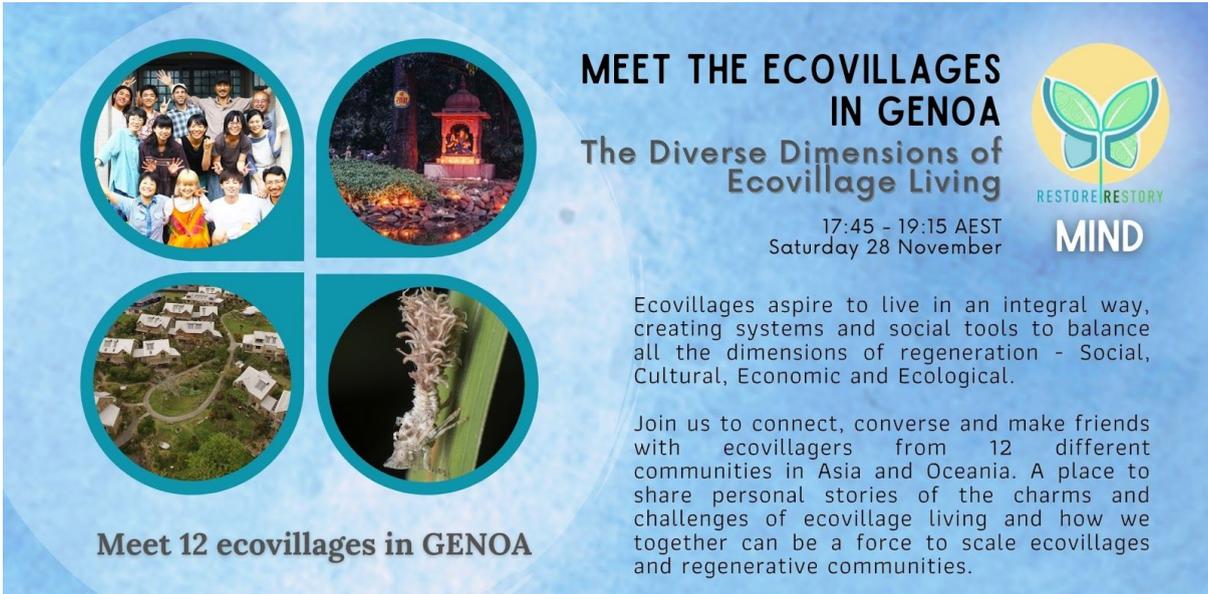


Title: **Meet the Ecovillages in GENOA - The Diverse Dimensions of Ecovillage Living**  
Panel, Nov 28, Mind

Time: 5:45pm - 7:15pm AEST Saturday November 28th 2020 ([check your local time here](#))

## INTRODUCTION

Ecovillages aspire to live in an integral way - creating systems and social tools to balance all the dimensions of regeneration - Social, Cultural, Economic and Ecological. Join us to connect, converse and make friends with ecovillagers from 12 different communities in Asia and Oceania. A place to share personal stories of the charms and challenges of ecovillage living and how we together can be a force to scale ecovillages and regenerative communities.



**MEET THE ECOVILLAGES  
IN GENOA**  
The Diverse Dimensions of  
Ecovillage Living

17:45 - 19:15 AEST  
Saturday 28 November

RESTORE RESTORY  
**MIND**

Ecovillages aspire to live in an integral way, creating systems and social tools to balance all the dimensions of regeneration - Social, Cultural, Economic and Ecological.

Join us to connect, converse and make friends with ecovillagers from 12 different communities in Asia and Oceania. A place to share personal stories of the charms and challenges of ecovillage living and how we together can be a force to scale ecovillages and regenerative communities.

