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“My Life With **Dreams**”

-Part 2-

Teruo HIGA

“Dissemination of EM Technology
in Thailand & Malaysia”

(Serialization 4-issued on 1st September 2007)

Dr. Teruo Higa was born in Okinawa, Japan in 1941. A graduate of the University of the Ryukyus in Okinawa, he received a doctorate in horticulture from Kyushu University. In 1982, he became a professor of horticulture at his alma mater. His research in microorganisms and his eventual development of EM Technology has brought him international recognition. The term of “EM” is a combination of the words “Effective” and “Microorganisms” and was coined by Dr. Teruo Higa, the developer of EM Technology. He travels 6 months of the year offering his guidance and assistance in the use of EM Technology around the world. EM Technology has spread in a variety of fields either as part of Governmental projects or as a result of efforts by those in the private sectors. In addition to his university posts as Honorary Professor of Ryukyu University and Professor of Meio University Dr. Higa is Chairman of the Executive Committee for the International Spreading Nature Farming, President of Asia Pacific Natural Agriculture Network, Chief Director of the Foundation for Earth Environment, Technology Adviser for the Japan Flower Association, Director of the International Nature Research Center, Senior Adviser for the Association for the Cleaning of Japan's Water and Adviser to the Japan Laser Medical Treatment Society. Out of his many books “An Earth Saving revolution 1 & 2” and “Our Future Reborn” were translated into many foreign languages.

In the Kingdom of Thailand EM is used for their challenge of “Royal-Land Paradise Construction Movement”

I had an opportunity to visit Thailand and Malaysia from 13th August to 20th August. EM WELLNESS WEEK CONVENTION (formerly known as EM FESTA) will be organized from 30th October in Okinawa and on the first day of this Convention there will be a special presentation featuring EM activities in Thailand with the title of “EM for Royal -Land Paradise Construction Movement”.

Since EM was introduced to Thailand some 20 years ago people there have recognized EM as a good means for solving many difficult problems in all the areas including but not limited to various King's Projects, environmental protection, agricultural industry, medical cares and the issues of poverty. National and local Government bodies are proceeding with EM applications aggressively. More than 100,000 people participated to EM seminars and Thailand has become the largest producer of EM 1 in the world exceeding 12,000 tons annually. The purpose of my visit to Thailand was for the meetings with the parties involved in the presentation and for investigation and confirmation of the projects as well. The achievements were much better than what I expected and I am confident that this scheduled presentation on 30th October will draw strong interest of the audience. Therefore please do participate to this Convention.

Dissemination of EM Technology in Malaysia

EM was introduced to Malaysia in 1990 with a strong cooperation of Malaysia Agricultural University (UPM). However, due to legal issues on microbial products Malaysia unfortunately became the last country to use EM Technology in Asia. But sizable quantity of EM had been regularly brought into Malaysia from neighboring country, Thailand., and those who paid attention to the Technology since the time of introduction did not give up to use EM and continued their efforts to disseminate the Technology.

At around 2000~2001 the legal issue was cleared and “EM boom” arrived in Malaysia again and quite many numbers of people, mainly from the Government sectors, received training courses at our Sara Buri Center in Thailand.

The behind-the-scenes person who has rendered distinguished services is Mr. Sawada of Jamof Sdn Bhd. He has been eagerly engaged in the spreading of EM Technology mainly in the State of Johor, Malaysia. While he was active in Singapore and Malaysia as a specialist in the construction industry for many years he reached to a conclusion that we need to use EM to further develop those countries in a good harmony and since then he has been promoting EM Technology patiently.

The Johor State Government, together with the Federal Government of Malaysia, planned to organize a biotechnology convention (BioJohor 2007) mainly featuring EM Technology and I was requested to be a keynote speaker. It was a pleasant surprise for me to find out that the Government itself was taking a leadership for the dissemination of EM Technology without my knowledge.

Particularly, the State Government of Johor was taking all possible measures to ensure the realization of their intention. In fact, they dispatched almost 10 personnels to the EM WELLNESS WEEK CONVENTION in Okinawa last year and had requested our cooperation for their dissemination exercises of EM Technology at both State and National levels. They also studied the successful cases of EM applications in Japan and other foreign countries, established an EM Committee inside the State Government and developed a large scale of model farm for promotion of EM Technology together with Jamof Sdn Bhd.

Especially, His Excellency Mr. Ahmad Zahri, the Minister of Agriculture of Johor State, himself has been using EM in the past 3~4 years for his daily life very positively and visiting project sites

quite actively and confirmed its good effect. The opening ceremony of the BioJohor 2007 Convention was large enough to receive as many as 3,000 participants. As His Excellency Mr. Abdullah Badawi, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, was unable to join the opening ceremony due to his schedule, His Excellency Mr. Abdul Ghani, the Chief Minister of the State of Johor, declared the opening of the Convention. During the opening ceremony and dinner banquet he repeatedly appealed that Malaysia Government, particularly the State Government of Johor, would solve all the agricultural and environmental problems with EM. You can easily understand how much they were serious with this Convention if you come to know that more than 500 specialists participated and the registration fee even for early bird was whopping 30,000 Yen (40,000 Yen for a ticket sold on the day).

During the Convention I discussed with the Chief Minister at his residence on how they could proceed with their dissemination programme of EM Technology. I came to understand that the State Government of Johor would like to spread the Technology everywhere in their own State first, thereafter spread it to the entire Malaysia. To realize their such ambition they are now aggressively trying to establish themselves as a model State covering all the areas generally with EM Technology, which shall be followed by all the other States.

EM Research Organization agreed to cooperate with them on their project and I hope that a new type of dissemination model led by a collaboration among industrial sectors, academic circles and government & private sectors will be established there in a few years' time. All the cases reported during the seminars were very much remarkable and now it seems that Malaysia has become a front runner from the last.



His excellency Mr. Abdul Ghani, the Chief Minister of Johor, at the opening ceremony



Questions from a participant on the 3rd day of the seminar



Exhibition booth of Jamof Sdn Bhd. Mr. Sawada is at the right-side end in the front row.



Meeting with the Government officials of Ministry of Agriculture



At a mushroom farm with EM