

## ***"Human Resource Development"- Our Challenges in Training Activities***

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Needless to say, the main purpose of training is human resource development, by providing skills and knowledge needed for certain activities. In the case of developing countries, however, provision of new skills and knowledge alone is often not enough. Also the importance is how trainees make use of what they learned from the training back home, or how and what sort of new development projects they will be able to form afterwards. In other words, in addition to skills and knowledge, it is important to monitor what can actually be started on the ground as a consequence of the training, and also to provide support if and as necessary in order to realize that. Therefore, development training should play a role not only as a place to provide skills and knowledge for trainees, but also as a sort of catalyst to promote development activities in the trainees' home countries. For instance, we may expect to see some new projects coming up in trainees' countries making use of lessons from the training at the Tsukuba International Center. We could also modify our training programmes so as to take into account the potential project activities to be started in the trainees' home countries upon completion of the training. We should put more effort to consider and realize such active application of training activities in the future.

### ***AAI's New Management Structure and Homepage***

AAI celebrates its 20th anniversary on 14th December 2004. For the past two decades AAI has been working mostly in arid areas of the Middle East and Africa, providing technical assistance for developing countries in the fields of agriculture, forestry, rural development, regional development planning and environmental conservation. We are very grateful to those who have been supporting and encouraging our activities.

On this occasion, AAI will start afresh with a new management structure, which has been adopted at the shareholders' meeting and executive meeting this August as below:

Representative Director:	Hiroyasu Onuma
Managing Director:	Yoshihisa Zaitso
Managing Director:	Akira Koto
Auditor:	Nobuko Yonekura

Our recent news includes our participation in the Master Plan Study on Restoration, Conservation and Management of Mangrove in the Sultanate of Oman. In Syria we have long been involved in water saving and irrigation projects. Based on this experience we are participating in development project identification activities in the same area in Pakistan and Tajikistan. Furthermore we have put lots of effort into training activities. We participated in the training courses in the Tsukuba International Center such as Country focused group training course on vegetable cultivation for the republic of Tajikistan and Regional focused group training course on vegetable and upland crops cultivation techniques for southern African countries. In addition we carried out lectures on animal fodder production and utilization techniques at the National Livestock Breeding Center. Upon request we have delivered lectures in universities in Japan on arid land agriculture and resource management in order to introduce our activities and to nurture new young technicians who will shoulder the future responsibility for overseas technical assistance.

Also we have established a new homepage, in which you can read the past issues of AAI News from its first issue in 1995. The address is as below. Please have a look.

<http://www.koushu.co.jp>