

Daiko Corporation expands agricultural products cultivation and processing business

Shooting the second and third arrow in the agricultural business! Daiko Corporation, one of the largest recyclers in the Tohoku region, is rapidly expanding its business of the cultivating and processing agricultural products. The company has already built a new factory for processed foods which produces dried fruits using the company's unique low-temperature drying technology and will now soon start production of "hiratake" mushrooms, in addition to its existing lineup of tomatoes and "shiitake". Daiko, located in Akita Prefecture, where agriculture is a major industry, is actively involved in developing new businesses that seeks synergistic effect between agriculture and recycling. It is also looking at new businesses as future sources of supplementary income, as well as for job creation in the local community. With Akita facing severe depopulation issues and a rapidly aging society, Daiko wants to bring the prefecture "health" and "employment" over the long term. The company's efforts are surely to become a focus of attention.

Food processing factory, supplementary income for main business

Since entering the business three years ago, Daiko has been producing agricultural products such as "Goro Tomatoes" and "Goro Shiitake". Inside the Deco Farm site, a new vegetable and fruit processing plant was set up this year to produce dried foods.

"After thinking about our recycling business would be 20 years and 30 years from now without



competition with other recyclers, I realized that we needed to get into something new," said Daiko President Goro Domon, in explaining why his company took up the challenge of agriculture. However, because the now season in Akita lasts for nearly half a year, conventional outdoor farming means income from farming is limited. So Daiko decided to undertake greenhouse cultivation, which enables the company to operate its farming business throughout the year. Used tires, collected from Daiko's vehicle recycling plant, are used as a thermal-energy source for the greenhouse.

Three years have passed since the start of Daiko's agricultural undertaking, and, now, Deco Farm shiitake are sold at a local super-market, while the jams and the dried vegetables it produces are shipped to the "Morino Ichiba" market in Sendai City, as well as to wholesalers in Tokyo. With 11 employees, annual sales have increased to approximately 35 million yen. Domon's business goals of contributing to the recovery of agriculture in Akita and to local society—while expanding his company and creating local employment—are now steadily being realized.

The president's unique ideas have been applied to dried foods. Unlike conventional drying methods that use oils, Daiko's method does not use oil, but rather involves subjecting prepared fruit and vegetables to low temperatures for a long period. This preserves the nutrients are, because the method does not require the use of salt, it seals in natural flavor to the maximum. The dried fruits and vegetables and tomato jam, produced using such a rare method are highly regarded

by Daiko's customers.

Daiko's dried-food products were recently exhibited at "Foodex Japan," an international food and beverages exhibition held in Makuhari Messe, in Chiba Prefecture. The company says that it received many inquiries about its independently



Used tires, thermal source of the greenhouse, are stored for the winter, and low-temperature drying plant, right



Showa Industrial Park in Katagami City, where Daiko Corporation is based. A facility called "Deco Farm" is 10 minutes away by car. The "D" in the name comes from "Daiko" and "Domon". To this has been added "eco". In the center of the farm among an array of greenhouses can be seen the chimney of a boiler, developed by Daiko. Used tires are placed around the boiler.



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CO₂ Reduction Effect (based on Super-Line System)

The use of Reuse Parts saved

**3,725 tons of CO₂ emissions
in June 2015**

The reference figure represents the difference of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions at the vehicle repair using genuine (new) parts and recycled parts.*

*: Based on "Green Point System", which was jointly developed by the Japan Automotive Parts Recyclers Association and Waseda University Environmental Research Institute using a life cycle assessment (LCA) technique.

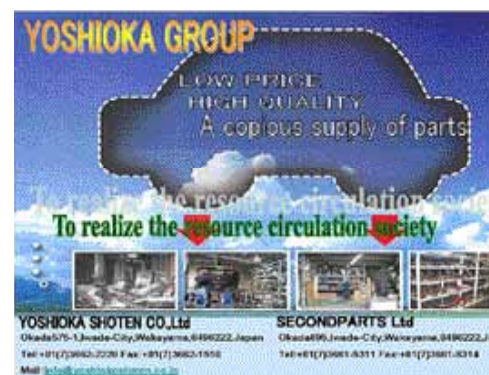
developed low-temperature food-drying technology at the event from interested parties from both inside and outside of Japan.

