

APNAN NEWS 23(1)

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Asia Pacific Natural Agriculture Network

APNAN is
sponsored by



“In ancient times, humankind started to actively act on nature by practicing farming. Thus, human beings have learned how to associate themselves with nature through farming. Today, Nature Farming, advocated by Mokichi Okada in Japan, promotes these ancient practices, adapted to modern times through research and demonstrations. Nature Farming, with its historical base to has a significant place in our societies to provide better quality food sustainably, by developing the soil – and its inherent fertility.”

(Adapted from the forthcoming book on *Learning Our Way of Life from Nature* by Rev. Kiyoshi Amano, Retired Chairman, Board of Directors, INFRC, Japan)



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 EDITOR'S NOTE

AS WE GO ON.....

Asia Pacific Natural Agriculture Network – This little network goes on – very successfully amidst problems and challenges in this difficult times and environments and also difficult people! However, we have been very successful in achieving our goals, which we set at the beginning of 2011 – to enhance EM use and develop Nature Farming units as directed by our sponsors, the EM Research Organization and the International Nature Farming Research Center of Japan. They have also undergone changes, especially the establishment of the INFRC Public Benefit Foundation, and its shift of its Headquarters to the Research Center at Hata Machi, Matsumoto. There is also a change in management, with the retirement of the genial Rev. Kiyoshi Amano, and appointment of Mr. Akio Ito as Chairman of the Board of Directors. We welcome the appointment of Mr. Ito, as he has been supporting our work diligently – as Head of Extension of the INFRC. We do hope that the support extended to us in terms of staff and also in supporting workshops selected nations and this newsletter will continue and possible increase! APNAN also hears of structural changes at EM Research Organization – which also lends significant support to this network. Our second senior Technical Officer – the genial and ever supporting Takashi Kyan is given greater responsibility in management – and the overseas work, which he was in charge has now been given to Mr. Fukugauchi – again a change – which we know will be for the better! All in all, we at APNAN look forward to these developments with anticipation and hopes for better times.

The editor however wishes to touch on a sensitive point at this stage – that of imitation products being sold in the world, using the names of the technologies that we promote – Nature Farming and EM! It is often said **that Fake is as old as the Eden tree!!** This is certainly true with respect to people using Nature Farming and the name and technology of EM to sell products - not to save the world – but to gain as much financial benefit as possible! The usual stories we hear are.. There is space for all products in this world – Effective Microorganisms and EM are generic names, Nature Farming is not exclusive.. and so on.....!! Yes.. with all these we accept – why did these imitators not think of these words and activities before 1989, when Nature Farming and EM were given to the world?? This is a question often asked by all interested in the genuine technologies that we promote.. Looking over the different EMs being sold in the world, and attending some of their seminars – they all start with the EM of Professor Dr. Teruo Higa – the EMRO and INFRC – This is the seed – and then they go on to state that their product is better – and proven and accepted !! Interestingly, a seminar attended by one of dear friends on a fake EM shocked this person. As 95% of the seminar was based on the work of our network and our staff and colleagues. In fact, they had even quoted this Newsletter – showing how popular they are!! At question time – a query was raised.. is your EM the real EM of EMRO and authenticated by our President, or is it something new – if so, why don't you call it by another name! Why use the research and extension done by INFRC and EMRO for your product when you claim it's different! The reply was - A stony silence! This and many other similar events show the truth of the statement - that fake is as old as human existence – people really do

take advantage of the kindness and open heartedness of the real philanthropists to feather their nests in the short term!! However, you cannot fool all the people all the time – The truth comes out that you indeed have a fake product!

This network, amidst this significant problem in many nations of our mandate region and even in other continents are now bothered – our partners complain – but we go on – providing the real technologies of Nature Farming and EM. This was amply demonstrated by the recent tragedy of floods in Thailand – where fake EM tried very hard to take advantage of the publicity and success of EMRO Asia, by using EM to control the smell. We were undaunted and the success was that the Royal Thai Army issued a order to use the real EM for odor control and pollution mitigation. The truth came out – and in all cases, this will be the outcome – The technologies that we promote – Nature Farming and EM will succeed.

The success and energy that we have is due primarily to the support that we have from our sponsors and our partners and friends. This is vital for us – and our staff – really value the support we get – although at times it can be frustrating - decisions take time and we are forced to things in a rush. However we smile and bear – do the work from our little office in which we are happy to achieve our objectives of promoting Nature Farming and EM Technology to humankind throughout the mandate region and the world. We do take this opportunity as always to express our gratitude - to the INFRC in Matsumoto, Japan, EM Research Organization in Okinawa, – and the Sekai Kyusei Kyo of Thailand, especially the management of the Saraburi Kyusei Nature Farm for supporting us at workshops, trainings and with visitors. APNAN expresses its gratitude to the President of Sekai Kyusei Kyo members of Sekai Kyusei Kyo, for their guidance –This is invaluable as we promote Nature Farming, advocated by Mokichi Okada.

We extend our gratitude to Rev. K. Amano, the outgoing Chairman, Board of Directors of INFRC and to his successor Mr. A Ito and to Mr. H Okubo, the Manager of the International Section of INFRC for their support at all times. We do appreciate the support given by Mr. K. Asato, President and the Board of Directors of EM Research Organization. It is with deep gratitude that we say “Domo Arigato Gozaimasu” to our President Professor Dr. Teruo Higa and Madam Setsuko Higa – they inspire us at all times. APNAN is still headless.. and Mr. Yujiro Sano and Mr. Hisanori Asami shoulder the responsibilities of APNAN, ably supported by Ms. Siliporn (Ms. O) the administrative assistant EMRO Asia and its Head, Toru Koshoji always helpful – we are grateful, as APNAN runs through remote control. However nothing has changed – we are as efficient as every - or even more so. Thus as we go along, doing our work diligently –

We at APNAN wish our partners, colleagues, friends and well wishes – A VERY SUCCESSFUL YEAR!

APNAN, Bangkok, Thailand

May 2012.

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

The Chita-Kusagi farm in Japan, Using EM for flood control in Bangkok, Participants of the International Workshop and The Nature Farm being developed in Sri Lanka respectively.

THE IMPORTANT NEWS OF THE FOUR MONTHS.....

APNAN SPONSOR CHANGES ITS STATUS



The New INFRFC Headquarters

The International Nature Farming Research Center, which has supported this little network from its inception in 1989, has been very active promoting Nature Farming as advocated by Mokichi Okada and EM Technology, both in Japan and overseas – the latter principally through APNAN – the little network in Thailand. Thus, over the years, INFRFC helped us by providing staff, funds, training programs, information and even conducting workshops at Saraburi. It has always hosted and supported the annual meetings of the Board of APNAN – and in numerous ways has been strength and encouraged its activities. Over the past 23 years, the three Chairpersons of the INFRFC Board of Directors, namely the late Rev. Yasushi Matsumoto, Rev. Setsunori Shinoda and Rev. Kiyoshi Amano supported and guided the activities with concurrence of our dear President, Professor Dr. Teruo Higa, to achieve the mandate of this network.

