

The 1st & 2nd Noble Truths of Buddhist Energy Activism

AFTER

FUKUSHIMA



Bearing Witness & Exposing Unsustainable Energy Systems



the Interfaith Forum for the Review of National Nuclear Policy formed in 1992



Cultural Dukkha:

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

- 1) the myth of need: Japan has few natural resources for energy (fossil fuel)? Is peak load electricity needed all year long?
- 2) the myth of safety: *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.

3rd Myth: Nuclear energy helps to prevent global warming

- The production of nuclear fuel wastes vast amounts of energy from mining uranium to transporting the fuel to production to keep the reactor core cool
- There is tremendous economic inefficiency and electrical waste in Japan's delivery of energy from huge nuclear power plants
- 70% of the thermal energy is lost into the environment, usually into the sea at a temperature 17c degrees higher than normal

Structural Dukkha: The Nuclear Village 原発村

- 1) **Bureaucrats**, especially from METI, who after the common practice of early retirement are “golden-parachuted” (天下り *amakudari*) into high-ranking positions in Japan’s nine major regional electric utilities, such as TEPCO.
- 2) **Politicians**, primarily from the LDP, have received huge political contributions in a variety of evasive ways from the nine major regional electric utilities.
- 3) **Corporate interests**, such as: the **regional electric companies**; **industrial giants** like Hitachi, Toshiba, and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries that have developed nuclear technology and **construction businesses & national banks** that finance the industry
- 4) **Judicial system and higher courts** that often overturn decisions made by local and district courts in favor of citizens groups opposing nuclear energy.
- 5) **Academics, scientific experts, and media** that have received financial subsidies, donations, or advertising money for their research and promotion of nuclear energy.

Deep Historical Dukkha

- regional electric companies are vestiges of the war era.
- the mass mobilization that began in 1939, they were consolidated and operated as virtual monopolies until deregulation began in the late 2000s.
- Under the U.S. campaign “Atoms for Peace”, the *Yomiuri* newspaper launched at the beginning of 1954 an ongoing and enthusiastic pro-nuclear campaign with the headline, “Finally, The Sun Has Been Captured”
- The results of this campaign were overwhelming: In 1956, 70 percent of Japanese opposed nuclear technology and considered it harmful. By 1958 only 30 percent thought similarly.
- Igarashi Akio, Professor Emeritus at Rikkyo University, has concluded, “The structure underpinning nuclear power is at the nucleus of Japanese politics. *Japanese democracy and freedom are constantly confronted by these limitations*”.
- Renowned seismologist Ishibashi Katsuhiko 石橋克彦: “In Japan, where popular will has never been included in policy-making, the government continues to promote nuclear power plants ... The situation of societal closure concerning nuclear power seems to resemble the first decade of the Showa era (1925–1935).”

Abolish All Nuclear Reactors

全ての原発
廃絶を!





無核無兵

南無阿彌陀佛
欣求淨土



Longing for the Pure Land;
No Nukes, No Arms;
Taking Refuge in Amida Buddha



いのちを戀しむ

平成24年度 水平き洋を学ぶ会 特別講演

「死ぬ生き方」死を見逃さない生き方

中西 伸也

中西 伸也

死ぬ生き方のめり

中西 伸也

中西 伸也

中西 伸也

死ぬ生き方

死ぬ生き方

死ぬ生き方

中西 伸也

The Manjushri Bodhisattva (文殊菩薩 Monju Bosatsu) Fast Breeder Reactor, Fukui. Commissioned in 1995 and as of 2014, had cost ¥1 trillion (\$9.8 billion), closed in 2016



Anti-Nuclear Statement by the Traditional Japanese Buddhist Community

- On December 1st, the Japan Buddhist Federation (JBF)—an association of 104 traditional sects and denominations from all over the country—assembled its representatives and made a joint reflection on the issue called “Appeal for a Lifestyle without Dependence on Nuclear Power”, reflecting on Hiroshima & Nagasaki and the aim of world peace by Japanese Buddhist groups since their involvement in the war
- “We, the Japan Buddhist Federation, will strive to **reduce our dependence** on such nuclear power that threatens life and to realize a society based on sustainable energy. We must choose a path in which personal happiness is harmonized with human welfare, instead of wishing for prosperity at the expense of others. Finally, we would like to make an appeal for building societies that protect each and every life **through each individual confronting this issue themselves by reflecting on** their own lifestyle, letting go of excessive materialistic greed, finding contentment in the feeling of moderation, and doing their best to realize living in humility with nature.”



