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Asia Pacific Natural Agriculture Network

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Mono wo shiru – meaning “to be deeply and widely aware of things” is a virtue that has to be developed by humankind. Thus education and training that builds awareness is an attribute that should be acquired by all humans

*(Mokichi Okada 1882 – 1955)
(Adapted from Foundation of Paradise)*

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THE EDITOR PENS.....

THE 17TH YEAR BEGINS

A NEW YEAR – A YEAR OF HOPE AND EXPECTATIONS, OF CHANGES AND DEVELOPMENTS IN NATURE FARMING AND EM TECHNOLOGY!!

This is what little network hopes as it steps to its 17th year of existence – there are fears of changes or even closures, but this is not true.. We do our work amidst all trials and difficulties. What can an editor say – who has been penning these editorials for all of its newsletters for the last 15 years when the newsletter was printed? Would this human repeat what was said? Is this worthwhile? However – dear readers, please do not stop.. read on.. there is a message for all of us.. our sponsors, us, EM users and all those who receive this newsletter.

Flying back from a distant country last evening, the person who collates this newsletter was thinking.. of the past – the progress made with minimal cost. The thoughts that passed the mind were along a paved path, that took into consideration the developments that have taken in two nations that entered the network after its inception – that of New Zealand and Australia – who leading nations of the Asia Pacific region. The introduction of EM into New Zealand and Australia by this network, with the help of INFRC and EMRO was in the early to mid 1990s. The work of New Zealand was supported primarily by INFRC in the early stages, while that of Australia was by EMRO, both our sponsors. However, the developments were significantly different – where New Zealand in its own quiet way progressed slowly without much fan fare but diligently to develop into a success story over time. Australia on the other had gone through difficult times, again primarily due to the lack of good counterparts, until the present contacts were established two or three years. Today, both nations have sound programs.

This tell us a story – of human behavior and actions – that we must be aware of – The concept of Kyusei Nature Farming was developed by Mokichi Okada, whose fundamental goal was to develop a paradise on earth. The technology of EM was developed by Professor Dr Higa to activate this process and in later years to develop a holistic way of life that would enrich human existence. However, the progress made in moving these concepts across the nations all over the world rested on three organizations – INFRC, EMRO and us – the last being and is supported by the two organizations in Japan. However, the progress made, in the respective countries were different – not because of the changes and differences in the environments but due to humans. Some nations accepted the programs and did their work well without many calls for support.. while other were bottomless pits!!! The editor could write books on this subject, where unscrupulous people tried to fleece the funds available. Can we blame them? To some extent yes.. however, to another no.. why did the sponsors accept such situations? However, knowing the gentle the mentality of the sponsors, one tends to put the blame on the users who we are sure will one day pay for these misdeeds. The technologies of Nature Farming and EM were gifts touses who we are sure will one day pay for these misdeeds. humankind.. thus, they should be held in reverence .. and not fleeced and robbed by unscrupulous humans. This is what the cases of Australia and New Zealand pointed out.. the differences in attitudes of humans.

Today, we at the network are a happy lot – most of these people, who in the name of development have faded away

from the real EM Scene – not that they are gone - they sell imitation EM and products, vilify the technology they once broadcasted from rooftops...! Educated people will soon ask.. did you not promote the techniques of INFRC and Higa a few years back?? The reply we learn is that .. Oh, ours is much better!!! However, we fast learn of their drop in demand.. and we smile .. gently and think.. why did they not work with us.. they would have been helpers of humanity.

This is a lesson and EM and Nature Farming shows us that lesson clearly. These technologies are gentle, non-abrasive and soft.. and such systems work – and gets rid of unwanted organisms. Hence, it is our duty to promote such technologies to human kind. We at APNAN do it well with the limited resources.... but can we say the same of our colleagues and even at times some of our sponsors? We humble people at APNAN thus request all our readers and users of EM, along with our readers and contacts – Try to do your best in whatever you do.. especially when related to EM and Nature Farming – Put the work before self and the rewards surely will come to you.. like EM changing the ecosystems to a better and more conducive environment. Do not think of disappointments – do not use the imitation products sold to blatantly by our competitors – stick to the real technology – and you will surely be a happy person, helping your fellow humans to better themselves through these low cost but efficient versatile technologies of Nature Farming and Effective Microorganisms. As usual.. at the onset of another year, it is our bounden duty to appreciate the support provided by those who help and sponsor us...and have pity on the misled – we say Thank You to our sponsors and offer our services for them.. as we have done over the years, .. so that they could also continue to support us. We thank INFRC and EMRO – and especially the Sekai Kyusei Kyo of Thailand, and its President, Revd Daiho Kasahara for the use of that Paradise on Earth – Sara Buri. The staff at Sara Buri – especially Mr. Kanit Muangnil and our dear Sakurai – thanks you.. and no editorial is complete without the mention of Rev. K. Amano, Chairman, Board of Directors of INFRC, Mr. T Harakawa, Senior Managing Director of INFRC, Mr. A. Ito, Department Manager of INFRC, Mr. H Okubo, Head of the International Section of INFRC and of course our dear President and Mrs. Higa and our ex senior technical officers – who are always with us and have our welfare at heart.. as they do know what we do..! The world is a funny place, it changes and we are also and goes on...As stated in the last editorial..... there are many questions still not answered – as the technology is becoming more global, the workload also increases.. but we do our best... and move ahead.. We request all our readers and friends who are active in Nature Farming and EM to contact us – Network .. so that we can disseminate the information, news, and most importantly Use EM, try Nature Farming and try our style of Effective Management! APNAN and its staff hope for a happy and productive year to all our readers and friends.

The Editor
APNAN, Bangkok, Thailand
May, 2006
The Cover page

The recent programs in Malaysia are presented in the cover page – From Top left clockwise depict the following: His Majesty King and Queen of Penang observes EM exhibits with Mr. Sawada, EM crops being sold in shops, EM Dango being added to a polluted waterway, Training of people on EM technology

THE KEY EVENTS.....

THE END OF AN ERA.....

APNAN, the little network lost its mentor and a guardian in December. The passing away of Revd Kazuo Wakugami, the Ex President of Sekai Kyusei Kyo of Thailand was an irreplaceable loss to the network. His demise on 14th December 2005, as reported in our last issue, was indeed mourned by all who knew him – either as the spiritual leader, advisor, mentor or friend. The funeral rites, held as per custom of the Kingdom of Thailand, were at Sara Buri for the first 7 days. However, the final cremation was held on 26th March, in Bangkok, at one of the most prominent temples.

The ceremonies began with the last rites on the 25th at a family ceremony in Sara Buri, where he lay in state at the temple. The occasion was graced by our dear President and fellow Okinawan, Professor Teruo Higa, who flew in on the 24th midnight to attend the ceremonies. Thereafter, the remains were moved to Bangkok, where the cremation was held – in one of the most prestigious temples in Capital. There was an estimated crowd of 4000 people for this occasion, all gathered to pay their last respects to a dear leader and friend. The fire for the cremation was brought from the Royal Palace, an honor bestowed upon a selected few in the Kingdom. Again, APNAN was represented by our President and its entire Japanese staff – stationed in Thailand. The next day saw the removal of the ashes back to Sara Buri for interment – beside the ashes of his beloved wife, Tsuru sensei, who preceded Revd Wakugami a few years earlier. This again was attended by Professor Dr Higa and staff – it was a family affair, held solemnly to honor this distinguished person, who selflessly dedicated his life to uplift the welfare of the people of Thailand.

Revd Wakugami is no more – His mortal remains were assigned to fire and the ashes buried at a place that he held in the highest esteem.. where he labored to develop a barren land in 1988 to establish a nature farm, a training center, a school and finally his Dream of a Sacred ground, with a botanical garden, set aesthetically as advocated by Mokichi Okada, the founder of Sekai Kyusei Kyo, the faith that was spread within the Kingdom by Rev. Wakugami. This is life – we are born alone.. As we pass through the journey of life – we gather things.. Both living and non-living – worldly wealth, friends and foes, we try to lead the best life we can and finally leave this life alone. However, after one is no more – they are forgotten by many. This is natural and humans have daily lives to live – However, when someone makes an impression on the activities of humankind, such a person is remembered forever – although that person is gone.

Such was the character of Rev Wakugami – he made a remarkable impression on everyone whom he met – even for a short time. His genial smile, soft voice, the care and concern and the words spoken – were all an education. He never spoke ill of anyone – nor did he say words without meaning. The writer remembers a sermon delivered by Rev. Wakugami at the Seki Kyusei Kyo Headquarters in Bangkok – in 1991 – he spoke of a vision – guided by Mokichi Okada's principles to build a sacred ground at Sara Buri – The words delivered for 30 minutes were all full of meaning – and statements were based on facts and not imagination. Most people were moved to tears because of the passion



The late Rev. Kazuo Wakugami

in his voice. This was Rev. Wakugami, the founding spiritual leader of the members of Sekai Kyusei Kyo of Thailand, who worked to pave the way for a better life for them.

