

Dr. Nakamura Tetsu Memorial Archive

中村哲医師 メモリアルアーカイブ

Commemorating the Establishment of the Dr. Nakamura Tetsu Memorial Archive

Koichiro Watanabe

Professor, Faculty of Engineering / Former Senior Vice President for International Affairs, Kyushu University / Member, Peshawar-kai

Dr. Nakamura Tetsu saved the lives of many people in Afghanistan and spent years showing the world what peace really looks like through his work in this frontier region. He was truly a great man whose name will echo through history. Kyushu University students can take pride in him as an esteemed alumnus. We have put together a database about Dr. Nakamura and his work that can be perused both by university members and others within Japan and the world. We hope that Dr. Nakamura's memorial archive will teach young people about his life. Every message from him lit up our hearts, sometimes with a piercing spotlight and other times with a warm, gentle glow. He showed us why it was necessary to brighten the world in one's corner, and why we need to care about the powerless. His writings express how far removed the logic of the powerful is from peace, and demonstrated that peace is not a mere idea, but a reality with power. The trajectory of Dr. Nakamura's life and the words he bequeathed to us provide us with insights into many important things.

Peshawar-kai was formed in 1983 right here in Fukuoka to support Dr. Nakamura's medical care activities overseas. As a Kyushu University graduate student at the time, I was involved in setting up Peshawar-kai's secretariat and was greatly influenced by Dr. Nakamura's life. My encounter with him changed me. I believe it is thanks to him that I am the man I am today. The memorial archive was the brainchild of former Kyushu University president Dr. Chiharu Kubo, who was a classmate of Dr. Nakamura's when they were medical students at this university. We sincerely hope that the memorial archive will become a center for passing on Dr. Nakamura's dreams and messages to younger generations.



Dr. Nakamura Tetsu Memorial Archive
set up in the Kyushu University Library

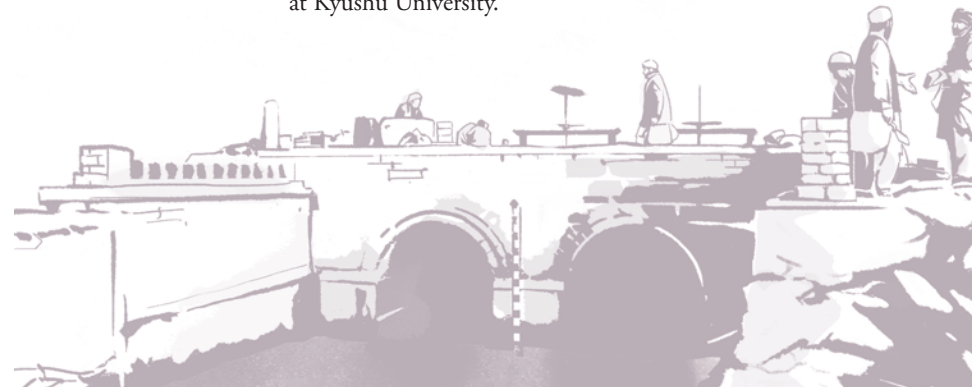
Significance of the Dr. Nakamura Tetsu Memorial Archive

Masaru Murakami

Chairman, Peshawar-kai

Dr. Nakamura Tetsu passed away on December 4, 2019, at the age of 73. From the time he graduated from the Kyushu University School of Medicine in 1973 up until his 2014 appointment as University Professor at Kyushu University, he did not have any direct relationship with the university. Despite this, Kyushu University is honoring his work by exclusively dedicating a memorial archive to serve as a record of his life. I believe this is because they do not measure his works by the scale of his academic achievements but rather by the magnitude of his contribution to humanity. I would like to express my gratitude for the tremendous consideration of everyone involved in this project.