Rev. Yoshiharu Tomatsu,
Secretary General 2010-12

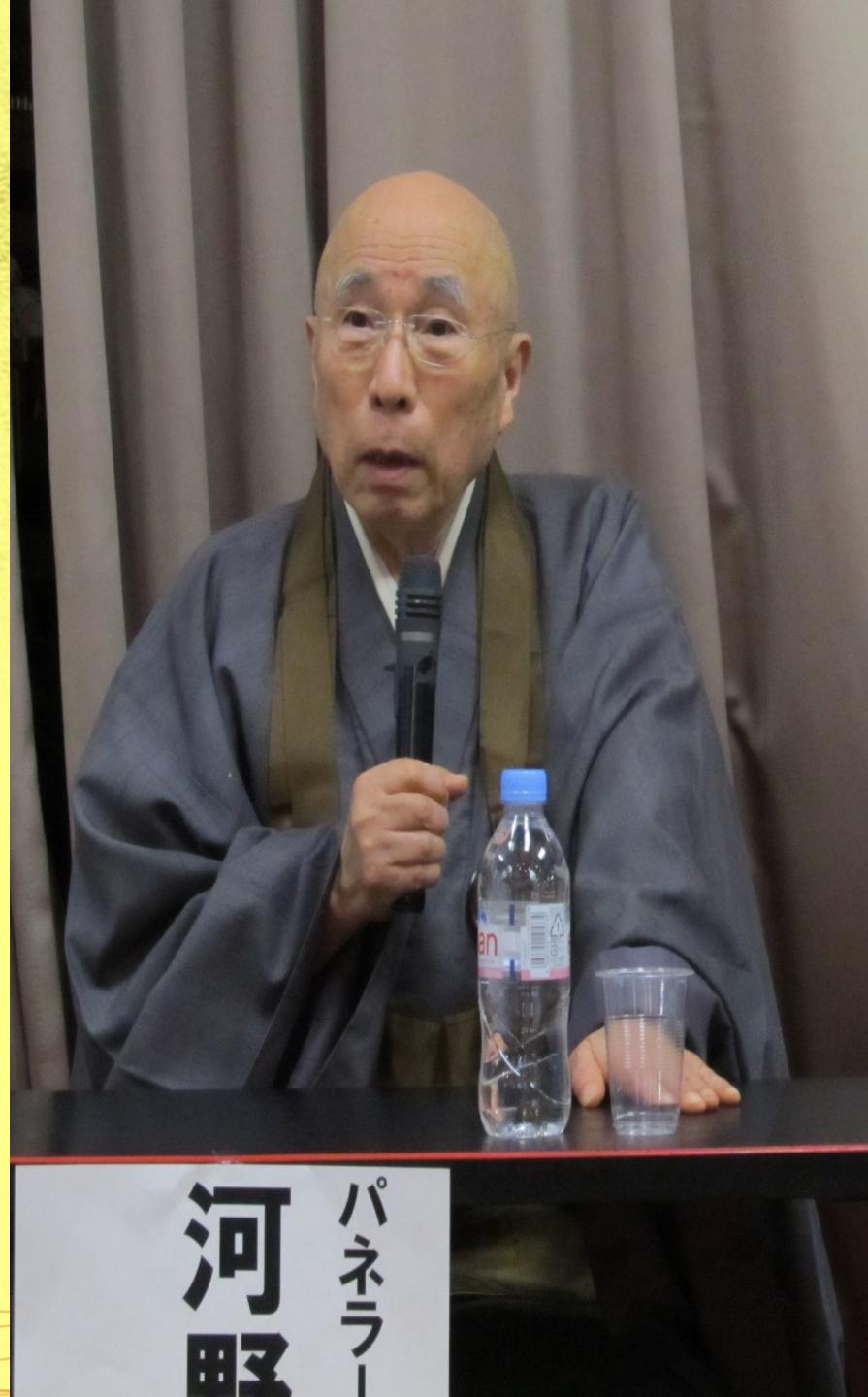
Roshi Taitsu Kono

President of JBF 2010-2012

Chief Priest of the Myoshin-ji

Rinzai Sect 2010-2014

“I feel that the **war issue and the nuclear issue are the same**. They both **involved national policy**, but not everyone agreed with such policy. There were only a handful of them in both cases, but there were people who opposed and courageously made warnings. However, this never became a large voice, and so we met with disaster made by this **massive mainstream**. On this point, nuclear power and the war followed the same trend.”



“Young people entering the way of the Buddha must hold fast to and install in their gut the fundamental idea in Buddhism of the value of sentient life and respect for human rights. I want them to speak and act with courage in anything they do. **Not just in the time of the war**, but even today, there are many people who do not speak the truth because of the prevailing stance in society. **Buddhists don't really need to care about prevailing social trends**, so they should speak out clearly. I would like to them to think that **their role as abbots is to say what is right and to protect sentient life and human rights.**”









Roppongi - don







May 21, 2014: Fukui court blocks Oi nuclear reactor restart in landmark ruling as Rev. Tetsuen Nakajima acts as citizens' group spokesperson



March 9, 2020, The Interfaith Forum for the Review of National Nuclear Policy presented a suit in the Tokyo District Court calling for the suspension of operations at the Rokkasho Nuclear Reprocessing Plant operated by Japan Nuclear Fuel Ltd. (*Nihon Gen-nen*), located in Aomori on the northern tip of the main island of Honshu.

The 3rd & 4th Noble Truths: Realizing the Vision of Ecological & Spiritual Community





宗教太陽光発電所

私たちは自然エネルギーの利用を進めます。

English

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現在の総発電容量

2849.23 kW

2849.23kWは、日本の太陽光総発電容量 263万kW (2009年末現在)の0.11%に当たります

年間発電量 285 万kWh / 年間CO₂削減量 1593 トン

(1kW当たり年間約1,000kWhで算出) (排出係数:0.559kgCO₂で算出)

Religious and Scholarly Eco-Initiative

Religious and Scholarly Eco-Initiative

New Solar

SNI Nagasaka Station 8 dormitory buildings 161.32kW

March 23, 2014 in Yamanashi Prefecture: 19 , S: SNI



8 buildings [location] SNI Nagasaka Station dormitory
(Hokuto City, Yamanashi Prefecture)
[Generation capacity] 161.32kW
February [operation] years 2014

