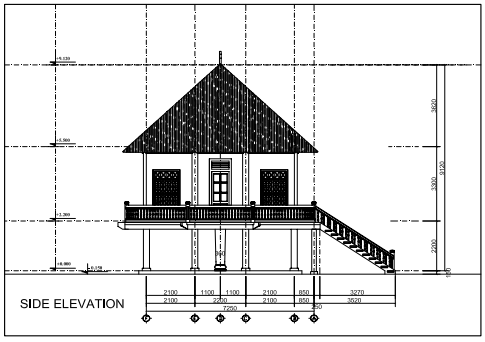













Front view perspective


Interior


Floor beam-pillar joint detail


Roof structure


Roof structure


3D perspective

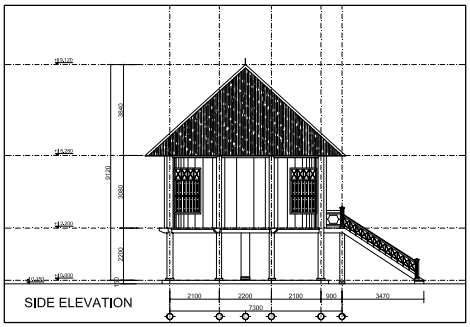

3D perspective of roof structure

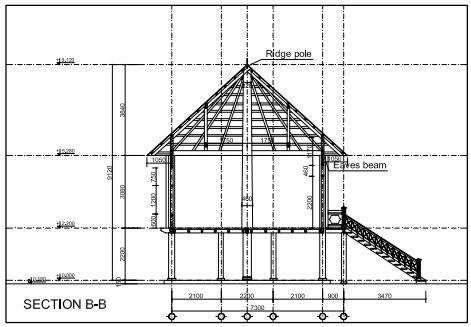
General information of hamlet						
Hamlet name: **A Den**, Huong Son commune, Nam Dong district. Population: 229 (50 households)						
History of hamlet						
Before 1976, the previous hamlet was located in Laos, named also A Den, next to Prta and Nga Nguong, a two-day walk from current position, and belongs to Huong Son commune, district 4. There were three families consisting of ten households with around 60 - 70 people living in two long dwelling houses on stilts encircling a Guol located in center. Since 1976, because of mobilization of the Vietnam revolutionary government, the hamlet moved to current location for better living and cultivation condition. Presently, It is one of seven hamlets of Huong Son commune, Nam Dong district.						
History of community house						
No	Duration	Central pillar (CP), main pillar (MP), lean-to pillar (LP)	Materials	Stove	Size	Deco ration
CH 1	1981 - 2000	(0 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	Merawan Giaza and White Meranti timber, Rattan leaf	2	Medium	Yes

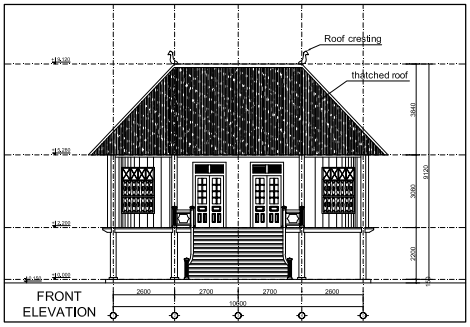
Features of current community house (Community house ID: HS6 – Type 3)			
Construction year	Construction cost	Donating organization	Construction method
2005	145,000,000 VND (~6,904 USD)	Community-based rural infrastructure Project (CBRIP)	Outside builder undertook the main frame of building (foundation, pillar and beam frame). Hamlet residents contributed traditional materials (timber, bamboo) and erecting the floor and roof.
Building area			
66.57 m^2	124,362,000 VND (A) (~5,922 USD)	(A) Major capital from World Bank (WB) (86%)	
House aspect	14,338,000 VND (B) (~682 USD)	(B) Reciprocal capital from government (9.8%)	
Northeast	6,300,000 VND (C) (~300 USD)	(C) Contributions of residents (4.2%)	

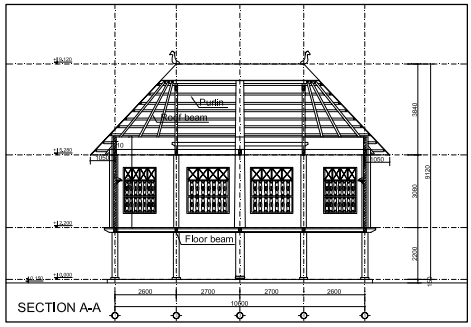
Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Central, main pillars	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Eaves, cross beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Floor beams	1.Reinforced concrete (mark 200) (main beams), 2. White Meranti timber (secondary beams)	1.Good, 2.Fairly good
Floor mat	*Lo o* (A kind of bamboo)	Slightly damaged
Stair	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Wall	Brick and cement mortar, painted layer	Fairly good
Window, door	Merawan Giaza (frame), glass	Severely damaged
Roof beams	Merawan Giaza and White Meranti timber	Slightly damaged
Purlin	*Lo o* (A kind of bamboo), rattan (round purlin)	Slightly damaged
Ridge pole	White Meranti timber	Fairly good
Roofing	Thatch leaf	Slightly damaged
Roof cresting	Cock pattern (White Meranti timber)	Slightly damaged
Stove	No	No

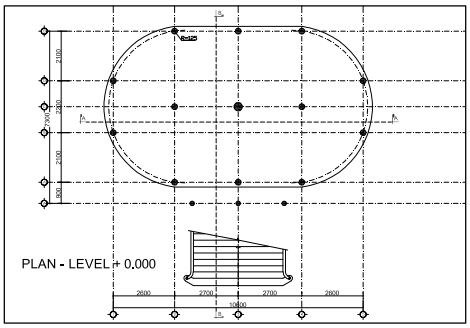
Maintenance activities	
Re-roofing Re-flooring	Floor mat in *Lo o* and damaged parts of thatch roof are renovated regularly every two or three year by hamlet residents' contribution; however, the resource of leaf for roofing is becoming increasingly scarce, rattan for roof strings was replaced with metal strings in 2012. Hamlet residents undertook and contributed finance for renovation

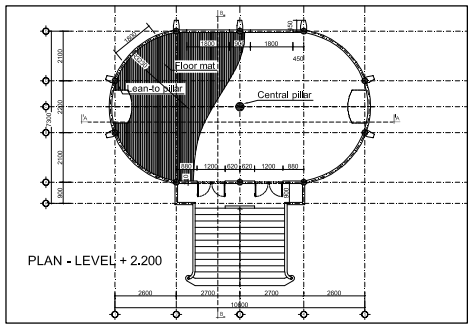













Front view perspective




Interior


Roof structure


Pillar - floor beam - floor mat joint structure


Lo o floor mat


Cock-head roof cresting

General information of hamlet						
Hamlet name**: Ka Dang**, Huong Son commune, Nam Dong district. Population: 251 people (51 households)						
History of Hamlet						
Before 1976, the previous hamlet was located in Laos, named also A Den, next to Sa Pon river, a two-day walk from current position, and belongs to Huong Son commune, district 4. Previous hamlet had from seven to eight households with around 40 people living in two long dwelling houses on stilts encircling a Guol located in center. Since 1976, because of mobilization of the Vietnam revolutionary government, the hamlet moved to current location for better living and cultivation condition. Presently, it is one of seven hamlets of Huong Son commune, Nam Dong district.						
History of community house of current hamlet						
No	Duration	Central pillar (CP), main pillar (MP), lean-to pillar (LP)	Materials	Stove	Size	Decoration
CH 1	1976 - 1996	(1 CP, 8 MP, 6 LP)	Merawan Giaza timber, White Meranti timber, Rattan leaf	1	Medium	Yes
CH 1	1996 - 2008	(0 CP, 4 MP, 6 LP)	Merawan Giaza timber (concrete pillars below floor), Concrete floor, Rattan leaf	No	Small	Yes

Features of current community house (Community house ID: HS7 – Type 5)			
Construction year	Construction cost	Supporting organization	Construction method
2008	180,000,000 VND (~8,571 USD)	Central Livelihood Improvement Project (CLIP)	Outside workers undertook entirely in construction process; hamlet residents did not participate in any step.
Building area		Capital from Asian development Bank (ADB) and United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID)	
84 m^2			
House aspect			
West			

Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Main pillars, no central pillar	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Eaves beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Floor beams	No	No
Floor mat	Ceramic tiles	Slightly damaged
Stair	No	No
Wall	Brick and cement mortar, painted layer	Fairly good
Window, door	White Meranti timber (frame), glass	Severely damaged
Roof beams	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Slightly damaged
Purlin	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Slightly damaged
Ridge pole	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Fairly good
Roofing	Corrugated metal sheets	Slightly damaged
Roof cresting	No	No
Stove	No	No

Maintenance activities
Not yet

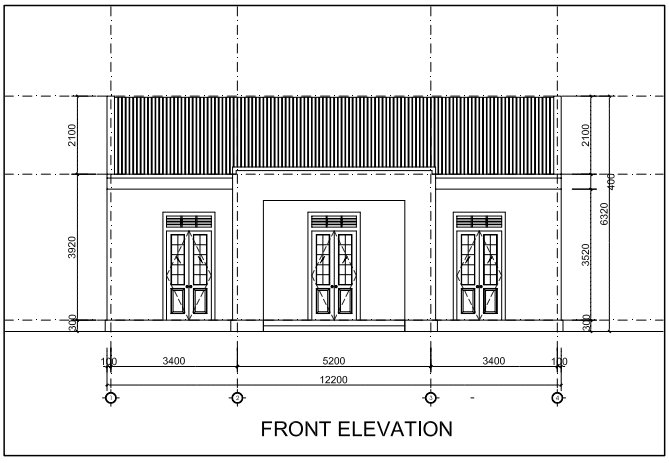




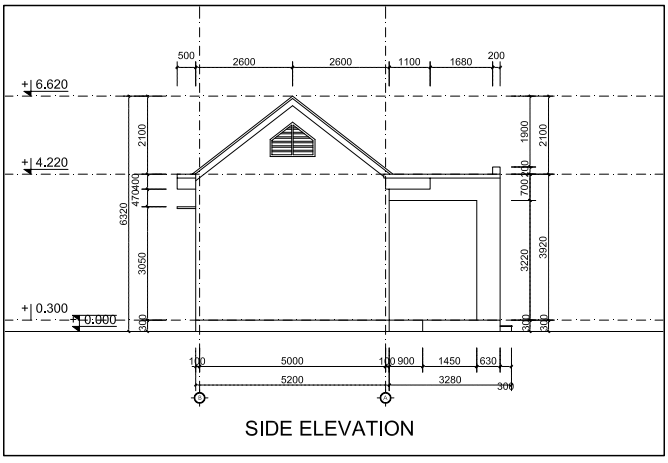
Perspectives



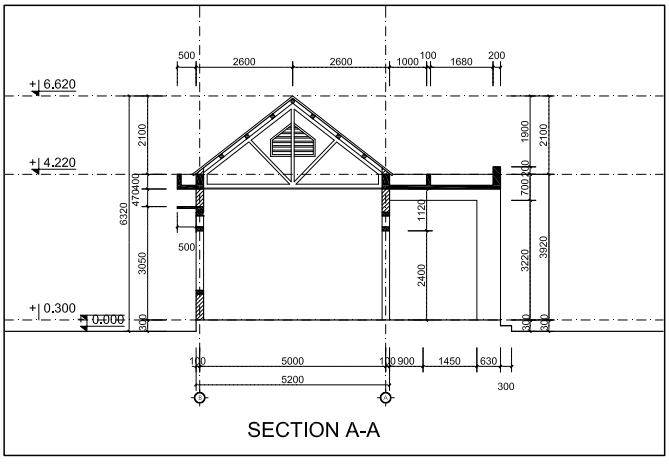
Forest allocation map located next to community house



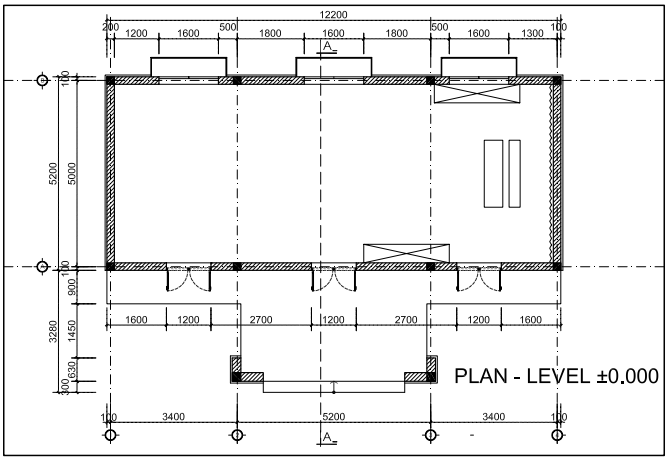
FRONT ELEVATION



SIDE ELEVATION



SECTION A-A



PLAN - LEVEL ±0.000

Features of current community house (Community house ID: HSC – Type 4)			
Construction year	Construction cost	Supporting organization	Construction method
2012	4,900,000,000 VND (~233,333 USD)	Vietnamese central government	The outside builders undertook entirely in construction process; commune and hamlets residents did not participate in any step.
Building area			
191.6 m^2			
House aspect			
West			

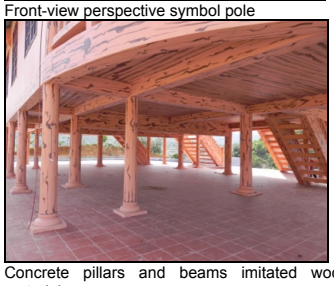
Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Central, main pillars	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Eaves, cross beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Floor beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Floor mat	(1) Reinforced concrete (mark 200), (2) paved with ceramic tiles	Good
Stair	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Wall	Brick and cement mortar, painted layer	Good
Window, door	White Meranti timber (frame), glass	Good
Roof beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Purlin	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Good
Ridge pole	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Roofing	Corrugated metal sheets	Good
Roof cresting	Metal	Good
Stove	No	No
Maintenance activities		
	Not yet	



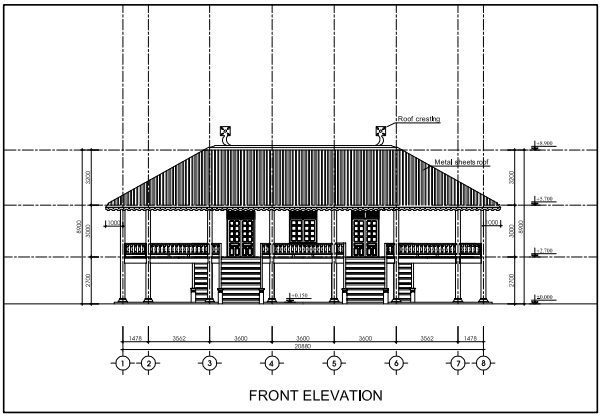
Perspective



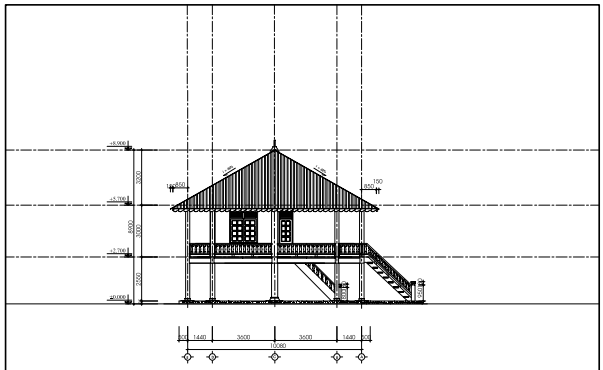
Front-view perspective symbol pole



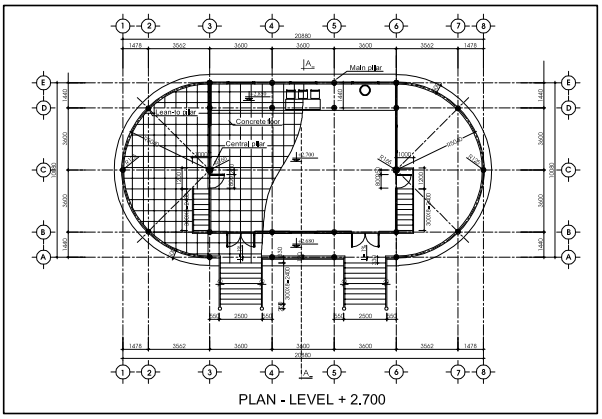
Concrete pillars and beams imitated wood material



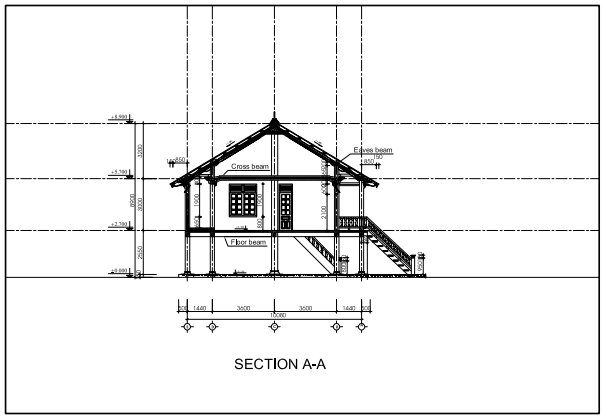
FRONT ELEVATION



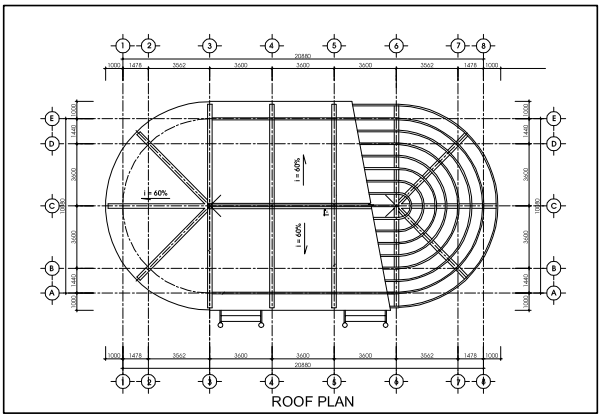
SIDE ELEVATION



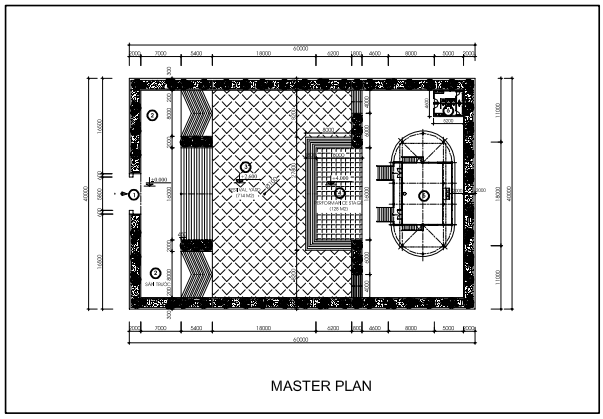
PLAN - LEVEL + 2.700



SECTION A-A



ROOF PLAN



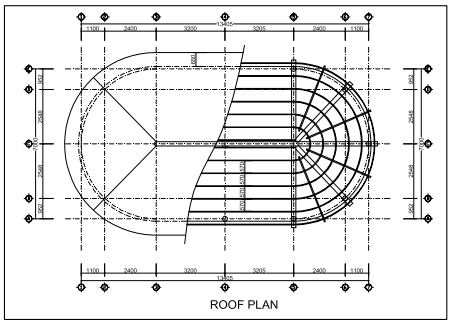
MASTER PLAN

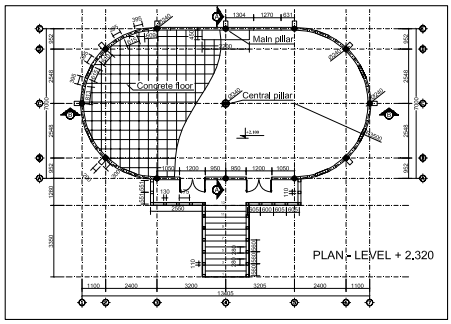
General information of hamlet
Hamlet name: **Ta Rinh**, Thuong Nhat commune, Nam Dong district. Population: 419 people (96 households)
History of hamlet
The previous hamlet named also Ta Ring, and belongs to Thuong Nhat commune, district 4 (previous name of Nam Dong district) . Before 1960, the hamlet was located at Ta Ring hill, near Ta Ring stream, a one-day walk from the current location, had around 30 households with around 180 people living in 30 dwelling houses on earth encircling a Guol located in center. Between 1960 and 1976, because of war, the hamlet moved into deep forest, around a five-hour walk from previous location and was separated into small groups, and Guol still existed. After 1976, because of mobilization of the Vietnam revolutionary government, the hamlet moved to current location for better living and cultivation condition. Presently, the hamlet is one of seven hamlets of Thuong Nhat commune, Nam Dong district.

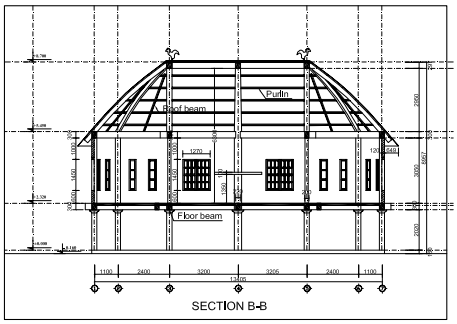
History of community house of current hamlet						
No	Duration	Central pillar (CP), main pillar (MP), lean-to pillar (LP)	Materials	Stove	Size	Decoration
CH 1	1991 - 1995	1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP	Ironwood, Merawan Giaza timber, *Lo o*, Rattan leaf	2	Medium	Yes
CH 2	1997 - 2008	1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP	Iron timber (CP), Merawan Giaza timber (MP, LP), *Lo o*, Rattan leaf	2	Large	Yes

Features of current community house (Community house ID: TN1 – Type 4)			
Construction year	Construction cost	Supporting organization	Construction method
2008	280,000,000 VND (~13,333 USD)	Central Livelihood Improvement Project (CLIP) Capital from Asian development Bank (ADB) and United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) Contribution of hamlet residents	The outside builders almost undertook all construction steps. The hamlet residents only participated in transporting materials, leveling foundation and contributing formwork-propping pillars.
Building area			
75 m^2			
House aspect			
Southeast			

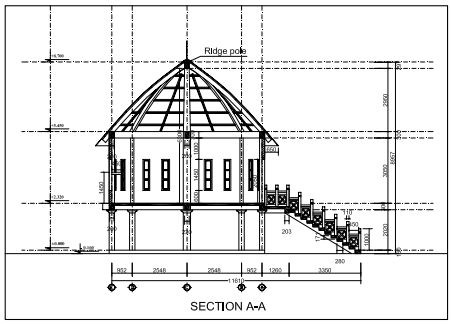
Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Slightly damaged
Central, main pillars	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Eaves, cross beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Floor beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Flooring	(1) Reinforced concrete (mark 200), (2) paved with ceramic tiles	(1) Good, (2) Fairly damaged
Stair	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Wall	Brick and cement mortar, painted layer	Fairly good
Window, door	White Meranti timber (frame), glass	Severely damaged
Roof beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Purlin	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Fairly good
Ridge pole	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Roofing	Corrugated metal sheets	Fairly good
Roof cresting	Cock pattern (Metal)	only one left
Stove	No	No
Maintenance activities		
Windows and doors	Renovating broken glass of doors and windows in 2010 (financial supported by Thuong Nhat commune, and hamlet residents contributed labor)	


