

# That We May Live Together



## 2023 Annual Report

April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024



**Asian Rural Institute**  
Rural Leaders Training Center





All the guests who have gathered for the 50th anniversary ceremony (September)

Greetings


The year 2023 marked the 50th anniversary of ARI, and we were able to celebrate it in a grand way with our supporters and alumni both at home and abroad. It was a time of great joy and gratitude, but also a time of deep reflection on the future of ARI. On the occasion of our 50th anniversary, we adopted the major theme, “Learn Together for a Rural Future,” and we renewed our commitment to comprehensively develop ARI as a learning institution in the five areas of “Peace from the Soil,” “Foodlife,” “Climate Justice and Climate Action,” “Education,” and “Organization.” A number of projects have already begun to materialize and expand upon these visions. We are very pleased that we have received considerable financial support for these projects, and that the campus is evolving every day to serve future rural leaders.

On the other hand, reflecting the conflicts and confrontations taking place in various parts of the world, the 2023 students were drawn from regions dealing with more difficulties than in previous years. Participants this year came from regions in the midst of civil


conflict, such as Myanmar, Cameroon, and the northeastern Indian state of Manipur, and from countries and regions where inhumane violence is rampant, such as Haiti, where anarchy has persisted for several years. As such, they seemed to have more serious and complex challenges and greater responsibilities as regional leaders. Nevertheless, participants, volunteers, and staff were encouraged by the daily positive reports of alumni from around the world who are demonstrating more effective leadership as a result of their studies at ARI, and this served to increase everyone’s commitment to the training.

The solution to the challenges of rural communities is not so easy to find, as they involve complex structures of ethnic, religious, and other conflicts, in addition to the effects of globalization and global warming. However, this is why we believe more than ever that unity and peaceful development of local communities are not possible without servant leadership that focuses on listening to and empathizing with the inner voices of the people and ourselves, and aims to strengthen and

grow everyone involved. It is with gratitude to all of you who resonate with and walk alongside ARI’s philosophy and values of leadership development that we would like to present our report for the fiscal year 2023.



Toshimasa Yamamoto  
Board Chair



Tomoko Arakawa  
Director

Index

<b>Snapshots 2023</b>	
ARI 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	4
<b>Nurturing Rural Leaders</b>	
From Self Transformation to Communal Transformation	6
Challenges for Recruitment	8
<b>Community of Learning</b>	
In God We Hope and Trust	10
Appreciating the Volunteers	11
<b>Foodlife at ARI</b>	
Living With Climate Change	12
<b>Together with Supporters</b>	
The 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Broadens Our Circle	14
Regional Convening Program Launched by AFARI	15
Good Production of Sales Items	15
Our Supporters & Partners	16
<b>Open Learning Programs</b>	17
<b>Graduates at Work</b>	
Graduates Join 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations	18
ARI Graduate Village Visits	19
<b>Financial Report</b>	20
<b>Curriculum</b>	22
<b>Community Members</b>	23
<b>Class of 2023</b>	24

Cover Art: Han Sakawa (2023 Volunteer)



ARI 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

In 2023, to celebrate ARI's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we have undertaken various commemorative projects. These projects will not end with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, but new projects will continue under the same vision.

1) Formulation of Vision and Theme

Preparations for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary began in the winter of 2020, and after two years of work, the vision statement\* was finalized. The theme for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary was decided, and the approach for implementing the theme was determined, including a whole-campus approach that would comprehensively advance the five key areas of ARI.

Theme and Logo



\*The vision statement is published in the Spring 2023 issue of "Take My Hand" (see QR code).



The 5 Key Areas

- Peace from the Soil
- Foodlife
- Climate Justice and Climate Action
- Education
- Organization

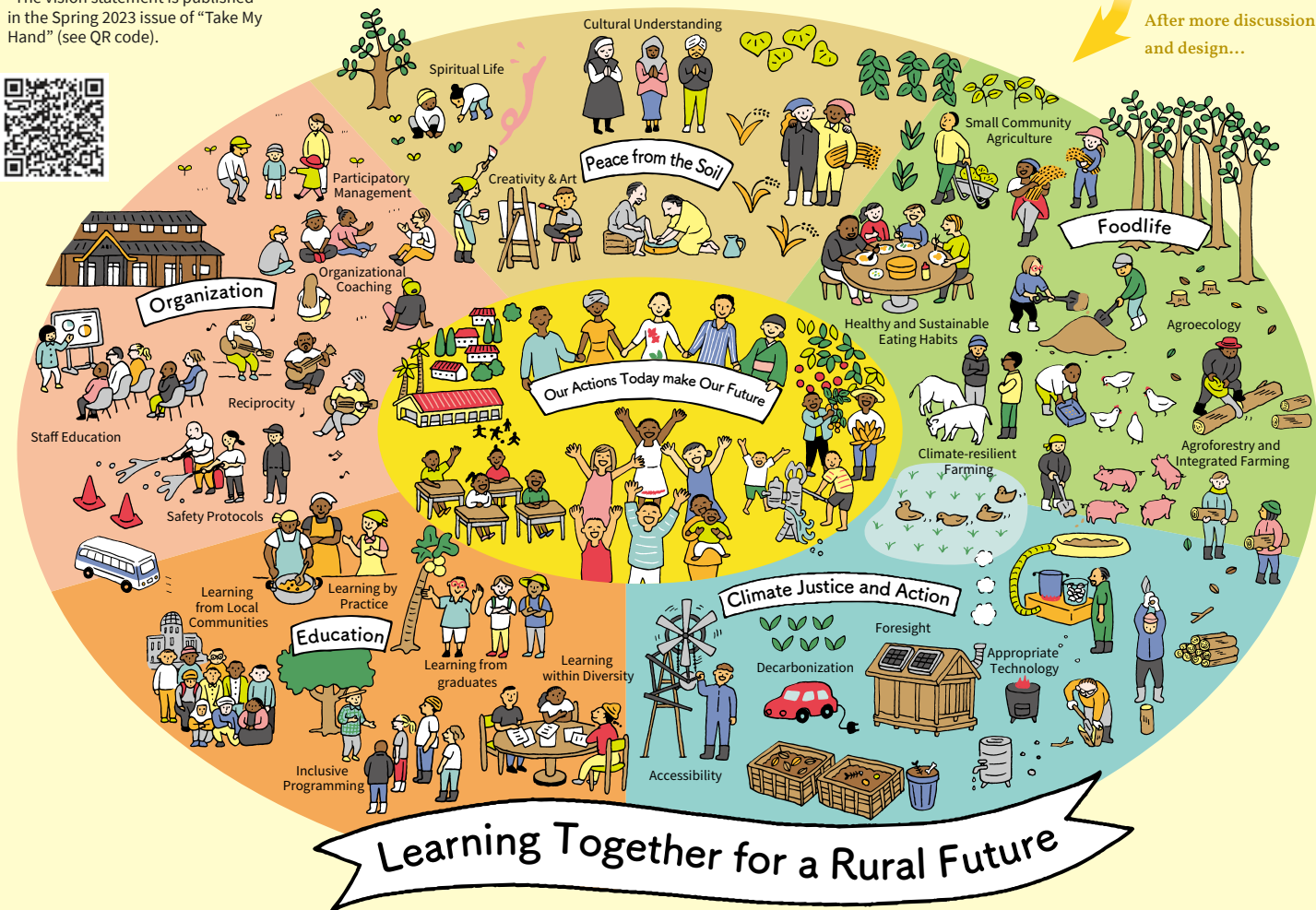
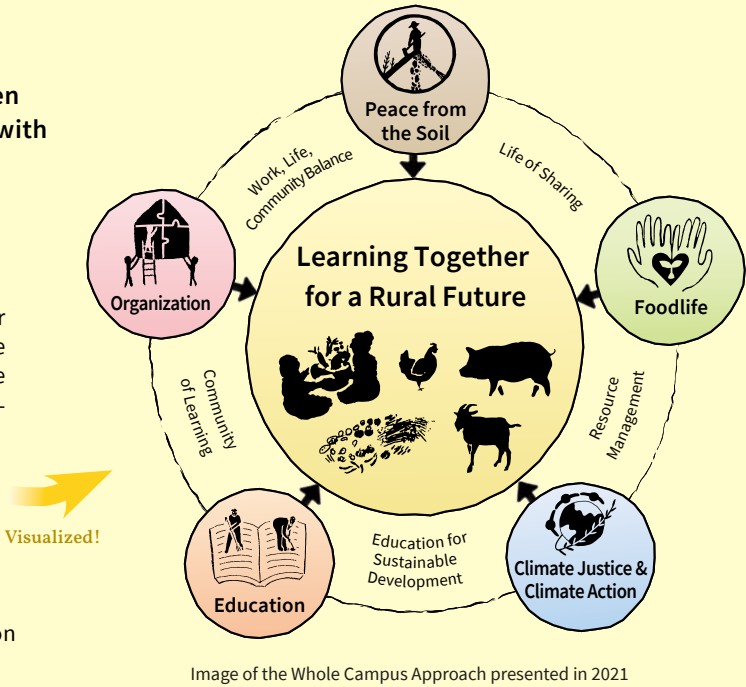


Illustration presented in 2023

Various projects were implemented based on the vision and theme established.

