

# APNAN NEWS 21(2)

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*Asia Pacific Natural Agriculture Network*

APNAN is  
sponsored by



*“Nature Farming is a method of cultivation designed to let the soil fully exercise its natural power. The basic principle behind this method is quite simple – if a given species of a plant is grown on uncontaminated land, the soil gradually develops the qualities required for that particular species. Like human bodies that get rid of clouds of toxins, soils free of unnatural matter are filled with vitality that fully nourishes the plant.”*

*(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 INFRM 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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## APNAN MOVES ALONG ITS 21ST YEAR OF SUCCESSFUL SERVICE...

The Asia Pacific Natural Agriculture Network (APNAN), established in 1989, with the objective of scientifically validating the concepts of EM Technology and Nature Farming in 13 nations has come of age! We celebrated 20 years in September last year – but the general custom is that people celebrate the 21<sup>st</sup> birthday with a bang!! We at APNAN, huddled in our little home in Kularb Apartments have no such plans... may be a dinner at Christmas if our sponsors allow us!! That's the life at APNAN – to serve our fellow beings with modesty and humility.

Although APNAN started with 13 nations ranging from the USA to the east, crossing the date line to the west to proceed to Pakistan, the mandate region grew overwhelmingly to cover some 23 nations. Although some have dropped out, others outside the mandate region have come in – and these nations have been added on by our sponsors EM Research Organization on the pretext of them being in the region! For example, our officers have been pushed to Russia – to Vladivostok to make EM and teach the technologies we promote!! When the query was made as to why we should handle Russia, the reply from our ex boss who heads the International Department of the EM Research Organization was – Its in Asia!! Hence as usual we do it with a smile and without complaints!!

Our other sponsors, the International Nature farming Research Center has also entrusted us with a new job.. to possibly develop models of Nature Farming, as advocated by Mokichi Okada in our members countries. Although this concept is valid and is possible, the lack of sufficient literature on the concepts and practices make this an onerous task! However today, we have again succeeded – thanks to the diligent work and attitudes of our young staff – and models are in three or four mandate countries and new ones are being negotiated! All this extra work has been done amidst all the normal duties. It has not been easy for two principal reasons – the first being the lack of valid scientific data and the second – human power! Hence this editorial, drafted in our office by a silent writer, alone on a Sunday morning, before heading off to meet the sponsors, wishes to address these two principal issues to our readers and sponsors to serve our mandate region and beyond with greater efficiency!

Science has advanced to extents that are unimaginable – what was thought to be magic only a decade ago can today be measured with accuracy. The concepts of Nature Farming as advocated by Mokichi Okada is a proven technology, with little science backing. It is being practiced successfully in many parts of the world, but the drawback for its promotion is the lack of sufficient quantities of valid research. The benefits of organic farming are now well documents in terms of valid scientific research – its usefulness in sustainability, ability to maintain yields, absence of pollutants and harmful substances, greater quality in terms of taste, appearance and increased vitamins and antioxidants.. the list goes on. The same is not available – for Nature Farming, nor is there material in English on how Nature Farming is really implemented. We do know

that Nature Farming is an advanced version of organic farming, in that it attempts to create a closed ecosystem, and that all research on organic farming is applicable to Nature Farming. However, we do get questions - How do we do Nature Farming, and what research do we have?

The same applies for EM as well – there are sufficient publications on EM – perusing the Web of Knowledge, we see over 150 publications on the successful use of EM (although a few say it's not effective!!), the mechanisms of operation must now be evaluated for greater acceptance of the technology. This would make our lives easier. Thus we make an appeal to all those who help us, our friends, practitioners and users of the two technologies to do some good research on mechanisms and publish them. Further, we also implore our sponsors, the INFRIC and EM Research Organization, who have the mandate and facilities to do this type of work to help us – if they do the work, we will help publish them in reputed Science Citation Indeed Journals! We do hope that this will come to pass in the next few years – then – we will assure you all of a greater spread of Nature Farming and EM Technology in the whole world!! The second fact is that effective promotion of Nature Farming and EM Technology requires human power. Today this little network is managed by only two full time technical officers, a very efficient office assistant and a hidden member who flies in at required moments to have holidays in Kularb! Thus our two officers are run off their feet making EM, promoting Nature Farming and doing all the things in the region and even beyond – to promote our technologies. We need not any more – but the result is that efficiency could go down in the long term – and to avoid that we do request our sponsors to address this issue sooner than later – There is no point bolting the door after the horse had fled the stables!! Thus please help us – Bosses, Friends and all – and we promise to do our job well and efficiently through EM – Efficient Management!!!

At the middle of year, when autumn leaves are turning into beautiful colors, we at APNAN do our duty – to offer our gratitude to all those who help us and have been with us through thick and thin. It includes our sponsors and bosses in Japan and elsewhere, and our colleagues, past and present, our ex staff, who now are our bosses and also all our readers and friends. Your guidance, advice, help and contact is inspiration to us – and we hope that this level of support and contact will increase in the coming years – We are efficient and wish to improve further and your encouragement is very important.

We at APNAN in turn – wish you a very happy time, promoting and using Nature Farming and EM Technology for your benefits and those of your friends and colleagues through discussions and practice.

**APNAN, Bangkok, Thailand, October, 2010**

*The Cover page presents in a clockwise direction beginning from the top left –*

*The future Nature Farm in Auroville, Participants making Bokashi at Sara Buri, EM products from Asia and Nature Farming plots in Lao PDR respectively.*

## THE HIGHLIGHTS FROM MAY TO END AUGUST 2010...

### APNAN HOLDS A VERY SUCCESSFUL DEALERS MEETING

Our little network likes to streamline its operations! Thus once in two years – we hold a dealers meeting – to discuss common goals and problems.. in addition, what was initiated by us is now catching on.. with similar meetings in Africa and Europe! Hence, it is we at APNAN who have always led the way to promote EM and Nature Farming!!

The third dealers' meeting was thus held in August this year. However this was a big change.. in that we did not host it in Bangkok, our home city, but shifted to Penang in Malaysia!! The reason was that there have been significant developments in using EM for both agriculture and environmental management in Malaysia, thanks to the hard work put in by our principal partner, Mr. Sawada. It also coincided with the World EM Mud Ball Day in Penang, where over a million EM Dangos were to be added to a polluted river and the Beach along Gurney Drive!

The meeting was attended by many VIPs.. including those from our principal sponsors – the INFRFC and EMRO. We were happy to have Mr. Akio Ito, the Managing Director and Head of Extension Division of INFRFC and our dear friend Mr. Hidehiko Okubo, head of the International section of INFRFC. Indeed it was also a pleasure to have the President of EM Research Organization, Mr. Katsuyuki Asato and our ex staff and boss, Mr. Takashi Kyan, who heads the Overseas and Planning Departments of EMRO.

Furthermore, it was an interesting and wholesome event in that we also had all overseas staff of EMRO with us – for them to see what we are doing to promote EM and Nature Farming.

The partners of APNAN were here in full force – from New Zealand, Australia, Indonesia, India, and Nepal. Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, South Korea, our base nation Thailand and also our hosts from Malaysia and of course,



*Participants at the meeting*

our sponsors from Japan. We also had observers from Syria and Tunisia who came on their own to see our activities. In addition we also had our co-partner in Malaysia from MGB in attendance.



