

APNAN NEWS 21(1)

January - April 2010



Asia Pacific Natural Agriculture Network

APNAN is sponsored by



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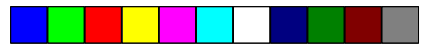


“The human body systems have natural nutrient yielding functions to maintain health. Similarly, the soil is also endowed with the capacity to produce edible plants, sufficient to maintain human life. We could call this inherent ability of the soil “Natural Power”. It is a complex of known properties and some unknown matter and spiritual elements. Nature Farming attempts to bring out these powers of soil through natural means and diligent care, as if the soil is living, to provide healthy nutritious food to human kind, through an ecological approach.”

(Mokichi Okada 1882 – 1955)

(Adapted from 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.

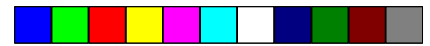
From small beginnings, the network moved on to facilitate research, information, producing EM, advising all interested on Nature Farming and training people from all walks of life. The network helped organize major conferences on Kyusei Nature Farming in four continents and was instrumental in presenting 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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WITH THE ADVENT OF 2010.....

Another year has dawned and over 33% of it is history. As time flies, we at this little network, plan our daily activities and those of the future, amidst the ever-occurring problem of fiscal constraints and changes in policies of the sponsors. However, we at APNAN carry on – diligent as ever achieving our mandate of promoting Nature Farming and EM technology in our region and beyond.

Looking back at the last four months of review, we can pat our backs that we have achieved 90% of our objectives. We held our workshop to train people in Nature Farming and EM technology – These workshops and training sessions are gaining in popularity that soon we may have to fix deadlines for accepting applications. The demand is ever growing and the feed back received at the end is ever encouraging. This is a clear indication that we are doing our job diligently.

Our staff travel to the mandate region, making EM and maintaining quality. We again pat our backs as there has never been a compliant of EM quality or it going bad. This shows the capability of our technical staff to do our job. We also plan ahead, to hold a dealers meeting in Malaysia this year, and also help arrange an EM forum in Penang, Malaysia to coincide with the Dealers meeting, which we hope will be attended by all our contacts. Visits were paid to the EM Research Unit of the Jeonju University in South Korea to discuss and observe the research activities – which is again an encouraging event. Amidst all these, we still maintain the administration in our little office in Bangkok, Thailand, with three members of technical staff, ably assisted now by two from EMRO Asia and by our dear O san, who manages the accounts. All these people and one hidden hand do the work under the guidance of the INFRC and EM Research Organization to meet the aspirations of the sponsors and very importantly, our clients and contacts.

Although we are efficient, and do our job well, through efficient management (EM!!), there are many problems that have to be surmounted. This is because of the success we have achieved!! Amongst all the problems, we tend to think of three – the first being the imitation EM that is circulating in almost every country – the imitations developed by either people who left us for no fault of our own, or by shortsighted people trying to cash on the success which we have obtained. While this shows the success and immense popularity that EM and Nature Farming have, the availability of fake EM disrupts our genuine efforts to help humankind through Nature Farming and the authentic EM of EM Research Organization. This is a fly in the ointment

– and we hope that our friends will always buy the real EM of EM Research Organization, with its characteristic logo, and use it in Nature Farming.

The second is the financial constraints – which we try to surmount by cutting costs and doing things more efficiently – including travel in budget airlines! In this venture, we expect the cooperation of all our friends and clients to share their resources and not ask us at every turn. The last is staff – we are managing with less than minimal members – there was a time when we had four or five members and less work. Now it is three with a hidden partner and an office staff member meetings the demands of an ever-increasing workload. We hope and pray that our sponsors will take this into serious consideration and send us at least one member, to replace one who would leave us within the next three months. We however pledge to do our work, despite these obstacles and more importantly, improve our performance index, which at present is well over 100%!! This is how we work – at APNAN – as our Dear President says its EM – Efficient Management – and its high quality at low cost!!!

This is APNAN, built on a foundation laid 20 years ago – and still growing and going strong overcoming all problems with a smiling face and a willing working hand. Thus although we do not wish to praise our own tails, we can proudly say that we are a model network promoting Nature Farming and EM Technology with ease and without being a burden to anyone.

As in every newsletter we again at this time, offer our gratitude to all who have helped us over the years - we do not mention all in name in this issue, but we do remember them with gratitude.

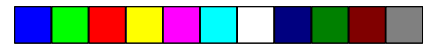
The editor is as usual developing this edition in 48 hours before leaving on another assignment –This is how APNAN works and it shows our forward thinking honest attitude. Thus, let us join hands, use EM, and promote Nature Farming – to make this world a better place for humankind.

At this time, we at APNAN wish all our friends, colleagues and partners

A HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL YEAR

**APNAN, Bangkok, Thailand
MAY 2010**

*The Cover page presents in a clockwise direction beginning from the top left –
The participants at the International Workshop, Professor Higa at the seminar in Thailand, An Indian vegetable garden using EM and the EM dairy farm in New Zealand, respectively.*



THE SPECIAL EVENTS.....

APNAN HOLDS A VERY SUCCESSFUL INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

The regular workshop of our little network for our members and friends was held again this year – in February, at the Sara Buri Nature Farming Training Center. There were 40 participants this time too.. and it is fast becoming very obvious that we have to say no to many applicants – as the demand is growing!

The participants this time came from Bhutan, Myanmar, New Zealand, Malaysia, India, Sri Lanka, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Hong Kong and also from Angola – the latter from Sekai Kyusei Kyo of Africa. There were also VIP participants from India at this event – sent by Maple. These were very high governmental officers from Sikkim, which is fast becoming an organic state in India and promoting EM Technology and Nature Farming.

The workshop went through the usual processes of Nature Farming and EM - however we have changed the emphasis to a real practical nature, rather than a lecture type. The participants get hands on training due to the tremendous assistance we receive from the Sara Buri Training Center and its Boss Mr. Kanit Muangnil.

