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Asia Pacific Natural Agriculture Network

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“ The source of problems of modern agriculture is the lack of understanding of the nature of the soil. Established conventional systems of farming do not take into account the importance of the soil. In nature farming a primary concept is to nurture the soil and its life. This is true Nature Farming.”

(Mokichi Okada 1882 – 1955)
(Adapted from Nature Farming/Gardening Precepts)

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ASIA PACIFIC NATURAL AGRICULTURE NETWORK.....

APNAN, the little network, huddled within the Kularb Apartment in Saphan Khwai, 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, 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 fora such as the IFOAM conferences. The network was also responsible for planting seeds of interest on the technology of Effective Microorganisms in all continents of the world and today EM is being blended into even chemical systems to reduce pollution to help preserve the environment for future generations, as advocated by Mokichi Okada, the founder of Nature Farming principles.

The network also provides training on Nature Farming and EM technology to interested groups, using the excellent facilities offered at Sara Buri Nature Farming Center, managed by the Sekai Kyusei Kyo of Thailand. Information is disseminated, and the Newsletter produced 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 PENS.....

WE LOOK AHEAD.....

ASIA PACIFIC NATURAL AGRICULTURE NETWORK – a successful network for humankind!

A year has gone by and a new one unfolded – Four moths have passed by in the New Year – clearly showing the truth of the age old statement – Time and tide waits for no man! However, we at APNAN – the little but successful network huddled in a small street in Sapan Kwai region of Bangkok, Thailand, has been living up to the expectations of most of its contacts and members. We can proudly say that as we step into our 20th year of existence, that we have achieved over 90% of what we have been assigned to do by our sponsors – the International Nature Farming Research Center at Atami, Japan and the EM Research Organization, also in Okinawa Japan. While the former, from being the total sponsor some years ago has now reduced its input, sends us much needed staff and provided funds for this newsletter and some activities, EMRO has taken over the role of being the main sponsor for our daily activities. However the harmony of the two organizations keep us going to achieve the objectives of promoting both Nature Farming and EM Technology in the mandate region and even beyond. This is indeed a significant success – where low cost management has achieved excellent results. At the beginning of the 20th year – it's time that we ourselves do a SWOT analysis – A real analysis will be done later in the year, when this network really celebrates its 20 years of existence at a meeting in Japan, where the advisory board will meet for the first time since its inception 7 months ago. However, lets look at the strengths we have – We are small – hardworking, modest and efficient. We do provide the network connections to all our members and friends – this is clearly indicated by the responses we get from our contacts about this small newsletter and also by our activities in providing EM, maintaining quality of EM and also offering technical support. We have also trained young Japanese to become leaders and take on responsibilities – The young fledglings that have come to us - raw graduates have blossomed to be good managers today – and we continue to do this effectively. Many examples can be cited in this connection – as we refer to Dr. Masaki Shintani, Messrs Takashi Kyan and Takashi Shimoji, Nobuyuki Taniki and Kosaburo Imamura. Furthermore, we have a long list of other technical officers such as Mr. Hayakawa, Mr. Sakurai, Ms Okuda et al – all of whom are doing well in their respective areas of work – all trained at this small network. Furthermore, one of our biggest strengths is our friends and partners in the region and beyond, who work with us through Nature Farming and EM – we thank them for their ever present support and hope that these bonds of friendship and cooperation will be strengthened in the future.

However, we are not perfect! We do have weaknesses – in that we have failed in providing scientific data when called for by our readers. This is a weakness – but it's not our mandate to do research – however, we do try as much as

possible to encourage our friends to do research and tests in an internationally accepted manner. This is coming through slowly but surely – and we do request the INFRC, which has a fully equipped research station in Nagano, Japan to help us promote Nature Farming by providing the much needed data, and EM Research Organization in Okinawa and its branches in the US and Europe and Latin America to give us data on EM through their various projects. We also may have a weakness in not being able to address all queries by contacts and counterparts – this is because of the smallness of our network when staff is so busy rushing from one job to another – but we will improve – we promise you that.

Opportunities - we have lots!! The world today faces a crisis in terms of the availability of quality food and food security for its growing populations, and also environmental degradation – both soils and water. We offer two technologies that will help overcome these problems – through Nature Farming, which is time tested since its inception in Japan in the 1930's and also EM Technology, given to the world from Okinawa in 1989 and promoted by us. This technology is well proven to help enhance crop and animal productivity, mitigate pollution and develop a more conducive environment – and in the recent past, its derivatives used for human health care. All these are opportunities that we need to pursue to make this world a better place for us all. Threats – do we have them? Of course – we face them all the time. If not this earth would be heaven for humankind! The biggest threat that we face is the false and imitation EM that is made and sold by people in the name of what we do. Unfortunately – some of the more dynamic falsifiers of the true EM have been our counterparts some year ago – and now as they could not reap undue profits – they left us and formed their own imitation products which are of low quality - and the funniest aspect is that they name these products in a similar manner to that of EM!!! We do not wish to cite names and nations – but we do assure you that we know what goes on and we are prepared to face these threats.

With all these – and much more in terms of the SWOT analysis – we are doing well. We will celebrate 20 years in a small but dignified way later this year – with a meeting of our sponsors and most trusted friends who have been with us through these 20 years working voluntarily for this network – often behind the scenes. Hence we are a happy lot – and we do our work to the best of our ability. At the beginning of this landmark year, we at APNAN extends its gratitude to all those who help us – The International Nature Farming Research Center in Atami, Japan, EM Research Organization in Okinawa, – and the Sekai Kyusei Kyo of Thailand, and it's President, Revd. Daiho Kasahara for their facility at Sara Buri – the Paradise on Earth. Thank you - Mr. Kanit Muangnil and his able assistant Masanobu Sakurai, who help us with conducting workshops, trainings and with visitors - Arigato Gozaimasu!!

APNAN expresses its deep gratitude to Rev. Tetsuo Watanabe, President of Sekai Kyusei Kyo and Rev. Sho

Kobayashi, Head of the EM Laboratory and Board member of Sekai Kyusei Kyo, for the support and guidance extended to us. As we promote Nature Farming as advocated by Mokichi Okada, it is only natural that we request them to help and guide us at all times.

We offer gratitude to Rev. Kiyoshi. Amano, Chairman, Board of Directors of INFRC, Mr. Tatsuo Harakawa, Senior Managing Director of INFRC, Mr. Junichi Yuzuriha, Managing Director, Mr. Akio Ito, Manager Extension Department of INFRC, Mr. Hidehiko Okubo, Head of the International Section of INFRC for their guidance, which is increasing slowly but surely, as we do a good job. Thank you Mr. Katsuyuki Asato, President and Board of Directors of EM Research Organization in Okinawa for their ever-willing support and advice. We also offer a big bouquet of thanks to our dear President and Mrs. Higa who are with us always, although we do not see them much now – which is a pity!!! We also appreciate the concern and regular contact that we have with our ex technical officers who also advise us.

APNAN is now headed by Jun Matsumoto, who along with other staff and Ms. O the administrative assistant do a difficult job with a smile on their faces – working through the concepts of Nature Farming and EM Technology.