2) 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Website Launched



ARI launched a special website for a limited time to call for commemorative donations, receive congratulatory messages from alumni and supporters, as well as introduce ARI's history. (Ended March 31, 2024)

3) Publication of Tomoko Arakawa



Seeking "Knowledge" for Living Together - From the Window at ARI

Tomoko Arakawa, ARI Director, published a book containing her writings including various articles as well as her remarks at entrance and graduation ceremonies.

4) Publication of English Haiku Picture Book and Exhibition of Original Watercolors



Food for All Our Tomorrows (Japanese/English)

A picture book of English haiku written by Joyce Ray, an American supporter and children's literature scholar, based on her life at ARI, and illustrated with watercolor paintings by Susan Rock. From October 3 to 18, an exhibition of the original artwork from the book was held with Joyce at Hikari no Café, the Hachisu Elementary School Coffee Shop in Otawara City near the ARI campus..

5) Documentary Video Production

Associate Professor Kyle Hufford and 15 students from the Department of Communication Studies at Goshen College in Indiana, spent two weeks in May creating a 30-minute documentary and a 4-minute promotional video. (to be released)

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fundraising - Goal of 20 million yen achieved

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to all of our supporters!

The total amount of donations (domestic only) to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund for FY2022 and FY2023 reached \$145,028. Of that amount, the first round (July 1-20) of the two times of crowdfunding conducted, exceeded the goal of \$3,298 (500,000 yen) by a wide margin, reaching \$6,794. The second round of crowdfunding (September 16 - October 31) also reached its goal of \$19,788 (3 million yen).

6) Online Alumni Reunion

In addition to alumni, former volunteers and staff were invited to an online alumni reunion held six times between April and June, bringing together a total of about 240 people to report on their recent activities, share fond memories, and discuss what they learned that has proved useful after graduation.



7) September 16 (Saturday) - Commemoration Ceremony



A total of 200 people gathered in the Koinonia Dining Hall to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with supporters, friends and family members, as well as graduates and their families from overseas. The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary service featured a sermon by Reverend Robert Witmer (missionary of the United Church of Canada), and the commemorative program included a speech by Mr. Ardhendu Chatterjee (India, 1978 graduate) on behalf of all ARI graduates. The program featured a multinational crowd in colorful costumes, food and songs from many countries, and many congratulatory messages making for a lively and joyful celebration.

8) Forest Trail Maintenance

We have resumed maintenance of the forest (2 ha) on the campus grounds, which we had been unable to actively maintain since the Great East Japan Earthquake. The forest was divided into three zones (1. nature exploration, 2. integrated farming, and 3. climate change action), and a small walking trail was added. Tree planting has begun in accordance with the purpose of the zones and will continue in the future.



9) Informational signs for the goat shed, pigpens, and chicken coops



livestock barn with cute illustrations to familiarize visitors with the ecology of livestock.

Other projects related to the five priority areas

- Garbage composition survey
- Installation of LED lights throughout the buildings
- Installation of "solar power generation - storage - consumption visualization" system in classroom
- Off-grid house (completed in May 2024)
- Earth oven




# Nurturing Rural Leaders

Curriculum, Admissions and Recruitment



*“Studying at ARI is a new start for me in building a community. With the various experiences and knowledge I have gained, I am increasingly confident that I can return and work with the community. I realize there will be many challenges, but I also believe that I have seeds that I need to care for and must grow well.”*



Angela Ratna Sari Biu  
(Indonesia)

For the first time in four years, all participants arrived in April

## From Self Transformation to Communal Transformation

### Training Program Report



Yukiko Oyanagi  
Associate Director  
Curriculum Coordinator

2023 was the first time in four years that almost all participants were able to come to Japan by the end of March and participate in the full training program. In December, 26 participants from 13 countries successfully completed the program. We would like to thank all those who supported this training program, both materially and spiritually.

#### Confronting Difficulties

For participants, the nine-month training program was not easy. Some participants had difficulty adjusting to a different environment, away from their own villages, family, and friends. The climate and food were both obstacles that some participants had to overcome. We also saw participants who were stunned by their inability to communicate in English. Some participants were troubled by the worsen-

ing conditions in their countries. Some participants had never thought of taking on a leadership role among people, including staff. Nevertheless, with the support of the staff, the support of their classmates, and the encouragement of the volunteers, the participants completed their nine-month, 1,892-hour training period.

#### Diverse Learning

The learning experience at ARI is diverse. In the classroom alone, we learned about leadership, sustainable agriculture, and development theory. Participants received more than 500 hours of agriculture-related practical training, and they produced and cooked their own vegetables, rice, meat, and eggs for ARI's meals. Participants took on leadership roles in each of their tasks, and learned through practice what they had learned in the class-

room. The off-campus study tours, which were conducted for a total of 26 days in 10 prefectures and covered a total distance of 5,000 km, allowed the participants to learn what they could not learn on campus as well as to learn from other perspectives. In addition, there were morning assemblies and consultations to promote internal growth, summer individual training in which participants decided the content of their own projects, a Harvest Thanksgiving Day held under participant leadership, and even an exchange program with a Japanese school. This year ARI celebrated its 50th anniversary, and participants took the lead in preparing regional dishes for the ceremony. Learning from the alumni who participated in the ceremony was also a special opportunity for this year's participants.

#### Encouraging Self Transformation

ARI's training program is designed to promote self-transformation as a leader. ARI provides the knowledge, skills, and experience necessary to become a rural leader, but the participants are encouraged to digest each piece of knowledge and experience on their own initiative. Through the nine months of training, the participants have come to think differently than when they first arrived at ARI. A good example is the concept of servant leadership. The concept of servant leadership gradually became the norm for the participants where a leader does not draw conclusions, but rather encourages people to participate, listens to their opinions, and works with them to achieve goals while empowering them. Through this process of self-transformation, the participants' vision for the future became to transform their commu-

nities by "building stronger communities of women and youth," "transforming rural communities through organic farming," and "creating self-sustaining and sustainable communities." This is a clear indication that the training is not only for the participants themselves, but also for their respective communities and local people to whom they will return upon going back to their country.



“What I learned at ARI was about connections, or networks. I am not talking about superficial connections, but deeper ones. This is true both for the environment, and for human relationships. I believe that caring for and helping others also makes connections and networks.”



Joselin Coyago  
(Ecuador)



1



2



3



4



5

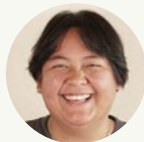
“Compost is slowly becoming my biggest learning so far because it has long time effects and it has a lot of resources around any community, my visit to compost centre opened my thinking to a wider perspective of being a farmer, I don't have to be only a farmer for today, but a farmer for the next generation.”



Geoffrey Mbewe  
(Zambia)

# Challenges for Recruitment

## Admissions and Recruitment Report



Manosi Abe Chatterjee  
Admissions and Recruitment

All applicants must go through a long application process when applying to ARI. We must then ask ourselves difficult questions, facing their application. Do we get a sense of their community? Their struggles, joys, and dreams? What is the potential impact of a possible ARI graduate in that region? Is our training what they really need?

When we write this report, we do so seeing the result of the process in front of us. The class of 2024 is slightly smaller than other years. Although the impact of COVID 19 on human life has reduced significantly, we still feel the impact it had on many organizations. NGOs cannot easily let key people in their organization leave for 9 months. Countries like Cameroon and

Myanmar still face conflicts. Recognition of women in leadership roles also remains an issue. We struggle to reach communities in need.

The highlight of our work comes in the form of our partnerships. We are strongly supported by volunteers and interns who later find immense meaning in connecting with those they helped get to ARI. Additionally, almost all the participants of 2024 were introduced to us by graduates, supporting organizations, or visits by other community members. We hope this continues in the future as we seek to strengthen such relationships, drawing us closer to our target grassroots communities.

