That We May Live Together
2020 Annual Report

April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021

Asian Rural Institute
Rural Leaders Training Center
The 2020 training had an unusual start due to the blockade of cities and border closings in each country because of the spread of the novel coronavirus infection. However, we welcomed ten participants (eight from overseas and two from Japan) plus one Japanese Graduate Intern and were able to carry out the training program to the end safely. Fortunately, the spread of infection has been relatively suppressed in northern Tochigi Prefecture. While maintaining community life, we spent the year without compromising ARI’s values but instead reaffirmed the importance of those values. We want to express our sincere gratitude to the many supporters who enabled ARI to overcome the pandemic’s new challenges.

One of the greatest lessons learned from the training during the COVID-19 pandemic is the fact that humans can adapt to a new environment, even one with many constraints. It is something that human history has already revealed, but this “new situation” that humanity has been forced to adapt to suddenly engulfed the world in a short time. And this condition has continued for over a year. Our “adaptation” involves pain, suffering, sadness, and many sacrifices. However, by experiencing our transformation in this adaptation process, we also experience the hope born with it. Moreover, we learned that this hope is not limited to individuals but turns into greater joy when shared with others.

This hope was also reflected in the activities of our overseas graduates. Many graduates shared their wisdom, ingenuity, and other resources with their peers in their respective regions and were active in working for populations that were the most vulnerable to COVID-19. We who have experienced this hope must not stop working for the next generation, but rather increase our efforts more and more.

Through the pandemic, we also reaffirmed the power of the community. ARI has always valued community-based learning, but humans need to be connected to others and have colleagues who can help, consult, and support each other in a crisis. Our connectedness was the most significant force that kept us moving forward without losing sight of our mission. As felt during the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake ten years ago, having friends who will stand beside you through uncertainty and unfathomable fear in order to overcome the crisis together makes survival possible for a fragile lone individual. As a result, we could recover, think about the future, and realize that we can increase our resiliency. We hope to convey these experiences through this Annual Report.
New Paths for Our Training
The 2020 Rural Leaders Training Program

Due to the coronavirus pandemic in 2020, the training program was different from the past years. With the blockade of cities and borders at the end of March to April and the visa revocation measures by the Japanese government, nineteen of the prospective participants were unable to come to Japan. As a result, only ten participants (including two from Japan) and one Japanese Graduate Intern joined the Rural Leaders Training Program. This class was half to one-third of the average class size.

The training did not go as usual, and one after another, trips were canceled or changed to accommodate the conditions. Homestay programs in the Tokyo metropolitan area were canceled. We changed an observation trip involving overnight stays in Saitama to a day trip. Also canceled were observation trips involving overnight stays in the metropolitan area. Under such circumstances, we avoided urban areas, schools, and welfare centers. Since the number of exchange programs decreased, we had more internal discussions during that time. “What is development?” “What is empowerment?” “What is money?” The participants deepened their thought on the core meaning of the words they casually use.

In classroom lectures, participants gained various knowledge necessary for a rural leader, and basically, we were able to carry out lessons comparable to our usual year. Unfortunately, when the virus spread rapidly, we avoided inviting outside lecturers from the metropolitan area. Still, we were able to overcome this problem by connecting with these lecturers online. (The United Church of Canada funded the IT equipment.) Participants attended online lectures in the classroom and staff supported the discussions. This format made it possible to maintain a community of learning in which members live together and learn from each other by connecting with these lecturers online.

As a result, we were able to see new possibilities that ARI had never pursued before. Furthermore, these online classes opened up new paths for learning, connecting us with Tokyo, Osaka, Yamagata, and even Indonesia.

Due to the small number of participants, there were more opportunities for each one to be a group leader in various settings. Since the number of exchange programs decreased, we had more internal discussions during that time. “What is development?” “What is empowerment?” “What is money?” The participants deepened their thought on the core meaning of the words they casually use.

Not the “second best” but a “different best”

RCST focusing on the local community

Not being able to go to the Tōhoku region for the summer RCST, we increased the number of day trips within Tochigi Prefecture. Visiting organic farmers, compost centers, farm-to-table restaurants, local farmers markets, ranches utilizing forests, and many others, we discovered new learning possibilities in social business and the organic farming market. Both the participants who wanted to study marketing and those who were interested in recycling said, “If we were able to go to these places because of this year, we were lucky to be this year’s participants.”

The 2020 participants

The backgrounds of the participants who came to ARI this year are diverse: for example, one works with local women’s groups in the community, while another one works through agriculture and livestock breeding programs. One person aims for a better environment while working as a farmer for many years. One woman quit her banking career and jumped into a community that practices organic farming. We believe that “self-transformation as a rural leader” is the learning that benefits all of these different individuals.

While we tried to design the curriculum to meet the needs of participants, we quickly realized that COVID-19, which we cannot control, opened up new learning possibilities. The participants’ high learning motivation supported these changes. The link between the ARI’s curriculum and the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals has become even more apparent. Despite concerns about the pandemic that continues worldwide, participants were determined to take every opportunity to learn. As a result, these rural leaders, who underwent more self-transformation than expected, returned to their countries and began to work to transform the local people.
An Opportunity, Not a Crisis

Short-term special training in Ghana

A

and then come to Japan. However, this year,

Ghana first, complete the procedures there,

for Sierra Leonean participants to go to

also serves that country. It is customary

Japanese embassy in neighboring Ghana

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participants from Asia and Africa during

2

mid-September. This shortened training

participants had traveled to Ghana, and

Leone closed the border just after the four

due to the influence of COVID-19. Sierra

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participants, including many aspects of

the four Sierra Leonean students are left

behind!

ARI participants from overseas come to

Japan after receiving a visa from the

Japanese embassy in their country. Sierra

Leone does not have one; therefore, the

Japanese embassy in neighboring Ghana

also serves that country. It is customary

for Sierra Leonean participants to go to

Ghana first, complete the procedures there,

and then come to Japan. However, this year,
due to the influence of COVID-19, Sierra

Leone closed the border just after the four

participants had traveled to Ghana, and

then Ghana closed its borders before they
headed to Japan.

ARI staff sought help from Ghanaian

graduates. Immediately, 2018 gradu-

ate John Yeboah raised his hand, saying,

"If that is the case, come to me." If they

can hold out at a graduate's place for the

time being… is what we thought, but John

was already looking ahead. He started a

short-term training program for the four

participants, including many aspects of

the ARI program. It included cultivation of

vegetables and crops (cultivation methods,

seedling management, weed control);

organic farming training classes (bokashi

fertilizer, compost, agricultural materials

using local resources), as well as presenta-
tion skills, observation trips, training,

leadership skills, etc. We were able to connect

online for their interim report and listen to

the presentations here at ARI. We were all

surprised to hear a greeting and introduc-
tion in Japanese at the beginning.

The four participants received train-

ing from John until the end of August and

finally returned to their home country in

mid-September. This shortened training

seems to have been very meaningful for

them, and they greatly appreciated the

opportunity to learn these skills. Above

all, we are proud of our ARI graduate, John

Yeboah, who was able to carry out such a

training program.

