

Office Relocation and New Logo Mark

We are pleased to inform you that Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia (IDACA) relocated its office on July 22, 2022. IDACA logo mark has been renewed with this office relocation.

【New Logo Mark】



IDACA
JA Group



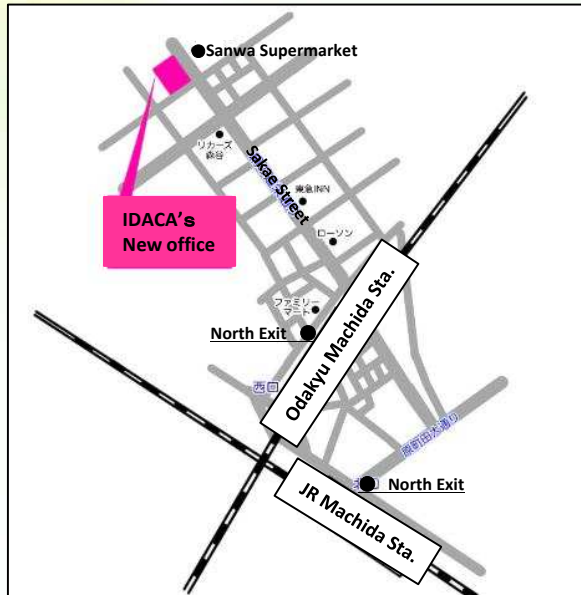
IDACA
JA Group

<Images of New Logo Mark>

New logo is designed to evoke fresh start of IDACA to be
“a hub of information and human network”,
and be “ a catalyzer to bring about innovation ” to rural
communities.

July 22, 2022

IDACA's New Office Opened



New Office Map

New Address:

2-30-14, Morino, Machida-shi,
Tokyo 194-0022

TEL: +81-42-860-7801

FAX: +81-42-860-7802

Nearest Stations:

- 7minute-walk from Odakyu Machida Station
- 10minute-walk from JR Machida Station

Upon relocation of our office, our operation has been renewed having no more accommodation facilities for overseas participants.



-NEW FACES-

Introduction of new staff

Mr. Makoto SHONO

General Manager and leader of
General Affairs Group



As a staff of JA Group Organization,
I will do my best for further
Development of IDACA, serving as
a bridge between Japanese agriculture
and other countries in the world.

Ms. Miho TOGAKI
Leader, Planning Group



Assigned to Planning Group,
I will contribute to the development
of IDACA's business by working
with internal organizations of
JA Group, government and
private companies.

Ms. Yuki IRISAWA

Program Coordinator, Training and
Development Group / Planning Group



Having experience of a
coordinator of International
Relations Department, JA-ZENCHU,
I will do my best to be
new strength of IDACA.

Ms. Rumiko NITANAI
General Affairs Group



I am Nitnai, accountant in
General Affairs Group.
I hope we, all the staff,
have a good cooperation
from now on.

01

Partnership Agreement with International Grains Council (IGC) is concluded in 2022

Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia (IDACA) signed a partnership agreement with International Grains Council (IGC; headquartered in London) on January 26, 2022. The IGC is an international government organization that promotes international cooperation in grain trade and provides a forum for the exchange of information. 29 countries including Japan and European Union are affiliated with the IGC at present. Following this partnership agreement, Mr. Arnaud Petit, Executive Director of IGC, gave a lecture to help the participants of a IDACA's training course gain knowledge about grain trade in the international situation. We will develop our business taking advantage of executive this partnership agreement.

02

IDACA's Executive Director Attends WFO General Assembly

WFO General Assembly was held in Budapest, Hungary on June 8, 2022, and Mr. Hirofumi Kobayashi, Executive Director of IDACA was invited. In a thematic session on "Women and Youth Entrepreneur-Centric Approaches to Innovative Finance as a Tool to Empower the overall Farming Community", Ms. Kati Partanen, ex-chairperson of WFO's Women Committee from Finland, and Mr. Kobayashi, Executive Director of IDACA together with the representatives of



farmers' organizations from the Republic of Malawi and Ghana took the platform. Its moderator, editor of BBC Rural Affairs, asked the following questions: (a) are the gender issues exclusive to women ? and (b) what are expected roles of Capacity Building in terms of women and young farmers' participation ? Mr. Kobayashi replied to the question (a) that the gender issues are shared among men and women, mentioning that for the first time there was a male participant who joined the ICA Training for Women held by IDACA last year, then the audience applauded. As to the question (b), he commented that "it is important to share some information and experiences. While the issues are emerging in a global scale, farmers' organizations and agricultural cooperatives must have competitive power in competing with other players of Food Value Chain. Therefore, it is meaningful to have the Capacity Building."

On the first day of the general assembly on June 8, 2022, Mr. Theo de Jager who had served as the WFO President for five years, made a speech, and then the new members of the board of directors including the WFO president were elected.

-Reports on Training Courses-

ICA Training Course on “Strengthening of Marketing through Improvement of Quality Farm Produce and Expansion of Marketing Channels in FY2021”



The training course was implemented in cooperation with International Cooperative Alliance Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP) from Nov 23, 2021 to Dec 17, 2021, for those countries where the cooperative movement is relatively active. The program was designed to focus on economic business aiming to improve the organization's development and also living of members of the

cooperatives by enhancing quality of agricultural products, marketing with value addition and more involvement in food value chain. The training course had a total of 14 participants: nine participants from Asia (India, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal and the Philippines) and three participants from Africa (Eswatini, Ghana and Rwanda). In addition, two WFO-recommended people joined the course as observers from Mauritius and Uganda. From this online program they learned JA Group activities on agricultural management, economic activities, agricultural product quality and efforts for safety and reliability of agricultural products. And they further studied the cases of “Baked Sweet Potatoes Strategy” by JA Namegatashiosai and “Waiwai-ichi Direct Sales Shop” by JA Sagami. The course was closed by confirming their will to implement their action plans in their own countries.