The workshop evaluation gave an insight as to how the participants feel. Earlier the complaint was that it was too theoretical – we amended that and today the review is excellent! We are happy that we get this honest opinion – and we strive to do our best with the ever diminishing resources – to promote Nature Farming and EM technology in our mandate region and beyond as in the case of Angola.



The workshop participants

Thus all interested in our workshop and training.. please contact us through the in-country contacts posted at our website – we will try to do our best to meet your aspirations.

APNAN PRESIDENT AND MRS. HIGA VISIT THAILAND

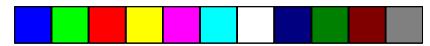
February was a very active month for APNAN – especially as its President and Mrs. Higa traveled to our home base in Bangkok. On arrival on the 14th February, as Valentine guests, they were met at the Suvannabhumi airport by APNAN and EMRO Asia staff and traveled to the hotel. On



After a helicopter ride

the 15th Prof Dr Higa was the guest speaker at the 37th anniversary of the National Housing Authority. This seminar, held at the Radisson Hotel gathered over 500 people to hear our dear President speak of EM for a beautiful world with clean water and environment. The other VIPs present were Mrs. Voranujut and Lt General Pichet Wisaijorn of the Royal Thai army, who is a keen promoter of EM. The Director of the Watshin hospital also spoke and presented the reduction in costs on cleaning and sanitation due to the use of EM for over 7 years. However, a major attraction was the keynote address by his Excellency the Minister of Social Development and Human Security of the Royal Thai Government, who stated that EM is a low cost but very effective to enhance the quality of life. He stated that he has known EM for over 10 years and even showed a bottle – and drank from it.. to show its safety for humankind and the environment!!

The 16th of February saw Professor Dr Higa talking to the Royal Thai Army on Self Sufficient Economy with Nature Farming and EM. There were over 600 people at this event arranged by



the Royal Thai Army and Mr. Rath Rujirawath, and sponsored by EMRO Asia. The other VIP speakers at this event were Dr Tangwatht, Vice rector of Kasetsart University, Col Chuladej Chittavil, who presented the importance of the Self Sufficient Economy, developed by His Majesty the King and also presented the activities of the Royal Army where Nature Farming and EM are promoted among the people. The day ended with a traditional Thai dinner – and we saw Prof and Mrs. Higa really enjoying themselves. The 17th was a day of travel for Professor Dr Higa, while Madam Higa took time with APNAN staff to shop and gossip!! Prof Dr Higa traveled to Hat Yai and then by helicopter to see the Royal Thai Army projects in the south, which use EM. He also visited the EM training unit set up by Lt Gen Pichet, where over 12000 people are trained every year. The presentations of Prof Higa were translated by our dear Toru Koshoji, who we hear was a hit among the young girls present – and hence had difficulties in finding words for translations!!

Prof. Dr. and Mrs. Higa visited the Sekai Kyusei Kyo headquarters at Sara Buri on the 18th to meet the President, Rev Daiho Kasahara and discuss the future programs of EM within the Sekai Kyusei Kyo. They discussed many aspects and



Prof Higa explains EM use

also toured the Nature Farming Training Center, where Prof Higa advised Mr. Kanit and Mr. Sakurai on non-tillage methods of farming with EM and also enhancement of soil fertility with our technology.

On the way back, the group stopped at the EMRO Asia factory and was pleasantly surprised at the developments. They took photographs too and encouraged the staff to work diligently to make

the real EM available in Thailand and to stop the proliferation of fake EM.

The VIPs left for Okinawa via Taiwan on the 19th, and as usual Prof. Dr. Higa, being a horticulturist by training took three plants of waxy apple for his farm in Ginowan.

We are grateful to Prof. Dr. and Madam Higa for visiting us – your presence is an encouragement and support to us and also to EM programs in Thailand and the region. We look forward to welcoming you more often in Bangkok.

INFRC HOLDS A NATURE FARMING EXCHANGEMEETING

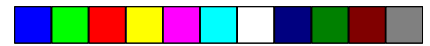
The International Nature Farming Research Center, our sponsor is busy promoting Nature Farming in Japan. Thus, they hold exchange meetings with the farming communities in different prefectures to present the benefits of Nature Farming and its techniques.

INFRC hosted such an event in Toyama city in the presence of the prefectural government officer. The staff of INFRC, Mr. Matsumi explained the techniques of Nature Farming and its ease of adoption for home gardening. We are told that over 50 people attended this event and hence APNAN is happy that such projects held periodically in Japan will promote Nature Farming. This is also important to us – that Nature Farming and EM is well established in Japan – and this would make our job of promoting these technologies easier to the greater wider world.

NKA OF CAMBODIA HOSTS A WORKSHOP WITH APNAN STAFF

The Neary Khmer Association (NKA), our partner in Cambodia is making great strides in promoting Nature Farming and EM in the Kingdom. Thus, they plan many activities over the year and travel within the Kingdom promoting the technologies that we offer to make their livelihoods much more productive within a cleaner environment.

This time, it was the organization of a workshop that made our officers – Toru Koshoji and Yujiro Sano to travel to the neighboring nation in January. The staff of APNAN who generally spend their time around Phnom Penh, traveled to Siem Reap, which is the home of the world famous Angkor Wat, a world heritage site. The team comprising of our members, the Director of NKA, Ms. Sovanly and her spouse, who is also active in