The impact that Rev. Wakugami had on the activities of this network was invaluable. He was a tower of strength at times of crisis – he advised us all and

guided us. His support both in terms of facilities and advice was invaluable – especially in terms of the facilities at the training center at Sara Buri – which we use for our activities to promote Nature Farming and EM Technology. We also remember that in the good old days of the early 1990s, when the network shifted to our present home in Kularb Apartments, without a computer or a copier – all the work was done at the Sekai Kyusei Kyo headquarters – the writer remembers that the facilities were left open with staff and even coffee and cakes into the wee hours of the night so that the documentation and correspondence of the network could be done. One could also ask the early bosses of APNAN – Masaki Shintani and Takashi Kyan, the support that was given to this network by Sekai Kyusei Kyo and especially Revd. Wakugami.

Revd. Wakugami is no more – but his work goes on – led by Revd Daiho Kasahara, the successor as President of the Thai Sekai Kyusei Kyo. Revd Kasahara was trained and groomed by Revd Wakugami and hence we are indeed lucky to have the same degree of support and even more to conduct our work in disseminating the concepts of Nature Farming and EM Technology. Hence, even after death, we are ever grateful to Revd Wakugami – for the foundation laid to enable us do our work diligently.

Revd Wakugami – (Wakugami sensei – as we called you with respect and honor) – you have left us – this is nature – Your words and advice rings still in our ears – you will not be forgotten – we are ever grateful and will always hold your memory in the highest esteem. We do pray that you be granted eternal peace - which we all crave for.

NEARY KHEMER ASSOCIATION ACCEPTED BY CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT

The Neary Khmer Association (NKA), which is actively promoting EM and Nature Farming in the Royal Kingdom of Cambodia is always keen to expand its operations. Thus, the Head of NKA Ms. Sovonly holds many workshops and training programs and meets often with State officials to get official recognition for EM. The success came at last in March and the Ministry of Environment in Cambodia accepted the NKA as the organization promoting EM. More importantly, they also accepted EM as a technology for environmental sanitation. We are told that in the absence of any problems, the Ministry of Environment of Cambodia would like to accept EM as a national policy for

environmental management in Cambodia. This is significant success and we say thank you to the NKA for their diligent activity.

The highlight of all this was that Ms. Sovonly, the head of NKA traveled to Thailand in March to meet our President Professor Teruo Higa. They discussed the activities of the NKA and Professor Higa was apprised of the activities. Ms Sovonly also requested official documentation on EM that was required by the Ministry of Environment for final acceptance. This was also provided by APNAN – via EMRO Japan.

We at APNAN are very pleased at the developments – Cambodia, our neighbor was one of the last nations of Asia to adopt EM and today it is on its way to become national policy. This is due to the diligent work of the NKA, which of course was supported by the dynamic team at APNAN. The questions were many – the queries coming in by the dozen – but the NKA and us – we persevered to obtain this development. We look forward to greater developments in using EM in the Royal Kingdom of Cambodia, so that its neighbors including Thailand will see what this simple low cost technology could do to develop the environment and the lives of its populations. We urge the NKA to work harder and more diligently – we will support you always.



Ms Sovonly receives EM Certificate from the Hun Sen. PM

JOHOR HOLDS A TECHNICAL CONFERENCE ON EM TECHNOLOGY

The Malaysian state of Johor is very keen to pursue and promote EM Technology due to the proven results in many areas of agriculture and livestock. Many farmers have been trained by us at Sara Buri and Mr. Sawada of Japan and Malaysia Organic Farming (JAMOF) is promoting the technology widely in the state. Thus, they organized a conference in April, and APNAN was represented by Mr. Jun Matsumoto, who delivered the message by our President, Professor Dr Teruo Higa. The conference held on the 17th and 18th April attracted over 150 selected government officials included the Honorable Governor of the state. The discussions were centered around the use of EM and they declared that EM will be used to clean the environment, especially water in Johor, due to the current excessive pollution. For example, it was stated that the use of EM reduced the BOD of wastewater from oil palm factories, which is generally black in color to levels below 20 ppm, which is accepted by the Malaysian authorities. The intensity of the color also dropped. With these case studies, the conference decided to use EM for water treatment and group farming, especially animal husbandry,



Participants at the Conference

with swine, which is a contentious issue in the state.

The reason for using EM from a heap of technologies to clean water bodies including rivers and farming is that it has proven to be useful and effective and is comparatively cheaper than all other technologies. Hence, it is being promoted actively by Mr. Sawada and his organization and the results are indeed rewarding. His staff has held workshops for farmers and members of the Department of Animal Husbandry, with emphasis on treating swine wastes with EM. The state requires that all waste from swine farms be treated and hence EM is used. The training workshops also award a certificate, which is well recognized by the state. Hence, the EM activities of Johor are growing so much that other states are also looking at the success with anticipation. Mr. Abdullah of JAMOF states that his telephone never stops ringing with queries on using EM!!! The program on EM is moving ahead in Johor and possibly the state will be an EM state soon. Thereafter we hope that all states will use the technology of EM and Nature Farming as it has proven to be useful in their own environments. We at APNAN are very happy and as always offer our support to them at all times.. Please do contact us Mr. Sawada – we will help always. However we request one big favor – please inform us of the developments to enable us tell the world the success stories!!!

APNAN HOLDS A VERY SUCCESSFUL WORKSHOP

APNAN, the little network changed its activities to accommodate requests as well as to fit into the ever-busy program at the Training Center in Sara Buri. Thus, the annual workshops, which were held normally in April, were moved forward to January this year. The workshop held from January 29th brought together 29 participants from 9 nations.

The participants also included some VIPs from India who were on a fact-finding tour to promote EM in the Himalayan state of Mizoram in India, accompanied by the evergreen Sanjay Aggarwal, the CEO of Maple Organics, our counterpart in India.

The participants gathered at Sena Place Hotel, and traveled as per schedule to Sara Buri – where they were taught the latest developments in EM, which is being updated all the time. They participated in all activities, tasted the delicious food made through Nature Farming and EM at the farm and enjoyed the gracious hospitality of the Sara Buri Staff. Our diligent staff did their best as usual to explain the techniques and updates, as we had a willing teacher in Sanjay Aggarwal, who also explained his successful and forceful activities in India to promote EM.

The usual party was held too.. where all enjoyed the fun and frolic and also extended their vocal chords! We are told that our ex staff member who is at Sara Buri and was married recently – Masanobu Sakurai and his dear wife sang some really nice songs.. which are supposed to hit the charts soon! We are also told that our staff Jun Matsumoto and our boss Imamura also tried to sing.. We wonder if Koki



Trainees at the Self Sufficient garden

Nagamine, who tried to sing in Cambodia also sang!!!!!!! The good thing about this workshop was that it had 11 farmers, of whom 6 were practicing Nature Farming. The others also stated that they wished go adopt Nature Farming – after this workshop and exchanging experiences with others. This is what the workshop does – bringing together people from the countries of the region – this time it ranged from New Zealand through Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, India, Myanmar, South Korea to Philippines to discuss, argue and learn from each other ding their own form of EM activity with the resources available. This is also networking –as we do know that contacts made at workshops are maintained.

We at APNAN strive to do our best with the ever-diminishing resources – but we do our job well. This is well illustrated by the ever-increasing demand for the workshop. Thus.. all who want to join.. please do contact us – we will try to do our best.

NZNFS HOSTS ONE DAY CONFERENCE

The New Zealand Nature Farming Society, based in Christchurch, the garden city of New Zealand, has been progressively expanding its activities over the years, Established in the late 1990's, the society did a great job in hosting the last International Kyusei Nature Farming Conference in the same city in 2001. Thereafter, under the direction of its Board comprising of the Chamberlain and Mallard couples and managed by Mike Day, the program of activities have expanded over the years to encompass most of the two islands of this special country. Hence, over the years, the names of Nature Farming, EM and bokashi reached the ears of farmers, householders and city fathers, all of whom realized that this simple technology would help their pristine environment.

The NZNFS thus organized a one-day conference at Lincoln University, where the Biological Husbandry Unit has a section on Kyusei Nature Farming. The organization got underway from 2005, when NZNFS invited a member of our network to present the international scene of EM and Nature Farming. Due to the difficulties of travel and the busy schedules, the conference was arranged for 2006, and our staff member, who does not turn down a trip to New Zealand attended a very successful conference held on the 27th May.