As the editor writes this editorial on Sunday morning with a sly smile on the face, reminiscing of the past 20 years, when the rest of Bangkok is sleeping still and a good friend of ours, who has a significant influence on our activities is asking – when shall we go for lunch!! - We feel contented. We are doing our job and we are successful – if not we could not have existed for 20 years on the budget that we have!!

As we walk through the 20th year, doing our work diligently and improving ourselves all the time.

ALL AT APNAN WISH OUR FRIENDS AND CONTACTS A VERY HAPPY 2009.

**APNAN, Bangkok, Thailand
17 MAY, 2009**

The Cover page presents in a clockwise direction beginning from the top left – Seminar in Miyazaki Participants at the International Workshop, EM Coffee in Bali and Organic products with EM in Lao PDR respectively.

THE VITAL NEWS.....

APNAN HOSTS INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

APNAN holds its usual workshop twice a year for people who are interested in both Nature Farming and EM Technology, both of which are promoted by us very successfully in the region and beyond. This time, it was from 16 – 19th February, after our staff celebrated St Valentine's day in style, painting Bangkok Red!! The workshop brought together 28 participants encompassing 22 from our neighbor Malaysia, and a member each from Pakistan, India, Bhutan, Hong Kong and Taiwan. The plan was to have 35 participants but sudden cancellations from participants from countries such as Sri Lanka reduced numbers. However it was a lively workshop where all participated actively.

One major attraction of this workshop was the newest member of APNAN, our Nishibuchi san – who replaced dear Sano san, who was ill. The reports reaching the editor states that Nishibuchi san (Nishi for short) did an excellent job in presenting the concepts and also conducting practical lessons. The Power Point presentations that he had made were impressive and we hear that his husky singing was in great demand to hit the Thai charts!!

The feed back was excellent and we wish to inform all readers and our contacts - Please do not cancel bookings for the workshop at the last moment because the places are limited. When cancellations are made at the last moment, others lose out.

We on our part will try to do our best and even hold specialized workshops in the future years. We also need your feedback and friends and all interested keep in contact – we will help as always!!



Mr. Harakawa at the workshop

A TEAM FROM INFRC VISITS CHINA

The International Nature Farming Research Center, which also supports our activities, including this newsletter, is keen to develop Nature Farming in China. Hence, they make an annual trip to the mainland to observe the developments. This year, our President Professor Dr. Higa visited China with Mr. Tatsuo Harakawa, the Senior Managing Director of INFRC, Dr. H L Xu, the Deputy Director of INFRC's Agricultural Station in Nagano and our Liaison Officer, Mr. H Okubo, who heads the International Section of INFRC. The visit began with a flight into Beijing, for the Organic Agriculture and Nature



An intensive discussion on Nature Farming in China

Farming International Forum. Over 100 people attended this event and from 27th April, the team visited EM sites. The first was to a swine farm with 6300 pigs in 35 sheds. In Daxing District of Beijing, 70% of the swine farms use EM. A vegetable farm on 133 ha grows over 80 kinds of vegetables organically which are certified by an organic certifier. It is hoped that this be developed into a nature farming with EM.

The delegation also visited a farm in Jinan, which is supported by the administration of Jinan city. They have just started the work and we hope it will expand. A visit to a pig farm also showed that EM helps control odor and enhances health of the animals.

The forum gave an opportunity for Prof. Dr. Higa to discuss EM and Nature Farming with the participants. However, we are told that the Deputy Prime Minister of China visited the Shanxi Province to see the pig farm using EM – and appreciated the success and cooperation from INFRC. This was in the local newspapers and TV nationwide as a VIP appreciated this development.

NZNFS ACQUIRES A NEW FACTORY

New Zealand Nature Farming Society started off at the back garden of Mike Daly's house and the factory was located in the garage!! That was the time when EM use was less than 100 liters per year. Today the NZNFS uses some 25 – 30 tons EM per annum and the garage and shed have now grown out of its capacity... just like its Manager Mike Daly who grew out of his house at Halswell Road – to a plush house overlooking the sea!!



Mike Daly at the new factory

Thus, a new factory was called for and Mike has been successful in acquiring a new one – again in Christchurch, where the capacity for production exceeds 50 tons. They will move in the near future to this unit and we wish them much success in their new home. We initiated the program in Kiwiland and have watched it grow at its own pace creating successes all along – and today after three years of seminars in different parts, we learn that EM is growing. APNAN has also been a part of these seminars and we are really happy that the seeds planted have grown into a fruit-bearing tree. Congratulations and best wishes NZNFS – we thank its trustees, the Chamberlains and Mallards and also Mike and Marianne Daly – who have done the work. Thank you – and we are with you all the way!!

INFRC VIP VISITS APNAN



Mr. Harakawa explains at Sara Buri

Mr. Tatsuo Harakawa, the Senior Managing Director of INFRC visited Thailand in February, 2009. The objective of his visit was to discuss the activities of our little but effective network and also attend the international workshop conducted by you. On arrival in Thailand, he was met by INFRC staff stationed here – and Mr. Koki Nagamine took charge of all arrangements of Harakawa sensei. On arrival, he was taken to the Sara Buri farm, which is our Paradise on Earth and acts as the training grounds and where the international workshop was being held. He greeted the participants present at the workshop and encouraged them to use EM and carry out Nature Farming in their respective nations. Thereafter he made a presentation on Nature Farming – methods of rice cultivation. The presentation made in Japanese was translated by Koki san.

Harakawa sensei attended the workshop and also toured Sara Buri. He was present at the closing ceremony and gave away the certificates of participation. Thereafter he also attended the field trip, discussing projects and Nature Farming with participants. He visited many farms and special emphasis was placed on Sara Buri, which is the showpiece of Thailand for real Nature Farming with EM. He, as a person well versed in Kyusei Nature Farming gave advice to the staff at Sara Buri – and also the potential and importance of research for international acceptance of Kyusei Nature Farming. Thus after a whirlwind tour, Harakawa sensei left Thailand on 21st night.

APNAN is so pleased of this visit, as it encourages us to do much more - and promote Nature Farming and EM. Once it was Mr. Akio Ito who came and this again was a boost to our morale.

Thank you Harakawa sensei for coming and we hope that more VIPs from INFRC will come to our events and also visit us on a regular basis. This will spur us to move forward at a greater pace.

PROFESSOR HIGA RECEIVES AN ENTHUSIASTIC EM USER FROM MALAYSIA.



A keen fan of EM - Mr Soo meets Prof Higa and EMRO staff

Mr. Soo - a Malaysian, is a dedicated EM user. He was introduced to EM through his compost heap, where he used the microbial inoculant. Due to the phenomenal success, he contacted Mr. Sawada, our counterpart based in Johor Malaysia, and now he is really an EM fan – so much so that he sends SMS and also calls Mr. Sawada at midnight to discuss EM!!

Mr. Soo is now heavily into the use of EM – many projects are managed by him. He is using EM to clean the Penang River using EM mud balls, in hotels, municipalities and many more – he is also profusely writing the newspapers about the wonders of EM. In fact we are inundated with these cuttings – we will publish them next time!!!!

