



HFHJ Newsletter

Issue #6, March 2007.

Learn & Build in Florida, Report on the New Volunteer Program

This project, sparked by my conversation with Mr. John Finnerty, an executive of a Habitat affiliate, during a business trip in the US, completed its two-week project from February 16 to March 4 thanks to the help of many. Read on to find if this new attempt was successful in conveying American culture and volunteerism through building activities and community service.

Ambassadors of Friendship?

The Learn & Build team eventually consisted of only five female students due to the males having to cancel. Although the team was smaller than expected, the situation resulted in strengthening the solidarity among the members. Mariko Terada, who was an intern at Habitat offices both in Japan and the US, took the role of team leader, and also worked toward the launch of this project. Wakako Egi, Kana Ogasawara, Eri Taguchi, and Yukiko Watanabe, all worked outstandingly as team members.



East Pasco, a community located in central Florida, welcomed the team. It was their first time hosting an international team and it became a "hot topic" in the area. Mr. Matt Hilan of East Pasco Habitat worked devotedly to prepare for, and accommodate the team. Mr. and Mrs. Glen and Sharon Wilkinson were constant attendants supporting the team at the building site.

The five team members were very warmly hosted, so in turn they played the role of ambassadors of friendship. The team was interviewed by newspapers, invited to a breakfast meeting at the Chamber of Commerce, and invited to a hockey game. They made a great contribution to East Pasco Habitat's PR and raising the community's motivation. They

were given much in return as well. Enjoyed privileges included: forgiving the bill for the meals at the university cafeteria where they stayed; receiving free passes for Disney World, and frequent meal invitations.

Master of Nailing!



The main jobs assigned to team members at the building site were nailing and painting the doors, since a task like putting up a beam was a little too dangerous for them. But as you see in the picture, they worked hard. Incidentally, one could find a jotted "Master of Nailing" in the notebook of a reporter who interviewed the team. Participation of another group, Care-A-Vanner, the camping car volunteer group attending construction activities all over the States, developed certain friendships between the two groups.

Volunteering is not a special thing

Volunteer activities and philanthropic values are widely shared in the East Pasco; Habitat is also well-adopted in the community. Participants seemed to feel the difference in volunteerism between the US and Japan especially when they saw the community members doing volunteer work quite naturally. The Japanese participants got a real sense of the following words of one community member, "To do volunteer work is not a special thing." This is exactly what I wanted them to learn the most and in that sense I can say this Learn & Build project was a great success.

"To help" and "To be helped"

Because people in the community were very kind, some participants felt sorry, although they came to help the people, they felt that the community members ended up helping them. However, the people in Florida wished to do whatever they could for those who took the trouble of coming all the way from Japan to help them. This reversal of helping to being helped happens frequently in volunteer programs.

People who are helped will help others in the future. Those who grew closer to Japan and Asia may help the ones who are suffering from the poverty housing in Asia. And team members who received people's love and goodwill in Florida will most definitely help other people in the future. Habitat's philosophy is to build up this circle of people's goodwill and to cut the vicious circle of poverty.



In sum, I would like to thank Habitat MGU (Meijigakuin University) for their great recruiting work. Thank you very much indeed.

Kimiko Mimura
Director, Programs Department

Mar. 21st Wed. 2 to 4pm
Join us at Yoyogi park!

家を建てるお花見
桜色の挑



Japan Update

Disaster Response : Jakarta Flood Recovery

From the end of January to early February, the lower part of Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia, was flooded. Local media sources reported that more than 100,000 houses and 290,000 people were affected in 38 sub-districts of Jakarta and 11 sub-districts of Bekasi. Even now in early March, one month later, many people are still living with the mud on the floors of their homes.

On February 17th, 2007, Habitat Indonesia began reconstruction efforts for 5 flood victim families in Bekasi, northern Jakarta. Volunteers worked together digging, flooring and building the walls of the house. Free health check ups and treatment was provided by the Hope World Wide organization.

