



That We May Live Together

2010-2011 ANNUAL REPORT

April 1, 2010 - March 31, 2011

Asian Rural Institute
Rural Leaders Training Center

ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2010



29 New ARI Graduates

"The year of positiveness" is how the 2010 training program is being described. From beginning to end this group possessed tremendous energy and motivation. Continuous questions and discussions about how to adapt this learning to their own context made it clear their heart was in it for the benefit of their people back home. With great excitement we sent out 29 additional graduates from 16 countries to join with the family of ARI graduates working worldwide.



Brazil, Congo, Malawi, Zimbabwe

ARI continuously strives to further our impact rural communities worldwide by extending our training opportunities to new regions. Through cooperation with the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Assoc., The United Methodist Church, USPG Anglicans in World Mission, The United Church of Christ and The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), we were able to welcome our first participants from these 4 countries.



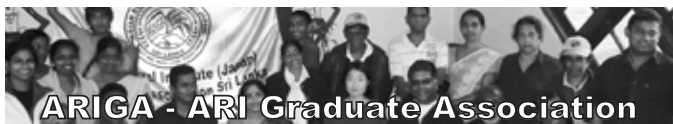
New Farm Shop

In 2008 it was just a drawing and a dream. Now it is a striking, practical, energy efficient farm facility – well almost. The earthquake has delayed its completion, but progress is still good.



Growth File and Reflection Day

ARI is a place of profound transformation. To help nurture and guide participants through this period of sometimes wrenching personal growth, the *Growth File* and *Reflection Day* were introduced to the curriculum. These were well received and many participants said they plan to introduce these methods in their community work.



ARIGA - ARI Graduate Association

Once again, graduates organized ARIGA meetings in many parts of the world, coming together to share about their successes and struggles, to encourage each other and to renew their ARI spirit. **Kenya**, August 2010 (first meeting); **Sri Lanka**, January 2011; **Nepal**, February 2011; **The Philippines** (first nationwide gathering), February 2011; **Manipur, India**, March 2011



Dan Dan no Kai

Local farmers and businesses contribute to ARI in many ways, such as allowing us to use their land, selling our products, and providing us with leftover fish and tofu that we use as animal feed. As a way to show our appreciation, we organized a small event called a *Dan Dan no Kai*, where we made traditional Japanese sticky rice and played games.



Pig Raising Project

Upon the initiative of several participants, our first completely student centered pig raising project was carried out. They took full responsibility for caring for the pigs from the time of weaning and fed only foods available in their home countries, successfully bringing them up to full body weight within 6 months.



Selling ARI Pork

Sales of our natural pork meat continued to increase and a consumers group called *Buta no Kai* (the pork club) was formed. A newsletter, *ARI Farm News*, is now delivered with each pork shipment to keep a close relationship with our customers.



FAMSIG

The monthly FAMSIG meeting was resumed after many years in order to improve communication and collaboration among the staff of the **Farm**, **Meal Service**, and the **Income Generation** section.



Peace Concert

On September 23 the Asian Rural Institute Supporters Association (ARISA) held its second Peace Charity Concert for ARI. Vocalist Shigeko Suzuki and pianist Won Win Tuan provided their amazing musical talent and the participants also contributed with a rendition of *Take My Hand*. Over 650 people attended and ¥1,388,110 was raised for scholarships.



Rice Target Achieved

Our rice harvest was 7.7 tons, all organic, and more than enough for our needs for the next year.

Greetings from the Board Chair / Director

We successfully completed our 38th annual Rural Leaders Training Program and we would like to truly thank you for your support, encouragement, and particularly for your contributions to help us rebuild after the March 11th Great East Japan Disaster. Without your loving support and prayers, ARI simply would not exist. Now we are putting our energy into restoring the campus and tackling the issue of soil contamination due to the emission of radiation from the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant. However, the full report of these endeavors will not be presented until next year's Annual Report. This disaster has presented us with seemingly insurmountable challenges, but we are striving to keep moving forward by believing in the words of Romans chapter 5, *that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.*

From here I would like to address the 2010 training program and financial report. We continued to work toward improving our financial health and once again this year, we were able to close our accounts in the black. We saw an increase in the number of scholarship sponsors both domestically and internationally and we also further developed our income generation section through expanding our product sales and short term training courses, such as the preparation course for JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) volunteers. From the day we were established ARI has received no government funding and we continue year after year only by your support and prayers. This year, as part of the 40th Anniversary Capital Campaign, we built a new farm shop. Though completion was delayed by the earthquake, we proudly held the dedication ceremony on May 14. Due to this disaster, however, it was decided to discontinue the 40th Anniversary Campaign in order to formulate a new campaign focused on disaster recovery. As such the Farm Shop and an anticipated graduate impact study will be the only components of the original campaign.

We sent out another 29 graduates, this year, to work in and with their home communities in Asia, Africa, the Pacific, and for the first time, South America (Brazil). This number is also inclusive of our single Graduate Intern. Additionally, ARI graduate meetings were held in Sri Lanka, India, the Philippines, Nepal, and Kenya. The gatherings were organized by the graduates themselves, who find great importance and inspiration in coming together to exchange information and experiences. Whenever possible ARI sends staff to hear the voices of our graduates and better understand their work and their challenges so we may adapt our curriculum accordingly.

As usual we welcomed groups and individuals of all ages who came and worked with us and experienced the life we call *Foodlife* in this international community. We also received several members of the Cambodian Parliament as well as the Development Minister from South Sudan who were eager to get a better understanding of organic farming training. The reach of ARI's mission truly is broad. We would like to give our heartfelt appreciation to AFARI and ARISA members and all the people who contributed to ARI this year through donations, scholarships, travel grants, providing homestays, receiving speakers, and in so many other ways. And we give a special thanks to our volunteers who give so much of themselves working along with us each day. Thank you.

Board Chair: Dr. Akira Niwa

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Director: Rev. Kenichi Otsu

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Rural Leaders Training Program - Training Report

Yukiko Oyanagi, Curriculum Coordinator

Year of 'Positiveness'

If I try to characterize this year's training with one phrase, it would be "The year of positiveness." The class of 2010 was so positive and highly motivated in their learning throughout the whole year, and it continued up to the last day - the day of their departure. They constantly sought out the meaning and purpose of every activity in the training. They even felt that failure or conflict were opportunities for learning. This attitude was reflected, not only in their learning here, but also in how they began to view their home communities. They started to value and be concerned about how to use their own local resources, traditional wisdom, and indigenous culture. They heartily embraced the fact that their learning is not for themselves but for their people, and they were continually thinking about how to utilize ARI skills and knowledge for their own communities. Moreover, that thinking started to expand from organic farming to social welfare, education, peace building, and the environment. They often had discussions about the direction of development in their countries, what is sustainable development, and what is true development. They began to say things like, "I thought my community is poor, but we are rich." "I thought we have nothing, but we have many things." "I thought my people are illiterate, but I realized they are wonderful people who know about our traditional wisdom." When I heard these things, I felt that one of the most important purposes of our training was achieved.

