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 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 to connect with potential supporters for scholarship assistance.

ARI’s training program is made possible by supporters’ generous contributions.
### SOUTH KOREA

**Motoki**  
Mr. Motoki Che

My mother is a devout Buddhist and my father loves to watch movies. Through my mother I was influenced to think often about life and death, and watching films with my father exposed me to surprising ideas and taught me that each person thinks differently. And now, at ARI, I have been connected with agriculture.

### LAOS

**Khamlet**  
Ms. Khamlet Sengsouliechan

The Association for Rural Mobilisation and Improvement (ARMI)  
Project Coordinator

Many communities have natural resources, but foreign companies are moving in and we fear for the future of these communities. I work to empower farmers with natural agricultural techniques. After experiencing “learning by doing” at ARI, I hope I will be better able to train farmers to make use of organic farming.

### UGANDA

**John**  
Pr. John Wulukano

Wesleyan Church of Uganda  
Pastor

My remote rural community lacks healthcare access and training opportunities. While serving my community as a pastor, I also provide training in farming techniques, tree seedling raising and construct solar cookers and mud stoves for families. At ARI I hope to acquire skills to counsel youth on positive health strategies and teach new farming skills to subsistence farmers.

### INDONESIA

**Nike**  
Ms. Eunike Widhi Wardhani

Trukajaya Foundation  
Church Organic Farming Team Member

Farmers should be the masters of food, but so often they are ignored. This is especially true for women. I work to empower farmers to share their big dreams and will use my ARI training about food security to learn how to better plan and implement activities for women in rural communities.

**Lampita**  
Ms. Lampita Silaban

KSU POM HUMBANG  
Marketing and Farm Organizer

"Without farmers there would be no life." This is the belief that keeps me working to motivate the interest of youth and current farmers in farming. I want to empower farmers through working together and supporting them, and will take ARI’s philosophy back so I may guide farmers toward a better life.

### MYANMAR

**Aye Aye**  
Ms. Naw Aye Aye Shwe

Myanmar Baptist Convention  
Secretary at Myanmar Baptist Churches Union

I grew up in a farming family, and presently work as a secretary at Myanmar Baptist Churches Union. I want to move my community of Kayin people, in Dee Maw Hso township of Myanmar, from basic farming to organic agricultural development, focusing on farming, livestock, and forestry. I hope to return from ARI to my community with new skills to lead and teach sustainable rural development.

**Khun Myat**  
Mr. Khun Myat

Kachin Theological College  
Teaching Staff & Farming Manager

I grew up involved with rural work, and am a graduate and teaching staff of Kachin Theological College in the Northern Shan State of Myanmar. At the college’s Agricultural Farm, I educate student farmers in organic practices and sustainable agriculture. I plan to use my experiences at ARI to improve what I teach to students and community farmers.

### MYANMAR

**Eh Thaw**  
Mr. Saw Eh Thaw

Pathein Myaung Mya Association (PMA)  
Center Manager

I am involved in rural work because I was born in a rural area. My community lacks some things, but our social character brings us together to help one another. To assist in improving people’s livelihoods at the grassroots when I return, I will expand my knowledge of organic integrated farming at ARI.

**Thi Thi**  
Ms. Thi Thi Win

Kalyana Mitta Foundation (KMF)  
Logistic Volunteer

I am from Moneywa, Myanmar, where I maintain a family agribusiness. I also serve as a logistic volunteer with the Kalyana Mitta Foundation, a community-development and peace-building initiative that works with youth. My intention is to help create and implement a young farmers program with my sending body and community to develop a training center that will support and strengthen farmers, both women and men.
SRI LANKA

Ayoma
Ms. Ayoma Thennakoon

Human and Environment Links Progressive Organization (HELP-O) Field Manager

I have been working with tsunami-displaced farmers to develop their livelihood. My sending body, Human and Environment Links Progressive Organization (HELP-O), is an NGO that seeks to balance development and environmental integrity, and I work to increase participation in Help-O. I wish to learn about leadership development, community empowerment, and agriculture, so I can improve my effectiveness as a field officer.

Thilini
Ms. Chathurika Sewwandi Nanayakkara

Sewalanka Foundation Youth Coordinator & Social Mobilizer

I train rural youth to be leaders through my sending body, Sewalanka Foundation, which works with rural communities to democratically identify and address their own development needs. I am also working with others to establish an inter-religious clergy network devoted to democracy and non-violent social change. At ARI I hope to learn about leadership, methods of community development, and the spirit of organic agriculture.

Suneth
Mr. E. G. Suneth Lakmal

Human Development Foundation Project Officer

As coordinator of the Human Development Foundation’s Galelavela Project, I work with others to improve local communities on many levels. The Galelavela Project specifically works to increase the income level of poor farming families. At ARI I want to develop my skills in agriculture and leadership, and to learn solutions that will replace chemical fertilizers.

NEPAL

Debaki
Ms. Debaki Khadka

TITAN Farmer Facilitator

Through my work with TITAN, an NPO that empowers farmers by providing training for healthy vegetable production, I train both local and immigrant farmers. After ARI, I will resume work with TITAN and share my new ARI experience of organic farming.

Antonio
Mr. Antonio Pedro de Fatima Cavaliho

PAC - Claretian Agriculture Program Teacher & Farm Worker

I work with farmer groups from three tribes in an area near the border with Indonesia, providing seeds and seedlings, and also helping them to sell their produce. I want to deepen my knowledge of organic agriculture and animal husbandry, so that I can demonstrate new organic farming techniques and their outcomes to other farmers.

