



TOA Partners Meeting Report

Maejo University, Chiang Mai, Thailand, 30 March - 2 April 2017



Towards Organic Asia

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PGS and Organic Seeds Study Trip

30 March 2017 (09.00- 16.30)

Communities in Amphor Sansai and Maejo University Seeds Project

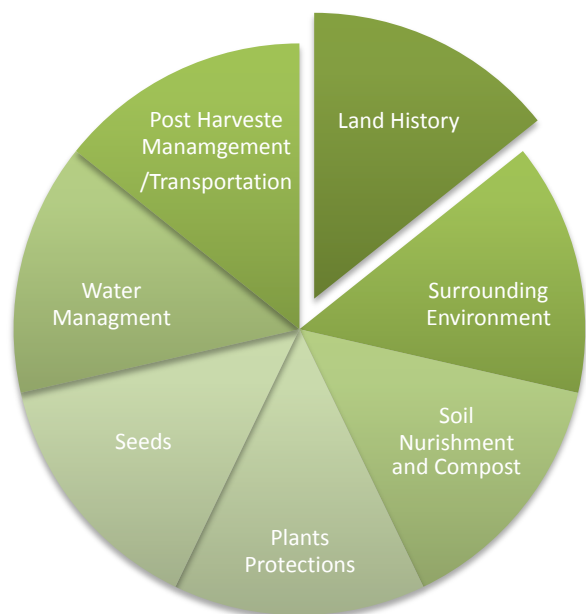
PGS- Inspection visit



This programme has hosted by GreenConnex Project. TOA partners (12 people) joined with young organic farmers (5 people) and traveled to Amphor Sansai to visit organic farmers. The communities got support and join the "Biz Green Organic" Project under Business Administrative, Maejo University. The project purposes are 1) developing the organic farmer network in the neighboring area of Maejo University 2) Raising Awareness on organic food and consumer club in Maejo University 3) Developing a fair organic marker in Maejo University 4) Developing a participatory process and pricing mechanism and 5) Organics' policy advocacy.

Our group visited natural and organic farm from those who apply Participating Guarantee System (PGS), during the inspection visit our group had deepened the understanding about the PGS.

The PGS has involvement from multi-stakeholder such as producer, academic, and consumers. The committee will form base on the trust building and common ground. The inspection visit, the committee will observe and check the farm on various aspects, for example soil nourishment, water management, surrounding environment, and others. Regarding the checklist of Biz Green Organic, the inspection, please see the figure.



Review of Report EC meeting in Vietnam hosted by SPERI, 12 May 2016

Hans (TOA) talked about the background that leads to this round meeting. The final report might need some review and if the members feel that something is missing, the recommendations are most welcome. The EC members accepted the report.

Hans announced the resignation of **Siya** and **Ampika** to the EC members. Hans informed that **Narumon Paiboonsittikun** (Mon) takes a role and she has a solid working background as a coordinator of INEB (International Network of Engaged Buddhists) for many years and currently in charge as the manager of Wongsanit Ashram Community. She has extensive experience in facilitation and management of the network.

The EC representative- term and condition:

Regarding this issue that the Vietnam representative has resigned from SPERI and there is a gap of communication, **Madam Lahn** (SPERI) recommended and preferred to use the organisation email as the window instead of personal email.

Wallapa (TOA) proposed to maintain the representative list to keep the information linked.

Gum Sha Aung (Metta) supported the idea and added that we might have a main person and alternative person at the same time in case the main person cannot represent the organizations.

Vitou Sam (CEDAC) agreed with **Wallapa** and added that a representative should be a person that knows the TOA activities for a fruitful contribution.

In conclusion, the representative of 2016-2017 and 2018-2019, for Thailand, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Cambodia confirmed the representative list. For Vietnam, Madam Lahn will be representative for 2017 and nominated **Chau** (SPERI) to be a representative during 2018-2019. For Laos, the representative during 2018-2019 will be nominated by the end of April 2017.

The qualification of EC members and TOA partners

The raising issue was TOA works are involved with multi-stakeholders and various partner organizations, so, could we apply this for the EC members? Or EC members should only come from the social organization in order to maintain the principle of organic movement.

Hans proposed that TOA should be flexible to welcome a good company so that the network evolve in a multi-stakeholder manner. So Viet Herb is welcome to join as a member.

Madam Lahn proposed that a profit-making organisation should not yet be included to EC to protect the core value of the network.

Vitou Sam proposed that the acceptance of Viet Herb to the EC shall be considered again later, maybe after 2019.

In conclusion, EC members of most countries will remain and be re-confirmed, for the representative from Vietnam, will be discussed in the next EC meeting, planning in November 2017, combine with the IFOAM World Congress in India.