Dream for their Home Communities

In the last part of the training, the participants shared about their dreams for their communities. Most of them said, "My dream is to build a sustainable society where we can have environmentally healthy and safe food." Many of them repeatedly mentioned that organic farming and leadership are steps to achieve these dreams. In ARI, we believe that building a rural community which is sustainable by being self-reliant in food through the utilization of local resources is the true direction for our future rural development. This message was enthusiastically received by our participants.

Growth File

As a new measure in our training this year we introduced a *Growth File*. All of the participants and also all of the staff were provided with a Growth File, in which we recorded our learning experiences, in all their different forms. The participants shared their Growth File with other participants and staff in group consultation, so that they could see the learning taking place at ARI from different perspectives. With this Growth File system, they understood that their learning is not something that happens only in a classroom, and not only from successes, but from all the varied aspects of living in a multi-cultural self-sustaining community, and even from difficulties or failures.



Field Management Activity and Leadership

In 2005 we started the system called *Field Management Activity*. This system has now become the core of our training on organic farming and leadership. The participants are divided into four groups, and each group takes care of a field (about 0.2 Hectares) and a livestock section (fish and duck, pig and cattle, poultry). Each group chooses one group leader who serves for two weeks and the participants have an opportunity to be leader two times. The group leader must facilitate the group plan and take responsibility for the animals and field, together with the help of staff. They also take a turn once a week in coordinating the cooking of the meals. If there is conflict in the group, the leader will have to take initiative to work through it. If somebody is sick, the leader takes concern. The leader conducts meetings and carefully observes the fields and animals. These are important characteristics and skills for rural leadership. After two weeks, each group leader has a reflection session with staff, to look at how they performed and might improve in the future.

Servant Leadership

The ideal leadership style in ARI is called *Servant Leadership*. The participants often heard this word during classes and observation trips. But the place where they practiced this servant leadership was in daily life. In cleaning, in Foodlife work, in dish washing, or in group meetings, their traditional view of leadership was challenged. Even if they could talk with very beautiful words about leadership, it was very difficult to do in action. We twice carried out sessions in which participants drew a picture of the important qualities of rural leaders, once in April and once in November. Some of the participants observed that, "In April, we just put ideal and beautiful words from a book. In November, it became more practical." That means *real leadership* came out from the book and was put into practice.

I want to express my deep thankfulness for God's abundant blessings and guidance on our 2010 Rural Leaders Training Program at the Asian Rural Institute. I am also grateful that together with the cooperation and assistance of many friends and supporters, we were able to successfully complete this year's program and send out 29 new graduates of 16 nationalities.

Practical Field Study (PFS) Learning by Doing

Bokashi (quick compost) making
Composting
Indigenous microorganisms
Fermented plant juice making

Fish amino acid
Water soluble calcium
Charcoal and wood vinegar making
Seed collection

Soil blocks for seed germination
Aigamo duck & rice integrated farming
Pigs – artificial insemination, delivery, castration

"Ideas are not enough. You need to practice until it becomes a habit; how to grow vegetables until harvest; how to raise chickens until they are mature."

Siwakorn Odochao - ARI graduate Thailand

New Approaches in ARI Training – Growth File and Reflection Day

Life and learning at ARI are intense. Anyone who has been here for even a short time will know this. The daily schedule is packed from early morning. The people are full of energy and utterly diverse in culture and character. The philosophies we live by are challenging on many levels. And though the training lasts nine months, the days fly by. With participants being exposed to so many new experiences and new ideas so quickly, one of the challenges becomes how they can absorb or digest their learning. Where can they find a space to reflect on their experiences and those things that have impacted them? How can they break down their experiences and interpret them within their own understanding, culture, and life experience?

These are questions that staff have been asking as we seek ways to improve our curriculum. We have already created several forums designed to help participants process their learning, such as group discussions and personal consultation. Even morning gathering sharing is an excellent place to share personal learning reflections. While these have been successful, we still felt there needed to be something more. So this year we introduced the practice of keeping a Growth File.

At the beginning of the year participants were given their own Growth File notebook. In it we encouraged them to simply start recording their learning. They could write at any time about anything; not only about classes, lectures, or practical study, but about any aspect of ARI life. Learning at ARI is everywhere; from the group vegetable fields, to conversations in Koinonia, to visits to a neighboring organic farmer. Even failure or conflict is a learning opportunity. We asked them to be on the lookout for experiences that moved them, interested them, impacted them, or provoked them and write about these critical moments. The file was not meant to be submitted to



any teachers or staff, but was purely for their own purpose. As such they could write freely, honestly, messily if they wanted to, and in their own language (a crucially important point). They wrote about things such as a new agricultural technique they learned, a philosophy of an organic farmer they heard during an observation trip, a conversation with their roommate, their feelings about doing dish washing, a talk with a staff member in the field, and many more. As time went on they really took this exercise to heart, seeing it as an important part of their long term learning process and it was amazing to watch their notebooks grow thick. As this was a new trial, the staff felt it important that they too keep a growth file in order to fully understand this learning process. Staff files also began to fatten quickly and they discovered this to be useful not only as a curriculum tool, but for their own personal growth as well.

Additionally we started to hold monthly reflection days in which we met in small consultation groups to share our growth files. As the contents of the files might be personal, the expectation was to discuss only those topics people wanted to share. When the first person started to talk, however, others quickly joined in. One of the Key Concepts of ARI Training is *Learning within Diversity*. Both *learning* and *diversity* fully came out on this reflection day as we listened to people's different (or some-

times surprisingly similar) points of view. To share one example, one of the groups got to discussing the Rural Community Study Tour in Northern Japan. One participant said flat out that “rural Japan” is not “rural.” Paved roads, electric lines, and other conveniences would never be found in the rural areas of their country. This led to a discussion on “what is rural?” and “what is development?” Thoughts and ideas started coming from the group members’ learning from observation trips, classroom sessions, experiences in their own communities, and differences between Japanese host families they stayed with in the city and in rural areas. Then the discussion turned toward the question of what is true development and what direction toward development should a grassroots rural leader try to follow.

The Growth File and Reflection Day greatly helped participants discover not only what they were learning, but how they were growing. Many participants have said they intend to take these practices back home to utilize in their work and communities. Though it has only been a one year trial so far, it can already be determined to be a great success which we will continue develop.

Community Based Curriculum Activities – Learning within Diversity

“My dream became a dream with people and not a dream for them.”

