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Asia Pacific Natural Agriculture Network

APNAN is sponsored by



“Contaminating soil with incongruent material such as fertilizers, pesticides and even composts and manures which have not been prepared well, violates natural laws. They rob the soil of its inherent qualities over time. Plants nourished on fertilizers lose their innate ability to absorb the natural power of soils. This is similar to modern human lifestyles, where vitamins and dietary supplements adversely affect the natural digestive powers and nutrient yielding functions of internal organs. Nature Farming techniques and products help overcome these problems of both agriculture and human health, thus enhancing quality of life and of the environment.”

(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 Kyusei 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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AS WE COMPLETE 21 YEARS.....

“The only source of knowledge is experience” Albert Einstein (1897 – 1955).

APNAN, the little network huddled in Saphan Khwai, Bangkok, in two rooms of an apartment, believes in the above quote to its maximum. This is because we at the Asia Pacific Natural Agriculture Network, founded in 1989 (21 years ago), were entrusted with the objective of gathering experience on Nature Farming and EM Technology in our original 13 member countries, and expanding further, validating the concepts scientifically and thus gaining experience on the two techniques that our sponsors believed would have a place in the future of the humankind. Humankind was moving at a fast pace to encompass all the harmful things the modern world had to offer, thus degrading the environment, the food and very importantly human health. Nature Farming and the technology of Effective Microorganisms were thus conceived to be an alternative, and based on experiences in Japan, we were requested to gather information and experiences and thus acquire knowledge on both aspects to further the cause of our network and also our sponsors. After reaching adulthood, we can look back with pleasure that we at APNAN have gathered much experience – principally on EM in many parts of the world and through this process on Nature Farming. We do know how EM will work in regions ranging from the cold temperate sites of Vladivostok to the desert sands of the middle east, from the Himalayan heights of Nepal and Bhutan to the flooding plains of rivers in Myanmar and Thailand. All this has given us experience to adapt the technologies that we propose and thus provide the required knowledge to those requesting us.

However, after 21 years, do we rest on our laurels and be complacent? Never!! We have yet much more to do – and help our sponsors, both the International Nature Farming Research Center and EM Research Organization to achieve their targets of spreading Nature Farming and EM to the world through our mandate region, that of the Asia Pacific. The spread of information and experience, along with knowledge gained requires two principal components – research and staff. It is with rather a heavy heart that we must state this fact – research information and staff are not up to expectations that we at APNAN wish it to be. Although both our sponsors have the capacity for research and also have the required information in Japanese, the world wishes these in wider used language bases, principally in English. Although we have very sound and reliable experiences on Nature Farming and EM, we need validation for public acceptance, and this can only be done through research and information dissemination. This aspect was clearly highlighted even in the Mokichi Okada International Forum, held in conjunction with the COP 10 meeting hosted by Japan in Nagoya, in early October. We are now in the process to update the EM manual – a long felt need by all our partners. If not, the imitation products, even those using the term EM will gain footholds and try to compete and take over, offering substandard and falsifying information. This leads to humankind being misled, as it is happening now. Thus as stated even in our editorial of the last issue, our dear sponsors, please take heed.. Please provide us with information so that we can provide experiences and thereby knowledge to all those who contact us and requests our services in teaching them the methods of Nature Farming

and the technology of Effective Microorganisms. You all have the capacity and please make use of this.

We also emphasize the need for human power to carry on this magnanimous task of APNAN. Today, we are a depleted lot with two full time technical officers, one beautiful lady to meet daily requirements in the Thai language in the office, a part time old hand and the assistance of the head of EMRO Asia. Our poor technical officers are rushed off their feet trying to cope with all the work – however even now we do all the work given and even more with laughter as the editor hears it while penning this note....., in the normal efficient manner. However, looking at the situation in an objective manner – this cannot go on for long.. our officers will be worn out.. and hence the activities entrusted to us will suffer. Again as emphasized many many times, our sponsors, please do send us at least one more officer to take away the pressures of travel and management from our two members of staff to enable all of us perform our duties to the optimum capacity.

The third aspect that one wishes to highlight in the final editorial of the 21st year is the presence of imitations and false information. Most of those producing imitations of the technology we offer are our ex partners. They after getting maximum benefits left us – to seek greener pastures, but having failed still rely on our news and information and experience to promote their materials, even using our own names – stating that it’s generic and the world is large enough for all! Earlier, they complained about others – now they do the same! We have to be wary of these and do our bit to convince that we have the genuine technologies, both in Nature Farming and EM Technology. Although we do not wish to be depressed, we need to state directly what we feel – to our sponsors and our dear friend who are with us all times. Thus please take note of what we say in a positive manner – we at APNAN will do our best and provide the best services.

Thus at this festive time, when Christmas lights brighten up our host city Bangkok, while shoppers throng the malls and stalls, all at APNAN offer our deepest gratitude to all those who help us and have been with us at all times.. to our sponsors, INFRC and EMRO of Japan, The Sekai Kyusei Kyo of Japan and Thailand, the Saraburi Kyusei Nature Farming Center and its staff, our dear President, Professor Dr. Teruo Higa and Madam Higa, our colleagues, past and present, our ex staff, who now are our bosses and also all our readers and friends – we offer our deepest gratitude for everything done towards us. You offer us inspiration and hope that this will grow from strength to strength – to develop knowledge through experience on Nature Farming and EM Technology. The members of the Asia Pacific Natural Agriculture Network, led by its able boss Yasushi Nishibuchi, wish all our partners, readers and contacts –

A VERY HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL 2011 – MAY YOU ALL ADOPT NATURE FARMING AND EM, AS WAYS OF LIFE IN THE COMING YEAR.

APNAN, Bangkok, Thailand

December, 2010

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

The Nature Farm Model in Nagano, The International Meeting of INFRC, The participants at the Mokichi Okada Workshop and Kids on a Bhutanese Nature Farm respectively.

THE HIGHLIGHTS.....

SEKAI KYUSEI KYO OF JAPAN HOSTS THE MOKICHI OKADA INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP



The workshop in session

The COP 10 international meeting hosted by Japan this year was held at the plush International Center of Nagoya. The theme was Biodiversity - which is a fundamental concept of Nature Farming advocated by Mokichi Okada. Hence, the Sekai Kyusei Kyo of Japan organized an event to coincide with the COP 10 meeting – the event was the Mokichi Okada International Workshop – held at the Nagoya Conference Center, on 17th October. The event began at 1000 hrs with VIPs welcoming the 300 odd participants. The presence of dignitaries such as members of the Diet and the senior management of the Sekai Kyusei Kyo added strength to it. Thereafter the first session began, which presented the holistic view of Johrei. The second session was on Nature Farming - which began with a 20-minute video on the work of INFRC promoting Nature Farming internationally. We at APNAN were happy that it presented our activities in promoting Nature Farming through EM Technology. Thereafter, it was the turn of APNAN – to deliver the keynote speech titled Nature Farming – A key to quality food health and environments. The presentation took the audience through the problems of modern societies in terms of polluted food and environments, thus causing diseases and destruction, and presented the usefulness of Nature Farming to overcome these pressing problems through a diversified holistic agriculture. The final presentation was by Professor Ueno of Ehime



Diet member Mr. Tsurunen speaks at the workshop

University, who spoke of the development of soils through Nature Farming for sustainable agriculture.

