

Announcement

New MSCNE Staff members



Since Ms. Jaya Triipati, Health Project Coordinator, took decision for her advance study, Mr. Saurabh Srivastava (right) took the post in March 2014. Ms. Bipasha Dutta (left) also has joined General Affair and been working as Administrative Assistant. Both of them also contribute with their English skills for MSCNE students and staff. Welcome to MSCNE!

Visitors

We have welcomed several visitors from December to May:

- December: Ms. Wakao Kugita, former JICA NGO desk coordinator)
 January: Mr. Mitsumasa Arai, Intern from Asian Rural Institute, Japan
 Mr. Koji Sato, Board member of ASHA and official video cameraman, Japan
 February: Ms. Yuko Murakami, AIKAKEN Healthy Curry Research Institute, Japan
 Japanese Study Tour Group organized by ASHA and Ainokai, Japan
 Ms. Kyoko Hoshino and Ms. Pragya Dhital, Lucknow
 Mr. Tatsuo Nishimoto, Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in India
 Mr. Amit Bhardwaj, People Learning Foundation, Allahabad
 March: Rev. Maldoon and his family, former staff, Australia (Photo)



Recruitment

Seminar on Duck Hatchery and Integrated Duck & Rice Farming

We will organize a seminar on "Duck Hatchery and Integrated Duck and Rice Farming" in August inviting Mr. Toshiyuki Harada, President of Harada Hatchery, Kumamoto, Japan. For those who wants to improve rice production with integrated farming, your application is welcome!

- Date:** 25-28th August, 2014 (Participants may arrive on 24th)
Venue: MSCNE, SHIATS, Allahabad
Programme Contents: ●Theoretical session ●Field practical
 ●Field visit ●Village field visit ●Reflection
 ●Sightseeing (optional on 29th)

Fees	With hostel	Without hostel
General	Rs. 500/day	Rs.300/day
Graduates/ AOAC members	Rs.200 /day	Rs..200/day
Student	Rs. 300/day	Rs. 100/day

Intern and Volunteers

We are recruiting Intern (more than 6 months) and Volunteers (4 weeks to 6months) in various work areas for our projects.

Major needed areas: ●sustainable agriculture
 ●mother and child health ●tailoring ●handicrafts
 ●food processing ●English teaching ●computer teaching
 ●primary school education
 ●documentation ●office works etc. The condition is negotiable with purpose and degree of contribution. Please contact us for the details!

Special Course in Sustainable Agriculture and Development (SCSAD)

- We are recruiting candidates for 2015-2016.
 ◇ **The Course period** : July 2015 to March 2016
 ◇ **Eligibility:** At least 10th grade pass, having sending-body and recommendation of organization's Director
 ◇ Scholarship is available
 Please utilize it for rural human resource development.
 Contact us via phone or an e-mail for any inquiry!

Request for application form, visit our website <http://mscne.org> or Contact e-mail: recruitment@ashaasia.org Tel/Fax: 0532-2684306

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HARVEST



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Continuing Effort for Nurturing Rural Leaders, Focusing on Rural Women

Dr. Teruo Miura, Dean

Transforming from tradition to modern in current India, significant social mobilization from the low class to the middle class has begun to take place, and vice versa. In rural areas, however, such transformation appears to be quite slow. As a matter of fact, it can be resulted in more extremely uneven development, expanding the rich and the poor that has generated social unrest in many corners of the country. Hence, it is our obligation to tackle with the problem, paying more attention to nurturing rural youth and its approaches toward sustainability of rural development.

When I joined our school 10 years ago, I was surprised that merely middle or more above aged rural "men" joined training programs in our training center even though we expected to have women. Similarly, we observed that at village meetings, elders and men almost all the time sat in the front of crowd and women did the behind. "It is our tradition!," proudly said my senior staff. I felt that unless this practice changed, it is impossible to foster sustainable development in rural Allahabad. Because women are a sort of mirror of their children as they are initially nurturing their own offspring.

