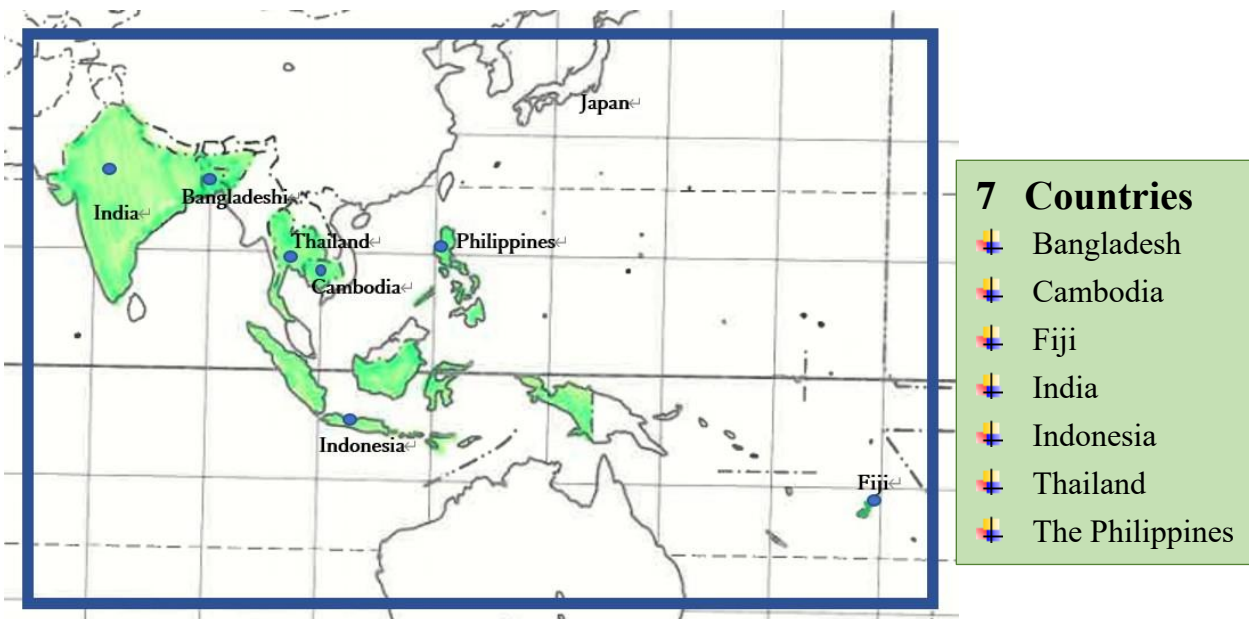


OISCA and Mangrove



Began in the Philippines in 1980's, OISCA-International-initiated mangrove reforestation activities have expanded, step by step, to Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, India, Indonesia and Thailand in addition to the Philippines, and as of March 31 2020, total 32,669,161 mangrove seedlings have been planted to 8,279 ha. This is OISCA's official record of achievement.

According to FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) statistics in 2020 (ref: Bulletin Board No.131 page 8), more than 40 % of the area covered by mangroves in the



Local children showing a fish caught within the OISCA mangrove project site in Fiji in February 2021.



A beautiful mangrove forest at Pati, Indonesia. Planted in 2012-2014, This scene in October 2019.



A trail for visitors at Pati, Indonesia. January 2020.



Mangroves planted in 1992 are beginning to form a forest in March 1996, Southern Bangladesh.



Mangroves, planted in 1992 have formed a rich forest, southern Bangladesh, 2020.

world is in four countries, Indonesia, Brazil, Nigeria and Mexico. Indonesia has the largest share – 19% (ref. Bulletin Board No.131, page 8). This issue begins with Indonesia. 2 photos on page 2 show the well grown mangroves planted in 2012-2014 and a trail at Pati Regency, Eastern Jawa on the main island of Indonesia (January 2020).

INDONESIA

It was in 1979 when OISCA-International inked an agreement of cooperation with the Govt. of the Republic of Indonesia. OISCA became the first among many NGOs of the world to have a formal relation with this country. The agreement has been valid through to 2021. OISCA Indonesia Chapter came into being in parallel with the inking of the agreement, so that OISCA Indonesia has become a legally approved body.

