



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 Saraburi 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 INFRC of Japan and is supported by the Sekai Kyusei Kyo of Japan and Thailand.

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

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THE THOUGHTS OF THE EDITOR.....
AS WE PROGRESS IN OUR 22ND YEAR

APNAN, the efficient and energetic network in Thailand, coordinating Nature Farming and EM Technology throughout Asia and the Pacific nations and also when called upon, beyond our mandate region – is striving hard amidst many calls of duties to do our job well and diligently. We are proud that we do it well – despite the obstacles we face. – Especially in terms of the lack of staff!! Today we operate our network spanning over 20 nations with two members – one from each of our sponsors, the INFRC and EMRO, and with an oldie who helps management from a distance and of course with help from EMRO Thailand with O san and EMRO Asia run by Mr. Toru Koshoji! Thus our plea as always is - give another member of staff! However, amidst all these, we have been very active over the last four months of review. APNAN hosted two workshops, one international and the other for our new found friends in Malaysia, the Tanah Sutera Company, which will take up EM for construction and waste management. We also traveled to countries in the far corners of the mandate region – from Pakistan to New Zealand making EM and holding workshops. Our staff along with EMRO Asia helped in mitigating floods in Thailand – and above all as a network, we coordinated many activities that need our attention. One may ask – why does APNAN do this at a low cost? We believe in what Mokichi Okada told the world – to help humankind in whatever way – especially adopting the principles of producing healthy food through Nature Farming and by developing a clean healthy and safe environment. We do these by blending the technology of Effective Microorganisms and Nature Farming into our communities. We at APNAN have done this successful now in many nations – New Zealand, Lao PDR, Cambodia and Sri Lanka and plans are afoot to expand this to places such as Nepal and Bhutan and to giants such as India, who have plans to develop model units of Nature Farms. This is also helped by the fact that our sponsors now support a workshop on Nature Farming from this year, something we did not do before. This has spurred our partners and participants to develop models in their respective nations – and this shows that we do our job. We also are called upon to make more and more EM in our member countries – and as always our bosses in Japan EMRO, pushes us to other regions as well to help in making EM! Both these show that we are doing well – hence our bosses should indeed be happy – as our partners and friends are!! Thus, we go along.. Breaking new grounds and helping all those who come to us – never discriminating whether big or small. This is APNAN – the poor little network promoting Nature Farming and EM to humanity.

As we meander through our 22nd year, we at APNAN do not complain – There is no purpose and we are contented!! For this, we say a big thank you to our sponsors – The International Nature Farming Research Center in Atami, Japan, EM Research Organization in Okinawa, Japan– and also the Sekai Kyusei Kyo of Thailand, and its President, Revd. Daiho Kasahara for their constant support. We offer gratitude to Mr. Kanit Muangnil and his assistant Masanobu Sakurai, for the workshops, trainings and with visitors. APNAN humbly extends gratitude to the President of Sekai Kyusei Kyo and the Head of the EM Laboratory and Board members of Sekai Kyusei Kyo, for their guidance – We promote Nature Farming as advocated by Mokichi Okada, thus we request them to support our work. Our deep gratitude is extended to Rev. K. Amano, Chairman, Board of Directors of INFRC, and the directorate and senior management for their constant vigilance and support and especially to Mr. A. Ito, Head, Extension and Mr. H. Okubo, Head, International Sections of INFRC. Mr. Katsuyuki Asato, President and Board of Directors of EM Research Organization – Thank you for the support and advice. Our sincere gratitude to our dear President Professor Dr. Teruo and Madam Setsuko Higa for their omnipresence and guidance. This little network today has no boss at hand – after Mr. Yasushi Nishibuchi was plucked away by our Ex Boss Takashi Kyan! However, with remote control, we do manage with two members, Mr. Yujiro Sano and Mr. Hisanori Asami who shoulders the responsibilities of APNAN. Ms. Siriporn (Ms. O) the administrative assistant is there to help us and we are grateful. The ever presence of EMRO Asia and its boss Toru Koshoji, is a boon and an asset – we are grateful

At this juncture, when the world, especially our mandate region, Asia, is recovering from natural disasters, we have shown that Nature Farming and EM are positive tools to make this world a better place for humankind. In this venture, we have gathered new partners and friends – thus taking this example, we invite all in the region and even beyond to work together with us in Nature Farming and EM Technology, which are promoted by us and to develop our environments and produce good healthy free food for humankind.

We at APNAN wish you all – our colleagues and friends a very successful future.

APNAN, Bangkok, Thailand

September, 2011

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

Participants at the International Workshop; Nature Farm in Sri Lanka; Vietnamese learn Nature Farming in Saraburi and EM unit in New Zealand respectively.

THE HIGHLIGHTS OF FOUR MONTHS.....

INFRC HOSTS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN CHINA



INFRC staffs in China

Our sponsors, the International Nature Farming Research Center of Atami, has a special affinity towards China. Thus, they support many programs and hold a conference annually, with the VIP's of INFRC attending it. This year too, the INFRC hosted the conference in the Ho Hai University, located in Qingliang Hill, Nanjing, close to the office of EMRO China, from 28th to 29th June.

The conference was attended by the Chairman of the Board of Directors of INFRC, Rev. Kiyoshi Amano, the Senior Managing Director of INFRC, Rev. Tatsuo Harakawa, the Deputy Director of the Matsumoto Research Center of INFRC, Dr. Hui Lian Xu and our liaison officer Mr. Hidehiko Okubo, who head of the International Section of INFRC.