The conference was attended by over 60 paying guests from all over New Zealand. Given the low profile maintained

by the Society, this was an excellent turn out, and our dear Mike and His wife Marianne were thrilled that it was so well attended. The presentations ranged from the overseas programs on EM and Nature Farming by our staff member – who outlined the development of Nature Farming as well as EM, and also the international scene, where EM is known and used in over 150 nations, and made in some 55 nations in all continents.

The presentation was followed by a paper by Dr Tim Jenkins, ex manager of the Biological Husbandry Unit of Lincoln University. He presented the impact of EM Bokashi in promoting the growth of vegetables at the seedling stage, in a well-replicated experiment. This presentation was very interesting as there were many persons who were interested in developing plants for organic vegetable production. The next presentation was by Mr. Neville Burt, a very successful manufacturer of Bokashi products. The talk highlighted the success achieved through many years of testing kitchen waste management programs, which is now being extended to many areas of sanitation, including the toilets of national parks in New Zealand.

The final paper was by Mr. Grant Williams, a commercial swine producer, who has used EM for over 4 years. The success achieved over the years in increasing feed efficiency, waste management, odor control and most importantly removing all antibiotics from the management program was indeed a highlight. Although many swine farmers were not present due to a disease outbreak in the region which required their presence on the farms at all times, Mr. Williams clearly stated that his farm, which was tested by one of the most eminent veterinarians in the nation a few days back, had no signs of the disease at all!!!! This was conceded a miracle too!!

Finally – the present manager of the Biological Husbandry Unit, Mr. Holgar, who has had much experience with successful bokashi making with food wastes extended an open invitation to the participants to walk through the unit.

The conference as usual.. ended by a visit to the model organic farm of New Zealand, Harts Creek, owned by Tim and Rose Chamberlain, who are also trustees of the NZNFS. The participants were amazed at the success achieved – and were shown the use of EM in pasture management, crop rotations, livestock and also crops. The onion crop that was harvested was something of a wonder and many



Participants listen to the marvels of EM

took the liberty of removing the packs that were given away so generously by Tim. The onions were supposed to be one of the best in the nation!!

The finale was the barbecue by Harts Creek, after which the farm is named. The participants were treated to real EM wine, EM organic lamb and sausages and also many salads made with organic vegetables.

The post mortem held by the NZNFS the day afterwards at a dinner hosted by the new house of Mike and Marianne was that this was a very successful event. The plan is now to hold such meetings once in two or three years and they hope that our dear President and Mrs. Higa will also attend the next one.

We do congratulate the success achieved by NZNFS and hope that their activities – some of which are reported elsewhere in this newsletter, will move from strength to strength – and this little network which initiated this activity will always be at hand to provide assistance.

We wish the NZNFS and its team much success.

EM WELLNESS CENTER AT COSTA VISTA HOTEL OPENS ITS SPA

The Costa Vista Hotel, which is managed the EM holistic way is a real get away resort to build up our energy and health. Therefore, it houses a well-equipped wellness center. The facilities of the wellness center were upgraded in April this year with a EM spa – which is a real experience. In addition, the center and hotel offers organic food. Organic tea and a host of facilities, all using the latest techniques of EM.

The Spa is called EM Spa Corazon Okinawa – and we hope that all our dear friends are readers will one day go to this place.. to relax enjoy and become really healthy the EM way!!!

VIPS OF MIZORAM VISIT THAILAND TO OBSERVE EM ACTIVITY

India is moving forward with EM projects. The action is two pronged – one via our dynamic technical officer Shinji Takara, who is working away diligently in Pune and other regions and the other with Maple Organics, our counterparts, who are responsible for EM activities in this very vibrant and developing nation in Asia.

Maple Organics, headed by its dynamic and ever active Sanjay Aggarwal is moving ahead with official projects in two of the most remote states of India – Mizoram, Sikkim and Uttaranchal. These two states have resource poor farmers and their infrastructure is also limited. Thus, Maple did a very successful project in Uttaranchal and now Sikkim and Mizoram are also developing such programs. Hence, Maple sponsored a tour for the VIPs involved in agriculture in Mizoram to show them the versatility of EM and Nature Farming. Thus, four prominent decision makers visited Thailand for five days and also attended the workshop at Sara Buri. They also visited the Muang Porn gardens and fruit farms, to observe the technology working. As usual, Mr. Sanjay Aggarwal was there at hand to explain the functions of EM and Nature Farming. The delegation of the VIPs was Mr. H Darzika, Joint Secretary, Horticulture, Mr. T Sangkugs, Joint Secretary, Agriculture, Mr. H Saithantluanga, Deputy Director, Agriculture and Mr. T Liankung, Horticulture Development Officer. The delegation and Sanjay were all very busy during their stay

in Thailand, observing the developments with EM in Bangkok and Sara Buri and were very inquisitive of the success, judging by the numerous questions posed to our staff. – and we are told that they were impressed. By the results and have stated their determination to implement the technology of Effective Microorganisms in the state of Mizoram, to make it an organic state as advised by the Honorable Minister for Agriculture and Horticulture. This is especially important as Mizoram is identified as the first state to implement an organic act.

The other impressive development was the information provided by the Deputy Director Mr. H Saithantluanga through an excellent presentation on the use of Maple EM1 in Mizoram at the training workshop.

APNAN thanks Maple for these activities – and hope that this tour will help promote EM and Nature Farming in Mizoram and other states of India. We do know that Maple is active in Uttraanchal, Sikkim, Kerala, Tamilnadu and other states with many partners – and hope that such trips will help them promote activities.

We in turn offer our maximum help – although we do know that we will not be able to stop the flow of questions from the CEO of Maple!!!



Indian VIPs at Sara Buri

IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS.....

MALAYSIANS ATTEND TRAINING IN SARA BURI

The Nature Farming and EM program in Malaysia is really moving, especially in Johor, where our dear friend, Mr. Sawada is actively working with EM to make the state a better place for humankind. This calls for training of people and Mr. Sawada has linked up with the state government to train officers at Sara Buri. These have become a regular feature on an annual basis and this year too 39 Malaysians attended a three day workshop at Sara Buri. Most of the participants were members of a Farmers Organization, which is similar to a Cooperative society, which provides support to the members. What was most interesting was that the successful use of EM in the poultry industry has made some of them come to Sara Buri many times. When questioned why – they stated that every workshop teaches them something new!!!

This visit was programmed to enable them learn waste water treatment with EM due to the very high degree of pollution in the Rivers in Johor, and Mr. Sawada and the organization wishes to clean the river with EM. The usual

training was conducted at Sara Buri – and thereafter they visited the Muang Porn Gardens and the National Housing Authority, which use EM for water treatment. They also took a day off as usual in Bangkok for shopping!! We are sure that these programs will be successful in Johor, as the state government is really interested in Nature Farming and EM technology. Although often repeated, we remember the time with our sponsors spent millions of Yen in Malaysia to get EM moving, with no luck at all.. as the people involved at the time were neither sincere nor keen to expand this low cost technology. Today in contrast a state government is asking for the technology at no cost to us. This is how we at APNAN work.. low cost (at times No cost!) and with a high degree of efficiency – Effective Microbes with Effective Management!! This is EM and Nature Farming – done the APNAN way!!!!!!



The satisfied Malaysian group at Sara Buri

CAMBODIAN FARMER PRAISES EM TECHNOLOGY

Farmers in Cambodia, especially near the capital Phnom Penh strive hard to produce high yields for marketing. However, in most instances, they are not very successful and yield and quality of the harvests are low, thus incomes also are low. This brings desperation, but most farmers have no choice but continue. However, the introduction of EM and Nature Farming by the NKA has provided significant benefits to such farmers. Thus, our technical officer, Koki Nagamine visited such a farmer – in January, when he was in Cambodia. The farmer had tried to grow fruits for over 9 years with little success. However, he contacted NKA and its dynamic head Ms. Sovonly last year and adopted principles of Nature Farming and EM. The success has been phenomenal. Now he is a successful mango farmer deriving many profits from his orchard. He has stated that the trees are laden with fruit, which are of very high quality and thus earning good prices.

This is what EM and Nature Farming could do to help poor farmers – many such experiences can be reported by us - in many parts of the world. This is what we are promoting – a technology that is simple and efficient – but of low cost.

Hence, all contacts in the different countries – please help us help the farmers of your countries – and the environment – and let us know the success stories – so that we can inform others for encouragement. However, we do congratulate the farmers in Cambodia and the NKA for their keenness and innovativeness in using EM to enhance quality and quantity of farming products.

FAKE EM ABUNDANT IN MANY NATIONS!!