- Photos:
- 1) PLA (Participatory Learning and Action) Discussion (July)
  - 2) Harvest Thanksgiving Day (October)
  - 3) Meat Processing Workshop (October)
  - 4) 50th Anniversary Ceremony (September)
  - 5) Rice Planting (June)
  - 6) Western Japan Study Tour (November)



6



# Community of Learning

Community Life



ARI Sunday at Ryugasaki Church

## In God We Hope and Trust

### Chaplain’s Report



Jonathan McCurley  
Chaplain, Community Life

Rooted in the love of Christ. This was the mission upholding spiritual life in 2023. Facilitating ARI Sunday, a tradition in Tochigi churches for 50 years, was important to develop the participants, regardless of faith or tradition, in the love of Christ. The reach has grown throughout the Kanto region to dozens of churches who welcome ARI to hear God’s word and hear about the work, countries and faith of participants. At one ARI Sunday this year, the people of the church were moved to pray daily for Myanmar and the participant was touched with courage to go back home through the encounter.

2023 saw the re-emergence of fellowship with local churches near ARI. During Covid many of the programs were halted

but this year’s ability to spend time and learn from local Christians was a powerful chance to deepen roots in love and the local community. From the World Day of Prayer to International Sundays, testimonies abounded. Especially, Nishinasuno UCCJ Church, whose relationship with ARI spans five decades welcomed in earnest the chances to regularly interact and hear from participants.

New chances to encounter Christ and His Love happened at ARI as well. Minngos, ARI’s gospel choir, celebrated 10 years, our weekly prayer meeting was well attended and daily morning gatherings often brought us to deeper thoughts and even tears. Yes, we became deeply rooted in the Love of Jesus Christ.

#### 24 Churches Attended for ARI Sunday

- Tochigi:** Ashikaga East Church, Ujiie Church, Utsunomiya Uemachi Church, Utsunomiya Higashi Mission, Utsunomiya Matsubara Church, Oyama Church, Kanuma Church, Shioya Church, Tochigi Church, Nasushiobara Church, Nishi-Nasuno Church, Mashiko Church, Yaita Church, Yojomachi Church, Kanuma Christ Church  
**Ibaraki:** Mitsukaido Church, Ryugasaki Church  
**Gunma:** Kiryu Tobu Church, Shibukawa Church, Shimamura Church  
**Saitama:** Saidai Toori Church  
**Tokyo:** St. Alban’s Anglican-Episcopal Church, Naka-Meguro Church  
**Yokohama:** Yokohama Union Church

### Comments from pastors and congregants

“It was refreshing to worship with brothers and sisters in Christ from other countries.”

“I thank the Lord for the encouraging and powerful testimonies of the students in their difficult situations.”

“It was an opportunity for me to think deeply about the situation of Christianity in Japan by hearing the situation of churches overseas.”

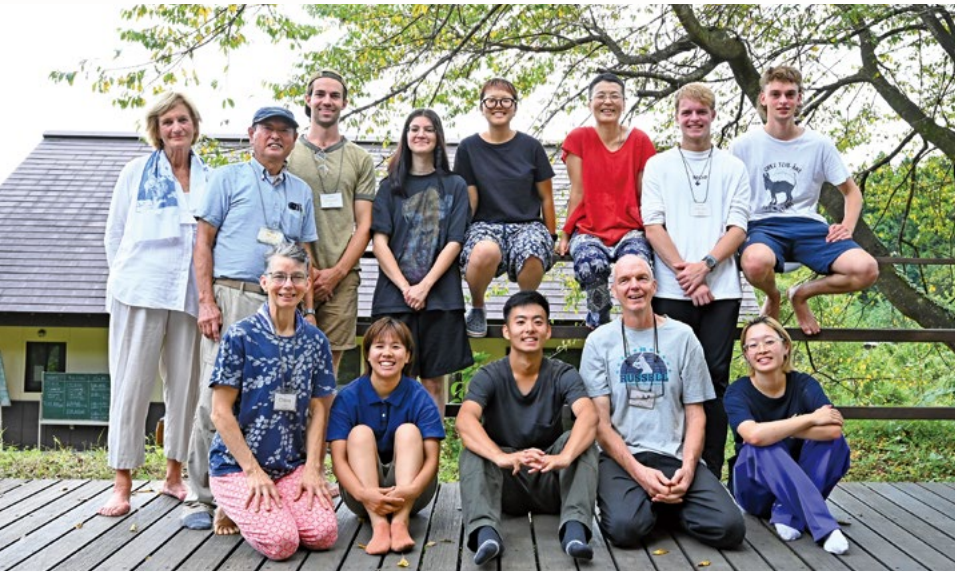
## Appreciating Our Volunteers

### Volunteer/Intern Report



Yûko Emura  
General Affairs

ARI would not be possible without the work of its volunteers, who in 2023 came from five different countries and included an experienced couple in their 60s, a 20-something searching for direction in life, and an 18-year-old who had just graduated from high school. In addition to their work on the farm, in the kitchen, and in the office, they inspired the students by their willingness to share their knowledge and experiences, and their willingness to learn and grow through voluntary events and daily conversations that enlivened the community.



Long-term volunteers of 2023

Number of volunteers and interns		Volunteer Sending Organizations
Long-term volunteers	20	Germany: Evangelical Mission in Solidarity, Social Peace Service Kassel, e.V. (SFD) USA: Brethren Volunteer Service, United Methodist Church Volunteers in Mission
Summer Interns	9	Intern Sending Organizations
Commuting Volunteers	28	USA: Princeton Theological Seminary, St. Olaf College, Wellesley College, Wilmington College Japan: Wesley Foundation, International Christian University, Setsunan University

### Comments from volunteers and an intern

“I used to feel angry and helpless about the contradictions in society, but after 9 months at ARI, I realized that my form of service is when I freely express myself in whatever I want to do, whether it is working hard on the farm, drawing pictures, or baking sweets, and when my feelings for other beings are connected. I gained confidence.”



Han Sakawa  
Long-term Volunteer  
(Japan)

“We worked together in the soybean fields and had a lot of fun figuring out how to ferment natto. We also laughed together while harvesting mulberries and watched the juice ferment. These community and food experiences became part of my vision for the future.”



Declan Mead  
Long-term Volunteer  
(Australia)

“A “late bloomer” is defined as someone who is slow to realize their potential. Before coming to ARI, I did not see my slow progress as a strength. However, after learning about the deliberate and steady process of agriculture and the importance of blooming in your own time, I realized that it is never too late to start something new.”



Clementine Stark  
Intern  
(Wellesley College, USA)



# Foodlife at ARI

Foodlife



Harvesting potatoes

## Living With Climate Change

### Foodlife Report



Masanobu Sakurai  
Foodlife (Crops & Vegetables)

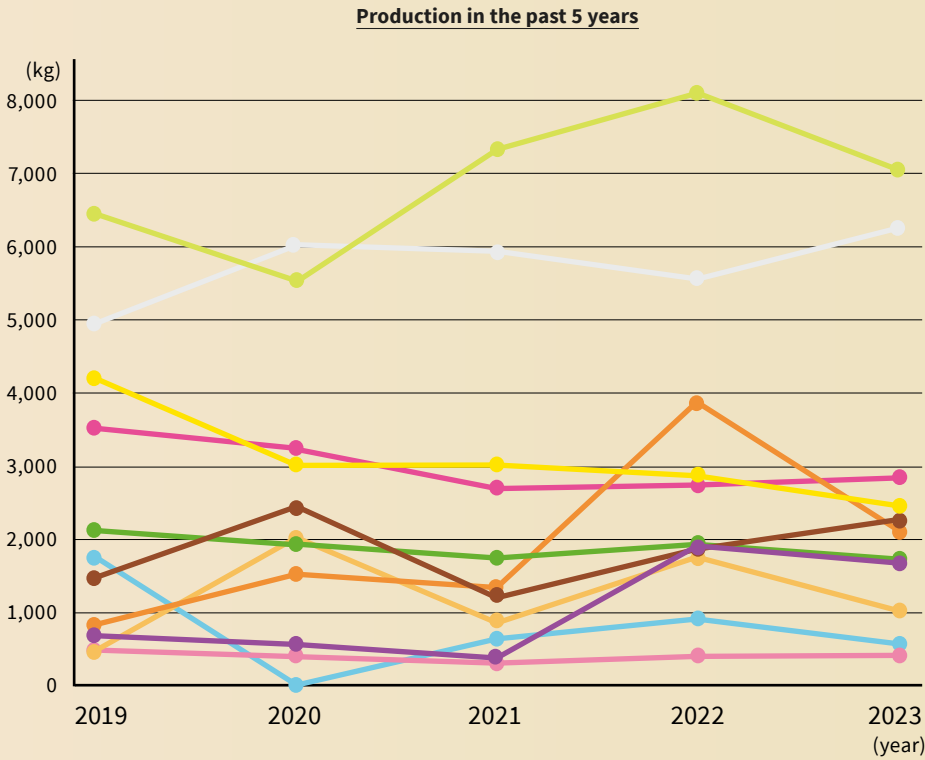
As in previous years, ARI began carrot cultivation in 2023 by sowing seeds directly in the field in late July to August. However, the summer of that year was extremely hot and prolonged, which seriously damaged the early stages of carrot cultivation, especially the sprouts, which require a lot of water for germination. Of course, we watered the seedlings properly after sowing, but the soil in the field dried out quickly due to the intense sunlight, and the seeds did not absorb enough water. We had to repeatedly sow seeds in areas where they had not sprouted, and we ended up using up all the carrot seeds, which we had thought was enough for three years' supply.