*Mr. Ito speaks at the meeting*

The meeting got underway at the plush G hotel – specially selected by our dear colleague Mr. Sawada, as the hotel uses EM for its cleaning and promoted the EM mud ball (Dango) event last year in front of the

hotel to clean the beach. The first day – which was the 5<sup>th</sup> August, was devoted to preliminaries and guest speeches. The meeting began after a sumptuous lunch at the G Hotel and we welcomed all who came to Malaysia for this event, by passing our home in Bangkok. However we missed the participation of our friends and colleagues from Pakistan and Philippines, who could not make it and also from Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia.

We had welcome and inspiring addresses by the President of EMRO and Mr. Ito of INFRFC, who both appreciated the work we do – and encouraged us to promote both EM and Nature Farming.. In fact they promised to help us and support us to a greater extent – which was heartening to us, which has only two active members doing all the work, a hidden half in another nation of Asia with the able assistance of our dear O san in Bangkok..

Thereafter, our ex Boss, Mr. Kyan presented the global scene with EM. It was very interesting to note that we in our mandate region were leading all the way!!! This showed our activities, which is appreciated by our sponsors! Thereafter it was the general announcements and discussions, in which our members could ask questions and clarify problems they had in their respective environments.

The evening session was dedicated to our hosts from Malaysia. Mr. Sawada who changed the name of his organization from JAMOF to Syntropy Malaysia made the first presentation, illustrating the progress he had made over the last two year, both in his base in Johor and in Penang. It was indeed a very good report as he and his team has made tremendous progress. He was followed by our co-partner in Malaysia, MGB, which used EM in a multitude of ways and is actively promoting the technology.

The day ended with the keynote speech – titled “One Million Apologies to Mother Earth” – presented by Mr. Soo Lee Choo (called Pak Soo) who is well known for his activities in promoting EM Technology through the use of mud balls and in water treatment. This presentation

highlighted the progress made in Penang – using EM for both farming and in water treatment – treating the beaches and the polluted rivers. The day ended with a dinner hosted by our sponsors – the INFRC – a meal held in a seafood restaurant and which was enjoyed by all.

The second day was for business – where all partners present stated their activities. We were very pleased to learn of the outcomes – where all had strived to improve performance over the last two years. Our sponsors, both INFRC and EMRO were happy – and especially the INFRC as we had made significant progress in achieving what they wanted – to establish some model farms on Nature Farming, as advocated by Mokichi Okada. This has now been done in Lao PDR, New Zealand and initial steps have been taken in Cambodia as well.

On the evening of the second day, our guests from Syria presented their programs on EM – where it is used in agriculture and in environmental sanitation. This was a revelation to us – The projects are successful and EM is gaining popularity significantly.

All in all the dealers meeting was a roaring success – as stated by our sponsors and thus we at the little network are happy – that we have done what we are supposed to do – promote Nature Farming and EM to the region and beyond. Our mandate is fast extending and hence we are asked to do more and more with diminishing resources! However we do our best with no complaints (only a few) and hence our sponsors are happy – which makes us happy too! The final decision was that such meetings will be held in the future as well – and we hear that plans for 2012 are – to hold it in China!! We hope not – as we prefer Bangkok, our base for ease of logistics!

However, we will keep our friends and readers informed of the future developments.

### **INFRC DELEGATION GOES TO AUROVILLE IN INDIA**

One of the principal objectives of the International Nature Farming Research Center, based in Atami, and which sponsors our network and its publications, is to promote Nature Farming on an international scale. Thus, our little network was entrusted with developing small models of Nature Farms in our mandate region.

Over the last two years – APNAN managed to achieve this in New Zealand, Lao PDR and also initiate a program in Cambodia. However we took the opportunity to pursue the possible establishment of a small model in the world famous organic center in Auroville, in Pondicherry, India, where a real versatile trainer on EM for India – Dr. Lucas Dengel resides. Dr. Dengel often acts as a trainer for EM for our counterparts in India – Maple Orgtech – and thus we approached him. He replied enthusiastically, as they use EM for a multitude of programs on Auroville.

Due to these developments that took place over a period of three months, Mr. Ito and Mr. Okubo visited Auroville in the company of Sano san, soon after Malaysia. The visit from 09<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> August was very productive – On arrival in Chennai in India, they traveled by road to Auroville, where they met Dr. Dengel and the manager of

the farm, Jeff Goodchild of Australia. After visiting the sites and discussions, it was agreed that INFRC provides guidance for developing the farm into a model on Nature Farming – and Dr. Dengel requested EM at no cost from Maple for this purpose. This was agreed upon, and a staff member who also serves on the Board of Directors ensured that EM will be given free for this purpose to Dr. Dengel.

This is heartening – that we could begin cooperation with Auroville – to develop a Nature Farming model. Auroville attracts a multitude of visits from all corners of the world – It's a world famous ashram and hence establishing a model Nature Farm in this vicinity will help clearly demonstrate the benefits of Nature Farming advocated by Mokichi Okada in the early 1900's to our modern societies. It will also help push for greater adoption of EM and Nature Farming in other parts of the world.



*Discussions with Dr. Dengel*

We are happy that we could initiate this – and we hope that it will bear fruit in the very near future. We also hope that we could develop at least another two model farms by the next meeting scheduled for 2012. Auroville, Dr. Dengel and Mr. Goodchild, please contact us for assistance – especially technical. We will support you and look forward to hearing your progress from time to time – to enable us publish snippets of news in our very popular Newsletter!!

### **THE ROYAL THAI ARMY DEVELOPS THE SONGKHLALAKE**

Our good EM activity collaborator in the Thailand, General Pichet Visaijorn, who is a VIP in the Royal Thai Army, and he is actively promoting self-sufficiency economy based on the philosophy of the His Majesty, the King of Thailand using EM and EM technology more than 100 years.

In these ventures, a project was launched to clean up the Songkhla lake, which was very polluted and led to a decline in fisheries and recreational industries. Thus General Pichet and his staff, together with local people who related this lake launched an EM mud ball project in April and July this year. A total of 400,000 mud balls were added and today the water is cleaner, the foul odor has disappeared and the aquatic life improved significantly.

The most important aspect has been that the income of the local people has increased due to revitalization of the lake and they have work – all thanks to EM! Thus this lake is now a case study and there are many visitors coming to observe the success. They also have developed the use of EM mud balls in their homes – in refrigerators to remove smells and in toilets to enhance hygiene and sanitation.

We do offer our appreciation to general Pichet and his staff for their dynamic work. APNAN also offers our support to these ventures and hope that the benefits reaped by EMRO Asia will have a good impact on our activities as well!! APNAN looks forward to reporting the successes achieved in Thailand in future issues of this popular newsletter!



*Treating the lake with Dangos*

### **PENANG HOSTS A EM FORUM**

The gathering of APNAN members in Penang was an exciting event for Mr. Sawada, our dynamic partner from Syntropy Malaysia. He together with the Penang Skills Development Center (PSDC) organized an EM forum for Malaysians. The whole objective of this was to show Malaysia, the success of EM and what the region was doing with the technology. Thus it was a forum, which charged participants and organized by the PSDC and Syntropy Malaysia.

