



# 市民と共に築く、無核無兵の極楽浄土 Working with Civic Groups and Building a Pure Land without a Nuclear and Military Presence

見樹院＆寿光院 住職 大河内秀人

Rev. Hidehito Okochi

Juko-in Temple, Tokyo, Japan

<http://www.nam-mind.jp>

<http://www.juko-in.or.jp>

# Rev. Hidehito Okochi

## 大河内秀人

- Born in Tokyo in 1957
- Abbot of Kenju-in Temple 見樹院 and Juko-in Temple 寿光院 of the Jodo Pure Land Denomination 淨土宗 located in Tokyo
- Graduated from Keio University, Faculty of Law, Department of Politics in 1980
- Graduated from Taisho University Buddhist Divinity School in 1982 and received full ordination as a Buddhist priest.
- Part of the founding group of Buddhist priests who established the AYUS Buddhist International Cooperation Network in 1993
- Co-founder of the Inter Faith Forum for the Review of National Nuclear Policy in 1992



My encounter with Asia

**Bhutan & Ladakh**

GNP·Economic Growth ????

**Cambodia & Palestine**

Judgement of UN and USA ????

**Thailand & Sarawak, Malaysia**

Japanese ODA and Development ????



**Realized the Importance of  
the Independence of Local Community**

# Activities Based on the Four Noble Truths

- When Shakyamuni Buddha gained enlightenment, his first teaching was the Four Noble Truths, that is:
  - 1) get a solid grasp of the suffering (the problem)
  - 2) ascertain its causes and structure;
  - 3) form an image of the world to be aimed for;
  - 4) act according to correct practices.
- “From this, one gains a sense of the meaning of life in modern society as a citizen with responsibilities in the irreversible course of time. There is the suffering of the southern peoples and nature, from which we derive support for our lives even as we exploit it. The problem is structural in nature, so by changing the system and creating measures for improvement, we achieve results. The first thing is to fulfill our responsibilities to the people around us and to future generations

# Discern and Transform as a Buddhist

貪

Greed

瞋

Anger

癡

Ignorance

開発と利権 GNP神話

Development & Vested Interests

The Mythology of GNP

「対テロ戦争」のトリック

The Trick of “The War against Terrorism”

知らぬ間に不良債権・核武装

No Awareness of Bad Loans and  
Nuclear Armaments

# Case Study I: Juko-in Temple Taking on the “Nuclear Village” (原発村)

# Cultural Dukkha:

In Japan, two myths were created about nuclear energy and nuclear power plants:

1) necessary: Does Japan really have few natural resources for energy? Is peak load electricity needed all year long?

2) safe: *Nuclear Ginza* details the harm to power plant workers. Studies in Germany and the U.S. show high rates of cancer, especially in children, for those who live near reactors.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Myth: Nuclear energy helps to prevent global warming

The production of nuclear fuel needs vast amounts of energy from mining uranium to transporting the fuel to production to keep the reactor core cool

70% of the thermal energy is lost into the environment, usually into the sea at a temperature 17c degrees higher

There is tremendous economic inefficiency and electrical waste in Japan's delivery of energy from huge nuclear power plants



Rev. Naito (Lutheran) Rev. Tanaka (Soto Zen) Rev. Okayama (Jodo Shin Otani) Rev. Okochi (Jodo)



Rev.  
Tetsuen  
Nakajima  
(Shingon)

**The Interfaith Forum for  
the Review of National  
Nuclear Policy  
founded in 1992**

# From Ecology to The Pure Land

Honen (1133-1212), founder of Jodo Pure Land sect,

- First to bring Japanese Buddhism down to the masses by developing a faith based in the vow of Amida Buddha to abandon no sentient being no matter how deep their transgressions and defilements →