ROOF PLAN

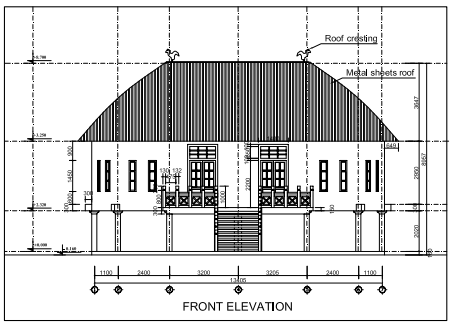




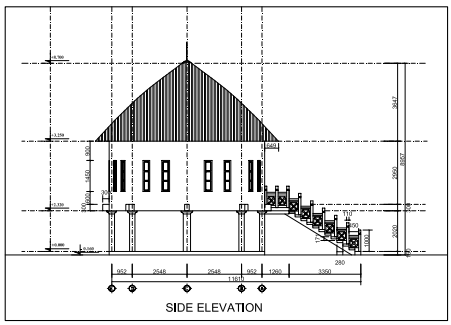
SECTION B-B



SECTION A-A



FRONT ELEVATION


SIDE ELEVATION


Front view perpective


Interview with a hamlet leader


Roof used with modern materials


Back view perpective


Floor beam - pillar joint detail


Side view perpective


Space for exhibiting certificates of merit of the hamlet

Features of current community house (Community house ID: TN1B – Type 2)			
Construction year	Construction cost	Supporting organization	Construction method
2014	500,000,000 VND (~23,809 USD)	Sub-project belonging to the Program of Ecological Tourism Development at Thua Thien - Hue province. Supported by the Poitou-Charentes Region, France and French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.	Outside workers undertook entirely in construction process; hamlet residents only participated in flooring.
Building area			
70 m^2			
House aspect			
Northwest			
Components	Materials		Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)		Good
Main pillars, no central pillar	*Son* timber (central pillar), White Meranti timber (main pillars)		Good
Eaves beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)		Good
Floor beams	Sapepe timber		Good
Floor mat	*Lo o* (a kind of bamboo)		Slightly damaged
Stair	Ironwood		Good
Wall	Bark of *Uoi* tree		Severely damaged
Window, door	No		No
Roof beams	Sapepe timber		Good
Purlin	White Meranti timber		Good
Ridge pole	Sapepe timber		Good
Roofing	Thatch leaf		Slightly damaged
Roof cresting	No		No
Stove	No		No
Maintenance activities			
Not yet			


Side view perspective


Front view perspective

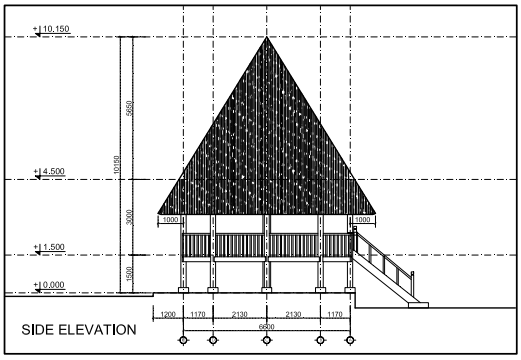

Severe damage of bark partition

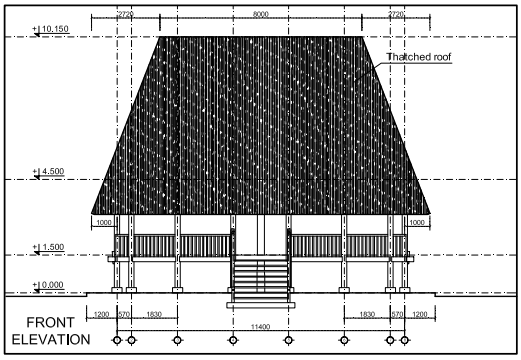

Interior

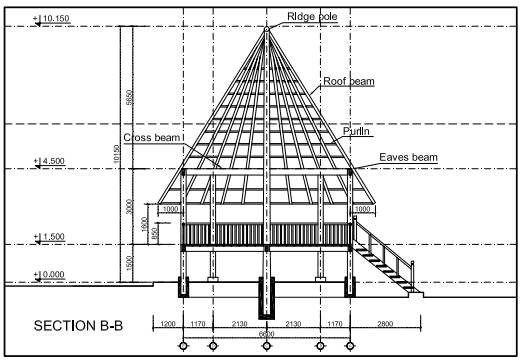

Pillar - floor beam - floor mat joint

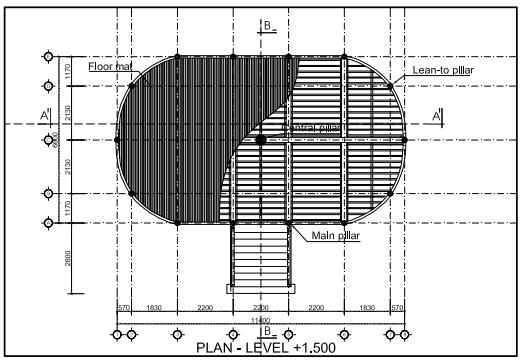

Pillar - floor beam joint detail

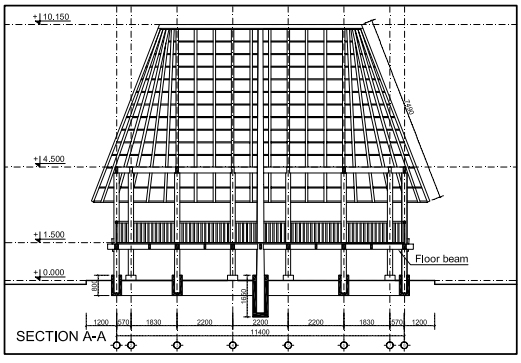

Severe damage of *Lo o* mat

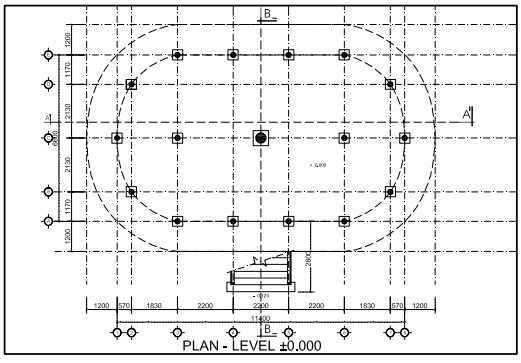












General information of hamlet
Hamlet name: **Lap**, Thuong Nhat commune, Nam Dong district. Population: 317 people (73 households)
History of hamlet
The previous hamlet named also Lap, and belongs to Thuong Nhat commune, district 4 (previous name of Nam Dong district). Before 1962, the hamlet located near Ma Roi stream, towards Southwest, next to Quang Nam, a one-day walk from the current location. It had around 30 households with around 70 people living in dwelling houses on earth encircling a Guol located in center. Between 1962 and 1973, because of war, the hamlet changed the location every two or three years, and separated into three small groups. In this period, Guol still existed but simple and small. Between 1973 and 1976, because of mobilization of the Vietnam revolutionary government, the hamlet moved to settle near Ba Teo stream, next to current A Xach and La Van hamlet for living and cultivation, and transferred to current position since 1980.

History of community house of current hamlet

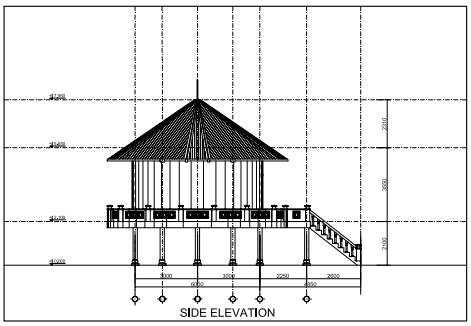
No	Duration	Central pillar (CP), main pillar (MP), lean-to pillar (LP)	Materials	Stove	Size	Decoration
CH 1	1973 - 1980	1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP	Merawan Giaza and *Uoi* timber, *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Large	Yes
CH 2	1982 - 1990	1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP	Merawan Giaza and *Uoi* timber, *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Medium	Yes
CH 3	1990 - 2007	1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP	Merawan Giaza and *Uoi* timber, *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Large	Yes

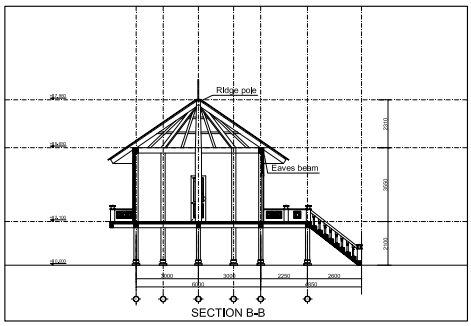
Features of current community house (Community house ID: TN2 – Type 4)

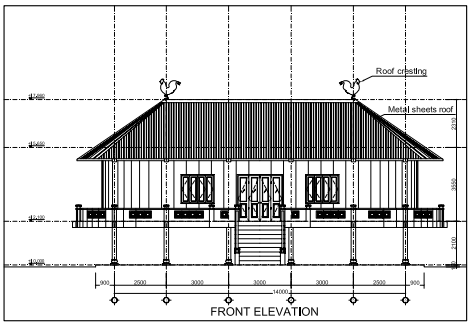
Construction year	Construction cost	Supporting organization	Construction method
2007	225,000,000 VND (~10,714 USD)	Central Livelihood Improvement Project (CLIP)	The outside builders almost undertook all construction steps. The hamlet residents only participated in transporting materials, leveling foundation and contributing formwork-propping pillars.
Building area		Capital from Asian development Bank (ADB) and United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID)	
75 m^2		Contribution of residents	
House aspect			
West			

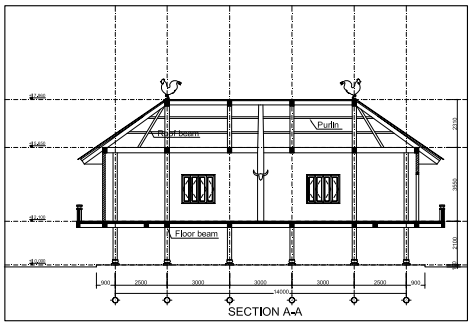
Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200), paved with cement mortar	Fairly damaged
Central, main pillars	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Eaves, cross beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Floor beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Flooring	(1) Reinforced concrete (mark 200), (2) paved with ceramic tiles	(1) Good, (2) Fairly damaged
Stair	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Wall	Brick and cement mortar, painted layer	Fairly good
Window, door	White Meranti timber (frame), glass	Severely damaged
Roof beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Purlin	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Fairly good
Ridge pole	Reinforced concrete (mark 200) and White Meranti timber	Good
Roofing	Corrugated metal sheets	Fairly good
Roof cresting	Cock pattern (White Meranti timber)	Slightly damaged
Stove	No	No

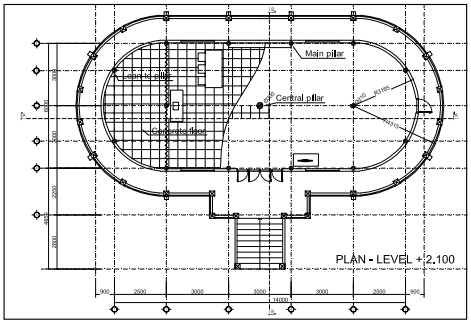
Maintenance activities
Not yet

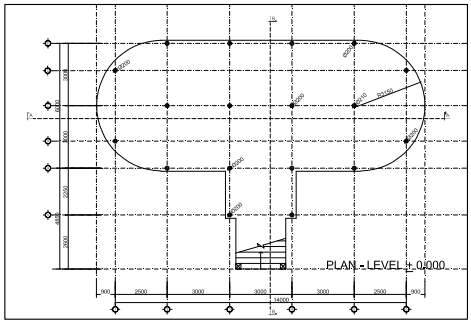













Front view perspective


Roof structure


Roof structure


Underfloor space for parking


Buffalow-skull hung as a sacred symbol


Damage of ceramic tile floor

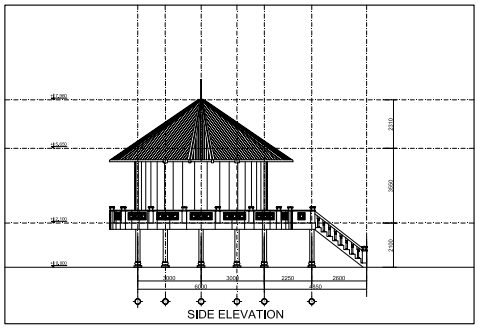

Side view perspective

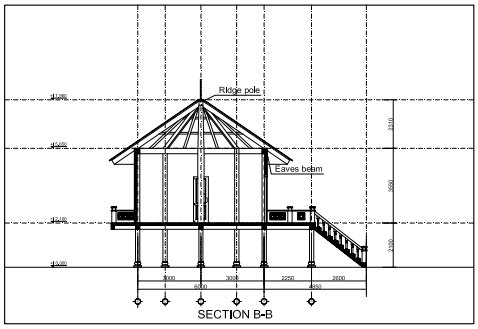
General information of hamlet						
Hamlet name: **A Tin**, Thuong Nhat commune, Nam Dong district. Population: 393 people (95 households)						
History of hamlet						
The previous hamlet named Ta Moi, and belongs to Thuong Nhat commune, district 4 (previous name of Nam Dong district). Before 1975, the hamlet located at head of Nam Dong stream, towards Southwest, next to Quang Nam, a one-day walk from the current location. It had around 40 households with around 80 people living in dwelling houses on stilts encircling a Guol located in center. The hamlet changed the location every two or three years because of epidemic and war, two or three-hour walk from previous location. After 1975, because of mobilization of the Vietnam revolutionary government, the hamlet transferred to current position.						
History of community house of current hamlet						
No	Duration	Central pillar (CP), main pillar (MP), lean-to pillar (LP)	Materials	Stove	Size	Decoration
CH 1	1978 - 2007	1 CP, 8 MP, 6 LP	Iron-wood, Merawan Giaza timber, *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Large	Yes

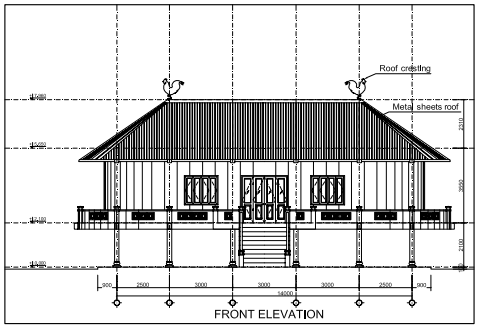
Features of current community house (Community house ID: TN3 – Type 4)			
Construction year	Construction cost	Supporting organization	Construction method
2007	225,000,000 VND (~10,714 USD)	Central Livelihood Improvement Project (CLIP)	The outside builders almost undertook all construction steps. The hamlet residents only participated in transporting materials, leveling foundation and contributing formwork-propping pillars.
Building area		Capital from Asian development Bank (ADB) and United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID)	
75 m^2			
House aspect		Contribution of residents	
Northeast			

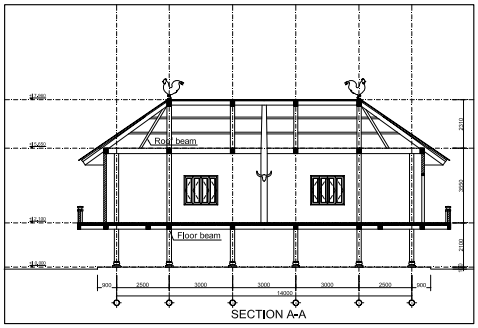
Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200), paved with cement mortar	Slight damaged
Central, main pillars	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Eaves, cross beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Floor beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Flooring	(1) Reinforced concrete (mark 200), (2) paved with ceramic tiles	(1) Good, (2) Fairly damaged
Stair	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Wall	Brick and cement mortar, painted layer	Fairly good
Window, door	White Meranti timber (frame), glass	Severely damaged
Roof beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Purlin	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Fairly good
Ridge pole	Reinforced concrete (mark 200) and White Meranti timber	Good
Roofing	Corrugated metal sheets	Fairly good
Roof cresting	Cock pattern (White Meranti timber)	Fairly damaged
Stove	No	No

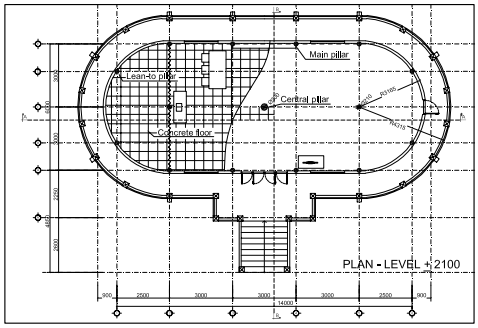
Maintenance activities
Not yet

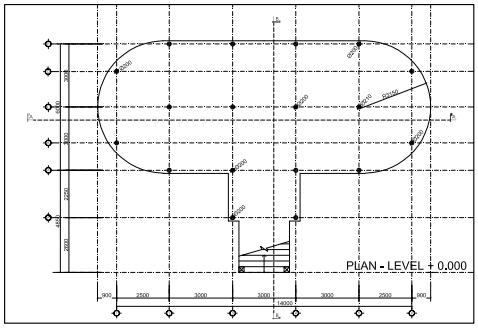













Front view perspective


Interior


Roof structure


Pillar-floor beam-floor joint


Place for reserved coffin


Remaining part of previous wooden pillar

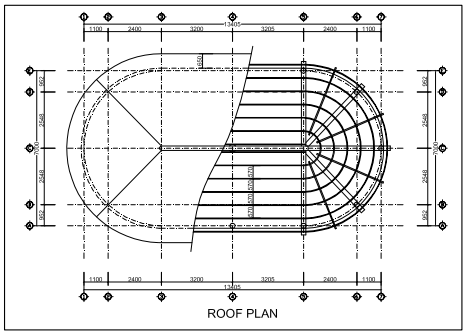

Side view perspective

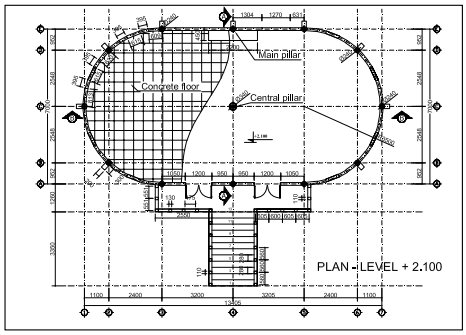
General information of hamlet						
Hamlet name: **Ta Lu**, Thuong Nhat commune, Nam Dong district. Population: 230 people (57 households)						
History of hamlet						
The previous hamlet named Xo Lu, and belongs to Thuong Nhat commune, district 4 (previous name of Nam Dong district). Before 1960, the hamlet was located at Dar hill, near Dar stream, a three-hour walk from the current location, had around 15 to 20 households with around 50 - 60 people living in both type of dwelling houses on stilts and on earth encircling a Guol located in center. Between 1960 and 1974, because of war, the hamlet moved into Xa Lu forest, around a two-hour walk from previous location and was separated into small groups, and Guol did not existed. After 1974, because of mobilization of the Vietnam revolutionary government, the hamlet moved to current location for better living and cultivation condition. Presently, the hamlet is one of seven hamlets of Thuong Nhat commune, Nam Dong district.						
History of community house of current hamlet						
No	Duration	Central pillar (CP), main pillar (MP), lean-to pillar (LP)	Materials	Stove	Size	Decoration
CH 1	1974 - 1983	0 CP, 8 MP, 0 LP	White meranti and Sapele timber, *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	1	Small	No
CH 2	1983 - 2003	1 CP, 8 MP, 0 LP	White meranti and Sapele timber, *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	1	Small	No
CH 3	2003 - 2008	1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP	Son timber (CP), White meranti and Sapele timber, *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	1	Medium	Yes

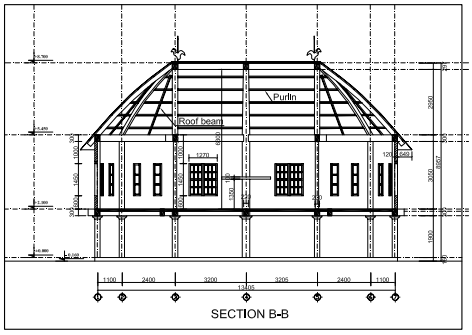
Features of current community house (Community house ID: TN4 – Type 4)			
Construction year	Construction cost	Supporting organization	Construction method
2008	280,000,000 VND (~13,333 USD)	Central Livelihood Improvement Project (CLIP)	The outside builders almost undertook all construction steps. The hamlet residents only participated in transporting materials, leveling foundation and contributing formwork-propping pillars.
Building area		Capital from Asian development Bank (ADB) and United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID)	
75 m^2			
House aspect		Contribution of hamlet residents	
Northeast			

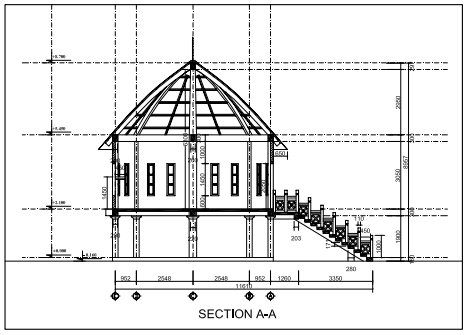
Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Central, main pillars	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Eaves, cross beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Floor beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Flooring	(1) Reinforced concrete (mark 200), (2) paved with ceramic tiles	(1) Good, (2) Fairly damaged
Stair	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Wall	Brick and cement mortar, painted layer	Fairly good
Window, door	White Meranti timber (frame), glass	Severely damaged
Roof beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Purlin	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Fairly good
Ridge pole	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Roofing	Corrugated metal sheets	Fairly good
Roof cresting	Cock pattern (Metal)	Fairly good
Stove	No	No

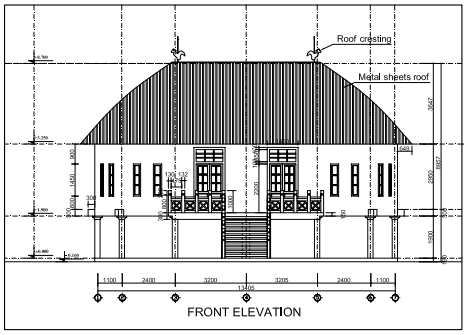
Maintenance activities	
Not yet	The hamlet has a plan for renewal and requires financial support from commune; however, the response of local government is no support for this work, and the hamlet has to undertake by itself).

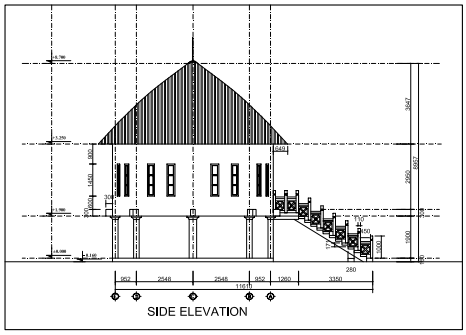













Front view perspective


Interior


Roof structure


Under floor space used as a private place


Buffalow-skull hung as a sacred symbol


Cock pattern cresting as a patriarch symbol

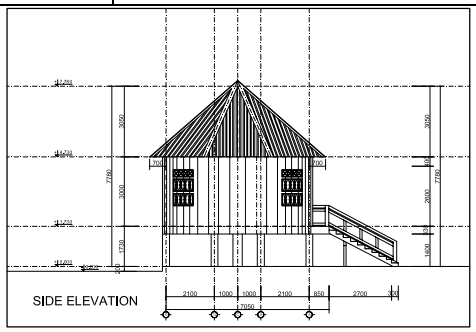

Perspective

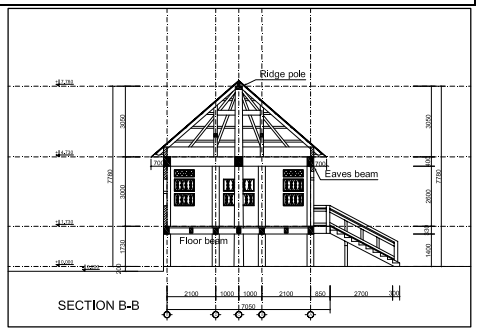
General information of hamlet						
Hamlet name: **A Xach**, Thuong Nhat commune, Nam Dong district. Population: 277 people (65 households)						
History of hamlet						
The previous hamlet named also A Xach, and belongs to Thuong Nhat commune, district 4 (previous name of Nam Dong district). Before 1975, the hamlet located at mountainous area, towards Southwest, next to Quang Nam, a one-day walk from the current location. It had around 15 to 20 households with around 50 people living in dwelling houses on stilts encircling a Guol located in center. During war period between 1960 and 1976, the hamlet changed the location frequently, and Guol did not existed. After 1975, because of mobilization of the Vietnam revolutionary government, the hamlet transferred to current position for living and cultivating in better conditions.						
History of community house						
No	Duration	Central pillar (CP), main pillar (MP), lean-to pillar (LP)	Materials	Stove	Size	Decoration
CH 1	1982 - 2004	(1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP)	Merawan Giaza and Sapele timber, White Meranti timber, *Non* and Rattan leaf, *Lo o*	2	Medium	Yes

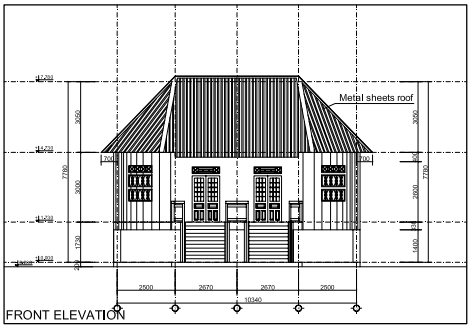
Features of current community house (Community house ID: TN5 – Type 3)			
Construction year	Construction cost	Supporting organization	Construction method
2004	95,500,000 VND (~4,574 USD)	Community-based rural infrastructure Project (CBRIP)	Outside builder undertook the main frame of building (Foundation, pillar and beam frame) Hamlet residents contributed traditional materials (Timber, Bamboo) and erecting the roof.
Building area			
65.89 m^2	81,600,000 VND (A) (~3,885 USD)	(A) Major capital from World Bank (WB) (85.4%)	
House aspect	9,800,000 VND (B) (~466 USD)	(B) Reciprocal capital from government (10.3%)	
Northwest	4,100,000 VND (C) (~195 USD)	(C) Contributions of residents (4.3%)	

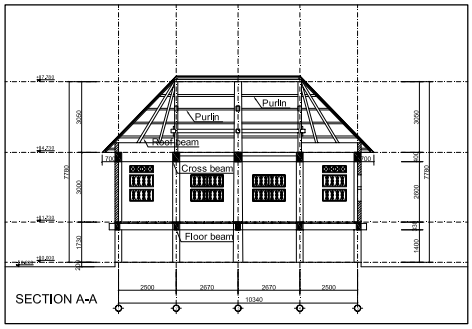
Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Central, main pillars	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Eaves, cross beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Floor beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Flooring	(1) Reinforced concrete (mark 200), (2) paved with ceramic tiles	(1) Good, (2) Slight damaged
Stair	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Wall	Brick and cement mortar, painted layer	Fairly good
Window, door	White Meranti (frame), glass	Fairly damaged
Roof beams	White Meranti timber	Slightly damaged
Purlin	White Meranti timber	Slightly damaged
Ridge pole	White Meranti timber	Fairly good
Roofing	Corrugated metal sheets	Fairly good
Roof cresting	Cock pattern (White Meranti timber) damaged by typhoon in 2009	No
Stove	No	No

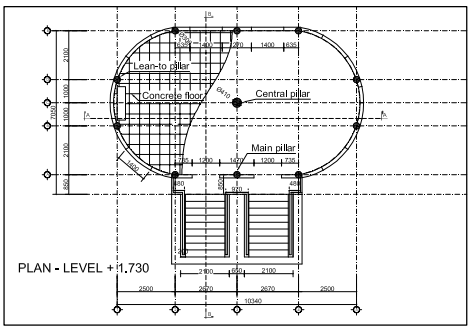
Maintenance activities	
Re-roofing	Rattan leaves roof was replaced by corrugated metal sheets in 2012. Local government supported fund and hamlet residents contributed their labor.