Honing My Farming Skills

2020 Advanced Training Course Report

2020 was a year of deepening my learning.

For example, I exchanged opinions with

participants from Asia and Africa during

vegetable cultivation and pig farming and

learned so much from them.

In the first half of the year, I belonged to

the vegetable department. I used a 200m²

field and rice paddy to practice what I

learned as a participant in 2019. In the field,

we worked to prevent diseases and damage

caused by the lack of biodiversity and

improve the soil by using various organic

substances such as rice straw, charcoal, and

fallen leaves as bedding for vegetables.

In the rice paddy, we practiced rice cultivation

using the SRI (System of Rice Intensifica-
tion) method. With this method, water is

kept to a minimum, and single plants are

planted, considering rural areas with little

water and seeds.

In the latter half of the year, I belonged to

the pig farming section to become the

pig section staff from March 2021. I became

the leader of the pig section, honed my pig

farming skills and knowledge, and focused

on measures against classical swine fever.

We instituted several procedures, includ-

ing consistency in changing boots, placing

additional stepping containers to wash

them, and an information-sharing board

about classical swine fever. In addition, to

prevent oversights in the work process we

created an after-work checklist and a form

that describes the past birth record of the

sows and the following season they will be

in heat.

PARTICIPANT STORY

Grasping the Core of Learning

Agustinus Adil

Parish Church of St. Theresa in Mbita (Indonesia)

“Me, English, little little. Farmer, no understanding only talking, practical very important.”

Meet Agustinus Adil, commonly known as Agus. He is a farmer born and bred. While he did not have the opportunity to continue schooling past his child-

hood, he is regarded as a leader by his peers. Thinking about the community and not just his own farm, he began planting trees, saying, “We need forests
to secure water resources.” After he had planted more than 10,000 trees, a river appeared in the area—he had accom-

plished something worthy of a char-
acter from a picture book. He started
growing konjac as a source of income and

recommended it to other farmers.

Agus would string together a sentence in English. ARI staff would use Google Translate to translate handouts into Indonesian, and his classmates would

listen to him carefully.

But ARI is a mysterious place: You encounter many moments that make you think that people somehow communi-
cate with their hearts rather than with

words. Eventually, the people around

him began to understand what Agus wanted
to say. Even his roommate, a Ghanaian,

learned to make best use of the same

broken English as Agus. Although he had

a hard time with reports and essays,

people could see that he grasped the es-

sential concepts.

During his final presentation, Agus
talked about his dream in English, looking

straight ahead into the future. “When I

get home, I will involve the local govern-

ment and promote organic farming.” His

shy smile was unforgettable.

In the center wearing a blue shirt is ARI graduate John Yeboah.
“Producing What We Eat” in Times of Corona

Crops & Vegetables section report

Yield of Major Farm Products in 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Yield</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>3,936 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>3,020 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potato</td>
<td>2,474 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet Potato</td>
<td>804 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soy Bean</td>
<td>2,113 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrot</td>
<td>1,545 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pumpkins</td>
<td>2,053 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onion</td>
<td>2,044 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggplant</td>
<td>43 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kivi</td>
<td>43 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blueberry</td>
<td>37 kg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A t ARI, vegetable cultivation begins in early March. By putting fallen leaves in a frame made of bamboo and rice straw, adding water, and pressing down on this mixture, we created “hotbeds.” Using the heat generated as the leaves ferment, we can grow vegetable and rice seedlings in early spring. Sowing starts with lettuce, cabbage, and celery, which do not require high temperatures to germinate, followed by eggplant, which needs a long seedling-raising period. After that, from late March to early April, we sow summer vegetables such as tomatoes, cucumbers, and bitter melons. We can plant seed potatoes with eyes directly in the fields.

In 2020, we continued to sow and raise seedlings according to the regular cultivation calendar, although only ten participants could join the ARI training. Even with uncertainty about the future, we continued to grow vegetables and crops as best we could based on the desire to “produce what we eat ourselves.” Many volunteers came to ARI, so even with the small number of participants, we obtained yields of over 2000 kg each for potatoes and onions. Even with carrots, we could harvest more than 500 kg and produce about 3000 bottles of carrot juice. In addition, we released 50 ducks into some fields where rice was grown, and their weed control was very successful.

The total yield of pumpkins decreased due to planting them in poorly drained fields. The yield of tomatoes cultivated in the greenhouse did not increase as expected; the cause is the “continuous cropping disorder” caused by growing the same vegetables in the same place. Soil improvement by applying beneficial microorganisms may enable continuous planting to some extent. Still, the basic cultivation technique is to change the location of solanaceous vegetables such as tomatoes, eggplants, and potatoes every year.

We learned a lot from the soil this year as well. If we can go out to the fields every day and keep an eye on the subtle changes that occur, I think we can continue harvesting a lot of delicious, healthy vegetables in the future.

A Shared Place for Food Education

FEAST section report (Food Education and Sustainable Table)

The 2020 “stay-at-home” wave seemed to entice the people of ARI to revisit the kitchen more often than in other years. In addition to making daily meals, we usually make our bread for breakfast, sweets for events, and pickles using seasonal fruits and vegetables. Still, such cooking activities were seen more frequently during earthquakes, nuclear accidents, and the COVID-19 crisis. It is also a great joy to see the surplus rice as a donation to those suffering under the pandemic. Although there are still many issues to be addressed, such as self-sufficiency in animal feed, we are constantly searching for ways to make our agriculture and lifestyle more resilient to climate change and disasters. We hope to provide people with a place to learn about sustainable lifestyles while experiencing this life together.

Thanks to Foodlife Practice

The coronavirus outbreak and the nuclear accident have one thing in common: they both show the limits of capitalism, which is based on steady growth. Nuclear power plants have been driven forward by the scientific belief that nuclear waste and radiation can be disposed of with the advancement of science. The fact that humans have penetrated deep into the natural world through the development of nuclear power plants may have allowed the coronavirus to infect humans. In any case, convenience and efficiency are paramount in all areas, the economy is reaching the limits of growth, and the environment is no longer able to withstand the burden. This unsustainable way of being is coming in waves. As we have seen with the grasshopper outbreaks in India and Africa this year, there is a possibility that new problems will occur one after another on a global scale.

So, I wondered how a disaster-resistant and sustainable lifestyle would look. One answer is circulation. Natural ecosystems are still on a perfect balance and circulation. In the food chain, animals eat plants, microorganisms decompose the organic matter that is their carcasses and residues, and plants absorb the decomposed matter. It is a cycle. Only humans do not follow this cycle.

Money is not circulating in the economy either. The rich are getting richer, the poor are getting poorer, and the gap between the two is getting broader and broader.

ARI’s Foodlife is based on the importance of circulation. Thanks to our work towards self-sufficiency, we always have enough rice in storage to feed our 60 or more community members for a year, and vegetables, eggs, and meat are available all year round. This Foodlife has given us a minimum level of security to survive for the time being, even if it is not “fancy” by any means, we shared safe, delicious, and nutritious food every day. The accumulation of such simple everyday experiences contributed to everyone’s healthy life in this uncertain year.