The meeting held over the summer was addressed by our dear Rev. Amano, who presented greetings from the INFRC, while Rev. Harakawa spoke of the ideal concepts of Nature Farming and the development of a society that is self-sustaining through the concepts of Nature Farming. All of them observed the activities of EM and Nature Farming carried out by the Chinese counterparts. They also visited the Nanjing City Vegetable Center to exchange experiences with EM and Nature Farming. They also saw the water recycling system using EM, developed on the farm. This event was especially important as China now pays emphasis on organic farming and pollution control, and this annual event helps these national projects. We are very happy that the INFRC holds such events on an annual basis – after all, it's the International Nature Farming Research Center!

Thus, we wish these events much success and they help us as well.. and hope that we will also get an opportunity to attend one in the near future to inform the Chinese counterparts what we do on a real international scale and also learn from their experiences.

Thank you INFRC and its Board of Directors for these activities – it helps us as well.

APNAN HOSTS THE INTERNATIONAL EM WORKSHOP AT SARABURI

Our little network, the Asia Pacific Natural Agriculture Network, is always busy, with some international activity going on, either in Thailand or overseas. The network is either in a member nation, conducting workshops making EM and providing advisory services, or in Bangkok taking care of oldies coming for work, taking care of friends visiting Saraburi, holding discussions, writing emails and letters and of course hosting international workshops in the wonderful Nature Farming Training Center in Saraburi!

Since this year, APNAN, in conjunction with INFRC and EMRO, our sponsors, manages two types of workshops. The first, generally held in February will concentrate on Nature Farming, while the second will solely be based on EM Technology. Thus in line with this concept, APNAN held its workshop in July – with 33 participants from 11 nations – a real international gathering. The participants came – all enthusiastic – from the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan, Myanmar, Japan, Malaysia (the biggest contingent of 12 people!!), Hong Kong, Sudan, Nepal, Philippines, Germany, Australia and of course our host nation, Thailand. It was indeed an international mix – and we warmly welcomed the participants from Sudan and Germany, who are still not our mandate nations – but hope to get them in soon!!



Workshop in session

The workshop had its usual program on EM and Nature Farming, the concepts of self sustaining economies of Thailand, and of course hands on training – on EM Technology. They also visited the Sekai Kyusei Kyo headquarters and were marveled by the natural beauty of the Center – all done organically with EM. They also learn the finer aspects of kitchen garbage management and environmental remediation through EM Technology. The final step was the visit to field sites – and this is where the impressions hit the participants – to see EM in action.

The workshop – as usual was a roaring success and we hear that we are now called upon to hold workshops in other nations as well! This is a new development – but our staff are so busy – with only two at hand full time, with our dear Koshoji san and Somlak san helping out – that we are really pressed – our calls for staff go unheeded – and hence please bear with us.. we will help out in the near future.

The workshop also gave APNAN a chance to break our newest member in – our new staff member Mr. Asami faced the audience for the first time – and we are told that his sweet voice and handsome looks took the breath away of the attendees and he did an excellent job!

This is what we do best – we train people from member nations and even beyond – on the technologies of Nature Farming and EM, and also train staff for our dear sponsors EMRO and INFRC!

Thank you participants for coming and learning EM and Nature Farming and a big bouquet of flowers to Saraburi and Sekai Kyusei Kyo Thailand for allowing us to use their excellent facilities.

We will do our best to disseminate the principles of Nature Farming, as advocated by Mokichi Okada and also the technology of Effective Microorganisms!

SAYONARA, YASUSHI NISHIBUCHI

Our sponsors, the EM Research Organization always wish to stress this little network!! This is because they, the bosses in Okinawa are under duress to progress to greater heights. Thus, we at this little network also get a load of stress – especially in terms of quick changes in our staff, especially our bosses. From its inception, the EM Research Organization has used our base as the

training ground for their upcoming bosses! The examples we can quite are numerous – beginning from Dr. Masaki Shintani, who is now Director Research of EMRO, to Mr. Takashi Kyan, who is doing everything at EMRO, from overlooking overseas activity to managing the Costa Vista and of course our dear Takashi Shimoji, who heads EMRO USA, and not forgetting Jun Matsumoto, who is in Germany managing European affairs! All of them ended up as Senior Technical Officers before moving on to higher positions within the organizations. In fact it is our ex boss Takashi Kyan who now pulls the strings on staff matters, being the head of operations – and hence he helps usThe question is – HOW?

He does this diplomatically – but taking our boss away!!



Our sweet boss Nishibuchi

Our boss, Yasushi Nishibuchi came to APNAN a few years ago, when it was being managed by the gentle but firm Jun Matsumoto. Two good buddies, Toru Koshoji and Yasushi Nishibuchi came to APNAN –and immediately, our boss in Okinawa put

Koshoji san in charge of EMRO Asia!

Nishi, as we call him, was with us and took over the reigns from our dear Jun Matsumoto san – on his departure to Japan to serve EMRO in Europe..Nishibuchi san, after obtaining his Masters degree from the University of the Ryukyus, under the tutelage of dear President, Professor Dr. Teruo Higa, went to Vietnam volunteering to promoter organic farming and EM Technology. Thus, he built a very strong relationship with our counterparts at the Vina Nichi Center in Hanoi, especially Dr. Le Khac Quang and his team. They worked in unison to develop EM and Nature Farming in Vietnam.

On arrival in Thailand, he took to our host nation as a duck to water!! He also had his good friend, Toru san, who really knew Thailand, after having even been a monk for a short time. Thus Nishi san did yeoman's service to APNAN by conducting workshops training sessions, traveling the region and even beyond to places such as

Africa and Russia, which is not in our mandate region to make EM. He took over the mantle of Senior Technical Officer and immediately started developing innovative projects in the region. He wanted to develop links between partners and hence was really instrumental in organizing the APNAN dealers meeting in Malaysia last year. In this, he had to be diplomatic and this traveled to Penang in Malaysia several times, and at times with the oldie of APNAN as well, to arrange this meeting along with the EMRO Overseas meeting and APNAN Board meeting attended by the Heads of the Extension department and International sections of INFRC in Atami.