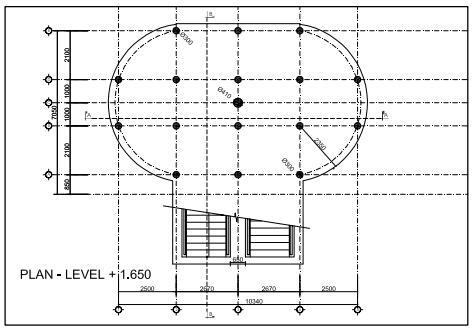













Front view elavation


Decorated background for meeting


Roof structure


Space for meeting sitting


Pillar-floor beam-floor joint

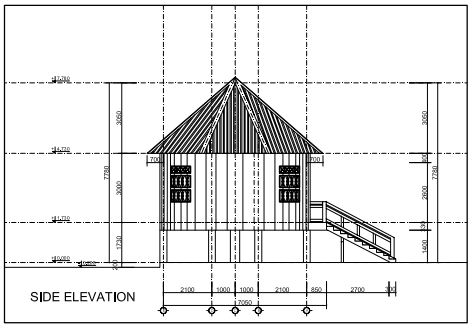

Stairs

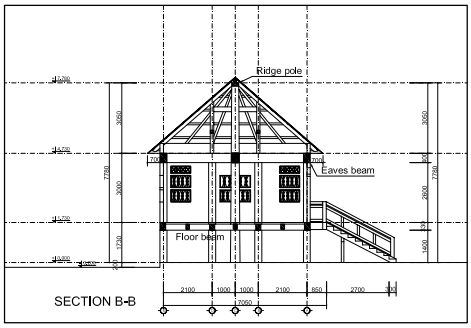

Perspective

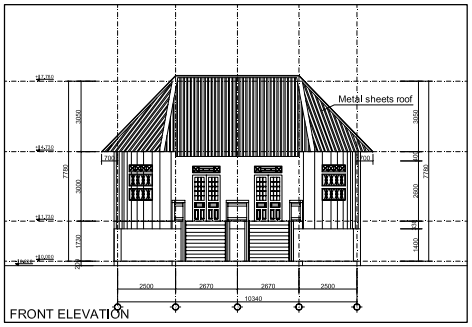
General information of hamlet						
Hamlet name: **La Van**, Thuong Nhat commune, Nam Dong district. Population: 327 people (74 households)						
History of hamlet						
The previous hamlet named also La Van, and belongs to Thuong Nhat commune, district 4 (previous name of Nam Dong district). Before 1973, the hamlet located at mountainous area, towards Southwest, a three-hour walk from the current location. It had around 15 to 25 households with around 70 people living in dwelling houses on stilts encircling a Guol located in center. During war period between 1960 and 1976, the hamlet changed the location frequently, and Guol did not existed. After 1973, because of mobilization of the Vietnam revolutionary government, the hamlet transferred to current position for living and cultivating in better conditions.						
History of community house						
No	Duration	Central pillar (CP), main pillar (MP), lean-to pillar (LP)	Materials	Stove	Size	Decoration
CH 1	1996 - 2004	1 CP, 8 MP, 6 LP	Merawan Giaza, White Meranti timber, *Non* and Rattan leaf, *Lo o*	2	Medium	Yes

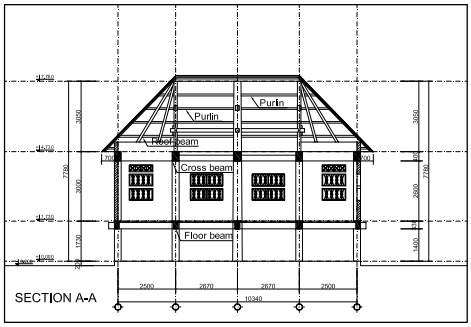
Features of current community house (Community house ID: TN6 – Type 3)			
Construction year	Construction cost	Supporting organization	Construction method
2004	95,500,000 VND (~4,574 USD)	Community-based rural infrastructure Project (CBRIP)	Outside builder undertook the main frame of building (Foundation, pillar and beam frame). Hamlet residents contributed traditional materials (Timber, Bamboo) and erecting the roof.
Building area			
65.89 m^2	81,600,000 VND (A) (~3,885 USD)	(A) Major capital from World Bank (WB) (85.4%)	
House aspect	9,800,000 VND (B) (~466 USD)	(B) Reciprocal capital from government (10.3%)	
Northwest	4,100,000 VND (C) (~195 USD)	(C) Contributions of residents (4.3%)	

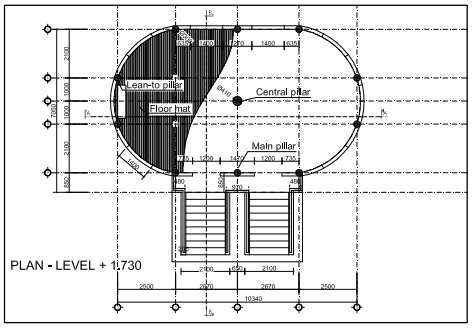
Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Central, main pillars	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Eaves, cross beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Floor beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200) (main beams),	Good
Floor mat	*Lo o* (a kind of bamboo)	Severely damaged
Stair	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Wall	Brick and cement mortar, painted layer	Fairly good
Window, door	Merawan Giaza timber (frame), glass	Fairly damaged
Roof beams	Merawan Giaza timber	Fairly good
Purlin	White Meranti timber	Fairly good
Ridge pole	Merawan Giaza timber	Fairly good
Roofing	Corrugated metal sheets	Fairly good
Roof cresting	No	No
Stove	No	No
Maintenance activities		
Re-roofing	Rattan leaves roof was replaced by corrugated metal sheets and Lo o purlin was replaced by White Meranti timber in 2012. Local government supported fund to buy corrugated metal sheets for roofing and hamlet residents contributed wooden purlins	

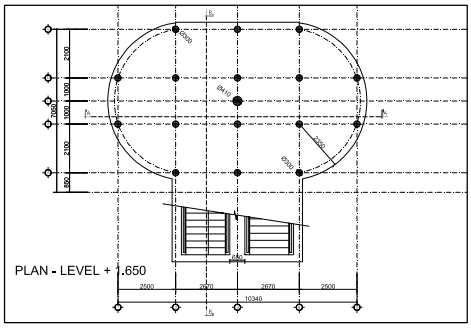













Rattan leaves roof before 2012


Metal sheets roof since 2012


Roof structure before 2012


Roof structure since 2012


Decorated background for meeting


Interior space with furniture for meeting


Pillar - floor beam - floor mat joint

Features of current community house (Community house ID: TNC – Type 4)			
Construction year	Construction cost	Supporting organization	Construction method
2010	2,000,000,000 VND (~95,238 USD)	Bach Ma National Park	The outside builders undertook entirely in construction process; hamlet people did not participate in any step.
Building area			
623.6 m^2		Local people donated their cultivated land	
House aspect			
Northeast			
Components	Materials		Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)		Good
Central, main pillars	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)		Good
Eaves, cross beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)		Good
Floor beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)		Good
Flooring	(1) Reinforced concrete (mark 200), (2) paved with ceramic tiles		(1) Good, (2) Fairly damaged
Stair	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)		Fairly good
Wall	Brick and cement mortar, painted layer		Fairly good
Window, door	White Meranti timber (frame), glass		Severely damaged
Roof beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)		Good
Purlin	Rectangle hollow section steel bar		Fairly good
Ridge pole	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)		Good
Roofing	Corrugated metal sheets		Fairly good
Roof cresting	No		No
Stove	No		No
Maintenance activities			
Damaged thatch roof was replaced by corrugated metal sheets roof, and Lo o purlins were replaced by rectangle hollow section steel bars in 2010.			



House before 2010 with metal thatched roof



House after 2010 with metal sheets roof



Interior



Roof structure

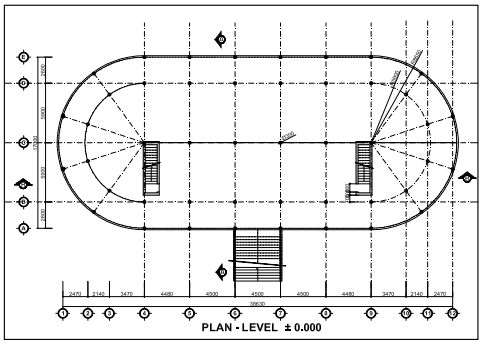


Back side view

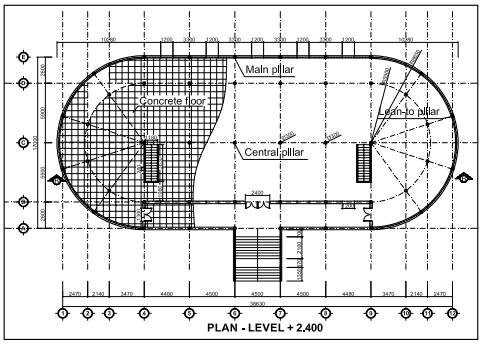


Underfloor space for vehicle parking

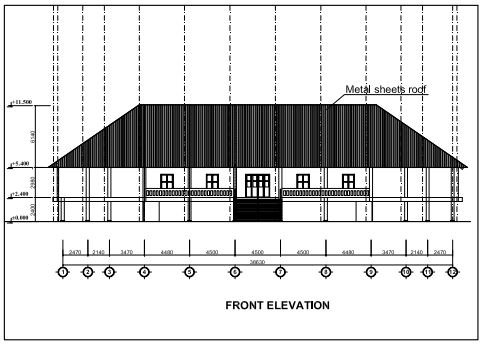




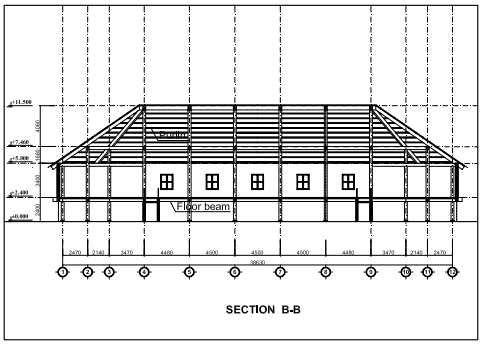
PLAN - LEVEL ± 0.000



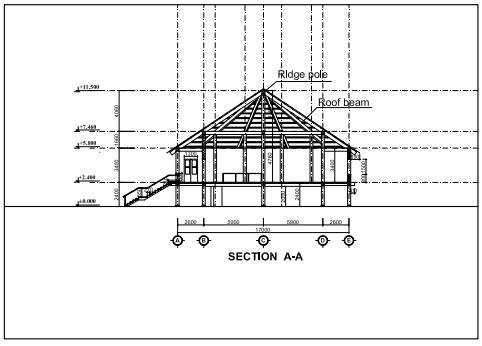
PLAN - LEVEL + 2.400



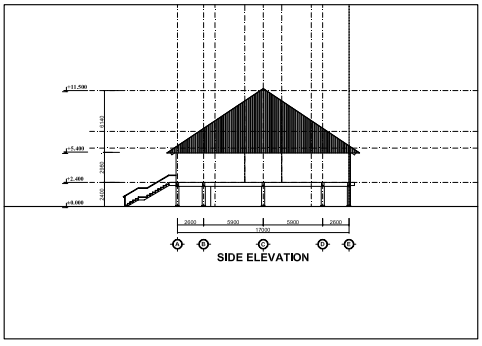
FRONT ELEVATION



SECTION B-B



SECTION A-A



SIDE ELEVATION

General information of hamlet						
Hamlet name: **Rong Ghenh**, Huong Huu commune, Nam Dong district. Population: 375 people (76 households)						
History of Hamlet						
Before 1961, the previous hamlet named Tu Ca Run, a two-day walk from current position, and belongs to Huong Tra district. Previous hamlet had two clans (Nguyen and Ho), eight households with around 60 to 80 people living in four dwelling houses on stilts (two big ones and two small ones) encircling a Guol located in center. Location of hamlet was frequently changed by epidemics. Between 1961 and 1973, hamlet moved to deep forest due to the war and was divided into small groups, and they lived in small temporary houses; Guol did not existed in this period. Since 1973, because of mobilization of the Vietnam revolutionary government, the hamlet moved to current location, merged with Rong Ghenh living there, and named Rong Ghenh till now. Presently, it is one of seven hamlets of Huong Huu commune, Nam Dong district.						
History of community house of current hamlet						
No	Duration	Central pillar (CP), main pillar (MP), lean-to pillar (LP)	Materials	Stove	Size	Decoration
CH 1	2000 - 2008	1 CP, 16 MP (Round-shape)	*Tau*, White Meranti, Sapele timber; *Uoi* bark, Lo o, *Tro* leaves	2	Medium	Yes

Features of current community house (Community house ID: HH1 – Type 5)			
Construction year	Construction cost	Supporting organization	Construction method
2008	200,000,000 VND (~9,523 USD)	Central Livelihood Improvement Project (CLIP)	Outside workers undertook entirely in construction process; hamlet residents did not participate in any step.
Building area			
84 m^2		Capital from Asian development Bank (ADB) and United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID)	
House aspect			
Southeast			

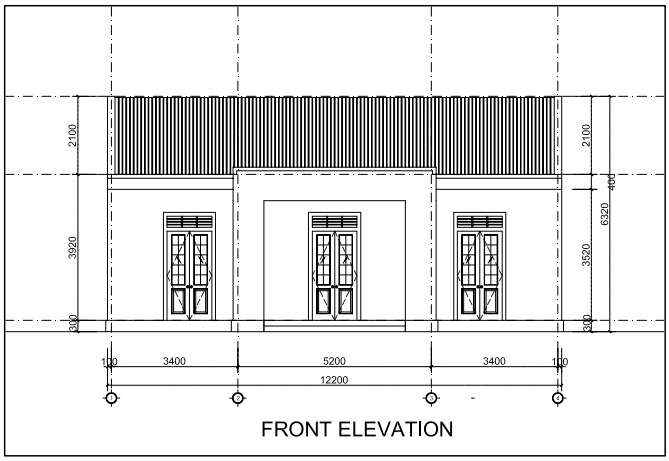
Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Main pillars, no central pillar	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Eaves beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Floor beams	No	No
Flooring	Ceramic tiles	Fairly damaged
Stair	No	No
Wall	Brick and cement mortar, painted layer	Slightly damaged
Window, door	White Meranti timber (frame), glass	Fairly damaged
Roof beams	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Slightly damaged
Purlin	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Slightly damaged
Ridge pole	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Slightly damaged
Roofing	Corrugated metal sheets	Slightly damaged
Roof cresting	No	No
Stove	No	No

Maintenance activities
Not yet

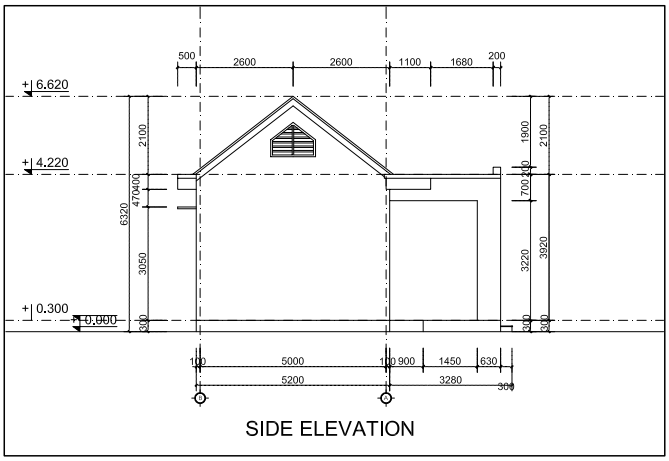




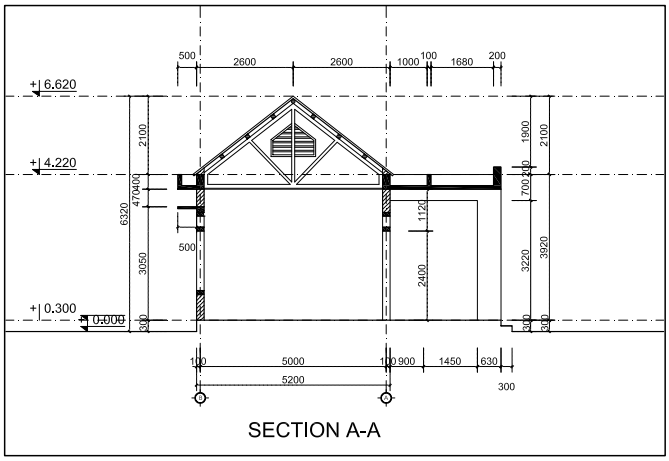
Front view perspective



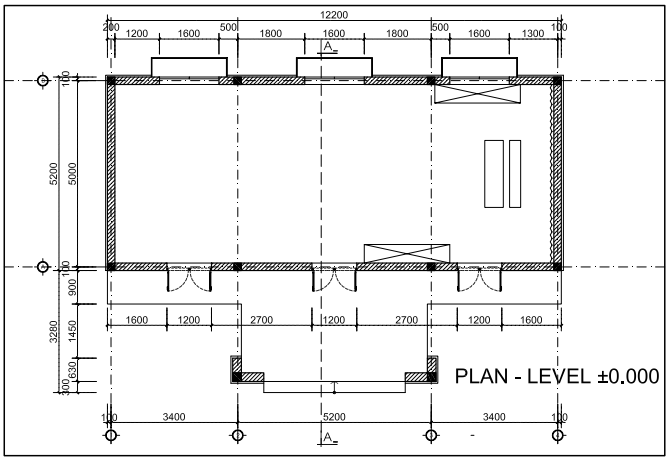
FRONT ELEVATION



SIDE ELEVATION



SECTION A-A



PLAN - LEVEL ±0.000

General information of hamlet
Hamlet name: **Ra Rang**, Huong Huu commune, Nam Dong district. Population: 367 people (83 households)
History of hamlet
Before 1961, the previous hamlet also named Ra Rang, a two-day walk from current position, next to Laos, and belongs to Huong Tra district. Previous hamlet had two families (Nguyen and Ho), 14 households with around 100 to 110 people living in dwelling houses on stilts (two big ones and two small ones) encircling a Guol located in center. Location of hamlet was frequently changed by epidemics. Between 1961 and 1973, hamlet moved to deep forest due to the war and was divided into small groups, and they lived in small temporary houses; Guol did not existed in this period. Since 1973, because of mobilization of the Vietnam revolutionary government, the hamlet moved to current location, merged with Rong Ghenh living there, and named Rong Ghenh till now. Presently, it is one of seven hamlets of Huong Huu commune, Nam Dong district.
History of community house of current hamlet

No	Duration	Central pillar (CP), main pillar (MP), lean-to pillar (LP)	Materials	Stove	Size	Decoration
CH 1	2000 - 2006	0 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP	*A Ton* timber (CP), White Meranti timber, *Lo o*, *Uoi* bark, Rattan leaf	2	Medium	Yes

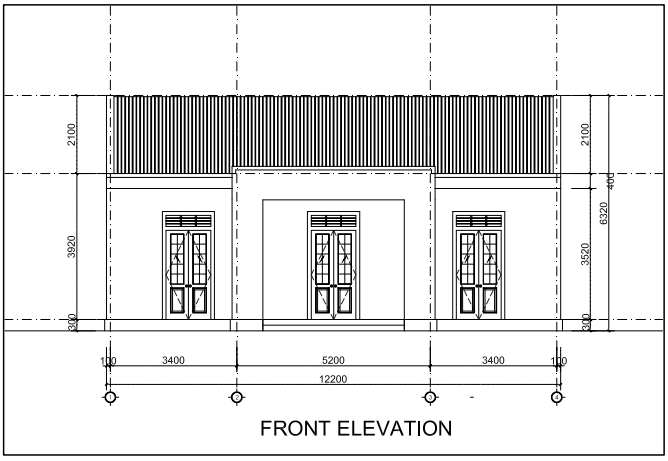
Features of current community house (Community house ID: HH2 – Type 5)			
Construction year	Construction cost	Supporting organization	Construction method
2008	200,000,000 VND (~9,523 USD)	Central Livelihood Improvement Project (CLIP)	Outside workers undertook entirely in construction process; hamlet residents did not participate in any step.
Building area		Capital from Asian development Bank (ADB) and United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID)	
84 m^2			
House aspect			
Southwest			

Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Main pillars, no central pillar	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Eaves beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Floor beams	No	No
Flooring	Ceramic tiles	Fairly damaged
Stair	No	No
Wall	Brick and cement mortar, painted layer	Slightly damaged
Window, door	White Meranti timber (frame), glass	Severely damaged
Roof beams	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Slightly damaged
Purlin	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Slightly damaged
Ridge pole	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Slightly damaged
Roofing	Corrugated metal sheets	Slightly damaged
Roof cresting	No	No
Stove	No	No
Maintenance activities		
Not yet		

