

2014

Annual
Report



Asian Rural Institute
Rural Leaders Training Center

2014/4/1
~ 2015/3/31

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2014 Achievements

Landmarks of Fiscal Year 2014

- Rev. Otsu completed 6 years of service as ARI Director. During this period ARI suffered effects of the 2011 East Japan earthquake disaster, but recovery work is now nearing completion.
- The ARI Lunch in Tokyo, supporter gatherings, Western Japan Caravan and other fellowship events created opportunities for ARI community members and supporters to meet face to face. (see p.15)
- ARI welcomed its first-ever participant from Cuba.
- The new OIKOS Chapel was completed. (see p.16)





Greetings

The 2014 ARI Rural Leaders Training Program concluded safely, and the 27 trainees from 15 countries, as well as 3 Training Assistants and Graduate Interns, have begun work in their respective places. Through the presence of 3 trainees from Liberia, one of the East African countries where the Ebola outbreak caused so much suffering in 2014, the sufferings of people so far away was brought much closer to us. We believe that one of the challenges given to ARI from its very beginning is the task of nurturing grassroots rural leaders who will bear with their people such problems as natural disasters, disease, ethnic and religious conflict, poverty and hunger. We are very mindful that each year's training program is upheld by the generous cooperation of volunteers and supporters across Japan, and by the cooperation and support received from so many individuals and institutions within Japan and abroad.

After the Eastern Japan earthquake-tsunami-nuclear disaster of 2011 we saw declines in the sales of ARI products and the number of working visitors, due to safety concerns about food and the local environment. Fortunately, however, we are steadily recovering toward our pre-disaster situation. Meanwhile we have initiated programs that utilize ARI's know-how in new ways; for example short-stay training programs for corporations, a training program sponsored by the Asian Development Bank, and welcoming a full class of students from St. Olaf College. We wish to acknowledge here the precious work of volunteers at the ARI Becquerel Center, who continue to perform radiation measurements for the ARI community and local residents, despite the gradual spread of complacency toward radiation issues.

The post-disaster reconstruction work, which has continued since 2011, saw in 2014 the completion of the Oikos Chapel, the poultry butchering facility and the bio-gas system. We anticipate that all of the reconstruction work will be completed within the 2015 fiscal year. We recognize that, in order to pour energy into ARI's main work, we must make efforts to gain current revenues. As our supporters know well, donations are the main source of ARI's revenues. To the many individuals and organizations, both Japanese and foreign, who have given steady support to ARI even under challenging economic conditions--for example the recent raising of the consumption tax rate--we express our heartfelt gratitude, and are pleased to deliver to you this 2014 Annual Report.

Kenichi OTSU
Chair, ARI Board of Directors

Tomoko ARAKAWA
Director, Asian Rural Institute

Rural Leaders Training Program

April 1 ~ December 7, 2014

Training Report



Curriculum
Coordinator

Yukiko
Oyanagi

First of all, I am deeply thankful for God's abundant blessings and guidance throughout our 2014 Rural Leaders Training Program at the Asian Rural Institute (ARI). I am also grateful that, thanks to the support and cooperation of many friends and supporters, we were able to complete this year's training program and send out 27 new graduates from 15 nations. (we started with 28, but one participant withdrew.)

Like past graduates, the 2014 graduates faced many challenges in their training at ARI: They had to use English, which many had never used in their own countries; they faced cold weather, different food, different ways of thinking; and they needed to live harmoniously in a diverse community of different ages and even different religions. In their first interviews, some of them could not communicate at all. Sometimes they cried because they worried about their children at home. This year an Ebola outbreak occurred in, Liberia, the home of 3 of the participants, and we all worried with them. Some of them found it hard to express their opinions, because discussion sounded like argument to them. Yet even after they experienced such difficulties, all of the participants said, "Training was too short. I enjoyed it."

Each participant (except participants from Japan) has a Sending Body. They belong to NGOs, farmer's cooperatives and so on, and they were sent by an organization that has faith in them. The beneficiaries of ARI training are not just the participants themselves, but

their organizations and the people in their communities. "People are waiting for my learning" -- knowing this gave participants the strength to keep their motivation high.

At the beginning, the diversity of ARI caused stress for them. But gradually they started to regard this diversity as a unique learning opportunity. Roommates from far away became priceless friends for each other. Participants no longer worried that they were from different countries, cultures, continents, religions, or spoke different languages any more. They started to enjoy ARI food. They shared their opinions. They listened to others. They accepted different opinions, and they developed an ability to facilitate discussion. Although they learned a lot in the classroom, many of these new skills and perspectives were gained through day-to-day activities. They learned from group activities in the field, tending livestock, and serving in the kitchen. They learned from community life, and dish washing, and daily cleaning. And they continuously thought about servant leadership, which is an important pillar of this training.

In ARI training, participants have to learn various subjects; leadership, environment and development, gender issues, sustainable agriculture, dangers of chemical farming, and so on. Over the course of the year, they learned 40 subjects. ARI emphasizes practical learning, so practical agriculture studies were two times longer than in-classroom training. Not only did participants study on the ARI



campus, but they visited organic farmers, Ashio Copper Mine, Rural Community Study Tour, and Western Japan Study Tour. And they had other activities, like Morning Gathering, consultations, and of course, learning from community life. All together their total curriculum hours were 2,029.

In the 2014 Training, I felt questions were used more effectively than in other years. There was a turning point. One day, during a study tour, some participants said, “There was no learning today.” The accompanying staff asked, “Why were you unable to learn? Our host today shared his views and philosophy with you. What should we have done? What was lacking?” The result was remarkable progress. Participants started to ask very good but difficult questions. “What motivated you to continue organic farming?” “What is your philosophy about farm management?” “What is soil for you?” “What is the most important value deep in your mind?” “If the development of Japan had negative impacts and causes homelessness, then what on earth is development?” Their questions drew unexpected answers. I really appreciated the lecturers and farmers who seriously thought about and responded to their tough questions.

Now is their turn to seek their own answers, walk toward their own dreams, and define what they want to achieve. They do not have a roommate who can support them each day. They do not have staff to motivate them. But what they do have is these 9 months of training

experience, which can support their new steps and learning in their life.

A community of people supported the ARI 2014 Training; Organic farmers, organizations, special lecturers, churches, schools, kindergartens, host families and so on. On behalf of the participants, I wish to express the deep appreciation we all feel toward the people who supported and helped us to make this training possible. Thanks to you, today’s graduating class has learned a lot. They are going to bring back to their communities the knowledge and experience that was given by you. Some day, this will bring a bright future for their people in the community. I hope and pray that the new graduates will continue to work, not to seek only economic growth, but for the true development of every person.



Curriculum

Lectures

Practical Field Study

The aim of PFS is to acquire practical and theoretical knowledge of organic agriculture, animal husbandry and food processing

Crops & Vegetables Emphasis

Seed collection, Seedling nursing using soil blocks
Bokashi fertilizer making, Composting, Collection and utilization of indigenous microorganisms, Fermented plant juice, Fish amino acid, Water-soluble Calcium, Water-soluble Calcium and Phosphate, Wood vinegar, Charcoal making, Rice husk charcoal,

Seed collection, Seedling nursing using soil blocks

Livestock Emphasis

Pigs (artificial insemination, birthing, castration), Chicken (brooding, hatching), Fish (hatching), Livestock health, Feed formulation, Fermented feed, Animal raising with fermented floor

Meat Processing

Sausage and ham making

Field Management Activity

- Group management of crops and vegetables field and livestock
- Foodlife work (Foodlife-related activities for self-sufficiency)
- Group leadership

Others

Community work (Rice transplanting, Rice harvesting, etc.), Spiritual nurture and guidance (Morning Gathering, Growth File, Consultation, Reflection Day, Reflection Paper), Oral Presentation, Harvest Thanksgiving Celebration, International Fellowship Program, Observation Trips, Rural Community Study Tour, Western Japan Study Tour, Homestay Programs

Total Instruction Hours 2,029 hrs

*special lecturers

Japanese Language and Culture

Kyoko Ogura*

Leadership

Leadership
Servant Leadership
ARI History and Mission
Participatory Learning and Action
Independent Learner
Presentation Skill
Report Writing
Time Management
Facilitation Skill
Human Development
Proposal Writing
Stress Management
Religion and Rural Life

Kenichi Otsu
Tomoko Arakawa, Yukiko Oyanagi
Kenichi Otsu
Tomoko Arakawa, Yukiko Oyanagi
Yukiko Oyanagi
Yukiko Oyanagi
David McIntosh
B. Timothy Appau
Yukiko Oyanagi
B. Timothy Appau
Sarajeen Rossitto*
Dr. Joseph Ozawa*
Jonathan McCurley, Ban Hyung-wook,
Timothy B. Appau