Follow up from previous EC meeting and planning for further steps

Consumer Education and Mindful Market

Wallpa presented the key activities of this working group

- Third Mindful Market Asia forum in Srinakharinwirot University on the theme “Organics For System Change.” 30 Aug - 1 Sep 2016. Wallapa mentioned that the event is the window to reach wider Asian organisation. This year the international organisations represented in the forum include the Keystone Foundation (India), MOA (Japan), Grain (Indonesia), Xaobaan Products (Laos), Natural Agriculture Products (Cambodia), Happy Green Cooperative (Bhutan).
- Mindful Market Social Enterprise Course “Towards Sustainable Food System” September 9-23 2016. The programme welcomed 30 participants. Ten are from Rural Reconstruction; The Chinese organisation that work to support young people to go back to their home area for agriculture.

The Technical Support

Dr. Sonam Tashi (CNR) presented the updated working group (Focus on Seeds and Quality Management). For seed, the working group has a follow-up meeting in Bhutan (18-19 April 2016) after the first round meeting at Khaokwan Foundation, Thailand. The partners include College of National Resources (CNR), National Organic Programme (NOP), Bhutan Alpine Seeds and Centre for Bhutan Studies (CBS) from Bhutan, Khao Kwan Foundation and SFW from Thailand, CEDAC from Cambodia. Hans emphasised that the entrepreneur like Bhutan Alpine Seed needs a long-term support.

Dr. Sonam also mentioned about the Summer school in Bhutan (23 July – 8 August 2016), which is a successful programme. The participants are happy with the result of the programme. He also joined for a talk in the programme.

Action Research

Gum Sha Aung presented the Action Research working group (focusing on the country assessment). He informed briefly about the country assessment in Myanmar (in still in the writing process) which will be elaborated more tomorrow in the partners meeting.

Capacity Building and Youth

Sam Vitou reported about The Mekong YOFs 2017 workshop “Living and Climate Change Adaptation for Agriculture” during 2 -10 October 2016, CEDAC, Cambodia. The activity is a co-organisation between TOA and CEDAC with the participants around 13 people from 6 countries. The programme was designed for a hands-on experience, so most of the activities are on the field in Takeo province.

Kittikhun (TOA) elaborated that this activity will profit the network in long-term perspective as the young farmers will take a leading role in the future. So their relationship from this programme will make a coordination easier. Kittikhun also recommended that each country

should send at least two farmers to join the programme to increase the effectiveness of project-based learning and group learning.

Kamphoui (PADECT) added his observation that young people who join CURLS, MMSEC, and YOF come back to the organisation with inspiration that gradually fade away with their routine job. So, the members may need to consider “how” the youth apply the knowledge as well.

TOA Funding sources

Madam Lahn informed the panel that Vietnamese government had just allowed the Monsanto GMO corn in 61 provinces which cover the agricultural area of 100,000 hectares. Currently, a big portion has been introduced into Laos already. Regarding this issue, SPERI together with another four organisations in Vietnam will organise the anti-GMO conference in HEPA in the mid of August. **Mr. Witoon** from BIO-THAI was invited to join the panel. For funding, Misereor from Germany is a prominent source.

Gum Sha Aung support the idea of approaching Misereor for funding as it shares some values with TOA. He also proposed that GM corn could be another interesting topic for study under Action Research Working Group.

Hans informed the panel about the IFOAM conference in India. The partners may apply directly with CCFD for funding support. Currently, the organisation members of Myanmar Vietnam Laos and Thailand are the partners of CCFD. But Cambodia needs to find the right angle to approach as IVY and CEDAC are not the partners.

Madam Lahn proposed that TOA should approach CCFD as a network, not separate countries to strengthen the voice of the network. Regarding this proposal, the panel agreed to have an initial contact with CCFD as a network to introduce the strategy. Then, each country may apply for funding support directly with CCFD.

Hans informed the panel that he submitted the paper to IFOAM for presentation on the main track. The secretariat will also bring some brochures and information about the network to the conference.

Re-visiting the agenda and planning for TOA Partners Meeting, and Other Agenda

EC members read through the draft agenda and plan for TOA Partners Meeting on 31 March 2017, and agreed to continue and share the task as the initial agenda and plan.

Dr. Sonam Tashi proposed that “GM-Corn” or the GMOs situation could be considered as a topic for discussion, TOA members could share and discuss it under the theme of Technical Support and Exchange, which will be lead by **Dr. Sonam Tashi and Dilip Kumar**.

