

# About the Asian Rural Institute

The Asian Rural Institute (ARI) is a training center for rural community leaders. Set on a 6-hectare farm in Northern Japan, ARI conducts a Rural Leaders Training Program. This training is focused on facilitating the self-development of marginalized people.



Toshihiro "Tom" Takami, a graduate of Doane College and Yale Divinity School, founded the Asian Rural Institute in 1973. As a Christian pastor assigned to a disaster relief project in Bangladesh, Toshihiro Takami witnessed the desperate survival struggle that followed the murdering floods of 1970. He saw that there were not enough capable and committed local leaders and determined to establish an institute dedicated

to providing them training to increase their capacity to serve their people. In 1973, "in response to God's calling," he says, "we moved to found the Asian Rural Institute."



ARI stresses hands-on learning, and asks all who study at ARI to be active participants and not merely students. Those invited for training must be involved with local organizations that are already working within their communities to affect change. That is, ARI is training leaders who have already demonstrated through action a strong desire to serve their people. ARI places an emphasis on reaching the most marginalized, poor and oppressed peoples, especially women, tribal minorities, and those of lower castes.



## The ARI Mission

The mission of the Asian Rural institute is to build an environmentally healthy, just, and peaceful world, in which each person can live to his or her fullest potential. This mission is rooted in the love of Jesus Christ.

To carry out this mission, we train and nurture rural leaders for a life of sharing. Leaders, both women and men, who live and work in grassroots rural communities primarily in Asia, Africa and the Pacific form a community of learning each year together with staff and other residents.

Through community-based learning we study the best ways for rural people to share and enhance local resources and abilities for the common good.

We present a challenge to ourselves and the whole world in our approach to food and life.

## More information:

J.B. Hoover, American Friends of ARI - [John.B.Hoover@gmail.com](mailto:John.B.Hoover@gmail.com) or (206) 523-5327

The Asian Rural Institute: [www.ari-edu.org/](http://www.ari-edu.org/)

American Friends of ARI: [www.friends-ari.org/](http://www.friends-ari.org/)

About Tom Takami: [www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toshihiro\\_Takami](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toshihiro_Takami)