Okochi's developed a vision from this of

1) 差別も搾取もない世界

A World without Discrimination and Exploitation

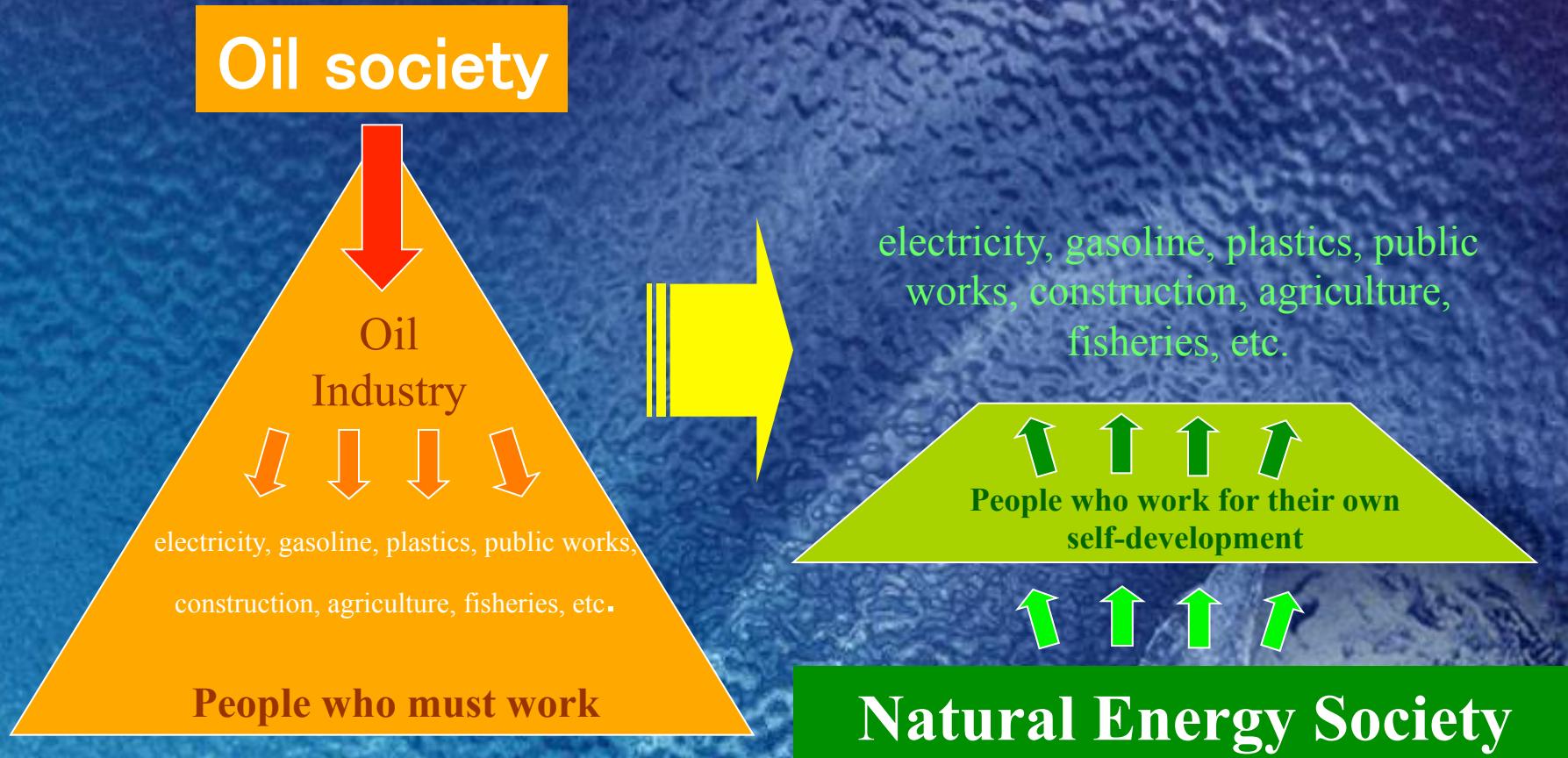
無核無兵 Nuclear and Military Presence

2) 信頼と自立のコミュニティ

Community based on self-reliance and independence



# from oil society to natural energy society



- The social hierarchy is reversed.
- Society comes to be made from small units in every locale.
- Practice of each citizen determines the world and the future.

# Community Groups linked to Juko-in Temple

Juko-in Temple Hosts in one office the following groups:

- a children's theatre group
- an indigenous Japanese peoples' (Ainu) advocacy group
- an environmental group for keeping the nearby Arakawa River and its environs clean
- a small political party with numerous women candidates
- an alternative energy and culture NGO supporting the peoples of northern India called Julay Ladakh
- a micro-credit bank called Mirai (Future) Bank
- The Edogawa Citizen's Network for Thinking about Global Warming (ECNG).

# Photovoltaic Generation (Solar Power)

- Carbon Free Energy
- July, 1999: 1<sup>st</sup> Electricity Generating Center
  - \* Output 5.4kW
  - \* Cost of Construction ¥6 million/ \$60,000
  - \* Installation on the roof of Juko-in Temple
- August, 2007: 2<sup>nd</sup> Electricity Generating Center
  - \* Output 3.0kW
  - \* From receiving some used panels, construction costs were kept at ¥1.15 million/ \$11,500
  - \* Installation on the roof of an elderly home run by a local NGO on the property of Juko-in Temple.



# Community Funding Scheme

- ¥6 million/ \$60,000 came from: 1) ¥2.7 million grants from government foundations and NGOs; 2) ¥1.5 million yen from Juko-in Temple prepaying 10 years worth of its electric bills; 3) ¥1.8 million from a loan from the micro-credit Mirai (Future) Bank.
- Green Power Certificates: sold 200 certificates at 1,000 each at the price of 33/kWh, a figure between the 22/kWh price paid by Tokyo Electric Power Co. and the 55/kWh price paid for natural energy in Germany
- Paid back the loan in 9 years

# Profits Go to More Community Work

From 2008, the profits have gone to The Edogawa Citizen's Network for Thinking about Global Warming (ECNG), a local NGO promoting clean energy and lifestyles, like solar panels installed on a nearby Shingon Buddhist temple in 2018



