

# Asian Rural Institute

## Class of 2014

2014 年度アジア学院学生 / 研究科生

### CUBA



**Jose**

Mr. Jose Antonio Sanchez

**The Christian Center for  
Reflection and Dialogue (CCRD)**  
Farm Coordinator

I work to empower men and women from the Cardenas area, where there is high unemployment, by giving training in farming. I wish to increase my technical and practical skills, so as to be better able to teach others how to sustain themselves. On my return to Cuba, I shall initiate a course in practical and theoretical organic farming at my sending body, the Christian Center for Reflection and Dialogue.

### Rural Leaders Training Program

農村指導者研修プログラム

### MALAWI



**Brenda**

Ms. Brenda Zembeni Maganga

**Anglican Diocese of Upper Shire**  
Field Worker

In community, people live and depend on each other so that there is room for learning and development. I appreciate the diversity of the ARI community. At ARI, I want to sharpen my experience in sustainable agriculture, learn a holistic approach to human development, and gain leadership skills.



**Ernest**

Mr. Ernest Golden Maganga

**Kachere Progressive Women's  
Group (KPWD)**  
Field Coordinator

I work in the Blantyre area of Malawi as a field coordinator with the Kachere Progressive Women's Group. We work tirelessly for women's empowerment and to promote profitable agribusiness. I want to create a food-sufficient community at home, then expand outward, targeting grassroots leaders of Malawi.

### BANGLADESH



**Rehana**

Ms. Rehana Yesmin

**Satata Development Society**  
Executive Director

We train the women we work with in poultry and cattle-raising, gardening, handicrafts and fish culture - skills which help to generate income, support education for poor children and alleviate poverty. I want to expand my knowledge of agriculture and share this with trainees. No people can be developed in Bangladesh if the socio-economic position of the rural poor is not improved.

The **Asian Rural Institute (ARI)** has been dedicated since 1973 to training grassroots rural leaders, who live and work in their communities in countries located primarily in Asia, Africa and the Pacific.

Located in Tochigi, Japan, ARI trains rural community leaders regardless of nationality, race, religious beliefs, gender or age. The aim of the training is to facilitate the self-development of rural people, in order to build a more just and peaceful society.

The training is practically-oriented. Participants learn through classroom lectures, discussions, and study tours and then put this learning into practice by managing their own fields and rice paddies, raising livestock, heading committees and organizing events. The ARI community is almost completely self-sufficient, with more than 90 percent of the food we consume coming from our own campus.

ARI does not have an independent source of funds. We rely on the support of individuals, churches and funding organizations to operate the training program. Furthermore, since ARI actively seeks out people from the most marginalized areas of the world, who have few resources to support themselves for this training, we help them to connect with potential supporters for scholarship assistance. ARI's training program is made possible by supporters' generous contributions.



**Asian Rural Institute**

## SOUTH KOREA



**Motoki**  
Mr. Motoki Che

My mother is a devout Buddhist and my father loves to watch movies. Through my mother I was influenced to think often about life and death, and watching films with my father exposed me to surprising ideas and taught me that each person thinks differently. And now, at ARI, I have been connected with agriculture.

## LAOS



**Khamlet**  
Ms. Khamlet Sengsoulichanh

**The Association for Rural Mobilisation and Improvement (ARMI)**  
Project Coordinator

Many communities have natural resources, but foreign companies are moving in and we fear for the future of these communities. I work to empower farmers with natural agricultural techniques. After experiencing "learning by doing" at ARI, I hope I will be better able to train farmers to make use of organic farming.

## UGANDA



**John**  
Pr. John Walukano

**Wesleyan Church of Uganda**  
Pastor

My remote rural community lacks healthcare access and training opportunities. While serving my community as a pastor, I also provide training in farming techniques, tree seedling raising and construct solar cookers and mud stoves for families. At ARI I hope to acquire skills to counsel youth on positive health strategies and teach new farming skills to subsistence farmers.

## INDONESIA



**Nike**  
Ms. Eunike Widhi Wardhani

**Trukajaya Foundation**  
Church Organic Farming Team Member

Farmers should be the masters of food, but so often they are ignored. This is especially true for women. I work to empower farmers to share their big dreams and will use my ARI training about food security to learn how to better plan and implement activities for women in rural communities.



**Lampita**  
Ms. Lampita Silaban

**KSU POM HUMBANG**  
Marketing and Farm Organizer

"Without farmers there would be no life." This is the belief that keeps me working to motivate the interest of youth and current farmers in farming. I want to empower farmers through working together and supporting them, and will take ARI's philosophy back so I may guide farmers toward a better life.



**Rudi**  
Mr. Rudi Casrudi Jahidin

**Rukun Tani Indonesia**  
Chairman, Community Mobilizer

Following my belief in the need for agrarian reform in Indonesia, I work with farmers to maintain their integrity as they fight for land ownership rights against large plantations. After learning more about cooperatives and organic farming here, I will work with my sending body and community to develop a training center that will support and strengthen farmers, both women and men.

