

## «Greetings from the President»

### 🌸 IDACA serving as a Bridge for Farmers Organizations in the World 🌸



President of IDACA  
Toru NAKAYA  
(President of JA ZENCHU)

First of all, let me express my deepest sympathies to the people who suffered severe damages throughout the countries by disasters and do hope for earliest recovery and reconstruction.

IDACA was established with the initiative of JA Zenchu in 1963 as an organization for development of agricultural cooperatives in the countries in Asia and other regions, which lead to improvement of income and development of regional farming communities.

Since its establishment, devoting ourselves in fostering human resource committing to the cooperative movement in the world, we have received more than 6,500 people from 130 countries for various training courses.

Through the activities we have learned that the countries in Asia, Africa, South America, etc. have shown strong interests and wishes in studying Japanese models for development of their farmers' organizations. IDACA, as a bridge between those countries and Japan, have introduced Japanese cases of organizational management, business activities and services of agricultural cooperatives in Japan, JA.

Implementing the training courses, we have taken up field study as very important element in designing the programs. However, the programs with field study have not been realized in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic in 2019 and 2020, two years in a row. The situation have given us the opportunities of conducting on-line programs utilizing pre-recorded video materials to introduce the outline of organization and business activities of JA.

As a new initiative in 2020 to 2021 to strengthen ties with international organizations we could build partnership with World Farmers Organization (WFO) for those farmers organizations in the world and International Grains Council (IGC), intergovernmental organizations. Thereby we, recognizing the roles as JA group member organization, will further develop and promote our activities to contribute to the international community.

Last but not least we, officials and staff, kindly request for your understanding and cooperation on our activities.

# Top News from IDACA

01

## Workshop held under World Farmers Organization (WFO) on Initiatives of Asian farmers organizations on Climate Change



Farmers' Solutions to Climate Crisis:  
Asian Stories from the Field

THE CLIMAKERS ASIA DIGITAL WORKSHOP

Hosted by the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia (IDACA)  
under THE CLIMAKERS initiative

5 October 2021 • 3pm JST/8am CEST

Please register: <https://bit.ly/TheClimakersAsia>



"The Climakers Asia Digital Workshop" on the initiatives by farmers' organizations in the Asian region was held on October 5, 2021 targeting at the people engaged in agriculture and food industry. The workshop, organized by World Farmers Organization (WFO), is to discover and share the cases of various activities in cooperation with Climaker, a network of farmers tackling the issues related to climate change and so far the cases from the regions of Africa, Europe and Latin America were collected and studied. This time it was held with the target at the Asian region, and IDACA was commissioned to hold the workshop.

The registration of participants prior to the workshop exceeded 100, which clearly showed sense of crisis from the impact on agriculture by climate change. In the workshop the model cases of actions, presented from nine countries in Asia showing various activities against the impact of climate change, were shared and discussed among the participants.

02

## Advisor post is approved at the Board of Directors Meeting

The board of directors' meeting held on July 27, 2021 approved newly established post of advisor, and two advisors were appointed. They are Mr. Balasubramanian Iyer, Regional Director of International Cooperative Alliance - Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP) and Ms. Arianna Giuliodori, Secretary General of World Farmers' Organisation (WFO). It is stipulated in the Articles of IDACA that advisor may express his/her views that serve as useful reference to subjects raised by the board of directors.

In the board of directors' meeting business year 2020's annual reports on the business and the statement of accounts were approved. The annual report stated that seven training courses, seminar and workshop were implemented on-line with 91 participants from 27 countries.

A follow-up program which was conducted on-line by hearing and exchange of opinions with ex-participants was also reported.



Mr. Balasubramanian Iyer,  
Regional Director of  
International Cooperative  
Alliance- Asia and Pacific  
(ICA-AP)

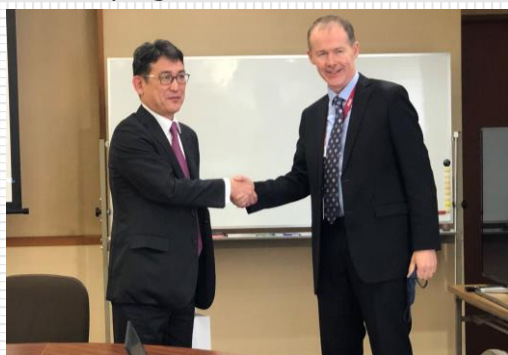


Ms. Arianna Giuliodori,  
Secretary General of  
World Farmers' Organisation  
(WFO)

03

## Counsellors of Australian Embassy show interests in IDACA's Activities

Two counsellors in charge of agricultural affairs at Australian Embassy to Japan came to IDACA on November 18 and showed their strong interests in IDACA's activities. Following observation of the IDACA's facilities they spared their time with us, the official and the staff of IDACA, to get very meaningful exchange of views on international cooperation activities by farmers' organizations of Japan and developing countries.



