

That We May Live Together



2024 Annual Report

April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025



Asian Rural Institute
Rural Leaders Training Center

That We May Live Together



Greetings

ARI was not the only institution to suffer from extreme heat and unseasonable weather in 2024. Throughout the year, the world experienced extreme weather events, including high temperatures, droughts, forest fires, heavy rainfall, and floods, which led to the destruction of natural ecosystems. Naturally, people's livelihoods were threatened, and political conditions became unstable, while terrorism and conflicts broke out around the world. The repercussions of these events affected our daily lives, such as soaring prices, and made us more keenly aware of the fact that we live on One Planet.

This sense is even stronger at ARI, where people from all corners of the world live and work together in a natural setting. The participants this year represented a region seriously lacking in the guarantee of a minimum standard of living and human rights. Not a day went by without thinking about how to use our imagination more than ever to care deeply about each other and work together in finding solutions to the problems we face collectively as people living on this One Planet.

This sentiment was reinforced by the addition of two graduates from Myanmar and the Philippines as staff this year, as

well as the visits of three staff members to Zambia, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and India. They met with a total of 55 graduates in the field and identified the challenges specific to each region. We were reminded that problems around the world are deeply connected to ecological issues, which in fact impacts individual lives.

The pedagogical approach promoted by the new curriculum coordinator this year has significantly contributed to the development of leaders who can effectively respond to these realities. Participants experienced the joy and pleasure that comes with self-reflection as well as

the clarification, deepening, and broadening of their ideas. These experiences awakened them to the value of their own dignity and to their potential for growth. Without a doubt, this will be the basis for leading people with humility and dignity, even in ever-changing circumstances.

It is only by God's grace and your generosity that we have been able to learn so much in 2024. We hope that, as you turn the pages of this report, you will share with us in the many other fruits of the past year.



Toshimasa Yamamoto
Board Chair



Tomoko Arakawa
Director



Rice transplanting community event (June)

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2024 Highlights



(Top) Visiting supporters in USA
(Bottom left) Attending Community Seed Bank ECHO program in Thailand
(Bottom right) Visiting ARI graduates in Malawi

Strengthening International Connections

In FY2024, six staff members took four international trips, visiting a total of six countries to meet with supporters and alumni.

USA (September-October)

Visited supporters, presented at four institutions on ARI, participated in "Embracing Foodlife" one-day event with AFARI (details on p.16, 20)

Africa : Zambia, Malawi (August)

Attended a conference organized by ECHO and a concurrent alumni gathering organized by AFARI, graduate visits (details on p.18)

Africa: Senegal, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana (February 2025)

Joined project visits organized by AFARI partner organization Growing Hope Globally, graduate visits

Thailand (September)

Participated in Community Seed Bank event at ECHO Asia Impact Center

On campus

Many programs for overseas organizations were also conducted.

- One Global Mission Fellow from United Methodist Church (2-year program)
- Leadership training organized by UK mission organization United Society Partners in the Gospel(USPG) (3 weeks in July) (details on p.14)
- Conducted OCBP (Organizational Capacity Building Program) training for concerned groups. (April - Batak Protestant Church; October - Indonesian Protestant Church in Donggala)
- Four summer interns from three universities (p.13)

Tokyo Homestay Program Returns after 4 Years!

This Tokyo-Area homestay program, sponsored by the World Church Movement Committee of the National Federation of the Kyodan Women's Societies, was restarted after a four-year absence.

One host family's third-grade daughter, Naira Yokota, won a prize (Mitsumura Printing Award) in the National Essay Contest for Elementary and Junior High School Students for her essay "Indian Fermented Soybeans" describing her experience hosting participant Mizunulu.



Naria presenting her essay at the Commencement ceremony

Japanese Cultural Day with Supporters

Also returning to the ARI campus schedule after the COVID-19 pandemic was Japanese Culture Day, including a *yukata* gift to each participant from the Japan Baptist Convention National Women's Association. Folk songs and *Shamisen* performances by the folk performance groups Nasu Yo-Yu-Kai and Tsugaru-Kai also added to the lively Cultural Day. Japanese people from the ARI community taught *Ikebana*, *Origami*, and *Yosakoi* dance.



ARI participants wearing yukata with women from Japan Baptist Association



(Top) Tree climbing as part of Chokotto Forest event
(Bottom) Ms. Mari Saito and Nozomi Kuriyama, guest instructors of NVC

Grants to Enrich Activities

USA

- Sparacio Foundation (via AFARI)
 - Nonviolent communication (NVC), coaching (classes)
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 - Nonviolent communication (NVC), coaching (staff training)
- Pearl City Community Church (via AFARI)
 - 3 staff members obtained mid-sized bus licenses

Canada

- United Church of Canada
 - a new mid-sized bus

Japan

- Nasushiobara City Forest and Forestry Promotion and Awareness Activity Grant
 - Chokotto Forest (Open Learning Program)

New Staff at ARI

Two graduates have returned to ARI as new staff members. Nicholas Tahuyan (right, 2008 graduate, 2015 training assistant, Philippines) and Saw Manar Shay left, 2010 graduate, Myanmar) joined the farm team after a long search for new staff.

Joella Ranaivoson (center), a missionary with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, came to ARI to serve as our new Community Life Coordinator.



Obituary

Kisaku Sato, who served for a long time as President of the Nikaho Town Agricultural Cooperative Association in Nikaho City, Akita Prefecture, and also served as President of the Japan Organic Agriculture Research Association, passed away in May. He was a longtime supporter of ARI participants' visits to Nikaho City for the annual summer training program for rural areas.

Bamrung Kayotha, a 1989 graduate from Thailand, passed away at the end of June. He was 73 years and a legendary figure in the fight for Thai farmers' rights.

Elsie Freudenberger was deeply committed to supporting rural development and community empowerment through her long-term involvement with the Asian Rural Institute (ARI) and the American Friends of Asian Rural Institute. Alongside her husband, Dr. C. Dean Freudenberger, she championed rural leadership across Asia and Africa for more than 30 years. Their dedication manifested in consistent advocacy, program support, and efforts to nurture partnerships that enabled ARI's impactful work in training rural leaders. The Freudenbergers' efforts were instrumental in establishing early connections between UMCOR and ARI, providing foundational support for ARI's initiatives and for communities in need.



Kisaku Sato



Bamrung Kayotha



Elsie Freudenberger



50th Anniversary Publication

The publication of Euodoō (Vol. 7, 2024), edited to commemorate the 50th anniversary, was completed. The contents include articles such as the 50th anniversary commemorative speech, ARI's farm history, and Food Education & Sustainable Table (FEAST, ARI's kitchen and Koinonia).

Nurturing Rural Leaders

Curriculum, Admissions and Recruitment



The Unseen Process of Growth

Training Program Report



Manosi Abe Chatterjee
Curriculum Coordinator

By the grace of God and the support of many, 20 participants from 13 countries successfully completed the 2024 training program at ARI. We are truly grateful for this achievement amidst our transition to a new curriculum coordinator.

Nurturing experts of their own lives

This year, a major goal was to emphasize participants as “experts of their own lives.” Our diverse cohort included pastors, educators, farmers, film producers, and social workers. To highlight their

rich experiences, we restructured our writing program, replacing the three-section reflection paper with monthly writing exercises on topics such as food, climate crisis poetry, and their vision for their communities.

