

APNAN NEWS 20(3)

September - December 2009



Asia Pacific Natural Agriculture Network

APNAN is sponsored by

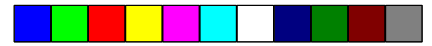


“Agriculture has become increasingly dependant on synthetic substances such as fertilizers and other chemicals, derived from petroleum. The unbridled use of these petroleum products combined with widespread mechanization is consuming significant quantities of energy. Thus in relative terms, the inputs far exceed output. As humans must produce food as long as they live, energy must be used sparingly to meet the demands of food for humankind. It is in this light that Nature Farming becomes a feasible venture – it is a practical alternative to the current energy consuming methods of cultivation.”

(Mokichi Okada 1882 – 1955)

(Adapted from the appendices of the Book Johrei, Divine light of Salvation)





ASIA PACIFIC NATURAL AGRICULTURE NETWORK.....

APNAN, the little network, huddled within the Kularb Apartment in Saphankhwai, Bangkok, Thailand, was first established in 1989 with 13 member nations, and funded by the International Nature Farming Research Center, Atami, Japan, through the generous support of the Sekai Kyusei Kyo, Japan and Thailand. The mandate given at its inception was to elucidate the scientific basis and validity of Nature Farming and the technology of Effective Microorganisms (EM), which was integrated into the concepts of Nature Farming.

From small beginnings, the network moved on to facilitate research, information, producing EM, advising all interested on Nature Farming and training people from all walks of life. The network helped organize major conferences on Kyusei Nature Farming in four continents and was instrumental in presenting the identity of Nature Farming at international forums such as the IFOAM conferences. The network was also responsible for planting seeds of interest on the technology of Effective Microorganisms in all continents of the world and today EM is being blended into even chemical systems to reduce pollution to help preserve the environment for future generations, as advocated by Mokichi Okada, the founder of Nature Farming principles.

The network also provides training on Nature Farming and EM Technology to interested groups, using the excellent facilities offered at Sara Buri Nature Farming Center, managed by the Sekai Kyusei Kyo of Thailand. Information is disseminated, and the Newsletter developed and circulated thrice a year among a readership spanning all continents. The network is run by a few staff and volunteers and is very efficient in its management of resources. Today it is sponsored by the EM Research Organization of Okinawa, the INFRC of Japan and is supported by the Sekai Kyusei Kyo of Japan and Thailand.

All interested in the work of the network – please contact its office at

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AS WE ENTER ADULTHOOD

APNAN IS NOW 20 YEARS OLD..!!!

We believe that we are now adults – and we look forward to the future with hope and aspirations – to do our job better than before – as kids were allowed to make mistakes – now that we claim adulthood – these must and will stop and we must streamline our operations in conjunction with our sponsors and under their guidance, and with their support.

Looking back over 20 years, it is with some joy, that the editor, who has been with the network from its inception, writes this column. In 1989, when APNAN was established, things were much different in the world - there were no emails, no internet, and faxes were just coming into operation. This was the time, when the scientists gathered at Khon Kaen formed the network to validate Kyusei Nature Farming and EM. With time, we expanded – while some left us – but the inflow was much larger than the outflow. One may ask – why was there an outflow? It is just like in the young stages of a human, where children get friendly with others very quickly and then within a short time move on as even at that people realize compatibility! This was the principal reason for the changes in members, partners and associates!

However, the network never gave up.. and with each passing year, we grew from strength to strength. We consolidated ourselves, moved office, got young dynamic staff and did many things that even our sponsors did not expect from us. This was all due to the strength and willpower of us in Bangkok – who strived to meet the goals and aspirations of our members, clients, contacts, friends and sponsors. All this we did – arranged conferences, organized workshops, developed models, made EM, provided technical assistance, disseminated information and amidst all these enjoyed life as well!

Today, the world is a different place – and as we enter the 21st year, we have now challenges to meet – new expectations and new forces acting upon us. Information flow is easy today – with the Internet, something that has changed the lives of all people. Within this framework, we have to compete to outdo others – especially people who fake what we are doing genuinely. The numbers of fake products coming to the market with great propaganda is increasing daily – and our partners and colleagues ask us.. what is this product - is it better than EM? Is one method of farming better than Kyusei Nature Farming? What data do you have on these aspects as there are half-baked studies reported which state that our technologies are not effective!! These studies are done just to get a mark up for a particular rival product or by people who are supported to say these things! This is the world we live in today! However amidst all these what we find is that the real truth prevails and that our technologies – both Nature Farming and EM is moving ahead – from strength to strength, based on the increase in adoption. Certainly, the movement of EM is faster than that of Nature Farming, primarily due to the multitude of benefits it offers very quickly, and due to the vast products that

have now been developed from one basic solution of Effective Microorganisms!

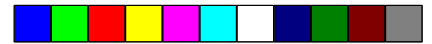
APNAN, the little network is now moving ahead to disseminate the other component as well – that of Nature Farming, as requested by our sponsor, the International Nature Farming Research Center in Atami, Japan. The Board of Management of APNAN, which met in September decided to establish four models as soon as possible in four nations – and this will be the first step, in partnership with our contacts in these respective nations. In this venture, we thus request cooperation from all our partners, contacts and friends – to show the benefits of Nature Farming along with EM.

At this, when the 20th year is ending and we step into the future, we at APNAN pledge to be more efficient than before – to do our work. We have a Board of management checking our activities on an annual basis – we have a new dynamic senior officer who has just taken over with much enthusiasm and also keen efficient staff, and most importantly, good contacts in all our friendly nations and even beyond in other continents. Thus we are confident and courageous to face challenges and do our duties to the best of ability – and better than the best of our abilities. In this venture, we do expect the support we need and we get from our sponsors and all our friends and contacts – this is our strength – to know that there are people who care about what we do.

Our 20th year passed by quickly, although we could celebrate it in a very dignified way in September. These celebrations were meticulously arranged by our first sponsors, the International Nature Farming Research Center in Atami. However, the principal sponsor today, the EM Research Organization and also the Sekai Kyusei Kyo of Japan and Thailand were there with us – and they all pledged their support into the future. We are pleased that their support and blessings are there and we are grateful and this is strength to us.

At the end of the 20th year, when we leave our teen ages to adult hood, we offer our gratitude to all those who have helped us over the years and especially in 2009. These include the International Nature Farming Research Center in Atami, Japan, EM Research Organization in Okinawa, – and the Sekai Kyusei Kyo of Thailand, and it's President, Rev. Daiho Kasahara for guidance, advice, support and for facilitating the use of Sara Buri – the Paradise on Earth. A note of gratitude to Mr. Kanit Muangnil and his able assistant Masanobu Sakurai, who help us with workshops, trainings and with visitors.

APNAN pays its gratitude to the President and Management of the Sekai Kyusei Kyo in Japan, for guiding and supporting us – as we promote Nature Farming as advocated by Mokichi Okada, and we request them to help and guide us at all times. APNAN is very grateful to Rev. K. Amano, Chairman, Board of Directors of INFRC, and all at INFRC for their ever willing help and support. Thank you - Mr. Katsuyuki Asato, President and Board of Directors of EM Research Organization in Okinawa for their increasing support and advice –We also pay respect and offer heartfelt gratitude to our dear President



Professor Dr. Teruo and Madam Setsuko Higa for their omnipresence –they are a primary source of strength to us. APNAN is also grateful to all officers who were with us – they really have our interest at heart, as shown on 29th September 2009 in Atami. We are also happy that our contacts support us – to all of them we say Thank you and request their cooperation into the future.

As Christmas approaches in three days – the day that a great philosopher was born, bringing good tidings to humankind, we at this network are happy. The editor is busy penning his thoughts, while his colleagues are doing their usual jobs, organizing trainings, developing manuals and many other things that need to be done here – and the atmosphere is really friendly. This is the atmosphere that we at APNAN work and this just shows our attitude. Thus, we expect the same from our colleagues, partners and friends - let us join hands and use EM and promote Nature Farming – to make this world a better place for humankind.

At the end of our 20th year and at the end of 2009 – We at APNAN wish all our friends, colleagues and partners

A VERY HAPPY AND CONTENTED 2010.