Capacity building that is the key factor for nation building, common to all the countries, has been placed priority No.1 activity of OISCA Indonesia. With the key training center at Sukabumi in the suburbs of Jakarta there is one more at Karanganyar in central Java as in March 2021. OISCA began doing mangrove planting in 1990 and since then a total area of 3,200 ha was rehabilitated by 2020. One of the greatest advantages of OISCA is the existence of both national chapter and training centers in this most populated country in Southeast Asian region. OISCA trainees have basic knowledge on environment and experience of planting trees. With mangrove, too, they have been playing key roles.

Tokyo and Jakarta Friendship

A unique aspect is the existence of Friendship Sister-city Arrangement between Metropolitan Tokyo and Metropolitan Jakarta.

Support-OISCA group members at Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly initiated mangrove reforestation in the suburbs of Jakarta early 1990's and planted seedlings together with their counterparts, as well as local govt. officials, OISCA Indonesia members, OISCA skill training graduate and individual volunteers. The planted mangroves formed a thick forest as years passed by and has become a buffer zone of the newly built (Soekarno-Hatta) International Airport constructed in the suburbs of Jakarta.

BANGLADESH

This country gained independence from Pakistan in 1970 (ref: Bulletin Board No.127, page 3). OISCA national chapter has been existing ever since East Pakistan time. Soon after the independence, OISCA national chapter, namely OISCA Bangladesh, sent select numbers of resourceful young people for agricultural skill training at OISCA training centers in Japan.

Southern region facing the Bay of Bengal is very vulnerable to cyclones that visit the region twice a year in spring and in autumn. In 1992, one of the OISCA training graduates stood up to plant mangroves 30 ha stretching some 60 km along the coastline. He was one of the first batch of select trainees sent to Japan soon after his country gained independence in 1970 (ref: Bulletin Board No.127,



OISCA group leader of Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly planting mangrove at the seashore of Jakarta, Indonesia, sometime in 1990's.

page 3). The region facing the coastline was his *furusato* (home town) and so he could not tolerate his *furusato* heavily damaged by twice-a-year cyclones.

It was in 1980 when OISCA's rural skill training center was opened in Bangladesh, followed by the training center for rural women in 1987 (ref: Bulletin Board No.127, page 1).

One of the Government of Japan international information media, *pacific friend*, March 1996, Vol.23, No.11 edition highlighted OISCA activities in Bangladesh citing – As the end of the (20th) century approaches, mankind is faced with a number of issues of global scale. The importance of NGOs in tackling these issues is becoming more apparent year by year. Japan's NGOs have been active in various projects in developing countries. Steadily producing notable results. We looked into the activities in Bangladesh of one of these: OISCA". With tabloid size publication, first seven pages were exclusively on OISCA. Amazing! Mangrove planting and rural women's training center were highlighted. When this *pacific friend* was published in March 1996, mangroves that were planted in 1992 were



Growing mangroves at the reforestation project of OISCA in Koh Kong, Cambodia.



One of the houses of the local community living within the natural mangrove forest in Cambodia.

already beginning to form a wood forest as the attached photo on page 7 shows. Almost 30 years have passed since then, the mangroves planted in 1992 have formed a thick layer of forest as shown on page 3, protecting the life of people and providing such livelihood resources as fish, shrimps and crabs. Ultimately bringing back sustainable

interface biodiversity, just as the case on Molocaboc Island in the Philippines (ref; Bulletin Board No.131, pages 2,3 and 5) and Indonesia as shown on page 2. A big challenge by one of the OISCA training graduates should have been rewarded.

CAMBODIA

OISCA Cambodia Chapter took an initiative to reforest mangrove, September 2007-August 2008, along the Peam Krasaop coastal area where is facing the Gulf of Thailand. Named Participatory Rehabilitation and Conservation of Mangrove Ecosystem (PRACME), local people, school children, Ministry of Environment officials and OISCA Cambodia members together participated to plant 444,000 seedlings to 41 ha. OISCA Cambodia received grants from Japan through the coordination of OISCA-International head office, Tokyo.