With time, APNAN moved forward – and our dear readers and friends know it well.. and the INFRFC too chose its pathway diligently to promote Nature Farming. Thus some years ago, they were co-opted by the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture to certify organic farms under the JAS program, and one of our ex staff officers, namely Ohashi san and Taniki san are actively engaged in the program. With changes in laws of Japan, there were talks of INFRFC restructuring its portfolio – as this is the buzzword of all organizations globally. In this process, the INFRFC became a Public Benefit Foundation and moved its headquarters from Atami, Japan to its research farm at Hata, Matsumoto City, Nagano. This change took place with the beginning of the new Japanese fiscal year – and with the retirement of the Chairman of the Board of Directors, the amiable Rev. Kiyoshi Amano. This change has brought about the installation of a new Chairman – (more on that later) and a shift of office to the research center, which is

an example of a very fine station with staff and facilities to validate Nature Farming. However, the international section of the INFRFC, headed by our dear liaison officer, Mr. Hidehiko Okubo, will stay in Atami, along with the JAS certification program.

These changes are looked upon by us at APNAN with hope and happiness – along with expectations. We are sure that the new Board of Directors will help us in the future as well – to spread the message of Kyusei Nature Farming in the region and on a global scale, strengthening the arm of its international section. More importantly, at the present time, when our readers are crying for research data and case studies on Nature Farming with EM, we hope that the Research Center at Hata, where the headquarters are situated will, under the guidance of the INFRFC bosses will provide information and data.

We do wish the new INFRFC Public Benefit Foundation the very best and success in all its endeavors to promote Nature Farming and EM to humankind through us, the little network in Thailand. We on our part do promise to do our best – as always. We thank the INFRFC for its support and look forward to greater cooperation and activity in future years. We will not let our sponsors down... we will promote Nature Farming as we have been doing under the guidance of INFRFC and also EMRO.

ANOTE OF SINCERE GRATITUDE....



Revd Kiyoshi Amano

Our respected and dear mentor, Reverend Kiyoshi Amano, guided the destinies of the INFRFC, our sponsors for over a decade as the Chairman of the Board of Directors. Rev. Amano is a gentle person – a soft-spoken erudite and a very

practical person – who always had some advice for us, whether it was in Japan, Thailand or elsewhere in a nation, which is supported by INFRFC. He travelled extensively to promote Nature Farming and attended many of the conferences organized by our little network. Whenever staff of APNAN was in Japan at Atami for briefings, he was a genial host, explaining the importance of Nature Farming and EM Technology for humankind of the present world. He also was a very educated person, who did not speak unless necessary but his words were solid – and ideas educative and constructive. It was always a pleasure to be with him and enjoy his delightful

company. Over time, Rev. Amano had opted for retirement, but the INFRC requested him to stay on. Thus, he put his first love – which was Nature Farming and devoted himself to the INFRC - he was instrumental in obtaining the JAS certification scheme and also developing the INFRC to its present status of a Public Benefit Foundation. Most importantly, his contribution to Nature Farming is through a book in Japanese, which is now translated into English and which hopefully will be available within 6 – 8 months at this network or at the INFRC. This book, which was also co edited by this network is a gem of knowledge on the philosophy of Nature Farming, supported by several interesting case studies.

However, age catches on and our Respected Amano sensei, thus took belated retirement on 31st March 2012 – from the position of Chairman, Board of Directors of INFRC. We are sorry to see him go – but we are also very happy that he will go home to his favorite past time – of carrying out Nature Farming – which he has been doing for a long time and thus considered an expert.

We at APNAN will remember our respected Amano Sensei with reverence and gratitude and affection – we are ever grateful to him for his support at all times – despite obstacles occasionally from some quarters, and this little Network wishes our respected Reverend Kiyoshi Amano a well-earned retirement – with good health happiness and contentment in all undertakings. We also wish his family all the happiness that the world can give us mortals in the future years. However, we also implore Reverend Amano to keep in touch with APNAN and also now that he is free from official duties, join our workshop on Nature Farming and teach the participants the real Nature Farming advocated by Mokichi Okada, to save humanity and our environment.

MR. AKIO ITO – THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Akio Ito, the genial, fun filled Managing Director and Manager of the Extension Department of INFRC first met APNAN – not in Thailand or Japan – but at the EM Festa in the Fraueninsel in Chiemsee, Germany, many many years ago!! This meeting immediately established a very close rapport between this little network and Mr. Ito. He understood what we do and thus began a fruitful relationship – to promote Nature Farming through EM Technology. Over the years, Mr. Ito took over many responsibilities as the Managing Director of Extension of INFRC. He, under the guidance of Rev. Amano was also instrumental in the organic JAS certification accreditation program and in establishing the new INFRC Public Benefit

Foundation. He was also a key figure in the development of the Chita-Kusagi farm of INFRC, which replaced the farm Chiband Kyoto. Mr. Ito was very keen on training staff – the younger ones to lead INFRC one day and also to establish Nature Farming Models through APNAN in our



Mr. Akio Ito

member countries. His participation at our APNAN meetings and at the APNAN Board meetings was a strength to us and he promoted these models. Thus, under his guidance, we have been able to establish units in Lincoln University in New Zealand, in Laos, India and others are being established in Sri Lanka as well. He also was supportive in training staff members of our member nations.

On April 01, 2012, Mr. Akio Ito, took over the mantle of the Chairman of the Board of Directors of INFRC, replacing the genial Rev. Amano on his retirement. We were pleased of this succession – in fact, APNAN was told of this possible transition last year by the INFRC. We are very happy - in that, we have a person, who likes our work and supports us – in workshops, information dissemination and also by coming to meetings and guiding us, amidst his very busy schedule. We are very grateful to Mr. Ito for this and we hope that he will continue to help and support us in future years. APNAN wishes Mr. Akio Ito the very best and success in his new position – and wish him a long tenure in this post – after an illustrious lineage of Rev. Matsumoto, Rev. Shinoda and Rev. Amano. We are sure that he will do well....and we at APNAN offer our fullest and unstinted support to this genial gentleman.

THE SPIRITUAL LEADER OF SEKAI KYUSEI KYO VISITS THAILAND

Thailand, especially the Seichi at Saraburi is one of the five sacred sites of Sekai Kyusei Kyo – and in February, the Spiritual Leader of the Sekai Kyusei Kyo, the Most Reverend Yoichi Okada, visited Thailand and the holy grounds. Rev. Okada also visited the Kyusei Nature Farming Center at Saraburi. The visit of the Spiritual Leader was celebrated by the Thai Sekai Kyusei Kyo on a very grand scale, and many members from other nations such as Laos, Korea, Sri Lanka and Japan were also at hand to attend the ceremony. The visit by the Spiritual Leader to the Kyusei Nature Farming Center was an encouragement to us, as we use it to promote Nature Farming and EM Technology using its facilities.

