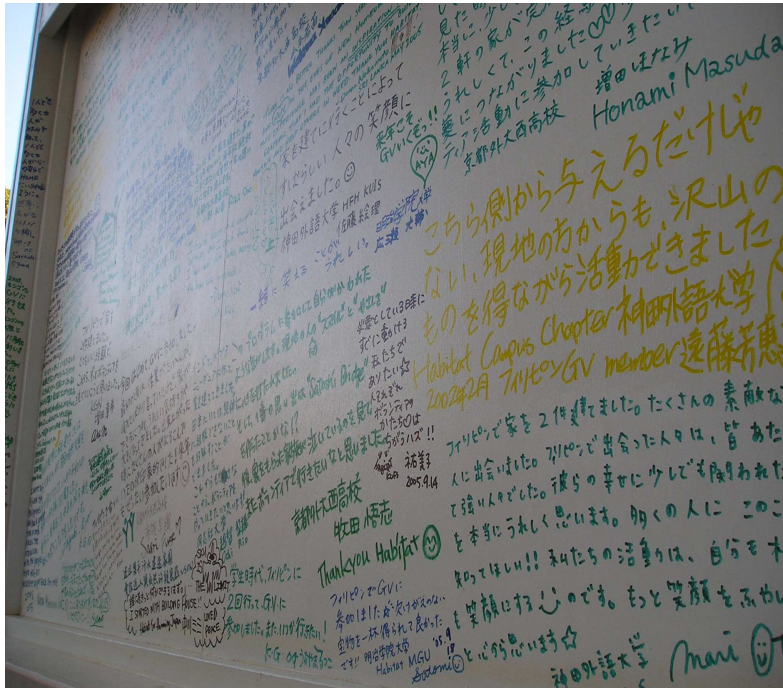


**Thank You All,
Habitat Built Hope at EXPO2005!**



Messages on the wall at the Habitat booth

“Building Hope at EXPO 2005 Aichi.”

From its opening in March to its close in September, approximately 22 million people visited the Aichi Expo. Some 100,000 people visited the Habitat booth and approximately 400,000 people received our leaflet. Moreover, many prominent performers from all over the world came to support us by holding special events at the Expo, and the Royal family of Japan, a former prime minister, Mr. Ryuichi Hashimoto, the Mayor of Yokohama, and the CEO of Dow Chemical Japan were some of the visitors.

Our main aim at the Expo was to raise awareness, advocacy, and provide opportunities for volunteers to sign-on for build trips. Having volunteers who have been on the build trips working at our booth and sharing their experiences was of great advantage. More people join Habitat's work if they can relate to it and imagine themselves being on our trips. This affirms that Habitat's Work and Build programs are very simple to understand, agree with, and get involved in.

The main attraction of our booth was the brick-making workshop. We used a miniature brick-making machine to demonstrate how bricks are made by hand and used in the construction of houses. Groups of people stopped by our booth to learn how simple it is to join in Habitat's work. Thanks to 3M, Costco, Dow Chemical, LG and several other sponsors, many people could view and experience our work. Models of houses in poverty-stricken areas of Sri Lanka, the Habitat structure built in Korea (both created by the Christian Academy students) and visual DVD presentations were strong focal points of our booth. They helped to showcase the needs of the poor, and Habitat's response to poverty.

For the 185 day duration of the Expo, the interactions Habitat brought about were seemingly limitless. Habitat staff, volunteers, and partners from all over the world had been working together to realize this exhibition and it was a great success in Building Hope!

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – STATISTICS of HABITAT at EXPO2005

- Numbers of individuals who have personally heard an explanation about, "HFH – Building Houses Building Hope" - 42,677;
- Visitors to the booth – 103,035;
- Habitat for Humanity Core values flyer distributed – 387,567;
- People signed up and interested in HFH builds – 500.
- Advertising received – radio spots with local and national syndicates, local and national newspaper articles, local and national NHK news coverage, Aichi Expo news local and international – totaling 20 coverage times for HFH
- Miniature bricks made to date – 13,690 (the learning process will hopefully be seen in the building of many HFH houses in future days.)
- Mobilized 230 volunteers from the US who helped at the booths, several of the teams have also performed on the Expo stages of Seto and the American Pavilion.
- Also, some 300 volunteers were mobilized from the Aichi area.
- Mobilized 100 from HFHJ Campus Chapters across Japan to volunteer at the Expo site
- 5 main sponsors (Dow Chemical, PacRim Japan, LG, Costco, The Christian Academy)
- -3 sub sponsors (Force 21, Butterflycorp.com, 3M)



"The Expo - Coming to An End? " Fetlework Nakagawa

It was still snowing when World Expo 2005 in Aichi Japan started in March. Through the heat and humidity of summer, to the returning chilly northern winds of autumn, the Expo continued, continuously drawing great crowds of enthusiastic visitors. Very soon, the blue and white Habitat Logo-shaped booths will finish their tasks and be broken down. Now, I am left with lots of photos and memories of the time we shared with the staff, volunteers, and visitors from all over the globe, helping me complete this report from the Expo.

