Crops grown with nature farming are strong and healthy – they do succumb to hazards such as typhoons and flood, which occur in Japan. Such plants have robust stems and roots, and like healthy humans provide food in times of disaster.

Mokichi Okada
(1882 - 1955)
(Adapted from Health and the New Civilization)
AS THE 15th YEAR FOLDS AWAY............

APNAN, the little network, promoting Kyusei Nature Farming and the technology of Effective Microorganisms, has completed 15 successful years.!!! What can we say.. at this time.. Except be happy and look forward to a greater future?? Life has not been easy for all this year.. including this little network.. however, we managed to achieve all our targets, despite budget cuts, lack of manpower at times and also with added responsibilities passed on.. however we are happy.. we do not complain.. and as a brook flows happily, singing its watery tune along its course to the sea.. stumbling against rock and boulders, yet going on undaunted.. to its final destination- This is APNAN.

Let us recall some of the highlights of this year.. Going through the newsletters you would find that we have held the regular workshops and special trainings, traveled to all countries that required EM and technical support, answered all queries, hosted many a visitor to Bangkok and taken them to Sara Buri and other sites, and also produce the newsletter .. generally on time.. so that you do not complain too much!! In addition, we helped out with the abstracts of the European conference, one of our staff even chaired a full day, coordinated submissions of abstracts for the forthcoming IFOAM Conference in Australia and attended many exhibitions… all done within the framework of the original budget, not asking for one Yen more or a single Baht! This is efficiency and Efficient Management (EM))!! However the year-end did not bring good news.. the tragedy that struck several of our member countries in the form of the Tsunami brought disaster and sorrow.. to humankind all over the world. However, we could help.. as most of these countries, especially where disaster struck heavily, had EM!! We with some happiness, report the use of EM in odor management in India and Thailand.. these were very successful. We also know that some EM was used in Sri Lanka and Indonesia.. and the offer was on. For anyone who wanted EM.. it was freely available. Our sponsors the EM Research Organization had requested us to be ready.. to travel at a moments notice to provide EM.

This reflects us to the teachings of Mokichi Okada in Kyusei Nature Farming – The erudite philosopher had stated that no human can change nature – we have to work with nature – Distortion of nature makes it fight back. This is the principal reason that Kyusei Nature Farming pays such significance to the management of the soil – the management of soil by natural means brings about bountiful results – the microbial life plays an integrated part in this scenario, and hence EM becomes important. Today this has proven to be true.. and the use of the beneficial microbial mixture and its products have surpassed many an expectation – our dear friends in Europe would certainly testify to this, and its efficacy has been proved worldwide!

Humans are humans.. and some do like to build on others success! This is true even of EM.. and today there are many EMs and even EMx being marketed. This not only happens in the developing nations which are sometimes laughed at for imitating superior products, but even the most developed nations – where the limelight obtained by truthful, diligent, honest hard work of many people associated with Kyusei Nature Farming and EM technology is duplicated by dubious means…and these people are happy that they are serving the community, with a product of lower quality and unproved efficaciy.

This phenomenon certainly irritates the genuine people who work with care and utmost respect for both nature farming and EM.. but.. we do not get troubled and tell the people who are irritated that like nature prevailing upon the activities of humankind, the truth about the real Effective Microorganisms will survive, despite all the tests showing the similar effect of the imitation products. This also raises the point – the imitation products are similar to the real EM products—not superior…hence dear readers why should we buy an imitation product when the real authenticated EM, guaranteed by the real makers and users, EMRO and INFRC is available at similar prices??? Hence even at this time, we call upon these people, who wish to make a fast buck through gullible users., let us join hands and work together.. to make this world a better place for humankind and all beings.

At the end of our 15th successful year, and at the dawn of the new year… the network is inspired by the support we receive from our sponsors and a selected group of well-wishers. We are also grateful to all those who support us….our sponsors (INFRC and EMRO) Thai Sekai Kyusei Kyo and EM Kyusei, The Sara Buri Center, our President and Mrs. Higa, our colleagues, ex bosses, contacts and our dear readers.. We do appreciate all that you do for us.. .. and we request assistance and guidance to spread the word of nature farming and EM Technology. Our little network..APNAN... Wish you a very successful year in 2005!!!!

The Editor,

APNAN, Bangkok, Thailand.
January, 2005
AT THE CLOSE OF ANOTHER YEAR.......... EUROPEAN COLLEAGUES HOST A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE

Our European friends have done well.....! The First European Conference on EM was indeed very successful, counting the participants, quality of the discussions and of course the sumptuous Dutch hospitality!! The conference organization was led by Jan Feersma Hoekstra of Agriton, ably supported by a team of real hard workers. From the word go, all energies were fed into the organization of this first conference, which was the real initiator of EM in Europe, our dear Fritz van den Ham wanted held in his beloved motherland. Thus, his company spent plenty of energy, burnt much midnight oil and finally delivered this wonderful event. The conference was held at the impressive Cultural Center De Meervaart in the beautiful city of Amsterdam. This location was really impressive.. located on the edge of a beautiful lake..with its cool September Autumn breeze. The facility had a large conference hall..and ample space for posters, socializing and meals.

The program of the conference started off on the 18th September – with a quiet but dignified opening ceremony, presided over by our dear President, Dr Teruo Higa. He spoke withy warmth and feeling of his wish of holding this conference in Europe, at the request of Fritz van den Ham, made many years ago. Thus, the event was a dream come true. The opening ceremony included short but valuable statements by Jan, the chief organizer, who described the background of this event and its hopes and aspirations. The most important was the wish of the Europeans, to make this the foundation stone of greater things to come in the future years. The real sessions got underway at 1030 Hrs, with our friends from Europe showing their colors in relation to EM activity, under the strict management of Jan, the conference strongman. The first was Jan himself, illustrating the success of EM in Holland, our host nation. The project has really done well.. and today in most regions, EM is a household name. Austria, represented by the evergreen and dynamic wonder lady – Ulrike Hader highlighted how they have made EM successful in Austria and also in neighboring nations. This again is a remarkable and successful story, where sheer dedication has borne fruit. Mr. Chujo, presented the activities in relation to the progress in Spain, where the foundation material for EM is developed for European projects. The German program on EM, carried out by EMIKO, under the guidance of a very dynamic duo, the Mau brothers was presented by the boss – Herr Joachim Kuntz. This again was an impressive presentation – and today, Germany leads the European program in terms of volumes of sales, users, diversity of products and even books, journals and newsletters!! Again, the sheer dedication of the team at EMIKO was clearly evident – where business acumen and sense has borne fruit. The chocolate nation of Switzerland was represented by Herr Wilhelm Gerhard, who heads Bionova Hygiene in Lucerne. The trails of his work were presented, which were being done against formidable forces of earlier users, trying to grab the limelight. Again, his presentation highlighted the headway made in a short span of about five years.

The four key presenters were followed by two short presentations by Mr. Zajaczkowski of Poland and Mr. Michalis Michael of Cyprus. These two had started work with EM about two years ago and is making slow but sure progress. It was heartening to note the progress they have made over a short period of time and we are sure that when the next conference is organized, they too will tell the world the successes they have had with EM in their respective nations. The final presentation that morning was by our old friend and scientist Dr Attila Muriyani of Hungary. His presentation was a real lecture on EM theory.. this in a way was education to many users. While EM use in Hungary was not phenomenal, the research being done was of value, especially as this country is now in the European Union.