When the balance between water, sunlight, and soil is disrupted, plants are greatly affected. We believe that proper cultivation management is necessary to

mitigate this as much as possible. For example, it may be important to accelerate sowing and planting in the main field by a few weeks, or to introduce cultivars that are adapted to changes in the environment.

In the livestock sector, the summer heat was also very difficult. Some of our pigs, chickens, and goats became ill from the heat. This summer was a reminder that agriculture is the sector most affected by climate change. On the other hand, it is very important for participants to learn about livestock production, which is a source of cash income in rural areas. We hope to continue learning with the participants how to utilize locally available resources and how to cope with the changing environment while continuing to raise livestock. ARI's challenges will continue in 2024.

## Yield of Major Farm Products & Production in the past 5 years



### Yield of Major Farm Products

Rice	7,106 kg
Wheat	2,483 kg
Potatos	2,290 kg
Sweet potatos	1,732 kg
Soy beans	1,774 kg
Carrots	2,149 kg
Onions	1,026 kg
Pork*	2,850 kg
Eggs*	6,308 kg
Chicken*	413 kg
Goat milk*	563 kg

\*Calculated based on: 1 pig = 50 kg,  
1 egg = 50 g, 1 chicken = 1.2 kg,  
and 1 liter of goat milk = 1 kg

### Crops & Vegetables

In the heat of summer, participants and volunteers sowed carrots. It was tedious manual labor, but they did it while enjoying conversation and encouraging each other. Thanks to their efforts, 2,148 kg of carrots were harvested from the end of November to December and 5,449 bottles of carrot juice were produced.

### Livestock

In goat breeding, a new milking stand and grass rack (a stand for holding grass for feed) were rebuilt by the participants. As part of the 50th anniversary project, attractive information boards were installed in front of the barns and pastures to explain and illustrate livestock production.

### FEAST (Meal Service)

- Many of the participants' individual projects involved food processing. Participants, volunteers, and staff worked together in an atmosphere of teaching and learning from each other to create such things as bread, dried vegetables, pickles, jam, tomato sauce, and goat cheese.
- Many people came in and out of the kitchen every day. Besides making meals, they came to the kitchen to learn, have fun, and make the best use of the ingredients. The year 2023 was supported by everyone's work.



Ikumi Kanamori  
Foodlife (FEAST)

### Total Number of Meals Served in the Dining Hall:

45,100 servings

### Consumption of Main Ingredients:

Rice	4,689 kg
Wheat	925 kg
Soy beans	47 kg
Onions	1,026 kg
Pork	1,102 kg
Chicken	290 heads
Eggs	24,000 eggs
Goat milk	563 l

### Purchased from outside:

\$3,841  
9 cents per meal  
(Japanese national average: \$1.58)

\* Calculated based on the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications' 2023 Household Survey, where the average monthly food expense for a family of four is \$569. This amount is divided by 4, then further divided by 90 (assuming 90 meals per month).



# Together with Supporters

Fundraising & Domestic Programs, Sales, Ecumenical Relations



Certificates of appreciation were presented to the significant supporters at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ceremony

## The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Broadens Our Circle

Report from Japanese Supporters' Support



Yûko Emura  
General Affairs

We would like to thank everyone who has shared in the work of ARI in various ways, including donations, post-cards, help, and prayers.

- The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary marked the first time that many people who have been interested in ARI or were once involved with ARI have supported us in the form of donations.
- In July, for the first time in four years, ARI participated in the NGO Village at the Fuji Rock Festival, appealing to a wide range of young people who are interested in social issues.



For more information on the 50th anniversary event, please see the Autumn 2023 issue of Take My Hand. (see QR code)



ARI tent at Fuji Rock Festival

## Regional Convening Program Launched by AFARI

Ecumenical Relations Report



Sherry DeLeon  
AFARI Executive Director

AFARI launched the Regional Convening program to help bridge the learning at ARI into ARI graduate's communities and to expand the peer networks of rural leaders. This program brings together ARI graduates at ECHO conferences to help support both skills development and networking.

ECHO symposiums complement the teachings of ARI very well. The workshops and resources at ECHO build upon what was learned at ARI while providing technical and applied tools to contextualize activities to each graduate's region. The Regional Convenings also allow ARI graduates to connect with one another and other professionals in their sector.

Last year, AFARI offered a regional convening in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Nine graduates attended the convening. AFARI usually offers Regional Convenings one to two times a year, once in East or West Africa and once in Asia. To date, 17 ARI graduates from twelve different East African and Asian countries have attended ECHO Symposiums in East Africa and Asia.



The graduates at ECHO conference

*"I enjoyed the conference because I remembered my home (ARI) with my fellow ARI graduates. We shared some experiences whilst at ARI as well as after ARI... The ECHO presentations touch all aspects of community development like agriculture, spirituality, nutrition, water, sanitation, environment, health, gender, youths, children and many more. We had a chance for a field visit whereby we managed to visit one of the organizations which is doing fish farming and sustainable agriculture."*



Cecilia Mpigna  
(\*16 Graduate, Malawi)

## Good Production of Sales Items

Sales Report



Hiromi Satô  
Sales



ARI Shop at Harvest Thanksgiving Ceremony

### Sales Results for FY2023 (April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Eggs - \$19,119 /approx. 96,500 eggs
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Pork - \$16,566 /1.8 tons, 45 pigs
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Juice - \$15,196 /approx. 5800 bottles
- 4<sup>th</sup> Cookies - \$12,318 /approx. 4,600 bags
- 5<sup>th</sup> Rice - \$9,901 /2.5 tons

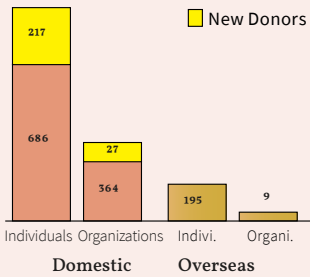
Total of top 5 items - \$73,100 (85% of total sales revenue)

\*Sales totals converted from Japanese Yen. Rate as of April 1, 2024: 1 USD = 151.61 JPY

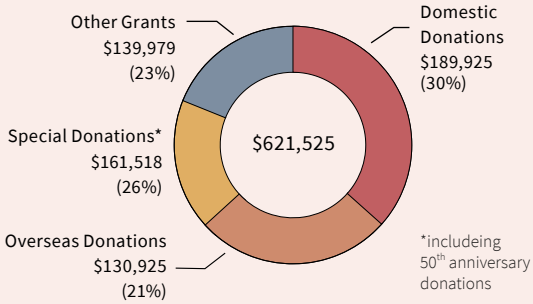
- Carrot juice shipments for January 2023 were the highest ever, at over 6,000 bottles. We conducted promotions and had many people enjoy our products.
- The market price of eggs continued to rise, which made ARI's egg pricing seem low in comparison and led to an increase in demand during the fall and winter months. Due to steady activity in the poultry department, we were able to provide a stable supply of eggs throughout the year.

### Donation Results for FY2023 (April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024)

We express our gratitude to the many donors who have helped support ARI and the Rural Leaders Training Program this year. We extend a special thanks to American Friends of ARI (AFARI), whose kind staff and volunteers ensure American donors can make the most of their support to our efforts. (For more information on individuals and organizations, including donations through AFARI, please see page 16.)



