Handing down from us to next generation

Sustainable agriculture which does not pollute water

Rev. Kenichi Kusachi
Director General of
The PHD Foundation
Representative of Local NGOs
Co-ordinating Team for HANSHIN
Quake Relief

1) Brief Presentation of The PHD Foundation

The PHD Foundation is one of NGOs doing international cooperation for rural development of Asia and South Pacific countries. PHD stands for peace, health and human-development. We share our time, ability and wealth to support improvement of rural life in those areas by the people living there. To explain its activity concretely, The PHD Foundation invites farmers, fishermen and women from those areas and offers on site training program from which, trainees learn recurring agricuruture, fisheries, and primary health care from people who is working now in those fields.

The PHD Foundation's work has mainly two aspects, one is offering training program above-mentioned, the other is mutual exchange between trainees and people who live in Japan. Through this exchange, not only trainees but also we in Japan rethink our sense of value and lifestyle.

2) Human cycle of The PHD Movement (attached paper)

3) Network of environmental education Through trainees

The PHD Foundation's training is mainly done in rural areas. Trainees meet big varieties of people young and old of both sex through the people who take care of their training during their stay in Japan. The main subject of these exchange is mainly concerning to the significance of recurring agricuruture with domestic animals which does not pollute water for a long period of time. To deepen these exchange, we have rural life experience camp in village close to mountain participated by the people both from rural area and from urban area such as grass-roots people from Asia and South Pacific countries, elementary, junior, senior high school and college students, their parents and people working for the ordinary company in Japan. Hyogo prefecture contains mountain,

sea and hill. This experience camp connect people living under different natural surroundings, and through this camp, people both from the upper stream of the river and from the lower of the river close to sea are aware of the importance of natural recurring and of protecting it. In addition to this program, we provide forestry experience camp these six years to realize the fact that protecting forest means protecting water. These kinds of exchange meeting is done 138 times inside Hyogo prefecture in 1995, and about 13500 people join them.

The PHD Foundation carries out study tour 4 times a year to visit trainees back to their own village after one-year-training in Japan with people who meet trainees during thier stay in Japan. About 50 people learn about development containing environment from these visits every year.

Regional network

Kobe NGO council established by proposal of The PHD Foundation in 1986 has been making appeal to regional government such as Hyogo prefecture or Kobe city for reduce wasting products from tropical rain forest and recycle them in the field of construction. Although we cannot get result immediately, Kobe city government start to cope with this problem.

4) Epilogue

Hyogo prefecture where The PHD Foundation has office is stricken by the great earthquake in January 17th, 1995. We seriously damaged by this like by the war in 1945. Now, 2 years after since then, people begin to take the first step toward restoration.

We will overcome this terrible damage and proceed toward reconstruction. In this reconstruction, the most important thinking is 'simple life in high thinking.' That is to say, now we have pay attention not to the sense of value which seeks for the affluence of material but to pay attention to the very primitive sense of value which think people will die out if we pollute water. To come true this, we need to be conscious of the fact that anyone who live both in upper stream of the river and near the sea cannot live deviate from environmental circurring andthat our Asian sea will become all together with sea of the world. This make us join the international cooperation for conservation of environment by our own free will.