The post lunch session was dedicated to informing the European users of EM, the successes of the technology in other countries. The presenters were selected to represent the continents which clearly highlighted that the Europeans are not alone in this world, and that over 145 nations do use EM and also adopt Kyusei Nature Farming. The first presentation was by the head of EMRO Hawaii, Hiromichi Nago, who dressed in an aloha shirt kept everyone alive by his impressive presentation and the volume of his voice!! The work done in Hawaii was also a story of success in EM use for environmental management and for agriculture, especially coffee and flowers….and in the zoological gardens. He was followed by a presentation from the home of Kyusei Nature Farming and EM, Japan. The presentation highlighted the use of EM in pollution control, using the Seto Inland sea between Honshu and Shikoku island, the latter being the home of our boss Nobuyuki Taniki (who insisted that this was stated!!). The residents around the sea add EM to the polluted waters resulting in a cleaner environment, abundant fish and good seaweed.

The final presentation before the break was the African EM activity, presented by Mr. John Kamau Murkuku of Kenya, who is responsible for the Kibera slum project. This project covering the largest slum in Africa uses EM for sanitation – and possibly provides cleaner water for its inhabitants. The activities of our networks home nation, the Royal Kingdom of Thailand was the first presentation after coffee and cake!! Our Dear Mr. Kanit Muangnil the Head of the Sara Buri Training Center
presented an impressive overview of EM and Kyusei Nature Farming undertaken in the Kingdom. The work of the Sara Buri Nature Farm and Training Center, the only one of its kind in the world impressed the audience. This was followed by the presentation by Mike Daly of New Zealand, who again gave an insight into the EM and nature farming programs being carried out in the far corner of our globe. The last presentation was by Professor Panfilo Tabora of EARTH University, Costa Rica, again a maestro of the Technology of Effective Microorganisms in Latin America. The day’s program ended with a sumptuous diner at the Barbizon Palace Hotel, which hosted typical Dutch food in a standing environment!!

The second day, was dedicated to scientific presentations – with emphasis on European studies. To bring an inter – continental flavor to this session, the chairman was from Asia – and more importantly from our little network. This guy apparently did a good job.. because the session started an hour late and hence he was compelled to manage a difficult situation to finish on time – to enable the participants enjoy Amsterdam!!

The session got underway with presentations from Holland by Dr Bril, - who talked of using EM to reduce sludge in effluent water. This was followed by Dr Amor of Austria, and her presentation emphasized the benefits of EM in reducing gas emissions and odor of animal slurry during storage. EMRO Spain, represented by Keita Kojima presented a case study of using EM in treating sewage, and was followed by Professor Dr Monika Kruger of Leipzig, Germany, who talked of microbial and immunological impact of EM in cattle nutrition.

The presentations after a well-earned break were by Ir. van der Kolk from the host nation Holland, who talked of the possibility of reducing methane production by EM in animal roughage products. Dr. Igras of Poland, presented a case study of crops with EM, using cereal and rape as examples. This case study showed the benefits of the microbial inoculant on crops and soils. A short presentation from Cyprus by Marios Theodorou identified the potential of using EM in biogas production – a system if proven to be reproducible, would have a significant impact on the fermentation processes of biogas generation. The final presentation for the morning was again by Dr Muriyami of Hungary – This again contained basic facts of EM and its action – although rather long winded, much to the chagrin of the chairman, the presentation contained valuable information on the impact of EM on plant and soil characteristics.

The lunch break.. which again was shortened was followed by a panel discussion, chaired by the man from our little network!! The questions posed to the speakers of the day were interesting – ranging from the deep scientific aspects to the possible impact of EM in gas emission by humans!! However, the highlight of the conference was the presentation by our dear President – Professor Dr Teruo Higa. The holistic nature of EM was well covered by Professor Dr Higa, and the illustrative slides showed the potential in a diverse range of environments

The finale of the day was the appreciation and statements made by Professor Higa, Jan Feersma and the chairman of the day – It was interesting to note that the person handling the proceedings of the day paid emphasis to the possibility of imitations of EM flooding the markets – Even at the conference, there was a guy talking to many overseas participants with the aim of selling fake EM from the USA!! Thus, the chairman requested Europeans to be careful.. and use the real EM from Higa and not fakes sold in the name of Higa!! However.. the most interesting thing was that the whole proceedings was again EM!! It was Effectively Managed – to finish on time, although the sessions started one hour late! This was real APNAN style.. of doing things effectively like EM. Hence, APNAN wishes to thank the organizers for inviting its active participation in a very good and productive conference – which included over 300 people from over 20 nations!!

We do look forward to the Proceedings and the development of more effective conferences in Europe. The foundation stone is laid.. we implore our dear friends to build on this foundation – to develop a better society for the peoples of Europe through EM Technology – new will help as always.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF THAILAND VISITS NATURE FARM IN NEW ZEALAND

The Delegation of senior officials of the Royal Kingdom of Thailand, led by the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister visited New Zealand in November. A sudden call to APNAN to arrange a tour of an organic farm using EM for this delegation put us at APNAN which is 13 hours flying time away in a panic!! However as usual, no task is impossible and we contacted NZNFS. Thus, the delegation visited the showpiece.. Harts Creek Farm – on the 20th November – and were shown around by its owners Tim and Rose Chamberlain and of course in association with Mike Daly. The visit took them also to the Botanical Gardens and the Biological Husbandry unit, all using EM. The distinguished visitors were also hosted to a real Kiwi
barbecue, using EM products by the Harts Creek farm, and the site was also beside the beautiful Harts creek!! This one-day trip was indeed a moral booster to the NZNFS and its members and also to the EM programs in Thailand, which at times face some difficulties due to opposition by some quarters. However, the benefits accrued to NZNFS were tremendous due to the press publicity, which made Tim and Mike wear ties!!!!.

We care happy that the progress and we do anticipate greater awareness campaigns. We will be called upon to help more often. which means. we will have more work! Hence, we do request our dear sponsors to send us staff that are more dedicated and a bit more funds please!! We will do our job to the best of our ability.. as always.. and hence spread the word of nature farming and EM to the world!!

**EM HELPS VICTIMS IN INDIA**

The tsunami that struck the Asian region on the fateful day of 26 December, 2004, caught most people unawares. The destruction and misery that followed was of an immense magnitude – and the cleaning up operations amidst the debris and decay was a daunting task. However, EM was used extensively in this venture in most nations – and Thailand and India took leading roles.

A report sent to us from AuroAnnam state that EM was used to control odor and flies in Nagapattinam, in Tamilnadu, where the Tsunami caused much destruction. The State Secretary of Tamilnadu, who spearheaded the cleaning up operation had been introduced to EM in mid 2004, and thus called upon AuroAnnam to help out. EM was sprayed and the results were immediate – the reduction in odor and flies, which led to the greater appreciation and adoption of EM, a biological and environmentally friendly technology. This has paved the way for using EM in relief camps and also for shelter camps that house the refugees. The hygiene of these crowded units will be managed with EM. This work of AuroAnnam led by Dr Lucas Dengal and his team of volunteers is commendable and we look forward to greater awareness of EM in these areas and in future emergency damage control.

We again offer our support as our dear President has requested our staff to even travel to the Tsunami affected regions and provide EM free if the need arises.

**EM EUROPEAN CONFERENCE HOLDS EXCITING FIELD DAY**

The EM Conference hosted a well-planned and educative field trip soon after the technical sessions. Due to the demand for places, especially after the generation of enthusiasm by the presentations, a fleet of six buses took off from the centre of Amsterdam in four directions to cover the four sites.

**EM for sale in Holland**

The sites were a modern dairy farm using EM for sanitation and feeding of animals, a sophisticated glasshouse using EM for flower production, a research station and an EM sales outlet. All sites illustrated the potential of EM in diverse areas of agriculture – and all were supported by Agriton, the main hosts of the conference. The participants were very impressed by the work being done, although some did say that much more could be achieved.

We do thank Agriton and its team for a well planned conference, and we do implore the planners of the next conference to improve on this – a difficult task, but which could be achieved. We do thank Agriton and its team for a well planned conference, and we do implore the planners of the next conference to improve on this – a difficult task, but which could be achieved.