A panel discussion was held after lunch, and the speakers discussed their presentations. The forum clearly presented the need for documented research on both Johrei and Nature Farming and on case studies to prove to the public and administrators that these fundamental principles advocated by Mokichi Okada are really valid and are very useful in modern society. This was the clear message of this forum. The final presentation was by the distinguished Dr. Murakami, who spoke of the science behind the teachings of Mokichi Okada – and with real examples validated these concepts.

The workshop ended at 1715 – with all participants pleased of the outcome. We at APNAN are really pleased and feel honored that we were selected for this event and we do thank the INFRC and Sekai Kyusei Kyo for their kind sponsorship and hospitality. In turn, we at APNAN pledge our support to these activities in the future years – we will do our best!

INFRC HOLDS FIRST MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL STAFF PROMOTING NATURE FARMING



SSK and INFRC Bosses at the international meeting

Nagoya city in Japan is a very special city – in terms of its infrastructure, new airport and most importantly, it was the host for the COP 10 conference, which was

held in October 2010. However, for us in Nature Farming and EM, it was also a very special city in October – as the Sekai Kyusei Kyo and INFRC hosted the first ever meeting of Nature Farming promoters on an international basis!

The meeting was held on 16th October 2010, in a seminar room of the Nagoya International Center. It was presided by Rev. Yoshihiro Goto, a member of the Executive Board of Directors of Sekai Kyusei Kyo, and Rev Miyamichi, Head, International Department of the Sekai Kyusei Kyo and Rev Amano, Chairman of the Board of Directors of INFRC were in attendance as co chairpersons. The master of ceremonies was Mr. Akio Ito, our genial friend and advisor, who heads the Extension Department of INFRC. The meeting included representatives from Brazil, USA, France, Angola, Thailand, South Korea and Japan, with APNAN as an observer. At the onset, Rev. Yoshihiro Goto welcomed all present, and Rev Takehisa Miyamichi stated the importance of the meeting to promote Nature Farming and through it, the philosophy of Mokichi Okada to the world to provide good healthy food for all. Rev. Kiyoshi Amano, who is very keen to promote Nature Farming on an international basis, stated the importance of this method

of farming in the context of the COP 10 meeting, which paid emphasis on biodiversity. Nature Farming is a holistic approach, and hence is well suited to accommodate biodiversity within its context, and hence he stressed its importance and the need to spread the technology on a wider scale. Thus, he requested the international participants to do their duty on a wider scale and stated that we at APNAN have already initiated this process. The presentations of each region were held next – with our dear old friend Mr. Hayakawa doing the honors for the USA. The USA has now a 3 ha plot where vegetables are grown through the principles of Nature Farming. We are pleased that Mr. Hayakawa, who was with us for some years at the inception of our little network, and also began the project in Myanmar, is now active in the USA. The presentation from Thailand was made by Mr. Sakurai, again one of our ex staff, who is now managing the Saraburi training center with our dear friend Mr. Kanit Muangnil, who was also present with two other members. The 75 ha unit is completely farmed through the principles of Nature Farming and hence it was considered a real success story. Mr. Kumazaki from Korin Korea spoke next – about their activities. They have many projects, and the Korin farm is located south of Seoul. They also have other projects for animal husbandry and at present, they produce certified Korin products for sale.

Mr. Bambi of Angola, presented their first steps to develop Nature Farming in this great continent – the first step being the purchase of a 10 ha property. This is being developed and they have also established 7 other centers in Angola, while initiating projects in neighboring countries such as Congo and Mozambique. They are also promoting home gardening through Nature Farming, with emphasis on schools, hospitals and prisons. The work in Europe was presented by Mr. Paulo Oyama, an old friend of APNAN.



Mr Akio Ito – The Master of Ceremonies

They have a 5 ha farm, located 40 Km from Paris, and of which 4 ha are certified as organic. They produce vegetables for special markets and to a consumer association with 600 members. They are all keen to purchase the fresh organic products from the farm. The last overseas presentation was by Brazil, which has a very successful program on Nature Farming through the Korin project. The objective of the Korin Association is to develop a healthy society and the members from Brazil presented their activities – in terms of both agriculture and environment through Nature Farming and also using EM. They have an excellent research center at Ipeuna,

and also a training unit, all of which are managed by the Sekai Kyusei Kyo of Brazil.

The meeting was a real success and Rev. Goto, summing up the event clearly stated that this was the first time that the Sekai Kyusei Kyo learnt what each other was doing in their respective nations and stressed the value of sharing this information. It seems that this event will be held regularly to update and learn of the progress made. It seems that APNAN, this little network initiated this process through dealer meetings - a few years ago and the participation of Mr. Ito sparked off this process. Networking is important to move forward and we at APNAN promised to help out in this venture by developing a small newsletter of the data is given to us. APNAN also stressed the value of information dissemination as we do through this newsletter and by regular interactions.

This little network wishes to express its gratitude to the Sekai Kyusei Kyo of Japan for this initiative and wish to extend its support at all times.

APNAN WILL HOST A SPECIAL WORKSHOP ON NATURE FARMING

APNAN has been entrusted with promoting Nature Farming in the mandate region, and it was often felt that our duty was not being carried out to its maximum, due to the lack of information. Thus, all training workshops held by this little network was on EM Technology, which we also promote, as we are sponsored also by the EM Research Organization in Okinawa and our dear President, Professor Dr. Teruo Higa is the inventor of EM!! Looking back at history, Nature Farming was promoted by us through the use of EM, which today is principally a part of this method of farming. Thus, all our workshops placed emphasis on EM Technology, although the training took place at the Saraburi Kyusei Nature Farming Training Center. Hence, Nature Farming and its success was the hidden message in all our workshops.

However, in February 2011, we will hold a workshop with emphasis on Nature Farming – and EM will be a tool to promote this technology. Thus we anticipate getting experts from INFRC, Japan for this event – which will be a highlight – and our dear technical officers are preparing in earnest for this special event – The first ever workshop on Nature Farming.

At present, the response has been overwhelming – and we may have to limit numbers to the maximum of 40. Over 12 countries have indicated their willingness to participate and some even want to send delegations of some 14 people!! However, dear friends, this will not be the last time and as we the little network has to accommodate many requests from member nations, we may not be able to accept all promised people as facilities and transport in Thailand would be a problem. We do promise to hold such workshops in the future and hence all will be accommodated over time.

We do hope that the participants will have a fruitful time and we are happy that we have a chance to do this exercise in a wholesome manner, with the support of our sponsors,

the INFRC and also EM Research Organization. We do look forward to a very productive workshop.

FLOODED REGIONS OF THAILAND CONTROL ODOR

October 2010 was a bad month for many regions of Thailand. This was due to the incessant rains, causing many hardships to populated regions such as Lop Buri, where excessive water caused major damages to residences and the environment. The residents thus affected were sad – that their property was destroyed and the poor life quality due to the smells that emerged by putrefaction of organic matter.

Many organizations tried helping the people, but EMRO Asia took the initiative to provide 1 ton of EM to the Irrigation Department for using in the region for odor control. This was done with confidence as EM has been proven to suppress foul odor after floods even in places such as Germany, with its colder climates.

The staff of EMRO Asia trained the staff of the Irrigation Department to use EM and to extend it for greater use. They applied the EM to the office and the hinterlands and in the homes of the victims. The smell disappeared within a few hours and the officials and the inhabitants of the homes were happy that they had a clean environment so soon – this was never experienced earlier. Thus, many took EM home for future use, and they stated that they have full confidence in EM of EMRO Asia – the effect was proven within a short time.

A P N A N wishes to thank EMRO Asia and its team headed by Toru Koshoji for this excellent work done and we wish them success in all future endeavors.



