

# Asian Rural Institute Class of 2015

2015 年度アジア学院学生 / 研究科生

## Rural Leaders Training Program

農村指導者研修プログラム

### CAMEROON



**Jude**

Mr. Jude Akehbuom Zenabuin

**Apiculture and Nature  
Conservation (ANCO)**  
Field Assistant and Driver

I am a lead trainer in beekeeping at APCO, whose motto is, "Plant a tree, save a bee." Beekeeping, seed collection, market gardening, erosion control, and tree nurseries all help conserve our endangered forests. At ARI, I will expand my skills to include sustainable techniques for crop production and livestock rearing.

### MALAYSIA



**Mey**

Ms. Mey Fong Hoh

**Malaysian Care**  
Rural Community Development Staff

As children, we could eat everything without fear and could save seeds, but not anymore. I hope to help people return to chemical-free farming. I work with indigenous people who want to keep the rights to their ancestral lands and help them to be good stewards of God's creation through sustainability.

### SRI LANKA



**Irfana**

Ms. Mohamed Nawsath Irfana Begam

**Women Organization for  
Development, Equality, Peace and  
Temperance (WODEPT)**  
Community and Women's Groups  
Coordinator Volunteer

In my district of Sri Lanka, women have few opportunities to develop skills enabling them to generate income and support their families. I want to use the training offered at ARI to help women in my village and district become economically self-sufficient. My hope is that this will lead to better protection of women's rights in future.

### VIETNAM



**Duc**

Mr. Huynh Ngoc Duc

**Research Center for Rural  
Development, An Giang University**  
Coordinator of Floating Rice Project,  
Lecturer

I have participated in several research and development projects in Vietnam, studying soil fertility and water control. As a rural leader, I hope to create training courses to teach organic farming techniques that will reduce the use of pesticides while increasing crop production levels.

### ZIMBABWE



**Emmanuel**

Mr. Emmanuel Chiimba

**United Methodist Church Nyadine  
Mission**  
Administrator

At Nyadire Mission, Zimbabwe, I provide for the basic needs of orphans and supervise the staff. I hope ARI will give me training to equip the staff as well as the local community. I grew up in a poor rural community, and I want to teach others about sustainable farming practices.

### SIERRA LEONE



**Nafoei**

Ms. Nafoei Miatta Finda M'Briwa

**Agency for Rural Advancement -  
Sierra Leone (AFRA-SL)**  
Women's Programme Coordinator

I coordinate programs in two communities of the Southern Province. The land is fertile, but because of the terrible roads, farmers, many of whom are women, find transporting their excess produce to market challenging. I hope to learn more about "servant leadership" and organic farming at ARI.

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

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

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

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



**Asian Rural Institute**

## UGANDA



**Fred**  
Mr. Fred Kugonza

**Sustainable Action for Rural Sector (SARS)**  
Volunteer Field Officer, Farmer

Most of the people in my community are subsistence farmers. Challenges include illiteracy, malnutrition, water-borne illnesses, and the lack of storage facilities, processing equipment and good roads. I focus on women and children, who are traditionally barred from owning land. At ARI I want to learn food processing and marketing to encourage people's sustainable income generation.

## INDIA



**Kabita**  
Ms. Kabita Pradhan Sarkar

**Indian Institute for Mother and Child (IIMC)**  
Administrator, Community Organizer

Most rural Indian people are poor daily workers; mothers and children suffer and die from a lack of education and medical services. Volunteering with IIMC, I have become involved with village activities. I believe ARI training will increase my self-confidence and ability to lead in the development of village people.



**Alemla**  
Ms. Alemla Samuel

**Chumukedima Self Help Group Federation**  
President, Community Organizer

I have worked in Dimapur since 2001, assisting some of the poorest women in Nagaland to establish self-help groups, and also providing financial services and training that are useful to them. At ARI, I wish to learn more about farming and animal husbandry in a community where people from many countries learn and work together.

## JAPAN



**Bei**  
Ms. Atsuko Yamabe

A 2009 university stay at ARI informed me about agriculture and food-related problems in and beyond Japan. After graduation, I researched organic farming through sociological methods, and I worked at a consumers' cooperative. At ARI, direct experience with farming and people from other countries will deepen my understanding.



**Yuto**  
Mr. Yuto Yazawa

I recently graduated university with a major in agricultural economics. I want to use my studies by helping people in developing countries. At ARI, I hope to learn practical agricultural skills and hear first-hand from people what kind of agricultural support is needed in their countries.

## LIBERIA



**Dorothy**  
Ms. Dorothy Lewah Yeanay

**United Methodist Church Liberia**  
Farm Supervisor,  
Women's Group Coordinator

My work is with women who are doing farming. Our organization helps street kids, single parents and abandoned girls, to reduce their vulnerability and increase their opportunities for a decent life. My goal at ARI is to become an agriculturist. I hope to glean new and different ideas from other participants.