Mr. Kobayashi,  
executive director of  
IDACA with Mr. Tom  
Parnell, counsellor  
(agriculture)



The offices and the staff of the Embassy  
with IDACA's official and staff.



# Reports on Training Courses

## ICA Training Course on EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL WOMEN FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THEIR LEADERSHIP AND BUSINESS MANAGEMENT IN ASIA & AFRICA-2021

The training course, as part of MAFF-founded project for ICA, was jointly conducted with ICA-AP. This was the second one in the three-year packaged training courses which started in FY2020. Targeting at women playing important roles in rural areas in the Asian and African regions the course was designed with the objective of improvement of women leaders' capacity which is expected to lead to active participation in the management of their organizations and in entrepreneurial activities. This time the course started on August 20, 2021 with participation of 15 participants selected from the countries in Asia and Africa to end on September 13, 2021. Originally 10-day third country training program with physical study visits was planned before 25-day program in Japan. However, all the programs were implemented online due to COVID-19 pandemic worldwide.

The Japan program in cooperation with JA National Council of Women's Associations the participants learned about JA's Women's Associations, rural women's agro-processing and entrepreneurial activities, human resource development including leadership as well as the organizational management and the business activities of JA. In addition secretary general of WFO was invited for a lecture on WFO's activities, which gave the participants the chance to exchange views on the gender issue as part of the WFO's activities. In the end of the training course the participants made and presented their action plans utilizing knowledge and information leaned through the course.



Closing ceremony of the  
ICA Women's Training  
conducted online

### MESSAGE FROM PARTICIPANT

**Trinh Thi Ly( Vietnam) Vice Director,  
Sinh Duoc Cooperative**

**Dear sir and madam from IDACA and VANNICOM,**



I would like to say thank you so much for all your support, your knowledge that you shared with me and other participants in the training course on "Empowerment of Rural Women for Improvement of their Leadership and Business Management in Asia and Africa".

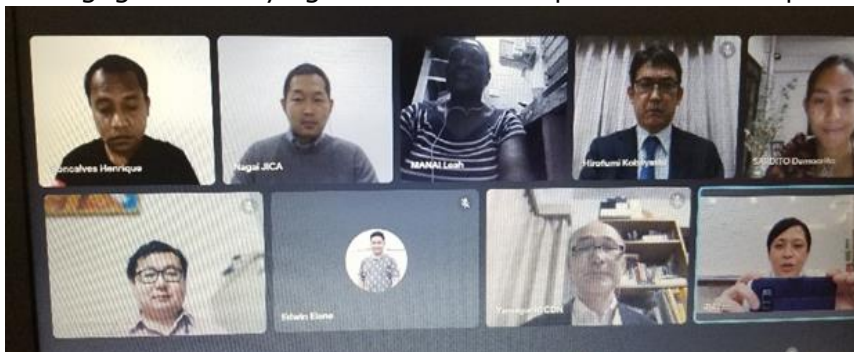
I was inspired a lot by strong, successful women in India, Japan, who go out of their "comfort zone", start their own business, create their own value and make great benefit, quality for themselves, for their family and community. I also learnt from distinguished lecturers a variety of useful knowledge of agriculture, entrepreneurship, leadership etc., which contribute greatly to my work and my personal capacity building.

Last but not least, I would like to say my sincere thanks to VCA for bringing me a notable opportunity. Without VCA's nomination, I could not participate in such a valuable program.