Development Issues

Localization
Environment and Development
Nutrition and Health
Credit Union
Human Trafficking in Asia
Nasu Canal and Rural Development
Ashio Copper Mine and Shozo Tanaka
Gender Issues
Alternative Approach to Development
Global Climate Change and International Partnership
History of Development in Japan
Supporter Association Activities

Yoji Kamata (NPO Ancient Future)
Koa Tasaka* (ARI board member)
Zacivolu Rhakho
Hoichi Endo
Machiko Kaida* (JICRC)
Shuya Tamura*
Tatsuo Sakahara* (NPO Shozo Tanaka Uni.)
Tomoko Arakawa
J.B. Hoover* (Exec. Director of AFARI)
J.B. Hoover*
Yukiko Oyanagi
Tomono Kai group

Sustainable Agriculture

Concept of Sustainable Agriculture
Organic Agriculture
Crops and Vegetables (general information)
SRI (System of Rice Intensification)
Rice cultivation
Livestock (Pig, Chicken, Fish)

Ardhendu Chatterjee* ('76 Graduate, Agricultural Adviser, India)
Osamu Arakawa
Osamu Arakawa, Mayu Kamimura

Disease Control (Crops and Vegetables)
Appropriate Technology
Agroforestry

Boonsong Thanstrithong (ECHO)*
Osamu Arakawa
Gilbert Hoggang, Takashi Otani,
B. Timothy Appau, Ban Hyung-wook
Osamu Arakawa, Mayu Kamimura
Ban Hyung-wook
Masaaki Yamada* (Tokyo Uni. of Agriculture and Technology)
Koa Tasaka* (ARI board member)
Shimpei Murakami* (Natural Farmer)
Toru Sakawa* (Organic Farmer)

Dangers of Chemical Farming
Natural Farming in Tropical Areas
Permaculture
Natural Farming and Practice at ECHO Asia
Producer-Consumer Partnerships
Biogas Workshop
Philosophy of 3-D Farming

Boonsong Thanstrithong (ECHO)*
Tomoko Arakawa
Mamoru Kuwahara* (NPO FUDO)
Kin'ichi Haga* (Tozawa Village International Fellowship Association)
Osamu Arakawa, Mayu Kamimura
Gilbert Hoggang, Takashi Otani,
B. Timothy Appau, Ban Hyung-wook
Takashi Otani, Hideo Koide*

Applied Agriculture Techniques
Applied Livestock Techniques

Meat Processing

Special Education Programs

St. Olaf College (Minnesota, U.S.A.) January Class: Sustainability of Japan's Environment

St. Olaf College, which has had a strong relationship with ARI since its foundation, offered a January class at ARI. A group of 20 students and 2 professors made ARI their home base for 3 weeks, taking in a variety of lectures and discussing many issues while also participating in the daily life of the ARI farm. This was the first time that ARI played host to another school's program for such an extended period, and it opened up new possibilities for the application and contribution of ARI's curriculum to university education.

We asked the program's coordinator, Professor Katherine Tegmeyer Pak (Asian Studies, Political Science), about the background and aims of the program.

"I first learned about ARI shortly after I moved to Northfield, Minnesota to begin my work at St. Olaf College. Retired St. Olaf professor Don Tarr, who heard I was doing research on Japan, kindly contacted me and told me the story of his good friend Toshihiro Takami and the amazing school he founded. Over the next few years I learned more about ARI from some other colleagues (Prof. Richard Bodman, Prof. Kris MacPherson, Mr. Craig Rice, etc.). Thanks to all of them, it occurred to me in the summer of 2012 that ARI would be an excellent host site for students in our 'Peace and Social Justice International Internship' program.

"In January 2013 I had an opportunity to teach for a short term in Japan, and this gave me my first chance to visit ARI. At that time I spoke with Steven Cutting (former staff) and laid plans to send 3 students from St. Olaf, through the aforementioned internship program. Steven also mentioned in the conversation that ARI could work with us during the winter period, and this how this year's Sustainability of Japan's Environment class became possible. In June, 2013 I came to ARI a second time with my colleague Paul Jackson, supported by a grant from the Luce Foundation Initiative on Asian Studies and the Environment. Through repeated conversations with Ms. Arakawa and Ms. Oyanagi, we were able to prepare a curriculum for this year's January class.



"In these 3 weeks the 22 of us--20 students plus 2 accompanying faculty, Pamela McDowell and myself--went to many of the sites that are also visited by ARI students during their 9-month program. We visited organic farms and energetic consumer cooperatives. We saw the natural beauty of Nikko on the one hand, but also learned of the tragic losses caused by the release of toxins from the Ashio Copper Mine. We followed the river that carried those toxins to the Watarase Reservoir and visited the abandoned site of Taninaka Village, which brought us face to face with the complexity of pollution issues. The people of this village were forced to leave their homes in the early 20th century, because the Japanese government decided to turn the area into a settling pond for toxins carried by the Watarase River, to prevent the further spread of pollution and to protect Tokyo's drinking water from the mine toxins. From a Fukushima University professor we learned how, despite being confronted with the human tragedy of a nuclear reactor accident, human beings are finding ways to recover. While learning all of these things, we also worked, cooked, cleaned, laughed and ate with our new friends, who are practicing ARI's motto, "That we may live together."

ARI is planning to host this program again in January 2016.

Other Programs

In addition to our new relationship with St. Olaf, ARI also served as a site for the following internship and short-term training programs in 2014.

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (18 people), Meiji Gakuin University Interns (2), Mugi no Kai (2, from Myanmar), Association for the Support of People of West Africa (1, Guinea-Bissau), Wellesley College Intern (1, U.S.A.), St Olaf College Interns (2, U.S.A.), Global Justice Volunteers (2, United Methodist Church, U.S.A.), NPO APLA/Tochigi Prefecture International Friendship Association (2, Malaysia), Theological Seminary for Rural Mission (1, United Church of Christ in Japan)

Food- life



Livestock
Staff

Takashi
Otani

Livestock

Poultry Annual Report and Planning 2014

Renovation of ARI's chicken houses started in July 2014, with the help of two volunteers, Rev.

Dick Johnson from United Kingdom and Mr. Jun Amano from Yokohama. The main sponsor of this project was Tokyo Minami Rotary Club. I am very grateful for their respective support. Because this renovation was not included in the reconstruction plan, my initial aim was to perform renovations by myself, but this proved to be very difficult. With Dick and Jun's help we made great progress in fiscal 2014, but much work still remains.

Main points of renovation were;

- To install transparent roofing sheets to let in more sunshine
- To replace old roof sections where there was water leakage
- To strengthen the roof to prevent collapse under heavy snow



- To increase the area available per chicken
- To reduce radiation by removing fallen leaves piled up behind chicken houses
- To improve ventilation
- To reduce stress of the chickens

As a result of this work, stress-related behaviors such as cannibalism has been reduced, and egg laying rates have risen.

Pig Section

We started the fiscal year with 52 pigs, 10% fewer than usual. This was due to the smaller number (4) of breeder sows. During the middle of the year we purchased a new gilt (a female pig that has never been pregnant) but she failed to breed. Despite this smaller number of pigs, we still enjoyed good sales because the price of pork in Japan rose due to incidents of disease affecting pig farmers in Japan and a shortage of pork on the market. Fortunately the Animal Hygiene Center in its regular checkup at ARI found our pigs free of any infectious disease; thus we continue to share our pork in block cuts, sliced, or as processed sausages. We were also able to supply our own community's consumption in Koinonia House without interruption up to the end of the training program in December.

In cooperation with other farm sections, this year we tried to produce most of our own feed for the animals, including pigs, which like wheat, soybeans, corn and sweet potatoes.

As we promise to continuously supply pork to our customers, we have some constraints in our production cycle. One local tofu maker, which was the source of okara (soybean pulp) used in our feeds, closed shop and we could not get more okara for our fermented feed. At the end of the fiscal year we were looking for a new source of okara, or to find a soybean replacement.

The pig section is an important part of the ARI training program and is integrated with our organic farming practices. We have installed a new biogas system, which will supply biogas liquid fertilizer to our crops and vegetables, and at the same time produce methane gas for cooking feed ingredients for other animals. At the end of fiscal year we were not yet able to use the methane gas for cooking, however, because the newly-installed gas pipes still contained air, which needs to be eliminated completely before we can use the gas for cooking.

We continue to aim at feeding our livestock with our own farm products, while maintaining the quality of training we provide to the rural leaders who come to ARI.

Crops & Vegetables

Today, when we measure the crops and vegetables grown at ARI, almost all are below 10 Becquerels/kg (Bq/kg). But there is a difference in the amount of cesium absorbed by crops grown in un-tilled fields, compared with those from tilled fields. The un-tilled fields show higher readings. For example, in 2013, brown rice harvested from tilled fields measured between 0.84 and 2.59 Bq/kg (562.12~605.2 Bq/kg for soil), whereas the range was 3.87~7.3 Bq/kg for brown rice from un-tilled fields (1,786.13 Bq/kg for soil). For this reason we decided to till the un-tilled field in 2014.