Nishi san is a quiet unassuming person – he is very disciplined in his work and sticks to time – we could set our watches – he is up early – and by 2200 hrs, he says Oyasumi-nasai and presumably goes to bed!! Our regional counterparts in all nations clamored to have him all the time, even our colleagues in India were impressed!! However as usual, when Nishi san was really into the nitty gritty aspects of APNAN, the region and even beyond in places such as Kenya and the Middle East (Ethiopia) and in the Ukraine and Russia, our beloved Kyan san sends new staff on the pretext of training him and within a few weeks plucks Nishi from us!

That's the story of Nishibuchi in APNAN. We hear that in Japan, he is helping with post Tsunami operations and also doing all that needs to be done in Okinawa at Costa Vista, where the headquarters are situated.

We at APNAN are always sad to see our staff leave us – however we presume he is into bigger and better things in Japan, helping spread Nature Farming and EM Technology all over the world. We do thank Nishi san for the time spent with us – we wish him the best and hope and pray that he will help us in the future – to make this little network stronger and more useful to all interested in Nature Farming and EM Technology.

EMDANGOS – A POPULAR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT TOOL IN THAILAND!

EM Dangos – Is a key to environmental problems – says many people off our host nation – The Royal Kingdom of Thailand. At present, 26 provinces of the Kingdom are facing a natural hazard – that of flooding. Thus, EM Technology has come to the rescue, as many NGOs and even

state organizations are really interested in EM to suppress odor. Thus our dear friends, especially our friend and ex colleague Madam Somlak, who acts as the mum of EMRO Asia tells us that the Royal Thai Army, NGOs and companies are after the dangos (i.e. mud balls) and activated EM to suppress odor and help clean the environment.

The program is now under way – The Natural Resources and Environment office in Singburi province, the Ayutthaya and also Ranong provinces have ordered more than 500 EM mud balls to lower the foul smells of polluted waters. They use activated EM to clean affected homes and enhance sanitation.

A project of Her Majesty the Queen of Thailand used EM Mud balls used in the coastal areas of the Pattani province to develop the mangroves and aquatic life. Furthermore, The Royal Army and many other organizations in the Phitsanulok province have requested 5000 liters of EM to help farmers whose rice fields were damaged by floods. The boss of EMRO Asia, who like our dear President Professor Dr. Teruo Higa wishes to help the poor farmers has agreed to help and support the EM program in Northern Thailand – especially as farmers are the backbone of this great nation!! This will surely show that EM can help solve problems brought by floods to the Kingdom and the world!

We at APNAN are grateful for this work – and will always help EMRO Asia led by Koshoji san to use EM for environmental remediation. Please call us – we will help!

EMRO HELPS CLEAN UP RADIATION IN JAPAN

Our sponsor, EM Research Organization in Okinawa Japan is very active in helping to mitigate radioactivity fallout after the last tsunami debacle. The project is headed by our first senior technical officer, Dr. Masaki Shintani, who is Director of Research department of EMRO. We are told that he is very busy in the Iidate village of the Fukushima, where many trials are being conducted. The report sent us in Bangkok was that radiation levels of Cesium is reduced by 75%. However what is more interesting to us in APNAN is what our ex boss, the evergreen Nishibuchi san is doing!! He is working in Miyagi and Iwate prefectures, to support EM activation bases and EM projects. Nishibuchi san tells us that a rice

field hit by the tsunami, and which was seeped in salt water and saline sludge was treated with EM – and now rice is growing very successfully!! This is a success – were EM mitigates salinity when combined with organic matter – and here the organic matter was in the sludge!



Bountiful harvest with EM on contaminated soil

We also learn that EMRO helped the digging of a well for water as the local pump station was affected and the funds had come from EM friends around the world!! This is the EM and Nature Farming family.. which is principally coordinated by us and EMRO!

Thank you EMRO for this great work – and together with INFRC, which also sent teams to help out, including the boss of the extension section, Mr. Akio Ito, (Please see last issue of the newsletter), they will help sort this problem of the natural disaster in Japan with Nature Farming and EM Technology! We in APNAN also support these ventures.

THE HAPPENINGS ON A DAILY BASIS....

THERE IS NO RETIREMENT FOR OUR DEAR PRESIDENT!

Our dear President, Professor Dr. Teruo Higa retired from active service from the University of the Ryukyus nearly 5 years ago. However, now we see that he is more active than ever, traveling within Japan, all for EM and promoting the technology he developed and expanded through us at APNAN, and also promoting organic and Nature Farming, and environmental sanitation. This is in addition to his position at Meio University. We at APNAN wish to track and record all that our dear President does and hence got his schedule from EMRO! It was really amazing! In

May, it was to Oomura city to meet the Mayor, hold a seminar and to the caretakers of U-net in Kyushu. Thereafter to Nagoya to visit the grand shrine of Ise, and attend a dealers meeting, and preside at a shareholders forum of the EM Seikatsu. Then to Atami for the Board meeting of our sponsors, INFRC and to Tokyo to discuss the earthquake disaster mitigation activities. The final lap in May took Professor Dr. Higa to Osaka for a meeting in Mita city and to a flower program. Thereafter it was again to Tokyo, to attend a meeting in Kanto for a meeting on the use of EM in treating people. He also met the former Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishers in Japan, Mr. Yamada and discussed the potential of EM.