Religion and solar power
plants

I read an article in each
prefecture

Select a State

GO



Looking South Not West

- **Sulak Sivaraksa (Thai)**, the founder of the International Network of Engaged Buddhists, once said that Japan is not in Asia because it always looks West for inspiration and competition.
- **Rev. Arima Jitsujo 有馬実成 (1936-2000)**, founder of the Japan Soto-shu Relief Committee (JSRC), Japan's most prominent Buddhist NGO said, “The change that is needed to bring a halt to this ailing local Japanese society is to become part of ‘global civil society’ (地球市民社会 *chikyu shimin-shakai*) through building solidarity between South and North. I wonder if we can voluntarily create a global society of equality based on new values.”
- He emphasized “working together” (Skt. *samanartha* 同時 *doji*)—one of the four methods that bodhisattvas employ to approach and liberate people (四摄法 *shi-shoho*), writing, “Working together means that you and others must always be equal or co-equal, that generosity and helpfulness must not be accompanied by conceit or superiority over others, and that you must always think and act from the same perspective as the other person.”
- **BUT** most of Japan’s Buddhist NGOs couldn’t understand this and just engage in material aid support to “poor southern nations”
- Okochi was a co-founder of AYUS, another Buddhist NGO, but he is one of the few Buddhist priests who understand Rev. Arima’s ideas and practices it.

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

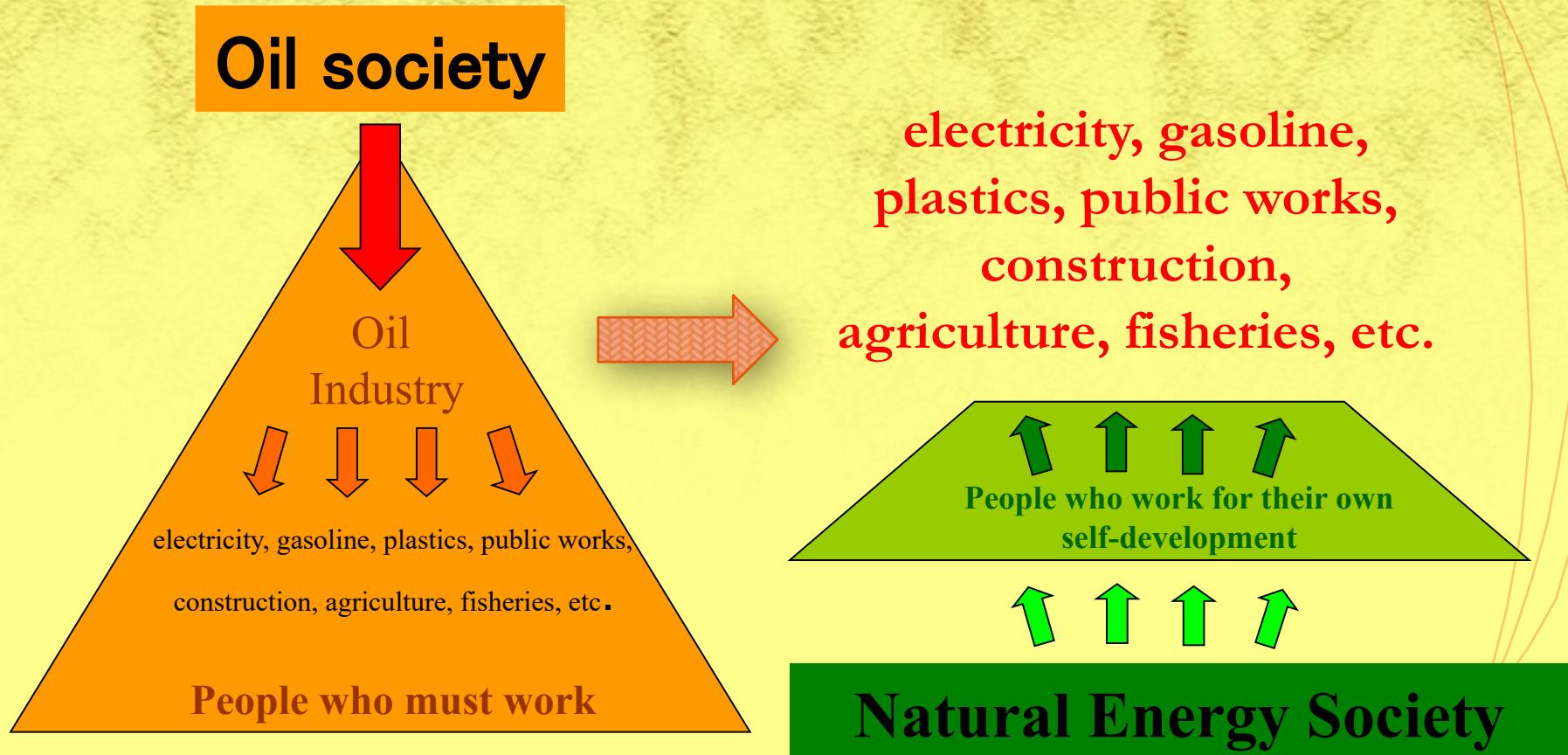
無核無兵 Nuclear and Military Presence

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.

