



Connecting people, agriculture and the environment through appropriate technologies

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Inaugural address from the new representatives of AAI

Naoki Koga and Nobuki Kojima have been appointed as representative directors, taking over from their predecessor Hiroyasu Onuma. Appropriate Agriculture International Co. Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as AAI) is about to change generations, and for the last few years, we have been thinking about the future of our organization. What remains after the generation that laid the foundation of the company retired from the front line? And what can we younger generations inherit from AAI to keep it as it is? What can we leave for the next generation? We asked such questions of ourselves and came up with three thoughts.

The first thing to recognize is that the organization effectively remains a "small" group of engineers. Because the organization is small, we can see each other's faces, and by seeing each other's faces, we can see each other's efforts. In an environment where you can see each other's efforts, the way you operate in the workplace differs from a normal office environment. It doesn't matter even if the members change. AAI wants to maintain its unique personality and position by remaining a small group of engineers. As was the case in the past, we are particular about discussions at the "work place" which is a small table in the Machida office, and think that AAI is a place where the ideals and accumulated experience of each member can be maximized.

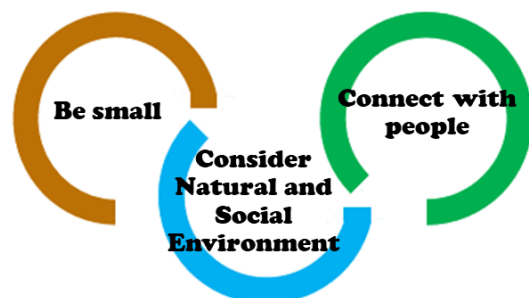
The second is to always consider the historical context and cultural/natural characteristics of the target/project sites. The environment surrounding international cooperation is changing dramatically, and as the world becomes smaller, there are many global issues that must be considered when implementing international cooperation. AAI always pays attention to, and considers, such issues. On the other hand, the starting point of the issue of international cooperation is the local people and the natural and social environments surrounding them. We are hoping that the results of our activities can contribute to the success of those people. AAI initially developed such activities mainly in arid regions, but now the range of target areas is expanding. Nevertheless, we will continue

to utilize the knowledge, skills, and experience of each member in line with the environment and people's lives at each site in the world.

The last point is the importance of "connecting", and this closely relates to the point we first made about the strength and advantages of being "small". But in a small group of different personalities, such as AAI, we can only enhance the power and effectiveness of the organization by respecting each individual and making the most of each other's skills and ideas. We would like to demonstrate the power of the company that is derived from our prioritization of the strength of "connecting". Also, since it is a small company, there is a limit to what can be done by AAI alone. In order to carry out meaningful and effective international work, cooperation with other consultants, researchers, NGOs, and people in the target area is indispensable.

AAI has been developed with the kindness and cooperation of many people concerned. In the future, while valuing the bond with everyone and sticking to knowledge and experience in respective fields, such as arid land, agriculture, extension/training, environment, we would like to seek what can be done by a small group of engineers and how international cooperation can be promoted by small organizations. We look forward to the continued guidance and encouragement of all concerned parties in the future.

(November 2019 Naoki Koga, Nobuki Kojima)



The three things to keep AAI as it is.