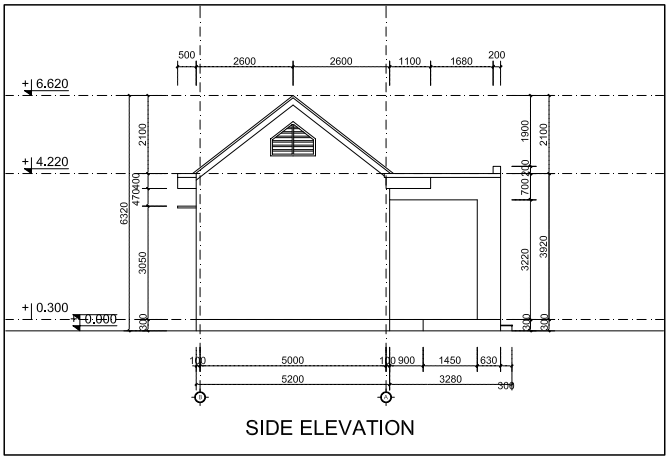




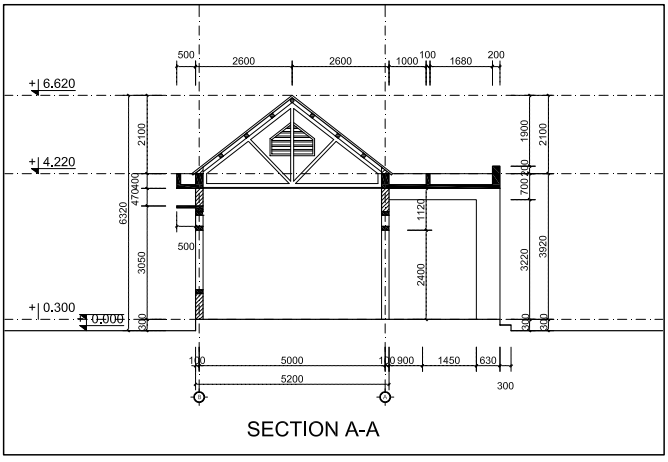
Perspectives



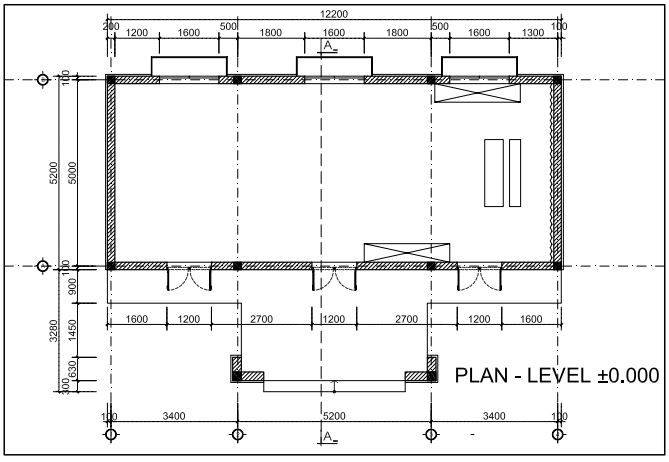
FRONT ELEVATION



SIDE ELEVATION



SECTION A-A



PLAN - LEVEL ±0.000

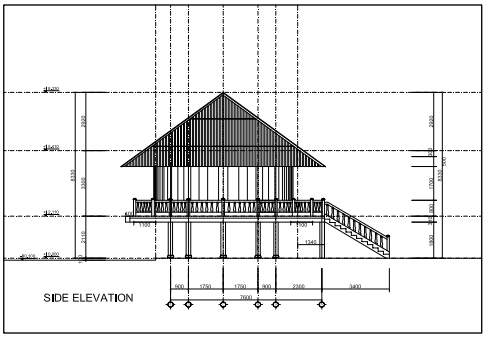
General information of hamlet
Hamlet name: **Con Gia**, Huong Huu commune, Nam Dong district. Population: 395 people (82 households)
History of hamlet
Before 1960, the previous hamlet named Con Gia, located at Con Gia mount next to A Mor stream, towards Southwest, a two-day walk from current position, and belongs to district 4. Previous hamlet had around 30 households with around 100 people living in four long dwelling houses on stilts encircling a Guol located in center. Location of hamlet was frequently changed by epidemics. Between 1960 and 1973, hamlet moved to deep forest due to the war and was divided into three small groups; Guol still existed in this period, yet they were temporary and small. Since 1973, because of mobilization of the Vietnam revolutionary government, the hamlet moved to current location for better living and cultivation conditions (flat terrain, much arable land). Presently, it is one of seven hamlets of Huong Huu commune, Nam Dong district.
History of community house of current hamlet

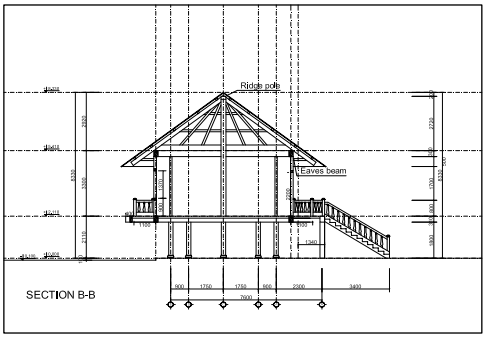
No.	Duration	Central pillar (CP), main pillar (MP), lean-to pillar (LP)	Materials	Stove	Size	Decoration
No	-	-	-	-	-	-

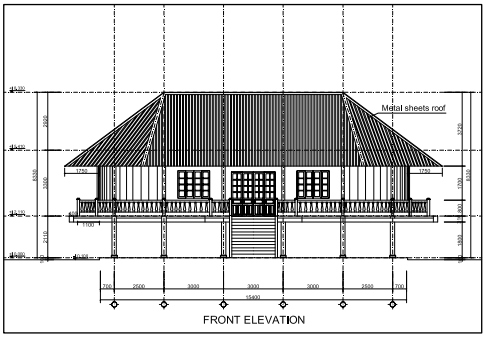
Features of current community house (Community house ID: HH3 – Type 4)			
Construction year	Construction cost	Supporting organization	Construction method
2007 Building area 123 m^2 House aspect Southwest	500,000,000 VND (~23,809 USD	Vietnam Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism	Outside workers undertook entirely in construction process; hamlet residents did not participate in any step. Before 2010, the building belonged to Huong Huu commune ownership; after 2010, the commune transferred to the hamlet for managing and using.

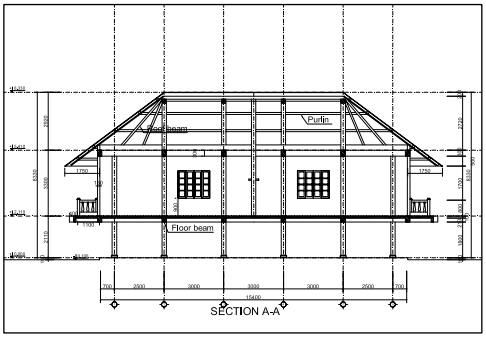
Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Main pillars, central pillar	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Eaves beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Floor beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Flooring	Reinforced concrete (mark 200), paved with ceramic tiles	Slightly damaged
Stair	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Slightly damaged
Wall	Brick and cement mortar, painted layer	Fairly good
Window, door	White Meranti timber (frame), glass	Slightly damaged
Roof beams	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Fairly good
Purlin	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Fairly good
Ridge pole	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Fairly good
Roofing	Corrugated metal sheets	Fairly good
Roof cresting	No	No
Stove	No	No

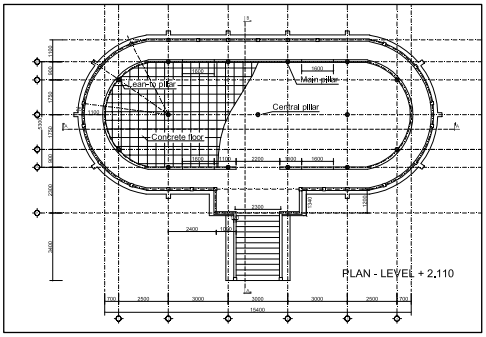
Maintenance activities
Not yet

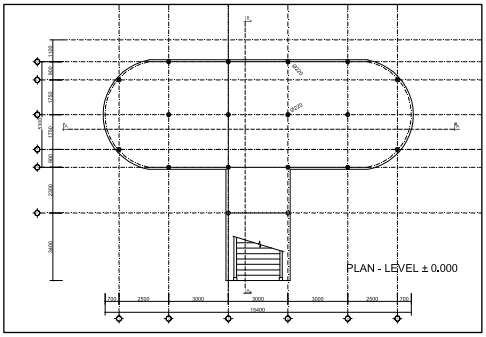













Front view perspective


Interior


Roof coved by corrugated metal sheets


Round part-roof structure


Under floor space


House surrounded with corridor


Perspective

General information of hamlet
Hamlet name: **Ba Tang**, Huong Huu commune, Nam Dong district. Population: 456 people (96 households)
History of hamlet
Before 1960, the previous hamlet named La Ba, was located Plop hill, next to A Mong stream, a one-day walk from current position, and belongs to Huong Huu commune. Previous hamlet had two clans, 20 households with around 40 to 50 people living in two long dwelling houses on stilts encircling a Guol located in center. Location of hamlet was frequently changed by epidemics. Between 1960 and 1973, hamlet moved to deep forest due to the war and was divided into small groups living in small temporary houses; Guol did not existed in this period. Since 1973, because of mobilization of the Vietnam revolutionary government, the hamlet moved to current location for better cultivation and living conditions. Presently, it is one of seven hamlets of Huong Huu commune, Nam Dong district.

History of community house of current hamlet						
No	Duration	Central pillar (CP), main pillar (MP), lean-to pillar (LP)	Materials	Stove	Size	Decoration
CH 1	2000 - 2008	1 CP, 4 MP, 6 LP	*Chi Soc* timber (CP), Merawan Giaza, *Lo o, Non* leaf	2	Medium	Yes

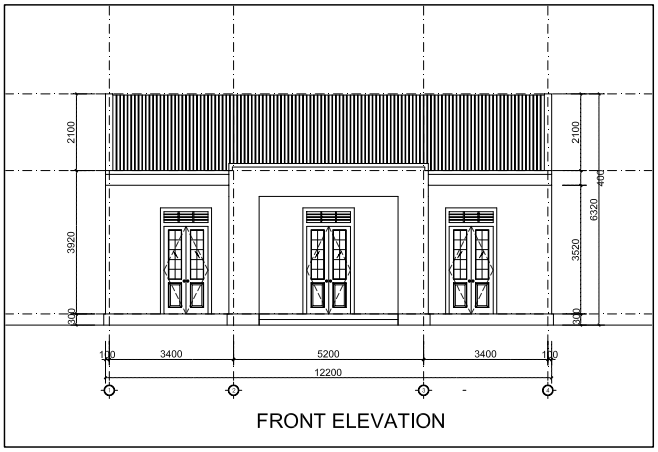
Features of current community house (Community house ID: HH4 – Type 5)			
Construction year	Construction cost	Supporting organization	Construction method
2008	200,000,000 VND (~9,523 USD)	Central Livelihood Improvement Project (CLIP)	Outside workers undertook entirely in construction process; hamlet residents did not participate in any step.
Building area			
84 m^2		Capital from Asian development Bank (ADB) and United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID)	
House aspect			
Northeast			

Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Main pillars, No central pillar	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Eaves beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Floor beams	No	No
Flooring	Ceramic tiles	Fairly damaged
Stair	No	No
Wall	Brick and cement mortar, painted layer	Slightly damaged
Window, door	White Meranti timber (frame), glass	Severely damaged
Roof beams	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Slightly damaged
Purlin	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Slightly damaged
Ridge pole	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Slightly damaged
Roofing	Corrugated metal sheets	Slightly damaged
Roof cresting	No	No
Stove	No	No

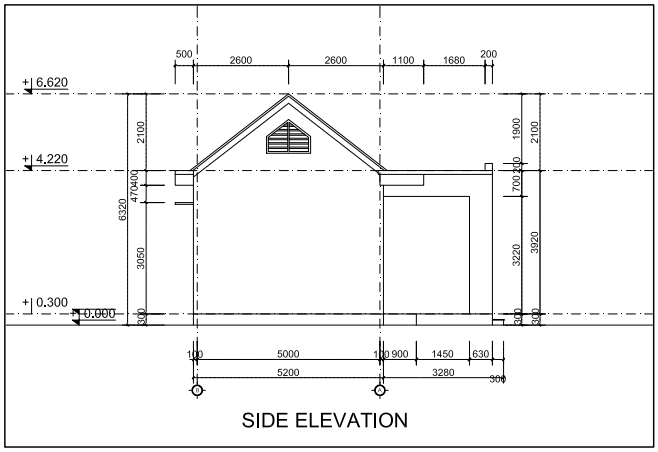
Maintenance activities
Not yet



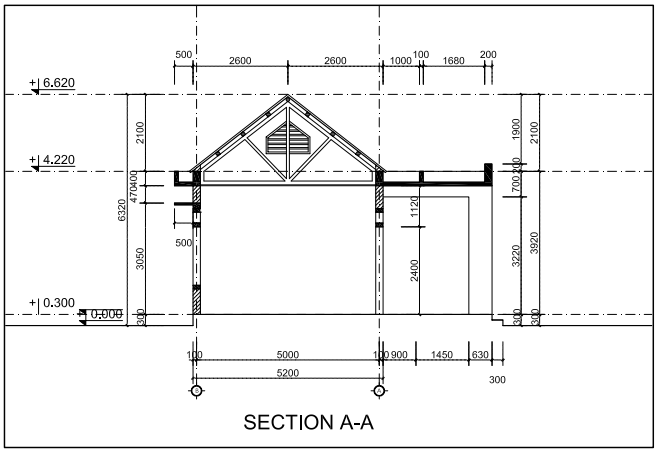
Perspective



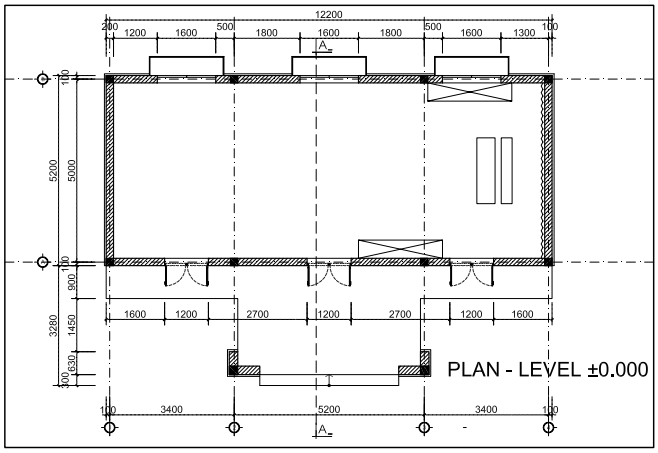
FRONT ELEVATION



SIDE ELEVATION



SECTION A-A



PLAN - LEVEL ±0.000

General information of hamlet
Hamlet name: **Ra Dang**, Huong Huu commune, Nam Dong district. Population: 220 people (45 households)
History of hamlet
Before 1960, the previous hamlet named Ba Dang, a two-day walk from current position, and belongs to Huong Tra district. Previous hamlet had around 12 households with around 60 people living in six dwelling houses on stilts (four long houses and two small houses) encircling a Guol located in center. Location of hamlet was changed once by epidemic. Between 1960 and 1973, hamlet moved to deep forest due to the war and was divided into small groups and frequently changed location; Guol did not existed in this period. Since 1973, because of mobilization of the Vietnam revolutionary government, the hamlet moved to current location for better living and cultivation conditions. Presently, it is one of seven hamlets of Huong Huu commune, Nam Dong district.

History of community house of current hamlet						
No.	Duration	Central pillar (CP), main pillar (MP), lean-to pillar (LP)	Materials	Stove	Size	Decoration
CH 1	1985-2005	1 CP, 8 MP, No LP	Concrete (CP), White Meranti timber, Lo o, Fibro-cement roof	1	Small	No

Features of current community house (Community house ID: HH5 – Type 5)			
Construction year	Construction cost	Supporting organization	Construction method
2008	200,000,000 VND (~9,523 USD)	Central Livelihood Improvement Project (CLIP)	Outside workers undertook entirely in construction process; hamlet residents did not participate in any step. (Because shape of land, the building has a narrow front elevation and long side elevation).
Building area			
84 m^2		Capital from Asian development Bank (ADB) and United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID)	
House aspect			
Southeast			

Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Main pillars, no central pillar	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Eaves beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Floor beams	No	No
Flooring	Ceramic tiles	Slightly damaged
Stair	No	No
Wall	Brick and cement mortar, painted layer	Slightly damaged
Window, door	White Meranti timber (frame), glass	Severely damaged
Roof beams	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Slightly damaged
Purlin	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Slightly damaged
Ridge pole	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Slightly damaged
Roofing	Corrugated metal sheets	Slightly damaged
Roof cresting	No	No
Stove	No	No

Maintenance activities
Not yet



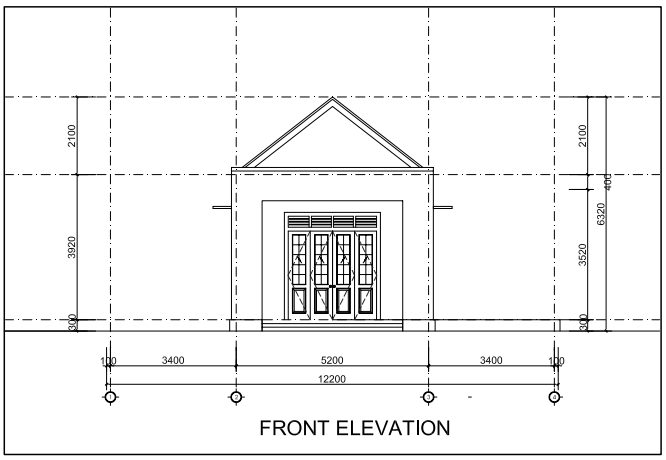
Perspective



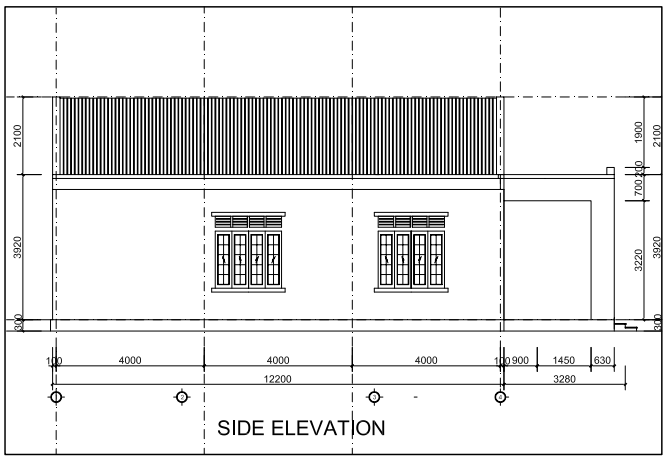
Front view perspective



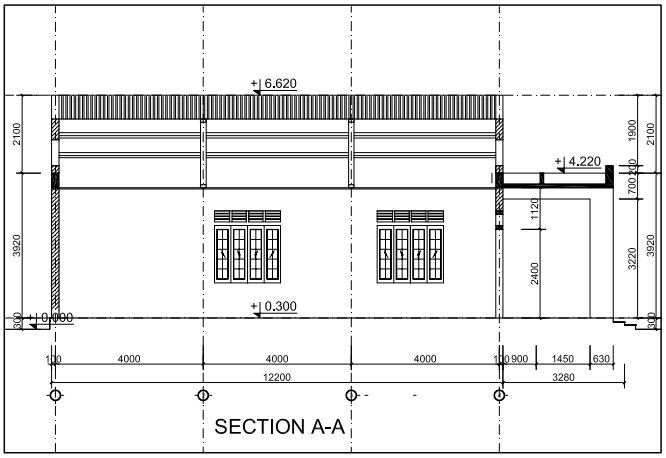
Interior



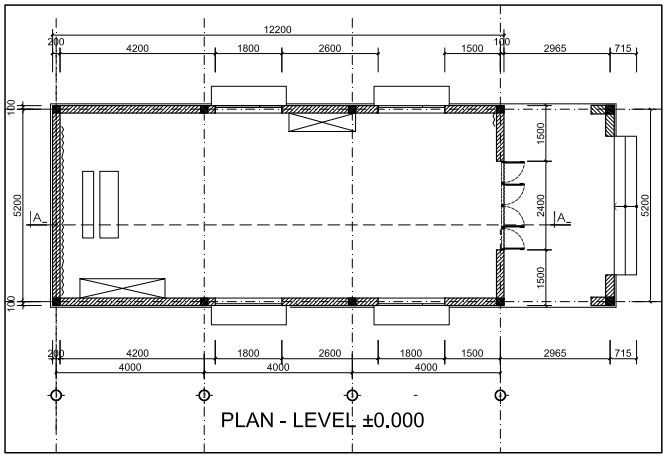
FRONT ELEVATION



SIDE ELEVATION



SECTION A-A



PLAN - LEVEL ±0.000

General information of hamlet
Hamlet name: **Ga Hin**, Huong Huu commune, Nam Dong district. Population: 294 people (62 households)
History of hamlet
Before 1960, the previous hamlet also named Ga Hin, next to Ga Hin stream, a two-day walk from current position, and belongs to Huong Tra district. Previous hamlet had five families (around households with around 80 people living in 13 long dwelling houses on stilts encircling a Guol located in centre. Location of hamlet was frequently changed by epidemics. Between 1960 and 1973, hamlet moved from bottom of hill to dense forest due to the war; Guol did existed in this period. Since 1973, because of mobilization of the Vietnam revolutionary government, the hamlet moved to current location for better living and cultivation conditions. Presently, it is one of seven hamlets of Huong Huu commune, Nam Dong district.
History of community house of current hamlet

No.	Duration	Central pillar (CP), main pillar (MP), lean-to pillar (LP)	Materials	Stove	Size	Decoration
CH 1	2000 - 2008	0 CP, 10 MP, No LP	Merawan Giaza (CP), White Meranti, Lo o, Fibro-cement roof	1	Small	No

Features of current community house (Community house ID: HH6 – Type 5)			
Construction year	Construction cost	Supporting organization	Construction method
2008	200,000,000 VND (~9,523 USD)	Central Livelihood Improvement Project (CLIP)	Outside workers undertook entirely in construction process; hamlet residents did not participate in any step.
Building area		Capital from Asian development Bank (ADB) and United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID)	
84 m^2			
House aspect			
Northwest			

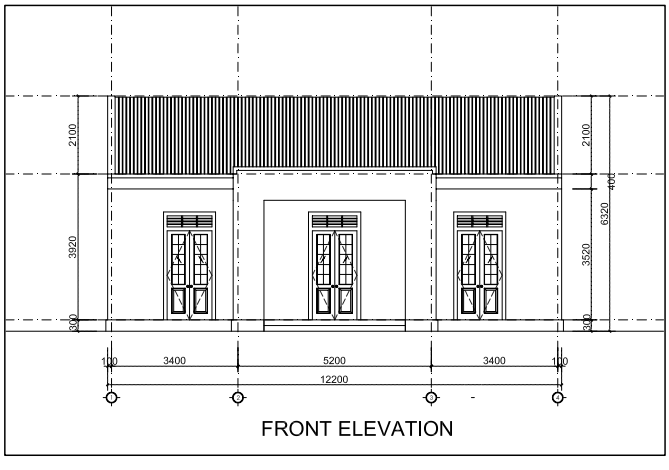
Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Main pillars, no central pillar	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Eaves beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Floor beams	No	No
Flooring	Ceramic tiles	Fairly damaged
Stair	No	No
Wall	Brick and cement mortar, painted layer	Slightly damaged
Window, door	White Meranti timber (frame), glass	Severely damaged
Roof beams	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Slightly damaged
Purlin	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Slightly damaged
Ridge pole	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Slightly damaged
Roofing	Corrugated metal sheets	Slightly damaged
Roof cresting	No	No
Stove	No	No