THE ROYAL THAI ARMY USES EM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT AFTER THE FLOODS



EM in disaster Management in Bangkok

The Royal Thai Army was deeply involved in sanitation of Bangkok and its suburbs after the disastrous floods late last year. Thus, our dear friends at EMRO Asia based in Ayutthaya, Thailand, led by Mr. Toru Koshoji interacted with the Royal Thai Army in a sewage treatment activity using EM and EM mud balls. This was due to the Royal Thai Army Disaster Center Relief Order (Extraordinary) No 01/54. This order, issued by the Commander in Chief of the Royal Thai Army requested that seminars be held to promote EM on two occasions and also install activation units for EM to purify sewage wastes generated from floods. Thus over 2000 people attended these seminars held on two days and five activation units were established in Thailand and proximate areas affected by the floods.

We are told by Toru Koshoji that this was a huge success! The Army met its goal of using EM to overcome contamination by sewage – and appreciated the efforts of all who took part and also the services rendered by EMRO Asia to this project. A paper was also developed Koshoji san to highlight the success of EM in overcoming sewage pollution and odor. This is available at EMRO Asia. The data clearly presents that the dissolved oxygen content of landfills increased significantly within 7 days, thus indicating the improvement of water quality. The residents of the areas treated with EM were very happy that odor control was phenomenal due to EM. The project concluded that EM was very effective in odor control and sanitation at the time of extensive flooding. It was surmised that EM would be effective in preventing outbreaks of epidemics, by controlling the development of pathogens and insects.

We at APNAN, located in Bangkok are very pleased that the technology that we promote helped our base city at a time of crisis! This is due to the diligent work of our staff and those of EMRO Asia, led by

Toru Koshoji san and also due to the support given by our sponsors EMRO and INFRC of Japan.

APNAN also offers its gratitude to the Royal Thai Army and to General Pichet Wisaijorn who spearheaded this activity. General Pichet is a lover of EM and believes that this technology really works. We are thankful to him for promoting EM – the real EM, despite some imitations also took advantage of the success of real EM authenticated by Professor Dr. Teruo Higa and the EM Research Organization! All interested in getting details of this important activity – Please contact EMRO Asia – at koshoji@emro.co.jp. They have details of what was done and the success achieved.

SOUTH AFRICA ESTABLISHES A NEW EM UNIT

Our principal sponsors, the EM Research Organization in Okinawa is active in promoting the technology of Effective Microorganisms internationally, and also supports the programs on Nature Farming. Thus, whenever requests come, supplies EM and even goes to extents of establishing partnerships with relevant organizations to promote the technologies.

Our contact in South Africa, EMROSA, after working with EM for over a decade decided to withdraw from EM activities. Thus, EMRO stepped forward to establish a new unit near Pretoria with our dear friend and colleague Professor Koos Prinsloo and his partners at Polokwane, on a farm owned by Prof Koos. This farm had been using EM for a long time – both scientifically and practically to illustrate the benefits of Nature Farming and EM. This came about because of Prof. Koos's interest in EM, after being convinced of its success in the late 1990's, when we hosted the 6th International Kyusei Nature Farming conference at the University of Pretoria. Thus when EMROSA decided to close shop on EM, Prof. Koos, with the guidance of EMRO Okinawa and also one of our members who is in regular contact, founded



The EM team in South Africa

the new company MICROZONE POLOKWANE CC, based at 17 Essenhout Close, Modimolle 0510, South Africa (E-mail: microzone01@telkomsa.net). This unit is now in operation – and there is good quality authentic EM available in South Africa through this unit. Our colleague Mr. Fukugauchi who manages the African program on EM – was in Polokwane to establish the unit, and make EM. He was amazed at the success achieved by Prof Koos on the farm – growing healthy vegetables under conditions of Nature Farming with EM! Thus, we think that this will be the next EM Model farm in the world, thereby achieving another goal of INFRC, our sponsors on Nature Farming.

We do thank Prof Koos and his team for helping us at this difficult moment – to develop the new EM program and also to demonstrate the benefits of Nature Farming with EM. We do support his activities – despite the presence of fake EM products, which at present are trying to flood the markets internationally, trying to gain the benefits of the successes we have achieved through diligence and hard work.

We request all our friends in South Africa to get their EM from Prof Koos – from Microzone at Polokwane – this is where the real EM authenticated by Prof Dr. Teruo Higa, our dear President and the founder of EM. We from APNAN support Microzone – and hope that this unit, run efficiently and effectively by Prof Koos will be able to overcome the petty mindedness of people and promote EM and Nature Farming in South Africa – we do know that it works, with a 15 year experience and hence it will surely work. We also offer our help at all times.

THE RETIREMENT OF ONE OF OUR STRONGEST PILLARS OF SUPPORT...

APNAN started with the First International Conference on Kyusei Nature Farming in 1989, in Khon Kaen, Thailand! Thus, we are now in our 24th year – if we take 1989 as year 1! This conference was managed very efficiently by Rev. Daiho Kasahara of the Thai Sekai Kyusei Kyo. Kasahara sensei, as we at APNAN lovingly call him, was with us from this time. At first as the deputy to the every friendly Rev. Kazuo Wakugami, and later as the President of the Thai Sekai Kyusei Kyo, he was at hand – we must say – a very firm hand to help us. We do remember the unstinted support we received in 1997, when we had to arrange a conference with 250 people in Bangkok in 13 days! Kasahara sensei always allowed us to the facilities of Saraburi for our training workshops and advised us – at times of stress and problems.

As time goes by – we all have to take a well-earned retirement – and this February, Rev. Daiho Kasahara

stepped down from his position as President of Sekai Kyusei Kyo of Thailand. This was after arranging a magnificent celebration to host the Spiritual Leader, who visited the Royal Kingdom. We are



Rev. Daiho Kasahara

told that Rev. Kasahara is succeeded by a very old friend, Rev. Takehisa Miyamichi from Japan.

We at APNAN will certainly miss the genial Kasahara sensei – he was a strength to us – and also a performer – as done at our 20th anniversary dinner held in Atami in 2009! However, we are glad that our dear Kasahara sensei will be in Thailand and we could run to him for advice.

We at APNAN wish our dear Rev. Daiho Kasahara a well earned retirement with happiness and contentment – and we look forward to his support in future years.

THE HAPPENINGS IN RELATION TO NATURE FARMING AND EM

VRMAUSTRALIA HOLDS EM RELATED FORUM



EMRO President speaks

Our partners in the great continent of Australia, Vital Resource Management (VRM) has been active in promoting EM and also to a greater extent, secondary products with EM as its base – especially for water management

and environmental development. Their base in Townsville Australia is the home for EM in Aussie land – and they do their work from there – slowly but diligently.

VRM, for a long time had been discussing the need for a forum to show their developments in Australia – with EM and EM based products. Thus, finally it was held in late April – from 23 – 25, 2012, at the prestigious James Cooks University in Townsville.