In June, it was travel again to Tokyo for meetings and an interesting seminar titled Living healthily and having fun with EM!! Thereafter to Fukushima to discuss the sunflower project for reducing radioactive contamination with Cesium. He also held a press conference and we hear that the publicity was really good! Then he went onto Atami for the INFRC Board meeting and moved to Tokyo for a meeting at U-net and also for discussions with Mr. Shinohara, the Junior Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries of Japan. The final trip in June was again to Tokyo, Toda city for a seminar and meet Ms. Noro, who was working to mitigate the Chernobyl disaster. This meeting was at the U-net office.

In July, it was travel again – To Tsu city, to meet the governor and attend a Dango event and then to Shizuoka to visit the EM laboratory, where our dear Imamura is working. This visit is to guide research and developments taking place at the EM laboratory, headed by Mr. Arakawa, one of Higa sensei's first students. Then the travel took Professor Higa to Tokyo again and for meetings and visits to the Asaka hospital.

The last month - August again was full of travel – Tokyo, Fukushima. Souma and Idate, which were affected by radioactivity and the back to Tokyo for a seminar. In mid August, it was again to Tokyo, Miyagi and to a Tsunami site to the EM site. Finally the month ended with visits to Nagoya to review a flower city and to meet president of Asake company in Yokkaichi city, which makes the machines for EM activation. The final job of Higa sensei was to hold a seminar in Yokkaichi city and to the caretakers of U-Net in Toukai and Hokuriku areas!!

All these surely must add to thousands of kilometers of travel and hours of seminars and preparations!! However this shows that despite critics of EM and Professor Dr. Higa, he is still very much in vogue and in demand in Japan. Thus we should not be afraid - we have our dear President with us at all times. However we do sympathize with our dear and beloved APNAN mum Mrs. Setsuko Higa – she and Professor Dr. Higa must spend their retirement in company – enjoying and discussing the past and developments and even fighting occasionally! Professor Dr. Higa must also be at home at EMRO and the Hotel Costa Vista to guide them – however he is running around like a small kid and hence we have to follow suit! His energy surely must be from EM and EMX GOLD, which are the products that no one can match!

Thank you our dear President – and also Madam Higa for the guidance given and also for the wonderful example set by you both to promote and stimulate us to follow your dynamic lifestyle to help this world become a better place through EM Technology and Nature Farming.

EM GATHERS MOMENTUM IN CHINA

The People’s Republic of China is a fast growing nation – with its massive population it is expected to produce food, while preserving the environment. In the recent past, these objectives have been highlighted in the Chinese press and thus EM has come into help out!

The EM news reports that China, which is one of our mandate countries is using EM to control odor in piggeries –many swine production units are using wood chips fermented with EM – This bedding has no smell and in contrast controls smells from swine wastes, and prevents the development of flies. At the end, this does not become a waste – Its good compost with lots of N, P and K!! Hence, EM fermentation is becoming popular in swine industries, big and small.

EM is also used in reducing post harvest losses of agricultural products! We are told that food processing and transportation companies are getting more and more interested in EM Technology. A fruit unit in South China growing fruits such as Lychees uses EM for extending the shelf life. The test used EM on harvested fruits of Lychees, and these were fresh after 7 days, while those without EM were spoilt within 3



Lychees cleaned with EM

days!! Thus without any chemicals, and with a low cost when compared to conventional systems, this company extended the shelf life!!

These news snippets are being spread and we will soon hear of a great EM boom in China. As this is a mandate nation, we hope that we will also be a part of this boom!! Congratulations to China – they are on the correct path with EM Technology!

CAMBODIA HARVESTS BUMPER CROPS OF CASSAVA WITH EM TECHNOLOGY

The Kingdom of Cambodia has come a long way in using EM, since the beginnings in the early 2000’s. The first project was one using EM for garbage, which for some unfortunate reason was not pursued – however with the adoption of this clean environmentally friendly technology by our present counterparts, the NKA, the project and technology has been spread throughout the Kingdom. Today the use of EM is increasing rapidly and sales are going up, bringing quite a substantial income to our partners, the NKA, to conduct their other community based projects.

Our dear friend and supporter, Toru Koshiji of EMRO Asia, who visited Cambodia recently, tells of the successes achieved – that the NKA projects are broadcasted on television, and this popular medium is used to educate farmers, for announcing training programs and also for promoting successful Nature Farming with EM. This is a boon to the farming community – and thus the NKA is asked to organize EM and Nature Farming Workshops 2 – 3 times per month!! This must be the highest frequency!!!! We are told by Toru san that the numbers of trainees exceed 150 – 200 at times, making the program unmanageable!!!

The most recent success in Cambodia has been the use of EM in cassava – as the crop is being



EM session in Cambodia

promoted by the government as an economic commodity. Generally the conventional systems of cassava produces some 75 - 100 ton per hectare – but the reports reaching us is that some EM farmers harvest over 150 – 200 ton, which is double the national average!! This is a real boost they say... as the farmers have fewer costs in not using chemicals, and harvest greater quantities with organic matter and EM! The most recent success is that one farmer using EM on his farm produced 300 ton per ha!! This must be a world record.. and we believe that CIAT in Colombia, which manages the cassava program worldwide, must be informed of this success!!! Although some may argue that this is not possible, these are actual farmer based results – and although cassava removes this large biomass, it is generally starch and not much nutrients – and even the nutrients removed could be re-supplied with organic matter to prevent soil depletion. The use of organic manure with EM also helps the soil properties and very importantly, producing this large biomass could be considered a method of even mitigating global warming through carbon fixation!! We do congratulate the NKA and these farmers on their success and hope that they will maintain this productivity for a long period of time – using EM and popularizing the technology and Nature Farming in this Kingdom. We will support the project as always and also publicize their successes through our newsletters!!

