



## Mercy Corps Friendship Missions

In May of 2004, Sho Dozono and his wife Loen were invited by Mercy Corps to be part of a 12-person delegation from Portland to visit North Korea. Led by the organization's co-founder, the late Ellsworth Culver, Sho and Loen were inspired by the work of this wonderful man of deep compassion and his agency known the world over for its humanitarian efforts. Mercy Corps is one of the few non-government organizations involved in North Korea.

In 1996 when North Korea experienced major flooding followed by years of terrible drought that resulted in widespread famine, Ells Culver and Mercy Corps sprang into action with offers of medical supplies and Oregon apple seedlings to replace the destroyed apple orchards. A subsequent fish-farming project involved providing rich rainbow trout in order to raise much needed protein.

The Dozonos originally traveled to North Korea as part of Mercy Corps' ongoing humanitarian efforts in support of the apple orchard and fish farming projects. The trip paved the way for future visits and new opportunities to engage North Korea on a people-to-people, heart-to-heart level. Even amidst escalating political tensions, Sho and Loen returned to North Korea on several occasions, determined to continue the work of the man who didn't stand by when others needed help, and vowing to reaffirm his message of peace and hope.

Sho currently serves on Mercy Corps' \$30 M fundraising campaign cabinet, raising money for projects including the New York World Hunger Center. In June of 2007, he received the first **Mercy Corps Humanitarian Hero Award**,

