

APNAN NEWS 23(2)

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Asia Pacific Natural Agriculture Network

APNAN is
sponsored by



“The basis of the creation of natural recycling communities in different locations is for “food production” or to appreciate most of the activities to learn the profound laws of nature through “farming.” In these activities, we try to create proper relations between human beings and nature and between individuals and the society and to guide such relations so that they evolve in harmony with each other”.

*(Adapted from the forthcoming book on *Learning Our Way of Life from Nature* by Rev Kiyoshi Amano, 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, Matsumoto, 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

**APNAN,
Kularb Apartment, 29 Soi Suparat, Phahonyothin Road,
Samsennai, Phayathai, Bangkok 10400 Thailand.**

**Phone: +66 2 272 7061
Fax : +66 2 616 6022
Email : apnanmail@yahoo.co.jp
Website: www.apnan.org**

AS OUR 23RD YEAR MOVES ON.....

“As we watch the sun go down, evening after evening, through the smog across the poisoned waters of our mother Earth, we must ask ourselves seriously whether we really wish some future universal historian on another planet about us – With all their genius and with all their skill, they ran out of foresight and air and food and water and ideas”

(U Thant, UN Secretary General – 1970 – Adopted from the Global Environment Outlook Report 5, 2012)

Mother Earth today is facing a crisis – This is clearly spelt out in the Global Environment Report 5, published by the United Nations this year. It is an alarming report – and the whole problem lies upon us – humans – for making this crisis over many decades. The Earth system acts as a single self-regulating system comprising of three components – the Physical, Chemical and Biological – of which the humans occupy a major part of the last system... Thus, today the effects of human activity can be detected on a planetary scale. While humans have long been aware of the effects of their activities on local environments, it is only in the last few decades that these activities have been apparent on a global scale. Thus the 2000 millennium summit, which brought together world leaders to discuss this issue, produced eight millennium goals – to overcome these shortcomings. Today, 12 years down the road, we have not achieved any – as humans do not wish to take responsibilities for their actions. This is the crunch – Do we help to overcome these problems?

Nature Farming and EM Technology, the two concepts that our little network espouses, can help in a major way to reduce this crisis. This has been shown in over 145 nations in all continents using these two concepts. The foundation of Nature Farming is caring for Mother Earth – It was the concept of the erudite Japanese philosopher, Mokichi Okada who founded the concept of Nature Farming – to reduce and recycle organic wastes to improve the soil and provide good quality food, which is the basic need of all humans and even one may say – all forms of life. As most food is produced from Earth, caring for the soil – i.e. nurturing the soil is a fundamental principle of Nature Farming. Another aspect that needs careful attention is the loss of biodiversity, especially of the microbes due to excessive use of chemicals and other pollutants for agriculture and in our daily lives. We do not realize this – as we do not see these bugs, which perform vital actions to make our lives better – by breaking down wastes and improving soils through their biological activities. The technology of EM, developed by Professor Dr. Teruo Higa helps us to overcome this problem – as many examples reported in all the APNAN newsletters present – Thus we at this little network to provide a vital service to humankind – we help them to produce good quality food and a cleaner environment through two simple processes – Nature Farming and EM Technology.

The successes of EM Technology have been reported in this newsletter – However there is an addition from this issue onwards – We report successes of Nature Farming as well. It is the wish of our sponsors, the International

Nature Farming Research Center, which promotes Nature Farming and even certifies the processes under the JAS certification scheme in Japan, to publish the success of Nature Farming through this newsletter, which also goes to all continents! Hence, from this issue, the readers and friends who eagerly wait for the three issues of APNAN News will be able to see that Nature Farming is working. Although most examples will be from Japan, the home of Nature Farming, we will also bring to you snippets of successes in this process from other regions – to encourage you to move forward, be innovative and adopt Nature Farming with EM to help us save the earth – let us do our bit towards this noble cause – the future generations will thank us for it. This is why we at APNAN, under the guidance of our sponsors, INFRC and EMRO have taken this decision to introduce a new aspect to our little newsletter. As we move on in this 23rd year, doing our bit through Nature Farming and EM Technology in the mandate region and even beyond, with less than adequate staff and facilities – we are contended – although the fake EMs are present, we go on – and we have been successful!. The fake EM producers are realizing that they are in a losing game – even if they call their fake product Effective Microorganisms – as they say – it is a generic name – which makes us smile!

At this time it is usual for us to show our gratitude to all those who help us – we do not mention names, but there are a few that certainly needs recording – The INFRC and its Board of Directors, for sponsoring this newsletter and supporting us, EM Research Organization and its Directors for being the major sponsor of this network, The Sekai Kyusei Kyo of Japan and Thailand, and all at the Saraburi Nature Farming Training Center – we owe all of them a deep debt of gratitude. We also thank our President and Madam Higa for their ever – willing support – and we pay our respects to those who have left this world for helping us during their lifetime.

As stated earlier, the world faces problems – due to pollution – and it is only us humans who can help save it. We create the problems and we must overcome them – change our lifestyles not only to preserve what is left, but also enhance environmental quality. This can be achieved to a significant extent by adopting Nature Farming and EM Technology for agriculture and EM for all facets of human life – ranging from construction to health and water. Thus, let us join hands – and work through Nature Farming and EM Technology to improve the world we live in.

APNAN, the little network wishes all our friends a very happy future.

APNAN, Bangkok, Thailand

October 2012

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

Visitors to the Chita-Kusagi Nature Farm of INFRC, The Nature Farming rice fields at the Chita-Kusagi Farm, Lettuce at the Nature Farm in Thailand and Vegetables at the Kagawa Nature Farm respectively.

THE HIGHLIGHT.....

NATURE FARMING – FACTS AND SYSTEMS FOR GREATER ADOPTION

Dear friends of APNAN,

This little network – founded in 1989 to test the validity of Nature Farming as advocated by Mokichi Okada and test the effectiveness of the technology of Effective Microorganisms (EM), developed by Professor Dr. Teruo Higa, our beloved President, has come a long way over 23 years of existence. We have tested the validity of EM very clearly in all continents, even in regions far away from our mandate, and the technology is a part of life in many parts of the world, in many facets of human life and environmental management. It is a household world in homes of many people in over 145 nations – and some live by it. We also must admit that there are people who are skeptics, people who hate the word EM, for many reasons, which cannot be founded, and there are of course fakes – in different names – EM, BM etc... All developed after our EM!! Of these fakes 99% are from people who were with us and were greedy for greater take away in terms of cash and kind – which in the long run does not pay – we do know that given a chance, 95% of them will come back to us.

However, the story here is not that – EM was promoted to expand the efficacy of Nature Farming, advocated by Mokichi Okada. The progress of expanding Nature Farming has been rather slow – and principally concentrated in Japan and amongst a few Japanese expatriates living in nations such as USA, Brazil and some parts of Asia. However, we, at APNAN have been able to at least demonstrate its efficacy in five nations, combining Nature Farming and EM Technology. In this context, we have now a new section in our popular and well – read newsletter – which is sponsored by the International Nature Farming Research Center of Matsumoto, Japan, which has the mandate to popularize this technology. On this basis, it is our pleasure to provide you with facts and systems of Nature Farming, based on experiences in many nations. This will in future, be a regular part of our newsletter!