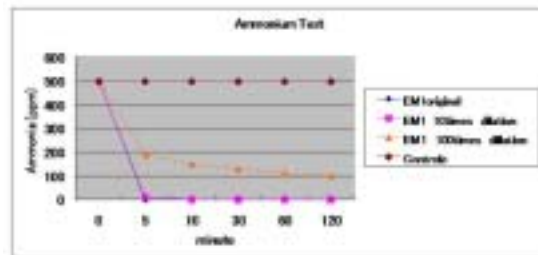
EM donated for odor management

IMAMURA REPORTS OF EM REDUCING AMMONIA

The development of ammonia from wastes is a significant problem primarily due to the odor. Thus, many experiments have been done and it has been practically proven that EM can reduce this effect. The problem was to determine the dosage!

Our dear ex senior technical officer Mr. Kosaburo Imamura, who is a very good researcher, now in the EM Laboratory in Shizuoka, has found out the secret through diligent research. He has sent us his latest results – of using EM to reduce the development of ammonia from wastes. His experiments show that EM diluted 10 times could reduce ammonia from 500 ppm to near ZERO in 5 minutes!! If the dilution rate is increased to a ratio of 1;100, the reduction of 500 ppm to 200 ppm occurs within

EM1 Ammonia Test



EM1 Ammonia Test

5 minutes and then continues to lower the gas to 100 ppm in 2 hours. This proves what the inventor of EM has been telling us – for the best effect.. hit the ammonia gas hard with a high concentration of EM.. thereafter reduce it. This is now shown with scientific results and now we have advised Imamura san to work on the mechanisms of how it happens.

We are grateful to Imamura san for his work – and will report the progress in future issues. Well done Ima Chan as we call you.. your training with us has enabled the development of an inquiring mind!!

MEALY BUGS ON FRUIT FARMS CONTROLLED WITH EM-FPE

Mealy bugs have been the bane of the fruit industry of Tamil Nadu, India and also in several other neighboring states. The most extensive damage has been with papaya, a fleshy fruit growing on succulent trees, while guava, sapota, banana, cassava and similar species were also affected. The bugs suck the sap of leaves and affects fruit development, and any developing fruit that survives also falls off prematurely.

Our partners in Auroville India, headed by the evergreen Dr. Lucas Dengel initiated a program to spray a 13 acre (5.5 ha) farm having papaya, and was affected by the mealy bug menace. They sprayed EM FPE – the EM being supplied by Maple Orgtech on a daily basis for 7 – 12 days. The plants used to make the extract were *Azadirachta*, *Calotropis*, *Vitex*, *Curcuma* etc. After two months of regular spraying, plants recovered and the new foliage did not show signs of pest attack. The older fruits were small, but the new ones grew to normal sizes, much to the happiness of the farmer. Neighboring farms, which did not use EM, were affected while this farm had good harvests of quality fruits.

The local newspapers and the newsletter of the Auroville ashram have published these and we do thank Dr. Dengel and his team for their experiments, which have been very fruitful. Dr. Dengel, who spearheaded this program states that using EM is a very cost effective way, and is environmentally sound and safe for the spraying staff as it has natural substances without harmful chemicals. In addition, the consumers are also benefited by these.

We do thank Dr. Dengel for his efforts in showing cost effective ways of managing tropical pests and do request

him and other readers to send us similar snippets for publication in our widely read Newsletter.

MUD BALLS AND ACTIVATED EM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL BEAUTY

The celebrations of the Birthday of His Majesty the King of Thailand are held all over the Kingdom in many different ways – to signify the work done by His Majesty during his reign. One aspect that is gaining popularity is cleaning up the environment of Thailand, something that is very close to the heart of the Royal family. Due to the above, the celebrations this year organized by the Nature Farming and Environment Forum for the Quality of Life had organized a mud ball event in a temple in the Samutsakorn province. The Deputy Governor of the province was at hand to preside over the ceremony of using mud balls for cleaning up a polluted canal. Thus amidst the chanting of holy texts by resident monks, over 100 participants, which included students, farmers and residents of the region threw over 800,000 mud balls and also Activated EM into the polluted Damnoen Saduak canal. The students also learnt the process of making EM mud balls and activating EM, and were taught the importance of environmental quality and the role of EM in this process.

We will keep an eye on these projects as, EM mud balls



Kids enjoy making EM mud balls

have been a success in the neighboring nation of Malaysia, which in August this year, has a mud ball event to commemorate the World EM Mud ball day. This was held in Penang and was a roaring success, along with an EM forum and even the EMRO Overseas meeting. Thus, we are sure that this event in Thailand will be a success and that the residents of Samutsakorn province will have a clean canal with clean water due to EM. However, we do implore the organizers to maintain the EM concentration to ensure the best results in a very short time. We will also offer our support whenever needed.

AS WE DO OUR WORK.....

APNAN VISITS INFRFC AT ATAMI

A member of APNAN visited the INFRFC Headquarters in Atami, in October this year, while in Japan for an International Forum on Nature Farming organized by the Sekai Kyusei Kyo, to coincide with the COP10 meeting held in Nagoya. Thus, APNAN took the chance to visit Atami, and meet with Rev. Kiyoshi Amano, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of our sponsors, the head of the

Extension Department, Mr. Akio Ito and our dear friend and Head of the Overseas Section, Mr. Hidehiko Okubo. On arrival in Japan on 11th October, the staff member traveled to Atami. Although it was a holiday, our dear old friend and ex boss, who now works in the JAS certification division, Mr. Nobuyuki Taniki was in office. After a very sumptuous lunch, the meeting got underway – where the work of this little network was discussed, and also its future..

The discussion was very useful to learn of the directions that we should move in the future years – and the emphasis was on the following aspects to promote Nature Farming. APNAN stated that they have now pursued the possibility of establishing Nature Farming Models in four nations in the mandate region – New Zealand, Lao PDR, Bhutan and Sri Lanka. India, Malaysia, Vietnam and Australia will follow soon, and we will help in this venture. However, the problem is that there is virtually no literature on Nature Farming in English – and hence APNAN stressed its importance and offered its help. In this regard, we are awaiting the book on Nature Farming authored by Rev Amano, to be checked and printed. The delay at present is that it needs to be checked for accuracy of translations. We at APNAN will finally edit it and even possibly get it printed. APNAN also stressed the importance of scientific data on Nature Farming, and that it should also be published internationally for acceptance of credibility. The Nagano Research Station, guided by Rev Tatsuo Harakawa is doing excellent work and this needs publication. The other topics discussed was the possible support that we, the little network could offer – we as usual complied that we will help in preparing a small newsletter on international activities of Nature Farming once or twice a year, if the news is given to us, preparing a manual on Nature Farming and in promoting the technology of Nature Farming through possible publication of data. The visit was extremely rewarding, as APNAN could have direct discussions with its sponsors – to clear any doubts of its future activities. The management of INFRFC thanked the network for its role and we are glad that even after 21 years, when most small organizations wither off, that we are still active in promoting both Nature Farming and EM Technology in our mandate region and even beyond.

We thank the INFRFC and its Board of Directors, headed by the very calm and diligent Chairman, Rev. Amano and also Mr. Ito for their support and advise and look forward to even more help and advice in the coming years to do our job effectively and efficiently.

EMIKO GERMANY HAS AN OPEN HOUSE

Our dear friends in Germany, EMIKO, who are responsible for EM and its distribution in Germany and several other nations in Europe held an open day in September. The objective was to promote Nature Farming through EM and also a healthy lifestyle free of harmful chemicals.