Mr. Soo, with his cousin, Mr. Jon Su, who is also infected with EM fever, visited Okinawa the home of EM to meet our dear President and founder of EM – Prof. Dr. Teruo Higa. He was hosted by EMRO and taken care by Mr. Takashi Kyan, who heads the overseas department. He visited the Wellness Center, the Costa Vista where EM is used, and met Higa sensei on 25th April to present his activities. Prof. Higa promised to visit Penang this August when a project to launch 1 million mud balls to the river for pollution control is planned. Visits were made to the Uruma library, chicken farms and many sites that use EM.

We are sure that Takashi Kyan was a very good guide as he is deeply involved in all EM related activities. Mr. Soo has been most impressed and we look forward to greater activity in Malaysia.

Please keep us informed – we will publicize your good work. Thank you Mr. Soo – you are really great!!

BOKASHI BECOMING A HOUSEHOLD NAME IN NZ



Field practicals in New Zealand

Bokashi New Zealand has grown to unexpected proportions!!! A small company was started in Timaru, South Canterbury in 2003 by Neville Burt for selling and making EM bokashi and buckets for household and industrial waste management. However today, the use of bokashi in New Zealand has spread nationwide, as the technology is safe, easy, useful and also productive. We are told that they have sold over 15000 buckets in NZ, and the demand is rising. Bokashi is used in selected national parks to maintain composting toilets clean and free of odors. However the most successful project has been that on Waiheke resort island where over 25% of inhabitants use the bins and Bokashi, thanks to the work by Neville, Mike, Glenda and of course APNAN!

We learnt that Neville makes his bokashi with the best ingredients – and the methods used are safe and clean – thus delivering an excellent product. This really works in kitchen waste management.

We hope that other nations will also take this up... It will surely reduce environmental problems created by household organic wastes.

Readers -please contact Bokashi NZ for details – and we wish Nev and his team all the very best while supporting all these activities!! Please keep us posted to tell the world what you are doing!!

READERS – PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE!!

APNAN is a diligent network!! This is not what we say all the time but our members and friends do tell us.

We try to provide information to all interested on Nature Farming and EM – which are our mandate activities. In this connection, this little network has developed a wonderful website and the blog is now being created as well.

This website has many examples of how EM is used in all our members and friendly countries – it gives rates of applications and much more information. Thus all readers please visit the site and show it to your friends – please network – spread the word around that there is APNAN and its doing excellent work with EM and Nature Farming to make this world a better place for humankind. This is the blog - <http://apnan.blogspot.com/> please check it!!!!

HAPPENINGS OVER 120 DAYS.....

EMRO GETS A NEW DIRECTOR

The award of a Doctoral degree by the Tokyo Women's Medical University to our ex boss Masaki Shintani has opened many eyes.. and those of his employer and one of our principal sponsors, the EM Research Organization.



Dr. Masaki Shintani

Thus, his talents have been recognized and now he is appointed to the Board of Directors of EMRO, which strengthens our position with EMRO. He also heads the research division of EMRO and this is indeed very encouraging as he is very keen to develop research programs that will be recognized by international prestigious scientists and Journals. In this venture, we hear that he is trying to grab all the best people in EMRO and also from us!!!! We have to be cautious as our Dr. Shintani is a very persevering person and can convince people to join his team!! However, we wish Dr. Masaki Shintani well and congratulate him – and hope that he will also support us with staff and research news for this newsletter. In return, we will also help him to pursue his goals of making EM and Nature Farming with EM household names in the agricultural world.

VISITORS FROM SOUTH ASIA AT APNAN

APNAN, this little network is a hive of activity. It is manned by a few officers but provides services to the world.. and not only our region! Thus, we have many visitors calling in and also sending us emails making requests of all kinds. We oblige politely as always - and any delay is due to work or the officers being away!!

In January, we had Mr. Sudan from Nepal visiting us. Mr. Sanjay Dey of Maple in India visited in February – all to see waste management with EM. Mr. Sudan was very interested in composting as garbage is a major pollutant in Nepal and they are trying low cost effective methods of overcoming this environmental problem – especially to get rid of the smell. As our dear readers know, EM is a great tool for this – for waste management and controlling foul odors – and the objective of Mr. Sudan was to be trained in waste management. This was achieved at Sara Buri due to the ever-willing support extended to us by Mr. Kanit Muangnil and our dear Sakurai san, who is now with Mr. Kanit. We were told that he is very pleased and

we look forward to hearing more from the Himalayan kingdom from both Mr. Sudan and also our counterpart Mr. S P Yadav of CWDS, who handles the EM project.

The visit of Sanjay Dey from Maple India was just before the international workshop – to see wastewater treatment as maple is associated with MM Aqua in India, which also handles wastewater. His visit took him to the National Housing Authority of Bangkok, which uses EM. He was impressed and wished to develop similar projects in India that has immense problems with water. He was also interviewed by Thai TV on his impressions and the program was broadcast in Thailand. We hear that he is quite famous now in Thailand and is in great demand!!

However all these show that there is immense interest in what we do – promoting Nature Farming and EM. We do this with diligence and hence we are successful. All friends interested – contact us.. We will help as always.

EM PROJECTS DEVELOPED IN MALAYSIA

The EM projects in Malaysia are now making much progress – so much so that models are being developed to exhibit the usefulness of our technology to humankind and the environment. One project thus developed is the EM model region in Johor Bahru Municipality where the local housing environments are improved with EM. The residential unit, contains some 50 – 60 apartments and is located along a drainage canal that leads to the Sebron river. The foul odor of the wastewater in the canal caused much concern and the Municipality subsidized waste bins and encouraged recycling organic garbage. Thus, EM was used to make EM bokashi and fermented rice rise water – which were used to maintain the gardens planted along the canal. They also added EM into the canal. Today the whole region is green and the residents are very happy that the environment is clean. Fish is seen in the canal and the project is being expanded to include other similar housing units. The second project is near Kuala Lumpur, and is on the Buri Niaga Resource farmland, owned by a Sara Buri Trainee, who is now crazy about the technology and what it can do!! He obtained the support of the government and bought land, where he has chicken and goats. He is using EM to make compost and is on his way to make this a model for the region.

We wish all these projects much success and implore them to use them to promote Nature Farming and EM. We on our part will support their ventures.

KIWI LAND PROGRESSES WITH EM TECHNOLOGY

New Zealand Nature Farming Society, ably managed by Mike Daly and also his dear wife Marianne, is doing well. We are very pleased that during the first four months – they undertook many activities and were very successful. The first was a visit by Jun san, our boss to make EM for NZNFS and also visited sites. After making the EM – this time a smaller quantity to tide over the transition period of moving into a larger factory, Jun Matsumoto visited many sites. Amongst these, the Organic Training College of Lincoln was a highlight. The college has 30 students

and they learn practical farming with organics. NZNFS helps this unit and supports its activities. They have EM plots where luscious vegetable are grown – and all are again managed by EM trainees at Sara Buri. They use EM for composting and for watering and as sprays. They stated that with EM, the soil is softer and there is a significant reduction in pest damage. Thus, they anticipate expanding their activities.