The success of EM in most countries, where it is adopted successfully has brought about some problems for users as well. This is the emergence of other EMs – and this is not something special to Asia..Even great nations such as the USA have similar problems. We are also told of situations in Europe and Australia. However, the problem is also rampant in Cambodia, where a company has actively marketing a product, which was refused registration by the Ministry of Commerce. Our counterparts the NKA states that many are hoodwinked into buying this EM and practicing an incorrect form of Nature Farming and EM. This is not uncommon.. and in a short time, farmers do realize which is which.. hence, we are not too worried because the effects of EM that we show do not occur with these imitations. Farmers do accept these fakes because these may be cheaper and many promises are made by the marketing organizations of its success. We do know of many many instances when the fake EM did not perform up to expectations and the promises made were all false. Hence, people came back to the EM.

We however should not rest on the laurels of success of the real EM and Nature Farming. It is a lesson. We have also to work hard and show that it works in diverse environments and most importantly, we must keep our contacts and users updated in terms of technological innovations. Thus, we urge our sponsors, the EM Research Organization to send us the latest developments in the technology that we promote. We can then move forwards confidently – and provide the real EM and the correct information to the current and new users.

Hence, while we are aware of the threats of fake EM proponents of incorrect forms of Nature Farming , we will strive to provide a forum that fights such situations. All who want the correct information – please do contact us.. we will always help you use the real technology and EM to ensure success – This is the only way to overcome these fake products that try to thrive at the expense of the resource poor farmers of the world.

EM TECHNOLOGY NETWORK AND EMRO USA HOLD ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

The EM Technology Network, (EMTN) ably managed by our dear colleagues Junko Gabriel and Yuri Terris is doing a great job promoting the technology in the United States. EMRO USA, in conjunction with EMRO Hawaii, which became an independent organization last year, is supplying the technical expertise and EM to all those who want it, and EM America, based in Texas. Thus, the meeting of the Board of Directors of EMTN and EMRO USA is a very important occasion for these two organizations, and is held once a year in March, at Tucson, the headquarters of EMRO USA.

This year, the board meeting was held in mid march, and was attended by many Board members. The two external members however could not attend due to logistic reasons. The work done by EMRO USA and EMTN were presented to Professor Higa and Mr. Asato, the ex president and now a board member of EMRO Okinawa, who is also on the Board of EMRO USA. Dr Phil Gabriel a board member also attended, while Prof Dr Panfilo Tabora and the board member from APNAN sent letters of proxy. The review showed that despite imitations of EM and EM-x,

and incorrect publicity by many people, reality is dawning upon the world – EM and EM based products of Professor Higa and EMRO Okinawa, promoted by EMRO USA is the real thing – nothing else. Although organizations hold seminars on a range of other imitation EM's and even sending CD's and DVD's of their activities to people even in other nations, humankind are intelligent enough to learn the difference between the authentic and imitations. Thus, the Board discussed these projects and Professor Higa encouraged present to be optimistic and to do a good job. APNAN, which always is in touch with EMRO and EMTN due to similarities of activities were happy that the Board meeting brought new ideas for expansion and hope that the future will be rosy for them – so that we too could get a holiday in Tucson sharing the work. Congratulations EMRO USA and EMTN.. especially Shuichi Okomoto, Junko and Yuri, who together with the dynamic Eric Lancaster is doing an excellent job. We wish them well and support their activities.

NOVA SCOTIA EXPANDS ACTIVITIES IN EM TECHNOLOGY



The team at EMRO USA with Prof Higa

The EM Atlantic Canada Network, led by the active and dynamic Tom Heynes Patton has been promoting EM, even through the cold winters of Northern Canada, spurring members to think of EM for the spring and summer activities. They have been holding many workshops through the months of January – April and discussing the success of EM. We at APNAN are sent snippets of their meetings and activities – even that of cats being brought back to good health through EM!! We received a very interesting note on a session that addressed many questions on EM from the public, and hosted by the EM Atlantis Canada Network. The questions ranged from the impact of EM on soil to its safety. All were answered by Tom and his associates and we hope that this will move from strength to strength. We at this little Network in Bangkok, far away from Canada are happy that we initiated this contact and supported it at the beginning – and hope that it will one day invite us to see the work being done!! All interested in their activities can contact Tom at ematlanciccanada@hotmail.com. The coordinator Tom will surely respond to all emails!!

EM REPORTED IN HAWAII NEWSPAPERS!!!!

The EM Program in Hawaii, managed by our dear friend and colleague Hiromichi Nago, has been doing an excellent job!! The program where EM is used in the Zoological

gardens in Honolulu, the waste management units in some regions of the city and in household, the use of EM in coffee and fruit orchards have all been successful. Thus, while EM Hawaii became an independent entity recently, its activities have progressed significantly, and have been highlighted in the Press. The reports illustrate the successes achieved in many spheres of activity and thus call for greater use of this simple technology.

We are also pleased to note that the success achieved by Hiro san and his team have attracted the attention of many and we at APNAN are getting inquiries of the use of EM in the Zoos to ward of smell and treat wastes. The recent visit by APNAN to New Zealand is a particular case, where inquiries were made on the success achieved. Thus, we request Hiro to contact NZNFS and network to coordinate activities so that the world at large benefits by the technology that was developed to make this world a better place for all living beings.

We congratulate Hiro and EM Hawaii for their success and request that we be posted of developments for printing in this ever-popular newsletter.

MAPLE ORGANICS MEET IN KOLKATTA

The Indian Program on EM and Nature Farming in India, is managed by Maple Organics based in Dehra Dun, the home of the dynamic Sanjay Aggarwal, who always has questions and suggestions flowing out like a never-ending stream!! He is the CEO of this organization, ably controlled by Mr. Mohanka, the head of Tega Industries, which started this program many years ago. The success achieved amidst the difficulties of red tape, bureaucracy and personal clashes, even with our staff, led to the establishment of the EM factory in the Tega premises at Kolkatta, the home of the late Mother Theresa. The Board of Maple meets once a year – and thus it was scheduled for January. A bird flying from the direction of Kolkatta informs us that the meeting was fiery but successful as the use of EM has expanded significantly in many northern states. The boss Mr. Mohanka thus has directed that meetings which were held once a year now be held once in four months and that the Indians are contemplating flying south to the island Republic lying to the Southeast of India for the next meeting in May!! We hope that this again will promote the technology further in this great nation, which has one of the fastest growing economies, and also the highest or the second highest population in the world!!

THE GERMANS ARE PLANNING AN EXCELLENT FESTA

The Festa and Conference on Nature Farming and EM that is being planned on the Frauinsel of Chiemsee, Germany, is surely going to be a very special occasion!! The planners led by Pit Mau is organizing a very special event to be held in a very special place – an old monastery, managed by nuns on a lovely small island in the Chiemsee!! It hence will be a historic meeting and festa on an historic site!!

The planning is underway – they have an excellent line of speakers – on Day 1 (10th September). The speakers are drawn from many regions, both far and near to highlight the versatility of EM and its products and its holistic use for the development of the welfare of humankind. The highlight will be as usual the long discussion where all speakers will be at hand to answer queries – this includes



The special island - venue for the festa

Professor Dr Higa – and will be managed by a terror from Asia – who keeps the proceedings in order and to time!! The resume by Professor Dr Higa will also be held..after the discussion, which will present the latest developments. We are told that some two to three thousand people will attend this event to be held under a large marquee, and the planners are at hand to provide any clarifications on the facilities.

Day 2 will be an excursion – to many sites using EM in South Germany. This will enable all to see the developments that EMIKO, through perseverance and diligence have developed – to an extent that today it is a leading country using EM in Europe. However we do know that the pioneer of EM in Europe Fritz van den Ham of Agriton, Holland, Ulli Hader of Austria and the news Swiss team will also be at hand, along with the people from other nations using EM in Europe. The field trip will take you through the farms and waste management units and hence the versatility of EM will clearly be shown in this tour, working successfully in a temperate climate for the betterment of humankind.

Accommodation and food – will all be provided and for our overseas guests – these will be at the monastery - a really nice calm quiet place.. with pin drop silence in the nights – to charge your batteries for future activity!!

We hope that all our readers will come – the organizers offer a very good package for accommodation, transport and food.. over the entire period for some 430 Euro – Munich airport on the 9th to the airport on the 12th!! Please contact the following and we all hope to see all of you there..It will be the happening of EM Technology this year!!!!

Contact :

Franz Peter Mau of EMeV at www.EMeV.info or Fax - ++49 (0) 421 330 – 8795

Join us for an eventful three days on a special island with special people using and interested in a special technology!!!

INFRC DELEGATION VISITS CHINA

The International Nature Farming Research Center at Atami, which sponsors our network through a diverse range of methods, including this newsletter, has a mandate to promote Nature Farming as advocated by Mokichi Okada – the founder of Kyusei Nature Farming. The INFRC hence runs a fully equipped research farm in Matsumoto, where local and foreign scientists conduct research under the guidance of Dr H L Xu, who is also a member of the Board of Directors of INFRC. Many international scientists have conducted research in this center, and amongst them scientists from China undertake postdoctoral work on

Nature Farming under the guidance of Dr Xu. Due to the large number of scientists, a Nature Farming society has been formed in China to disseminate the technology of Nature Farming and EM that they have learnt in Japan.

