

Asian Network of Organics Recyclers
Minutes of the Steering Committee Meeting
4.30 pm to 6.00 pm Wednesday 6 October 2004
Akita Prefectural University, Japan

In attendance were:

Chair: Dr. Mitsuo Chino: Japan Organics Recycling Association (JORA)

Vice Chair: Dr. Jianming Xu: College of Environmental and Resource Sciences,
Zhejiang University, China

Member: Mr. Gerry Gillespie: Department of Environment and Conservation NSW
Australia

Member: Dr. Kamaruddin Abdullah: Centre for Research and Engineering
Application in Tropical Agriculture, Bogor Agricultural University, Indonesia

Member: Dr Jae-Chun Chung: Korean Organics Recycling Association, Korea.

Applicant for ANOR membership

Mr Luke Eginton: WasteKleen (Asia) Co Ltd

Observers

Dr. Werner Bidlingmaier: Organic Recovery and Biological Treatment (ORBIT).
Bauhaus University, Weimar, Germany

Dr. Harold Keener: Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological engineering,
Ohio State University, USA

Dr. Young-jun Kim: Catholic University of Korea, Division of Biotechnology

Dr. Takashi Muraoka: Centre of Ago-Industrial Productivity, university of Sao Paulo,
Brazil

Dr. Tessie Merestela: Department of Soil Science, College of Agriculture, Benquet
State University Philippines

Dr. Praphasri Chongpraditnun: Soil Science Research Group, Agricultural Production
Science Research and Development Office, Department of Agriculture, Thailand

Mr. Yusuke Kuzuhara: Environment Policy Division, Ministers Secretariat, Ministry
of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries

Dr. Kenji Kanazawa, Deputy Director, Sustainable Agriculture Office in Crop
Production Division, Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries

Japanese Organic Recycling Association

Dr. Toshiaki Tadano

Mr. Yutaka Hirose

Mr. Atushi Kai

Mr. Toshifumi Ueda

Mr. Sadayuki Shimoda

Secretariat

Mr. Eiichi Takeshita

Mr. Yoshihiro Maruyama

Prior to meeting:

Participants were introduced by Mr Maruyama, Secretariat of ANOR and the Agenda
for the meeting agreed to.

Dr. Toshiaki Tadano, Vice President of JORA, welcomed the observers and guests to the meeting.

Dr Chino, Chair of the Steering Committee, also welcomed all present at the meeting and outlined the procedure for the meeting.

Agenda items

The revision of the rule to add private companies to the membership was approved by the Steering Committee. There were no other alterations to the Rules.

Applications for membership were received from:

Napal Agricultural Development Society P. Ltd

Waste Kleen Asia Pte. Ltd

WasteBusters Trust Canterbury NZ

Black and Grey Pty Ltd

Peat's Soils and Garden Supplies

All five applications were approved for membership

The remainder of the meeting was opened for discussion on all remaining matters on the agenda including:

- Increase in membership from 10 organisations in 10 countries to 23 organisations in 13 countries.
- The collection of data from all member countries.
- Publication of 12 newsletters since December 2002.

Future ANOR activities:

- Discussion on a proposal from Mr Gillespie, to investigate the transfer of nutrients from one country to another and possible methods to address the flow of nutrient back to the country of origin.
- Other matters

Open Discussion

A representation from Zero Waste Australia (ZWA) to commence discussions on the negative effects of nutrient transfer from one nation to another was discussed at length.

Mr. Gillespie made the point that at this stage there were no specific plans for the transfer of nutrients but Zero Waste Australia wished to have the discussion opened in an international forum because it was a fundamental problem that went along with trade in agricultural products. The health of soils in all countries needed to be addressed at a fundamental level. It was clear that simply continuing to add chemicals to soils would not resolve the issue and world trade was increasing and with it soil degradation.

Contributions were made from a number of observers including Dr. Werner Bidlingmaier who wished to impress upon the meeting the importance of this issue. It is a major difficulty in Europe where composted product is still classified as a waste and regulation makes it very difficult to transfer across borders.

Mr. Yusuke Kuzuhara from the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries wanted to inform the meeting that the issue had many levels and should be approached with caution.

Dr. Kenji Kanazawa also felt that the matter should be handled with care and an awareness of the cross-cultural implications.

Dr. Tessie Merestela of the Department of Soil Science, College of Agriculture, Benquet State University Philippines, spoke of the cost of such a proposal, processing transport etc, and wanted to ensure that such a proposal did not become another burden for local farmers.

Dr. Harold Keener of Ohio State University pointed out that with the cost of waste disposal at current levels and rising, he felt that processing materials into a suitable form and transporting it by ship would be a cheaper option than landfill

Mr Gillespie made the point that the proposal was not necessarily talking about transporting compost, it was discussing transportation of nutrients. This can be done in many forms. As outlined in the proposal from Zero waste Australia, nutrient could be transported without any form of bacterial or fungal properties. It could be transported as a pelletised stock feed or as a worm cast in solution, which had been pasteurised prior to transportation. The important point at this time was to open discussion on the matter. This matter at some time in the future will reach crisis point and it was better to discuss and prepare options beforehand rather than when the crisis was upon us.

It was decided to ask ZWA to investigate the possibilities within Australia, to pursue funding and political opportunities and to ask individual representatives to take the matter forward in their own countries.

The Executive of ANOR will discuss the matter through email and make any interim decisions necessary to promote the matter. Any such decision can then be ratified at the next formal meeting.

Mr Werner Bidlingmier of ORBIT the President of the European Compost Council asked that the conversation on this subject be broadened to include their organisations members throughout Europe as they are having the same difficulties in regard to nutrient transfer and product reuse.

Other Business

Dr. Kamaruddin Abdullah from the Centre for Research and Engineering Application in Tropical Agriculture, Bogor Agricultural University, Indonesia, informed the meeting that the World Renewable Energy Regional Congress and Exhibition will be held in Jakarta from the 17th to the 21st of April 2005. The summit will be held in conjunction with the Asian – African Summit 2005.

All ANOR members and should be aware that the Call for Papers has been released. For further information please contact Dr. Kamaruddin Abdullah: Centre for Research

and Engineering Application in Tropical Agriculture, Bogor Agricultural University, Indonesia. Email: kdin@bogog.wasantara.net.id

The meeting closed at 6.10 pm