This event, held on the 7<sup>th</sup> August, the day after the APNAN dealers meeting brought together over 200 people – all paying to hear the success of EM in Malaysia and the region. However what was very important was that APNAN was asked to manage the entire event – in fact APNAN had to step in to fill the great void created by the absence of our dear President, Prof Dr. Higa, who could not make it due to sudden commitments in Japan. This was considered singular honor, that we, the little network was asked to manage and conduct the event, and more importantly make the keynote address on behalf of our dear President, who was missed by all present, and also make the remarks after each session!!

The day started off – by participants throwing EM mud balls to a point of a river flowing past the PSDC, while some of them were registering at the auditorium. Thereafter the welcome address was made by the Heads of PSDC, Mr. Sawada and of course the President of EM Research Organization, Mr. Asato. However, one of the highlights was a video message by our President, Prof Dr. Teruo

Higa, who presented his apologies for not being able to be present in person at this event, which had been specially organized on the basis of him being there. However he gave a very impressive speech and congratulated Malaysia for the success with EM in agriculture and environmental management. He recalled the past, where we at APNAN had significant difficulties in introducing EM to our neighboring nation. Today even state governments of Malaysia have taken up to sponsor EM in environmental management – and in agriculture – as shown by Penang, Johor and even Sabah. Thus Prof Higa stated his happiness at the success shown due to the hard work of our partners and friends and wished the forum a success.

The presentations took off – after a short break – where the PSDC presented their efforts in greening their state. This was a success and it seems that EM will be an integral part of it. Thereafter, our friends from Sabah, Mr. Khai Yip Mun and his team presented their activities in using EM. In their activities – especially in using our technology for composting and waste management. After a break and photography session, which is usual in these events for posterity, we had a colleague from Singapore talking of EM in his small but bountiful nation. He presented us with the use of EM in waste management, water treatment, in gardens and also in terms of consumption by a selected few! Although neither we, nor our sponsors ever advocate drinking EM, it seems that people do it with good results!!! However we do not endorse this. Thereafter the last presentation was by Japanese, who talked of using EM for non-tillage cultivation of Ashitaba, a herb, for the Japanese market in the highlands, using EM. Apparently, the use of EM has brought about significant improvements to his projects and he is promoting the technology in his area of activities. The last session was the remarks by APNAN, and the presentations were reviewed and commented upon.

The session after a sumptuous Malay lunch, was for APNAN and its partners. The presentations covered experiences with EM in agriculture and environment in Latin America to show that EM is used in far off lands. Thereafter it was the neighbors of Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, and Australia, where the use of the technology we promote was shown to be a tremendous success in many fields – ranging from cropping, aquaculture, animal husbandry, solid and liquid waste management and even



*Participants at the Forum*



*Asato shacho at EM Forum*

in carbon sequestration! The last presentation was on the use of EM in making biofertilizers for oil palm plantations – which is again a success story, where the high fiber containing POME is made into good biofertilizer with EM.

At the end of it all, Mr. Takashi Kyan made an excellent presentation titled

Effective Microorganisms – Global experiences - current status and future perspectives. He stated that EM is now made in over 55 nations and used in over 100!!

The trend is for expansion and also consolidation – despite the fake EM's that are floating around like unwanted weeds in a cropping field – which are a nuisance rather than a threat!

The final wrap up and the keynote address on behalf of our dear President, Professor Dr. Higa was made by a member from our little network. The success of EM in a diverse arena of activities was highlighted and also its mode action was spelled out. We wonder if we did our duty by our President, acting as a substitute – but we assure our readers and more importantly our President, the inventor of EM that we did our best!

The questions that followed later to the speakers showed us that we had generated enthusiasm.. in addition, this was our objective – and that of the organizers – to show that we are successful in what we do. The day ended on a very successful note – both organizers – Syntropy Malaysia and the PSDC were happy that the event was success!

We at APNAN are happy that we could help out in this venture and even be a partial substitute for our President at a time of crisis! We do thank the PSDC and Syntropy Malaysia for organizing this event and wish them well in their future endeavors for promoting EM – for both agriculture to produce bountiful harvests of good quality food and also to create a better environment.

Dear readers – we look forward to future events in other nations as well – and be assured that we will help out.

#### **PENANG HOLDS THE WORLD EM MUD BALL DAY**

The program developed by Penang last year to throw 1 million EM mud balls to clean the rivers and beaches has caught on – and even this year the same event was held on the 8<sup>th</sup> August, with all APNAN members participating in throwing the Dangos to the river. There were simultaneous events organized – one in front of our hotel, where the event was sponsored like last year by our host hotel, the G hotel. Apparently they had been making the dangos for

over one month – making use of social organizations, schools and even housewives associations!!

The event was graced by many VIPs of Penang who support the cause of a clean environment through EM Technology. They all came – despite the downpour of rain during the event. Children all smiling and having a picnic evening the rain was a joy to be watched! All our partners attended the event held at 0830 in Penang. Where the dangos were added to the river. It was covered by television and we are told that many of our delegates were admired by the people of Penang!!

We do congratulate all who organized the event making a million mud balls is no joke and we are grateful to the people behind the scene who made it possible. We are also told that this event will catch on in other nations as well as all our partners were very impressed by the success! It seems that a nation, which was resistant to EM, is now showing what EM can do!

Congratulations Penang and Malaysia - we look forward to reporting future developments to our readers.



*Dangos into the river!*

#### **ITO JHOMU MEETS THAI SEKAI KYUSEI KYO PRESIDENT**

Mr. Akio Ito, when in Thailand for work, never forgets to meet with Revd. Daiho Kasahara, the President of Sekai Kyusei Kyo, Thailand. Revd. Kasahara has been with our network from the beginning – 1989. The First International Conference on Kyusei Nature Farming held in Khon Kaen, Thailand in 1989 paved the way for the network to be established. Thereafter, he was with us through thick and thin and was instrumental in locating our present office in Kularb Apartment in 1993, when we had problems of shifting within a week from our old office in Thaninthorn village in Rangsit, Thailand. Later in 1997, along with the late Revd. Kazuo Wakugami, he was a pillar of strength when APNAN had to organize the Fifth Conference in 13 days in Bangkok. Thus all VIPs to APNAN generally meet him and express their gratitude to the unstinted support offered to us – especially in terms of using the training facility at Sara Buri. The cordial meeting enabled Mr. Ito to discuss the future programs on Nature Farming and EM Technology in Thailand and in the region. We are told that Revd. Kasahara offered his support as always – and we are very grateful to him for this – his support and guidance as a mentor of APNAN is vital for our activities and for our success.

### **MALAYSIA DEVELOPS HIGA BIOREACTOR!!**

The development activities in relation to EM never stop in Malaysia! This time again it was our dear friend Mr. Soo of Penang, who with a team developed a High Intensity Activator (HIGA) as a bioreactor for activating EM! This is working very successfully and one has been installed in Kelantan with a capacity of 3 tons for mass production of activated EM solution efficiently and effectively and most importantly at a low cost! The delegates for the EM forum in August was also shown one at the PSDC in Penang!! We do appreciate this efforts – done by Mr. Soo and his team purely on a voluntary basis and offer our congratulations and best wishes and also our support at all times.

### **HER MAJESTY THE THAI QUEENS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATED WITH EM**

Her Majesty, Queen Sirikit of Thailand is a very special person, close to the heart of the people of the Kingdom. Thus they celebrated Her Majesty's birthday on 12<sup>th</sup> August with reverence and doing something to preserve the nature of the Kingdom, which is a very special program of the Royal Family.

