



2006 INTERNATIONAL ECOVILLAGE CONFERENCE in TOKYO

Organized by BeGood Cafe (NPO)
Co-organized by the Permaculture Center Japan (NPO)
Directed by Peace Community Plan, Inc.
In association with the Global Ecovillage Network (GEN),
BIO-City Inc, PCNQ
Sponsored by AMITA Corporation, Cre-en Co., Ltd., Ex-act Corporation, ECO-PRODUCTS 2006, PICA Co., Ltd
Supported by the Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport
The 2006 Australia-Japan Year of Commemorative Exchange Projects

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International Ecovillage Conference

JAPAN 2006

The 21st Century has led humankind increasingly towards major technological advances, and yet ironically, our environment is deteriorating at an alarming pace. Over the years it has become increasingly evident that we need to change our lifestyles and adopt new social patterns of behaviour towards nature if we are to survive and flourish on Planet Earth.

To address this issue in a realistic way, an International Conference on Ecovillages will be held in Japan in October 2006. One of the important objectives will be to consider how to build and sustain ecovillages successfully in Japan.

This conference will be held in collaboration with the Global Ecovillage Network, (GEN), a global federation of 15,000 ecovillages throughout the world dedicated to *sustainability plus*, that is, into putting more into the environment than we take out of it.

The primary objective of this conference is to present real life models of sustainable living that show respect for the environment and establish new social patterns, based on respect for nature and our fellow human beings. This will be a unique opportunity to consider how Japan can create its own network of ecovillages.

Throughout the world, ecovillages serve as living and learning centres where we can learn to grow our own food, conserve energy, communicate across cultures, develop viable eco-businesses, create sanctuaries for wild animals, protect indigenous cultures, and provide safe and friendly homes for our children.

Ecovillages can be defined broadly. They thrive in both rural and urban settings. They are local solutions, yet can and sometimes do have a global impact. They are Living and Learning Centres that are often linked to schools and university programmes where young people can come for "hands on" work and study.

Ecovillages are part of a new revolution in thinking. Small is beautiful. Local is powerful. What works well in one part of the world can be adapted and replicated in other parts of the world.

Ecovillages provide real life solutions that bring hope for our children and the generations to come.

--Marti

Expectation for ECOVILLAGE CONFERENCE TOKYO 2006

Koji ITONAGA
Representation director of PERMACULTURE CENTRE JAPAN
Professor, Architect and Ecological Planner
College of Bioresource Sciences in Nihon University

Fossil energy-dependent modern economic society systems has made on the earth and local levels, various and complicated problems, such as environment, water, energy, food, and communities. We must create more ecological and sustainable society. It is very meaningful to obtain cooperation of GEN and to hold an international conference on the theme of sustainable, alternative, community and Ecovillage, in Tokyo. The change of a modernistic West-life style is cried for. And the creation of an alternative life style towards construction of the reduction economy society which replaces it, the space for it and environmental creation are called for (David Holmgren 『Permaculture/ Principles & Pathways Beyond Sustainability』) . Practice of body size, such as being based on the people of the grass roots on the theme of them, has been a pressing subject.

The capitalist Western Europe-modernization after the Industrial Revolution forced man action in a uniform and regular mechanical rhythm. Uniform, functional structure, standard space where a citizen's space and time are efficiently collected in capital, artificial space and city space has been produced in large quantities (Henri Lefebure, 『La production de l'espace』). Furthermore, life, human life, and intellectual activity are also included in it under the globalization by expansion of global capital market formation by the end of today. The singularity in each area and Common are respected and movement of the alternative globalization for gaining new communities has been also activated (Antonio Negri 『Empire』 、 『Multitude』) .

Rapid global economic society resulted in the situation beyond the ecosystem capacity of the earth. On the one earth, load was brought to the earth as an ecological footprint which is not settled, and various subjects are also shown to biodiversity, nature, and man's continuous symbiotic relation. The life on the earth and human habitation are threatened. The change of a 20th century type life style, economic society, and environment and space is approached, and it is replaced, more sustainability, ecology, human habitation design for Common, and re-settlement on bioregion are called for (Gary Snyder, 『A PLACE in SPACE』). I think that there are Permaculture design and Ecovillage as the one answer.