2014 Achievements

- Raised goats and supplied milk to Koinonia (142.8 litres from July through March)
- Harvested 2.8 tons of wheat for meals and wheat by-product for livestock feed
- Succeeded in suppressing weeds by paddling 2 times, and with water net algae
- Harvested more rice from the unweeded paddy field than the weeded paddy fields.
- Reduced the use of commercial calcium in livestock feeds, by utilizing egg shells, sea shells and bones of pigs and chickens
- Installed shelves for tool storage in the pig pens



When we tilled the former un-tilled field we were surprised to see a very large number of mole crickets emerge from the soil. This in turn attracted a great flock of crows, perhaps 1000 of them, which swooped down to dine upon the crickets. Then, just before transplanting, this rice paddy was entirely covered by water net algae. During paddling we blended the algae into the mud, but it multiplied again immediately and crowded out every other kind of weed. The water net algae formed a 2-cm thick layer that floated on the water's surface. Almost none of weeds under this layer could grow, because they received no light. What surprised us even more was that other kinds of weeds started to grow out of the floating water net. These other weeds extended roots into the thick layer of algae, as if it was soil. In July, however, the algae started to turn brown in color, then diminished in numbers and eventually disappeared along with all of the other weeds. The algae appeared to decompose and nourish the rice plants richly, because the plants in that field were a much deeper green than normal. We were sure the paddy had an oversupply of nitrogen, but we still harvested an impressive 6.6 tons per hectare.

We decided to till this field as a countermeasure against radiation, but it appears that when we spread fertilizer composed of sawdust and pig manure onto this field (25.25 t/ha), whose soil fertility had already increased due to the lack of tilling, this caused an outbreak of water net algae. Compared with other paddy fields the rice in this field was clearly different, both in its growth conditions and shape, and the rice was very close to developing disease due to oversupply of nitrogen. As for radiation, rice that was harvested from this field measured 3.39 Bq/kg (1357.04 Bq/kg for soil), so we believe that tilling reduced the radiation level.

As we learned many things from our rice paddy fields, we were reminded again of nature's depths, as well as the ignorance of human beings.

Education Director

Osamu Arakawa



Meal Service

With “Being thankful for the hands which grow and prepare our food” as our year’s theme and “Managing a balanced diet for the whole community” as our goal, we tried to carry out kitchen

management in the best possible way.

The total number of meals that were served during 2014 was about 40,000. As expected, we had some challenging times with the participants’ differing food habits, but eventually all community members learned to respect each other’s ways. For example, one Muslim participant who initially asked to be excused from the kitchen when pork was on the menu eventually decided to enter the kitchen even during pork-cooking times, and another who initially wished not to handle meat or eggs, which she does not eat, later took the initiative to break and cook eggs for others.

Two nutrition classes were held, in which we discussed the foods that we grow at ARI. This gave participants a chance to think about the types of food grown in their home communities, and to consider together how food and community health are connected.

In past years we were not able to use our harvested corn efficiently in the kitchen, but with Training Assistant Ms. Theodora in meal service we were able to use corn as a regular part of the menu. Personally, as Meal Service Coordinator at ARI, I am grateful to her for giving extra effort to make corn-based meals for the community members. It was particularly appreciated by the African participants, because corn is the staple food for most of them back home. Blending African and Asian food habits makes the ARI community more unique.

In 2013, during my first year as Meal Service Coordinator, I found that connecting MS with participants’ other activities and interests was a challenge for me. I thought the fuller involvement of MS coordinator in FMA and Leaders’ Reflection might have an impact on the participants in MS, so I tried it in 2014. It was very effective in that many participants understood more clearly why MS is part of the curriculum, and therefore they took it more seriously as a learning opportunity. My participation in Leaders’ Reflection was another way of building a trusting relationship with participants, and it helped participants to realize that their leadership is put into practice when they prepare healthy, balanced food for the community.

It was my hope and desire that we practice transparency and consultation among the regular kitchen members so as to build a

2014 Yield

crops & vegetables

Rice

7,191 kg

(incl. the share for sales)

Soy beans

1,959 kg

(incl. the share for soy sauce)

Wheat

1,964 kg

(incl. the share for cookies and soy sauce)

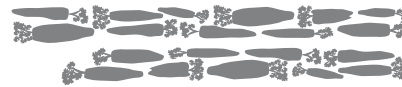


Onions
286 kg

Taro
184 kg



Garlic
178 kg



Carrots
1827 kg

(incl. the share for juice)



Sweet Potatoes
705 kg



Potatoes
2,024 kg

livestock



Fish
130 kg



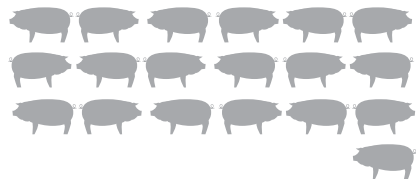
Ducks
71 kg



Goat milk
142.8 l



Chickens
614 kg • 307heads



Pigs
3,200 kg •
52 heads

family where each one of us could experience trust, respect, acceptance and love for each other despite our differences. It came to pass by God’s grace! My special thanks go to all the regular kitchen members, commuting volunteers and all 2014 community members for the great services rendered towards MS.

Meal Service
Coordinator

Zacivolu
Rhakho

Farm Manager

Osamu
Arakawa

Radiation Clean-Up

For all of ARI's products we continue to strictly follow the procedure that was established after the Fukushima nuclear accident:



The first harvest of every product is measured for radiation, and products deemed acceptable according to ARI's standard are forwarded to meal service for cooking and serving in our dining hall. During 2014, the only food gathered within ARI that produced a reading above our standard of 37Bq/kg was shiitake mushrooms. Those readings have actually risen since 2012 (2013=261Bq/kg, 2014=330Bq/kg).

We remain diligent about washing our crops thoroughly before cooking, eating no shiitake mushrooms and measuring every product gathered from an un-tilled location, such as wild vegetables or chestnuts, before it is served at our table.

The radiation level of our compost is declining, but the level measured in 2014 had still not fallen below our standard of 400Bq/kg. Therefore it will be our policy to use wastes from our fields, like soy bean pods and hay from wheat and rice, in our seed beds and as compost. The mud in our fish ponds was also above our standard, which at 1,185Bq/kg was above the measurement taken in 2013 (856Bq/kg). During repair of the Women's Dormitory roof in 2014, leaves gathered from the rain troughs measured 66,190Bq/kg, which was higher than any sample taken since 2011. The roof has received a new surface and decontamination has been performed.

Any high-radiation material is kept in special bags that shield 65% of radiation, which are placed at the lowest corner of ARI property, in the cedar bush where the now-unused shiitake seeding logs, which measure 8,000+Bq/kg, are located.

Meanwhile, radiation levels of the fermented floor in the pig pens and bokashi have fallen below our standard, and the leaf mulch from seed beds came down to 410.96Bq/kg. We have not been using conifer leaves in our compacted hot beds, nor deciduous leaves from within ARI in our seed beds, and we covered our compost storage with corrugated sheets to prevent the entry of conifer leaves. We also spread organic fertilizer (including calcium) and cleaned out the bio gas liquid storage pool and the bottom of fish ponds. We still need to take measures to prevent the entry of surrounding dirt into these ponds.

ARI Becquerel Center (ABC)

After the passage of 3 years since the triple disaster of 2011, the number of samples brought to ABC from outside ARI for measurement has started to decline. But there are still some items, particularly mushrooms gathered from the hills and forests of the area, which measure far in excess of the government standard of 100Bq/kg. ABC has continued to raise awareness that such items should only be consumed after measurement has been made. Meanwhile, ABC continues to measure radiation and Ph levels of soils and crops gathered from ARI fields.

In 2014 ABC initiated, or collaborated in the following notable events:

April 19: ABC volunteers offered a presentation about the radiation situation in northern Tochigi prefecture before an audience of approximately 1400 citizens gathered for a local lecture by the respected nuclear scientist Dr. Hiroaki KOIDE.

June 9: A group of northern Tochigi residents initiated an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) action against Tokyo Electric Power Company, and the office of this action has been placed at ABC. The first meeting of this citizens' initiative gathered over 120 local residents who believe that they, too, have suffered losses from the nuclear accident.

October 11&12: On the weekend of ARI's annual Harvest Thanksgiving Celebration, ABC volunteers presented a DVD presentation about the ADR initiative, and also sold measurement data collected over the previous 2.5 years.

December 25: This was the deadline for submission of ADR claims. A total 2,300 households representing 7,300 citizens submitted claims, making this the second largest ADR initiative after that of Namie town, Fukushima, which is very near the accident site.

January 31: ABC compiled a complete record of radiation measurements taken over the course of its 3-year existence. From February 28 this data was made available to the public in a printed booklet, for a price of 300 yen per copy.

