Fr. Daniel Myo Aung meets villagers of Alambo in Kachin State, Myanmar

Ôtsu Sensei spent his professional and personal lives in the service of others. His greatest pleasure was uplifting those around him.

Ôtsu Sensei served as Director of ARI from 2009 to 2015, and Chair of the ARI Board of Trustees from 2012 to 2017. ARI’s current director, Tomoko Arakawa (Tomoko-san), reflects on how vital his leadership was to ARI:

“I realize that with the credibility that he had as a leader of the Asian ecumenical movement, ARI was able to gain enormous trust and credit just because he was our Director. That fact helped us greatly, especially as we recovered from the massive earthquake that hit North-eastern Japan in 2011. With God’s grace and Rev. Ôtsu’s firm determination, we were able to raise a considerable amount of funds and gain support not only from Christian churches, but also from other organizations and individuals all over the world.”

Even in the face of the catastrophic triple disaster that shook the country to its core, Ôtsu Sensei was a pillar of strength. His tireless efforts were instrumental in the survival and rebuilding of ARI. It is difficult to imagine what would have become of the institute without him.

As a student, Ôtsu Sensei wasn’t interested in attractive platitudes about faith and empathy. In the words of his close friend and teacher Robert Fukada, “he insisted on learning theology in the concrete context. He went to Kyûshû, with other concerned students, to learn and to conduct programs in mining communities.” Though a scholar like Ôtsu Sensei could have pursued a career in university, he instead made the decision to live out
his beliefs serving the marginalized. He lived with, taught, and was taught by, some of the poorest and most disadvantaged people in Japan, the coal mine laborers of Chikuho Tanden. Tomoko-san recalls him saying that he and his wife “lived in a house where even the local people never wished to live.”

The willingness of Ôtsu Sensei and Keiko-san to take onto their shoulders the burdens of those they served is a perfect illustration of the servant leadership concept taught at ARI. Robert Fukada also notes, “I have known him always, even in a very serious social environment and situation, to keep up the spirit of hopefulness, encouraging others with his glowing smile and sharing others’ burdens and sadness with his whole being.”

An ecumenical leader for Asia

Ôtsu Sensei continued to exemplify the principles he held most dear — peace, understanding and active compassion — in his work at the Christian Conference of Asia and the National Conference of Churches in Japan (NCCJ). His efforts are described by Toshi Yamamoto, a colleague from the NCCJ: “One of his biggest achievements and contributions to the ecumenical movement in Japan was to strengthen the ties between churches and other faiths as well as networking with civil organizations in the area of peace, justice, human rights and ecological movements in Japan.”

After several years of service as pastor and further studies abroad, Ôtsu moved to Thailand, working as executive secretary of the Christian Conference of Asia. During the 1980’s and 90’s, he worked for introducing development education training among Asian churches with an emphasis on human, cultural, political and social aspects that go beyond mere economic development. The eight years spent in Thailand provided him with a rich network which he used to heighten awareness of people’s realities on the ground within churches in Asia.

A perfect match

Ôtsu Sensei’s path would ultimately lead him to ARI. His life and values as a servant leader were perfectly aligned with those of ARI. As director of ARI his example shaped how ARI was perceived by those who had the privilege to meet him. Bev Abma, a researcher for the recently completed Graduate Impact Study, recollects her first encounter with Ôtsu Sensei: “The warmth of the cup of green tea I cradled in my chilly fingers was far surpassed by the warmth and passion in his eyes and voice as he shared his vision for ARI. He spoke of preparing men and women to provide leadership as servants in their home communities, wherever those might be. His quiet, humble explanation of Christ-like servant leadership inspired me to participate in the Graduate Impact Study to learn more about how that was lived out in graduates’ lives.”

Reflecting upon how perfectly suited Ôtsu Sensei was to lead ARI, Tomoko-san says: “He was living with joy and satisfaction here because he might have seen an ideal community at ARI where all human beings are living and working in the ways they should live and work.”

Stephen Miller
Brethren Volunteer Service
As shown in the graphic (right), one of the future visions derived from the Graduate Impact Study was to connect the realities of the ARI graduates, who live and work all over the world, with ARI in Japan. We need to re-recognize the graduates and their organizations as precious agents who are using the ARI spirit to tackle various problems and issues in their rural areas.

Since its establishment, we have made it one of our top priorities to connect with our graduates. In the 1970’s, we began study tours for ARI supporters and staff to visit graduates in the field, and in the 80’s we developed the Training Assistant program that brings graduates to campus. This program allows them to continue to develop their leadership skills and pass on their knowledge to new participants.