Then, I proposed that "More Women's Participation" should include in our school slogan in addition to "More Sustainable, More hope and education to children." "Whenever we hold a village meeting, let women sit in the front and try to recruit rural women for seminars, training programs and other development activities." It was indeed beginning to focus on nurturing rural women seriously even though some of our colleagues were in distant air.

Nowadays, however, many nurtured rural women have actively involved in various development activities. Some of them have taken important leadership with their visions, skills and knowledge, especially in mother and child health project, rural education for children, tailoring class, and cooperative food processing. Moreover, some of the female youth began to enter 10 month training program by their own will and with passion. Last year we had two female graduates from rural Allahabad. After their graduation, they have taken an important role of rural health project as assistant supervisors. Those women were used to be said that it is impossible for them to take such long-term training program, being away from their families. But, this year, we have got a new female student from rural Allahabad.

How is it happened? It is true that huge global social force has made transformation of society but also significant change has taken place by our local effort. Our school as a learning community is hoping to continue to learn and work for nurturing rural people in various activities which are required to tackle.

What Does Non-Formal Education Mean?

Dr. Teruo Miura

Some time ago, a woman asked me "What does Non-Formal Education mean?" I simply tried to answer it in my mind, "it is non-degree education and it is not academic." Then, I wonder it is really appropriate answers or not. It seems to be not so easy to answer this question. The name of our school is "Makino School of Continuing and Non-Formal Education." Why is it necessary for us to have non-formal education in our university campus? Many questions came to my mind, realizing that many of my friends, colleague, and supporters may have such questions which we need to clarify.

Non-Formal Education is undermined:

Our university has grown as comprehensive educational institution, having almost 10 thousand student and many academic departments. On the other hand, our school is relatively small in size and it is known as "Non-Formal." Often a university men like guards or students say, "Non-Formal is that way," when somebody asks the direction of our school. It appears to imply that our school is "not for academic persons" but for rural people who do not have much education. In fact, some of the teaching staff are apt to make a fool of our students and training participants as if they have no ability to learn. It is really discouraged by such attitude.

Non-Formal Education nurtures comprehensive and practical skills and knowledge

It is true that our school is not focusing on academic field but we are rather seeking for "practical" and "integrated" education of sustainable development which are essential to improve quality of rural life. It may be difficult for a specialized academic institution to provide such practical learning experiences to those who want to serve for their rural communities. Therefore we have provided such training and learning opportunities

to farmers and NGO workers. Our training program includes a set of subjects and practical learning on agricultural production, food processing, and marketing. In addition, we are expected to see the spiritual and personal growth of our students and trainees. It is, indeed, hard time for them to tackle with so many subjects and practical learnings. However, it is inevitable requirement to foster sustainable development in rural settings. In other word, it is necessary for the rural to secure such well-trained and nurtured rural workers.

Mission and Hope of Our Non-formal Education:

Our school mission is as following. It is to provide practical learning opportunity to those who want to work for their own community in the field of sustainable development at grass-root level regardless religions, races, and educational background. Our learning place is not only our class room or school farm but also villages where our school has implemented various projects. It is our strength as non-formal educational institution.

Nowadays, many from rural areas come to take our training programs or various types of seminars which are designed for students, NGO workers, teachers of tailoring & elementary, rural volunteers of child and mother health. Cooperative farmers, and so on. Our school has to accept not only from India but also from abroad like Myanmar and Japan. Surprisingly their educational backgrounds are varied from elementary to post-graduates.

It is our duty to continue implementing such non-formal educational programs to needy people in the rural, improving facilities, quality of curriculums, and so on. It is our prayer that rural workers with spirit of God's Love and clear visions of sustainable development will scatter in many corners of the world, sharing and spreading their knowledge, skills and visions with their neighbors.

Makino School of Continuing and Non-Formal Education is implementing various range of project such as Special Course in Sustainable Agriculture, Rural Development Project, Rural Health Project, and Rural Education Project in Allahabad villages.