Maintenance activities
Not yet

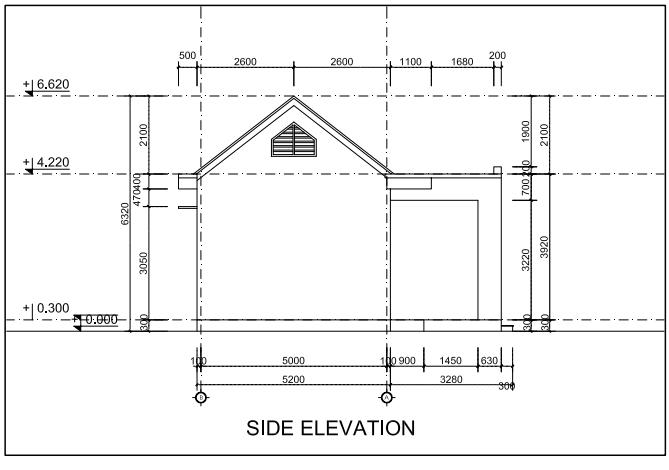




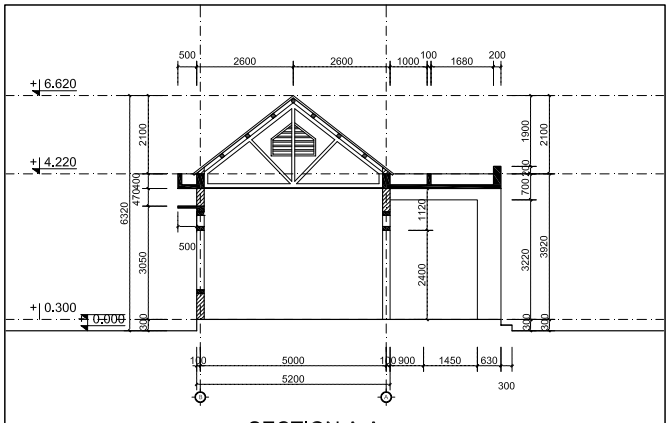
Perspectives



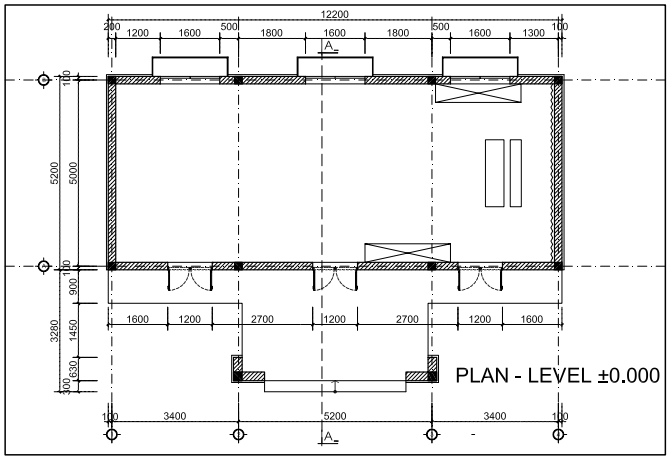
FRONT ELEVATION



SIDE ELEVATION



SECTION A-A



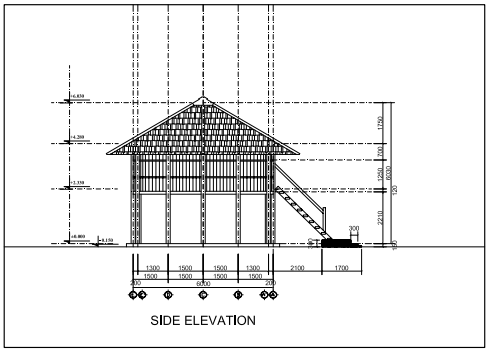
PLAN - LEVEL ±0.000

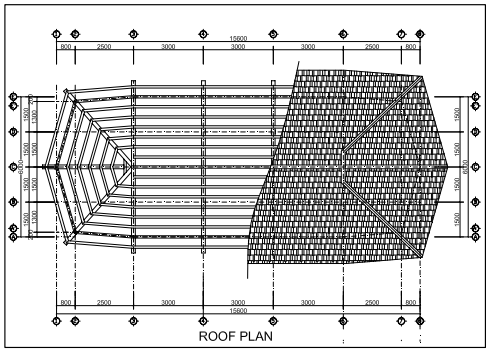
General information of hamlet						
Hamlet name: **U Rang**, Huong Huu commune, Nam Dong district. Population: 599 people (128 households)						
History of hamlet						
Before 1960, the previous hamlet named also U Rang, located on Ca Ra Mac mountain, next to Ta Lang stream on sloping terrain, around a one-day walk from current location towards Southwest, and belongs to Huong Huu commune, Huong Tra district. There were 12 households with around 50 people living in four long dwelling houses on stilts encircling a Guol located in center. Between 1960 and 1973 due to the war, the hamlet moved to deep forest, divided into small groups and lived in temporary dwelling houses. Guol did not existed in this period. Since 1973, because of mobilization of the Vietnam revolutionary government, the hamlet moved to current location for better living and cultivation condition (flat terrain, fertile land). Presently, it is one of seven hamlets of Huong Huu commune, Nam Dong district.						
History of community house of current hamlet						
No.	Duration	Central pillar (CP), main pillar (MP), lean-to pillar (LP)	Materials	Stove	Size	Decoration
CH 1	1976 - 1979	0 CP, 8MP, 0 LP	Merawan Giaza timber, *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	No	Small	No

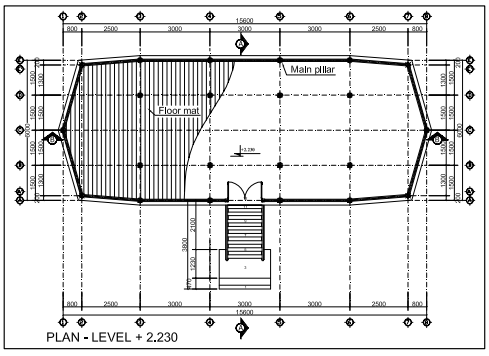
Features of current community house (Community house ID: HH7 – Type 2)			
Construction year	Construction cost	Support organization	Construction method
2002	160,000,000 VND (Including 15,000,000 VND (~714 USD) from NAV and 145, 000,000 converted from hamlet residents labors and material contribution)	Nordic Assistance to Vietnam (NAV)	Hamlet residents undertook all steps of construction process (design, collecting materials, processing and erecting the building) Outside organization supported the money for remuneration and inauguration ceremony.
Building area			
88 m^2			
House aspect			
Northeast		Hamlet residents labors	

Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Natural land paved with cement mortar on surface	Slightly damaged
Central, main pillars	Ironwood	Slightly damaged
Eaves, cross beams	Ironwood and White Meranti timber	Fairly good
Floor beams	Ironwood and White Meranti timber	Fairly good
Floor mat	White Meranti timber	Fairly good
Stair	Merawan Giaza timber	Fairly good
Wall	Merawan Giaza and White Meranti timber	Fairly good
Window, door	Merawan Giaza timber	Slightly damaged
Roof beams	White Meranti timber	Fairly good
Purlin	White Meranti timber	Fairly good
Ridge pole	White Meranti timber	Fairly good
Roofing	Tiles	Fairly damaged
Roof cresting	No	No
Stove	No	No

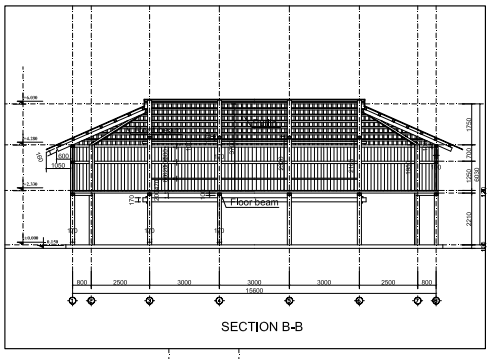
Maintenance activities	
Re-roofing Re-flooring	Rattan roof was replaced by corrugated metal sheets in 1992 and by tiles in 2009. Renovation cost (25 million VND (~714 USD)) supported by Thua Thien – Hue province *Lo o* floor mat was replaced with wooden bar in 2000 by hamlet people contribution.


SIDE ELEVATION

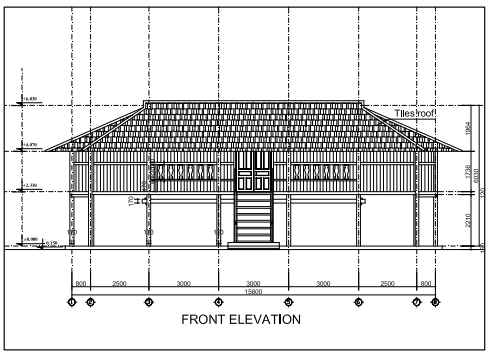

ROOF PLAN



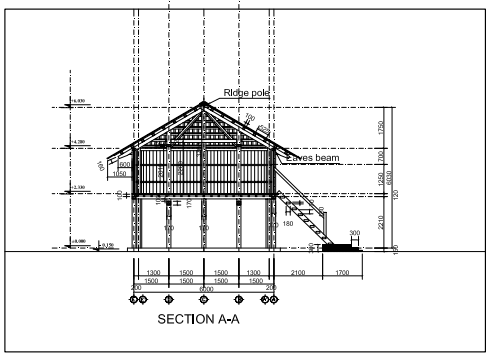
PLAN - LEVEL + 2.230



SECTION B-B



FRONT ELEVATION



SECTION A-A


Front view perspective


Wooden interior structure


Structure of Lean-to part


Space for hanging certificate of merit


Under floor space


An interview with a patriarch


Tiled roof and square pillars

General information of hamlet
Hamlet name: **Ka Dong**, Thuong Long commune, Nam Dong district. Population: 321 people (75 households)
History of hamlet
The previous hamlet named also Ka Dong, and belongs to Thuong Long commune, district 4 (previous name of Nam Dong district). Before 1960, the hamlet located near Mrong river and Drui, next to Quang Nam, a nine-hour walk from the current location. It had around 13 households with around 60 people living in long dwelling houses on stilts encircling a Guol located in center. Between 1960 and 1973, because of war, the hamlet changed the location every two or three years, and separated into three small groups living in small dwelling houses on earth. In this period, Guol did not existed. Since 1973 because of mobilization of the Vietnam revolutionary government, the hamlet moved to current situation and merge with A Xang hamlet. In 1985 two hamlets separated into two, and Ka Dong hamlet has settled at the current location until now.

History of community house of current hamlet

No	Duration	Central pillar (CP), main pillar (MP), lean-to pillar (LP)	Materials	Stove	Size	Decoration
CH 1	1977 - 1984	1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP	Merawan Giaza (CP) and White meranti timber, *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Large	Yes
CH 2	1985 - 1989	1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP	Merawan (CP, MP, LP) White meranti, *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Medium	Yes
CH 3	2003 - 2008	1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP	Merawan Giaza (CP) and White meranti timber, *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Large	Yes

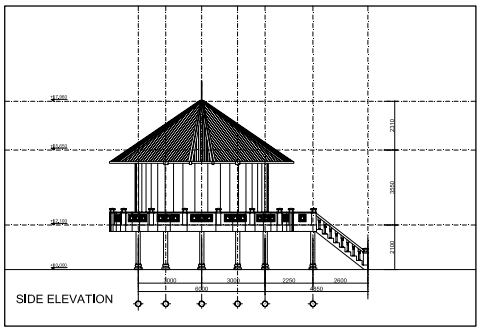
Features of current community house (Community house ID: TL1 – Type 4)

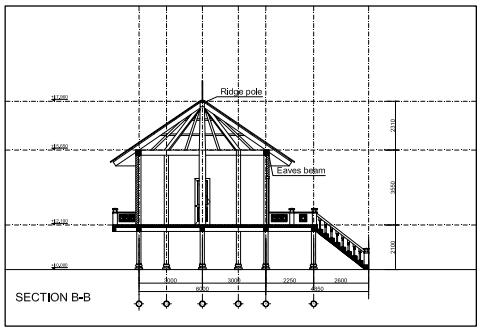
Construction year	Construction cost	Supporting organization	Construction method
2007	225,000,000 VND (~10,714 USD)	Central Livelihood Improvement Project (CLIP) Capital from Asian development Bank (ADB) and United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) Contribution of residents	The outside builders almost undertook all construction steps. The hamlet residents only participated in transporting materials, leveling foundation and contributing formwork-propping pillars.
Building area			
75 m^2			
House aspect			
Southeast			

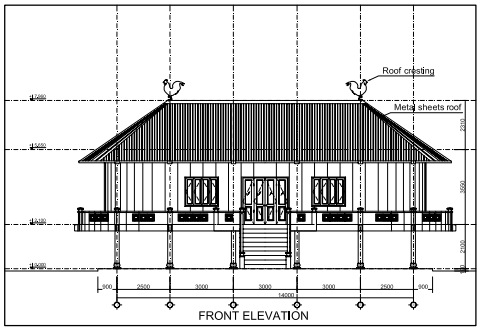
Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200, paved with cement mortar	Severely damaged
Central, main pillars	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Eaves, cross beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Floor beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Flooring	(1) Reinforced concrete (mark 200), (2) paved with ceramic tiles	(1) Good, (2) Slight damaged
Stairs	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Wall	Brick and cement mortar, painted layer	Fairly good
Window, door	White Meranti timber (frame), glass	Severely damaged
Roof beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Purlin	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Fairly good
Ridge pole	Reinforced concrete (mark 200) and White Meranti timber	Good
Roofing	Corrugated metal sheets	Fairly good
Roof cresting	Cock pattern (Metal)	Fairly good
Stove	No	No

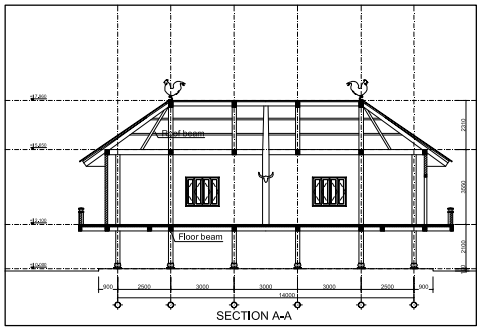
Maintenance activities

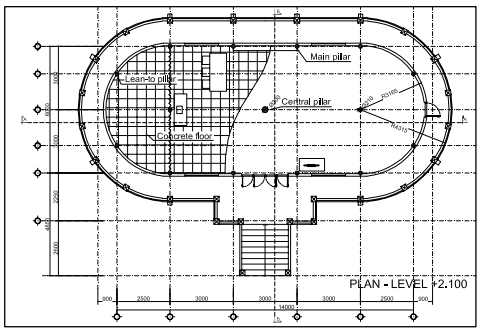
Not yet

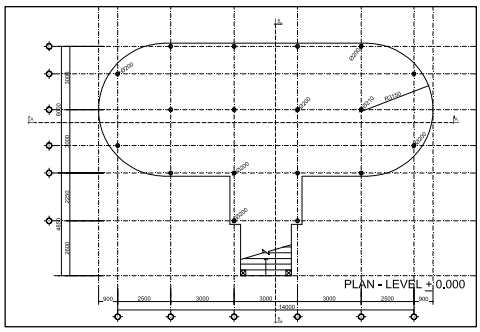













Front view perspective


Interior


Roof structure


Under floor space for parking


Buffalo sacrifice pole


Floor paved with


Back view perspective

General information of hamlet
Hamlet name: **A Xang**, Thuong Long commune, Nam Dong district. Population: 122 people (27 households)
History of hamlet
The previous hamlet named also Ka Dong, and belongs to Thuong Long commune, district 4 (previous name of Nam Dong district) Before 1960, the hamlet located in Gia Vua valley, bordering with A Vuong commune, Quang Nam province, a one-day walk from the current location. It had around 60 people living in five long dwelling houses on stilts encircling a Guol located in center. Between 1964 and 1973, because of war, the hamlet separated into three small groups living in small dwelling houses on earth without a Guol due to lack construction capacity. Since 1973 because of mobilization of the Vietnam revolutionary government, the hamlet was moved to current situation and merge with Ka Dong hamlet. In 1985 two hamlets separated and A Xang hamlet migrated to the La Dang hamlet and relocated to near Cha Ke hamlet before resettling at the current location until now.

History of community house of current hamlet

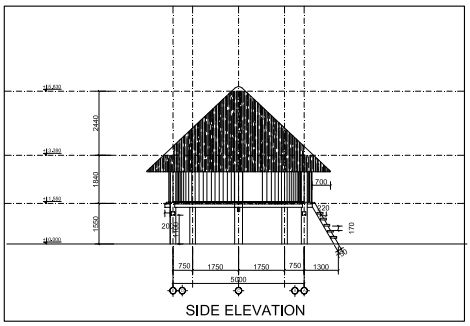
No.	Duration	Central pillar (CP), main pillar (MP), lean-to pillar (LP)	Materials	Stove	Size	Decoration
TCH 1*	1977 - 1984	1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP	Merawan Giaza timber (CP), White Meranti timber (MP, LP), Lo o, Non leaf	2	Large	Yes
TCH 2	1985 -1 988	No CP, 6 MP, 6 LP	Merawan Giaza timber (MP, LP), Lo o, Non leaf	2	Small	Yes
TCH 3	1988 - 1993	1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP	H'ranh timber (CP, (MP, LP), Sapele timber, Lo o, Rattan leaf	2	Medium	Yes
TCH 4	1993 - 1995	1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP	H'ranh (CP), H'ranh (MP, LP), Sapele timber, Lo o, Rattan leaf	2	Medium	Yes
TCH 5	1995 - 1997	No CP, 6 MP, 6 LP	Merawan Giaza timber (MP, LP), Sapele timber, Lo o, Rattan leaf	2	Small	Yes

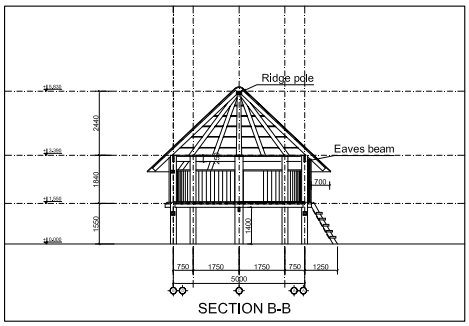
Features of current community house (Community house ID: TL2 – Type 1)

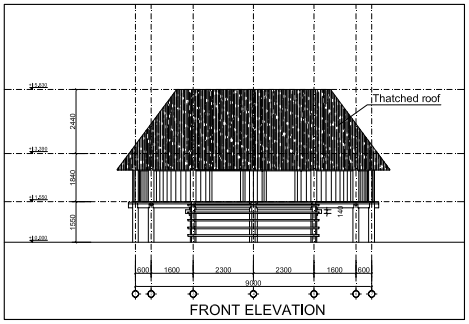
Construction year	Construction cost	Support organization	Construction method
2003 Building area 44 m^2 House aspect Southwest	Hamlet residents labors	ICCO and University of agriculture and forestry (1,000,000 VND (~47 USD) for inauguration ceremony)	The hamlet residents undertook all construction steps. It took two month to collect enough materials in Quynh Thom forest, the next five days to process the components and the 16 days to construct the house.

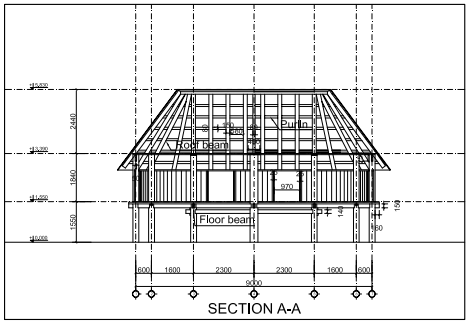
Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Land compacted and paved with cement mortar	Severely damaged
Central, main pillars	*Hranh* timber (CP), Merawan Giaza and Red-wood timber(MP,LP)	Fairly good
Eaves, cross beams	*Doi* and Sapele timber	Fairly good
Floor beams	Sapele and White Meranti timber	Fairly good
Flooring	*Lo o* (a kind of bamboo)	Severely damaged
Stairs	*Doi* timber and Iron-wood	Severely damaged
Wall	White Meranti and Sapele timber	Fairly good
Window, door	*Lo o* (a kind of bamboo)	Slight damaged
Roof beams	Sapele and White Meranti timber	Fairly good
Purlin	Sapele and White Meranti timber, Rattan trunk (Lean-to roof)	Slight damaged
Ridge pole	*Doi* timber	Slight damaged
Roofing	Rattan and Mangrove Fan Palm leaf	Severely damaged
Roof cresting	Cock pattern (White Meranti timber) damaged by typhoon in 2009	No
Stove	White Meranti timber and land	Slight damaged

Maintenance activities	
Re-roofing Re-flooring	Roof was renovated by rattan leaf in 2004, 2007 and 2009; floor was renovated with bamboo mat in 2009 and 2013. All renovation activities were conducted by the hamlet residents' labor (Except in 2009, the hamlet was funded 25,000,000 VND (~1,190 USD) from Nam Dong district). The hamlet are planning to renovate damaged component such as floor mat, thatched roof, stairs in 2015 with 50,000,000 VND (~2,380 USD) funded by two-children policy of government.

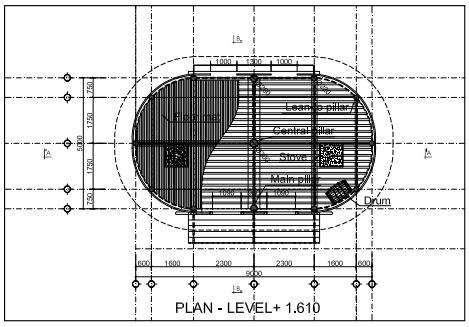













Condition of house in 2009


Condition of house in 2014


Roof condition in 2012


Roof condition in 2014


Pillar - floor beam - floor mat joint detail


Floor mat conditions in 2014


Space for hanging wild animal skulls

Features of current community house (Community house ID: TL2B - Type 4)			
Construction year	Construction cost	Supporting organization	Construction method
2008	240,000,000 VND (~11,428 USD)	Central Livelihood Improvement Project (CLIP)	The outside builders almost undertook all construction steps. The hamlet residents only participated in transporting materials, leveling foundation and contributing formwork-propping pillars.
Building area			
75 m^2		Capital from Asian development Bank (ADB) and United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID)	
House aspect			
Northeast		Contribution of residents	
Components	Materials		Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200, paved with cement mortar		Slight damaged
Central, main pillars	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)		Good
Eaves, cross beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)		Good
Floor beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)		Good
Flooring	(1) Reinforced concrete (mark 200), (2) paved with ceramic tiles		(1) Good, (2) Slight damaged
Stairs	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)		Fairly good
Wall	Brick and cement mortar, painted layer		Fairly good
Window, door	White Meranti timber (frame), glass		Severely damaged
Roof beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)		Good
Purlin	Rectangle hollow section steel bar		Fairly good
Ridge pole	Reinforced concrete (mark 200) and White Meranti timber		Good
Roofing	Corrugated metal sheets		Fairly good
Roof cresting	Cock pattern (Metal)		Fairly good
Stove	No		No
Maintenance activities			
Not yet	Hamlet is waiting more fund from local government to renovate the doors, windows and floor		



Front view perspective



Interior



Roof structure



House structure simulated traditional type



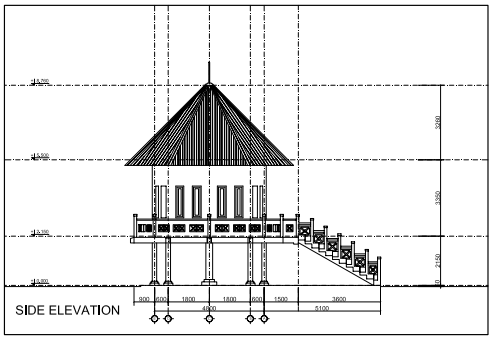
Under floor space for hamlet furnitures

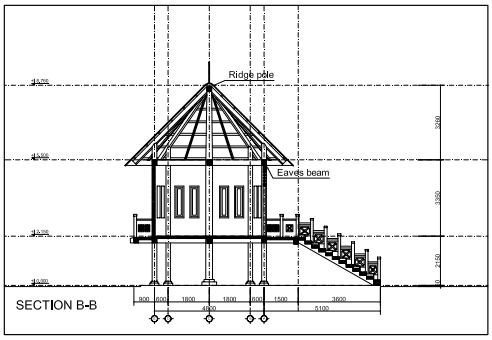


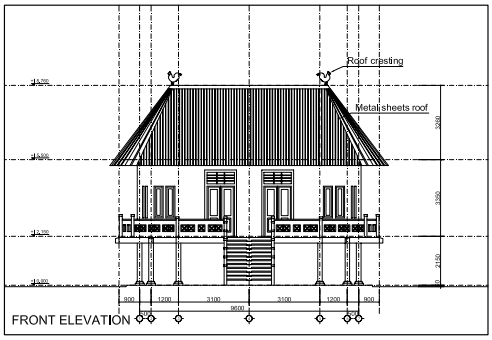
Roof beam-purlin join

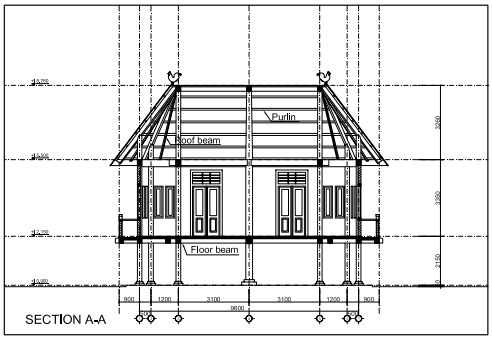


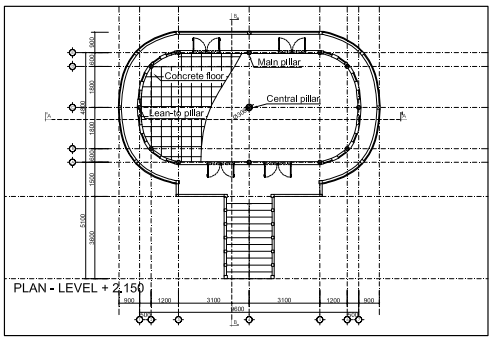
Perspective

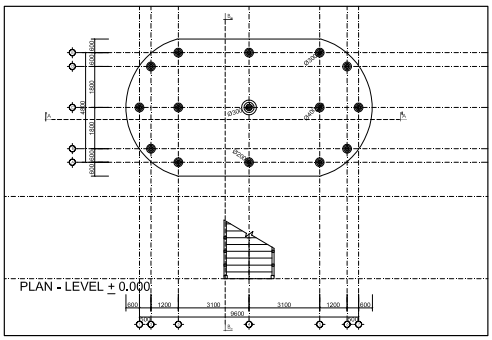












General information of hamlet
Hamlet name: **Cha Ke**, Thuong Long commune, Nam Dong district. Population: 368 people (89 households)
History of hamlet
The previous hamlet named also A Dai, and belongs to Thuong Long commune, district 4 (previous name of Nam Dong district) Before 1960s, the hamlet located next to Quang Nam, a one-day walk from the current location. The hamlet had two clans (Pham, Ho) with 40 to 50 people living in two long dwelling houses on stilts encircling a Guol located in center. Between 1960s and 1973, because of war, the hamlet separated into three small groups living in small dwelling houses on earth and changed the location frequently, and Guol did not existed in this period. Since 1973, because of mobilization of the Vietnam revolutionary government, the hamlet was moved to current situation and has settled there until now.