We also introduced monthly “reflection and appreciation” sessions. The first was staff-led, after which participant pairs took turns facilitating. They brought unique approaches, including prayer, gratitude for loved ones, sharing about good deeds done without the need of recognition, and Nonviolent Communication techniques to deepen understanding of emotions and needs. What was



Photos:
(above) Biogas workshop (October)
(left) Western Japan Study Tour - Ainō Gakuen Highschool (Mie pref., November)

“



La Thi Nguyen (Vietnam)

Today, we rely heavily on technology, but deep down, many in our young generation feel a sense of emptiness. Technology has no wisdom and slowly drains our spirit. At ARI, we participants learn to do everything by hand. I came to realize how much wisdom our ancestors had, building houses, making clothes, and creating the things they needed in everyday life with great skill and beauty. From this, they truly understood the language of the heart.

being learned in class was being applied promptly.

Changes extended to our farm, enhancing sustainability by reducing plastic use in favor of locally available materials like bamboo. Participants utilized their rural expertise to build efficient frames, contributing to our bountiful harvest. In the livestock section, they analyzed egg-laying fluctuations in ARI's free-range system, exploring influences such as temperature, feed, and environment. These experiences reinforced how local resources can drive financial independence and sovereignty.

We gratefully welcomed new lectur-

ers and topics alongside our regular guest lectures. Highlights included Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (Tony Rinaudo), Seed Saving Challenges (Patrick Trail), Low-Cost Assistive Technology for Farming (Ned Stoller), Coaching (Yuri Morikawa), Non-Violent Communication (Mari Saito & Nozomi Kuriyama), and Ecological Education (Satoko Abe Chatterjee).

Transformation through connection

Our observation trips and study tours were also conducted successful-

ly. We visited 9 different prefectures, learning from a lifetime of experiences - for example, some who have been organic farmers for 50 years, or advocating against Ashio Copper Mine pollution for longer. Participants raised a burning concern: how will these trips continue? Do they have successors? And it is not just these visits, it is also a growing challenge to secure enough homestay families for participants' as in previous years. However, we have also seen the beauty of the connections that keep ARI's curriculum going. The experience of a homestay family who was deeply impacted by the short stay of one participant, eventual-



Kadek Agus Mahadipa (Indonesia)

It is important to understand what dignity is, especially when we are engaged in humanitarian movements, because it helps us to understand the feelings of oppressed groups, but it is also important that if we are able to understand what dignity is, it helps us to identify and realize which groups are oppressed.



ly leading to an award winning article written by the youngest child touched us all. It was a magnificent testimony to the power of human connections and a reminder of how precious this opportunity to gather in community is.

In order to better understand the effectiveness of the program, several methods of evaluation were also implemented. As part of the mid-term evaluation, a performance rubric was used to compare staff perception of participants' progress along with their self-evaluation.

Getting this feedback, combined with the experience of graduates, is an important step in making a curriculum that is more relevant to the needs of future participants.

Through Fermentation, Fostering Community

Perhaps the experience of the year can be captured through this metaphor, said by Kokubo-san, manager of the Donkame composting center we visit

each year. "It is not people, but rather the invisible but powerful microorganisms that do the actual work of turning raw garbage through fermentation into useful compost which over time creates good soil." It is true that in the big picture of rural community development, our graduates may be considered small, invisible almost. And it is also true that our many educational inputs are in reality - raw garbage without the persistent action of our graduates as they go back to their communities. The good news? The class



The Challenges and Lessons in Crossing Borders

Admissions and Recruitment Report



Kai Shinoda
Admissions and Recruitment

While the rest of ARI is busy training the class of 2024, our work in Admissions is preparing for the class of 2025. For the next year, we accepted 28 participants and 2 Training Assistants, 30 in total from 17 different countries. All of them arrived in Japan without issue by the end of March 2025.

The Admissions & Recruitment Section is responsible for applicant screening, visa acquisition, travel arrangements, and other related tasks. However, two particular challenges are providing travel support for students and recruiting Japanese students.

The journey from the rural areas of each country to Japan is long and difficult. This year, due to civil strife, some participants had to travel through other countries to reach their own country's capital, while others were registered as tax evaders due to domestic administrative errors, causing them to encounter problems just before departing for Japan. We are deeply grateful to participants for overcoming these difficulties, and we are thankful to welcome all 30 participants before the start of the program.

We are also renewing our focus on recruiting Japanese participants. Many youth in Japan recognize they are lacking a sense of belonging and are seeking innovative ways to address and reconnect with things that enrich their daily lives. We see the Rural Leaders Training Program as an opportunity to train people in the qualities of a "Community Leader", learning from their international classmates and over 1,400 graduates from around the world.



Don Bachibonge (The Democratic Republic of the Congo)

I see our community united in spirit, children running around, playing football and other unimaginable games, the noises of a community gathering, the smiles of farmers at the harvest time. All these sounds fill my mind with pictures of a community I wish to create. Just as the morning sun brings lights and hope of a new beginning, I want my leadership to bring hope, resilience and a deep sense of belonging and purpose to every heart in my community.



of 2024 was powerful. One that was full of love and kindness, having also begun this process of "fermentation" while at ARI. And in time, we will undoubtedly see their fertile & flourishing communities.

Photos:

- 1) Western Japan Study Tour - Hotto House (Kumamoto pref., November)
- 2) Rural Community Study Tour - Ureshipamoshiri (Iwate pref., August)
- 3) Rice harvesting (October)

Foodlife at ARI

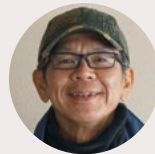
Foodlife (Crops & Vegetable, Livestock, and FEAST)



handmade bamboo lattice

Nurturing the Future, Facing the Environment

Foodlife Report



Masanobu Sakurai
Foodlife (Crops & Vegetables)

At ARI, we combine our organic farming methods with livestock rearing. With an integrated system, we aim to produce enough to meet the community's needs while preserving all aspects of the environment.

Climate Extremes and Agricultural Impact

The unusually high summer temperatures in 2024 made it difficult to grow vegetables, especially in the field. Normally, after seeding, irrigation is applied for a while, but due to the unusually hot sunlight during the day, moisture in the soil evaporated too quickly, and germination was unsuccessful.

In the carrot fields, sowing is done from July to August, when it is hottest

and with almost no rain. However we managed to obtain the same level of yield as in previous years by repeatedly re-sowing in rows where poor germination was observed.

The prolonged summer heat had a significant impact on fall and winter vegetables sown from September to October, resulting in a drop in the yield of vegetables over the winter. We will continue to study the optimal timing for sowing vegetables within the context of a warming climate.

Selection and Practice of Sustainable Agricultural Inputs

In the 2024 academic year, participants aimed to minimize the use of plastic products in their group practice fields as

much as possible. Instead of purchasing plastic materials and simply throwing them away when finished using, they decided to use materials that are readily available and biodegradable.

For example, instead of using nets normally used for growing gourds, tomatoes, and bitter cucumbers, bamboo was cut into long, thin strips, and woven into a lattice pattern. This work was quite time-consuming, but the participants worked diligently, and the experience gave them an opportunity to consider how to conserve the environment in their fields.

