Since 1973, the Asian Rural Institute (ARI) has been dedicated to training grassroots rural leaders who live and work in their communities 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, leading committees and organizing events.

The ARI community is almost completely self-sufficient, with more than 90 percent of the food consumed coming from its own campus. ARI does not have an independent source of funds, but relies 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, ARI helps them to connect with potential supporters for scholarship assistance. Thus, ARI’s Rural Leaders Training Program is made possible by supporters’ generous contributions.

Rural Leaders Training Program

**SOUTH AFRICA**

**Dudu**
Ms. Duduzile Princess Nkabinde
Japan International Volunteer Center / South Africa Office
Project Coordinator, Field Officer

I have been employed by the Japan International Volunteer Centre in South Africa for 19 years. I teach Sunday School and direct a choir. I need to expand my horizons by improving leadership skills and learning more about organic gardening, which can mean survival for many in communities where we work.

**INDONESIA**

**Ridwan**
Mr. Ridwan Agustinus Samosir
PETRASA Foundation
Head of Farmer’s Group Development Division

As the head of division of PETRASA Foundation, I help farmers in the rural highlands of North Sumatra gain crucial access to credit, transition from conventional to organic farming, and improve their food security through home gardening. At ARI, I hope to gain greater perspective of rural leadership from participants of different backgrounds, tribes and religions.

**Sensa**
Ms. Vinsensia Dasi
St. Therese Mbata Parish Church
Farming Group Supervisor

I work with mostly women farmers in our area who grow rice, using manure with chemicals, in terraces on the mountain where we live. I want to learn how to raise rice with organic manure so the health of the people will increase, as the average life-span in our community is 40-50 years old.
At ARI I look forward to receiving competency-based training and adaptive techniques which are superior to my basic human resources as of now. After completing the ARI training, I hope to improve the agricultural sustainability of my community in order to help reverse entrenched and widespread poverty and hunger.

As coordinator, I oversee projects geared towards improving the living standards of local communities with a focus on women, youths and vulnerable children. I look forward to learning at ARI a holistic approach to food production and the best agricultural practices which I can share with the farmers in my community.

As a one-time farmer who has used harmful practices, I want to learn how to farm in a way that is in harmony with nature and to share this knowledge with my community. I also want to learn how to live in dynamic and meaningful servant leadership.

My objective in teaching children is to help them learn to read and write as well as experience God’s love by making their learning process fun and caring. After ARI, I want to help the farmers in my community practice sustainable farming, develop leadership skills and self-confidence.

I work with marginalized women and youth to provide tools for increasing their access to land, teach them farming methods avoiding destruction of the soil and improve food output. While at ARI, I hope to increase my skills and knowledge in sustainable techniques for enriching the soil, cultivating crops and rearing livestock.

We want to engage young children and get them to think about how they live, how they play, and the impact this has on the environment affects diseases that could be avoided. The Holistic Living Center helps people recognize that what we eat and drink, our lifestyle, and how we connect to the environment affects diseases that could be avoided. We want to engage young children and get them to think about how they live, how they play, and the impact this has on the community.
Mara
Mr. Hrie Mau
Mara Evangelical Church - Service and Development Department (MEC SDD)
Program Coordinator, Finance Coordinator (SDD)

My community practices rotational farming, which has caused lowered yields, chronic food shortages and poverty. We lack knowledge and skills in sustainable farming to lead us out of this situation. At ARI, I want to learn these techniques so I can return to demonstrate them for our people at our planned experimental farm.

Mr. Samuel
Khawnum’zung Rural Development Organization (KRDO)
Community Trainer

I work with socio-economically unsafe, vulnerable, sensitive, religiously disregarded or forgotten and politically forgotten and uncounted people. As a community trainer at KRDO, I work to increase community financial literacy and promote community health. I am eager to become a better servant leader at ARI, so that I can share this knowledge with my community.

Makiko
Ms. Makiko Takei

Working as a nurse, I had a big question about the advanced medical technology. For half a year, I studied in Denmark about the world situation of hunger, poverty and gaps in society. This year at ARI, I want to study how to support people's health and life by good food.

Mau
Mr. Hrie Mau

My community practices rotational farming, which has caused lowered yields, chronic food shortages and poverty. We lack knowledge and skills in sustainable farming to lead us out of this situation. At ARI, I want to learn these techniques so I can return to demonstrate them for our people at our planned experimental farm.

Jenneh
Ms. Jenneh Korlison

I work in a multi-religious community where men have traditionally held decision-making power. We establish, develop and encourage women's groups by showing them how to increase agricultural production for their families as well as to generate income. We educate and encourage the women to take active part in family and community decision-making.