The Nature Farming society thus held their annual China Linyi International Forum on Organic Agriculture and Nature Farming in late April, and was attended by a high-powered delegation from INFRC. This included Professor Dr Higa, Dr Xu, Mr. Harakawa (Senior Managing Director of INFRC) and Mr. Ito, (Department Manager). Our Liaison officer, Mr. Hidehiko Okubo was also a member who took care of the logistics – as he is the head of the International Section of INFRC. Mr. Okubo tells us that the meeting was held successfully – There are people keen on Nature Farming and EM.

This is indeed a boost to our activities as well – China is a giant on this earth – and their promotion of Nature Farming and EM will have a significant effect – not only in Asia but the whole world. Hence, successful projects in China will open the eyes of all nations on earth – We are very grateful that INFRC hosts such projects and will be happy and grateful for an opportunity to see the activities – to disseminate the knowledge through our network to the entire world.

We thus ask Okubo san to keep us posted of the international activities of INFRC – the section he heads.. and also of projects in Japan. The entire reader population of the newsletter is awaiting this information so that they too could modify and adopt it in their respective environments.



The delegation in China!

APNAN ORGANIZES A MEETING OF CONTACTS

This little network, APNAN is a resourceful enterprise. Although funds are eternally being cut back – we try to maximize resource use. Over the years we found that the contacts in the mandate countries were progressing but on an individual basis. Thus, our dear Boss Imamura wanted to bring all contacts together for two or three nights in and discuss strategies and most importantly to get these vital contacts from each country to interact and promote EM and Nature Farming in a holistic manner.

Thus, a meeting has been arranged from the 26th and 27th June in Bangkok and we are told that contacts from some 12 countries will be present.

We hope that this will be a success – please remember that this is done by us for you and contacts.. please attend this important meeting – we will host you while in Bangkok and the airfares – Please sell some EM to get the funds!! We hope to see all our contacts from the countries there on the 26th June!!!

PARTICIPANTS EVALUATE APNAN WORKSHOP

The little network always wants to improve itself and its activities – this is EM – Efficient Management!!! Hence, the staff here developed a questionnaire to be used at each workshop. The questionnaire was handed out to participants for filling in.. it was mandatory that all fill it in... if not No final party!!! All participants cooperated and the final analysis was indeed very satisfying! All participants stated the usefulness of the training offered by our staff – even with their Japanese versions of English!! They stated that they learnt of Nature Farming and EM and the fundamental humanistic approach adopted for co existence and co prosperity through the technology. They were happy with the methods of training adopted although as usual our dear Sanjay sent five sheets of suggestions to a staff member residing in another nation!!!! The responses stated that they learnt a lot and also that they would ask others in their respective nations to come to these very valuable and educative workshops and trainings in the future.

Hence, we pat ourselves on our backs.. but we never rest on our successes – we will strive better every time and provide a good training. This is our mandate and we will do our best. Thus, all who want to come.. please contact us via the country representatives soon – The places are limited!

NEW ZEALAND'S HOLIDAY RESORT USES EM FOR COMPOSTING WASTES



EM compost garden at Awahi Resort

The Abel Tasman National Park and its holiday resort of Awaroa Lodge, located at the top of the South Island is a very popular destination for many New Zealanders. Due to its special location generally accessible by travel via water or by air, unless holidaymakers wish to walk the route, had problems of waste disposal. The pristine environment of the park

and the strict management standards set prevented the resort from dumping organic kitchen wastes.

However, the dilemma was addressed by none other than EM!! The work of the Bokashi expert in New Zealand, Neville Burt was extended to the resort and today. The hotel uses EM to make compost from its organic wastes. The food wastes are fermented with Bokashi in 200liter drum with Bokashi, kept for two or four weeks, depending on the season (summer or winter) when full, under airtight conditions and the sweet smelling compost is used in the gardens to grow the perishable greens that are hard to transport to this location and are difficult to store.

NZNFS tells us that the gardener of the resort now produces up to 80% of the hotels requirements of greens through the use of EM fermented compost, a feature that was not even dreamt of a few years ago. The success of this venture in recycling organic wastes into delicious gourmet green vegetables has won the reputed Environmental Green Globe Award in 2005!!

We at APNAN are very happy that NZNFS is making much headway in this by cooperating with commercial entrepreneurs such as Neville to spread the technology all over the nation. Although expensive, it would be a really good idea to host a workshop at this park to show other resort managers the success achieved at a very low cost. We hope that at the next conference in New Zealand, these highlights will be presented, and also request NZNFS to request such innovative people such as Neville and the gardener at Awaroa to present their stories at international forum a such as the IFOAM and other organic farming conferences held throughout the world.

We congratulate the Awaroa lodge and also the NZNFS for this success and hope that over the next year, many reports would use this technology.

AUSTRIAN STUDENTS EXPOSED TO THE WONDERS OF EM

Austria, the land of Mozart and Strauss, or apple strudel and Weiner Schnitzel is also a nation well in the forefront of using EM in Europe. They have many programs in using EM in agriculture, environment and even in cosmetics, so that EM is fast becoming popular. However, the academia of Austria, or if we say some academia, do not accept the fact that EM is doing well in their own country. The



Austrian Students brave the cold to see EM compost

University of Applied Life Sciences and Natural Resources, which has an Institute for Organic Farming is not up-to-date with the technology that their fellow organic farmers are using to maintain high yields and make excellent compost. However, we do know that they have tested EM in small experiments!

One of our colleagues at APNAN has begun a program to discuss tropical organic cropping in this Institute and in March was in Vienna undertaking this week long assignment. While the colleague discussed the theoretical and practical benefits of EM and Nature Farming in class, it was best that the students see EM in operation.

Thus, with the help of the dynamic lady who heads the EM program in Austria, a field visit was prepared to the Harmer farm in Spillern, which is some 20 minutes by car from the Institute. The students were keen and despite the cold march winds blowing through the bodies, they traveled in vehicles provided my Mrs. Hader to the farm to see the composting that was going on.. using horse manure, grass and wastes from food warehouses. There were no flies, no foul smells and the air smelt of sweet fermenting hay – or silage. The students were amazed when they saw activated EM being sprayed and one even asked our colleague – why do the state not use this on all garbage heads to prevent smells?

The success achieved by the Harmer family farm is something to be admired. They use EM in all of their crops and in waste management. It is a pure organic farm and they run an organic restaurant as well. The highlight of

course was that the students were given a real organic meal – free of course – by the courtesy of Multikraft and Mrs. Hader. The students and our dear colleague thank Mrs. Hader and the family, Multikraft and the Harmer farm for this excellent demonstration and hope that the students will spread the word of success.

INDIA EXPANDS EM ACTIVITY

The Indian EM program handled by Maple and ably assisted by our dear officer Shinji Takara, based in Pune is forging ahead.. all due to the dynamism of its CEO Sanjay Aggarwal, who is forever being checked by his Boss , the amicable Mr. Mohanka. The programs undertaken spread all across this great nation, from Kerala in the South West to Pondicherry in the East and the Himalayan regions of the North, covering Uttaranchal, Mizoram and Sikkim. Maple undertook a major project in Uttaranchal to teach smallholder farmers composting with EM – This has worked very well and we hope that the state government will continue the activities even after the project. The states of Sikkim and Mizoram are also very keen and some decision makers from Mizoram visited Thailand to observe the developments as well. Maple is also developing many organic products – spices, rice and other food commodities – and hence is looking for export markets. They are moving into other EM based products as well. Thus, we will soon see a host of activities – and a bird whispers that at the Board meeting held in January, the Chairman, Mr. Mohanka was pleased of the developments but pushed our dear Sanjay into more work! We request that they keep us posted of their developments to be highlighted to all our readers!

NZNFS HOLD EM WORKSHOPS

Mike Daly, the manager of NZNFS is a busy man!! Although recently married to a beautiful American Lady, Marianne, who helps him in all his activities, he is busy informing the Kiwis of EM and its success. Thus, many workshops are organized by the NZNFS, especially in the South Island to train people the fundamentals of EM and spread the technology. The workshops run at the Christchurch Polytechnic- Seven Oaks campus and in many other parts of the South Island have been very successful. This was evident by the participation of many EM users, some from places, which are about 6 hours driving time from the western part of the nation. The team of enthusiastic EM users came from the Golden Bay of New Zealand to the conference and later discussed the use of the technology in all aspects of life in the community, which is well aware of the environmental quality.