ASHA School teachers' training was held in December for preparation of School festival in January.



MSCNE team visited in Tamil Nadu to explore organic farming, marketing, and micro-finance activities.



First Asha School Festival was organized in January. The school boy explain solar system with handmade model.



Harvest Thanksgiving Ceremony was organized along with seminar on "Food and Health" in February.



Mid-term evaluation for rice cultivation in dry season was held in March by visiting cooperative farmers' lands.



All SCSAD students gave a presentation on their learning in the course at MSCNE before graduation ceremony.



The eight students graduated successfully from Special Course in Sustainable and Rural Development on 3rd April.



Eleven rural women from Allahabad villages completed 1 month Advance Tailoring Course in April.



Japanese rice was harvested by entire MSCNE community members in hot day of May at organic farm.

Annual Evaluation and Planning

Every year, MSCNE has annual evaluation and planning session in March and April. Almost all the actors in each projects get together to discuss what were the achievements and what should be done in coming year. The rural participants are usually quiet for first time, since most of them are not used to speak in public. Therefore, it is

challenge for project staff to facilitate the discussion so that everybody can reflect the activities and one-self, open the mouth to speak meaningful and specific words, listen to others and discuss important aspects. Now there are about 40 Village Health Volunteers under the health project. Some experienced volunteers stimulated the discussion with their own experience and thought. The process is very important to make clear and agreed policy of the

project, as well as to nurture new village human resources.



Opportunity of Education for Rural Children 1st ASHA School Festival

Ms. Keiko Kawaguchi

“How can we propagate the importance of school education to a large number of village people?”

The literacy rate is 80% for men and 55% for women in the rural area in Allahabad, which are extremely lower than the average literacy rate in the city (83%). Being illiterate causes obstacles in every respect of daily life. It seems very normal that at the rural bank in Allahabad, women who appear to be illiterate and even cannot write their own name, ask others to fill in the paper and managing to put a thumbprint on it. Moreover, they are not confident enough to go out since they cannot read the destination shown on the bus. Although they can let their children go to school, they cannot teach them at home. The worst case is that they are deceived by others as they cannot read important documents. For tackling the issues of illiteracy, it is very important to be able to gain knowledge of reading and writing, and calculation at the school for collecting necessary information while living daily life.

However, there are many pupil who cannot understand the basis in all subjects, since teachers are either late or absent in most government schools in the rural area. Furthermore, it is usual that pupil are forced to memorize at the school, and this also leads to the situation where they find it very difficult to put the knowledge to practical use with flexible and creative thinking. Girl students, who are normally put at the end of the order of priority, are often forced to quit school by their parents, when they are at their first menstruation.

In this kind of situation, it is difficult to launch an enterprise on their own, or to find a job in the market or outside the village which is fully populated. The question in the beginning was thrown to teachers of ASHA Schools which MSCNE has supported. They decided to organize School Festival and raised the voice, “let’s invite the parents to the Festival!”.

Before the School Festival, trainings on computer and event management were organized for ASHA School teachers in the beginning of December. In addition to the basic operation of computer, the teachers learnt how to search internet, and select useful information, pictures and videos for edu-

-cational materials and display at the event. In management class, the importance of having clear purposes and confirmation of roles for each individual were emphasized.

14 ASHA School teachers gathered at Geenj ASHA school two days before the festival, decorating the venue and displaying the exhibition. On the day of School Festival, a large gate arch stood before all the stage, tents and display shed made with rice strew, in which colorful clay work, science exhibition, handmade water filter and model of explosion system were exhibited. Pupil who were good at English explained about the exhibition to audience.



ASHA school children and villagers at School Festival

After the speech by Dr. Miura, Dean of MSCNE, dance performance was done by pupil. It was followed by introduction of drawing exchange program which MSCNE has tried to link ASHA School pupil with Japanese kids. At the food stall, there sold several food prepared by teachers and pupil.



