

OISCA BULLETIN BOARD

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OISCA and ISRAEL

BIRTH of OISCA ISRAEL 1989

It was on January 29th 1989 when OISCA national chapter was inaugurated in Israel. The inaugural ceremony took place at Ben Shemen Youth Village in the outskirts of Tel Aviv. It was on May 4th 1948 when Israel became an independent nation, so stated in official documents.

Founded in Japan in October 1961, OISCA International is in consultative status “General” with UN/Economic and Social Council since 1994.



Inaugural ceremony of OISCA Israel on January 29th 1989, at Ben Shemen Youth Village.

FIRST ENCOUNTER 1952

Time goes back to March 1952, when OISCA Founder Rev. NAKANO Yonosuke sent two envoys led by attorney Mr. NEGAMI Shin to Israel. They had the honor of calling on the then President Mr. Yitzhak Ben-Zvi and presented Nakano's letter to him. 1952 was 8 years ahead of the birth of OISCA-International and 4 years after Israel's independence. Today, nobody at OISCA - International, even senior members, knows how Rev. Nakano was able to establish a contact with the leader of the newly independent nation. This still remains a mystery.

A biography on Rev. Nakano, published in Japan in 1965 writes, "A prophecy of Moses indicated that when time comes, God's messenger will come from the Orient to open Torah"

Torah ([/ˈtɔːrə, ˈtoʊrə/](#); [Hebrew](#): תּוֹרָה, "Instruction", "Teaching" or "Law") has a range of meanings.



The President of Israel (right) and OISCA envoy holding a document. March 1952, Jerusalem.

Rev. Nakano was not a God, though. All the teachings in Torah are believed to have been written down by Moses. In fact, the sacred ceremony to open Torah was taken place by President Yitzhak Ben-Zvi in the presence of Nakano's envoys. The photo hereunder is a proof of it. In the photo, Nakano's envoy Negami is with the President of Israel. But whether or not the document being held in hands by the President and Nakano's envoy is Torah is not certain, for the photo itself is not so clear. Only the fact remains that Rev. Nakano's envoys met the President of Israel in March 1952 and present in the holy ceremony to open the Torah.

SECOND ENCOUNTER 1980

The World Bank invited 36 NGOs/CSOs from all over the world to its international meeting held in Washington D.C. in June 1980 (ref: Bulletin Board No. 126, page 1). Then, the World Bank and NGO Committee emerged in 1981 with 15 invited

NGOs/CSOs (ref: Bulletin Board No.126, page 2). Both OISCA-International and World ORT Union were among the invitees. World ORT Union is an influential international Jewish NGO.

The representatives of the two organizations were able to establish a friendly contact each other at these events without knowing what had happened in 1952, though.

World ORT Union has its North America office in Washington, DC.



OISCA President with the World Bank President in Tokyo, March 26th, 1987.

Meanwhile, taking advantage of the first visit to Japan in March 1987 of Mr. Barber Conable, World Bank President, OISCA President Ms. Nakano met him (photo left) and had an encouraging word from him on the prominent role of OISCA as a leading Japan-based NGO on development cooperation to developing countries and capacity building of young people. She hosted a private dinner for Mrs. Conable and exchanged frank views on women's role in development. OISCA's association with the World Bank is briefly described in OISCA

Bulletin Board No.126, Nov. 30, 2020 issue.

THIRD ENCOUNTER 1986

In October 1986 OISCA-International organized World NGO Symposium in Tokyo supported by the Govt. of Japan and the World Bank (ref: Bulletin Board No. 130, page 1). It was a round table among governments, international agencies and NGOs, In October the following year, with the support of the Govt. of Japan, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, the second round of World NGO Symposium was taken place in Nagoya, central Japan (ref: Bulletin Board No.130, page 3). Israel was represented to these round tables by its Government, World ORT Union (head office in London) and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Through face-to-face interaction, OISCA-International President Ms. NAKANO Y. Yoshiko, and World ORT Union Director General Mr. Joseph Harmatz reached a mutual understanding that both organizations share common philosophy, objectives and activities, particularly, capacity building of young people and education to build a sustainable future. As a result, a memorandum of cooperation was signed on June 27th 1988 by the two leaders. Its validity remains in 2021. A reliable information indicates that World ORT Union was founded in 1880 and its network reaches today 300,000 people a year in more than 30 countries. This NGO is by far greater than OISCA in history and global network. This is true. But, in terms of the

accomplishments of activities in recent half a century, OISCA is no less. It is also true.