Mike and Marianne tell us that the progress made is very satisfactory and we anticipate that EM and Nature Farming will be a household word in New Zealand in years to come. We at APNAN are happy that we started this way back in 1994 – the year that our sponsors EMRO was established – and today the program is progressing successfully with minimal input from us.

We wish this program success and hope to publish the work in our little newsletter periodically. Mike Daly, please send us snippets of news.

EM RESEARCH MAY BECOME A REALITY IN VIENNA

The visit of our colleague to Vienna and the trip made by the Head of the Institute of Organic Farming of the University of Applied Life Sciences and Natural Resources at Vienna have started things moving in the area of research. The Professor from the University because really interested as there were so many questions to be answered that a meeting was called - by the Professor himself – With our contacts Mrs. Hader, two Professors and our colleague. Many projects were discussed and finally a program on organic wine with EM will be taken up by the institute for further evaluation with EM. This is very interesting to us as well.. where serious academics of the developed world are showing a keen interest in what is happening in our part of the world.. and also in technologies that are being practiced in their own nations very successfully by farmers who have had no research done on EM. This clearly shows that as in all technologies, EM also works wonders.. the importance being that it is really environmentally friendly and is of a lower cost than most similar technologies. We look forward to this new collaboration and readers, be sure that we will keep you updated on the outcomes.

BOKASHI PROGRAM IN NEW ZEALAND FORGING AHEAD

The visit by APNAN to New Zealand in late April paved the way to promote EM in this special nation and oversee the progress made over the years. One success story that warrants presentation is the progress achieved by Neville Burt and his Bokashi company. The first step in this success was the program of kitchen buckets developed in the city of Christchurch. The project used 200 households and some restaurants at the beginning and today – it has expanded to include many more households in this garden city. The success achieved reached the waste management authorities of many other cities and today the Marlborough region and many others have begun this program. The kitchen buckets designed and made in Kiwi land by Neville, NZNFS is becoming very popular, and the Auckland and Wellington Regional Councils, which hold the highest populations in this land have inquired after the use of these buckets. We anticipate the adoption of this program in these cities as well in the very near future, which would then cover the three most important regions of New Zealand. The Bokashi program has been extended to schools for organic waste management, to community gardens and now to the use of Bokashi in public toilets in the national parks of New Zealand.

The success shown by Neville and his one-man company in making Bokashi and the kitchen buckets successful shows the world what can be achieved – through EM. The technology is cheap, easily used and versatile. – Most importantly, It is environmentally friendly and acceptable – this is what the world is looking for. Although tucked away in the south corner of this globe – the ingenuity of the Kiwis have shown that EM and its products are indeed useful to humankind.

The discussions that our staff had with Neville were on possible new systems of using EM - the management of grey water, septic tanks and organic wastes with EM and ceramics – and we are told that Neville has been so active that he has already contacted VRM in Australia, which is

using EM for these purposes. These are good signs and we hope that the next NZNFS meeting will highlight these achievements in a major way to the Kiwis and also the region.

STAFF GATHERING AIRPOINTS.....

NAGAMINE TRAVELS TO MYANMAR

The Union of Myanmar is very special to this network as it was the first country to develop a project on Nature Farming. Our staff travels regularly to Myanmar to make EM, conduct training programs, and establish research and for discussions with the Myanmar Agricultural Service. It was the turn of Koki Nagamine this time to make the trip in February to Myanmar. On arrival, he found that most offices had moved to the new Capital in Pyinmana and hence he was in Yangon, Mandalay and Yedashe discussing EM activities. The first stop was the CARTC at Hlegu, where research and training is being conducted. A workshop was conducted with the staff at Hlegu – this is becoming a regular feature now, where the nation’s farmers and officers are trained on Nature Farming and EM using their own resources. This has been very successful and the Myanmar Agriculture Service provides facilities at no cost to us. Thereafter, he visited the EM factory at Yedashe – made EM, checked quality and held discussions. The final stop was Mandalay, where EM is becoming very popular, due to the diligent activities of the MAS staff. The staff, especially Mrs. Myint Myint May, the manager of a township is very dynamic and hence the activities are expanding. Koki san tells us that she is working really well and is concerned - that she must also train her understudies to promote EM as she has many activities. We are very happy.. that this project is still doing well. This is very important to us – and we do think the Myanmar Agriculture Service for their interest and support. We in turn offer our services at all times.

SRI LANKAN EM PROGRAM SUPPORTED BY APNAN BOSS

The Sri Lanka program on EM was shifted to the business organization of Sarvodaya, SEEDS – make the program more profession and efficient. An EM unit was opened in the organization and people were recruited – and today it is headed by a dynamic lady – Iresha de Alwis, who eternally has questions on EM and its functions!!! This is a good sign – a sign of motivation – and we at APNAN have lots of questions directed at us.. in Sri Lanka or when in Bangkok! Thus, our staff is called upon to travel frequently and in February, APNAN Boss Imamura san visited Sri Lanka again – for meetings, making EM seed and meeting people involved with the technology. On arrival in Sri Lanka, Ima chan, as we call him (although he is our boss!!) met with SEEDS Board for discussions on the future activities, as the key person who handled the program resigned due to personal reasons. The new staff had taken over and hence the program and future directions had to be clarified. This was done successfully, and Ima chan also stayed at the Bandaragama farm, where he made EM seeds. While in Sri Lanka, Imamura san met with officials of a private organization TFC Reservoir Development

Preservation (Pvt). Ltd, in the company of SEEDS staff and Dr. Krishnaratne. This company wishes to make a manure with sludge taken from desalted reservoirs, which is left behind after the sand is extracted, and enriching it with EM. They and purchased a bulk order of EM , which had been initiated by Dr Krishnaratne who acted as their consultant, and hence they wished to follow the program into the future. This was indeed good news that EM was being used in all its versatility – and thus Imamura san visited their complex to provide advice.

A visit was also made to the farm that s being developed by the Sri Lanka branch of Sekai Kyusei Kyo. This farm located on an infertile soils is being developed for vegetable cultivation since 2005. The farm is being gradually developed by the determined staff of SKK Lanka, headed by Mr. Kingsley Kariyawasam and Mr. Kelum Weeasinghe. We wish this special project much success and offer our support to it.

These phenomenon show that EM activity and that of Nature Farming is moving ahead in Sri Lanka. Although the management of the project has changed hands, the new people seem capable of taking over and moving ahead.

This is encouraging and we hope that APNAN staff will visit this island republic more and help it develop a sound program on Nature Farming and EM. We wish all these projects success and offer our continued support at all times.

VIETNAMESE HOLD EM WORKSHOP IN VINH PHUC PROVINCE



The workshop in session

The Vina Nichi Center, which facilitates EM projects in Vietnam, under the able guidance of Dr Le Khac Quang, organizes small workshops for farmers. These are becoming very popular as EM use is expanding in Vietnam. Hence again it was Imamura sans turn to fly over to Hanoi and travel with Dr. Le Khac to the Vinh Phuc province, where the Union Science and Technology Association had organized two Times workshops in Dong Tam and Dao Duc areas. A total of some 170 people attended these workshops, which were conducted by both Ima chan and Dr Le Khac Quang. We are told that the feedback was indeed very promising – and the demand will further increase. However, the Vietnamese also wish to visit Thailand – and hence APNAN was requested to organize a tour for a Vietnamese delegation of 40 people in June!!! We look forward to these annual visits by the Vietnamese.. they are indeed rewarding. More importantly, we are happy that the program in Vietnam is doing so well.. We do offer all our support to these projects, which have progressed over the years.

LAOS NATURE FARMING PROGRAM WIDENS SCOPE

The EM program handled by the Vientiane Department of Agriculture and Forestry has developed over the years. Like our counterparts in Cambodia, the program has progressed gradually into one that we can be happy about. Thus again, APNAN is called to help out and Imamura san, our boss traveled to Vientiane in January, to check the program as Mr. Sanaphanh, who was in charge of the EM project for many years was transferred out and Mr. Phothilath had taken over the project. Imamura san tells us that the EM project has expanded significantly in Vientiane, and they are now growing vegetables with EM around the EM office. They are also hoping to make a pond for fish culture with EM. Most importantly, they have increased their staff to three members from an original one!!

Ima chan also visited farms – a swine unit had begun using EM after the workshop in Sara Buri – and hence the sanitation has increased, which has made the farmer happy. The wastewater from the swine unit is used for irrigating fruit trees. Another village in the vicinity of Vientiane uses EM for vegetable production, while a Noodle factory uses our technology for wastewater treatment. They were advised to use the wastewater to extend EM and treat the factory, thus saving costs. These were all accepted, as it would enhance the efficiency of activities. However, they requested that future workshops be held in Laos itself, as they cannot understand English well, when the trainings are held in Sara Buri.