History of community house of current hamlet

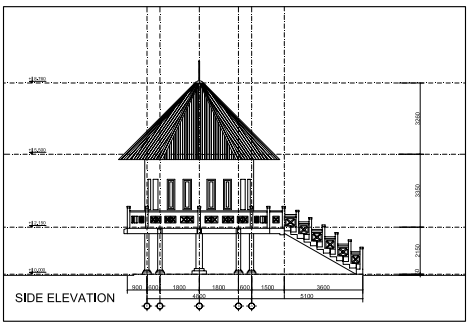
No	Duration	Central pillar (CP), main pillar (MP), lean-to pillar (LP)	Materials	Stove	Size	Decoration
TCH 1	1974 - 1986	No CP, 4 MP, 6 LP	Ironwood (CP), Merawan Giaza timber (MP, LP), *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Small	Yes
TCH 2	1986 - 2001	1 CP, 4 MP, 6 LP	Ironwood (CP), Merawan Giaza timber (MP, LP), *Lo o*, *Ke* leaf	2	Medium	Yes
TCH 3	2001 - 2008	1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP	Merawan Giaza timber (CP, MP, LP), Sapele timber (partition), *Lo o*, *Ke* leaf	2	Large	Yes

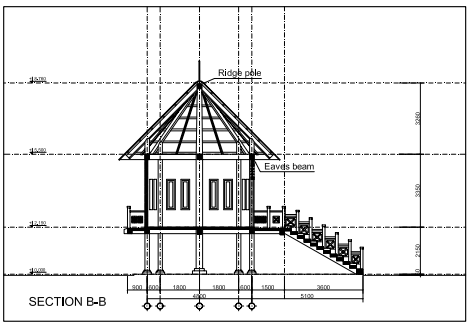
Features of current community house (Community house ID: TL3 - Type 4)

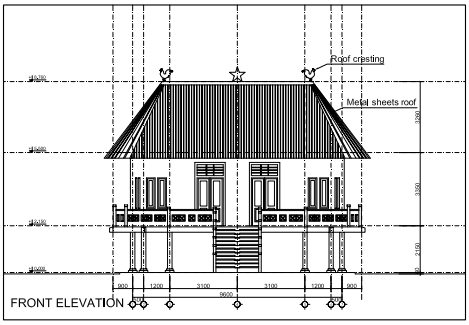
Construction year	Construction cost	Supporting organization	Construction method
2008	240,000,000 VND (~11,428 USD)	Central Livelihood Improvement Project (CLIP) Capital from Asian development Bank (ADB) and United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) Contribution of residents	The outside builders almost undertook all construction steps. The hamlet residents only participated in transporting materials, leveling foundation and contributing formwork-propping pillars.
Building area			
75 m^2			
House aspect			
Southeast			

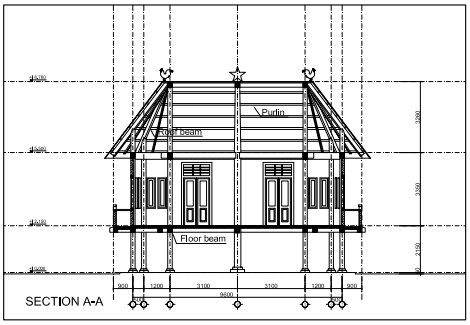
Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200, paved with cement mortar	Slight damaged
Central, main pillars	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Eaves, cross beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Floor beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Flooring	(1) Reinforced concrete (mark 200), (2) paved with ceramic tiles	(1) Good, (2) Slight damaged
Stairs	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Wall	Brick and cement mortar, painted layer	Fairly good
Window, door	White Meranti timber (frame), glass	Severely damaged
Roof beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Purlin	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Fairly good
Ridge pole	Reinforced concrete (mark 200) and White Meranti timber	Good
Roofing	Corrugated metal sheets	Fairly good
Roof cresting	Cock pattern (Metal)	Fairly good
Stove	No	No

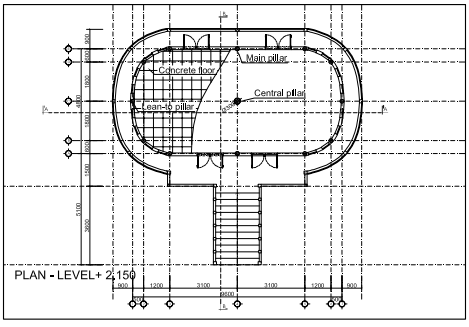
Maintenance activities
Not yet

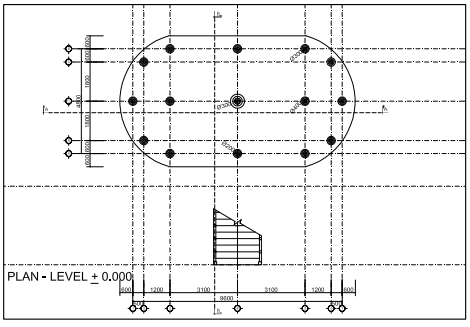













Front view elevation


Interior


Meeting of hamlet patriarches


Roof structure


Space for putting wooden bars


New concrete stairs


Perspective

General information of hamlet
Hamlet name: **A Gon**, Thuong Long commune, Nam Dong district. Population: 425 people (103 households)
History of hamlet
The previous hamlet named also A Gon, and belongs to Thuong Long commune, district 4 (previous name of Nam Dong district). Before 1962, the hamlet located next to Ta Ra stream, Cho Ru mountain, near A Vuong commune, Quang Nam province, a one-day walk from the current location. Hamlet had three clans (Ta Ruong, Bo Ling and A Rec) with around 70 to 80 people living in three long dwelling houses on stilts encircling a Guol located in center. Between 1962 and 1973, hamlet moved to deep forest to avoid the war, and divided into three small groups, around a 2-hour walk from previous location and frequently changed its location due to epidemic and war, and Guol did not existed during this period. After 1973, because of mobilization of the Vietnam revolutionary government, the hamlet transferred to current position for living and cultivating in better conditions (plain terrain, much land for cultivation)

History of community house

No	Duration	Central pillar (CP), main pillar (MP), lean-to pillar (LP)	Materials	Stove	Size	Decoration
TCH 1	1973 - 1978	No CP, 6 MP, 6 LP	Iron timber (CP), Merawan Giaza (MP, LP), *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Medium	No
TCH 2	1978 - 1995	1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP	Iron timber (CP), Merawan Giaza (MP, LP), *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Large	Yes
TCH 3	1995 - 2004	1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP	Iron timber (CP), Merawan Giaza (MP, LP), *Lo o*, tiled roof	2	Medium	Yes

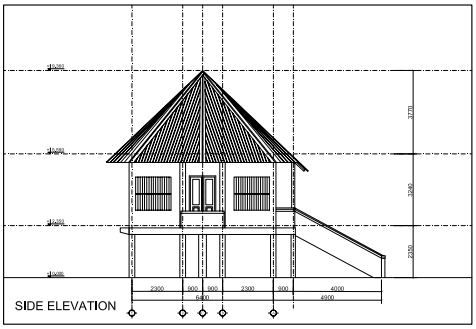
Features of current community house (Community house ID: TL4 - Type 3)

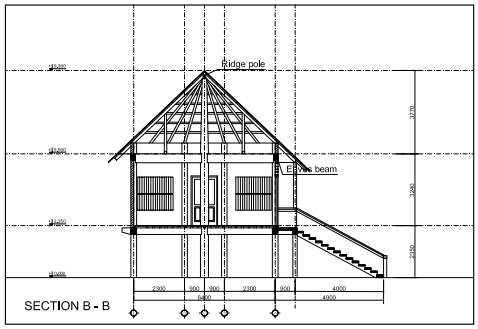
Construction year	Construction cost	Supporting organization	Construction method
2005	147,000,000 VND (~7,000 USD)	Community-based rural infrastructure Project (CBRIP)	Outside builder undertook the main frame of building (Foundation, pillar and beam frame) Hamlet residents contributed traditional materials (Timber, Bamboo) and erecting the roof.
Building area			
66.57 m^2	130,284,000 VND (A) (~6,204 USD)	(A) Major capital from World Bank (WB) (88,6%)	
House aspect	10,116,000 VND (B) (~481 USD)	(B) Reciprocal capital from government (6.9%)	
Northeast	6,600,000 VND (C) (~314 USD)	(C) Contributions of residents (4.5%)	

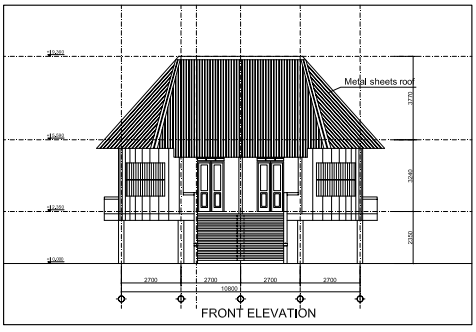
Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Slightly damaged
Central, main pillars	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Eaves, cross beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Floor beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200) (main beams),	Good
Floor mat	Sapele timber	Fairly good
Stairs	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Wall	Brick and cement mortar, painted layer	Fairly good
Window, door	Merawan Giaza timber (frame), glass	Fairly damaged
Roof beams	Merawan Giaza timber	Fairly good
Purlin	White Meranti timber	Fairly good
Ridge pole	Merawan Giaza timber	Fairly good
Roofing	Corrugated metal sheets	Fairly good
Roof cresting	Cock pattern (Sapele timber) removed in 2012	No
Stove	No	No

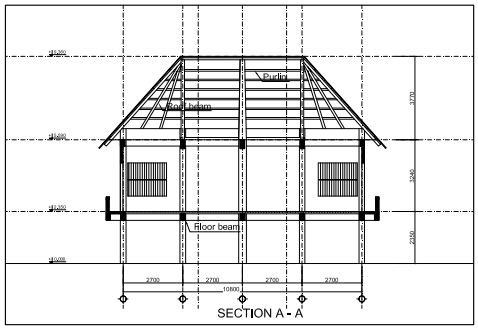
Maintenance activities

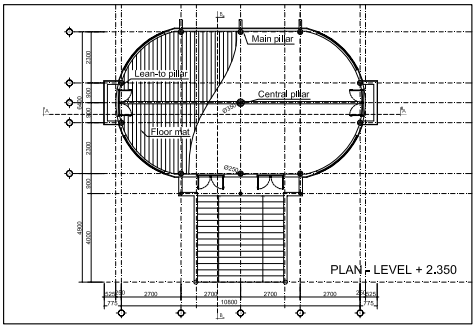
Re-roofing Re-flooring	*Tro* leaf roof was replaced by corrugated metal sheets and Lo o purlin was replaced by White Meranti timber in 2012 (funded 50,000,000 VND (~2,380 USD) from Central government to buy materials and hire outside workers) *Lo o* floor mat was replaced by Sapele timber in 2012 (Hamlet residents contributed labor or money for re-flooring.

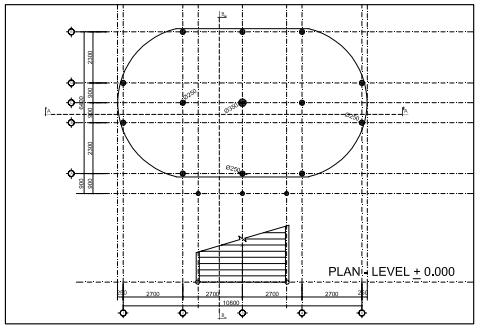




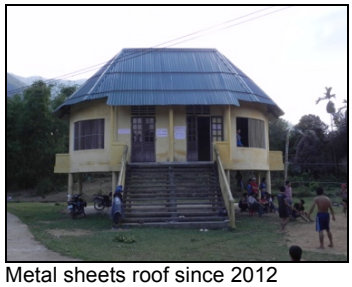









Thatched roof before 2012


Metal sheets roof since 2012


Interior


Roof structure before 2012


Roof structure since 2012


Lo o floor mat before 2012


Wooden floor mat after 2012

General information of hamlet
Hamlet name: **Te Vac**, Thuong Long commune, Nam Dong district. Population: 213 people (52 households)
History of hamlet
The previous hamlet named also Te Vac, and belongs to Thuong Long commune, district 4 (previous name of Nam Dong district). Before 1962, the hamlet located, near A Vuong commune, Quang Nam province, a one-day walk from the current location. Hamlet had five around 45 people living in four long dwelling houses on stilts encircling a Guol located in center. Between 1964 and 1973, hamlet moved to deep forest to avoid the war, around a two-hour walk from previous location and frequently changed its location due to epidemic and war, and Guol did not existed during this period. After 1973, because of mobilization of the Vietnam revolutionary government, the hamlet transferred to position which is near current A Gon hamlet, In 1984, because an iron mine project was set up there, the hamlet have to move once again to current position.

History of community house

No	Duration	Central pillar (CP), main pillar (MP), lean-to pillar (LP)	Materials	Stove	Size	Decoration
TCH 1	1977-1985	No CP, 6 MP, 6 LP	Iron timber (MP, LP), Sapele (beams), *Lo o, Non* leaf	2	Medium	Yes
TCH 2	1987-1989	No CP, 4 MP, 6 LP	Iron timber (MP, LP), Merawan Giaza, Sapele (beams), *Lo o, Non* leaf	1	Small	Yes
TCH 3	1989-2004	No CP, 4 MP, 6 LP	Iron timber (MP, LP), Merawan Giaza, Sapele (beams), *Lo o, Non* leaf	2	Medium	Yes

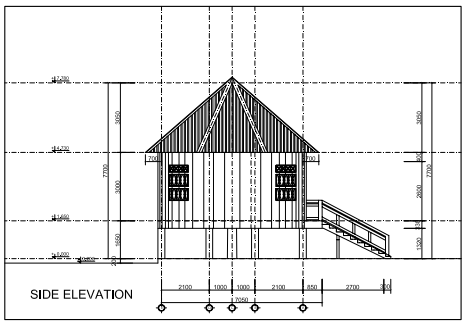
Features of current community house (Community house ID: TL5 – Type 3)

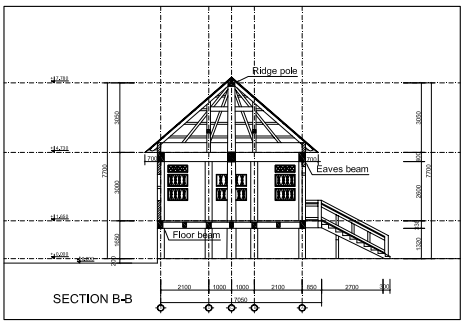
Construction year	Construction cost	Supporting organization	Construction method
2004	97,673,000 VND (~4,651 USD)	Community-based rural infrastructure Project (CBRIP)	Outside builder undertook the main frame of building (Foundation, pillar and beam frame) Hamlet residents contributed traditional materials (Timber, Bamboo) and erecting the roof.
Building area			
65.89 m^2	83,446,900 VND (A) (~3,973 USD)	(A) Major capital from World Bank (WB) (85.4%)	
House aspect	9,999,300 VND (B) (~476 USD)	(B) Reciprocal capital from government (10.2%)	
Southeast	4,227,300 VND (C) (~201 USD)	(C) Contributions of residents (4.4%)	

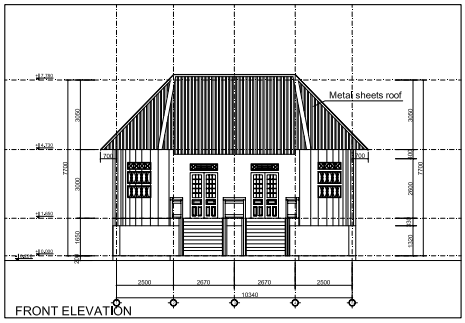
Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Slight damaged
Central, main pillars	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Eaves, cross beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Floor beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200) (main beams),	Good
Floor mat	Sapele timber	Fairly good
Stairs	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Wall	Brick and cement mortar	Fairly good
Window, door	Merawan Giaza timber (frame), glass	Severely damaged
Roof beams	Merawan Giaza timber	Fairly good
Purlin	White Meranti timber	Fairly good
Ridge pole	Merawan Giaza timber	Fairly good
Roofing	Corrugated metal sheets	Fairly good
Roof cresting	Cock pattern (Sapele timber) removed in 2012	No
Stove	No	No

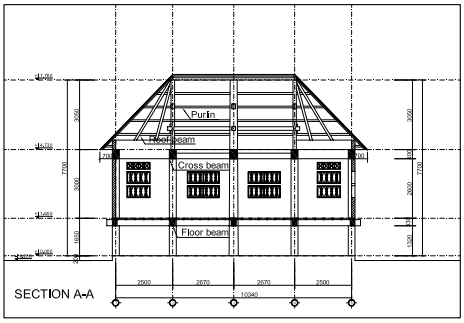
Maintenance activities

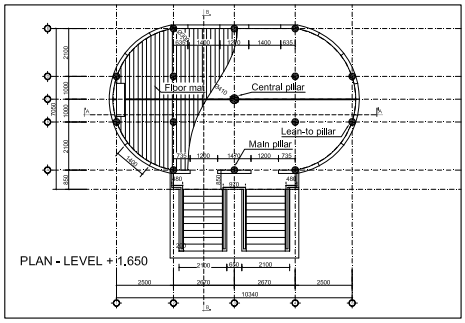
Re-roofing Re-flooring	*Non* leaf roof was replaced by corrugated metal sheets and Lo o purlin was replaced by White Meranti timber in 2012 (Each household contributed 300,000 VND to buy corrugated metal sheets and wooden purlins) *Lo o* floor mat was replaced by Sapele timber in 2012 (Hamlet residents contributed labor or money for re-flooring (funded 25.000.000 VND (~1,190 USD) from central government to buy materials and hire outside workers)

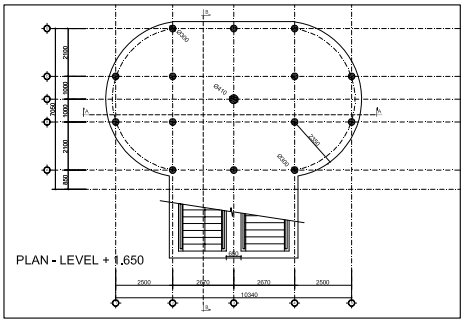













Perspective


Interior without painting



Decorated background for meeting


Roof structure


Round shape simulated tranditional type


Wooden floor mat


Pillar-floor beam-floor mat joint

General information of hamlet
Hamlet name: **A Chieu**, Thuong Long commune, Nam Dong district. Population: 285 people (54 households)
History of hamlet
The previous hamlet named Da Vua, and belongs to Thuong Long commune, district 4 (previous name of Nam Dong district). Before 1962, the hamlet located next to Ta Ra stream, Cho Ru mountain, near A Vuong commune, Quang Nam province, a one-day walk from the current location. Hamlet had six households with around 30 to 40 people living in six dwelling houses on stilts encircling a Guol located in center. Between 1960s and 1974, hamlet moved to deep forest to avoid the war, and divided into small groups, around a one-hour walk from previous location and frequently changed its location due to epidemic and war, and Guol did not existed during this period. After 1973, because of mobilization of the Vietnam revolutionary government, the hamlet transferred to current position for living and cultivating in better conditions (plain terrain, much land for cultivation)

History of community house

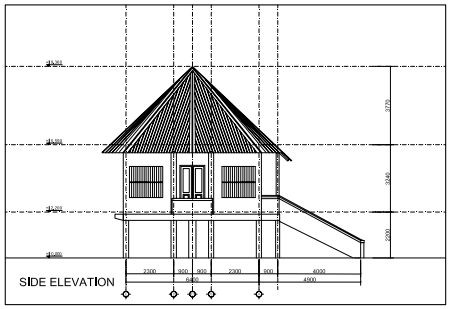
No	Duration	Central pillar (CP), main pillar (MP), lean-to pillar (LP)	Materials	Stove	Size	Decoration
TCH1	1976-1984	1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP	Merawan Giaza (CP, MP, LP), *Leu* timber beams), *Lo o, Non* roof	2	Medium	Yes
TCH2	1984-1994	1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP	Merawan Giaza (CP, MP, LP), *Leu* timber beams), *Lo o, Non* roof	2	Medium	Yes
TCH3	1994-2004	1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP	Merawan Giaza (CP, MP, LP), *Leu* timber beams), *Lo o, Non* roof	2	Medium	Yes

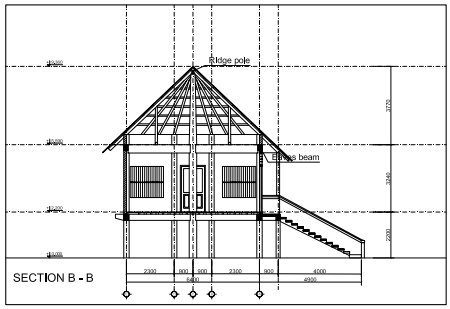
Features of current community house (Community house ID: TL6 – Type 3)

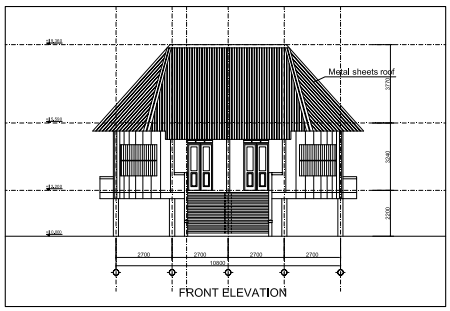
Construction year	Construction cost	Supporting organization	Construction method
2005	147,000,000 VND (~7,000 USD)	Community-based rural infrastructure Project (CBRIP)	Outside builder undertook the main frame of building (foundation, pillar and beam frame). Hamlet residents contributed traditional materials (timber, bamboo) and erecting the roof.
Building area			
66.57 m^2	130,284,000 VND (A) (~6,204 USD)	(A) Major capital from World Bank (WB) (88,6%)	
House aspect	10,116,000 VND (B) (~481 USD)	(B) Reciprocal capital from government (6.9%)	
Northeast	6,600,000 VND (C) (~314 USD)	(C) Contributions of residents (4.5%)	

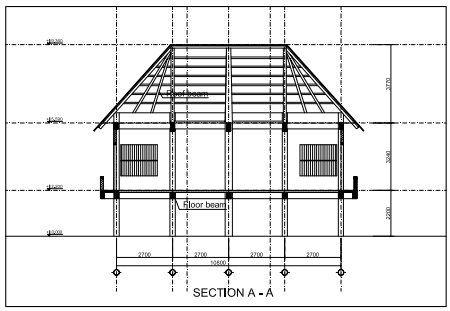
Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Slight damaged
Central, main pillars	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Eaves, cross beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Floor beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200) (main beams),	Good
Floor mat	Sapele timber	Fairly good
Stairs	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Wall	Brick and cement mortar, painted layer	Fairly good
Window, door	Merawan Giaza timber (frame), glass	Fairly damaged
Roof beams	Merawan Giaza timber	Fairly good
Purlin	White Meranti timber	Fairly good
Ridge pole	Merawan Giaza timber	Fairly good
Roofing	Corrugated metal sheets	Fairly good
Roof cresting	Cock pattern (Sapele timber) removed in 2012	No
Stove	No	No

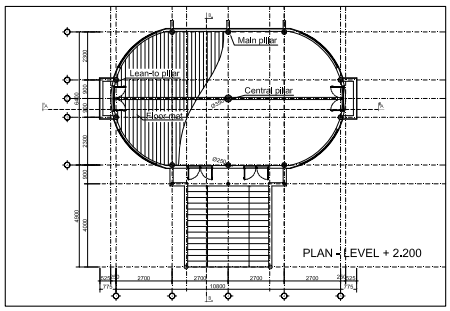
Maintenance activities	
Re-roofing Re-flooring	*Non* leaf roof was replaced by corrugated metal sheets and Lo o purlin was replaced by White Meranti timber in 2012 (funded 50.000.000 VND (~2,380 USD) from Central government to buy materials and hire outside workers) *Lo o* floor mat was replaced by Sapele timber in 2012 (Hamlet residents contributed labor or money for re-flooring.