## NEPAL



**Bhim**  
Mr. Bhim Bahadur Rai

**National Development Organization Nepal**  
Trainer

I live in rural Nepal, where poor roads and great distances to attend training programs create many challenges. Part of my work includes helping local farmers make natural fertilizer. I encourage people of different castes, creeds, and religions to cooperate. I hope to start an organic agricultural training center when I return home.



**Sabitra**  
Ms. Sabitra Chaudhari

**Boat For Community Development**  
Social Mobilizer

We Tharu persons have traditionally farmed, but often have been unable to feed ourselves. Many have been forced to work as bonded laborers. We help untouchable people and several ethnic groups to raise their living standard. At ARI, I want to learn more about servant leadership and organic farming.

## TANZANIA



**Tiliphina**  
Ms. Tiliphina Banenwaki Thomace

**Anglican Church of Tanzania Lweru Diocese**  
Field Officer

My work focuses on teaching agricultural skills, including fertilizer use, new technologies, and animal husbandry to poor and marginalized farmers. At ARI, I plan to focus on agricultural technologies, seed dissemination, crop protection, animal health and new procedures for cultivating and harvesting rice.



**Clevina**  
Ms. Clevina Tibiita Kwizile

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, North Western Diocese**  
Agriculture Trainer and Community Organizer Volunteer

I was born into a farming family. My schooling involved agricultural activities in which I took leadership roles. My interest for the future lies in working with the poor, especially widows and vulnerable women. At ARI, I hope to increase my knowledge of organic farming, thus improving conditions for my community.

## LAOS



**Kor**  
Pr. Kor Thao

**Laos Mission Initiative**  
United Methodist Pastor

I grew up farming my parents' land and still help them, but now I am also a Methodist pastor. The Hmong people have always helped each other, but today's farmers face more troubles. I see the need for sustainable agriculture and for the development of leaders in poor and undereducated communities.

## INDONESIA



**Agnes**  
Ms. Agnes Thiolina Lumbantobing

**HKBP Ressort Simarmata**  
Deaconess (candidate), Teacher

As a deaconess in our church on Samosir Island, Lake Toba, I have helped establish early childhood education and a credit union, worked with parents on family economics and promoted organic farming. At ARI I want to learn to make bokashi, compost, organic pesticide and to develop sustainable agriculture.

## KENYA



**Dave**  
Mr. David Gitari Karoki

**Kenya Anglican Development Services**  
Extension Agent,  
Agriculture Field Officer

I work with Anglican Development Services of Mt. Kenya East Region, helping Kenyan farming families contend with the many challenges of farming. At ARI, I hope to broaden my knowledge and skills in order to better help the poor and marginalized realize their potential in holistic and sustainable ways.



**Joseph**  
Mr. Joseph Ndirangu Gitimu

**Fountain of Life Care Center**  
Volunteer,  
Community Program Officer, Farmer

I work with the Maasai, a pastoral people in Kenya, providing rehabilitation services to prostitutes and people with addictions. We help them form welfare groups and find other income-generating activities. At ARI, I will focus on field management activities and how to provide better nutrition for both people and livestock.

## GHANA



**Solomon**  
Mr. Solomon Koduah

**Jeduako Society of the Methodist Church**  
Agriculturist, Trainer,  
Para-veterinarian

As an agricultural trainer, beekeeper, and para-veterinarian, I see too much good quality soil destroyed by bushfires. I know that integrated organic farming technologies can restore health to our land. I want to learn this kind of farming so I can teach others how to protect the environment and become self-sufficient.

## THE PHILIPPINES



**Job**  
Mr. Job Lagrada

**Christians Meeting in Gospel Hall**  
Missionary, Community Organizer

I work with a semi-nomadic community in the mountains of Palawan Island, who experience food scarcity due to poor resource management. Because of limited education they are exploited and suffer from inadequate health services. I want to gain more "hands on" knowledge of agricultural skills and a deeper community life.

## ZAMBIA



**Lydia**  
Ms. Lydia Kaunda Chibwe

**Chipembi Farming College**  
Agriculture and Life Skills Trainer  
for the Disabled

At Chipembi Farm College, I teach agricultural skills to youth, women and local farmers, and I support disabled students by teaching them daily activities such as cooking, washing and farming. I want to understand servant leadership and to share organic farming methods with my students and small-scale farmers.

## MYANMAR



**Mary**  
Ms. Mary

**Community Association for Rural Development (CARD)**  
Director and Community Organizer,  
Chin Women's Empowerment Group

I work with a tribal community across several villages in an undeveloped and remote area, where shifting and slash-burn farming results in lower productivity and contributes to poverty. I train people in income generation, community development, and gender awareness. On return, I hope to establish a rural development center in my community.