APNAN, Bangkok, Thailand
December 2009



APNAN staff in the 20th year

The Cover page presents in a clockwise direction beginning from the top left – Rev. K. Amano speaks at the ceremony, Workshop participants working in the field, The Group at the 20th anniversary celebrations and APNAN STAFF in Sara Buri with Professor Higa respectively.

THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PERIOD.....

A DIGNIFIED CELEBRATION OF 20 YEARS.....!

APNAN, the little network has passed its 20th birthday.. with pride and happiness.. It has reached adulthood!! Looking back over 20 years, after serving the Network under many bosses, the writer is



APNAN President speaks at the ceremony

happy.. That this age has been reached with little trouble, but with much success! Its not that we have not had growing up pains, as all humans do have them – It is not that we have not learnt lessons of human nature – but we have persevered to reach this age. We doubt that anyone – from the first 13 member nations ever imagined that what they started – but left due to many reasons, would last this long and more importantly grow from strength to strength, and expand activities as well.

However, with all said and done, the principal initiating sponsors of APNAN, INFRC, thought it fit to celebrate their spin off in a quiet but very dignified manner. Hence, on the 29th of September, it was a meeting of a special group of people who gathered in the sacred precincts of the Sekai Kyusei Kyo, Atami, Japan, to discuss the work done over the 20 years, and look to the future.

The gathering, hosted by the International Nature Farming Research Center, began at 1340 hrs on 29th September, 2009, after a typical but sumptuous organic lunch, hosted at the Sekai Kyusei Kyo Headquarters, again hosted by INFRC. Thereafter a group photograph was taken outside the precincts of this hallowed site, and the group moved to the meeting hall, to begin the proceedings at 1400 hrs. The proceedings were managed by our dear friend and colleague, Mr. Hidehiko Okubo, who welcomed the VIPs and all who were gathered. The proceedings began with addresses of welcome and greetings by our dear President, Prof Dr. Teruo Higa, followed by Mr. K. Asato, President of EM Research Organization, which is now a key sponsor of the network. Thereafter it was Rev. Y. Goto, Senior Member of the Board of Directors, who made a short welcome on behalf of Rev. T. Watanabe, the President of Sekai Kyusei Kyo. Our beloved and respected Rev. Kiyoshi Amano, Chairman, Board of Directors of the INFRC, then addressed the gathering, followed by one of our founding members, who still has contact to us – Professor Dr. Cho Cho Myint, (Ex Pro Rector, Yezin Agricultural University, Myanmar), who was invited by EM Research Organization as a special guest to the event. APNAN was called thereafter to present its activities over the 20 years. This was done in English and effectively





translated by Mr. Okubo. The presentation started with pre APNAN era, through its establishment, expansion consolidation and finally its present work, and the future. This was appreciated by the sponsors, who at times were not aware of what was going on at APNAN – which was effectively spreading the message of Nature Farming, EM Technology and also the teachings of Mokichi Okada, through the process of Nature Farming.



The ceremonial meeting in session

After a short break, with sumptuous refreshments, the meeting proceeded with Mr. Kanit Muangnil, Director, Sara Buri Nature Farming Training Center, who was also present on behalf of the Thai Sekai Kyusei Kyo and Sara Buri, the place which we visit the most and use for our training workshops. The presentation outlined the work at Sara Buri and its effective training programs. This presentation was aptly translated by our ex member and good friend, Mr. Masanobu Sakurai, who is at also at Sara Buri, helping out Mr. Muangnil. The final official presentation was by our Senior Technical Officer, Mr. Jun Matsumoto, who gave an insight into the current activities of the little network. This was also coupled with the future aspirations of the network – to expand its activities in Nature Farming and EM Technology. The finale of the meeting was the overview of APNAN and its activities by our President, who has guided us along the path of success over 20 years, while keeping a strict eye on all its staff and activities – in a real father like manner. Professor Higa outlined the objectives of APNAN and emphasized that the network must go on, serving humanity to make this place a better place for us and the future generations. Prof Dr. Higa was also grateful to the sponsors Sekai Kyusei Kyo Japan and Thailand, INFRC and also EMRO for their unstinted support over the years and requested their continued cooperation and support in the future as well. The snippet of news is not complete without acknowledging all the special invitees to this simple but very dignified event that was held in real APNAN style – effective and efficient – without fuss nor fan fare. The VIPs attending were – Professor Dr. and Mrs. Higa, Rev. Y. Goto, Rev. T. Miyamichi, Rev. K. Amano, Rev. T. Harakawa, Rev. J. Yuzuriha, Mr. A. Ito, Mr. S. Imai, Mr. K. Asato, Mr. Y. Ando, Mr. N Ajiki, Prof Dr. Cho Cho Myint, Mr. H. Okubo, Mr. H. Ohashi, Mr.

Kanit Muangnil, Mr. Masanobu Sakurai, our ex senior technical officers. Dr. Masaki Shintani, Mr. Takashi Kyan, Mr. Takashi Shimoji, Mr. Nobuyuki Taniki, Mr. Kosaburo Imamura, and our present staff, led by the Senior Technical Officer Jun Matsumoto, Koki Nagamine, Yujiro Sano, Yasushi Nishibuchi and Ravi Sangakkara.

We at APNAN thank all of them for their presence despite busy schedules and wish that they will continue to support and motivate us to do better in the future years. At this time, we look back with pride, having being associated with the network for 20 years has indeed been rewarding and motivating. Thus, we assure all our friends and contacts that we will continue to serve humankind through Nature Farming and EM well into the future.

APNAN HOLDS MEETING OF THE NEWLY CONSTITUTED BOARD

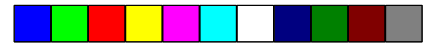
The 20th anniversary celebrations of our little network held in Japan in September paved the way to hold the first meeting of the newly constituted Board of Management. Hence, on the 29th of September, prior to the principal event, the Board of Management of the network met at the INFRC headquarters in Atami. The meeting was attended by Mr. Akio Ito, Managing Director of INFRC, Mr. H. Okubo, Head, International Section and our Liaison officer, Mr. Takashi Kyan, Head, Overseas Department and Administration of EM Research Organization, Mr. Kanit Muangnil and Mr. Masanobu Sakurai of Sekai Kyusei Kyo and Sara Buri Training Center, Thailand, and from us, the coordinator of the network and the Senior Technical Officer, Mr. Jun Matsumoto, who was in attendance. The meeting was held from 0930 – 1130 Hrs – and the past, present and future were discussed. After lengthy discussions and deliberations, it was decided that the status co of the network will remain at least for the next 5 years, with the newsletters stance reviewed after two years. Both INFRC and EMRO will continue their support at present levels with finances and staff and we at APNAN will have to concentrate on making our projects self reliant as soon as possible - these being Myanmar, Laos and Bhutan.



APNAN Board meets in Atami

A key aspect that was discussed was the trainings we hold – at present we hold two international workshops – and this will be changed - where one will focus on the basics of Nature Farming and EM Technology, while the other will focus on a specified theme, which will change



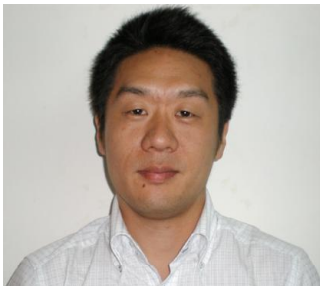


on an annual basis. However, given the availability of the facilities, we at APNAN will arrange sponsored workshops for specific target themes at request by our partners. It was also decide to begin the process of establishing model Nature Farming units in Sara Buri, Laos, India and New Zealand, on the basis of on going programs and with the support of our counterparts in these nations. APNAN was also directed to publish information for wider dissemination. The Board will meet once a year – and the next meeting will be held in August 2010 to coincide with the APNAN dealers meeting.

We are happy - that at last, there is a board that will guide our activities – and we hope that this will be for the better to make Nature Farming and EM Technology known throughout our mandate region and beyond. We assure that we will do our utmost – and wish that a greater share of assistance in terms of information is sent our way by our sponsors – both INFRC and EMRO.

We at APNAN look forward to greater activity in the future years.

YASUSHI NISHIBUCHI - APNAN'S NEW SENIOR TECHNICAL OFFICER



Nishibuchi - our new boss!