**Meet 12 ecovillages in GENOA**

## MEET THE PANELISTS

We are honored and grateful for the opportunity to meet with 12 representatives from 12 different ecovillages/communities/networks all over Oceania and Asia. They are:

- Brij Kathuria (TI Ecovillage),
- Om Sunisa Jamwiset (Gaia Ashram),
- Hiroko Katayama (As One Suzuka Community),
- Ruth Quinto (Eden Hope),
- Alifereti Tawake (LMMA Network),
- Robin Allison (Earthsong Eco-neighbourhood),
- Aditi Mishal (Govardhan Ecovillage),
- Rafaele Joudry (Narara Ecovillage),
- Adour Modhu & Boniface Gomes (Mongla Ecovillage Network - BASD),

- Karen Wang (**Sunshine Ecovillage**),
- Gregory Pettys (**Pun Pun Community**),
- Benjamin Bernabela (**Maharlika Community**)

**Moderators:** Amena Bal, Tanya Mottl, Thao Kin

---

## **READ ABOUT OUR ECOVILLAGES**

<b>TI Ecovillage - India</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>As One Suzuka Community - Japan</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Gaia Ashram - Thailand</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Eden Hope - Vanuatu</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Earthsong Eco-neighbourhood - New Zealand</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Govardhan Ecovillage - India</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Pun Pun Eco- community</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>LMMA Network - Fiji</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Sunshine Ecovillage</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Narara Ecovillage</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>BASD and Mongla Ecovillage Network</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Isinilang na Maharlika Ecovillage</b>	<b>14</b>

## 1. TI Ecovillage - India



TI Ecovillage is on the outskirts of Bangalore, Karnataka, India and started in 1995 as an experiment in eco-friendly development. They practice a modified version of permaculture to grow organic vegetables and herbs.

In 2019 they stabilized their permaculture practice and won over some skeptics! Their ground water regeneration program with rainwater harvesting was implemented with several recharge wells. About 25% of residents have currently installed solar electric power and the number is rapidly increasing. 100% of them use solar hot water. Their land is on higher ground level and through water conservation practices in the last 20+ years by planting trees, making trenches, and collecting surface runoff water they have improved groundwater benefiting neighboring areas well.

All these measures have brought them to be the 2019 Hildur Jackson Award finalist. Congratulations!

*Our speaker - Brij Kathuria (TI Ecovillage - India) - "I am a creative entrepreneur, who enjoys being in the corporate ecosystem and loves Nature." I am inspired by knowledge heavy processes and then adapting them to be awesome. My mission is regeneration through scaling ecovillages and eco lifestyles*

Link: <https://ecovillage.org/project/ti-ecovillage/>

Video:

<https://www.facebook.com/GlobalEcovillageNetwork/videos/963746474112639/>

## 2. As One Suzuka Community - Japan



*Started in 2001 with ambition to realize a happy society free of conflict and confrontation and in harmony with nature. A borderless community called AS-ONE Network Suzuka COMMUNITY, was born in Suzuka, a typical mid-sized city known as the city of Honda Motor Company. Nowadays, their ability to talk about everything in a safe manner has made it possible to build good relationships smoother, more lasting, less wasteful, and to live on just over half of Japan's current energy consumption, even in urban areas.*

The name "AS-ONE" is taken from a line in John Lennon's masterpiece, "Imagine": "The world will be as one". From 10 members at first, there are now more than 100 members, working together for "One Society, like a big family".

Grateful for the communication problems they faced in 2004. They had come to realize that neither amount of enthusiasm, eagerness nor special abilities, talents, or combined experiences, were enough in themselves to ensure daily smooth functioning of a healthy and thriving community.

Until then, there was little difference from other organizations. If we didn't take the step, discrepancies among members would continue to occur. A movement was born to examine the troubles one by one as a resource. They were keenly aware of the need to study people and society from scratch, and as a result, they established the non-profit organization, The ScienZ Institute; meaning Scientific Investigation of Essential Nature from Zero. The focus was to observe their reality of daily communication and decision-making processes, and to create a society for people, in which people can talk about anything from the heart and be with each other, and where anyone can live their lives as they are. A new social system has begun to be built and kept being tested and tried in the community.