Livestock

Due to a vacancy in the staff responsible for livestock, we decided not to raise

The Cycle of Harvest and a Table Full of Creativity

FEAST (Meal Service) Report



Ikumi Kanamori
Foodlife (FEAST)

Various foods provided by the campus fields, fruit trees, and livestock in each of the four seasons was fully enjoyed by all. I felt that there were many people this year who were passionate about this.

The bitter melon dish prepared by the training assistants had a less bitter taste, and many people who dislike bitter melon were able to enjoy it. The celery paste made by the participants paired well with bread and various dishes, helping to increase celery consumption, which can be difficult to eat in large quantities when raw. The loquats, blueberries, and mulberries, which ripen in quantities too large to eat at once, were made into juice.

Many participants, volunteers, and staff participated in the processing of the tomatoes, which were bottled, dried, frozen and made into ketchup to preserve them without waste. We were able to enjoy our tomatoes long after the harvest season had passed. Individual projects included making soap from waste oil, smoking pork fat, and one participant even worked on making soy sauce just before leaving to return home.

During Harvest Thanksgiving Celebration, we cooked multicultural food, made cups and tables out of bamboo,



and used banana leaves for serving and booth decorations, making full use of nature's gifts.

Everyone's creativity and ingenuity enriched the Koinonia dining experience and delighted many people, while at the same time deepening their own learning.

Total Number of Meals
Served in the Dining Hall:

38,253 servings

Consumption of
Main Ingredients:

Rice	4,070 kg
Wheat	307 kg
Pork	805 kg
Chicken	225heads
Eggs	20,430eggs
Soybean Oil	92 ℓ

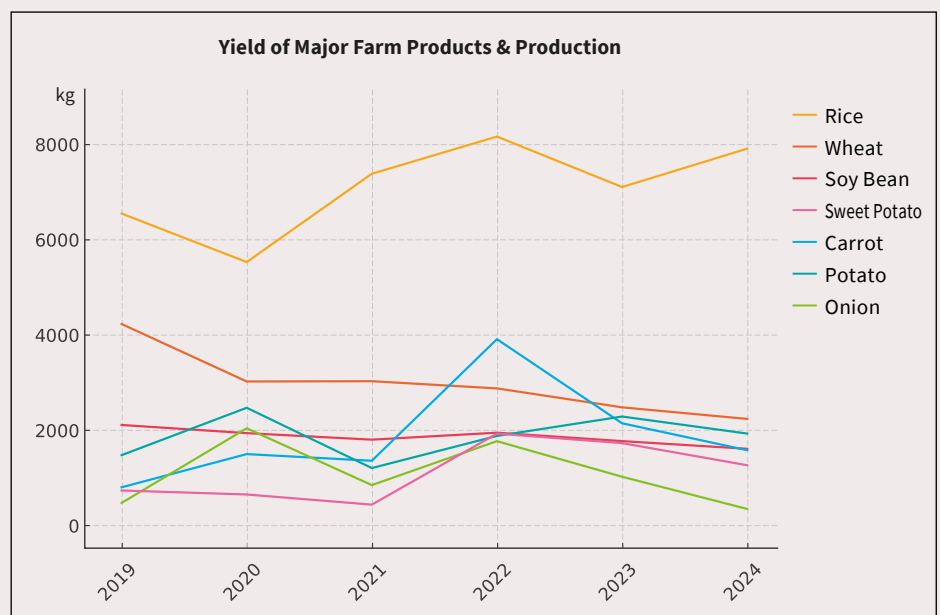
Purchased
from outside:

\$ 3,211
\$0.08 per meal
(Japanese national
average: \$1.76)

* Exchange rate: 1 USD = 149.84 JPY as of
April 1, 2025.

* Calculated based on the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications' 2024 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).

goats in FY2024 and donated more than a dozen goats that had been raised until the end of FY2023. Later, in FY2024, we successfully recruited two new ARI graduates from overseas as staff members, and therefore decided to resume goat rearing in FY2025. Two new goats were purchased in November 2024, and in March 2025, five goats were born safe and sound. The milk from the mother goats will be supplied to the Koinonia dining hall.



Community of Learning

Community Life



MINNGOS members singing at the Commencement Service

Building a Broader Community!

Chaplain's Report



Jonathan McCurley
Chaplain, Community Life

The training handbook says that spiritual life should be a motivation for all who would come to ARI. It is to be experienced in the farm work, the gatherings and times spent eating together, in any place that God would meet us. In 2024, this life was not confined only to the morning gatherings, worship services, prayer and meditation gatherings on campus. In fact, it did not only happen through deep conversations in Koinonia Hall, in the fields or dorms. Spiritual life both impacted and was impacted by the broader community in Japan.

The participants, volunteers, staff, and TAs all were invited to over 20 church-

es throughout Tochigi and beyond to share about their stories, what God is doing in their lives and communities and the impact the ARI training has on the world. MINNGOS, our gospel choir made up of campus and local community members, was featured on the local television network NHK 630! We also shared the power of the love of Jesus Christ at churches, prisons, festivals, and charity events throughout the year. In 2024, we were continuously reminded that spiritual life is something that is deep inside of us which is to overflow out of our hearts to bless the world so That We May Live Together.

ARI Sunday

Tochigi: Ashikaga Higashi Church, Ujiie Church, Utsunomiya Uwamachi Church, Utsunomiya Church, Utsunomiya Higashi Mission, Utsunomiya Matsubara Church, Oyama Church, Kanuma Church, Shioya Ichiryu Church, Tochigi Church, Nasushiobara Church, Nishinasuno Church, Mashiko Church, Yaita Church, Yojomachi Church, Kanuma Christ Church, Takanezawa Christ Church

Ibaraki: Mitsukaido Church, Ryugasaki Church

Gunma: Ota Hachiman Church, Shibukawa Church, Shimamura Church

Tokyo: Oji Church, Nakameguro Church

Yokohama: Yokohama Union Church

MINNGOS Activities (Outside of ARI events)

Iwaki Gospel Festival, A Little Little Summer Festival, Tochigi Fresh MINNGOS Time, Shioya Ichiryu Church Gospel Live, Nasushiobara International Association World Festival, Tochigi 630 MINNGOS on NHK, Nasushiobara Church Gospel Worship, Kitsunegawa Social Rehabilitation Center Christmas Worship, Food Bank Otawara Santa run Christmas Charity Live

Not Easy But Warm

Volunteer & Intern Report



Yûko Emura
General Affairs



Some of the 2024 long-term volunteers

This year, we had a unique group of long-term volunteers. 21 in total came from regions across the world, including Asia, North America, Europe, and Africa. They all have different personalities and specialties such as cooking, agriculture, IT, music, painting, hair and makeup. They would get others involved and get things going, work steadily at their own pace, care for others, or ask important questions of the community. Each of these roles helped shape the ARI community in 2024.

Working and living together from morning to night means showing each other both the good times and the bad times. It is not an easy choice in today's society where one can do everything alone from home, but it is full of warmth and challenge to live together. This is what this year's volunteers have taught us firsthand.