Mr. Jun Matsumoto, our boss completed his term of office as Senior Technical Officer of APNAN in October. He was recalled to Okinawa, the headquarters of EMRO – by our big boss Takashi Kyan, who heads the Overseas Department – as his assistant and

our ex boss Mr. Takashi Shimoji will soon have to pack his bags for a long stay in the US!!

The successor Mr. Yasushi Nishibuchi – a native of Miyagi prefecture, is a student of our President, Prof Dr. Teruo Higa. He obtained his Bachelors and Masters degrees after a comprehensive research program on EM and organic cropping and his Majoring subject for the Masters degree was Horticulture, with the thesis research concentrating on non-tillage cultivation of vegetables with EM in green houses. After his Masters degree under the direction of Prof Dr. Higa at the University of Ryukyus, he joined the EM Research Organization in Okinawa, and worked for a while before taking up a two year assignment with the Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) in Vietnam, where he worked with rural farmers, promoting EM and Nature farming, While in Vietnam, he was indeed a real asset to us at APNAN – he helped our counterpart Dr. Le Khac Quang in promoting EM for environmental management. He came to us in 2008 with a heap of experience in South East Asia – and an excellent knowledge of human relations – having worked in a diverse community. Nishibuchi san adapted to the APNAN system of life within a few weeks, even to extent of ordering the imported

cook what he wishes for dinner!! Thus, his choice as the 7th Senior technical Officer was unanimous and has now settled into his position really well. He is an asset to us at APNAN like all others before him – and he is calm quiet, definitive and decisive – which is strength to us working under his guidance.

We welcome him to our midst with open arms and wish him a long successful reign and Senior Technical Officer of this little network to guide its destinies to the future. We at APNAN wish Nishibuchi san all the very best in his new appointment.

EM TECHNOLOGY CITED AS A RAPID COMPOSTING METHOD BY FAO

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in a recent bulletin has identified EM as an excellent method top make quick compost. This is now on the FAO website and gives a recipe for composting organic wastes. The basis of this report is the successful operations in Asia, especially Myanmar.

All interested, please visit the FAO website.. which gives all details – the source is a paper submitted by R V Misra and R N Roy for the FAO in Rome, Italy.

MALAYSIA PROMOTES EM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

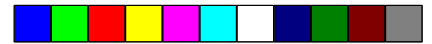
Malaysia, our neighbor is promoting EM for agriculture and environmental management in a significant manner. Thus, our counterpart in Malaysia, the dynamic Mr. Sawada and his team in Penang arranged an event on 8th August to add 1.2 million mud balls into a polluted river to clean it. Present at hand on this day was our President, Professor Dr. Higa and the staff of this little network.

The APNAN team led by our President arrived in Penang on 6th August from Thailand, where he had visited Sara Buri to meet Rev. Daiho Kasahara and also visit the Sara Buri Center. He also paid his first visit to the factory of EMRO Asia, which lies between Bangkok and Sara Buri. Although the plane landed in Penang late at night, there were State Ministers, our contacts Mr. Sawada and Mr. Soo and many EM volunteers to greet them.

On the 7th, a ceremony titled “One Million Apologies to mother Earth”, organized by Mr. Soo, an ardent fan of EM, was held in Penang. This occasion was graced by Prof Dr. Higa who presented examples of how



The dango event in Penang



EM and Nature Farming could help to revitalize nature, using case studies from all continents.

The great event of cleaning the river was on the 8th August, which is now the World Mud ball day!! There were over 25000 people present, even after a heavy shower in the morning to throw the 1.2 million mud balls to the river. This was a highlight and later was widely reported in the newspapers. Officials from Penang visiting Thailand later told APNAN that there was a significant decrease in the sludge in the treated site. The Star News of Malaysia on the 15th September also stated that measurements taken after using EM has shown significant reductions in total solids, BOD, COD etc, which are parameters of water quality. In fact the water quality has been upgraded from Class 4 (suitable for irrigation only) to Class 3, which is suitable for water supply with treatment.

The Director of the Penang state's Drainage and Irrigation Department states that EM will be used regularly to clean the river and also in places such as slaughterhouses which produce pollutants. Thus with time, and use of EM on a regular basis, we at APNAN are sure that the rivers of Malaysia, which are using this technology will be upgraded, as seen with experience at the Perlis river.

Professor Dr. Higa was also welcomed in the adjoining state of Perak to discuss EM projects. He had long discussions and promised to support their projects through APNAN. This means more work for us – which we happily undertake – and will ensure with our staff that the demands by Malaysia to make their environment better and also produce healthy food with Nature Farming and EM will be met.

We look forward to reporting more projects that are successful from our neighboring nation – of Malaysia in the future issues of APNAN news.

INTERESTING EVENTS

GALA DINNER AT ATAMI COMPLETES 20 YEARS OF SUCCESSFUL ACTIVITY

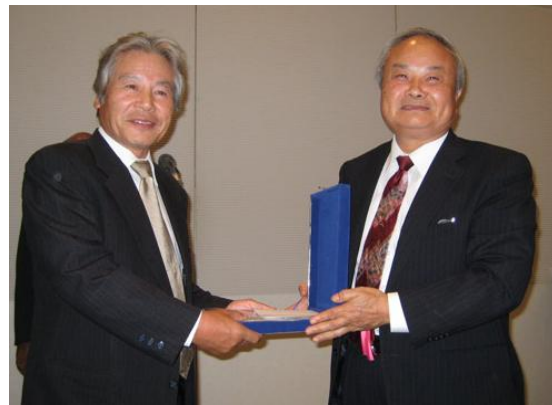
The meeting held on the 29th September ended with a gala dinner for the participants of the meeting – at the KKR hotel in Atami. This was presided however by Rev. Sho Kobayashi, Board Member of Sekai Kyusei Kyo and President of EM Laboratory, Shizuoka, who has been associated with our activities for quite some time.

After his greetings, a toast to APNAN and all present – for success – was presented by Rev. Daiho Kasahara, President of Sekai Kyusei Kyo, Thailand, who has been with us for the full length of our life. It was Rev. Kasahara,



Rev. Kobayashi speaks at the dinner

It was Rev. Kasahara,



APNAN says Thank you to INFRIC

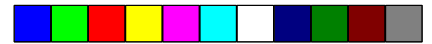
who organized the first International Kyusei Nature Farming Conference in Khon Kaen, Thailand in 1989, when APNAN was established. From that time he had also helped us in all activities, from the intensive support provided with the late Rev. Kazuo Wakugami to arrange the 5th International Conference in Bangkok with 13 days, and after he assumed duties as the President of Thai Sekai Kyusei Kyo, his ever willing support, advise and guidance has been a strength to us.

Soon afterwards, it was dinnertime – a typical international Japanese Vaiking (Buffet) meal with a sumptuous spread of over 20 dishes to suit every palate. During this time our staff Koki Nagamine, who was managing the event presented videos of greetings from our partners – these ranged from Australia and New Zealand to Pakistan, covering the whole mandate region. A rather solemn event then took place, where tokens of appreciation were presented by our dear President – first a letter of appreciation to one who had served the longest for the network – spanning 20 years. Thereafter we at APNAN also showed our appreciation to our sponsors – with our President presenting silver plaques specially prepared by us to the International Nature Farming Research Center and the EM Research Organization. This moment was appreciated by all.. and they spoke of the show of gratitude that we at APNAN have. It was also stated that the token for the Sekai Kyusei Kyo Thailand, would be handed over in Bangkok.

The turn of APNAN officials then took place – where all our ex senior technical officers, the present one Jun Matsumoto and also two ex officers Mr. Ohashi and Mr. Sakurai stated their impressions at APNAN. It was hilarious to note that they all had different experiences while being at APNAN – ranging from working, learning English to enjoying Thai Hospitality!

Thereafter it was the highlight – a few words of warm affection by Mrs. Setsuko Higa, whom we regard as APNAN mother!! She spoke with poignant memories spanning the 20 years and blessed the network and us for many many more years of success.

Thereafter APNAN spoke few words of closing but an interjection –one that was very welcome stole the show – a rendering of a traditional Japanese song sung by



University cheering groups, by our senior mentor, Rev. Daiho Kasahara – with actions and all! This was most appreciated by all present and we do thank Rev. Kasahara, despite his very senior position, being with us and entertaining us at this time.