Display of creative clay work

Around 30 parents visited the festival and admired the effort. It is our first trial to organize such a festival. Although there are many things to improve, it was meaningful that teachers and pupils could share the value of diverse educational activities by performing the fruit of their study in the public. We will look forward to the rural education project in the future.

The voice of SCSAD Graduates

It is an honour to announce here that eight students have completed Special Course in Sustainable Agriculture & Development (SCSAD) on 3rd April 2014. We have let you all to hear the voice from two graduates!

Organic Food is necessary for human life

Mr. Salai Myint Maung (Salai)
Rachine Baptist Convention, Myanmar

Before I came to learn about organic agriculture, I did not have much knowledge about organic farming. I learnt many things at MSCNE, SHIATS Allahabad. Now, I have been thinking about Rural Development and organic farming.

Why have many people been getting different diseases and why has human life been in danger? I think this is because we eat agricultural products every day which are made with chemical material such as fertilizer. Chemical products have much effect on human health. Besides, why is agriculture production getting less and less every year? I think earth is now very old and original fertility has gone. Almost all farmers are using chemical fertilizer in their farm, and benefit has become less than before since the chemical fertilizer destroys the soil fertility. This is not sustainable agriculture.

I believe that organic agriculture is sustainable agriculture. Organic fertilizer is made from natural resources. Soil is never destroyed, and benefit increases year by year. No fertile soil, no organic agriculture. No fertile soil, no plants. Plants love fertile soil, so that we have to create fertile soil in the farm. Organic food also keeps our body healthy. Now I know how to make organic fertilizer, how to plant vegetables and how to do organic farming. Now I want to work for Rural Development because I want to create for opportunity for rural people. When I go back, I will serve for my community and organization. I appreciate SCNE for giving me an opportunity to learn many things. I am sure I will produce organic products in my place in the future.



Salai (left) with our farm staff

Networking of people through MSCNE

Mr. Gaingamlung Phaomei (Gaiy)
Rural Foundation, Manipur



Gaiy (right) at Delhi Japanese Summer Festival

I am from Manipur. Before joining SCSAD, I was working in the office of Rural Foundation which my uncle established for implementing rural development projects in our district. Therefore, I had never done agriculture works until I joined SCSAD. Besides, I had never been explained much about the course

contents. But my uncle expected me to learn organic farming at MSCNE, so that the knowledge and skills can be used for the experimental farm in the land which my uncle has possessed. Especially, He wanted me to learn about organic fertilizer making and mushroom culture for our farm.

Staying here in MSCNE for almost one year has been a mixed experience. It was very tough for me to get used to the hot weather in Allahabad, since Manipur is always a pleasant place to live. Furthermore, for someone like me who has not done much farm work, it was very difficult to get accustomed with continuous farm work. However, what I have been fortunate is that I could establish networks with different kinds of people of Allahabad, Myanmar and Japan with whom I stayed together at MSCNE. We sometimes faced with different kinds of problems such as a language barrier, different ways of thinking and culture. But we always somehow found a way to collaborate and make a good friendship. Although we will be separated, I am grateful that we can share some information such as our work and experiences with all SCSAD students through e-mail, etc. later on.

Before SCSAD, I was not interested in farming, but now I am keen to get involved in the projects back home in Manipur. I would like to send my appreciation to all people who have supported me.

10th Harvest Thanksgiving Celebration (HTC)

The 10th Harvest Thanksgiving Celebration (HTC) was hosted by MSCNE on 21st and 22nd February. During the same period, Food Fair was also organized by Allahabad Organic Agriculture Cooperative (AOAC). The number of participants was 400 in total including SCSAD students, Village Health Volunteers (VHVs), AOAC farmers, ASHA School teachers, ASHA Gramin Collage tailoring school students, Japanese study tour members, SHATS lectures, staff and students.

