Silk Road Afforestation Project

Fighting desertification by planting trees

We organized an afforestation tour in October 2007 to Gansu Province, where 14 members worked together

another 90,000 seedlings from November 2007 to April 2008. In addition, working with the locally based China

We will plant sea buckthorn in the loess plateau and monitor the situation. In FY 2008, local farmers will

The Qinling Mountains are world famous as the home of a number of rare animals,

including pandas and the endangered golden snub-nosed monkey (Rhinopithecus

abandoned roads thought to pose the most serious environmental threat (72.5 km out

roxellana). However, the felling of trees for fuel since the late 20th century has

desolated the land and begun to threaten the survival of many species of wild

animals. In order to restore the rich forest ecosystem, we are replanting the

of a total of 194 km) and observing local animal and plant life.

spearhead efforts to plant another 35 hectares with 105,000 sea buckthorn. We will continue to monitor

planting techniques and data management to evaluate afforestation districts and resolve problems

with local residents to plant 120,000 seedlings. Including 30 hectares left over from FY 2006, we planted

Population Welfare Foundation we have visited afforestation districts and discussed seedling conditions.

harvesting of sea buckthorn and environmental issues. We plan to address these issues in FY 2008.

Desertification continues to claim new land in the dry loess plateau

along China's ancient Silk Road. Local residents say there used to

be plenty of greenery stretching from the City of Xian in Shaanxi

Province all the way to the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region,

but the felling of trees for fuel, overgrazing, and other overuse of the land are creating an expanded wasteland. Together with project

partner NPO2050, we have been planting sea buckthorn, which is

highly resistant to the arid climate and severe temperature extremes of Shaanxi Province, and our afforestation work has now

Qinling Mountains Forest and

Replanting abandoned roads

Some 310 people were involved in the planting of 12,000 trees in a

16 km area along abandoned roads in the Qinling Mountains.

According to news media reports, recent surveys indicate that

Ecosystem Recovery Project

spread to neighboring Gansu Province.

>>> FY 2007 activities

>>> Future activities

>>> FY 2007 activities

thus identified.

The goal of this project is to help schools provide environmental education. We match up NPOs around Japan, which know how to run nature experience programs, with schools that are looking for this type of expertise and opportunity. By combining the best

of these two types of organizations, we are able to arrange excellent environmental education programs. In addition, we also use the EE kids environmental education website as a

Environmental Education Support Project at Schools

Improving environmental awareness in the schools

101ects Community development education



2007 Eco projects







>>> FY 2007 activities

We provided support for environmental education programs at nine schools around Japan in an effort to promote independent, self-directed environmental education. The EE kids website is popular with parents, who usually have few chances to see what goes on in school classrooms.

>>> Future activities

In FY 2008, we will provide support for environmental education programs in 13 elementary and junior high schools (1 in Hokkaido, 1 in Iwate, 3 in Miyagi, 1 in Saitama, 3 in the Tokyo Metropolitan area, 2 in Mie, 1 in Kagoshima, and 1 in Okinawa).



Ochools supported in 1 1 2007			
Area	School	Supporting organization	Theme
Hokkaido	Teinemiyanooka Elementary School	Neos (NPO)	Getting to know nature in urban Sapporo
Miyagi	Uguisuzawa Elementary School	Kurikoma Highlands Nature School	Getting to know local nature and history
Saitama	Obukuro Higashi Elementary School	Center for Environmental Studies	Survey of living things in the biotope
Tokyo	Secondary Education School attached to the Faculty of Education, The University of Tokyo	Mokufusha (NPO)	Learning about how forests work and global warming, and then taking action
Gifu	Kiyomi Junior High School	Shinrin Takumi Juku	Seeing the function of forests and local cultures through woodworking
Hiroshima	Kidani Elementary School	Human Sciences Institute	Getting to know the richness of the local sea and history
Kochi	Nanokawa Elementary School	Kuroshio Jikkan Center	The link between mountains and sea
Kumamoto	Oozu Elementary School	Commu-Net Association	Seeing the environment from the perspective of water
Kanoshima	Nishiura Flementary School	Kusunokishizenkan	Learning about river environments

platform for our activities.