**THAILAND USES EM FOR POST TSUNAMI DAMAGE CONTROL**

Thailand was also affected by the Tsunami in the Indian Ocean – and our dear friends and colleagues of EM Kyusei, who handle the EM projects in the Royal Kingdom worked close in hand with the Royal Thai Army and the Red Cross to improve sanitation in the affected areas with
EM. EM Kyusei provided large quantities of EM free to the affected areas and supplies were even airlifted – to the affected regions in the South of the Kingdom. Again, the reports reaching us state the success of EM and even skeptics who were against EM were convinced of the immediate benefits caused by EM – hence we are very happy that the technology promoted by us really worked in emergency situations – and we do pledge our support to all who are interested and hence will help if requested. We also offer our sincere congratulations to EM Kyusei and all those involved in the relief operations for using this beneficial technology at the time of the crisis – this really proves the effect of Effective Microorganisms.

THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN AWARDS THE TERUO HIGA TROPHY

The Royal Government of Bhutan inaugurated the School Agriculture program on the suggestion made by the then Minister of Agriculture, Lyonpho Dr Kinzang Dorji. This suggestion was accepted by Professor Dr Teruo Higa, who, along with our sponsors, the INFRIC and EMRO in Japan supported the nature farming and EM project in the Himalayan paradise. This project has been run successfully for three years, and was awarded by the donor himself, Professor Dr Teruo Higa on the World Food Day, which fell on 16 October, 2002, during his visit to Bhutan. The trophy was given by this network as a token of gratitude to our dear President, Professor Dr Teruo Higa.

In 2004, the contest was held and our dear Taniki visited Bhutan to observe and judge the best school. The project which today is a joint effort by the Ministries of Agriculture and Education, decided that Bajo Higher Secondary School be awarded the first prize and trophy. The award ceremony was held at the Drujeygang Middle Secondary school, Dagana, and the Governor of the District awarded this prize to the Vice Principal, Mr. Gyaltshen. This school had the best farm and was managed naturally using EM.

The program is gathering momentum. although we will sponsor this award for a period of five years, it is hoped that the prize will be continued – and that schoolchildren through the school agriculture program become aware of the benefits of nature farming and EM. This was the primary objective of the founding fathers, HE The Minister and Professor Dr Teruo Higa. APNAN supports this program through workshops and trainings and we will to be best of our ability continue to do so. We look forward to printing better and greater news from the Royal Kingdom of Bhutan soon.

THE GENERAL ACTIVITIES OVER THE LAST FOUR MONTHS.............

EM FESTA HELD IN OKINAWA

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THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN AWARDS THE TERUO HIGA TROPHY

The annual festa of EM Research Organization has become a special event in the U c h i n a n c h u Calendar!!!! Hence, every year many people come from the mainland and overseas. This year too, the festa drew a vast gathering including 80 people from overseas – representing 17 nations (not including mainland Japan!!)

The Festa was declaring open by the Governor of Okinawa, Mr. Inamine, accompanied by the Mayor of Gushikawa city, Mr. Chinen, Professor Dr Higa, and President of EMRO Asato.

During the two days program the festa had technical sessions, the most recent reports from overseas about EM, the EM medical conference and keynote address of Dr. Higa. In the midst of all these activities, the 10th anniversary of the Bokashi Network, which was initiated by our dear Mrs. Setsuko Higa was celebrated in a grand and fitting manner. At this event, Madam Higa thanked all those who helped to make it a success and requested greater participation in the future, especially because it has benefited many people, especially the handicapped. Meantime, 10th years anniversary of EM Bokashi Network was held and Mrs. Higa, Honorary Chairperson addressed and expressed the gratitude to the people to participate and motivate the network.

The EM programs in Okinawa are gathering momentum. and many developments are taking place. We hear of the EM Wellness Center, yet to be opened, EM Glass stone and the use of EM in construction. The developments are so vast that we may need a special newsletter to highlight these!! However, we are happy that EM, which began with nature farming, is now a major force and we look forward to its gaining vast international recognition. Our little network will support this cause.

AWAJI ISLAND ESTABLISHES EM UNIT

The Awaji Island, sited close to the new Kansai International Airport is special to EM Technology!! It is the location of the first swimming pool constructed with EM technology, where EM was mixed into cement. This pool, located in the city of Tsuna thus attacked much attention. Hence, the Mayor invited EMRO and our
President to develop an EM based agricultural park on the Awaji Island, using an abandoned land. As usual, our President accepted the challenge and instructed EMRO to move one of its offices to Tsuna on Awaji. The office of the Chief, Overseas operations Uemura san was thus moved and he was placed in charge – with a small staff to undertake this project, while overseeing the international activities. The additional mandate given was also to develop EM based agribusiness, a personnel training center and a resources recycling park... a very tall order!!!

The project will get underway this summer and we hear that our best technical officers will be drawn there.. including our dear Kanda san. Okuda san from the Philippines is already there.. We at APNAN wonder ... . However, we do wish the Awaji office the very best and inform them that we can help develop it as we have experience.. Uemura san, if you do need assistance .. please inform us.. we will be happy to have a working holiday on Awaji.

APNAN wishes the Awaji office, Uemura san and his staff the very best for the future and offers all our support!!

PLANNING OF SECOND EUROPEAN EM CONFERENCE INITIATED

The enthusiasm generated by the First European conference on EM got the blood of our German colleagues warm.. they wanted to initiate the planning of the next conference in their country as soon as possible! Thus telephone calls, emails and all possible communication lines were opened between the German speaking nations and also to APNAN – and a bird escaping winter from the cold Europe and flying to the warm Asian region, stopped by at APNAN and sang a song.. of news.. that the first planning meeting was held in Zurich in December!! Why Zurich?? It was because some guy from APNAN was holidaying in Zurich, although the excuse was that it was work!! The meeting was attended by the bosses of EMRO Germany, EMIKO Germany, Multikraft of Austria and a special VIP invitee from an organic farm in France – who is also the Deputy Mayoress of her City!! The discussions held centered around the objectives of the conference, the possible audiences, speakers and location, and our dear friends from Germany undertook the task of locating a site – to hold an EM fair cum conference in the line of the EM festa. The dates were set for September 2006, and as usual, APNAN was asked to help.. this will be done as always.. and finally, the meeting ended up with a real cheesy Swiss dinner and wine at the Crazy Cow Restaurant in Zurich!!

We do anticipate a real good conference and a EM fair.. and we look forward to helping organize it.

AUSTRALIAN EM PROJECT BY VRM EXPANDS SIGNIFICANTLY

The EM project in Australia, based in sunny Townsville, and led by the dynamic Ken Bellamy and his company VRM is making much progress... They have built a new production unit, expanded capacities and most importantly, expanded EM use in a diverse range of areas – from household sanitation to large scale application in cropping. We are told that at present some 4500 hectares of sugarcane and 1500 hectares of banana are using EM through a range of mixtures including fertilizers. The net result has been the reduced use of chemicals as much as by 20 – 25%, thus paving the way to the development of organic systems, as envisaged in Kyusei Nature Farming, by transforming soils through microbial inoculation with EM. A kangaroo brought to Bangkok states that EM is used in poppy culture for Aspirin...nothing else!!..and the projects are showing promising results. We anticipate greater use of EM in Australia, where a EM Conference was held a few years ago.. to really take off in this venture – under the guidance of VRM and its able boss Ken Bellamy, who even toured Europe in October with his basketball team, learning, observing and even consulting and cooperating in the development of the Technology of EM. We at APNAN offer them all the possible support in their ventures to promote EM in Australia and even Australasia!!