We would like your comments and feedback on this section – Please contact us at apnanmail@yahoo.co.jp

SUCCESSFUL NATURE FARMING IN THAILAND

A very successful Nature Organic Farm is located in our host nation, Thailand - on the hills of Khao Yai in Nakhon Ratchasima province of central Thailand. The climate is a little cooler than in Bangkok, due to



Mr. Oga exhibits the vegetables

the higher 400m elevation – and the region is famous for its fruits, dairy farming and chicken units. The farm called the Harmony Life Organic Farm, is owned by Mr. Sho Oga and he has been adopting Nature Farming for 13 years and using EM for 7 years. Today he has 10.4 ha of land dedicated to Nature Farming and grows crops such as lettuce, carrots, radish, aubergines and moroheiya (a *Corchorus* spp), obtaining a very good yield.

Discussing the different aspects of Nature Farming with Mr. Oga, he stated that his interest began while studying oceanography at University and thus was keen on learning about water pollution. He heard a talk by an eminent environmentalist in Brazil in 1992, and thus was keen to prevent water pollution. After graduation, he came to Thailand and wished to settle in Khao Yai, after seeing a white statue of the Buddha on the mountain. Thus, he resigned from his employment and began an organic farm on the hills of Khao Yai, and to develop a clean environment, while living in harmony with nature. His current status, due to his success, is to instruct people in Cambodia, Japan, India and Thailand on organic farming to promote organic products.

Mr. Oga also states the methods he uses in developing his Nature Organic Farm. He emphasizes the importance of nurturing the soil – beginning with using extra organic matter – especially from crop residues, rather than from external sources such as animal manures made into compost. He also advocates the addition of good compost made with EM and with ingredients such as weeds, poultry and cattle manure and rice husk. Other additions that could be used are EM Bokashi, fermented fish extracts made with EM and Chitosan. All these improve soils.

The farm also applies EM activated solution to the crops at a dilution of 1:500, on a daily basis to moisten the crops. They also have developed an organic liquid fertilizer with EM, which also applied at the same dilution and frequency.

The planting material – seeds and seedlings are best when they are from the home farm – raised and collected from the location. However as seeds can be scarce, Mr. Oga buys some seeds – they never use hybrids or genetically modified seed. Their principal sources of seed are Europe for lettuce and cucumber and aubergine seeds are from Japan. The seeds from the farm are for tomato, sweet potato cuttings, taro, rice, hibiscus, turmeric and ginger.

The next vital step is to plant the crops in the correct season. Species such as carrots and aubergines, kidney beans and onions are grown throughout the year – while species such as broccoli and spinach are grown in the cooler months from September to March. The planting of crops such as tomato are grown in the drier months – while herbs are planted all year round. Mr. Oga also stresses the importance of good quality water for irrigation. They never use water from polluted sources such as lakes, rivers and canals, but pump up water from underground sources for irrigation. This is again a key factor for successful Nature Farming

Weeding and pest management are difficult tasks on Mr. Oga's farm. During the early period, herb extracts with EM and EM FPE were used. However, after improving soils, the plants develop their own immunity and the problem is less. At present, the farm has no serious pest or disease problem. Weeding is manual and burying the weeds helps the soil.

In animal husbandry - they use EM in drinking water for chicks on a daily basis at a dilution of 1:500. The chicks are healthy and do not need veterinary care. Marketing of the products is via a specialty shop "Sustaina" located in the posh Sukhumvit area in Bangkok. They sell their organic vegetables, processed products and organic food. They even do deliveries to homes and hotels - That's service! In addition, they prepare specially prepared products such as Moroheiya Noodles, which are exported to Japan, USA, Canada, Australia, Singapore and many other nations. To meet the requirements, they have obtained organic certification from Organic Thailand and USA (USDA), Canada Organic, Euro Organic and IFOAM.



Sustaina Shop in Bangkok

The success as stated by Mr. Oga is the customer relationship – which is vital. Their shop in Bangkok accepts visitors from many parts of the globe and provide and exchange ideas and information. This helps build up contacts and of course, business.

This is a success story of Nature Farming with EM from our host nation, Thailand. The farm is in harmony with nature, as required in this technology. Over period of 13 years, this farm, owned by Mr. Oga is successful in that he not only produces for himself or Thailand – but also is able to export good quality certified Nature Farming products internationally!

Further details can be obtained from the Homepage of the Harmony Life Organic Farm -

<http://www.harmonylife.co.th>

We wish him success and will facilitate visitors whenever possible to promote Nature Farming on a global scale.

INFRC HOLDS NATURE FARMING TRAINING PROGRAMS THROUGH FIELD VISITS



Soybeans at Chita-Kusagi Nature Farm

The INFRC, which sponsors this newsletter, is actively promoting Nature Farming in Japan – and to this end held meetings in all parts of the nation to exchange ideas on the techniques of Nature Farming. The process began at the Chita-Kusagi farm developed by the INFRC for demonstration purposes.

On 17th July 2012 – 81 people gathered at the Chita-Kusagi farm – many of them were from the Aichi prefecture, where Nature Farming is being practiced. The farmers, all keen to see the progress made at the farm sweated it out on the hot summer's day – looking at rice and vegetable cultivation through Nature Farming.

In rice culture through Nature Farming, the principal features are the management of soil, water and weeds. Proper preparation of the soil improves its



Succulent vegetable through Nature Farming

quality and thus rice yields increased progressively. In vegetables, its weed management, and mulching helps in this endeavor. In addition, through this process, organic matter is added to the soil, which also improves its quality. Thus at the end of the day – the comments from the practitioners of Nature Farming were “ The farm, although 2 years old is looking good

– the rice is growing well, there are no weeds – The future looks bright for Nature Farming promotion through the Chita-Kusagi farm!!”

The second meeting of farmers was in Shikoku – in the Kagawa prefecture – at the Kagawa prefectural Agricultural College. This gathering which consisted of 86 farmers were mainly from the four prefectures of Shikoku island and the age group ranged from 20 – 60 years! This diverse group were divided into two groups to learn vegetable or rice cultivation – the two main ingredients of Japanese cuisine!

The rice cultivation group was shown two contrasting fields. One, where the farmer did not use organic manures to maintain soil quality produced lower yields while the other, who looked after and nurtured his soil, obtained yields similar to those of fields where polluting chemicals were used. This gave the onlookers an idea of the importance of soil management and nurturing in Nature Farming.

The vegetable field visited by the vegetable cultivation group was of good quality – where a range of crops were grown – in rotation. The farmer obtained good quality vegetables in abundance and the visitors were impressed – that Nature Farming is indeed possible and is successful.

The above examples of case studies on Nature Farming are our latest addition to the newsletter – this will be a regular feature in the future. Please send us your comments – we value them to provide information on Nature Farming to you all!

IMPORTANT EVENTS OVER FOUR MONTHS.....

THE NETWORK HOLDS IN BIYEARLY DEALERS MEETING

Our little network does its work diligently – despite all obstacles. Thus even in hard times, we do the planned activities on time – and efficiently – just like Effective Microorganisms... We do things with EM – Effective Management. Thus it is with much diligent planning with just two staff members (with our dear colleague and friend Toru Koshiji of EMRO Asia helping us) we planned our biyearly dealers meeting in Bangkok in June.

The dealers meeting, which was the brain child of our ex boss Kosaburo Imamura of INFRC, was planned to bring all our regional partners together to hold discussions, exchange ideas and discuss the future plans to make our region the best in Nature Farming and EM Technology. Thus, although one of our strongest supporters and advisors was totally aghast at the idea, we held our meeting at the APNAN hotel – the dear old Sena Place Hotel in Saphan Khwai – in their new conference facility.