In that society, there is no coercion or constraint of any kind, that is, there is no hierarchy or order. The close family-like relationships have also given rise to an

economy that does not require money, that is, an economy that does not require exchange, reward, or distribution.

In order to allow people to learn what they find there by exploring, rather than being taught, they have established the ScienZ School in 2006, which is open to the public, and participants come from all over to learn. There, they are freed from individualism and are able to become free to talk freely with each other without pressure.

Since 2006, new community businesses have emerged and stabilized their economic base, such as a homemade LunchBox shop that sells and delivers more than 1,000 boxed lunches to Suzuka residents around the city, thus increasing local consumption of local products from Suzuka Farm Co: the community farming company. The Suzuka Culture Station, a cultural enterprise with some private schools established in 2010. Here is a platform and station where Suzuka residents and the community can exchange the latest information.

Since 2010, the activities with city dwellers have been increasing. It is developing the "Farmland Project," which restores and repurposes abandoned farmland and develops it so that local families can enjoy farming and harvesting. We are also helping to reforest traditional floristries which had been designated as the city's most important biodiversity project but had been neglected. Learning from the elderly in city how to make traditional Japanese charcoal kilns, these activities are trusted not only in Suzuka City but also in Japan.

Nowadays, it has been gradually increasing people who want to learn from them about community building and new ways of life. Such people come to visit or stay for monthly study tours. Since 2014 the learning programs with other organizations have been held. The College of Sustainable Society Building, GEN-Japan's EDE has been held since 2017, and some others in order to learn from the life of the community.

And the Science Academy has started with long-term participants from Japan, Switzerland, Brazil, and South Korea who are learning about real community building.

Our speaker: *Ms. Hiroko Katayama - GENOA Trustee as of 2020, GEN-Japan Representative*

*Translation book: What is the neem tree?*

*As One Network Suzuka Community - An international department.*

**Link:** [https://ecovillage.org/japans-as-one-community/  
http://as-one.main.jp/English/](https://ecovillage.org/japans-as-one-community/http://as-one.main.jp/English/)

**Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISw34Ud99Ek>

### 3. Gaia Ashram - Thailand



Gaia Ashram is a rural and community-based education center on Deep Ecology, Permaculture and Ecovillage Design Education and other sustainable living practices in Thailand. Formed in 2012, their aim is to live in harmony with nature and all beings. They hold day to day tune-ins to keep attuned.

Gaia Ashram works on ecosystem regeneration. Currently, we are transforming 6 hectares of degraded landscape into an abundant forest. They use agroforestry, regenerative agriculture, natural farming, and permaculture as some of our tools to regenerate the land. Gaia Ashram is in the process of establishing a small regenerative social enterprise called Gaia Essence which creates and makes natural products mostly from our land and forests. They have only 6-10 permanent residents and work with local villagers to develop their natural products.

They welcome volunteers, interns, guests and long-term community members to join the team to create abundance together.

Our speaker: *OM SUNISA JAMWISSET DEITERS - Co-Founder & Program Director. She lived and worked as a facilitator at Wongsanit Ashram, a social engaged spiritual community, and Panya project together in Thailand for 9 years.*

*She has facilitated courses for NGO workers, young Buddhists activists, international students and children. She uses participatory teaching methods and her focus is on deep ecology and nature connection.*

Link: <https://gaiaschoolasia.com/>

Video:

- What is Gaia Ashram? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6HTejGXcGc8>

- 1-minute intro: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aWmKSVHGzAE>

#### 4. Eden Hope - Vanuatu



The Eden Hope Nature Preserve and Eco Village is on the remote West Coast of the island of Espiritu Santo in the Republic of Vanuatu. It is situated within the indigenous tribal lands of Tasmate and Vasalea villages and comprises 786 hectares of tropical rainforest. Residents are currently from multiple ni-Vanuatu villages, Australia, New Zealand, the United States and the United Kingdom, Eden Hope is a place of open and loving kindness. The Eden Hope vision is Human beings living in harmony with nature and at peace with each other, and they embody spiritual practice by living consciously as part of the interconnected web of life, including care for the environment. They are currently working closely with 42 indigenous villages along the 100km stretch of Western Santo coastline on sustainable development programs ranging from conservation and protected areas, to women's empowerment and capacity building. In 2020, Eden Hope began a focused process of transformation by defining their earthly goals, institutional structures and spiritual aspirations, and soon they look forward to growing our community and Eco Village.