ANGEL ASSOCIATION OF BANGLADESH USES EM IN TRAINING RURAL WOMEN

The Angel Association of Bangladesh, an NGO working in collaboration with support from Japanese organizations organize training workshops for rural women on agriculture and healthy lifestyles. The program began using EM in their training projects, and hence have since expanded activities. The training offers lasts for 6 months, and EM is incorporated in the entire event. The response to the use of EM has been overwhelming and we do anticipate greater development – especially model farms using organic systems with EM. They are also in close contact with our dear friend Mr. Rahman, who is spearheading the EM project in Bangladesh. We hope that this program will cover the entire country, as it will surely benefit the nation – we are this little network do offer all our support in this venture.

EM KYUSEI OF THAILAND HOSTS A EM FORUM

The EM program in the Royal Kingdom of Thailand is handled by EM Kyusei, founded by Mr. Kazuhiko Wakugami. They are active in the promotion and hence organize events to popularize the technology. The last event was a forum held at the Rachapat University in the Nakhon Ratchasima Province in November. The guest of honor was our President, Professor Teruo Higa, and the occasion was graced by Rev Kazuo Wakugami.

Nature farming fields in Bangladesh
The forum, which attracted over 250 people, included the keynote speech by our president and some success stories. One case study was a housing project in Nonthaburi, where EM was used very successfully for treating wastewater.

The VIPs led by Professor Dr. Higa also visited fruit orchards using EM, the Muong Porn Gardens and animal units. The visit also included the Sara Buri nature farm, where he encouraged the Director Mr. Kanit Muangnil and his assistant Sakki to further develop the centre and promote nature farming and EM within Thailand and across the world.

The forum was a highlight and we at APNAN are grateful to our President who just spent two days doing all this activity and to EM Kyusei for inviting us to attend. We hope that such events will be held more frequently as the more people hear about EM, more will adopt it.

DPR KOREA PLANS THE SECOND EM CONFERENCE

The program of EM in DPR Korea was initiated in a small way in 1996 when Professor Dr. Higa made the first trip with Mr. Akira Suzuki of INFRC and began this program. This developed through time and in 2000 the First International Conference was held, which was attended by more than 20 nations. APNAN was responsible for the organization and many visits were made – the hard bargaining team was led by our ex boss Takashi Kyan and a very junior member of this network. The conference was a tremendous success – and we were told that the program expanded thereafter as people became aware of the benefits of EM. The country will celebrate 10 years of EM in 2006 and a suggestion was made to hold a convention in that year. This was agreed upon by our President and plans are underway to organize an International meeting. APNAN as usual has been told.. pleased do the arrangements and plans are afoot to visit the country in May to get this conference on line. We hope that our friends in Europe will also come at their cost., as funds are certainly limited!! We do look forward to a productive conference in 2006.

INDIAN PRESS HIGHLIGHTS EM USE IN TSUNAMI DAMAGE CONTROL

The Hindu Newspaper in India is the most widely read daily. All states have their own versions, and the Tamilnadu edition highlighted the use of EM in post tsunami sanitation in the Coromandel coast of the state. EM was promoted by AuroAnnam, which use the technology widely, and EM was rushed to the affected regions. It was sprayed in 27 relief camps, public toilets and in places housing the people displaced by the natural tragedy. The technical know how was provided by Dr Lucas Dengel and the operation was coordinated by Dr Vinay Kumar, the Municipal Heath Officer of the region and by other NGO officials.

The use of EM pleasantly surprised the inhabitants of these camps, living under duress and stress – the putrefying stench was reduced within a few minutes of using EM. Thus, its use was widespread in other village and regions affected by the Tsunami. We do thank Dr. Dengel and his team for spearheading this project and to Maple Orgtech for providing the EM to AuroAnnam for their work.

VIETNAMESE GROUP TRAVELS TO THAILAND

The Vietnamese are always interested in EM! Hence two or three times a year.. they do travel to Thailand to observe the developments. The visits are always led by Dr Le Khae Quang and this time the group was guided by Imamura san and our dear APNAN mum Somlak san! They visited Sara Buri, the Muang Porn Gardens, a tannery and of course Bangkok! They were impressed by the developments and especially the greening of the surroundings of the tannery, which discharges wastewater, treated with EM. This again highlights the benefits of EM in mitigating pollution. We do hope that these insights will further spur our dynamic Vietnamese to progress with using EM in a greater range of activities.

AUSTRIANS PRODUCE EM CAVIAR!!!

The EM program in Austria is really expanding…and the use of the microbial product ranges from crops, animlas to waste management and even the growth of Sturgeons – the exclusive fish producing the food of the gods.. Fish eggs, called CAVIAR by the elite!! While on the way to the UNIDO Meeting in Vienna.. A member of our staff stopped by in the Austrians Alps to see the production of fish and caviar with EM. This project is successful and the farmer anticipates expanding this project further. We congratulate the evergreen Ulli Hader, her family, and the Company for the initiative taken, and look forward to enjoying Caviar at the next conference!!!

SRI LANKAN EM PROJECT NEEDS REVAMPING

The EM program in the Island Republic was booming two years ago – The project, handled by Sarvodaya, one of the most successful NGOs in the region, was happy that the EM use was expanding and our technical officers were called upon to make EM regularly. Our sponsors and we at APNAN were happy that this was a project that made no financial demands – but did all their work using local funds. However, over the last few months the project has been slumping – the people working on EM in Sarvodaya have moved to greener pastures and hence the use of EM has declined. Sri Lanka was badly affected by

EM Sturgeon Production in Austria
the Tsunami, and EM would have helped to overcome sanitation problems to a great extent. However, we do not have such promising and significant results of EM use in Sri Lanka except for some sprayings carried out by the Lanka Sekai Kyusei Foundation, in conjunction with the person in charge of EM in Sarvodaya, Dr J C Krishnaratne. The discussions held by our staff and Sarvodaya has also painted rather a dismal picture of the project, which early last year was hailed as a success story. Thus it shows that the program needs revamping and we are prepared to help. We do implore Sarvodaya to get the project reactivated and we will offer all possible help. Sri Lanka needed EM in the past and still needs greater quantities and we do hope that within the next few months, we could report better news.

CONGRATULATIONS – EM HAWAII!!
Hawaii, the most popular holiday destination in the USA is known for many things - sunny beaches, great shopping, beautiful landscapes, sugarcane pineapples and of course its coffee. The lush tropical environment provides ideal ecological conditions for coffee. Thus a large coffee plantation the Lafayette farm which is certified as organic and has been using EM for the last three years with tremendous success, produced very good Kona Coffee... which was in demand! Due to the popularity, the Lafayette farm entered their EM Kona coffee for the competition to judge the best tasting coffee... and in 2004, they were awarded the first prize... for the best tasting coffee!! When interviewed, Mr. Lafayette clearly stated the benefits of EM... in developing his coffee. This is a big boost for EM and nature farming and proves that EM when used properly gives very good results.

We offer our congratulations to the Lafayette farm and of course, to EM Hawaii and Hiromichi Nago, who heads the unit. We hope that this success story will be repeated in many other enterprises and we at APNAN offer our support to these ventures.

SARA BURI HOLDS AGRICULTURAL FESTIVAL
The annual Agricultural Festival of the Sekai Kyusei Kyo Thailand was held at the Sara Buri Center in November. This grand event spearheaded by Rev. Daiho Kasahara, the President of Thai SKK was a magnificent event, which opened on 5 November – and the real effects of nature farming with EM were shown in all its glory. Many distinguished guests attended this event and were impressed by what nature farming without any chemicals can achieve... which of course is supported by EM!!

We were called upon to develop posters of our activities. We were happy that the link between Thai SKK and us still is strong as ever... and that we are called to help and participate in these ventures. We are grateful to the Thai Sekai Kyusei Kyo and its President Rev Daiho Kasahara for the support given to us at all times.