The Ashburton meat works also uses EM – thanks to Mike Daly's innovative approach. This unit, which employs 70 people, processes about 700 animals per day. Thus, it produces some 4.5 Mt of offal and 350 tons of wastewater, all of which are environmental concerns. Today they use EM to treat these solid wastes. The wastewater is treated with EM and sprayed onto pastures. With the use of EM, all foul smells have gone – and the running and maintenance costs have reduced due to the termination of earlier outsourcing of wastewater management. The company saves some NZ Dollars 750,000 per annum because of this project and we hope this will be a turning point for the wastewater management systems of New Zealand – where EM will be used. We request Mike Daly to push this further and use this as a demonstration unit!! We will provide the required support!!!

APNAN PRESIDENT TRAVELS ACROSS JAPAN PROMOTING NATURE FARMING AND EM

Our dear President, Prof. Dr. Teruo Higa never rests, despite retiring from active service at the University of the Ryukyus. In fact, his workload has increased tremendously as now he has no commitments to the University and thus can fly like a free bird!! Thus from January to April this year, he was crisscrossing Japan, promoting Nature Farming and EM to his fellow compatriots and women.

In January, he traveled to Tokyo, to overview the project of the Nihon Bashi river carried out by U Net, which is very successful in controlling pollution with EM. In addition, he visited the Tokyo Women's Medical University, where two of his ex students were completing their doctoral degrees, to discuss the use of EM as a preventive medicine. In the same month, he was at the Miyazaki prefecture to deliver a lecture at a seminar.

In February, he became a salesperson for the Meio University in his home prefecture of Okinawa. He visited many islands and the mainland of Okinawa promoting the EM based education offered by the Meio University. The head of the Meio University accompanied him as well. Thereafter, he visited Atami, for meetings with INFRC, and again to the Tokyo Women's Medical University for discussions.

March was indeed a hectic month for Higa sensei!! The first trip was to Mie prefecture for a seminar organized by the Kyusei Sinkyo group. Thereafter it was to Aichi prefecture for an EM user's conference and then onto Hokkaido to Mikasa city, located north of Sapporo.

The Mikasa city is special as it was a large mining city. However, aging of its population is a problem and the

city has no funds for development. This city began using EM for recycling 75% of its kitchen wastes through EM buckets. A private company uses the organic compost, and the success is phenomenal in home gardens and in general farming. The EM is provided at a very low cost and Higa sensei delivered a lecture on using EM for healthy life. Mikasa city hopes to become a model EM city in the near future.

Higa sensei was also in Shimane for the Japan Flower Contest – this he does every year. Thus, it was a very busy time for our dear retired Professor – he is more active than ever!! We are proud of his achievements in addition to all the work he does at Meio University and EMRO – and also in guiding us. We wish our dear Higa sensei the best of health and do invite him to relax with us in Kularb Apartments – We will look after you.

EM PROMOTED IN NORTH NEW ZEALAND

NZNFS has been holding a series of seminars and promotions of EM .. first in the south, the home of NZNFS and last year it was around Auckland. This series was so successful in getting EM into the North Island, especially into places such as the resort island of Waiheke, which has now adopted EM for waste management and environmental development.

The seminars last year were delivered by Mike Daly, his erstwhile friend Neville Burt of Bokashi NZ and a guy from APNAN – who provided the international scene on Nature Farming and EM. This time the seminar series roped in another presenter to the trio – in the form of Glenda Neal Andrews, who manages the environment projects on Waiheke island.

The success of the series was so great – that NZNFS requested that EMRO/APNAN send a guy again to help the series organized in the central and eastern part of the North island. Thus, the four met up again in Auckland on 15th March at the Auckland airport – one from Bangkok and two from South Island – and drove to their digs in the city. After the arrival of Glenda in the afternoon, clips of a video on bokashi making and the use of bokashi buckets for household waste management were filmed in Parnell, where the garden of a church was used as the location. The filming was carried out with a member of Oxfam, the Non Government Organization working with the needy in different parts of New Zealand, which was also using EM for teaching waste management, using bokashi and the buckets made by Bokashi NZ. Mr. Burt was interviewed and filmed to explain the concepts of the Bokashi Network and the benefits of bokashi buckets and bokashi. APNAN was also requested to provide an overview of the usefulness of EM, its current position and its science for inclusion into the video. The video will be completed by July 2009 and will be made available to users and APNAN.

On arrival in Hamilton, two of the four visited a dairy farm, which has been certified organic and which uses EM for cleaning dairy affluent and for cleaning. The affluent with EM is sprayed onto pastures where some 160 cows feed. The meeting was also attended by other farmers

who were keen to learn the potential of EM in the management of dairy farms.

The potential was presented to the audience on the farm using the example of this unit – The EM was examined and the process of extending EM. The farmers present had heard of EM and were keen to see its success in New Zealand prior to using it.

During this period, Neville and Glenda had two meetings with the city and regional councils of Hamilton and Waikato respectively. The Environment Center of Waikato had arranged these meetings. The first meeting was for the staff of the Environment Center, which is promoting bokashi for household waste management. Many members of staff had attended this meeting to resolve some of the problems that have arisen with the use of bokashi and EM. Thereafter the second meeting was held for the business community, teachers and the public to promote EM and bokashi for organic food waste management. This again had created much interest, due to the proven benefits of the technology, which was presented under the scene of New Zealand.

The delegation traveled to Thames on the Coromandel Peninsula, where a workshop and seminar was arranged from 1500 – 1800. The seminar cum workshop was organized by the Organic Cooperative of the Thames city, and was held in the community hall. It was attended by over 35 people from different walks of life, all interested in waste management with EM.

After a very successful seminar, the group was led to the community gardens, where Neville and the delegation demonstrated the practical use of bokashi in waste management and the possible use of bokashi in home and community gardening. Mike Daly illustrated the methods of making Activated EM and EM5. The program was received very enthusiastically and although it was to finish at 1800, the delegation was in the field answering queries and explaining the technology for an extra one hour.

The next day, the delegation traveled north via Auckland to the community of Matakana, where two seminars had been arranged at the community hall. The seminars were for two audiences – the first from 1400 - 1600 for cafes, restaurant owners, vineyard managers, and the second from 1900 – 2100 for the general public.

The organization responsible for arranging the seminars was the Rainbow Valley Farm, a 35-hectare block of land developed through permaculture techniques and currently used in training, and the Rodney District Council, which is responsible for the administration of the region. The latter is very keen to reduce its organic wastes and encourage the people in the district to recycle the material for gardening, thus removing waste and using the material for gardening and food production. The farm uses EM for waste management and is based on Nature Farming techniques, although they do not call it by that name. It recycles all its wastes, and except for a very few items, does not bring anything from outside to feed the personnel and trainees. The farm has crops, livestock and birds and even a small plot of organic rice for demonstration purposes.

The first seminar was held for some 24 people and the presentations were modified to meet the requirements of the audiences. The second seminar was held for some 20 people and again changes were made to the presentations, where in the first seminar, the presentations addressed the large-scale use of bokashi and EM for organic waste management, while the second was for household and small-scale use.