Number of Donors in FY2023  
(including scholarship supporters)



Donation Amounts for FY2023  
(excluding scholarships)

\*including 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary donations



AFARI Individual Donors

Bev Abma  
 Tomoko Adachi  
 Linda Aldersn  
 Anonymous  
 Marie Bade  
 Eugene and Lois Bakko  
 Bill Beck  
 Margarete Bergmann  
 Martha Bessac  
 Gordon & Janet Blake  
 Jane Bock  
 Dan and Barbara Bohi  
 Nathan and Imogene Bolls  
 Colleen Bookter  
 Tim Boyle  
 Colleen Brooks  
 Stephen Brown  
 Robbie Buller and Chou Ly  
 Kathy Burton-Lewis  
 Kelly Byers and Thomas Wagner  
 Rev Andrea Chan  
 Diana Chapel  
 Barbara Coates  
 Elizabeth Cutting  
 Richard & Alice Dailey  
 Kenneth Dale  
 Sherry DeLeon  
 Mary Ann DeVries and Tom Schlife  
 Lois Dickason  
 Skip and Derry Dickinson  
 Muriel Dubois  
 Judy Dudley  
 Krista Dudley  
 Lillian and Richard Dudley  
 Fred and Carol Edmonds  
 Naarah Eichenauer  
 Elizabeth Ferdina  
 Marie Ferrarin  
 Karen Festa  
 Mark Ferrin  
 Nancy Fransen  
 Elsie Freudenberger  
 Carolyn and Eric Fure-Slocum  
 Martha Gale and Bob Carpenter  
 Jo and Ken Gelhaus  
 Brittany Gill  
 Rosalyn Gillisse  
 Donald and Melinda Goodick  
 Daniel and Hiroko Goto  
 Hunter Hale  
 Margaret Hardenbergh and Carl Wies  
 Pam and Souk Hasegawa  
 Nagi Hashiba  
 Jacqueline Haslett  
 Paul Hastings and Debbie Wissel  
 Thomas Hastings  
 Nelima Hazra  
 Lorna and Will Henkel  
 Alice Hikido  
 John E. Hill and Jeannette Dejong  
 David and Sandra Hirano

Renee Hoffman  
 Jill Hofmeister  
 Rev. Margret Hofmeister and Linda Erlanger  
 William F. Honaman  
 Cheri Howe  
 John Hoyt  
 Kristin Hubbard  
 Arthur and Gloria Imagire  
 Jack Iman  
 Keith Inouye  
 Nancy and Thomas Inui  
 Joan Ishibashi  
 Gabriele Kasper  
 Carol Kiemel  
 Marjorie Kinsey  
 Ronald and Elizabeth Kutscher  
 Rev. James Latimer  
 Jim and Gretchen Lewis  
 Margaret Logan  
 Hilary Lynch  
 Joyce Magee  
 Julia Manners  
 Ellen and Jim Marsey  
 The Reverend George R. Martzen  
 Dominic Massetti  
 Ken and Diane Matsuura  
 Patrick and Eunice McArdle  
 Michael McConnell  
 Barbara Mensendiek  
 Virginia and Francis Merritt  
 Mike and Donna Miller  
 Eleanor Moore  
 E. B. Moore  
 Michiko and Tom Morgan  
 John Moss  
 Cecily Moyer  
 Barbara L. Mueller  
 Emily Nelson  
 Roxane Netzler  
 Michael Neuroth  
 Kevin O'Toole  
 Stan and LoAnne Olson  
 Bill Pallett  
 Albert Papp  
 Donald Patenaude  
 Ruth Peeples  
 Monica Quill  
 Dave Ransom  
 Bob and Joyce Ray  
 J.B. Redding  
 Dr. Stefan Reiff  
 Susquehanna  
 Susan Rock  
 Patricia and Randy Roeser  
 Randy Romine  
 Priscilla and David Ruhe  
 Janet Russell  
 Mariellen Sawada-Yoshino  
 Lisa Schaechter  
 Janet Shoger  
 Anna and Pete Speiser  
 Mid and Carol Squier  
 Kenneth Stanford  
 Barb Stapleton  
 Phil and Valerie Stichter  
 James Swaim

Lee Swan  
 Mark Swanson  
 Evelyn and Donald Sweetser  
 Sachi Taketa  
 Stephen Tarr  
 Elizabeth Teague  
 Robert and Hazel Terhune  
 Susan Townsley  
 Jim and Kathryn Treece  
 Ellen Webster  
 Millicent M. Wetrich  
 Ben and Carolyn Whitehill  
 Anne Wire  
 Janet and Gene Witt  
 Angie Xiong  
 Roy and Frances Yamaki  
 Maki Yamane  
 Lawrence and Jean Young

AFARI Donor Organizations

Countryside Community Church, Omaha, NE  
 First Congregational Church in Amherst - UCC, Amherst, MA  
 Friendship Christian Reformed Church, Byron Center, MI  
 GlobalGiving Foundation  
 Harris United Methodist Church, Honolulu, HI  
 Javan and Neva Corl Family Foundation  
 John and Frank Sparacio Charitable Foundation  
 John Wesley United Methodist Church, Tallahassee, FL  
 Ogden Friendship House  
 United Methodist Church  
 Katherine T. Parker United Women in Faith  
 Takami and Friends Fund  
 San Luis Obispo United Methodist Church  
 The Blackbaud Giving Fund  
 United Church of Dorset and East Rupert, Dorset, VT

AFARI Legacy Circle

Bev Abma  
 Martha Bessac  
 Ken Dale  
 Kathy Froede  
 Pam and Souk Hasegawa  
 David and Sandra Hirano  
 J.B. Hoover  
 LaVerne Kroehler  
 Ellen and Jim Marsey  
 John Moss  
 Marti Peterson  
 Bob and Joyce Ray  
 Craig Rice and Ameeta Sony  
 Lisa Schaechter  
 Kay Shanks  
 Jim and Kathryn Treece

Direct Donations to ARI

Domestic

Scholarships

Niikurakai  
 Tokyo Minami Rotary Club  
 JELA  
 United Church of Christ in Japan  
 Society of the Sacred Heart  
 Society of St. Columbus  
 National Christian Council of Japan  
 Asian Rural Welfare Association  
 Kubota Foundation  
 Wesley Foundation

Organizations

Morimura Homeikai  
 Ashikaga Bank International Cooperation Foundation  
 All-Japan  
 Tomo-no-Kai Central Office  
 Takasaki Tomo-no-Kai  
 All-Japan Tomo-no-Kai Foundation  
 Tokyo-Kasumigaseki Lions Club  
 World Family Fund  
 Samariya-Kai  
 Rishshō Kōsei Kai Nasu Church  
 Rishshō Kōsei Kai Isshoku Peace Fund  
 Nasu Rindo-no-Kai  
 GIC Japan  
 Hiraku KK  
 Student Christian Fellowship  
 Hayabusa.com

Schools

Joshi Gakuin  
 Aoyama Gakuin High School  
 Aoyama Gakuin  
 ICU High School  
 Doremus School

Churches

Kumiai Church  
 Tokyo Trinity Church  
 Tokyo Union Church  
 ICU Church  
 Tokyo St. Albans Church  
 Nishinasuno Church  
 Soeurs Auxiliatrices Japon  
 Yokohama Union Church  
 Nakameguro Church

An Open Place to Learn

Fundraising & Domestic Programs : Open Learning Program



“ARI was accepting, receptive, and everyone was like ‘soil’.”



“I had meaningful conversations with my peers. I was given guidance for my future.”



“After taking care of the pigs, I cooked pork saying ‘thank you’ silently in my heart.”



Study Camp Participating Organizations

**USA:** Goshen College, iLEAP **Japan:** English Farm, Ferris University, Bunkyo Gakuin University, Nihon College of Photography, ICU Reconciliation Forum, ICU Students Summer Camp, Jiyyu-no-mori Gakuen High School, ICU High School, JELA, Meiji Gakuin University, 2002 ARI Alumni Association, Niiijima Gakuen Junior College, Keisen University, Student Christian Fellowship, Doshisha University Residency Study Group – ARI Project, University of the Sacred Heart (Online Camp), Salesian Shigakuin, ICU Religious Affairs Department, Kosei Gakuen Girls’ High School, Hoshinomori Gakuen High School, JF Oberlin University, Kyoto Seika University, Doshisha University ARI Project, Permaculture Design Course, YMCA, ICU Students Spring Camp, Kyoai Gakuen High School

Photos:  
 1) High school students sharing insights from the camp  
 2) Campers learning about organic fertilizer  
 3) Making Bokashi fertilizer  
 4) Group work on food and life considerations  
 5) Making Indian curry with ARI ingredients  
 6) Experiencing the culture of Nagaland, India



# Graduates at Work

Graduate Outreach



Graduates and their families who came to Japan gathered together

## Graduates Join 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

Graduate Outreach Report

Many wanted to come, and ARI would have loved to have them, but bringing hundreds of graduates from all parts of the world was financially and logistically beyond our ability. So, we did the next best thing. We invited graduates, as well as former volunteers and staff, to online reunions. Yet, some REALLY wanted to travel to ARI, so using their own resources, 11 graduates, with family members, flew to Japan to celebrate with us.

On their arrival, they observed how much the campus had changed, but soon found that the sense of community and diversity they had experienced as participants was still very much alive. The day after the event, the kitchen could be heard buzzing with activity as they prepared a feast for the community of local dishes from their countries. Some had brought spices and ingredients especially for this purpose.

