

## Updated Site Visit

Project: "Clean Water for People in Long An"

On the morning of 18.02.2017, the LIN Center for Community Development organized a trip to visit the project "clean water for communities in Hamlet 1, Long Thanh district, Thu Thua district, and Long An" operated by CEPORER Hoc Mon and the locals. In 2016, the project received 150 million VND from the Narrow the Gap Fund. The objective of the project is to use donations of land and manpower from the locals to build clean water wells abiding by national technical regulations. The project aims to guarantee that 48 households in the area will have a source of clean water for use in daily activities.

Departing at 6.30 in the morning the committee, including staff and volunteers from LIN and CEPORER Hoc Mon, as well as members of the community concerned about the clean water issues, arrived two hours later at the Long An Provincial Party Committee. From there, we met with a local who would take us to Mr. Tam Diem's house – the man who donated the land for the construction of the collector well.



*Long An Provincial Party Committee, Thu Thua District*

After arriving, a collector well located beside a red brick house attracted the attention of many.



*Collector well with the sign saying "LIN, CEPORER Hoc Mon, and CPC Long Thanh contribution - 2016"*

Here, we listened to Mr. Nam Nho, a member of the board of management for the local collector well, update us on the situation from the start of construction until present day. He emphasized the cooperation of the local people, the government, and CEPORER Hoc Mon in this project. In particular, the local people worked hard to establish a management team to coordinate a monthly electricity fee to cover the water system operation and maintenance costs of the well along with future water well maintenance work. Ms. Lan, director of Hoc Mon CEPORER added: "[CEPORER Hoc Mon] is not a charity, and LIN is not a philanthropist.

All of the people here are the owners of this collector well, we should join hands to preserve it. Local support in the establishment of this water management system will help to ensure the maintenance and preservation of the plant, demonstrating the sustainability of this project, and increasing the security of water usage for locals."

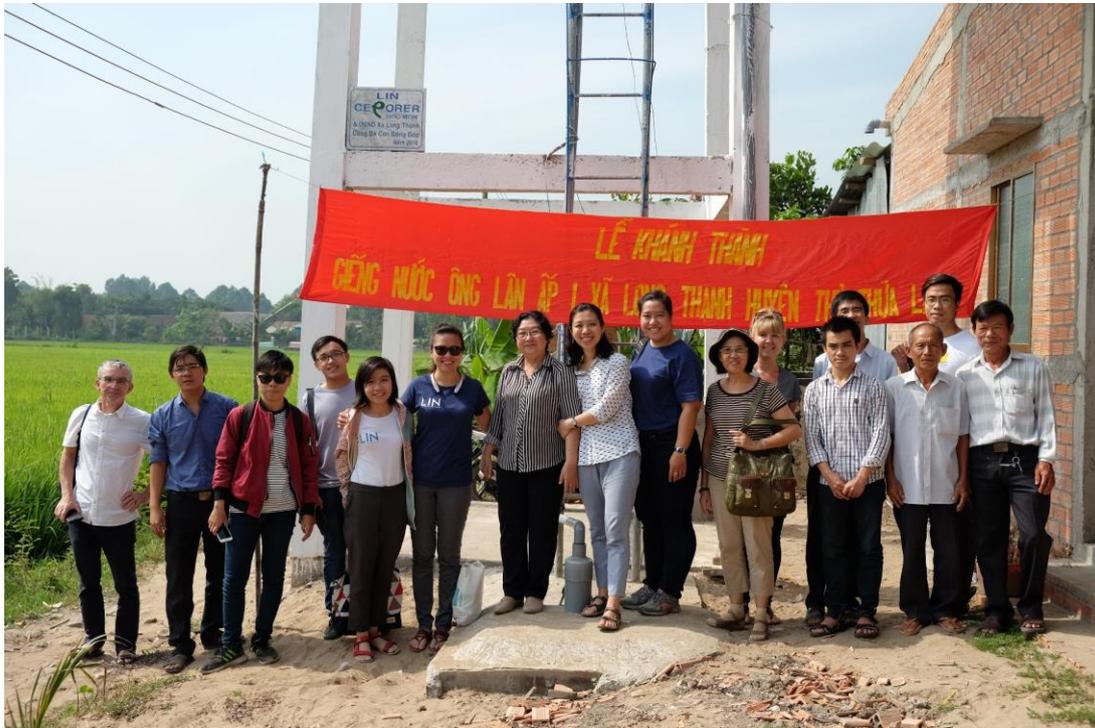


*Ms. Lan emphasized the importance of protecting and preserving water.*



*People on the water management board; it is their responsibility to promptly report on the collector matters*

After handing over the collector well to the people, our committee followed Mr. Nam Nho to two separate families, one living close to the collector and the other living in the farthest house from the collector. We visited these families to ensure that the water flow would remain strong and fully function for all of the people.