On the last day, after a tour of the Rainbow Valley Farm, the delegation left for the Rodney District Council to meet with the environmental officer. After a brief meeting, they traveled to Auckland to a meeting of an Ecological Restoration Community based in the North Shore city council. Some 20 members were present to discuss the use of EM and bokashi for organic waste management on both a community and home basis. After presentations and discussions, questions and queries were answered by the delegation.

These projects have been received so enthusiastically that we hear that the next series is being planned in the lower half of the North island to cover the capital city. We are supportive of this work and Mike, please do let us know.. we will surely help. We at APNAN wish NZNFS all success.

EM USED IN BEEKEEPING – A RESEARCH PROJECT OF A POLISH MASTERS STUDENT!!

APNAN has good news!! A student from a University in Poland has done a project – applying EM to hives!!! This was a preliminary study done by Mr. Marcin Kijak of Warsaw in 2008/9. The title of the thesis is “The use of Effective Microorganisms Technology in Apiculture – preliminary research.”

Our dear friend Mike Daly of NZNFS sent this thesis to us, as he too is keen on using EM in apiculture.

The thesis abstract states that EM was applied to two lots of colonies at two locations to study the impact of colony development and strength. While there was no effect in one site, the hives of the other site had a significant development of the area of brood (a 31% increase over the control)! This has led to the conclusion that there are benefits, which need further longer term study – which we agree.

All interested in the data could contact either Mike Daly or us – we have a copy of the thesis - but it is in Polish!! However, we are glad that innovative research on EM is coming up and we encourage and support such developments.

MIYAZAKI VILLAGE ENRICHED DUE TO EM TECHNOLOGY!!

The Miyazaki village in the Fukui prefecture in Japan is a city of 6000 people. The city was in debt to a tune of 9 billion Yen and medical costs were very high – this led to financial collapse.

The revival of the city came with EM. They began using EM for effluent treatment, agriculture, kitchen waste management and all aspects of life. Thus, the mayor of Miyazaki launched an EM project team to expand the use

of our technology. Today the city has an excellent but low cost medical system, the school provides organic meals to the children and EM is used to treat all organic wastes and thus produces good manures for the agricultural lands. This has been a boon to the city fathers as waste management is reduced significantly and health of the people improved.

Our President, Prof. Dr. Higa visits this village regularly, as it is a model village. We hope that the city fathers of Miyazaki will hold an open day in the near future to show and share their experiences with similar and larger cities of Japan. Miyazaki is now a model EM city and we hope that there will many more in the future. We look forward to visiting Miyazaki in the near future.

EGYPTIAN VIP VISITS OKINAWA AND THAILAND

The Republic of Egypt, has made much headway with EM – We remember the times when APNAN was involved in promoting EM in the 1990's.. When APNAN staff accompanied our President – to meet Dr. Mamdouh Riad, then Undersecretary for lands, later who became His Excellency the Minister for Lands, who promoted EM in a big way. Today the program has come a long way and the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment have two EM programs. Thus the link is much stronger and the excellent work by Mr. Fukugauchi is paving the way for greater things – including copying APNAN's dealer meetings later this year!!!

The link is strong – and thus Dr. Ahmed, who is responsible for the EM project in the Ministry of Environment in Egypt visited Okinawa and Thailand. The visit to Okinawa was to meet our President, Prof. Dr. Teruo Higa, and see some sites of EM use in the homeland of the technology. This was very successful – so our new staff member Yasushi Nishibuchi tells us!

Dr. Ahmed arrived in Thailand. He was met by Nishibuchi san, and the duo traveled to Sara Buri – the showpiece of EM in agriculture. He was met by Mr. Kanit Muangnil, the Head of the Sara Buri training center and our colleague Mr. Masanobu Sakurai, who showed the farm and explained its activities. The next day, Dr. Ahmed visited the Rose Garden (<http://www.rosegardenriverside.com/>) where EM is used for garbage treatment and sanitary management, thereby reducing the use of harmful chemicals. The kitchen garbage and leaves from the garden are made into excellent compost, which is used in the garden. He also stayed at the EM hotel, and had many discussions with the manager to promote the hotel worldwide! This was the enthusiasm of Dr. Ahmed after a stay at the EM hotel!!!

On the last day, Nishibuchi san took Dr. Ahmed to the National Housing Authority (NHA), which uses EM for treating effluent and wastewater. The duo visited slums developed on water in Bangkok, where before the use of EM, odor and mosquitoes were major problems. EM made these problems disappear – and now the slum dwellers use some 100 cubic meters of activated EM once in 10 days for this area of 3 hectares of land, which helps maintain water quality. Dr. Ahmed was interviewed at the

site for Thai TV and he was most impressed by the success. Egypt is a nation in the desert and needs water. When the EM project first started, it was in the Sadat city to treat wastewater, which was used for irrigation. We are sure that this visit will help Dr. Ahmed to promote EM to a greater extent in Egypt. We at APNAN, this effective little network also wish to inform Dr. Ahmed that if any assistance is needed – we can help – we would also love a working holiday in the Land of the Pharaohs!!!

OUR TRAVELS AND TRAILS.....

APNAN BOSS – A REGULAR VISITOR TO MALAYSIA



Catfish farm in Malaysia

Our APNAN boss Jun Matsumoto is a regular traveler between Thailand and Malaysia!! His travel takes him to Johor to make EM for our counterpart JAMOF and also to Kuala Lumpur for discussions and also to sites using EM. In February, Jun san visited JAMOF to make EM and also see some sites with the newly married Mr. Abdullah, who is keen to promote EM and Nature Farming much more vigorously, just like his strong attempt to raise a family!! The first visit in 2009 took our boss to a catfish farm, in close proximity to the EM production unit of JAMOF. The farm, which is just less than 2 hectares has 20 cages for raising catfish for 12 weeks before marketing them. The farmer, Mr. Shaharum stated that the success of the farm is due to EM, where the water that is changed once a month is treated with EM at a dilution of 1: 1000 or 5000. This has removed the foul odor and the fish have a lower incidence of diseases. What is more important is the improvement in quality – which has created a great demand for this catfish! While the farmer is very happy on one hand – he is also very sad that his farm cannot meet the demand!! Thus, we hope that he will expand or even subcontract other farms and expand the use of EM.. This will surely help.

The trip also took Jun san to an oil palm estate using EM. This plantation started with EM after our young Sano chan visited them last year and recommended that the owner apply 4 Kg bokashi and 1 liter of EM activated solution per palm twice a year. The results have been amazing where the yields have increased by some 50% and the soil at the base of the palm has improved

significantly. The soil is soft and teeming with life – all due to the changes caused by EM – from a deteriorating situation to one of significant improvement. We are very happy with this success and hope that such ventures will increase in the oil palm estates of the world.

In March, Jun traveled again to Malaysia to make EM for JAMOF, which is going through quite a bit of the versatile inoculum!! The sites visited also had significant improvements – all because of the training they received at Sara Buri!! This clearly showed two things – That EM is becoming popular in this wonderful progressive nation, which at one time was very skeptical of EM and Nature Farming, and more importantly, the multiplier effect of the 5 days workshops that we hold. All the sites had people who attended the workshops and were trained by us!! This clearly highlighted that we at this little network are doing our jobs correctly and diligently – Thus we do deserve the Setsuko Prize!!! All interested in Malaysia and all other nations please contact us... We will help – in providing EM and technical advice.. and hence, all readers - Please promote EM in your neighborhood to enrich lives of humankind.