This year, the celebration of Her Majesty the Queen, organized by the members of Sekai Kyusei Kyo Thailand, took place at Sara Buri, in conjunction with the Royal Forest Department and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, as done for the past 11 years. The project titled "Mountain loving day" gathered some 350 people at the Sara Buri Center, This number was made up from Sekai Kyusei Kyo officers, staff of the Miroku Botanical gardens, the Nature Farming School and volunteers. All of them led by Mr. Kanit Muangnil of the Center spread some 5 tons of Bokashi and EM solution to the forest adjoining the center – all to help preserve the environment of this natural forest, as envisaged by Her Majesty the Queen. This project, which has gone on for over 11 years has shown tremendous benefits in terms of better growth, enhanced biodiversity and greater accumulation of soil carbon through organic matter. This would be an ideal study for any research student!!

We at APNAN are happy that such long-term projects are going on, and hope that all interested in the dynamics of EM and Nature Farming will take these sites for their research – as the benefits are clearly visible and need scientific backing.

APNAN Offers as always, our support to these venture and are grateful to the Sara Buri Center and SKK Thailand for their initiatives!!

### **PLANNING FOR ISOFAR AND IFOAM IN SOUTH KOREA**

IFOAM, the world body on organic farming is holding their Scientific sessions and conference for the first time in Asia, in Paldang, Seoul, South Korea. It is scheduled for September 2011 – and now the call is on for papers both for the ISOFAR Scientific conference and the IFOAM World Congress. We implore our contacts and friends to submit research papers and case studies to both

organizations IFOAM and ISOFAR – on EM and Nature Farming – If we have sufficient papers – we could even request a separate session. This is a great opportunity – to show the success of Nature Farming and EM to our mandate region, Asia and the world. The conference will be attended by over 1000 people from at least 100 nations – all wishing to learn new techniques of organic farming – We have something to show – Nature Farming and EM. Thus please send your papers to the conference via the website of IFOAM and ISOFAR using the template provided and keep us posted. We will try to support you as well.

### **THE NORMAL EVENTS OVER THE PAST 4 MONTHS**

#### **APNAN HOLDS THE TRADITIONAL NATURE FARMING WORKSHOP**

APNAN has a bounden duty to promote EM and Nature Farming in the mandate region and beyond!! It was established for this purpose – to validate the technologies and promote them in the mandate region. We have done this well through workshops, conferences, seminars, visits and very importantly, using International Workshops at Sara Buri.

This June too, it was the time for workshopping – and we held the usual training cum meeting – with 32 participants from 5 nations – namely Bhutan, Myanmar, New Zealand, Malaysia and Singapore. Although many others were billed to attend, the problems in Thailand made them skeptical. We heard of frantic emails being exchanged between one of our part time staff who visited New Zealand earlier this year and Pip Chrsytall, who was rather scared due to the situation in Bangkok. However all was assured and a very interesting and educative training workshop was held with the usual gusto – where theory and practicals were blended to impart the required knowledge.

Our staff Nishibuchi, Koki, Sano and even Koshoji did their best and we were told that it was all good!!!

As it was the last workshop of Koki san, he had made an

excellent presentation and a bird whispers that he had really put his heart and soul into it!! The emails after the workshop from Pip of New Zealand to part time staff showed that all had gained tremendously by the event.

We are ever so thankful to Mr. Kanit Muangnil for the support, Mr. Masanobu Sakurai, who also conducts some sessions and to Revd. Kasahara and all at Thai Sekai Kyusei



*This is how Dangos are made!*



Kyo for the facilities at Sara Buri – this to us is a precious asset, which is enjoyed by all who visit it and wish to visit it again and again. Thus we at APNAN are happy – and most importantly, from next year we hope to offer special trainings emphasizing the multidimensional effects of EM Technology and Nature Farming. Please do contact us for details – we will help as always!

#### **APNAN HOLDS ITS SECOND BOARD MEETING**

The Board of Management of our little network took the opportunity to hold its annual meeting in Penang – as all members were present – Mr. Asato and Mr. Kyan from EMRO, our principal sponsor, Mr. Akio Ito and Mr. Hidehiko Okubo from INFRC, and two of the APNAN staff – Mr. Nishibuchi, our boss and another member. The meeting was held at the G hotel on the 5<sup>th</sup> morning, before the inception of the dealers meeting.

The work of the network was reviewed – and the program for the next year was discussed. The principal problem facing us at APNAN is Staff! We at APNAN are crying out for a helping hand and our sponsors stated their willingness to send someone. – but the question is WHEN!! We need help now as our two officers who are here on full time basis are really run off their feet visiting member nations and managing the office. The departure of Koki Nagamine has affected our activities and we hope that we will get this promised help soon! However both sponsors commended on the progress made, the efficient use of resources and also for maintaining quality of EM, providing technical services and establishing Model Nature Farms. The sponsors agreed that the Newsletter should continue in the same format – and that the current funding levels be maintained for the next 12 months. We in return promised the publication of the updated version of the EM and Nature Farming manual within the next 12 months – a hard task for 2 ½ staff, with all the workload!! However the smile on the faces of our sponsors - was a clear sign that our work is appreciated and it was decided that we also meet once a year – in some location to review the work of the network.

We thank our sponsors for being with us and appreciating our work – But we also request them – Please send us a member of staff – we will perform much more efficiently!!

#### **OVERSEAS DEPARTMENT OF EMRO HOLDS ITS ANNUAL MEETING IN PENANG!**

The Overseas Department of EMRO, our principal sponsors is held on an annual basis in Okinawa. However, this year, its boss, and our ex boss Takashi Kyan decided to hold it in Penang!! The objective was to show the members the success that we at this little network has achieved in Malaysia with the able assistance of our partners and friends, and also observe what we do in the dealers meeting and in general get to know how successful APNAN is!!!

This was a great opportunity for us to observe what is going on in the EM arena all over the world. The staff from Europe, Americas, China and Africa was all there including our dear Nishibuchi and Toru Koshiji of EMRO

Asia. Thus, we covered the whole world. More importantly, it was a great opportunity for us to meet our dear Takashi Shimoji – although we missed Jun Matsumoto, who had just taken over the labs of EMRO Germany.

The meeting was a revelation and the discussions centered around successes and problems faced by staff in their respective regions. Mr. Asato, President of EMRO was also at hand with Mr. Kyan to support them and provide guidance.

The meeting was again arranged by us – and we are fast gaining a reputation within the EM world of a real success story. We are humble in accepting the truth – however we must emphasize that to maintain the momentum – our sponsors – PLEASE GIVE US AN EXTRA STAFF MEMBER!!

#### **MOSCOW HOSTS EM CONFERENCE**

Russia is expanding the use of EM – Thus a conference was held in July this year with the participation of EMRO President, Mr. Asato and also Mr. Fukuguchi. We are told that some 50 participants attended this event – and the audience consisted of researchers and users of EM even from neighboring states. The presentations included success stories of EM in promoting crop yields from degraded lands – which was a boon to the food industry. The females who attended were really interested in using EM – a completely safe chemical free product in their households. This revealed a trend of using eco friendly material even in the households of Russia. This is great – as Russia and its people today are very prosperous and thus the potential of using for farming and producing quality contaminant free food at premium prices and also using EM for houses and environmental sanitation would be something to be explored. APNAN wishes to be a part of this – and also enjoy a holiday (working of course) seeing the developments, enjoying Vodka and Caviar!! We do know how to do this and hope that our dear Takashi Kyan our ex boss will ask us to handle this too!