The meeting which brought together 62 participants from 16 nations, lasted three days – from the 28th to the 30th June, which included a outing and dinner to a luxury EM hotel the Sampran Riverside (originally Rose garden Hotel) resort, located about 30 km from Bangkok.



APNAN dealers

The specialty of this meeting was that we hosted several new faces as our guests both within and outside the mandate region. The guests from the mandate region – we hope, will be with our networking within the next few months, judging by the workload that our sponsors, EMRO dump on our poor staff! However as usual we welcomed participants from Hong Kong, Mongolia, China and Taiwan from the region and from South Africa – as external guests.

The meeting got off to a great start on the 28th June at Sena Place Hotel – where the usual opening remarks and addresses were made. It was heartening to note that the VIP bosses of the two sponsoring organizations, the International Nature Farming

Research Center, headed by the genial Mr. Akio Ito, the Chairman of the Board of Directors, and our dear and long – standing friend and supporter – Mr. Katsuyuki Asato, President of EM Research Organization were present. INFRC was also represented by Mr. Hidehiko Okubo, Head, International Section of the INFRC and our liaison officer, while Mr. Takashi Kyan, Head of Overseas, Department, General and Financial Administrator and also the Head of the EM wellness center was also at hand to guide the meetings. Once the usual greeting messages from our sponsors were delivered – it was time for the manager of the Overseas Department of EMRO, Mr. Yoshitaka Fukugauchi to present the EM activities on a global scale. This is done to show our dealers and friends – where we stand – and as from the inception – our region leads the world in using EM and promoting Nature Farming – This clearly shows our sponsors that WE DO OUR JOB WELL!

After a well-earned coffee break, the highlights were presented – which our dealers and friends always ask – What is the real situation of Nature Farming and EM in Japan. These two areas were presented by INFRC and EMRO respectively and it was heartening to learn that these activities, which we promote regionally and beyond is gathering momentum even in the home country! The discussion raised many questions on the progress – which were all answered and we are very glad to report that our contacts, friends and dealers were all happy that the base in Japan is growing – which gives them an added impetus to promote the technologies that we support – Nature Farming and EM Technology! It was the sessions for the presentations of our members – we had presentations from Vietnam, Indonesia, India, Nepal, Laos, Thailand, Malaysia (both Syntropy and Virgin Green), Philippines, Sri Lanka, Australia, New Zealand, Cambodia and South Korea – which covered all our usual contacts and members. The finale of the day was an invited presentation of one of the biggest EM projects in the world – that of Taneh Sutura in Johor Malaysia, which is using EM to create an eco lifestyle – they use EM in diverse ways – from construction to small waste management units. We were honored to host the person in charge of the project and the presentation highlighted what they do – and showed that EM is really working. Tests on the impact of a special EM added into cement mixtures were also showing some really positive results – which this project is using EM in large amounts to develop strong houses – in an ecologically friendly manner – all using microbes found in all ecosystems and contained in EM!!!

The second day had two important sessions – The first was the presentations by our guests – from

China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Mongolia. The latter, which is a very special nation, having significant problems of land degradation and desertification is very keen to use EM for these problems. Mongolia, one of the late comers into these technologies was very keen and the dynamic representative from that nation was so keen to absorb as much knowledge as possible – and had plenty of questions!

After a general discussion on the moves to get EM and Nature Farming into these regions – especially because the representative from Hong Kong, a European by birth, was a diehard worker for Nature Farming with EM was also trying to gather data, we had our dear friends from South Africa telling us where they wish to go with EM. Once the scene for out of region presentations was set by South Africa – the regional officers of EMRO presented their activities in the Middle east, Europe, North and Latin America. These presentations were blended in – again to show that our region is not alone and that we in Asia are leading the world in EM!

The formal meeting finally ended at 1140 – after which most participants had a rest – APNAN arranged a closed-door meeting for our partners – to discuss strategies of EM promotion. This was chaired by Mr. Asato, President EMRO and Mr. Kyan. APNAN was also present. The discussions were on branding, royalties and quality – all these are required to move EM forward as a quality product.



The meeting in session

After a sumptuous meal – the buses with the delegates travelled to the field site – the 5 STAR Sampran Riverside resort –, which uses EM in all facets of their activities. The evening was free – and the official dinner, sponsored by the International Nature Farming Research Center was held at the resort – with typically Thai food –, which was appreciated by all.

The next day – the group observed EM being used in composting and water treatment – all within the hotel compound, which is really an eco resort. After a very hectic trip tour of the site, the group returned to Bangkok – to travel to their respective nations.

All in all – the outcome of the whole exercise was very fruitful. In all countries – EM sales were growing and models of Nature Farming were coming up.. slowly but surely. Our sponsors were happy about this and they in turn promised to support the programs to the best of their abilities. We look forward to this support, which is vital for our future programs – and at APNAN promise to do our best to serve our partners and contacts, even if it means a greater area than what is being covered by us.

APNAN HOLDS IN ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

The little network, which struggles to do all that it has needs some form of guidance – especially as we will begin celebrating the existence of our 25th year – just in 24 months! Thus, over the past few years, staff of APNAN met with our sponsors – to discuss the agenda for the next year. These meetings are held to coincide with the dealers meetings – which are held once in two years – to which both sponsors come and in alternate years, the meetings are held in Japan.

Hence on the 27th afternoon, the day prior to the Dealers meeting – the Board of APNAN met, with Mr. Akio Ito, Chairman, Board of Directors, INFRC and Mr. Hidehiko Okubo, Head International section of INFRC, Mr. Katsuyuki Asato, President, EMRO, Mr. Takashi Kyan, Head, Overseas section, EMRO, Mr. Yoshitaka Fukugauchi, Manager Overseas Department of EMRO, our dear friend Mr. Kanit Muangnil of Sekai Kyusei Kyo, Thailand, Mr. Hisanori Asami and Mr. Yujiro Sano and the advisor cum dogs body of APNAN. This was also the first time that Mr. Kanit, who coordinates the trainings at Saraburi attended the meeting.

The meeting, which lasted for over two hours, discussed the current situation – The most important aspect was that the current level of support from both sponsors would continue! This made us confident – with changes at INFRC, we were not too sure of where we will head.. However, Mr. Ito kindly assured us that the current level of support will continue – but requested us to promote Nature Farming to a greater extent!

One other very important aspect was the appointment of the new senior technical Officer – we were headless for a year – but we managed well despite many arguing that we were biting the dust! Now we have Mr. Hisanori Asami, of EM Research Organization taking on the mantle of the Senior Technical Officer – he will be the 8th in a long line of distinguished people!!

The activities of disseminating information on Nature Farming was also discussed – and you will find the results in this newsletter itself – where news of Nature Farming and its successes – both in Japan and overseas are presented to our readers. The

aspects of research conducted by both INFRC and EMRO will also be published when the news reaches us – as our newsletter reaches a wide audience – and very importantly our adversaries – who make and sell fake EM, keenly follow – the newsletter as it is now on the web!!

The meeting again was a success – thanks to efficient management of APNAN – and we are grateful to all who support us – ranging from the sponsors to our President Professor Teruo Higa and Madam Higa, to our partners and friends worldwide. We do assure all that we will be there as long as you want us – then we will bow out gracefully – although we must admit that one day if and when we bow out, the void of coordination will never be filled!!