The very warm and happy event ended - by 2000 hrs – with all in a very happy mood. The left over food was seen being shoveled in by our young staff – whom we hear ended up in a Japanese room with lots of food and drink in the company of a very senior INFRC member – to laugh about the history of APNAN until they were asked to leave at the time of closing!!

APNAN in its usual way wishes to express its sincere gratitude to the Sekai Kyusei Kyo and INFRC Atami, Japan for these events – they were very special dignified and warm – in the real spirit of our little network – APNAN.

EMRO ASIA ESTABLISHED

The EM program in Thailand underwent a dramatic change over the last few months! The management of the program was having significant problems and hence to rectify the anomalies and supply EM to the users of our host Kingdom, Thailand, the headquarters of EMRO decided to establish EMRO Asia as an additive to EMRO Thailand. The establishment of the new organization took place in August, with our ex Boss Takashi Kyan as its President. However, the day-to-day management of the company is under the watchful eye of Toru Koshoji, who is the head of operations and management. Toru san who has a long history of working in Thailand as a JOCV officer, and also for a short time as an ordained monk in the Kingdom, is working hard to revive the situation. EMRO Asia has established a factory in Ayutthaya, which is an hour's drive from Bangkok and is heavily involved in making good quality EM to meet the demand and overcome unscrupulous tradesmen who are marketing fake EM in the Kingdom.

We learn that within two to three months, EMRO Asia, has succeeded in making significant progress and sales are increasing, despite many adversaries working against its activities.

We are confident that EMRO Asia will rise upto its challenges and provide the real

EM, which is made under the guidance of our President,



Headquarters of EMRO Asia

Professor Dr. Higa, who developed the product, to the multitude of organizations and users of EM in the Kingdom. We at APNAN also offer our fullest support both in terms of encouragement and also a helping hand – we hear that our boss Nishibuchi san is often burning midnight oil with Toru Koshoji, packing EM into bottles!! We wish EMRO Asia much success in its endeavors and hope that it will become a household name in Thailand in 2010.

EMRO HOLD ITS ANNUAL FORUM IN OKINAWA.

Our sponsors, EM Research Organization in Okinawa

hold a festa and forum every year to inform the world the success with EM. This year, it was held in November – the last weekend from 28 – 29th November, at the Kimutaka Hall of the Uruma city in Okinawa. There were over 500



EM Forum in session

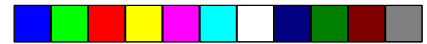
people participating in this event, which had two components – the EM Forum and EM Medical conference. The Medical conference brought together specialists and people practicing EM technology for health purposes from over 7 nations and presentations were from Japan, China, Thailand and Spain.

More importantly, the EM forum concentrated on Latin America with participants from 9 countries in the region, which discussed EM in Agriculture and environment. In total there were over 18 nations attending from Europe, Asia and Latin America, giving it a real international flavor – and interestingly, there were EM bananas from Ecuador distributed to the participants at this event!

We heard from participants that this event was a success. A member of APNAN who was in Switzerland had been told by the Swiss contacts for EM that the Forum was relay informative and regretted that it was not arranged for 5 days! We heard that our President, Professor Higa had remarked that even with a recession in the world, the EM power is showing – all because it's the wish of EM proponents to make this world a better place for humankind, by reducing waste, cleaning the environment and producing healthy food at a low cost – as envisaged by the founder of Sekai Kyusei Kyo and Nature Farming, Mokichi Okada.

We are happy that our principal sponsor EM Research Organization is hosting these events and wish it success. Its our wish that in the near future – EMRO will hold a Asia Forum to show the success we have had in promoting Nature Farming and EM. Asia is the home of EM and its from Thailand that we began the movement of promoting





Nature Farming and EM – its high time that we held an event here or in Japan to broadcast to the world the success we have.

OIL PALM INDUSTRY OF INDONESIA TO BE PRESENTED WITH EM TECHNOLOGY

The Center for Management Technology of Indonesia will host conference on Sustainable Oil Palm Management on 21 – 22 January 2010 in Jakarta, Indonesia. This event will bring together the oil palm industrialists to discuss sustainable management over two days. The organizers of the event have invited our little network to participate and hence our new Senior Technical Officer Mr. Yasushi Nishibuchi will present a paper – “Fertilizer management - Effective Microorganisms for Oil Pam Industry” at this event.

The event will also be another step of progress that is being undertaken by our hardworking and very successful counterpart Wididana san based in Bali. The successful interaction of Nishibuchi san with the large oil palm plantations of Indonesia and even Malaysia and China, who will attend this event will pave the way for greater use of EM in this industry. Initial research has shown that EM helps breakdown oil palm effluents and also cleans the mills. The composting of oil palm wastes after extraction of oil make good fertilizer and thus could replace chemical fertilizers to a great extent and also contribute to the organic matter pool in the soils.

Thus, we hope that our boss Nishibuchi san will make a real impact – in fact, we are sure and the success will be presented in the next newsletter. Hence, dear readers – await further news on using EM in Oil Palm plantations!

APNAN INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP HELD

Our customary workshop conducted to train contacts and their nominees on the basics of Nature Farming and EM was held in July, for 25 participants from 7 nations. The workshop was conducted by our officers and we were happy to welcome Yujiro Sano back, as he had fully recovered from a recent unknown illness. In addition, we also had Mr. Toru Koshoji to help us on the last day. Hence, there was a formidable team to conduct the workshop and keep everyone at bay!

One impressive aspect of this workshop was the participation of two interested people from Malaysia for the second time in a row!! We asked them why – the reply was – participation at one workshop does not give us much opportunity to learn everything – hence we have come again! This was sweet news to our ears – and many who had participated in earlier workshops had passed on the message to others and hence they come in greater numbers. We are also happy that there were people from many countries who were well versed in organic farming and hence they also became resource persons for us – thus the workshop was a real workshop – with two-way interactions.

We are glad that people come repeatedly and learn.. this is what we are supposed to do.. to disseminate information. We do it effectively and recently we began a demonstration

plot for Nature Farming in Sara Buri – hence we need help too.. anyone interested in helping is welcome at Sara Buri again!

APNAN is happy that our workshops are in demand – and from 2010 there will be a slight change – where on the advice of our sponsors INFRC - we will have one general workshop per year and one thematic workshop on a given subject. We plan to have a workshop on household management with EM and Nature Farming in 2010.

Dear Friends – please watch the APNAN website – this will give details and we hope that you would arrive in greater numbers.

APNAN PRESIDENT TOURS JAPAN IN SIX MONTHS

Our President, Professor Dr. Teruo Higa is a busy man! Even his retirement has not slowed him down.. but has increased his travel especially within Japan. Looking back at the last six months, he began the period with a visit to Kumamoto to present EM Technology – in June. Thereafter he visited the Asaka Hospital where EM is used for a multitude of things – including treatment under the direct supervision of Dr. Tanaka. From there it was a hop to Fukushima to attend the seminar of the Flower Association of Japan and attend a meeting of U – Net, after which it was to Hokkaido to teach the latest aspects of EM to the advanced EM and Nature Farming instructors. On 21st June, he attended the Board Meeting of our sponsors, the INFRC at Atami, and then went onto Tokyo to attend the meeting of the Flower Association of Japan and visit the clinic of Dr. Tanaka. The month ended with visits to the Nihonbashi river which is using EM for cleaning and to Fukuoka to the meeting of the Flower association of Japan.

In August, the next round started - however, the schedule was less of a burden as travel in Japan was limited to the last few days – to Osaka and Aomori to deliver lectures and attend meetings. However, the next month was busy, when Professor Higa traveled to Tokyo, Nara, Kyoto and Miyagi for lectures, inspection of EM sites and discuss farmer based problems. In the latter half of the month, again it was a whirlwind trip to places such as Tokyo, Kanagawa, and of course the 20th APNAN celebrations in Atami. Within this schedule, he also delivered lectures at the Waseda University in Tokyo and attended a U-net meeting. October saw Professor Higa in Aichi and Shikoku, and also being at meetings of the Flower Association of Japan. The last two months were also spent traveling – to Mie, Shiga, Tokyo and Nara – where in Nara he attended an EM summit. Within this schedule, he was fully occupied with the EM forum as well.