THE BEAUTY OF MIROKU BOTANICAL GARDEN IS ENHANCED
Rev. Kazuo Wakugami, the founder president of Sekai Kyusei Kyo is a farsighted man. His vision for his adopted country, Thailand, was to transform it into a paradise on earth, as envisaged by Meishu Sama, the founder of Sekai Kyusei Kyo. Thus, he toiled away for many a year to establish a very successful order of Sekai Kyusei Kyo in all parts of the Kingdom. He did not rest on his laurels – he was a golden mentor to our little network, supporting its activities to the hilt.

However, he was not satisfied... in addition, in 1992, began the development of the Sara Buri Sacred grounds... this magnificent building stands today as a monument of dedication to this revered man, along with the Kyusei Nature Farm and Training Centre. Thereafter he again pursued the teachings of his prophet and wanted beauty and culture added to the sacred ground. He started the development of a botanical garden, the Miroku Botanical garden. He planned this with meticulous care, and brought trees and plants from all over the east. At one time, he was contemplating traveling to other countries – to bring plants, despite his age!! He also called upon to establish a The culmination of all this took place in November, along with the Agricultural Festival. A specially designed gate to the entrance of the Miroku Botanical Garden was installed and declared open, along with the prize winning sculpture by Mr. Axel, who followed the teaching of Mr. Yokoo a famous Japanese artist. This white edifice today stands at the center of the gardens, glorifying the dedication of Rev. Kazuo Wakugami. His successor Rev. Daiho Kasahara followed in the steps of his mentor and previous President Rev. Wakugami and developed this unit to its completion.

Visitors to Sara Buri today have many things to admire. From small beginnings of a nature farm, it has a complete paradise on earth... and all are welcomed to see these... all interested in this site, please contact us... we will try to arrange, as visits are only allowed by prior permission, due to the sanctity of the site. We at APNAN are proud to be associated with this and we salute the Sekai Kyusei Kyo of Thailand for this Paradise on Earth, created as envisaged by Mokichi Okada by his faithful followers, under the guidance of Rev. Kazuo Wakugami and Rev. Daiho Kasahara.

SARA BURI HOSTS WORKSHOPS FOR LAOTIANS AND MALAYSIANS
The Sara Buri Nature Farm and Training Center is always in demand by people wanting to learn nature farming and EM Technology!! This demand never stops and there are...
more and more special training programs being organized for individual countries. The workshops organized in the last four months of 2004 included two special programs for Laotians and Malaysians. The 38 Laotians who traveled to Sara Buri in late October were either Governmental officers or farmers. They even brought samples of mushrooms, and were well trained by the colleagues at Sara Buri, led by the dynamic Kanit Muangnil and his able bodyguard and assistant – Masanobu Sakurai!! The participants from Lao PDR asked so many questions that our poor Imamura even has a headache every night!!! The Malaysians, who came in December also were really interested and spent 3 days at Sara Buri, learning EM and visiting sites. They also presented some of their activities. The highlight was that all people who attended the workshops highly commended the program, and the dedication of the staff, both at Sara Buri and also at APNAN. We are pleased that we can offer this service to humanity to improve their lives and environments thoroughly nature farming and EM Technology – this is our mandate and we do it to the best of our ability, which in turn is most appreciated.

**Laotians in Sara Buri**

**EUROPEANS HOLIDAY IN THAILAND**

The annual pilgrimage of our dear European friends took place in November, when they stop by to enjoy Thailand and its climate while traveling to the EM Festa in Okinawa. The team from Germany, Switzerland and Holland visited Sara Buri, and many adjacent sites using EM. Of course, they as always enjoyed the sumptuous meals of Sara Buri Nature Farm, and were impressed by the developments taking place. The tour was arranged by APNAN, and Noboyuki Taniki guided them along. APNAN welcomes these tours. It is education for us as well.. as they have experiences with EM from another continent with a different climate, environment and different attitudes of the humans as well! We hope that this exchange of information will continue and look forward to greater cooperation in the future.

**BANGLADESH CLEAN DEVELOPMENT MECHANISMS USE EM TECHNOLOGY**

The Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM) project in Bangladesh is centered in Dhaka – and they use EM in the management of city wastes. This has brought about tremendous success in fly and odor control, which are the most significant problems of garbage. We have been told by our dear friend who heads the EM program in Bangladesh, Mr. Rahman, that EM use is successful and that the project was even given a UNDP award for its proven benefits. Thus, the Bangladeshi Government has promoted the community based city waste management program to Vietnam, and Sri Lanka – a newspaper item in the Bangladesh Observer highlights this cooperation. The representatives of two cities from Sri Lanka and Vietnam have agreed to use this model, and we anticipate greater spread of EM in environmental management. The importance is further enhanced because the garbage can be made into good compost using EM, which becomes an added source of revenue to the community, as proven in many nations of Asia and Africa.

We are indeed very happy at these developments and the programs between countries promote technology. This also proves that our network has been effective in promoting EM..and causing the cobweb principle of interlinking organizations across nations to promote EM.

**THAILAND HOSTS AN ORGANIC FAIR**

Organic agriculture in Thailand is being promoted by the Royal Government. The Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra made this statement at the opening ceremony of an organic fair held at the Golden Jubilee Museum of Agriculture, in Khlong Luang District of the Pathum Thani Province. This fair was primarily held to promote organic agriculture and products. Hence, EM Kyusei of Thailand, established a booth to highlight the benefits of nature farming and EM technology – The highlights presented as reported to us were the training offered at Sara Buri to the Thai populations, overseas trainees, Thai Military and other interested groups; a project on training Thai people in the south to develop community harmony and EM products.

However, both Taniki san and Keefe san state that this fair was primarily for Thai people and was generally a low key affair. However, with the boost given by the Royal Government, organic farming will certainly become big business and in this scenario, EM will have a significant role to play... we look forward to working with EM Kyusei in developing this sector.

**PROFESSOR DR HIGA VISITS CYPRUS**

The European conference in Amsterdam paved the way for our President and Mrs. Higa to travel in the region. Hence, the first visit after Amsterdam was to Cyprus, where the EM project, initiated by the evergreen Fritz van den Ham of Agriton fame is managed by Envirotech Ltd, of which Mr. Michalis Michale is a Director. Meetings were held to promote the technology amongst interested people and a field trip was arranged to show the developments. Most farmers know the potential of EM and thus were keen to adopt it. Professor Dr Teruo Higa taught all interested the use of EM in olive farms and in animal production – to encourage them to proceed with the technology as a safe, efficient low cost method of agriculture. We hope that Cyprus will use this opportunity – although we are not in the mandate region, we will offer our fullest support and we would like a holiday in sunny Cyprus to train people in EM and nature farming. Thus..
and health. This holistic Approach was well received and
environment, and leading to EM in industries, construction
beginning from agriculture for healthy food, to EM in the

The presentation included the fundamentals of EM
of both Professor and Mrs. Higa!! In fact, about 400
tickets had been sold well in advance!!!!

UNIDO IN VIENNA TOLD OF POTENTIAL OF EM
The United Nations Industrial Development Organization
had worked on a water treatment project in Pakistan, in
conjunction with EMRO Pakistan and its boss Dr Syed
Ali. Hence, as Professor Dr Higa was in Europe, Dr Ali
arranged for a meeting at the UNIDO Headquarters based
at the Vienna International Center.
The delegation to UNIDO included Professor and Madam
Higa, their able assistants Mr. Kuwabara of Europe and
Takashi Shimoji, Dr Ali and a member from this little
network. The counterpart of Dr Ali, who arranged this
visit, met the delegation on arrival. After pleasant meetings, a
discussion cum presentation was held in a seminar room –
all arranged by the UNIDO expert from Vienna, who
 collaborated with Ali san. After the presentation on the
potential of EM in waste management by Professor Higa,
there were very interesting questions and the demand for
detailed scientific studies. The case study from Pakistan
where tannery wastewater was treated with EM was
presented by Dr Ali – which drew many remarks, some
cylical, as expected by dogmatic scientists, who again
called for detailed studies on a real scientific basis!!
However, the opportunity was given for Professor Higa
and his team to make an UN organization aware of EM
and its potential and that people in the world are surely
using this technology to mitigate environmental problems.
We hope that the officials of UNIDO would take heed..a
as we are sure that Professor Dr Higa will make his services
available to UNIDO.