Dr. Nakamura was a man of action, and as such he has influenced countless people. His persistence in remaining and working in Afghanistan, in lightening up that small corner of the world, which he explained in his lecture at Kyushu University—"What is truly needed in Afghanistan: Thirty years of contribution in a foreign culture"—touched the hearts of many and became one of the universal models of a life of dedication and service and of humanity's relationship to nature. His work in Afghanistan—a forgotten corner of the world for many, if not downright ignored by history—has bequeathed tangible results with universal significance. These include the provision of medical care in mountain villages and for Hansen's disease patients, the construction of irrigation canals and other water management systems, and the agricultural production that benefits from said irrigation systems, promising self-sustenance to the village. Not only that, he also produced many field reports and essays in which he often recorded his thoughts in poems and narratives. In addition, he left a huge collection of photographs. I hope that this memorial archive becomes a wellspring to nurture young people and inspire them to think deeply about humanity and nature and take the necessary actions. Peshawar-kai's role may come to an end one day, but I am confident that Dr. Nakamura Tetsu will live on forever at Kyushu University.



The Work of Dr. Nakamura Tetsu

Chiyoko Fujita

Executive Member, Peshawar-kai

Starting with the provision of medical care to Hansen's disease patients in Pakistan's northwestern city of Peshawar in 1984, Dr. Nakamura Tetsu's work expanded to include services for the Afghan refugees who inevitably fled across the nearby border. He went on to provide health care to people in both Pakistan and Afghanistan who would otherwise have been unable to access such benefits.

When a severe drought struck Afghanistan in 2000 and the fields became horrendously parched, Dr. Nakamura, spurred by the desire to help the local people, lost no time in digging wells. The time of the drought corresponded with the time of a complete withdrawal of international aid organizations from Afghanistan, so he began providing medical care and distributing food to internally displaced people stranded in Kabul in the depths of winter. Unwilling and unable to overlook the plight of people facing death before his very eyes, Dr. Nakamura decided to launch an irrigation canal project, realizing that it was people's only hope for survival. "I never once imagined that 40 years after becoming a doctor, I'd be operating heavy machinery in a river in Afghanistan," he often said, remarking on his career shift. Having exchanged his stethoscope for an excavator, he continued to work with local villager-laborers until his last day.

Of course, one cannot gloss over the fact that he occasionally had less heartwarming experiences in that work. It seemed that he was often deceived and sometimes even denigrated. "Still," Dr. Nakamura would say, "Human beings are worth loving. Their sincerity is worth trusting."

Through his 35 years in Pakistan and Afghanistan, Dr. Nakamura demonstrated his solidarity with those in need, humbly sharing the struggles of people who, having been under the heel of invading powers for much of their history, had lost all hope. Even when Afghanistan was being condemned internationally as being part of the "axis of evil," he did not join that chorus of criticism, nor did he turn away from the people who needed support. He gave his all trying to save lives. Unfortunately, I am not a poet and these meager words simply cannot do justice to his service. My hope is that each person will find their own image of Dr. Nakamura Tetsu through the collection of this archive.

Nakamura Tetsu Digital Archive

Yuko Hori

Head of Electronic Resources Management Division, Kyushu University Library

In addition to an exhibition space, the Dr. Nakamura Tetsu Memorial Archive also features the Nakamura Tetsu Digital Archive, which is intended to spread the word about Dr. Nakamura's mission to the next generation. Thanks to the cooperation of Peshawar-kai, we have been able to gather together and preserve in digital form Dr. Nakamura's writings and remarks. The digital archive is published online, ensuring that his precious writings are permanently accessible from anywhere in the world and not scattered and lost to posterity. The volume and depth of content of Dr. Nakamura's words in his activity reports, lectures, and various media appearances are quite overwhelming. Most of the materials are from publications that, unlike academic papers by researchers, become harder to find as time passes, such as trade magazines and newsletters that do not generally find their way into ordinary distribution channels. Having assembled these articles and prepared bibliographic data, we will begin publishing in the archive those items for which we have received the consent of the original publisher.

Dr. Nakamura's activities over 35 years in Afghanistan and his writings and remarks will doubtlessly provide excellent research material for scholars not only in the fields of medicine, agriculture, and international cooperation, but also in the humanities and social sciences. In addition, we are confident that Dr. Nakamura's message will continue to offer sound guiding principles for our future lives and work. We hope that this archive serves as a bridge for the will of Dr. Nakamura to be passed on, so that someone else can uphold his spirit in engaging in their work.

The Nakamura Tetsu Digital Archive has been created in the Kyushu University Institutional Repository (QIR), which is managed by the Kyushu University Library, and is published via the Kyushu University Collections catalogue search system. We will continue to gather documents concerning Dr. Nakamura for this archive. If you have any related documents, please do share them with us.