EM promotion, and a Buddhist monk traveled by road to the training site in the new pick up vehicle. The workshop was held in a primary school, the Wat Bo Primary School in Siem Reap, over two days. There were over 100 participants, which immediately showed the great enthusiasm of the Cambodians towards Nature Farming and EM Technology. The program had been organized by the principal of the school, who is also very dynamic and active in training his wards and educating all the students to become good citizens. The workshop began with music by the school kids at the opening ceremony, which nearly made our dear Sano san dance!! All present were very enthusiastic about EM – as they have had some experience and wished to expand their activities after being exposed to EM at the workshop. The excellent presentation by Toru Koshoji about Nature Farming and EM all over the world, using the data bank we have made them really happy – they understood that they are not alone in doing something and that there is a great and significant movement in Nature Farming and EM all over the world, working towards the same goals that they also wish to achieve. The workshop also raised many questions about using EM in the context of Cambodia, using the available resources. Our two staff really performed well in proving the required replies. The presentations were more forceful and effective as Koshoji san is versatile in presenting the information in his second native language, Thai, which is akin to Cambodian and hence is understood by all! Thank you NKA for organizing this event and we hope that many other similar workshops and training programs will be arranged so that we at APNAN can attend and also enjoy the great hospitality of the Cambodian people!! We will do our best to stimulate the people to use EM and adopt Nature Farming as it will certainly help their activities – and we at APNAN can do it well, using our own Thai speaking Toru Koshoji, who will travel to Cambodia any time to get away from his task of managing EMRO Asia to the best of his ability and satisfying his demanding boss – Takashi Kyan!! Our staff did not forget to do their normal duty – of checking EM and its quality. This was also done at the NKA EM unit and they report that it is good and can be used effectively. Thus, we do know that NKA is doing a great job and hope that

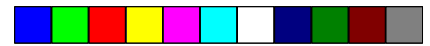


Cambodians during the workshop

EM will soon be a household word in Cambodia. We at APNAN will offer all the support we can, given our limited resources and staff – but will fly the flag of Nature Farming and EM as we always do.

MALAYSIA PLANS AN EM EVENT IN AUGUST

The State of Penang in Malaysia is moving ahead with EM Technology in a big way – thanks to the energetic Mr. Sawada who is spearheading this activity in our neighboring nation, ably assisted by the EM figure, Mr. Pak Soo! In 2009, they had a 1 million mud ball event, which was attended by Prof Higa. Thus again this year, it will be held on the EM Day – along with an EM forum, which will precede the mud ball event – which is called one million apologies to mother earth!! APNAN was in Penang in March, to discuss the arrangements - as it is the wish of our President that the APNAN Dealers meeting will also be held in Penang at the same time. Thus, Mr. Nishibuchi, our boss and another member traveled to Penang soon after arriving from Korea, to oversee the plans. On arrival they were met by Mr. Sawada and Mr. Pak Soo, discussions were held, and locations evaluated. Certainly, there is no dearth of places – but discussions are underway to possibly hold the event at an EM friendly hotel. Hence plans are still be made – although the EM forum will be held on the 7th August in the very impressive conference facility of the PSDC in Penang. On the 8th morning, the mud ball throwing event will be held under the patronage of the government of Penang and also our dear President and Madam Higa. This will be the second year.. the benefits of adding 1 million mud balls to a



polluted beach is now showing – the mangroves have come back and the foul smell gone.. right in the center of Penang.

The event will surely be something spectacular.. and we hope that our dealers and contacts and also all interested in pollution control in an organic way will be there.

Please contact us for details – we hope to see you there!!

RESEARCH PROJECTS AT JEONJU UNIVERSITY SHOWS THE BENEFITS OF EM TECHNOLOGY

The presentations made at Jeonju EM research unit to the APNAN delegation highlight the usefulness of EM in agriculture. The results show that EM enhanced the vigor of rice seedlings, which is vital for a rice-producing nation such as Korea. Growing rice with EM increased its quality in terms of protein content and also yields. Furthermore, oligosaccharides of rice were also increased by EM culture, a phenomenon not reported earlier. The use of EM also was helpful in weed management due to increased vigor of rice plants.

Laboratory studies show that EM helped control Phytophthora that infects Solanaceous plants such as capsicum, which is very important crop in Korea for their Kim Chi. Similarly, EM increased yields of capsicum and quality as well, in terms of the thickness of the pod skin and also pungency.

In terms of soils, EM helped mitigate salinity, promote seedling growth of rice, and also helped control diseases. All these lab and pot culture experiments show that EM works. However we now need field evidence and the APNAN



The EM unit in Jeonju

delegation had discussions and suggested that field based trials be carried out to confirm these studies in real practical situations and also with the equipment and facilities available, develop the scientific basis and reasons for the numerous success stories available under farmer conditions in Korea.

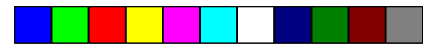
Research on the basic sciences showed that EM positively affected the DPH free radical scavenging process and EM and EM X Gold increased GSH and Catalase. Furthermore lab studies on mice with EM show that EM and EM X Gold could reduce the melanoma cells in mice. On the environmental aspects, EM reduced odors from wastes and in waste water. Lakes treated with EM were cleaner – based on real scientific data. Although there is a paper from Holland that EM did not help clear algae from water, the evidence from Jeonju is very clear – that it removes algae from water bodies. The COD and BOD of waste water was clearly reduced by EM, thus enhancing aquatic life. Application of EM into sewage systems cleaned the grey water and also reduced smells.. all leading to environmental management.

We at APNAN were impressed of the work and encouraged them again to do field based practical oriented research – and very importantly publish results internationally. It is a shame to waste the resources they have – and this unit has 8 patents to use EM in different areas and also many research papers on EM. However the problem is that all are in Korean Journals, and in Korean, which are not accessed by the Web of Knowledge etc.. this setback must be overcome.

We hope that this unit will get their act together over the next few months and develop good papers for presentation at the forthcoming IFOAM/ISO FAR Meetings. We at APNAN will help and wish the team at Jeonju EM Research Unit all the success for the future. Please call us if help is needed.. we have enough staff who would love to work in Jeonju – as they love Kim Chi!!!

OIL PALM CONFERENCES PRESENTED WITH EM TECHNOLOGY!!

The Center for Management Technology of Singapore organized a conference on Sustainable Oil Palm Plantations in Gran Melia, Jakarta, Indonesia on 21 and 22 January 2010. APNAN, due to its work on sustainable management on



different crops was invited to present a paper on Sustainable Management – especially in relation to fertilizers.. Thus our boss at APNAN, Mr. Yasushi Nishibuchi did the honors by presenting a paper titled Fertilizer Management – Effective Microorganisms for the Palm oil industry.