A REAL BREAKTHROUGH FOR PROMOTING EM TECHNOLOGY

Promoting the technology of Effective Microorganisms for agriculture, especially for animal husbandry is a difficult task, as feeding bugs to livestock raises many alarms. Although we do know and have experience of EM being used by our friends and end users for raising livestock successfully – thus increasing weight gains and overcoming disease problems without any chemical additives, – even to the extent that some fake EM makers also use our name and bugs. In spite of these successes, there are problems, especially in the developed world, where there are many laws and regulations on what could be fed to livestock. This needs to be overcome with research and tests – although in some places humans drink EM to overcome stomach problems, although EMRO and we do not advocate it!

Due to these stringent laws, EM Research Organization has spent a considerable sum of money, getting the efficacy tests done – in the United States, where the laws are really harsh. The Food and Drug Administration of the Department of Health and Human Services tested EM – specifically the hazards of providing *Rhodopseudomonas palustris* as a direct fed additive to broiler chicken. They did several experiments – which cost EMRO a lot of money and the result was – what we always said – IT IS SAFE!!! The only check that must be made is – the absence of *Salmonella* and *E. Coli*!

This is indeed very good news – where the FDA of the USA has given the green light – This opens many doors for using EM in broiler feed – as a direct additive – to produce healthy chicken without using antibiotics which have residual effects. We do thank EMRO for this development – the funds spent was not in vain – as we can now use this data to promote EM for broiler production. We also hope that our competitors making fake EM – using the same name will not jump on the bandwagon and use this data to

promote their fake products – the permission was granted by the FAD for the EM made by EM Research Organization – Not anyone else!!

NEW STRAITS TIMES OF MALAYSIA HIGHLIGHTSEM

The program of EM in Johor state of Malaysia is famous in the region. The Tanah Sutera group is using EM in a multitude of ways – even in concrete. Thus, the theme is Built to last!! The State is calling for greater use of EM in construction – and property development industry, taking the cue from Tanah Sutera!

The success of this project was highlighted in the daily Newspaper – the New Straits Times recently. The news item stated that the state government is urging the Johor branch of the Real estate and Housing Developers Association to use EM in their activities. Thus the State Officials made this request at the launch of the month long ‘EM and ME’ exhibition held at the Sutera Mall. The officials also stated that when EM was first introduced, it was seen as a joke – but with time EM proved to be the most effective and cheap method for environmental management – the statement in the newspaper said –” Embracing EM Technology is a cheap and healthier way of life!!!”

The program in Johor has expanded to such greater heights that the manager of the Overseas Department of EMRO, our sponsors is based there full time – and is helping the organization to rethink, reduce, reuse, recycle and be responsible!! We hear that they plan also to develop wellness centers on the lines of the Wellness center in Okinawa – and it will not be long when the Johor State of Malaysia will become the first EM state of a nation! We look forward to this and will always help. We are happy that it was this network who introduced EM to Malaysia – first in 1989 and later in the 1990’s. The first attempt failed due to many unwarranted reasons – and the second time it was through the evergreen Mr. Sawada who initiated all these programs. We do thank these people for their diligence and will always support the programs underway in Johor with EM Technology.

GENERAL HAPPENINGS IN FOUR MONTHS...

EXHIBITS GALORE AT APNAN MEETING

The APNAN meeting has many benefits in terms of the developments in EM and Nature Farming – It gives our partners a chance to interact and form partnerships among themselves. This is done by discussing the diverse range of items produced by the respective nations using EM Technology.

The meeting in June also had such events – where the exhibits were displayed and people from the

respective organizations were at hand to explain them and even sell them! The high quality products from South Korea, Thailand, Indonesia and even Australia were exhibited alongside simple but effective Bokashi from some other nations. We waited on the sidelines and saw business taking place.. Some items were sold like hot cakes – especially the women fighting for cosmetics and gents for our dear Wididana’s Bokashi Rub Oil from Bali, Indonesia!



EM exhibits at the dealers meeting

Thus was indeed a good sign and what we noticed over the year was that the quality of products were growing – and the diversity of products expanding! This is real networking – we at APNAN facilitate this process and then the partners interact! We are happy with this situation and wish to promote greater interaction with partners in the region and beyond and also stimulate them to develop Nature Farms to demonstrate the usefulness of this system of farming especially in the present context of food security in the world.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP HELD!

APNAN does its duties diligently – and according to schedule! Thus, we hold the two international training workshops, on an annual basis, no matter what happens. During the period of review, we were successful in bringing together 33 participants from 8 nations to Saraburi to train them on Nature Farming and EM Technology. The staff at hand were from APNAN – Asami san, Sano san and O san – ably assisted by our dear friends from EMRO Asia – Koshoji san and Madam Somlak, who at one time was with us!

The training was held from 23 – 26th July – where the whole series of activities were carried out – right through from the fundamentals of Nature Farming and EM to making Bokashi and EM FPE to lectures of using EM and Nature Farming principles for cropping, animal husbandry and environmental management. The participants were also shown intensive management of poultry with EM – within a

small area – all without any chemical drugs – and living a life of happy chicken. The participants from Bhutan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand shared their experiences with others, discussed common problems, and were motivated to interact with each other even after the workshop. This made us happy, as its networking – building relationships globally – we do it well and effectively and our staff takes much care to do a proper job.



A practical session at the workshop

We thank our colleagues and also those at Saraburi – especially Mr. Kanit Munagnil for facilitating these events. All interested in the next workshop in February 2013 – please contact us – we will offer you a very good training.

KIWILAND HOLDS ITS ANNUAL EM PROMOTION PROGRAM

The New Zealand Nature Farming Societies, our partner in Kiwiland is moving ahead – it has become one of the most progressive nations for promoting EM and Nature Farming. It was also the first country to develop a model on Nature Farming at the Lincoln University Biological Husbandry unit, which trains young Kiwis alternative agriculture.

Over the last few years, APNAN has been visiting New Zealand to promote EM in different parts of the nation – by holding seminars and, discussions and demonstrations. It happened again in 2012 – in May – where parts of the North island were exposed to EM and Nature Farming. The visit by APNAN took place in late April and in May – beginning in Wellington, the windy capital of New Zealand. The first meeting was with the City Council landfill site, which uses EM very successfully to control odor. They were very happy with the outcome – where EM in its activated form is used in the composting process. The greater good of EM was presented by the team at the landfill site for making good compost and they were prepared to show the technology to the world. Thereafter it was a long haul by road – with Mike Daly and Pip Chrystall of NZ Nature Farms

at the wheel – to Te Roto gardens where EM is used for composting – they use the compost made with EM for organic/Nature Farming on their community units – and the success is significant – they do not need and chemicals at all! The seminar brought together 25 people – all interested in EM. The final stop before the pit for the night was a unit run by the Maori Community – again to promote EM for waste management and odor control – to develop good quality compost within a very short time. Interestingly – they also use EM in aquaculture – to enhance the growth of fresh water fish and for odor management.