Mental evolution of human beings, such as an integrative view of the world which consists of

three ecologies (ecological nature, sociality, spirituality, Felix Guattari 『Les Trois Ecologies』) of Guattari (French philosopher), integrative view of Ken Wilber (American philosophy psychologist) which consists of physical properties, sensitivity, intellect, and spiritualism, and Spiral dynamics theory, is shown (Ken Wilber 『A Theory of Everything』) . Activity of collaboration towards creation of the new view of the world which unified the Western-like knowledge, spirituality and oriental Zen knowledge, spirituality has enhanced. GEN includes three ecologies and has been developing activity globally for the purpose of construction of the network of the alternative globalization which aimed at the creation of various eco-villages based on local individuality and culture.

In Japan, about 135,000 rural village cultures and in cities downtown community cultures remains. However, these are made brittle. These have been destroyed, and rapid globalization has been making the society, space and time which were standardized at a quick pace. In recent years, the exchange for reconstruction of the rural village environment by making ecological residential space, re-settlement, green tourism and eco-tourism, on the other, in cities collective houses, cooperative houses has started. It is necessary to inherit Japanese history, culture, agricultural spirit, space, and social property, and it is necessary to revive them and to regeneration, and we need to create newly. Having the idea of three ecologies, re-settlement, and alternative globalization, we need to create Japanese Ecovillage and Ecovillage renovation based on Japanese singularity, and need to send them to the world.

Opening Message

Toward Changing Our Lifestyle
by Kiyoshi Shikita

The world is now facing a crisis caused by various factors.

Global warming, food production, genetically engineered foods, patents on life, water problems, energy problems, and poverty, are all examples of the existing factors.

We have never been in an era where thinking about sustainability of our society has become so critical.

Even though everyone in this world hopes to live with lasting joy and happiness, the nature, our environment, and vulnerable people are constantly being sacrificed for the profitability of economic activities.

But also in contrast, I hear that now there are more than 15,000 “ecovillages” around the world, where low-impact, sustainable ways of living are performed with rich quality of life. A breakthrough toward a new lifestyle seems to have already started.

Instead of just being pessimistic over the existing system of mass production and mass consumption, why not join us and take a look at these sustainable societies together?

Be Good Café has been introducing “Permaculture”, the designing method for sustainable society since 2001. In 2005, at the World Exposition in Aichi, we have successfully managed an experimental project of an organic food restaurant and an organic garden based on Permaculture design.

On the basis of our past achievements, we are now aiming to work toward promoting “ecovillage” as a roll model of sustainable society.

We hope that this Ecovillage Conference Tokyo 2006 will provide us significant opportunity to change lifestyle here in Japan, which will make our way to true wealth and permanence.

Also, we would like to thank Permaculture Center Japan, for giving us their best support in making this event possible, and to all groups and firms who have supported this project.

TITLE
2006 INTERNATIONAL ECOVILLAGE CONFERENCE in TOKYO

DATE & LOCATION
SATURDAY 28th October 2006, 10:45-20:30
in Tokyo Women's Plaza Hall in Aoyama, Tokyo

PROGRAMME: A HISTORY AND FUTURE OF ECOVILLAGES WORLDWIDE

10:30 Opening Session

10:45-11:55 (70min) - The Role and Participation of Ecovillages in Society
by KOUJI ITONAGA

12:10-13:10 (60min) - Ecovillages in the Worldwide Context
by MARTI MUELLER

13:50-14:15 (25min) - Healing Workshop
by TATSU

14:25-15:40 (75min) - An Introduction to Crystal Waters in Australia
by MAX LINDEGGER

15:55-17:10 (75min) - An Introduction to Urban Ecovillages and the Los Angeles EcoVillage
by LOIS ARKIN