Contact Us:
Digital Repository Section
Electronic Resources Management Division
Kyushu University Library

TEL: (+81)092-802-2459
Email: qir@jimu.kyushu-u.ac.jp

Nakamura Tetsu Digital Archive
<https://www.lib.kyushu-u.ac.jp/nakamuratetsu>



About the videos featured at the exhibition

Tatsuro Ishii

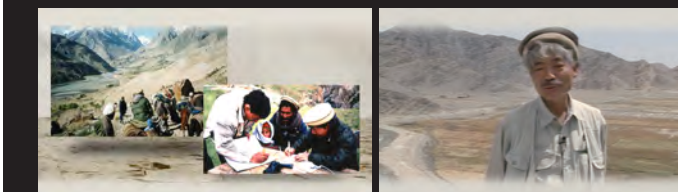
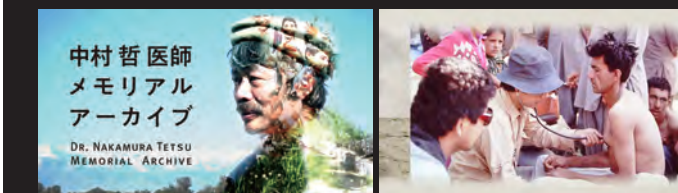
Associate Professor, Faculty of Design, Kyushu University

"Human beings are worth loving. Their sincerity is worth trusting."

Dr. Nakamura's involvement with the region began when he joined a mountaineering club's Tirich Mir expedition, the highest mountain in the Hindu Kush range, as an accompanying physician. He soon returned to the region to enhance the local medical system, providing a traveling clinic in the border region where medical care was hard to come by, and setting up permanent clinics to build a base hospital with funds raised by Peshawar-kai.

"More than one hundred clinics, they need one irrigation canal."

However, to restore normal life to this ravaged area, medical care alone was not enough. Dr. Nakamura took up the challenge of reinstating wells and, in a move described by some as foolhardy, building irrigation canals. Having transformed parched wasteland into verdant, bountiful earth, the irrigation canals built by Dr. Nakamura now support the lives of 650,000 people. Still benefiting people today, Dr. Nakamura's achievements are presented through the medium of video footage recorded on the ground by Nihon Denpa News over many years, interwoven with Dr. Nakamura's own words.



About the Exhibition Space: A Connecting Space

Kenichi Tanoue

Professor, Faculty of Design, Kyushu University

In this small interactive space, we provide a sense of the world of Dr. Nakamura Tetsu.

We sought to represent that world in a form reminiscent of Japan's traditional paintings on folding screens, and endeavored to capture the breadth, depth, and extent of that world by enveloping and suspending it in folding screen "paintings."

This small interactive space is composed of interfacing video, audio, and print elements based on the following concepts.

1. Messages in the first person

Dr. Nakamura Tetsu's own words and views.

2. A touchpoint for expansion

The first contact point with the world that evokes sympathy and extending it to the world.

3. Entrance to the intellectual quest

The entrance to an intellectual exploration on the themes such as medicine, water, and agriculture.

The glass screens feature Afghanistan's mountains, while the curved message screens inspired by folding screen paintings present Dr. Nakamura's own words.

The purpose of this memorial archive is not only to showcase Dr. Nakamura's achievements. It is intended to serve as a connecting space to that world, bringing to our awareness things that we cannot usually see or fully comprehend—a borderless world for us to wander as we choose, to explore and discover things first hand, and work with others to create a new world.

We hope that this small interactive space will become an asset in the futures of all our students.

Dr. Nakamura Tetsu Memorial Archive: Words Chosen by the Students

The glass screens in the exhibition space feature excerpts from Dr. Nakamura's books chosen by Kyushu University students for resonating as though Dr. Nakamura were speaking to each of us individually. The quotations were selected by a panel of five volunteers from different schools and faculties, ranging from a first-year undergraduate to a third-year doctoral student. Together they formed a book club to read and discuss Dr. Nakamura's works. In those books, the students found many words that resonated with them as guides for the future.

"Diseases can be cured later. First you need to survive!"