Our project named "Building Housing, Building Hope" was one of a few main participants in the Seto area, where all the civic projects gathered to offer various learning experiences through hands-on activities. Through a model of a habitat house, dialogue with our volunteers who have been on builds, video presentations, and a brick making workshop, we introduced Habitat to many people, and explained how they could get involved in our fight against poverty. Visitors, from infants to adults, professional educators and builders, entire families, and politicians like a former Prime Minister of Japan, were exposed to Habitat. Over 500 of these people actually signed up to get involved further with Habitat. We were also the subject of coverage from media outlets such as NHK, local Cable TV, radio, and over 10 articles in major newspapers. This great interest shows how the Expo was a big steppingstone for Habitat's exposure to Japan and the world.

As it was all coming to an end, I noticed a slight change of atmosphere at the Expo. Queue lines of visitors grew longer each day and the staff members did not even have time for a break. However, we were all happy to work very hard and be tired at the end of each day. This was especially evident in the Seto area of the Expo. It seemed as if it was one big pavilion wrapping up six months of exhibiting, and passing on as messages to the future, what had been learned. "What does Habitat for Humanity mean in Japanese?" "What do volunteers do?" "Did you know there are people who live in houses made out of garbage?" Over and over, I asked these questions to visitors. There were very few who could answer, yet, some did answer and others wanted to know more. As long as there are people who want to know more and act in Japan, HFHJ has a future here. The end of the Expo was also the start of what was to come. Now it is up to not only the staff, but also to all the people who receive this message of peace at the Expo to continue to pass it on.



First Trip for Charity Sunday, August 21st Donna Nakamoto

On Sunday, August 21st, NGOs HOPE International and Habitat for Humanity presented First Tri for Charity, a unique, non-competitive sports event in Nagoya. The concept for First Tri was based on a sports event exclusively aimed at first-time triathletes. Three courses were available: Easy, Intermediate, and Hardcore.

At the easy level, families were able to participate together, with our two youngest participants successfully completing their very first Tri at the early age of 3.

The event attracted much attention, from families, corporations, and EXPO staff, with a special appearance from towering basketball superstar Walter Brown Matsushima of the Mitsubishi Electric Dolphins! Special appreciation goes to all of our courageous participants and support staff for joining us and for making the event such an enjoyable and successful one.

Notes from one of our participants who took on the Hardcore level (31km) for her first time: "I can still hear the cheers of encouragement and applause at the finish line. Trying to keep up with Hardcore, which was the approximate equivalent to a Sprint Distance Triathlon at an overall distance of 31km, was a Tri indeed but the thrill of participation combined with the great feeling of helping people in need is an unforgettable feeling! I will definitely do it again next year."

It was fantastic to see such energy and drive in the participants who were for the most part nervous, excited about the event, in high spirits for being involved in a charitable cause, and finally exhilarated by success!

For more information about First Tri and other events presented by HOPE International and/or Habitat For Humanity, please check out www.hope-international.jp and www.habitatjp.org



Grants from the Postal Savings for International Voluntary Aid

The Postal Savings for International Voluntary Aid donates its interest to improve public welfare in developing areas.

Japan Post has determined to allocate about 86 million yen to 53 associations in the fiscal 17th year of the Heisei era, one of which is Habitat for Humanity Japan.

The donation of 1,075 thousand yen is to be allocated to HFH Japan for the project of "Housing and Community Development for suffered people by a big fire in the Philippines. The reclamation site in Manila City, called BASECO, is known as one of severe poverty areas in Manila where about six thousand families live. Furthermore, about its two thousand houses were burned down by a big fire occurred in January, 2004.

HFH Philippines and other organisations are now working for building houses there, but support has not been sufficient for recovery over the damage, so that Japan GV teams are to be dispatched to BASECO in the coming February and March. Some staff members of HFH Japan have made a field survey twice.