APNAN wishes to heed these requests and in planning, will try to develop local workshops, using local resources. Thus, we request the Vientiane authorities to help us plan these workshops - we will help at all times.

MATSUMOTO SAN VISITS AUSTRALIA AFTER THE STORM

The tropical storm Larry, which was considered to be more forceful than Katrina, which hit the USA, caused significant damage to the Australian Queensland regions' banana and sugar cane plantations. The worrying factor was that most of these farms were using EM based fertilizers produced by our counterpart VRM.

Thus, it was Jun Matsumoto's fate to travel to Queensland to see the devastation, talk to VRM and farmers and make EM. The visit took Jun to farms – and to provide advice. It was interesting to learn that one farmer who uses EM based fertilizers had stated that although it would take 10 years to restore the damage, those using EM were damaged to a lesser extent than in others!! This was due to the inherent vigor in plants treated with EM, where the pseudo stems were broken but the roots were intact and alive!! This is what EM has shown in many parts of the world.. where the plants were stronger



VRM discusses EM projects

and healthier. The worry that farmers had after the storm was the possible spread of diseases by decomposing debris. Hence, EM is being sprayed to contain the spread of the diseases by VRM, and Jun san informs us that it is effective. VRM also informs us that the EM treated fertilizer is becoming very popular with sugar cane farmers. The rate of use of this treated fertilizer is increasing rapidly due to its stimulation of growth. One farmer planting 500 acres had increase his yields of cane significantly over three years, and hence is promoting this fertilizer effectively.

We are very glad that VRM, led by the evergreen Ken Bellamy is making headway – again the same old story of how people used the name of EM and the goodwill of our sponsors and of our dear Professor Higa, is true for Australia. It was with much difficulty that we got this going and today it is very successful. We wish VRM the very best for the future – we do know that your activities were affected by the storm, but like EM, we are sure that VRM will be forging ahead in the very near future. We offer our very best wishes to you and VRM and offer all the possible help at all times.

APNAN PRESIDENTS TRAVELS ACROSS JAPAN FOR EM SEMINARS

APNAN PRESIDENTS TRAVELS ACROSS JAPAN FOR EM SEMINARS

Our dear President, Professor Dr Teruo Higa is indeed a very busy person. In addition to his regular teaching program at the University of the Ryukyus, where he holds a chair in horticulture, he is much sort after as a keynote speaker of many conferences and seminars organized in Japan. Thus he is always traveling, so much so that Mrs. Higa sometimes complains that she sees her dearly beloved only at airport lounges!

The period under review, which as usual is a busy time for Professor Dr Higa for teaching, nevertheless took him to the far corners of Japan. In January, he addressed the EMRO staff to encourage them to work well through difficult times, and was the keynote speaker at the Agriculture Alumni of his University. Both these events were held at the EM Wellness Center managed by EMRO. The next meeting took our president to the Gifu Prefecture and finally in January to New Years seminar in Uruma City, which is the home of many EM organizations such as EMRO, TPR and even the city hall, all of which use EM for their daily activity. However, Professor Dr Higa also attended his old Alma mater – the Hokubu Agricultural High School, where he studied many many moons ago.

February saw Professor Higa traveling to Osaka and the Hiroshima prefecture for seminars and finally the annual conference of the International Nature Farming Research Center held in Kyoto, which brought over 2000 participants, all using EM. In March, Professor Dr Higa was in the Mie Prefecture for a keynote address. This was in addition to all his overseas travel – and many meetings held with authoritative people in Okinawa.

He is a busy man.. the editor remembers the time when they met in 1988 – a long long time ago when EM was just pushing its head in a very competitive world. Today, after these 17 years, it is fast becoming a household word in many nations where it is known. The name Higa is also known, and this is due to the diligence and perseverance of our Professor, who is never affected by criticism or challenges. He does his task of promoting EM and Nature Farming as a globally safe technology and the time is fast

approaching that this is becoming true. We are also happy that this little network, with the support of INFRC and EMRO and our many contacts all over the world has helped this cause.

We at APNAN are ever grateful to our president for the support extended to us to do our work and hope that he will extend this in the years to come to help us make EM and Nature Farming something that the entire humankind respects.

LAOS HOSTS THE SECOND WORKSHOP

The end of April saw a unique activity by APNAN!! This was a two day workshop in the Vientiane Municipality was held from 25th to 28th April. The uniqueness of it was that our staff – our boss Ima chan and his new staff Sano san traveled by Car!! The drive took them to Sara Buri, where the Head of the Training Center, Mr. Kanit Muangnil. His able assistant Mr. Sakurai joined the party along with a cameraman for record keeping. The trip took them almost 9 hours of driving to Non Khai – the border of Laos and Thailand in the northeast. Dear Ima chan tells us that Kanit was a very able driver – who was very careful in taking our dear boss to Vientiane.

In Vientiane, they held the workshop for 37 participants drawn from the government, farmers and other organizations. The technologies of Nature Farming and EM were explained by our staff and Mr. Kanit, who has significant experience in training. The workshop held on the farm demonstrated that EM can be used in livestock and cropping and the reaction of farmers was that it helped them enhance profits. Thus EM work is fast expanding in this special nation and APNAN boss advised that the money made from sales be used for promoting EM through the radio programs, advertising and even TV.

The discussions held also moved towards possible greater use, especially because EM sales have increased over the last 12 months. We at the network are happy that this is occurring – and hope that they will also become independent and successful in Nature Farming and EM in the near future. We as always support these activities.

ALL IN THE FAMILY.....

WELCOME – SANO SAN

APNAN has been saddled with lot of work. In recent times and hence the ever present call is for more staff!! We request our sponsors, the INFRC and EMRO in Japan to send us young staff for training and our activities. Thus, the Chairman and members of the Board of Directors of INFRC heeded our call and sent us a young technical officer Yujiro Sano in March this year..



*Yujiro Sano..
our newest member*

Yujiro Sano born in 1980, claims that he is EM...as the contents of EM was also confirmed by its inventor and our dear President, Professor Dr Teruo Higa in the same year. It was obvious that Sano san thus undertook his studies under the tutelage of Professor Teruo Higa at the University of the Ryukyus, and majored in agriculture using EM. What is also important is his affinity and familiarity with Nature Farming. His 85-year-old grandfather who has practiced Nature Farming for over 40 years had educated him on the principles of this method of growing crops while conserving the soil and nature. Thus the INFRC, who trained him in EM in Okinawa under the great master himself, decided to send him to us – to further his training – as many had done before him.

Sano san has fitted in well into the busy life of this little network. He has our Boss Imamura san, who is also from INFRC to guide him and Koki Nagamine from the same organization. He is already traveling to many countries in the region, helped in the Malaysian workshop and is seen burning midnight oil, working away diligently.

We at APNAN welcome Sano san to our midst with open arms.. he is needed to help us coordinate the ever-growing activities in so many nations in the mandate region and in other continents. Sano san, we wish you a long, productive and fruitful stay with us at the efficient little network APNAN.

However our boss Ima chan tells us that on the day of arrival, his INFRC colleague and friend Koki Nagamine invited him to a midnight feast of typical Thai noodle soup – Kwit -yo – as a baptism into Thai food.. and the result was – a crash in the stomach micro-flora which made him sit on the throne for hours on end.. only to be stopped by EM!!! This we thought was a good induction!!! We also hear that he is fast becoming popular in Thailand!!!!

Welcome to our midst dear Sano san we wish you a long and productive stay with us.. and hope that you will also head this network in the future, joining an illustrious lineage of APNAN bosses!!!

KOKI NAGAMINE – THE SUCCESSFUL VOCALIST

Our tall handsome Technical Officer Koki Nagamine loves to travel to Cambodia for workshops and training.. he is also popular among all the people at NKA. Thus, he was called upon to speak on EM and Nature Farming in a radio broadcast – Family FM 9 – in Phnom Penh in January. He explained EM technology and Nature Farming to over 7 million people by this radio broadcast – in conjunction with our dear Soslak san and also Ms Sovonly, the head of our contact organization NKA in Cambodia. Koki san tells us that the program was very successful and there were many feed back questions, and he replied them successfully. He was so happy that he could spread the world of EM and



I can sing !!!

Nature Farming to so many Cambodians in a short time – he was also nervous at the beginning – so he says, but at the end volunteered to sing a song.. and all at the studio had shouted .. Please do not!!! You will kill our audience!!! Hence now at APNAN.. we are treated to strains of Koki san practicing his voice and vocal chords – to sing over Cambodian Radio stations!!!

WANNA TRY GROWING CORN???

This is a sure cute story from Malaysia..!!