THAILAND EXPANDS EM USE WHILE RESEARCHING ITS BENEFITS

The EM base in the Royal Kingdom, which is our home, is EMRO Asia, headed by our versatile friend Toru Koshoji, with our ex staff and dear Somlak

san as his able assistant – They are developing many many programs to promote EM and Nature Farming in the Kingdom, in cooperation with many organizations, including the Sekai Kyusei Kyo, who first brought EM into Thailand, and supported this network to a significant extent. Furthermore, the presence of many fake EMs in the Kingdom does not make their task any easier. However, with diligence and care, they are moving ahead.

The latest development in this endeavor is the contract EMRO and EMRO Asia made with Kang Yong Power and Energy Co Ltd, of which the main shareholder is Mitsubishi Electric of Thailand, a mega organization in the Kingdom. The objective of this is to bring in EM and Nature Farming products into Thailand and also to promote Nature Farming with EM and thus export these products to the world, thus promoting Nature Farming among the rural poor as well, to uplift their living standards. We are told by Toru san that this will help EMRO to expand the technologies of Nature Farming and EM, and thus will have spin off effects on APNAN as well!!

Another development is the cooperation of EMRO Asia with the Kasetsart University in Bangkok, which is considered one of the best in Thailand and the region. The project is based on scientifically evaluating the odor removal of garbage by EM, as smell is a significant problem due to the mountains of organic wastes produced by the gourmet city!



EM gifted for special projects in Thailand

The project being carried out in plastic containers will determine the impact of EM Technology on the development of odor causing gases – Hydrogen Sulfide, Sulphur dioxide, Methane etc.. The project is now underway.. and dear Readers, please wait patiently for the encouraging results. We are sure that we could write this in our next newsletter!!

LAO EXPANDS EM ACTIVITY

Our neighbor the Lao PDR is moving ahead with Nature Farming and EM in a significant way, thanks to the support extended by our sponsors, the INFRC and of course, due to the overview given by Sano san. The visit of Sano in May this year showed the expansion being done with Nature Farming and EM – where the project has now expanded into another prefecture, the Borikhamxay prefecture. A workshop was conducted by Sano san in this new region. Meetings were also held with Mr. Latsanivong, Director of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and it was stated that Lao PDR wishes to extend clean agriculture throughout the nation. Thus it was stressed that EM is an essential component, as they do not have other microbial products that are so effective and low cost. Thus a stronger cooperation was requested between INFRC, APNAN, EMRO and the Department of Agriculture and Forestry of Lao PDR. This was indeed good news and we will support them to achieve their targets.

Sano also hopped to the Hadxaifong district to meet a very successful farmer using EM to make compost with animal manure. The farmers spray EM to their cattle sheds and animals and allow fermentation of the manures. This compost or bokashi is used and hence the crops are growing really well.

We are so happy that Lao PDR is doing well – may be one day in the near future we could also hold a workshop on EM for international guests in Lao PDR, thanks to the diligence of Sano San!! Thank you INFRC for supporting this project and also to the Department of Agriculture and



Extending EM in Lao PDR

Forestry of Lao PDR for their cooperation with us at APNAN – This little network in Bangkok!

NORTHERN PARTS OF THE SOUTH ISLAND OF KIWILAND EXPOSED TO NATURE FARMING AND EM TECHNOLOGY



Participants of a EM workshop

APNAN undertakes travel to the Kiwi land annually to promote Nature Farming and EM in this beautiful country, which is moving ahead steadily in promoting the technology.. APNAN, along with Mike Daly, the boss of NZ Naturefarm Ltd. and his colleagues tour a part of NZ... and this year it was the north half of the South island, which has numerous projects on organic farming, primarily due to its wonderful climate for crops.

This year, the visit was in very early may – in fact APNAN was in Christchurch on the 30th April – and was so sad to see the devastation of the center of the garden city. The first stop, within two hours after arrival was to the Hart Creek farm for a field day. The Harts Creek farm owned by the Organic Farming magnates Tim and Rose Chamberlain, who first started using EM in the early 1990's, is a real showpiece – where Organic/ Nature Farming is carried out in the real sense of its words. The farm is ideal to show off its success in terms of large-scale organic farms, and is also certified. The field day attracted many enthusiasts who were also thinking of developing such units and also in using EM in waste management. An impromptu presentation was done by APNAN – on the field, outlining the history of EM, and of APNAN, and the adoption of Nature Farming and EM globally. As usual, there were many questions about the validity and authenticity, but all these were well answered. The day ended up with the oldie of APNAN nearly falling asleep on his feet, but nevertheless enjoying

the BBQ hosted by the ever hospitable and generous Chamberlains!

The next day was a long drive to the Riverside Community in Motueka – a gentle place with a really great organic atmosphere. The community is a self-sustained unit – they have their own community and gardens and produce their own food, including some great wine and cheese – all organic with EM of course!! The members were presented with the technology EM and they were really interested in Nature Farming as they also practice a closed system of agriculture, with emphasis on permaculture systems. It was a real question and answer session and Mike, Pip and APNAN really presented the successes of EM in Kiwi land and also in the world.

The next pit stop was in Nelson – to the environment center for discussions and seminar on waste management. Again, it was a good program with many attending to learn EM – as it had not been presented to them in this region, where vineyards are aplenty with lots of organic wastes, which could become good organic manure. After a lively session with plenty of questions and replies, it was rest!