After a quiet night in New Plymouth, the three travelers made the first stop at the city sewage works – which uses EM for odor management. They were very happy with EM as it was effective and cheap. This was followed by a discussion on expanding EM in waste treatment, adding to solid wastes and overcoming odor. Then it was a cross-country run across the North island – to the Coromandel coast on the east – This was the first time we did this run from west to east via hills and dales of Kiwiland – with Pip and Mike at the wheel and APNAN seated behind.. admiring the beauty of this nation. In Coromandel it was a night seminar – from 2000 – 2200 Hrs for 25 people – market gardens and for waste and odor management. Presentations were made by APNAN, Mike Daly and Pip Chrystall on the use of EM in waste management and composting to people living a special environmentally friendly lifestyle. The discussions generated much interest on EM and its effectiveness – and it seems that the benefits of EM are being identified all over New Zealand. After rather an uncomfortable night at a small eco hotel It was again the road show to visit 5 mussel/shellfish farms on Coromandel and discuss methods of composting fish and mussel waste using EM. Some were using EM with effective results. Thereafter, Thames Waste Management company using EM was visited. The final stop was in Te Aroa where discussions were held with the owners and poultry farmers on using EM for poultry. A presentation was made by APNAN using examples of EM in animal waste management and in poultry feeding. The fact that the FDA of the United States had approved the use of microbes in EM for broiler production was accepted with much delight – as they now could use EM to greater extents in their unit. The travelers were happy to spend the night in a plush hotel in Rotorua, with a nice warm shower, after the last night in Coromandel!

In Rotorua, it was a high profile gathering – They have a problem of eutrophication in the lakes – owned by the Maori trusts. Thus they had called for a public seminar – The public seminar was titled Biological Farming in Rotorua – organized to promote biological

farming by the Rotorua Lands and Lakes Trust – and EM was the main theme to promote the technology for soil development in biological systems. The 155 participants who had paid to attend this meeting were principally dairy farmers, and the keynote address for 45 minutes followed by a 30 minute discussion was by this little network on the benefits of EM in soil improvement and reducing runoff from farm lands and nutrient movement. The seminar lasted from 0900 – 1500 – which generated much interested on EM. Thereafter a short visit was made to the Polytechnic at Rotorua, which uses Bokashi for waste management. As they process was not giving good results, methods of improving waste management with EM was presented.

A tiring but interesting visit was concluded that day – and we are very pleased with the results. It seems that EM is gaining greater momentum in new Zealand on an annual basis and we at APNAN are happy that we could do this effectively and efficiently – just like EM. What was interesting to note was that EM is being used more and more in composting, odor management and waste treatment – including human wastes – thus it is a technology – which is cheap and effective in environmental management! The products are used in recycling organic wastes – and this brings us to the theme of Nature Farming, which we also promote – to use our wastes to maintain soil fertility and produce sufficient food! We do thank NZ Nature Farming Societies and its trustees and also NZ Nature Farms Inc, run by Mike Daly for this efficient activity – and also EMRO for facilitating the visits of APNAN for this promotional work – we hear that plans are underway or a similar visit to the south of the south island of New Zealand in 2013! We also wish to reiterate that APNAN will always help in this endeavor to all our partners and friends. Please do help us to promote Nature Farming and EM Technology to greater extents in the world.

APNAN PRESENTS EM TECHNOLOGY TO THE MOUNTAIN STATES OF INDIA

The mountain states of India are fragile regions of this great country – where poverty is at a high level, due to the low productivity of farmlands sited on eroded soils. Thus the mountain states hold an annual conference in one such state capital, to discuss ways and means of improving the agricultural productivity of states such as Uttaranchal, Sikkim, Himachal Jammu and Kashmir and also the north eastern regions, and thereby the livelihoods of their inhabitants.

This year in July, it was held in Gangtok, the capital of Sikkim State – and the member of parliament for this region, the Hon P D Rai had invited Mr. Madan Mohanka, the Chairman of Maple Orgtech, our counterpart in India, located in Kolkata, to deliver a

keynote address on the benefits of EM and Nature Farming for mountain agriculture. However, as Mr. Mohanka is an extremely busy person, travelling overseas for 15 days a month managing his principal businesses of Tega industries, the mother company, he requested a member of APNAN who serves on the Board of Directors of Maple to represent him and deliver this presentation. This was accepted as usual – we never say no to promote EM – and thus our member travelled to Kolkata for a Board meeting and then onto Gangtok for this three day conference. The flight from Kolkata was interesting – to Bagdora and then by road for four hours to Gangtok!!

Three people went – all from Maple and the presentation and posters were well accepted – there were adversaries no doubt – at the conference discussing their products, which were similar to EM – but they were not invited to present their activities or the benefits of their products to mountain farming – The team really presented the technology and the presentation was so successful that there were questions after questions – as the information given showed the participants that EM not only could increase production of crops, but also livestock, help recycle material, improve soils, prevent erosion and also the health of these people living under rural poverty conditions! The participants even asked – is EM magic? The reply was a clear NO – and examples were given from many nations with similar conditions and more importantly from two other Himalayan nations – Nepal and Bhutan, which are also using EM.

The success of the presentation is now tricking through with orders for EM coming from these regions. The senior member from Maple, Mr. Arabdha Das was active in promoting EM and meeting people – and we are sure that after this – EM will be a popular technology for the green organic states of the Himalayan regions of India. We look forward to reporting these success stories in the future issues of this newsletter! We also congratulate Maple for these activities – they are indeed doing a great job – and of course we support them with human power, technology, EM and advice!!

KOSHOJI EXPERIENCES EUROPEAN CULTURE THROUGH EM TECHNOLOGY!!

Our dear colleague in Bangkok, Toru Koshoji who heads EMRO Asia took the chance to undertake his maiden visit to Europe to see EM activities in Germany and the Netherlands and especially to meet his bosom pal – our ex boss Jun Matsumoto! This visit was undertaken in May – just after the European winter with the objective of studying the activities of EMIKO of Germany, EMRO Germany and of course Agriton of the Netherlands. He was



**EM promotes German tomatoes
- says Koshoji!**

the EM units and quality control technologies. He discussed the system of marketing used by EMIKO – the system of agents and distributors. He was so impressed that he wishes to adopt this system in Thailand as well! Then moved to Agriton in Holland, where he was welcomed our dear friend Albert with open arms. He was shown around the new facility in Holland.

On return to Germany, he went to some EM farms in the south – where greenhouse cropping is adopted organically with EM. The farmer, Mr. Blum has been using EM from 2008 and is using our technology in many ways – from EM ceramics in his heating boiler to lower costs and EM in irrigation water and for plant sprays. He also chops crop residues and adds them to soils with EM to make Bokashi in the ground – and today he has no pest and disease problems in his green houses – without using any chemicals! He also harvests some 28 – 30 Kg of tomatoes from 1 square meter, when he only obtained 22 kg from the same area a few years ago. In addition, the tomatoes are so sweet that people are clamoring for them! Koshoji san also visited an EM wine grower who use EM Bokashi made of grape residues – with EM – he has been using EM for 9 years!

After this visit – which Koshoji really enjoyed and also studied EM Technology, while in the company of Jun Matsumoto and also German beer and sausages, which he loves – he returned to base in Bangkok well fortified with new ideas – which he will implement in EMRO Asia. This was indeed a



EM tomatoes in Germany

also keen on observing the manufacture of a new product – EM Bright – made in Germany! The first stop was to Germany where he, along with Jun san saw

successful visit – in that its educational – and we hope that he will travel more to see developments and learn – to improve the situation in EMRO Asia and thus of our little network as well!

We thank the people at EMIKO and Agriton for facilitating this visit to our dear Toru Koshoji!

OUR STAFF TRAVERSE THE SKIES.... ..