We congratulate the efforts made and offer our services to help out.

#### **THAI VIPS TOUR MALAYSIA TO OBSERVE SUCCESS WITH EM**

A team of VIPs from Bangkok – Professor Boonyong, Ms. Supaporn and staff from the National Housing Authority (NHA) visited Malaysia in late April and early May – to meet with Mr. Soo of Penang, to the use of EM. The emphasis was on waste management – as this is fast becoming a hot topic all over the world. They had visited many sites, asked many questions and checked the Sungei Kelian, where the river had been treated with EM mud balls. They were very impressed and stated their willingness to promote the technology in Thailand in a more forceful way.

We do thank our dear friend Mr. Soo in Penang for the initiative taken and also we do promise the delegation that as we are in Bangkok, and EMRO Asia is also with us, we will support you with technical advise and also with the

real EM from EMRO Asia, which is certified by its inventor, Prof Dr. Higa as the real product, and not a fake, which is also available in abundance!

We look forward to reporting these developments at a later date. Please do keep us posted Mr. Soo – we will promote the work you do to save our mother earth from destruction.

### **EM CAMPAIGN IN SABAH LAUNCHED BY SYNTROPY MALAYSIA**

Our dynamic partner in Malaysia, Mr. Sawada, and his team from Syntropy Malaysia is active in promoting EM all over the nation! Thus it was another environmental project supported by Syntropy Malaysia -the target being 1 Million + 1 mud balls to counter the Penang effort!

The campaign was held in Kota Kinabalu and we are told that all these events were highlighted by the local press, giving much support to EM. We do appreciate the efforts of Mr. Sawada and are very happy that he is gaining ground – cleaning Malaysia through EM Technology. We will also offer our support to him at all times.

### **THAI FORESTS REJUVENATED THROUGH EM TECHNOLOGY**

The theme of environmentalists in the world is – How can we protect our forests! We at APNAN offer them a easy low cost and effective solution – USE EM!!

This was amply demonstrated at a workshop and practical study meeting held by the Royal Thai Army and the Sara Buri Provincial Forest Conservation Department, in conjunction with EMRO Asia, in August. The meeting gathered some 120 villagers living around the Sara Buri forest to the Sara Buri Nature Farming Center to learn the process of conserving and protecting their forests through EM technology! Mr. Kanit Muangnil, Senior Managing Director of the center explained his project on conserving the forests through EM technology, he stated” The Sara Buri center has continuously applied EM Bokashi and activated EM to the forest for over 11 years and the results have been phenomenal! The biodiversity has been enhanced and the ecosystem is stable”. Evidence has been gathered over the 11 years of the enhanced soil moisture holding capacity due to EM and Bokashi, leading to the absence of forest fires in the dry seasons. Furthermore, Mr. Koshoji, the boss of EMRO Asia explained how EM helps in preserving the environment using case studies from all over the world. In addition, EMRO Asia, through its benevolence gave away free EM to the participants to help preserve the environment!

We do hope that this initiative will pave the way for greater use of EM in preserving the environment and forests of the Royal Kingdom and we at APNAN thank the Royal Army and the Sara Buri Center for the support they extend to EMRO Asia and its staff to promote the real EM in the Kingdom.

### **NZNFS HOLDS EM SEMINAR IN HASTINGS**

The New Zealand Nature Farming Society has developed a habit of holding EM seminars in different regions of

Kiwi land, on an annual basis. Hence a member who always loves to travel to this part of the world goes to discuss and present programs – resulting in greater use of EM and also developing Nature Farming!! This is because of late, we have earnestly begun pushing Nature Farming on our agenda, as it has a valid place in modern society.

This year, while in NZ, APNAN participated in a seminar organized by NZNFS at the Hawera Technical College in Hastings, in the eastern region of the North Island. The seminar hosted by colleagues of the NZNFS was attended by over 25 people from different walks of life – all interested in EM and Nature Farming to maintain and even make the green environment of New Zealand greener! APNAN made its presentation of EM and Nature Farming – the international scene, with emphasis on waste management – and Mike Daly our partner and his colleague, the dynamic Pip Chrystall stole the show with their presentations. Of course, Bokashi Nev Burt was also attraction! The next day the team visited a sewage treatment center in Hastings, where it is proposed that EM be used for odor control. Although many suggestions were given, the large volumes of EM required would have caused some concern. Hence test runs were discussed but we are now told that it did not work. Hence may be the next time APNAN technical officers visit – they should gang up with NZNFS and see this site.

However we are now told that another visit to the vineyards in the South island is planed for 2011 and also to Lincoln to see the Nature Farm. Thus it seems that the program in Kiwi land is doing well and it makes us happy that we are indeed doing our job of promoting EM and Nature Farming in the region and beyond!!

### **TRAVELS OF OUR BOSSES AND STAFF...!!**

#### **INFRC BOSSES VISIT AN ORGANIC FRUIT FARM IN PENANG**

Mr. Akio Ito, the head of Extension Department of the INFRC is a busy and inquisitive man! Whenever he hears of a farm that is organic and using EM – he wishes to visit it and see if it conforms to Nature Farming, promoted by the INFRC. Thus when he heard of the tropical



*This is a really good nature farm!*

fruit farm in Penang, owned by a Malaysian who attended our training in Sara Buri – his first reaction was – I want to visit it! Thus, after the mud ball event, the Head of Extension of INFRC, visited the tropical fruit farm, in the company of Mr. Okubo, our liaison officer and also the Head of the International section of INFRC and our dear Sano san of APNAN. The farm, which is approximately 10 ha in extent, is cropped completely in an organic manner. The owner, Mr. Khoo Thean Siew, who was trained by us

in 2010 is using EM – and the farm does not use any chemicals. He showed the delegation around – and stated that he has over 30 kinds of bananas and 40 kinds of rambutans – which has made the TV stations interested. The TV show on his farm has made it famous and attracts many many visitors. Mr. Ito was so interested in the cultivation methods and the delicious fresh flavors of the fruits – that he remarked – we must have a special workshop on fruit culture through Nature Farming and EM on this farm!

We are happy that the initiation taken by our counterparts is making head way in Malaysia and we look forward to greater progress and also a possible workshop on this farm – sponsored by INFRC! APNAN will be delighted to visit Penang again and see the developments!

### **NATURE FARMING PROGRAM IN MYANMAR VISITED BY INFRC**

The Nature Farming and EM program in Myanmar was one of the longest projects sponsored by the INFRC and handled by APNAN. This its sponsors, the INFRC makes periodic visits to see the developments and try to make this important program independent. Hence Mr. Akio Ito, Head of Extension Division, INFRC took the opportunity while in South East Asia to visit Myanmar, after India. He was accompanied by Mr. Sano, our smart and efficient technical officer, who handles the EM programs in Myanmar.