Osamu Arakawa
Associate Director and Education Director (Farm Manager)
Responding to Livestock Diseases and Using Goat Meat

Livestock section report

T his past year, ARI has been indirectly affected by abnormal outbreaks of liv e-stock diseases. An infectious disease affecting pigs (classical swine fever) appeared in the neighborhood in September. To control the outbreak, the government tightened laws, including prohibiting the feeding of left-over cooked rice and bread rolls from school lunches. We had no choice but to give the latter to our birds instead. In addition, ARI adopted preventive measures to protect our pigs, including vaccination, installing bird nets and protective fences around the piggery, and introducing piggery-only boots and aprons. Beyond the piggery, and introducing piggery-only boots and aprons. Beyond the piggery, and installing bird nets and protective fences

Other livestock activities

In the poultry section, we raised laying chickens and broilers to supply eggs and meat for the community. Because our chicken production is organic, we did not provide vaccines to the broilers, using our organic methods such as garlic water to build immunity. Sometimes, music is played for the birds to help them feel calm and relaxed.

We used grass and bamboo from around the farm to raise the goats and supply our kitchen with meat. Unfortunately, we had no kids born this year and missed having goat milk and its products.

A record number of piglets were born in the pig section. Unfortunately, many died due to being born too small or too early, or from being crushed by the sows. We also lost two sows due to high summer temperatures. We are currently seeking ways to lower the mortality rate.

Suspension of fish farming

We have decided to suspend our fish (carp) aquaculture. Although students were highly interested in tropical fish such as tilapia, they had less interest in the daily management of freshwater fish such as carp. In addition, harvesting and facility maintenance was time-consuming due to issues such as water leaking from the ponds. On the other hand, interest in beekeeping is rapidly increasing, especially among African participants.

I have been working on Japanese honeybees for the past few years, so I would like to change from raising carp to beekeeping in the future. After the suspension of carp production, the existing pond, water pump, rainwater harvesting system, and surrounding orchards will continue as part of the integrated water space training.

Change of staff

Gilbert ‘Jill’ Hoggang, who has been in charge of the pig farming section, will return to his community in the Philippines in 2021. We thank Jill for his twelve years of service to ARI and him as well as he begins a new life at home. Ryo Maki, our 2019 ARI graduate from Japan and 2020 Graduate Intern, took over as pig section staff member in March.

In April 2020, I had finished my role as a staff member at ARI and prepared to go home to Nagaland in India when the coronavirus pandemic hit, forcing me to postpone my departure. I could barely understand what was happening to me, and I spent many sleepless nights. The year 2020 made me face life’s greatest challenges in many respects, mentally, physically, and financially. However, these challenges also enabled me to learn about the depths of Christ’s love and I experienced this love as I continued to live together with ARI’s community members. Through this love, “deeply rooted in the love of Jesus,” as mentioned in the ARI Mission Statement, many people encouraged and prayed with me. There were even people who gave me food and supported me financially.

I thought I already learned so much from the years spent at ARI— as a participant, a training assistant, a staff member—but learned more in the next nine months than during all the time before. The chaos that the pandemic brought about gave me a chance to discover and appreciate the deeper meaning of what I had learned at ARI over more than ten years.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to everybody for being there for me in my darkest times. I want to bless you with the Word of God from James 2:14-17: What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, “Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action.

May God bless ARI and all ARI supporters. We all need a place like ARI, where love and care are lived out in action. Back home, I feel more committed than ever before to work with my people at the grassroots.

Yield of Major Livestock Products in 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chickens</td>
<td>1014</td>
<td>1411</td>
<td>1511</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggs</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk</td>
<td>3,785.9</td>
<td>12,478.9</td>
<td>12,478.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meat</td>
<td>33.8</td>
<td>38.5</td>
<td>41.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish</td>
<td>18.4</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>25.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I am a 2004 graduate. I was sent to ARI by a small community-based cooperative in the Philippines, and I continued to work there after graduation. In 2008, I was invited to be a staff member at ARI, I oversaw the livestock (pig and cattle) section until my retirement in 2021. I was very moved to be able to apply my training as a veterinarian and as a farmer.

My initial challenge was to plan lessons and share my knowledge and experience with the ARI participants and community members. I also had opportunities to hold classes for trainees of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers program, university and high school students, and participants in various ARI programs, and to give lectures off campus and online.

When I first started my work, we were buying imported feed to fatten the pigs and cattle. However, I wondered if this practice was feasible in participants’ countries and regions and if they had alternative livestock feed ingredients. Furthermore, there were always many challenges, such as dealing with radiation and infectious diseases for livestock.

To deal with these challenges, I revised and organized the lecture contents for each topic so that participants could easily understand them, created our syllabus for livestock lectures, and collected various visual resources available in Japan. To address the feed issue, we made fermented feed using local resources such as okara (soy pulp after making tofu) while considering the nutritional components of the feed. As a result, the self-sufficiency rate for our livestock feed reached approximately 50%, and we were able to obtain meat quality on a par with or even better than that of pigs raised only on commercial feed. Working itself was a continuous learning process for me. Working and living with the participants has enriched my knowledge and experience. Many participants are using what they learned to raise pigs after returning to their respective countries. I am very pleased that the twelve years of devoting all my energy to the ARI training program are bearing fruit through our graduates worldwide.
That We May Live Together—
Two Meters Apart
Adapting social distance and other coronavirus countermeasures

That we may live together.” These five simple words that make up ARI’s motto were challenged this year in a way like never before with the worldwide outbreak of the novel coronavirus. The ARI community is built, quite intentionally, around a life of sharing. We share everything from living quarters, cleaning chores, cooking, farm work, recreation, music, ideas, and stories. Perhaps, though, nothing symbolizes life together at ARI more than diverse people sharing meals around a common table. What do we do then, when a group of people talking and eating together is suddenly seen as dangerous, an activity that could spread an unseen virus, break down a community, or cause death? It is no wonder that coronavirus countermeasures were felt most heavily at ARI during meal times.

Anyone visiting ARI before 2020 would have felt the physical closeness of the community as they settled into chairs around a table set for eight. You would most likely have bumped elbows with your neighbor as you reached for one of the common serving bowls, and words and laughter would have made their way around the table faster than you could pass the salt. So, when social distance became the new normal, one of the first countermeasures introduced at ARI was to downsize the number of people who could sit at one table from eight to four. We placed all the serving dishes on the main table, which was overlapped with a plastic sheet, like a buffet line. After meticulous hand washing, each person disinfected their hands with hand sanitizer before making their way through the serving line. Masks stayed on at all times, except while eating. We set up homemade plastic partitions on the tables that, though transparent for visibility, proved to be an excellent sound barrier. Food traveled on an enclosed conveyor belt, which allowed for sound travel. Mealtimes, which were usually the best way to welcome and connect with others, sometimes became an isolating experience as people were told to sit apart or, in some cases, were not permitted to eat in our dining hall Koinonia at all.