Message from the visiting lecturer

Mr. Takanobu OHYA
Manager, Waiwai-ichi Fujisawa Direct Sales Shop JA Sagami



I felt the participants' strong passion when they showed their interests in various things from the system of the direct sales shops to marketing and asked me a lot of questions about these things. I am not sure how much I could answer their questions about what urban agriculture should be like, consumer needs and how to deal with COVID-19 pandemic, etc. Let me express thanks to you for letting me join the ICA marketing training course. Exchange views with those people from other countries, I learned that sales systems are different from one region to another, one country to another. I would like to make use of this experience for my business in the future.

-Reports on Training Courses-

ICA Training Course on "Strengthening Management and Development of Agricultural Co-operatives and Farmers' Organizations in Asia and Pacific in FY2021"



The training course, as joint project with International Cooperative Alliance Asia and Pacific (ICA-AP), was implemented for the countries in Asia and Pacific region from March 1 to March 25, 2022. The program is designed for the countries where it is observed that they have difficulties in

forming and developing agricultural organization and systematic business management in Asian-Pacific region to contribute to strengthen competitiveness of agricultural products and to improve their income leading to maintenance and development of agricultural production, and it aims to support development of the leaders who fulfill main roles to organize agricultural cooperatives and to strengthen organization management. Invited are nine people from six countries, namely Bhutan, Cambodia, Laos, Nepal, Vietnam and Kirghiz in Asia, and two people from Fiji and Kiribati in Pacific. They learned from various case studies of JA Group organizations through the online program focusing on farm management, marketing business, purchasing business, quality management of agricultural products by employing GAP and efforts to secure safety and reliability of agricultural products. In addition, further studies were done on JA Matsumoto Highland's farm guidance, roles of the commodity-wise groups and marketing business planning. JA Fuefuki's branding strategy of agricultural products and JA Kanagawa Group's education activities for JA employees were also covered.



Message from the participant

Ms. Nguyen Thi Van
Director, Vinaco Production and Commerce Cooperative



For me, the training is very necessary. We can learn a lot from India, Japan and Thailand. We also learn how to improve and do action plans, how to strengthen the Management and Development of Agricultural Cooperatives and Farmers. I love cooperatives and farmers much more after training course! Many thanks!

-Reports on Training Courses-

ICA follow-up Survey and Guidance in 2021

The follow-up survey and guidance as joint program with ICA-AP is conducted every year as part of the ICA-Japan training project to 1) give proper guidance to challenges the ex-participants of the projects have faced and 2) to find how action plans made by the participants in the training courses have been implemented. Up until 2019, the follow-up survey and guidance had been conducted in the form of direct visits to selected countries, however, due to COVID-19 pandemic, the programs have been conducted online since 2020. It was planned as a four-day online program by the following 4 methods: (a) Questionnaire survey to the ex-participants of the training courses from FY2018-2020 to see how their action plans have been implemented, (b) Online survey to an only selected country, Malaysia, with video materials provided by the ex-participants to show the situation of the cooperative movement in Malaysia and also with reports on the progress of action plans, (c) Presentation of excellent implemented cases of action plans selected from the questionnaires, (d) Video materials to introduce the cooperative movement in the Fiji and Kiribati, which was followed by exchange of opinions as newly introduced method in the program.



Message from the participant

Mr. Mohd Azizul Rahman
Assistant Manager, Malaysian National
Co-operative Movement (ANGKASA)



This course program is very meaningful for me because it can introduce the value chain and socio-economic methods of the people and cooperatives in Japan. I was also exposed to the support of those in charge who are experienced in solving problems and awareness of the operation of the farm run by the cooperative and its members.



-Reports on Training Courses-

Re-commissioned training program on Developing Food Value Chain Construction for Small farmers in Africa from Nippon Biodiesel Fuel co., Ltd.

Training period : Nov 1 to 9, 2021 Participants : two from Senegal, two from Mozambique

The program, as part of a training course, started online for the participants who stayed at a hotel in Niigata prefecture for the designated quarantine period after arriving in Japan. It covered various subjects such as “Japanese agriculture and Rural Organizations”, “Historical Aspects in Development of Japanese agricultural cooperatives”, “Overview of the present agricultural cooperatives”, “Farm Guidance”, “Marketing Business”, “Purchasing Business”, “Education Activities”, “Credit Business”, “6th Industrialization of Agriculture”, “Management of Direct Sales Shop”, “Marketing Business Plan”, etc. Addressing at closing ceremony of the program, Mr. Rosário Alvelino Timóteo, the participant from Mozambique said, “I learned that Japan surmounted many difficulties as we had in the past. So it is really encouraging us and makes us think that we can make it. Dear friends in Japan, you should come to my country, Mozambique, where you may find that agricultural cooperatives are formed. Even though they would not be exactly the same as the ones in Japan, they would be the ones as fruits we could produce from what we have learned in Japan”.



Report from Staff dispatched in Vietnam



Entering Vietnam in October, 2021, I have spent almost nine months as a JICA long-term expert. Up until March, 2022, I could not do what I had initially planned for the project under the restriction as protection measures against COVID-19 pandemic. Now the restriction being under control, I have been working on the activities at a fast pace. In this situation, I got the opportunity to give a lecture in front of about 200 students at Vietnam National University, VNUA, where I have been assigned

as an agricultural human resource development advisor on July 8 as part of FVC seminar in a ASEAN-JAPAN Program held from July 4 to July 15.

While other lectures were given online, I could hold the face-to-face lecture with the university students followed by many questions, which I believe it was really stimulating both of us, me and the students.

Yoshiki Okuda, JICA expert