As the year draws to a close – we at APNAN hope that, our President is not worn out! It is our wish that he does attend these meetings but as time goes on, the body does not do what the mind wants and hence rest is vital – as in fallow periods for the soil as advocated by Mokichi Okada in Nature Farming. Thus, we hope that our President will also take heed and follow this advice. However, we are happy that despite all developments that have taken place





with EM, he is still active in promoting agriculture and also Nature Farming with EM – as this is the only process that would provide healthy food to humankind.

EM SUMMIT HELD IN NARA, JAPAN

The 9th EM summit was held in Nara on 22 November, when over 1100 people gathered to learn and hear of EM and its activities. The forum had four presentations from Japan and two from Latin America. The special event was the use of EM in the very famous Todaiji Temple. They use EM in managing their lands, which is over 30 ha, and also in recycling organic wastes. The use of EM in the ponds reduced pollution and the fauna and flora of the precincts were enhanced. This has led to a significant success – and as our President stated, the use of EM in a multitude of ways in this very famous temple is a good model for Japan. We hope that this success will also be adopted by other historic sites to enable greater use of EM and the production of quality food within the home of the two technologies we promote – Nature Farming and EM.

ORGANIC RICE PRODUCTION IN JILIN, CHINA HEARS OF EM

The Scientific meeting on Organic Agriculture at the Rice Research Institute of Jilin Academy of Agricultural Science was held on 17th August, 2009. This was attended by our President, Prof Dr. Higa and also Mr. Iwaishi, the rice expert at the Research Center of the INFRC in Hata, Nagano. While Professor Dr. Higa presented the use of EM in advanced crop production, Mr. Iwaishi presented his successful experience on rice culture through Nature Farming and EM Technology. In the afternoon, they visited field trials that included rice, pastures and integrated animal production units. In all instances the use of principles of Nature Farming and EM were presented and the scientists present had agreed to use these principles and technologies in their cropping programs.

We are grateful to our friends at the INFRC for promoting Nature Farming and also to our President, for the support he gives in promoting his technology – EM!! We at times wonder if EM flows in his veins and arteries!!

MYANMAR HOLDS NATURE FARMING WORKSHOP

Myanmar, again one of our active neighbors, held a workshop from 02 – 04 December at the CARTC, Hlegu. The resource persons from our network were Koki Nagamine and Yujiro Sano, who had been visiting the Union on a regular basis to provide EM. In fact, they had taken our APNAN boss Yasushi Nishibuchi in May to rectify some problems of EM.

The workshop was attended by 35 people, including staff of the Myanmar Agriculture Service, staff from the Yezin Agriculture University and also from the private sector. Among the VIPs were Mr. Win Myint, Director, Myanmar Oil Crop Development project, The Pro-rector of the University, Dr. Khin Lay Swe and also the Deputy General Manager of the Myanmar Agriculture Service,

which is our counterpart organization in the Union. We were also pleased to have one of our oldest friends Prof Dr. Cho Cho Myint, who was our first contact in 1989. She helped us in the workshop and also gave an overview of the EM project in the Union, which was new information to participants.

Our dear Sano san, who just loves to travel to Myanmar states that he found a teacher Mr. Saw Lin in Pyanmina, which is located near the new Capital of Myanmar, Naypyidaw. He has been using EM for over 10 years, having obtained his first supply from the Myanmar Agriculture Service and also an old APNAN manual, which he has translated and modified for Myanmar Conditions. This was encouraging and in future, he would be a good resource person for our workshops in this very special nation.

LAO PDR HOLDS EM WORKSHOP FOR BEGINNERS



Lao workshop in session

One of the principal domains of Yujiro Sano is the Lao PDR. He visits this neighboring nation frequently because he has many many friends in Vientiane and its suburbs! In October, he took the chance to fly again to Vientiane to visit EM farms, the organic market, where most farmers who sell their products use EM and also have discussions with the Department of Agriculture and Forestry of Vientiane, as Lao PDR is identified as a nation to develop a model Nature Farm. In addition, he was instrumental in conducting a very successful workshop for over 30 participants - held in the Nature Farming site in Vientiane. The participants were farmers, students and teachers who were very interested in learning Nature Farming and EM. The outline of the program given to use by Sano san, who conducted the proceedings was impressive – it covered all aspects of Nature Farming and EM for beginners – to include the principles of Nature Farming and EM Technology, using EM, bokashi making and the use of EM in a diverse range of activities ranging from its use in homes to the cultivation of rice, fruits and other crops. The workshop also included practical sessions on making bokashi and also using EM in land preparation. The evaluation of the workshop has provided excellent remarks and we are happy that the program in the Lao PDR is moving steadily under the watchful eye of Yujiro Sano! Hence we hope that the model Nature Farm will also be established soon – and wish the programme on Nature Farming and EM in Lao PDR much success.



APNAN HOSTS A SERIES OF VISITORS



Malaysian guests enjoy Sara Buri

The period under review saw a stream of visitors to APNAN. While it's impossible to list all, we picked up three groups that made a lasting impression due to their enthusiasm.

The first two were as usual from Malaysia – Mr. Sawada and Dr. Hakim, the latter who was impressed with the teachings of Prof Dr. Higa is using EM in many projects – so much so that in the car it was a non-stop story of his work and activities, which he is pursuing to promote EM. The second group consisted of Government officers let by the evergreen Mr. Soo, who is living EM on a daily basis. The members from the States of Penang, Perak and Kelantan visited model sites in Thailand – in Sara Buri, where they met Mr. Kanit and Mr. Sakurai. They were really keen on the self sufficiency model advocated by His Majesty the King of Thailand. Thereafter it was to Nonthaburi to see the garbage treatment and onto the Rose Garden where EM is used for sanitation in a major tourist site. Finally, it was to the waste water treatment project of the National Housing Authority. The final word of the team was – we want to expand EM – to greater heights than in Thailand! We wonder if we will have to move to Malaysia to keep up with this degree of enthusiasm!!

The third were from far beyond – from the Netherlands and England.. Mr. Jan Freesma Hoekstra of Agriton, Netherlands and his wife Ms. Frances Box visited Sara Buri on their way to the Forum in Okinawa. They spent three days at Sara Buri, hosted by Mr. Kanit and Mr. Sakurai. They walked, talked, discussed, and enjoyed the serene atmosphere of Sara Buri.

All of them were so impressed.. that we may soon have to open a tour agency!! However if sufficient time is given and the visitors are no drain on our meager budget, we are happy to welcome interested parties to show the wonders of Nature farming and EM.

Please contact us well in advance – we will try to help at all times.

THE MID EAST NATIONS HOLD A DEALERS MEETING

The EM and Nature Farming activities in the Middle East region are growing steadily, with Egypt taking the lead at the present time. Thus after the technical officer of EMRO in charge of this region attended the APNAN dealers

meeting in 2008, he was keen to have a similar event in his domain – and more importantly wanted APNAN to be there to manage it!! This is how efficient we are in managing projects!!!

Thus the event, held in Cairo, Egypt from 30 June to 1 July was attended by APNAN. It brought together VIPs from EMRO – Our President Prof Dr. Teruo Higa, EMRO President, Mr. Katsuyuki Asato, Head of Overseas division Mr. Takashi Kyan and also the Officer in Charge of EMCO, Mr. M. Kudaka. The nations participating were Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Cameroon, Senegal, Kenya, Syria and Yemen. The participants from South Africa and the UAE could not attend. After the presentations, Prof Dr. Higa gave an overview of the success achieved and also the latest developments in EM Technology, drawing examples from all corners of the world. In addition, the President and Overseas Head of EMRO, along with the APNAN staff and Mr. Fukugauchi held individual meetings with participants to discuss problems on a confidential basis, thus building trust among the community and EMRO.

On the second day, Prof Dr. Higa delivered a guest lecture, which was organized by the Ministry of State for the Environmental Affairs and EM Research Organization. This was at the Cairo House, which had hosted many international conference and the hall was full to capacity. Prof Higa also paid courtesy calls to many VIPs of the Egyptian Government who were very impressed with the success achieved by the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment.

The program ended with visits to field sites on the third day.. there were sites using EM in farms, there were wayside stalls selling EM and finally to the EM production unit, where a sumptuous lunch was hosted. However, the whole visit was complete by the Nile cruise along with the conference dinner.