Daneth Him – ARI graduate Cambodia

- Practical field study
- Morning and evening Foodlife work – daily care for our fields and livestock and meal preparation
- Group field and livestock management activities
- Community work days – rice transplanting, rice harvest, forest management
- Spiritual nurturing – morning gathering, consultation, growth file, and reflection day
- Oral presentations
- School events – Harvest Thanksgiving Celebration, Opening Ceremony, Commencement Service
- Community building days – picnics, hikes, sporting events
- International fellowship and home-stay programs

2010 Lecture Agenda *guest lecturer

Leadership

Leadership of ARI	<i>Rev. Kenichi Otsu</i>
Servant Leadership	<i>Tomoko Arakawa, Osamu Arakawa, Yukiko Oyanagi</i>
Non-violent Communication	<i>Francis Beausoleil* (Non Violent Communication Trainer)</i>
Presentation Skills	<i>Yukiko Oyanagi</i>
Reflection Paper Writing	<i>Steven Cutting</i>
Independent Learner	<i>Steven and Miki Cutting*</i>
Conflict Resolution	<i>Akiko Ishihara* (Kumamoto University)</i>
Time Management	<i>Timothy Appau</i>
Participatory Learning and Action (PLA)	<i>Yukiko, Tomoko</i>

Development

Globalization	<i>Rikkyo University ESD, DEAR, ISDEP*</i>
Localization	<i>Yoji Kamata* (NPO Ancient Futures)</i>
Eco Village Design Education	<i>Yoji Kamata*</i>
Development and the Environment	<i>Dr. Koa Tasaka* (ARI board member)</i>
The History of Nasu Canal	<i>Shuya Tamura* and Tomoko Arakawa</i>
Ashio Copper Mine Environmental Pollution	<i>Tatsuo Sakahara* (Dir. Shozo Tanaka Univ.)</i>
Rural Development Theory & Practice & ARI Mission	<i>J. B. Hoover* (Executive Director AFARI)</i>
Credit Union	<i>Hoichi Endo</i>
Nutrition	<i>Kazuhiko Takeuchi</i>
Gender Issues	<i>Tomoko Arakawa</i>

Human Trafficking in Asia

Machiko Kaida (Japan International Center for Children's Rights)*

A Proposal for Establishing World Peace

Dr. Kazuo Ota (Prof. Emeritus Rakuno Gakuin Univ.)*

Sustainable Agriculture

Sustainable Agriculture Theory	<i>Ardhendu Chatterjee* (Ag. Advisor, India)</i>
Agriculture in Japan	<i>Hajime Kikuchi* (former director of ARI)</i>
Crops & Vegetables	<i>Osamu Arakawa</i>
Rice Growing	<i>Osamu Arakawa</i>
Livestock Management	<i>Gilbert Hoggang and Sanae Kabeya</i>
Livestock Breeding	<i>Gilbert Hoggang and Sanae Kabeya</i>
Poultry Management	<i>Timothy Appau</i>
Feed Management	<i>Gilbert Hoggang and Timothy Appau</i>
Disease and Pest Management	<i>Atsushi Yamaguchi</i>
Livestock Disease Management	<i>Gilbert Hoggang</i>
Agro-Forestry	<i>Masaaki Yamada* (Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology)</i>
Permaculture	<i>Toru Sakawa* (Organic Farmer)</i>
The Role of the Japan Agriculture Cooperative (JA)	<i>Naoyuki Tsurudome* (JA Headquarters)</i>
The Dangers of Chemical Farming	<i>Dr. Koa Tasaka*</i>
Natural Farming in the Tropics	<i>Shimpei Murakami* (natural farmer)</i>
Appropriate Technology	<i>Hyung Wook Ban</i>
“Teikei” Alternative Marketing System	<i>Tomoko Arakawa</i>

Japanese Language & Culture

*Kyoko Ogura**



Livestock

In the rural regions that our participants come from you cannot find many farmers who raise poultry in pens. Often they will have four or five chickens running around the house eating insects, weeds, and whatever leftovers the family throws out to them. These chickens will lay six or seven eggs and then incubate them according to the motherly instinct of hens. Until those chicks are hatched, they will not lay anymore eggs. For villagers, eggs and chicken meat are a luxury.

In ARI we manage our livestock in a way that balances each animals' ability to live according to its natural character with our aim to increase production of meat and eggs for our own consumption and for sales purposes. The area that we monitor most carefully is the feed. We provide them with plenty of nutritious food, most of it coming from our own area. Leftover rice from school lunches, rice powder from a nearby sake factory, okara from two local tofu factories, fish parts from the fish market, rice bran, barley, and soy beans: these ingredients are mixed according to the nutritional needs of the livestock and fermented. Fermentation enhances the nutrient value of the ingredients and also allows for long term non-refrigerated storage. By these methods, our chickens can lay eggs continuously and our pigs can reach 100 kg (220 lbs.) in just six months.

While these approaches work very well in ARI, the more important task is to learn how they can be adapted to the participants' countries, especially knowing that they most likely do not have school lunch leftovers or a neighborhood tofu factory. This

year a group of participants took the initiative to raise a litter of pigs using only materials they can find in their local environment. The project was quite successful. While feeding mostly kitchen leftovers and grass, they closely watched the health and growth rate of the pigs. The staff also observed but took a "back seat" role. It was quite an achievement that they were able to bring the pigs up to full body weight in six months. Participants have commented that it usually takes much longer to fatten pigs, but this group said they were able to do it because they better understood about the nutritional needs of pigs at each stage of life, and could provide for those needs using alternate kinds of feed. This was a tremendous step toward self-sufficiency and with big smiles, the group announced at the commencement ceremony that the juicy ham that was being served during the reception was from their own project.

Crops and Vegetables

Seed Self Sufficiency

Farmers around the world dream about high production and high income. Toward this end many of them purchase genetically modified seeds. This includes farmers in so-called developing countries. For example, in the Philippines, farmers purchase genetically modified corn seeds (GM seeds) from companies called traders. These farmers have no choice but to buy pesticides from the traders as well because the corn is modified not only to bear more fruit, but also to withstand strong pesticides. In other words pesticides and GM seeds are a set. Furthermore, these high yield varieties of corn require a lot of chemical fertilizers. GM seeds are expensive and the farmers



corn require a lot of chemical fertilizers. GM seeds are expensive and the farmers are poor, so they borrow money from the traders, who charge a high interest rate. In most cases the farmers' produce is purchased by the same trader at a low price. If there is any profit at all, it is very low and sometimes the farmers don't even break even and fall into a cycle of spiraling debt. To escape this scenario and to find true independence it is essential for farmers themselves to grow and protect their own seeds which match their own climate and soil and are strong against disease.

In ARI we have a long tradition of collecting seeds from our rice, wheat, barley, soy beans, red beans, sweet potatoes, garlic, and cayote. This year, our graduate intern decided to see if she could add to our seed collection list. Since seeds purchased from seed companies usually do not produce good second generation fruit, she decided to approach organic farmers. She was able to find heritage seeds for egg plants, tomatoes, cucumbers, kabocha (Japanese squash), and many more and sowed them in ARI so that they could continue to not only produce good food for ourselves, but also good seeds for years to come.