TOA Partners Meeting

31 March 2017 (09.00 - 16.30)

Singha-Nart Room, School of Administrative Studies, Maejo University

Overview of TOA achievements in 2016

- An Overview of TOA achievements in 2106 includes Summer School, Mindful Market Social Enterprise Course and Forum in Thailand, YOF in Cambodia, Country assessment in Myanmar, Multi-stake holder meeting in Vietnam, Seed Project in Bhutan.
- Mindful Markets Asia Forum 2017 will take place at Chulalongkorn University. The forum will be a gateway of TOA to reach out to wider Asian countries. For now, the forum has already connected TOA with Japan, Korea, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and China.
- CCFD will organise an international conference on alternative indicators and tools for transition. The conference will take place in Grenoble, France in 2018.
- The governing body of TOA will evolve into a collective governance.



Updating and sharing information by country

Bhutan

- Last year Bhutan hosted two important events; seeds workshop and Chula Right Livelihood Summer School (CURLS) 2016
- The result of seed workshop is a plan to launch a seeds programme to produce good quality seeds
- CURLS is a privileged event. It is quite inspiring and encouraging to learn that all participants were pleased with the event

- About 100% Organic Country in Bhutan, there are a few sceptic that if Bhutan goes for the plan, it may not achieve food security. There is also doubt among the members of the key position of the Ministry of Agriculture. Despite a consult with Nepalese researchers, nothing new found. The strategy from now will be a study for a feasible plan to be submitted to the government and organise the workshop to convince the sceptics that Bhutan can go for a 100% organic country without sacrificing food security. Second is working on water and seeds. If we can manage water and produce good quality seeds, the government will have confidence
- Although Bhutan has two seed companies; they lack a production capacity. The seeds come from India and the companies just re-pack and sell. Recently Alpine seed has begun to test and distribute some seeds for the farmers

Cambodia

IVY

- IVY worked with the organic agricultural cooperatives of more than 200 rice producers with over 600 thousand kgs of organic rice selling in the market. The European market is the main importer. Thus IVY provides a technical training on an international organic standard to help the farmer sell their rice with the premium price. Currently, organic rice is 250 Real higher than conventional rice

NAP

- In Cambodia, agriculture accounts for 29% of GDP. 80% people are living in the rural area. 60% of out of this number are the farmers, mostly poor. The policy of the government should prioritize the rural development first to strengthen the economy from the ground
- Right now a gap between those who have and have not keep widening because of poor agricultural development and workforce relocation into the industrial sector
- The main obstacles in agriculture include a poor irrigation system and lack of technical support from the government
- NAP is working with CEDAC and IVY in term of technical support and marketing of the agricultural products

CEDAC

- Media play an important role in raising the awareness of the consumers. Lately, there is more news on chemical contaminated food that influences the consumer to find their way to the green products more and more
- The consumers still misunderstand that hydroponically grown vegetable are safe. Rich consumers are looking for hydroponic vegetable from Singapore
- The farmers need to comply with the European standard to control the pesticide residue to under 0.01 mg/kg by the end of June for organic rice and by December for conventional rice
- The price of organic rice is the same as last year despite a higher demand because the EU and US consumers can buy also buy organic rice from Thailand
- There is pressure on the government from the European consumers to support organic agriculture

Laos

- Laos want to be the middle-income by 2020. There is pressure on the government now to achieve such goal
- The government turns the land into capital result in a massive land concession for monocropping and mega projects like mining and hydropower plants
- PADETC help the farmers to use the land effectively, but this happens on a very small scale. Another project is to help the farmers in Sekon province in management aspect to establish a cooperative
- The trend of organic farming in Lao is not very promising. GMO may come to the country, and Lao need to prepare the farmers for that. The TOA network will be a good source of expertise for this cause

Myanmar

Metta

- Collectively, Metta has done the country assessment with the collaboration of 5 partners
- Last year, Metta organised a seed, food, and culture conference with over 50 CSOs attended the activity. This conference is a part of agroecology and food sovereignty that the organisation tries to promote
- Metta also promote food safety and consumer education. In the country level, Metta worked with Pesticide Action Network to raise the awareness of food safety in schools and also did some action research on this issue for policy advocacy
- Recently, Metta organised GNH talk in YANGON with the support from CBS to learn more about an alternative economic model
- In term of social enterprise, a production side is not a problem. The challenges are marketing and logistics
- Land grabbing, seed law, low price crop from China and copyright are the problems that the farmers are facing now. The government changes policy for the company

KMF

- Without a document to proof the ownership of the land, the farmers and people in the upland area are vulnerable to land grabbing. Now, industrial zone is sprawling across the country. Politics and power game hinders a change from the policy level. The political arena that opens for a new generation is still under controlled of the old power
- Corruption within the Plant Protection Department makes it hard to stop the introduction of new pesticides into the country
- KMF works with the university to send the students into the community for one month to learn about agro-ecology

Vietnam

SPERI

- The Vietnamese government allowed the GM corn, which will occupy the agricultural area of over 100,000 hectares or as high as 37%-50%. Currently, the seeds have been introduced illegally to Lao through Vietnamese company. LISO alliances now take the GMO as their priority to prevent the native species