The next stop was the real wine country in Blenheim, where our friend Bart Arnt is doing a great job promoting EM into vineyards. He had arranged a seminar – well attended at the Blenheim Technical College. This was attended by over 50 people.. and APNAN as usual had to present the technology, from principles to modes of action, case studies and also answer a multitude of questions!!! Presentations were also made by Bart, who is really experienced in using EM and is also doing a great job promoting it. Mike Daly the head of NZ Naturefarm and Pip Chrystall, who flew in from Palmerston North for this trip also presented their stories on EM. The outcome was that a private vineyard, owned by an American couple was offered to Bart and Mike to develop a real EM vineyard. This is a vineyard going organic and the owners invited the team to visit them and discuss the potential of EM in their unit. The offer was taken up the next morning – when the team visited this unit in pouring rain. The vineyard is a real masterpiece.. immaculately kept, and the home in the center, looking like a real small castle!! As Bart is their consultant, we are sure that it will be an organic EM vineyard – and we hope to see it in reality soon.

The last stop was the Waipara landfill.. but this, we were told had no problems – although we could smell the problem!! This is expected as some who do not realize the value of EM – say this, only to come back to it some day!

All in all, it was a good visit and a successful one – as we do know that EM use in Kiwi land is going up steadily due to the diligent work of Mike Daly, ably supported by Marianne and the team in different parts of New Zealand, and due to these visits by APNAN!! We are told that in 2012 it will be the lower part of New Zealand – the first time for APNAN to get to this region for EM.

Our little network is so pleased to help Mike and his team. We do thank EMRO for sponsoring the travel to APNAN - especially as this oldie likes going to his second home! We will always do our best as we have done to help our friends and colleagues to promote EM in all our contact partners and even beyond!!

A THAI SCHOOL USES EM TO CLEAN THE ENVIRONMENT

The Ekachai school in Samutsakorn province is located near a highly polluted canal, which receives polluted waste water and effluents from many factories in the region. This has caused the development of bad odor, thus making the small kids sick. EMRO Asia visited the school recently and the boss really felt sorry for the plight of the students, who had to study under such putrid conditions. Thus, EMRO Asia decided to help out by providing a tank, 1000 liters of EM, molasses and material for making dangos for a period of three months. Further, EMRO Asia went and helped them on the first day to make dangos and use EM - to help clean the environment.



School kids say - No Smell!!

The students and teachers actively helped and within 2 hours, the smell was reduced. This really

made the kids and teachers happy. EMRO Asia is so pleased and will monitor the project regularly – and within three months, we believe that the school will have a really clean environment. More importantly, we hope that it will be a model for other schools to use EM to clean environments and hygiene.

Dear Readers, please wait – we will provide updates of this story in future issues of this well-read little newsletter!! We thank EMRO Asia and its bosses in Japan and Thailand for this benevolent act for future generations of Thais!

SPECIAL WORKSHOP HELD FOR MALAYSIANS AT SARABURI

Malaysians are really keen on EM! The project with cement in Malaysia has brought about a greater demand for training – especially in relation to using EMC for construction and EM for organic waste management by the Tanah Sutera Company. Thus, a two day workshop was held for 22 members of staff from the company, which was managed very successfully by Nishibuchi san. This was his final workshop – and we took the opportunity to break Asami san into APNAN activities. Asami san had explained EM activated solution, EMFPE and also EM5 in a really stimulating manner – and all had been impressed! Thus, we are on the way here – to promote EM for special guests who demand it and also through our general workshops held twice a year.

We do appreciate the good work being done by our staff! We only wish that our sponsors also take note and help us more by giving us another member of staff!!



Malaysians learning EM Technology

SRI LANKA HOLDS A SUCCESSFUL WORKSHOP

The island nation of Sri Lanka has been working with EM from 1990 – and the current partners, Sarvodaya took over the expansion of the technology in 1993/4 – and have been going ahead slowly but surely, despite obstacles from many sources. However, they, along with the Sekai Kyusei Kyo unit in Sri Lanka have been diligent in their undertakings and hence have succeeded to a significant extent.



EM products exhibition corner

In June this year, to coincide with the visit of our dear Sano san to Sri Lanka, SEEDS (Sarvodaya) organized a workshop to disseminate EM to the public. This was held in the world heritage city of Kandy, which is the home of the APNAN oldie as well! The one day workshop attracted over 80 people, including members and the head of Sekai Kyusei Kyo of Sri Lanka, Mr. Kingsley Kariyawasam. This showed the cooperation between the two organizations. APNAN was called upon to be there and the background and the science behind EM and Nature Farming was explained by us! This was well received and the participants stated – Now we know that EM and Nature Farming are no magic systems – they a reality and can be backed up by principles of nature and science!! The workshop also showed demonstrations of EM and Bokashi use – all within the few hours of activity. Many of the participants also explained their successful experiences with EM – and this spurred many questions – and the final outcome was that – all agreed to promote EM and Nature Farming on a wider scale in this island republic!

Thank you SEEDS and its bosses for organizing this event – It was a success story and we at

APNAN were very happy to be a part of it! We look forward to similar workshops in other parts of the world as well!

GATHERING MILES AND MORE BY APNAN STAFF.....!!

OUR NEW STAFF IS REALLY BUSY HELPING MALAYSIA!

Our new staff member, Mr. Hisanori Asami, is really settling into the APNAN lifestyle – and thus was called upon by our very aggressive and dynamic partners from Malaysia to visit our neighboring nation 6 times within four months!!! This is real APNAN activity where our staff are running around the region helping out with Nature Farming and EM!

In May, Asami san visited Malaysia three times, to make EM and hold discussions. A Malaysian company Tanah Sutera is developing a concept “Go Green Sutera”, and hence wish to use EM in cement – using EMC, a special EM for construction. He was accompanied by our then boss Mr. Nishibuchi, and also Mr. Fukugauchi and Mr. Kojima from EMRO headquarters. In the second visit, Asami san met with Tanah Sutera again and prepared material for the EMC unit and also visited a shrimp farm using EM for two years. The results of EM use had been poor and now with the instructions of Asami san, they have succeeded and are doing well. The last visit was again with Nishibuchi san, to discuss the developments with Tanah Sutera about the project.