17:20-17:50 (30min) - A Presentation of the BIO-City Magazine
by SUGITA HIROKI

18:00-19:15 (75min) - An Introduction to Ithaca Ecovillage Movement in the USA.
by LIZ WALKER

19:30-20:30 (60min) - Discussion

**SUNDAY 29th October 2006, 12:30-19:00 at The Ball Room in
Daikanyama, Tokyo**

PROGRAMME Ecovillages in Japan

12:00 open

12:30-13:15 (45min) - Environmental Design in Japan
by KAZUO IWAMURA

13:15-13:35 (20min) - A Case Study in Japan 1 (Ecological Estates)
by Ambiex Co. Ltd.

13:35-13:55 (20min) - A Case Study in Japan 2 (Co-housing in Tokyo)
by HIROKO KIMURA (from Kankanmori)

14:10-14:35 (25min) – Workshop on Singing Together
by MICHIO FURUHASHI

14:50-15:50 (60min) - An Introduction to Auroville
by MARTI MUELLER

16:05-16:25 (20min)
A Case Study in Japan 3 (Kobunaki
Ecovillage)
by CHIKYU NO ME`

16:25-16:45 (20min)
A Case Study in Japan 4 (PICA, Lake Yamanaka)
by TAKAHIRO YAMADA

17:00-19:00 (125min) –Final Discussion

GUESTS

MARTI MUELLER

Chair of the International Advisory Council (IAC) of the Global Ecovillage Network (GEN)

MARTI is a writer, photographer, environmentalist, social activist, and an United Nations ECOSOC Representative to Geneva. She actively works for the protection of the planet and the rights of indigenous people. She was selected as an official speaker for the 2005 Universal World Exposition in Aichi, Japan as one of "One Hundred People Who Love the Earth". She has been awarded a Rolex citation for her work on the environment. Marti divides her time between Auroville, India and Paris, France. She has published books in more than 40 different languages.

Books: *Indigo Spirit for a Child-Friendly Planet*, *Japan Haiku*, *This Earth of Ours*, *What is a Tree*, etc.

MAX LINDEGGER

Founding Partner of Crystal Waters, Australia

Max Lindegger is a designer of ecological communities and sustainable systems. He is a respected teacher in the disciplines of sustainable systems. He has 25 years of hands-on experience and leadership in the design and implementation of practical workable solutions to the challenges of sustainability. He lives with his wife, Trudi, at Crystal Waters. Publications: *The Best of Permaculture*, etc.

LOIS ARKIN

Founder of LA Eco-village

Lois Arkin is the Executive Director of CRSP, a nonprofit resource center for small ecological cooperative communities which she founded in 1980. She holds a BA with a major in anthropology from California State University at Northridge and lives in L.A. Ecovillage with 35 other intentional neighbors. She is the western U.S. council representative to the Ecovillage Network of the Americas (ENA). Lois is also editor of the ecovillage column for *Communities Magazine*.

LIZ WALKER

Executive Director, ITHACA, USA

Liz Walker has been co-founder and Executive Director of the Ithaca Ecovillage (EVI) since its inception in 1991. Liz has dedicated her full-time work to transforming this internationally-acclaimed project into a reality.

Her book: *Ecovillage at Ithaca: Pioneering a Sustainable Culture*

KOUJI ITONAGA

Professor, College of Bio-resource Sciences,
Nihon University

Kouji Itonaga has a Doctor's degree in Engineering for Urban Development from the Graduate School of Tokyo Institute of Technology. Dr Itonaga specializes in Environmental Architecture, Urbanization and Permaculture. His field is studying methodologies that encourage people living in rural areas to be able to participate in local development. He continues to study environmentally-friendly architecture, alternative natural energy, and the ecovillage movement.

Publications: *Designing and Maintaining the Earth Environment* (ed.), etc.