Total number of volunteers and interns in 2024

21

Long-term volunteers

8

Summer interns

27

Commuting volunteers

Volunteer Sending Organizations

Germany: Evangelical Mission in Solidarity (EMS), Social Peace Service Kassel, e.V. (SFD)

USA: Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS), United Methodist Church Global Ministries, Common Global Mission Board - Global Ministries of the UCC & DOC

Organizations sending Interns

USA: Wellesley College, St. Olaf College, College of the Ozarks

Japan: Setsunan University, Baiko Gakuin University

“



Bijon Anderson (left) and Yen Brooke Phua
Interns
(Wellesley College, USA)

As education students, we often discuss teaching and learning, but at ARI, I was reminded of the discomfort of not knowing how to do something. Asking for help step by step was humbling, but it made me more patient and open to learning. This experience emphasized the importance of empathy, persistence, and embracing whatever comes with the learning process. (Bijon)



Jonathan Penzkofer
Long-term volunteer
(Social Peace Service Kassel, e.V. (SFD), Germany)

I came to ARI having the desire to optimize each and every thing I was supposed to do. Just being there for a few days I already encountered a seemingly unoptimizable task in weeding. Day in day out, I found myself being stuck on the spring onion field fighting for dear life with the ever returning weeds. Realizing the weeds would never stop their attempt for life, I changed my attitude towards work through the way of thinking I experienced in ARI.



Yumiko Maruyama
Long-term volunteer
(Japan)

Meeting people from diverse backgrounds, embracing and understanding each other's sorrow and pain, and at the same time living with hope, gratitude, and laughter in the moment, I learned the importance of living while rejoicing in the small events of life and sharing “fun” and “funny” in conversation with others. It was an experience that greatly shook my own definition of the value of happiness and joy.

”

An Open Place to Learn

Open Learning Program



The word “duty” means that we have a duty to cherish life. I used to think that humans don't have a duty, but now I understand clearly that we need food to live and that we have a duty to cherish life because of the sacrifice involved in that food. (university student, male)

I was impressed by the words that the soil and food are connected to us and that we are made of what we eat. (college student, female)

A place brimming with the reasons for living (high school student, female)

Just Like Compost

Open Learning Program Report



Takashi Yamashita
External Programs & Nasu Seminar
House Manager

In FY2024, we held our Open Learning Programs (OLP) under the theme “Peace from the Soil”. Most of the program participants dug their hands into compost and felt its heat and smell.

It is said that soil is a living aggregate, with 10 billion organisms of thousands of kinds per gram. Although not as diverse as soil, people from all walks of life participated in this year's OLP. People came from Thailand, Korea, and the United States, and in July, the United Society Partners in the Gospel (USPG) program from the

United Kingdom brought people from seven countries to ARI. We were also able to hold three camps for children. The most significant of these was the end of the year camp in December, which was organized by the children for the children.

At first, participants are excited and nervous, but before they know it they are mixing and mingling with each other as enthusiastically as compost soil.

Coming to ARI, they gain the experience of coming into contact with diverse people and being exposed to diverse life



2



3



4



5



6



9



10

(Photo)

- 1) United Society Partners in the Gospel (USPG)
- 2) Doshisha University
- 3) English Farm Camp
- 4) Kids Camp
- 5) Kasetsart University
- 6) Society of the Sacred Heart
- 7) University of Tsukuba Sakado High School
- 8) College Students in HELM, of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- 9) Brownsfield
- 10) International Christian University

My job search and lifestyle were in shambles, but through this experience I was able to regain myself and feel revived. (college student, female)

I feel like I was asked once again what I can do and what I should think about. (female)

A place where you can feel nature, life, food, relaxation, and the warmth and generosity of people that you cannot feel in urban life. Whenever I get tired of something, or feel impatient, or find it hard to live, I want to come here again and feel these things that are important for life. (university student, male).

forms. We believe that by doing so, they will learn to have empathy for others, and this will also be a step toward peace.

If your organization is planning a trip to Japan in the future, make ARI a part of your journey! We arrange study camps for all age groups and many organizational priorities. Contact us today to start the discussion.

Groups participating in Study Camps (47 groups, 533 participants)

Japan: Kobe Union Church, English Farm Camp, Brownsfield, Japan College of Photography and Art, Ferris University, Tokyo University of Agriculture & Kasetsart University (Thailand), International Christian University, University of Tsukuba Sakado High School, International Christian University High School, Keisen University Middle School, Marutani Family, Aoyama Gakuin University, Jiyuunomori Gakuen High School, Keisen Jogakuen University, Meiji Gakuin University, Tohoku Gakuin University, Nijima Gakuen High School, Soka Church, North Tochigi Church Joint Day Camp Summer Vacation Bible School, Student Christian Fellowship, Japan Lutheran College, Doshisha University, Rikkyo University, University of Sacred Heart, Japan Christian Association Kanto Diocese Teachers' Workshop, Aoyama Gakuin Elementary School, Japan Lutheran Seminary, Well Yokodai, Kosei Gakuen Girls High School, Laudato Si' Desk - Kids Camp, Hoshi no Mori Gakuen Middle School, Japan Christian Association Rural Mission Council, Kyoto Seika University, Students YMCA, Permaculture de Zine Camp, Jesuit Apostolic Committee

United Kingdom: United Society Partners in the Gospel

Korea: Korean Methodist Church

USA: Claremont McKenna College, HELM of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Together with Supporters

Supporter's Support, Sales, Ecumenical Relations



(Photo)

- 1) Participants in AFARI's USA event, "Embracing Foodlife"
- 2) Students at Wilmington College attending an ARI seminar
- 3) Graduates, staff, volunteers, and interns at an impromptu reunion

New Connections in North America

Ecumenical Relations Report



Jack Lichten
Ecumenical Relations

As a new staff member, 2024 was my second year as Ecumenical Relations coordinator. 2023 was focused on the 50th anniversary, while in 2024 we strove to meet new and longtime supporters. We traveled to the United States to meet some of you!

Our trip was arranged around an event organized by AFARI, Embracing Foodlife. Hosted by former ARI volunteers Claire & Rusty Orner on their farm Quiet Creek Herb Farm, we met 37 new and familiar faces interested in sustainable farming and servant leadership – for more, see the report from AFARI on page 20.

Our travels also took us to Wilmington College to present at the Westheimer Peace Symposium, teaching agriculture students about the connection between raising soil and building lasting peace in the world. Alongside visits to many indi-

vidual supporters, we worked to amplify ARI's mission and the work of its graduates. In 2025 and beyond, I hope to meet many more of you, as well as your friends and colleagues who may be moved by ARI's message.

As we move further from the 50th anniversary, we must prepare for financial challenges on the horizon. While we have been blessed by strong institutional support from various churches and mission organizations, the realities of shrinking denominations mean that we cannot rely on the same sources of financial support forever.

As ARI seeks to broaden its funding streams, we appreciate your continued support for our training programs and your cooperation in helping build a stronger, deeper, broader network for our global community of rural leaders.

Building a Future with Connection and Empathy

Highlights from Supporter's Support in Japan



Raku Izawa
Supporter's support

Thanks to your support, ARI has been able to provide training for rural leaders from Asia and Africa in the spirit of living together, learning together, and building peace based on the soil.

The Western Japan Caravan, which has resumed after the Covid-19 Pandemic, was a chance for Thi Thi, training assistant from Myanmar, to share her thoughts and feelings based directly on her experiences from the field. Frequent requests for lectures given by ARI staff and online sessions indicated that many people wanted to be exposed to the values conveyed by ARI.