Connectedness of Life

In Japanese modern society it has become a custom to eat strawberry cake at Christmas. Nobody has a sense that this might be a remarkable thing to be able to do, considering that strawberries are naturally a summer fruit. But in ARI we cherish the seasonality of food and that is a part of our *Foodlife*. More than just growing vegetables, *Foodlife* encompasses the connectedness of life, from enriching our soil, to collecting seeds, to serving hot meals in the dining hall. This last point is one that may be overlooked

by conventional farmers. In an effort to mass produce, it is easy to forget to consider the consumers' dining table, which can lead to overproduction and waste or underproduction and shortage.

From this year we started a system called Farm/Kitchen Management in which a person is designated each week to check the produce in the refrigerator and then walk through the vegetable gardens to make an efficient harvest plan based on actual need. This system brought about many interesting conversations, such as, "we have so many tomatoes this year, is there any way to use them up before they spoil?" We exchanged our ideas and decided to make tomato puree. One participant commented, "In the summer we overproduce tomatoes and throw so many away, yet we buy imported tomato puree. I will go back and start processing our tomatoes." This learning came about by thinking about the connectedness of life. If we are able to buy vegetables which are out of season just because we have money, we miss something very important. Through Farm/Kitchen Management, we were reminded of the relationship between growing vegetables, school meals, processing food, making use of overproduction and experienced *Foodlife* in yet another unique form

Meal Service

As a part of the training in the kitchen this year, we taught about having a well balanced menu. To help people visualize this, we color coded chief food categories into red, green, and brown and showed how by combining those colors we can have a balance of nutrition. Participants liked this system because it

FOODLIFE REPORT

was so simple. Also, at the start of each meal preparation we assigned a participant as kitchen leader, in charge of making the main dish and also coordinating the other cooks. The leaders would give instructions like, “Today 54 people are eating so we need to set seven tables. I’ m stir frying pork and green veggies. We need soup and a side dish. Who can make these and what will you make?” Being able to manage a complicated cooking procedure within a limited time is good training for leadership. Also we worked closely with farm staff to go around the gardens and formulate a good harvest plan. It may seem a matter of course, but to view the weekly harvest through the perspective of the kitchen was a new experience. We also taught how to make soap and yogurt. The ARI kitchen is not just a place to

make the school lunch but a place where we share our food with the community and with visitors from within Japan and overseas. In order to welcome more guests, we increased our dining capacity with the support from kitchen members and other sections, which I believe is also our important achievement.

Solar Dryer for Fish Pellets

Compost needs to be turned from time to time to ensure fermentation throughout the mass by aerobic bacteria. It takes a lot of work to do this, so ARI constructed a step composting system behind the pigpen. Rather than turning, all that needs to be done is to push the compost onto the next level down. When it reaches the bottom of the four-step terrace, it is ready for use and kept there until needed. Unfortunately we once had an injury when someone slipped, so we discontinued its use.

After sitting for a while, we discovered this structure would be a perfect place to make a solar dryer for drying our homemade fish pellets. For several years we have been experimenting with producing our own fish food using locally available materials. One step in the process is to dry the pellets so they may be preserved longer. We started by painting the whole terrace black. Then we built a greenhouse over it using bamboo for the frame. As the air moves up the terrace it gets hotter and so the last step was to build a drying box at the top with a small air outlet in it. It is working beautifully.



Crops and Vegetables	
Rice	7752kg / 17,054 lbs (150kg / 330 lbs for miso paste)
Wheat	1328kg / 2922 lbs (330kg / 726 lbs for soy sauce)
Buckwheat	27.7kg / 60.9 lbs
Potatoes*	880kg / 1936 lbs
Sweet potatoes	1012kg / 2226 lbs
Taro	1274.5kg / 2804 lbs
Soy beans	350kg / 770 lbs (330kg / 726 lbs for soy sauce)
Black soy beans	180kg / 396 lbs (150kg / 330 lbs for miso paste)
Red beans	65kg / 143 lbs
Carrots	4048kg / 8906 lbs (1380kg / 3036 lbs for carrot juice)
Kabocha (Japanese pumpkin)	455kg / 1001 lbs
Onions	919.5kg / 2023 lbs
Garlic	220.6kg / 485 lbs
Egoma	115kg / 253 lbs

2010 Harvest Report

Livestock	
Eggs	77,800
Chicken meat	452kg / 994 lbs
Milk	4472 kg / 9838 lbs
Pork	90 Pigs
for ARI	8
sales to ARI consumers	37
sales to general market	45

Food Processing	
Egoma oil	103 bottles
Miso paste	300kg / 660 lbs
Soy sauce	1952 bottles
Carrot juice	5048 bottles

*Due to overly wet conditions most of our potatoes rotted soon after harvesting. But we were able to make it through the year thanks to the kind-hearted donation of 900kg of potatoes from Raymond Epp of the Menno Village Organic Farm in Naganuma, Hokkaido and Rakuno Gakuen University, who paid to have them shipped to us!



つながる *tsunagaru*

Tsunagaru is a Japanese word that carries the meaning **connecting** and this year ARI's Income Generation team focused on Tsunagaru with people in our local area. We held a book market and flea market and also organized workshops on coffee roasting and Japanese tea making. These events attracted many new people who had never visited ARI before. The Tsunagaru book market was especially well received. Supporters from all over Japan donated their used books and a big crowd showed up the day of the market. We have decided to make this a yearly event.

① Peace Concert and Peace Art Poster Exhibition

September 23, 2011 Kuroiso Culture Hall

Once again this year the Asian Rural Institute Supporters Association (ARISA) organized a Peace Concert to raise money for an ARI scholarship. Vocalist Shigeko Suzuki and pianist Won Win Tuan freely gave of their time and talent. Mary Tenneh Kpaka of Liberia shared about her counseling work with women victims of the civil war in her country and at the closing, ARI participants sang a rendition of Take My Hand, with the audience standing and joining hands (not a usual occurrence in Japan). Before the concert ARI staff Atsushi Yamaguchi delivered a talk called *Living Together with the Farmers of Afghanistan*. Mr. Yamaguchi had worked in Afghanistan with an organization called Peshawar Kai and has a strong passion to help build peace in that country.