Photovoltaic Generation (Solar Power)

- Carbon Free Energy
- July, 1999: 1st Electricity Generating Center
 - *Output 5.4 kW
 - *Cost of Construction ¥6 million/ \$60,000
 - *Installation on the roof of Juko-in Temple
- August, 2007: 2nd Electricity Generating Center
 - *Output 3.0 kW
 - *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

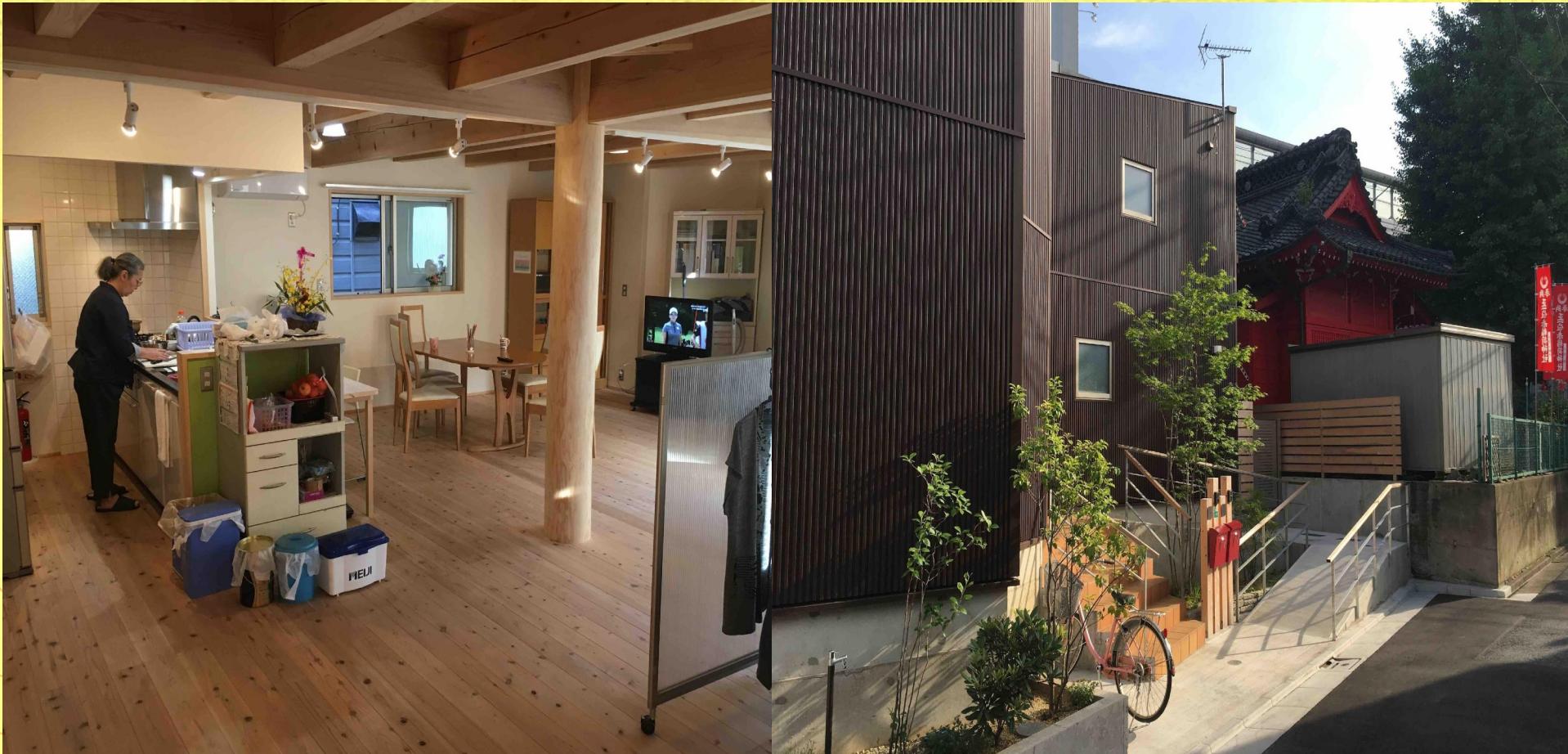
Profits Go to More Community Work

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