Again, thank you so much and I really appreciate the time I participated the training course. I wish you all the best and I hope to visit India and Japan in the future to see you and explore your amazing countries. Also, I am happy to welcome you when you visit Vietnam one day, and my cooperative Sinh Duoc. Warm regards,

The training course, commissioned by Tsukuba Centre of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA Tsukuba), was implemented aiming at those countries with developing agricultural cooperatives in the early stage in order to promote organizing farmers organizations and agricultural cooperatives and to strengthen their management. Five participants were selected from Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and Timor Lester respectively and were government officials and NGO staff responsible for development of farmers organizations. Last year's program had video materials distributed on website (on you tube) for self-learning of participants who got ready for on-line questions and answers. The participants, however, had made comments for improvement saying "I wanted to have more interaction with those lecturers appeared on the video materials" and "exchange of views with other participants would have been needed". Therefore, more on-line or live programs of lectures and questions and answers were introduced, and the discussions among the participants were arranged. Implementation of the programs was fully supported by people from the organizations in JA Group for lectures, production and distribution of video materials: ex-officials of JA Tomisato city and Kumiai Disease Control Promotion Association, leaders and staff of JA National Council of Women's Association, National Nokyo Tourist Association, JA Nagano Regional Development Organization, JA Zennoh Research and Development Center, Education Center of JA Kanagawa Prefecture Union, JA Ibaraki Prefecture Union, JA Zennoh Ibaraki, JA Namegata Shiosai, JA Ohra Tatebayashi and JA Matsumoto Highland. Beside JA Group organizations lecturers were invited from Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan (MAFF) and Tokyo University of Agriculture. Project Cycle Management (PCM) was also introduced in a workshop style by a development consulting company to help the participants to prepare action plans.

The end-of-the course evaluation meeting collected the voices of the participants on their learning and wishes like "even though I could not visit Japan due to COVID-19 pandemic, the training course gave me a lot of useful information on management of JA's direct sale shop and advanced JA management" and "When COVID-19 is controlled, I want to visit Japan to acquire more useful information, knowledge and skills by exposing myself to JAs and direct sales shops". After the training course completed, the participants are engaged in carrying out their action plans and are expected to make progressive reports of the plans.



Closing Ceremony

### Message from Lecturer

**Mr. Mamoru KAWASHIMA, National Nokyo Tourist Association**



### Promotion of Green Tourism and Vitalization of Farming Communities

First of all let me express my thanks for inviting me as a lecturer on the subject of "Promotion of Green Tourism and Vitalization of Farming Communities" That was really precious experience for me.

In my lecture I shared with those participants from Asia and Africa the experience of Japan on green tourism, i.e., its history and successful models, and the methods for development of organizations to receive foreign tourists.

Responding to questions from participants like "How can I launch green tourism in my area?", I felt that they gave me thought-provoking about green tourism and good classroom session.

Lastly again I am really thankful for that precious opportunity and do wish your country will have more development in the future.





# Letter from Vietnam



JA Zenchu(\*1), concluded an agreement on May 7, 2019 on cooperation with JICA (\*2). The agreement is intended to contribute to solution of the issues developing regions and Japan commonly have faced by fully employing JA Group's knowledge and experience in the agricultural sector and JICA's know-how on human resource development and established network with the developing countries.

As part of the project Mr. Yoshiaki OKUDA, staff of IDACA, was listed and sent to Vietnam. He reports on his activities as follows:

Assigned to Vietnam as JICA long-term expert on October, 2021, I started the activities in November after releasing from 2-week isolation imposed due to COVID-19 pandemic.

The project has been designed to contribute to development of the agricultural sector in Vietnam by education program development support for human resource as technical intern and by establishing matchings between Vietnam-based Japanese companies and Vietnamese agricultural producers as returnees from training in Japan.

In this letter I will report the Project Kick-off Meeting held on January 18, 2022 and give the outline of the Project.

Kick-off meeting has been held several times: The one between JICA and VNUA(\*3) when I just started the activities here and much earlier than that the one among three parties, namely JICA, VNU and MARD(\*4). This time the meeting was arranged as WEB meeting inviting more people involved in the project from the respective sides from Vietnam and Japan to share the information on the project with them so that more solid cooperation network would be established.

The party from Vietnam for the meeting included Mr. Min, director for international cooperation, Ms. Lan, president and professors of VNUA, officers of Consulate-General of Vietnam in Fukuoka, people serving at local agricultural universities, local government officers and people from agricultural cooperatives and private companies.