Additionally, we created the Graduate Outreach Section, under the umbrella of the Admissions Section. This gave an opportunity for a Training Assistant to communicate with graduates, publish the semi-annual graduate newsletter Network, maintain a database of graduate information, and assist in linking graduates with funding organizations.

However, the comprehensive Impact Study involving interviews with 229 graduates, revealed their desire for an even deeper level of connection with ARI. Therefore, in addition to the great amount of effort already being expended supporting and communicating with graduates, we want to expand upon our efforts by creating a Graduate Outreach department managed by a full-time staff member.

With this new section, a complete circle made up of ARI (Curriculum), Rural Leaders (graduates as recipients of the ARI training), and Communities/Organizations (those who are impacted by the training) is created, which will help circulate people, ideas, and partnerships to allow each part to achieve its full potential.

As the Graduate Impact Study proved, the question of whether the graduates can realize their dreams or not depends on how much their organizations understand the ideas and visions for the future. If there is a sound relationship between ARI and the graduates’ organizations (which the aforementioned cyclical exchange will help facilitate), ARI can help promote understanding in the graduates’ organizations.

A stronger relationship between ARI and the graduates’ organizations will also help our recruitment. Having more effective communication will help us better understand the realities and contexts of rural areas where potential applicants live and work. This will enable us to identify additional quality organizations and applicants to invite to the ARI training program. Another advantage is that it will likely lead to new forms of cooperation, such as more post-graduate training by ARI and an increase in ARI staff presence in the graduates’ home countries.

While we can think of numerous positive outcomes that could result from this new endeavor, we know that the process will not be easy. There are over 1,300 graduates in 57 countries and their activities and environments are diverse, as are their thoughts on ARI. However, I don’t think we can move forward if we stop here and just passively watch our graduates’ activities. So, to step forward, we have started a fundraising campaign for Graduate Outreach. We set $100,000 as a target to hire one full-time staff member for three years, and already half of the targeted amount has been raised. I would like you to join this campaign and help us begin this new circulation of ideas and partnerships among graduates, their organizations, and ARI!
For almost two decades, Duduzile Nkabinde (or Dudu-san, as she is affectionately called here at ARI) has worked with the Japan International Volunteer Center’s South Africa Office. Her relationship with the organization began upon her acceptance into a vocational course offered by the Center, where she subsequently began to volunteer (and later became a staff member). Her current position is that of Project Coordinator, in which she is able to pursue her passion: training volunteers to work with people suffering from HIV and AIDS. This passion is rooted in a deep love for the communities of South Africa and her desire to see the lives of their people improved. “Somebody has to do something,” she points out, emphasizing that change doesn’t happen until someone is willing to take action.

The volunteers Dudu works with in Makhado (Limpopo province) are trained to live with and assist families who have been affected by HIV/AIDS. Children are an important focus of these efforts, as their lives are often upended when one or both parents are claimed by the disease. Volunteers ensure that these children receive proper care and education, including appropriate sex education in order to help combat the spread of HIV/AIDS in the future.

Dudu’s students also help their host families create gardens in their homes and communities in order to create an environment of self-sufficiency. To this end, organic farming techniques are taught so that the people are able to support themselves without having to rely on outside sources of aid. This deepens personal bonds and fosters trust between all, which in turn helps strengthen communities (which is at the heart of Dudu’s mission).

Full of love and laughter, Dudu strives at all times to be an agent of positive change in her country and the world. However, she acknowledges that true change is difficult to bring about. “To bring change in a community, it doesn’t happen in a minute, or a day... it doesn’t happen in a short time,” she states. Luckily, her vision of a servant leader that ARI has helped her develop is able to handle this kind of adversity. She calls on those who wish to bear leadership roles to not just take control and issue commands, but to work to enrich the communities they work with by uplifting their people. “They must have patience, passion, humility, and compassion,” Dudu says. “They must be the change they wish to see around them.”

Dudu with her classmates during a lecture.

“Patience, passion, humility, and compassion.”

South Africa

Duduzile P. Nkabinde
JVC South Africa

Oakley Neel
Mission Volunteer, United Methodist Church
Ruman Berua
Rissho Kosei-Kai Bangladesh

Ruman Berua (known as Rome here at ARI) has been working for his sending body, Rissho Kosei-kai, for the past seven years. Rissho Kosei-kai is a worldwide Buddhist organization founded in Japan in 1938 and established in Bangladesh in 2003. It conducts Buddhist seminars, education programs for families, rural projects, and free medical services including children's health projects. This year, we have two participants from Rissho Kosei-kai, but its relationship with ARI is a long one, spanning more than 40 years. Its founder, Mr. Niwano, was impressed by ARI founder Takami's vision and offered support, saying what ARI was trying to do for world peace was exactly what Rissho Kosei-kai must do also.