The program was developed in a holistic manner – where the invitees were able to see a wide range of EM products,

and the use of EM in all facets of life – from food, soil development to pet and even garden care. There were organic and EM products for sale and different delicacies made with EM. Lectures were held every hour on EM Technology and its use in human activities and environmental management – and many companies involved in making organic products with EM were at hand to market and promote their products and the technology of EM. The visitors were also taught how to make EM mud balls!!

It was not all work and learning – we are told that Japanese marimba artist providing music as well – which attracted many people to the open day!

We at APNAN congratulate EMIKO for their activities and we wish that we also got a chance of enjoying the day..! However we are happy that with Jun Matsumoto, our ex boss now in Germany, the program of EMIKO will move from strength to strength, although there are competitors – all claiming to have EM of our President, Prof Dr. Higa. We wish EMIKO and all our friends in Europe the success they deserve and offer our help when required. We would love a working holiday in Europe!

NAGANO RESEARCH UNIT WELCOMES APNAN

The Research Station in Matsumoto, Nagano is a center of excellence for research on Nature Farming. The Station is managed by Rev. Harakawa and the research programs by Dr. Komatsu and Dr. H L Xu. Thus, APNAN is pleased to get any opportunity to visit this place as it has very good facilities and efficient staff. While in Japan, APNAN visited the station for a day and discussed many research themes, especially in relation to presenting the holistic nature of Nature Farming at the forthcoming IFOAM/ISOFAR conferences scheduled to be held in South Korea in 2011.



The experts on Nature Farming at Nagoya

The visit included detailed studies of five key aspects – the first was an excellent model of Nature Farming, developed by Mr. Ishiwata. It was an excellent unit where crops are managed as per the guidelines advocated by Mokichi Okada. The second was to the seed production for Nature Farming program of Mr. Nakagawara. The

selection of seeds of tomato, aubergines, radish and pumpkin was really commendable. However, in both these, data was not being collected on a scientific basis and the rectification of this was recommended.

Visits were also made to a research plot, where two students are undertaking their doctoral research programs under the guidance of Dr. H L Xu. The emphasis of the

project was to develop biodiversity units within crop fields by intercropping to reduce pest problems biologically, thereby developing integrated systems of pest management. The study on the comparison of Nature Farming with conventional farming was also observed, and the setback as seen by us was again the lack of sound data. This was discussed again with Mr. Ishiwata, who is managing this unit. The final stop was to the rice fields of Mr. Iwaishi to observe a study funded by the Government of Japan, in their organic farming promotion program. The study clearly showed the possibility of overcoming problems of undecomposed straw through Nature Farming, where the technology was to prepare land and plough the straw in earlier and plant seedlings later, giving the microbes in soils to decompose this material. The data really showed that this method, especially if used with EM will help all rice farmers in the cooler regions of Japan to overcome one of their major problems – undecomposed straw at planting of rice after winter. A meeting was also held to discuss the possible presentation of this data at the IFOAM/ISOFAR conferences and also to obtain data for a manual. The possibility of developing the English version of the Nature Farming Manual was also discussed. APNAN as usual in its very generous outlook promised all possible assistance for these ventures and also wish the staff at Nagano for the excellent work being done. We look forward to reporting the success of these studies in future issues.

BRAZIL PROMOTES NATURE FARMING THROUGH KORIN

The Sekai Kyusei Kyo of Brazil is actively promoting Nature Farming through the Korin program. The report of Korin Brazil sent to us by Mr. Yuji Ota states that the Korin organization in Brazil was initiated by Rev Tetsuo Watanabe, the current President of Sekai Kyusei Kyo in 1995 with the objective of promoting Nature Farming. Today the organization has spread widely in Brazil, and the research and development activities are taking place, along with the promotion of Nature Farming, all of which are well under way in a very successful manner. They have a research and production facility at Ipeuna, a commercial unit in Sao Paulo and also a retail outlet, all of which employs over 340 people. It is a very successful operation and we do congratulate Korin Brazil for their success

– and hope that we at the little network will get an opportunity to see it and learn



Logo of Korin Brazil

from their success to promote Nature Farming through EM Technology in our regions as well.

KORIN BRAZIL PRODUCES ORGANIC CHICKEN

The Korin program in Brazil has a very successful program in producing organic chicken without causing any pollution. They use EM for this purpose – and we are told that from the factory, only 50% is sold as products – the balance goes into animal feed thus not having any wastes. The products have a longer shelf life and are free of any antibiotics. They use prebiotics and also probiotics made from plant materials fermented with EM is certified by the World Quality Systems and some of the products have been exported to Japan.

We are very pleased to learn of these successful stories – of Nature Farming and EM being used and hope that our international friends will send us more snippets of their activities for promotion among our readers and friends.

SARABURI CONDUCTS THE 430TH TRAINING PROGRAM

Saraburi Kyusei Nature Farming Training Center is a goldmine of information for Nature Farming and EM Technology. This brainchild of the late Rev Kazuo Wakugami blossomed out into a real international training center for both locals and foreigners alike. The facilities are extensively used by us for our workshops on EM and in the future, for Nature Farming workshops as well.

The Training Center, maintained under the able guidance of Mr. Kaniit Muangnil, hold workshops for Thais as well. Thus in November, they held the 430th workshop on Nature Farming for 166 participants from the Kingdom. The program was organized by the Bank of Agriculture in Thailand in conjunction with associated cooperatives, and they sent the participants. They discussed and learnt about Nature Farming and EM at Saraburi to ensure better productivity through these technologies, while improving the environment. Our man in EMRO Asia, Toru Koshiji states that the place of accommodation of many overseas delegates was the Saraburi Inn and he had been confronted with many questions on EM and Nature Farming – as the staff did not know what it was all about. Thus the staff too had joined the training!!



The happy participants

We are told that all participants for the workshop, which also included Environmental Conservation were really glad and impressed that they felt that EM was the real Earth

Saving Revolution!! We are pleased that these programs continue despite problems and that Saraburi Training center continues its duty as envisaged by its founder, the late Rev Kazuo Wakugami.

APNAN AND SARABURI CENTER JOIN HANDS TO HOLD A WORKSHOP IN CAMBODIA



Kaniit san explains Nature Farming

The program of EM and Nature Farming in the Kingdom of Cambodia is managed by the NKA (Nearby Khmer Association) under the stewardship of Ms. Sovanly is progressing well with many distributors actively pursuing the markets for EM. Thus, we are called upon to offer training programs on a regular basis in addition to making EM.

In November, APNAN joined hands with the Saraburi Center to conduct a training program and offer advice to an organic farm maintained by the School Aid Japan project in the Kingdom. This farm, which is 12.5 ha has just initiated its operations and Mr. Kaniit Muangnil, Senior Managing Director of Saraburi flew into Phnom Penh and went onto the Kampongchanang province to identify guidelines for making a Nature Farm with EM. The development of an integrated model of farming as seen in Saraburi was the aim of this project in order to provide sufficient food and generate employment for local communities.

The delegation from Bangkok also met Ms. Sovanly. The agent for EM in the region, who is also very visionary – and has helped spread EM Technology in the Kingdom. In fact, they now even have EM bottled water – certified and sold after purification through EM Technology. These were highlights and after return, we have been told that the Cambodian counterparts really appreciated our input – we thank Mr. Kaniit and all at Saraburi for helping us and also clearly illustrating our close cooperation with Saraburi.