- The strategies to counter the GMOs include publishing pamphlet, video and articles as well as organizing the seminar to educate the farmers on native seeds and dangers of GMOs. The Alliances also made a mapping of the community entrepreneurs who are actively in the area of eco-farming to share information. In term of policy advocacy, LISO tried to be a part of forest law drafting in the coming six months and will represent the voice of indigenous people by bringing in cases studies into the Parliament

Thailand

AAN

- The government decided to delay a controversial coal power plant project in the southern province due to strong opposition from people. The network of organic farmers in Chachoengsao province also joined in this opposition to propose a Safety Food Area Protection proposal to the government
- In term of policy advocacy, last year the government abolished the plan to pass the law on GMO after facing strong opposition. This year the government tries to pass the law on intellectual property right on biogenetic resources, UPOV. Again, we need to fight.
- The network worked with the university to keep eyes on contract farming law that have just passed the parliament to protect small farmers from the unfair contracts
- Thai-PAN disseminated the information about the pesticide residue level in vegetables and fruits from different wet markets in Thailand. The Public well received by the information. With Thai-PAN, AAN tried to encourage each community to have the regulation on pesticide
- Climate change is another issue to be concerned. We need more active measure like researching to deal with this problem

MAEJO

- Dr.Chomchuan: A steering committee for sustainable agriculture propose a plan to the government as follow:
 - o Green credit with as low-interest rate as 0.01% for organic farmers
 - o Establish Farmer Learning Center to study appropriate agricultural technology
 - o Increase organic farming area for 20% per year. By the end of the five years plan, an organic farming area will increase 600,000 rai
 - o Change the ratio of export-import of organic products from 80:20 to 60:40

The proposal will pass the parliament in the next two weeks

Maejo University also works on youth empowerment. The university has already trained 30 young farmers who went back to their hometown while another 50 young farmers are in the training session of 6 months

- Dr. Somkid Share some interesting points as follow:
 - o In Thailand, demand for organic products is growing due to concern in health issues especially cancer, the main cause of death
 - o The University try to change the paradigm of development from reductionism to holism through an integrated curriculum. To solve the problem of agriculture, we need an interdisciplinary approach. Asia Today Forum is an attempt to bring in a thought provocative speaker to inspire people

- The network is the answer to push the Right Livelihood movement forward. The local government comes and goes, but the network is not. We need to create a strong community that can sustain by themselves. Leadership is crucial for such mission to guide the community to the right direction

Sharing about 4 thematic working groups: plans for 2017 and long-term perspective

Capacity Building and Youth

Participatory Guarantee System (PGS)

- Thet Nai (GSMI) organised a one and half day PGS workshop in Bago and now implemented some PGS in their products and communication channels
- In May 2016 SPERI organised one day PGS workshop in Vietnam. Hans and Wallapa had been invited to present Thailand and regional perspective of PGS. The PGS movement in Vietnam is new while Thailand has almost five years' experience. This workshop will help link up the movement between two countries

Chula Right Livelihood Summer School (CURLS)

- For summer school, the thematic of this year will be People-Planet Partnership organised during 18th July – 2 August in Thailand
- There is a proposal to organise the event in Vietnam. LISO alliance can provide informants like local authority, elders, and technicians. The programme is interesting as an action research is new to Vietnamese

Young Organic Farmers (YOF)

- In term of technical exchange each country use quite similar farming techniques. However, it is good to share and learn why each country has different practices
- The aspect of youth's role in regional and world agenda like climate change or food security is also empowering. So the activity should not only focus on the technical exchange but also on a common concern and how we can work together
- For youth empowerment, training alone is not enough, so each organisation should consider the follow-up activity to help the participants utilise their knowledge

Action Research

- Pavinee shared about her seed research that began three months ago
 - Almost 300 organic seeds variety collected and sold in the market
 - "Seed Bank Thailand" is collaboration among 14 organizations in Thailand
 - The network tries to upscale into a social enterprise
 - The ultimate aim is to use seed as the entry point towards organic society.
- Hans share his experience on Monsanto Tribunal
 - Very interesting to see Monsanto, a private company put on trial for crimes against humanity, and for ecocide
 - The verdict will come out by April 2017. (see: <http://www.monsanto-tribunal.org>)
 - If an International Criminal Law recognises a crime of ecocide, Monsanto could be put into an international court
- Keadtisak (AAN) presented his action research on conventional farming vs. organic farming from the perspective of wellbeing. The finding has been presented to the village, multi-stake holders forum and policy maker in Yasothorn Province