Rome’s branch serves indigenous tribes in the hilly areas of Bandarban in Southeast Bangladesh. A large portion of Bandarban’s population is uneducated and impoverished. The majority of Rome's efforts in his work with these communities have been directed into a project that facilitates the cultivation of Japanese sweet potatoes, with the intent to eliminate food shortages. Though the tribes of Bandarban grow rice for much of the year, their fields remain empty in the winter months, due to a lack of rainfall. To remedy this problem, Rome and Rissho Kosei-Kai give the stems of Japanese sweet potatoes to the local farmers and show them how to grow the introduced crop. Japanese sweet potatoes are large and rich in nutrients and carbohydrates, which make them a wonderful food source when rice is in short supply. Additionally, the farmers can sell the excess harvest to make some money for essentials. This project has been very successful and is continuing to grow.

Though Rome's vocation has given him opportunities to travel and experience different lifestyles, life at ARI has been a challenge for him. “There are times,” he explains, “when problems arise outside of our learning.” For example, while he and the other participants were taught how to raise and care for certain crops, there was a time when a new species of pest began to attack the vegetable’s root systems. This proved quite the problem, though the participants remained undeterred. With the help of their advisers and their own efforts to address the “root problem”, Rome and his group were able to save their harvest. While speaking of the crops he and his friends had put so much effort into, Rome comments, “there was nothing more satisfying than getting to eat the vegetables we grew in our own fields, and to get to share and eat together with the whole community. After experiencing this sense of accomplishment, Foodlife work has not only become easier, but a time of joy.”
In early 2017 we received a generous donation from Pearl City Community Church in Pearl City, Hawaii for our ‘new’ mushroom project. With this donation, we were able to purchase equipment to begin the ‘sawdust substrate’ method of cultivation.

For several years we asked ourselves, “Is it possible to grow safe mushrooms at ARI?” The teaching and practice of mushroom cultivation had long been a part of the ARI curriculum and meal service until the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and subsequent radiation fallout. This forced ARI to cease mushroom cultivation using oak logs from our forests, as they had absorbed an unsafe amount of radiation. Since then, we have checked the radiation levels (cesium) of all harvested crops before sending them to the ARI kitchen. Almost all of our produce is now safe for consumption, however, due to the high radiation levels found in mushrooms, ARI has not grown them for several years.

The ARI Crop and Vegetable section determined that re-establishing mushroom cultivation would be relevant to our participants, most of whom come from areas where mushrooms can be grown. In 2016 we did a trial, and its positive reception by the community made us realize that we needed to find another way to bring them to the table. Due to their rich content of dietary fibers and numerous beneficial minerals, mushrooms are both an excellent source of nutrition and income for many people throughout Asia and Africa. In addition, mushrooms would be an ideal addition to ARI’s meal service in that they could provide both safe nutrition and diet diversity for our community members. ARI’s neighbors (to whom we sell vegetables) have indicated they would also welcome the addition of mushrooms.

Mushroom cultivation using a sawdust substrate system is a simple, non-work intensive way to raise quality mushrooms. We needed to purchase special equipment for the sterilization process, but most of the other work was able to be done with the people and resources available right here at ARI.

**Masanobu Sakurai**  
*Crops & Vegetables staff*

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1. Participants make the agar medium (containing potato and sugar which gives nutrition for mushroom to grow) and put them into small bottles.
2. Next, they mix ingredients for the medium for mushrooms to grow in, and fill plastic jars with it.
3. Building new shelves for the storage room.
4. After sterilizing, participants add seeds and agar to the jars. Next, the jars will be put into storage.
People in the Philippines are smiling even though they are poor. People in Japan are not smiling even though they are rich. Why is that? There are people who dedicate themselves to serve the marginalized. They are the graduates of ARI. Where does their devotion and passion come from?

On this study trip, we will visit 12 graduates in different areas over the course of 10 days. Encountering people at the grassroots, eating what they eat, and sleeping under the same roof, we think about what we have obtained and what we have lost in the course of economic development. Let’s think about the meaning of “happiness”.

Let’s inquire the real meaning of happiness by visiting rural leaders and grassroots’ people in the Philippines!