Thank you Mr. Kaniit and we look forward to future cooperative projects as well. We in turn will also promote the Saraburi Training Centre through our workshops and newsletter as a real paradise on Earth!

AGRITON HOLLAND OPENS NEW BUILDING

The EM program in Europe really got off the ground with the cooperation of Agriton, Holland, which was founded

by our dear old friend Fritz van den Ham and Ger Speek in the 1990's. The perseverance of Fritz at that time was amazing, and amidst many difficulties, he really promoted EM for organic farming in Holland – and the regions. All others came after the initial steps taken by our dear Fritz.



The new building of Agriton

Agriton had been founded in 1991, as a Garage Company, selling minerals and fertilizers. However, in 1995, they first included EM after meeting Albert de Puijsselaar at the International Nature Farming Conference in Paris, where the real EM movement in Europe took off – after we at APNAN arranged the program! In 2000, Agriton moved to better premises and in 2004 organized the first ever EM Festa in Europe. This brainchild was of course Fritz – and although he is now retired and Albert and Jan Feersma- Hoekstra manage the business, Agriton moved into brand new premises in 2010. The new unit has two new warehouses for EM and Bokashi production, and new equipment for making EM.

Today Agriton is a very successful company with branches in Belgium, England, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Turkey. We were told of this development and we are very happy that the seeds planted by us by getting Agriton and Fritz involved at the beginning have paid its dividends. APNAN congratulates Agriton and wishes it the very best for the future and we offer our services as always to develop EM Technology and Nature Farming in the European region and the world. We also offer our gratitude to our dear Fritz van den Ham and Ger Speek for the initial steps taken amidst much animosity and problems to make EM a success in Europe.

EM TECHNOLOGY PRESENTED AS A METHOD FOR BIOMASS RECOVERY IN TROPICAL REGIONS

The tropics, with its high biodiversity and wide-ranging climates have a diverse agriculture that is the livelihood for a major proportion of the population of the world. In this process of growing and processing food, they generate a significant quantum of wastes – which can all easily be processed into very useful material. Thus our dear friend Mr. R G Corales, who is also an ex student of our President, Prof Dr. Higa, and working at the Philippine Rice Research Institute, used EM Technology for developing a close loop farm and household biomass recovery system, for agriculture and small scale industry. The project was successful and a paper on the subject

was presented at the 2008 FFTC- PCARD International workshop, held in Tagaytay city, Philippines. The paper, which is with us, states that EM was used to change all wastes to fertilizers and EM bokashi, and all of it was used successfully for growing crops, feeding animals and making biogas. The high carbon material such as rice hulls were used to make Carbonized Rice Hulls after treatment with EM.

The paper clearly identifies the usefulness of EM in all facets of life and hence this paper is well worth reading...

All interested in this processes could contact Mr. Corales (Email rizcorales@yahoo.com) for details.

We do appreciate the excellent work done and hope that such studies will be highlighted at international fora and also in scientific journals to make EM known among the skeptics and thus be promoted as a real earth saving revolution along with Nature Farming. We on our part will help publicize such work through our partners and also through this newsletter.

POLLUTED LAKE IMPROVED WITH EM TECHNOLOGY



EM has cleaned water says Prof Higa

The Aburagafuchi is a lake located on the borders of the Hekinan and Anjo cities in the Aichi Prefecture of Japan, in a swampy region, about 2 kilometers upstream at the mouth of the Takahama river. This lake is small (0.64 sq.km) with an average water depth of 3 meters consisting of brackish water. This lake is considered very important as it is the only natural lake in this prefecture. However due to urbanization and increase in the use of chemicals in the surrounding farmlands, the water has been polluted by sewage and agricultural runoff. Thus in the early 2000's, it was classified as the 3rd most polluted lake in terms of water quality in the whole of Japan!

In 2004, the Mikawa Anjo Rotary Club began improving the environment of the region, including the Aburagafuchi lake. Thus they began using EM for this purpose in an intensive manner. The result was that the COD level was lowered and the ranking the lake achieved was a significant improvement - to be the 16th worst lake in Japan. The rates of EM use were some 15 tons per month at 15 locations from 2004 to 2007, thus totaling 540 tons in 3 years. The process has not stopped and individual members continued to apply 12 tons at three locations, thus a total of 144 tons of EM per year.

The situation today is vastly different from that in 2004. The fish have come back and there is a variety of waterfowls and other birds in the vicinity. Our President, Prof Dr. Higa visited the lake in October, and saw fish leaping across the water, while there were many anglers seeking their catch for recreation. The biodiversity of the lake is improving and due to the improvement, the people of the area are committed to make the water quality of this lake to be one of the best in Japan.

This and many other such examples show the impact of EM on environmental management – a topic of significant interest in the world today. Hence this literature was even made available at the COP10 conference in Nagoya.

We are grateful that EM is being used in Japan in an increasing trend – and this makes us happy – EM will be earlier to promote when we have case studies of this nature from the mother country.

We are also pleased that our dear President takes time to see, discuss and advise people to use his invention effectively and diligently. We support this cause.

MALAYSIANS DEVELOP AN EM SAUNA

The last trip of Nishibuchi san to Kuala Lumpur took him to a company named Eco Life, which works closely with our counterpart, Mr. Sawada to promote EM for a healthy lifestyle. Thus, they have opened a rock sauna in Kuala Lumpur, and the directors of the company had been to Okinawa to see the Corazon health center. They have now used EM in this unit for building and they use our technology for daily cleaning. They are very successful and Nishibuchi san tells us that they will expand the program to greater extents in the near future. Thus, all visiting Kuala Lumpur – please try the EM spa and sauna – and they can be contacted at <http://go-ecolife.com/index.html>.

EM PROMOTED TO THE PUBLIC AT THE COP 10 AICHI NAGOYA CONFERENCE

The COP 10 conference held in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture

n o t
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Farming
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benefits
of EM
Technology



EMRO Stall at COP 10

in Nature Farming, improving biodiversity and the environment. Thus, our sponsors EM Research Organization held a exhibition at the COP 10 conference site from 23 – 29 October 2010 in the International Conference Center of Nagoya. The exhibits and publications highlighted the use of EM in many activities, including agriculture and environment. Emphasis was on

the environment and biodiversity enhancement, which were the themes of COP 10 – and EM has been effective in both these spheres. The publication printed for the COP 10 meeting by EMRO highlights many case studies both in Japan and overseas – and it also has the snippets of information in English! All interested in a copy of this booklet – please do contact EMRO in Japan – they will have copies for circulation or even send one for copying and redistribution.

We do thank our sponsors EMRO for this information – we will write about these projects in the newsletter over the next few months. However, we do implore the sponsors EMRO to send us the latest information on EM use and research – the world is waiting for it.

MALAYSIAN EM ENTHUSIASTS VISIT OKINAWA

The versatile Mr. Soo Lee Choo (lovingly called Pak Soo) of Penang is very keen to promote EM worldwide. Thus, he makes all endeavors to travel the region, spreading the message of EM and Nature Farming.

However, in order to be stimulated further, he and his family visited Okinawa to meet with our President, Professor Dr. Higa, the founder of EM and the team at EMRO headquarters. This visit in October coincided with the visit of Nishibuchi san to Okinawa, and thus he was entrusted to take care of them. On arrival, the team had visited many sites using EM and very importantly, to a nostalgic visit to the family home of a typical Okinawan – to that of our ex boss Takashi Kyan, who now heads the Overseas and Administration units of EMRO. They had met three generations of the Kyan family – and enjoyed this visit. Thereafter they met Prof Dr. Higa, Mr. Asato, President of EMRO and others to brief them on the developments of EM Technology in Malaysia. Professor Dr. Higa had been very pleased of the outcome and had expressed his regrets of not being able to visit Malaysia in August for the event held in Penang.