EM TECHNOLOGY WELL RECEIVED IN BERLIN!!!
Our dear President does it again…..he drew a mammoth
crowd in Berlin!!! From Vienna, the delegations minus the
APNAN member traveled to Berlin, where a seminar
was organized by the I.H.M.Inc. The theme of the seminar
was EM Technology for Healthy Living. The seminar
attended by over 800 people. Much to the surprise
of both Professor and Mrs. Higa!! In fact, about 400
tickets had been sold well in advance!!!!
The presentation included the fundamentals of EM
beginning from agriculture for healthy food, to EM in the
environment, and leading to EM in industries, construction
and health. This holistic Approach was well received and
over 300 people thronged our President to get his
autograph on the book.. and as usual, the smiling President
obliged!!!!
We are grateful to the organizers for this event and hope
that such seminars will be organized throughout
Germany…and we will provide all possible help when
needed.

FRANKFURT RECEIVES APNAN PRESIDENT
The German trip did not end in Berlin.. but in Frankfurt,
where over 200 gathered to listen to Professor Dr Higa –
on the use of EM at a household level.. ranging from
sprays to clean toilets and fungi to drinking it!!! The
seminar organized by I.H.M.Inc, ended in a series of
questions – all if which were diligently replied to by the
ever willing Dr Higa. These developments will surely run
up to greater use of EM in Germany and the other German
speaking nations……especially because of the interest
of EMiko, the EM Journal published in German and the
keenness of the counterparts in Austria and Switzerland.
Dear friends in Germany.. please keep us updated on
your work.. we like to present these stories to a greater
audience in all continents through our little
newsletter…….which is no match for your EM Journal!!!

STAFF AND EX STAFF TRAVEL THE REGION........

LAO PDR PROMOTES EM ACTIVELY
The neighboring nation of Lao PDR began using EM in a
small way a few years ago. With time and lot of input
from this network, the program got underway – and today
it is expanding significantly. The use of EM has increased
and the last visit by our dear Imamura san was very
successful. He was called upon to make 2 tons of EM and
his visit to a nature farm using EM for three years was a
real surprise!! The farmer who participated in a nature
farming workshop in Vientiane a few years ago began
using EM. His rice and cucumber crops grown organically
with EM is a success and the environment has improved
significantly… which has caught the attention of even
IFOAM officials in Lao PDR!! Our dear Ima chan reports
that the soils of EM fields look much more fertile, and
that the plants more healthy, resulting in a bountiful crop.
We are very happy that the Lao TV has shown the success
of these fields and hence IFOAM anticipates bringing the
EM official in Lao on a study tour of Thailand to observe
EM and organic farming in the Royal Kingdom. We at
APNAN are very happy about these developments and
hope that we can help promote these activities further.
Lao PDR can become a showpiece to the world.. that EM
really works in smallholder farming conditions of the
tropics!

VIETNAM BEGINS EM PRODUCTION AND
EXPANDS ACTIVITY
The Vina Nichi Center of Vietnam, which coordinates the
EM activities of Vietnam was dependant upon us for
their EM all the time… whenever the demand arose, which
happened to occur at more frequent intervals due to the

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ever increasing use of the technology, our officers had to rush to make the EM. Thus, our bosses in EMRO finally decided to teach the staff at the Vina Nichi Center to make their EM from the seed developed by our versatile and efficient technical officers. Hence in September, the Center started making their EM, and although EM production can be hampered by the low duration of sunlight in Hanoi, research by our dear Imamura san in conjunction with the EM Laboratory in Shizuoka and its boss Kentaro Sakakibara (an ex student of our President, Prof Dr Higa!!) has developed a mechanism to overcome this problem. This has paved the way for the Vina Nichi Center to make their own EM from seed material made with microbes from Vietnam. The trip to Vietnam by Ima chan also contained the usual workshop – for a Women’s Association in Dhanon. Ima chan really enjoyed being in the company of beautiful Vietnamese ladies.. and taught them the basics of EM technology really effectively!! Activated EM had been distributed free of charge to all participants, and the supply had not been enough to meet the demand – as there were more ladies than that expected – we do not know if this was due to EM or our handsome Imamura san.. but a fly on the wall of the training unit whispered that some ladies wanted to kidnap Ima chan to a secret destination – we do not know if this was due to EM or for anything else!!!

APNAN is happy that these projects in Vietnam are very successful and wishes to offer its support further. In addition, we also do thank the evergreen Dr Le Khac Quang, who always has innovative ideas to promote EM in Vietnam. We as always offer our fullest cooperation, assistance and support to them to expand their ventures in this great nation.

MYANMAR FLOWER PRODUCTION UNITS USE EM SUCCESSFULLY

Travels of APNAN staff never seem to end.. and our dear colleagues hop from one nation to the other.. and we do have the luck of being in Thailand, a central location and the low cost of airfares to countries make its placement in Bangkok very desirable. This enables us to meet the ever-increasing demand for EM from the Asian region, and at times spreading to Australia and New Zealand!!

Our dear Ima chan.. who is at present the junior member of our efficient team thus has to manage many nations – and Myanmar is on high on his list! Thus, he flew into Myanmar in October to organize a workshop on nature farming and EM at the CARTC in Hlegu – where very successful experiments have been carried out using nature farming and EM.. especially with rice, the most valuable crop to Myanmar. During the workshop, Imamura san explained the possibilities of checking the health of rice plants, and also taught them the basics of EM and nature farming.

His visit did not stop there.. he traveled to Pathein to make EM and flew to Mandalay to visit some flower farms. In Mandalay, he was guided by Ms Myint Myint May, the technical officer of the district.. and they visited chrysanthemum farms using EM. Ima chan noted that the plants had more buds than in conventional units, ands that the flowers were much more beautiful…the farmer reported the longer shelf life of EM treated flowers – and they were happy to use EM and techniques of nature farming, because costs were lower and the products more beautiful. Ima chan appreciates the help given by Ms Myint Myint May and we at APNAN hope that these projects will expand into the future.

NEW ZEALAND NATURE FARMING SOCIETY INCREASES ITS DEMAND FOR EM

The New Zealand Nature Farming Society (NZNFS) is increasing its activities.. slowly but surely!!! The climate of New Zealand also causes some problems, especially in winter, when the sunlight is insufficient to produce EM. However the success achieved by Imamura san in Vietnam, in collaboration with the EM research Laboratory in Shizuoka and its boss Kentaro san, paved the way to overcome this hurdle.

Imamura san took wing to Christchurch New Zealand in late September to check the available EM and observe the projects undertaken. He as usual visited the Harts Creek farm, the home of the evergreen Tim and Rose Chamberlain, and observed organic barley, carrots and beets. WE are also told that he even cooked a meal….(more later)

The visit also included travel to a winery using EM. Given the liking of Imamura to good white wines, this was like a duck taking into water!! The visit to the Sherwood winery uses EM for making compost with its wastes. The project is very successful and hence environmentally friendly. We assume that both Mike Daly, the consultant of NZNFS and Imamura enjoyed the wines… to their hearts content! The next pit stop was to the Botanical Gardens of Christchurch – which was a site of the field trip in 2001 – at the last conference. They do continue to use EM in managing wastes and in the vegetable patch – and one staff member stated her despite to use EM in the whole of the Botanical garden!! They will also use EM to overcome water pollution in the ponds and its smell in summer of 2005.