NEPAL RECEIVES YUJIRO SANO

Our dear Sano chan, soon after coming to APNAN from his long stay in Japan was packed off to Nepal! We were rather worried of him going, due to the health condition, but we are pleased that he passed the test!!

On arrival on the 6th March, Sano was welcomed by Mr. Yadav of CWDS, as this was the first time Sano went to the Himalayan Kingdom. Thereafter he contacted Mr. Kiyosawa, who heads the Nepal Karunari Association, which is an NGO working in Nepal. Mr. Kiyosawa had contacted INFRC, our sponsors and the employers of Sano chan, and thus the contact in Nepal. Mr. Kiyosawa had wanted INFRC to hold two workshops in remote villages of Jumla and Delichol. The first stop was Jumla, with Mr. Kiyosawa's party in a small plane, and held a workshop for Senior Agriculture Officers and about 35 farmers. The basic steps of EM, its activation and composting were demonstrated and the whole program was enthusiastically received. After Jumla, Sano chan trekked for nearly three hours to Delichol, as there was no motorable road. Sano chan also held a workshop in Delichol and in three neighboring villages of Ruma, Zapuna and Rorupa. The contents were all the same and the farmers who have meager resources were all happy and accepted EM.

On return to Katmandu, Sano met up with Mr. Yadav and Mr. Ramesh Nath Shasme, and visited an EM site – Health and Care. Mr. Shasme is very interested in Nature Farming and EM and hence has been using EM for over 4 years in their orphanage and on the farm. The farm looked good says Sano Chan – with healthy crops of cabbage, potato, cauliflower and broccoli. They also conduct workshops for farmers – and all these lead to the use of EM and adoption of Nature Farming.

We are pleased of the recent developments in Nepal – it was dormant for a time and now we see the developments.

We kindly request Mr. Yadav and his team at CWDS to keep going and also send us snippets of their activities. We will support your activities as much as we can.

LAO PDR INVITES KOKI NAGAMINE



Hot chillies with Nature Farm in Lao

Our handsome officer Koki Nagamine, is a roving man – he loves traveling and sampling the delights of Asia. Thus, he was in Lao PDR in March 2009 as a first timer – he had never been to Laos our neighbour, although he has been here in Bangkok for four long years!!

On arrival in Vientiane, Koki san was received by the EM staff of the Vientiane Municipality. Koki states that although the officers speak English, they preferred to speak Thai, and hence our dear Koki san got a chance to practice his Thai too! Koki san had discussions with officials on arrival - and planned his 4-day tour. Thus on the second day, after overnighting in Vientiane, he made EM at the farm and demonstration unit. This job is very important to us – as it is our duty to provide the required EM. In the recent past, the demand has been increasing in Lao PDR, thus necessitating that our staff take the one-hour flight!

The next two days were spent visiting farms and Koki san states that there are several farms around Vientiane that use EM. This because of the organic market that functions twice a week and the lack of chemicals for pest management and also fertilizers. A visit was made to the organic market as well – and at least 50% of the farmers at the market use EM. The Vientiane Municipality also has an EM shop which sells EM and EM products!!

On the last day, Koki san met with the head of the EM project, Dr. Lasay and discussed future directions. He also commented on the success of the Lao program, which is handled by Sano chan. Koki san says that his junior colleague Sano has done a good job!!!

Thank you Koki san for this visit and all the hard work you put in.

SRI LANKA EM PROGRAM SCRUTINIZED

The EM program in the Republic of Sri Lanka is handled by the Sarvodaya Economic Enterprise Division (SEEDS), which is a business branch of the mother organization Sarvodaya, founded by the world famous Dr. A T Ariyaratne. Their EM project is going well.. not bulky but strong and robust, and APNAN staff, especially those



Koki san with proud rice farmer

from INFRC visit the island nation at regular intervals to make or check EM, help out SEEDS and very importantly meet with the Sekai Kyusei Kyo of Sri Lanka, who are also using EM.

This time it was Koki who visited the island republic – and as usual, the Thai flight arrived at midnight. He was met by the SEEDS officers and they drove to the new EM unit at Homagama, which is southeast of Colombo. The new unit moved from the earlier site at Bandaragama, which included a farm. However, at Homagama too, they have space for Nature Farming. After a rest and sumptuous breakfast, Koki san made the EM that was required, checked quality and prepared seeds for the future. Thereafter he visited many EM sites, which included ornamental fish, rice and leafy vegetables. Koki san was very impressed by the success achieved at the ornamental fish farm, where losses were decreased with the use of EM in feed. He also specifically states about the 80-year-old rice farmer, who has been using EM since 2000!!! This farmer harvests some 2 tons of rice from his fields – all-organic! This was impressive!

We are told that Koki san also met the members of Sekai Kyusei Kyo Lanka at the Colombo Hilton and Revd. S. Kobayashi, who is the President of SKK Lanka there. The discussions had been cordial, although the demand by SKK Lanka for more free EM was not approved. However, APNAN will attempt to solve this problem soon, after discussions with SEEDS and SKK Lanka, as the agreement for EM supply is between SEEDS and EMRO.

After final discussions Koki san left Sri Lanka on the 1st May night – he is happy with the progress – he says but had no time to meet a staff member of APNAN who resides there in the mountains having a holiday as usual!! We wish SEEDS all the luck for expanding the program – they have new units and buildings and contacts and we hope that this nation, one of the founding members of this network will expand its activities more.

INDONESIA WELCOMES NISHIBUCHI

Indonesia is the world's second largest EM user and the market is still not saturated – It's growing!! This is primarily due to the activities and dynamism of our dear colleague Wididana, who is spearheading the movement. Thus due to the ever increasing demand for EM by Widi

san, Nishibuchi traveled to Bali, the home of IKNFS, headed by Widi san. These trips are made by Nishibuchi san as he is new to the region and thus requires familiarization with the on going activities.

Nishibuchi san tells us that Widi san has launched an organic coffee project – another feather in his cap!! The unit for processing organic coffee is sited next to the EM factory and production has been initiated. The coffee comes from organic farms, which use EM, and Nishibuchi san visited a farm where EM is used for composting. The farmer provides EM to his cattle, adds EM to the manure, and applies 5 kg per tree per annum. The farmer clearly



EM Compost in Indonesia

verified that EM has improved the growth of coffee trees and yields have been enhanced. Coffee of such farms and transported, processed and packed for sale and export. This is great – there will surely be a demand for organic EM coffee of Wididana!! Widi is also a philanthropist!!! He has stated that the profit from this enterprise – will be used to buy cattle for distribution to these farmers!! This will surely be a revelation to all – that a business helps farmers who supply the material to be sustainable in their organic manures, which is made more effective by EM!!

Thank you Wididana san for your great efforts – and once you get elected to the local government – we are sure that EM will be used even more in Bali and also the whole of Indonesia. We look forward to this day and offer all our support as always to help you achieve this objective.