## MYANMAR



**Aye Aye**  
Ms. Naw Aye Aye Shwe

**Myanmar Baptist Convention**  
Secretary at Myanmar Baptist Churches Union

I grew up in a farming family, and presently work as a secretary at Myanmar Baptist Churches Union. I want to move my community of Kayin people, in Dee Maw Hso township of Myanmar, from basic farming to organic agricultural development, focusing on farming, livestock, and forestry. I hope to return from ARI to my community with new skills to lead and teach sustainable rural development.



**Khun Myat**  
Mr. Khun Myat

**Kachin Theological College**  
Teaching Staff & Farming Manager

I grew up involved with rural work, and am a graduate and teaching staff of Kachin Theological College in the Northern Shan State of Myanmar. At the college's Agricultural Farm, I educate student farmers in organic practices and sustainable agriculture. I plan to use my experiences at ARI to improve what I teach to students and community farmers.



**Ni San**  
Ms. K.T. Ni San

**The Hualngo Land Development Organization**  
Secretary, Farmer

I am a secretary and farmer from Chin State, Myanmar. For several years I have been volunteering for various local projects with Hualngo Land Development Organization, my sending body. I plan to address transportation issues and implement new agricultural models in my community upon return to Myanmar. At ARI I want to learn about sustainable livestock raising and rice cultivation, especially with machinery.

## MYANMAR



**Eh Thaw**  
Mr. Saw Eh Thaw

**Pathein Myaung Mya Association (PMA)**  
Center Manager

I am involved in rural work because I was born in a rural area. My community lacks some things, but our social character brings us together to help one another. To assist in improving people's livelihoods at the grassroots when I return, I will expand my knowledge of organic integrated farming at ARI.



**Thi Thi**  
Ms. Thi Thi Win

**Kalyana Mitta Foundation (KMF)**  
Logistic Volunteer

I am from Moneywa, Myanmar, where I maintain a family agribusiness. I also serve as a logistic volunteer with the Kalyana Mitta Foundation, a community-development and peace-building initiative that works with youth. My intention is to help create and implement a young farmers program with my sending body upon return from ARI. I have worked to resolve environmental issues in Moneywa, and want to promote more appropriate technology, particularly organic options.



**Francis**  
Mr. Francis Ngaovera

**Don Bosco Rural Training Center**  
Agriculture Teacher

I work as an agriculture teacher at the Don Bosco Rural Training Center in Tetere, a boarding school that provides alternative space for youth who cannot afford a formal education. I want to expand my knowledge at ARI so I may become a better leader.

## SOLOMON ISLANDS

## SRI LANKA



**Ayoma**  
Ms. Ayoma Thennakoon

**Human and Environment Links  
Progressive Organization (HELP-O)**  
Field Manager

I have been working with tsunami-displaced farmers to develop their livelihood. My sending body, Human and Environment Links Progressive Organization (HELP-O), is an NGO that seeks to balance development and environmental integrity, and I work to increase participation in Help-O. I wish to learn about leadership development, community empowerment and agriculture, so I can improve my effectiveness as a field officer.



**Thilini**  
Ms. Chathurika Sewwandi  
Nanayakkara

**Sewalanka Foundation**  
Youth Coordinator & Social Mobilizer

I train rural youth to be leaders through my sending body, Sewalanka Foundation, which works with rural communities to democratically identify and address their own development needs. I am also working with others to establish an inter-religious clergy network devoted to democracy and non-violent social change. At ARI I hope to learn about leadership, methods of community development, and the spirit of organic agriculture.



**Suneth**  
Mr. E. G. Suneth Lakmal

**Human Development Foundation**  
Project Officer

As coordinator of the Human Development Foundation's Galewela Project, I work with others to improve local communities on many levels. The Galewela Project specifically works to increase the income level of poor farming families. At ARI I want to develop my skills in agriculture and leadership, and to learn solutions that will replace chemical fertilizers.

## NEPAL



**Debaki**  
Ms. Debaki Khadka

**TITAN**  
Farmer Facilitator

Through my work with TITAN, an NPO that empowers farmers by providing training for healthy vegetable production, I train both local and immigrant farmers. After ARI, I will resume work with TITAN and share my new ARI experience of organic farming.



**Antonio**  
Mr. Antonio Pedro de Fatima Cavalho

**PAC - Claretain Agriculture  
Program**  
Teacher & Farm Worker

I work with farmer groups from three tribes in an area near the border with Indonesia, providing seeds and seedlings, and also helping them to sell their produce. I want to deepen my knowledge of organic agriculture and animal husbandry, so that I can demonstrate new organic farming techniques and their outcomes to other farmers.



**Carmen**  
Sr. Carmelinda Dos Santos Almeida

**Sisters of the Visitation of  
Japan**  
Nun, Rural Community Worker

I believe that God gives us good things through nature. I learnt gardening as a schoolgirl in East Timor by working with my father in the fields and growing vegetables. Now, as a Catholic nun, I hope to learn new skills which I can demonstrate to my convent workers, so that in their vegetable garden they will now be able to use different techniques.