# Profits Go to More Community Work

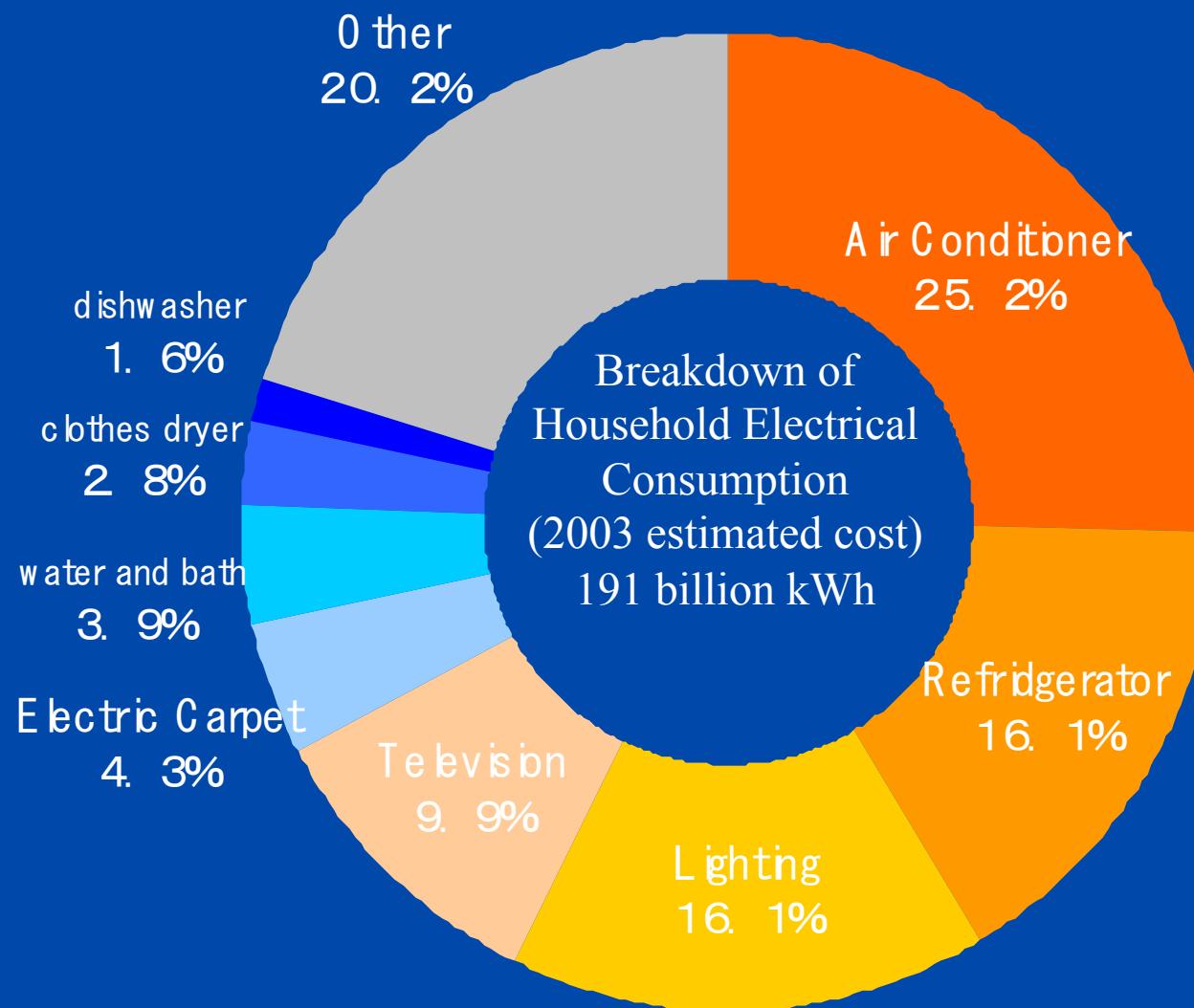
- A Group Home for the Elderly made out of chemical free materials and lumber





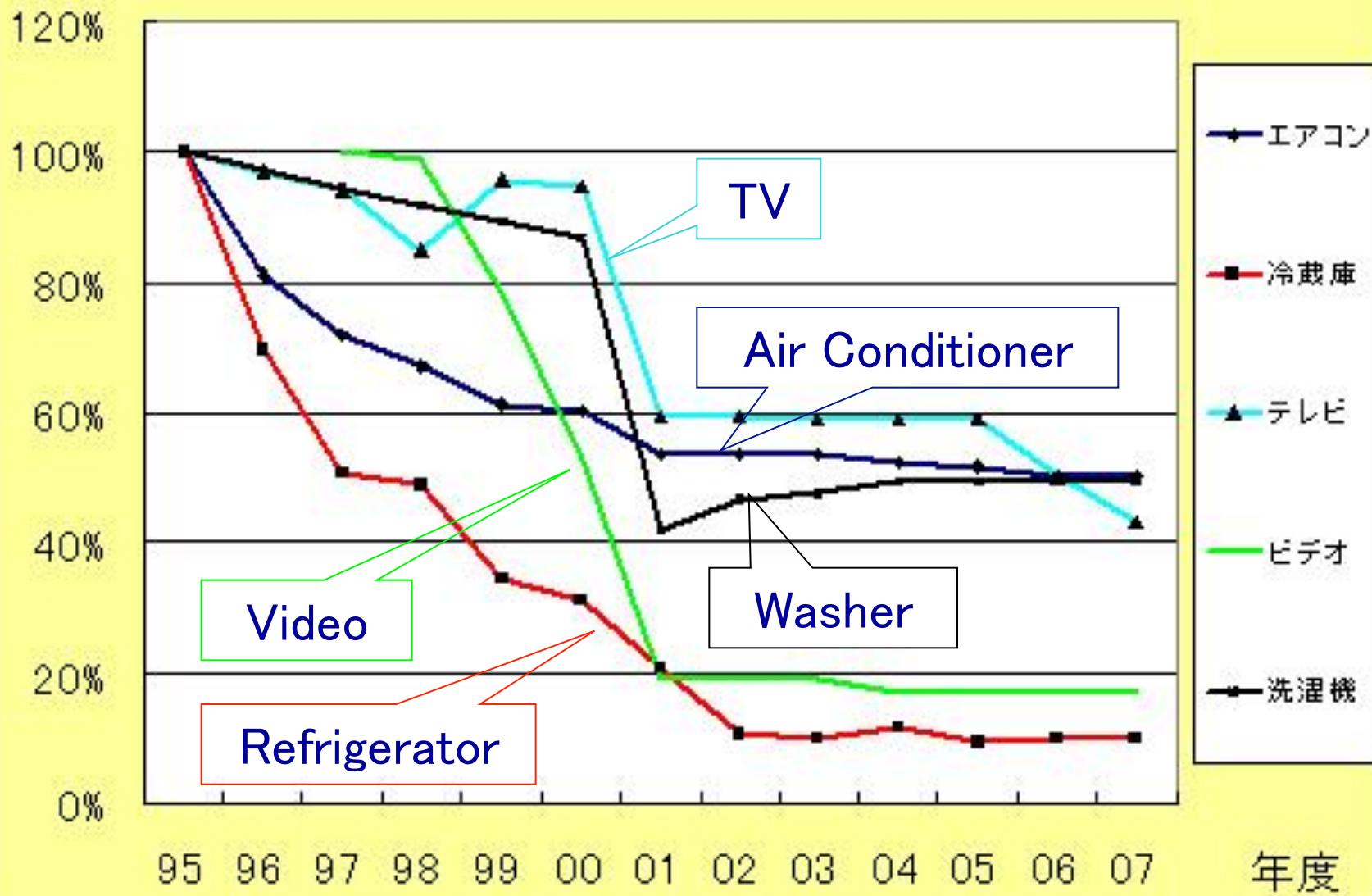
- In 2012 installed another 10.58 kW of panels on the Juko-in roof. Generation averages around 11,500 kWh per year, which at a rate of 42/kWh creates 483,000 yen annually (\$4,200) in profits.
- In 2013 installed a new set of panels on the elderly home totaling 11.52 kW. Generation is around 15,200 kWh per year, which at a rate of 38 per kWh creates 577,600 yen annually (\$5,100) in profits.