We also needed to exercise precaution in how we received people from outside of the community, such as staff and volunteers commuting from local areas, short-term visitors, long-term volunteers, and participants arriving in the community for the first time. During states of emergency, visitors and commuting volunteers were asked not to come to campus, and staff members worked from home if possible. Throughout the year, those freshly arriving in the community were required to do a two-week quarantine before moving into the dorm or sharing a room with a roommate. During this “observation period,” people were asked to take their temperature twice a day for two weeks and keep apart from the other community members as much as possible. This meant they couldn’t enter the kitchen, could only work in the Crops and Vegetables section during Foodlife Work, and had to sleep in the guest house. The same regulations applied to those reentering the community after traveling to highly infected areas, including staff!

Our having to maintain social distance impacted other essential parts of our life together as well. Our beautiful Oikos Chapel was deemed unfit for meeting since a group of people sitting closely together and singing in a poorly vented area also became a dangerous activity under COVID-19. We began conducting open-air Morning Gatherings, first using our outdoor amphitheater and, when the summer sun became too hot, sitting in the shade of trees on the grass at the backside of the library. Planning ‘Community Events’ was a challenge since most off-campus venues were closed to the public. However, it forced us to be creative with our on-campus events, such as organizing a Japanese Culture Day. We were also able to enjoy all four seasons through socially distant outdoor events like cherry blossom viewing in the park and playing in the snow on Mount Nasu. Overall, the percentage of meals eaten outdoors significantly increased this year as eating outside on the deck behind Koinonia was a safer option than eating indoors.

So, did the countermeasures work? We are happy to report that, as of this writing in June 2021, the ARI community remains coronavirus-free. However, maintaining social distance was physically possible because of the smaller than normal community size. If twenty-nine participants had been able to come as planned, we would not have been able to all sit inside Koinonia and remain two meters apart. In that sense, fewer numbers were a blessing in disguise.

Indeed, 2020 was a year in which we learned to count our blessings. We were reminded that each person’s presence is a gift and not to be taken for granted. We were reminded that being able to do life together is an amazing privilege when people are told to stay home and stay apart. Although we are wearing masks and maintaining distance, even though we miss the warmth of hugs and handshakes and the closeness of being crowded together around the table or on benches in the chapel, we are alive by God’s grace and are here at ARI. We still laugh, we still sing, we still hope. We are still finding ways to live together, two meters apart.

Photos:
1. Members keep their distance from each other during an open-air Morning Gathering.
2. Transparent partitions set up in the dining hall.
3. Volunteers and participants enjoy lunch outside as well.
4. Participants try calligraphy during the Japanese Culture Day.
5. Staff members enjoy autumn colors at a community event outside the campus.
I n 2020, ARI’s study camp program had the largest reservation numbers ever. We had worked hard to reestablish relationships that were broken by the 2011 earthquake, and we steadily added new partner organizations. However, due to the influence of COVID-19, the full schedule of programs became a blank slate. As a result, the income from educational programs for visitors was one-tenth the expected income for 2020.

We planned the ARI Open Learning Programs to become “closer,” meaning that more people could embrace the diversity of ARI’s community and bridge the distance between different countries. In 2020, these education programs were incompatible with the COVID-19 restrictions imposed by the government. No matter how hard we tried to develop infectious disease countermeasures, we could not reduce the risk to zero. We continue to be conflicted midway has dropped significantly. Can you create a program for them?” We accepted the challenge and came up with a program. It was held twice, once in July and once in November. We were able to train sixteen JOCV members.

Those who attended gave ARI positive feedback on the program:

“My motivation had dropped from having to stay at home all the time, but I was rejuvenated by talking to JOCV members and ARI participants in the same situation.”

“I did not realize that working together, cooking, and eating would be so encouraging.”

Another unexpected opportunity was the Student Christian Fellowship (SCF) camp. We heard the following story from the SCF manager when planning the camp. “College students have lost their heart and spirit due to the pandemic. They were looking forward to living on campus but couldn’t even enter the university and had to study online-only classes. They just stayed in their small apartments because they didn’t want to bother people by catching COVID-19.” As a result of the 4-day, 3-night camp at ARI, the students who had felt suppressed were able to release their emotions and heal their hearts.

2020 was a year of sharing even with suffering all over the world. During this year, ARI has accepted visitors with anxiety, worries, and restrictions. However, we realized once again that the role of ARI, where you can touch the soil, talk to people, and eat together, is significant. There are still many concerns, but we made a vow in 2021 that a major part of our role is to empathize with people, help them to heal, and provide hope.
2020 Snapshots

Earthquake Memorial and the ARI Becquerel Center

It’s been ten years since the 2011 Great Eastern Japan Earthquake disaster. Every year on March 11th, the anniversary of the earthquake, we hold a worship service to hear about the experiences of that time. This year, we also hosted a commemorative event called “Ten Years from the 3.11 Disaster: Past and Future” featuring Dr. Yasuyuki Fujimura, who led the Nauc community in monitoring local radiation levels after the earthquake. The community effort evolved into the ARI Becquerel Center, which seeks to collect and disseminate valuable information on local radioactive contamination. As of today, the center has measured over 6,000 radiation samples and continues to serve the local community ten years after the 2011 disaster.

2020 has been a year of consciously working to strengthen our “cooperation sales system” based on creativity and relationships of trust. The pandemic caused the cancellation of about thirty external sales events at churches, schools, and bazaars. Also, the number of visitors to ARI sharply decreased. Usually, there are about 2 million yen ($US 20,000) in revenue from event sales inside and outside ARI, and about 500,000 yen ($US 5,000) revenue from our shop. The items are mainly processed in-house and purchased as convenient souvenirs such as coffee, jam, and cookies. We assessed the pandemic situation and decided to prioritize sales of food such as rice, pork, and eggs that are served daily at the table over souvenirs. We believed that pork and eggs, popular with health-conscious people and good-tasting, would be popular with local customers, too. ARI’s sales section focused on delivering food, not on manufacturing and processing. As the popularity of these products spread, we gained new business partners, such as restaurants that valued organic, healthy ARI food products. In this year, we were able to earn over 12 million yen ($120,000) in sales. Due to the pandemic, we were able to receive a sales event renewal of $120,000 in sales. We were able to earn over 12 million yen ($120,000) in sales.

Sustainability is one of the fundamental principles that guide ARI. We are 90% self-sufficient in food production, but we buy nearly 80% of our electricity and heating energy. This purchased energy source is predominantly fossil fuel, resulting in a large carbon footprint. New solar panels at ARI are a step towards sustainable energy independence. By installing a solar energy system with a capacity of 17,102 kW, we have decreased our reliance on fossil fuels by 16%. As a result, we have succeeded in reducing our carbon footprint and increasing our energy and financial sustainability. The panels will reduce ARI’s carbon footprint by approximately 8,753 kg of CO2 and save approximately US$ 1,700 annually. Installed in September, the solar panels have been producing electricity for ARI since then, and the system is working great!

The solar panels will be used as a case study for a course about global warming. In addition, future participants will be able to monitor the electricity produced by the solar panels. Also, the project is a key part of our long-term Sustainable Energy Plan, inspired by the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

John and Frank Sparacio Foundation Funds New Solar Panels

Walter Shore’s Record of ARI’s First Year Resurfaces

Renewal of the Official Website

The spread of COVID-19 made 2020 a difficult year for accepting visitors. So, we set up a PR team last April with the thought that we would like graduates and those connected to ARI both within Japan and the larger world to “feel close to Asian Rural Institute.” Our team continues to post updates three times weekly on social media: our official Facebook and Instagram accounts.