Attendees: 650

Funds raised: ¥ 1,388,110

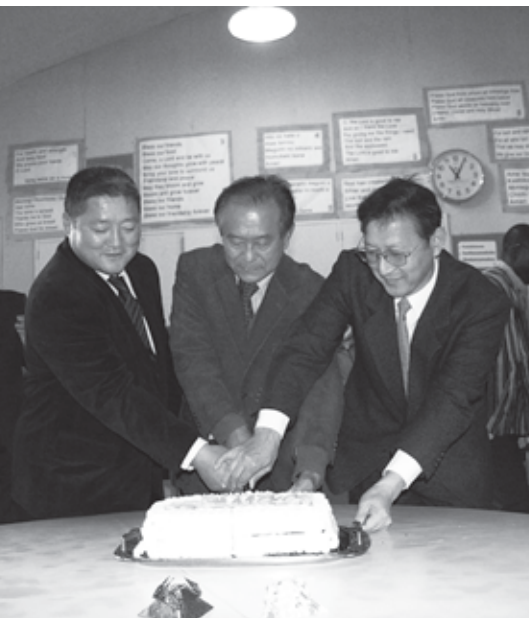
We also held a peace art poster exhibition in Nasunogahara Harmony Hall. Posters depicting images of peace were created by 100 artists of different nationalities. The exhibit traveled all around Japan and was shown the day of the Peace Concert. to make this a yearly event.



Won Win Tuan and Shigeko Suzuki performing at the Peace Concert

② ARI Pork

From autumn of 2009 we began direct sales of ARI pork to customers on a trial basis. We had such a good response that in 2010 we expanded our network by creating a consumers club called *ARI Buta no Kai* (ARI Pork Club). We advertised membership and soon several people joined; each month they received fresh cuts of our pork. People are attracted to ARI pork because they know we raise our pigs naturally, using no growth hormones, no unnecessary antibiotics, and no imported feed and they are pleased with the freshness and juiciness of our meat. We are also proud to be able to provide this high quality product and at the same time improve our financial self-sustainability.



From left to right: Hiroyasu Kasai of the Kasai Architectural Office, ARI Chair of the Board Akira Niwa, superintendent Kentoku Masuda



Construction of new Farm Shop

40th Anniversary Capital Campaign

ARI will celebrate its 40th anniversary on September 16, 2013 the day officially established as our foundation day. From 2008, we have been carrying out a capital campaign to raise ¥250 million to rebuild the farm shop and main building and also carry out a survey of the activities of our graduates. After bringing in about 20% of that amount, the ARI Board of Directors altered the target to ¥80 million, eliminating the main building from the campaign.

The board felt a particular urgency to replace the farm shop due to its degraded condition and so construction was begun with the aim to have it completed by March of 2011. Due to the Great East Japan Disaster, we were unable to finish the building within the fiscal year, but on May 14th we proudly held a dedication ceremony and opened its doors. Having been completed so soon after the earthquake, it is a great encouragement to all of us at ARI to see this fresh new building rise up amid all the damage.

Since the earthquake caused extensive damage throughout the campus, we have been faced with the task of putting together a major plan for rehabilitation. Therefore the board of directors officially decided to end the 40th anniversary fundraising initiative and disband the committee. In its place we have started an earthquake reconstruction initiative called “Rebuild” and we are focusing our energies on raising funds for this.

We would like to extend our appreciation to Mr. Shijuro Ogata, Mr. Toyo Gyoten, Mr. Hiroshi Rinno and all the other promoters for their support for our 40th Anniversary Campaign. And for ALL of you who contributed to this project with your gifts and donations, we give you a huge “thank you” and invite you to please come visit us sometime to see the gorgeous new farm shop.

Major donors from North America include:

The American Friends of ARI
The Episcopal Church
The United Church of Canada
The United Methodist Church

2010 Volunteers and Interns

Volunteers

Kevin Desir <i>Canada</i>	meal service
Tomoyo Doi <i>Japan</i>	farm
Frauke Gier <i>Germany</i>	recruitment
Benjamin Goldau <i>Germany</i>	computers
Steven Hart <i>USA</i>	farm
Koki Hata <i>Japan</i>	meal service
Ho-Yung Chong <i>Korea</i>	farm
Jun Ishikawa <i>Japan</i>	farm
Ayumi Itokawa <i>Japan</i>	public relations
Felix Kaiser <i>Germany</i>	farm
Sachiko Kamata <i>Japan</i>	meal service
Yoshihiro Kimijima <i>Japan</i>	income generation
Pascal LeComte <i>Germany</i>	recruitment
Peter McNicoll <i>Japan</i>	computer
Itsuyo Monna <i>Japan</i>	general affairs
Karen Moody <i>USA</i>	meal service
Keith Moody <i>USA</i>	maintenance
Namiko Motokawa <i>Japan</i>	meal service
Tetsuya Mori <i>Japan</i>	farm
Yumiko Naoi <i>Japan</i>	meal service
Hisako Oshima <i>Japan</i>	farm
Bob Ray <i>USA</i>	maintenance / computers
Joyce Ray <i>USA</i>	meal service / ecumenical relations
Aya Sasaki <i>Japan</i>	farm
Hami Shimizu <i>Japan</i>	farm
Elizabeth Teague <i>USA</i>	farm
Yuta Ueki <i>Japan</i>	farm
Kaori Wakuizumi <i>Japan</i>	income generation / ARISA

Commuting Volunteers

Jeen Hae Chung	general affairs / community life
Tsutomu Fujita	farm
Takashi Fushimi	maintenance
Naoko Hineno	income generation
Norie Horiuchi	farm
Koichi Ishiyama	farm
Tadashi Ito	farm
Atsuhiko Kato	maintenance
Satomi McCurley	meal service / food processing
Tamotsu Miyashita	maintenance
Mika Nagase	library
Kiyoshi Nagashima	farm / library
Isao Obayashi	computers
Kyoko Ogura	general affairs
Jin Onozaki	farm / maintenance
Ichiro Sahara	general affairs
Sanami Shibamoto	farm / meal service
Yumi Suzuki	database
Hitoshi Taguchi	computers
Kyoko Takamura	meal service / general affairs
Naoyuki Takamura	maintenance
Katsuyasu Togawa	maintenance
Masako Togawa	food processing

Internships at ARI

Over the years ARI has received a number of young people through their college or seminary internship programs. Most recently we have built a steady relationship with Wellesley College and Princeton Theological Seminary. Wellesley students are often focused on environmental issues and are attracted to ARI's commitment to sustainable agriculture. Princeton seminarians see this dynamic multicultural, multi-religious setting as a good place to cultivate their pastoral and leadership skills while working intimately with God's creation here on the farm. Working closely with internship coordinators and professors we ensure that the ARI experience meets the expectations of the university/seminary program. Recently ARI has made efforts to expand our internship opportunities to Japanese Universities. We have already begun hosting students from International Christian University and have had serious inquiries from several other universities. Likewise we are ready to open our internship offerings to other educational institutions in North America and Europe, including not only summer, but also semester long internships.