The boss and staff took off to Yangon on the 13<sup>th</sup> August, the day after arrival from India, while our liaison officer, Mr. Okubo, left for Japan the same morning. On arrival in Yangon, they proceeded to the Capital, Nay Pyi Taw, to meet with our counterparts, the Myanmar Agriculture Service. A short meeting on the progress of the EM and Nature Farming project was held with U Kyaw Win, the Managing Director of the Myanmar Agriculture Service, and General Managers U Hla Gyi and U Maung Maung Yi, at the headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw. The need for expanding the project was discussed at this meeting and this matter will be followed up by the Myanmar Agriculture Service.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> the team participated in a farmers meeting in Pynmana, which was the original site of EM research, by Professor Dr. Cho Cho Myint, back in the very early 1990's!! The meeting was attended by over 50 people, and it was a pleasant surprise to Mr. Ito to learn that they have a model EM farm, sponsored by the Japanese aid program JICA!! Thereafter they moved to Yedashe, where they met with 10 farmers who use EM, to discuss their problems and potentials of expanding the program.

The 15<sup>th</sup> August was a busy day for our duo from INFRC/ APNAN. They attended a farmers meeting in Tongoo, where 30 participants were present. Our Sano San stated that this was a stimulating experience for Mr. Ito due to the many questions raised by the farmers. Thereafter, they met Dr. Khin Maung Win, Managing Director of a major company in Myanmar, and who has been in touch with our network for over 6 years. They had discussions on using EM and promoting Nature Farming and Dr. Khin

invited Mr. Ito to dinner that evening, to which Dr. Sai Yee Saing, who attended the last workshop of APNAN in Sara Buri also joined. It was a very pleasant day - and Mr. Ito really enjoyed talking and discussing EM and Nature Farming with them.



*The farmers meeting in Myanmar*

The last day, the 16<sup>th</sup> was hectic.. beginning with an early morning visit to Dr. Sai's Nature Farm. Thereafter, they traveled to Hlegu, to visit the farm of our old colleague, Professor Dr. Cho Cho Myint. Thereafter it was meetings with the FAME pharmaceutical company, which is promoting natural products, certified by the Myanmar Fruit and Vegetable Producer and Exporters Association (MFVP) and IFOAM, and with the MFVP as well. All were centered on future cooperation and expansion of EM and Nature Farming in this very special country. The team returned to Thailand that evening on the last flight. All in all, it was a educative visit to Mr. Ito, who saw first hand what his staff were doing in Myanmar, and was pleased that the program is still being done. He is very keen to promote Nature Farming and EM to a greater extent in Myanmar and urged Sano Chan to work more diligently with the MAS to promote our technologies. On our part, APNAN will offer all the support to Myanmar, where we initiated the first program on Nature Farming, in conjunction with Professor Dr. Cho Cho Myint at the Agricultural University.

### **APNAN PRESIDENT VISITS EUROPE**



*EM meeting in Poland*

Our dear President Professor Dr. Teruo Higa never takes a rest!! Although he gets on in life, he wishes to see all EM projects at least once a year! Hence he undertakes a tour of Europe in late Spring and early summer, when the climate is conducive – this year too, he made his customary trip in June, beginning with Germany. After brief meetings with EMRO partners EMIKO and EMRO Germany, he moved to the main venue in Poland to chair the EM forum planned for European partners. On arrival in Warsaw, Prof Dr. Higa met with Greenland Technologia EM, the partners in Poland. The next two days were the forum attended by all our partners in Europe and those interested in the real Higa EM. The forum was a highlight where he delivered the keynote – stating the developments and the future of EM in modern society – especially as it can be used effectively for most of the problems faced by humankind today.

After a successful forum and site visits, he flew back to Japan, happy as a lark, that the technology he developed is progressing well through the very important nations of the world, despite fakes and competitors being there all the time. This clearly shows that truth prevails – and that the strength in the EM produced by EMRO, with updated research under the guidance of Professor Dr. Higa is thriving and being increasingly used by humankind for their betterment.

We thank our dear President for all this work and wish him many many more years of active service to humankind.

### **SANO TRAVELS EXTENSIVELY DURING THE LAST THREE MONTHS**

The departure of Koki Nagamine from APNAN has kept our two remaining technical officers, Nishibuchi San and Sano San extremely busy – and the help of our dear colleague in EMRO Asia, Koshoji san is an asset!!

Thus Sano San traveled widely during the period under review – to Myanmar in May to visit EM farmers in Kalaw and Mandalay. The orange farm in Kalaw, managed by Mr. Min Lwin, uses biocompost and chemical fertilizers as well. However, as the EM he was using was not up to standard, suggesting a fake, our Sano san guided him to use the

real EM from Myanmar Agriculture Service. Thereafter it was a hop to Mandalay, where EM is very popular. Many farmers in the region have obtained real success with EM that the demand is rising. The farmers of Daw



*Dragonfruit with EM in Lao PDR*

Myint Myint May's group were a success and one of the farm is used for demonstrations – where the reduction in the use of chemicals is possible with EM – as using these chemical products is not sustainable in the long term.

Sano San also visited the University in Yezin and had discussions with Dr. Myint Lwin where research is being done on the technology we promote. The experiments conducted by a student of Dr. Khin Lay Swe was examined and we await the report of successful production of vegetables with EM and Nature Farming.



*EM project in Vientiane*

In June, it was a hop to Lao PDR, another territory of Sano San. This time it was to make EM and also visit some sites and for discussions with Dr. Lasay, who is overseeing the EM program with other staff about the Nature Farming project. Sano san also visited the organic market in Vientiane and some farms. He had been very impressed with the farm of Mr. Phosythat in the Xaythany District of Vientiane. This Nature Farm has fruits vegetables and some rice, all of which are integrated with his poultry unit. He has been using EM for over 6 years and is very happy that he and his family have a healthy life with abundant food.. reaping the benefits of Nature Farming and EM Technology, as advocated by the founder, Mokichi Okada. This farm is coming close to being a closed ecosystem and we hope that this will one day in the near future be a real Nature Farm.

Our Dear Sano has been working very hard.. hence he complains sometimes that he is tired – mentally as someone dear to him is complaining that his company is missing over the weekends!! However we do thank Sano for all this work – and hope that he will perform even better in the coming months. We at APNAN will provide him with all the support, including many many desserts after dinner for our dessert prince Yujiro Sano!!

### **KOKI NAGAMINE VISITS SRI LANKA FOR EM ACTIVITIES**

Koki Nagamine, our technical officer was in charge of Sri Lanka's EM project for many years – thus he has been visiting the Island Republic on many occasions. However as he was leaving us, his last visit was in May – to make EM for our counterparts SEEDS of Sarvodaya, and to meet Mr. Tharanga, the new person in charge of the project. Mr. Tharanga, who has much experience with farmer



### *Home gardening through Nature Farming*

activities while working for CARITAS, an NGO is now keen to promote EM in the nation. Meetings were also held with old friends who had been to Sara Buri for training – all keen to promote EM in a range of activities – which we hope will materialize! Koki san also visited the Sekai Kyusei Kyo Headquarters and lectures were given to members, home gardens were visited and training workshops held. We are very happy to learn that the Sekai Kyusei Kyo of Sri Lanka is promoting models on Nature Farming, especially for home gardens, which provide the food for most people in the developing nations. The project in Sri Lanka is slowly but surely growing in their own pace and we at APNAN are very happy to help out when required. We also hope that all those who met Koki san will develop EM and Nature Farming in this beautiful Island!