For the seasonal campaigns such as Christmas and Easter, a special website was set up to provide an opportunity for more people to learn about ARI's initiatives and the successes of our alumni as well as a chance to participate through social media.

We are deeply grateful to all of you for joining us and taking a step into the future with us. We look forward to your continued warm support and cooperation.



Thi Thi (training assistant, left) conducted a baking project

Sustainable Study Supported by 'Eating'

Sales Report



Hiromi Satô
Sales

Rice, eggs, and pork are indispensable staples and main dishes on our tables, but they also play a crucial role to ARI in terms of income generation. The empathy for food life and the desire to support ARI among those who purchase these agricultural products have significantly contributed to the success of our sales activities. However, due to staff changes and planting plans that take such changes into account, the total amount of agricultural products was slightly lower than usual, and this was reflected in the total sales amount. On the other hand, we have made efforts to cut costs and improve skills, such as asking customers to bring their own egg containers to reduce the amount of plastic used, and disassembling pork carcasses on the premises of ARI. Additionally, we provided food processing training to our training assistants during the winter term. Through the production of baked goods, accounting of income and expenditure, and sales at events and in ARI store, this was a practical learning opportunity with a view to gaining skills to be used with local people in their own countries.

Top 5 products in terms of sales value (April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025)	
1. Pork	\$16,729 / 1,500 kg (25 heads)
2. Eggs	\$14,185 / ~61,000 eggs
3. Carrot Juice	\$12,653 / ~4,200 bottles
4. Rice	\$10,588 / 2.4 tons
5. Cookies	\$10,504 / ~4,200 packs

* Exchange rate: 1 USD = 149.84 JPY as of April 1, 2025.



(Top) Kobe supporter's gathering

(Bottom) With the students at Kwansei Gakuin University (Western Japan Caravan)

Supporting ARI from USA

American Friends of ARI (AFARI)

This section introduces reports from the American Friends of ARI, our long-standing partner organization, founded by dedicated supporters of ARI. AFARI's mission, kin to ARI's, is to promote sustainable community development practices that inspire people around the world to live in environmentally healthy, just, and peaceful ways. AFARI accomplishes this by providing direct support for ARI, building the capacity of ARI graduates, and fostering cultural exchange.

Empowering Communities Through Sustainable Action

AFARI Report



Sherry DeLeon
AFARI Executive Director

During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, AFARI awarded eight Tarr Fellowships and engaged over 30 ARI graduates and more than 35 new stakeholders through two regional convenings in Indonesia and Malawi and an event in Brookville, PA.

AFARI's 2024-2025 initiatives amplified community resilience through leadership, collaboration, and education. By scaling proven models like the Tarr Fellowships and Regional Convenings, AFARI aims to deepen its global impact while fostering sustainable donor engagement.



Your support helps survivors reclaim their agency and become strong, resilient, and hopeful.

- Tangka Eric Dindze -

Tarr Fellows: Grassroots Leadership in Action

Tarr Fellows implemented projects in Cameroon, Indonesia, India, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, and Vietnam.

Here is a quick snapshot of project outcomes and impact for each of the Fellows:

* () year of graduation

Cameroon



Tangka Eric Dindze (2007)

Trained 10 women leaders to combat gender-based violence (GBV), leading to economic empowerment for 62 survivors through farming, apprenticeships, and small businesses.

Impact: Anna Kombuk, a GBV survivor, now sustains her family through pig farming and advocates for conflict-affected women.

Vietnam



Huynh Ngoc Duc (2015)

Conducted organic farming workshops for 29 students and farmers, inspiring a thesis on soil quality and a new organic garden in the Mekong Delta.

Impact: A young farmer established Duc Tam Garden, now a regional hub for organic agriculture training.

India



Gabriel Gonmei (2018)

Increased mushroom yields by 20% for 38 farmers through sustainable substrates and pest management training.

Impact: Ms. Mathiujaoliu expanded her mushroom farm, funding her children's education.

India



Channappa Gavirangappa (2006)

Trained 25 farmers in liquid manure production, boosting crop yields by 30–50%

Impact: A tribal woman's bio-kitchen garden now provides surplus vegetables for local markets.

Indonesia



Veny Julita (2005, TA 2012) & Kengo Ishida (2012)



Distributed 1,000 coffee seedlings using organic methods, improving economic resilience for 20 families.

Impact: A farmer's food forest plan now supports sustainable agroforestry practices in their community.

Papua New Guinea



Joseph Kora (2012)

Supported 8 amputees with livestock projects, fostering economic independence.

Impact: Pastor John Wai's pig farming funds his children's school fees and community outreach.

Indonesia



Junpiter Pakpahan (2008)

Enabled 30 people with disabilities to access therapy, vocational training, and government support, including free healthcare IDs.

Impact: Samuel Jafeth, a double amputee, transitioned from chicken farming to goat rearing, securing income post-family loss.

Rwanda



Murorunkwere Saidath Sailove (2020)

Distributed chickens and mango seedlings to 75 families, improving nutrition and income.

Impact: A child recipient's family now sells eggs and grows fruit, enhancing household stability.

Regional Convenings: Strengthening Networks

During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, AFARI conducted two regional convenings in Indonesia and Malawi. These convenings engaged more than 30 ARI graduates and Tarr Fellows, bringing together rural leaders in their region to share best practices and challenges while engaging with peers and expanding their networks. A need for a more holistic model to engage Tarr Fellows and ARI graduates implementing AFARI projects in their local regions emerged. From this, Regional Hubs were created with the first hub being launched in Indonesia. AFARI is planning to launch additional regional hubs in South-Southeast Asia, East Africa, and West Africa over the next 2-3 years.

Indonesia



In May, 19 ARI graduates shared strategies on disability rights and climate resilience in North Sumatra, sparking the Field Climate School initiative to train 50 farmers in organic practices.

Malawi



In August, 11 ARI graduates from 5 countries discussed challenges like resource gaps and isolation. Attendees gained ECHO-endorsed agroecology strategies, with 2 fellows, Mambud Samai and Patrick Kullie, leading sessions.

Stakeholder Engagement: Building Awareness

ARI for the Day: Embracing Foodlife

In October, 37 attendees participated in hands-on workshops on sustainable practices at the Quiet Creek Herb Farm in Pennsylvania. Former ARI volunteers Claire and Rusty Orner helped to organize this event at their farm in Brookville, PA. The event was created to simulate a day of life of ARI in Japan. This included morning exercises, reflection, foodlife activities, making lunch from local ingredients collected by the participants, and learning how to make a hugelkultur garden. Adults and children attended this event and engaged with AFARI and ARI staff and volunteers. Attendees enjoyed learning more about the local application of ARI values, such as waste reduction and food security.