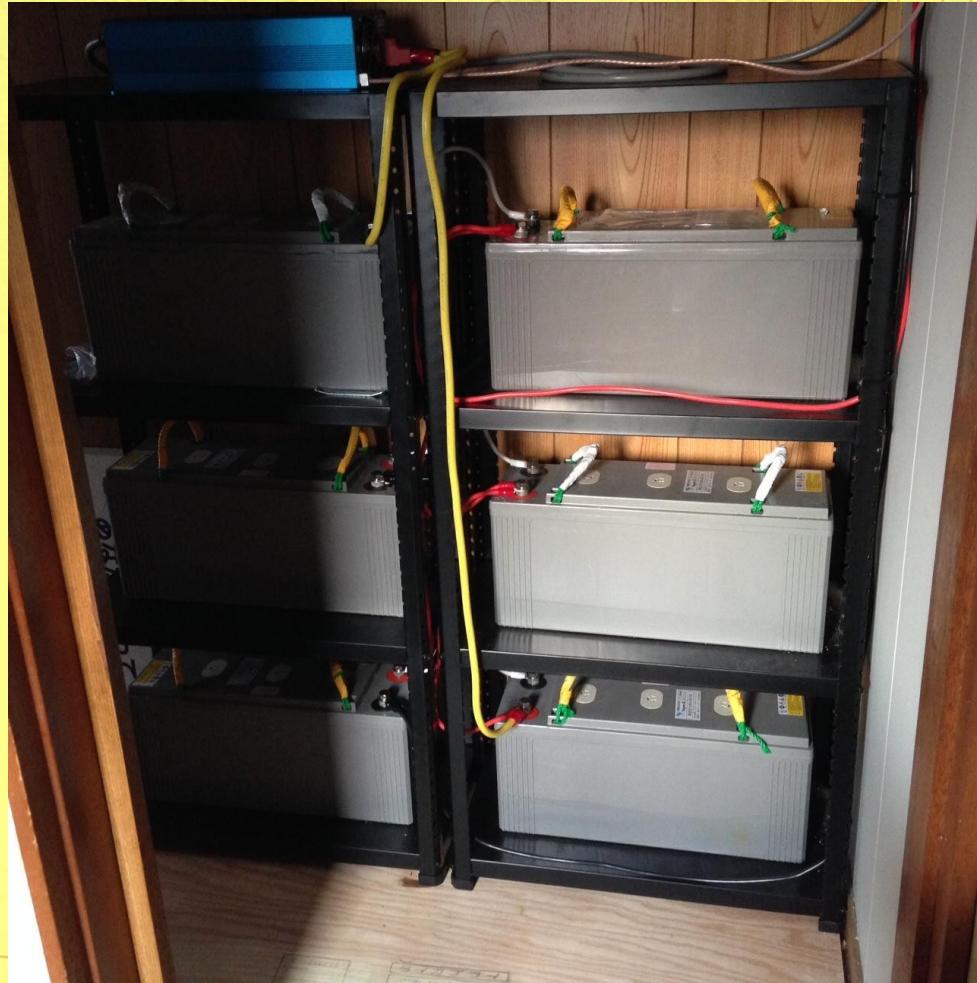
Energy Self Sufficiency is Possible





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

Converting old golf cart batteries into storage batteries



Installation of small scale hydro-electric power station

This can be set up virtually anywhere

Japan has plenty of natural resources in solar, hydro, wind, & geo-thermal

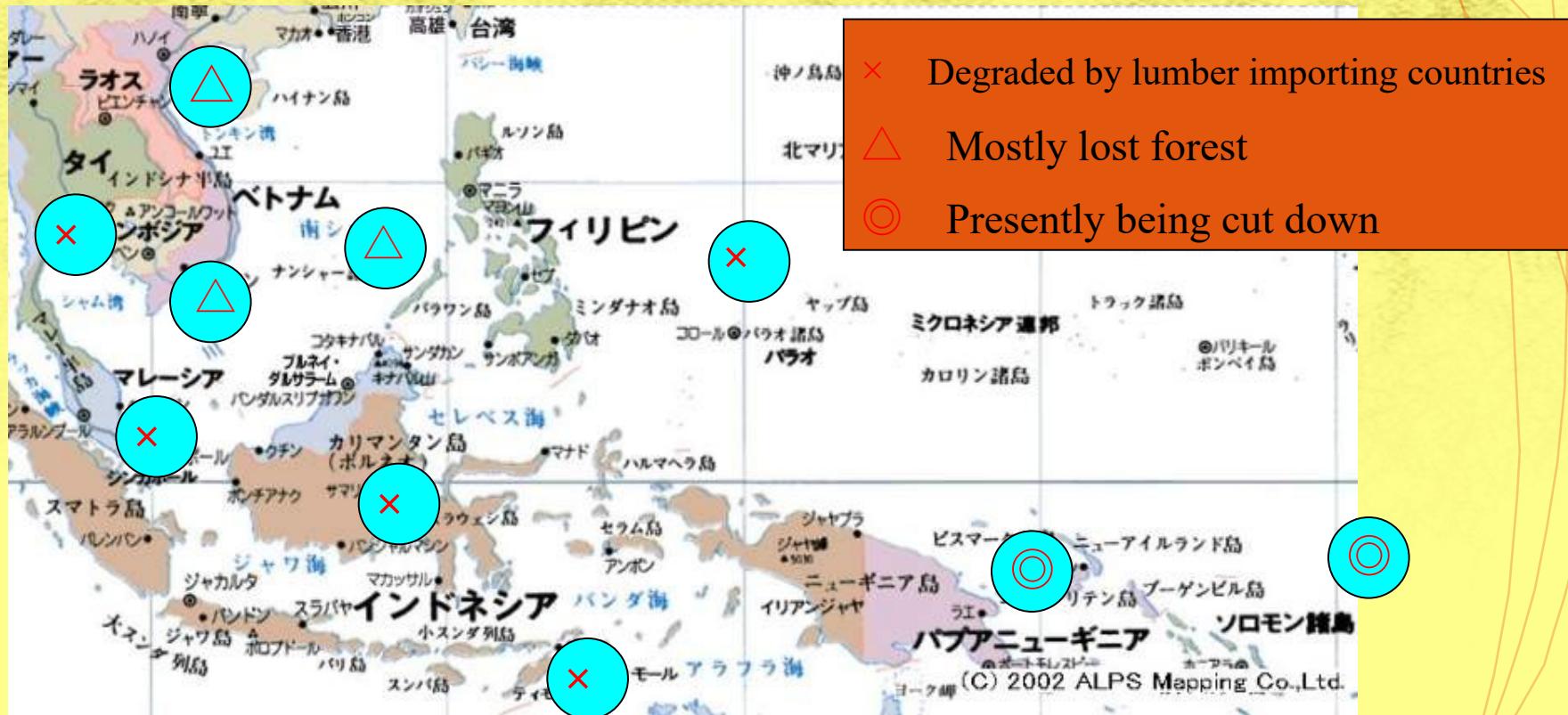
The myth of the necessity of nuclear power is truly a myth