KAZUO IWAMURA

Architect, Professor at Musashi Institute
of Technology, Faculty of Environmental and Information Studies

Kazuo Iwamura studied Architecture at Waseda University and received a Master's degree in 1973. He was granted an official French scholarship and studied in France. He has done urban planning in the Middle East, Greece and Germany. Mr Iwamura established his "Atelier Iwamura" in 1980. He has been a professor at Musashi Institute of Technology since 1998. His major architectural works include "Kassel: Ecological Residential Block" and "Yakushima Island Houses for Environmental Co-habitation." Publication: *Environmental Architecture*

HIROKI SUGITA

Editor-in-chief of "BIO-City" magazine

Hiroki Sugita was born in 1949 in Tokyo. Mr Sugita is the editor-in-chief of "BIO-City" magazine, Japan's only magazine for ecological design. Through this magazine, he introduces Japan to ecovillages from many parts of the world. The "BIO-City" magazine attempts to promote sustainable societies and ecovillages that are truly applicable to Japan. Mr. Sugita also lectures at Kuwasawa Institute of Design.

Crystal Waters

is the world's first permaculture village. It is a community designed for about 250 residents and was established in its present form in 1988.

It is situated at Conondale near Maleny in SE Queensland, at the head of the Mary River, and is about one and a half hours drive from the northern outskirts of Brisbane.

The land is in a subtropical area but sufficiently elevated and away from the sea to have low temperatures and occasional frosts during the short winter period. The rainfall is fairly high, about 1500mm and occurs mainly in the wet season between January and April.

The terrain consists of river flats, mostly grassed undulating slopes where the residential lots are grouped in clusters, and steeper timbered hills at the rear. The property has an area of about 260 Ha but because of its shape, somewhat boomerang-like, the internal road from one end to the other is 4.5km long.

There are 83 residential lots, and 2 lots covering commercial and industrial needs. These lots comprise the Village, Visitors' Camping Area and the Community Buildings Area.

The development is a registered Group Title Plan (No. 1833) under the Body Corporate and Community Management Act (1997).

The legal aspects of the community are covered by two structures. The Body Corporate and Community Management Act covers the freehold residential lots and the common land, and is governed by local by-laws.. These by-laws are the only criteria for selection of lot holders - the residents select themselves by accepting that they will abide by them when they take over the title.

Crystal Waters Community Cooperative Limited is the entrepreneurial body. It owns a number of leasehold lots, also the village and community buildings area, and visitors' camping area. It also owns some of the developments on these latter parcels of land.

Crystal Waters is probably a unique development because it was to done by speculative developers. Speculation is taking risk for profit. The four designers, who were effectively the developers as the operational arm Permaculture Service Limited, set up a Trust Fund and encouraged would-be residents to lodge sufficient money in the Trust to pay for the development. When the appropriate number of people had lodged sufficient funds, the risk was removed. The four designers took only recompense for work performed and the left-over money, approximately \$250, 000 which would normally have been the developers' profit, was handed over to the Cooperative to establish the Community Economic Development Fund. It was later used for construction of buildings in the Visitors' Camping Area and the Village.""

Los Angeles Eco-Village

Overview

Year Started January 1993

Sponsor

LAEV is sponsored by CRSP, a nonprofit education and community development organization founded in 1980. CRSP is a resource center for small ecological cooperative neighborhoods.

Purpose

Eco-Villagers are demonstrating lower impact living patterns in ways that raise the quality of neighborhood life. They work at effectively integrating the social, economic and ecological aspects of community life. They share their processes, strategies and techniques for sustainable community development through tours, talks, workshops, conferences, public advocacy and the media.

Location, Size and City Planning

LAEV is approximately three miles west of downtown and a block east of one of L.A.'s most congested traffic corridors, Vermont Avenue. The two block Eco-Village neighborhood of Bimini and White House Place is about 11 acres. Located in three of the city's special planning districts, including the Wilshire Center/Koreatown Redevelopment Area and the Station Neighborhood Area Plan or SNAP, Eco-Villagers provide regular input to the City's planning processes.

Public Transit

LAEV is within a two to 15 minute walk of 20 bus lines and two Metro subway stops.