SANO FLIES TO THE HIMALAYAS...

Our technical officer Yujiro Sano had no rest....! While planning his wedding, he was requested to fly to the Himalayas – to the two nations at the foothills.. Nepal and Bhutan! The trip to Nepal was his second – the first made 3 years ago!! In May, he flew to Nepal.. and as usual the nation was in their (infamous) ‘Panda ‘strike – hence no Transport!! Although a workshop on Nature Farming was planned for the Nepal Pollution Control and Environment Management Center (NEPCEMAC), all this were in a disarray. However, despite the Panda strike, a gentleman from the unit picked him up and thus he was fortunate enough to deliver a lecture on Nature Farming – explaining the basic concepts and techniques. Sano san also visited the Sekai Kyusei Kyo unit and the Johrei center in Katmandu and held a workshop. This center, established last year and this visit

was a result of their request to APNAN for a workshop . They were taught the principles of Nature Farming and on using EM Bokashi. A visit was also made to the Katmandu Zoo, where EM has



EM composting in Katmandu

been used for a long time to make high quality compost with elephant manure. The compost is very good quality and is made in a very short time – and due to the use of EM, the zoo is clean – for visitors. It is only hoped that they would advertise this more – so that an environmentally friendly clean technology is sailable in the form of EM to nations such as Nepal to develop their environments at a low cost.

Soon after Nepal, it was a hop to Bhutan – this time with Madam Somlak. A workshop was held at the Hotel Migmar in Bhutan. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Tashi Samdup, the Director of CoRRB of Bhutan and Nature Farming with EM was explained by Sano san – using the work in Nepal,

where kitchen garbage is effectively turned into high quality compost. Madam Somlak then discussed the Self Sufficient Economy Model of H M the King of Thailand. This program blends livestock fish and crops in a home garden, thus making the family self sufficient in vegetables and meats. The participants were very interested and asked many questions – showing that we do our best in teaching! The lack of questions means – learnt either everything or none at all!

Sano san and Somlak san also visited the School Agriculture Project, coordinated by our good friend BB Rai. They had visited 5 big schools, each with over 500 students and one small village school with 38 students. All these have School Agriculture Clubs and use EM – and no chemicals are used. This is true Nature Farming – as we have stated many many times in previous issues.. Although they had problems of getting EM last year, all that has now been rectified and they have very good models of Nature Farming with EM. The APNAN team also visited the Research Center where staff is trained. Mr. BB Rai suggested that a good trainee be sent to Saraburi for training via the International Workshop – and they identified a promising candidate who came in July. Thus, all in all, Sano traversed through the Himalayan nations promoting EM and Nature Farming just before his wedding! Thank you Sano san and Somlak san. We owe a debt of gratitude to you both – All our contacts in Nepal and Bhutan. Please contact us – we will help you to promote Nature Farming and EM in your nations.



EM eggs make students happy!

A HOP TO LAO PDR

Sano Chan...is in charge of the Lao PDR program – and he has indeed done a very good job of it! However when the demand arises, he hops over – this time it was for a meeting with an organic farming group – in the Xanthany District of Laos. The leader of this farming community was a lady who had started using EM to grow vegetables on her farm, which originally had sugar cane. The land has all facilities and hence it was a real success. Due to this



Nature Farming in Laos

showpiece, 15 other farmers got together to cultivate vegetables on this land.. this movement is growing and today there are

316 organic vegetable farmers growing crops in an area of 175 ha, while another 558 organic rice farmers cultivate over 500 ha organically with EM. All these show that even in the tropics, proper management of soils and organic matter can really help develop Nature Farming systems – especially with EM. We at APNAN thank Sano Chan for this work – It is a great asset to us.

APNAN VISITS SRI LANKA

The Sekai Kyusei Kyo of Sri Lanka found a candidate who is a landlord to attend our workshop at Saraburi. He was so impressed that he gave land to be developed into a Nature Farm – and Sano san was entrusted with the job! Thus our sponsors, the INFRC supports this unit and staff from Japan was sent to help out and conduct trainings. The farm is at Welimada, at an altitude of some 700 meters – but due to the removal of top soil, the fertility is very low. Hence, crop production is difficult. However, with diligence, vegetables are grown organically in this unit now – which is indeed a real breakthrough! The dry season that was prevailing at the time of the visit has not helped wither and the process of nurturing the soil is being done slowly. We anticipate developments in the next 12 months – in the same manner as in Laos.

Sano san also visited another Nature Farm using cattle manure with EM...he is not using any chemicals and now harvests bountiful crops of carrots and beetroots, using cattle manure and EM! Sano san's visit to the island republic did not end there. He visited poultry units using EM for odor control very successfully – One of these farms is really big – and well known – they are really keen to use EM for producing healthy and happy chicken! The last stop of the trip was to a foliage Company Mike Flora. They are keen on using EM for composting – as they need the material for the seedlings, which are exported to different parts of the world. The source of manure for the compost is elephant manure from a nearby elephant orphanage – which takes time for breakdown and causes some



Nature Farming explained in Sri Lanka

diseases. Thus, EM is to be used – as recommended by our partners in Sri Lanka SEEDS – this will surely give them good disease free compost in a short period of time.

Thus, a tired Sano san left Sri Lanka on 13th of July – happy but weary – to plan his wedding! We thank him for this work – he is really a busy man helping to promote Nature Farming and EM in the region, as instructed by his bosses at APNAN and INFRIC.

APNAN BOSS FLIES TO MALAYSIA

The expanding EM program in Malaysia makes a heavy demands on our staff – and we have to fly regularly to help them out. Thus, this time it was the new senior technical officer Asami san who did the honors of flying to Johor – via Singapore on two occasions – in May and June. In May, it was to two places in Malaysia – the first to Virgin Green (ex MGB) unit in Kuala Lumpur to make EM for their use. Discussions were held on labeling and bottling of EM and its sales. A seminar was also held in Selangor – at the Department of Animal husbandry – for farmers – on using EM for animals. This was a success as they need licenses for raising animals, which means that they must use EM! Asami san also paid a call on a farmer who has race horses – he trains horses and has been using EM for two years. His stables are clean – and there are no flies and the animals are healthy with no diseases!

The next hop to Johor was to discuss the establishment of EMRO Malaysia.. as it needs full time staff. We now have EMRO Thailand, EMRO Asia and there will be EMRO Malaysia!! After discussion with Mr. Sawada and also Taneh Sutera, Asami san went to Singapore for his onward travels, combining many nations into one trip.

The second visit was in June to Kochin in Sarawak to visit a rubber plantation – he was accompanied by Mr. Sawada and Mr. Lee, who is a distributor of EM. Asami san tells us that Mr. Lee has made liquid fertilizer using Jatropha, the growth of oil palm trees is promoted by this fertilizer and thereby provides higher yields than with chemical fertilizers. After a long drive to a rubber plantation, our boss visited

the farm of Mr. Lee, who grows vegetables with EM, which has a high demands. Asami san also visited a volunteer group in Kota Kinabalu. This group, called To Earth with Love is teaching school kids the benefits of EM and to make mud balls with EM for the annual event. It was also the task of Asami san to explain the making of EM compost with oil palm waste in a factory before getting back to Kota Kina Balu to deliver a seminar organized by the To Earth with Love Group.

This fast track tour ended on 6th June – and a tired but happy Asami san returned back to Bangkok to his dear wife and to a heavy load of paper work in the APNAN office!