This project shall be succeeded in reconstruction of this area due to the desire of subscribers in Postal Savings for International Voluntary Aid.

GV left “More than Houses” — Report from BASECO, Philippines

Kimiko Mimura (Operations Manager/Program Coordinator, HFH Japan)

Habitat works to eliminate poverty housing. Although Habitat Japan does not have a domestic building project, we operate the Global Village Program (GV), and offer opportunities for many people to take active parts as volunteers in Asian countries.

As I am in charge of GV coordination, I visited the Philippines affiliate BASECO as part of my training and for a field survey. In the past, Habitat Japan has had few chances to accompany the university student teams. It was a moving experience to know that the teams genuinely care about the poverty situation.

As BASECO is an often-visited destination for the Japanese GV teams, I asked residents of the community and on-site coordinators their impressions. I have to say that they were highly appreciative. According to them, the GV teams sent from Japan care about the community and its people, take good care of the children there, work hard without complaining, and operate with good teamwork.

The residents of BASECO are truly grateful for the GV team's contribution. Brought about by hard work and selfless manual labor under the strong sun, certain (positive) change is in store for the community.

Where there was nothing six months ago, trees now line the streets. The residents water these trees at their own expense. There are also vegetables and flowers planted in front of each house, as well as art-work painted by the students on the walls.

It came to my attention that the people in BASECO wanted to do something to help those in even greater need than themselves. The BASECO youth group teaches handicraft making to women as a source of income, and some college student want to train unemployed residents how to use computers. This is a direct effect of the presence of the GV teams. GV teams do much more than donate, work, and leave. They surely leave behind "More than Houses".

Although there is disparity in wealth even in a deprived community like BASECO, it may be diminished gradually if those inspired by GV teams start helping those more disadvantaged than themselves. This is my hope.

At the same time, I strongly felt that coordinators in Japan and the Philippines need to cooperate together in order for the GV teams' good will to be carried into the future. Moreover, as a sending coordinator, I need to make an effort to leave something "More than Houses" to our GV team members.

In addition, on the web page of HFH Philippines (<http://www.habitat.org.ph>), GV team members may be able to see the fruits of their labor flourish in the community. It will bring me great joy if seeing this gives you all a sense of pride.



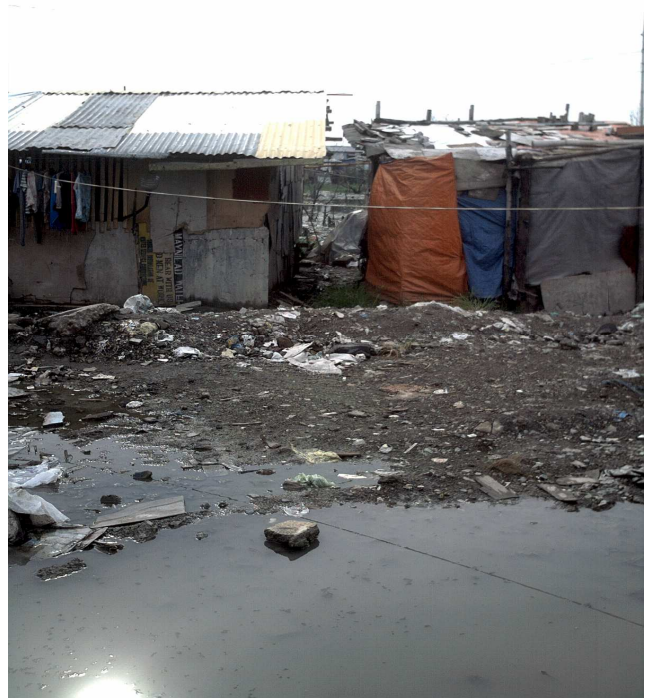
"Getting Out of the Houses" - Report from BASECO, Philippines.

Fetlework Nakagawa

One of the most unforgettable conversations that I had during my trip to the Philippines would be the one I had with a Ritsumeikan University student. As if he was trying to make sure what he was seeing was a reality, he asked, "Do these people live in a land made of garbage all their lives?"

As far as I could see, the land, houses, and everything else were made out of garbage in the district called BASECO: a landfill created on Manila bay behind all the prosperity of a fast growing capital of the Philippines. Our bus, filled with the Habitat build team, drove deeper into this community to an area with a strikingly different atmosphere. Among these bright colored houses and grided alleys people smiled and waved at us - some children even followed the bus. I was relieved that we, Habitat, were welcomed there.