# 70% of a Family's Consumption from 4 Items

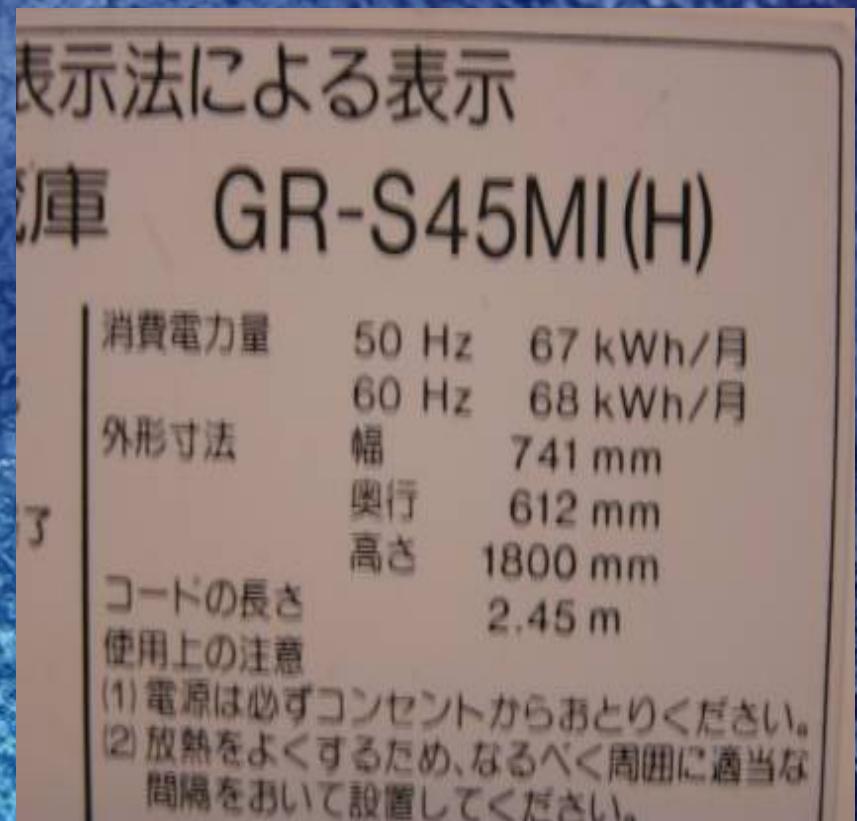


# Developing Energy-Saving

省エネ曲線



# Financing Energy Saving Refrigerators



# Cost-Effectiveness of Energy Saving



¥6 million/\$60,000 investment generates 6,000KWH/Year

¥700,000/\$7,000 financing saves 8,000KWH/Year

Cost-Effectiveness is 10 times or more



# We Want to Calculator-ize Every House!



Without a  
Wall Socket

Must be Self-Sufficient  
by Natural Energy





Off Grid Private  
