

Visit to the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperation in Asia (IDACA)

I visited IDACA on December 3, 2013. IDACA is in its 50th year since it was established in 1963. IDACA accepts overseas participants as agricultural cooperators and conducts surveys and research as part of international cooperative projects by JA group (agricultural cooperatives in Japan). Up until now more than 6,000 overseas participants from many countries have attended the IDACA's training. They have come from not only Asian, but also from African and Latin American countries. I saw how substantial the training facilities and the accommodation at IDACA were and so I was able to appreciate what a positive influence they would have on the participants studying there. Unfortunately, though I did not meet the participants themselves because they were away on a study tour at the time. Next to IDACA, there is a JA National Center for Education for mid-career staff from all over the country. This gives the IDACA participants the chance to exchange ideas about Agricultural Cooperatives with Japanese JA staff. It is, therefore a great opportunity to study Agricultural Cooperative in IDACA.



Rich with nature in Hachioji



Front entrance



Lounge with a fireplace



Brightly-lit hall



Various gifts from many participants



Setting BBQ in summer



Commodious lecture room



Full computer equipment



Comfortable large size bed

We manage a training program related to vegetable cultivation at JICA Tsukuba. Our staff members and IDACA staff members know each other. We invite them as lecturers to give talks regarding farmers' organization and marketing in agriculture. We would like to continue to cooperate with IDACA in various areas of agriculture and training activities.
(By Sawada November 2013)