This presentation lasting 30 minutes showed the versatility of EM in supplying the required nutrients to palm trees, through the judicious use of wastes and organic matter. Emphasis was placed on the nutrition of nursery plants and also management and application of fermented material and EM in the field. The reduction of costs and the profitability was also presented.

Nishibuchi san also attended a similar conference in Krabi, Thailand in March to present a similar paper on using EM for oil palm.

We hear from Nishibuchi san that there was plenty of interest generated in the presentation. Today Oil Palm is a very profitable industry in Southeast Asia and many plantations are cashing on the success of the crop, with an eagle eye towards reducing costs. The technology we present offers significant hope to these and all interested, please contact us – we will provide the required advice – we have experience and also have started trials with Oil Palm using EM technology.

VIENTIANE ORGANIC FARM BECOMES A GREAT ATTRACTION

The Organic market in Vientiane, Lao PDR is famous – as it is so successful and the demand for chemical free products is really phenomenal! Thus our dear Yujiro Sano, who always takes the opportunity to jump over to our neighboring land – the Lao PDR, visited organic farmers who sell their products at this market on a weekly basis. The first farm that was visited by Sano san was in the Hat Xai Fong district, Vientiane. This farm turned organic with EM technology four years ago, and has developed many concoctions using EM for his vegetables. At first, he started with the usual EM, activated EM and bokashi – but experimented with a series of special mixtures that were made up by fermenting grasses and herbs with EM. We are told that he also puts in snails, small fish and over ripe fruits to his fermenting liquids to extract real useful materials from pests and wastes! This is a novelty – where normal pests such as snails who love eating

succulent vegetables are used to perform a useful task by enhancing the power of EM fermented material!! This is new and a phenomenon that shows the usefulness of pests! Earlier, it was only weeds and herbs that were used for fermenting to make EM - now ingenious people use even insect pests and slugs!! This is great – and no wonder the vegetables are so healthy and succulent – that brings about a greater demand! The next stop of Sano san was to a fruit and vegetable farm in Sisattanak region of Vientiane. This dynamic lady has been using EM in her organic farm for two years with astounding results. The most useful activity of EM for her was the ability to manage diseases of her plants through fermenting herbs with EM and using them as sprays. This again is a highlight – most farmers using organic methods for crop production often complain that managing pests and diseases is a major problem. However, here is real field expertise – where the unwanted plants and insects, which reduce crop yields, are fermented with EM to extract their essences to protect the crops they earlier attacked. We always learn – and this from the two organic farmers in Lao PDR !!One complaint that both farmers had was the slower growth of vegetables – in their farms when compared to the conventional chemical systems. This is due to the slower release of nutrients by the organic materials.. thus if they compost the material with EM, the growth would certainly be increased! However, the plus point of using EM was that they did not have to spend money on expensive mineral fertilizers or pesticides – which they could not afford!! Furthermore, the prices of their organic products increased due to demand! Hence, they are very happy of the outcome – that they became organic and started using EM!! The greater demand for organic vegetables in the Vientiane market, which is ever growing in popularity, the higher prices and satisfaction of working in a chemical free environment, makes these farmers happy – although crop growth is a bit slower!!! This shows that one cannot have everything in life. However, we can be really happy with small but significant mercies!!

Thank you Sano chan for visiting Lao PDR – we know that you love going there for a diverse number of reasons. However, promoting Nature Farming as required by our sponsors INFRC and



Organic market in Lao PDR

also EM as needed by EMRO – our bosses in Okinawa. You are doing a great job for APNAN – this little network in Bangkok!!

We look forward to reporting greater events from LAO PDR in the future!

DEVELOPMENTS AND TRAVELS APLENTY WITHIN FOUR MONTHS.....

APNAN VISITS JEONJU UNIVERSITY TO OBSERVE EM ACTIVITIES

The University of Jeonju. Located in Jeonju, South Korea has a fully fledged EM Research Center with scientific and technical staff, all paid for by the government. The unit, headed by Dr Wonghil Chang has well equipped lab dedicated to the research on EM.

A delegation from APNAN headed by Mr. Nishibuchi visited Jeonju in March – with the objective of discussing modalities to present EM research papers at the forthcoming IFOAM International Conference in September 2011. On arrival in Incheon, the delegation was met by Mr. Young Bin Kim the Assistant manager of Ever miracle, our counterpart in South Korea. The delegation traveled to Jeonju to stay at the campus and view the facilities of Ever Miracle and the EM unit.

The research unit was visited the next morning, after Nishibuchi san made EM for Ever Miracle. The delegation was met by the Head of the unit, Dr Wonghil Chang and presentations were made on their research. They have impressive data on basic research but more applied work is needed for the conference on organic agriculture, rather than basic science to get EM and Nature Farming accepted. After presentations and discussions, the

delegation traveled to observe some plots of EM, a historic site and also the boss wanted to do some shopping of Kim Chi for his dear friend Koshiji san in Bangkok!

On the last day, the delegation visited a strawberry farm and a district of Boryeong, which is adopting EM in a big way through state intervention. The strawberry farm was most impressive and the EM production unit and Bokashi making unit were all state of the art masterpieces, capable of providing all requirements of EM and Bokashi. The unit is again state sponsored and is fully automated, and reminded the delegation of a similar unit in Europe! After much discussions with the staff and Director, who agreed to develop a field tour for the forthcoming IFOAM Conference in Seoul in 2011, the delegation visited a strawberry farm, which is fully organic and uses EM. This again was a clear masterpiece of continued crop rotation with strawberries and vegetables. Although it was raining, the gorgeous strawberries – just off the plants were yummy – so much that the delegation was wishing for some cream to accompany the strawberries.