- Gum Aha Aung (Metta)
 - o Metta conducted a national assessment to study a strategy to promote agroecology as well as to influence a policy advocacy in Myanmar. Initial finding is that chemical-free farming is a common practice in Myanmar. The Challenges for the farmers in the organic market are from both production aspects; difficulty to maintain stable supply, and marketing aspects; limit domestic market, low product price, fake labelling, and lack of marketing skills. The link between producer and consumer is still weak. However, food safety could be a good entry point to link up with the consumers. Next step will be a finalising of the finding and assessment to establish an action-oriented strategy
 - o Working with GSMI for consumer education and PGS and collaborating with KMF for young organic farmers support

Technical Support and Exchange

Dr. Sonam Tashi (CNR)

- Bhutan has two seeds companies, but none produce organic seed
- Reliable organic seed production is a key for a 100% organic country. Currently, Dilip is working on organic seed production. The technical aspect is not the problem in Bhutan

Dr. Sonam Tashi proposed to the panel to plan an urgent measure that TOA take for GMOs. The response includes:

- Literate review of GMOs and information dissemination through websites, mass media, seminar, exhibition, workshop, and international conference
- Working with the university for regional level policy advocacy
- Establish a regional seed bank to protect local variety
- Support young farmers for social enterprise on organic farming

Consumer Education and Marketing

- Consumer education should incorporate GMOs campaign into the action plan
- Seikatsu is a good example for consumer campaign to raise the consumer awareness on GMOs
- TOA will organize the 4th Mindful Market Asia Forum at Chulalongkorn University. 9-10 September 2017
 - o The keynote speaker is Prof.Lian from Rural Reconstruction Movement in China. This movement inspires many young people in China to go back home and pursue a farming career
 - o The forum is a window for TOA to reach wider Asian countries. Currently, the network extended to Japan, Korea, China, India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Malaysia. These countries will be an outer circle of TOA
- Mindful Market Social Enterprise Course (MMSE Course) 9-20 September 2017
 - o Four modules project based learning journey
 - o Include project presentation and feedback from professional social entrepreneurs
 - o Target young people who want to start social enterprise on organic agriculture

World Café - Reflections and Planning for the TOA future



Capacity Building and Youth

Summer School

- The activity will be organised during July 17th –August 2nd in Thailand, there are four seats for TOA members (Preferably, the participants have a good command of English)

YOF

- The date has not yet formulated, but the location may be Bhutan
- The activity opens for YOF Mekong to join and learn from each other in a friendly atmosphere
- For the issue to study, it is proposed that the issue needs to be a cross-cutting issue like land grabbing, climate change, etc. One activity that can be incorporated into the programme is a media making to share the inspiring story

Action Research

There are action points for the working group as follow:

- Create the linkage between CSOs and academia especially agricultural university under the platform of wisdom dialogue and joint action research
- Conduct action research on Seed; GMOs, Seed law, seed improvement and local seed. We may train a young researcher on this particular topic
- Build a long term consortium between CSOs academia and government
- Create a documentation of good practice, i.e. The case of Metha seed production
- Donor for action research related activities include: ALiSEA / JPF / Misereor

Consumer movement and Education

- Forum and course as mention above
- Consumer campaign on GMOs include:
 - o Produce 'NO GMOs' stickers to be displayed in the market.
 - o GMOs literacy campaign through food routeing i.e. the story of meatball
 - o Display the linkage between seed and consumer
- KMF worked with the University on consumer campaign. The story of deep ecology can attract the consumers' attention. Over 20 campuses join the programme
- A fair contract farming where the producers can negotiate the price is an alternative to GMOs
- CSOs scheme is not limit to agricultural products. CSOs can be implemented for sustainable fishery also
- Smart consumer campaign with short, sharp, and touched content to get a message across to new generation and consumer platform

Technical support

Plan for future	Implementation / Finance	Long-Term Plan
Expand seed saving network	Each country & TOA nominate / finance by company CSR?	Small community enterprise
GMOs evidence gathering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness campaign • Monitor GMOs activities 	-Monsanto Verdict dissemination -Research project/academia/CSO -Maejo University to coordinate academic linkage with partners countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GMO literacy to make informed decision • GMOs- free countries
Policy against land grabbing	Research projects/international support JICA	Land reform: community land deed title
Native seed varieties identification	TOA organizes exchange workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local seed preserved • Asia TOA Seed Bank • Village seed model
One stop community centre	TOA members/partners	All technical knowledge / skill available in one place <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The curriculum-vocational / technical system • Pilot village • Training workshop etc.
Comparative study CA vs OA	TOA member countries	Good empirical data
Exchange of young students in TOA countries (technical sharing, information)	TOA submit proposal to Japan Foundation	Knowledge will feed into community knowledge hub
Translation of technical finding into local language	TOA (Myanmar)	Farmer are empowered/technical know-how available

Inputs from the panel:

- One activity for YOF in Bhutan is to bring them to see seed production centre
- LISO is planning to organize GMOs workshop in August 2017. For further update, SPERI will announce to the network
- The network should prioritize which kind of seed should be urgently preserved
- In Bhutan, to save imported seed, there need to ask for the government permission. But such regulation is not applied on local seed

International Integrated Conference- Asia Today

1 April 2017 (13.30-16.30)

School of Administrative Studies, Maejo University

Introduction to the keynote speaker by Mr.Hans and Ms. Wallapa van Willenswaard



This is an enormous honour to welcome Dr. Satish Kumar for the 3rd Asia Today Conference, and thank you School of Administrative Studies for organizing the Asia Today Conference from time to time in order to vitalize the "Organic Movement."