"Hiratake," joins tomatoes and shiitake mushrooms as the third product

From this summer, Daiko will begin producing "hiratake" mushrooms, in parallel to "shitake" farming. "Hiratake" mushrooms are a species of "shimeji" mushrooms and are similar in flavor to "eringi" mushrooms. By adding the new item, the company will strengthen its agricultural business.

Domon, of course, is not satisfied with the scale of the business. "Annual sales of at least 100 million yen are needed to make the agricultural business the second pillar of the company." Daiko's president eyes to triple sales in the future. Next year, the company plans to hire two new full-time employees who are now students of Tenno Midorigakuen of Akita Prefectural School for Handicapped Children, and currently work as trainees at Daiko. One more full-time employee will be hired for the company's recycling business. This is to help Daiko achieve its goals of job creation and contribution to the local community.

High expectations on the part of the local community are being placed on full-scale production at Deco Farm and its use of Daiko's original methods. Daiko's challenges will continue. (*Daily Automotive News July 9 issue*)



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News from NPO JARA

The 8th Asian Automotive Environmental Forum (AAEF) to take place in Akita



The 8th Asian Automotive Environmental Forum will take place in Akita Prefecture, where our company located. It is the second holding in Japan six years after the second AAEF held at Tohoku University in Sendai City. AAEF is a discussion and presentation platform for Asian participants concerning today's status of automotive recycling in each country and the issues to be resolved. This year the main theme has been set as "Local Promotion and Automobiles" to better communicate the results of our involvement in "Three Rs" and others. From now, I think that our recycling industry will be much more asked to create things that contribute to local community and society, by utilizing our expertise in other areas.

"Recycling" is a simple word. But when you think about it deeply, recycling is something that is bound to be full of possibilities. Our company's farming business also comes from this thinking.

It would be highly appreciated if we could receive comments on and opinions about our business from as many people as possible.

Even though Akita is part of Honshu (Japan's main island), it is located far to the north on the Japan Sea side. However, we and our company staff will welcome participants with our whole heart and "Omotenashi" (traditional Japanese hospitality) spirit.

Finally, I express my thanks to representatives from each country who attended the previous conference in Mongolian and agreed that the 2015 conference would be held in Akita.

Goro Domon
Vice Chairman
Japan Automotive Recyclers Association
President
Daiko Corporation



About NPO JARA:

Since it was established in 2004, the Japan Automotive Recyclers Association, a non-profit organization of dismantlers, has been actively promoting, jointly with overseas partners, the proper process of automobile recycling from a global viewpoint, thereby contributing to global environmental conservation.



Drum performance by **Namahage**, left, and Akita apprentice **geisha**, above.

Participants will experience the hospitality of Akita apprentice geisha be treated to a live performance of traditional Akita folk song, and be entertained by the Namahage demons of local folklore. Japanese sake tasting of selected brands from around the country will also be available.

The 8th AAEF 2015 Overview

(Theme: Local Promotion and Automobile)

Date: Thursday, Oct. 1 – Saturday, Oct. 3, 2015

Venue: Akita Castle Hotel

1-3-5 Naka-dori, Akita City, Akita Prefecture 010-0001

Phone: 018-834-1141

Organizer: Non-profit organization Japan Automotive Recyclers Association (NPO JARA)

Scheduled program:

Oct. 1: (Thur.) Industrial site tour to Daiko Corporation Earth Clean Kariwano Plant in the morning, Daiko Corporation headquarters plant and Deco Farm in the afternoon, party in the evening

Oct. 2 (Fri.): Conference and reception

Oct. 3 (Sat.): Industrial site tour to recycling plant of Nippon PGM Co., a Dowa group recycler, located in Kosaka Town, or golf

Note: * Additional fee required

Four registration and details please visit:

<http://www.aaef8.com>

(Deadline: Thursday, Sept. 10)

Partners and supporting companies of AAEF 2015 welcomed!

1) Event supporter: Minimum 10,000 yen

(supporting companies' names will appear in the companies' list of the AAEF 2015 guidebook and on the AAEF website)

2) Advertising opportunity: 150,000 yen for a full-page B/W ad, 100,000 yen for 1/2-page color ad, 50,000 yen for 1/2-page B/W ad.

Contact: NPO JARA / e-mail: jara@npo-jara.org

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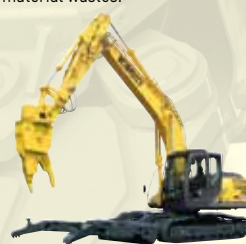
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