



ACEF ニュースレター SEPTEMBER 2023



↑2023 ACEF Autumn Seminar

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Thank you for always reading ACEF's email newsletter. We send this newsletter to our members, donors, and everyone we have met through events to share updates on ACEF's activities in Japan and our collaborative projects with partners in Bangladesh. Today, we have 12 articles to report and inform you about various topics.

Foreword Introduction to ACEF Community

About the Handicraft Working Group

(Takako Takaishi, Council Member)

"We started as a Bazaar Committee with the desire to spread awareness about children's education in Bangladesh. Over time, we transformed into an awareness-raising group and eventually became the current Handicraft Working Group. Handicrafts in Bangladesh have also evolved over the years. Thanks to the improved skills of our previous staff and artisans in BDP's sewing group, we have been able to create beautiful embroidered Christmas cards, elephant mascots, and pouches.

The support needed to enhance education has spread through Japanese schools, friends' associations, churches, and individuals. At times, there have been requests for specific products. In the past, as the Bazaar Committee,

ACEF Bangladesh Handicraft Catalogue URL :

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZWl8y4fuZU3e1j22G0eviJ185sYtJGAW/view>





we used to meet every month to exchange ideas and put effort into developing new items. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we created cards with drawings by Bangladeshi children, an idea proposed by our interns, to send our thoughts to Bangladesh even when we couldn't meet in person.

In the future, we plan to hold bazaars in many locations like before the pandemic. A new leader has joined BDP's sewing course. We hope to continue our group's activities for the joy of learning among Bangladeshi children, working alongside the staff at the secretariat. We would like to promote cards featuring drawings by Bangladeshi children at bazaars and other events. Let Bangladesh be right next to you!"

On ACEF's Vision and Mission

(Hiromi Sekiguchi, Council Member)

"ACEF's vision and mission contain the word 'together' ('共' in Japanese) five times. When I reflect on the workshops that have considered this vision and mission, I remember that participants come from various backgrounds, ages, and have different levels of involvement with ACEF. The very act of people from diverse backgrounds coming together to discuss these goals embodies the spirit of 'together.'

One of the missions is to 'seek practices.' I believe that the process of discussion has provided each participant with an opportunity to reevaluate ACEF's role in the face of the rapidly changing society and needs in Bangladesh and the prolonged economic stagnation in Japan. As a result, ACEF has been characterized as an organization that seeks and explores.

The word 'together' can evoke a sense of comfort but also feelings of uncertainty and determination. In such times, I hope that ACEF's vision and mission, which emphasize 'together' and 'seeking practices,' can be a source of encouragement. Through individuals who are encouraged in this way, I hope that the activities of ACEF and BDP will continue to be inspired."

Our Vision

ACEF aims to create a society where people can share in the joy of living together knowing that the dignity of each person will be respected.

Our Mission

To fulfill a calling to live in solidarity with others, ACEF seeks to work in partnership with the peoples of Asia.

ACEF aims to provide educational opportunities for growth for younger generations so that they will be equipped to build a world where people of different cultures and ethnicities can respect each other.

ACEF is committed to connecting the peoples of Japan and Bangladesh by creating spaces where each can learn from each other and experience mutual growth.



Change in BDP Director Leadership!

Ambrose Gomes, who served at BDP for 32 years as the BDP Secretariat Director, will retire at the end of September. Hemanta Corraya, the Deputy Director of the Secretariat, will take over as the new Secretariat Director starting from October. We have received a message from the retiring Ambrose, which we would like to share:



All ACEF members

It was 2 nd January, 1992 Dr. Mina Malakar, the founder country Manager of World Concern invited me to work with Sunflower Education Project (SEP) under the umbrella of World Concern. World Concern started working in the year 1992. We were just 3 staffs in the head office at the very beginning and our field was Pubail, Gazipur and slum area in Mirpur, Dhaka.

There were few feeder schools and also few adult literacy classes. Rev. Y. Funato was the founder Director of ACEF and Ms. Noriko san was the staff of ACEF. Gradually, we started working in Jamalpur, Barishal, Boxiganj and Netrokona. We started class under a big tree or someone Bharanda (Balcony) then we build small school house with bamboo and straw on a donated land by the community. After few years we built tin shed building with the help of ACEF. As far my memory goes, we had 170 primary schools in six areas. The local community helped a lot to operate the education program. In 1999, We established Basic Development Partners (BDP) and got registration from NGO Affairs Bureau of Bangladesh Government. Now situation has been changed a lot. Bangladesh government allotted huge money to build primary schools but still we have lack of secondary schools and the secondary education is bit expensive for the children from the villages.