Today we have many young people, and for them organic agriculture is full of uncertainty. As we are small minority and face a lot of obstacles, we question why we are doing this. So, in our TOA we have been working a lot with young organic farmers, when the young farmers ask this question to themselves "Why am I doing this?" And sometimes they say we have to be crazy to be an organic farmer. In this situation, it's important that today we have an elderly, Satish, to review about **the Spiritual Compass**.

Satish was born in Rajasthan, India. At the age of 9 years old he joined Jain Monastery, and at age of 18 years old he joined the Gandhi Movement, in particular Vinoba Bhave to promote the land reformed. From the mean of the walk, he and his friends walked to 4 cities, Moscow, London, Paris, and Washington to deliver the peace message. Later on, he walked to London and started Schumacher College, Resurgence Magazine, and Small School (and alternative school for children). He is also an author of many books includes: No Destination, Your Are Therefore I Am, Earth Pilgrim, and Spiritual Compass.

“Spiritual Compass of NextGEN”



I'm delighted to be in Thailand and I'm delighted to speak to the wonderful young audience, young generation and next generation, because the older generation at my age has created a lot of problems to the world and now we expected the young generation to solve them.

One problem we created was, to undervalue the important of land and agriculture. Once after the 2nd world war, the president True Man of U.S.A. made a speech, and he said the world is divided into 2 parts- the developed world and the under-develop world. The developed world is the world of industrial society and under-developed world is the world of agriculture. So, those who are uneducated and undeveloped they are the one who left to do agriculture. But if you are educated and clever, you are not doing agriculture you are working for the Bank in a big city- Bangkok, New York, London, or Worthington. If you work in the bank, or government, or the multi-corporation you get high salary and well paid, but if you work on the land you are poorly paid. The government and business also want to turn agriculture into agri-business and agri-industry, using a big tractor, chemical, and fertilizer rather than the farmer working on small scale for a good food.

Former are no longer touching the soil, they are putting chemical and fertilizer to the land. Feeding the land with chemical and fertilizer is like feeding people with vitamin pill and no food. So the land is losing its vitality, and its life. The soil should be fed by real food, which is compost (like rice, vegetable and fruit) and has earthworms (like bacteria for digestion). The earthworms are really important for the soil, one earthworm turns 6 tons of soil every month, and working 24 hours a day and 7 days a week without holiday and wage but Industrial agriculture doesn't it. Industrial is fine; we had airport, railway, road, and etc, but they are not the real thing. Life depends on the earth, water, air, and fire (the 4 elements, the basic of life). The older generation has polluted the soil and water with chemical, polluted the air (climate change), and energy misusing. We have polluted them and wasted them. Industrialization takes the 4 elements for granted, they think that nature is only the source of economy; the 4 elements are for commodity. So the tasks of the younger generation is to challenge the older generation that you have got it wrong, the 4 elements are not the source of economy but there are source of life. And the challenge is to bring back the dignity of working on the land; those who are producing good food should be paid good money.

And we had to understand that what we do to nature is what we do to ourselves. The nature is not out there (forest, mountain, animal, insect, and river); we are also nature. Then English word “Nature” comes from Latin root called “natura”, and the word natura comes to nature, native, and nation (all these came from the same root), another example, if the mother is pregnant she goes for pre-nature check, and after gave birth to the child she goes for post-

nature check. The word "Nature" means born and every born is nature. So, Human are born and Human are also nature; we shouldn't separate human from nature, and we should say nature and human are one. When we realized human and nature are one, then what we do to nature that we do to ourselves.

In Nature there is no waste and no pollution, it's a cycle of life in nature, which is so wonderful. But, our industrial system is not a cycle; it's a linear, take from nature, consume, and throw away which creates a lot of waste.

We need to stop that linear and create a cyclical system. The nature is so generous, such as one mango can created a thousand of fruits in 50 years. We have to learn from nature, human has to be humble and learn from nature.

The older generation is very arrogant, we are superior species and we are master species, we think nature is there just for us and we can do what we like- cutting down the forest, putting animal in factory farm, putting poison into the soil. So the mission of industrial civilization has been to conquer nature. Now we have to create the new generation, which is not based on industrial civilization but ecological civilization.