EM site in Tanah Sutera

In June, the visit was again to Tanah Sutera, and Mr. Suehiro, a staff member of EMRO was stationed there. He also showed them the use of EM in waste water treatment and very importantly, discussed with Holcim, the

international cement giant, the potential of using EM in concrete. If this gets going – it will be a wonderful opportunity for cement manufacturers to enhance quality. The meetings in July were also with the same companies and they were shown the processes of kitchen garbage recycling and had discussions with Holcim, the international cement giant!

The last visit in August was to our partners MGB and Syntropy Malaysia to make seed and EMC. This was a very important visit as we are bound to maintain quality as well. Thus, Asami san had many meetings with Tanah Sutera and also with Holcim

Asami also visited an organic tourist farm Zenixin near Johor, where they use microbial inoculations. Discussions were held on the use of EM and we are told that they attended the workshop at Saraburi and now will try to incorporate EM into their system to develop a concept of Nature Farming, which can easily be done with EM.

In all these visits, our dear colleague Mr. Sawada was in attendance to see that all is well and to guide the young staff! We value his significant contribution to the expansion of EM in Malaysia – a nation that resisted EM for a long time and now has taken the technology up in a significant way. We are told that in the last visit, Asami san also stopped in Singapore – not to shop, but to make EM for Hanwo Biotech Ltd, thus adding another nation to the EM world.

Thank you Asami san for your diligent work – we are very grateful and we at APNAN wish you a very very long stay with us!

KIWI LAND WELCOMES ASAMI SAN...

Our new staff visited Kiwi land in August this year, amidst snow and ice... he tells us that he froze!! His visited was to make EM seed for NZ Nature Farming Societies, and also visit the Nature Farming Model at Lincoln University. As it was the middle of winter in this part of the world, there were no crops, and as advocated in Nature Farming, the soil was allowed to rest, which is vital for the success of cropping – it’s a part of nurturing the soil and nature!

A wool factory was visited by Asami – where they had a problem of foul odor.. they have started using EM under the guidance of Mike Daly. The use of EM for the last two months has reduced the smell significantly and thus they are very

happy – Asami san had seen the manufacture of wool from the fresh material from NZ sheep and has advised them to use EM to greater extents to overcome their environmental problems. Thank you Asami san for developing EM and Nature Farming in our member nations and thanks Mike.. for the diligence and care taken in promoting our technologies.

HOPPING AROUND THE MANDATE REGION

Traveling around Asia is tiring – the mere thought of leaving Kularb Apartments in the usual taxi of Nun chan, our favorite driver to the Suvarnabhumi airport (a 40 minute drive!!), then the immigration and the subsequent wait, flight, Asian airports, filling forms for disembarkation and embarkation and then another trip to the host – all takes a heavy toll. However, that’s a part of our job – and our young energetic and old and not so energetic staff do it well. Thus in the period of four months under review, both Sano san and Asami san traveled separately to Vietnam to make EM, visit garbage sites using EM, hold discussions with Dr. Le Khac Quang and fly back. In Vietnam. Dr. Quang is very happy that EM use is increasing so rapidly, especially due to the success in prawn culture. Sano san also visited chicken, swine and vegetable farms. He was specially impressed by the farm of Mr. Thang, who has an integrated model, and wishes to have a mini Saraburi!!



Poultry with EM in Vietnam

Later it was to Maple Orgtech in India, to make EM seed and hold discussions. Indonesia was next – with Nishibuchi san to meet our dear Wididana san – the visit entailed trips to the EM unit in Bali, EM coffee unit and strawberry farm and also to the Bokashi oil factory. They also went to Denpasar to discuss EM Ceramic production and to observe a compost unit and a model park. The



EM farm in Denpasar

EM ceramic unit has been in operation for about one year and suggestions were made to improve quality. Later the compost unit, which makes some 1000 tons per year was advised on better management of the garbage for environmental sanitation, all using EM.

The final flight in August was a short trip to Pakistan to make EM, hold meetings and fly back. Our colleagues in Pakistan, EM Technologies have been facing some problems over the past few years – due to fakes etc, but are gradually overcoming the situation. We hope that it will improve and that we will be able to report success stories again from this nation.

Thank you Asami san for this travel amidst duties in office – but we are grateful that you have fitted in well into ours system of activity – where the motto is high quality with a low cost and greater efficiency!!

SANO SAN GOES TO SRI LANKA

Yujiro Sano, our small but dynamic member of staff visited Sri Lanka in June for 11 days!!! This was to attend the workshop and also make EM and discuss with Sekai Kyusei Kyo in Sri Lanka about EM. On arrival, Sano san was met by our counterparts SEEDS of Sarvodaya and visited several Nature Farms. Thus Sano did a whirlwind tour of the island Republic visiting units in Welimada, Kalutara and the SKK unit at Katana. In Welimada, he visited a land that will be developed as a Nature Farming model – and in Kalutara, he saw home gardens using EM in Nature Farming. This farm uses EM Bokashi to improve the quality of the sandy soils near the beach. The farmer has great success with vegetables and especially cassava. The farmer does not use any chemicals and gets a bountiful harvest that he can sell as well after meeting the

home requirements. The model farm of SKK Sri Lanka is improving daily and they have rice and vegetables. This is coming up slowly but surely and we will report on this development, especially as the model farm is managed by Mr. Rohana, a SKK member who was trained at the Chita farm of the INFRC in Japan. Thus, the farm is under good management! Sano san also visited hotels using EM for waste management with excellent results – and met with staff of the Kelaniya University near Colombo to discuss a current problem in Sri Lanka – Arsenic contamination and the potential of EM to overcome this. All in all, it was a successful trip and we heard that Sano san also took the opportunity to fulfill a dream he had – to visit the home of the old member of APNAN in Sri Lanka, and have a meal – especially the dessert made for our dear Sano san!! Thank you Sano – for your work – we do appreciate all that our staff do under trying and tiring conditions.