Residence as Safe  
House for  
Children-at-Risk

# Converting old golf cart batteries into storage batteries



# Energy Self Sufficiency is Possible



# Installation of small scale hydro-electric power station

This can be set up  
virtually  
anywhere

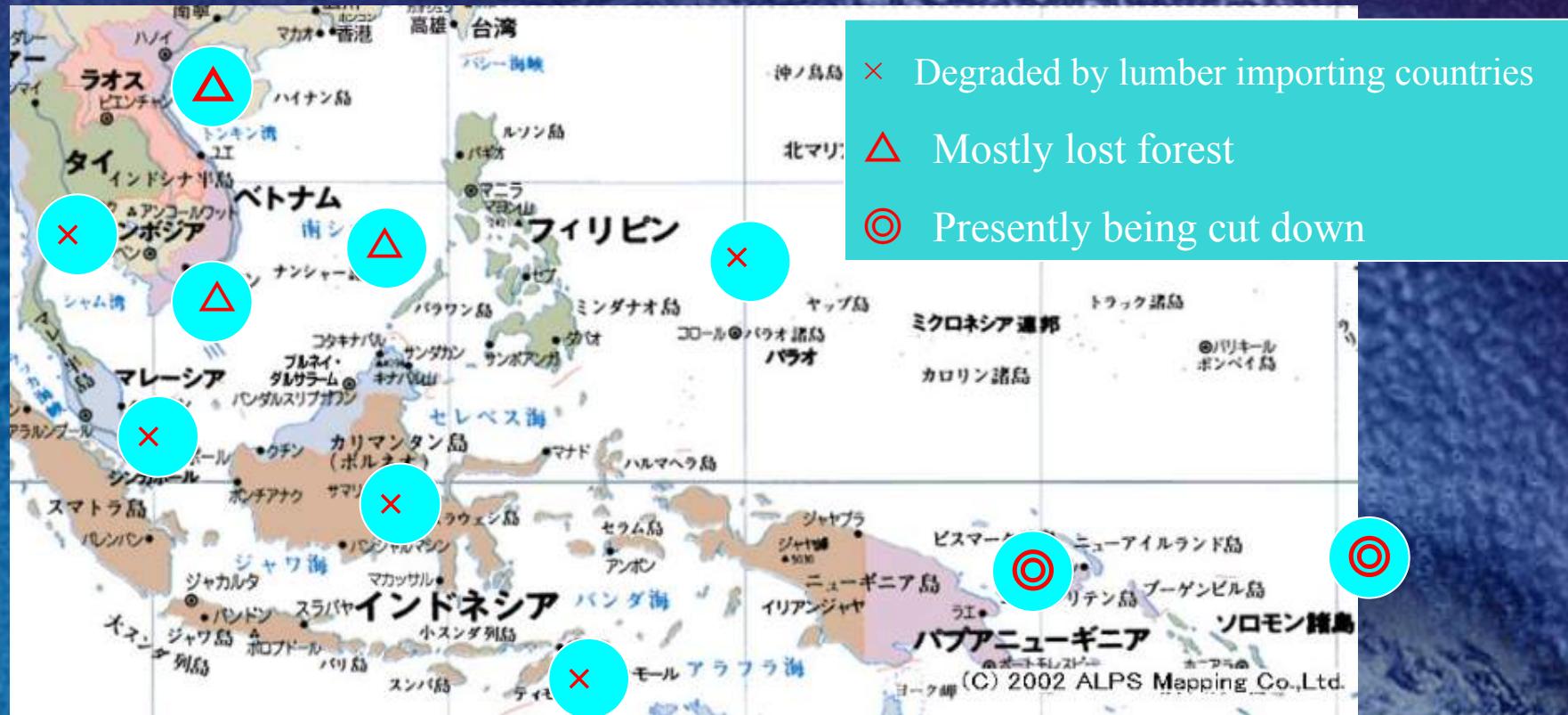
Japan has plenty  
of natural  
resources!

Solar, hydro,  
wind, & geo-  
thermal



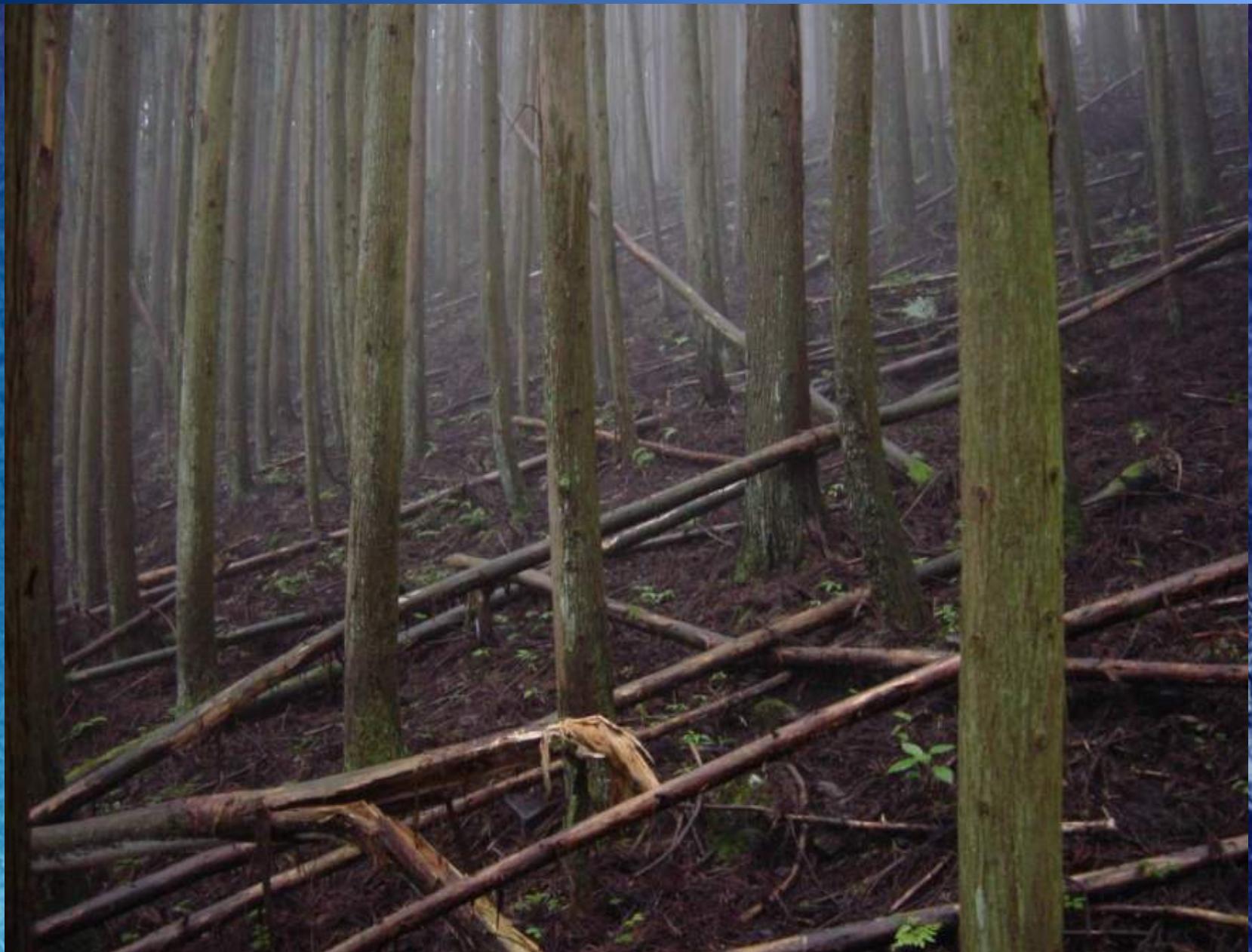
# Case Study II: Kenju-in Supporting Sustainable Regional Economics