But even more significant were the friendships formed between the participants and the graduates. They talked late into the night, sharing about ARI life of past and present. A special session was organized for the whole community, where graduates spoke of how they are using their ARI learning to benefit their people. It was a rare opportunity for inspiration and guidance from our precious graduate mentors.



Steven Cutting  
Graduate Outreach



Graduate presentations on the days following the ceremony

## ARI Graduate Village Visits

A close look at the communities of our graduates



Daneth (back left) and Saman (back right) discussing with members of the Women's Savings and Loan Group

Cambodia

Saman Chhan - 2017 graduate  
Daneth Him - 2010 graduate



Bamrung (center) and Jeanven (left) holding up the flag of the farmers' organization where Bamrung played an active role

Thailand

Khanuengnit Polkhayan (Jeanven) - 2009 graduate  
Bamrung Kayotha - 1989 graduate

### Building trust with the women in community

Tropang Ampil lies about two hours northwest of Phnom Penh, Cambodia's capital. It is the home of Saman Chhang and her beautiful community. Saman and her family run a shop in the village and recently opened a restaurant. She has a strong entrepreneurial spirit which inspires the other women in the village.

Saman was introduced to ARI by Daneth Him, who started a women's savings and lending group here in 2013. On seeing the natural leadership talents of Saman, Daneth recommended her to ARI, and she joined the training program in 2017. Now Saman manages the group, but Daneth is still involved and visits regularly.

The ladies started by pooling their own money to create capital to lend to members for small income generation projects, such as raising chickens or starting a used clothing shop. Their success lies in the fact that Saman and Daneth spent much time building trust among the women. More than just a money institution, it is a place where they "share life concerns, sorrows, happinesses, and difficulties." "We have the same heart, same mind, same purpose," expresses one member. "We love each other."



Steven Cutting  
Graduate Outreach

### Passing on Organic Farming Practices

As Jeanven walks through her village in Northeast Thailand, nearly everyone calls out to her. Most are farmers or make traditional Thai crafts, such as indigo cloth dying and weaving on a hand loom. Jeanven helps them to find markets and gets orders from customers.

Several villagers belong to the Alternative Agriculture Network (AAN), for which Jeanven does administrative work as a volunteer. They have switched from conventional monocropping of rice to diverse types of organic farming. You can find many interesting products on their farms, such as durian, papaya, catfish, rice (of course), and even frogs, grasshoppers, and snails for eating! When one farmer was asked why he switched to organic, he replied that he used to be at the mercy of the rice market and was always poor. Now, he and his family work together to provide for themselves as well as the market, and they are happy!

Jeanven was introduced to ARI by her uncle, Bamrung Kayotha, who was a powerful activist. Putting others before himself, he fought hard for the rights of farmers, organizing large-scale protests that shaped more favorable government agricultural policies. He was also a strong promoter of organic farming, and many of the organic farms seen today are the result of his advocacy. At 73, he now considers himself retired and Jeanven is weaving her uncle's endless stories into a book of his life.



# Financial Report

\* Exchange rate as of April 1, 2024: 1 United States Dollar = 151.61 Japanese Yen

## Balance Sheet

Assets	March 31, 2023	March 31, 2024
Current assets	\$440,203	\$391,743
Fixed assets	\$4,872,260	\$4,606,692
Property	\$4,539,854	\$4,305,235
Specified assets	\$329,788	\$298,848
Other fixed assets	\$2,617	\$2,595
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$5,312,463</b>	<b>\$4,998,434</b>
Liabilities		
Current liabilities	\$555,591	\$323,279
Fixed liabilities	\$772,159	\$871,576
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>\$1,327,750</b>	<b>\$1,194,854</b>
Endowment		
<b>Total endowment</b>	<b>\$8,024,033</b>	<b>\$7,575,901</b>
Net Assets		
Balance carried forward	-\$4,039,320	-\$3,772,321
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>\$3,984,713</b>	<b>\$3,803,580</b>
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>\$5,312,463</b>	<b>\$4,998,434</b>

## Cash Flow Statement

Balance carried over from previous year	\$351,934
Balance carried forward to next year	\$330,142

## 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. Ôkubo and Mr. Murata. All the documents were properly kept and there were no irregularities.

May 8, 2024  
Asian Rural Institute

大久保和宏  
Tomohiro Ôkubo

村田 榮  
Sakae Murata

## Statement of Revenue and Expenditure

Operating Revenue	2023 Budget	2023 Actual
Educational activities revenue		
Scholarships and fees	\$202,635	\$242,136
Fees for issuing certificate	\$343	\$113
Donations	\$623,150	\$621,525
Subsidies for ordinary expenses	0	\$8,839
Sales and special services (FuRa)	\$169,567	\$189,925
Miscellaneous revenue	\$38,164	\$45,052
<b>Total educational activities revenue</b>	<b>\$1,033,860</b>	<b>\$1,107,592</b>
<b>Total non-educational activites revenue</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$165</b>
<b>Total special revenue</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$5,285</b>
<b>Total operating revenue</b>	<b>\$1,033,860</b>	<b>\$1,113,042</b>
Operating Expenses		
Educational activities expenses		
Personnel	\$592,126	\$565,320
Education and research	\$263,742	\$261,013
Administration	\$452,622	\$462,052
Depreciation allowance	\$280,813	\$286,362
<b>Total educational activities expenses</b>	<b>\$1,308,489</b>	<b>\$1,288,385</b>
<b>Total non-educational activities expenses</b>	<b>\$6,184</b>	<b>\$5,790</b>
<b>Special expenses</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>\$1,314,672</b>	<b>\$1,294,175</b>

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Income and Expenses

Income	2023 Actual
50th Anniversary-designated donations	
Domestic donations	\$125,592
International donations	\$19,436
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$145,028</b>
Expenses	
50th Anniversary-related expenses	
Whole-campus project	\$22,736
Costs of ceremony	\$3,770
Other expenses	\$18,126
<b>Total expense</b>	<b>\$44,189</b>
<b>Net income</b>	<b>\$100,840*</b>

\* From FY2024 onward, this balance will be allocated to specific 50th anniversary-related projects.

### Balance Sheet

Assets at the end of FY2023 were approximately \$4.98 million dollars, a decrease of \$314,000 (including \$234,000 in depreciation) from the previous year. As in previous years, we were able to continue to accumulate a total of \$35,600, including approximately \$20,000 in specified assets for retirement allowances and \$15,800 in specified assets for maintenance of facilities and equipment, to prepare for the future.

On the other hand, total liabilities decreased by approximately \$132,000 from the previous year to \$1,194,000. This was due to the repayment of borrowings (\$35,400) and redemption of school bonds (\$21,700), totaling \$57,300, and a decrease in the reserve for repair of reconstruction projects (\$39,600 for the exterior wall painting of the agricultural training building, etc.; -\$53,200).

### Fund Balance

At the end of FY2023, funds payable carried over to the next fiscal year totaled \$330,142. Off-grid house construction as part of the 50th anniversary project (approx. \$14,800), installation of a ventilation system in the piggery and feed room as a measure against global warming (approx. \$7,700), and installation of drainage ditches were also carried out. Other expenditures included the purchase of a bus (\$24,600) and the repainting of the exterior wall of the agricultural training building (see above), but with the addition of factors such as the 50th anniversary fundraising and other income increases, the difference from the previous year was kept to -\$21,700.

### Business Activity Income and Expenditure

Business activity income: approx. \$1,108,000  
(previous year: approx. \$979,000, budget: approx. \$1,030,000)

Student fees: approx. \$242,000  
(previous year \$327,000, budget approx. \$202,000)

There were designated tuition payments from 12 domestic organizations, 5 overseas organizations, and 1 individual in Japan. Unplanned scholarships (3) and the strong dollar/weak yen conversion rate also contributed to an increase of approximately \$39,600 over the budget.

Donation income: approx. \$433,000  
(previous year \$547,000, approx. \$501,000 budgeted)

Domestic donations: approx. \$190,000  
Overseas donations: approx. \$130,000 (including American Friends of ARI)  
Other grants: approx. \$134,000  
Special donations: approx. \$162,000 (general \$16,500/ 50th anniversary approx. \$145,000)

Incidental business income: approx. \$190,000  
(previous year: approx. \$178,000, budget: \$170,000)

Although the value of ARI was reevaluated and overall prices were revised, the program has become more viable and participants and guests are more satisfied with the program. Overall, revenues were at record highs, 112% of budget and 107% of the previous year's level.

**Business activity expenditures Approximately \$1,290,000**  
(approx. \$1,220,000 in the previous year, budgeted at \$1,310,000)

Expenditures were almost in line with the budget, with approximately \$33,000 for the 50th anniversary commemorative project and a background of soaring travel expenses for overseas students and gasoline and other utility costs.