—A Doctor Digs Wells, p. 10

We learned that most deaths among the people of Afghanistan were due to a more fundamental problem than the inaccessibility of medical care: the lack of clean drinking water. It made us feel grateful for our generally comfortable lives, while bringing us to the realization that we must not turn a blind eye to the plight of the many people around the world who are struggling to survive amid harsh living conditions, just like those in Afghanistan.

>Urara Hosotani, Kyushu University School of Medicine

"My intention in reporting the reality I am witnessing is to transform people's desire for peace from a mere idea into a powerful force. A battle of ideas is a futile one. Peace must be a more aggressive force than war."

—A Doctor Builds an Irrigation Canal, p. 34

In times of crisis, abstract theories lose their power and a tumultuous crowd injures the most vulnerable people. Restoring peace is an activity that can put one's life in danger. What motivated Dr. Nakamura and his team to undertake relief work when the air strikes on Afghanistan began was a natural impulse that transcended logic. His strength is inconceivable to me, but I have the feeling that what he is teaching us is that we have the ability to bring more power to bear to protect others.

>Ryo Takahama, Kyushu University Graduate School of Bioresource and Bioenvironmental Sciences

"Anyone who had been through the struggles of the last eight years—the last few months, even—would realize that a single ear of wheat resplendent in the sunshine or the smile of a single child is more precious than all the gold in the world. The traces of those struggles linger on unseen only as the warmth in people's hearts. And that is as it should be."

—A Doctor Digs Wells, p. 134

I want to learn from the example of Dr. Nakamura's humility, which shows us that when you have achieved something, there is always someone who knows about your efforts up to that point, so you do not need to leave a visible reminder of your struggles. I realized that if you have a warm heart, you can look at something as small as an ear of wheat and see the value in it.

>Urara Hosotani, Kyushu University School of Medicine

"Stop using phrases like 'it was a good experience.' The work is not there to make you feel self-satisfied, adventurous, or exotic. Your efforts have to bear fruits."

—A Doctor Builds an Irrigation Canal, p. 177

To me, these words more than any other reflect Dr. Nakamura's dedication to the people of Afghanistan. I feel they have profound significance as one of the reasons why he was able to gain their trust. I am studying at the School of Interdisciplinary Science and Innovation and want to be involved in humanitarian aid in the future. I have a tendency to lose sight of my goals, but I think these words will give me the push I need to get back on track when that happens.

>Ibuki Okamoto, Kyushu University School of Interdisciplinary Science and Innovation

"What stands out above all else in my inexhaustible store of memories is that, despite being a daunting waterless hellscape, Afghanistan showed me people who were absolutely resolute."

—A Doctor Builds an Irrigation Canal, p. 24

Whereas the people of Afghanistan are resolute, we have lost our connection with the land. In other words, although our civilization has undergone development, we have forgotten how to engage with nature. However, that was not our original way of life as humans, so I want to keep in mind the kind of people whom Dr. Nakamura witnessed tirelessly engaging with nature.

>Chie Kawafuji, Kyushu University Graduate School of Integrated Frontier Sciences

"There is no clear binary division between justice and injustice. If there is anything that one could call an immutable moral law, it is that we should help the weak and respect life."

—A Doctor Builds an Irrigation Canal, p. 31

Dr. Nakamura not only provided medical care, but also engaged in a variety of other activities, guided by his belief that helping as many of the people he encountered as possible, regardless of who was right, was a moral imperative. I believe these words will teach me to become as dedicated, kind, and selfless as Dr. Nakamura.

>Daichi Muraguchi, Kyushu University School of Medicine

Dr. Nakamura Tetsu and Kyushu University

Dr. Nakamura Tetsu was appointed University Professor of the Institute for Advanced Study at Kyushu University, his alma mater, in 2014.

Appointment Message Nakamura Tetsu

I shall explain the reasons why I decided to accept the offer, as I had been thinking that a professorship at the university has nothing to do with a field worker like me.

In my work, I have been deeply connected to eastern Afghanistan and have seen many calamities including wars, displacements, poverty, droughts, and ethnic conflicts. I have also seen the utter powerlessness of the medical and scientific technology in which we take pride. These experiences made me wonder where our "intellectual activities" are taking us. While struggling to respond to severe droughts, I came to realize that the relationship between nature and man is and should be the primary focus of every field in this age.