I am very much happy that I could have chance to work with the children for many years. I think, I am lucky enough to work with Dr. Malakar, Rev. Y. Funato, Ms. Noriko san, Ms. Mayada san, Mr. Oda san and finally Ms. Satsuki san. They are all learned man and women and I really enjoyed working with them. I had chance to meet many Japanese friend who visited Bangladesh as study tour members. It is very difficult to count them all. We exchanged our ideas, culture, education system and many other things. It was not always easy going. Sometime, we were in difficult situation but God always helped us. I realized that most of the Japanese students loved Bangladesh, Bangladeshi people and our culture and even after returning they kept in touch with Bangladeshi people. They were very much friendly. Many Japanese students were changed their lives after paid visit to Bangladesh. I had a very wonderful experiences working with Japanese people. Now overall situation of BDP is not good enough because of fund crisis but still BDP should work hard and try to create fund from the local community. It is very much difficult job. The local community are not yet mentally ready to do something for others but we hope gradually the situation will improve.

Finally, I would like to give thanks to all ACEF members and also our Japanese friends who are working hard for the Bangladeshi children. Personally, I must thank all of you who helped me during the time while I was Director of BDP. Please pray for me and for my family members. I shall remember all of you in my daily prayer. May God bless all of you.

Thanks.
Ambrose Gomes



Albert Malakar, Former BDP Director, Has Passed Away



Albert Malakar, the former BDP Secretariat Director, who was greatly admired by all and had been leading the BDP Secretariat for a long time, passed away on September 17th. We offer our heartfelt condolences. From ACEF, Chairman Dery Aratani sent a message of condolence, and we would like to share the following response we received from Mrs. Monica Malakar, Albert's wife.

“Dear Rev. Aratani, ACEF board members, Rev. Funato, Noriko san, ACEF members and friends, here I would specially like to mention Mr. and Mrs. Harada and Yu saan among others, whom I also know, and everyone who is a friend of Albert in Japan- on behalf of Albert- and myself, we convey our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to each and every one of you for your tribute to Albert for his life and work, with BDP and for your condolences on his very sudden passing on 27th September 2023.

Albert had a very long standing professional, and with many of you a personal relation for many years. This enriched his life in many ways. Albert and I would like to express our deep gratitude to all.

As you mentioned, Albert was truly committed to the welfare of the children of Bangladesh. His compassion for the less fortunate in Bangladesh, his insight into their plight, and his innovative and creative mind tried to incorporate practical measures to help alleviate their suffering. Thank you all so much for supporting Albert and BDP in this endeavour, for making this vision a reality with your kindness and generosity. The Malakar family will always remember this.

With best wishes and prayers, sincerely,
Monica Malakar

Announcement: 10/1(Sun) - Global Festa 2023

Once again, ACEF will participate in the Global Festa Japan 2023, sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs! Under the theme "2023 ACEF Study Tour Report," we will have presenters, mainly high school and university students who have recently returned from Bangladesh, reporting online. This time, we are planning activities that aim not only to provide an update on the current situation in Bangladesh but also to promote interaction among participants. Details about the exhibition date and how to participate will be provided on the ACEF website and the Global Festa website in due course. ► <https://gfjapan2023.jp/>





2023 ACEF Autumn Seminar Held!

On September 24th (Sunday), at 3:00 PM, ACEF held its Autumn Seminar 2023 in a hybrid format at the Friends' House Training Room. Approximately 60 people attended both online and in-person, coming together to learn about ACEF's activities and collaborative efforts with Bangladesh.

In the first part, Mr. Yuko Fukushima and Mr. Shohel Rana shared their insights about Bangladesh, discussing topics such as schools, education, religion, culture, and the similarities and differences between Japan and Bangladesh. Hearing stories from individuals who had actually worked as teachers in primary and



secondary schools in Bangladesh provided a fascinating and educational insight into the lives of the people in Bangladesh. Furthermore, in the second part, participants who had recently returned from ACEF's Summer Study Tour shared what they had learned during their trip.

<https://acef.or.jp/kokunai/study-tour/>

Also, we are currently preparing the recorded broadcast to make it available to you as a missed delivery on YouTube.

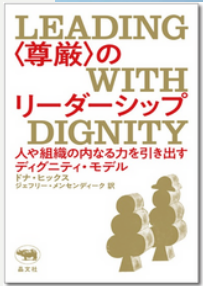


From junior high school students to adults, we sincerely thank everyone who participated and supported us! We also appreciate your cooperation in the participant survey (see below). Thank you."