Pak Soo informs us that this visit has given him greater energy to expand EM and thus will travel the region, accepting invitations to spread EM Technology in nations such as China, Thailand and Vietnam, and later even beyond to places such as South Africa. We do wish Pak Soo and his team the very best of everything and good health to continue this activity for many many more years to come. We will offer all possible support to such events.

EM FESTA HELD IN OKINAWA

The annual Festa on Effective Microorganisms, held in November each year is a highlight in the EM world. Thus, many look forward to it. This year, it was advanced to October – 16th and 17th October and was held in the National Theater of Okinawa.

While the Festa was termed the EM forum this year, emphasis was placed upon the use of EM in Japan, rather than on an international basis, as there was a need to inform the Japanese public of the technology that is being promoted worldwide, but was originally meant for the Japanese populations!

On the 16th October, invited presentations were made – all in Japanese this time. The website of EMRO informs all interested about this event and places emphasis on the situation in Japan. The keynote speaker this time was a eminent medical doctor (Dr. Ichiro Sugimoto, Chairman of the Board of the Shokokai Medical Corporation). He spoke of Preventive Medicine and the EM lifestyle.. he stressed the usefulness of EM in achieving a stress free environment and a healthy lifestyle, which enables humans to live without excessive medicines.

The second presentation was by Mr. Shinichiro Kodama of the Elegance You Corporation. He spoke of the dangers of using excessive amounts of detergents in cleaning of clothes, and supported the use of activated EM, EM ceramics and EM soap for this purpose. The presentation also included demonstrations of using activated EM in the cleaning industry.

The next speaker was Mr. Tomohisa Goeku of the EM Spa Corazon in Okinawa. His presentation titled Natural materials for relaxation discussed the use of EM in reflexology. Thus, the role of EM in reducing the harmful effects of conventional treatment and the benefits of EM were discussed demonstrations provided. This was followed by a well appreciated talk on living with pets using EM. The presentation by Mr. Koichi Akatsu showed the benefits of EM in pet care, for pest management, odor control and even relieving stress. This was followed by a very interesting talk on EM in home gardens by Mr. Yasuo Oda, who is an EM expert attached to the INFRC, and working in the Chubu region of Japan. He clearly showed the methods of raising many species of useful crops using EM in novel methods, much to the surprise of most participants. The final paper was on the use of EM in enhancing health and the environment, a current topic in most conferences. The presentation by Mr. Yasunori Kadoguchi showed the steps that were involved in developing an abandoned hotel into the EM COSTA VISTA – using EM Technology in a productive manner to develop a healthy, clean environment.

The next day was dedicated to field visits to sites in Okinawa, where EM is used successfully. Thus, the participants had two wholesome days of EM – eating EM food and living in an EM environment – and all left with happy memories and convictions that EM is really something that need to be adopted on a daily basis for a healthy lifestyle.



EM is effective says a presenter



Dr.Higa at EM Forum in Okinawa

The EM forum this time showed us and the world, the usefulness of the technology that we also promote for agriculture and environment.

Thus we are

happy at this outcome and hope that many similar events will be held in the future and that EM Research Organization will also do useful research demanded by the users to really spread the technology globally. We on our part will do it and we request the support of EMRO to achieve this.

THE FLIGHTS OF FANCY OF APNAN.....

PROFESSOR HIGA, OUR PRESIDENT TRAVELS ACROSS JAPAN!

Our President, Professor Dr. Teruo Higa, although retired from active teaching at the University of the Ryukyus, is not a person to rest! He is more active than ever – being the Director of the International EM Department of Meio University to traveling either the globe or his home nation of Japan (Not Okinawa!) espousing the cause of EM. While we do hope that he can also rest, the demand on him is greater than ever.. however he, as always obliges – to promote EM to the world.

The period under review (i.e. September – December 2010) saw him traveling the length and breadth of Japan. In September, it was to judge a flower contest in Tokyo, and then in the afternoon a speech at the United Nations University. He also attended a seminar in the Hachinohe city and delivered a lecture on EM, and was back at home within a week. Soon afterwards, he was flying again to Tokyo, and then on to Ishikawa prefecture to attend a seminar of the Flower Association of Japan. He also attended a U-net meeting, to promote EM, and to train advanced EM trainers. In the latter part of the month. Professor Dr. Higa was back in the Kobe city to deliver a lecture to the provincial leaders of the Hyogo prefecture. October began with a trip to Nagoya to meet a non profit organization, and then to the Aburagafuchi lake. Later it was to meet Dr. Tanaka in Tokyo and to see the progress in treating the Nihonbashi river. The forum in Okinawa was held on 16th and he met with many delegates from overseas during this period to discuss future programs. Later in October, it was again to the mainland for meetings, awards ceremonies and lectures. However, on the 29th October, he met with the Minister of the Environment of Ecuador, where EM is being used by ex EARTH university students for environmental development. We are told that the Hon. Minister is very pleased of the outcomes and had promised to support the cause to a greater extent.

November was again busy – with meetings in Kanagawa with organic farmers, visit Nihonbashi river (this time by boat to see the progress) and meet the members of U-net, which is also promoting EM. A highlight of November was the participation at a conference of the SPC (an organization of Salon owners) to instruct them on using EM for cleaning and sanitation. These members are very keen on using EM in shampoos and conditioners, as they have done at the Costa Vista Hotel. November also saw Professor Higa meeting with the Ambassador for Uruguay, to promote further use of EM in this Latin American state.

In December, the first meeting was with INFRC, to review the year's activities. Thereafter Professor Dr. Higa visited Sunmark Publishers, and then many regions to deliver lectures on EM in recycling wastes to promote the reduction of garbage and develop a more conducive environment. Later this month he visited the EM Laboratory in Shizuoka in the company of Dr. Masaki Shintani our first boss, who now is a director of EMRO and manages the research projects.

We never exaggerate – Prof Dr. Higa is indeed a busy man – traipsing the Land of the Rising Sun to promote EM. This is in addition to his overseas visits that he undertakes every year to oversee the use of the technology he developed and gave to the world. Today it is used in over 130 nations and is made in some 60 nations across the globe and he needs to rest a bit more and hand over the running of affairs to the Board of Directors of EM Research Organization. However the presence of Professor Dr. Higa is an attraction and people do want to see him -They consider him an icon for good health, environment and agriculture.

While we at APNAN, which he founded in 1989 are happy that our dear President is active, we are sometime scared that he overdoes things. Thus we implore him to take care – and in his own way do promote EM and support us for many many more years. We wish him and Madam Higa the very best of health in the coming years and contentment in all activities.

SANO MAKES HIS MAIDEN TRIP TO SRILANKA

Sri Lanka, which is one of the founder members of APNAN, has been continuing its activities on Nature Farming and EM in a slow but steady manner. Thus technical officers of our little network visit this island nation once or twice a year to provide EM using the microbes from the local environment and promote Nature Farming in cooperation with our counterparts, the Sarvodaya Movement, which is the largest NGO in the country. This time, it was our young Sano from the INFRC who visited Sri Lanka in late August to discuss the Nature Farming Programs and meet with the Sekai Kyusei Kyo of Lanka.