# The Situation of the Destruction of Tropical Forests



- Through exports to Japan, tropical forests in Asia are being completely destroyed. At present, the forests in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands are being targeted.
- Since 1960, through the exporting of lumber, the rate of self-sufficient domestic lumber in Japan has fallen to 2%, the Japanese lumber industry has been destroyed, and the forests have become overgrown and poorly managed.
- Every year, the amount of accumulated self-sufficient lumber from Japanese forests is worth about ¥70 million (\$700,000) to ¥100 million (\$1 million)/year.

# The Situation of Japanese Mountains – No Management



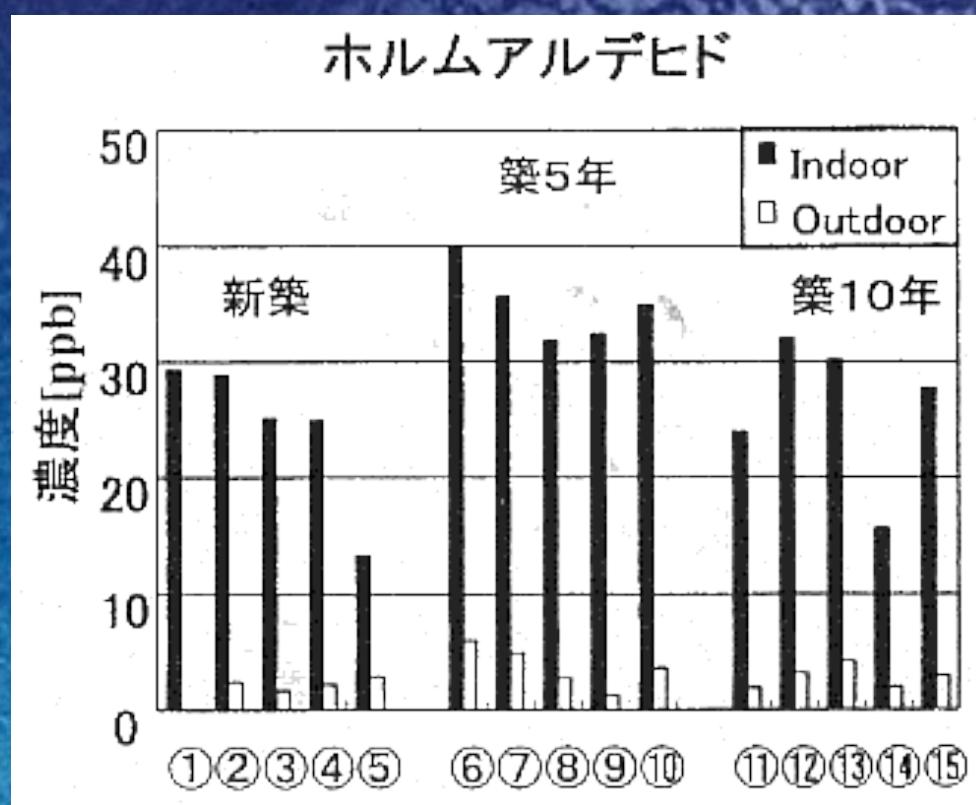
# The Situation of Japanese Mountains - Degradation



# The Situation of Japanese Mountains - Landslides



# What Happens to a House Over Time



- A usual house is made of not only one barrel of glue and adhesives
- There are also antiseptics and insecticides used to preserve the housing materials, which are much more dangerous.
- As the years go by, they hardly dissipate