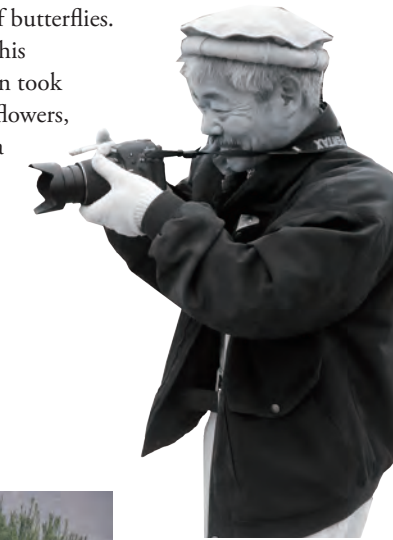
I have become keenly aware that we have entered an era that is making us drastically re-examine the studies we have pursued and the reasons we have hitherto taken for granted. In fact, everywhere we look, technological civilization is coming apart at the seams, with economic frontiers disappearing and environmental change threatening us. Furthermore, our outlook on the world is being swayed by a huge volume of fragmentary information and it seems that we are starting to lose a solid anchor for perspectives.

Amid this situation, I regard the Institute for Advanced Study as an ambitious initiative that transcends disciplines, investing time and patience to arrive at a comprehensive, intellectual vector of the age to come. From my lowly position, I would be delighted to provide what little assistance I can to my alma mater by spreading the word about the real conditions on the ground .

<https://ias.kyushu-u.ac.jp/pastprofessor/188/>

Dr. Nakamura Tetsu's Photographs

Dr. Nakamura Tetsu had been interested in insects since childhood and was a particularly avid collector of butterflies. In spare moments between his humanitarian work, he often took photographs of butterflies, flowers, camels, and other local flora and fauna.



Dr. Nakamura Tetsu Memorial Archive

Set-up : Kyushu University
Location : Cute.Commons, Kyushu University Central Library in the East Zone of the Ito Campus.

Exhibition Space Design :
Faculty of Design, Kyushu University
Kenichi Tanoue / Naoshige Akita / Minako Ikeda / Tatsuro Ishii / Hisayasu Ihara / Naoyuki Oi / Akira Omoto / Mao Kudo

Words Selection : Ibuki Okamoto, School of Interdisciplinary Science and Innovation / Chie Kawafuji, Graduate School of Integrated Frontier Sciences / Ryo Takahama, Graduate School of Bioresource and Bioenvironmental Sciences / Urara Hosotani, School of Medicine / Daichi Muraguchi, School of Medicine

Co-operation : Peshawar-kai / Nihon Denpa News Co., Ltd.