It was attended by over 100 people.. all registered – and there were 12 members from 12 nations, ranging from the President of EM Research Organization, Mr. Katsuyuki Asato to our friends in Vietnam. The VIPs present were the Hon Minister for the Environment of the State of Penang in Malaysia, where VRM has a branch office, and City Councilors from Townsville, all of whom addressed the gathering. APNAN was also very privileged to be among the invitees and present a paper based on some early work, which showed that EM in organic systems promoted biological nitrogen fixation and also carbon fixation, a theme that is being canvassed in many of the developed worlds.

The Forum got off to a good start on the 23rd with many presenting the use of microbes. Mr. Asato, the President of EMRO spoke of the importance of EM and requested VRM to promote it to a greater extent in Australia, while congratulating the company and Ken Bellamy for the successes achieved. The Manager of the Overseas Department of EMRO, Mr. Fukugauchi also presented the success of EM in a large project in Johor Bahru, Malaysia. The keynote was by the Hon. Minister of the Environment of the State of Penang, who spoke of the value of microbes, EM and VRM products in their ecological development projects in Malaysia. He also stated the success they have with EM and with mud balls in Penang.

There was also an impressive array of exhibits by VRM – on the range of products that have with EM and also EM. This had been put together by the evergreen Manager of VRM – Ms. Teresa Jessup, who has been to APNAN many times! This impressed people – and a demonstration of the BioRegen machine to clear food wastes was also shown to all present – which was installed at the University cafeteria. The liquid made from food wastes is fermented by VRM and then treated and sold as liquid fertilizers! The evening came to an end with a real Aussie barbecue dinner!!

The next day was devoted to field visits – ranging from sugar cane plantations using EM and VRM products to an arable cropping and livestock farm in the plains of Queensland. They were all reducing fertilizer use and promoting soil health through EM and VRM products, all containing EM. Thus, they were moving towards Nature Farming by developing their soils.

The visit took the participants to a school using EM and VRM products – in their teaching and demonstrations for kids to be eco friendly. The final stop was a solar unit of the Townsville City council and the VRM factory. The final day was a visit to the Magnetic island, off the coast of Townsville – where a solar city is being developed. Although they are

not using EM, the importance of microbial enhancement of the environment was discussed and APNAN and EMRO talked of EM.



EM based products at the Forum

All in all, it was a good exposure – It was even highlighted in the local press!!!

More importantly, APNAN was privileged to be a part of this successful event. We do congratulate VRM, Ken Bellamy and Teresa for the hard work put in to develop this – and we hope that EM will be promoted more and more in this great continent, which has significant potential!!

We will help as much as possible – but Australia is VRM territory – and the potential is vast! We kindly request VRM to do this diligently in the most appropriate way in the context of Australia overcome any fakes that are present and make Australia and leading light in the EM world. APNAN will help always to as we love a holiday among the kangaroos!!

EM USED SUCCESSFULLY IN ISRAEL!

Our ex boss, Jun Matsumoto, who is now in Germany as the technical officer of EMRO Germany informs of a very successful operation in Israel, using EM! The Achituv village of Israel provides 70% of the cucumbers to this nation – from 250 ha of green houses in 3 cycles. The farm of Hezi Daniels, hosted the experiment along with the Ministry of Agriculture, and the results clearly show the benefits – better plant growth, higher yields (10 – 15%) from an existing system using fertilizers, greater profits and very importantly – an environmentally friendly system!

Thank you Jun san for this news.. and we do hope that we can share these experiences with our readers in future years as well. Israel is a special nation –and this information will help the farmers of Israel to get greater yields at lower costs in an environmentally friendly manner.

MAPLE ORGTECH SHOWS THE IMPACT OF EM ON COLIFORMS

Our counterparts in India, Maple Orgtech does things on a sound basis in a scientific manner – all under the watchful eyes of Mr. Madan Mohanka, its Chairman! Thus, Maple employs two scientists at their EM unit to experiment on the benefits of the technology for Nature Farming and crop production in general. Thus the lady microbiologist, Moumita Banarjee experiments with EM – trying to reduce coliforms in wastes. The experiment was designed in a scientific manner and our dear Asami san of APNAN guided Moumita in the methodology. The results show that EM could reduce Coliform growth by 90 – 95% - a phenomenal decline!! Although this study was done in a laboratory, it is indicative of the potential that EM and activated EM has in mitigating Coliform pollution!

We congratulate Maple and Ms. Moumita on this success and hope that they will do similar studies using wastes – under field conditions to prove scientifically the evidence that we have observed in field and even disaster conditions.

Thank you Maple – and we look forward to receiving successful results!!

EM SCHWEIZ HOLDS SUCCESSFUL MEETING IN OLTEN

The Non-profit organization, EM Schweiz was founded 10 years ago, with just 8 members interested in promoting organic and Nature Farming with EM Technology in the land of milk, cheese and Lindt chocolates – Switzerland! Our dear friend and colleague, who always is in contact with our little network via its oldie member, informs us that last year, that their meeting was held in Olten, which commemorated 10 years and had over 100 people attending – in fact the total membership is now over 1200 – just in 10 years. EM Schweiz had given the 8 founding members tokens of appreciation – and it had been a delightful day – with two presentations – one from the Swiss Federal Institute of Forest, Snow and Landscape Research, which illustrated better growth of plants treated with Bokashi, and the other on the benefits of using EM in controlling bacterial diseases in apples!! This is EM working – in its own silent way – to promote Nature Farming. We thank our colleague Ueli Roethenbueler for these snippets and hope that the activities will be notified to us – for future newsletters as well.

Thank you and we do support your activities.

MIKE DALY OF NZ NFS PRODUCTS GIANT PURPLE SWEET POTATOES WITH EM!

Our friend and partner in New Zealand, the mandate nation which is farthest from us is really doing a



Purple sweet potato with EM

good job – experimenting with EM, developing and promoting Nature Farming through demonstrations and lectures at the Biological Husbandry Unit of Lincoln University and working with farmers. Thus in his work, he tests EM on different crops!

This time was purple Sweet Potato – an old Maori variety used in special events of the Maori culture. Mike Daly informs us that using EM on these sweet potatoes, in an organic system has produced large tubers – and apparently, they taste well with a roast or especially in a Maori Hangi!!

I am sure Mike will take this knowledge to the Maori people who will certainly benefit – and thus we thank Mike for his work – and diligence – in promoting EM and Nature Farming. We at the little network offer our support and are awaiting an invitation for a real Maori Hangi with purple sweet potato grown with EM in Nature Farming!

