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AAI celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2024

Appropriate Agriculture International Co., Ltd. marked its 40th anniversary on December 14, 2024, thanks to the support its partners and stakeholders. Over the last decade, the first generation of staff who joined at its founding has gradually retired, making a generational transition. In addition, 2020 marked a major turning point due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. International travel was suspended, and staff commuting was also restricted. As a result, the company accelerated the adoption of remote work arrangements. At our 30th anniversary in 2014, we invited external guests and looked back on AAI's history since its founding. For this 40th anniversary, instead of looking back, we focused on the future and held an event bringing together former and current staff to introduce what they are doing today. It was held on December 25, 2024.

Since its founding in 1984, AAI has been a small company with no more than 12 staff members, but a total of 23 people have worked for us over the years. For this gathering, in the spirit of "Once part of AAI, always part of AAI," we invited everyone who has been a member of AAI and contributed to our work to join us as fellow alumni. Unfortunately, we were unable to contact some people, and others were unable to attend due to scheduling conflicts. Nevertheless, we were fortunate to welcome participants who traveled from as far away as Ishigaki Island, Oita, Miyazaki, Okayama, Nagoya, and Shizuoka, despite the busy end-of-year period. On the day of the event, 18 former and current staff gathered, along with three longtime supporters from outside the company, bringing the total number of attendees to 21.

The meeting was held in three parts. The first part, titled "Confession," consisted of brief presentations by all participants on their recent activities, interests, thoughts, and other topics. In addition to reports from current staff working overseas, other participants shared a wide range of topics, including local community activities, traditional festivals, NPO activities, the challenges of starting farming, and personal experiences from their private lives. Although the presentations varied widely in style, each reflected the individuality and personality of its presenter.

In the second part, we explored how participants are applying their overseas experience to benefit Japan. Four speakers gave slide presentations on agriculture and environmental conservation rooted in various regions of Japan. They shared not only the rewards of their daily efforts but also the challenges of integrating into local communities and future challenges, making the session meaningful.



Participants in the 40th Anniversary Event

The third part of the event shifted from the conference room to a Chinese restaurant, where we held a social gathering. Coincidentally, the day happened to mark the first anniversary of the passing of our former representative, Michimasa Kojima. We began with a toast in his memory and then enjoyed deeper conversations and lively discussions, rekindling old friendships.

To celebrate our 40th anniversary, we have published a commemorative booklet that includes a summary of our achievements over the past ten years, as well as excerpts from AAINews articles. The section on domestic initiatives features articles that highlight the unique activities of our alumni, and we hope you enjoy reading it.

We are grateful for your continued support and encouragement. (February 2025)