Our local coordinators and affiliates gave us a tour of the area to explain how it was dangerous before, how Habitat changed the community, and how people were happy now.



At the end of the tour a few Ritsumeikan students and I walked off to take a peek at the community behind these one-year-old Habitat houses. "poverty housing", as if waiting in line to be tuned into Habitat houses. One team can build one row of eight houses in a week. After doing the math, I thought to myself, "Will there be an end to this someday?"

Someday these people will be on their own building their own houses, community, and lives. We as Habitat fuel this change by building the first houses. These houses become the starting points for the homeowners' new lives. The question now lies: How will they get out of these houses in BASECO?

Habitat housing must become a starting point, not imprisoning them from reaching further out. I believe that Habitat builds houses so that people relate to the rest of the world by getting education or a job. In this visit to BASECO, I could realize that Habitat has a lot to do in this battle against the poverty in the world, but there is hope and an end to it.

Latest word from GV PLUS a service learning component

The Fourth GV PLUS was a work camp conducted in the Philippines supported by Meijigakuin University, Department of Religion from August 17th to 26th 2005. This program is a regular educational department class. When the participants finish the GV program provided by Habitat, they hand in their report and receive class credit.

In response to the huge fire disaster in Baseco in Manila, a special housing project has been conducted with partnership between the city of Manila and Habitat for Humanity Philippines. The GV PLUS group after paying a courtesy visit to the mayor of Manila City volunteered building houses in the Baseco area of Manila. They labored for five days from August 18th to 23rd except Sunday. At the end of the program they home stayed in the Banai district for two days. On August 24th they also volunteered for the SALT foundation NGO at the Payatas in Manila, they call the place smoky mountain. SALT is providing food and scholarship programs for children. GV PLUS participants had a SALT foundation orientation and learned of the children's circumstances in the district. They also visited the day-care-center at Kashigrahan district and helped mothers with cross-stitch needlework.

Though it was a short camp, the participants took every opportunity to serve, such as working with Habitat staff, the homeowners at the Habitat site, and volunteering at The SALT foundation. The GV PLUS team leader, Prof. Yasumitsu Morita says as follows:

"We would like to thank all the Habitat Philippines' staff for taking care of us so well. The students are really happy for having such great experiences. It was truly an educational program this year. The people we met at the Baseco work site and home-stay in Banai were so kind to us and we appreciated them so much. A special Thank you to you."

(Written by Ms. Takayanagi , Translated by Ms. Yano, Edited by Ms. D. Terauchi)

THANK YOU DONORS TO ASIA TSUNAMI FUND

On Dec 26, 2004, Tsunami's or giant tidal waves struck the coastlines of many countries in the Indian Ocean, southeast Asia region. An estimated 200,000 people in 13 countries lost their lives and almost 5 million were without homes. Here is a pictorial description of Habitat's effort to construct 25,000 houses and its campaigns in Japan.

Habitat Japan, through the help of many supporters, organisers and partners, managed to raise some 4,833,598 YEN. The amount of 4,420 thousand yen was sent to Habitat for Humanity Sri Lanka in this September according to the request of Habitat for Humanity International saying that Sri Lanka needed fund for housing most urgently.

The amount of 400 thousand yen remained for the expenses of the office for fund raising and 15 thousand yen was spent for bank service charge.

International Pop Star, Ricky Martin working on Tsunami rebuilding work in southern Thailand



PET Bottle campaign at 100 bars, restaurants across Japan



Volunteering at Habitat Japan office

It's been three and a half years since I got involved with Habitat as a campus chapter member in Kanda University. In addition to the regular activities, I have volunteered at Miami Habitat while I was studying in Miami, as well as participated in the GV trips to the Philippines and Sri Lanka for two weeks each. Habitat Japan office was the great coordinator and supporter for these successful GV trips.

This summer, I volunteered at the Habitat Japan office twice a week, helping with webpage/document translation photocopying, filing documents, and getting involved with the Aichi EXPO follow-up team. Furthermore, I cooperated with other campus chapter members at the Habitat booth at the Global Festival on October 1 and 2 at Hibiya Park. Habitat Japan has been promoting itself through events, education, and projects, so volunteers are much in need at the office.

There is no successful GV trip without the office's support, so it is necessary to have a good relationship between Campus Chapters and the Habitat Japan office. It's a great opportunity for Campus Chapter members to learn more about the world of Habitat. For the office staff, it's great to have volunteers at the office to help improve service.

(She is to be dispatched as a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer to Uganda next year.)

Habitat for Humanity KUIS Masumi Yano.