*Our speaker: Ruth Quinto came to Vanuatu more than 10 years ago looking to "go into the green" and pioneer a new way of life away from the concrete of her native UK and adopt the USA. She and her life partner had been successful entrepreneurs in the airline and nutraceutical sectors. Establishing the Eden Hope Eco Village was natural for Ruth, as was choosing Vanuatu, the most distant location possible with a small population, mountain rainforests, abundant water and in a warm tropical climate. As the founder and a current member of the Council, Ruth is a peaceful presence in our community, offering us steady guidance, wisdom and unconditional love.*

**Link:**

<https://ecovillage.org/project/edenhope-0/>

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gpzFYQGbRwHIGIXYQm6huwCHeWP\\_m842/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gpzFYQGbRwHIGIXYQm6huwCHeWP_m842/view?usp=sharing)

[ing](#)

## 5. Earthsong Eco-neighbourhood - New Zealand



Earthsong is an urban eco-cohousing development of 32 homes and common facilities on 1.2 Ha in west Auckland, New Zealand. In line with their vision of being a model of socially and environmentally sustainable urban living, Earthsong demonstrates leading-edge sustainable design with intensive community involvement. The Earthsong project was founded in 1995, construction was complete by 2008, and the community has continued to mature and evolve since then. The commitment to education in sustainability has remained strong, with extensive information on the website and regular tours overseen by the charitable Earthsong Centre Trust. [www.earthsong.org.nz](http://www.earthsong.org.nz).

New Zealand's first sustainable Eco-Neighbourhood project, incorporating the principles of Cohousing and Permaculture. It is located in the City of Auckland, New Zealand, and is an innovative non-profit development that combines beautiful Rammed Earth walls, eco-technologies, healthy non-toxic materials and neighbours who care! There are about 70 people living there.

*Our speaker: Robin Allison, an architect by training, was the founder of Earthsong Eco-Neighbourhood, and as the Development Coordinator she guided the entire thirteen-year development and construction phase. She now writes, teaches and consults around New Zealand to inspire and support thriving connected communities. Robin's book Cohousing for Life was published in August 2020 and is available from her website [www.robinallison.co.nz](http://www.robinallison.co.nz)*

Robin Alison's new book CoHousing for Life documents their journey.

See more on their website - <https://www.earthsong.org.nz/>

Video: <https://youtu.be/XsSFPwtYkJ4>

## 6. Govardhan Ecovillage - India



Govardhan Ecovillage is an eco farm community established in 2003 sprawling spread in 100 acres of land at the foothills of Sahyadri Mountain located in Palghar District of Maharashtra State in India. The community is home to over 350 residents from diverse backgrounds which includes families, students, volunteers and monks. Strong commitment and dedicated focus for achieving community objectives strings diverse community members together for one purpose, resulting in a vibrant community.

GEV is founded upon the principle of 'Simple living and high thinking'. Thus, the community continuously strives to uphold its values of living in harmony with divine, harmony with self, harmony with nature, harmony with community members and harmony with neighboring communities of tribal villages.

Traditional wisdom and values drive harmony with divine and self, leading to inner sustainability which in turn catalytically drives sustainability outside.