MUSHROOMS BLOOM WITH EM

A research project at a new university in Sri Lanka on the use of EM on mushrooms clearly shows the benefits! The project done by a final year student at the Wayamba University showed that successful and profitable oyster mushroom cultivation is possible with EM. The project, supported by our counterparts in Sri Lanka, Sarvodaya SEEDS Organization, used EM and sugar for preparing mushroom media for cost effective cultivation. The data illustrates that EM with sugar increased the growth of mycelia in a cost effective manner. The use of 500 g sugar for 60 kg rice straw with EM provided the highest yield and also was very cost effective when compared to the current recommendations. This will be a very good study for all mushroom growers. We hope that similar projects will be carried out elsewhere as well to validate the successes of EM and Nature Farming that are achieved by farmers globally. We do congratulate the SEEDS and staff of the University for this project and hope that they will continue this activity into the future.

SANO SAN HELPS DEVELOP A NATURE FARM

Our dear staff member – Yujiro Sano is a happy man these days! He dreams of distant lovely nations – beaches and fun.....! Thus, he travels to not too far a nation, which has all these – Sri Lanka, not to enjoy the beaches, but to develop a Nature Farm, under the guidance of the INFRC. In late January, he visited Sri Lanka with two experts of Nature Farming from Japan – Mr. Kumazaki, who has a very successful and profitable Nature Farm, close to the new unit at Chita, in Japan and Mr. Fukuda who is also a Nature Farmer in Japan. They visited the Nature Farm being developed in the highlands of Sri Lanka, in Welimada. This unit owned by Mr. Samaraweera, who is a people's representative of the region, and is promoting Nature Farming with EM in these hilly eroded lands as a system of sustainable farming.

This program, arranged by the Sekai Kyusei Kyo of Sri Lanka, has been underway for some time. This time, Mr. Kumazaki held a workshop for over 60 people of the area, and educated them the prospects of Nature Farming, taking very good examples from his Korin farm in Chita. Practicals were also held and Sano san tells us that they had to forego lunch due to the interest and questions raised by the participants. The farmers were impressed and stated that they will try Nature Farming – as it has many benefits for producing good food on a sustainable basis without damaging the environment.

While in Sri Lanka, Mr. Kumazaki also delivered a lecture at the SKK headquarters in Sri Lanka, located at Gampaha – which was attended by some 50 people. He also toured the nation, delivering lectures to some 100 at Ratnapura, the city of gems and at Welimada. All these lectures were supported by the amazing results from the Korin farm in Chita, which was developed from a very rocky soil. Sano really admired the ability of Mr. Kumazaki to impress the farmers of Sri Lanka, who even did not speak his language and hence had translations – Japanese – Sinhalese!!

We thank Kumazaki san and Fukuda san for their time and energy spent in travelling to Sri Lanka and teaching people the benefits of Nature Farming. We also really appreciate the support from INFRC, our sponsors and the Sekai Kyusei Kyo of Japan and Sri Lanka for facilitating this visit. We hope that INFRC will send Mr. Kumazaki to our next workshop in January 2013 on Kyusei Nature Farming to teach the participants the benefits of this method, advocated by Mokichi Okada to produce good food in a clean environment. We look forward to this support from SKK and INFRC in the future.

SARABURI VISITED BY MR. KUMAZAKI

Mr. Kumazaki, the great practitioner of Nature Farming in the Korin farm in Japan and Mr. Fukuda,

visited the Saraburi farm, on their way back from Sri Lanka. They were welcomed at the Saraburi Nature Farm by Mr. Kanit Muangnil, the Director, and his able assistant, Mr. Masanobu Sakurai, who was with us as a staff member many moons ago. They looked around the farm discussed its potential, which had been rather lowered in the recent past, and Mr. Kumazaki gave some very good suggestions to bring Saraburi to its full potential. They also discussed the development of a farm near Chiang Mai in Northern Thailand to develop Nature Farming products and also to establish a Nature Farm product market!

Mr. Fukuda also delivered a lecture to over 50 members of staff and student at Saraburi – and we do thank these two gentlemen for their time and effort to raise the standards of Saraburi to become a showpiece of the world again.

Thank you very much – and thank you Sekai Kyusei Kyo, Japan for sending these two excellent teachers.

APNAN HOLDS ITS BIENNIAL WORKSHOP.

The usual workshop held by APNAN took place from 12 – 15 March at Saraburi. This time there were 37 participants from 11 nations, spanning the continents of Asia, Australasia, Europe and North America! They all came, paying the way to learn about Nature Farming and EM from us – thus showing that we at APNAN are the leaders of training in both Nature Farming and EM on a global scale! Our sponsors should be proud of this and support us more to do this job effectively!

This time, although the emphasis should have been on Nature Farming, the restructuring of INFRC, our sponsors, did not facilitate a guest trainer from Japan as in previous years. Thus, our young staff ably led by Asami and Sano san with Keshi san of EMRO and O san in attendance, who was also helped by Somlak san, all of APNAN, along with Mr. Kanit of Saraburi held a very successful workshop for the 4 days. The participants exchanged many ideas and learned a lot from this event. The evaluation showed us the demand for this workshop – and we are really proud that we do this job well – to the satisfaction of our clients and sponsors.

We do thank the participants for their active nature, which stimulates us and also our sponsors and all at Saraburi for facilitating these events. This is what we do – promote Nature Farming and EM Technology effectively and efficiently.

TANAH SUTERA OF MALAYSIA TRAIN EM TECHNOLOGY

The gigantic EM project in Johor Baru, Malaysia, carried out by Tanah Sutera is something really worth seeing! They use EM in all facets of activity and

very importantly, the management of Taneh Sutera is very keen that their staff is well versed in the techniques of EM. Thus, we at APNAN are regularly called upon to conduct workshops for their staff – and in March, their staff came for training. The team of some 20 odd members learnt EM and its uses from us – and this is the third time they sent staff – despite having resident EM people at Johor Baru! This clearly shows that we are the best for training – and we did it well – We do offer this facility to all interested – just come to APNAN and we will teach you the finer points of EM Technology and Nature Farming!

THE GATHERING OF EXPERIENCES BY OUR PRESIDENT AND STAFF

TRAVELS OF A VERY BUSY APNAN PRESIDENT

Age does not slow down a person as long and the mind and body accepts the fact of ageing!

This is how we describe our dear President, Professor Dr. Teruo Higa. Although retired from active service as a professor, he is even more active – promoting EM in Japan and the world. As the family is very careful about his activities, most visits are made within Japan to promote EM. Thus, he hops from place to place – giving lectures, examining sites and discussing the benefits of the technology that was developed by him.

In the period of January – April, we were told that Higa sensei travelled distances that could make a frequent traveler blush! In January it was to the Date city in Fukushima, which was affected by the nuclear disaster to deliver a seminar on EM, and then to Tokyo to meet Mr. Ueki, the President of Sunmark Publishers who publish the books by Sensei, and to meet Mr. Saito. Thereafter it was to the Matsue city for a seminar and back home to Okinawa.

In February, it was travel time again – Beginning with Okaya city in the Nagano prefecture to deliver a seminar and then to Tokyo, to meet our first boss Mr. Masaki Shintani, who heads the research unit of EMRO on using EM in the Asake Hospital. Then the hop was to Taito city in Tokyo to discuss integrated farming of rice and ducks with EM and to Fukuoka for a health related seminar. The next round within this month was to Anjo city for a seminar and then to Tokyo for a meeting of the NPO U-Net board and present EM Technology to members of U-Net. Finally, it was home time again in Okinawa.