Thank you Asami san for this tiring visit – but these visits are important to maintain contact and also help our partners move ahead to promote Nature Farming and EM.



Dano machine in Malaysia

PHILIPPINES AND NEW ZEALAND REQUIRES EM

Our staff at the network cannot attend to routine activities due to the demand by our partners for good quality EM and for advice on future developments in partner nations. Thus, they have to burn midnight oil... to attend to the office work and reply emails that come by the dozens on a daily basis! However, we do this with a smile always – This is APNAN – the efficient and friendly little network in Bangkok!

The senior technical officer Asami was called again to travel – this time in May to the Philippines – to make EM, discuss developments with our partner Mr. Ono and visit the Costales Nature Farm. He also visited a sewage treatment plant to advise them on waste management with EM. This was a short but efficient trip.

In June it was a long haul to Christchurch in New Zealand to make EM seed and visit a Rudolph Steiner school. They were interested in treating a river and the mud ball technique of Malaysia was



Discussing EM with Biodynamics

explained. The use of EM on their biodynamic farm to accelerate the process was also explained by Asami san, who also took time to prepare documents for certification of EM again by BioGro, an organic certifying body in New Zealand.

Again, this was whirlwind travel.. all within a short time – which makes Asami san tired but after each trip.. he comes to office smiling – and says.. we are doing great!! This is our life! Thank you Asami san for this.

APNAN HEADS TO NON-REPRESENTATIVE REGIONS!

Our bosses at EMRO never give us rest!! They do not give staff – what us to work in the region and beyond. Thus, it was again poor Asami san who was the victim of long haul flights – This time to Iran! He flew on Emirates to Iran via Dubai and landed in Firozabad – to make EM, visit farms and the EM shop of the partners. Thereafter he took time to visit an experimental farm where a student is working with EM. Asami san states that the location is just a desert – with virtually no vegetation. However, they use either river or ground water for the farming activities. The Iranian government is keen to use EM and thus is developing a manual for EM use in crops – such as rice, maize and soybeans.



Rice farming with EM in Iran

nation – and we hope to see it expand. We will

Today EM is used in some 25000 ha in Iran with significant potential for further expansion – The potential in Iran for EM is vast – we are only at the tip of an EM iceberg in this

support – as it is a pleasure for us to expand EM in the world – not only in the mandate region!

Although EMRO, our sponsors worry us, we do our duty with a smile. Our partners in Iran – please contact us – we are an efficient network, which has the potential to help you!

INDIA AND INDONESIA – BOTH WANT EM

India and Indonesia are two great nations, sharing many things – ranging from religion to culture and industry. Even in EM, they are leading users in the region. Thus we at APNAN who serve both nations, as they are within our mandate region, are called upon to visit and make EM, give advice and see that all is well in EM activities and also to promote Nature Farming. Again, it was our boss, Hisanori Asami who did the two trips in July and August. At the end of July, he travelled to Kolkata to produce EM – and met up with Maple boss Mr. Madam Mohanka as well. He also had discussions with staff about using EM in wastewaters, river cleaning and in sugar mills. A visit to a factory making naphthalene, where a sewage treatment plant had been put in and EM used, enabled Asami san to guide them in using EM in their program of waste management. Discussions were also held about marketing secondary products. The visit paved the way for Asami to observe the developments in India.



EM training center in Bali

In Indonesia, where Asami san travelled in August – he visited the EM training center and also made EM. Our friends in Bali, where the unit is sited has developed a new EM 4 for animal and fish factories – They are in the process of remodeling the unit to obtain certification. The Bokashi rub oil factory was also checked by Asami, who was amazed at the developments.

The EM team in Bali is keen on exporting Bokashi oil to Japan – the process was discussed – as there are organizations keen of getting the product to the land of the Rising Sun. They also have developed the

plant to have a restaurant and lecture theater. It was developments galore in Bali – which is one of the leading nations using EM. In addition, it is also promoting Nature Farming through the Indonesian Kyusei Nature Farming Societies, founded by our dear friend Wididana. Asami san says – the visit was well worth the time – It was amazing to see the progress and one day we hope to have our meeting in Bali – to show our partners what EM, perseverance and dedication to a cause could easily achieve – as seen in Bali.

Thank you Wididana san and his team for the dynamic work – we are supportive always and are impressed of your achievements.

OUR PRESIDENT NEVER RESTS...

Our Dear president, Professor Dr. Teruo Higa is an evergreen person – His dynamism and enthusiasm for EM will never end – this is to be expected as he developed this technology and called it Effective Microorganisms – the real EM – that others wish to imitate and also call EM! However, Professor Dr. Higa is not deterred by these activities – he steam rolls along at most times speaking using real examples of successes of EM on a global scale. At present, he is very busy in Japan and in the four months of review, he was travelling every week to some part of Japan to discuss and promote EM Technology and also Nature Farming.

In May, Professor Higa travelled to Kumamoto to deliver a seminar on Town building with EM. This was based on the experience in Johor, Malaysia. Thereafter to Tokyo for meetings, and to Hachinohe city in the Aomori prefecture to deliver another seminar titled Nation building with EM. We hear that he used examples of EM in disaster management and pollution mitigation in many nations to highlight the salient points of his seminar. Later he was back at the home base in Okinawa to attend the EM forum, after which Professor Higa was flying again to Wako city for a seminar at the EMX medical research center. In June, Professor Higa was in Kamakura city to attend the 20th anniversary of EM Japan Inc, who is one the principal distributors of EM in Japan. After this landmark ceremony, he was at the Asaka hospital for a seminar. Thereafter, he was moving to many places – Hyuga city, Ebino city, both in Miyazaki prefecture. In Ebino, he inspected an animal unit that had used EM to prevent Foot and Mouth Disease. In addition, he also gave many seminars. Later on in June, it was far north – to Sapporo and Hakodate, and then south to Asaka hospital in Tokyo for meetings with doctors. He also visited Fukushima city, where EM is used for pollution mitigation and held a study session at the Fukushima Prefectural Agricultural Center. The last visits in June were to Nara City, and then to Taketoyo City for a seminar

on developing flower townships and for meeting U net staff. Then it was Nagoya for INFRC related meetings to end the month visiting the EM laboratory in Shizuoka and to Tokyo to attend an audit committee of a flower township.

In July, it was again one rush from place to place – from Kamiishi gun in Hiroshima to Onomichi to attend an EM forum. From there it was to Tsu city for meetings, radio interviews, attend mud ball events at many places in this region. Later, Professor Higa went to Asuke city in Aichi prefecture and then to Gamagori city to an EM orange farm. After a short break, Professor Higa visited Fukuoka to a seminar on health and also attended a memorial service of his good friend, Dr. Shigeru Tanaka. At the end of July, he went to Yokohama for a cooperative meeting on health, food and agriculture, all of which use EM. He clearly pointed out the connection of these three vital components for humankind and the role of EM in each of these sectors.

In August, it was to Tokyo, Tsuwano and to Fukuoka for seminars and meetings. Finally, his travels took him to Sakai City in Osaka to judge a flower show, and to Awaji to meet Mr. Hamabuchi, the Chairman of U-net. He also delivered a seminar at Awaji flower show and for the U-net staff before coming back home to Okinawa to rest.

