



ACEF Newsletter

May, 2022

Thank you for your avid support for the ACEF mail news. We are happy to update you about our activities in Japan and Bangladesh. Today, we hope to share with you through these four articles, about what we value in our daily activities.

✨ What's New! ✨

- ① Foreword: "Walking together in this changing times" (Dean, Izuru Aratani)
- ② Member's Meeting and General Assembly was held on May 28, 2022.
- ③ News from Dignity Cafe
- ④ Introducing our SNS platforms

※The Japanese PDF version of this newsletter can be downloaded from our homepage.

URL→ https://acef.or.jp/mail_mag_2022apr/

Foreword: "Walking together in changing times" (Dean, Izuru Aratani)

ACEF began with the cooperation between Dr. Mina Marakarl and Pastor Yoshitaka Funato when they met in Bangladesh, a nation that was known as the poorest country in the world. It started as a program building Terakoya schools to provide primary education to children who were unable to attend schools. Then, the vocational school programs started, and now ACEF operates various other programs as well, such as scholarship programs for secondary education, and a micro credit program for the locals.

Bangladesh and Japan are both nations experiencing rapid changes- changes which are visible in our partnership, too. Thus, ACEF now aims to expand its activities with a new vision and missions. There are people who are left behind, both in Bangladesh, which is now recognized as one of the most rapidly growing nations in Asia, and in Japan, a nation with experience of economic superpower. Problems such as growing economic inequality and enforcement of economic activities that use the weak as stepping stones exist both in Bangladesh and Japan.

Today, ACEF is working towards implementing activities that support people who face those problems, both in Bangladesh and Japan. In order to pursue our vision, it is necessary to encourage understanding towards the root of the problems that exist in this society, and to raise awareness. ACEF aims to contribute to creating a society where no one is left behind through encouraging the understanding of “Dignity”- a value which all people have. Please join ACEF and become a partner! (ACEF Dean, Izuru Aratani)

Members Meeting and General Assembly was held on May 28, 2022.



From Member's Meeting

The members' meeting was hosted in hybrid, with people gathering both online and in person. It was a time of learning for both those who have supported ACEF continually, and those who joined for the first time, including high school and college students. Dico, a BDP staff member who arrived in Japan recently for an internship at Asia Gakuin, spoke about the current news on Bangladesh and the activities of BDP. With the report of site visit in March 2022 by executive director Oda, and

updates from Dignity Cafe, we were able to learn about ACEF's activities in Bangladesh and Japan and its partnership with BDP. Delicious Bengal tea was served in the venue, and the participants were able to enjoy a time to catch up with familiar faces, and meet new people.

Report from ACEF General Assembly

The 2022 General Assembly (33rd ACEF General Assembly) had a total of 21 participants, 13 at the Waseda venue and 18 online (other from 15 power of attorney/written voter). There were questions and comments regarding the FY 2021 activities report and budget, and FY 2022 activities plan and budget. After debate and discussion, all bills were approved. The activities report and financial statements are posted on the homepage. An easy to read annual report with photos will be published in July, so please read this report for the details.

News from Dignity Cafe No.1

Activities at ACEF's Dignity Cafe

Do you know the meaning of the word *Dignity* -a word that is included in ACEF's Vision “To create a society where people can share in the joy of living together knowing that the dignity of each person will be respected”. It might be a rather ambiguous term that is difficult to understand. Today, I would like to share about *dignity*, which is something that ACEF values greatly, by introducing the activities of ACEF's dignity workshops and Dignity Cafe.

Donna Hicks, a psychology professor at Harvard University defines dignity as a right that people are entitled to from birth. It is different from *respect*, as it is not something that is earned through completion, but is a right that people are born with. We, even though we have this wonderful right, are often unable to recognize dignity and end up fighting and hurting one another.

To change this world into a better place, ACEF's dignity workshop provides a participative opportunity to learn about how to regard dignity. In our Dignity Cafe, we try to see daily lives from a perspective of dignity and to discuss practicing dignity.

For me, encountering *dignity* has encouraged me to try and see and understand people who are different from me. It has also raised my awareness towards falling into the “hole of dignity” myself, which causes hurt in others. Please join our dignity workshop or cafe, if you are interested in the study of dignity, and want to learn with us! (Shizuka Yanagii)

★ACEF's Dignity Cafe uses “Dignity” by Donna Hicks as the main text and study together in a casual atmosphere. It is mainly operated by university students, but anyone is welcome if you are interested! (Contact: Yanagii dignity-wg@acef.or.jp)

Introducing our SNS platforms

We want to let you know of our newest activities, so we have various SNS pages!

【Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, LINE】

We cover a wide range of contents, starting with emergency announcements, prayer requests, daily scenes from Bangladesh and ACEF's projects in Japan. Follow us from our home page!

ACEF Homepage↓

<https://acef.or.jp/>

Thank you for your continuous support.

We look forward to keeping connected with you!

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