March saw Higa sensei flying to Kumamoto prefecture for a water quality meeting and seminar before traipsing to Tokyo again for a seminar on preventive medicine and meet Mr. Takano, who uses EM. He also attended a series of meetings with U-net and then moved to Saga city for a seminar titled “The capabilities of EM Technology”.

The month saw another visit to Tokyo – to meet the President of Ostuka Corporation – and then to Shinagawa to meet Mr. Shintani. The final stop before home in Okinawa was Shizuoka to have meetings and deliver a lecture – and travel back to Tokyo en route to Inzai city in Chiba to meet the city mayor to promote EM. He also took time to deliver a seminar on the Flower township and also discuss EM in Inzai city.

After a few days of rest in Okinawa – it was again travel in April – to Sendai city in Miyagi prefecture to discuss EM in radiation mitigation.. After a hop back home, the next stop was Yokkaichi City for a seminar before going onto Fukuoka for a meeting and attends a meeting of SPC JAPAN – an association using EM.

Late April – again to the capital city and to Ueda city in Nagano to deliver a seminar on flowers and cities and also for a speech on EM. Thereafter to Nagoya and attended a Board meeting of the INFRC – the new organization at the Meitetsu Grand Hotel. The last two days of April were in Asahi city in Chiba prefecture before going to Tokyo – to visit Shirakawa city for the final seminar and then off home to sunny Okinawa.

We are amazed at this travel and seminars – everywhere our president goes, he draws a crowd - and this is growing with time. However, what worries us is the health of our beloved President, who guided the destinies of this little network for 24 years.. and we do pray that he looks after himself.

His touring Japan and on occasions the region helps us promote Nature Farming and EM Technology – his presentations cannot be matched by anyone – and the facts that he presents are of the future. We remember him talking of antioxidants and NMR long before they became buzzwords in health and science and today they are accepted all over, as the norm. This is knowledge and foresight that our President has – and while we do value his seminars and travels, we implore him to look after himself and also request our friends and colleagues at EMRO Headquarters to look after both Professor and Mrs. Higa – they have become icons of the EM world. We wish both Professor Dr. Higa and Madam Setsuko Higa many many years of active service to humankind, supporting and fostering EM Technology.

SANO SPENDS VALENTINES DAY IN VIETNAM

Our handsome bachelor boy Yujiro Sano spent St Valentine’s day in Hanoi, Vietnam – not enjoying the spirit of the day – but working!!! Due to the significant activity with EM in Vietnam carried out by Mr. Le Khac Quang of the Vina Nichi center, he visited this nation on the 13th February - and met with Mr. Quang and Mr. Thang. Mr. Thang is a

livestock farmers using EM very successfully. Mr. Thang also visited Okinawa to meet Professor Dr. Higa in April! In Hanoi, Sano san checked EM quality, discussed EM based activity and offered advice to Mr. Thang on the greater benefits of EM for livestock farming.

On the 14th February too Sano was working, although we know that his mind was in Thailand, and returned back to base at APNAN that night.

Thank you Sano san for forgoing pleasure and happiness for work on Nature Farming and APNAN - That's how we work!!

VRMAUSTRALIA REQUESTS EM

The VRM group of Australia, which is our dynamic partner uses EM principally for their secondary products. Thus, we are required to travel twice a year to make EM for them – although we would like to go there frequently to supply EM – due to the tremendous potential there is in this continent.

In February, soon after India, Asami went to Townsville to make EM – he did this and had meetings with VRM on the future programs, EM logo marks and the forthcoming Forum. He also accompanied Ken Bellamy on site visits – to see the impact of using EM to make compost from uprooted trees – due to the typhoon that hit this region. EM is sprayed onto the trees which otherwise could catch fire due to the heat generated – and this has been a significant boon to the region and the city council. Asami san tells us that there were 20 such units all using EM to make wood compost.

Asami also went to the James Cooke University to observe the BioRegen unit, which crushes food waste, which is then made into liquid Bokashi by VRM and sold to farmers. The final stop in Australia was to the Sekai Kyusei Kyo – in Sydney to deliver a seminar on Nature Farming and EM. The audience had not been aware of the existence of EM and after the seminar had promised to expand their activity into Nature Farming with EM – as working with Nature is a principal philosophy of Mokichi Okada, the founder of Sekai Kyusei Kyo.

Thank you Asami sama for this diligent work – we all appreciate the work of our young staff to promote EM and Nature Farming in the mandate region and beyond!

LAOS EM ACTIVITY HELPED BY YUJIRO SANO

The Peoples Democratic Republic of Lao, is the land of Sano san! He has been managing the Nature Farming and EM activities of our neighbor for many years, and has achieved excellent results. Thus, he takes the chance to visit Laos and in March, he flew across to meet Dr. Lasay of the Agriculture Section of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry of the

Vientiane region and also Mr. Sengthavy of the EM project. The forthcoming agreement was discussed at these meetings and the current program of activities.

One interesting study was on sticky rice carried out by five farmers. The Nature Farmers used 1250 Kg of Bokashi per hectare at a cost of 787,000 Lao Kip while chemical farmers used 1,050,000 Kip per hectare. This was a 25% saving due to the use of Bokashi and the yields were the same – and the quality of the Nature Farming rice much superior. Thus the farmers were very happy that there was a 25% saving, no extra labor, same yields of a quality rice. Sano san tells us that there will be a high production of EM based Nature Farming sticky rice. Which may even be exported to Thailand – as its people like Sticky rice with coconut and mangos!!

Thank you Sano for this development – and let us know of its progress!

ASAMI SAN HAS BUSY SCHEDULES IN MALAYSIA

The Tanah Sutera project in Johor Baru is a very important landmark in promoting EM Technology. The complex operations undertaken at this site, all with EM Technology, keeps us busy. Thus, Asami san, who is with us from EM Research Organization has to hop over on a regular basis to help out and discuss the future programs to report to his bosses in Okinawa.

In the period under review – Asami san went to Malaysia on two occasions in four months – The first in January with his immediate superior - Mr. Fukugauchi, the manager of the Overseas Department of EMRO. Meetings were held with YTL Corporation about using EM in construction as done in Tanah Sutera. Meetings on the establishment of EMRO Malaysia to provide EM to Tanah Sutera were also held – this time with Mr. Sawada of Syntropy Malaysia. A visit was made to the sites using EM and a short meeting with Mr. Abdullah who cooperates with Mr. Sawada was the final job of Asami san before returning home to his dear wife!