ABC Volunteer

Mineki
Nishikawa



Community Life

Community Life Coordinator
Jonathan McCurley

Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Ecclesiastes 4:12

In 2014, the ARI community grew deep roots that helped it stand when struggles came. As construction of the final buildings for training purposes was finished, we began to get a feeling for various spaces and began thinking how best to use them. Our temporary butchering area found a permanent home, and our biogas system connected to our new pig pen has slowly come to life. Finally, at the heart of our community life, we completed Oikos Chapel. Oikos, meaning family or house, is the perfect description for a building that was home for generations of a Japanese family in this local area. As much as possible, we wanted to give the feeling that Oikos Chapel is a home for all of us at ARI. Dedicating it on ARI's foundation day, September 16th and welcoming a couple hundred guests, we believe it began to become that - a home for us to share our lives from the deepest part of ourselves.

Community members also had to learn how to support one another. As news came of the Ebola epidemic spreading through West Africa, our community gathered close around those members from West Africa, especially Liberia. We prayed, listened, cried and sought to stand with our brothers and sisters both on campus and as graduates throughout West Africa. Although there were many happenings that called us to support and care for one another, we are thankful that we lived through them together. Praise be to God that the brothers and sisters were able to return back to their communities after commencement and now continue their work.

ARI's presence was seen joining in local community celebrations and activities. We are proud to report that the ARI Fureai Dance Team

won the most creative team prize at the 2014 Nishinasuno Fureai Matsuri. The MINNGOS gospel choir continued to connect to the greater community, creating new connections with individuals and organizations. Beyond Nishinasuno, we continued to connect with schools, churches, and local people for fellowship, sharing and fun. ARI Sunday continued to grow as we went out to both neighboring towns and neighboring prefectures to share about what God is doing in our own lives and through the work of ARI.

As the year came to a close, there was a feeling that the ARI campus was finally coming into its new shape. With the many new buildings, the community has continued to morph and be transformed, and now there is a feeling that we finally have a home. We know that we must seek God's guidance as we have been given the task of maintaining and nurturing all that He has given to us, and we invite you to join us in your continued prayers and financial support.

2014 Achievement

Ever since the old sports ground was demolished, the community has missed its basketball goal. We are happy to report that through part of the proceeds of the 2014 HTC, one of the latest additions to our campus is a new basketball goal. Finally, the ARI Dream Team can be born once again!



Graduate Activities

Kathy Froede

Admissions

In 2014 we welcomed 27 participants for the Rural Leaders Training Program, 1 Training Assistant and 2 Graduate Interns. This year, for the first

time, we asked participants to send short reports to their sending bodies at 3 points during the training period. The purpose of this was to deepen participants' relationships with their sending bodies, and to help to smooth participants' return to activities after graduation.

Graduate Outreach

We are in communication with our graduates regularly! We now email a monthly newsletter to graduates using software "Mail Chimp." Previously, we emailed 4-5 times per year but now it is much easier to let the graduates know about the activities on the ARI campus. As you may know, we also publish the NETWORK Bulletin for graduates two times each year - Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter. We have asked

Admissions Staff

Kathy Froede

■ 2004 Graduates Til Kumari Pun and Makito Fujii paid ARI a visit in May. The married couple works in rural Nepal.



graduates to write longer articles about global issues that affect their work, their country and those of other graduates. In addition, each year we visit graduates and in April and May, Kathy visited Myanmar to attend the ARI Graduates Association meeting and to visit many graduates in their communities. She met 28 graduates in 8 states: Yangon, Ayeyarwaddy, Mandalay, Kayah, Shan, Sagaing, Chin and Kachin.

Graduate Reports 2014



Ms. Khaling Toshang, Manipur, India

2007 Graduate, 2015 TA

"In 2007, I learned how to indicate underground water resources from Mr. Toru Sakawa. Manipur state is facing a drinking water scarcity. People look for water 5-6 kilometers away from home, and some places are really far. My learning in ARI is very useful and successful for the state in meeting my community's need, especially by getting what is most essential for life – drinking water. In 3 districts, 75 wells were found and used."

Khaling works with women and farmers in her community. Her role in the organization, the Dorcas Noble Fund (DNF), is to train farmers through hands-on programs and workshops on organic farming systems. In addition to her work with DNF, Khaling maintains a personal demonstration field, where people from different communities visit and learn from her field. She also volunteers with Uipo Nauti Inlam (UNI), a women's body under her tribe council that works to protect the identity and culture of the Khoibu people, through community events and legal representation.

"People are not interested in farming because they feel it is poor people's work, unless we talk about the dangers of using toxic chemicals. In all of my trainings I start with this. When people hear about toxic chemicals they decide to make a farm for themselves. The crops they grow to sell have many chemicals, so they feel that they will die if they eat these. Since they do not want to die soon, they have started to farm without chemicals for themselves. The most important thing for the farmer is to "think first and act second," and this is appropriate for the farmers and consumers in my community."

Program Evaluation

Fetzer Institute Grant Project *ARI Program Evaluation* *(2013 - 2015)*

We at ARI have long felt the need for an objective evaluation of the training program, but the opportunity did not arise until just before the 40th anniversary. Professor Richard Gardner of Sophia University (Tokyo) kindly proposed such a program evaluation to the Fetzer Institute (Michigan, USA) as a research project, and this was approved in 2012. Fetzer Institute was seeking “to identify examples of love and/or forgiveness in action; to reflect on and learn from their success; and to share this wisdom and any best practices in ways that benefit the lives of individuals, communities and organizations,” and ARI was selected as the one such organization.

With Ms. Sarajeon Rossitto, a Tokyo-based NGO/NPO consultant, as coordinator, this project began in April 2013 as a collaborative project between the Asian Rural Institute and the Fetzer Institute. Two Tokyo-based graduate students, Ms. Lissette Robles and Mr. John Lichten, joined as research assistants, and Prof. Gardner and Assoc.Prof. David Slater, also of Sophia University, served as advisers. The project spanned over two years, including the preparation period.

This project did more than just evaluate the training program. It offered an unique chance to gather stories and feedback from graduates, staff and current participants. The process provided precious opportunities to reflect upon and discuss ARI’s purpose, its influence and its future. Many valuable ideas for the development of ARI’s organization and training program were included in the comments offered about our recruitment and selection processes, curriculum contents, key learnings and their usefulness, or day-to-day. In addition



■ Evaluation coordinator Sarajeon Rossitto (second from right) and ARI’s admissions staff Kathy Froede (second from left) during a visit to 2004 Graduate Renuka Badhrakanti (left) in Sri Lanka. (2014)

to the 200+ page final report, we were able to produce a 30-page summary report.

Data Source and Data Collection

From April 2013 to April 2014, data was collected from about 300 persons from 36 countries, through surveys, individual and group interviews, and document records. These individuals included participants of the 2013 Rural Leaders Training Program, current and past staff members, as well as ARI graduates.

A. Data collection from ARI Participants

- 31 ARI Participants (Apr, Jul, Nov 2013)
- Essays and reflection papers of 90 Participants, 2008 - 2013

B. Data collection from Graduates

- Surveys from 69 Graduates, Sep. - Oct. 2014
- Interviews at the 40th Anniversary Event at ARI from 43 Graduates, Sep, 2014
- Interviews with 35 Graduates, Oct- Dec 2014
- Interviews with 36 Graduates in Sri Lanka (Jan, 2014) and the Philippines (Apr, 2014)

C. Data collection from staff members

- Interviews with 19 staff members (Feb - Apr, 2014)

Focus of the Assessment

- 1) Motivation to participate in the training of ARI. (Individuals and Sending bodies)
- 2) Feedback on the ARI training program and curriculum
- 3) Learning: What did they actually learn? What more did they want to learn?
- 4) Personal change: How did their thinking and behavior change?
- 5) Influence of the program
- 6) Implementation and transmission of knowledge, skills and values after the training.
- 7) Challenges of ARI: Organizational management process and personal challenges
- 8) Challenges after the ARI training: How to utilize the learning, challenges in the organizations that they belong to
- 9) Feedback on recruitment and screening process
- 10) Communication and relationship building with ARI (Newsletter, Networking, Graduate associations, future of ARI)



■ The Philippines: Graduates have assembled for the study. (2014)



■ Presentation of results at Sophia University in Tokyo. (2015)

Summary of Results

The huge volume of data from the assessment were categorized into the following themes, analyzed and examined.

- ① Motivation: Why do people come to ARI?
- ② Influence: How does the training program influence participants and graduates
- ③ Challenges: What challenges do graduates face upon return
- ④ Graduate case stories from visits to the field
- ⑤ Recruitment and selection of participants

Key findings under each theme are contained in the report, Bridging the Grassroots (see box below), but can be summarized as follows: What we emphasize in the ARI training, the “approaches and spirit of Servant Leadership,” “relationship between food and life”, and “community development techniques,” influence participants, staff and graduates deeply, and have transformative impacts on their inner lives, behavioral patterns and activities afterwards.