VIETNAM WANTS MORE EM

Our dear Nishibuchi san always wants to go to Vietnam – the nation he worked in for two years – We do not know why – but we do know that he gets many calls from that nation! Thus he took the opportunity to fly into Hanoi to check the EM and do some promotional activity with our dear friends at the Vina Nichi Center headed by the evergreen Dr. Le Khac Quang!! On arrival all his friends were at the airport with garlands and gifts – both living and non living. He realized that he had forgotten his Vietnamese!!!! He is thus becoming Thai now!!

However after attending to the EM related work at the Vina Nichi Center, Nishibuchi san visited two farms, which could be considered models. The first was Mr. Hung's farm, where plans are afoot to organize a farmers group to



Liquid fertilizer made with EM

produce safe and quality food through EM and Nature Farming. They obtain advice from Dr. Quang on making compost from mushroom residues and sludge from biogas tanks. The second was a visit to the family farm of Mr. Vinh, a young staff member of the Vina Nichi Center. They have an orchard and they make liquid fertilizer in a large pond using EM, chicken manure and plant debris. This material is added as a liquid fertilizer. However as the amount of EM added was insufficient, the odor was overpowering – This Nishibuchi san advised them to use more EM – and this is now being done effectively. We are very happy about these innovations – this is true Nature Farming and EM at work – using material from the farm in a closed system to enhance productivity and quality. APNAN supports these ventures undertaken by the Vina Nichi Center and we wish them well. However we note that the tours of the Vietnamese to Sara Buri have been reduced – can we know the reason Dr. Quang??? We always look forward to these visits as it gives up a good opportunity to exchange views and hence we do hope that these will be resumed again – like the good old times!!

APNAN REQUESTED TO STEP BEYOND ITS BOUNDARIES!

The mandate region for APNAN for its activities related to Nature Farming and EM ends in Pakistan to the west! However as we gather experience, and due to our excellent record, we are called upon to help out other regions as well. Thus our new officer – Nishibuchi was requested to travel to South Africa to help out with EM, as the officer of EMRO in charge of this region, Mr. Fukugauchi is always busy with this important continent!!

Nishibuchi san had been nervous as it was his first visit – and had really enjoyed it! He was met on arrival by Mr. Yoshida our counterpart based in Pretoria. Thereafter Nishibuchi san visited the EM unit, checked quality and finally met Prof. Prinsloo – who has been very active since the International Nature Farming Conference held in South Africa in 1999. Prof. Prinsloo, took Nishibuchi san to the ZZ2 farm, which is one of the largest tomato farms in the world and grows some 1800 ha of tomato and 500 ha of onions – the ideal crop mix for a good spaghetti sauce!! They were introduced to EM by Prof. Koos Prinsloo in 2001 and have been using EM for composting, making EMFPE as an insect repellent through a series of large tanks. They also have a very good herb garden and make their own recipes of EMFPE!!

During the discussions, the management of ZZ2 farm stated that they were very happy with EM. They also stated that the use of EM has strengthened the plants and the damage caused by storms is minimal!! This is what our dear President states all the time. EM enhances the vigor and vitality of plants!!

Nishibuchi was very happy at the outcome of this visit and really appreciates what EMROSA and Prof. Prinsloo is doing to promote EM in South Africa and possibly the region. A bird whispers that future developments are afoot and we look forward to these. We offer our fullest cooperation to this great nation and hope that they will use more and more EM to make South Africa have its requirements of safe food while preserving their pristine environment.

THE FAMILY NEWS.....

APNAN MUM AWARDS SETSUKO PRIZE FOR GOOD PERFORMERS



Setsuko Prize winners with Setsuko san

Our dear APNAN mother, who takes care of all its members, is a gracious lady. In addition to caring for her ever-busy spouse, our President, Prof. Teruo Higa, Madam Setsuko Higa also leads an active life – and is ever diligent to promote EM and Nature Farming in Okinawa and also within the Organization EMRO.

In order to promote active and diligent work by staff, for which she is a stickler, she has now developed a scheme of rewards in the form of EM products and gifts such as coupons to buy books! This is an encouragement to all the staff at EMRO – and we are pleased that this has been initiated by Madam Setsuko Higa, who has some novel ideas. However – we at APNAN wish to say... that we have worked for EM and Nature Farming tirelessly for two decades and never have we been considered for the Setsuko Prize!! Does this mean that our work is not upto the high expectations of our mum?? Maybe we would be punished for not doing our job?? We do also now submit an application for dedicated work for Nature Farming and EM to the Setsuko Prize and hope that our application will be considered favorably!!! Dear Oku Sama... we also deserve a prize – at least an EM Ice cream for our work!!! Thank you Oku Sama for your activities to promote EM and more importantly to motivate the staff working

tirelessly to promote the technologies that will help humankind.

CONGRATULATIONS DR MASAKI SHINTANI

Our first ever Senior Technical Officer, Masaki Shintani, came to APNAN as a raw masters graduate – soon after completing his degree under the tutelage of our President Prof. Dr. Higa at the University of the Ryukyus. His work at APNAN trained him in life overseas – although he had some experience in Honduras as a JOCV volunteer. The experience he gained at our Network made him a real international worker – who gathered much needed experience in all facets of life!! If we are to record all his pursuits at APNAN from initiating projects, examining EM, making EM, lecturing and training and also housekeeping where he wanted his evening meal at 1730 Hrs... it would be a complete newsletter!!!! However, his stint in APNAN paved the way for him to take up a position as a member of staff at EARTH University in Costa Rica – the first member from EMRO!! His work there earned him much respect among the staff and students and after this assignment – Shintani san left for the US to develop the research lab in Tucson. Many were his exploits in the USA where he strived hard to get EM registered. His research took him to wee hours of the morning when he diligently worked his way. The junior colleagues complained of the rigorous schedule laid down by the boss!!

After the US, it was Japan again where he wanted to be with his beloved wife and two sons. However, due to the award of a doctoral degree to his best friend Shuichi Okumoto, who followed him to EARTH University and to EMRO USA, he was keen to do this as well. He also wanted to get a Ph D to out compete a junior but older member of this network who used to laugh at Shintani san's pursuits. In this venture he looked for positions and ended up where he loved to be... at the Tokyo Women's Medical University!!! Furthermore, he was brave enough to venture into the field of medical sciences from agriculture.

He strived hard at the Tokyo Women's University, under the tutelage of Professor Matsuoka, a distinguished scientist, and surrounded by many beautiful ladies – the company of whom he enjoyed very much!!!

However the stress of studies or the ladies or both turned the jet back hair of our (not so) young doctoral student Masaki Shintani to grey, giving him a distinguished professorial look!! He finally made it after four years changing the field of study and getting a paper published in a very reputed British Medical Journal to become Dr. Masaki Shintani in March this year.

Congratulations Dr. Shintani – we are really proud of you – you have shown us and all the younger staff what perseverance is – and that once you set your mind – one can achieve most objectives!!

We are extremely proud of you and we look forward to your guidance in the future. Please do not forget where you started Shintani sensei.. We look upto you and to further developments in your illustrious career!!