*Our speaker: Dr. Aditi is academican, research scholar, sustainability enthusiast, social innovator and corporate trainer with 19 years of experience in diverse fields. Inspired by her spiritual father HH Radhanath Swami, she feels responsibility towards contribution to a better sustainable world for all. Presently she works as Chief Sustainability Officer and Dean - Educational initiatives at Govardhan Ecovillage.*

**Link:** <https://ecovillage.org/project/govardhan-eco-village/>

**Read more here:** <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/196KR4le0QFOK9uskhTsc0LkZHacUVJSO>

**Video:**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B-i-2Ya2wS0RTHByMWxxaFR0RIE/view?usp=sharing>

## 7. Pun Pun Eco- community



We are a seed saving farm located in Northern Thailand that focuses on educating about the basics of how to live a simple, healthy life. We do homeschooling for our children and share all our resources. We build our homes out of natural materials, treat our own water and grow enough food to sustain ourselves.

At Pun Pun we live in community. This means we share our lives, our meals, and our work together on the farm with each other. At present there are around 20 community members living and working at Pun Pun which enables us to try many new projects and support each other to continue learning, whether that's through farming ideas, building, raising children, or community projects. We feel we can do so much more in community and think it's helped us expand our ideas.

Here is a ted talk from our founder, Jon Jondai, speaking about Pun Puns philosophy "Life is Easy": <https://youtu.be/21j OCNLuYg>

*Our speaker: Greg Pettys (representing Pun Pun) has lived at Pun Pun for 7 years. Originally from Colorado, USA, he also works as a teacher for a buddhist university from Boulder, Colorado that brings university students to different places in the world to look at alternative lifestyles. This was how he discovered Pun Pun, and met his wife. He now focuses most of his time on raising their baby girl, Surya.*

Website: <http://www.punpunthailand.org/index.html>

Video: <https://vimeo.com/86604343>

## 8. LMMA Network - Fiji



LMMA stands for Locally-Managed Marine Area Network. LMMA is an international network of natural resource management practitioners who have joined together to share best practices, lessons learned and to amplify their community voices

Pacific island communities have long practiced traditional management systems such as seasonal bans and temporary no-take areas that can be adapted for modern use. The peoples throughout the Pacific Islands used customary practices of marine protection in line with traditional spiritual beliefs in order to counter marine resource depletions.

Most Pacific islands still have some form of community marine tenure either legally enshrined or informally recognized. Such systems help ensure that benefits from marine conservation efforts accrue to the local community. Today, many Pacific Islands people still practice these traditions despite the presence of Western influences.

In using an LMMA approach, some coastal communities are reviving methods that have been used traditionally as part of their culture for many generations, sometimes blending them with modern techniques for best results. Different countries have different traditions for such marine protection.

*Our speaker: Alifereti Tawake| Adviser & Council Chair - Alifereti has worked on natural resource management, development and conservation issues throughout the Indo-Pacific for over 15 years. His work with the Fiji LMMA Network (FLMMA) won him the international Whitley Award for People and the Environment in 2004. He served on the Network's Country Support, Communications and Learning committees, and helped fundraise for the Network through First Peoples Worldwide. He serves as a technical advisor to FLMMA and the Network's Learning Committee. Alifereti is one of the IUCN-WCPA North & South Pacific Marine Coordinators and is currently earning his PhD at James Cook University.*

Link: <https://lmmanetwork.org/>

## 9. Sunshine Ecovillage



Sunshine Ecovillage is promoting ecovillage movement in China which aims to transform, establish and develop China's ecovillages and eco-communities through cultivating young eco-persons with holistic view and empowering them with ecovillage designing and operating skills, so as to build a sustainable new home together, to share a new fulfilled lifestyle with all beings where every life can grow and thrive.

We explore a new lifestyle, a new way of education, a community formed by young Chinese people. The ideas of Taoism and environmental friendliness in Chinese traditional culture have been passed down in the countryside. We believe the ecovillage movement will not only optimize the balanced development of China's urban & rural areas, but more importantly, with acting locally and thinking globally, we will explore a path connected with traditional culture for the inspiration for global sustainable development.