Neighborhood Profile

The two block mixed use working class neighborhood has a rich geological and social history. Home of the historic Bimini Baths from 1901 to 1951, the Bimini Slough also wended its way around the neighborhood along with the old red trolley car route which was destroyed in the 1950s. Approximately 500 persons live in 13 historically significant apartment buildings consisting of 164 units of housing. An alcohol and drug recovery home serving approximately 100 persons is also within the two blocks along with two auto repair shops, a K-2 public school, the Bresee Foundation serving at-risk youth, the Korean Mijoo Peace Church and a public adult school for English as a second language.

Building Ownership, Financing and Rehabilitation

CRSP owns two adjacent apartment buildings consisting of 46 units of housing and two common units. The CRSP Ecological Revolving Loan Fund (ELF) provided the funding for these acquisitions through a series of friendly loans. ELF monies are also being used for basic rehabilitation and ecological retrofitting of the buildings. Future plans call for conversion of the buildings to permanently affordable cooperative ownership through a limited equity housing cooperative in combination with a community land trust. Rental cash flow from the buildings is sufficient to maintain the properties.

Demographics

Overall demographics of the neighborhood include approximately 20 ethnic groups; household income is primarily very low with a range to middle; ages include children to the elderly; and there are a variety of household types from singles and roommates to single parents, nuclear families, and extended families. There are about 500 persons in the two blocks. Nearly 75 now participate in some aspect of Eco-Village activities.

Intentional Community

Nearly 40 persons from diverse ethnic and educational backgrounds and income levels live in the neighborhood intentionally to learn, share their knowledge and to demonstrate Eco-Village processes. Many attend regular community dinners, community meetings, community work parties, and provide a variety of public services to the neighborhood and the city at large on a broad range of sustainability issues. Many attend workshops on permaculture approaches to sustainable urban living. About one-half do not own cars, and a few are now starting small ecological cooperative neighborhood based businesses. Households which do not own cars receive a discount on their rent. While nearly 40 have moved to Eco-Village intentionally, CRSP and the Eco-Village intentional community share the two apartment buildings and the neighborhood with many pre-existing neighbors.

Ithaca

"EcoVillage at Ithaca: Creating a Sustainable Community"

In a world filled with devastating environmental and social problems, EcoVillage at Ithaca offers some refreshing solutions. It is a modern-day village that combines a strong sense of community, small-scale organic farming, land preservation, green building, energy alternatives and hands-on education. Co-founder Liz Walker will share her insights and experiences about starting the project from its visionary beginnings in 1991 to the exciting opportunities and challenges of the present time. She will also examine the critical factors that make this ecovillage so successful.

AUROVILLE

Auroville is an international community in South India that was founded as a centre for human unity. It was inspired by the French visionary, The Mother, and by the work and living presence of the great Indian philosopher, yogi, and revolutionary, Sri Aurobindo.

Auroville is a place for karma yoga, the transformation of consciousness through action. All life is seen as yoga. Through conscious and collective work, we try to bring the divine into matter. In the *Mind of the Cells*, the Mother describes how the cells in our body will carry the light and love of transformation when we have truly learned how to quiet our minds and live as one body. Sri Aurobindo describes an actual collective physical mutation of the human species, which will happen when humanity reaches a critical point of awareness. He says that this quantum leap can only happen through collective consciousness. Auroville is a living laboratory of evolution that provides us with the opportunity to give concrete manifestation to these ideas. The Charter of Auroville, which has guided the community since its outset in 1968, says that “*Auroville belongs to no one in particular, but to Humanity as a whole, but to live in Auroville one must be a willing servitor of the divine.*” Auroville has been described as a living laboratory of evolution and a place of unending education and a youth that never ages.