Ecological is a very beautiful word. The word Ecology comes from Greek language, "oikos" and "logy". The oikos means home, in the wisdom of Greek philosopher, the entire planet is our home and all species on earth are our family members, the birds fly in the sky are our brother and sister, earthworms under the soil are our children, the deer in the forest are our brother and sister. Human being are cruel to put animal in the factory farm, thousand of pigs and chickens are in the factory and couldn't see the light in their entire life, we human are imposing and inflicting these poor animals. So, ecological civilization will necessitate that all of us spend some time producing food, touching the soil, and be out in nature. Even in big city like Chiang Mai or Bangkok we can grow food, just imagine all the roofs in the city we can put the soil there and grow fruits, vegetable, and flower, let's use the roof to grow our food.

The next generation challenge that we need our imagination and our creativity. Fifty percents of the world population live in the big city, Mexico city has 14 million people. Therefore the challenge of next generation is to make the city sustainable, let no one say the city cannot be sustainability. We all cannot go back to the countryside, then let's make the city green and sustainable.

We have to build a beautiful future and it can be done. The industrial system has been built only last 200-300 years. What is do to 200-300 year, in ecological scale of time it's a blink of an eye, so what has been made by human can be change by human. So let's all join together and create ecological civilization, where everybody will be involved in making something and growing some thing.

In Schumacher College, we need to bring the idea of education of head, heart and hands. At the moment, education too much focus on the head, we don't have the education of the heart. The education of the heart will develop our compassion to the nature, our compassion for each other, love for each other, generosity for each other, kindness for each other; these are the beautiful quality they have to be touch in our university. Knowledge is not enough.

The world problems are created by highly educated people, but uneducated peasants have not created nuclear weapons.

So, the education, which focuses only on head, is the part of the problem. We have to bring together knowledge, wisdom and experience in our education. All universities in the world should have the garden where students learn how to grow food, and have the kitchen where teachers and students cook together the healthy organic food.

In conclusion, the future generations, we have to bring the dignity to agriculture, the revolution in education, create new kind of consumption and production, which has no waste and pollution. We have enough in the world for everybody needs, let's make a good use of wonderful gift in the world.

Workshop "NextGEN for Organic Movement and Organic Seeds

2 April 2017 (09.30-12.00)

School of Administrative Studies, Maejo University



Country Update: Myanmar by Gum Sha Aung and Bo Bo Lwin

Nowadays, Myanmar is a transitioning country from centrally planned to a liberal economic policy. In the context of the agricultural sector in Myanmar, 60% of populations are depending on farming and majority of them are smallholder farmer. There are many challenges in Myanmar such as land grabbing, migration, indebtedness, and climate change. Moreover, there is another challenge that is about local seed producing. Currently, the government policy on farming mechanization comes along with agro-chemical, industrial mono-crop farming, and new seed policy favors to the private sector, not protect informal seed system. For example, corn and vegetable seeds are mostly controlled by the company.

In Myanmar, there is Metta Development Foundation is working on these issues. What we are doing on Seeds, food and cultures are:

- Reclaiming local food autonomy (seeds, land, forest, local knowledge, biodiversity etc.)
- Influencing on government policy
- Seeds is life and support to seed defender and seed saver
- Promote: keep seed free, seed as common, seed fair, seed exchange
- Farmer movement, network
- Women roles are the keys

Country Update: Cambodia by Vitou Sam and Viseth Kong

After the civil war in 1993, Cambodia faced food crisis to feed its own people. Talking about the agricultural sector, there are 80% of populations living in rural area, and 67% of the

population are farmer. At that time, food crisis was the main challenge, so in 1997 there is a local organization focusing on food security. CEDAC started to apply System Rice Intensification (SRI) to the farmers around 100,000 families. That's a success point for CEDAC of introducing a new rice planting system to farmers because the rice yield of farmers has been increasing from year to year. Thus, the Ministry of agriculture in Cambodia sets SRI as their national strategy plan in order to introduce this new method to farmers across country. More importantly, CEDAC could export their first organic rice production to U.S. in 2009. The successes of rice productions have made CEDAC moving to focus on other vegetable productions. CEDAC have started a young agro-entrepreneur program that is last for 6 months to 1 year.

IVY stands for International Volunteers of Yamagata is an organization working on assisting farmers to produce organic rice and vegetables in Cambodia especially, located in Svay Rieng, Prey Veng, and Preah Vihear province. IVY work is focusing on climate change, which causes the problem to the agriculture. For example in Cambodia, there are many problems in the agriculture sector which make rural people migrating to work abroad, so there will be less local supplying. Currently, we have imported the agricultural products from neighboring country that is full of chemical. Thus, seeing these problems, CEDAC and IVY happen to help farmer producing organic product to supply in the local.