Leaflet

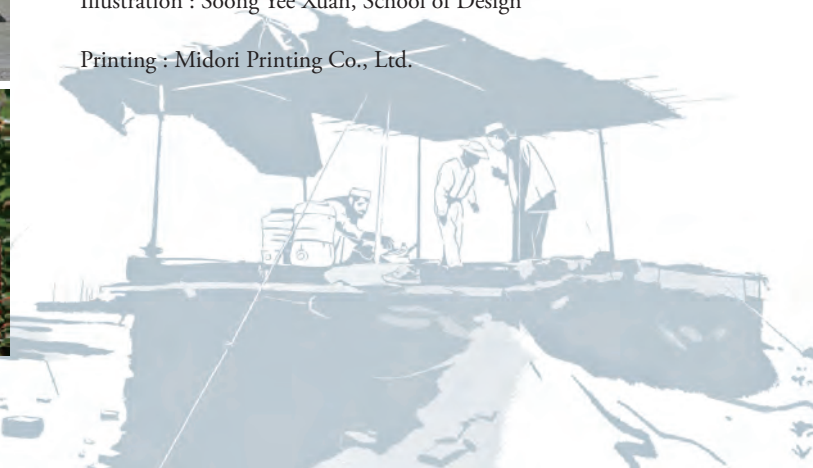
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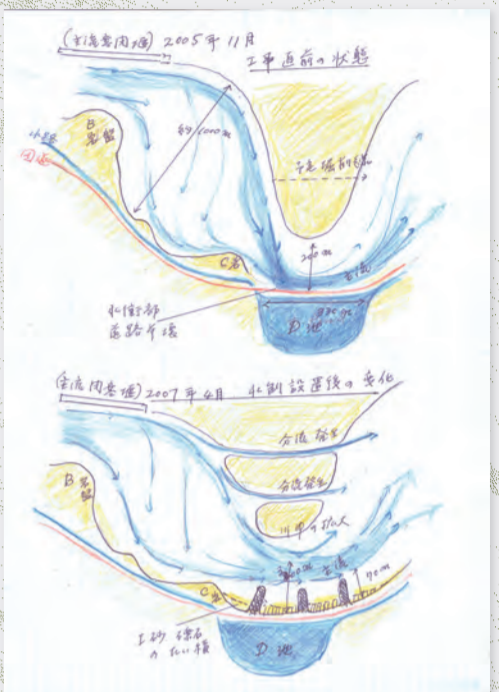
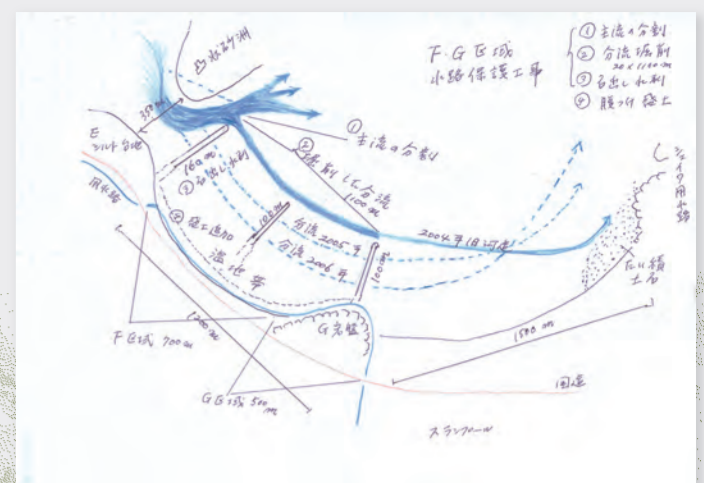
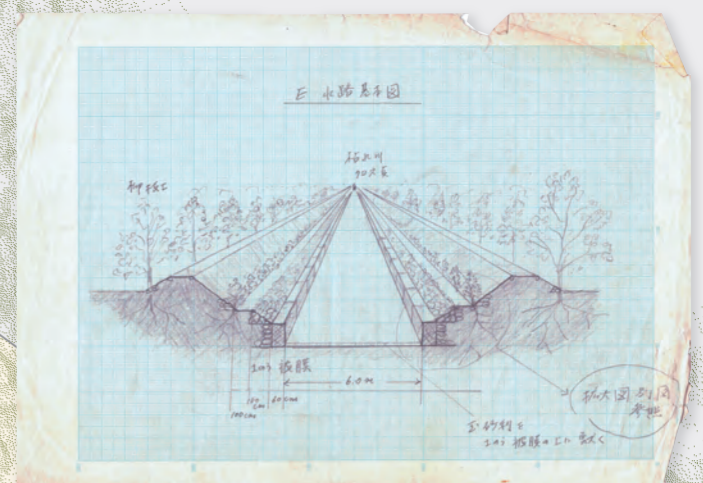
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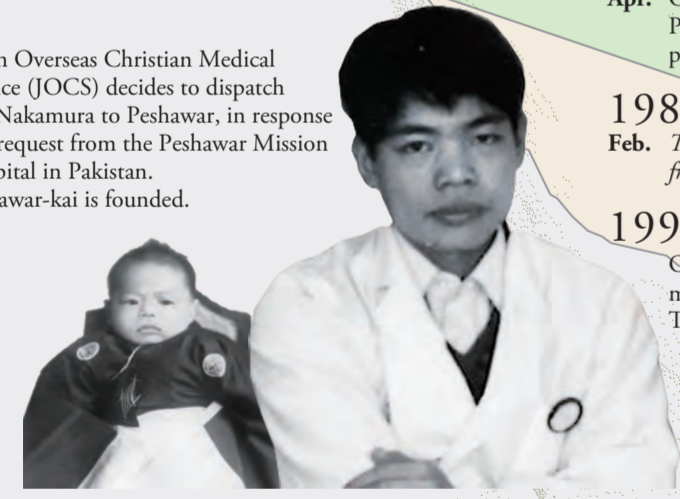


Chronologies: Dr. Nakamura Tetsu and Peshawar-kai/Peace Japan Medical Services (PMS)

1946
Sept. Born in Fukuoka, Japan.
Attended Koga Nishi Elementary School, Seinan Gakuin Junior High School, Fukuoka High School, and the Kyushu University School of Medicine (Graduated in 1973).