Volunteer Voice !!

My summer at the Habitat OFFICE

A couple of months ago, I didn't have the slightest idea what I would be doing this summer. It was only until the idea of volunteering at the habitat office popped into my mind that I thought, maybe this might work. I initially wanted to intern at my university but had no luck. None of my initial plans worked out. But after contacting my high school teacher, who leads habitat trips, things rolled on smoothly and within a week, I was sitting at one of the desks at the habitat office.

When you step into the habitat office, the first thing that comes into mind is the number of staff members. There is always at least one person in the office, but at most, six. Six... How do they get things done with just six people? It seems that the workload doubles or triples for each person, which is why office volunteers are in need. And because they wanted some help, and I was able to give them some of my time, it made my summer worthwhile.

I was most grateful for being treated as a regular staff member by the people there. I did have less responsibility but they still allowed me to be involved in their annual meetings and have my say. I felt like I made a difference, the same way I felt digging the septic tank with my teacher in the Philippines.

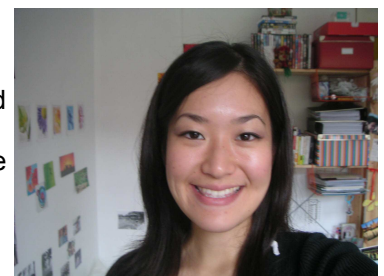
And it occurred to me how strong these staff members were. Despite the lacking number of people and unexpected problems, they still had enough energy to get things done. And it is not easy to get things done, especially when it all depends on you and only you.

There were a couple of times when I got frustrated. But when you come to think about how much these people face, I felt it inappropriate to feel annoyed. Nothing is perfect.

One thing I must add is that GV could not have been organized so efficiently without the habitat staff in Tokyo. It is hard to tell how much effort and energy these staff members put into organizing GV trips if one has never spent a day at the office. But now that I have spent my summer working there, I know that they work very hard to get information flowing in all directions. I wish that in the future, appreciation for both staff and volunteers would become equal.

For me, the most important thing is the pure will to do good. And it can be hard to tell apart those who only give and those who give and want something back in return. One thing I know about the staff at the habitat office, is that they are people with the will to do good. And I believe that this will help Habitat for Humanity spread further in Japan.

Nottingham University in England, Kyoko Goto

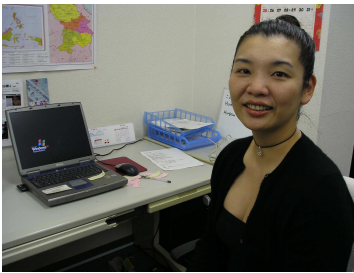


Season's Greetings.

We would like to wish you all a warm Season's Greetings from Habitat for Humanity Japan. In 2005 we worked on various projects such as Expo 2005 and the Tsunami Recovery Support. Thanks to the members of Habitat for Humanity Japan, we could conclude the year with the new knowledge gained from those projects and then incorporate these ideas into next year's objectives.

As we welcomed new staff in the office, Habitat for Humanity Japan truly developed an enthusiasm for ensuring that Habitat Japan touches more and more lives in the years to come. We ask for your kind continued support and understanding.

New staff joined the Habitat family!



Kimiko Mimura
Operations Manager



Mimi-Fetlework Nakagawa
Volunteer Programs Coordinator



Junko Tam
GV Coordinator

Habitat's original calendar "My Home. My Future"

Habitat's favorite children's art is now the theme of the table-top calendar for 2006. Twelve drawings were designed by the children of Habitat homeowners from all around the globe and can be conveniently detached and used as postcards. If you or your accountancies would like to have copies of this calendar, please contact Habitat for Humanity Japan office. To ensure that children live a life filled with hope, our kind support is kindly needed.



Help Wanted!

We need your support to expand Habitat for Humanity's activity in Japan and help people in needs around the world. Would you like to contribute your time in data entry, publishing newsletters and organizing events with us?

To better this Newsletter...

As the next year is quickly approaching, Habitat for Humanity Japan is starting to get busy. While we will launch new programs and reorganize the office management, we are also looking into better our membership programs. Here, we would like to request your advice on the contents of our newsletters. Please let us know if you have anything that you want us to include and specifically what kind of information you would like to read about.

We sincerely believe that all suggestions and feedback we get from our members and supporters will continue to motivate and encourage Habitat Japan staff to keep up the fight against worldwide poverty. Please write us with your advice and comments, anytime.

Habitat for Humanity, Japan

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