The spread of COVID-19 made 2020 a difficult year for accepting visitors. So, we set up a PR team last April with the thought that we would like graduates and those connected to ARI both within Japan and the larger world to “feel close to Asian Rural Institute.” Our team continues to post updates three times weekly on social media: our official Facebook and Instagram accounts.

Through sharing ARI’s daily scenery, event information, and alumni stories, our followers have doubled in one year. More than anything, we’ve been delighted and encouraged by comments that say, “I always look forward to your posts.” Please be sure to check out our updates!
Together with Supporters

Supporters

L

ooking back on the academic year of 2020, we are overwhelmed with grati
tude. With the global confusion and great uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic
continuing, we have appreciated all your support, encouragement, and strength.
Here are some examples of the comments that ARI supporters sent in:

"This year has seen the unexpected coro
navirus spreading throughout the world
far and wide. Especially at such a time,
reading your newsletter Aja no Touhi has
helped cleanse my heart and imbued me
with hope for the future." (Ms. H., Tomo
no Kai in T.)

"We are always supporting your precious
work. I am sure you are facing a difficult
time, but we are praying that you will be
able to overcome the difficulties and carry
on with the valuable work of the Institute." (Y.H.)

ARI continues thanks to the behind
the-scenes support, relationships, and
prayers offered by so many of you. We are
conscious of the kindness that lies behind
the support you give us. Your kindness
makes us aware that our work is indeed
a grand participatory project, embracing
those of you within Japan, and indeed,
throughout the world, enabling us to fulfill
our mission of "training rural leaders" in
the hope "that we may live together." Our
training program would not be possible
without you.

While our staff has not visited in person
due to the pandemic, we have reached out
to many supporters via letters, telephone,
and emails. As a result, we have been able
to have conversations with our support-
ers, hearing things like how they became
involved in supporting ARI. We hope that
there will be more chances to connect with
them and deepen our bonds in a way that
fits in with the character of ARI. During
this time, when we have to keep social
distance from one another, we desire to
foster closer human relationships with our
supporters. We continue to believe that we
are called to carry on with the tradition of
honoring the simple, grassroots network of
human relationships that have continued
unchanged for the last 49 years.

Your Kindness Is Reaching Us!

Intangible but present more than ever,
we are supported by solid connections

Volunteering During a “New Normal”

ARI’s volunteers in 2020

L

ast year, we were forced to take new
measures in almost all aspects, includ-
ing farm work, meal preparation, academic
affairs, and office work. As a result, volun-
teers needed to play an even more signif-
ificant role than in past years while still
flexibly adapting to the ever-changing
situation.

Each year, we receive volunteers from
various backgrounds. This year, many
applied because their plans to study abroad
were canceled or university classes were
held online. These changes offered them
more freedom to explore their continuing
desire to experience something new despite
the challenges presented by COVID-19.

We saw the number of Japanese volun-
tees increase dramatically.

In 2020, we had thirteen volunteers
from Japan and three from overseas. These
numbers had several impacts. When many
Japanese volunteers are at ARI, it becomes
easier for most people to communicate in
Japanese. Due to this, Japanese volunteers
tend to gather and inadvertently impair
human relationships since it is naturally
more challenging for non-Japanese speak-
ers to be part of the conversation. Despite
this, each volunteer demonstrated a clear
understanding and awareness of purpose.
They participated in the community and
worked diligently on the duties assigned
to them. Sometimes, they took the lead in
being the driving force of encouragement
for the community.

ARI tried to devote more time to
the volunteers through individual or
group consultations, which gave space to
acknowledge and support each person and
their feelings. However, measures such as
asking local commuting volunteers to
refrain from activities for a few weeks
were put in place according to COVID-19
countermeasure guidelines by ARI and the
government. There was concern that rela-
tionships could become strained and that
some may not return to volunteer. Yet, they
too adapted to the guidelines and flexibly
participated in various activities.

Among the participants, we main-
tained the quality of education despite the
smaller group. Overall, we were able to
steadily continue our activities and life at
ARI through our work and our meals, both
rooted in Foodlife. Society was experiencing abstract anxiet-
ies about health and the economy. It was
going through constant unpredictable
changes throughout the year. In this time,
volunteers empathized with the unwaver-
ing philosophy of ARI’s Foodlife, Commu-
nity of Learning, and Servant Leadership.
Some reflected that their thoughts and
understanding of life deepened gradually,
through daily work, shared within the
community.

Volunteering During a “New Normal”

ARI’s volunteers in 2020

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Some reflected that their thoughts and
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through daily work, shared within the
community.
Like everyone worldwide, ARI had challenges in 2020. We are grateful to all of you, ARI’s supporters and partners, individuals and organizations, who remembered us throughout the year through prayer, caring thoughts, and gifts. Although we could not meet in person at ARI or in your homes or offices, it was encouraging to keep in touch by email and video calls. We especially appreciate this because we knew these times were challenging for you, too. Because you understood our need to pursue our mission and supported us, we were able to carry out the 2020 Rural Leaders Training Program.

Support for our training

Our local and international connections continued with a virus-mitigation grant from the United Church of Canada used for information and computer technology equipment. The new video conferencing system enables classes with outside lecturers, students, and overseas graduates. With individual tablets, the classroom can be interactive as participants, lecturers, and university students talk with each other directly during class discussions instead of seeing a sea of faces on the screen. We also purchased COVID-19 hygiene and protection supplies. We were able to support the unexpected short-term training program in Ghana organized by an ARI Graduate with the help of UC Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA). Scholarship support came from the American Friends of ARI (AFARI) in the ELCA, the Methodist Church in Britain, Tokyo American Club-Connections, and the United Methodist Church. Workshops and program support was given by AFARI and the United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ (UCC). Although there were travel restrictions, participants visited many local farmers and associations within Japan. We shortened the trips and concentrated on the most critical topics for the training. Support for study tours came through both the Evangelical Mission in Solidarity, Germany, and the UCC.

Campus and community

Travel restrictions caused the cancellation of internships and overseas volunteer programs in 2020. We greatly missed having these teams add our community’s flavor and diversity by contributing their talents, hard work, and lively discussions each year. Apart from COVID-19, the worldwide epidemics of bird flu and swine fever required new safety measures. Japan’s Livestock Agency in Metro Center has increased the regulations for raising livestock. A grant from UC Canada offset the costs of a fence required around the pigpen buildings and hygiene equipment that must be worn by all workers going into the area.

Our Supporters & Partners

We express our gratitude to the many donors.

A list of individuals, congregations and other organizations in Japan who donated toward ARI during fiscal 2020 can be found in the Japanese version of the 2020 Annual Report and ARI’s website.