The meeting in Cairo

The meeting ended with calls for annual events in the respective countries and for assistance by APNAN to conduct proceedings on time. Mr. Fukugauchi was amazed as to how the whole proceedings were done to time by APNAN!! However its our advise.. that meetings are held only once in 24 months.. giving enough time for development and for action on discussions.. this we find is rewarding and effective as well.





We will help as usual.. and request our friends to the Mid east region to contact us in times of assistance... we will help – as it being done presently by our ex boss Jun Matsumoto, who is in Egypt, sitting at an internet cafe, sending us emails!!!

JAPANESE NGO POSE A CHALLENGE TO US!



The Watanabe group in Sara Buri

The famous Japanese NGO School Aid Japan, was established in 2002 to provide equal schooling ability to all children on a global scale. Thus they have been very active in building over 130 schools in Cambodia and Nepal. Now, they have taken on another project -

To popularize organic agriculture to create employment for young school leavers and provide healthy food for children in Cambodia.

Mr. Watanabe, a very influential executive from Japan owning over 600 restaurants in his homeland, founded the NGO. He met our President Prof Dr. Higa in Japan and thus ended up in APNAN – The effective network!! He visited Sara Buri despite his work in November and was amazed at the success – especially controlling odors of swine units and animal sheds. He learnt the use of EM and thus requested APNAN to help in an organic rice project that they would begin, to cover 5 ha in 2011. This will be done under the guidance of our President, and that means us at APNAN!! We will introduce our partners in Cambodia – the NKA, and they will provide the in-country support with us from Bangkok. We are sure that we can succeed.. and will keep you all posted on how the project goes.

Any helpers are welcome to ease the workload here!!

MALAYSIAN MOTOROLA DAY SPONSORED BY EM PARTNER

Microgreen Co Ltd., a subsidiary of MGB, one of our partners in Malaysia sponsored the Motorola Global day in Kuala Lumpur. One event in this program was treating a polluted pond with EM and mud balls, which has become famous in Malaysia due to the activities of Mr. Sawada of JAMOF, our main partner in this nation and also Mr. Soo of Penang through the 1 million mud ball project to clean rivers.

Mr. Nishibuchi attended this event and at present they have good results in improving water quality and reduction of odor, and some important parameters. This is good news.. as we are getting more and more success of EM use in water treatment. Water is a very precious resource, and

hence these results offer great promise fore the future – where EM will help purify water.

Nishibuchi san also visited JAMOF factory in Johor, on a subsequent visit via Singapore. After checking EM quality, he visited an oil palm trial with EM bokashi and activated EM. The plants with EM looked much healthier and the farm is trying to develop an organic program with EM and organic manures. At present, the trees supplied with EM and Bokashi are much healthier than those receiving chemical fertilizers.

This is encouraging results where oil palm, which produces much organic wastes can be developed into sustainable units with lower or no input of chemicals. This is success and we hope to report to you on these developments through this newsletter.

GATHERING AIR POINTS.....

APNAN VISITS NATURE FARMING SITES IN JAPAN

The visit by APNAN to Japan in September paved the way for travel to many sites using the principles of Nature Farming with EM. The first was the Korin farm in Aichi, managed by the dynamic Mr. Kumazaki. His farm had been located on a poor degraded soil but with diligence and care, through Nature Farming and EM, he has developed this to a unit that produces the giant radish that are often shown during the presentations of our President, Prof Dr. Higa!

The principle that Mr. Kumazaki presented was resting the soil once a year – he even uses weeds as mulches and always rests the soil for two months – during the cold season to revitalize soils. It was very encouraging to see Mr. Kumazaki and his team working away on this farm and we hope that once we begin the program of setting up model farms in different nations, Mr. Kumazaki will join us to provide advice and guidance.

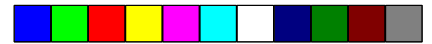
APNAN also visited the research farm of the INFRC at Nagano and met with its boss, Rev. Harakawa, the staff, also Dr. Xu, the deputy head of the station. Discussions and field visits ensured that APNAN was given the opportunity to observe what was taking place. The Nature Farming seed program, rice cultivation, weed management and soil fertility were being looked into – however it was felt that the research station with the qualified



Mr. Kumazaki of Korin farm

staff, research equipment and fields, training facilities, and many others should provide a greater service by validating Nature Farming and EM Technology within





the scientific community – both internationally and within Japan as well. This would indeed be a boost to us at APNAN as well.. to enable us promote the concepts of Nature Farming and EM within the international community.

APNAN also visited the Nature Farming unit in Chiba, which is within an hour's drive from the Narita airport. This visit was interesting – to meet our old and good friend Akira Suzuki, who works at the Chiba farm. The farm is located on rented land, but has models – which however could be improved! The Head of Extension Division of INFRC, Mr. Ito was at hand too – in the discussions and field visits – and many points of crop management were discussed. Although the farm will be closed within the next 12 months, we hope that a new unit will be developed to highlight the potential of Nature Farming and EM to the farming communities in Japan by INFRC in the near future. The highlight of the visit was the dinner – hosted at the home of Mr. Ito – on an impromptu basis – his family consists of chefs – and all were at hand to deliver a full vegetarian meal that evening – and it was indeed a real 5 star buffet meal that was plaid out by Mr. and Mrs. Ito and family for the guests.

APNAN is grateful to INFRC for the opportunity to visit these sites and hope that greater cooperation will occur between us and the sponsors – we are prepared to help at all times if called upon, and we also have the capacity to disseminate the knowledge and information developed by the INFRC to the wider world through our network.

NAGAMINE SAN GOES TO BHUTAN

Koki Nagamine, our energetic technical officer was very keen to visit the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan. He got the opportunity in July, to make EM for them, as their stocks, made by the Senior Technical



Bhutanese students practice Nature Farming

officer Jun Matsumoto and another officer about a year ago were running dry. Although the Kingdom was keen to sign a MOU with us, there were unusual delays and hence the lapse of supplying EM. However, after making all arrangements and getting the seed prepared, Koki san traveled to Paro, to be welcomed by the EM project staff – especially Mr. B B Rai. They have many projects in schools using EM and they also practice Nature Farming in a big way – as the whole nation wishes to be organic. Koki Nagamine also had many discussions on the progress of activities and visited three schools of the School Agriculture Project who use EM. Our dear Koki san states

that he met many who had attended the programs in Sara Buri – and the demand was.. they want more and more EM!! We at APNAN will provide EM – however, our dear friends in the Royal Kingdom also must strive to make the program self-reliant. This is what are trying to do.. to make all our counterparts reliant and practice both Nature Farming and EM their own ways – but using the technologies we promote.

We are happy at this progress and hope to follow up on the lapses to promote EM and Nature Farming in Bhutan in a big way.

SANO MEETS KANGAROOS AND VIETNAMESE FRIENDS

Our young, smart and handsome staff member Yujiro Sano has blossomed into a good technical officer. Thus, he now boldly undertakes overseas travels to distant lands as well! This is a bold step for our not so little Sano chan. In June, he visited Australia to make EM for our counterpart VRM, headed by Ken Bellamy and managed by the tough TJ!! During this visit, he traveled to a sweet corn farm which uses EM derivatives. The farmer stated that the use of chemicals has been reduced drastically with the use of EM, thus gaining profits due to lower costs, and the use of EM has developed a cleaner atmosphere. Sano also tells us that he saw kangaroos while in Townsville and had been fascinated! Our other young colleagues in APNAN now tell us that they hear Sano san going Hop Hop on the corridors of the 8th floor of Kularb – trying to be a kangaroo!!

While all this was taking place, Sano san also hopped a plane to Vietnam in July. His report states that this was his first official trip to Hanoi, as the first unofficial visit was when he was a student of Prof Dr. Higa at the University of The Ryukyus, Okinawa, many many years ago. Sano had made EM for the Vina Nichi Center and also visited some sites using EM. These experiences have given him strength, confidence and courage, and hence we hear that he is now venturing into new areas of activities which hitherto had been dormant in him! We wish Sano all the luck in his endeavors!!