Interns

David Norse – Princeton Theological Seminary
Rachel Smith – Wellesley College

Overseas Work Camp Groups

"Aloha Team" Harris UMC, Trinity UMC; Hawaii
Olathe High School, Kansas
Boy Scouts of America Troupe 12, San Francisco
Hong Kong Baptist University YMCA

FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Financial Activities

April 1, 2010 - March 31, 2011

	(US\$)*		
Operating Revenues	2010 Budget	2010 Actual	2011 Budget
Scholarships and Fees (1)	377,209	376,069	310,635
Tuition	63,986	62,617	27,358
Entrance fee	4,954	4,954	1,891
Contributions for board	17,745	17,739	6,538
Contributions for lodging	17,745	17,739	6,538
Contributions for transportation	17,187	17,425	13,246
Domestic individual donation	0	0	0
Domestic institutional donation	129,886	129,886	95,216
Overseas individual donation	0	0	0
Overseas institutional donation	125,706	125,708	159,840
Fees for graduation certificate	239	131	364
Donations	843,358	1,041,559	1,921,409
General (2)	314,145	330,979	298,405
ARI Supporters Association (ARISA)	176,537	177,180	170,843
40th Anniversary Capital Campaign	284,738	275,622	56,948
Special donations	67,938	257,778	1,395,214
(Designated for Disaster recovery)	0	(224,006)	(1,138,950)
Grants for special projects	36,219	36,219	38,542
Miscellaneous revenue	29,043	26,760	29,043
Total operating revenue	1,286,068	1,480,738	2,299,993
Operating expenses (3)			
Personnel (4)	751,787	745,367	746,012
Education and Research	179,032	210,332	182,961
General and administrative	342,254	316,826	554,498
(Disaster recovery)	0	(20,185)	(22,7790)
Total operating expenses	1,273,073	1,272,525	1,483,471
Net operating gain (loss)	12,995	208,213	816,522
Nonoperating revenues (expenses)			
Investment Income	22,893	25,440	22,893
Interest & dividends	114	1,451	114
Accommodation user fees	22,779	23,990	22,779
Interest expenses	(14,977)	(20,640)	(29,613)
Interest expense on loans	(11,390)	(12,397)	(15,945)
Interest expense on school bonds	(3,588)	(8,244)	(13,667)
Sales and special services (5)	265,045	274,543	240,637
Sales costs	(20,558)	(7,816)	(27,676)
Gain (loss) from sale of assets	0	0	0
Net non-operating gain (loss)	252,403	271,527	206,241
Net gain (loss) for 2010	265,398	479,740	1,022,763

Accumulated gain (Loss):			
Beginning balance	(3,363,132)	(3,363,132)	0
Ending balance	(3,077,175)	(3,156,643)	0

Self Sufficiency in ARI

This financial report does not reflect the value of ARI's own farm goods that were supplied to the kitchen and food processing section which came to an approximate total of US\$165,000 in 2010.

Notice to Financial Statements

* Exchange rate: ARI accounting is officially recorded in Japanese yen. Dollar equivalents have been stated in this report for the convenience of international supporters according to the 2010 average exchange rate of US\$1 = ¥87.80

(1) As ARI seeks to train some of the most marginalized people in the world, neither intl' participants nor their sending bodies are able to handle the costs of training. These expenses are covered by scholarships and contributions made by individuals and organizations. Japanese participants pay their own tuition and fees.

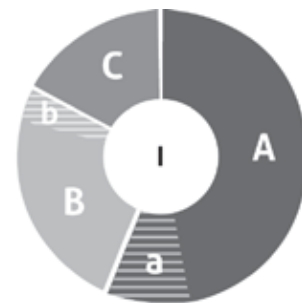
(2) Includes contributions totaling \$72,300 received from AFARI

(3) Details of operating expenses are listed on the opposite page

(4) Does not include salaries paid for two missionary staff by their supporting churches

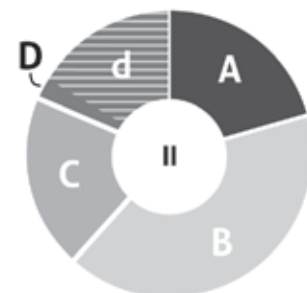
(5) Revenue generated from seminars, special short term training, and sales of farm produce, processed goods, and handicrafts

Domestic / Overseas Donations & Self-Generated Income



- A** Domestic contributions 54%
- a** ARISA 10.2%
- B** Overseas contributions 26.7%
- b** AFARI 4%
- C** Self-generated income 19.3%

Donation Categories



- A** Scholarships 20.7%
- B** General donations 41.2%
- C** 40th Anniversary Capital Campaign 19.7%
- D** Special donations 18.4%
- d** designated for disaster recovery 16%

Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2010 and 2011

(US\$)*

Assets	3/31/2010	3/31/2011
Fixed Assets	4,294,154	4,757,643
Property	3,422,725	3,856,671
40th anniv. endowment	99,846	75,362
Scholarship endowment	767,521	821,223
Securities / shares	2,337	2,494
Telephone rights	1,725	1,841
Deposit	0	0
Current Assets	232,771	684,861
Cash & savings	101,098	573,965
Stock (livestock, rice, etc.)	91,561	68,583
Accounts receivable	8,137	5,908
Sales items		12,988
Other	31,975	23,417
Total Assets	4,526,925	5,442,503
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Fixed Liabilities	1,159,586	1,120,613
Long term loans	534,266	809,224
School bonds	625,320	311,389
Current Liabilities	1,273,969	1,600,775
Short term loans	928,311	859,907
School bonds	238,151	576,764
Accounts payable	22,768	54,674
Consumer tax payable	5,985	5,265
Other	84,739	104,165
Total Liabilities	2,433,555	2,721,388
Net assets		
Designated funds	5,245,414	5,877,758
Accumulated gain & loss	(3,152,044)	(3,156,643)
Total Net Assets	2,093,370	2,721,115
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	4,526,925	5,442,503

Notes (continued from left page)

(3) Operating expenses in detail:

	(2010 actual)
Personnel	745,368.23
Faculty	251,717.09
Staff and other personnel	493,651.13
Education and Research	210,332.32
Student Stipends	39,793.73
Study tours	26,261.37
Agricultural training costs	58,502.89
Travel: domestic for students	785.74
Travel: intl students	35,206.72
Course materials	1,544.92
Research	4,436.06
Medical	3,356.28
Staff training	439.41
Alumni association support	1,708.43
Project costs	5,078.29
Special lectures	6,555.66
Utilities	5,181.65
Miscellaneous expenditure	5,694.76
Sales cost	15,786.42
Administration	316,826.66
Office supplies	5,795.20
Utilities	34,278.73
Transportation for staff	9,167.57
Fund raising	21,786.60
Vehicle fuel	13,234.24
Vehicle maintenance	23,079.47
General maintenance	5,274.60
Communication	6,962.55
General and administrative	25,577.50
Publications	5,083.20
Insurance	2,465.49
Rental expenses	8,700.36
Taxed & public dues	5,595.67
Membership fees	1,855.76
Conferences	2,187.70
Commission fees	12,502.92
Special events	1,036.45
Public relations	1,116.17
Medical	185.88
Sales costs	23,602.04
Miscellaneous expenses including disaster damage repair	28,818.23
Depreciation allowance	78,520.30
Total operating expenses	1,272,527

ARI vs. Volatile Food Prices

This week at one supermarket in Tokyo, lettuce was selling for \$6 a head. Even by Tokyo standards this is shocking. Of course food prices are always fluctuating depending on the season or the size of the harvest. But these days, as staple crops are treated as commodities and "food miles" continue to increase, factors such as oil and inflation also affect prices.