Sena
Mr. Augustus Sena Letsukuma
Evangelical Presbyterian Development and Relief Agency (EPDRA)
Program Officer, Agricultural Extension Services

I train and teach extension staff who in turn train farmers in soil and water conservation practices and the formation of marketing cooperatives. While at ARI, I want to increase my knowledge of organic farming practices, improve my leadership skills, and gain from others while living in community.

Ju
Ms. Thanarat Rinnasak
Original Liberty Mission Foundation Coordinator

I work as a coordinator of services for the Mission Foundation in central Thailand. I look forward to learning as much as possible about organic farming, as my organization wishes me to establish a farm after I return from training at ARI.

Jenneh
Ms. Jenneh Korlison

I work in a multi-religious community where men have traditionally held decision-making power. We establish, develop and encourage women's groups by showing them how to increase agricultural production for their families as well as to generate income. We educate and encourage the women to take active part in family and community decision-making.

Chigira
Ms. Chigira Hasumi

I train and teach extension staff who in turn train farmers in soil and water conservation practices and the formation of marketing cooperatives. While at ARI, I want to increase my knowledge of organic farming practices, improve my leadership skills, and gain from others while living in community.

Taffy
Ms. Tafadzwa Dorothy Mukondwa
Heather Chimhoga Orphan Care (HCOC) Social Worker

I am a full-time volunteer social worker, taking care of orphans and vulnerable children. My responsibilities include monitoring the feeding program, supervising kitchen staff, and fundraising for our chicken and moringa leaf projects, which provide healthy sustenance for children. During my time at ARI, I hope to learn about leadership skills, project management, and organic farming.

Samuel
Mr. Samuel
Khawnum’zung Rural Development Organization (KRDO) Community Trainer

I work with socio-economically unsafe, vulnerable, sensitive, religiously disregarded or forgotten and politically forgotten and uncounted people. As a community trainer at KRDO, I work to increase community financial literacy and promote community health. I am eager to become a better servant leader at ARI, so that I can share this knowledge with my community.

Nixon
Mr. Nixon Rincher
Haiti-no-kai CESLA / CESLA Community Project (CCP) English Teacher, General Secretary CCP

I would like to learn more about leadership because as a leader, I think I have to get enough capacity to lead groups and the community. I hope raising livestock and growing vegetables would help my community because the biggest problem of my community now is food.

Makiko
Ms. Makiko Takei

Working as a nurse, I had a big question about the advanced medical technology. For half a year, I studied in Denmark about the world situation of hunger, poverty and gaps in society. This year at ARI, I want to study how to support people's health and life by good food.

Chigira
Ms. Chigira Hasumi

I train and teach extension staff who in turn train farmers in soil and water conservation practices and the formation of marketing cooperatives. While at ARI, I want to increase my knowledge of organic farming practices, improve my leadership skills, and gain from others while living in community.

Oscar
Mr. Oscar Nkweche Fortsin

In 2006, as an ARI participant, I gained extensive experience working with pigs and harnessing the use of pig by-products. As a TA, I hope to grow my leadership abilities so that I may open an integrated farm school in Cameroon upon my return. Our plan is to bring together orphans and vulnerable children to gain knowledge on how to be self-sustainable.
After graduating from the ARI training program many Rural Leaders focus on sustainable agriculture in order to revive their communities, but that’s not all. Graduates engage in a broad range of causes, such as conservation of the environment, education and microfinance. Others dedicate their lives to attain rights for women and tribal people, or organize aid for refugees. Responding thus, to the needs of grassroots people as Servant Leaders, they spread ARI’s spirit of “Living Together” across the world.

The costs needed for Rural Leaders to participate in our training are mainly financed by donations. Tuition and board amount to US$ 17,840, and the average airfare is US$ 2,300. We are looking for supporters who will offer financial assistance for these leaders to take part. It is an investment in people who will bring about lasting community change. For detailed information, please visit our website or call our office.

USA
US citizens may make tax deductible gifts to ARI through the American Friends of ARI (AFARI). Make out your check to AFARI and send it to:

American Friends of ARI (AFARI)
c/o J. B. Hoover, Executive Director
1121 N 94th St.
Seattle, WA 98103-3305

or donate online through AFARI at http://friends-ari.org/

Canada
Canadian citizens can make a tax deductible donation to the United Church of Canada to support ARI. Cheques payable to the UCC should be sent to:

United Church of Canada
Partners in Mission Unit
3250 Bloor St. W.
Etobicoke, ON M8X 2Y4
Attn: Pat Elson
(Please designate ‘ARI’ on the cheque)

Japan
There are multiple ways of contributing if you reside in Japan. Please visit our website at http://www.ari-edu.org/en/support/ to learn more.