Overseas Individual Donors

Makiko Abe
Mano Abe Chattejee
Bibi Abma
in memory of John Howeos
Mayo Kato, and Noriko Letack
Michelle and Harry Acosta
Vicki Anderson
Annamies
Nimai Aoyagi
Tomoko Ayukawa
Eugene and Los Bakko
Rachel Baker
John Byrnes
Martha Buesa
Aidan and Janet Blake
Dan and Barbara Belhi
Colleen Bower
Paul and Sharon Brower
Colm Browne
Lawrence and Corona Brown
Patricia Budiman
Rachel Butler
Kathy Burton-Lewis
Mary Cherry
Harry Chandler
Dianna Chapel
Anne Cheze
Ginger Church
in memory of Mayosie Darke
Fred G. Clark
Dave Costantina and Rebecca Dickson
in honor of Bob and Joyce Darke
John Cobbe
Mary Anne and Ephraim Cohen
Lawrence et al.
Ben Corpe
Margot Cross
Elisabetha Cutler
Steven and Will Cutler
Richard and Alice Daley
Kenneth and Elise Dale
Aldes Dantyre
Mr. Sherry Delaney
Mary Anne Devries and Tom Schle
Lois Dickson
David Ditchon
Marge Dickson
Skip and Jerry Dickinson
in memory of Toshio “Tom” Ditchon
Teri Ditchon
Fred and Carol Edmonds
Naresh Etcherenkar
Dick & Eis Elgo
in memory of Rev. Margaret Holland
Linda Emanuel
Beate Falet
Lynne Fackayan
Mary Ferguson
Cardin Francis
Bill and Joanne Fraser
Dean and Elaine Freundenberg
Kathy Freede
Ben and Carol Futa
Joan Furnett
in honor of Ben Abma
Hai Van and Binh Carpenter
Bruce and Karen Gansen
Jenishah Gattin
Joan & Ken Gallahan
Stephen and Erin Gerdes
Dicky and Anne Gillet
James and Norris Goto
Ann Graham
Susan Glynis
Betty Haley
Hunter Hale
Mark Hamamoto
in memory of Joanne Hamamoto
Manca Hampton
Peg and Harley Hampton
Rebecca Hay
Margaret Handberg & Carl Wise
in honor of Rev. Margaret Holmström
Julia HARDT
Pam and Saul Haegenson
in memory of Geetha Delhos
Nag VanThu
Jacqueline Haslett
Tom and Carol Hastings
Paul Hastings
Nelma Hart
Carolyn Hart
with Bill Herline
Sally Higgins
John Hinote, and Jeannette Deping
David and Sandra Hinoto
Charly Hoffmann
Renee Hoffman
in memory of Derek Hoffman
Renato Hoffmann
Theresa Holmström
Margaret Holmström
Hannah Hone
William and Eleanor Hornaman
Ashley Hoover
Barbara Rose Hoover
Adeline Hoover
John Hoy
Brooke and Michele Hoover
J.B. and Adeline Hoover
in memory of Mayo Kato, and Randy Osse
Cheri Howe
John Hoyt
Nancy and Thomas Iku
Joan Ishiash
Satoshi Itoh
Vincenzo James
Annette Jim
David Johnson
in memory of Evelyn Kutscher
Nancy Jones
Nyoko and Hatsumi Kagayama
Gabriel Katsiotis
Eunice Kayman
Key Renos Hara
David Kessler
Rhen Kiemel
Nobuah Kikuchi
Takah Kikuchi
Douglas and Marjorie Kinney
Mary Jo Kneer
Lalaine Knoettle
in memory of Bill Knoettle
Evelyn Knoettle
Ronald and Elisabeth Kutscher
Anne & Jane Lavegan
Robert Lavers
Martin and Barbara Lang
Noriko Los
Dot Lingkan and Bradford Connolly
in honor of Alice Friend
Carl Latham
James Latimer
Jim and Gretchen Lewis
Miharu Logan
Margaret Logan and Robe Larson
Bill Lumitenn
Hilary Lynch
Roy Margulies
George and Joyce Magee
David Mair
Julie Harriers
in memory of Roger and Betty Harriers
Ellen and Jim Manley
Kathleen Matsuhisa
Joan and Diane Matsuno
Patrick and Eunice Moulke
Jennifer RN Lee
Barbara Memendel
Mervin Miller
Mike and Donna Miller
Eleanor Moore
Elizabeth Merry
Mickie and Tom Morgan
Jim Moss
in honor of Carolyn Moss, Alex Moss and Randy Rower
Barbara L. Mueller
in memory of Ethel Nakamura
Kumi and Gary Nomura
Emily Noel
Shaw and Nilson Nolan
Zoie Olson
Shelley Quak
and Joyce Ray
Josee Riches
Sue and Lynne Riches
Sharon Riches
Shirley Riches
Shalu and Yamamoto
Juju Tonend
Rosa Vanessa-Baloy
in memory of Noriko Las
Lawrence and Jean Young
Ken and Connie Sansome
Matinelle Sawada Yoshino
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Norma Taplin
Stephen Tarr
Kathy Tettamanti-Pak
Robert and Hazel Tetsuro
Tashiro Tomoyo
Paul Thompson
Rick Turegano
in memory of Rich Thompson
Jim and Kathryn Twice
Jill Twice
Warren Unato
Anna Unato, Kent-Pol
Glen Van Vlaha
Theoskeonomos Vigneswaran
Ellen Van Vlaha
Ben and Carolyn Weikie
Paulie and Karen Wilkie
Shawn Wilson and Van Bobbi
Ellen and J.B. Hoover
Jane and Gene Wife
Hugh and Sandra Woodoff
Rebecca Wright
Angela Xiong
Roy and Frances Yamaki
Brit Yamamoto
Shi-Shi and Yu Yamamoto
Judy Yeowdell
Rosie Vanis-Boyle
in memory of Noriko Las
Lawrence and Jean Young

Overseas Donor Organizations

Amherst - UCC, Amherst, MA
The United Church of Christ (Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ)
Harry United Methodist Church, Honolulu, HI
Ren and Jean Colin Family Foundation
Michell Memorial Presbyterian Church, NJ
St. Alban’s Anglican Ecumenical Church, Japan
Shadaloh United Church of Christ, New Haven, CT
Evangelical Mission in Solidarity, Germany
First Congregational Church in Amsterdam, UT, Amherst, WA
First United Methodist Church of Clermont
Friendship Christian Reformed Church
Global Ministries - The United Methodist Church
Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ)
Harri United Methodist Church, Honolulu, HI
Ren and Jean Colin Family Foundation
Michell Memorial Presbyterian Church, NJ
St. Alban’s Anglican Ecumenical Church, Japan
Shadaloh United Church of Christ, New Haven, CT

Legacy Circle

Fred G. Clark
Kenneth and Eloise Dale
Kathy Freede
Pam and Stuck Haagensen
David and Sandy Hinoto
Ellen and Jim Manley
Ronald Morris
Harri Potter
Bob and Joyce Ray
Craig Rose and Anny Saetre, Libya
Sarah Schenkel
Kay Shank
Barbara Smith
Don and Mayo Kato
Jim and Kathryn Twice

THAT WE MAY LIVE TOGETHER

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

18
ARI graduates go online

This year, ARI partner organizations conducted international conferences online, giving graduates the chance to participate as they never had before. Many graduates attended the ECHO International Agricultural Conference in the USA. Sierra Leone graduate Manibud Samai (2019 graduate) presented at the Oxford Real Farming (Online) Conference about “the healing role of farming” in his work with amputees from that country’s brutal civil war.

