Thủ Thiêm Interview Excerpt 9	Interview Date: April 14, 2011
Relocated Resident	Code: 20110414_TT_ALD_19
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This research sponsored by National Science Foundation Cultural Anthropology Program Award No. BCS-1026754.	

The interviewee lives in Phường An Lợi Đông in District 2, 10 minutes away from her old house. Her new and bigger house faces the street which helps her tailoring business. However, moving away has hurt the business since she has to find new customers. She is waiting to receive her new apartment furnished by the Thủ Thiêm project. Since she chose to receive housing instead of money, she was paid 2 million/sq meters instead of the usual 17+ million VND for those who choose to receive monetary compensation.

Interviewer: Vậy em hỏi thiệt nha, có khi nào chị thấy không hài lòng về mức bồi thường giữa mình mà hàng xóm cũ không? Ý em là có chút xíu ganh tị đó (cười)

Interviewee: À, cái đó thì không em, tai mỗi nhà mỗi cảnh mà sao mình ganh ti được. Chỉ mong sao làm giấy tờ cho nó suôn sẻ thôi. Người ta phước phần thì người ta hưởng, mình biết sao được. Có phước thì được đền bù đúng với diện tích cái nhà, còn không thì bi cắt bớt, cắt đầu cắt đuôi, nhà chi bi cắt 2 mét vuông là hên rồi, có mấy cái nhà kề bờ sông là bi cắt thấy thương luôn, tai xưa giờ họ cũng kê thêm rồi ở lấn ra mé sông. Cũng tội nghiệp, lúc trước thì xài nước sông này no, đỡ tốn nhiêu, giờ phải xài nước máy là chính thì cũng hơi khó khăn cho người ta, mà như vậy cũng tốt, cái nước sông nước suối đó thấy mà ghê, xài hoài không bênh cũng lạ, chịu khó tốn tiền chút mà đảm bảo sức khỏe của mình. Tình làng nghĩa xóm mà, không có ganh tị gì đâu.

Interviewer: If I may honestly ask, are you dissatisfied with the amount of compensation you received and that received by your neighbors? Are you a little jealous (laughs).

Interviewee: Oh, no, because every family has its own story, so how can I be jealous? I just hope that all the papers get processed smoothly. Those with fortune get to enjoy it. If one is fortunate, then one's compensation corresponds to the total area of one's house. If not, then the area is reduced, cut off here and there. I'm lucky that only two squared meters were cut off mine. The [areas of] other houses near the river were pitifully reduced because these families have been appropriating the space stretching out to the riverside. They're quite pitiful. Before, they used water from the river, which saved them money. Now, they have to primarily use public water, which makes it a little difficult for them. But this is good, too. The river is digusting; it would be strange if they didn't fall ill using the river all the time like that. Endure the cost a bit in exchange for guaranteed good health. "Village affection, neighbor bonds." I'm really not jealous.