### **OUR BUSY PRESIDENT TRAVELS THROUGHOUT JAPAN IN THREE MONTHS**

Professor Dr. Teruo Higa, our beloved President is also a busy traveler when in Japan. He is called upon to deliver seminars, judge contests and attend meetings across Japan. In May, he was in Hokkaido, attending a meeting of an organization (SPEC) which is promoting EM products and using EM for the environment. He saw the progress made and gave advise before flying onto Yanagawa city to deliver a lecture to the local branch of the Flower Association of Japan and also attend a meeting of the regional U net. Later in the month Professor Higa delivered a lecture to advanced EM users and also visited the Ise city near Nagoya to meet the mayor and promote EM for environmental sanitation. Within the same month he attended a meeting of EM Seikatsu and also delivered a lecture at the seminar for preventive medicines in Nagoya. At least on this leg, he was accompanied by our APNAN mum, Mrs. Higa, who is very anxious about the health of her husband and our dear President. The final event was an extraordinary meeting of the Board of Directors of our sponsors, the INFRFC, held in Atami.

In June, we saw Prof Dr. Higa hip hopping to Miyazaki to advise on the use of EM to prevent Foot and Mouth disease, to Tokyo, Toda City, Fukuoka, Atami, Shimane prefecture and also as stated earlier to Germany. In July,

it was to China for a brief visit and in August it was again to Tokyo, and Kagoshima prefecture for meetings, seminars judging flower contest and many other commitments.

All in all - it's a very busy schedule – and we are scared that this hectic programs will wear him out. Thus while we value his contribution, as he is the magnet drawing attention to EM, we at APNAN wish that he relaxes a bit – and delegate some of his activities to his students, who have been well trained in EM. We have Drs Shintani and Okomoto, all within EMRO, we have the President, Mr. Asato and of course we have the evergreen Takashi Kyan, who is now very competent in delivering effective Seminars, just like Effective Microorganisms!! We are also grooming others such as Shimoji, Matsumoto and Nishibuchi to help out. Thus we implore our dear President, Professor Dr. Teruo Higa and also Madam Higa to relax and take life easy.. we are there to help out!! However we are ever grateful to Prof and Mrs. Higa for their work and support extended to us at all times.

### **TRAVELS OF APNAN BOSS – MR. YASUSHI NISHIBUCHI**

The boss of APNAN, Yasushi Nishibuchi says he is tired of airports and airline food!!! This is because he is flying around doing APNAN's work in many many countries stopping in his room 803 in our home in Kularb apartments



*EM used at the horse stable*

to change his clothes, wash dirty under garments (which we see fluttering along the corridor!!) and attend to administrative matters. If we are to pen all his travels, it would take another newsletter – hence briefly his trips were as follows – to make EM, develop contacts and provide expert advise!!

In May it was to his second home in Vietnam – Hanoi to our dear friend Dr. Le Khac Quang to make EM, prepare for a meeting with Mr. Soo of Malaysia who was visiting Vietnam to initiate an EM project. Thereafter it was a quick return home to proceed to Pakistan for the first time. He met our counterpart Mr. Shah in Lahore, discussed the future plan, made EM and examined the new bottle they use. It was heartening to note that Nishi san thinks that the potential in Pakistan, one of our original members is great for EM activity!

The final trip in May was to Singapore and Johor Malaysia. In Singapore, he met with Dr. Tan of Hanwo Bio Tech and then moved to Johor to make EM for Syntropy Malaysia. He also visited a site of the Malaysian Rubber Board, where EM is to be used for an oil palm plantation. Our partner Mr. Sawada gave specific instructions and we are sure that it will be a success as we have had in other oil palm plantations. Later it was move back to Singapore to Tekong Island used by the Singapore Army. They are keen to use EM for wastewater treatment and use it as a model for Singapore. Initial discussions were held to begin this project.

In June, it was to Malaysia again – Our Nishi san is becoming Malaysian citizen it seems!!! He visited a strawberry farm using EM and later to an EM project in Selangor Department of Veterinary Sciences. They use EM for swine and for waste management. The results are impressive where there are no flies and the odor is really and effectively controlled. This will be used as a model we hear as they are using more and more activated EM for better results.

A stop at the Selangor Turf club to see the potential of EM for horses was arranged by Mr. Tony Yeoh, a partner of Virgin Green. He sprays EM to his horse stable and has observed that the flies have gone and also the smell. The animals are seen to be more docile due to the good environment. The final stop was to a water body where Virgin Green applies 1000 liters of activated EM per month, as the water body holds some 5000 sq. meters. They have noted that the odor had gone and that the water was clear. They are pleased and now are asking for the mechanisms!!

After the whirlwind trip of Malaysia it was to the Philippines, after stopping in office for the usual activities. In the Philippines, he met the famous Mr. Ono, our partner, had discussions, made EM and presented a seminar at the headquarters of a dealer, Harbest Agribusinesses, where Nishibuchi showed the success of EM many nations. Vietnam was the next stop!!! Hanoi was celebrating 1000 years of existence as the capital in October and they have plans to clean up the polluted lake in the city and also rivers to welcome guests. Thus EM is to be used and Nishibuchi was invited to give advise – and prepare the large quantities of EM required for these projects. He visited Hanoi, made seed, saw sites - the lake and rivers and provided advise. Nishi san tells us that the lake project



*Treating the lake in Hanoi*

is going well – and we will inform you of the outcome in our newsletter, when Vietnam celebrates 1000 years with a clean lake and river – cleaned by EM!!! In August, it was again to Malaysia for the Dealers meeting and

Forum. With all these and ending the period of review in Kiwi land (more in the next newsletter)...Nishibuchi - our boss is rather worn out. However he is gathering air points and we wonder what he will do with these when on vacation and with whom????

Thank you Nishi san for this hard life that you endure with a smile always. We will help out and we implore our sponsors to send us staff – we need a hand urgently - In the meantime we at APNAN, led by our boss Nishibuchi will do our best to provide the services of APNAN to all those who need it in the mandate region and beyond!!



*Nishibuchi in Vladivostok*

#### **RUSSIA WELCOMES NISHIBUCHI**

Russia, the great nation is not within our mandate! It was taken care of by our ex boss Takashi Shimoji. However with the transfer of Chimo (as we lovingly call him) to the USA to man EMRO USA, there was a void to support the demands of Russia. As usual, when there is a crisis, where does the Head of the International Department of EMRO, our ex boss Takashi Kyan turn to? APNAN!! Thus Nishibuchi was ordered to travel to Vladivostok and make EM for the partner, Primosky EM Center. The EM project introduced into Vladivostok by a member of Sekai Kyusei Kyo, and Nishibuchi san visited the factory, made EM, held meetings with staff and EM users and returned to Bangkok filled with good Vodka and caviar!!

Thus we know that now this will also be a part of APNAN and the excuse given is Vladivostok is in Asia – the mandate region of APNAN!! As usual we will take it on and do our best!! In turn we request EMRO to send us a new technical officer - TIT for TAT!!!