We are very happy that the EM project is becoming stronger by the season.. and APNAN is responsible for it. We are sure that in the near future it will spread further afield .. throughout New Zealand and into the Pacific island nations. The progress made both in Australia and New Zealand are very encouraging – and we are thankful to the counterparts for their efforts. We encourage them to move ahead and offer our support.
APNAN VISITS CAMBODIA

The EM project in Cambodia is moving ahead! It was revived only a year ago, but the demand for EM is ever-growing. This clearly shows that proper guidance and support is essential like a good foundation for a sound building. APNAN, especially its boss Noboyuki Taniki is very happy about this...and always speaks about it when in a good mood...like a real chatter box! Thus APNAN officers do visit Cambodia frequently...and two visits were made in the period under review.

In November, Imamura and Somlak san visited Cambodia. They met with our counterparts the Neary Khemer Association, which organized a workshop on EM. This was even attended by Buddhist monks who were interested in developing nature farming in the rural areas. One monk from a temple near Phnom Penh agreed to donate money to the NKA to develop training facility at the farm, which NKA is trying to establish as model farm using EM. This is progress itself and we are happy that the project is moving forwards. The latest development is a radio program on nature farming and EM broadcast over the state system.

Later in the year, APNAN Boss Taniki traveled to Cambodia for official discussions and to check EM quality. The discussions centered around permission to make EM in the Kingdom and also to develop research sites. Taniki san reports some progress and also some obstacles, but we are sure that given time, we will succeed...and that EM will be used in Cambodia on a very wide scale. We ask our counterparts the NKA to spearhead this movement and we will offer our fullest support at all times. We look forward to the day when we can report more success stories from Cambodia.

TANIKI SAN MEETS SKK OFFICIALS IN SRI LANKA TO PROMOTE EM ACTIVITY

The island Republic of Sri Lanka had a very stringent and successful EM program despite many obstacles. However, over the last few months, problems beset the EM unit at Sarvodaya, primarily due to changes in staff. Thus to seek the possibility of revamping the program...and to check seed quality, APNAN Boss Taniki san went to Sri Lanka in October. He checked the EM seed and thereafter met with the officials of the Lanka Sekai Kyusei Foundation, along with Dr Krishnaratne of Sarvodaya EM unit. Discussions were held for possible cooperation and promotion of nature farming and EM through both organizations exhibiting organic compost making. The biofertilizers, which are being demanded more and more in Malaysia is made by MGB using raw materials from their diverse organizations and EM. We are told that the Prime Minister of Malaysia also visited the MGB booth and examined the exhibits, which included EM compost. MGB was also kind enough to facilitate space for EM products. Hence, Keefe and Kanda displayed many EM products such as EM soap, ceramics salt and EMX, books and magazines. Many visitors had inquired where they could get EM and products and were directed to a registry maintained by MGB. We anticipate that the effort made by our two colleagues Keefe and Kanda will bear fruit – and that EM use in a holistic manner will increase in Malaysia. We look forward to reporting these developments in the future issues.

EMRO VISITS CAMBODIA

APNAN Boss Taniki traveled to Cambodia for an official visit. Taniki san reports some progress and also some obstacles, but we are sure that given time, we will succeed...and that EM will be used in Cambodia on a very wide scale. We ask our counterparts the Neary Khemer Association, which organized a workshop on EM, to collaborate with us in the future editions of our magazine.

In November, APNAN Boss Taniki traveled to Cambodia for official discussions and to check EM quality. The discussions centered around permission to make EM in the Kingdom and also to develop research sites. Taniki san reports some progress and also some obstacles, but we are sure that given time, we will succeed...and that EM will be used in Cambodia on a very wide scale. We ask our counterparts the NKA to spearhead this movement and we will offer our fullest support at all times. We look forward to the day when we can report more success stories from Cambodia.

MALAYSIA ENHANCE EM ACTIVITY

The EM program in Malaysia is special. It is purely based on private companies, and this has been a success story. Earlier attempts ended in failure – although much money was paid to consultants, who did little to enhance the technology of EM. Today the demand for EM is rising so much that our staff are often called upon to hop across the border to make EM and provide advice.

Our evergreen and best technical officer Shoji Kanda visited twice in four months for technical support – once to make EM at one location managed by Mr. Sawada, and the next time to hold a workshop on shrimp culture with EM, which again is a success story. This time he did not go alone, but was accompanied by our dear Thai mum and shrimp expert Somlak san. We are told that many who attended this workshop were really pleased...and called for greater in depth training on the possibility of growing organic shrimps with EM. We hope that our sponsors EMRO in Japan, with its large staff will do research and give us this technology, especially as they sent a new staff member Mr. Koshoji from the headquarters to learn how we do things...simply, effectively and efficiently!!!

EM PRODUCTS AT THE MAHA FAIR

EMRO guys at APNAN. Keefe Uehara and Shoji Kanda accepted an invitation from our counterparts in Malaysia to attend the 2004 Malaysian Agriculture, Horticulture and Agro tourism fair, in October. The exhibition had booths from federal, state, private and non-governmental organizations. Research results included those from MARDI, where microbial inoculants had been used to make compost. Our counterparts at MGB were one of the very few organizations exhibiting organic compost making. The biofertilizers, which are being demanded more and more in Malaysia is made by MGB using raw materials from their diverse organizations and EM. We are told that the Prime Minister of Malaysia also visited the MGB booth and examined the exhibits, which included EM compost. MGB was also kind enough to facilitate space for EM products. Hence, Keefe and Kanda displayed many EM products such as EM soap, ceramics salt and EMX, books and magazines. Many visitors had inquired where they could get EM and products and were directed to a registry maintained by MGB. We anticipate that the effort made by our two colleagues Keefe and Kanda will bear fruit – and that EM use in a holistic manner will increase in Malaysia. We look forward to reporting these developments in the future issues.

EM PROJECT IN DPR KOREA VISITED BY EMRO

The EM project in DPR Korea is something very special to our dear President, Professor Dr Higa!! Thus, he visits this country twice a year...and diligently supports the project undertaken. This time, the visit was made in October together with Dr. HS Bae and our ex bosses Takashi Kyan and his namesake Takashi Shimoji. The delegation met with the officials responsible for EM and the discussions revealed that EM is now made as per demand, which is increasing. The equality of EM when
checked was found to be very good and the Academy of Science of DPR Korea stated that the quality of molasses can be improved – as advised by Professor Dr Higa, which in turn enhanced EM quality.

The delegation also visited field sites where rice was cultivated. These fields were continuously cropped in a rice wheat rotation and yields were stated to be higher than the average – all with EM. This was significant as DPR Korea needs all the food it can produce. Further discussions revealed that EM is being used in animal production, with much success and the authorities in Pyongyang are very keen to establish an EM shop to sell products. This will be a significant breakthrough as EM is becoming popular in DPR Korea.

We do report these stories with happiness as DPR Korea is a special place and we would like to see it develop with EM Technology, which has significant potential.

**TAKASHI SHIMOJI VISITS EM PROJECT AT JEONJU UNIVERSITY OF KOREA**

The EM Program in Korea has four very active projects – namely the work of EMRO Korea, Environment project based in Pusan, EM Korea and the Jeonju University activities. These need regular support and this time it was the turn of our ex boss Shimoji to travel to Korea leaving his beloved Chino and Kosuke behind in Okinawa. In Korea, he made EM seed and spent most of the time at Jeonju University, where his predecessor Mr. Shiba had established a successful research program, and paved the way for the establishment of an EM Technology Faculty. The EMRO Korea Environment, established by Mr. Bae Myung Chang, a Steering Counselor of Korean National Red Cross has developed a model example of kitchen garbage recycling with EM bokashi in Pusan. Hence, they have gathered a vast experience on EM technology for environmental management in Korea.