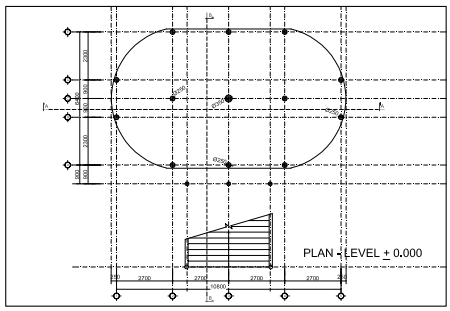













Front view perspective


Decorated background for hamlet meeting


Roof structure


Interior


Remaining dismantled leaves


Wooden floor mat supported by concrete beams


Back view perspective

General information of hamlet
Hamlet name: **A Dai**, Thuong Long commune, Nam Dong district. Population: 327 people (75 households)
History of hamlet
The previous hamlet named also A Dai, and belongs to Thuong Long commune, district 4 (previous name of Nam Dong district). Before 1960s, the hamlet located next to Quang Nam, a one-day walk from the current location. The hamlet had five clans (Pham, Tran, Ho, Le, Doan) with 60 to 70 people living in 15 long dwelling houses on stilts encircling a Guol located in center. Between 1960s and 1973, because of war, the hamlet separated into three small groups living in small dwelling houses on earth and changed the location frequently, and Guol did not existed in this period. Since 1973 because of mobilization of the Vietnam revolutionary government, the hamlet moved to current situation and has settled there until now.

History of community house of current hamlet

No	Duration	Central pillar (CP), main pillar (MP), lean-to pillar (LP)	Materials	Stove	Size	Decoration
CH 1	1975 - 1978	0 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP	Ironwood (CP, MP, LP), White meranti timber, *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Small	Yes
CH 2	1978 - 1993	0 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP	Ironwood (CP, MP, LP), White meranti timber, *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Medium	Yes
CH 3	1993 - 2007	1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP	Ironwood (CP, MP, LP), Sapele timber, *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	No	Medium	Yes

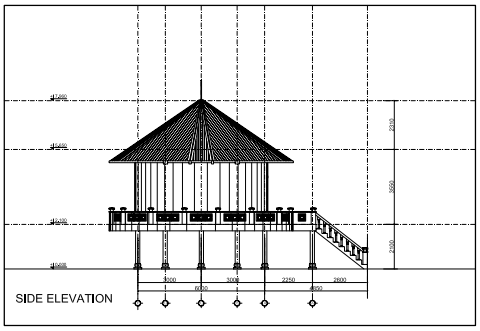
Features of current community house (Community house ID: TL7 – Type 4)

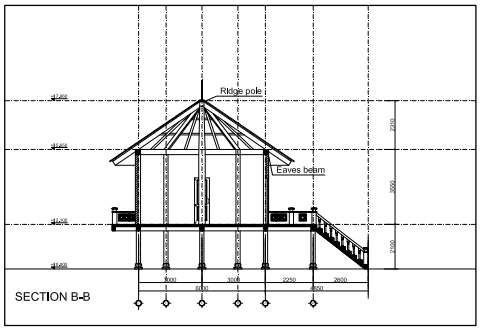
Construction year	Construction cost	Supporting organization	Construction method
2007	225,000,000 VND (~10,714 USD)	Central Livelihood Improvement Project (CLIP)	The outside builders almost undertook all construction steps. The hamlet residents only participated in transporting materials, leveling foundation and contributing formwork-propping pillars.
Building area		Capital from Asian development Bank (ADB) and United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID)	
75 m^2			
House aspect		Contribution of residents	
Southwest			

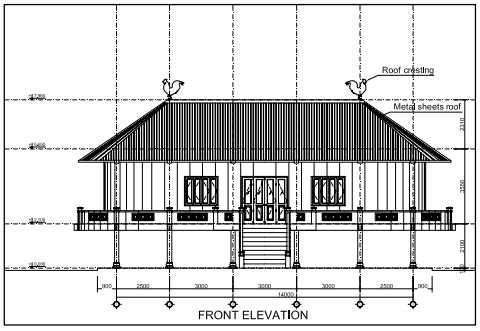
Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200, paved with cement mortar	Severely damaged
Central, main pillars	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Eaves, cross beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Floor beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Flooring	(1) Reinforced concrete (mark 200), (2) paved with ceramic tiles	(1) Good, (2) Slight damaged
Stairs	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Wall	Brick and cement mortar, painted layer	Fairly good
Window, door	White Meranti timber (frame), glass	Severely damaged
Roof beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Purlin	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Fairly good
Ridge pole	Reinforced concrete (mark 200) and White Meranti timber	Good
Roofing	Corrugated metal sheets	Fairly good
Roof cresting	Cock (Metal)	Fairly good
Stove	-	No

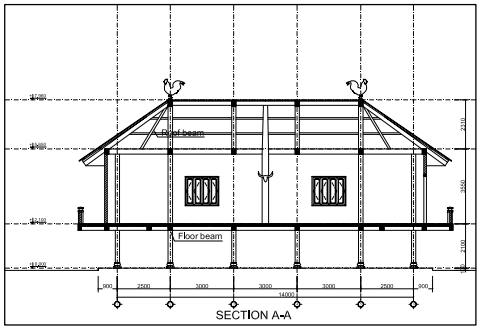
Maintenance activities

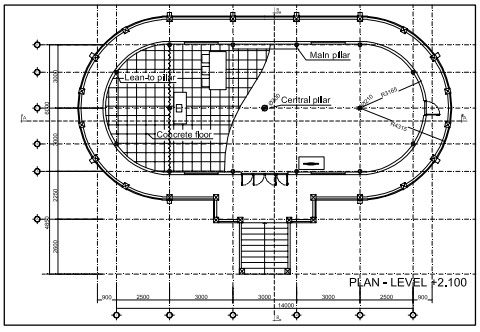
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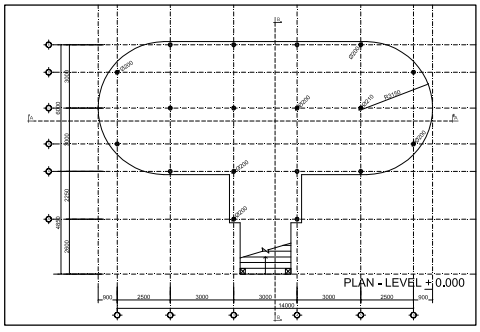













Front view elevation


Roof structure


Interior


Space for hangging certificates of merit


Pillar - roof beam - purlin joint


Damaged foundation


Perspective

General information of hamlet
Hamlet name: **Ap Rung**, Thuong Long commune, Nam Dong district. Population: 388 people (88 households)
History of hamlet
The previous hamlet named also A Dai, and belongs to Thuong Long commune, district 4 (previous name of Nam Dong district). Before 1960s, the hamlet located next to Quang Nam, one-day walk from the current location. The hamlet had two clans (Pham, Tran) with 50 to 60 people living in five long dwelling houses on stilts encircling a Guol located in center (From 1975 to 1980, these two clans were located a few hundred meters apart, and they were merged into one since 1980). Between 1960s and 1973, because of war, the hamlet separated into three small groups living in small dwelling houses on earth and changed the location frequently, and Guol did not existed in this period. Since 1973 because of mobilization of the Vietnam revolutionary government, the hamlet moved to current situation and has settled there until now.

History of community house of current hamlet

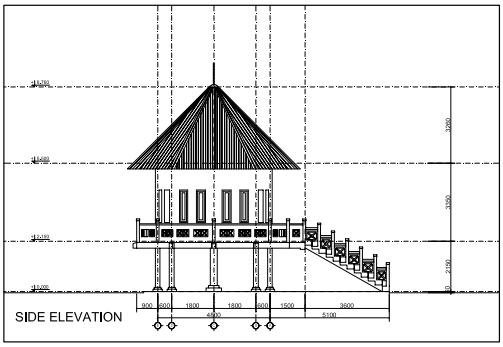
No	Duration	Central pillar (CP), main pillar (MP), lean-to pillar (LP)	Materials	Stove	Size	Decoration
TCH 1	1980 - 1986	0+16 (No CP, 8 MP, 8 LP)	Merawan Giaza (MP, LP,), Merawan Giaza, *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Large	Yes
TCH 2	1986 - 2008	0+08 (No CP, 8 MP, No LP)	Merawan Giaza (MP, LP), White Meranti, Sapele (beams), *Lo o*, tiled leaf	2	Small	Yes

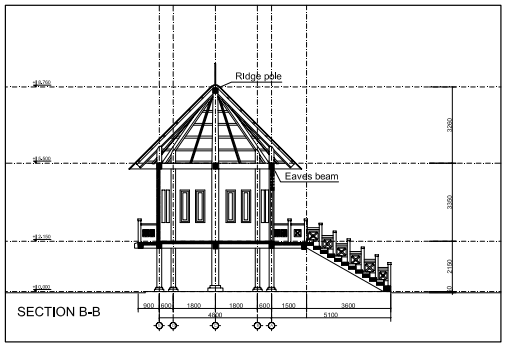
Features of current community house (Community house ID: TL8 - Type 4)

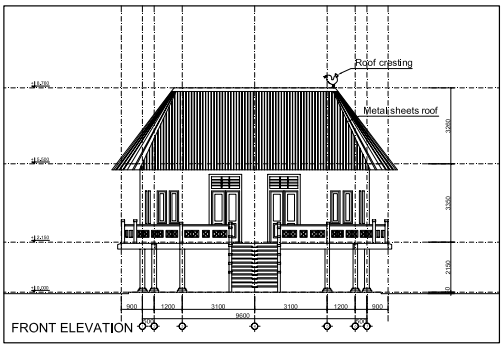
Construction year	Construction cost	Supporting organization	Construction method
2008	240,000,000 VND (~11,428 USD)	Central Livelihood Improvement Project (CLIP)	The outside builders almost undertook all construction steps. The hamlet residents only participated in transporting materials, leveling foundation and contributing formwork-propping pillars.
Building area		Capital from Asian development Bank (ADB) and United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID)	
75 m^2			
House aspect		Contribution of residents	
Southwest			

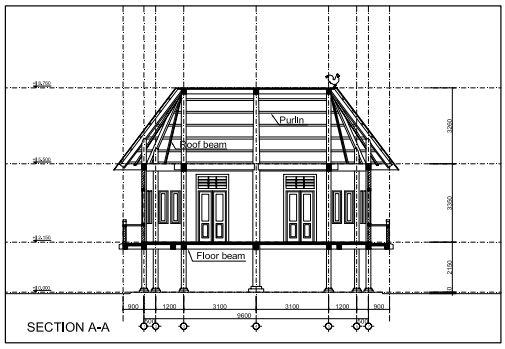
Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200, paved with cement mortar	Slight damaged
Central, main pillars	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Eaves, cross beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Floor beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Flooring	(1) Reinforced concrete (mark 200), (2) paved with ceramic tiles	(1) Good, (2) Slight damaged
Stairs	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Wall	Brick and cement mortar, painted layer	Fairly good
Window, door	White Meranti timber (frame), glass	Severely damaged
Roof beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Purlin	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Fairly good
Ridge pole	Reinforced concrete (mark 200) and White Meranti timber	Good
Roofing	Corrugated metal sheets	Fairly good
Roof cresting	Cock pattern (Metal)	Fairly good
Stove	No	No

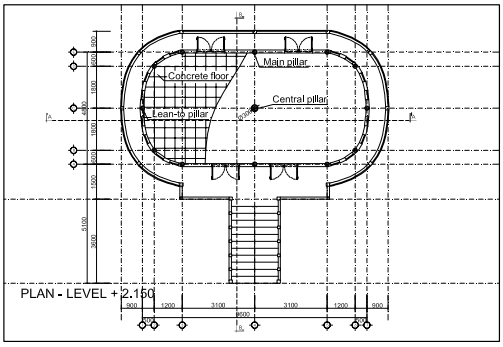
Maintenance activities
Not yet

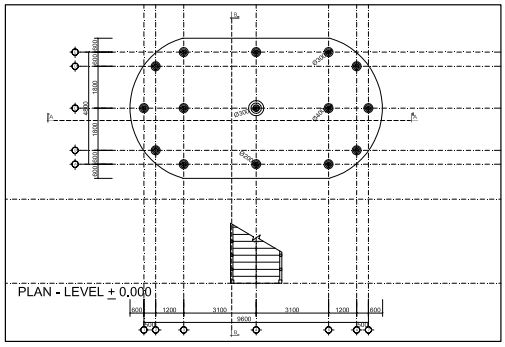













Front view perspective


Interior


Roof structure


Under floor space


Drums for traditional hamlet activates


Other traditional items put in the house

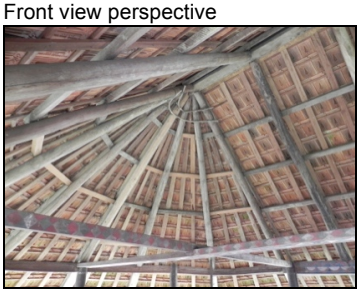

Perspective

Features of current community house (Community house ID: TLC – Type 2)			
Construction year	Construction cost	Supporting organization	Construction method
2000	Labor contribution of eight hamlet residents	Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation-Netherlands (ICCO) (ICCO paid 20,000 VND (~0.95 USD) per labor a day and 6,000,000 VND (~285 USD) for inauguration ceremony)	The hamlet residents undertook all construction steps. It took three months to collect enough materials in forest, one month to process the components and construct the house.
Building area			
59 m^2			
House aspect			

Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Land compacted and paved by cement mortar	Slight damaged
Central, main pillars	Ironwood	Slight damaged
Eaves, cross beams	Sapele and White Meranti timber	Slight damaged
Floor beams	Sapele and White Meranti timber	Slight damaged
Flooring	*Lo o* (a kind of bamboo)	Severely damaged
Stairs	Ironwood	Slight damaged
Wall	Sapele timber	Fairly damaged
Window, door	No	No
Roof beams	Sapele and White Meranti timber	Fairly good
Purlin	Sapele and White Meranti timber	Slight damaged
Ridge pole	White Meranti timber	Slight damaged
Roofing	Tiles	Severely damaged
Roof cresting	Cock pattern (White Meranti timber) damaged due to typhoon in 2009	No
Stove	Removed in 2009 because of their not further using	No
Maintenance activities		
Re-roofing Re-roofing	*Non* roof was renovated with tiles in 2009; Lo o mat was renovated with bamboo mat in 2005 and 2009. *Lo o* partition was replaced by Sapele timber in 2009 All renovation activities were conducted by the hamlet residents' labor (Department Culture of District funded 25.000.000 (~1,190 USD)).	



Front view perspective



Roof structure



Interior



Lo o mat



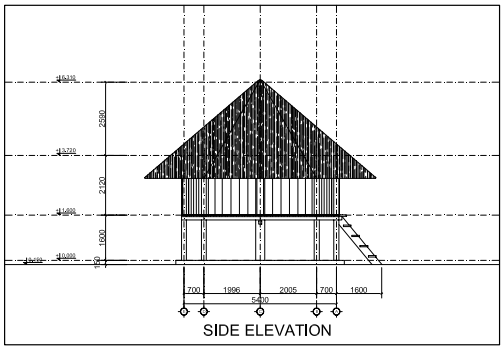
decorative patterns

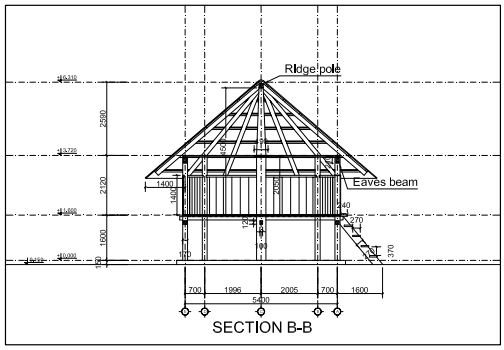


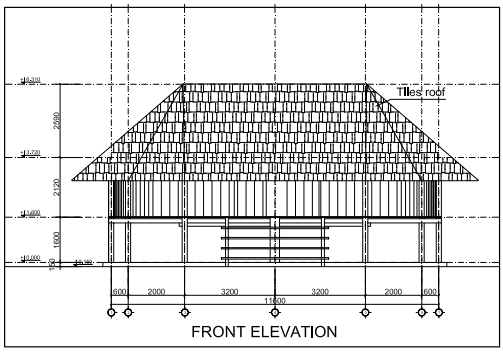
Roof - cross - eaves beam - pillar joint

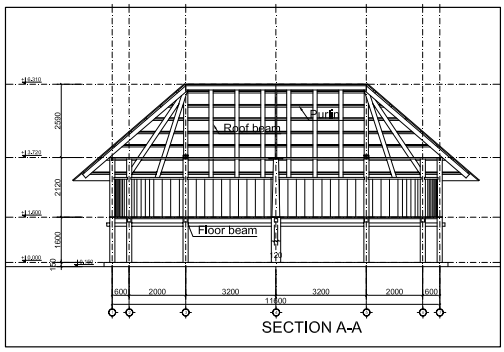


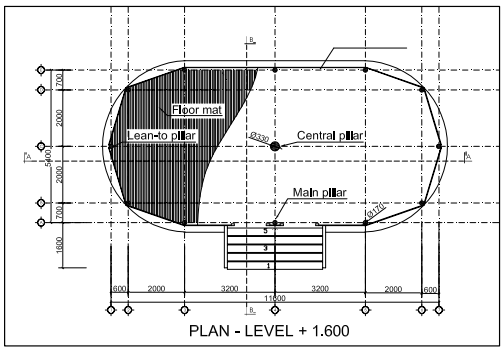
Floor beam structure

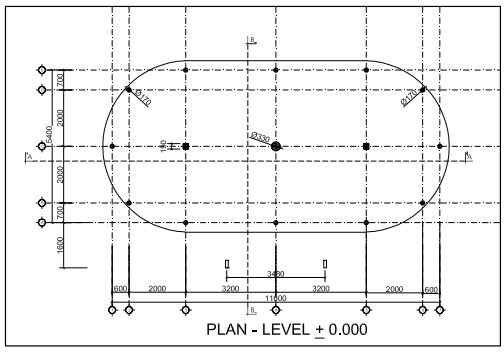








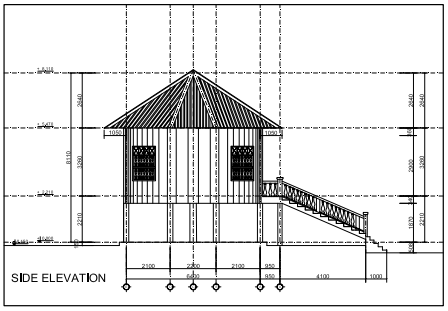


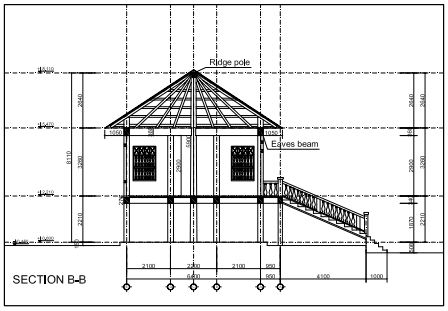


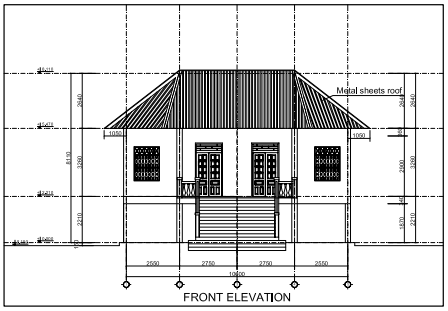
General information of hamlet						
Hamlet name: **Ta Rau**, Thuong Quang commune, Nam Dong district. Population: 349 people (78 households)						
History of hamlet						
Before 1960, the previous hamlet was located in location of current Khe Tre town, named also Cha vo, and belongs to Huong Son commune. There were three clans, 8 households with around 40 to 50 people living in 6 dwelling houses on stilts facing a Guol located in center. Between 1960 and 1973, the hamlet transferred to current Thuong Long to avoid the war. The hamlet consists of around 12 households with around 40 people, and Guol did not exist. Since 1973, because of mobilization of the Vietnam revolutionary government, the hamlet moved to current location for better living and cultivation condition. Presently, it is one of seven hamlets of Thuong Quang commune, Nam Dong district. In 1974, four hamlets (Cha Vo, Ta Rau, Ta Nuoi and Cha Vung) grouped into one hamlet named Ta Rau.						
History of community house of current hamlet						
No	Duration	Central pillar (CP), main pillar (MP), lean-to pillar (LP)	Materials	Stove	Size	Decoration
CH 1	1974 -1977	2 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP	Merawan Giaza timber, White Meranti timber, Rattan leaf, *Lo o*	1	Small	Yes
CH 1	1977 -1985	2 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP	Merawan Giaza timber, White Meranti timber, Rattan leaf, *Lo o*	1	Medium	Yes
CH 1	1985 -1995	2 CP, 8 MP, 6 LP	Merawan Giaza timber, White Meranti timber, Rattan leaf, *Lo o*	1	Medium	Yes

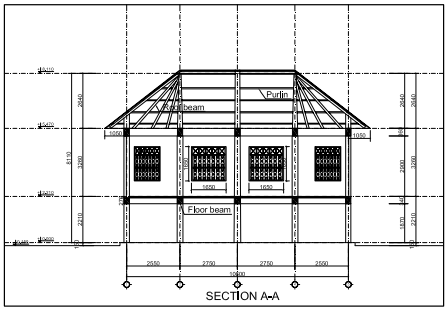
Features of current community house (Community house ID: TQ1 – Type 3)			
Construction year	Construction cost	Supporting organization	Construction method
2004	105,000,000 VND (~5,000 USD)	Community-based rural infrastructure Project (CBRIP)	Outside builder undertook the main frame of building (foundation, pillar and beam frame). Hamlet residents contributed traditional materials (timber, bamboo) and erecting the floor and roof.
Building area			
65.89 m^2	88,800,000 VND (A) (~4,228 USD)	(A) Major capital from World Bank (WB) (84.6%)	
House aspect	11,700,000 VND (B) (~557 USD)	(B) Reciprocal capital from government (11.1%)	
Southwest	4,500,000 VND (C) (~214 USD)	(C) Contributions of residents (4.1%)	

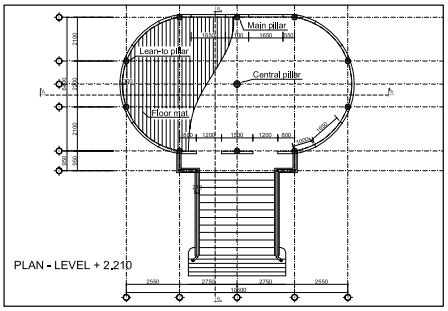
Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Central, main pillars	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Eaves, cross beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Floor beams	1. Reinforced concrete (mark 200) (main beams), 2. White Meranti timber (secondary beams)	1.Good, 2.Fairly good
Floor mat	Merawan Giaza timber	Fairly good
Stair	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Wall	Brick and cement mortar, painted layer	Fairly good
Window, door	White Meranti timber (frame), glass	Fairly damaged
Roof beams	White Meranti timber	Fairly good
Purlin	White Meranti timber	Fairly good
Ridge pole	White Meranti timber	Fairly good
Roofing	Corrugated metal sheets	Fairly good
Roof cresting	Cock pattern (White Meranti timber) damaged by typhoon in 2009	No
Stove	No	No
Maintenance activities		
Re-roofing Re-flooring	Damaged rattan leaves roof was replaced by corrugated metal sheets and Lo o mat replaced by wooden bar mat in 2009 with the financial support (65.000.000 VND (~3,095 USD) from local government, belonging to 135 project).	