Our colleagues in Malaysia run an EM Shop in Borneo. This little unit is managed by Ms Emily Yap who works for Mr. Jay Rahman, a distributor for Mr. Sawada, who is one of our very motivated EM users..She is a very keen EM user – who has been converted into a real EM sales lady. Not only does she sell EM but uses EM on a daily basis for household cleanliness, so Mr. Jay tells us!! This snippet also comes from him about his staff Ms Yap!! She cleans her toilet with diluted EM on a regular basis as it was found to be the most effective smell remover!! However, there are some cracks on the floor and after a few weeks.. she tells us that she found corn plants growing through the cracks!! She was most surprised.....and showed Mr. Jay!! We wonder from where these plants came.. and where the seeds were... However, it sure proves one thing..EM has the ability to germinate dormant seeds as research has also shown.. This is practical confirmation of these results!!

We warn our readers.. to be somewhat careful when using EM in cleaning toilets to which partially digested food is added.. you could have lush green vegetables growing from the pits.. and also a warning.. never eat poop corn while using the toilet!!!!

Dear Readers – please let us know of such anecdotes to make this newsletter more interesting!!!

A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY TREAT FOR A SPECIAL PERSON BY SOMEONE SPECIAL!!

Our APNAN mum is none other than Mrs. Setsuko Higa



Happy birthday - Okusama

who always cares for us poor staff at the network, working away for 23 hours each day, 365 days of the year!! Thus, we too remember her at all times, and specially at her birthday, which falls in early April. Thanks to a computer that is good at remembering dates fixed into the head of one of our staff, we at APNAN usually send her a card.. wishing her a

happy and memorable day.....and a happy and successful year.

This year too.. we sent her the card.. wishing her all the good things in life that the world has to offer.. and also hoping that her dearly beloved hubby... will invite and host a special meal!! In earlier years, the usual reply has been – my husband (mind you our President – Prof Higa) never remembers the date.. and does not care at all!!

However.. the reply sent in a letter to our staff by her,

thanking the network for the card was – SURPRISE!!! – Prof Higa had arranged and invited his dear wife – to a special dinner at the Laguna Beach Resort and paid for it also!!! This was so special and we do thank Prof Higa for the care and concern for his dear spouse. We wish both of them happiness at all times and also hope that in the next year – he will host his beloved wife to a very special dinner and also give a gift of flowers that she likes so much!!!!!!! We also wish Mrs. Higa a very happy year.. (EMRO staff - please translate this into Japanese and show our beloved President and Oku sama!!)

NAGAMINE'S WISH FOR THE THAI NEW YEAR!!

Songkran is a time of festivities in Thailand. This traditional new year, which is celebrated around the 13th April draws the entire Kingdom to a halt.. all thais take at least a week's holidays and all shops, restaurants and facilities are closed!! This makes life difficult to our young staff, who have to fend for themselves during the New Year, cooking food as all outlets are closed!

Generally, our young staff manage well.. and this time too, they had stacked up some food. However, our dear handsome Koki san, who has a real eye for beautiful objects and spends much time on the internet beginning at about 2300 hours every night, discussing the worldly happiness with others in Japan and Thailand...was not happy with the food cooked by his colleagues – and one evening discussing wishes for the new year he loudly stated – My wish for the new year is a lady that can cook me decent food!!!! We do wish that his wish be granted.. any applicants???

JUN MATSUMOTO HAS PROBLEMS WITH PLUG POINTS

The EMRO boss in Thailand, Jun Matsumoto has really settled into the life of the network. Thus, he undertakes travel to the different nations to make EM and offer advice. During the period under review, he visited VRM in Australia to make EM and discuss the problems of EM with his host Ken Bellamy. On reaching his accommodation Queensland, he found to his dismay that the holes in the plug points in Australia were different and he was not equipped with an adapter! He immediately emailed his boss Shimoji san in Okinawa, complaining that Aussie plugholes are different! pat came the reply from his boss in Okinawa.. Please adapt to the situation and use the plugholes efficiently!! The bad thing about this advice was that the boss of Jun san sent a copy of this email to a nasty guy who is always keen to find out snippets of gossip!!

Jun san tells us that he is adaptable and managed to use the plugholes efficiently – If anyone wants to learn the technique – Please email Jun Matsumoto at APNAN!!!

INDIAN VIPS SHOP IN BANGKOK

The VIP guests who attended the workshop in January also had an important agenda to do shopping in Bangkok!!! One day was set aside for this and who accompanied them – Guess.. Sanjay Aggarwal!!!! The VIPs had been going from shop to shop and were very keen on buying denims. A fly on the wall who followed them came flying back straight through the crowded streets of Bangkok to tell us.. that the VIPs were trying on denims in the different shops, not even bothering to go to dressing rooms!! Just imagine

that!!!!!!! The best part is.. we hear that Sanjay took a photograph of this process which now hangs in his office in Dehra Dun to impress the VIPs that he is supportive of their activities.. both in and out of EM and Nature Farming !!!

THE NEW VOCALIST IN SARA BURI – MASANOBU SAKURAI!!

The training workshops held at Sara Buri are indeed times of enjoyment and fellowship.. the last night is spent enjoying the hospitality of the training center and of course of Mr. Kanit Muangnil the boss and his able assistant. Mr. Sakurai, who was once our staff!!

When Sakurai san was with us.. we could never get him to sing or even utter a poem.. he was serious in this respect.... however, after moving to Sara Buri, his life changed !! he found himself a beautiful wife, who is a music teacher and hence was forced to exercise his vocal chords!! If not – no dinner and desserts!!!

Thus at the party held at the workshop in January, it was Sakurai san, who with his dear wife led all the singing!! This is what a wife and an atmosphere such as Sara Buri can do!! Hence, all those who want to learn singing and Nature Farming with EM.. please join us at Sara Buri!! We have a good trainer in Sakurai san.. who knows all the techniques – irrespective of size!!

THANK YOU DR KRISHNARATNE...

The livewire of EM activity at Sarvodaya in Sri Lanka for the past few years was Dr. J C Krishnaratne. His services to Sarvodaya and at later stages to SEEDS, the business section of the same organization helped to promote EM tremendously within the Island Republic. The use of tea in tea gardens, waste management and in orchards were all promoted by him and was ably supported by the staff at Sarvodaya and also us. He also attended training Sara Buri. However, in January this year, he resigned from SEEDS as the consultant – due to personal reasons and wished to work on an individual basis. SEEDS accepted this resignation – and thus he now works as an individual consultant.

We at APNAN had a close association to this versatile man and hence wish him the very best in his new ventures. We also hope that he in his own way will help promote EM in Sri Lanka, as he did earlier, in conjunction with SEEDS of Sarvodaya. We are sure that he will not be another anti EM person or develop an imitation product like some in other countries did when they left the EM programs!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

We at APNAN wish him the very best.

APNAN BOSS ON THE INTERNET!!!

Our little but active boss, Imamura san was thrilled one day.. Searching the web for details of himself.. which had been rather rare.....he found his picture and was thrilled..!! What did he do.....? Send the website to all he knew!!

The website of Philrice – The Philippine Rice Research Center in Manila had posted a picture of trainees attending a workshop at



Ima chan on the web!!

Sara Buri.. and there was our dear Ima chan and his friend Sakurai san...in the picture!! This was a day of happiness for Imamura san.. so that he could easily send this picture through the net to all he knew and all he wanted to get to know in the future.. Our staffs at APNAN say that he invited all to a real dinner that night! Dear Ima chan.. we will put your picture.. on the web.. if you host us for dinner .. this can be done for sure!!!!

THE IMPORTANT EVENTS.....

THE NEXT WORKSHOP.....

APNAN wishes to announce the next workshop on Nature Farming and EM Technology! This workshop and training session will be held from July 24 to July 27, 2006 at Sara Buri. Hence all interested – Please apply as soon as possible as the slots are really limited!!!

Please contact APNAN as soon as possible to confirm participation!!

Email – apnanmail@yahoo.co.jp

CONFERENCES/MEETINGS OF THE FUTURE 2006

June 7 – 9

Bangalore Bio 2006 – Bangalore, India

Contact www.bangalorebio.in

July 24 – 27

Kyusei Nature Farming and EM Technology Workshop at Sara Buri

Contact APNAN

July 26

Conference on Sustainable Agriculture in the Mekong Region – Bangkok, Thailand

Contact ktkamp@danida.thmail.com

September 9 - 11

First International EM Festa and Conference in Europe

Contact info@emev.info

September 28

15th Australian Weed Conference – Adelaide, Australia

Contact <http://www.plevin.com.au/15AWC2006>

November

International Conference on: Sustainable Agricultural Productivity through Education and Extension
Tehran Islamic Republic of Iran

DEAR READERS AND FRIENDS.....

The next Nature Farming and EM Technology Workshop at Sara Buri, Thailand will be held from **24 JULY 2006**.

Deadline for nominations through country contacts to APNAN is **30 MAY 2006!!!!!!**