On arrival in Colombo, Sarvodaya staff, headed by Mr. Shantha, met him. After discussions, checking EM etc, he met Mr. Kariyawasam, who heads SKK Lanka. SKK Lanka will soon become an agent to market EM and promote Nature Farming - thus they have already established a

home garden based on Nature Farming principles. Sano san also conducted a workshop on Nature Farming and EM to the members of SKK and visited some farms using EM successfully. One was to a swine unit, which had odor problems, and today it is all controlled with EM. He uses the manure for fruit production as well. A mushroom farmer also met with Sano san and stated his experiences with EM. However, it seems the highlight of the visit was to a rice farmer who has been using EM from 1998. He practices Nature Farming too and although yields are lower, he produces high quality rice in a healthy environment. Today, his farm is considered a model by the Government and the seed he produces is sought after for planting purposes. Sano san tells us that he is a real Nature Farmer in Sri Lanka!

We at APNAN are pleased at these developments – and hope that both Sarvodaya and SKK Lanka will promote Nature Farming and EM in the usual manner – slowly but surely to help Sri Lanka develop a safe environment and produce quality food for its populations. We will offer all possible support towards this cause.

THE KINGDOM OF BHUTAN RECEIVES YUJIRO SANO

The Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan was visited by our young Sano san in late September. Bhutan, which has a very sound school agricultural program using EM, is assisted by the INFRC to expand their activities. Thus, it was the turn of Sano to travel to the Kingdom – and he states that it is the most beautiful country he has ever seen – with its green mountains, pristine environment, terraced rice fields and the landscape with clean rivers. In Bhutan, he visited three schools involved in the School Agriculture program initiated many many years ago by the then Minister, Dr. Kinzang Dorji.

Mr. Ugyen, who is now in charge of the project accompanied Sano san to schools in the Punakha valley, Bajo and Thimphu, all of which have agricultural clubs using EM for their gardens and farms. All programs use EM, for vegetables, animal production and for sanitation of school toilets.

This project is now expanding and the school agriculture clubs do earn money for the activities through the use of EM. As all these clubs practice sustainable organic farming within a closed system, they naturally become Nature Farmers. Thus, we at APNAN, which support this project, can easily show the success of Nature Farming through real models in this Kingdom.

We do thank the School Agriculture Project for this successful project where the future Bhutanese are trained to become successful farmers through the use of EM and Nature Farming and also spread the technologies among their communities.

We wish this project well and will support it in the future as well. We also hope that they would expand this activity to environmental sanitation as well – to maintain the pristine environment of the Kingdom in a natural way using microbes through EM and not chemicals, which will eventually destroy the environment.

KOSHOJI ACCOMPANIES SANO TO LAO PDR

The boss of EMRO Asia, Mr. Toru Koshoji seems like a native Thai! His experience in the Kingdom has made him very fluent in Thai and hence he is a good companion to our staff when in Lao PDR. Thus, young Sano took his dear friend Toru Koshoji to Lao PDR. In October to hold a workshop, using the latter as the translator and associate! On arrival, they visited the Hadxaiphong district where both presented the benefits of Nature Farming and EM. We hear that Toru san was an effective translator! Thereafter, they had meetings with the Department of Agriculture and Forestry of the Vientiane municipality and also visited an organic rice group in Vientiane, who cultivate some 700 ha using EM. They stated that their yields have increased and the quality is high – hence they have a ready market for their products. Thus as their use of EM is for bokashi making, both Sano and Toru encouraged them to use more EM and develop the practices of Nature Farming to further enhance productivity. We do thank both Sano san and Toru san for their enthusiastic activities and hope that the farmers of Vientiane and the whole of Lao PDR. will accept EM – for their betterment and also for producing greater yields of good quality products.

VIETNAM INVITES APNAN OFFICERS

Our dear friend and long time colleague in Vietnam, Dr. Le Khac Quang is very keen to have our young staff with him in Hanoi to make EM, promote the technology and also show the success he achieves through his activities via the Vina Nichi Center. Thus in October, our boss, Nishibuchi san and in December Sano san visited Hanoi for short periods. In October, Nishibuchi san made EM and discussed the EM program, which is expanding rapidly due to the use of the technology in shrimp culture. He also visited a swine unit near the airport, which uses EM to control odor and maintain a healthy environment, where the pigs grow in a relaxed manner. Nishibuchi san tells us that the wastes are decomposed naturally due to EM, and hence regular cleaning, which is expensive, is not required. We do hope that his will become a model for the region. The visit of Sano in December took him to poultry units and saw EM being used for controlling odor. However, due to ineffective use, they have not obtained real results – and hence Sano san had advised them to use EM to a greater extent. The farm, which is practicing conventional methods, will hopefully turn to EM and organic systems, and we hear that Dr. Quang is convincing the farmer to use this technology. In this bid, Dr. Quang proposes to bring farmers again to Thailand for learning EM and Nature Farming in 2011.

We do know that EM sales are increasing rapidly in Vietnam due to the dynamic activity of Dr. Quang. We do support their activities and hope to establish a model Nature Farm also in the near future. We at APNAN do congratulate the team led by Dr. Quang and offer our support at all times.

MAPLE ORGTECH OF INDIA RECEIVES NISHIBUCHI SAN

Our partners in India, Maple Orgtech is expanding its activities despite the imitations of EM available, even from ex employees of the company! Thus, our staff are called upon to provide EM, offer technical advice and also observe the developments. Thus in September, our boss, Yasushi Nishibuchi traveled to Kolkata to make EM seed, meet officers of Maple and also see some sites. His report states that EM is used for animal and fish production and farmers use EM to treat water with promising results. There are about 70 farmers in the Midnapore region using EM and all are happy with the outcome. We do hope Maple will use these examples to push the technology into other regions and also present the success achieved at Indian fora to convince scientists and farmers that fish and animal culture can successfully be done without chemicals and in an environmentally friendly manner. We wish them well and as usual offer our support to Maple and all using EM and Nature Farming in this dynamic nation of India.

NEPAL CONTINUES EM ACTIVITY

A whirlwind trip to Katmandu by Nishibuchi san took him trekking the Himalayan Mountains! His short three-day visit to Nepal in October enabled him meet with an active NGO – Help and Care, which is spreading EM in the nation. They had been to the workshop of ours and hence have been motivated to expand EM in the Himalayan nation.

Nishibuchi san has scaled the mountains to visit a group of 17 farmers using EM for animal production. They are using EM in the drinking water and the manure is treated with EM for making good organic fertilizers, which is used in rice farming. They have achieved much success and hence the farmers are happy about the success achieved. We do thank Mr. Yadav and all the people involved in making EM available and for promoting the technology to this new Himalayan Republic of Nepal. We in turn offer our support by providing EM and technical help.

APNAN BOSS HOPS AROUND SOUTHEAST ASIA

The lack of staff in our little network really pushes our two members around! Our plea for more staff is really falling on stone-deaf ears of our bosses in Japan, as with all the shortages, we do our work effectively and efficiently!! However, the lack of staff – pushes our officers around the region, and thus our boss, hopped around the region making EM and offering technical help to our counterparts. In October, Nishibuchi san was in Singapore to check the facility to make EM and make EM. This is the first time EM was made in Singapore and the person in charge is Dr. Tan, the representative of Hanwo BioTech Pte Ltd. Dr. Tan has been active in promoting EM in Singapore, principally for waste management and environmental education.