CHIMO BECOMES A YANKEE

Our dear Chimo, (Takashi Shimoji) who was the most valuable assistant to the Head of Overseas activities of EMRO, our ex boss Takashi Kyan has for a while become a Yankee!! He was posted to EMRO USA in Tucson to assist in the transfer of operations from Dr. Shuichi Okumoto to new management under Chimo... and also oversee the transfer of duties of our dear Yuri, who single-handedly managed EMRO USA's administration, to a new appointee.

We are told that Chimo now walks, talks, eats and dresses like a true Cowboy of Arizona.. with boots and hat included!! However, we are also informed that he is doing a very good job in overseeing the smooth transfer of duties without any disruptions to EM supply and also is now traveling the great nation giving seminars in place of our President Prof. Dr. Teruo Higa!!!

We have watched the development of our ex bosses who started as raw graduates of the University of the Ryukyus.. and all have done really well. In Chimo's case.. it was from APNAN that he went to Okinawa, the base of EMRO, and traveled widely.. especially to regions such as Pyongyang and Vladivostok and Uzbekistan. In old Russia, he really enjoyed the cold drinking Vodka, and also to the deserts of the middle east. Thereafter he managed overseas operations in EMRO and also traveling to many places on management and technical assignments. Now he will take over USA .. and we wish him a very successful stay in this great continent – and also give us chances of real Yankee holidays!! We are sure that he will do a good job.. and also enjoy chatting with his international network of friends from Tucson – through his camera phone/ipod as he will be away from his family that he is so fond of. We wish you well Chimo and look forward to reporting your accomplishments from Yankee land!!

SANO REFRESHES AT A NATURE FARM

Our young technical officer Yujiro Sano was taken sick last year. Thus he was shipped back to Japan to his home to recuperate – and during this time, work at INFRC headquarters at Atami. However, he was given light work and when the Sekai Kyusei Kyo organized a short training course on Nature Farming at the Korin farm in Japan, he attended it – he states that the principal work was weeding manually!! This has refreshed him as the farm is located in a beautiful region – and the food – all natural, has been revitalizing him .. So much so, that he is now with us again in Bangkok.

We are very happy that INFRC really looks after its staff and thus we too request such programs to revitalize our bodies and minds!! Thank you INFRC – please support us also in the future.

WELCOME BACK SANO CHAN

Our dear Sano chan caused an upheaval in our little network last year!! He was sick in both body and mind!! However, as a true member of Sekai Kyusei Kyo, he refused all medicines – and relied on Johrei – which did not help much. The ever thing Sano chan was just fading away – so much so that the APNAN oldies was also worried! Sano refused food and was holed up in his room!!



Mr. Yujiro Sano

APNAN hence contacted INFRC and he was recalled immediately – back to Japan. It was a relief when he left for treatment. At INFRC, he was nurtured through care and love – both from his family and the INFRC bosses – and his seniors such as our dear friend Nobuyuki Taniki!! The good news came at regular intervals – when he began sending emails to his good and trusted friend, the oldie of APNAN living three hours flying time from Bangkok!! He noted his progress and finally after a cure at a Nature farm, he was sent back fit and ready both in mind and body for the duties as a technical officer of APNAN!! We are happy that he is back – hale and hearty and we even cooked a special dinner - by importing a chef. Welcome back Sano chan – we missed you and are happy to have you with us!!

FORTH COMING IMPORTANT EVENTS.....

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS ETC.....

Agriculture Science Congress

22 to 24 June 2009

Srinagar, Lammu ●●●@Kashmir, India

Website: <http://www.skuastkashmir.ac.in>

Contact name: Dr. Shafiq A. Wani

International Conference on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable well Being (STISWB 2009)

23 to 24 July 2009

Mahasarakham, Thailand

Website: <http://stiswb.msu.ac.th>

Contact name: Dr. Adisak Pattiya

3rd Regional Conference on Nature Resources in the tropics (NRT rop 3_ 2009) 3 to 5 August 2009

Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia

Agriculture Outlook Asia 2009

14 to 16 September 2009 Singapore

Website: <http://www.terrapin.com/2009/agriasia>

Contact name: Gisete Tay

The 3rd International Conference on Integrated Approaches to Improve Crop Production Under Drought-Prone Environments.

11 to 16 October 2009, Shanghai, China

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

Contact name: Liu, Zaochang

22nd Asia Pacific Weed Science Conference

19 to 23 October 2009, Lahore, Pakistan

Website: <http://www.wssp.org.pk>

Contact name: Prof. Dr. K.B. Marwat

CABI Global Summit- Food Security in a climate of change

19 to 21 October 2009 London, United Kingdom

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

Contact name: Tamsin Davis

ICAFNS 2009 – International Conference on Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Sciences

8 December 2009, Havana, Cuba

Website: <http://www.waset.org/wcset09/havana/icafn/>

International Conference on Organic Agriculture

03-07 February 2010, Cyprus

DEAR READERS.....

PLEASE NOTE!!!

The next Scientific Conference of IFOAM will be held in Korea in 2011! This is the first time in the history of IFOAM, that the world congress is held in our continent – ASIA!!

APNAN request all our readers and friends to submit abstracts of research and experiences for possible presentation as Oral or Poster sessions at either the scientific sessions of ISOFAR or the World Organic Conference.

Please contact us for further details – But we do request you in earnest to do some studies with Nature Farming and EM and submit the abstracts to the conference. The details of submission will be on the web site in early 2011 – but we must plan ahead. We do look forward for your cooperation!! Please contact us at APNAN for details or check the IFOAM/ISOFAR websites for further details!!!!

APNAN T SHIRTS – OF VERY HIGH QUALITY ARE AVAILABLE WITH US AT A MODEST PRICE OF 250 THAI BAHT PER SHIRT!!

The colors are – Black and Blue with our special Logo mark!

Please send us your requirements – We will reserve them for you!!

APNAN WORKSHOP!!

Dear Readers – Please note that the next workshop on Nature Farming and EM is being held from 20 – 23 July 2009 at Sara Buri. Please send your applications through the in country contacts! We assure you a good training with new staff and new programs!!!

The term EM, Effective Microorganisms and EM Technology refer to the specific technology developed by Dr. Teruo Higa of Okinawa, Japan. These trademarks are exclusively owned by EM 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. Thus, the INFRC undertakes research and extension programs on Nature Farming based on the principles of Nature Farming advocated by Mokichi Okada, who stated the importance of respecting nature and conforming to its laws. The importance of allowing soils to exhibit their inherent potential is also a key to the principles of Nature Farming, which is promoted by the INFRC.

Today, the INFRC supports over 1900 Nature Farming units in Japan – both in crops and livestock operations. It also has a research farm at Hata, Nagano where scientists are diligently working towards the validation of Nature Farming. The INFRC also promotes the use of EM technology to stimulate the soil biota and enhance productivity.

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

In the recent past, the INFRC has been accredited to certify organic products and farms under the JAS Organic Certification scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture of Japan, which is now promoting Organic Agriculture. Old friends meet. 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.

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The Team in China



Bokashi making by Participants



Sano trains Nepalese Farmers



Harakawa sensei at Sara Buri center



EM stall in Vientiane



EM vegetables in Sri Lanka



Dr. Ahmed checks EM mushrooms



The South African EM people