1978
Joins Fukuoka Tokokai Mountaineering Club's Tirich Mir expedition as an accompanying physician and travels to Pakistan for the first time.

1983
Apr. Japan Overseas Christian Medical Service (JOCMS) decides to dispatch Dr. Nakamura to Peshawar, in response to a request from the Peshawar Mission Hospital in Pakistan.
Sept. Peshawar-kai is founded.



1984
Joins the Peshawar Mission Hospital in Pakistan to treat patients with Hansen's disease.

1986
Establishes Afghan Leprosy Services (ALS); later renamed Japan-Afghan Medical Services (JAMS). Begins mobile medical services for the Afghan refugees in Pakistan's North-west Frontier Province.
Apr. Opens a sandal workshop in the Peshawar Mission Hospital to prevent planter ulcers.

1989
Feb. The Soviet army completes withdrawal from Afghanistan.

1990
Opens the first medical clinic in Timergara, Pakistan.



1991
Jan. The Gulf War begins.
Dec. Opens a clinic in Dara-e-Noor Valley in northern Nangarhar Province in Afghanistan.

1992
May Beginning of the return of a massive number of Afghan refugees to Afghanistan.
Opens several clinics in the mountains in Eastern Afghanistan in the areas that lacked medical services.
June Burhanuddin Rabbani becomes the President of The Islamic State of Afghanistan.

1993
Malignant malaria breaks out in Dara-e-Noor. With an emergency fund of over 20 million yen, consisting of donations from people in Japan, Dr. Nakamura purchases anti-malarial drugs and treats over 20,000 patients.

1994
Oct. Leaves the Peshawar Mission Hospital and establishes Peshawar Leprosy Services (PLS) Hospital. Opens several clinics in the doctorless areas of northwest Pakistan.

1996
Sept. Taliban Government is established.

1998
Apr. Found Peace Japan Medical Services (PMS) by integrating PLS and JAMS.
Opens the PMS Hospital in Peshawar, which serves as the base for PMS's medical service activities in both Pakistan and Afghanistan.

1999
Nov. The UN Security Council imposes economic sanctions on Taliban Government.

2000
June Drought worsens across Afghanistan.
July Begins projects to secure water supplies, including digging and restoration of wells, as an emergency measure. Over 1,600 wells were dug between 2000 and 2008 by PMS.



2001
Jan. The UN Security Council imposes a second round of economic sanctions. Withdrawal of UN aid organizations from Afghanistan.
Mar. The Taliban destroys the Bamiyan Buddha Site.
Opens five temporary clinics in Kabul.
Sept. The September 11 attacks in the U.S.
Oct. The U.S. and the U.K. begin massive air strikes on Kabul. Establishes "Afghan Fund for Life" and begins emergency food distribution in Kabul.
Dec. The Afghan Interim Authority is established. Hamid Karzai becomes the President of the Afghan Transitional Administration in June 2002.

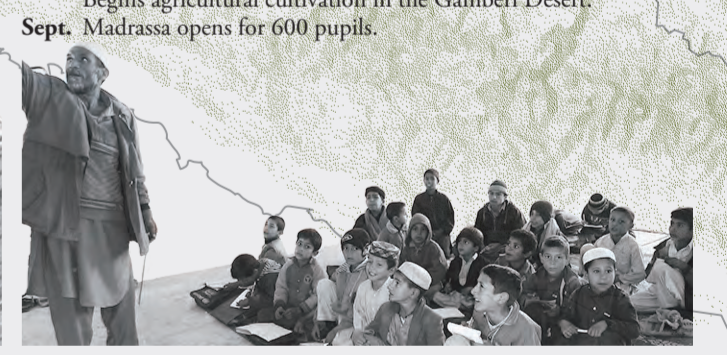
2002
Feb. PMS announces "Green Ground Project," a long-term plan to revive farming villages in eastern Afghanistan.