Case Study II: Kenju-in

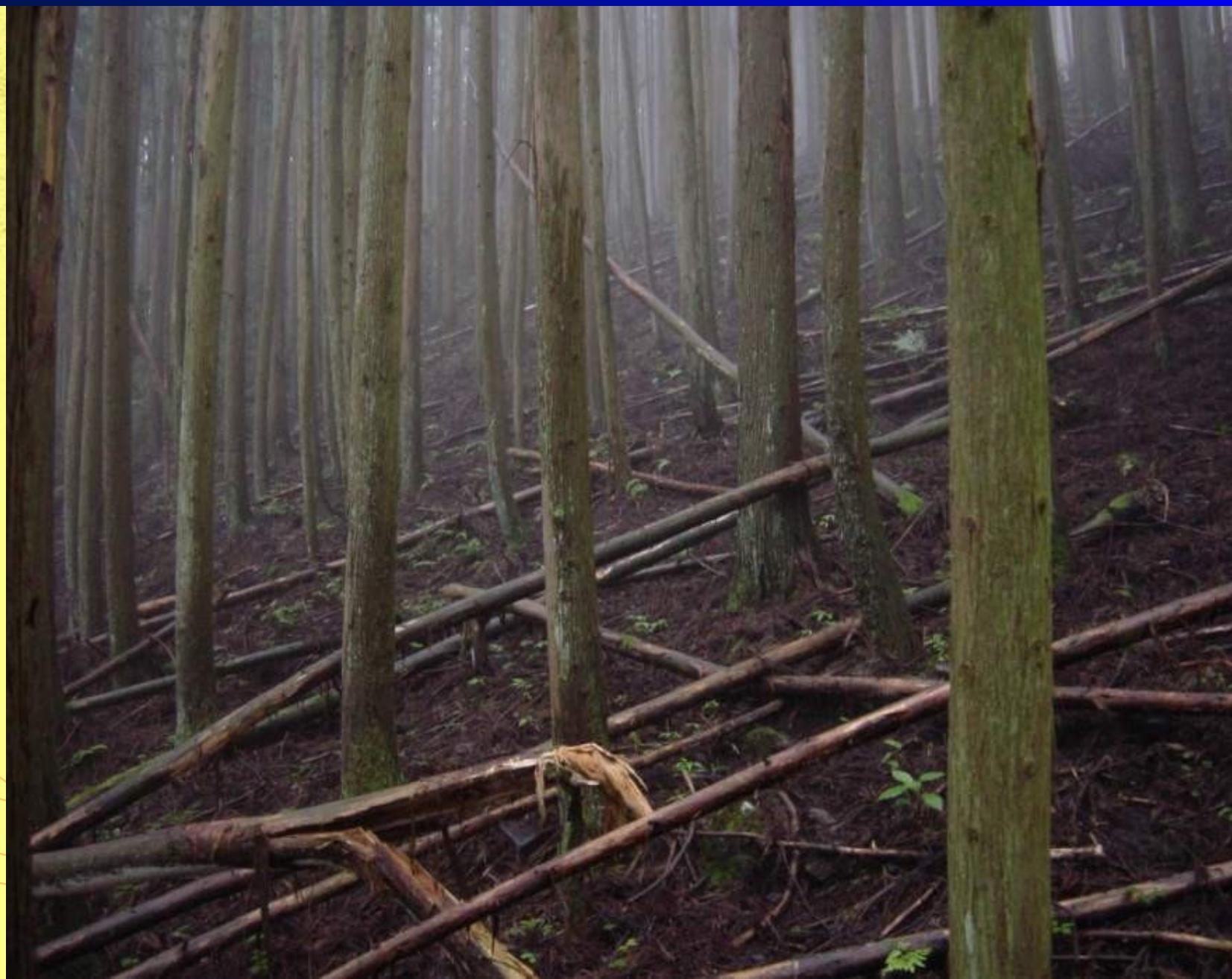
Supporting Sustainable Regional Economics

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



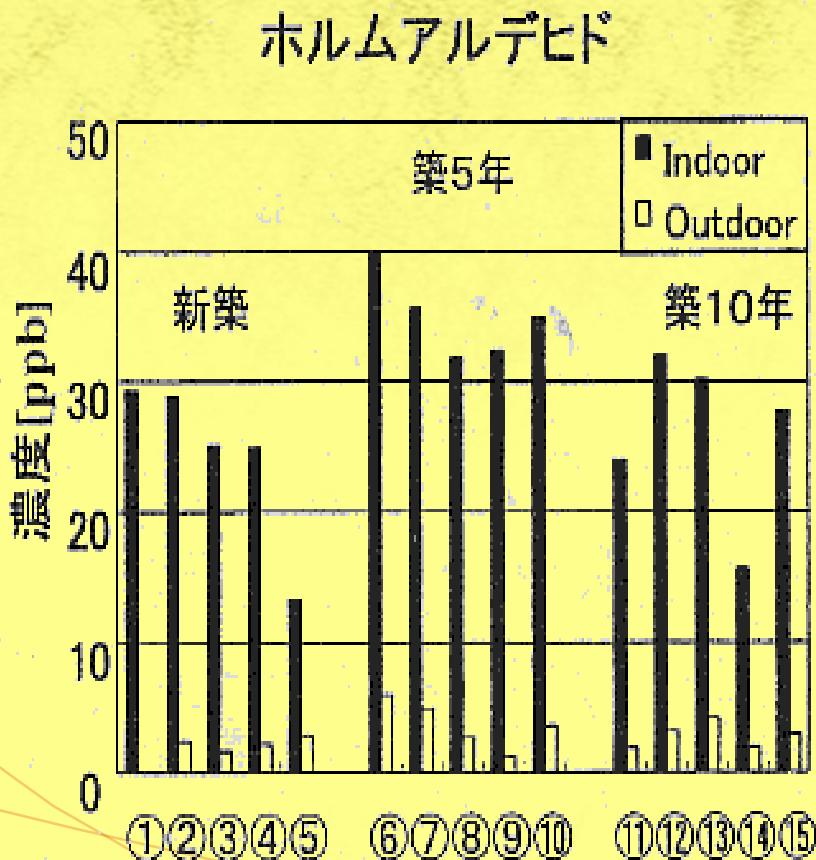
The Situation of Japanese Mountains - Degradation