NEWS OF FRIENDS AND FAMILY.....

Our sponsors and especially our first boss, now Director EMRO, Dr. Masaki Shintani will be happy.. This newsletter has no Gossip!!!! – Sorry readers....for that..We will give you some news soon!!!

OUR FRIENDS IN THE LAND OF CHEESE AND CHOCOLATES PROMOTE EM FOR ORGANIC FARMING

Our dear friends in the land of cheese and chocolates and natural beauty (where else but SWITZERLAND...!!) are promoting EM for their every growing organic farming industry. Thus, they have an active program being carried out by the dynamic Ueli Rotherbueler, a well-qualified practical agriculturist – who was trained at the prestigious ETH!! The spread of EM is gathering momentum and we hear that even a University in Switzerland now wishes to conduct their experiments!

The company in Switzerland Schweiz Ag, in their endeavor to promote EM and Nature Farming held a Day of Open doors at their new unit in Arni. APNAN was told that it was a very successful event – with over 250 people walking through – and learning about EM in organic farming. This is encouraging, as Switzerland has one of the best organic programs, with their research station

(FiBL), doing lots of promotion for Europe. The visitors to the Day of Open Doors learnt about the diverse range of EM products as well.. and they also were shown the bokashi unit which produces good quality compost for



EM open day in Switzerland

soils and also as an animal feed. The opportunity was taken to share experiences and discuss the successes and problems of using EM.

We are grateful to Ueli and his team for this and hope that our friends in Europe will do the same, to help promote EM in this great and dynamic region. Our dear Jun Matsumoto of EMRO Germany will be happy – that his work will also be made easier by such events.

Please keep us posted and we will publicize the successes and help the Europeans to promote EM and Nature Farming in their regions as well.

VRM BOASTS OF SUCCESSES WITH EM TECHNOLOGY

VRM Townsville, Australia is a dynamic organization – led by the evergreen Ken Bellamy! Thus, they are really in the front promoting EM based products to the Australian markets and also overseas, the latest being in Malaysia. The program in Malaysia was launched recently in Penang, where VRM has tied up with partners to use EM based products for waste management and environmental sanitation. We heard of the launching of the program – and it has been a real success and it's their wish to promote this technology, where EM is an essential ingredient. We also learn of some innovative developments taking place in kangaroo land – the home of VRM – where Carbon Crediting is in vogue at present. It is stated that EM will also help this process of enhancing carbon credits due to the presence of Phototrophic bacteria in the EM – which will fix C in the soil. Research is underway and we hope that this will be a further impetus to enhance EM Technology and Nature Farming, the latter that uses organic matter and thus is promoting Carbon recycling!

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

Tropentag 2011

5 to 7 October, 2011, Bonn Germany

Website: <http://www.tropentag.de>

Seventh International Conference On Sustainable Development

5 to 6 October 2011

Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University of Port Harc, Port Harcourt, Nigeria

Website: <http://www.irdionline.org>

Contact name: Idorenyin Samuel

Minia International Conference for Agriculture and Irrigation in the Nile Basin Countries

24 to 27 October 2011

El-Minia, Egypt

Website: <http://micma2011.org/>

Contact name: Kasem Zaki Ahmed

International conference on Agriculture and Biological Sciences

26 to 28 October 2011

Bali, Tanjung Benoa, Indonesia

Website: <http://www.waset.org/conferences/2011/bali/icabbbe/>

Contact name: Nelson J. A. PhD

Changing Scenario Of Food Science, Technology and Agricultural Products

11 To 12 November 2011

Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh, India

Website: <http://iftbu.org/seminar.htm>

Contact name: Dr. D K Bhatt, Secretary

International Conference on Sustainable Development

5 to 7 December 2011

Putrajaya, Malaysia

Website: <http://www.ontariointernational.org/ConferenceMalaysia2011.htm>

Contact name: N. Hewage, H. Pallard, C. Guan, Conference Co-chairs

International Conference on Green Technology & Environmental Conservation (GTEC - 2011)

15 to 17 December 2011

Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

Website: <http://www.gtec2011.com>

Contact name: Dr. T.Sasipraba

DEAR READERS.....

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 COUNTERPARTS IN ASIA AND PACIFIC – PLEASE NOTE

APNAN is planning its next dealers meeting in 2012 – It will be in mid 2012 – this is the next meeting after Penang to discuss programs and the future, while discussing problems. Please prepare for this event – which is a highlight for us and you all.. to meet and interact. Please do note – we need presentations of 10 minutes each of your work and progress and also please.. do not forget to bring samples of products!!

The meeting will hopefully be in Bangkok, and we will inform our counterparts in due course the dates.

Please stay in touch with us!!

APNAN WORKSHOP!!

Dear Readers – Please note that the next workshop on Nature Farming and EM will be held in February 2012 at Saraburi. The dates are February 13 – 16th. This will be a workshop, where emphasis will be on Nature Farming, along with EM Technology. Please send your applications through the in country contacts! We assure you a good training with new staff, including special guests from Japan, 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 Research 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 Matsumoto, 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,
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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



EM site in China



EM Bokashi from a poultry unit



Kids with Dangos



Nature farmers at Saraburi



Malaysians make Dangos



EM farmer in Cambodia



Mike Daly promotes EM



Asami san at the workshop