According to the Global Food Price Index of the UN Food and Agricultural Organization, food costs spiked in 2008 and again 2011. These high prices are particularly difficult for poor countries that import most of their food. In some regions families spend as much as 60-80% of their income on food. The only way they can cope with rising costs is to eat

fewer meals or buy cheaper, less nutritious food. Furthermore, high food prices cause unrest, especially in countries that are already experiencing ethnic or economic tensions.

At ARI most people are not aware of the price of a head of lettuce or a box of eggs. We simply eat what we have in our fields and animal pens. We essentially cut out the element of money by enriching our soil with compost rather than fertilizers, by feeding our livestock with locally available materials rather than imported feeds, and by collecting our own seeds. Our biggest investment is our sweat and labor and our reward is experienced at each and every meal. This is the ARI way of realizing food security.

Auditors' Statement

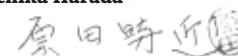
The above duly audited financial statements have been prepared by the Fujinuma Tax and Accounting Service, Inc. and approved by the ARI auditors, Mr. Akira Funitzu and Mr. Tokichika Harada. All the documents were properly kept and there were no irregularities.

May 10, 2011

Auditor: Akira Funitzu



Auditor: Tokichika Harada



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Mary Lois Yegerlehner
Mariellen Yoshino
John & Anna Young
Lawrence Young
Wendy Ysasi
Don & Glennys Ziegler

ARI Institutional Supporters

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORTERS

Program Supporters - Contributions from these organizations were designated for the 2010 ARI Rural Leaders Training Program.

Overseas

American Friends of ARI (AFARI)
 The Episcopal Church – United Thank Offering
 Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
 The United Church of Canada
 The United Methodist Committee on Relief
 The United Methodist Church – General Board for Global Ministries
 Berkeley Methodist United Church, CA
 Community UMC, Naperville, IL
 Cortland United Church, NE
 Dunbarton Congregational Church, UCC, NH
 Federal Way, UMC, Auburn, WA
 The First Church in Oberlin, UCC, OH
 First Congregational Church of Wallingford, CT
 First UCC, Northfield, MN
 First UCC, Women's Fellowship, Crete, NE
 First UMC, Manhattan, KS
 Harris UMC, Honolulu, HI
 Hoover Investment Properties, Inc.
 Iao Congregational Church, Wailuku, HI
 Kitchell Memorial Presbyterian Church, East Hanover, NJ
 Morgan Park UMC, Chicago, IL
 North Congregational Church, UCC, New Hartford, CT
 Ocoee Oaks UMC, Ocoee, FL
 St. James Episcopal Church, Keene, NH
 San Luis Obispo UMC, CA
 Shalom UCC, New Haven, CT
 St. James Thrift Shop, Keene, NH
 Trinity UMC, Pearl City, HI
 United Church of Christ, Scribner, NE
 United Church of Dorset & East Rupert, VT
 United Church of Ludlow, VT
 Wesley UMC, San Jose, CA
 West Bethel UMC, Cedar, MN

Japan

Asian Rural Institute Supporters' Association (ARISA)
 Ajsai no Kai
 Anglican Church of Japan (NSKK), Tokyo Diocese
 Anglican Church of Japan (NSKK), Provincial Office
 Aoyama Gakuin Jr./Sr. High School
 Ashigin Intl' Friendship Foundation
 Asian Ladies Friendship Society, Tokyo
 Eifukuji Temple
 Fujimigaoka Church
 Fujisawa Catholic Church
 Fujisawa Nazarene Church
 Habitat for Humanity, Japan
 Hijirigaoka Church
 International Christian University Church
 International Organic Farming Film Festival
 IKE – Architecture & Development Office
 JANIC NGO Support Fund
 Japan Baptist Union Women's Association
 Kajigaya Catholic Church
 Kibogaoka Church
 Kobe Union Church
 Kojimachi Catholic Church
 Kusanone Net Mugi no Kai
 Matsudo Tomo no Kai
 Meiji Gakuin Higashimurayama Jr./Sr. High School
 Mitsubishi UFJ Intl' Foundation
 Mitsui Chemical

Mitsui Chemical – One Coin Donation
 Miyako Transportation Company
 Nasu Tomo no Kai
 National Christian Council in Japan, Wakachiai Fund
 National Christian Council in Japan, Women's Committee
 National Tomo no Kai
 National Tomo no Kai, Central Region
 National Tomo no Kai Foundation for Relief
 Nishinasuno Church
 Nishinasuno Kindergarten
 Ohisama Kawate Hospital
 Rissyo-Kosei-Kai Buddhist Association, Nishinasuno
 Samaria Kai
 Sankei Supermarket
 Satsuki Kindergarten
 St. Alban's Anglican Episcopal Church
 St. Andrew's Church
 St. Timothy's Church
 Seisanichi Kyokai (Holy Trinity Church)
 Shima Network Co. Ltd.
 Skole Family Education Association
 Sumitomo Foundation
 Tokyo Kasumigaseki Lion's Club
 Tokyo Minami Rotary Club
 Tokyo Union Church
 Toyo Eiwa Women's Jr./Sr. High School
 United Church of Christ in Japan, Kanto District Office
 Utsunomiya Kita High School
 Wakachiai Project
 Waseda Church
 West Tokyo Union Church
 World Family Fund
 Yokohama Tomo no Kai
 Yokohama Union Church
 Yoyogi Uehara Church

SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTERS

Scholarship Supporters - These contributions were designated as academic scholarships or travel grants.

