The Asian Rural Institute (ARI) has been dedicated since 1973 to training grassroots rural leaders who are living and working in their communities in countries 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 and 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 in connecting with potential supporters for scholarship assistance. ARI’s training program is made possible by its supporters’ generous contributions.

Class of 2012
Rural Leaders Training Program

That We May Live Together

**BRAZIL**

**Ms. Joelma Gomez de Queiroz**
Cooperativa Central da Reforma Agraria do Paraná
Agroecology Technician

**Joelma**
My grandfather taught me persistence, humility and fixed contact with the Earth; protecting the Earth is to protect all living beings. I give classes in agroecology to farmer groups and in local schools. In the future, I plan to work with women’s and men’s groups, teaching them organic food production.

**EAST TIMOR**

**Mr. Juliao Nunes Jose**
Rafaela East Timor Fund
Farmers’ Group Leader

**Juliao**
East Timor is an agricultural nation and unless we can become self-sufficient in agriculture we cannot survive. Currently I organize projects with local farmers. The main things I want to learn at ARI are sustainable techniques for enriching the soil, proper cultivation of crops, and how to naturally raise livestock.

**Mr. Armando Ximenes**
Claretian Missionaries
Farmer

**Arman**
I teach solar panel and electricity installation to people in my community. In East Timor, the primary occupation is farming. Our coastal land is very fertile, however, most people only earn enough for survival. I will acquire stronger farming skills at ARI so I can transform the lives of my people.
I live in a rural community where people earn their living by selling produce. Often they are unable to afford enough fertilizer for their land. To help them save money I encourage them to buy shares and invest in small-scale businesses. I want to improve farming practices in my community.

As a youth chaplain and deputy farm manager, I believe in empowering young people by teaching them the importance of safeguarding natural resources so that they are not destroyed faster than they are replaced. By using sustainable agriculture, we can produce food for large populations and build a brighter future for our community.

In my community, people earn a living through agriculture, fishing, and livestock breeding. Some of their biggest obstacles to sustainability include limited knowledge and insufficient time to focus on future plans. I want to receive agricultural training so I can be a resource for farmers in my community.

My goal is to help rural people escape from poverty. I take part in environmental exhibitions, participate in planting trees, and facilitate environmental awareness training. My hope is that by teaching better rice cultivation practices I can address the water shortage problem in my community.

The people I work with are poor farmers who are simple, kind, and hard-working. I teach microorganism cultivation, seedling, grafting, earthworm composting and kitchen gardening. In the future, I plan to set up a model farm for an agriculture training center to continue my work with sustainable living practices.

Preserving resources and maintaining an ecological balance are the only ways to save the earth. In my community I focus on giving awareness about the climate change crisis and the importance of organic farming. Crops and vegetables give us income throughout the year, hence I prefer to do sustainable farming.

I grew up on a rubber plantation in Herbal. I am now a pastor and a coordinator of school garden projects throughout my service area. It is my great joy to see students learn about farming by generating their own food. I believe organic farming will improve my people's lives.

I engage in rural community development by teaching basic life skills training to 150 women in my community. I am interested in sustainable farming because my community depends on crops that are sold in our local market for their income. I want to learn more about food production and preservation.
Mr. Mannadhipathi Pathirennelhejage Niroshan Hemantha Mannadhipati
Volunteer
Service Civil International Sri Lanka

I work with local farmers, instructing them on the subjects of natural medicine and nutrition. Food and health are inseparable. This is the message I seek to convey to people in my community. Organic farming and livestock production are areas that I am particularly interested in learning about.

Mr. Joseph Banla Bongajum
Action for Natural Medicine, Bui
Field Coordinator

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Mr. Yuta Takeno

Studying sociology and international development at university awoke my interest in poverty issues. Experiencing tomato cultivation further motivated me to learn agriculture at ARI. I will practice and learn sustainable organic farming with my own hands, mind and heart, and then contribute to the development of rural communities.

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Training Assistant

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

Graduate Intern

A Japanese graduate of ARI is eligible to apply to be a Graduate Intern (GI). The internship is twelve months long and must begin the following school year. The intern focuses on one section of the farm for 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.

**The Philippines**

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<tr>
<th>Ms. Lourdes Augusto Sison</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cordillera Green Network</td>
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<td>Scholarship Coordinator</td>
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**Indonesia**

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<th>Blv. Veny Julita</th>
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<tr>
<td>Huria Kristen Batak Protestant (HKBP)</td>
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<td>Migrant Worker Organizer in Selangor, Malaysia</td>
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**Japan**

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<th>Mr. Yasutomo Kido</th>
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<td>My main job is to disseminate information about our scholarships, interview applicants, and determine if these candidates are qualified. In the Cordillera, I have worked with projects involving education, reforestation, and sustainable agriculture. To protect and enhance the natural environment I will continue to advocate sustainable agriculture for local people for nutritious and safe food.</td>
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<td>My major job responsibility is to organize a church in Malaysia for Indonesian migrant workers. Around 3.5 million Indonesian people come to Malaysia for work. Workers sometimes face injustice and I have to advocate for them to defend their rights. I want to organize Indonesian people, particularly the poor farmers.</td>
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<td>Last year, I was able to gain meaningful learnings as a participant, especially about what is necessary for &quot;living together&quot; with people of different cultures and values. This year my goal as a graduate intern is the realization of a self-sufficient society. I also want to encourage myself by learning through agriculture on the farm and by socializing with people.</td>
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ARI Graduates Map

1215 Graduates from 55 countries