Jun’ichi Yagisawa
ARI Staff
Domestic Supporters Desk

Schedule

Day 1  Fly from Narita to Manila (Philippines Air), Move to Zambales by vehicle
Day 2  Jireh campus tour and street children issue (Joel ’86), Aeta Children issue (Frida ’17)
Day 3  Aeta’s struggles (Fred ’07 & Butog ’14), Visiting Louis’ farm (Louis ’85)
Day 4  Sightseeing in Subic Bay or relax at Subic beach
Day 5  Fly from Manila to Negros Island (Philippines Air), Move to MCARI training center by vehicle
Day 6  MCARI tour (Sr. Nila & Sr. Virgie ’95), Visit Ariel (’05), Visit Sr. Vici (’77) and Phoebe (’04)
Day 7  Move to Iloilo Island by boat, Visit Louie (’92), Move to HLC
Day 8  Visiting poor farmers (Joefel ’90), Fellowship night with HLC staff
Day 9  Move to Guimaras Island by boat, relax or sightseeing
Day 10  Fly from Iloilo, transit in Manila, fly back to Narita (Philippines Air)

Date  Feb 8 to Feb 17, 2018
Areas  Luzon Island (Zambales area), Negros Island, Iloilo Island, Guimaras Island
Fee  ¥188,000 (for non ARI supporters), ¥178,000 (for supporters, volunteers, former volunteers, and students)
Contact  Write to Mr. Jun Yagisawa at jun_yagisawa@ari-edu.org
Meg Gaston

Meg Gaston from the United States was a volunteer at ARI from March 2014 to April 2015 working in Admissions and Graduate Outreach. She was placed at ARI working as a Global Mission Fellow with the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM), of the United Methodist Church.

One of the things that made my time at ARI so wonderful was my roommate, Japanese volunteer Noriko. We turned our room into a cozy, and sometimes messy, home. She taught me what it was like to live with someone from a different country, culture, and language. I learned quickly that we have different sleep schedules - I would be asleep before she came back to our room at night and awake before her in the morning, so we started scheduling roomie nights where we would watch a movie or go out to eat to spend time together. It was interesting to learn more about the Japanese culture and compare the differences.

When I first arrived I struggled with how busy we were. I was so tired but once I learned how to do the different Foodlife work assignments the days flew by. I loved spending time in all of the different sections except with chickens and roosters. I especially loved working with the goats and in the fields. I loved understanding more about where our food was coming from and hearing why it was so important to take care of the soil and earth.

The participants taught me about what it was to be a leader and about their communities and the families they left behind. I would never have thought I would know so many people from all over the world, but I am grateful for all the people I met and the memories I’ve made at ARI.

I left ARI a different person. My idea of what it looks like to really care about the earth changed and I returned home with a greater appreciation for the life of the food I eat. I am more conscious of my carbon footprint and try to carpool as often as possible. I try to think about the food that I buy and what ingredients I use at home to prepare it; using as much organic produce as possible, though it is harder right now since I do not have my own garden.

After I finished my time with GBGM, I moved to New Jersey to study at Princeton Theological Seminary. I decided to go here while I was at ARI. I had originally planned to go to a different school but after visiting here and talking with some friends and family back home I realized that PTS was a better fit. I have been working on my Masters of Divinity and am currently going through the ordination process for the United Methodist Church. Once I graduate I plan to move back to North Carolina to become a pastor. I have not always wanted to be a pastor. I wanted to be a high school math teacher but then I realized that God was calling me to something different. I have not always felt like I was making the right decision, but the church where I am currently interning has helped me to see more and more what I am called to do.

Through my experiences at ARI and getting to meet so many different people, I want to make sure that all those who come to my church feel welcomed and accepted.
I also hope that my church will be able to work closely with other religions since my time spent with those who are Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim, and non-Christians was so important and life-giving during my time at ARI.

I am so grateful for the time I spent there with all of the volunteers, participants, and staff members. I also want to send my condolences on the loss of former director Ótsu Sensei. A good deal of my time as volunteer was spent at my desk outside of his office, so I was often awarded the opportunity to talk to him and watch as he made a difference in the lives of so many people. ARI will always hold a special place in my heart and I know that I would not be the person I am today if it were not for the time I spent there.

text & photo: Meg Gaston

Ricky Nelson Renthlei
2008 Graduate
Bethany Society, India

I have been working with an NGO called Bethany Society for the past 14 years as a Senior Programme Coordinator. Bethany Society’s three-point mission statement is to improve lives by advancing the areas of inclusive education, uplifting those with disabilities, and livelihood. In pursuit of this goal, my organization is working for India’s marginalized sector, who are the poorest of the poor, by enhancing their economic livelihood through skills development and training. The trainees are linked to various funding institutions to obtain loans and other needed aid.