Symposium on "Food and Health"

This year, the symposium titled as "Food and Health" was incorporated into HTC, and we had invited the topic-related experts for the seminar from Japan and India respectively. The symposium began with the lecture by Dr. Neena who was an



Dr. Neena in the lecture translated by Dr. Miura

Assistant Professor at School of Pharmacy and Health in SHI-ATS, and it was followed by the lecture by Mr. Hiromitsu Iio who manages Rinnesha Ltd.

which focused on the topic from both micro and global points of view. Ms. Yuko Murakami, who runs "Aikaken" - Indian Vegetarian Restaurant and Research Centre -, organized healthy cooking demonstration while she introduced her cooking method which utilized effects of Indian spices. Besides, Mr. Shigeo Terada, one of Japanese study tour members gave a small talk on the initiative of TOYOTA Company for tackling pollution problems in morning gathering on the same day of the symposium.

From MSCNE, we had chosen two SCSAD students (one is from Japan, and another one from Meghalaya), and they shared their experiences of learning in Allahabad



Mr. Terada giving a short talk on Toyota company's strategy on pollution

lage Health Assistant Supervisors who had graduated from SCSAD in 2013, also gave a speech, focusing on what kind of changes and growth can be observed in their skills and capacity after completing SCSAD. All these lectures and talks were delivered in three languages, English, Hindi and Japanese, and it took over two times more than usual symposium. Nonetheless, thanks to the effort by translators and chairman, all lectures and talks was done following the schedule.

Food Fair

While the symposium was being held inside MSCNE, AOAC Food Fair was also prepared in the ground lawn area of MSCNE.



MSCNE farm assistant Mr. Shivakant at Food Fair, selling organic vegetables grown in MSCNE experimental farm

Every year, all MSCNE staff and SCSAD students got involved in the preparation of the event and marketing of AOAC products. However, AOAC staff was independent enough to plan and manage the event on their own. This experience shall give confidence to them in the future.

Since, it was unfortunately raining on the second day of HTC, the food stalls had to be moved



AOAC staff Mr. Bajrangi at Food Fair (left)

inside the school building. Although the number customers was less than usual, all participants enjoyed our AOAC foods.

Project Introduction and Performance

The afternoon of the second day began with project introduction by each department of MSCNE, followed by song performance, dance and skit. Coincidentally, all of SCSAD students, ASHA school teachers and VHVs had chosen to introduce their own activities by skit. Though these three project departments perform a skit, all skits were very unique with some senses of humors and different to one another. Furthermore, students of



SCSAD students performed the skit titled "A day of SCSAD" at project introduction

ASHA Gramin Collage tailoring class held their own fashion show in order to present cloths which they made.

Some of Japanese study tour members also performed their special abilities such as Japanese buckwheat-noodle making, a traditional flute and recitation of Chinese poem.



Ms. Ruma Nishad, a tailoring school graduate in the fashion show



Mr. Muroya (middle) gave a demonstration on noodle making

MSCNE staff and project related people from Allahabad rural area were very interested to know Japanese food and arts which were introduced to

them through each performance here in India. In multi-purpose hall used as the venue for all the performances was filled with feverish excitement, so that the atmosphere drove away the cold wind of February.



Mrs. Tearada's performance of Japanese traditional flute

Award giving ceremony for active workers

At the end of the afternoon session, we gave an award to each rural workers who had actively got involved in their respective development activities. Such an award giving as this shall motivate not only award winners but also our MSCNE staff and other rural residents as well, and it may become one of intentions for rural workers to fully engage themselves in their projects next year.



A new VHV (left), Mrs. Anu got an Award

First trial

Incorporating the symposium into HTC and organizing Food Fair at the same time was our first trial. The biggest fruit is that all diverse participants with different background were able to receive new information and expand their view by coming in touch with different languages, culture and food through our symposium "Food and Health". We were successful to provide the venue for precious learning. However, we will have to persuade more people from outside of MSCNE to join the program. Why is the title of the symposium "Food and Health"? This is because we believe that it is significant to share the importance of organic agriculture products, processed foods and natural products with producers and consumers. Thus, it is inevitable to actively disseminate the importance of food and health to AOAC customers and a large number of people.