The second visit was longer and it was to accompany his big boss – our ex senior technical officer who is in charge of many divisions of EMRO in Okinawa, including the hotel – Mr. Takashi Kyan! This was in March to discuss the establishment of EMRO Malaysia with all partners in Malaysia – Syntropy Malaysia, MGB and Tanah Sutera. Asami san accompanied Kyan san to the EM hotel in Kuala Lumpur – and he says that it is clean and comfortable. They also went to Hotel RichBaliz, which is being remodeled with EM. Thereafter it was to Johor to meet with Holcim, the international cement giant. A workshop was held with the Holcim group about

EMC. Asami san also took time to visit an aquaculture unit growing an arowana for export to China. They breed the fish and use EM to maintain the quality of water. This again has been a source of training to Asami san. Again, it was a successful series of events in Malaysia. Very soon, Malaysia will be the leading nation in EM use, and we thank Mr. Sawada and his team for initiating these events. One time, over 20 years ago, Malaysia did not accept EM – and today it is one of the leading users and even companies such as VRM are working with Malaysia to develop EM based products.

This is success and we also pat our backs for making this happen by supplying quality EM to our neighbors in Malaysia. We look forward to reporting many significant events in future issues.

SANO GOES TO JAPAN FOR BRIEFING AND SETTLE FINANCIAL YEAR ACCOUNTS

The period between mid March until mid April is a busy time for any organization in Japan – as 31 March is the end of the fiscal year. Thus in all years, APNAN staff from INFRC have gone back – to finish accounts and submit reports of activities. This year too, our dear Sano san went back – and he had many responsibilities. After finishing the work, he wished to travel to Okinawa to have a holiday – but he was asked to take care of Mr. Thang and Mr. Hung who were from Vietnam visiting EMRO headquarters to meet Prof Dr. Higa. They were very interested in the EM Hotel – to develop one of their own in Vietnam!. There were also meetings at the INFRC farm in Chita – as INFRC became a Public Benefit Foundation from 01 April. Thus, Sano tells us that the INFRC is now a slim efficient active and versatile organization!! Meetings had been held at the Chita farm between technical and extension sections of INFRC, and they had discussed the activities of APNAN, Nature Farming workshops models and even the future of this newsletter!! Sano visited the Korin farm of Mr. Kumazaki also – where Mr. Kumazaki hopes to accept trainees in future years. This will be a good opportunity for people to be trained in Nature Farming and in the philosophy of Mokichi Okada, who placed much emphasis on quality food through Nature Farming. They had also discussed the farms in Saraburi and Sri Lanka.

All in all, our dear Sano chan had worked all the time – while his heart was in Thailand.....thinking of Songkran to wash his sins and be a good man.. and visiting Saraburi to achieve his many objectives in life of becoming a complete and a good man!

ASAMI GOES NORTH IN WINTER!!

There is a saying that the Wicked have no rest!! We are not wicked – we help people – but we at APNAN

never seem to have a rest – something happens all the time! Poor Asami was thus asked to go to the far North – beyond our mandate region – to Vladivostok in the middle of winter in January to make EM. Asami as usual obliged smilingly – and visited the EM unit in Vladivostok to make EM and have meetings. The meetings have been interesting – where many questions were asked – on EM, its uses, benefits, activation and storage – all replied well and convincingly by Asami san. He also states that the place was very cold – 25 ° C – a 55 degree difference from Thailand!! It was his first time to see the frozen sea, and people were walking on the sea and cars driving over it..... it was so bitterly cold. However due to the presence of heaters he could maintain temperatures at 25 ° C, and he also maintained his body temperature – not via a heater but with nice strong Vodka!

He was happy to get away to Korea – to Jeonju, to Evermiracle and also the University, which has a well-equipped EM department. He made EM for Evermiracle, our partners in South Korea and had many interesting discussions. The research units and EM centers were also visited – and people were keen to promote EM or crop growth - and thus experiments were discussed.

There were also some discussions on EM registration and this will be undertaken very soon in Korea. Asami has been educated in this trip and he is now confident of travelling to any cold place on earth – to develop EM Technology and Nature Farming.

MAPLE INDIA REQUESTS EM

St Valentine's day was not good for our staff at APNAN!! While Sano san went east on 14th February, to Vietnam, while his soul was in Thailand, Asami san went west to India leaving his beloved wife behind in Bangkok!! Yes – Asami san travelled to Kolkata to make EM for Maple, due to the expanding activities in the Indian subcontinent – and to observe the Nature Farm in Kolkata – and discuss EM use in wastewater with government officials of Kolkata. Asami san had made the EM and gone to the farm – where they grow good crops with EM and organic matter – recycled in the true fashion of Nature Farming. There are also experiments being laid out now to test EM for disease and pest control – and we head that the advice comes from APNAN in an indirect manner via an old member of this network closely associated with Maple. They are now initiating an aquaculture project – and as the water was not too clean, Asami san had advocated using more EM - activated and also mud balls.

The meeting with a high official had not gone too well – the arrangement was to present the use of EM for waste water – but this official had been so busy

that he did not even have time to discuss anything – within 10 minutes – after a wait of 120 minutes. Asami san suggested to us that a short paper on EM and its uses be prepared – for such people – we will endeavor to do it soon.

Thank you Asami san for this visit on a special day – and thank you Maple for your hospitality.

A BIT OF FAMILY NEWS....

Congratulations – Mr. MM.



Mr. Madan Mohanka

Our partner in India, Mr. Madan Mohanka, who heads Maple Orgtech, is a very respected man in Asia – especially in India. His main organization, Tega Industries is an internationally reputed company dealing with equipment for mining. He started Maple Orgtech to promote EM in India as a solution to overcome pollution and also increase food production – a concept that he had nurtured for a long time. Today, maple is a very successful operation, guided by Mr. Madan Mohanka.

Last year, India recognized this simple down to earth gentleman, who operates from Kolkata in West Bengal, with an award – Outstanding Entrepreneurship Award.! This recognition adds to a multitude that he has accumulated over the years – due to his business acumen, philanthropy and goodwill to his fellow countrymen and also to the world at large. APNAN has been associated with this great but yet simple gentleman for many years and marvel at his ability to maintain his dignity and get things moving with simplicity and good will.

We at APNAN congratulate him – and his family – and wish him further successes in the future. We also request a grand party for us at Kolkata.. at his residence/office(which by the way are neighbors) in New Alipore, Kolkata!

Imamura San is elevated!!

Kosaburo Imamura, our ex senior technical officer is a researcher – by nature! He loves to study all facets

of life scientifically – and get sound results – due to the training, he had at the University of the Ryukyus, under the tutelage of our President, Professor Dr. Teruo Higa, who guided him through the Masters project on EM. Thus, on completion of his assignment at this little network, where he was trained to manage, he moved onto the EM laboratory in Shizuoka, which is an organization supported by the Sekai Kyusei Kyo, to conduct and develop EM products. He was working diligently, developing EM W, and also studying mechanisms to maintain microbial activity of EM for longer periods of time. Due to his diligence and success, we are told that he is now promoted!! He is now the Chief of the Product and Development Section of the EM laboratory. Ima Chan, as we fondly call him informs us that he is now responsible for product quality and quantity – both of which are very important in Nature Farming and EM programs in Japan! He also handles claims from customers, which – he says puts him in stress – but that is life.. life without stress is no life at all!