As a Senior Programme Coordinator, I look after the livelihood aspect of Bethany Society’s work by providing training in livestock care, agriculture, entrepreneurship, card making, handicraft, food and fruit processing, and other skills so that people can stand on their own feet and have pride in themselves by earning a decent living to support their families. We are working in 600 villages across the state of Meghalaya as well as in the 6 other states of North East India: Manipur, Assam, Mizoram, Arunachal, Nagaland and Tripura.

On December 3rd, 2016, I received a National Award from the President of India, Dr. Pranab Mukherjee, at the National Capitol in New Delhi in recognition of our selfless work towards humanity. The National Award is for Best Empowering and Employment of Persons with Disabilities. This is in regard to how our organization has helped many disabled individuals complete their studies/training so that they could acquire a living wage.

I am glad to mention that my training at ARI greatly helped me and my organization to utilize the techniques which I learned for the betterment of our society. This award is an encouragement and motivation to me and my team to continue working hard in improving the lives of the marginalized people. I, therefore, dedicate the award to ARI and all the people I am working with.

text & photo: Ricky Renthlei
My Japanese is finally good enough to read a collection of essays by Takami Sensei. It is titled *Living a Thousand Years in a Single Day* and was published in 1990 by ARI. I’ve owned this booklet for over ten years, and I’m glad I’ve kept it!

Recently, I’ve been wondering how Takami was able to see into the future (meaning our present day) so clearly. Many people recognized the calamities of globalized markets, mass-consumer culture and environmental exploitation decades ago. But how did Takami then come up with solutions that the rest of the world is finally waking up to? Reading his essays, I might have found some hints.

(1) He observed what was happening to farmers and rural communities all over the world. Farmers are the ones taking care of soil and food, both of which not only physically sustain our lives, but hold deep spiritual and cultural meaning for society at large. The ways we produce, trade and consume food, and the technologies involved in the process speak volumes about where we as a species currently stand and what kind of future we’re heading towards.

(2) He paid attention to the most vulnerable people in society. Takami’s Christian vantage point made him look closely at people placed at the “end of the food chain.” (In his writings, this applies to farmers, and the rural populace in developing countries in particular.) Why are they marginalized? What conditions allow their exploitation? Perhaps from these reflections he deduced the values or spiritual state of a society, and realized that if once its lowest segment cannot be exploited further, the next segment above will meet the same fate. Based on this he might have foreseen where economic forces would steer the world if the affairs of the bottom segment are not taken care of!

These are just some initial guesses from my reading. But it is fascinating to see how Takami fuses Scripture, agriculture and economics to get right to the heart of current issues.

A while ago during a staff meeting, a surprising phrase came up. “Takami as a prophet.” It was so unexpected that I hadn’t even time to question it — I became intrigued enough to wonder what the word *prophet* could mean in our time. I found a striking definition in Fr. Gustavo Gutiérrez’s *A Theology of Liberation*. (The book had once been owned by Gretchen deVries). He says that an evolving theology linked to praxis “fulfills a prophetic function insofar as it interprets historical events with the intention of revealing and proclaiming their profound meaning. [...] This is the meaning of the prophetic role: The prophet [...] explains to the people the true meaning of all events; he informs them of the plan and will of God at a particular moment.”

Looking at numbers and knowing how technologies work is not enough to predict the future. It requires wisdom to recognize the meaning of these realities which will then hint at a just way to respond. Takami was deeply engaged in the social realities of his time, and he could settle on the right values on which he decided the methods to confront long-term developments. I feel we staff members need to strive to match Takami Sensei’s wisdom to carry ARI in the right direction.

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**To explain the true meaning of all events**

Christian ethics and a special concern for farmers were vital in shaping Dr. Toshihiro Takami’s vision for the role of ARI.

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**Takami’s Talk**

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**Thomas Fujishima**
Public Relations staff
Update on the Toshihiro Takami Scholarship Fund

The Board of Directors of the American Friends of Asian Rural Institute continues to celebrate the creation of the endowed scholarship fund established September 2016 in honor of Dr. Takami. We are thankful for all the contributions that have been made to begin the dream of providing multiple annual ARI scholarships in perpetuity.