ACEF Attended the “Dignity Leadership” Book Club



On September 12th, a 'Leading with Dignity' book club was held at Oberlin University, and two staff members from ACEF joined this event. Professor Jeffery Mensendiek, an associate professor at the university, also participated. Four presenters explained the content of chapters 1 to 19 of 'Leading with Dignity' (written by Donna Hicks). One of the presenters was Shizuka Yanagii, a member of ACEF Youth. The event deepened the understanding through group work and discussions.

10/14 (Sun) "Education for 'Bengali' Children Living in Khulna"

Professor Michiko Ono, an ACEF board member and Associate Professor at the Faculty of Design for Welfare Society at Toyo University, will speak about the lives of "Bengali" people in Karachi and the educational challenges faced by their children.

Date: October 14th (Sat), 14:00- In-person and Online Participation

**Venue: Nihon Kirisutokyo Kaikan, 4F, Rooms A & B
2-3-18 Nishi-Waseda, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo (within the Waseda Fukuin-en grounds)**

(8-minute walk from Waseda Station, Subway Exit 2)

Registration: <https://forms.gle/yPxP4MzakCd5Pjf58>

Organizer: The Japan-Bangladesh Society (Nihon Bangladesh Kyokai), Co-organized by ACEF



ACEF Participated in Seigakuin Fair!

On September 23rd (Saturday), ACEF had a booth at the Seigakuin Fair, organized by Seigakuin Elementary School. We showcased Bangladeshi handicrafts at the event. On that day, two students from the 2023 Study Tour team joined in wearing saris and lungis. Next to our booth, children from the Religious Committee enthusiastically called for donations.

This year, we are delighted to see that many schools and churches have resumed events, and we have received inquiries about bazaars from various organizations. If your school or church is planning a bazaar, please consider ACEF's products.

Contact us at: bazaar@acef.or.jp





Apology for Correction of Subsidy Amount and Return Item Shipping in Crowdfunding

We sincerely thank you for your warm support for the crowdfunding project organized by ACEF Youth, titled "Supporting Youth Walking Alongside Children in Bangladesh [Implementation of Local Tours and Internships]," which started on July 7th. We would like to inform you that there was an error in the subsidy amount for study tour participants, as previously communicated. We apologize for any confusion, and the corrected details are as follows.

Incorrect) Support Requested 25,000 yen/person

Correct) Self payment amount 100,000~200,000 → 30,000 support,
210,000~more → 45,000 yen support

Additionally, there were cases of insufficient postage for the shipment of return items. We apologize for any inconvenience caused. To those who covered the additional postage, we sincerely appreciate your cooperation. We hope for your continued interest in the activities of ACEF Youth. Thank you for your understanding and support.

ICU Autumn Service-Learning Activities Begin!

In the autumn of 2023, four students from International Christian University (ICU) have joined ACEF for their service-learning program. Among them, there is one freshman and three sophomores who will be engaging with ACEF's activities, including fundraising and events, in collaboration with the ACEF Secretariat until the end of November. We kindly ask for your continued support!



ACEF YOUTH

Youth Activities - Designated Donations

We kindly request your warm support for ACEF youth activities!





Ferris Women's University: ACEF Bangladesh Study Tour Report Session

At Ferris Women's University, Director Yanagihara and participants from the 2023 summer study tour, Mei Ishikawa and Rina Akune, will conduct a report session on the study tour!

Meo Ishikawa is also a member of ACEF Youth.

Date: October 31, 2023 (Tuesday) 12:20 PM – 1:00 PM

Venue: Classroom in the CLA Building + Online (Hybrid)

Pre-registration: <https://forms.gle/tfAUU1NnXZDpFyt3A>

Please register through this form. We will send the Zoom URL by the day before the event.

Hosted by: Ferris Women's University Volunteer Center

We hope you can join us!

Announcement: Results of the GOEN Donation Illustration Contest 2022

Results of the illustration contest is announced, and the artwork "Our Donations Around Us" by Reita Mishima (2nd grade) and Rikako (preschool) was honored with the Silver Award. Renta and Ricako designated ACEF as the recipient organization for their donation, and we are grateful to receive a generous sponsorship donation of 50,000 yen from GOEN. Although they didn't quite make it to the prize, we invite you to view some particularly highly regarded artworks. Please take a moment to appreciate the many impressive creations! <https://fujipon-goen.wixsite.com/givingdecember2022/%E3%82%AE%E3%83%A3%E3%83%A9%E3%83%AA%E3%83%BC>

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