Local children helping in the collection of mangrove seedlings in Fiji.

PRACME established five points objectives, i.e., 1. Natural Improvement and Conservation; 2, Natural Environmental Improvements and Conservation, 3. Livelihoods Improvement of Coastal Population, 4. Capacity Building and Strengthening of Mangrove Management Ability, and 5. Project Model to Strengthen for Future Projects.



Local children with their senior leader after mangrove planting in Fiji.

During the replanting activities, participants, particularly village people, who were direct beneficiaries, encountered with problems and issues, such as difficulty in bringing mangrove seedlings to the planting sites during low tide season, replanting site was muddy and mangrove shell disturbed people to plant seedlings properly. OISCA Cambodia had to overcome all these difficulties one by one. Ultimately, planting was done. OISCA Cambodia gained a rich experience.

FIJI ISLANDS

Accommodating about 900,000 people (ref: Bulletin Board No.125, page 5), Fiji in the South Pacific is an island nation, geographically locating in the Melanesia region. South Pacific is a very large area consisting of three regions, Micronesia, Polynesia and Melanesia.

OISCA-International is running a rural training center in Fiji in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports (ref: Bulletin Board No.125, pages 4,5, 6)). As one of the extension services, the center began mangrove reforestation activities in 1997. Consisting with 300 islands (Embassy of Fiji, Tokyo), one can say that the entire regions of Fiji are surrounded by sea, the Pacific Ocean. In order to sustain livelihood of people, as a matter of course, seacoasts need to be protected.

Together with the graduates of training in Japan (ref: Bulletin Board No.125, page 5) trainees

at the in-country training center are mobilized to plant trees. Guided by them, school children are encouraged to join the tree planting activities. Children's participation enhances Children's Forest Program (CFP, ref: Bulletin Board No.134). The front-page photo showing 2 boys holding a fish caught at the mangrove project of OISCA in Fiji.

INDIA

Under the supervision of OISCA South India, headquartered in Calicut, Kerala, there are more than 100 local OISCA branches in southern India region. One of them, OISCA Kannur Branch planted 171,000 mangrove seedlings to 64 ha. between 2000 and 2014 at the seashore of the downstream of Valapattanam River that flows into the Indian Ocean. The photo taken on March 24th 2021 by the Director, Environment if OISCA South India shows vividly. It has passed 20 years and a rich forest has emerged. Mangroves are calling back fish, shrimps, crabs and other sea lives in addition to protecting interface biodiversity.



Mangrove forests at Valapattaram River basin on Indian Ocean, planted in 2000-2004, southern India, This scene on March 24th 2000.

THAILAND



OISCA President planting a mangrove seedling together with school children, Ranong, Thailand, July 9th 2010



OISCA President and OISCA Thailand leaders passing through a thick forest of mangrove. July 9th 2010.



OISCA President with Thai local leaders in the mangrove forest. Ranong, Thailand July 9th 2020.

OISCA-International's association with Thailand goes back to June 1975 when two leaders, OISCA-International President and Girl Guides Association of Thailand (GGAT) President agreed to launch a rural development project in Surin Province (ref: Bulletin Board No.121, page 2), then one of the least developed regions in the Kingdom. Having done people participated massive tree planting, Surin in 2020 has become a leading rice granary in the Kingdom (ref: Bulletin Board No.121, page 3 photo) because of trees that sustain underground water essential for sustainable rice cultivation and other agricultural activities.

Inspired by the success in Surin, OISCA Thai launched mangrove reforestation in 2000 commemorating half a century throne of the King, at Ranong, a province about 600km south of Bangkok. By June 2010 when OISCA President visited the site, 1,231 ha. had already been covered by mangroves forming a thick layer of forest. 3,000

more saplings were planted in June 2010. School children and their parents joined OISCA President to plant the saplings. Planting works have been continued with cooperation among Thai National Government, Ranong provincial administration, GGAT and OISCA Thailand. OISCA training graduates are playing key roles in Thailand as in Indonesia, Bangladesh and in Fiji.

Next issue: No.140

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