We are living in this 1000+ years old village(Xuling) naturally pollution-free which takes 2 hours driving from Hangzhou City. The forest coverage rate is 95%. In spring, the hundreds of terrace is fully covered by yellow canola flowers. The mountain is full of birds and flowers, fruit trees throughout the year. People are following 4 seasons changing and accepting the gift of nature. Some villagers are living in rammed earth houses for decades, breath fresh air, drink natural mountain mineral water, with good energy and strong spiritual vibrating, people live healthily and get healed here.

*Our speaker: Xintong Wang ( Karen ) - Director-General of Sunshine Ecovillage, Secretary of China Ecovillage Network. Karen can speak Chinese, English & Korean. She was a mandarin*

teacher and kept improving in the skills of facilitating and training. She has a passion for Chinese traditional culture and likes to read and write poems after work.

Website: <http://sunshineecovillage.com/>

<https://ecovillage.org/project/sunshine-ecovillage-network/>

## 10. Narara Ecovillage



Narara Ecovillage is an intergenerational residential community on the Central Coast of Australia, surrounded by bushland, close to pristine beaches and an hour north of Sydney.

We are a well developed community that has been working together to develop the vision of this wonderful 63 hectare site with our own dam and forest. The community is vibrant with representative demographics and we are GEN Australia members and supporters of the UN SDGs. A project that started in 2008, we are now well underway with construction and the community is living on the land. We have our own water and power company and have won awards for the best community owned power system.

Website: <https://nararaecovillage.com/>

## 11. BASD and Mongla Ecovillage Network



Communities in the delta area of Bangladesh are in grave danger of salt water inundation from huge tidal rivers that are increasingly breaking their banks. This can devastate villages, damage the simple houses and leave the locals struggling to grow crops in salinated soil. The Bangladesh Association of Sustainable Development (BASD), Gaia Education and CIFAL Scotland have responded to this dire situation with a 3-year consortium project. The project aims to improve sustainable food security and livelihoods of the vulnerable communities of Khulna and Bagerhat, Southern Bangladesh, through capacity building programmes, effective climate change adaptation strategies and interventions. The project was approved for funding by the Scottish Government in May 2013. –

The official project launch was on 20 July 2013 in Khulna Municipal Offices chaired by Keka Adhikery, President of BASD and attended by over 100 people representing target communities, government departments, local officials and other stakeholders. The Chief Guest Md. Mezbah Uddin, Honorable Deputy Commissioner of Khulna and all guests were welcomed with flowers and in keeping with local diverse cultures there was a recital from the Holy Quran by local Imam, a reading from the Holy Gita, and a Christian prayer.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1PxS8WyKHI&feature=youtu.be>

See a garden tour of Mongla ecovillage here: [LINK](#)

Website: <http://basd-bd.org/>

## 12. Isinilang na Maharlika Ecovillage



“The world we have made as a result of the level of thinking we have, creates problems that we cannot solve at the same level of thinking at which we created them”. We must change our mental condition for us to change our social, economic and ecological circumstances.

Action: Increase a number of fundamental capabilities in the community members through a real-life, comprehensive learning process that will enable us to co-creatively build the life we have reason to value.

Condition: To ensure that the change is truly rooted in our people and therefore socially, economically and culturally sustainable and compelling, Isinilang na Maharlika must be a participatory process. This requires the attainment of a delicate balance between external inputs – capital, materials, technologies and expertise – and the internal resources of community members, while concentrating on strengthening and enlarging the capabilities of the community members to integrate and shape the creative process.

Outcome: A tangible and experiential proof of concept in the form of Isinilang na Maharlika Ecovillage that a prosperous life for all is very possible in a socially and ecologically harmonious manner, which can be replicated and scaled in other towns

and provinces, and will be an inspiration and catalyst for people to implement these same changes in their own lives, organizations and communities:

- An education system that enables and facilitates the development of each person's full potential as human being
- Ecologically resilient lifestyles in a regenerating natural environment
- Meaningful economic activities that generate sufficient income for dignified and desirable lifestyles for all members

Website: <https://ecovillage.org/project/isinilang-na-maharlika-ecovillage/>