**Chit Chit**  
Mr. Saw Chit Chit

**Shwe Gyin Karen Baptist Association**  
Field Staff, Farmer

My sending body integrates community development into its spiritual mission with the goal of reducing poverty, aiding the displaced and helping families to be healthy. We encourage self-help groups, in which people can depend on each other to share the local resources for the benefit of the entire community.



**Eli**  
Ms. Elizabeth Ma

**Rural Development Organization (Hopin)**  
Field Facilitator

Currently, I train women and low-income families in sound financial management. At ARI, I will focus on leadership and community building, as well as learning organic and sustainable farming techniques. I want my people to stop relying on chemical agricultural methods, so their families and the environment will be healthier.

## MYANMAR



**Eh Wah**  
Ms. Naw Eh Wah Paw

**Hpa-an Mawlamyine Association, Karen Baptist Association**  
Assistant Director, Hpa-an Christian Social Service and Development Department (CSSDD); Field Facilitator, CSSDD Rural Basic Integrated Development Project

My people have good land, but many lack the techniques to develop it sustainably. I am now an assistant director for the Christian Social Service Development Department. At ARI, I want to gain technical skills to train others in environmental awareness, organic, sustainable agriculture, and breeding good livestock.



**Lian**  
Mr. Gin Suan Lian

**Tedim Association of Baptists**  
Farmer, Teacher,  
Volunteer

My people, the Zomi-Chin, still practice the old ways of farming, but this type of shifting cultivation alongside dependence on chemical fertilizers is transforming once green hills into ruin. My challenge is to develop the techniques to transition towards sustainable, organic farming methods suited for our local climate.



**Chan Hup**  
Rev. Chan Hup

**Chin Relief and Development Program (CRDP), Thantlang Association of Baptist Churches**  
Pastor, Youth & Missions Director,  
Agriculture Volunteer

As village coordinator, I manage a model farm in an area where many communities face grave environmental problems due to destroyed forests, dead soil and unsafe drinking water. To help as many farmers as possible practice a permanent organic farming system, I hope to deepen my leadership skills at ARI.

## INDIA



**Khaling**  
Ms. Khaling Toshang

**Dorcas Noble Fund**  
Secretary, Community Organizer

I teach organic farming with a focus on women. As a TA, I will work in the Graduate Outreach and Farm sections, and hope to gain new ideas. My plan is to create an organic model farm at a school, so children can learn how to grow their own food.

(2007 Graduate)

## THE PHILIPPINES



**Nick**  
Mr. Nicholas Pahanggin Tahuyan

**Philippine Association for Intercultural Development (PAFID)**  
Program Officer

I work with tribal groups in Mindanao, assisting 140 farmers with income generation through sustainable livelihood programs. Our goal is to alleviate poverty and promote education so that indigenous people will not live in servitude to landlords. We support their efforts to obtain Certificates of Ancestral Domain.

(2008 Graduate)

## JAPAN



**Motoki**  
Mr. Motoki Che

I am continuing my training at ARI, this year with a focus on Meal Service. I want to make easy, delicious, balanced meals for the community, and produce a recipe book for others to use. I also want to grow personally and spiritually as I live among the diverse ARI participants, learning how to connect well with people, in- and outside the kitchen.

(2014 Graduate)

## Graduate Intern (GI)

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

## Advanced Training Course

### Training Assistant (TA)

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

Photography: Kazushi Tsukamoto

### The 2015 participants receive scholarships from the following organizations\*:

American Friends of ARI (AFARI), American School in Japan Swimming Club, ARI Supporters Association, Asunaro Scholarship, Asian Rural Welfare Association, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Global Citizens Foundation, Harstra Foundation (Netherlands), Igarashi Fund, Japan Students Services Association (JASSO), Japan Evangelical Lutheran Association, National Council of Churches in Japan, Niikura Kai Foundation, Osaka Community Fund, Rotary Yoneyama Memorial Foundation, The Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Tokyo St. Timothy Service Scholarship, St. Columban's Foreign Mission Society, Tokyo American Club Women's Group, UCCJ Bancho Church, United Church of Christ in Japan (UCCJ) Ecumenical Scholarship, The United Methodist Church - General Board of Global Ministries, United Church of Canada, Wesley Foundation (Japan), World Council of Churches

\*Some applications pending as of May 1, 2015

## 1,303 Graduates

*Theological Seminary for Rural Mission / Tsurukawa Rural Institute*

• South-East Asia Course (1960-72): 116 graduates, 17 countries

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

• Rural Leaders Training Course: 1,107 graduates, 55 countries

• Advanced Training Course: 80 graduates