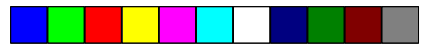
The overall objective of this visit was to see the work at the EM research unit in Jeonju and suggest possible papers for the forthcoming IFOAM conference – along with the ISOFAR event in



EM shop in Jeonju

September 2011, which will draw over 1000 delegates from the organic world and which is being held in Asia for the first time. This was done and a tired, pleased and impressed delegation returned to Bangkok after two nights in Korea.. only to travel to Penang the next day!!

APNAN thanks Ever Miracle and its CEO Mr. Young Joong, Kang, his assistant, Mr. Young Bin Kim, the Director Dr Wonghil Chang and staff of the EM unit at Jeonju, and also Mr. Baek Nam



Hoon and his staff Mr. Kang Bin Won, who are actively promoting EM and Nature Farming in the Boryeong region.

We look forward to greater efforts and a successful EM event in the forthcoming IFOAM meeting in September 2011, and offer our support to it at all times.

EMRO ASIA MOVING AHEAD

The establishment of EMRO Asia last year to supply the real EM of EM Research Organization to the faithful clients in Thailand, our home nation, was one full of controversy. Court cases, litigation and many false accusations flew in all directions, but EMRO, our sponsors persevered in their endeavor to meet the aspirations of real EM users in our host nation. Thus EMRO Asia got off the ground – and under the stewardship of our ex boss Takashi Kyan and his able assistant, Toru Koshiji, who speaks Thai fluently, we have succeeded. Today, EMRO Asia is a thriving and profitable organization, supplying the real quality EM to all those who want it – instead of the other types of EM, which are being sold without the authority of the owners of the product, EMRO. We are happy to note that the customer base is growing slowly but surely – and Toru Koshiji is doing a very good job of promoting the real EM, with the help of our dear friend Ms. Somlak Pongdit and the Thai staff. APNAN helps them when time permits – to make EM and pack the material for shipping – this is hard manual labor – but still we get our routine exercise through it! We wish greater success to EMRO Asia in Thailand as their success is also ours and offer our unstinted support.

THE WORK OF OUR UNTIRING PRESIDENT, PROFESSOR DR TERUO HIGA

Our dear President, Professor Dr Higa, although retired from active academic activity is a busy man, promoting EM in Japan and internationally. Thus the reports coming from Okinawa inform us that in the last four months, he traveled extensively in Japan giving seminars and promoting the technology developed by him. In January, he traveled to Sendai and to Ichinoseki in the Iwate prefecture to meet with a local brewery making EM beer. We hear that this product is gathering popularity in Japan. Later he was promoting EM activity among handicapped

people, as the technology gives a lot of pleasure to many people. Later in the month, he was at the clinic of Dr Tanaka, who uses EM X Gold for human therapy and moved onto the Aomori prefecture to advise a composting unit of the Tsugaru city and present a Seminar on EM in agriculture.

In February, Prof. Dr Higa traveled to Tokyo to advise a river cleaning program, meet with the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and attend meetings of the environment committee of the current ruling party of Japan. Later on, he presented a well-attended seminar in Tokyo and delivered a lecture titled EM Technology pioneers the future.

After a sojourn overseas, Prof Dr Higa attended the Board meeting of the INFRC, visited Dr Tanaka again and also participated in discussions at the U Net – promoting EM in Japan.

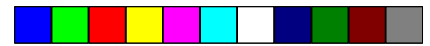
March was again full of travel – from Nagoya to deliver a lecture and to Fukuoka and Kumamoto to attend EM forums, then onto Nagasaki to the Tsushima city and meet with the Mayor on waste management with EM. Later that month, he traveled to the prefectures of Akita, Iwate, Shiga and Aomori for meetings.

In April, Prof Dr Higa also delivered lectures in Tokyo and also attended the flower show of Japan. The month ended with a stint overseas and also with a visit to the Nihonbashi river for its cleaning with EM mud balls at its mud ball festival. We do thank our dear President for this extensive and exhaustive program – we are ever grateful that he is still active as ever both in Japan and overseas.. his presence brings vitality to any meeting and he inspires people – thus we at APNAN and all Nature Farming and EM users wish his long and a healthy life.

APNAN DOES A WHIRLWIND TOUR OF NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand has been a special nation for an APNAN member for over 30 years! Thus, an opportunity for travel to Kiwi land is a god sent opportunity for him. However it was not a holiday – as this time, APNAN delivered over 7 seminars in a period of 3 days – traveling through the lower part of North island.

APNAN was invited to deliver lectures on the programs that our partners, NZ Nature Farming Societies managed diligently by Mike and



Marianne, who also have now an assistant to help them in the new factory in Christchurch. Thus from 26th to 29th April, our staff were in Kiwi land – beginning with two seminars organized by the Wellington City Council. Thereafter it was to Otaki to a lifestyle farm, using EM in all facets of life – this making an ideal demonstration unit. Then it was onto Palmerston North, to spend the day at the Awapuni Recycling Center, which is very successfully using EM for odor control and composting. The whole program was arranged by Ms Pip Chrystall, who is a very dynamic lady, all wrapped up with EM! The morning was spent seeing the activities and a meeting followed by the Dealers meeting of NZNFS. This was an eye opener for APNAN – where one of our very important clients has taken our concept of dealer meetings and is having such meetings on their own!! They even had a management consultant to gather thoughts and focus on the activities of promoting Nature Farming and EM throughout the nation.

The next day was on an EM organic dairy farm – the Mai Farm, located at the beautiful Pohangina valley in the Manawatu. This again can be



New Zealanders discuss EM

developed into an ideal dairy farm using EM, as it is certified organic. The evening saw our team traveling to Hastings for a seminar at the Eastern Institute of Technology and the next day to the Hastings Waste Water Treatment Plant which will test EM in a million dollar new unit to kill foul odors and make the discharge water environmentally friendly.

The whole tour was a success – there is much to be written – which is good information, and will be done in the next newsletter. However, APNAN wishes to that NZ Nature Farming Society, Mike and Marianne Daly and Neville Burt on Bokashi for an excellent and a very successful program –

a special word to Pip Chrystall and her team for promoting EM diligently. APNAN wishes all of them to very best and look forward to reporting the events in detail in the next issue. However, we are ever so grateful to NZNFS for their promoting of these useful technologies without fuss or fan fare and obtaining excellent results.