Ms. Lan, president of VNUA



Commemorative photo of Kick-off Meeting participants

And the party from Japan were Mr. HIJIOKA, executive director of JA Zenchu, Mr. SHIMIZU, representative director of JICA Vietnam office and people from JETRO Vietnam, Vietnam-based Japanese companies and some prefectural government offices. The outline of the project was explained as follows:

The Technical Intern Training Program has an objective of developing human resource. And its background has (a) those who once got trained in Japan have difficulty in utilizing skills gained in Japan, (b) the chances to do farming or get jobs utilizing the acquired skills, etc. Mismatching between returnees' desired types of job and what are expected by training institutions is considered one of the causes.

In order to cope with the situation, the project has aimed at building a system to contribute to development of farming communities and agriculture with those returnees having suitable skills and getting the right jobs. VNUA, as leading education and training institution in the agricultural sector, is expected to play an important role in assisting development and implementation of agriculture education programs and establishment of the matching system to help the returnees to acquire suitable skills.

The meeting was closed with a remark by Ms. Lan, president of VNUA to be followed by a group commemorative photo.

# Editors' Note

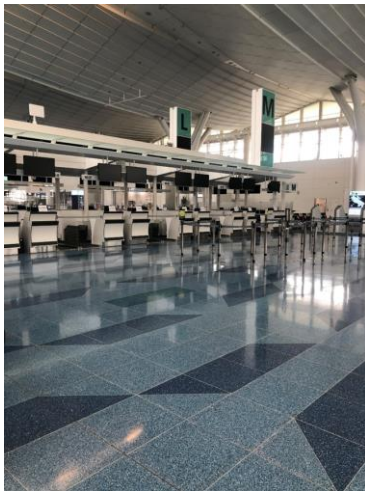
Winter has come. Winter of this year again is not normal and second one under COVID-19 pandemic. I had a chance to see the situation of International Terminal of Tokyo International airport, Haneda. I was amazed to find that many of check-in counters of international airline companies, the restaurants and the souvenir shops were closed.

I can recall the days when COVID-19 became pandemic worldwide in a few months after its first infected person's case had been reported in Wuhan, China in early December 2019.

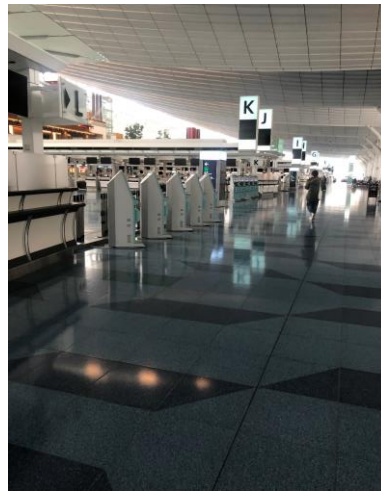
In Japan I don't think anyone can tell when overseas travelling, inbound and outbound, will be resumed. I can see, however, some signs of improvement of the situation that some leading countries in vaccination have gradually started travelling.

According to a forecast released by International Air Transport Association, IATA, in May 2021, recovery of the demand for air transportation to the level before COVID-19 pandemic would be expected in late 2023 at earliest. Since the forecast had been made in July 2020 said it be around 2024, the latest forecast has been brought forward.

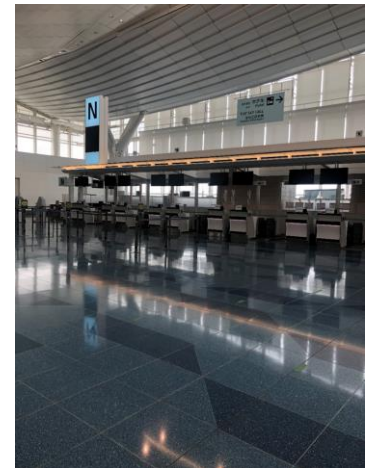
IDACA have managed to conduct training courses by online due to COVID-19 pandemic. Many participants who experienced the online courses, however, voiced their hopes that they will come to Japan to undergo face-to-face training courses. I understand their feeling and that it is indeed necessary for them to learn from experience by visiting JAs. Hoping the end of COVID-19 pandemic I am really looking forward to the day to come when participants will be with us in Japan.



①



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③

Terminal for  
International  
Flights ①②③



④

Airplane for international  
flight waits alongside  
boarding bridge

## ● Editing and Publishing

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