Overall, we were able to finish close to our budget. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who supported us and ask for your continued guidance and support.

(Kaori Sakuma, General Manager)

### Invest in Rural Community Leadership!

Please consider a continued donation to ARI to ensure participation in the Rural Leaders Training Program for a new generation of rural leaders.

All US-based donations are handled by our partner, American Friends of ARI.

For a tax-free donation for US taxpayers, please use one of the following:

Donation via check  
AFARI

2028 E Ben White Blvd  
Suite 240-9000  
Austin TX 78741

Online donation  
via credit card  
<https://www.afari.net/>





Curriculum (\* Special Lecturer)

<b>Leadership Courses</b>	
Leadership at ARI	Tomoko Arakawa
Servant Leadership	Tomoko Arakawa, Yukiko Oyanagi
ARI History and Mission	Tomoko Arakawa
Participatory Learning and Action	Tomoko Arakawa, Yukiko Oyanagi, Manosi Abe Chatterjee
Independent Study	Yukiko Oyanagi
Presentation Skills	Yukiko Oyanagi
Time Management	Timothy Bernard Appau
Facilitation Skills	Yukiko Oyanagi, Manosi Abe Chatterjee
Effective Feedback	Manosi Abe Chatterjee
Religion and Rural Life	Jonathan McCurley, Timothy Bernard Appau, *Debora Sinaga (1990 graduate, 1996 TA from Indonesia, HKBP)
Report Writing	Manosi Abe Chatterjee
Who is a Rural Leader?	Steven Cutting
Women’s Health and Hygiene	Kathleen Froede
Peace & Reconciliation	*Keiko Holmes (Agape World)
Fundraising	*Sherry DeLeon (AFARI)
Dignity Workshop	*Jeffrey Mensendiek (J.F. Oberlin University)
Ashio Copper Mine & Shozo Tanaka	*Tatsuo Sakahara (NPO Tanaka Shôzo University)

<b>Sustainable Farming Skills</b>	
Organic Farming	Osamu Arakawa
Crops & Vegetables	Osamu Arakawa, Masanobu Sakurai
Rice Cultivation	Osamu Arakawa
Livestock	Takashi Otani
Chicken Raising	Timothy Bernard Appau
Disease Control of Livestock	Takashi Otani, Timothy Bernard Appau
Dangers of Chemical Agriculture	Masanobu Sakurai
Natural Farming in Tropical Areas	*Shimpei Murakami (Self Sufficient Life)
Alternative Marketing Systems	*Reina Tomatsu (Kinoshijuku Farm)
Biogas Workshop	*Mamoru Kuwabara (NPO Fudo)
Potential of Forestry and Satoyama	*Tetsuya Tsukamoto (Tochigi Conservation Corps)
Agricultural Technique	Osamu Arakawa, Masanobu Sakurai
Livestock Technique	Takashi Ôtani, Timothy Bernard Appau, Ryô Maki
Meat Processing	Takashi Ôtani, *Hideo Koide (Neu Frank Nasu)

<b>Development Theory</b>	
Nutrition	Ikumi Kanamori
Mutual Aid Theory	Yukiko Oyanagi
Gender Theory	Tomoko Arakawa
Localization	*Yôji Kamata (NPO Ancient Futures Association Japan)
Mutual Aid Theory	Yukiko Oyanagi
Nasu Canal and Rural Development	Yukiko Oyanagi
Climate Change Education	*Yoshiyuki Nagata (University of the Sacred Heart)
Japan's Organic Farming Movement	Yukiko Oyanagi
Japan's Discrimination Issues	Yukiko Oyanagi, Manosi Abe Chatterjee

<b>Graduate Seminar</b>	
Organizational Sustainability	*Wesley Lingga (1993 graduate, 1999 TA from Indonesia)
	*Manbud Samai (2018 graduate from Siera Leone)

<b>Japanese Language and Culture</b>	*Kyôko Ogura, *Chieko Arakawa
--------------------------------------	-------------------------------

**Organic Farming Training**  
Crops & Vegetables: Bokashi making, compost making, collection and utilization of indigenous micro-organisms, fermented plant juice, fish amino acid, water-soluble calcium, natural farming, rice husk charcoal, seed collecting, seedling nursing with soil blocks  
Livestock: Pigs (artificial insemination, delivery, castration), chickens (brooding), livestock disease control, feed formulation, fermented feed production, animal raising with fermented floor  
Meat processing: sausage, ham, jerky

**Field Management Activities**  
Group farm management (crop & vegetable cultivation, livestock management)  
Foodlife Work (farm work and food preparation for self-sufficiency)  
Group leadership system

Field Trips

**Agriculture-Related Tours and Study**  
**Tochigi:** Kinoshijuku, Manmaru Farm, Donkame, Hidamari Farm, Furuya Farm, Rice Research Center  
**Saitama:** Muneo Kaneko, Ryuichi Tashita, Mamoru Kuwabara  
**Yamagata Okitama Area:** Tsutomu Watanabe / Misako Watanabe, Yoshihide Kanno, Nagai City Rainbow Plan Promotion Council, Kirisuto-Kyo Dokuritsu Gakuen High School, Iwao Kurosawa, Takahata Sustainable School (Michiko Akitsu), JA Yamagata Okitama Agricultural Cooperative, Kawanishi Town Hall (Mayor Toshiharu Harada)  
**Yamagata Shonai Area:** Koichi Kato, Kazuhiro Soma, Masakazu Shido, Naoki Sato, Shonai Cooperative Farm, JA Tagawa Agricultural Administration and Farming Division, Shonai Church Nursery School (Toshihiko Yazawa), Tsuruoka City Eco-Town Office, Kisaku Onodera, Mimasu Genki Village, Tsuruoka City School for Training Agricultural Entrepreneurs (SEADS)  
**Iwate:** Toru Sakawa

**Community Exchange Tours**  
Nasunogahara Museum, Ashio Copper Mine Pollution Case Study (Matsuki Village ruins, Ashio Copper Mine smelter ruins), Watarase Basin, Utsunomiya North High School, Nishi-Nasuno Kindergarten

**Western Japan Study Tour**  
**Tokyo:** Theological Seminary for the Rural Mission  
**Shizuoka:** St. Christopher HS/JHS, St. Christopher Gakuen University, Shinobu Yamanaka  
**Mie:** Aino Gakuen High School  
**Osaka:** Osaka YMCA, NPO Kamagaski Shien Kiko, Nojukusha Network, Kansai Okinawa Bunko, Korean NGO Center, Kibogaoka Church  
**Kumamoto:** Nahoko Osawa, Karatachi, Minamata Disease Museum, Hope Future Minamata, Tetsuro Yoshimoto  
**Hiroshima:** Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum

**Other Training**  
Community work (rice transplanting, rice harvesting, forest management, etc), activities to promote spiritual growth (morning gathering, consultation, reflection paper, reflection day), oral presentations, Harvest Thanksgiving Celebration, international fellowship programs, observation trips, Rural Community Study Tour, Western Japan Study Tour, etc

Staff

Tomoko Arakawa	Director
Osamu Arakawa	Associate Director, Education Director, Farm Manager (Foodlife)
Yukiko Ôyanagi	Associate Director, Curriculum Coordinator
Kaori Sakuma-Vero	General Manager (General Affairs)
Jack Lichten	Ecumenical Relations
Kathy Froede	Ecumenical Relations (50th Anniversary)
Manosi Abe Chatterjee	Curriculum (Admissions, Curriculum)
Kai Shinoda	Curriculum (Admissions, 50th Anniversary)
Steven Cutting	Curriculum (Graduate Outreach)
Junko Tanaka	Curriculum (Library)
Timothy B. Appau	Chaplain, Curriculum (Community Life), Foodlife (Livestock)
Jonathan McCurley	Chaplain, Curriculum (Community Life)
Satomi McCurley	Curriculum (Community Life)
Masanobu Sakurai	Foodlife (Farm Manager)
Mariko Yamada (~Aug)	Foodlife (Crops & vegetables)
Takashi Ôtani (~Dec)	Foodlife (Livestock)
Ikumi Kanamori	Foodlife (FEAST)
Ramon Labial (~Feb 2024)	Foodlife (FEAST)
Yûko Emura	General Affairs (Supporter’s Support, General Affairs)
Yuka Sugisaki	General Affairs (Accounting)
Kaori Andô	General Affairs
Ayako Izawa (Nov.~)	Fundraising & Domestic Programs
Takashi Yamashita	(External Programs & Nasu Seminar House Manager)
Ruyipa Vero	Fundr. & Dom. Pr. (Nasu Seminar House Caretaker)
Eri Okada	Fundr. & Dom. Pr. (External Programs)(~Dec.), Foodlife (Crops & vegetables)(Jan. 2024~)
	Fundr. & Dom. Pr. (Sales, PR)
Hiromi Satô	Fundr. & Dom. Pr. (Food Processing)
Masayo Fukushima	Fundr. & Dom. Pr. (Supporter’s Support, PR)
Raku Izawa	