PROFESSOR DR HIGA GOES TO DPR KOREA!!

The Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK) has a special place in our dear President’s heart! Thus he tries to travel to this very special country to promote EM – This was achieved in mid April, when he traveled with our ex boss Takashi Kyan, to observe the developments and provide guidance and assistance.

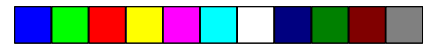
The visit this time was primarily to the Academy of Sciences, which has now fully realized the importance of EM and bokashi for soil improvement and thereby crop yields.

Thus from 2009, they no longer distribute activated EM, which the farmers did not use properly, as they did not add organic matter, which is vital for the success of EM, but they now give away Bokashi, which they say is made from North Korean EM!! However the important aspect is that EM, developed by our benevolent President, Professor Dr Higa is used in its correct manner – with organic matter supplied through Bokashi. The government is now developing this program, which has fruitful results, and the Academy of Sciences is making large quantities of EM!

During their sojourn, Prof. Dr Higa and Kyan san visited a beverage company making EM soda Juice.. after fermenting many herbs and fruits with EM. This is a very tasty drink liked by all. Thereafter, it was to the Academy of Medical Sciences to deliver lectures and hold discussions on EMX gold. There had been lots of questions – and our erudite president had replied all, much to the satisfaction of all present.

The final stop was to the EM factory and the quality of both EM and Bokashi is supposed to be excellent. Thus, all in all, it had been a very fruitful trip and we hear that another visit will be made this year by Prof Dr Higa.

We do really appreciate the work done by our President to promote EM and all associated technologies in DPR Korea – this is a special



nation that deserves recognition and we are happy that EM is fast becoming a part of the lifestyles. We too offer all our support and hope that we could also visit this special nation soon to see its activities and report them to the wide world!!

AUSSIES DEVELOP ENHANCED METHOD FOR HOME COMPOSTING!!

Recycling organics is a big thing internationally and this is more so in the developed world! Thus our dear friends in Aussieland – the VRM group led by Ken Bellamy, who is led by a hidden hand, have developed a Magic box for household use.. using VRM liquid bokashi. This process enables the recycling of food scraps without offensive odors and it also makes your own organic liquid fertilizers for the vege patch in your home!!

The details are now available – and all interested in cooperating in this project – Please contact VRM through their website.

Congratulations Ken Bellamy and his team for this novel and excellent development, which helps, recycle wastes and also grow healthy and chemical free vegetables using your very own liquid bokashi and compost!!

KIWILAND DEVELOPS NATURE FARMING MODEL

New Zealand, the land of Kiwis, is moving ahead in two fronts – the first in spreading EM throughout the country and secondly, establishing a model Nature Farming garden within the premises of the Organic Farming Training College in Christchurch. Both these are being undertaken by the NZ Nature Farming Society under the stewardship of Mike Daly.

Our evergreen Koki Nagamine visited New Zealand to check EM and also visit the garden to provide possible suggestions to improve the model garden, which will be one of the first outside Japan, and developed by us.. expect for Sara Buri, which we use for training.

On arrival in Christchurch, Koki san checked the quality of EM – and as usual was excellent as it was made by us (him actually) and then proceeded to the Organic Training College in the company of Mike Daly, who is advising them. Mike is also keen on developing this model – to show that it is a viable and valuable concept – with EM. On arrival, they met Ms Nicola who is in charge of the plot and also the manager of the Training



The model Nature Farm in New Zealand

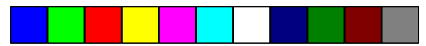
College who was a trainee at Sara Buri. After initial discussions, they observed the developments of the model garden, which had Chinese cabbage, beans, buckwheat and other species commonly grown in New Zealand on a seasonal basis. The garden is 16 sq meters, and nothing is brought from outside.. it's totally self contained and has a very successful crop rotation. The weeds and green manures from the pathways are added into the system. As in all Nature Farming plots, it had been slow to start with, but using EM accelerated the process and today, the analysis of data show the benefits. The results being gathered show the productivity, which is slowly but surely increasing, thus validating Nature Farming into a viable and sustainable system self sufficient agriculture.

We are very grateful to NZ Nature Farming Society and Mike Daly and his team and to those at the Organic Training College for facilitating this model. We hope to keep our dear readers updated on the developments, with the anticipation that similar units will spring up in others parts of our mandate region. We will surely help in this venture.

KOKI NAGAMINE FLIES INTO AUSSIE LAND TO MAKE EM

A flying visit to Townsville by Koki Nagamine, instead of our Boss Yasushi Nishibuchi in March, paved the way for supplying EM to VRM, as the demand is increasing on a monthly basis! On arrival, as the boss of VRM was away, Koki got down to the job of preparing EM until the arrival of the VIPs. They were in Canberra explaining their carbon crediting program, which is in the news in Australia now in a big way!!

The EM was made on schedule, and Koki san on the last day was invited to a Japanese meal by the



hosts Ken and family – where he met the whole brood of the Bellamy's!! Koki was impressed that Sharon, the eldest daughter of Ken is now with VRM.. the second generation taking over to keep an eye on dad!! What he liked most was that Sharon took a picture of him!!

It is now known that the activities of VRM is known nationwide.. Its popularity is growing in Queensland and we hear that there are signboards – large ones at that.. stating what VRM is doing with EM around the suburbs of Townsville. We urge Ken to send us a picture of a signboard to show our readers what they are upto! We wish VRM and Ken and his troupe the very best.. you are doing great.. and we will support you as always. – please keep us updated on your activities.