Further, pointing out that the ARI training program is based on social justice values, the report states that the program strengthened the passion and perseverance of its participants and increased the power of their influences:

“It is the commitment to working with marginalized populations and targeting social justice values that may have deeper, long-term impacts. Such examples show the ways the ARI training program promotes value change, which, if transferred to organizations and/or communities, may bring about broader opportunities, a better quality of life, and change at the local level by focusing on lifestyles, environmental sustainability, community participation and inclusion.”

And at the very end of the report it states;

“ARI may also serve as a model for other training programs by demonstrating the significance of influencing social justice values over skills development alone.”

To our great relief and joy the above observations affirm our long-held, but subjective, convictions about the impact of the ARI training program. This holds great meaning for us, and gives encouragement not only to staff, but to the countless others who, believing what we believed, contributed and committed to the ARI training program. We feel the study validates that the many forms of support

given to ARI’s vision and mission over 40 years were used correctly, for the purposes for which they were offered.

On the other hand, this report also points to some challenges that ARI faces:

“The world has changed and, so too must ARI in order to enhance grassroots leaders’ ability to develop sustainable solutions to local problems by dealing more directly with 21st-century needs, circumstances and challenges.”

It further suggests;

“Addressing how local communities are impacted by the acts of global decision-makers and how issues such as land control, the imbalance of resources, multinational corporate control, disasters and political instability are connected to local conditions may enhance ARI’s influence and Graduates’ impact.”

We must incorporate these suggestions into our curriculum improvement in the future.

In reference to the statement,

“To build bridges between leaders from the grassroots requires that ARI invest many resources – people, skills, money, and time – which are often in short supply”,

the report points to the challenges of the management of ARI’s program. This requires a mid- to long-term strategic plan that ARI’s trustees and councilors, together with ARI staff members, must work on in one spirit.



Download the summary report
“Bridging the Grassroots”

[www.ari-edu.org/en/2015/06/18/
graduatestudy-report-download/](http://www.ari-edu.org/en/2015/06/18/graduatestudy-report-download/)

Domestic Business



① Events at ARI

May: English Farm

A 3-day experience of ARI's diversity and FoodLife, in English. Building upon last year's successful program, we chose the theme "Rice." Led by long-term volunteers from the United States, 15 participants helped to prepare rice paddies for transplanting, learned how to prepare a North-East Indian meal with curry and chapatis and joined the community in other regular activities.

January: English Bible Camp

ARI's self-sufficient living is deeply rooted in Christian principles. The theme of this 2nd English Bible Camp was, "Growth: What does the Bible say about it?" It was a time of rich reflection and fellowship for 5 participants.

June and October: Used Book and Clothing Sale

In its 5th year, this event attracted 240 visitors in June and another 150 in October. We are thankful that awareness of the sale is growing among local residents, who enjoy browsing through the donated books in the relaxed atmosphere of Nasu Seminar House.

June: One-day Retreat for Corporate Leaders

In collaboration with the Tochigi Prefecture Association of Corporate Executives (Tochigiken Keizai Dōyū Kai) we were able to offer a new, one-day program for local business leaders. The program, which included a lecture and discussion about "Servant Leadership," a role-playing "trade game" that lets participants experience realities of the global economy, and a presentation titled "Globalization: The situation in Africa," by an African ARI graduate, was designed to offer to participants a unique opportunity to think about the world and reflect upon oneself.

October: Asian Development Bank Field Study

ARI welcomed members of an ADB field study group coordinated by the Bank's Working Group on Agriculture of the Greater Mekong Subregion. With ARI's new facilities, we are able to host a wider range of visitors, not only from within Japan but also from abroad.

② Events outside of ARI

November Western Japan Caravan: "What is Health?"

This was our 6th annual Caravan tour. With Training Assistant Theodora, who is a community health nurse in Cameroon, joining this year's Caravan, we chose "What is Health?" as our theme. The tour was also joined by the two Graduate Interns, who shared with audiences their experiences at ARI. This year we visited a total 37 organizations, the majority of which were churches and universities. We were able to share a great deal with young people, long-time supporters and new friends.

③ Nasu Seminar House

Working Visitors (130 people)

We are now receiving more working visitors than even before the disaster. Through their working visitor experiences we have been able to offer new ideas and opportunities for new activities.

Study Camps (43 organizations, 554 people)

To teach about Foodlife and international cooperation, we offered a variety of activities such as the Trading Game, BBQ using ARI products, and interviews with overseas staff and training program participants. Over 90% of study campers have rated their experience as "very good."

Fellowship Programs with Tochigi Schools

ARI community members visited a variety of schools within Tochigi prefecture for fellowship, to foster international understanding among youth. We have developed an especially close relationship with Hattachi Elementary School, visiting 10 times in one year, and this has encouraged grade 5 and 6 students to work together to communicate in English without the aid of interpreters.

Schools visited: Nishinasuno Kindergarten, Yaita Kindergarten, Tsukinokizawa Elementary School, Hattachi Elementary School, Kurobane Middle School, Utsunomiya Kita High School, Utsunomiya Girls High School, Kuroiso Minami High School

4 Sales

The Sales section performed better than last year in terms of gross income (+ Yen 553,651). At the same time, costs like those for facilities and purchase of materials were not increased, so it can be said the Sales section contributed to ARI more than last year.

On the other hand, we experienced periods of shortage in pork and eggs, and also coffee beans from a Philippine graduate, so we were unable to meet demand fully. But we had a stable supply of other sales items by virtue of the farm staff members' efforts, information sharing and good team work. Sales promotion, filing orders, packing and delivery of our products and analysis of the whole process were successfully completed through cooperation with other staff and volunteers. We thank everyone for their contributions to the Sales section's achievements, and for helping to our existence felt. We are encouraged by the positive reaction from farm members, as we all

shared the idea that "ARI products can contribute to self-sufficiency of management." The monthly meetings of Farm Section (producer), Meal Service (consumer), and Sales (income generation) were important opportunities to adjust internal demand and supply and a good place to share and develop ideas that can convert some of our extra agricultural product from educational activities into income for ARI.

We participated in around 90 opportunities to sell ARI products and raise awareness of our mission at outside markets and bazaars. This was our chance to talk with the consumers face to face and share information and opinions. This activity is not just sales, but also Public Relations, a valuable time to meet supporters whom we don't usually see. We aim to continue creating appropriate income for ARI by making a feasible plan and remaining open to new ideas, developing our daily routines step by step.

Activities with Supporters



ARISA

July ARI Supporters' Gathering

The 2nd annual ARI Supporters' Gathering, held on July 5, brought together 35 supporters for a time of thoughtful conversation and fellowship.

Some ideas raised and discussed were; "Can we create a space where supporters can visit casually?" "Wouldn't it be nice to have a salon-like space, where people could sip tea?" "Could supporters sometimes lead campus tours for visitors?" "Could we make more events open to supporters, like rice transplanting and potato harvesting?" "Could we add an events calendar to the website?" Several suggestions made at the 2013 supporters gathering were adopted, such as hosting a 40th anniversary eve event for graduates, creation of a 40th anniversary tapestry and organizing an auction during HTC.

October ARISA Bazaar at HTC

Preparation for this event, which began one week before HTC, received kind assistance from many supporters. Items donated to ARI were placed on sale under a banner that read, "Your purchase today will support tomorrow's rural leaders!" This, combined with our annual lineup of hand-made treats, like the banana-tron (banana in a hot crepe), sweet potato fries and grilled salted fish, raised a total 771,917 yen for ARI, improving upon last year's receipts.

AFARI

Financials

AFARI provided \$136,668.27 in support to ARI in the 2014-15 fiscal year,

comprised of \$104,518 in cash and \$32,150 in non-cash support. AFARI's non-cash support is made up of things such as printing, mailing and other work done in the U.S. on ARI's behalf. This represents an increase in a monetary donation of \$42,918 and a non-cash donation increase of \$8,405 over the previous year.

The increase in monetary donations was primarily due to three factors. First, AFARI received a bequest accounting for about 40% of the increase. Second, returned donors (supporters who did not give the previous year but returned to ARI) was way up and this, along with donors who increased their giving, accounted for about another 40% of the increase. And third, AFARI's participation in the UMC Advance Giving Tuesday resulted in the remaining 20% of the increase.

Speaking Tour

J.B. Hoover (the Executive Director) carried out a 3 week speaking tour to the Northeastern U.S. with Judith Daka, a graduate from Zambia. During the tour they met with many individual and organizational supporters as well as introducing ARI to new groups. J.B. ran a trail marathon as an annual AFARI event raising over \$11,291.

Board and Staff

Pam Hasegawa stepped down as board President after serving 10 years in this position, though remains on the board. Margret Hofmeister was elected as the new AFARI President. Rod Booth, who served the board for 6 years, 4 of these as its Vice-President, passed away. Ellen Palmer Marsey was elected as Vice-President. The remaining board members include Craig Rice (Treasurer), David Coatsworth (Secretary), Steve Gerdes, Steve Tarr, and Bob Ray.

