Regional Revitalization

- with Can - Do Spirit Miracle Must Happen -

Yanagidani Neighborhood Association,
Kanoya City,
Kagoshima Prefecture
Preparing a firm basis

- Corporate accounting principles (Human resources as assets/ Preparation of an accounting book(Figures serve as proof.) / Participation by every member of the community/ Fulfillment of tax payments)

- A leader plays an essential part in motivating people by inspiring them and provoking a feeling of appreciation.

- A leader should be friendly but unapproachable. (courageous and bold)
Exciting revitalization of “village”

~Potential power of Yanagidani~

Organisation Chart of Yanedan

Director of autonomous Kominkan

Assistant director / Accountant

Audit committee

Senior citizens’ section

Cultivation of Youth section

Women’s / Men’s section

Cultural section

Livestock management section

Business section
For regional revitalization

~Challenge of Yanagidani community~

Regional revitalization independent of subsidies

“Karaimo” (sweet potato) :: source of revenue

Cultivation of sweet potatoes
For regional revitalization
~Challenge of Yanagidani community~

Livestock stall became odorless
and free from flies

We mixed local bacteria accounting for 1.5% of the entire feed into cattle’s feed. The cattle have shown better physical conditions, and the smell generated from their excreta has been reduced. This has led to a decrease in the number of flies in the stall.
Countermeasures for smell generated by livestock excreta

Under the cooperation between Kushira town and Yanagidani community

Smells reduced by the effect of cultivated indigenous soil bacteria

From an article published in September, 2001

Distributing the center-made bacteria to the residents

The cases of scours decreased by calves fed bacteria mixed with the cattle feed.
Breeding of soil bacteria
Yanagidani community, Kushira-cho

Yanagidani community (of 130 households), which is promoting revitalization of the community independent of municipal subsidies, celebrated on March 24 the completion of the center for breeding of soil bacteria. Next to the center, a “Museum for village’s treasuries” was also established, displaying folk utensils provided by each of the households in the community. It is to function as a center for regional studies.

Local residents celebrating the completion of the center for local bacteria breeding.
Above: Soil indigenous bacteria breeding, using heavy machinery

Upper left and lower left: Scattering the bacteria over fields
Effects of cultivated soil bacteria

Field containing the bacteria

Field without the bacteria
Japanese yams

Cultivation of tomatoes
Japanese yam

Spinach

Sakurajima Daikon (a type of Japanese radish)

Chin-gen-sai (Bok choy) • Mizuna (potherb mustard)
Brood buds have grown into seedlings.

Planting Japanese yams
Paddy rice grown by adding the nurtured soil bacteria (above)

Paddy rice grown without adding the nurtured soil bacteria (below)
An article dated March 22, 2004

Yanagidani community (of 130 households) in Kamiobaru, Kushiracho has been engaged in interesting businesses applying soil bacteria (underground microbes). Their new engagement is the production of original Imo-Shochu named “Yanedan” (meaning Yanagidani), distilled from Koganesengan, a variety of sweet potatoes, which have grown in the fields enriched with nurtured soil bacteria. The announcement event was held in the community space on March 21, and the residents involved tasted “Yanedan.”

200 people celebrating the announcement of “Yanedan,” a spirit distilled from sweet potatoes

Unveiling the Shochu monument in the presence of many people

Shochu “Yanedan”
Announcement of Shochu “Yanedan”

An announcement parade by the whole community (left)

Shochu “Yanedan” (right)
With firm determination, miracles will follow.
An article dated May 4, 2006

Presenting 10,000 yen to Yanagidani residents ~at a commemorative ceremony~
~Up to the completion of “Guest house”~

- Before the construction started -
- After the construction started -

Guest house No.1
Guest house No.5 ~a cattle barn changed into a museum~

Museum

Passage with art
Village Atelier

Gallery Yanedan
Portraits painted on fusumas
(by a watercolor painter Tetsuyuki Ishihara)
Atelier at Guest house No. 7
“Yanedan” Furusato Sosei Juku

The first students to enter Sosei Juku

The second students

The fourth students

The fifth students
Study tours from overseas
People on a tour from South Korea

28 students in the 6th grade of an elementary school in South Korea visited us.
Group tour to South Korea: Yanedan Bar opened in J’s Hotel in Daegu.
An article dated June 15, 2004

For selection of the village model from 160 regions recommended by the region's own committee or Regional Agricultural Administration office, the criteria were;

①Supply of safe food

②Recycling-based environmental; conservation measures such as usage of biomass

③Exchange between urban and rural communities

Yanagidani autonomous kominkan was highly rated due to the pioneering and originative character of its activities aiming for revitalization of the community independent of administrative support. Particularly, the community’s engagement in application of local bacteria for treatment of livestock excrement and production of sweet potatoes in unused lands by residents’ voluntarily work was highly evaluated in that the revenue gained from sales of the nurtured local bacteria and sweet potatoes was used for the welfare of seniors and education of the youth.
Awards
~presented to Yanagidani autonomous community center~

- “The planning awards” of Japan Association for Planning Administration
  The best planning award (as the best regional revitalization case in Japan)
  November 29, 2002

- Selected as the 2004’s model farm village by the government
  (Headquarter for Food, Agriculture and agricultural policies promotion)
  June 15, 2004

- Prize for the best case of Peninsula revitalization
  Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
  (Joint award)
  - President of the peninsula promotion committee
  - President of the committee of peninsula promotion policies assembly members
  - President of national council of municipal peninsula promotion committees

  “Village” revitalization independent of administration June 28, 2005
Winning the Prime Minister’s Award
Population of Yanagidani community

The number of people

単位:人

Year

1998 '99 '00 '01 '02 '03 '04 '05 '06 2007 2008

325 321 319 311 305 296 292 291 285 301 314
Symbol of “Yanedan”
「やねだんとうがらしプロジェクト」
鹿児島過疎集落の挑戦
ピリッと旨い豚みそやねだん

【使用例】
おにぎり、野菜スティックサラダ、焼肉、サンチュ巻き、ビビンバ、炒飯、湯豆腐、長ネギと混ぜて辛みそネギ、鍋料理の薬味、冷や奴の薬味など。

とうがらしベースの豚みそです。
※チューシャのみの商品もあります。
Bamboo-made frames
Regional Revitalization

• The basis is friendly “harmony”. The achievements and passions of our predecessors are highly appreciated and respected. Our activities are conducted with a sense of appreciation and inspiration.

• We accommodate both the principles of business and the regional management studies with an aim to move people by passion.

• All people are able to contribute to society. (Failure to do so is “Mottainai”.)

• Leaders! Be ready!

• Regional revitalization still partly depends on administrative organizations. We expect them to develop further.