CAMBODIAN DELEGATION TRAINED AT SARA BURI

The Japanese staff of the School Aid Japan, founded through an aid program sponsored by organizations in Japan, attended a training session at Sara Buri in February. They were placed under the competent tutelage of Mr. Kanit Muangnil, who trained them in all aspects of Nature Farming and EM Technology. They were keen to learn bokashi making and also soil management. Discussions were held on EM in rice culture, which is very important in Cambodia. At the end of five days, they were confident of themselves and will develop and disseminate the technologies learnt within the Kingdom, in cooperation with our counterparts, the NKA. We wish them luck and offer our support.

EM CASHEW IN ABUNDANCE IN CAMBODIA

Cambodia, as we know is progressing in promoting Nature Farming in a range of products – and cashew, the famous nut, which is in demand all over the world for its health giving reasons, is one such success story. A pure Nature farm in Kompong Thum, located between Phnom Penh and Siem Reap, and of about 50 ha in extent was visited by our team when in Cambodia. This 50 ha farm produces approximately 2200 kg of processed cashew per annum, which is all organic – no chemicals, healthy and lots of tasty nuts! They use Activated EM, EM5, bokashi and lots and lots of rice husk, which is used as a mulch to



EM cashew in Cambodia

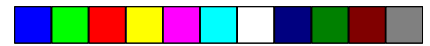
cover the base of trees. Thus, they control weeds. The use of EM5 controls most diseases and pests – as it is applied regularly as a prophylactic. Thus, there is now EM cashew - as in Thailand, where EM cashew is now exported to Japan by EMRO Asia.

Our team was really pleased to see this development initiated by the NKA to promote agricultural productivity through Nature Farming and EM technology – it is great to see such farms. Our duo also advised the farmer to use his resources better through EM technology and hence enhance productivity at a lower cost.

Hence - All wanting EM cashew – pure organic and healthy material. Please do contact Toru Koshiji at EMRO Asia or even APNAN.

NISHIBUCHI IN INDIA

India, a giant nation of Asia is fast adopting EM Technology in their quest to enhance agriculture and clean the environment! As our counterparts Maple Orgtech, is busy promoting EM and Nature Farming, we are called often to make EM for them and present the advantages. Thus our boss Yasushi Nishibuchi traveled to India twice – once in January to make EM seeds and more recently in April, to do the same job and travel to Sikkim. We hear from Nishibuchi san that the trip was very successful – They flew to Bagdora from Kolkatta and then drove to Siliguri in the company of Mr. Bag, a staff member of Maple, who has specialized in waste water treatment. The next day was a long drive to Darjeeling to meet with organic tea garden owners who met Nishibuchi san and asked a lot of questions!! However they were keen to use EM and this was highlight. Thereafter model farms in Sikkim were visited



by Nishibuchi . He also visited the Food Security and Agriculture Development Office of the State Government of Sikkim and explained the usefulness of EM in agriculture and environmental management. The audience was keen to expand the program to cover all areas within the State. Nishibuchi san also had the rare opportunity to meet with the Minister of Agriculture of the Sikkim Government, and apprised him of the developments on the citrus project with EM. The Minister promised to follow up the use of EM in the region, and we hope that Sikkim, a very beautiful state of India will soon be an EM state. We support this venture and also offer our support to Maple to carry out its duties – we look forward to greater events in India in the near future, and thank Nishibuchi san for his constant efforts to meet the increasing demand for EM in India.

ZOO NEGARA OF MALAYSIA USES EM DANGOS TO OVERCOME POLLUTION

The Zoological gardens of Kuala Lumpur, called Zoo Negara invited our boss Nishibuchi to the EM Mud ball event that was held on the 6th March – the World Water day. This event was arranged to add mud balls to purify the lake of the Zoo and restore aquatic life. Thus, 40,000 EM mud balls were added on this day to the lake. The mud balls were made by Standard Chartered Bank .We look forward to reporting its success in future events of Zoo Negara.

SNIPPETS OF THE FAMILY.....

SANO’S GIFT BRINGS THANKS TO ANOTHER!!

Our dear young handsome Sano chan wished to please our President’s wife, Mrs. Setsuko Higa, whom we regards as APNAN mum, when she was in Bangkok in February. Thus, while at a dinner hosted by her for the staff in Bangkok, and also the wife of our staff Koki Nagamine, our Sano Chan, who always likes to please ladies handed over two small glass turtles that he had bought in Lao PDR to Madam Higa!! We all know that Mrs. Higa loves to collect models of turtles as they are supposed to bring good health and long life! Hence, our Sano san wanted to make her happy – and to wish her good health and long life. However, on return to Okinawa – a thank you letter from Oku sama (Mrs. Higa) arrived –

not to Yujiro Sano.... but to the wife of Koki Nagamine!!! Our dear Sano was sad.....but in a way happy that his gift brought happiness not to one special lady but two!!! This is magnanimity, dear Sano Chan.. and your gift made two beautiful ladies happy!!! Later on.. Sano had realized that Koki sans wife also prepared a turtle after the dinner hosted by Madam Higa – as she heard that Mrs. Higa loves turtles!! However, we at APNAN always tell Sano san.. please give us gifts also.. which he never does.. maybe because we are ugly males!!!

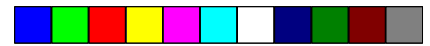
OUREX BOSS BECOMESA YANKEE!!

Takashi Shimoji, our ex Senior Technical Officer, who manned the Overseas Department of EMRO, under the guidance of his name sake and our ex Senior Technical Officer Takashi Kyan, has got a promotion – he has moved to Tucson in Arizona, in charge of EMRO USA..... taking over from its ex head, Dr Shuichi Okumoto, who has moved back to Japan to work with his long time friend, Dr Masaki Shintani, Head of the Research Department of EMRO and who also serves on the Board of Directors!

We trained Shimoji san – Chimo to us – in international activities and we are sure that he is totally competent to handle the affairs of EMRO USA – which is strategically important to the EM world. He has a great task ahead of him.. to promote EM and Nature Farming in the North Americas – the great continent, in cooperation with EM America, this has exclusive rights to EM sales in that nation and Canada. However, things have been rather slow in moving ahead – although Dr Shintani and Dr Okumoto who preceded



Chimo takes over USA!!