Carmen
Sr. Carmelinda Dos Santos Almeida

Sisters of the Visitation of Japan Nun, Rural Community Worker

I believe that God gives us good things through nature. I learnt gardening as a schoolgirl in East Timor by working with my father in the fields and growing vegetables. Now, as a Catholic nun, I hope to learn new skills which I can demonstrate to my convent workers, so that in their vegetable garden they will now be able to use different techniques.

LIBERIA

Mike
Mr. Michael Tamba

Liberia Integrated Crop and Pest Management Agricultural Program (LICPMP) Chairman, Community Mobilizer

Recognizing that many farmers lack even basic training in Liberia, my work is to provide opportunities for them to improve their livelihood through new skill acquisition. At ARI I hope to expand my knowledge, so I can implement more substantial training with the goal of forming a farming cooperative one day.

Alice
Ms. Alice Howard

Lutheran Development Service Training Assistant

My life experiences have revealed that the soil is a bank. It has provided my family and many others with the resources for life. My community is still struggling to overcome the effects of war, and I participate in this struggle by teaching agriculture. After ARI I hope we will be renewed by sharing our knowledge and work together.

INDIA

Mario
Fr. Mario Rebello

Society of the Missionaries of St. Francis Xavier Priest, Farm Manager

I want to encourage young people in the interior of northern Goa to take a renewed interest in farming as a livelihood. At ARI I wish to improve my own leadership skills and to learn about pigs, cow, and farming. After returning to India, I plan to implement organic farming techniques on my farm and share these with others.

Cameroon

Collins
Mr. Collins Yenika Litika

Rural Transformation Centre Field Worker, Trainer

My goal as a field worker is to train young men and women to stay in their communities and engage in beekeeping, environmental protection and crop/livestock production for sustainable careers in agriculture. ARI can help me develop the skills to encourage and enable them to do so.

Titus
Mr. Titus Tegwi Atomba

The North West Pig Farmers’ Cooperative Society (NOWEPIFAC) President of Pig Farming Cooperative

By bringing in experts and working directly with pig farmers of my region, I’ve helped farmers to increase production, combat animal disease and strengthen their marketing strategies. At ARI I wish to study sustainable agriculture, pork production, rural economic development and effective methods to transfer this knowledge to Cameroonian communities.

EAST TIMOR

Fidelis
Mr. Fidelis da Silva

Center for Family and Community Development (CEFAM) Social Mobilizer

I have been working with tsunami-displaced farmers. After ARI, I will resume work with CEFAM and share my new ARI experience of organic farming.

Antonio
Mr. Antonio Pedro de Fatima Cavaliho

PAC - Claretian Agriculture Program Teacher & Farm Worker

I work with farmer groups from three tribes in an area near the border with Indonesia, providing seeds and seedlings, and also helping them to sell their produce. I want to deepen my knowledge of organic agriculture and animal husbandry, so that I can demonstrate new organic farming techniques and their outcomes to other farmers.

Carmen
Sr. Carmelinda Dos Santos Almeida

Sisters of the Visitation of Japan Nun, Rural Community Worker

I believe that God gives us good things through nature. I learnt gardening as a schoolgirl in East Timor by working with my father in the fields and growing vegetables. Now, as a Catholic nun, I hope to learn new skills which I can demonstrate to my convent workers, so that in their vegetable garden they will now be able to use different techniques.
I spent the past year at ARI as a participant learning about food self sustainability through organic farming. This year as a Training Assistant I will focus on energy self sufficiency and work hard at learning how to use organic farming for the purpose of creating an efficient energy system. My goal is to then use it along with the participants and find practical ways to use the created energy.

(2013 Graduate)

Through an extracurricular club in University I visited developing countries and experienced how different they are from Japan. I became deeply interested in the problems of poverty and food sovereignty and deciding I wanted to work in international relations enrolled as a student at ARI. Through the agricultural training of last years nine month training and this year’s training as a graduate intern, I want to become a person who can use international relations to create rich harmony.

(2013 Graduate)

The people I serve have health care and sustainable agriculture needs. I coordinate health care activities, provide health education and also provide livestock guidance for farmers. As ARI’s Training Assistant, I will assist in meal service and farming support, while reinforcing the servant leadership skills I honed here as a training program participant.

(2006 Graduate)

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.

The 2014 participants receive scholarships from the following organizations:

- American Friends of ARI
- American School in Japan Swimming Club*
- Asian Rural Welfare Association
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- Haerita Foundation* (Netherlands)
- Igarashi Fund
- Japan Evangelical Lutheran Association
- Kubota Foundation
- National Council of Churches in Japan
- Niikura Kai Foundation
- Osaka Community Foundation
- Rotary Club Yoneyama Foundation
- Salesians of Don Bosco
- Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
- Society of St Columban Region of Japan
- Tokyo American Club Women’s Group
- The United Methodist Church - General Board of Global Ministries
- Tokyo Peace Church Kachin Language Group
- United Church of Canada
- The United Methodist Committee on Relief
- Wesley Foundation (Japan)
- World Council of Churches

*Application pending as of May 1, 2014

The 2014 participants receive scholarships from the following organizations:

- American Friends of ARI
- American School in Japan Swimming Club*
- Asian Rural Welfare Association
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- Haerita Foundation* (Netherlands)
- Igarashi Fund
- Japan Evangelical Lutheran Association
- Kubota Foundation
- National Council of Churches in Japan
- Niikura Kai Foundation
- Osaka Community Foundation
- Rotary Club Yoneyama Foundation
- Salesians of Don Bosco
- Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
- Society of St Columban Region of Japan
- Tokyo American Club Women’s Group
- The United Methodist Church - General Board of Global Ministries
- Tokyo Peace Church Kachin Language Group
- United Church of Canada
- The United Methodist Committee on Relief
- Wesley Foundation (Japan)
- World Council of Churches

*Application pending as of May 1, 2014