Overseas

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 Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
 The Hartstra Foundation
 United Evangelical Mission
 The United Methodist Church – General Board for Global Ministries
 USPG – Anglicans in World Mission
 The World Council of Churches
 Aldersgate UMC, Palo Alto, CA
 Central Union Church, Honolulu, HI
 The Episcopal Church of St. Martin, Davis, CA
 Cuttington University

Japan

Asian Rural Welfare Association (ARWA)
 American School in Japan Swim Team
 Kubota Foundation
 Niikura Kai
 Japan Evangelical Lutheran Association
 JASSO
 Osaka Community Foundation
 Rotary Yoneyama Memorial Foundation, Inc.
 Sacred Heart
 Tochigi Business Association
 Tokyo American Club - Women's Group
 United Church of Christ Japan (UCCJ) – Ecumenical Committee

THE ARI STAFF AND BOARD

Staff

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Rev. Dr. Toshihiro Takami

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Rev. Kenichi Otsu	Director
Tomoko Arakawa	Assistant Director / General Manager
Osamu Arakawa	Farm Manager
Rev. Hyung Wook Ban	Chaplain / Livestock
Steven Cutting	Ecumenical Relations Coordinator
Yuko Endo	PR and Sales Manager
Gilbert Hoggang	Livestock
Sanae Kabeya	Livestock
Jonathan McCurley	Community Life Coordinator
Akari Nakamura	Admissions and Graduate Outreach
Mitsuru Nakamura	Nasu Seminar House Manager
Yukiko Oyanagi	Curriculum Coordinator
Kaori Sakuma	ARISA
Hiromi Sato	General Affairs
Kazuhiko Takeuchi	Meal Service Coordinator
Atsushi Yamaguchi	Crops and Vegetables

PART TIME STAFF

Masayo Fukushima	Food Processing
Mitsue Kimijima	General Affairs - Accounting
Junko Tanaka	Library

CONTRACT STAFF

Timothy Appau	Chaplain / Livestock
Hoichi Endo	Finance Officer
Toshiaki Kusunoki (until May '10)	General Manager
Zachivolu Rhakho	Graduate Outreach / Meal Service



Board

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Dr. Akira Niwa	Professor Emeritus, Dokkyo Medical College, Chairman, Hitomugi Social Welfare Association
----------------	--

VICE CHAIR

Mr. Ryusuke Fukuda	Tokyo Union Church Elder
--------------------	--------------------------

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Ms. Teruko Niwa	Lecturer, Toyo Eiwa Women's College (ret.)
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Mr. Noriaki Sato	Press Editor, The Yomiuri Shinbun

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Mr. Osamu Arakawa	Staff, Asian Rural Institute
Mr. Steven Cutting	Staff, Asian Rural Institute

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Mr. Akira Funatsu	President, Chairman, Tochigi YMCA
Mr. Tokichika Harada	President, Nasu House Kogyo Co. Ltd.

2010 Graduates and Graduate Interns



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Humanitas Associacao
Filantropica



CAMBODIA
Daneth Him
CHAD - Community
Health & Agriculture
Development



D.R. CONGO
John Nday Kyoni
United Methodist
Church of North
Katanga



INDIA
Bongmoingam
Khaling
DNF - Dorcas Noble
Fund



INDIA
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Missions Society



INDONESIA
Kalpin Sembiring
YAPIDI - Perhimpunan
Pelayanan Pijer Podi



INDONESIA
Reinhard Siregar
GKPA - Christian
Protestant Angkola
Church



INDONESIA
Saulina Solin
Panti Asuhan Elim
Department Diakonia
HKBP



JAPAN
Hoshino Kusaka



JAPAN
Reina Sakai



JAPAN
Takeru Sugaya



KENYA
Baya Comullius
Katana
IPD - Institute of Par-
ticipatory Development



KIRIBATI
Mote Teangoa
Kiribati Protestant
Church



LIBERIA
Cooper Kaletona
Siakor
Cuttington University
Outreach Program



LIBERIA
Mary Tenneh Kpaka
CAI - Church Aid
Incorporated



MALAWI
Macdonald Francis
Njala Banda
Anglican Diocese of
Upper Shire



MYANMAR
Hla Zet Sumlut
Naypyitaw YMCA



MYANMAR
Hniang Tial
Hakha Baptist
Association



MYANMAR
Ngun Tial
TABC - Thantlang
Association of Baptist
Churches



MYANMAR
Saw Manar Shay
Karen Baptist
Convention



NEPAL
Sandeep Lamsal
KSSC - Kalika Self-
Reliance Social
Centre



NEPAL
Sunita Kumari Rana
BASE - Backward
Society Education



THE PHILIPPINES
Annie Jane Llegunas
Lagawan
WAND - Water,
Agroforestry, Nutrition
and Development
Foundation, Inc.



THE PHILIPPINES
Christopher Denito
Domolot
LAKAS - Lubos Na Al-
yansa Ng Mga Katutu-
bong Ayta Ng Sambales



THE PHILIPPINES
Lester Constantino
Dipit
UCCP - United
Church of Christ in
the Philippines



SRI LANKA
Nilushini Karunadasa
FORUT - Campaign for
Development and
Solidarity



SRI LANKA
Sumathi Vithilingam
Shivakumar
Stockholm's Women
Development Sewa
Society



UGANDA
Mugwanga David
Hannington Luvumu
Mukono Diocese - Church
of the Province of Uganda



ZIMBABWE
Melody Gapara
United Church of
Christ in Zimbabwe



JAPAN
Moe Takenoshita
(Graduate Intern)

**American Friends of the
Asian Rural Institute**

Rural Leaders Training Center - Japan

c/o J.B. Hoover
1121A N 94th st.
Seattle, WA 98103

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Rebuild!



When the magnitude 9.0 earthquake struck

off the east coast of Japan on March 11, 2011, the ARI staff were in the middle of our final planning meeting for the upcoming training program – a meeting that never finished. The ground shook violently and all we could do was watch as windows broke and buildings twisted. We are deeply grateful that no one was injured; but our campus suffered extensive damage. The following day we began to clean up and repair our life-lines, such as electricity and water systems. The following day we also started to receive a flood of phone calls and emails to see if we were OK. AND from that day people started to send funds. No questions asked. Knowing that it would be needed, they just sent money.

We estimated that it would take about ¥5,000,000 (\$62,500) to complete all the emergency repairs and we set a goal to have those done by May 31. However, by May 31 we had already received ¥66,000,000 (\$825,000)! This tremendous show of love and support from all of you really gave us hope that we would be able to rebuild and bring ARI through our most serious challenge since our foundation.

Rebuilding, however, is an enormous task. Inspectors informed us that our Koinonia House (kitchen, dining hall, chapel, and conference room) and our Main Building (classroom, library, and administration offices) are not stable and we should replace them as soon as possible. Other areas of the campus were also damaged, and so the Board of Directors put together a comprehensive reconstruction plan that includes building a new Koinonia House (kitchen, dining hall), a classroom/library building, a chapel, a pigpen, and agricultural storage facilities. The estimated costs are ¥530,000,000. This is a daunting figure, but ARI has already been blessed with enormous support from friends in Japan and overseas and we are also working to solicit funds from the Japanese government.

Despite all the troubles of this earthquake, we committed to hold our 2011 training program and welcomed our new participants on May 2. Seeing their faces was a great inspiration and reminder to us of the importance of our mission. Working together we will get through this crisis.



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Rural Leaders Training Center

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