2003
Mar. Groundbreaking ceremony for Marwarid Canal held. The Iraq War begins.

2008
Jan. Begins construction of a mosque with a madrassa.
Mar. Completes the construction of Sheiwa Weir and water intake facilities.
Aug. Kazuya Ito, one of PMS's Japanese workers, is abducted and killed.

2009
July Moves PMS's Office to Jalalabad in Afghanistan.
Aug. Marwarid Canal reaches the Gamberi Desert, its terminus, located 24.8 km from the inlet gate. Begins agricultural cultivation in the Gamberi Desert.
Sept. Madrassa opens for 600 pupils.



2010
Mar. Completes the construction of the 25 kilometer-long Marwarid Canal.
Aug. Major flooding in the Indus River Basin in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

2011
Mar. Completes construction of Kama II Intake Weir & Main Canal.



2012
Apr. Completes Behsud I (Quasam Abad) Weir & Main Canal and the Behsud embankment (3.5 km).
Sept. First regular dredging of the Marwarid Canal basin with villagers.
Oct. Begins construction of Marwarid-Kashkot Continuous Weir & Main Canal (completed in Sept. 2014).

2013
June Massive flood causes levee breakages and inundations throughout Afghanistan.



2014
Apr. Livestock farming begins at Gamberi Pilot Farm.
Dec. Establishes PMS's Gamberi Agricultural Office, and forms Agriculture Team and Irrigation Team for self-sustaining management of Gamberi Pilot Farm.
Succeeds in reviving brown sugar production with sugarcane grown at Gamberi Pilot Farm.

2015
Feb. Severe, out of season flooding throughout eastern Afghanistan. Jalalabad is inundated and the highlands frequently experience snowfalls and avalanches.

2016
Mar. Begins construction of the 1.8 kilometer-long Gamberi Main Drainage Channel.
July Mass forced return of Afghan Refugees from Pakistan.
Oct. Begins construction of Miran Training Center for training and cultivation of human resources to disseminate the PMS Method Irrigation System (a joint-project with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO], completed in Nov. 2017).



Begins construction of Marwarid II Weir (4th JICA-PMS collaboration).
First harvest of oranges at Gamberi Pilot Farm.

2017
Mar. A total of 464 date-palm saplings planted in Gamberi Pilot Farm (a joint-project with the Embassy of Japan in Afghanistan).
Apr. Begins a training program for PMS's Afghan staff in Japan.

2018
Jan. Miran Training Center (a FAO-PMS joint project) begins a training program on the PMS Method Irrigation System.
Feb. PMS and Dr. Nakamura are awarded Afghanistan state medal of Ghazi Mir Masjidi Khan from President Ashraf Ghani.
June Dr. Nakamura receives the Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award from the Japan Society of Civil Engineers.



Intake Weirs and Irrigation Canals constructed by PMS turn 16,500 hectares of waste land into arable land, reviving and ensuring the livelihoods of over 650,000 farmers.

2019
Feb. Completion of Kama I Weir, built as the standard design for the PMS Method Irrigation System, which is modeled on Yamada Weir in Japan.
Mar. The total number of trees planted reaches one million.
Apr. Beekeeping project begins at the Gamberi Farm.
May PMS and Dr. Nakamura publicly honored by Jalalabad Ulama (traditional Islam supreme council).
Oct. Dr. Nakamura receives honorary Afghan citizenship from President Ghani.
Dec. Dr. Nakamura is gunned down by unknown assailants in Jalalabad on his way to work and later succumbs to the injuries at a hospital. He was 73 years old.
Dr. Masaru Murakami, Peshawar-kai Chairman, is appointed as the General Director of PMS. Peshawar-kai and PMS decide to continue all of Dr. Nakamura's projects.

2020
Sept. The PMS's Afghan staff build a memorial tower in honor of Dr. Sahib Nakamura in Gamberi Park.
Dec. Completion of the Marwarid II Weir & Main Canal, enabling villagers to expand cultivation in the newly opened areas of the canal basin. PMS begins construction of Bar Kashkott Weir.