FIRST VISIT to ISRAEL

Accepting the advice of World ORT Union Director General, Ms. Nakano made a first journey to Israel in March 1987, guided by Mr. Joseph Harmatz and visited Kibbutz, World ORT Union education center and Ben Shemen, a dormitory type Jewish youth education center where select youths from all over the world were studying. She was also invited to visit Mr. Ephraim Katzir, Ex-President of Israel (May 1973-May 1978) and the President of World ORT Union, to his house at the Weizmann Institute of Science in the outskirt of Jerusalem. Ms. Nakano was so impressed with her first visit to Israel that there should be a national chapter of OISCA-International in Israel, too, she thought. Her dream came true in January 1989 as has been described at the outset of this edition. She led a 30-member delegation from Japan.



OISCA President talking with the President of World ORT Union (right). In the center is Prof. Abraham Blum of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, March 1987.

The birth of OISCA chapter coincided with the national arbor day in Israel. OISCA delegation was cordially invited to participate in tree planting.

In December 2019, OISCA volunteers from Japan participated in tree planting in Brazil that was organized by OISCA Brazil. They had an extraordinary opportunity to see a photo exhibition that was held at HEBRAICA, a Jewish center in Sao Paulo. Visit to this center was organized by OISCA Brazil through the courtesy of the Consulate General of Israel to whom the Embassy of Israel in Tokyo introduced OISCA-International. The photos on page 3 show children holding seedlings in their hands and adults digging rock-like soil to plant seedlings. Rocky land is spreading behind the children (page 4). These photos should have been taken before or soon after 1948. A large part of Israel in 1940's might be like these photos. Today, a large part of Israel land should be covered by green carpets with tens of millions of trees and is producing high quality agricultural products in

addition to industries and science. Children in the photos should have played key roles during early days of their independent motherland.

OISCA's LOVE GREEN tree planting campaign, began in 1980 (ref: Bulletin Board No.122, page 3), is going on in 2021. Out of it, Children's Forest Program (CFP) emerged in 1991 (ref: Bulletin Board No.134) and it, too, going on 2021. OISCA's worldwide tree planting efforts are comparable with those in Israel, at least since 1980.



Tree planting in newly independent Israel. Children holding seedlings.



Elders are mobilized to plant trees on the land of newly independent Israel.



Land behind children is barren. A part of Israel in 1948?



A scene of one of the kibbutz in Israel, March 1987. Grown up trees are seen.



OISCA delegation with the President of Israel, January 1989.



OISCA International President joins Israel people in planting trees, January 1989.

GREAT HONOR again

NAKANO Y. Yoshiko delegation had an extraordinary honor to pay a courtesy call on the President of Israel Hon. Chaim Herzog in January 1989 as the photo above shows. It had passed more than 35 years since the Founder of OISCA movement sent two envoys to Israel in March 1952. This honor in 1989 can be taken as a historically inevitable one.

BEE KEEPING in SOUTH PACIFIC

Israel is globally noted for high technical skills for bee keeping. In February 1988, two Israeli bee keeping experts visited Papua New Guinea (PNG) in the South Pacific escorted by an OISCA-International representative. There was already OISCA Rabaul Ecological Technology Training Center in PNG (ref: Bulletin Board No. 125, pages 6,7,8). With the advice of Israeli experts, practical bee keeping began in this South Pacific Island

country for the first time in its history. According to Israeli experts, PNG is a paradise of bees. People of this country might not have realized it. It is true that PNG is blessed with nature-gifted rich environment. A senior OISCA Japanese volunteer who is serving at OISCA Rabaul Ecological Technology Training Center has admitted in April 2021 that bee keeping has been well set at highland region of PNG's main island. It can be no exaggeration to note that the Israeli experts sowed a seed of bee keeping in PNG in 1988. Collaboration among pregnant stage OISCA Israel, OISCA-International and OISCA Rabaul Training Center has served usefully, thanks to World ORT Union.

FUTURE VISION

OISCA's International Development Cooperation Decade, began in 1966, is in the half way of its 6th stage in 2021. OISCA-International looks forward to having a collaboration with World ORT Union and/or MASHAV (Israel's Agency for International Development Corporation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs) within this 6th stage (2016-2025), hopefully in India if an opportunity permits. OISCA-International has signed a formal agreement in June 2017 with the National Mission for Clean Ganga, a Govt. of India agency, to launch a skill training on organic farming to farmers, capacity building to rural women and tree planting on both sides of 2,225km long Ganges - the holy river for 1.2 billion people of India.

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Tubuang, a traditional ceremony performance in PNG.



Israel bee keeping experts in Papua New Guinea, Feb 1988.



Chief of Enga, a highland province, holding a sample of honey brought by the Head of Bee Department at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.