## LIBERIA



**Mike**  
Mr. Michael Tamba

**Liberia Integrated Crop and Pest  
Management Agricultural Program  
(LICPMAP)**  
Chairman, Community Mobilizer

Recognizing that many farmers lack even basic training in Liberia, my work is to provide opportunities for them to improve their livelihood through new skill acquisition. At ARI I hope to expand my knowledge, so I can implement more substantial training with the goal of forming a farming cooperative one day.



**Alice**  
Ms. Alice Howard

**Lutheran Development Service**  
Training Assistant

My life experiences have revealed that the soil is a bank. It has provided my family and many others with the resources for life. My community is still struggling to overcome the effects of war, and I participate in this struggle by teaching agriculture. After ARI I hope we will be renewed by sharing our knowledge and work together.



**Romeo**  
Pr. Romeo Dennis

**Church Aid Incorporated**  
Pastor/Farmer

During the civil war, people would assist one another through Church Aide because of farms and hunger. I wish to help that reality return, through mobilizing rural people, especially the women of Telbomai, to meet their own needs. After ARI I will continue my work of peace building and organic farming training, with new skills to better mobilize the people I serve.

## CAMEROON



**Collins**  
Mr. Collins Yenika Litika

**Rural Transformation Centre**  
Field Worker, Trainer

My goal as a field worker is to train young men and women to stay in their communities and engage in beekeeping, environmental protection and crop/livestock production for sustainable careers in agriculture. ARI can help me develop the skills to encourage and enable them to do so.



**Titus**  
Mr. Titus Tegwi Atomba

**The North West Pig Farmers'  
Cooperative Society (NOWEPIFAC)**  
President of Pig Farming  
Cooperative

By bringing in experts and working directly with pig farmers of my region, I've helped farmers to increase production, combat animal disease and strengthen their marketing strategies. At ARI I wish to study sustainable agriculture, pork production, rural economic development and effective methods to transfer this know-how to Cameroonian communities.



**Mario**  
Fr. Mario Rebello

**Society of the Missionaries of  
St. Francis Xavier**  
Priest, Farm Manager

I want to encourage young people in the interior of northern Goa to take a renewed interest in farming as a livelihood. At ARI I wish to improve my own leadership skills and to learn about Pigs, cow, and farming. After returning to India, I plan to implement organic farming techniques on my farm and share these with others.

## INDIA



## JAPAN



**Yohei**

Mr. Yohei Hamanaka

I spent the past year at ARI as a participant learning about food self sustainability through organic farming. This year as a Training Assistant I will focus on energy self sufficiency and work hard at learning how to use organic farming for the purpose of creating an efficient energy system. My goal is to then use it along with the participants and find practical ways to use the created energy.

(2013 Graduate)



**Mitsu**

Mr. Mitsumasa Arai

Through an extracurricular club in University I visited developing countries and experienced how different they are from Japan. I became deeply interested in the problems of poverty and food sovereignty and deciding I wanted to work in international relations enrolled as a student at ARI. Through the agricultural training of last years nine month training and this year's training as a graduate intern, I want to become a person who can use international relations to create rich harmony.

(2013 Graduate)

## CAMEROON



**Theodora**

Ms. Theodora Tirbaban Tatah

**Navti Foundation International**  
Health Coordinator/ Rural  
Community Development Coordinator

The people I serve have health care and sustainable agriculture needs. I coordinate health care activities, provide health education and also provide livestock guidance for farmers. As ARI's Training Assistant, I will assist in meal service and farming support, while reinforcing the servant leadership skills I honed here as a training program participant.

(2006 Graduate)

## Training Assistant

ARI Graduates who have worked in their countries for five or more years may apply to be a TA (Training Assistant). Those applicants who have achieved good results in their communities are invited to come to ARI to assist in the training of the participants.

## Graduate Intern

A Japanese graduate of ARI is eligible to apply to be a Graduate Intern (GI). The internship is twelve months long, starting in April immediately after graduation. The intern focuses on one section of the farm in which he/she wishes to gain deeper understanding and more extensive experience. The GI also takes part in all other aspects of ARI life as an actively contributing community member.

Photography: Nobuhito Arakawa  
Shigeyoshi Miwa

### The 2014 participants receive scholarships from the following organizations:

American Friends of ARI, American School in Japan Swimming Club\*, Asian Rural Welfare Association, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Harstra Foundation\* (Netherlands), Igarashi Fund, Japan Students Services Association (JASSO), Japan Evangelical Lutheran Association, Kubota Foundation, National Council of Churches in Japan, Niikura Kai Foundation, Osaka Community Foundation, Rotary Club Yoneyama Foundation, Salesians of Don Bosco, The Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Society of St Columban Region of Japan, Tokyo American Club Women's Group, The United Methodist Church - General Board of Global Ministries, Tokyo Peace Church Kachin Language Group, United Church of Canada, The United Methodist Committee on Relief, Wesley Foundation (Japan), World Council of Churches

\*Application pending as of May 1, 2014

## The Graduates of ARI

1, 273 persons

*Graduates of the South East Asia Course (1960-1972)*

• 116 Graduates, 17 countries

*Asian Rural Institute, Rural Leaders Training Center (from 1973 on)*

• Rural Leaders Training Course 1,080 Graduates, 54 countries  
• Advanced Training Course 77 Graduates