USA



Our Supporters & Partners

AFARI Individual Donors

Bev Abma
Tomoko Adachi
Marie Bade
Verlyn L. Barker
Martha Bessac
Gordon & Janet Blake
Jane Bock
Dan and Barbara Bohi
Marilyn Bonnema
Colleen Bookter and Adam Darragh
Mary Braun
Carol Broersma
Douglas Brown
Stephen Brown
Robbie Buller and Chou Ly
Diana Chapel
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Barbara Coates
Evelyn Cort
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Kenneth Dale
Sherry DeLeon
Mary Ann DeVries and Tom Schlfe
Lois Dickason
Skip and Derry Dickinson
Andy Dosmann
Judy Dudley
Fred and Carol Edmonds
Naarah Eichenauer
Marie Ferrarin
Melissa Foster
Martha Gale and Bob Carpenter
Meg Gaston
Jo and Ken Gelhaus
Margaret Gigax
Anonymous
Donald and Melinda Goodick
Daniel and Hiroko Goto
Mark Hamamoto
Marcia Hampton
Margaret Hardenbergh and Carl Wies
Ruth and Dickie Harper
Jacqueline Haslett
Paul Hastings and Debbie Wissel
Thomas Hastings
Nelima Hazra
Lorna and Will Henkel
John E. Hill and Jeannette Dejong
Gayleen Hingst
David and Sandra Hirano
Renee Hoffman
Rev. Margret Hofmeister and Linda Erlanger
William F. Honaman
Cheri Howe
Arthur and Gloria Imagire
Jack Iman
Joan Ishibashi
Kathie Johnson
Gabriele Kasper
Sarah Kelvey
Carol Kiemel
Marjorie Kinsey
Jerry and Louise Klooster
Mary Jo Kremer
LaVerne Kroehler
Ronald and Elizabeth Kutscher

Rev. James Latimer
James Lewis
Margaret Logan
Sofia Lusignan
Hilary Lynch
Joyce Magee
Julia Manners
Dominic Massetti
Ken and Diane Matsuura
Eunice McArdle
Michael McConnell
Barbara Mensendiek
Mike and Donna Miller
Eleanor Moore
Elizabeth Mooy
Michiko and Tom Morgan
John Moss
Emily Nelson
Roxane Netzler
Stan and LoAnne Olson
Claire and Rusty Orner
Bill Pallett
Albert Papp
Sandi Postema
Cynthia Pruitt
Christina Purdy
Monica Quill
Dave Ransom
Bob and Joyce Ray
J.B. Redding
Dr. Stefan Reiff
Patricia and Randy Roeser
Janet Russell
Ken and Connie Sansome
Mariellen Sawada-Yoshino
Lisa Schaechter
Ms Marta Smith
Anna and Pete Speiser
Mid and Carol Squier

Kenneth Stanford
Barb Stapleton
Phil and ValerieSticher
James Swaim
Mark Swanson
Sachi Taketa
Robert and Hazel Terhune
Sadanori Watanabe
Ellen Webster
Susan Westin
Ben and Carolyn Whitehill
Eugene Wiitt
Charles and Carolyn Williams
Martha Williams
Anne Wire
Lawrence and Jean Young
Amy Zhang

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

AFARI Donor Organizations

Countryside Community Church,
Omaha, NE
First Baptist Church of Keene, Keene,
NH
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
Kitchell Memorial Presbyterian Church,
East Hanover, NJ
Pearl City Community Church, Pearl
City, HI
Penney Memorial Church, Penney
Farms, FL
Schroon Lake Community Church,
Schroon Lake, NY
Shalom United Church of Christ, New
Haven, CT
United Church of Dorset and East
Rupert, Dorset, VT
Wesley United Methodist Church, San
Jose, CA



ARI staff and supporters meeting with parishioners of United Church of Dorset and East Rupert

Graduates at Work

Graduate Outreach

Staying Connected

Graduate Outreach Report



Steven Cutting
Graduate Outreach

This year, I had the opportunity to spend time with graduates in Zambia, Malawi, and India meeting a total of 37 in their localities. My purpose was to see, and better understand, the communities ARI's graduates work with, in all their beauty as well as their struggles. I wanted to learn how they engage with their people, and how they are bringing their ARI training back home. This is crucial in keeping curriculum relevant to the needs of grassroots rural leaders and to ensure that it is fulfilling its mission of preparing these leaders to serve their communities. The best way to learn the intricate details of a people and a culture is by being there, spending time in conversation over a spicy curry dish or on a long car journey across the landscape. These personal interactions build strong relationships between ARI and its alumni, as well as strengthen networks among graduates throughout the region. Furthermore, seeing what comes "after ARI" energizes the staff and volunteers back in Japan, giving them a sense of excitement that what ARI is doing in this world is truly something good.

Here are two of the many stories that came from my travels. More about these journeys into the lives of ARI graduates can be found in blog format on the ARI website.



I teach them foodlife work, just like we did at ARI.

Catherine Mtambo
2012 Graduate

A Graduate's Footprints

If you travel to the state of Uttarakhand in northern India to meet Surrender Singh, he will definitely invite you to go trekking. If you accept his offer, you will find that the experience is far more than a mountain walk with stunning views of the snowcapped Himalayas. It is a journey through his life and a lesson on rural leadership.

Singh san, as he was called at ARI, has been spreading his footprints across these steep mountain paths for 42 years. He knows every village, every family. When he arrives at a house, he'll call out to the residents by name. They'll welcome him with tea and he will pull bananas or biscuits from his bag to share over a long conversation.

He may tell you that he slept in this home while building a water pipeline to the village together with the organization he now heads - the Mussoorie Village Development Committee. Or he might point out that the children of that household completed their studies at the MGVS Kaplani school, which was built for the sake of the mountain children, by this same organization 24 years ago. He is certain to talk of the women's Self-Help Groups, how he trained them in organic farming, and that they are now earning money selling organic produce. Your trek will conclude with the feeling that there is not a soul in these whole mountains he has not touched.

India



Malawi



1

(Photo)
1) Welcome dance by villagers of Liganga
2) Moringa soap made by villagers
3) Catherine with Steven



2



3

A Self-sufficiency Mindset

Did you know that if you wad up scrap paper into tight balls, soak it in water, and then dry it in the sun, it will become a brickette that can burn for an hour? That is enough time to boil a pot of sweet potatoes. The people of Liganga Village in Malawi know this. They also know how to make soap imbued with Moringa powder and that it is good for treating skin diseases. Explore further into the village and you will find backyard gardens, fertilized with composted manure as well as tall trees, many of them medicinal, shading the homes from the scorching sun. These are all products of their own initiative.

Liganga is just one of 102 villages that Catherine works in as a Project Officer for World Relief International. Her aim is to, “move people from dependence to independence.” Using the “household approach” she visits families in their homes to teach about sanitation, business, and integrated home farming in the form of backyard gardens and small livestock such as chickens, goats, and doves. If the other villages are moving along as well as Liganga, it is safe to say that rural Malawians are well on their way to independence.



1

ARI gave me self-confidence and much knowledge about organic farming. I really want to help my people; my community. I want my people to have a good life.”

Surrender Singh
1989 Graduate, 1996 Training Assistant



2



3



4

(Photo)
1) The mountainscape of Himalayan
2) Surrender chatting with villagers
3) Surrender and hay
4) The water pipeline built by Surrender

Financial Report

* ARI accounting is officially recorded in Japanese yen. Dollar equivalents have been stated in this report for the convenience of international supporters according to the exchange rate of 1 USD = 149.84 JPY as of April 1, 2025.