We do know that the training that Ima Chan received in APNAN holds him in good stead – and we wish him all the very best in his new position – to make Nature Farming with EM, a household word in Japan. We also hope that he will get what he is searching for.. in his lonely life – and that is a secret for a future issue!!



Our dear Ima Chan

NZNFS holds its annual meeting in Christchurch

The NZNFS founded in the mid 1990's as a nonprofit foundation in New Zealand to promote Nature Farming is still going strong! Although its four trustees - Tim and Rose Chamberlain of Harts Creek farm and Tony and Lynette Mallard of the vegetable gardens fame have grown older – their enthusiasm to promote EM and Nature Farming have not declined with age!!

They are of course helped by our friend Mike Daly, who is the manager of the NZNFS –and their annual meetings give them a chance to reflect on activities and support future development. Due to their fiscal policy of good management and as they do not charge any money for their involvement (but the exception being a beer or a wine and a meal at the annual meeting!!), they offer scholarships to



Happy Trustees of NZNFS

students at Lincoln BHU, and also support travel to workshops in Thailand. Thus in 2012 too, they met in April, just before a whirlwind tour of the North island with an APNAN member – and we are told that they are very pleased with the functions and activities. We at APNAN thank them for their diligence, sound management and generosity and wish them many many more years of successful operations in promoting Nature Farming and EM Technology in Kiwiland! We wish them well.

A gracious special lady celebrates a birthday!



Oku Sama

Our little network, APNAN, has always been guided by its Mum, Mrs. Setsuko Higa, the wife of our president, Professor Dr. Teruo Higa. She has always been a keen follower of our development over the years, advising, encouraging and even supporting us at difficult times. In the recent past, she had been undergoing a difficult period – as

no one in nature can stop humans advancing in age, and had been out of the limelight. However, on the 2nd of April, we are told that she was smiling away at a special lunch held at Costa Vista to welcome new staff to our sponsors EMRO – and was happy as a free bird on her birthday! We are very happy to hear this and we wish our dear APNAN mother (Oku Sama) the very best of everything in the coming year – good health, contentment and the will and strength to support us. We also request our dear Mum to ask EMRO send us another staff member – as here in APNAN work increases while staff reduces at exponential rates!

WE AT APNAN WISH OUR OKU SAMA A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND A CONTENTED YEAR!

A daughter for Koki Nagamine!

Koki Nagamine was our technical officer two years ago – and he left us to return to his wife’s home in Okinawa due to personal reasons and to manage the family business. Thus although based in Okinawa, just within a 10 minute drive from EMRO headquarters and the EM Hotel and Spa, he began developing the business – and at times even visited the Costa Vista Hotel. However the good news is that he and his beautiful wife Chie, have now a daughter – named Hikari – and we hear that the threesome are doing well in the subtropical climates of Okinawa!! We wish the family the very best and also Koki and Chie san – the proud parents – for a happy family life with their new addition!



Father and daughter

A wedding on the cards?

A bird flying around Bangkok, especially in Saphan Kwai region whispers that a wedding is in the air!! We wonder whose it will be.. someone known to us?? Thus, APNAN now has a contest – the first person to predict whose wedding it will be – gets a small prize from us!!

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

Dear Readers – We at APNAN put these notices up.... So that you could contribute your work to these conferences and spread the words of Nature Farming and EM Technology to the world. Thus please check these websites and help us spread Nature Farming and EM to the world.

2012 2nd International Conference on Environmental and Agriculture Engineering (ICEAE 2012)

Conference
29th - 30th June 2012
Jeju Island, Korea (south)
Website: <http://www.iceae.org/>

XVI International Silage Conference
2 to 4 July 2012
Hämeenlinna, Finland
2 to 4 July 2012
Website: <http://www.mtt.fi/isc>
Contact name: Marketta Rinne

World Sustainable Agriculture Congress 2012
Conference
10th - 12th July 2012
Singapore, Singapore
Website: <http://www.imapac.com/index.php?page=WorldSustainableAgricultureCongress2012>
Contact person: Kiwiya

2012 2nd International Conference on Asia
Agriculture and Animal
ICAAA 2012
Singapore. July 23-24, 2012
www.icaaa.org

US Biochar Conference
29 July 2012 to 1 August 2012
Rohnert Park, CA, United States
Website: <http://biochar.us.com>
Contact name: Oren Wool

Biodiversity Asia 2012
7 - 10 August 2012
Bangalore (Bengaluru), India
Website: <http://www.scbasia2012.org>
Contact name: Secretary

International Conference on Environment,
Agriculture and Food Sciences (ICEAFS'2012)
Conference
11th to 12th August 2012
Phuket, Thailand
Website: <http://psrcentre.org/listing.php?subcid=106&mode=detail>
Contact person: Prof. Dr. Parvinder S. Sandhu

Agritech Asia 2012 – International Agricultural
Exhibition and Conference
Gandhi nagar, Gujarat India –
September 3 – 6, 2012
agritechasia@kenes.com.

Third Conference on Horticulture Science and
Technology
Beijing, China
Contact: Mr. Wu
E-mail: yuanxixh@126.com
Website: www.chst-conference.org

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 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 June 2012 (28 – 30 June,) – this is the next meeting after Penang to discuss programs and the future, and also 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 be in Bangkok, from 28 – 30 June.. Please plan to arrive on the 27th June and leave on the 30th after 1500 Hrs.

Please contact us for further details – we will also contact you.

APNAN WORKSHOP!!

Dear Readers – Please note that the next workshop on Nature Farming and EM will be held FROM 23 – 26 July 2012 at Saraburi. This will be a workshop, where emphasis will be EM Technology. Please send your applications through the in country contacts! We assure you a good training 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 INFR undertakes research and extension programs on Nature Farming based on the principles of Nature Farming advocated by Mokichi Okada, who stated the importance of respecting nature and conforming to its laws. The importance of allowing soils to exhibit their inherent potential is also a key to the principles of Nature Farming, which is promoted by the INFR.

In April 2012, the status of INFR was reorganized and registered as a Public Benefit Foundation, and the headquarters was shifted to Hata, Matsumoto, Nagano, where the research station is located. However, the International Section of the INFR is located at Atami, at 1F, Momoyama Bldg., 16-3, Momoyamacho, Atami, Shizuoka 413-0006, Japan.

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

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

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

The INFR can be contacted at:

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5632-1, Hata, Matsumoto, Nagano, 390-1401, Japan**

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Website : www.infr.or.jp/english

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Mr. Kumazaki in Sri Lanka



Rice with EM in Lao PDR



Compost from trees in Townsville



Nature Farm in India



Vietnamese with Prof Dr. Higa



Sugarcane with EM in Townsville



Making Dangoes in Johor



Asami on the frozen sea