Outsourcing Staff

Thomas Itsuo Fujishima (~June)	Branding, ID System Designer, Media Designer
Jun Yagisawa	Media Designer, Editor

Volunteers

**Commuting Volunteers**  
**Food Life (Farm):** Tetsu Hayashi, Sachito Watanabe, Michelle Beily, Yukina & Kimi & Kana Kuroda  
**Foodlife (FEAST):** Yûko Kimura, Kyôko Takamura, Chieko Arakawa  
**Fundr. & Dom. Pr. (Sales, PR):** Mie Inomata, Shigeaki Kashiwaya, Mayuko Sugita, Norie Horiuchi, Takashi Miyake, Christy Appau, Chizuru Azuma, Rebecca Namiki, Sayuri Konishi, Keisuke Konishi  
**General Affairs(Maintenance):** Masuo Shimizu, Taku Fushimi, Yukio Ide  
**General Affairs(Management):** Takayuki Hayasaka  
**General Affairs:** Nozomi Hiratsuka

**Bequerel Center**  
Mineki Nishikawa, Shôhei Fujimoto (& Sales)

**Long-Term Volunteers**  
Yamato Tamaki, Nico Toyonome, Declan Mead, Yuki Tsukamoto (Farm), Henning Nalbach, Aaron Beerlage (Farm, Ecumenical), Jannik Friedrich, Haruki Sato, Kurumi Ohtani (Farm, PR), Russell Orner, Jonathan Penzkofer (FEAST, Farm), Emmi Harner, Selina Scheuenbrand, Natasha Arnold (FEAST, Admissions), Marie Kessler (FEAST, Graduate Outreach), Claire Orner (Ecumenical, FEAST, Farm), Moe Yamashita (FEAST, 50th Anniversary), Han Sakawa (Farm, 50th Anniversary), Megan Ruppel (FEAST, Curriculum), Angeline "Suzu" Choong (PR, Ecumenical, Farm)

Board

<b>Board</b>	
Rev. Toshimasa Yamamoto	Former Professor, Kwansei Gakuin University

<b>Vice Chair</b>	
Hideharu Kadowaki	Special Advisor and Senior Fellow, The Japan Research Institute, Limited.

<b>Board of Directors</b>	
Tomoko Arakawa	Director, Asian Rural Institute
Rev. Yoshiya Ushiroku	Pastor, UCCJ Reinanzaka Church
Rev. Hikari Kokai Chang	Representative Director, Wesley Foundation
Noriaki Satô	Special Advisor, Hotel Sunvalley Nasu
Yoshiyuki Nagata	Professor, University of the Sacred Heart
Rev. Eiji Yahagi	Pastor, NSKK Shimodate Anglican-Episcopal Church
Masahiko Yamane	Former Managing Director, Kagawa Education Institute of Nutrition
Rev. Masaoki Hoshino	Former Pastor, UCCJ Aikawa Mission

<b>Auditors</b>	
Tomohiro Ôkubo	Fujii Industries Inc., Operating Officer
Sakae Murata	The Y’s Men’s Club of Nasu

Board of Councilors

Osamu Arakawa	Associate Director, Asian Rural Institute
Tomoko Arakawa	Director, Asian Rural Institute
Shinobu Awaya	Lawyer, Tono-Tanami Law Office
Takuya Iizuka	Chair, Committee of Mission of UCCJ Kantô District; Pastor of Ryûgasaki Church
Rev. Kôshi Itô	Parish Priest, Roman Catholic Diocese of Niigata
Sachiko Iwaya	Member of Central Committee, National Tomono Kai; Member of Yokohama Tomono Kai Provincial, Society of the Sacred Heart Japan Province
Mieko Uno	Board Chair, Legend Partners Ltd.
Tomohito Ebine	Associate Director, Asian Rural Institute
Yukiko Ôyanagi	Special Advisor and Senior Fellow
Hideharu Kadowaki	Archbishop, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Tokyo
Rev. Isao Kikuchi	General Manager, Asian Rural Institute
Kaori Sakuma-Vero	Pastor, The Korean Christian Church in Japan, Sapporo Church
Rev. Chun SangHyun	Professor, University of the Sacred Heart
Yoshiyuki Nagata	Pastor, UCCJ Nishinasuno Church
Rev. Ban HyungWook	Former Pastor, UCCJ Aikawa Mission
Rev. Masaoki Hoshino	Representative Director, NPO Kino Kankyô
Ikkô Marutani	Staff, Asian Rural Institute
Takashi Yamashita	Former board member, Kagawa Education Institute of Nutrition
Masahiko Yamane	NGO/NPO Consultant
Sarajejan Rossitto	CEO, Second Harvest Japan
Hitomi Yokote	

Advisor

Hôichi Endô	Former Staff, Asian Rural Institute
-------------	-------------------------------------





## Class of 2023

### Rural Leaders Training Program

( ) Sending organization

<b>Bangladesh</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Mithun Boiragee</b> (Somaj Kollan Jubo Songho (SKJS) (Social Welfare Youth Association))
<b>Cameroon</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Veranso Benjamin Litika</b> (Rural Transformation Center)
	<b>3</b>	<b>Claris Suinyuy Buhven</b> (Rural Women Development Center)
<b>Ecuador</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Joselin Carolina Coyago Tallana</b> (Sociedad de Amigos Nino Ecuatoriano (SANE))
<b>Haiti</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Louis-Taire Pierre</b> (Haiti-no-kai (Association Haiti))
<b>India</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Tamreichan Zimik</b> (Community Educational Center Society)
	<b>7</b>	<b>Meidinlung Gangmei</b> (Indigenous Women and Children Foundation)
<b>Indonesia</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Yohanes Ali</b> (Bernadus Palus Church)
	<b>9</b>	<b>Angela Ratna Sari Biu</b> (Sant Maria Immaculata Parish)
	<b>10</b>	<b>Yeni Eria Togatorop</b> (Huria Kristen Batak Protestan (HKBP))
	<b>11</b>	<b>Jakob Siringoringo</b> (The Indigenous Peoples Alliance of the Archipelago)
<b>Liberia</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Jontra Martua Purba</b> (Gereja Kristen Protestan Indonesia (GKPI))
	<b>13</b>	<b>Darkpon Dolokelen</b> (Restoration of Educational Advancement Programs)
	<b>14</b>	<b>Helena Koko Ben</b> (Voinjama Free Pentecostal Church Health Center)
	<b>15</b>	<b>Mary S. Ylatun</b> (United Methodist Rural and Agricultural Development Program)
<b>Myanmar</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Gu Tar Hu</b> (Waing Maw Lisu Baptist Association (WLBA))
	<b>17</b>	<b>Fung Kyaw Set</b> (Naga Public Organization (NPO))
	<b>18</b>	<b>Saw Hser Moo</b> (Rev. Dr. R. L. Pokey Memorial Theological School)
	<b>19</b>	<b>Pa Maung Lia</b> (Community Association for Rural Development (CARD))
<b>Nepal</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Sangita Chaudhary</b> (Sister Home Organization (SHO))
<b>Nigeria</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>Kaliyat Bilkisu David</b> (Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA) Women Fellowship)
	<b>22</b>	<b>Pwadadi Raymond</b> (Catholic Church Women Fellowship Group)
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>Aminata Conteh</b> (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone)
<b>Uganda</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Aron Nebin Otim</b> (St. Jude Children's Home)
	<b>25</b>	<b>Richard Tumwesigye</b> (St. Patrick's Center for Integral Development (SPACID))
<b>Zambia</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>Geoffrey Mbewe</b> (Ecumenical Development Foundation)

### Advanced Training Course

( ) year graduated from ARI

<b>India</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>Mario John Paul Rebelo (2014)</b> (Missionaries of St. Francis Xavier, Society of Pilar)
<b>Japan</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>Ayu Suda (2022)</b>
	<b>29</b>	<b>Nozomi Nakashima (2022)</b>

**Asian Rural Institute**  
Rural Leaders Training Center



That We May Live Together

**address** Tsukinukizawa, 442-1  
Tochigi, Nasushiobara  
329-2703 JAPAN

**email** info@ari.ac.jp  
**tel** 0287-36-3111  
**fax** 0287-37-5833

**website** www.ari.ac.jp  
**Facebook** Asian Rural Institute  
**Instagram** @asian\_rural\_institute