Balance Sheet

Assets	March 31, 2023	March 31, 2024
Current assets	\$391,743	\$183,391
Fixed assets	\$4,606,692	\$4,573,848
Property	\$4,305,235	\$4,135,194
Specified assets	\$298,848	\$436,014
Other fixed assets	\$2,595	\$2,640
Total assets	\$4,998,434	\$4,757,240
Liabilities		
Current liabilities	\$323,279	\$272,008
Fixed liabilities	\$871,576	\$839,278
Total liabilities	\$1,194,854	\$1,111,286
Endowment		
Total endowment	\$7,575,901	\$7,718,496
Net Assets		
Balance carried forward	-\$3,772,321	-\$4,072,542
Total net assets	\$3,803,580	\$3,803,580
Total liabilities and net assets	\$4,998,434	\$4,757,240

Cash Flow Statement

Balance carried over from previous year	\$334,046
Balance carried forward to next year	\$135,863

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

May 7, 2025
Asian Rural Institute

久保 知宏
Tomohiro Ôkubo

村田 榮
Sakae Murata

Revenue and Expenditure

Operating Revenue	2024 Budget	2024 Actual
Educational activities revenue		
Scholarships and fees	\$262,972	\$265,784
Fees for issuing certificate	\$360	\$160
Donations	\$556,080	\$560,691
Subsidies for ordinary expenses	\$6,674	\$20,289
Sales and domestic programs	\$179,257	\$187,994
Miscellaneous revenue	\$42,874	\$52,051
Total educational activities revenue	\$1,048,217	\$1,086,970
Total non-educational activities revenue	0	\$243
Total special revenue	0	\$78
Total operating revenue	\$1,048,217	\$1,087,290
Operating Expenses		
Educational activities expenses		
Personnel	\$639,994	\$600,094
Education and research	\$235,038	\$232,164
Administration	\$464,245	\$451,403
Depreciation allowance	\$290,839	\$293,268
Total educational activities expenses	\$1,339,278	\$1,283,661
Total non-educational activities expenses	\$6,452	\$6,235
Special expenses	0	0
Total operating expenses	\$1,345,730	\$1,289,896

50th Anniversary Income and Expenses

Income	2024 Actual
Balance from Previous year	\$102,032
Special donation	\$60,733
Total income	\$162,766
Expenses	
Whole Campus Approach -- Wood-burning stove	\$3,635
Total expense	\$3,635
Net income	\$159,131*

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

Balance Sheet

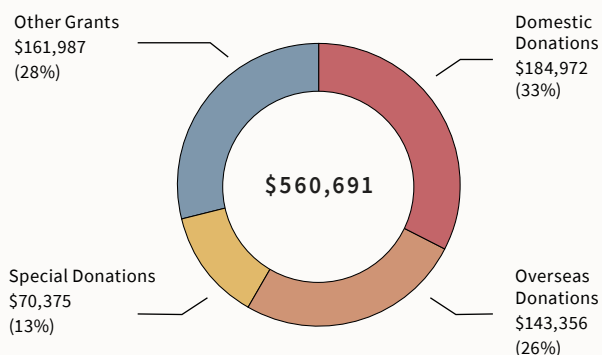
As of the end of FY2024, assets totaled approximately \$4.7 million, down approximately \$300,000 (including \$290,000 in depreciation) from the previous year. However, as in previous years, we were able to continue accumulating a total of approximately \$36,000, including \$20,000 in specified assets for retirement allowances and \$16,000 in specified assets for maintenance of facilities and equipment, to prepare for the future.

On the other hand, liabilities totaled approximately \$1.1 million, a decrease of approximately \$97,000 from the previous year. This was due to the repayment of borrowings (\$45,000) and redemption of school bonds (\$6,700), totaling \$52,000, and a decrease in advances received (approximately \$66,000).

Cash Flow Statement

At the end of FY2024, funds payable carried forward to the next fiscal year totaled approximately \$135,000. This is approximately \$198,000 less than at the beginning of the fiscal year, of which approximately \$133,000 was transferred from the general account to specific assets and \$47,000 was due to the purchase of land.

Other expenditures for equipment and fixtures for education and research included approximately \$10,000 for replacement of agricultural management equipment (rice hulling machine, automatic sorting and measuring equipment, and compost spreader) and purchase of personal computers (approximately \$5,500), while expenditures for additional telephone equipment as management equipment (approximately \$734) and installation of a wood stove (approximately \$3,600) as part of the 50th anniversary project were incurred.



Donation Amounts for FY2024

Revenue and Expenditure

Educational Activities Income: Approx. \$11 million (104% of budget achieved, 97% compared to the previous year)

● **Scholarships and fees: Approx. \$265,000 (101% of budget achieved, 108% of previous year)**

In addition to tuition fees for one Japanese participant and one trainee in the Organizational Capacity Building Program, there were designated scholarships from 11 domestic organizations, 4 overseas organizations, and 2 individuals in Japan.

● **Donation income: approx. \$560,000 (101% of budget achieved, 89% of previous year)**

Domestic donations: approx. \$185,000

Overseas donations: approx. \$143,000 (including AFARI)

Other grants: approx. \$162,000

Special donations: approx. \$70,000 (general \$9,100 / 50th anniversary approx. \$61,000)

● **Sales and Domestic Programs Income: approx. \$190,000 (105% of budget achieved, 98% of previous year)**

Study camps and programs attracted 539 participants from 48 groups from Japan and abroad, and both planning and execution skills have improved, resulting in increased satisfaction among participants and guests. Sales were affected by the unstable supply of pork, which resulted in sluggish income growth.

Total Operating Expenditures Approximately \$1.3 million (96% of budget achieved, 98% compared to the previous year)

Our expenditures were about \$55,000 lower than expected. This is the result of cost reduction efforts in each department, in addition to the delay in the arrival of newly-hired staff, and unused reserve funds.

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)

Organizations that donated over \$700 (100,000 JPY)

Japan: 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, Ashikaga Bank International Cooperation Foundation, All-Japan Tomo no Kai Central Office, All-Japan Tomo no Kai Foundation, Tokyo-Kasumigaseki Lions Club, World Family Fund, Samariya-Kai, Risho Kosei Kai Isshoku Peace Fund, Student Christian Fellowship, Matsushima Farm, Kouhouji, Schole Association for the Promotion of Family Education, National Federation of Kyodan Women's Society, Morimura Homeikai Foundation, Joshi Gakuin, Aoyama Gakuin High School, ICU High School, Meiji

Gakuin, Otawara Church, Tokyo Trinity Church, Tokyo Union Church, ICU Church, St. Alban's Anglican-Episcopal Church, Nishinasuno Church, Soeurs Auxiliatrices Japan, Kobe Union Church

Global: Evangelical Mission in Solidarity, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, United Church of Christ (USA), United Church of Canada, General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, American Friends of ARI, Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ (USA), Harris United Methodist Church (Honolulu, USA), Susquehanna Conference of the UMC, Wesley United Methodist Women

Curriculum

Leadership Studies

Leadership at ARI
Servant Leadership
ARI History and Mission
Participatory Learning and Action
Independent Learning
Presentation Skills
Time Management
Facilitation Skills
Effective Feedback
Religion and Rural Life
Report Writing
Who is a Rural Leader?
Women's Health and Hygiene
Peace & Reconciliation
Fundraising
Dignity Workshop
Ashio Copper Mine & Shozo Tanaka
Nonviolent Communication
Co-Active Coaching
Farming with Disabilities
Implicit Bias