Moving online has enabled ARI to invite graduates as guest lecturers. During the 2020 Graduate Seminar, Wesly Lingga logged in from Indonesia, bringing his wisdom as an organic farmer and village leader to the classroom. This success has inspired us to expand the role of graduates in the training program.

One of the most worrying aspects of COVID-19 is the emergence of stigmas against those suffering from this illness. Such stigmas affect not only the individual who is sick but also their family members. Neighbors of a relative of a COVID-19 patient insulted him and threatened to drive him out of the village. In another place, residents refused the burial of a COVID-19 victim in a public cemetery. Health monitoring teams were also distrusted by villagers. These stigmas arose because of a lack of information and because of many false rumors and hoaxes on social media.

Because of my worries and my desire to help the community, even though I am in Germany, I coordinated with my friends to build an initiative called “Dairi We Care” in my hometown in the Dairi Regency of North Sumatra. One of our activities is to educate society to stop stigmatization. Thankfully, these stigmas are in decline.

Looking back at 2020, I feel that the crisis has built in me a vibrant and strong personality. This is the third major crisis I have experienced in my life. First, there was the Liberian civil war. Then came the 2014 Ebola outbreak which was far more deadly and destructive than the coronavirus. Now we have COVID-19. In these times our minds, bodies, and spirits are developing to respond to the emergency. These crises remind us that life is fragile and unpredictable, and at some point, we are all weak and need others.
Asian Rural Institute expresses its sincere gratitude for your support.

Balance Sheet
ARI experienced a decrease in assets of approximately $450,000 from 2019 to 2020. This includes the termination of a draft at maturity. Despite this decrease, we were able to fund reserves of approximately $49,000 to support retirement benefits and facility equipment maintenance.

Liabilities also decreased by approximately $68,000, allowing us to repay long-term debt and school bond redemption. In anticipation of tight cash flow due to the pandemic, we have an approved loan of $270,000 and issued new school bonds of $97,000 to help stabilize finances.

General Overview
Continued to remain tight throughout the duration of the pandemic. We were able to minimize the impact of this reduction by generating income from meals paid by working visitors, long-term volunteers, etc. In Sales we were able to maintain the same income as last year and observed an increase of nearly 22% from livestock products.

Both income and expenses decreased proportionally with the end balance remaining comparable to previous years. In anticipation of future challenges, we secured relief loans that allowed us to carry forward unrestricted funds. Complete financials will be made available upon request.

We remain focused on creating a sustainable campus and continue to develop strategies to achieve these goals during the pandemic while stabilizing our finances. We ask for continued support from our partners as we strive for a world with a fair, peaceful and healthy environment in which individuals can maximize their potential.

Statement of Revenue and Expenses
(a) Tuition scholarships and fees $208,000 Due to the decrease in the number of training participants from overseas, we received less funding for scholarships. Some scholarship organizations changed their contribution from a restricted scholarship to an unrestricted donation or scholarship.

(b) Donations: $692,000 We experienced an increase in donations (does not include scholarship and travel fees) over last year of 132%. We secured $130,000 in emergency support for COVID-19 and received several large donations from individuals.

Domestic Individual donations increased by nearly 118% over last year and organizational donations decreased by nearly 90% as a result of the pandemic. Overseas: Increase of funds is as a result of a planned 3-year distribution of funds from the United Church of Canada.

(c) Subsidies $29,000 We received subsidies last year: $7,000 for student support from the Ministry of Education, Cultures, Sports, Science, and Technology. $1200 for elementary school leave for three staff members from the Ministry of Labor, Health, and Welfare, and $18,000 from the National Relief Fund.

(d) Sales and Special Services $180,000 The majority of the income is derived from Services, including visitors and groups, both domestic and overseas. Our services income decreased 79% due to lack of visitors and cancelled programs. However, we were able to limit the impact of this reduction by generating income from meals paid by working visitors, long-term volunteers, etc. In Sales we were able to maintain the same income as last year and observed an increase of nearly 22% from livestock products.

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Both income and expenses decreased proportionally with the end balance remaining comparable to previous years. In anticipation of future challenges, we secured relief loans that allowed us to carry forward unrestricted funds. Complete financials will be made available upon request.

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Financial Report

Balance Sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>March 31, 2010</th>
<th>March 31, 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Assets</td>
<td>$6,050,244</td>
<td>$7,306,506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property</td>
<td>$7,126,077</td>
<td>$8,675,283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Assets</td>
<td>$9,154,534</td>
<td>$4,970,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Fixed Assets</td>
<td>$14,433</td>
<td>$5,363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
<td>$22,121</td>
<td>$500,955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$8,384,555</td>
<td>$7,957,402</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Liabilities</td>
<td>$826,432</td>
<td>$1,458,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
<td>$1,650,273</td>
<td>$380,955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>$2,481,705</td>
<td>$1,839,251</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net Assets</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Endowments</td>
<td>$10,815,580</td>
<td>$10,502,242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Endowments</strong></td>
<td>$11,017,413</td>
<td>$11,692,773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>$8,364,555</td>
<td>$7,957,402</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Auditors’ Statement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The above audited financial statements have been prepared by the Fujimura Tax and Accounting Service, Inc. and approved by the ARI auditor, Mr. Oikou and Mr. Murata. All the documents were properly kept and there were no irregularities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| May 12, 2021 |
| Asian Rural Institute |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Auditors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tomohiro Oikou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sakae Murata</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statement of Revenue and Expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operating Revenue</th>
<th>2020 Budget</th>
<th>2020 Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Educational Activities Revenue</td>
<td>$204,514</td>
<td>$208,183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships and Fees</td>
<td>$21,516</td>
<td>$21,391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>$2,673</td>
<td>$2,629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entrance fees</td>
<td>$7,001</td>
<td>$6,924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions for board</td>
<td>$7,933</td>
<td>$6,244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions for lodging</td>
<td>$3,900</td>
<td>$4,478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions for transportation</td>
<td>$1,204</td>
<td>$3,949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic individuals</td>
<td>$8,944</td>
<td>$9,703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic organizations</td>
<td>$68,000</td>
<td>$71,097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas individuals</td>
<td>$23,533</td>
<td>$23,533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas organizations</td>
<td>$56,487</td>
<td>$58,447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees for issuing certificate</td>
<td>$289</td>
<td>$279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$305,043</td>
<td>$305,043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non Educational Activities Revenue</td>
<td>$750,643</td>
<td>$602,812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>$486,033</td>
<td>$493,067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic individuals</td>
<td>$101,351</td>
<td>$136,192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic organizations</td>
<td>$116,711</td>
<td>$118,351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas individuals</td>
<td>$49,101</td>
<td>$49,101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas organizations</td>
<td>$227,257</td>
<td>$181,061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants for special projects</td>
<td>$171,166</td>
<td>$122,486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special donations</td>
<td>$1,128,747</td>
<td>$1,019,060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$1,170,813</td>
<td>$1,152,009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operating Expenses</th>
<th>2020 Budget</th>
<th>2020 Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Educational Activities Expenses</td>
<td>$71,330</td>
<td>$78,754</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff and personnel</td>
<td>$24,524</td>
<td>$32,115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and research</td>
<td>$159,830</td>
<td>$159,830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>$390,820</td>
<td>$392,154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$716,525</td>
<td>$752,847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Operating Expenses</td>
<td>$1,541,375</td>
<td>$1,524,517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest paid on debt</td>
<td>$5,150</td>
<td>$5,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation expense</td>
<td>$1,172,687</td>
<td>$1,172,687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$1,192,835</td>
<td>$1,190,887</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non Educational Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Special expenses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Operating Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$1,555,214</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Scholarship and fees - include Japanese and overseas participants. Tuition and travel fees for overseas participants are covered by donations and scholarships from supporting organizations and individuals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Special donations include donations (individuals/groups) that are over $2,500. Donations under $2,500 are in General Donations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Revenues are derived from organizing seminars, programs, sales of farm products, and fees on camps.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Auditor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tomohiro Oikou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sakae Murata</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March 31, 2010</th>
<th>March 31, 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Donations</td>
<td>$6,050,244</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overseas Donations</td>
<td>$7,126,077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Donations</td>
<td>$9,154,534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>$14,433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Donations</strong></td>
<td>$22,121</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Audit Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Auditor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tomohiro Oikou</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