Dr. Lee Nam-sik, president of Jeonju University and Dr. Kang Yong-Joong, president of EM Korea are cooperating together to disseminate EM technology across the country, both as an academic enterprise and a business. Hence, EM Korea is developing various products using EM, such as EM soap, Rice and animal feed.

EM U Center is a small but very efficient NGO capable of offering EM training to the public, while providing EM technical information to Koreans. About 250 people visit their center per month to study the practical way of adopting EM in Agriculture and Environmental management. Recently, the center coordinated an activity with communities and school youth to clean the environment with EM. EM technology is taught in their schools and used to clean the river. They have a program to make soap using waste oil treated with EM.

All these point to one singe factor – That the EM project is very successful in Korea. We are very happy about this, as Korea was one of our founder countries and we were responsible for planting the seeds of success. Although EMRO looks after Korea, we are sure that we can do much to help and hence offer the Korean counterparts our assistance at all times. More importantly, we do congratulate them on their success with EM.

**A LITTLE BIT OF THE FAMILY NEWS..........**

**The reaction....**

It was a quiet Saturday morning, 0930 to be precise, and this writer and his boss were working away in our little office in Kularb Apts……not a cup of coffee in sight, and suddenly there was a clapping noise.. the ears pricked up and the boss in all honesty stated.. It’s the Quityo (Thai noodle) man!!! The boss became hungry……and this poor writer was ordered to accompany him.. to have his breakfast…..!!!

**Mike Daly wears a tie!!**

Mike Daly.. is just a genuine Kiwi.. and rarely do we see him in a tie.. however,.. we are told that due to the visit of the Deputy PM of Thailand.. he had a haircut.. a clean shave.. shower.. put on aftershave.. and most importantly.. put on a TIE!!! Good on you mate.. please do dress up more often Mike and please ask your colleague TIM to do so as well..NZNFS will prosper more!!

**Japanese dinner at the European conference**

Our dear colleagues in Amsterdam wanted to do the best for the Japanese VIPs.. hence they put on a typical Japanese dinner at a very expensive restaurant in the city!! Our dear President and Mrs. Higa and all of the Jap VIPs attended.. and we hear that the dinner went on until 2330.. .. not knowing that the invitees like to retire early.. the younger VIPs were given the best possible schnapps.. and hence the rate of imbibition was rather high.. resulting in much embarrassment to the VIPs!!!

The next morning…. A staff member of this little network.. who did not attend the dinner because of his (so called..!!) discussions with his ex boss.. was really told of by our dear Madam Higa.. The dinner.. it was so late.. This would not happen if you were there!!!

**Kudaka san in the doghouse**

The boss of EMCO: Kudaka san is a happy go lucky man.. and when there are dinners.. he enjoys himself to the hilt!! This happened in Amsterdam at the VIP Japanese dinner.. and the next morning.. he was up at 0630.. showered and well dressed-.. at the lobby.. in front of the elevator.. in a suit.. saying Gomina..sai to all the others coming in for breakfast!! However.. some were not pleased.. and poor Kudaka san.. he went without breakfast.. into a corner.. and the next night.. at the VIP dinner in a 16th century restaurant.. he only drank water!!

**Chimo examines the Berlin Zoo**

The trip by our President and Madam Higa went well.. the seminar was a success.. and all was fine.. except that Mrs. Higa wished to see the Berlin wall.. Thus our dear ex boss Chimo…. (Shimoji).. and his colleague traveled in a
separate taxi.. and got lost!! This they ended up at the Berlin zoo.. looking at the wall of the zoo.. imagining it to be the Berlin wall!!!

**Ima ends up with a troubled stomach**

Our dear brothers in Bangkok.. enjoy Japanese meals.. especially after the APNAN boss returns from an assignment… Thus off they went to a Japanese restaurant.. and had a sumptuous meal.. of seafood etc.. and came back.. Our boss who stomachs anything never has a problem with food.. but our little Ima chan.. ended up sick.. may the tsunami fish put a bug in him!!

**New staff joins apnan**

The departure of our dear Somlak san left us in the lurch.. and we needed a Thai lady for secretarial assistance. We were very fortunate to find Ms Siriporn Silpakul (LEK) as a good replacement – she comes with a sound experience on managing office duties, as she had previously worked for four big companies. Her pleasant nature is a good boost for us at APNAN:: We welcome Lek and hope that she will have a long and fruitful stay with us.. welcome Lek san to the best little network in the world!!

**Ima cooks a Japanese meal**

New Zealanders like to try different types of meals.. and what better chance to have a Japanese meal than when our staff visit for technical reasons?? Our Imamura san visited Christchurch and was working away, when a request came for a Japanese meal…..and he as always obliged.. and cooked a Japanese curry.. just put a packet into hot water.. and lo and behold.. a Japanese curry .. for the Kiwis!!

**Luxury Hotel for Hibino in Vienna**

This young staff of EMRO.. Hibino san.. was in Europe.. getting used to the customs and problems…of that continent.. and while in Vienna.. he had the opportunity to stay in a real luxury hotel with all the VIPs..and he was thrilled…and a bird whispered to us.. that..Mrs Higa told Hibino chan.. We do not stay in such luxury hotels..this is a rare occasion because you are here!!

**Happy couple in London and Kew**

The boss of Sara Buri Nature Farming Center, Mr. Kanit and his able body guard and assistant our Sakki were in Europe to attend the EM conference.. and then took off to London and the Kew Gardens. to get ideas for the Miroku Botanical gardens in Sara Buri.. They were so thrilled to walk hand in hand in Kew. That a bird flying to Thailand for the Winter..told us at APNAN.. that they were seen seated on a bench under a weeping willow tree.. licking a stick of ice cream.. like a real touristy duo!!

**The Presidential Couple**

The conference site in Amsterdam was very beautiful and the water and the birds attracted Mrs. Higa.. hence during a lunch break.. they wandered off.. to see the beauty.. and photographs were taken.. of the happy presidential couple.. holding hands by the lake. A passer by asked who they are…. As there were many around.. and was told.. they are VIP Ministers from the Kingdom of Okinawa!!

**EVENTS OF THE FUTURE.............................................**

(Please check the associated websites)

**2005**

APNAN training on EM and Nature Farming,Thailand
25-28 April 2005
Contact: APNAN

International Conference on the Integration of EM Technology in Agriculture
Saint Lucia
Contact: aruomaoi@isbu.ac.uk

8th Scientific Conference on Organic Agriculture in the German Speaking Countries, Kassel, Germany 1 - 4 March 2005
www.soel.de/projekte/wissenschaftstagung.html
Our European Colleagues – please take note!!!

IFOAM Conference, Australia.

International Conference on Natural Farming and Farmers’ Knowledge
14 to 16 December 2005
Hisar, Haryana, India
Website:http://www.geocities.com/nf_net/icnffk.html
Contact name: Dr S K Kaura

**2006**

58th International Symposium on Crop Protection
9 May 2006
Gent, Belgium
E-mail: Kris.DeJonghe@AT@rug.ac.be

18th World Congress of Soil Science - Frontiers of Soil Science: Technology and the Information Age Philadelphia Pennsylvania
July, 2006

IIV International Conference on: Sustainable Agricultural Productivity Through Education and Extension Tehran Iran
November, 2006
Do you have such programs in Asia...

Conference Hall in Amsterdam

This silage is really good!!

Rheinhard explains a point!

EM flowers for a beautiful lady!!!

Jan says.. I am more beautiful!!

Hey.. I am not sleeping!!