Living up to these ideals is particularly challenging, especially given that our small eco-city is a highly diverse cultural entity and even simple concepts such as *home* and *love* evoke different ideas for different people. But this is our challenge. Auroville is in many ways a microcosm of the world at large. We believe that if we can make a significant change in ourselves, the world will change, as well. We have all the elements to make that possible. We are a crossroads between East and West, drawing from ancient wisdoms and modern traditions. We are a bridge between North and South, drawing from the latest technology and located in a rural area where people have lived for thousands of years with a highly developed sense of ecological consciousness. The early work of Auroville pioneers who transformed areas of dry barren dusty red desert into lush green forests was the first *sadhana*. Today more than three million trees have been planted and Auroville is the largest intentional multi-cultural community in the world. Experiential education is highly emphasized and children have a unique opportunity to nourish their minds and spirits in community and nature.

Executed cases of Environmentally symbiotic housing in Japan

SETAGAYAKU FUKASAWA SYMBIOTIC HOUSING

Tokyo's Setagaya Ward has replaced detached wooden housing, built in 1952 and owned by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, with an environmentally symbiotic housing complex as a model case study. Developed with participation from former residents and designed to create a socially integrated community, this complex is comprised of ward-owned apartments and a day care center for the elderly. Comprehensive efforts were undertaken to apply diverse environmentally symbiotic solutions by analyzing the characteristics of the location and local residents' lifestyles. These solutions included the preservation and reuse of existing vegetation and soil on-site, minimizing excavation, consideration of the layout, form and plans of the buildings, and the use of natural elements such as solar and wind energy and rain water.

SAIN VARIE SAKURAZUTSUMI

This housing development was built as a replacement for Sakurazutsumi Settlement, which was originally built in 1959. For this project, major efforts were focused on the creation of a residential townscape that can support social activities. These efforts included the preservation of the original settlement's cherry and zelkova trees, as well as the networking of pedestrian walkways to connect parks, promenades and public facilities located among the surrounding greenbelts and rivers. In addition, compost from the development's kitchen waste is collected by the city of Musashino and distributed to local farmers for use as organic fertilizer.

TOKYO METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT'S APARTMENT NO.3 IN HASUNE 3-CHOME

This is an experimental project for advancing the development of environmentally conscious housing, entitled "Eco-pear". The attached pedestrian greenbelt, which was constructed at the same time, was designed to recover the original landscape of the site, which was a marshland adjacent to the Singashigawa River. This greenbelt is now actively used as a biotope for children to play and learn about an environmentally conscious society. In addition, plans call for roof top greenery and the courtyard to be linked with the walkway to provide a network of local greenbelts throughout the site.

YAKUSHIMA SYMBIOTIC HOUSING

Yakushima, a southern island of Kagoshima Prefecture, is well known for its most unique natural environment registered as a World's Natural Heritage site. Here, public housing was planned and developed after intense investigations and analysis of the island's unique features, including its climate, geography and the traditional settlements. The layout of the single story wooden row houses is integrated into the terraced hills along the coast. The townscape, characterized by stone walls, hedges and thatched roofs, was conceived to cope with the extreme precipitation and violent storms common to the island. Together with the natural materials and the local vegetation, the townscape will also create a stable and beautiful landscape as the site matures. A variety of common spaces, such as passages, pedestrian malls, squares and small greenbelts, have been planned to create a network of public access spaces within and around the settlement, and this is expected to contribute to the lifestyle values of the environment and community overall.

ZELKOVA

A detached house designed to accommodate two households consisting of three generations, with the patriarch of the family confined to a wheelchair. Efforts were made to analyze and understand the relationship between the house and its local environment, as well as the residents' lifestyles. This "pre-design" process led to the choice of a variety of environmentally symbiotic decisions, such as avoiding the destruction of established trees and other natural landscape features to help preserve the residents' historical memories. Other environmentally conscious amenities adapted to the design include rooftop and wall greenery, solar cell panels and natural ventilation through monitor roofs.

HOUSING IN MIYAZAKIDAI SAKURAZAKA

This hilly residential area has impressive streets lined with preserved cherry blossom and fruit tree groves, along which residents enjoy taking walks. The main theme of this housing development was to create an attractive environment that adds value to the residents' lifestyles, including maintaining harmony with the natural topography. A fixed time lease-hold system of land was also introduced to create a small and neat community.