Chimo as the head of EMRO USA did a lot to make EMRO USA see the black instead of a long history of losses! We are sure that Chimo will spur things up in his own quiet shy and pleasant way, winning the hearts of the Americans – as he did in many many nations of APNAN and also in Japan – to enable them use EM in their daily lives!! We wish Takashi Shimoji the very best..and offer our help at all times – we have experience in promoting EM even in very difficult nations – and thus would love a holiday in Tucson!! Please inform us... a flight to LA and then to Tucson would be lovely from our usual work in Bangkok!! However, a bird whispers to us that during spare times in Tucson, Chimo is seen dressed as a cowboy riding horses and hugging the giant cacti found in Tucson.. especially as SMS, which he is a master at, is not that popular in that part of the world!!!

Good luck Chimo san..we expect to report greater things from EMRO USA in our next newsletter...please keep us informed or the developments taking place in that great continent!!

KOSHOJISAN AHITAMONG THAILADIES!

Our handsome Toru Koshoji, who manages EMRO Asia is a fully fledged Thai, after being in the Kingdom for over 4 years!! He was the official translator when Prof Higa was in Thailand.... and we hear that in the South (Hat Yai) he was at a loss for words because all the young beautiful ladies were clamoring for him and wishing to take photographs!! They know that he is available and also got all the right qualifications, including the completion of the monk hood, which is an important criteria for a male ready for marriage!! We wish Koshoji san the best of luck – to avoid all these intrusions as we need him at EMRO Asia and APNAN to help out in our programs!!



The ladies man!!!

MADAM HIGA GOES SHOPPING WITH APNAN

Our dear APNAN mum, Mrs. Setsuko Higa took time off in Bangkok – to shop and have an EM massage as well! We hear that our staff led by Mr. Nishibuchi took care of her – and they really enjoyed shopping, having nice meals and gossiping about the past and the history of



A P N A N . . including the activities of the hidden member! We are very happy that Madam Higa, who is so special to us visited us.. and that she had a relaxing day with us. We hope

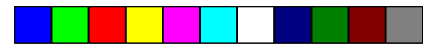
Reach the stars Says Mrs Higa that she will come more often as her presence and that of Prof Dr Higa is an encouragement to us all. Thank you Madam Higa for being with us and we wish that you come again soon!

JUN MATSUMOTO MOVES TO GERMANY

Our dear Jun Matsumoto, the ex boss of this little network left us last year to assist Takashi Kyan in Okinawa, the head office of EMRO. However, as there is a demand for the presence of a permanent member from EMRO in Europe, our Jun san will move soon to replace Mr. Chinen, who has been in Germany, working with Mr. Hideo Kuwabara for many years. Jun is looking forward to this new assignment and plans to travel the continent looking at beautiful things, making EM and climbing mountains!! Although a personal tragedy took place for Jun, we learn that he is



The German Matsumoto!



getting over this loss gradually as no one can prevent such events, he is looking forward and we wish him the very best in his new assignment and hope that he will inform us of his activities to enable us present them to our readers and friends. We wish our Jun Matsumoto the very best during his stint in Europe.

APNAN/EMRO ASIA TRAINS A YOUNG STAFFMEMBER

APNAN is now training staff for EMRO!! This was always the case... but now its official!! This is because we do the best job to break the young Japanese boys and girls to the real world of human life – with all the stress, strain and restraint offered by the environment of Bangkok.

A young trainee – Mr. Ayumu Ikehara, who is one of the most junior members of the EMRO team, was here for a few weeks, being trained under the eagle eye of our boss of EMRO Asia Toru Koshoji. He arrived a few weeks ago and was fully involved in the work of EMRO Asia, traveling, bottling EM, testing quality and generally learning of the workload at EMRO and APNAN. He had a good and fruitful stay with us – and hope that he will develop himself to become a good member of the EM and follow in the



Our new member - Ikehara san

footsteps of his predecessors. He is now in Japan and we wish him well for the future.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Symposium ‘Organic Horticulture: Productivity and sustainability’ at the 28th International Horticultural Congress

22.08.2010 to 27.08.2010

Location: Lisbon, Portugal

5th Organic Meeting and Producers’ Fair of Latin America and the Caribbean in Peru

05.09.2010 to 10.09.2010

Location: University of La Molina, Lima, Peru

1st UNAAB International Summer School on Organic Agriculture

13.09.2010 to 24.09.2010

Location: Abeokuta, Nigeria

9th Congress of the Spanish Society of Organic Agriculture, in Lleida, Spain

06.10.2010 to 09.10.2010

Location: Lleida, Spain

APNAN T SHIRTS – OF VERY HIGH QUALITY ARE AVAILABLE WITH US AT A MODEST PRICE OF ONLY 250 THAI BAHT (US DOLLARS 9) PER SHIRT!!

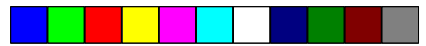
The colors are – Black and Blue with our special Logo mark!

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 21 – 24 June, 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



INFRC

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 INFRC 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 INFRC.

Today, the INFRC 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 INFRC also promotes the use of EM Technology to stimulate the soil biota and enhance productivity.

The international activities of INFRC 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 INFRC has been accredited to certify organic agricultural products and organic agricultural processed food under the JAS Organic Certification scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture of Japan, which is now promoting Organic Agriculture. Thus, the INFRC 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 INFRC 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@infrc.or.jp

Website : www.infrc.or.jp/english

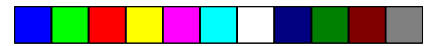
DEAR READERS.....

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 requests 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 ISO FAR 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/ISO FAR websites for further details!!!!



We are really good people!!



EM dangos in the Malaysian ZOO



Discussing EM in India



Japanese staff from Cambodia plant rice at Sara Buri



Pip Chrystall explains EM in NZ



Oil palm conference listens to EM



Nature Farm in Lao PDR



Angolan and Kiwi sing songs at the workshop