In Quy Nhon, a co-operative of poor farmers operates the Integrated Resource Recovery Centre (IRRC). Mrs. Thúy is married with three children and helps support her family through housework and farming. Initially, with her additional employment at the IRRC as a waste collector, she was apprehensive about working with waste for reasons of cleanliness and feelings of inferiority brought about by the job. However, her concerns about hygiene were overcome after seeing the transformation of waste into compost. When she began, Mrs. Thúy did not believe she would remain at the IRRC for long. Three years later, she continues to work there and receives a secure income.

“I never thought we could self-finance when the project finished. I cannot believe that we can survive until now without any support from the project.” Her husband also works at the IRRC as a waste collector.

Mrs. Thúy is now proud of the work with the IRRC. She is gaining appreciation for her work from local farmers and seeing the improved sanitation of the neighbourhood as a result of the waste collection. She says that there is always something valuable to gain from waste and that “we teach our children to put away their waste properly because their parents are the one who collect it.”