That We May Live Together
Annual Report 2020
THAT WE MAY LIVE TOGETHER
ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Leadership
Servant Leadership
ARI History and Mission
Participatory Learning and Action
Independent Learner

Time Management
Presentation Skills
Facilitation Skills
Religion and Rural Life
Report Guidance
Coaching
Peace, Justice and Reconciliation
Dignity Workshop

Development Issues
Environment and Development
Nutrition and Development
Home Economy
Credit Union
Localization
Gender Issues
Ashio Cooper Mine and Shôzô Tanaka
Climate Change Challenge
Nan Canal and Rural Development
Japan's Organic Farming Movement and JA
Rural Development in Kawanishi
Community Development Strategy in Yufuin
Nagai Rainbow Plan and Yoshidelberg
SOGG and ARI

Sustainable Agriculture/Technology
Organic Farming
Crops and Vegetables
Rice Cultivation
Livestock
Disease Control of Crops and Vegetables
Disease Control of Livestock
Dangers of Chemical Farming
Natural Farming in Tropical Areas
Alternative Marketing Systems
Bogie workshop
Agricultural technique
Livestock technique
Heat processing

Graduate Seminar
Organizational Sustainability

Japanese Language
Intensive Language class, Japanese culture

Practical Field Study
Crops & Vegetables Emphasis
Bokashi fermentioning, comptent making, collection and utilization of indigenous microorganisms, fermentated plant juice, fish amino acid, water-soluble calcium, charcoal and wood vinegar making, rice husk charcoal, seed collection, seedling nursing using soil blocks, mushroom cultivation

Livestock Emphasis
Artificial insemination, delivery, castration, chickens, brooding, fish-farming, livestock disease control, feed formulation, fermented feed, animal rearing with vermifed food

Meeting Processing
Sausage and ham making

Field Management Activities
Group farm management (vegetable cultivation and livestock management)
Foodlife work (farm work and food preparation for self-sufficiency)
Group leadership system

Others
Community work (rice transplanting, rice harvesting, etc.), activities to promote spiritual growth (Morning Gathering, assembly, reflection paper, reflection day), oral presentations, Harvest Thanksgiving Celebration, international fellowship programs, observation trips, Rural Community Study Tour, Western Japan Study Tour, etc.

Board of Directors
Tomoko Arakawa
Rev. Yoshiya Ishikawa
Hidetomo Washino
Rev. Hiroki Koizumi
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Dr. Eiji Tatsumoto
Osamu Arakawa
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Mamoru Kuwabara
Reina Tomatsu
Shimpei Murakami
Gilbert Hoggang
Takashi Ôtani
Timothy B. Appau
Osamu Arakawa
Gilbert Hoggang
Takashi Ôtani
Timothy B. Appau
Osamu Arakawa
Gilbert Hoggang
Takashi Ôtani
Timothy B. Appau
Osamu Arakawa

Staff
Tomoko Arakawa
Osamu Arakawa
Yûko Emura
Yukiko Ôyanagi
Yoshiyuki Nagata

Volunteers
Committing Volunteers
Food Life (Food)

Foodlife (FEAST)

Foodlife (Livestock)

Foodlife (Crops & Vegetables)

Curriculum

Staff

Volunteers
Committing Volunteers
Food Life (Food)

Foodlife (FEAST)

Foodlife (Livestock)

Foodlife (Crops & Vegetables)

Curriculum

Staff

Volunteers
Committing Volunteers
Food Life (Food)

Foodlife (FEAST)

Foodlife (Livestock)

Foodlife (Crops & Vegetables)

Curriculum

Outsourcing Staff

Volunteers
Committing Volunteers
Food Life (Food)

Foodlife (FEAST)

Foodlife (Livestock)

Foodlife (Crops & Vegetables)

Curriculum

Staff

Volunteers
Committing Volunteers
Food Life (Food)

Foodlife (FEAST)

Foodlife (Livestock)

Foodlife (Crops & Vegetables)

Curriculum

Staff

Volunteers
Committing Volunteers
Food Life (Food)

Foodlife (FEAST)

Foodlife (Livestock)

Foodlife (Crops & Vegetables)

Curriculum

Staff
The 2020 Graduates

Rural Leaders Training Program

India (1) Shothayi Dozo (Grace Home Khutsokhuno)

Indonesia (2) Agustinus Adil (Parish Church of St Theresia)

Vietnam (3) Tran Thi Bich Thanh (That Duong Vietnam)

Kenya (4) Celestine Mitsanze (Institute of Participatory Development)

(5) Martin Gikunda Kiriga (Methodist Church in Kenya)

(6) Mwalimu Shehe Muzungu (Magarini Children Center and Organic Farming Demonstration Farm)

Ghana (7) Joshua Ofori Sutah (Presbyterian Church of Ghana)

Rwanda (8) Saidath Murunukwere (Dufatanye Organization)

Japan (9) Yûta Kimura

(10) Hiroko Komatsubara

Advanced Training Course

Japan (11) Ryô Maki

>>> It’s Time to Invest in Rural Community Leadership

The Asian Rural Institute is a school that promotes learning to live together while training leaders from grassroots rural communities. It is supported by forward-thinking people who care about a sustainable future. Would you like to join with your financial support?

Donate from Japan
Account: (Postal Money Order) 00340-8-8758
Name of account: Gakkou Hojin Ajia Gakuin
(Asian Rural Institute)

Donate from Overseas
Please visit http://www.ari-edu.org/en/support/bank/ to learn about different ways to support and donate to ARI.

Asian Rural Institute
Rural Leaders Training Center