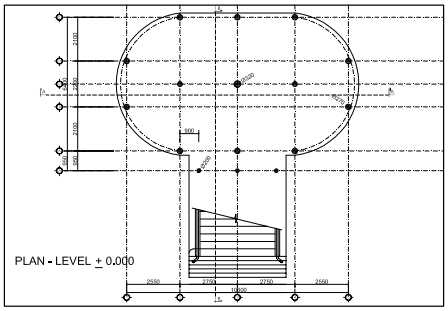













Front view perspective


Interior


Roof structure (lean-tos)


Roof structure


Under floor space


Floor structure


Perspective

General information of hamlet
Hamlet name: **A Rang**, Thuong Quang commune, Nam Dong district. Population: 217 people (51 households)
History of hamlet
Before 1960, the previous hamlet was located on high mountain around a one-hour walk from current location towards Southwest, named Ta Nuoi, and belongs to Thuong Quang commune. There were four clans (Tran, Nguyen, Ho, Hoang) with around 50 - 70 people living in four dwelling houses on stilts encircling a Guol located in center. Between 1960 and 1973 due to the war, the hamlet moved to deep forest and settled in cave and temporary dwelling houses. Since 1973, because of mobilization of the Vietnam revolutionary government, the hamlet moved to current location for better living and cultivation condition. Presently, It is one of seven hamlets of Thuong Quang commune, Nam Dong district.

History of community house of current hamlet

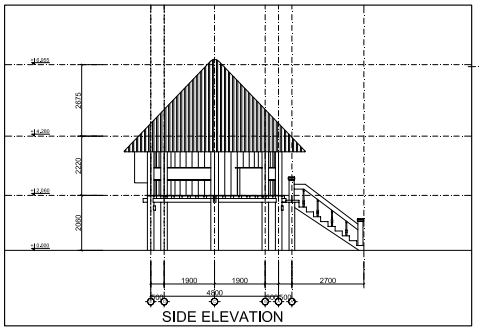
No	Duration	Central pillar (CP), main pillar (MP), lean-to pillar (LP)	Materials	Stove	Size	Decoration
CH 1	1973 -1979	No CP, 4 MP, 6 LP	Merawan Giaza, White Meranti timber, *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Medium	Yes
CH 2	1979 -1983	No CP, 4 MP, 6 LP	Merawan Giaza, White Meranti timber *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Medium	Yes
CH 3	1983 - 1989	1 CP, 4 MP, 6 LP	Merawan Giaza, White Meranti timber *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Medium	Yes

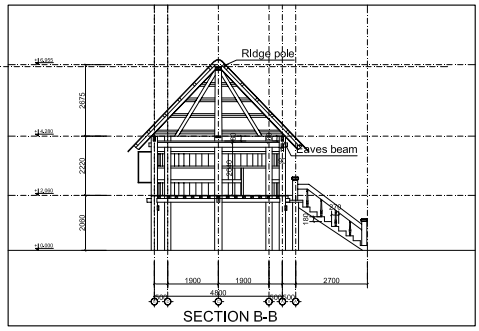
Features of current community house (Community house ID: TQ2 – Type 2)

Construction year	Construction cost	Donating organization	Construction method
2002	25,000,000 VND (~1,190 USD) and hamlet residents labor	Nordic Assistance to Vietnam (NAV)	Hamlet residents undertook all steps of construction process (design, collecting materials, processing and erecting the building)
Building area			
47.68 m^2			
House aspect			Outside organization supported the money for remuneration and inauguration ceremony.
Northwest		Hamlet residents labor	

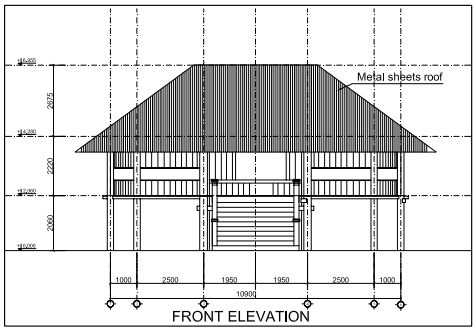
Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Natural land paved with cement mortar on surface	Good
Central, main pillars	Merawan Giaza, Ironwood, Jackfruit and *Te* timber	Good
Eaves, cross beams	White Meranti, Sapele timber	Good
Floor beams	White Meranti timber	1.Good, 2.Fairly good
Floor mat	Merawan Giaza timber	Fairly good
Stair	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Wall	Sapele timber	Fairly good
Window, door	Merawan Giaza (frame), glass	Fairly damaged
Roof beams	White Meranti timber	Fairly good
Purlin	White Meranti timber	Fairly good
Ridge pole	Merawan Giaza timber	Fairly good
Roofing	Corrugated metal sheets	Fairly good
Roof cresting	Wooden cock pattern damaged by typhoon in 2006	No
Stove	No	No

Maintenance activities	
Re-roofing Stars and foundation renewal	In 2010, with the financial support of with the financial support of 50.000.000 VND (~2380 USD) from two-children policy of local government, damaged rattan leaves roof was replaced by corrugated metal sheets and broken wooden stairs was replaced by reinforced concrete, foundation was paved cement mortar.

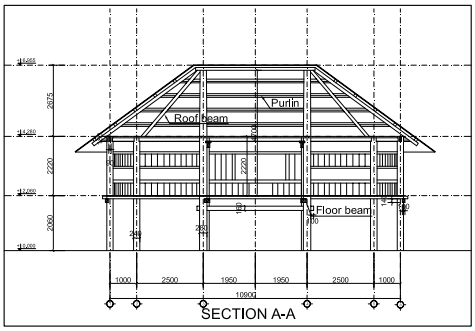

SIDE ELEVATION



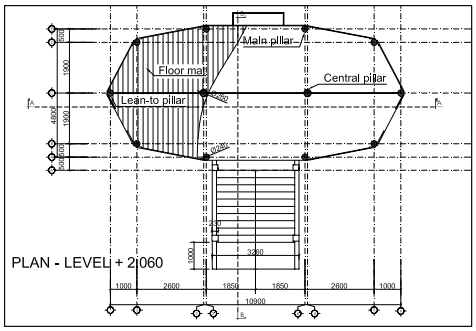
SECTION B-B



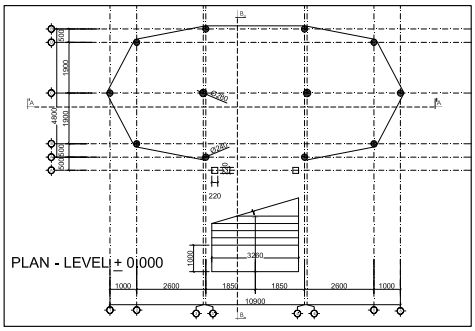
FRONT ELEVATION



SECTION A-A



PLAN - LEVEL + 2.060


PLAN - LEVEL ± 0.000


Perspective


Interior


Skull of buffalo


A Joint detail of eaves, cross and roof beams and pillar


A Joint detail of floor beams and pillar


Pillar decayed by ants


Back view perspective

Features of current community house (Comunity house ID: TQ2B – Type 5)			
Construction year	Construction cost	Supporting organization	Construction method
2008	234,000,000 VND (~11,142 USD)	Central Livelihood Improvement Project (CLIP)	Outside workers undertook entirely in construction process; hamlet residents did not participate in any step.
Building area			
84 m^2		Capital from Asian development Bank (ADB) and United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID)	
House aspect			
Northeast			

Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Main pillars, no central pillar	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Eaves beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Floor beams	No	No
Floor mat	Ceramic tiles	Slightly damaged
Stair	No	No
Wall	Brick and cement mortar, painted layer	Fairly good
Window, door	White Meranti timber (frame), glass	Severely damaged
Roof beams	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Slightly damaged
Purlin	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Slightly damaged
Ridge pole	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Fairly good
Roofing	Corrugated metal sheets	Slightly damaged
Roof cresting	No	No
Stove	No	No
Maintenance activities		
Not yet		



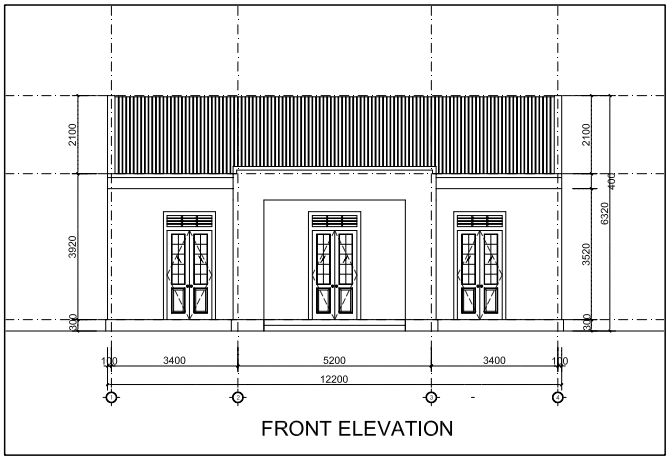
Perspective

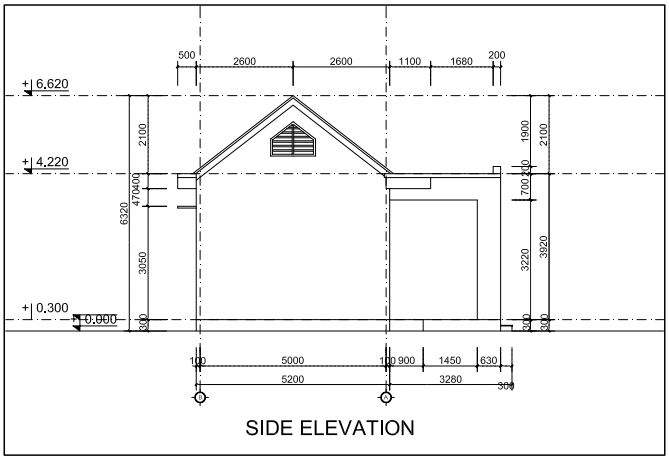


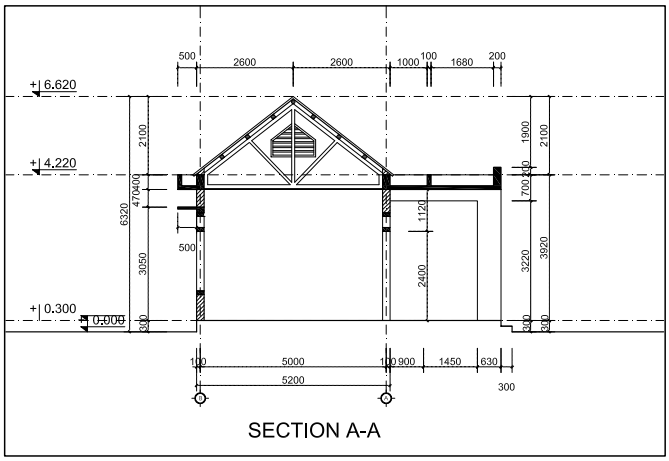
Interior

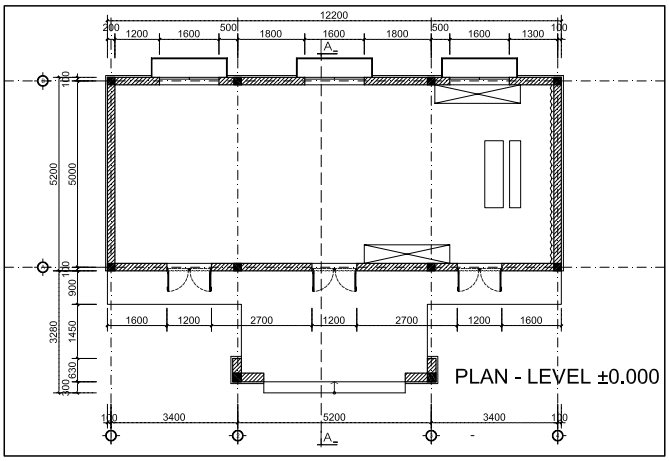


Hanging certificates of merits









General information of hamlet
Hamlet name: **A Ka**, Thuong Quang commune, Nam Dong district. Population: 396 people (81 households)
History of hamlet
Before 1960, the previous hamlet named Troi, was located at Suoi An, next to Mac Long river, a two-hour walk from current position, and belongs to Thuong Quang commune. Previous hamlet had around 20 households with around 100 people living in four long dwelling houses on stilts encircling a Guol located in center. Location of hamlet was frequently changed by epidemics. Between 1960 and 1973, hamlet moved to deep forest due to the war and was divided into small groups; Guol still existed in this period, yet they were temporary and small. Since 1973, because of mobilization of the Vietnam revolutionary government, the hamlet moved to current location and merged with A Ka living there, and named A Ka till now. Presently, it is one of seven hamlets of Thuong Quang commune, Nam Dong district.

History of community house of current hamlet

No	Duration	Central pillar (CP), main pillar (MP), lean-to pillar (LP)	Materials	Stove	Size	Decoration
CH 1	1973-1975	No CP, 6 MP, 6 LP	Ba tur (MP, LP), White Meranti, Lo o, Rattan leaf	2	Medium	Yes
CH 2	1975-1978	No CP, 6 MP, 6 LP	Ba tur (MP, LP), White Meranti, Lo o, Rattan leaf	2	Medium	Yes
CH 3	1978-1983	No CP, 6 MP, 6 LP	Ba tur (MP, LP), White Meranti, Lo o, Rattan leaf	2	Medium	Yes
CH 4	2000-2013	1 CP, 6 MP, 6 LP	Sindoer (CP), Merawan Giaza (MP, LP), H'ranh, White Meranti, Sapele, Lo o, Rattan and thatch leaf	0	Large	Yes

Features of current community house (Community house ID: TQ3 – Type 5)

Construction year	Construction cost	Supporting organization	Construction method
2008	234,000,000 VND (~11,142 USD)	Central Livelihood Improvement Project (CLIP)	Outside workers undertook entirely in construction process; hamlet residents did not participate in any step.
Building area		Capital from Asian development Bank (ADB) and United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID)	
84 m^2			
House aspect			
Southeast			

Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Main pillars, no central pillar	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Eaves beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Floor beams	No	No
Flooring	Ceramic tiles	Fairly damaged
Stair	No	No
Wall	Brick and cement mortar, painted layer	Slightly damaged
Window, door	White Meranti timber (frame), glass	Severely damaged
Roof beams	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Slightly damaged
Purlin	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Slightly damaged
Ridge pole	Rectangle hollow section steel bar	Slightly damaged
Roofing	Corrugated metal sheets	Slightly damaged
Roof cresting	No	No
Stove	No	No

Maintenance activities
Not yet



Front view perspective

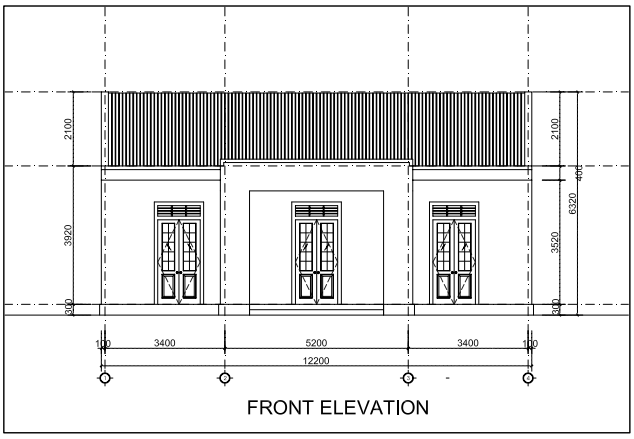


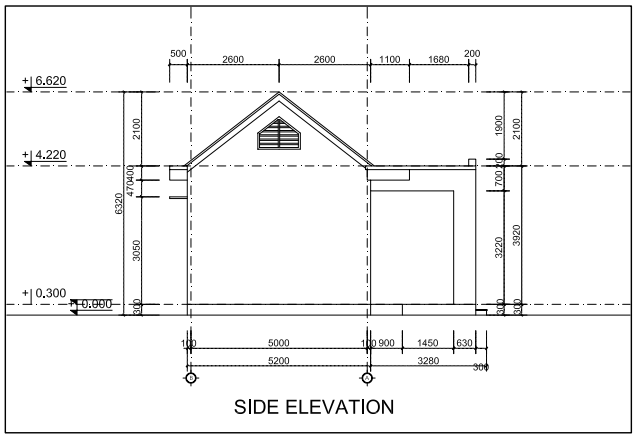
A meeting of hamlet

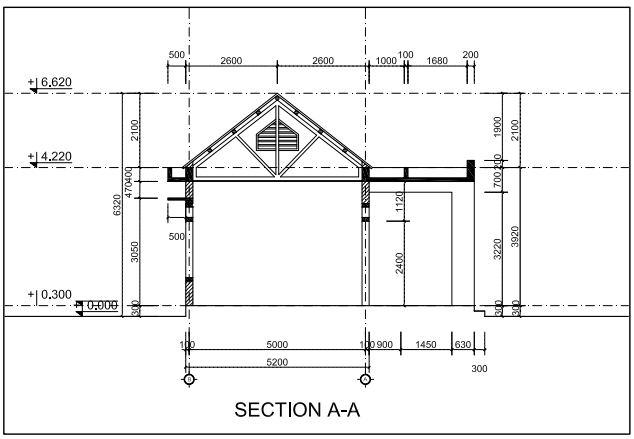


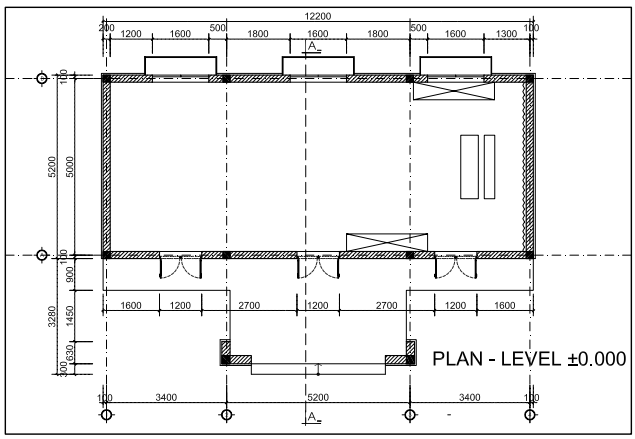


Remaining components of previous Guol









General information of hamlet
Hamlet name: **A Ro**, Thuong Quang commune, Nam Dong district. Population: 264 people (63 households)
History of hamlet
Before 1960, the previous hamlet also named A Ro, was located in mountain area, a two-hour walk from current position, and belongs to Thuong Quang commune. Previous hamlet had around 17 households with around 60 - 70 people living in long dwelling houses on stilts encircling a Guol located in center. Between 1968 and 1973, the hamlet transferred to current Thuong Long to avoid the war; Guol did not existed in this period. Since 1973, because of mobilization of the Vietnam revolutionary government, the hamlet moved to current location, and has lived until now.

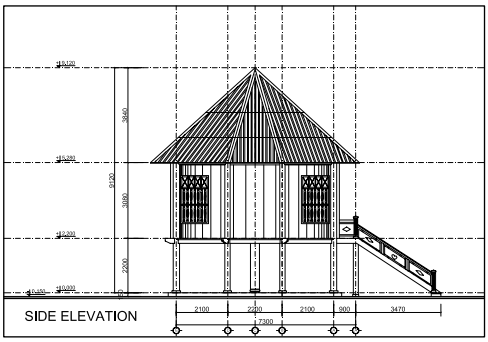
History of community house of current hamlet

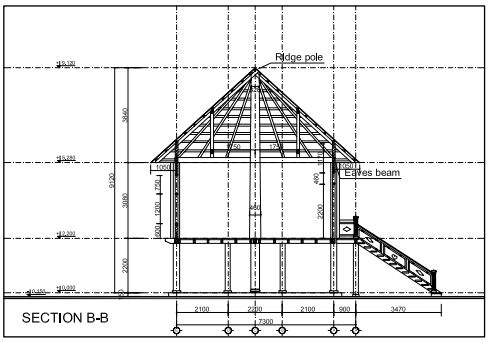
No.	Duration	Central pillar (CP), main pillar (MP), lean-to pillar (LP)	Materials	Stove	Size	Decoration
CH 1	1973-1979	No CP, 4 MP, 6 LP	Merawan Giaza, White Meranti timber, *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Medium	Yes
CH 2	1979-1983	No CP, 4 MP, 6 LP	Merawan Giaza, White Meranti timber *Lo o*, *Non* leaf	2	Medium	Yes

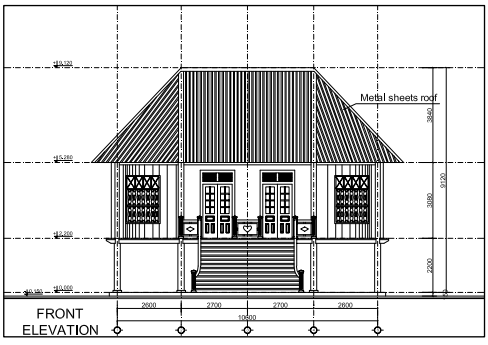
Features of current community house (Community house ID: TQ4 - Type 3)

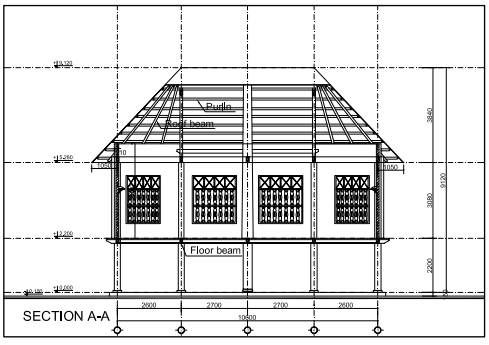
Construction year	Construction cost	Supporting organization	Construction method
2005	145,000,000 VND (~6,904 USD)	Community-based rural infrastructure Project (CBRIP)	Outside builder undertook the main frame of building (foundation, pillar and beam frame) Hamlet residents contributed traditional materials (timber, bamboo) and erecting the floor and roof.
Building area			
66.57 m^2	124,362,000 VND (A) (~5,922 USD)	(A) Major capital from World Bank (WB) (86%)	
House aspect	14,338,000 VND (B) (~682 USD)	(B) Reciprocal capital from government (9.8%)	
Southwest	6,300,000 VND (C) (~300 USD)	(C) Contributions of residents (4.2%)	

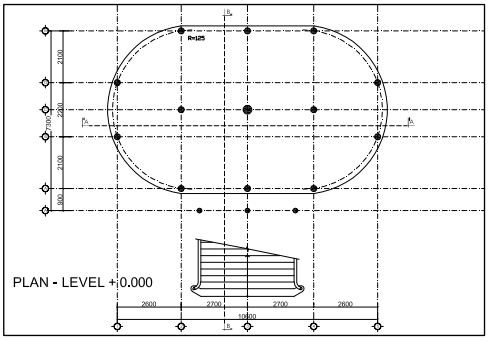
Components	Materials	Current condition
Foundation	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Central, main pillars	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Eaves, cross beams	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Good
Floor beams	1. Reinforced concrete (mark 200) (main beams), 2. White Meranti timber (secondary beams)	1.Good, 2.Fairly good
Floor mat	*Lo o* (A kind of bamboo)	Fairly good
Stair	Reinforced concrete (mark 200)	Fairly good
Wall	Brick and cement mortar, painted layer	Fairly good
Window, door	Merawan Giaza (frame), glass	Fairly damaged
Roof beams	White Meranti timber	Fairly good
Purlin	White Meranti timber	Fairly good
Ridge pole	White Meranti timber	Fairly good
Roofing	Corrugated metal sheets	Fairly good
Roof cresting	Wooden cock pattern damaged by typhoon in 2009	No
Stove		No
Maintenance activities		
Re-roofing Re-flooring	Damaged rattan leaves roof was replaced by corrugated metal sheets and Lo o mat replaced by wooden bar mat in 2009 with the financial support of 30,000,000 VND (~1,428 USD) (awarded by local government for keeping the two-children in any households last five consecutive years)	

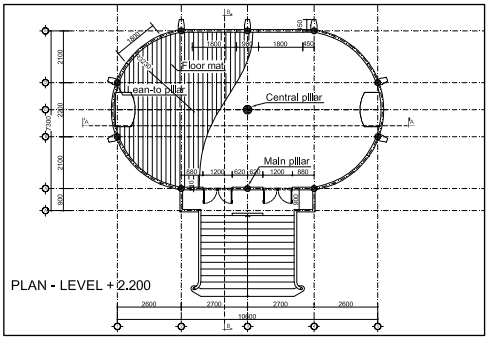













Front view perspective


Interior


Roof structure (lean-tos)


Roof structure


Floor structure


Cement foundation


Side view Perspective