In November it was to Bali, Indonesia for seed production and meeting Dr. Wididana, our erstwhile colleague in this nation, who is actively promoting Nature Farming and EM. In Bali, Nishibuchi san visited many sites such as

compost factories, ceramics factory and model farms, all using EM. The latest addition will again be a model farm just 10 minutes from Denpasar, the capital of Bali. This farm will be a real Nature Farm with EM, and will have rice, vegetable and fish – all organic in a healthy environment. Furthermore, EM is being promoted for composting in Bali, and Wididana san is in the forefront with EM. We are told that his organization received the contract and in 2010, he made 750 tons of compost with EM. They expect to make 2500 tons of compost in 2011 using EM, for sale to farmers at subsidized prices. Thus if this works out, we may see an EM island in Bali in the near future.

In December, Nishibuchi visited the Philippines and also Malaysia. This was again to make EM, and discuss with counterparts, meet researchers and see sites. In Manila, he met Mr. Ono, our counterpart and also visited a sugar factory and also the Philippine Rice Research center, where an ex student of our President, Prof Dr. Higa is working with EM. Mr. Corales, is actively engaged in research and promotion of EM and his research has been presented at many fora – and we have a snippet in this newsletter too! Nishibuchi san tells us that Mr. Ono is very active and is trying to expand EM use and Nature Farming in this nation.

The last visit for Nishibuchi san was to Malaysia just before Christmas. He made EM for our partners in Kuala Lumpur, MGB, and met officers of the Selangor State veterinary department, which is actively promoting EM. They had an exhibition in Kuala Lumpur demonstrating the use of EM – in terms of activation, preparation of mud balls etc. This initiative had been taken by members who had attended our workshops and are now confident to use EM for odor control, especially in swine units. They also wish to hold a monthly seminar – and we hope that we will be guest speakers occasionally to enjoy the gracious hospitality of the Malaysians!

All in all, it was a busy time for our dear Boss, Yasushi Nishibuchi! Often we see him coming to our office in Bangkok for just a few days, write reports, plan work, wash his clothes and travel again! He may be rather sick of the Bangkok airport by now.. Although we hear that he enjoys the chats with Nun Chan the lady taxi driver who takes all APNAN staff to the airport at all odd times!!

SOME CONDENSED FAMILY NEWS!!

APNAN has a visitor!

APNAN welcomes its ex staff at all times. Our bosses love to visit us – and this December, we had our ex boss Jun Matsumoto with us for two days. Jun who is now in Germany with EMRO Germany, visited Thailand for personal reasons and hence was with us – his wish to have a special meal prepared by the APNAN cook! This was done as we oblige our guests at all times – hence we do request all our ex staff and bosses to visit us, learn of our current activities and also guide us – and very importantly help us to deal with the many many customer related problems we face on a daily basis!!

Thank you Jun san for visiting us – and hope that you will come here on a frequent basis while flying to and fro from Germany to Japan!

Imamura becomes a palm reader!

Kosaburo Imamura, who headed APNAN a few years ago is now active in research at the EM Laboratory in Shizuoka, Japan. However he attends all activities of the Sekai Kyusei Kyo and hence was at the Mokichi Okada International Forum held in Nagoya in October this year, he met with APNAN staff and had long discussions on research on EM and Nature Farming. However he also told us – that he is now interested in palmistry – and his I-pod is used to scan palms, and get readings! He seemed a specialist in this as there were many ladies queuing up for the free service. Our Dear Ima chan helped out of course – with an ulterior motive – to locate his future partner! We wish him all success in this new past time!

APNAN Samples Mos Burgers in Japan

MOS burgers, a fast food chain has many branches in Thailand, and it is a favorite haunt of our staff, who wish to sample Japanese fast food at regular intervals. However, one member had sampled only the Thai version of MOS burgers, and hence wished to sample the real thing in Japan. Thus while in Matsumoto to visit the Nagano Research Center, two old APNAN colleagues – one from APNAN and one from INFRC visited the MOS burger outlet in Matsumoto station, which was a 5-minute walk from the hotel.

The sampling went as planned and the result was that Thai MOS burgers certainly taste better than the original Japanese versions!!

Maple Boss Visits APNAN

Mr. Madan Mohanka, who heads Maple Orgtech, our counterpart in India was on a tour of Bangkok for another meeting of his principal company, Tega Industries. Thus he and his family met with APNAN staff for dinner and hosted us for a meal at a special restaurant.. run by an NGO that is involved in educating people about STD's. Thus Sano san and another staff member who comes periodically met the Mohanka family and enjoyed a sumptuous Thai dinner – and Sano our sweet young officer who loves his desserts stated that it was a wonderful meal – fit for a dessert prince!

The Christmas dinner.....

We at APNAN are a lively bunch.. and we take the opportunity to have a party at any occasion. Thus to celebrate the 21st year of our great little network and also for Christmas, we requested our sponsors, EMRO, to sponsor a dinner – and as usual our ex boss who heads the Overseas Department agreed – with US \$100! Our present arranged it.. on the 23rd December.. and after much discussion – he decided to hold it in the best restaurant in Bangkok – Room 801 Kularb Apartments, with nibbles - at a cost of US \$ 30!! The most expensive items at the dinner were gifts of cheese and wine brought by an oldie!!

However, we thank our dear Boss Nishibuchi - he is a benevolent person.. hence, on Christmas eve, he used some of the balance money to host all at APNAN to a real Japanese curry lunch and also a dinner.. in the same famous restaurant – the dinner being prepared by the APNAN cook!!! All at APNAN thus thank Nishibuchi san, our dear boss for arranging such an excellent dinner in the real APNAN way when the budget was USD 100, the three meals costing 85 dollars!!!... Low Cost – High Quality!! However – we at APNAN really enjoyed it wishing each other... HAPPY HOLIDAYS.. AND A SUCCESSFUL 2011!!

UPCOMING IMPORTANT SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

2011

Agriculture: Promoting Livelihoods in Conflict-Affected Environments

1 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

International Conference Preparing Agriculture for Climate Change

6 to 8 February 2011

Ludhiana, India

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

18.05.2011 to 20.05.2011

Location: Prague, Czech Republic

The 3rd International Conference on Sustainable Animal Agriculture for Developing Countries (SAADC 2011)

26 to 29 July 2011

Nakhon Ratchasima, Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand

<http://www.saadc2011.com/home.php>

Third World Congress on Research and Development

3 to 4 August 2011

University of Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria

<http://www.irdionline.org>

International Conference on Asian Food Security

10 – 12 August, 2011

Singapore.

<http://www.rsis.edu.sg/nts/article.asp?id=163>

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

29.08.2011 to 01.10.2011

Location: Gyeonggi Province, South Korea

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

Fifth International Conference on Research and Development

Universite Nationale de Benin, Porto Novo, Republic Benin Republic

DEAR READERS.....PLEASE NOTE!!!

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 hopes that all our readers and friends have submitted 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 attend the conference if possible and support Nature Farming and EM Technology.. The details of submission are on the web site and the deadline for paper submission was 30 December 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 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 will be held from in February, 2011 at Saraburi. 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 the in country contacts! We assure you a good training with new staff and new programs!!!

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



THE INTERNATIONAL NATURE FARMING RESEARCH CENTER, ATAMI, JAPAN

The International Nature Farming Research Center, located at Atami, Japan, was established in 1985 with the objectives of enhancing economic stability of farmers and producing nutritious and good quality food for humankind through the promotion of Nature Farming. Thus, the 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



The bosses of Nagano Center



Dr. Murakami enthralls the audience with his speech



The Nature Farm in Sri Lanka



The Evergreen, Frits van den Ham



EM boosts banana production in Nepal



The exhibits at the Forum



Mr. Soo with the Kyan family



Development of a Nature Farm in Denpasar