We see through this program – the life that our president leads in retirement – he is more active than when working and is travelling much more within Japan – than ever before. This is our dynamic far thinking president, who is striving to make this world a better place for human kind. He has a great following – all using EM – even the fake EMs, use his name – he is an icon for the EM users in over 145 nations in all continents.

Professor Dr. Higa started his active overseas life through us at APNAN – and we value his dedication to his cause. We also appreciate the support given by Madam Setsuko Higa, who can be a greater critic than Professor himself. However, we with all our readers wish Professor and Mrs. Higa – health wealth and happiness to serve humanity for a long period of time.

NEWS OF OUR LITTLE FAMILY.....

OUR NEW SENIOR TECHNICAL OFFICER...!!

The eighth senior technical Officer is now appointed! It is the handsome young Hisanori Asami, a quiet shy person who joined us a year ago! He came to us from Okinawa – with his lovely wife – Harumi san – to work for EM Technology and APNAN, as staff of EMRO. Asami san graduated with a Masters degree in Horticulture from the University of the Ryukyus, under the tutelage of our dear President, Professor

Dr. Teruo Higa. His research was based on No tillage with EM for continued crop production. Thereafter he worked with EMRO before being sent to us for further training and leadership development. He fitted this role well and now he heads the network.

We do know that the quiet unassuming Asami san fits the bill well – and we offer him our fullest cooperation to manage the affairs of this little network. We are sure he will do it well – and one day reach greater heights within the EM world in EM Research Organization – following his predecessors such as Dr. Masaki Shintani, Mr. Takashi Kyan, Mr. Takashi Shimoji, Mr. Jun Matsumoto and Mr. Yasushi Nishibuchi! We look forward to this date.. and wish him a long stint as our boss in this little network of APNAN!



Our new boss!

OUR DEAR SANNO CHAN WEDS!!

Our sponsors, the INFRC sends young staff to APNAN for training – and in this line, the last to reach us was the shy young Yujiro Sano – who came to us six years ago! At first, he hardly spoke a word.. Quietly but steadily he built up confidence, travelled the region and became familiar with international activities related to Nature Farming and EM Technology. He was given the task of managing the nations supported by INFRC, which were indeed special nations – such as Myanmar, Lao PDR and even Cambodia. Later on Bhutan and Sri Lanka were added and he helped us in other nations as well – traveling to nations such India, Vietnam, Australia, Nepal and Malaysia – making EM and discussing and promoting Nature Farming. One of his real success stories is the model in Lao PDR – which was



The happy couple with APNAN family

developed by him – which today sells products in organic markets and offers training to people. Sano Chan also was a livewire in our workshops and he has the difficult task of managing Myanmar programs. However, as life must go on... Sano wished to have a full life – and thus on the sly, was looked out for his future partner – not in Japan, but in Thailand! His roving eye caught many but the final catch came about 18 months ago – in the form of the beautiful Ms. Rotjana Sulakitkosol – who was working on flower arrangements at the Sekai Kyusei Kyo in Saraburi. At first we often wondered – why does Sano san run to Saraburi at the drop of a hat?? Then we found out – this was to spend time with this lass, who is lovingly called Na Chan, in the real Thai way! They finally tied the knot in a simple and dignified ceremony on 19th August – and we heard that they spent a quiet honeymoon – and also travelled to Japan to meet the bosses at INFRC.

We at APNAN congratulate Sano and Na Chan – and wish the happy couple a healthy and happy future – working for the betterment of humankind – where Sano with his training will promote Nature Farming and EM, while Na Chan will promote art and beauty – two key aspects taught by Mokichi Okada, who advocated these two important aspects of a successful lives of humankind.

We wish you both – Mr. and Mrs. Sano, all the best for the future.

CHANGES OF STAFF AT EMRO HEADQUARTERS



Shimoji san

the USA promoting EM from Tucson and also enjoying US pies, which he loves, was brought back to Headquarters to help his namesake Takashi Kyan.

He was replaced by our dear friend Kojima san – who was managing Latin America – from Costa Rica. The change also consolidated the whole of

Our sponsors, the EM Research Organization in Okinawa manages its overseas department efficiently – just like EM!! Thus, many changes were made in the recent past – to further expand and promote its activities. In this endeavor, our ex boss Takashi Shimoji, who was doing really well in



Kojima san

Americas under one roof in Tucson, Arizona, under Kojima san.

We wish these two well in their endeavors and as usual offer our support to them.

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.

In 2012.....

International Conference on Biotechnology (ICB) 2012

13th to 14th November 2012

Bogor, West Java, Indonesia

Website: <http://www.icblipi2012.org>

Contact person: Anggia Prasetyoputri

Feeding the World, Africa

15th to 16th November 2012

Johannesburg, South Africa

Website: http://cemea.economistconferences.com/event/feeding-world-africa?utm_source=Day%2Blisting&utm_medium=listing&utm_campaign=DL

Contact person: Sarah Harbi

3rd International Conference on Agriculture and Animal Science – CAAS 2012

24th to 25th November 2012

Bangkok, Thailand

Website: <http://www.cbees.org/caas/>

Contact person: Miss. Ding

International Conference on Agriculture and Environment Systems (ICAES'12)

12th to 13th December 2012

Batam Island, Indonesia

Website: <http://www.isaet.org/listing.php?subcid=213&mode=detail#213>

Contact person: Ms. Helen

Moving to 2013.....

International Crop Science Conference and Exhibition

6th to 8th January 2013

Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

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

Contact person: aparna bhasin

Ninth International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability

23rd to 25th January 2013

Hiroshima, Japan

Website: <http://onsustainability.com/conference-2013/>

Contact person: Conference Producer

Food, the City, and Innovation Conference 2013

1st to 2nd February 2013

Austin, TX, United States of America

Website: <http://foodincubator.wordpress.com/conference/>

Contact person: Dr. Robyn Metcalfe

Sustainable water use for securing food production in the Mediterranean region under changing climate

10th to 15th March 2013

Website: <http://www.emwis.net/thematicdirs/events/2013/03/swup-med-project-final-conference-sustainable-water-use-securing-food-production/>

Contact person: Prof. Redouane Choukr-Allah

International Conference on Agricultural & Animal Sciences 2013

8th to 9th July 2013

Colombo, Sri Lanka

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

Contact person: Prabhath Patabendi

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!!

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APNAN WORKSHOP!!

Dear Readers – Please note that the next workshop on Nature Farming and EM will be held in February 2013 at Saraburi. This will be a workshop, where emphasis will be on EM Technology and Nature Farming. Please send your applications through the in country contacts! We assure you a good training with new staff, including special guests from Japan, all within an exciting program!!!

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, MATSUMOTO, 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.

In April 2012, the status of INFRC 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 INFRC is located at Atami, at 1F, Momoyama Bldg., 16-3, Momoyamacho, Atami, Shizuoka 413-0006, Japan.

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,
The Research Station,
5632-1 Hata, Matsumoto, Nagano, 390-1401, Japan**

Phone: +81 557 85 2001

Fax : +81 557 85 3156

Email : overseas@infrc.or.jp

Website : www.infrc.or.jp/english

**APNAN NEWS is sponsored by the International Nature Farming Research Center,
Atami, Japan for the promotion of Nature Farming on an international basis.**



Nature Farming meeting in Bhutan



Harvested rice at Chita



Nature Farming in Laos



Swine production with EM in Vietnam



Dealers on the field trip



EM vegetables in Borneo



Jun with EM tomatoes in Germany



Happy chicken at Saraburi Center