"Eco" Activity Participatory Environmental

2004: 5 schools 2005: 6 schools 2006: 10 schools

3 Education Project Noguchi Ken Environmental School **Helping to cultivate**

"environmental messengers"

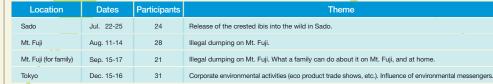
"I want to cultivate 'environmental messengers' who can take environmental action and communicate their message to the rest of the world." With that thought in mind, Noguchi Ken and the NPO he leads opened up the Environmental School. Students there experience the beauty and fun of nature, and learn about social issues relating to environmental preservation.





>>> FY 2007 activities

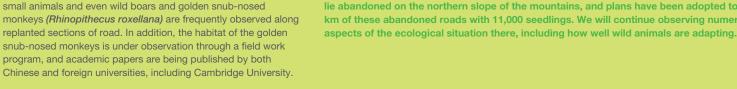
We held a total of three sessions of the Environmental School at Mt. Fuji and Sado Island, and one messenger meeting in Tokyo. By means of hands-on programs at the forefront of environmental action, we are cultivating "environmental messengers" who can take environmental action on their own and communicate their message to the rest of the world. About 100 people attended the Environmental School courses and the meeting in Tokyo in FY 2007.



>>> Future activities

The school will continue to train environmental messengers throughout the country. In FY 2008, it will hold the Environmental School classes on Mt. Fuji (3 classes) and in Sado and Tokyo, and will collect fees from participants to defray part of the costs, with a view to achieving its eventual goal of operating independently.







Sustainable Farming Support Project Cassava and silkworm farming

Located in the southwestern Philippines, the lush, green Palawan Island is said to be the mos underdeveloped area in the country. Most of the farmers and other residents log the forests and engage in slash-and-burn agriculture. Working together with project partner NPO2050, we obtained the support of the TagBalay Foundation, which is located in the capital city of Puerto Princesa, for an environmental conservation activity in which we help local women learn how to cultivate cassava and raise Eri silkworms.



>>> FY 2007 activities

In FY 2007 we sent experts to train instructors, so that they can in turn teach people how to make Eri silk. We held three courses in Puerto Princesa and another one in Port Barton focusing on how to raise Eri silkworms, spin silk thread, and loom and weave silk fabrics. In addition, we dispatched instructors to three locations on the island to show local residents how to raise Eri silkworms.

>>> Future activities

In FY 2008, we will continue to develop the skills of the instructors who teach local residents how to spin silk thread and loom and weave silk fabrics, and these instructors will in turn travel around the area upon request to share their skills with others. We will also continue providing



preserve and expand Kiribati's mangroves, planting 4,243 mangrove seedlings in the Ananau and Nanikai districts, bringing the total for FY 2005 through FY 2007 to 28,528 seedlings (survival rate, 40%). The survival rate improved from 54% to 84% from September 2005 to September 2007, which shows that we have learned from our earlier experience. To ensure that the activity continues in the future, we are encouraging the government to make independent efforts, and its work is beginning to see results.



In FY 2008, we will transfer appropriate technologies that local residents will need in order to





Graduates of the Permaculture Center













3 Tuvalu

>>>> Future activities

continue planting mangrove seedlings. In addition, we will hold workshops where environmental videos will be shown to spread the word in an easy-to-understand way about what is happening not only in Kiribati but in the South Pacific as a whole. We hope in so doing to make people more aware of environmental problems, and to help forge ties between different regions.

Students prepare land for permacu

>>> FY 2007 activities

A total of 30 students graduated in FY 2007 from the

instructor completed training in Japan. PCC trains

people to engage in sustainable farming. In addition,

Permaculture Center (PCC), while one PCC

the Solomon Organic Center (SOC), an incubator for small business,

has begun developing dried fruit products and buying honey from

PCC graduates and other local residents to sell in Japan.

Tropical Rainforest Conservation Project

Encouraging a change from slash-and-burn agriculture

The South Pacific island nations of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands both have close ties with Japan. They enjoy an abundant natural environment, but their populations are growing fast and their societies are undergoing rapid modernization, creating a need for greater food production and more cash income. As a result, commercial logging and slash-and-burn activities have expanded, and are now felling forests at a pace that exceeds the rate of natural regeneration. As part of the effort to save the tropical rainforests and solve the root causes of poverty, we are working to support a shift from slash-and-burn agriculture to more sustainable farming practices.