#### **THE AWAITED FAMILY NEWS.....**

##### **THANK YOU KOKI NAGAMINE**

Our technical officer, Mr. Koki Nagamine, who was with us for some 5 years left the network for greener pastures to Okinawa. Koki san, who joined us after training on EM in Okinawa, was someone very special, he had an independent mind and his own way of doing things to promote Nature Farming and EM. He came to us from INFRC as their overseas staff and did a good job in managing projects in New Zealand, Australia and later Sri Lanka and many other nations, principally supported by

the INFR. His stay with us productive to us and also him, as he later brought his wife from Okinawa to Bangkok as well! He blended into the workings of the network like a duck to water and was a very popular figure at international workshops, due to his special humor and way of presenting



*Sayonara Koki san!*

the important points on Nature Farming and EM. Koki san left us in July – and we do wish him well in his new venture, managing the business of his father in law in Okinawa. Thus he will be again close to our President Professor Dr.Higa, and EMRO, and we hope he will keep in contact with us.

We wish Koki san the very best in his future and we hope to see him with us periodically. Please do keep in touch Koki san and we thank you for your significant contribution to the workings of this little network.

#### **OUR EX BOSS SETTLES DOWN IN GERMANY!!**

Our ex boss at APNAN, Jun Matsumoto is now fast becoming a German!! We are told that he has settled to the European lifestyle... Jun san has now taken over the EMRO Germany labs from Mr. Chinen, who moved back to Okinawa, the Headquarters of EMRO. With the experience he gained in our training grounds at APNAN, Jun san is now responsible for producing quality EM to all EMRO partners in cooperation with the people at EMRO Germany – in the same way that we do in our office in Bangkok!!

Jun san now works under the diligent eyes of his boss in Germany Mr. Kuwabara – who is well known for his excellent management and training. Thus we know that Jun will contribute significantly to the development of EM in Europe and hope he expands his horizons to other nations of the region. We do know that he visited our principal partners and is now well known in the arena of EMRO in Europe. Thus we hope that he would also do something to promote Nature Farming.. converting organic fields to Nature Farming units.

In his spare time.. a bird whispers that Jun san is gardening, cycling and meditating....this is a change!!! We wish him all the very best in these fields too and hope the garden he develops will be a model in Nature Farming with EM Technology!! However, we are sure that he will become a good technical officer – after his training with us at APNAN! However.. we do know that he loves a beer

occasionally in between meditating sessions and thus he sure enjoys all aspects of spiritual and physical happiness.!!

#### **EMRO OVERSEAS BOSS ALSO TRAVELS**

Our ex boss, Takashi Kyan is also a busy man – flying all over. During the period of review, it was Europe, China, Thailand, Malaysia and USA, all in the name of solving problems. He has a busy schedule – and as head of Planning and Oversea affairs, he has to be in charge. In addition in Okinawa, he is saddled with overseeing the affairs of the Costa Vista Hotel!! This because Takashi Kyan has been trained by APNAN to make difficult decisions and action unlike the polite Japanese!!! This is often stated by our President as well.. Kyan Kun – you are a hard case because ..... in APNAN trained you!!! We are happy that we have imparted this required training to most of our staff – some more than others! However when asking Kyan san about his health and travels, he smiles mischievously stating that due to all this travel he has the opportunity to sample the food and drink he likes – Hamburgers, Kentucky Fried Chicken and of course Beer from different regions!

However we do request Kyan san to take care of himself – he is an asset to us as well as EM and Nature Farming.

#### **EMAMERICA CHANGES NAME**

Our dear friends in the USA, EM America, which holds the overall license for EM and its products in this great nation is moving ahead with their programs. Their dynamic Executive Vice President, Mr. Eric Lancaster, who is a very special personality has thus informed us that the company has changed its name – from EM AMERICA to Tera Ganix Inc!! They have also a new website at <http://www.teraganix.com>

We wonder why this took place and may be the transfer of our ex boss Takashi Shimoji to the USA at the boss of EMRO USA had something to do with it! However we do wish Eric and all at Teraganix the very best with their new name and hope and pray that with the name change – they will increase EM sales by 250%!!!! More importantly we also hope that they will spread EM into the whole nation and also to Canada and Mexico!!

We wish to inform our dear friend Eric Lancaster that we have experience in promoting EM in a diverse range of environments ranging from New Zealand to Pakistan and even North Korea!! Thus we at APNAN would love a working holiday in the US helping out – please let us know.. we will help at all times and we at APNAN wish you all the very best for a very successful future as TERAGANIX!!!

## FUTUREEVENTS

**2010**

*BioMalaysia 2010*

2 to 4 November 2010

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

<http://www.biomalaysia.com.my>

*Third International Conference on Research and Development*

24 to 25 November 2010

Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, Accra, Ghana

<http://www.irdionline.org>

*Sustainable Agricultural Partnership Summit*

7 to 8 December 2010, London, United Kingdom

<http://www.sustainable-agriculture-partnerships.com>

**2011**

*Agriculture: Promoting Livelihoods in Conflict-Affected Environments*

31 to 4 January 2011

Monterey, California, United States

[http://www.pdfdownload.org/pdf2html/view\\_online.php?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.csr-nps.org%2Fpublic%2Fdocs%2FAGAnnouncement.p](http://www.pdfdownload.org/pdf2html/view_online.php?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.csr-nps.org%2Fpublic%2Fdocs%2FAGAnnouncement.p)

*International Conference Preparing Agriculture for Climate Change*

6 to 8 February 2011

Ludhiana, India

[http://pau.edu/int\\_conf/](http://pau.edu/int_conf/)

*Fifth African Regional Conference on Sustainable Development*

6 to 7 April 2011

Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State, Edo State, Nigeria

<http://www.irdionline.org>

*First International Conference on Organic Food Quality and Health Research in Prague, Czech Republic*

18 to 20 May 2011

Location: Prague, Czech Republic

*Third World Congress on Research and Development*

3 to 4 August 2011

University of Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria

<http://www.irdionline.org>

*17th IFOAM Organic World Congress in Gyeonggi Paldang, South Korea.*

29 August to 01 October 2011

Location: Gyeonggi Province, South Korea

*Third Scientific Conference of ISOFAR in Gyeonggi Paldang, South Korea*

28 September to 01 October 2011

Location: Gyeonggi Paldang, South Korea

<http://www.isofar.org/kowc2011/>

## DEAR READERS.....

The next Scientific Conference of IFOAM will be held in Gyeonggi Paldang, South Korea in late September 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 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 are on the web site and the deadline for paper submission is 30 NOVEMBER 2010!!!! We do look forward for your cooperation!! Please contact us at APNAN for details or check the IFOAM/ISOFAR websites for further details!!!!

**APNAN TSHIRTS – 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 will be held in February, 2011 at Sara Buri. This will be a special workshop, where emphasis will be on Nature Farming, and we anticipate getting a specialist from Japan for this event!!!

Please send your applications through in the 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 INFR 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 INFR.

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

The international activities of INFR 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 INFR 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 INFR 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 INFR can be contacted at:**

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**Website : [www.infr.or.jp/english](http://www.infr.or.jp/english)**



*EMRO meets Rev. Kasahara*



*Prof. Dr. Higa on an EM farm in Poland*



*Kids in Penang clean river with Dangoes*



*Kyan presents overseas EM use*



*I have a harvest after EM!*



*Koki enjoys a picnic in Bhutan*



*EMRO Bosses enjoy dinner*



*Vientiane adopts nature farming*