Disaster Recon- struction



Vice Board
Chair &
Finance
Officer
Hoichi Endo

In 2014 we entered the fourth year of reconstruction. Since the great earthquake occurred on March 2011, we have repaired and reconstructed the women's dorm, administration building, Koinonia dining hall, classroom building, pigpens and men's dorm. Without the financial help and encouraging prayers of supporters, this could not have happened. We are truly thankful for all supporters who share ARI's mission. Following are the achievements, which you made possible, within the 2014 fiscal year.

Replacement of Women's Dorm roof

Interior damages to the women's dorm were repaired in the very early stages of the rehabilitation project, but the damaged roof remained to be fixed. The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) made this project possible through its funding, and this work was completed in May. The men's dorm was completed last year, so all of the participants, men and women, are now able to enjoy safe and comfortable community life throughout the training program.

Butchering facility

We initially planned to reconstruct the butchering facility as an independent building. However, we came to the conclusion that it was better to convert the food processing class room on the first floor of Manna House into a butchering facility, as that space was underutilized. The new facility, which has been licensed by local health authorities and is now providing chicken meat to our kitchen, is an important protein source in ARI's efforts toward food self-sufficiency. This project was also supported by UMCOR.

Dedication of Oikos Chapel

We celebrated the dedication of Oikos Chapel on ARI's 41st Foundation Day. Over 250 invited guests, participants, officers, staff, volunteers and construction-related guests participated in the Sep. 15 event. Design of this building, in which we all meet and pray together, posed an interesting challenge, because ARI is a Christian-based institution, but committed to religiously diversity. We chose to reconstruct a 110 year-old Japanese building on our campus and remodel it as our chapel. On dedication day, the people who gathered for the ceremony accepted and loved our new Oikos Chapel very much.

This project was funded by United Church of Christ in Japan, Catholic Relief Services in USA, Tokyo Union Church, St. Ignatius Kojimachi Church, the Korean Methodist Church and the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan. As ARI's foundational aim was to serve the people of Asia by nurturing rural leaders, contributions toward Oikos Chapel from Asian churches were particularly meaningful for us.

Following the tradition of using Greek terms to name our dining hall, Koinonia, and our food processing building, Manna House, we named our new spiritual space Oikos Chapel. Oikos means home, or household, in Greek and is the root word of economy, ecology and ecumenism, so we felt it was fitting for our new chapel in many ways.

Oikos Chapel is located on a terrace between Koinonia dining hall and the staff houses. Therefore, without stairs, it could not be accessed directly from Koinonia. Faced with a shortage of funds to build concrete stairs, several 2014 participants from the Solomon Islands, Indonesia and Myanmar, together with the Korean chaplain Rev. Ban, built a set of sturdy steps, utilizing our own timber resources.

Biogas System/Digester

In 2013 we completed both a fattening and a breeding pigpen. Three pens in the breeding house were made with concrete floors so that we could collect manure and introduce it into a digester and biogas tank. We also installed solar power collectors to warm the digester, so it can function even when temperatures fall below zero. The biogas pipeline was extended to the multi-functional agricultural building, about 100 meters downhill, where the gas will be used to cook and sterilize feeds for animals. This project was made possible by the gifts of Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and some others.

In 2015 we will complete the Multi-functional Agricultural building, staff houses and some more small projects. However, we are happy to report that all of the facilities essential for the ARI Rural Leaders Training Course were completed within the fiscal year of 2014. We are truly thankful to all of the churches, organizations and individual supporters for making this miraculous recovery possible, and so quickly. Thank you very much indeed!

The ARI Community

Honorary President and Founder

Toshihiro Takami

Full Time

Kenichi Otsu	Director
Tomoko Arakawa	Assistant Director & General Manager
Osamu Arakawa	Education Director & Farm Manager
Yukiko Oyanagi	Curriculum Coordinator
Ban Hyung-wook	Chaplain, Community Life
Bernard Timothy Appau	Chaplain, Community Life
Jonathan McCurley	Community Life Coordinator
David McIntosh	Ecumenical Relations
Gilbert Hoggang	Livestock
Mayu Kamimura	Crops & Vegetables
Takashi Otani	Livestock
Zacivolu Rhakho	Meal Service
Kathy Froede	Admissions & Graduate Outreach
Kaori Sakuma	Fundraising & Domestic Business
Hiromi Sato	Sales & General Affairs & PR
Takashi Yamashita	External Programs & Nasu Seminar House Manager

Part Time

Mitsue Kimijima	Accounting
Miki Sato (from April to October)	General Affairs
Koki Arai (from December)	General Affairs
Junko Tanaka	Library
Yumiko Naoi	Meal Service
Masayo Fukushima	Food Processing

Contract

Hoichi Endo	Finance Officer
Thomas Itsuo Fujishima	Public Relations

Long-Term on Campus

Shigeyoshi Miwa
 Jesse Ruzicka (US)
 Sean Brown (US)
 Turner Ritchie (US)
 Mary Elizabeth Gaston (US)
 Noa Uehara
 Noriko Nakayama
 Shoma Tsufuku
 Yusuke Kado
 Kai Meredith (US)
 Klara Kirsch (Ger)
 Yumi Sakada
 Joseph Anderson (US)

ARI Becquerel Center

Takashi Akutsu
 Shohei Fujimoto
 Takayuki Hayasaka
 Mineki Nishikawa
 Yukio Takashima

Staff

Board Chair

Kenichi Otsu

Director, Asian Rural Institute

Board

Vice Chair

Hoichi Endo

Chairman, Director of Financial Development

Board of Directors

Ryusuke Fukuda	Tokyo Union Church Elder
Isamu Koshiishi	Former Moderator of NCCJ
	Priest, Shiki Seibo Church, Anglican Episcopal Church
Hideharu Kadowaki	Special Advisor and Senior Fellow, The Japan Research Institute, Limited
Satoru Kuze	Chairman, Meiji Gakuin University
Masaoki Hoshino	Pastor, UCCJ Matsuzaki Church
Noriaki Sato	Press Editor, The Yomiuri Shinbun
Koa Tasaka	Professor Emeritus, International Christian University
Junko Iinuma	Nasu Tomo no Kai

Auditors

Hideyuki Ooya (until July)	General Manager, Yaita Kindergarten
Masaaki Shibui	Former Manager, Watanabe Michio Management Center

Board of Councillors

Isamu Koshiishi	Former moderator of NCCJ
	Priest, Shiki Seibo Church, Anglican Episcopal Church
Ryusuke Fukuda	Tokyo Union Church Elder
Satoru Kuze	Chairman, Meiji Gakuin University
Masaoki Hoshino	Pastor, UCCJ Matsuzaki Church
Hideharu Kadowaki	Special Advisor and Senior Fellow, The Japan Research Institute, Limited
Masahiko Yamane	General Manager, Kagawa Nutrition University
Isao Kikuchi	Bishop, Roman Catholic Diocese of Niigata, Japan
Mitsuo Fukumoto	Principal, Nishinasuno Kindergarten
Yukio Miyazaki	National Council of YMCAs of Japan
Toshimasa Yamamoto	Lecturer, Kwansei Gakuin University
Sooboo Lee	President, Intech Ltd.
Katsuyuki Kanno	Pastor Nishinasuno Church
Junko Iinuma	Nasu Tomo no Kai
Kazue Yamaguchi	National Tomo no Kai, Head Quarters
Muneo Ishikawa	Shimosato Farm Manager
Kiyoshi Nagashima	Former staff of ARI
Michiru Yoneda	Superior General, The Sisters of the Visitation
Tomoko Arakawa	Assistant Director & General Manager, ARI
Hoichi Endo	Chairman, ARI Finance Committee
Osamu Arakawa	Education Director & Farm Manager, ARI
Kaori Sakuma	Fundraising & Domestic Business Staff, ARI

Commuting Volunteers

Takashi Fushimi	Takashi Hirayama	Masami Tanaka
Jin Onozaki	Kazuko Fujimoto	Yukiko Yajima
Kyoko Takamura	Mugi Kawamura	Akie Hatazawa
Yumi Suzuki	Ayako Hayashida	Shigeaki Kashiwaya
Jin Hae Chong	Naoko Kodama	Konatsu Ikeda
Satomi McCurley	Kenji Akutsu	Norie Horiguchi
Tadashi Ito	Yuko Kimura	Junko Nishino
Ichiro Sahara	Tsuyoshi Watanabe	
Hitomi Kubo	Kazushi Tsukamoto	

Our Donors & Supporters

All gifts that are not designated for scholarship, disaster reconstruction, or research are received as general donations, and help to support tuition and other costs of the ARI Rural Leaders Training Program.