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

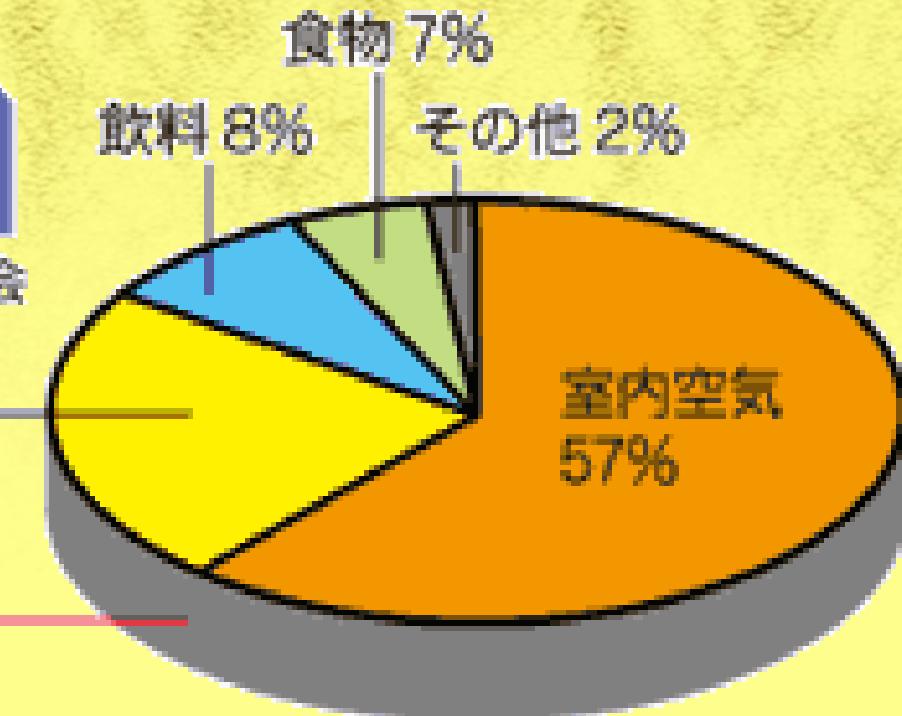
The air we breathe and not the food we eat
is more dangerous

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.

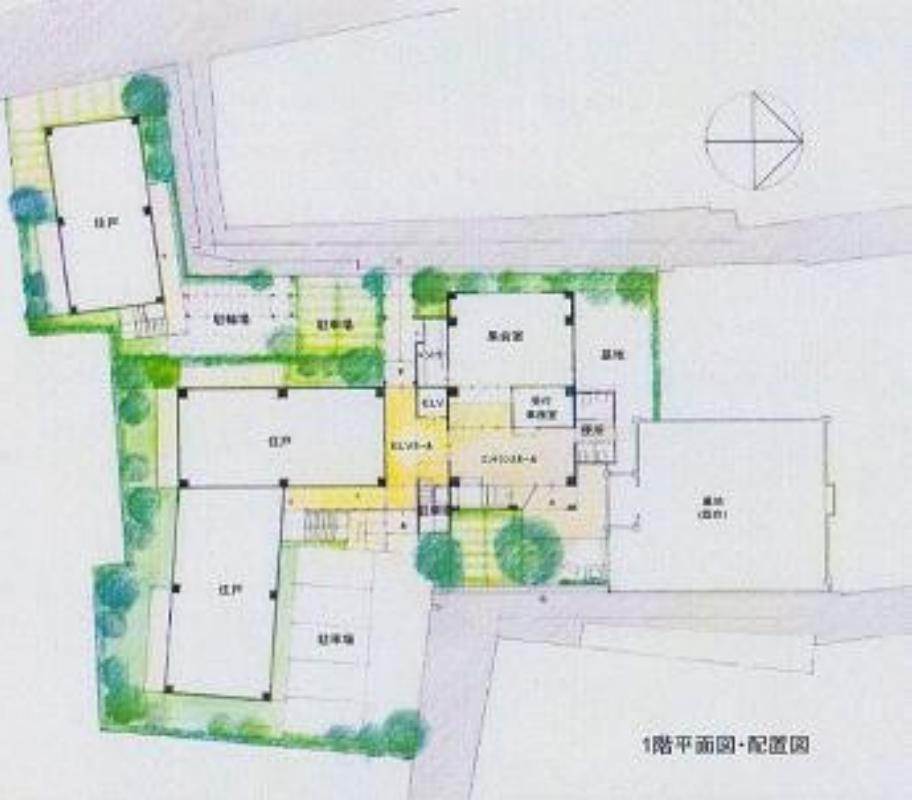
Chemical Substances Give Rise to Suffering