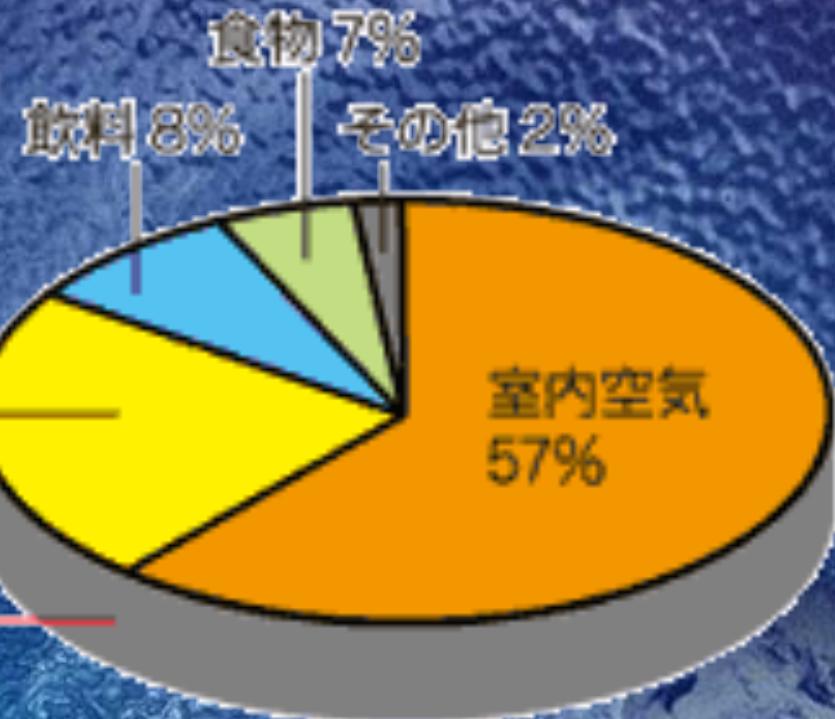
# The air we breathe and not the food we eat is more dangerous

## 人の平均的な物質摂取の割合

出所:財團法人 日本建築学会

外出時空気 26%  
(外気・公共施設など)

空気の比率80%強



<http://homepage2.nifty.com/giken-lec/>より

- The amount we intake from what we eat and drink is only 15% compared to 83% from what we breathe.
- Of this 83%, 69% comes from air inside of rooms and buildings.
- So we need to pay more attention to pollutants within rooms than what we are eating.

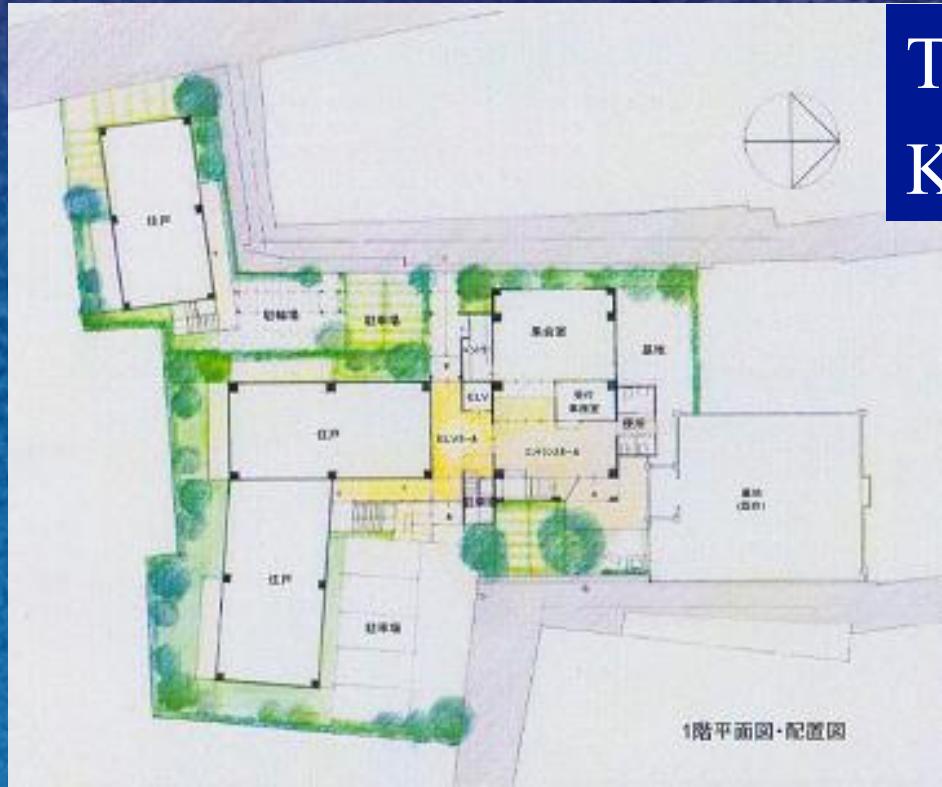
# Chemical Substances Give Rise to Suffering

- Hypersensitivity to chemical substances  
(the movie: *The Apple of Life*)
- Skin atopi
- Allergies
- And many others

Japanese standards are the most dangerous in terms of eliminating these substances.

We want them to simply use safer materials.