Overseas Individual Supporters

This list is inclusive of contributions given as general donations towards ARI's Rural Leaders training Program as well as for disaster reconstruction

Reuben Abdulhaq	Dean & Elsie Freudenberger	Minsik Kim	J.B. Redding
Bev Abma	Isao Fujimoto	Douglas & Marjorie Kinsey	Robert Regenold
Susan M. Adams	Ben & Carol Fujita	Julie Koestner	James E. Rheingrover
Patricia Amtower	Carolyn Fure-Slocum	(in Honor of Mariellen Sawada-Yoshino)	Craig Rice & Ameeta Sony
Douglas Appleby	Bruce Garver	Ann Kohl	(in Memory of Rod Booth)
Carl & Marie Bade	Kenneth Gelhaus	Benjamin & Choon Sook Kremenak	Sue Rice
Verlyn L. Barker	Stephen & Emiko Gerdes	Mary Jo Kremer	Alyson Rieke
Margarete Bergmann	(in Memory of Rod Booth)	Armin & Evelyn Kroehler	Martha Taylor Roach
Gordon & Janet Blake	Susan Gibson	William & Laverne Kroehler	Carolyn Rodenberg
Dan & Barbara Bohi	Larry Gill	Richard & Martha Lammers	Patricia & Randy Roeser
Nelson & Charlotte Bond	Dick & Anne Gillett	James & Haru Landes	Corey Ruder
Rod & Maria Booth	Jack Gillisse	Janell J. Landis	Priscilla & David Ruhe
Rod Booth	Lois Gordon	Martin & Barbara Lang	Janet Russell
Stacey Brown	Daniel Goto	Noriko Lao	C.H. & Vicki Ruzicka
Cynthia Burr	James & Noriko Goto	Patricia Libby	Wendy & Thomas Ryan
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John & Agnes Chambers	Betsy Hale & Tony Case	Margaret Logan	Lisa Schaechter
Diana Chapel	Peg & Harry Hampton	Bruce MacKenzie	Joy & Gerald Sekimura
Tom & Anne Chase	Margaret Hardenbergh & Carl Wies	Pierre & Ellie Maeder	Kay & Roger Shanks
Fred & Thelma Clark	Pam & Souk Hasegawa	Marj Manglitz	Teresa Sherrill
Shannon Clarkson	(in Memory of Rod Booth)	Evelyn Manierre	Buddy Shipley
David Coatsworth	Nagi Hashiba	Darwin & Mary Jane Mann	Hallam & Yasuko Shorrock
(in Memory of Rod Booth)	Jacqueline Haslett	Betsy Manners	Sue Speed
Ben Cope	Paul Hastings	John Manners	Alyson & Dan Stage
Amanda Crandall	Mary Hawkes	Joyce Manson	Barb Stapleton
Margaret Crowl	Alma Healey	Ellen & Jim Marsey	Samantha Stewart
David & Elizabeth Cutting	Clip Higgins	(in Memory of Rod Booth)	Phil & Valerie Stichter
Richard & Alice Dailey	Heather Hill	Martha Gale & Bob Carpenter	Jon & Jean Strauss
Ken Dale	John E. Hill	Kathleen Matsushima	Keitha & Jim Swaim
Anne Dance & Daniel Barendregt	Robert Hill	Ken and Diane Matsuura	Lee & Dotty Swan
Dianne & Jerry Daugherty	Samuel & Gail Hill	Walter B. Mead	Donald Sweetser
Carol Decker	David & Sandra Hirano	Barbara Mensendiek	Steve & Doris Tabuchi
Anne DeVries	Margret Hofmeister	Marianne and David Mersereau	Sachi Taketa
Mary Ann DeVries	(in Memory of Rod Booth)	Mike & Donna Miller	Marjorie Tarr
(in Memory of Gretchen DeVries)	William & Eleanor Honaman	Eleanor Moore	Stephen Tarr & Janet Vorvick
Margie Dickinson	Brooke & Michele Hoover	Michael Moore	(in Memory of Rod Booth)
Skip & Derry Dickinson	J.B. & Adeline Hoover	Michael Moore	Frank Taylor
Krista Dudley	(in Memory of Rod Booth)	Roger Morimoto	Elizabeth Teague
Richard & Lillian Dudley	John & Sandy Hoover	Donald & Alberta Morrison	Robert & Hazel Terhune
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Loyd Fischer	Kyoko Kageyama	Mary Musolino	Deane & Donna Uhl
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		Diane Norman	Julia Wenker
		David Norse	Susan Westin
		Robert Northup	Millicent M. Wetrich
		Edith O'Donnell	Walden Whitehill
		Kevin O'Toole	Pallop & Karen Wilairat
		Stan & LoAnne Olson	Nate Wilairat
		Joseph Ozawa	Blair & Jean Williams
		Bill Pallett	Sharon Wilson & Van Bobbitt
		Alison Pease	Clyde & Betsy Work
		Hugh Penney	Roy Yamaki
		Chuck Perov	Shari & Tru Yamamoto
		Robert Peterson	Mary Lois Yegerlehner
		Donald Potter	Lawrence & Jean Young
		Jack Presseau	Glennys Ziegler
		Paul & Mary Margaret Pruitt	Eli Zigas
		Dave Ransom	
		Bob & Joyce Ray (in Memory of Rod Booth)	

■ The 2014 Participants and Japanese supporters at the “Lunch in Tokyo” fellowship event in July

A list of individuals, congregations and other organizations in Japan who donated toward ARI's Rural Leaders Training Program during fiscal 2014 can be found in the Japanese version of the 2014 Annual Report and in Ajia No Tsuchi, our Japanese newsletter.



Organizational Overseas Supporters

This list is inclusive of contributions given as general donations toward ARI's Rural Leaders Training Program. English speaking congregations in Japan are also mentioned here.

- Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Palo Alto, CA
- Cedar Park United Methodist Church, Cedar Park, TX
- Chapel Hill United Methodist Church
- Cortland United Church of Christ
- Countryside Community Church
- First Congregational Church Branford, UCC, Branford, CT
- First Congregational Church in Amherst - UCC, Amherst, MA
- First Congregational Church of Westbrook, Westbrook, CT
- United Methodist Church General Board of Global Ministries
- Grace Presbyterian Church, Kendall Park, NJ
- Harris United Methodist Church, Honolulu, HI
- Higgins Memorial UMC, Burnsville, NC
- Hope United Methodist Church, Belchertown, MA
- Japan Mission Connection
- Javan and Neva Corl Family Foundation
- Kitchell Memorial Presbyterian Church, NJ
- Los Altos United Methodist Church
- Morgan Park UMC, Chicago, IL
- North Congregational Church
- Palm Harbor United Methodist Church
- Presbyterian Church USA
- Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church
- San Luis Obispo United Methodist Church
- St. James Thrift Shop, Keene, NH
- St. John's Episcopal Church, Lancaster, PA
- The Episcopal Church of St. Martin, Davis, CA
- The United Church of Canada
- The United Church of Christ Scribner, Scribner, NE
- United Church of Dorset & East Rupert, Dorset, VT
- United Methodist Committee on Relief
- Warrensburg Church of the Brethren

Disaster Reconstruction

Contributors of over \$ 10,000

United Methodist Committee on Relief

Scholarship Supporters

Contributors of academic scholarships or travel grants (domestic and overseas)

- American Friends of ARI (AFARI)
- American School in Japan Swim Team
- Asian Rural Welfare Association (ARWA)
- Kachin Christian Peace Church
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- Japan Evangelical Lutheran Association
- National Christian Council in Japan
- Niikura Kai
- Rotary Yoneyama Memorial Foundation, Inc.
- Order of the Visitation of Holy Mary
- Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (Ake-no-hoshi Community)
- Salesians of Don Bosco Convent
- Tochigi Business Association
- Tokyo Kasumigaseki Lions Club
- Tokyo American Club Women's Group
- St. Timothy's Service Scholarship
- United Church of Christ in Japan (UCCJ) Ecumenical Committee
- The United Church of Canada
- United Methodist Church Committee on Relief
- United Methodist Church General Board of Global Ministries
- Wesley Foundation
- World Council of Churches

Volunteer Sending Bodies

Welcoming churches in Japan in parentheses

- Church of the Brethren (USA), Brethren Volunteer Service (United Church of Christ in Japan)
- The Episcopal Church (USA), Young Adult Service Corps (Anglican-Episcopal Church in Japan)
- Evangelical Mission in Solidarity (Germany)
- United Methodist Church (USA), Global Mission Fellows program (United Church of Christ in Japan, The Wesley Center)

Research Grants

- Fetzer Institute
- United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Common Global Ministry Board
- United Methodist Church - General Board for Global Ministries