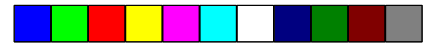
EM PROJECT IN NEPAL VISITED BY NISHIBUCHI

The EM program in Nepal is rather weak.. due to many problems. Their EM had to be checked and discussions to be held. Hence Nishibuchi traveled to Katmandu to meet Mr. Yadav of CWDS fame. After initial discussion on the future of EM in Nepal, they visited the Katmandu Zoological gardens where EM is used for sanitation. This work is being done by a NGO, to treat the wastes with activated EM to control odor and compost wastes. The officials of the gardens are very satisfied and with such developments. We hope that EM will again gather momentum in Nepal. We on our part will endeavor to provide the required EM and support their activities.

NATURE FARMING TRIAL INITIATED AT LINCOLN

Our contact in Kiwiland, Mike Daly, who runs the NZ Nature farm, and works in conjunction with New Zealand





Nature Farming Society has been really activating himself to promote the technology and Nature Farming in New Zealand, especially in the South Island, which is his home base. Thus, the NZ NFS has begun a trial on Nature Farming in the Biological Husbandry Unit of Lincoln University, and also incorporated both Nature Farming and EM Technology to the curricula of the BHU and also to Telford Rural Polytechnic. This is a significant development and our technical officer Koki Nagamine traveled to New Zealand in July to make EM and visit the trials. He states that even if it was winter when most fields are dormant and resting, there were crops on the Nature Farming fields. The student in charge, Marion, has really been doing a good job and it is a pity that she will leave soon after completing the training. However, we are sure Mike will get an active replacement – and are sure that this program will be blended with our objective of developing a model farm in the BHU in the very near future.

We look forward to reporting events from New Zealand in the future newsletters as well.

SRILANKA WORKS EFFECTIVELY WITH EM

The resplendent isle of Sri Lanka had been conducting programs with EM for well over 15 years. The contact in Sri Lanka is its biggest NGO, the Sarvodaya movement, which has close links to Japan. More recently, the Sekai Kyusei Kyo of Sri Lanka has also joined the bandwagon. Hence, our staff visit Sri Lanka at least twice a year to make EM and provide advice to both parties.

Koki Nagamine, who has been traveling to Sri Lanka a few times over the last two years traveled again in October, to meet with both parties. On arrival, he visited the EM unit and farms in the vicinity, all using EM. One farmer has begun using EM for over 6 months with very good results – and his crops are luscious and bountiful. The EM officer Ms. Darshani is so enthusiastic that she hopes to hold a workshop on this farm to disseminate EM technology among home gardeners.

After Sarvodaya, Koki san visited the Sekai Kyusei Kyo office in Gampaha, and was met by Mr. Priyankara, who is responsible for dissemination of Nature Farming in the organization. He and Mr. Rohana had been in Japan for training and now are fully versed with the concepts of Nature Farming, after the stint in the Chiba and Kyoto farm. Thus they are promoting Nature Farming and we have provided them with EM as well. We hope that these two organizations will promote both Nature Farming and EM in Sri Lanka, which needs such technologies for maintaining its clean environment.

We offer our best wishes to both organizations.

NEW APNAN BOSS GOES TO INDONESIA

Prior to taking on the mantle of Senior Technical Officer, our present boss Nishibuchi san visited the EM factory in Bogor, Java. The factory has a long history, beginning from a small house to an ever-expanding unit. Our dear friend and contact Mr. Wididana was surprisingly at hand to discuss the situation and progress of EM in Indonesia.

After initial discussions, the duo moved to the headquarters in Bali, where Nishibuchi san checked EM quality with Mr. Nyoman, the officer in charge of the EM factories in Bali and Java. Thereafter visits were made to animal units – poultry using EM for over 7 years for 10,000 layers and a cattle (45 head) unit. Both farms use EM1 (dilution 1:10,000) in the drinking water and spray activated EM (dilution 1:200) in the sheds. The odors are minimal, animal health is excellent and the quality of eggs and milk is very high. The wastes have already become good manures and farm uses it and also sells the material to neighbors. This indeed was an excellent operation. Mr.



Wididana has made significant progress since he started with EM in the very early 1990s in Bali. The many features include EM oils, herbs, health units, and even newspapers and radio stations. However, he has not rested on his laurels, although his projects are all successful. He has now begun an EM ecotourism project in the beautiful island of Bali – combining all facets of EM and Nature Farming. We hope that this again will be a success – Dear friends and readers – if you wish for a relaxing holiday... please contact Mr. G Wididana at IKNFS in Bali. We guarantee a really good tour!

Our dear Wididana san

TWO HOPS OVERSEAS BY NISHIBUCHI SAN

Poor Nishibuchi san.. not being given time to settle into his new job was pushed to Vietnam and India within a span of 4 weeks!! He gladly went to Hanoi to meet Dr. Le Khac Quang and check EM. He loves going to his old JOCV country as he has many many friends in every nook and corner of Vietnam. He also visited the garbage dump outside Hanoi, which has been using EM for quite some time, there was no smell at all! The unit is now making compost under the direction of Dr. Quang with much success.

Soon afterwards, Nishibuchi san made his maiden trip to Kolkata in India to meet Mr. Mohanka of Maple Orgtech and also check EM quality. Maple is pioneering many genuine products to counteract the multitude of fakes coming in and Nishibuchi says that this is a good sign – where progress is made to promote EM Technology. We are sure that with the advice of Nishibuchi san. These nations will make further progress and we offer them our support at all times.

NEWS OF OUR FAMILY.....

THANK YOU JUN MATSUMOTO

Our 6th Senior Technical Officer, Jun Matsumoto relinquished his duties in October, to get back to EMRO Headquarters in Okinawa as an assistant to his boss, Mr.



Takashi Kyan, Head of Overseas and Administrative Departments, who has to shoulder significant responsibilities in the affairs of EMRO. Jun san joined APNAN 4 years ago and served as the Senior Technical Officer for about three years. Jun hails from the Nagano Prefecture in Japan and always talks of mountains!! After



I am leaving says Jun Matsumoto

graduating from the University of Ryukyus with a Masters degree in agriculture, guided by our President, Prof Dr. Higa, he too joined EMRO and then was moved to APNAN to gain international exposure.

While at APNAN Jun san blossomed to be a dedicated man – to do good service to his superiors at INFRC and EMRO. He initiated many projects, revitalized the Bhutan program and also kept pests troubling him with many requests at bay. He was also good at managing staff even during difficult times and managed the finances of APNAN very well. However, amidst all these we do know that he enjoyed life in Thailand, climbing mountains and going on holidays secretly!!!

It was fun working with Jun – especially when he used to say Veally (for really!!) all the time! We at APNAN wish Jun, our 6th Senior Technical Officer the very best in his future life with EM and Nature Farming – We thank you Jun Kichi and hope that you will visit us frequently in your work at the Overseas Department of EMRO.

KEN BELLAMY BECOMES A VIP!

Our contact in Australia, Ken Bellamy who heads VRM and now Prime Carbon, is making news in Kangaroo land all the time. His innovative programs to sequester carbon using EM and derivatives is gaining recognition all over the country – a bird flying over from Australia chirped that the technologies being developed by VRM and Prime Carbon are being discussed at the highest circles of academia and government ! Thus, we hear that Ken met with both the Australian Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition when they were in Townsville and presented his developments. These had been accepted by the VVIPs, and hence makes Ken also a VIP – to be able to discuss the developments and convince them that EM will help in mitigating global warming by accelerating Carbon sequestration through in-soil photosynthesis through the phototrophic bacteria used in EM. We are also told that universities are testing the validity of these products of VRM and Prime Carbon with successful and promising results.

We look forward to the day that VRM and Prime carbon will be accepted globally and which will make Ken Bellamy

a VIP – who will receive red carpet treatment whenever he travels in the long white tubes that fly around – which is something he loves doing! We wish Ken and his teams at VRM and Prime Carbon the very best and offer our support at all times – as we usually do to our partners!

APNAN STAFF SAY GOOD BYE TO JUN KICHI

Jun Matsumoto our senior technical officer who bade good-bye in October is lovingly called Jun Kichi by us at APNAN. We were sorry to see him go as he was a very good boss who never bullied us – he was just as good as all the others before him.