*Guests taking pictures at the collector well along with the people's committees and the locals*



*The group walking on the road between the fields to reach to the first house receiving water*



*LIN staff testing out the water*

Reportedly, since the collector well began its operation, the people here finally feel confident in their ability to use water; they no longer worry like they had to before. Mr. Nam Nho said: "At home I used to only use a water filter to reduce the dirt, but not anymore. Now I do not even use the water bottles sold in the market. Rain water or river water, I do not dare to use anymore!" A guest in the delegation of CEPORER Hoc mon commented that they should focus on strengthening communication activities for the people on the utilization and protection of water resources.



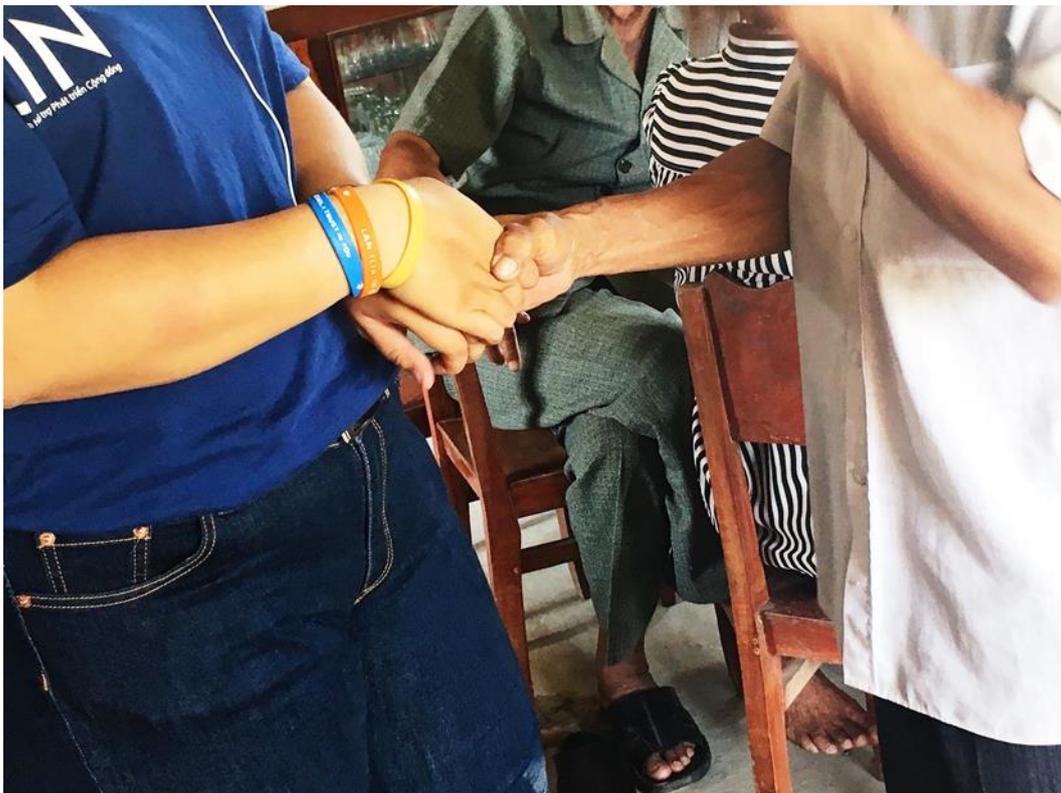
*Mr. Nam Nho speaks of the use of water in the home*



*Water supplies at the end of the source is still flowing strong*

One of the things that impressed us most on this trip was the hospitality of the locals. An employee of CEPORER Mon commented: "People here are very enthusiastic, every time we go to Long An, they all cook food for us and we do not know how to refuse. Eventually, I could not talk to them on our visits anymore. Yet, they just saw us from a distance, and they suddenly started to cook and prepare everything for us. "

There were many hugs, and a warm handshake between the landlord and our crew members, along with a request: "when you have time, please come down here".



"Funds to support this project are not from LIN, but from many individuals, companies, and organizations in the community. LIN, through the Narrow the Gap Fund, mobilizes resources from these parties and reallocates them for community projects. Hopefully, we will be able to join hands to narrow the gap in access to opportunities and to improve the quality of life,



not only in Long An, but also in the local communities. " - Ms. Giang, Director of LIN Center for Community Development.