Operating Revenue

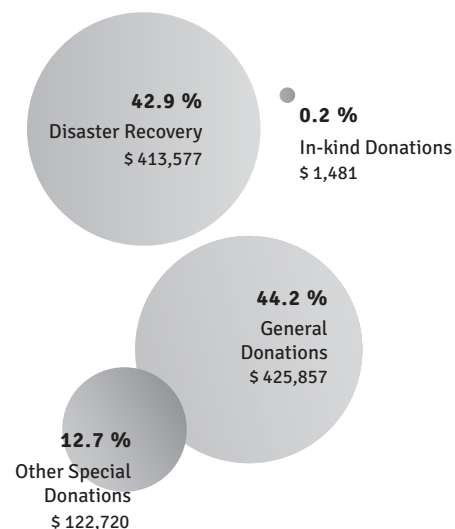
	(US \$)		
	2014 Budget	2014 Actual	2015 Budget
Scholarships and Fees ⁽¹⁾	337,410	313,437	509,757
Tuition	27,735	23,893	41,423
Entrance fee	3,528	1,388	4,674
Contributions for board	7,476	7,264	8,326
Contributions for lodging	7,476	7,264	8,326
Contributions for transportation	26,949	6,920	28,950
Domestic institutional donation	154,174	135,375	138,844
Overseas institutional donation	110,070	131,334	279,215
Fees for graduation certificate	113	194	208
Donations	1,063,133	963,635	423,384
General ⁽²⁾	440,093	425,857	395,064
Donation in kind	0	1,481	0
Special donations	623,040	536,297	28,320
(Designated for Disaster recovery)	575,840	413,577	0
Grants for special projects	57,584	56,930	75,843
Miscellaneous revenue	8,071	118,500	8,071
Total operating revenue	1,466,311	1,452,696	1,017,262

Operating Expenses ⁽³⁾

Personnel ⁽⁴⁾	640,643	634,362	675,426
Education and Research	240,555	224,557	240,555
General and administrative	538,086	566,901	517,996
(Disaster recovery)	100,158	50,542	136,880
(Depreciation allowance)	268,096	322,991	329,645
Contingencies	56,640	0	56,640
Total operating expenses	1,475,924	1,425,821	1,490,617
Net operating gain (loss)	(9,613)	26,876	(473,355)
Nonoperating revenues (expenses)			
Investment Income	9,912	28,168	8,024
Interest & dividends	472	761	472
Accommodation user fees	9,440	27,407	7,552
Interest expenses	(9,793)	(12,167)	-17,728
Interest expense on loans	(3,965)	(7,137)	-6,655
Interest expense on school bonds	(5,828)	(5,031)	-11,073
Gain (loss) from sale of assets	0	7,878	0
Loss on retirement of fixed assets	0	7,878	0
Incorporation into designated fund	(443,680)	(625,268)	(944,000)
Sales and special services ⁽⁵⁾	230,138	249,248	250,048
Sales costs	(51,826)	(34,828)	-71,916
Net non-operating gain (loss)	(265,248)	(386,969)	(775,572)
Net gain (loss) for 2014	612,498	(360,094)	
Budgeted net gain (loss) for 2015			(1,248,927)
Accumulated gain (loss):			
Beginning balance	(563,404)	(563,404)	(931,913)
Ending balance	(846,201)	(931,913)	

Donation categories

\$ 963,635



Notes

* Exchange rate of US\$1=JPY 105.85 is used to translate Japanese yen based financial statements.

(1) Tuition and fee are borne only by Japanese participants.

(2) Includes US\$95,159 general donation received from AFARI.

(3) For details, see the right page.

(4) Does not include salaries paid by other church organizations for one staff member.

(5) Revenues derived from organizing seminars and sales of farm products and folk-art crafts.

Efforts to be self-sufficient

The financial report does not reflect the value of ARI's own farm goods that were supplied to the kitchen and food processing which came to an approximate total of US\$ 158,715 in 2014.



Statement
of
Financial
Position

as of
2015/3/31

Assets

	3/31/2014	3/31/2015
Fixed Assets	8,737,626	9,293,006
Property	7,730,920	8,200,213
Scholarship endowment	684,760	685,583
Scholarship fund	250,682	328,835
Securities / shares	2,067	2,067
Telephone rights	1,526	1,526
Retirement fund	67,466	74,389
Deposit	205	393
Current Assets	1,659,618	1,358,221
Cash & savings	289,078	580,163
Stock (livestock, rice, etc.)	1,278,800	683,959
Accounts receivable	52,475	61,703
Sales items	26,317	16,656
Other	5,497	15,741
Total Assets	10,397,243	10,651,227

Liabilities and Net Assets

Fixed Liabilities	819,014	1,049,728
Long term loans	590,566	650,416
School bonds	171,808	314,352
Current Liabilities	1,141,962	908,473
Short term loans	600,950	600,950
School bonds	313,502	156,798
Accounts payable	26,533	10,863
Consumer tax payable	3,899	7,765
Other	197,077	132,096
Total Liabilities	1,964,678	1,960,976
Net assets		
Designated funds	8,999,672	9,624,939
Accumulated gain & loss	563,404	931,913
Total Net Assets	9,563,076	10,556,853
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	11,527,754	12,517,829

Notes (continued from left page)

Operating expenses in detail: **(2014 actual)**

Personnel	831,458
Faculty	282,697
Staff and other personnel	548,761
Education and Research	294,327
Student Stipends	51,014
Study tours	30,240
Agricultural training costs	71,458
Travel: domestic for students	793
Travel: intl students	55,354
Course materials	2,417
Research	8,411
Medical	5,419
Staff training	2,693
Alumni association support	1,929
Utilities	11,193
Special lectures	6,431
Dormitory expenses	3,264
Sales costs	6,431
Administration	738,078
Office supplies	1,654
Utilities	39,965
Transportation for staff	9,165
Fund raising	14,474
Vehicle fuel	16,005
Vehicle maintenance	17,801
General maintenance	10,718
Communication	8,264
General and administrative	47,047
Publications	7,255
Insurance	10,722
Rental expenses	15,991
Taxed & public dues	11,581
Membership fees	2,285
Conferences	3,312
Commission fees	29,691
Special events	382
Public relations	866
Medical	1,309
Miscellaneous expenses	
including disaster damage repair	66,246
Depreciation allowance	423,344
Total operating expenses	1,863,863

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. Masaaki Shibui and Mr. Hideyuki Oya. All the documents were properly kept and there were no irregularities.

May 7, 2015

Auditor: Masaaki Shibui

渋井正明



Rural Leaders Training Course, Participants

The 2014 Graduates

BANGLADESH

1) **Rehana Yesmin** Satata Development Society

CUBA

2) **Jose Antonio Sanchez** The Christian Center for Reflection and Dialogue (CCRD)

CAMEROON

3) **Titus Tegwi Atomba** The North West Pig Farmers' Cooperative Society (NOWEPIFAC)

EAST TIMOR

4) **Collins Yenika Litika** Rural Transformation Centre

5) **Antonio Pedro de Fatima Cavalho** PAC - Claretain Agriculture Program

6) **Carmelinda Dos Santos Almeida** Sisters of the Visitation of Japan

INDIA

7) **Mario Rebello** Society of the Missionaries of St. Francis Xavier

INDONESIA

8) **Rudi Casrudi Jahidin** Rukun Tani Indonesia

9) **Lampita Silaban** KSU POM HUMBANG 10) **Eunike Widhi Wardhani** Trukajaya Foundation

KOREA

11) **Motoki Che**

LAOS

12) **Khamlet Sengsoulichanh** The Association for Rural Mobilisation and Improvement (ARMI)

LIBERIA

13) **Romeo Dennis** Church Aid Incorporated

14) **Alice Howard** Lutheran Development Service

15) **Michael Tamba** Liberia Integrated Crop and Pest Management Agricultural Program (LICPMAP)

MALAWI

16) **Brenda Zembeni Maganga** Anglican Diocese of Upper Shire

17) **Ernest Golden Maganga** Kachere Progressive Women's Group (KPWG)

MYANMAR

18) **Khun Myat** Kachin Theological College

19) **K.T. Ni San** The Hualngo Land Development Organization

20) **Naw Aye Aye Shwe** Myanmar Baptist Convention

21) **Saw Eh Thaw** Pathein Myaung Mya Association (PMA)

22) **Thi Thi Win** Kalyana Mitta Foundation (KMF)

NEPAL

23) **Debaki Khadka** TITAN

SRI LANKA

24) **Chathurika Sewwandi Nanayakkara** Sewalanka Foundation

25) **Ayoma Thennakoon** Human and Environment Links Progressive Org.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

26) **Francis Ngaovera** Don Bosco Rural Training Center

UGANDA

27) **John Walukano** Wesleyan Church of Uganda

Advanced Training Course, Graduate Intern

JAPAN

28) **Mitsumasa Arai**
(2013 Graduate)

29) **Yohei Hamanaka**
(2013 Graduate)

Advanced Training Course, Training Assistant

CAMEROON

30) **Theodora Tirbaban Tatah**
Navti Foundation International
(2006 Graduate)