The Scholarship began with a donation of US$10,000 and a challenge to match that amount. In addition, there was a promise of a dollar for dollar match up to $5,000 for funds raised beyond the $10,000. The intention of the challenge and match was to create a $30,000 base. With the combination of the initial gift, cash donations and matching funds the total raised currently stands at just over $40,000 (4.426 million Yen).

If you would like to honor Dr. Takami with a donation of any amount, you can do so by sending a check made payable to AFARI with a notation on the memo line, Takami Scholarship Fund, to:

AFARI
c/o J.B. Hoover, Executive Director
1121 A N. 94th St.
Seattle WA 98103-3305

Legacy gifts to the Takami Scholarship Fund are another way to ensure Dr. Takami’s vision continues. Any inquiries about making a legacy gift can be made to:

J.B. Hoover, AFARI Executive Director, at (206) 349-2807.

Please join us and be part of this exciting and lasting way to honor Dr. Takami and continue the work of ARI that he started over 40 years ago.

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

ARI is progressing with new curriculum developments, richer biodiversity of the campus’ farm, and expanding networks with Japanese churches. All of this and more can be found in That We May Live Together, our 2016 Annual Report. We’ve recently released the English edition. Request a hardcopy from AFARI, or download a PDF from the ARI website.

ARIGATO GOZAIMASU!

The Take My Hand editors say arigatō gozaimasu (thank you very much) to the volunteers who helped in reading, editing and writing for this latest issue!

ARI/AFARI SPEAKERS COME TO THE NORTHEAST

If you live in the northeastern US, you have a chance coming up to hear presentations and speak directly with an ARI graduate and staff member. From October 18 to November 12, graduate Zacivolu Rhakho (“Acivo”, 2000) from Nagaland (India), and Kathy Froede, ecumenical relations staff, will be touring the states of New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and the Washington D.C. area. AFARI staff J.B. Hoover will accompany them for much of the trip.

If you reside in or near any of these states and would like to attend a presentation and meeting, please be in touch with J.B. (jb@ileap.org, 206-349-2807) for more details.

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Legacy gifts to the Takami Scholarship Fund are another way to ensure Dr. Takami’s vision continues. Any inquiries about making a legacy gift can be made to:

J.B. Hoover, AFARI Executive Director, at (206) 349-2807.

Please join us and be part of this exciting and lasting way to honor Dr. Takami and continue the work of ARI that he started over 40 years ago.

ARIGATO GOZAIMASU!

The Take My Hand editors say arigatō gozaimasu (thank you very much) to the volunteers who helped in reading, editing and writing for this latest issue!

ARI/AFARI SPEAKERS COME TO THE NORTHEAST

If you live in the northeastern US, you have a chance coming up to hear presentations and speak directly with an ARI graduate and staff member. From October 18 to November 12, graduate Zacivolu Rhakho (“Acivo”, 2000) from Nagaland (India), and Kathy Froede, ecumenical relations staff, will be touring the states of New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and the Washington D.C. area. AFARI staff J.B. Hoover will accompany them for much of the trip.

If you reside in or near any of these states and would like to attend a presentation and meeting, please be in touch with J.B. (jb@ileap.org, 206-349-2807) for more details.
American Friends of the Asian Rural Institute
Rural Leaders Training Center - Japan

c/o J. B. Hoover
1121A N 94th St.
Seattle, WA 98103

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

How to donate to ARI

**USA**

US citizens may make tax deductible gifts to ARI through AFARI. Make out your check to the American Friends of ARI and send it to:

American Friends of ARI (AFARI)  
c/o J.B. Hoover, Executive Director  
1121 N 94th St.  
Seattle, WA 98103-3305  
or donate online through AFARI at http://friends-ari.org/

**Canada**

Canadian citizens can make a tax deductible donation to the United Church of Canada to support ARI. Cheques payable to the UCC should be sent to:

United Church of Canada  
Partners in Mission Unit  
3250 Bloor St. W.  
Etobicoke, ON M8X 2Y4  
Attn: Pat Elson (Please designate "ARI" on the cheque)

Help Bring a Participant to ARI!

**Your Delta or United** frequent flier miles can obtain a round-trip ticket for a member of the 2018 Class.

For the past several years, AFARI members’ gifts of Delta Skymiles or United MileagePlus miles have covered transportation costs for participants in ARI’s Rural Leaders Training Program.

If you have either Skymiles or MileagePlus miles that you would like to give toward RT transportation for an ARI participant in 2018, please be in touch with us **before December 15**, if possible.

**CONTACT**

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