(* Special Lecturer)

Tomoko Arakawa
Tomoko Arakawa, Yukiko Ôyanagi
Tomoko Arakawa
Tomoko Arakawa, Yukiko Ôyanagi, Manosi Abe Chatterjee
Yukiko Ôyanagi, Manosi Abe Chatterjee
Yukiko Ôyanagi, Manosi Abe Chatterjee, Ikumi Kanamori
Timothy Bernard Appau
Yukiko Ôyanagi, Manosi Abe Chatterjee
Manosi Abe Chatterjee
Jonathan McCurley, Timothy Bernard Appau
Manosi Abe Chatterjee
Steven Cutting
Kathy Froede
*Keiko Holmes (Agape World)
*Sherry DeLeon (AFARI)
*Jeffrey Mensendiek (J.F. Oberlin University)
*Tatsuo Sakahara (NPO Tanaka Shôzo University)
*Nozomi Kurihara, Mari Saito (NVC Japan Network)
*Yuri Morikawa (Global Sensation)
*Ned Stoller (Agriculture)
*Bijon Anderson, Yen Brooke Phua (Wellesley College)

Sustainable Farming Skills

Organic Farming
Crops & Vegetables
Rice Cultivation
Livestock
Chicken Raising
Disease Control of Livestock
Dangers of Chemical Agriculture
Natural Farming in Tropical Areas
Alternative Marketing Systems
Biogas Workshop
Agricultural Technique
Livestock Technique
Meat Processing
Agroforestry
Regenerative Farming Principles and Practices
Challenges Facing Smallholder Farmers
Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration

Masanobu Sakurai, Osamu Arakawa
Masanobu Sakurai, Osamu Arakawa
Osamu Arakawa
Masanobu Sakurai, Manosi Abe Chatterjee
Timothy Bernard Appau
Timothy Bernard Appau
Masanobu Sakurai
*Shimpei Murakami (Self Sufficient Life)
*Reina Tomatsu (Kinoshijuku Farm)
*Mamoru Kuwabara (NPO Fudo)
Masanobu Sakurai, Osamu Arakawa
Timothy Bernard Appau
*Hideo Koide (Neu Frank Nasu)
*Ardhendu Sekhar Chatterjee (1976 Graduate, India)
*Ardhendu Sekhar Chatterjee (1976 Graduate, India)

*Patrick Trail (ECHO Asia)

*Tony Rinaudo (World Vision Australia)

Development Studies

Nutrition
Environment and Development
Gender
Localization
Mutual Aid Theory
Nasu Canal and Rural Development
Climate Change Education
Japan's Organic Farming Movement
Discrimination in Japan
Ecology and Natural Resource Education
Understanding the Climate Crisis

Ikumi Kanamori
*Masahisa Satô (Tokyo City University), Yukiko Ôyanagi
Tomoko Arakawa
*Yôji Kamata (NPO Ancient Futures Association Japan)
Yukiko Ôyanagi
Yukiko Ôyanagi
*Yoshiyuki Nagata (University of the Sacred Heart)
Yukiko Ôyanagi
Yukiko Ôyanagi, Manosi Abe Chatterjee
*Satoko Abe Chatterjee (DRCSC, India)

Manosi Abe Chatterjee

Graduate Seminar

Organizational Sustainability

*Wesley Lingga (1993 graduate, 1999 TA from Indonesia)
*Lidia Naibaho (2011 graduate from Indonesia)

Japanese Language and Culture

*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, artificial incubation), 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

Other Training

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

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, Nojokusha 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
Yamaguchi: Baiko Gakuin University

Community Members

Staff

Tomoko Arakawa	Director
Osamu Arakawa	Associate Director, Education Director, Foodlife
Yukiko Ôyanagi	Associate Director, Curriculum Assistant
Kaori Sakuma Vero	General Manager (General Affairs)
Manosi Abe Chatterjee	Curriculum Coordinator
Kai Shinoda	Curriculum (Admissions)
Kathy Froede	Curriculum (Admissions)
Steven Cutting	Curriculum (Graduate Outreach)
Junko Tanaka	Curriculum (Library)
Joella Ranaivoson (Jan 2025~)	Curriculum (Community Life)
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)
Eri Okada	Foodlife (Crops & Vegetables)
Saw Manar Shay	Foodlife (Livestock)
Nicholas Tahuyan (Aug~)	Foodlife (Livestock)
Ikumi Kanamori	Foodlife (FEAST)
Kuriko Fujiyoshi	Foodlife (FEAST)
Yuko Emura	General Affairs (Supporters Support)
Yuka Sugisaki	General Affairs (Accounting)
Kaori Ando	General Affairs
Ayako Izawa (~Aug)	General Affairs
Takashi Yamashita	Fundraising & Domestic Programs (Exterenal Programs & Nasu Seminar House Manager)
Raku Izawa	Fund. & Dom. Pr. (PR & Supporter's Support)
Hiromi Satô	Fund. & Dom. Pr. (Sales)
Ruyipa Vero	Fund. & Dom. Pr. (Nasu Seminar House Caretaker)
Marika Kaneko	Fund. & Dom. Pr. (Food Processing)
Yuka Miyatani	Fund. & Dom. Pr. (Sales & General Affairs)
Jack Lichten	Ecumenical Relations
Makiko Abe	Community Nurse, Fundraising & Domestic Programs Assistant

Contract Staff

Jun Yagisawa	Media Designer, Editor
--------------	------------------------

Volunteers

Commuting Volunteers

Food Life (Farm): Yukina & Kimi & Kana Kuroda, Tetsu Hayashi, Michelle Beily, Sachito Watanabe, Yuta Suzuki, Takahiko Nozaki, Keiko Hitomi (& General Affairs)
Foodlife (FEAST): Chieko Arakawa, Yuko Kimura, Kyoko Takamura, Ramon Labial, Eva Simmin Rusy
Fundr. & Dom. Pr. (Sales, PR): Mie Inomata, Norie Horiuchi, Shigeaki Kashiwaya, Rebecca Namiki, Mayuko Sugita, Keisuke Konishi, Sayuri Konishi, Christy Appau, Takafumi Miyake, Itsuki Kumami, Chihiro Azuma
General Affairs (Maintenance): Yukio Ide, Masuo "Mike" Shimizu
General Affairs (Management): Megumi Shibukawa
General Affairs: Nozomi Hiratsuka

Becquerel Center

Mineki Nishikawa, Shôhei Fujimoto (& Sales)

Long-Term Volunteers

Farm: Yuto Murata, Hitomi Ogawa, Lian Tom Kriesten, Olivia Myers, Ken Chiu
Farm & Ecumenical: Aaron Beerlage
Farm & PR: Yuki Tsukamoto, Christian Otto
FEAST & Farm: Jonathan Penzkofer, Satsuki Oyabu, Yumiko Maruyama, Julianne Stanley, Romina Mereu
FEAST, Admissions, Farm: Dan Eisen, Koffi Romaric Afatchao
FEAST & General Affairs: Haruka Kikuchi
FEAST & Graduate Outreach: Ann Collet
FEAST & Ecumenical: Amy Zhang
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Cover Art: Olivia Myers (2024 Volunteer)

Asian Rural Institute
Rural Leaders Training Center



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