Hence, APNAN organized a small farewell party for him in a special Chinese restaurant – which had special food and special staff who personally served the customers. This event had gone on late as it had two purposes - to say thank you to Jun Kichi and also welcome the new boss Nishibuchi san!! A sleepy cat who had been woken up on the return of our colleagues to Kularb Apartments, state that our dear Sano san had been walking on his hands after the dinner party, while Jun was trying to sing a Japanese war song!! However, it had been fun – although the next morning at 0830 – all were working office as usual!! This is APNAN.. we are diligent and do our work. We wish Jun Kichi the best for his future – he is welcome back anytime and also welcome our new boss Nishibuchi san!!

EM RESEARCH ORGANIZATION HAS A NEW DIRECTOR!!

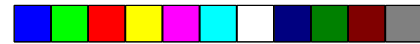
Our principal sponsors, the EM Research Organization is moving ahead very progressively!! Thus, the organization infuses new blood to its management. Our first boss of APNAN, now Dr. Masaki Shintani, who obtained his doctoral degree from the Tokyo Women's Medical University in Japan after successfully researching on EM-X GOLD and its impact on living beings, is now appointed to the Board of Directors of EMRO. He together with the President, Mr. Katsuyuki Asato and others, will be guiding the destinies, under the watchful eye of our President Professor Dr. Teruo Higa.

We welcome this move – as now we have a foot in the EMRO Directorate, and the Head of Overseas Department is also one of our ex bosses Takashi Kyan. Hence, we can expect (hopefully) more support from these two to carry out our activities much more diligently and efficiently – especially if we also get a few bonuses like in the good old



The new director - Dr Shintani





days.. when a benevolent friend used to send us a big Japanese bank note to partake a good meal in Bangkok! However all at APNAN wish our dear friend, Dr. Masaki Shintani a very successful tenure on the Board of Directors – we know that with this position and his dynamism, many gates will open now for him – to pursue his activities in promoting EM and also Nature Farming globally!! We wish you Shintani san the very best and also invite you to visit us and give us inspiration through the gates that you open ...so that we could also follow suit!!

WANT TO BE MADE INTO EM BOKASHI?



Wow - this is wonderful!

The head of the Overseas Department of EMRO, our sponsors, is a very busy man. Despite having a lovely wife and three wonderful kids at home, Takashi Kyan cannot be off airplanes! He travels widely sorting problems all over the

world and this time he took a group from the Meio University in Okinawa to Bali, to attend a workshop at the Hasanuddin University on Makassar in Indonesia to talk of EM technology to a spellbound audience. Thereafter he visited Bali to meet his old friend Wididana, and discuss developments and future cooperation. However Widi san offered Kyan san a real treat – to be fermented with EM Bokashi and get an EM oil Massage to rejuvenate his bones and muscles! Kyan san tried the EM Bokashi therapy and was very satisfied after being buried in hot bokashi for some time to soften his muscles. Ever the microbes in the bokashi told us – it was nice to provide bokashi treatment to a real VIP of EM.. he has a large area to be covered and a nice soft cuddly body to ferment!!

SANO CHAN'S CHRISTMAS WISH

Our dear Sano chan is a romantic man!! Although small in stature, he has big ideas.. Thus on two nights before Christmas eve, he had this desire to go out and splash out money on Christmas cake – as on the 23rd – it would be dinner at Kularb, before the cook leaves for his home! Hence on the 22nd night.. all staff (three in number) went out.. to fulfill the desire of Yujiro Sano.... And after a treat of Japanese hamburgers, (mind you the youngs ate two each!!)... it was cake at Siam Paragon – as it was the location found by Sano on the internet!! The three walked and walked around the Siam Paragon as our Dear Sano had forgotten the name.. and finally ended up in an exotic French Boutique café for his cake and coffee...! After cake and coffee (of which the cost was larger than the cake), the trio returned home to Kularb..... Sano was fully satisfied!!!
Thanks Sano chan for this treat.. we hope you will get such desires often to treat your colleagues to cakes!!!!

UPCOMING EVENTS

2010

January

21 – 22 – Sustainable Oil Palm plantations, Jakarta, Indonesia.

Contact <http://www.cmtevents.com/aboutevent.aspx?ev=100102&>

February

3 – 7 – International Conference on Organic Agriculture in the scope of environmental problems.

Famagusta, Cyprus.

Contact <http://organic.emccinstitute.org/>

3 – 6 BioAsia 2010 – Hyderabad, India

Contact <http://www.bioasia.in>

26 – 28 – 2010 International Conference on Agricultural and Animal Science. Singapore.

Contact <http://www.iacsit.org/caas/index.htm>

March

24 – 27 - 13th Congress of Soil Science – Efficient Resource Management for Sustainable Agriculture.

Faisalabad, Pakistan

Contact <http://www.sss-pakistan.org/Congress/Congress.htm>

2011

IFOAM/ISO FAR Conference, South Korea.

Contact – IFOAM.

APNAN TSHIRTS – OF VERY HIGH QUALITY ARE AVAILABLE WITH USATA MODEST PRICE OF 250 THAIBAH T PER SHIRT!!

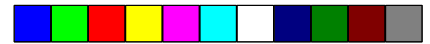
The colors are – Black and Blue with our special Logo mark!

Please send us your requirements – We will reserve them for you!!

APNAN WORKSHOP!!

Dear Readers – Please note that the next workshop on Nature Farming and EM is being held from 22 – 25 February, 2010 at Sara Buri. Please send your applications through the in country contacts! We assure you a good training with new staff and new programs!!!

The term EM, Effective Microorganisms and EM Technology refer to the specific technology developed by Dr. Teruo Higa of Okinawa, Japan. These trademarks are exclusively owned by EM Reserch Organization, Inc. of Okinawa, Japan



THE INTERNATIONAL NATURE FARMING RESEARCH CENTER, ATAMI, JAPAN

The International Nature Farming Research Center, located at Atami, Japan, was established in 1985 with the objectives of enhancing economic stability of farmers and producing nutritious and good quality food for humankind through the promotion of Nature Farming. Thus, the INFRFC undertakes research and extension programs on Nature Farming based on the principles of Nature Farming advocated by Mokichi Okada, who stated the importance of respecting nature and conforming to its laws. The importance of allowing soils to exhibit their inherent potential is also a key to the principles of Nature Farming, which is promoted by the INFRFC.

Today, the INFRFC supports over 1900 Nature Farming units in Japan – both in crops and livestock operations. It also has a research farm at Hata, Nagano where scientists are diligently working towards the validation of Nature Farming. The INFRFC also promotes the use of EM Technology to stimulate the soil biota and enhance productivity.

The international activities of INFRFC range from being associated with the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), supporting the Asia Pacific Natural Agriculture Network (APNAN) and also research and development in many nations such as China, Laos and Myanmar.

In the recent past, the INFRFC has been accredited to certify organic products and farms under the JAS Organic Certification scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture of Japan, which is now promoting Organic Agriculture. Thus, the INFRFC is a very dynamic organization working diligently to provide a sustainable system of producing food through Nature Farming, based on principles of Mokichi Okada.

The INFRFC can be contacted at:

**International Nature Farming Research Center,
8F, Atami Daiichi Building, 9-1 Taharahoncho,
Atami, Shizuoka 413-0011 Japan.**

Phone: +81 557 85 2001

Fax : +81 557 85 3156

Email : overseas@infrfc.or.jp

Website : www.infrfc.or.jp/english

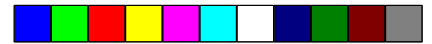
DEAR READERS.....

PLEASE NOTE!!!

The next Scientific Conference of IFOAM will be held in Korea in 2011! This is the first time in the history of IFOAM, that the world congress is held in our continent – ASIA!!

APNAN request all our readers and friends to submit abstracts of research and experiences for possible presentation as Oral or Poster sessions at either the scientific sessions of ISOFAR or the World Organic Conference.

Please contact us for further details – But we do request you in earnest to do some studies with Nature Farming and EM and submit the abstracts to the conference. The details of submission will be on the web site in early 2011 – but we must plan ahead. We do look forward for your cooperation!! Please contact us at APNAN for details or check the IFOAM/ISOFAR websites for further details!!!



Thank you EMRO



INFRC bosses at the dinner



APNAN mum says - well done!!



Rev. Goto inspects APNAN activities



Prof Higa thanks staff



Cheering APNAN



Handsome APNAN officers



EMRO Boss and APNAN boss in Atami