We worked mainly to build up our model training farms and to

promote sustainable organic agriculture. At our training farms,

we produced chocolate from cocoa beans grown on the farms,

purchased 300 specialist books on organic farming and other

topics, and registered 20 agricultural advisors with the national government. Our eventual aim is to localize operations. We experienced delays in procuring land,



We will work to promote the adoption of sustainable farming. At our odel training farm, which we intend should eventually be independently run, we will collect more reference books and train more technical ersonnel, and will provide organic farming advice at prison farms and improve the fertility of rice paddies. We will also dig wells and waterways in preparation for opening of the Kokopo Eco Wildlife Park in FY 2008.

>>> Future activities

We will keep helping PCC and SOC to expand their projects by setting up rice mills and other operations throughout the country. In addition, we will engage actively in public relations so that more people will understand what we are doing. Also, in response to the earthquake that occurred in the Solomon Islands in April of last year, we will continue working to make

the country more self-sufficient in food production.

Seeds represent the beginning of everything, and symbolize the idea of an ever lasting cycle. The school focuses on seeds as it works to strengthen the forest ecosystem and carry out environmental education. It takes seeds and seedlings from the mountains, raises them in a nursery, and provides the seedlings to local residents for use in afforestation projects. It also uses the raising of seedlings and afforestation work as tools for environmental education.

Forest restoration, environmental education—two

>>> FY 2007 activities

The school provided some 5,320 Sakhalin spruce (Picea glehnii) and Mongolian oak (Quercus mongolica var. grosseserrata) seedlings to Furano Field and the Hokkaido Mountain Village Forestation Association. As of FY 2007, it has raised some 36,000 seedlings at its nursery and has maintained the nursery well. In addition, a total of 563 people have participated in environmental education programs such as the Furano Eco Tours.

Seed Planting School

birds with one "seed"

>>> Future activities

In an effort to build a sustainable natural forest in Furano, Hokkaido, the school has been implementing afforestation methods

suited to local plant life. Its FY 2008 target is to provide 5,000 seedlings and continue running the nursery. It will also offer hands-on learning experiences designed to heighten the environmental awareness of participants



Sapporo (12)







§ Furano

4 Satoyama Preservation School The beauty of terraced paddy fields

As Japan's population declines and ages, its rural "satoyama" woodlands are beginning to go untended. This trend has had a big impact in lizuna, Nagano Prefecture, but residents there have decided to rebuild and preserve their terraced paddy fields and satoyama, and to use them for the education of children.

>>> FY 2007 activities

The Preservation School carried out environmental preservation of abandoned field 30a (assorted grains, buckwheat) and terraced rice paddy 20a (ancient rice). It enrolled 44 students to take part in the process and receive training as environmental education leaders who will be able to communicate with others about the environment. In addition, the school also gave guest lectures to 791 elementary and junior high school students in the Kanto region on such subjects as agriculture, food, and the

>>> FY 2007 activities

mangrove seedlings. We also repaired rainwater tanks,

contracting with a local firm to handle the repairs. From June

through September of 2007, 76 rainwater tanks were repaired.

We planted some 1,640 mangrove seedlings on the

Funafuti Atoll. In October 2007 we held a seedling

elementary school students, who carefully planted

event, attended by the deputy prime minister and 20

For FY 2008, we have set a target of planting 2,000 mangrove seedlings on Funafara

local residents how serious the problem is, and to prevent it from getting worse.

Island, which has suffered considerable environmental damage. In addition, we will invite

experts to teach workshops focusing on waste problems. We want to communicate to

>>> Future activities

The school will continue to carry out environmental restoration and preservation work, and to teach elementary and junior high school students about the environment, food, and agriculture. To ensure that both of these activities can continue to be carried out in the future, the school plans to take the farm products grown in the course of satoyama preservation work and sell them in the cities, and to make this activity a regular feature of its education programs.





Philippines (8)





>>> Future activities





>>> FY 2007 activities