# Project to commemorate the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011 of our founder Pure Land Master Honen's Death



## Temple as Urban Eco Village Kenju-in Temple 見樹院

- Chemical Free
- Minimum Running Cost
- Long Life: 100–300 years
- In Cooperation with Forest Conservation
- Cooperatively owned

- ◆ Collaboration with civic groups
- ◆ Create a sustainable community
- ◆ Construction of true social capital

# Thinning the Forest Layer and Peeling the Bark



**The tree dries while standing and then  
can be carried off by a small woman**



# Kenju-in Temple

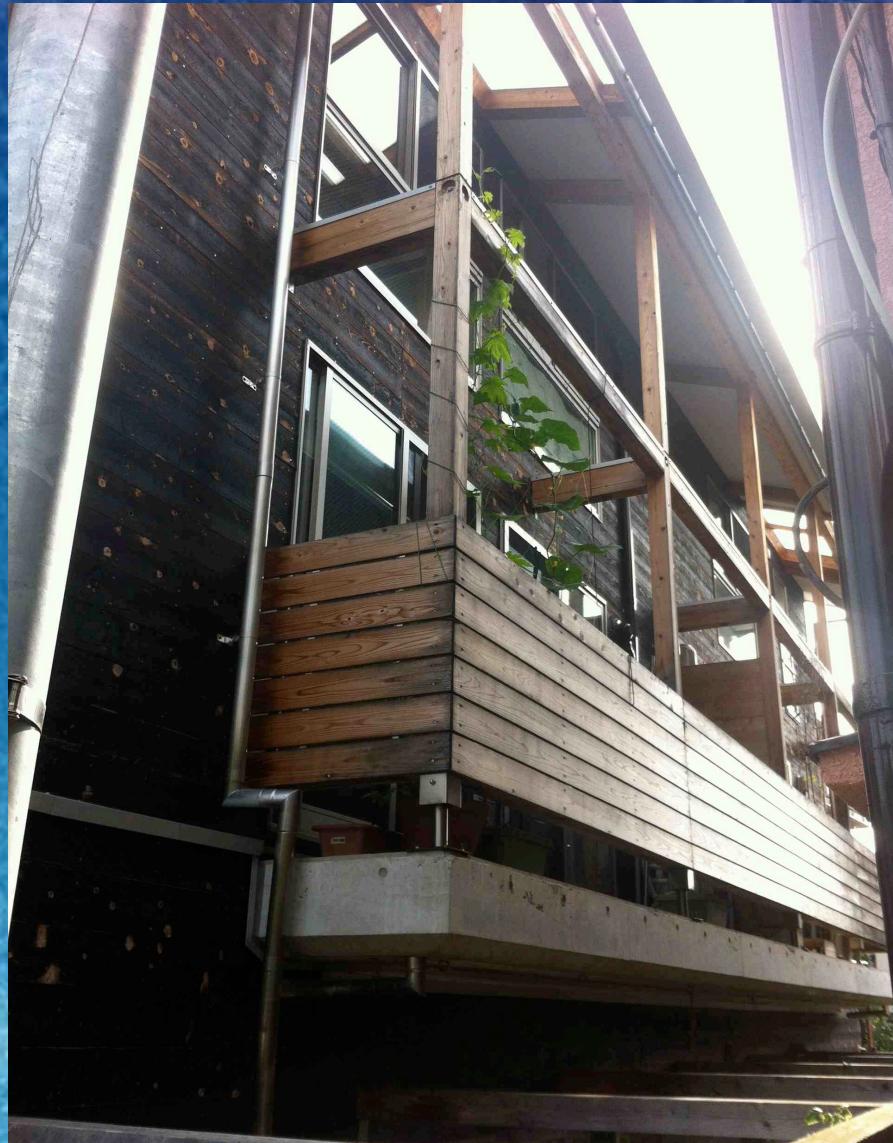
## Affordable Eco-friendly Housing for Urban People



14 individual apartments built as cooperative and connected complex with the temple.

since the building is considered to have a 300-year durability, at the end of the 100-year lease period, there is a contract that the plot will return to Kenju-in Temple without any extra fees.

# Outer Long Lasting Shell from Traditional Smoking Technique



# Inner Chemical Free Apartments



# Conclusion: Sharing Wisdom with Like-Minded Local Activists in Other Parts of the World



April 2015 in Fukushima with new Eco-Temple Design Group



# Eco-Temple Project



## ECO TEMPLE COMMUNITY DESIGN COMPONENTS

Collective Responsibility & Sustainable Life Quality  
Improvement

### TEMPLE STRUCTURE

Design: underlying principles (vision definition, strategy development, implementation schemes — priorities and sequencing)

- Energy system
- Building materials (including all connected buildings in complex): natural build, sustainable, long life, works with →
- Waste system: composting latrines and bio (kitchen/garden) composts; solid waste (non bio-degradable) management
- Use of water for air circulation and cooling
- Alternative design: creative ecological adaptation of traditional temple architecture

### SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT

- Gardens & Agriculture: natural biodiversity with flagship plants and/or organic produce garden
- Food Forests/Permaculture
- Forests/Water: rain water collection, grey water management, water systems storage and management, such as community tanks
- Regeneration of environment: check-dams

### ECONOMIC BASIS

- Seed capital: from religious institutions & other funders, creative use of *dana* from parishioners/followers
- Self sufficiency: low inputs
- Sustainability system (generation & maintenance of local activities): small and medium eco-cooperative social enterprises (e.g. selling solar power or earth bricks)

### TEMPLE BUSINESS

- Medicinal plants
- Eco-products
- Selling excess electricity

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Education with faith leadership engagement (community levels: temple, locals, business, gov't)
- collaborative solidarity/action
- linkages with CSOs
- relationship with gov't & business
- cultivating youth leaders

### VALUES/DHARMA

- Eco Buddhist concepts: The Path is the Goal, "Waking up" (*bodhi*) Together through Eco-Temple; tea 茶 = eco life "people living between grass and woods"; decentralized production and consumption → people's democracy away from centralized political/economic power and wars for oil/nuclear war
- Eco Buddhist lifestyle practices
- Environmental education of monks



正覺寺

佛日增輝





THERE ARE  
10 TYPES  
OF PEOPLE  
IN THE WORLD:  
YOU UNDERSTAND

FLY

