

### 30th anniversary of AAI celebrated

Appropriate Agriculture International Co., Ltd. (AAI) celebrated its 30th anniversary on December 14, 2014. The company was established in 1984 and commenced operation as development consultants in 1989. Today, we continue to operate with 10 in-house specialists. As a commemoration event for the 30th anniversary, on December 14, we organized an anniversary party in order to introduce our cumulative work and achievements and express our gratitude to people who have supported our work. In addition, we published a commemorative photo book and an AAINews 30th anniversary special volume which compiled all the AAINews articles.

The anniversary party included around 50 friends, supporters and partners whom we have known since the establishment of the company.



During the ceremony, we enjoyed delicious food and listened to everybody's congratulatory remarks with appreciation. From the AAI staff's side, we introduced the service history including the changes over the years in our support for agricultural development abroad and our training work in Tsukuba, using the format of a relay, "passing the baton" from one staff to the other staff (see the 2nd to the 5th photos in the series of pictures below). To conclude the party, there were remarks from the former president of AAI, Dr. Mitchimasa Kojima, followed by those of the current President, Mr. Hiroyasu Onuma, and finally two new Directors, Mr. Naoki Koga and Mr. Nobuki Kojima at the end. Many of us continued to enjoy the gathering with the second and

third parties after the formal party.

The preparation for the 30th anniversary event reminded us of many things. While we were making the commemorative photo book, it became obvious how much our fields of specialization and the number of countries in which we work have expanded. We also recollected the experiences of many counterparts and partners whom we have met through our activities in the field, and who nurtured the AAI. What we also realized through compilation of the AAINews 30th Anniversary special volume, was the power of AAINews as a means of information dissemination. Originally, we started the AAINews for enhancing information exchange between AAI staff members who were scattered in many countries with suboptimal communication opportunities. Since the first issue was published in 1995, 87 volumes have been dispatched. They included discussions of 34 different issues and 73 travel journals to 36 countries. Each volume was compiled with encouragement and critique from many people. However we have been able to jot down our daily thoughts, making it a kind of guidepost for our work.

Thanks to the kind support of so many people, we have been able to grow AAI to what it is now. The AAI has come to a major turning point where we need to pass our work on to the next generation. Nurturing and discovering of young talent has become an urgent task. With your continued support, under the new staff complement, we will continue to play a role in international cooperation by promoting appropriate technology at appropriate scale. We will also continue to publish and dispatch AAINews as a source for information to you, and to foster exchanges between staff members. We hope you will continue to provide your kind support and association with AAI. We have uploaded the anniversary photo book on the AAI website. There are photos from the 1970s and we hope you will flick the pages. Please also let us know if you would like a copy of the AAINews 30th anniversary special volume.

(AAI Staff)