Country Update: Laos by Khamphoui Saythalat

There are 85% of farmers living in rural area. The main crop of the agriculture is sticky rice. In Lao, there is a local organization that works with farmer on the agricultural sector focusing on Human Resource Development. In 1980, PADETC promoted food security by making RIFS project in 13 provinces. In 1990, Laos adopts a new market economy, so there were many problems in the agricultural sector. For example, land grabbing issues happen in Lao, so the big companies start to plant only one crop on the big land size and also using many fertilizers. Thus, it is harmful to local seed production. There are 2 organic markets in Vientiane facilitated by PADETC in order to promote local supply.

Country Update: Bhutan by Dr. Sonam Tashi

There are 60% of the populations involving in agriculture. Currently, Bhutan wants to reach the target as an organic country. Among the figure above, there is less than 5% of population involving in agro-chemical. The government always supports the organic agricultural practice. There are two main challenges in the agriculture sector. First, people in rural area move to work in the city. Talking about migration, it is not only happened in Bhutan, but also in many countries in Southeast Asia. Thus, in the agriculture sector, labor shortage is the main problem. Second, quality organic seeds are producing in the small scale. Nowadays, Bhutan imports seeds from neighboring countries especially, India.

Country Update: Thailand by Mathana and Pavinee

In Thailand, there are 20 members working on five seeds banks, which cover on the Southern, Northern, and Eastern area. Seed bank started from the idea of seed exchange. There are 3 rules in seeds bank group, 1) seeds to seeds, 2) give seed to people for free early and then they return back the seeds, 3) people buy seeds. They invested 500,000 THB to start organic seeds company, and they want all seed seller in the market selling organic in order to take care customer health and the environment as a whole. Nowadays, there are 223 varieties of seed at the seeds bank. The important things of creating seed bank are for

food security, encouraging villagers who save seed, and taking care environment via organic seed.

After the presentation of each country, there was a small discussion about seeds situation in each country. The TOA members suggested and agreed to have seeds exchange among TOA members because some countries can produce good quality seeds while the others countries cannot do that, for the further collaboration toward organic movement in Asia Gum Sha Aung mentioned, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." and Vitou Sam mentioned, "yesterday is a history, tomorrow is mystery and today is gift- we call it present."

Appendix I: List of EC Members Meeting

No.	Name	Country	Organization
1	Sonam Tashi	Bhutan	CNR
2	Dilip Kumar	Bhutan	Alpine Seeds
3	Vitou Sam	Cambodia	CEDAC
4	Viseth Kong	Cambodia	IVY
5	Narith Tho	Cambodia	Ponlok Baitong Farm
6	Khamphoui Saythalat	Laos	PADETC
7	Gum Sha Aung	Myanmar	Metta Development Foundation
8	Myo Myat	Myanmar	KMF
9	Bo Bo Lwin	Myanmar	KMF
10	Pavinee Chaipak	Thailand	Organic Seeds Group
11	Wallapa van Willenswaard	Thailand	Towards Organic Asia
12	Hans van Willenswaard	Thailand	Towards Organic Asia
13	Keadtisak Yangyuen	Thailand	AAN
14	Piyapron Arunpong	Thailand	AAN
15	Kittikun Bhukhongkha	Thailand	TOA
16	Narumon Paiboonsittikun	Thailand	TOA
17	Anocha Parameesak	Thailand	GreenConnex
18	Thi Tran Lanh	Vietnam	SPERI

Appendix II: List of TOA Partners Meeting

No.	Name	Country	Organization
1	Sonam Tashi	Bhutan	CNR
2	Dilip Kumar	Bhutan	Alpine Seeds
3	Sam Vitou	Cambodia	CEDAC
4	Viseth Kong	Cambodia	IVY
5	Narith Tho	Cambodia	Ponlok Baitong Farm
6	Khamphoui Saythalat	Laos	PADETC
7	Gum Sha Aung	Myanmar	Metta Development Foundation
8	Myo Myat	Myanmar	KMF
9	Bo Bo Lwin	Myanmar	KMF
10	Pavinee Chaipak	Thailand	Organic Seeds Group
11	Wallapa van Willenswaard	Thailand	Towards Organic Asia
12	Hans van Willenswaard	Thailand	Towards Organic Asia
13	Supa Yai-Muang	Thailand	AAN
14	Keadtisak Yangyuen	Thailand	AAN
15	Piyapron Arunpong	Thailand	AAN
16	Oshi Jowalu	Thailand	Nong Tao Village
17	Kittikun Bhukhongkha	Thailand	TOA
18	Narumon Paiboonsittikun	Thailand	TOA
19	Somkid Kaewtip	Thailand	Maejo University
20	Chomchuan Boonrahong	Thailand	Maejo University
21	Anocha Parameesak	Thailand	GreenConnex
22	Thi Tran Lanh	Vietnam	SPERI