- 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 800th 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 & 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



Eco-Temple Project

Seed Planting

6 Design Components of an Eco-Temple Community:

encouraging collective responsibility
and sustainable life quality
improvement

Sufficiency
Economy

Education
for Ecology
& Dharma

Eco-
Temple
Structures

Surrounding
Environments

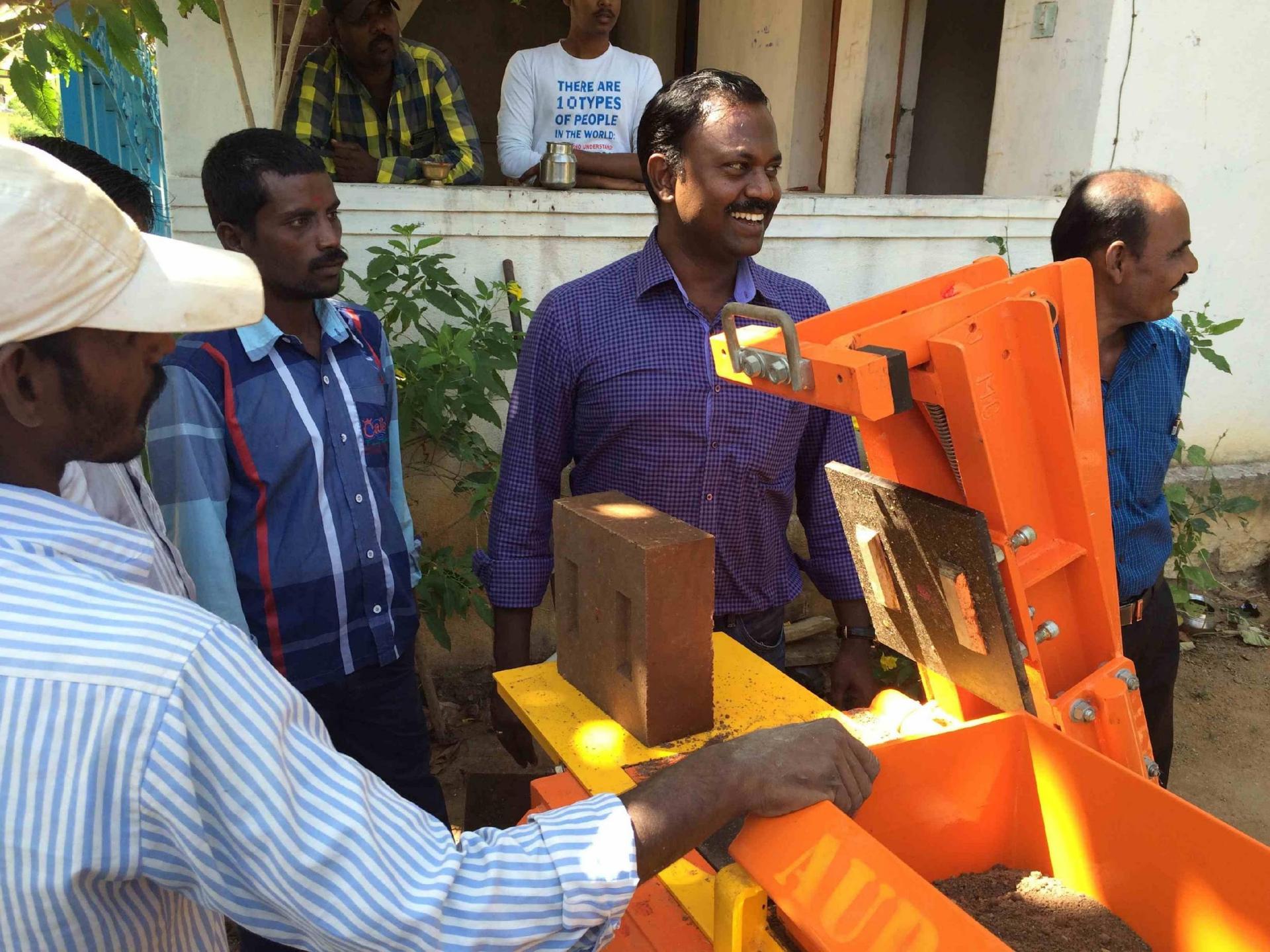
Energy
Sector

Community
Development



正覺寺





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

BRICK



Tera Energy:

Buddhist Temples providing clean energy for social renewal

- Rev. Ryogo Takemoto, a suicide prevention priest from the Jodo Shin Pure Land denomination in Kyoto, started this company in 2018 to rebuild community and get at the root of the suicide problem in human isolation
- 11 temple suppliers for 30 temples and their parishioners of 2 sub-sects of the Rinzai Zen denomination and of the Jodo Shin Hongan-ji denomination in both Hiroshima and East Hiroshima cities will begin in June 2019
- The revised goal for contracts in 2019-20 is 300 temples with 1,200 attached family households for a revenue of 420 million yen (\$3.87 million)
- returning of 2.5% of the electrical charge to the temple provider, which will need to then show their plan of using these returns on a social (welfare) activity, like building a cafeteria for local children or developing a plan for community restoration for the future.”



おてらのでんき

～こころ豊かに、安心なみらいへ～



TERA Energy