Habitat Indonesia is planning to support the recovery of 1,000 low income families over 3 months. Though repairing 1 house costs only about 14,000 yen, it is a heavy burden for those families, leaving them in collapsed houses in the mean time. Without a proper shelter many families are living in fear; a prompt response is needed. Working together with victims, hand in hand, we aim to support the families and improve their living conditions, as well as to aid their return to their normal economic and social activities as soon as possible. Habitat Japan is now speaking out in an effort to gather donations in Japan to join Habitat Indonesia and many others in this recovery effort. Your kind support would be highly appreciated. (International Programs)



Report: Romania GV

Masafumi Honma, Team Leader
(Aoyama Gakuin University)

If I were to express my experience, it was just great. It might be because this trip was my first GV in 2 years of Habitat involvement, but I had such a strong feeling of attainment and solitude when the last work day came to an end.



As leader of this Romania GV team, I learned that it is not the best idea to take all responsibilities upon myself. I should have allocated more of the team preparation tasks to other members; 5 people taking 2 tasks each, rather than 1 person shouldering all 10 at once. This way, not only would it have been more efficient but also we could have strengthened our team's solidarity.

I also had many good experiences on this trip. First, the members could communicate and get to know one another through participation on this trip, sharing ideas for launching a new student group for volunteers and social services apart from existing Campus Chapters and Clubs. Secondly, almost all the members came up to me to tell me that they were glad that they had joined the team. As much as I feel fulfillment for all the work I put in since I decided to lead the team, it was a great pleasure to see the other members enjoying this trip. Lastly, I gained so much from the many new experiences throughout the preparation prior to the departure to the activities in the field. Communicating with the staff in English made me nervous every time, but it also built my confidence in the end. Beius, the town we visited was not a place where "poverty" was as visible as we expected. In regard to the construction work, we were not experienced and we realized how hard it is. Moreover, there seemed not to be enough people working at the site, and the homeowners are responsible for over 1000 hours of sweat equity.

At last, I would like to thank Ms. Mimi Nakagawa, the sending coordinator and Mr. Emil Barna, the hosting coordinator who worked hard to finalize my team's schedule and the budget. For half a year, I really enjoyed working with them and things worked out smoothly thanks to their support. I am looking forward to the next opportunity to work with Habitat again.

(Editor's memo: 11 students joined the Mr. Masafumi Honma, the team leader in Romania during Feb. 19th to 28th, 2007.)

HFH and UN-HABITAT

Habitat for Humanity and UN-HABITAT (United Nations Human Settlements Programme) entered into a formal Agreement of Cooperation on Sept. 15, 2004, at the World Urban Forum II in Barcelona to work together to address urban poverty and post-conflict and disaster-related reconstruction issues around the world.

In her remarks at the signing event, Anna Tibaijuka, undersecretary of the United Nations and executive director of UN-HABITAT, said, "This collaboration is an important step towards meeting the World Millennium Development Goals of halving the number of poor by 2015 and in improving living conditions among slum dwellers."

Habitat for Humanity and UN Habitat have often been confused with each other in that we have similar names and founding dates, and a global presence. Rather than continuing to explain the difference, we joined forces to work together on mutual goals.

Since [the agreement], Habitat for Humanity and UN-HABITAT have explored ways to enhance this collaboration and build upon the strengths each brings to the partnership.

Some of these joint activities follow:

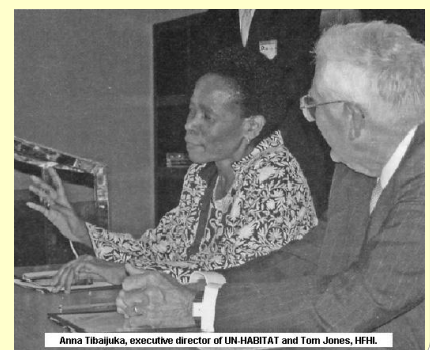
Advocacy and outreach

- * World Habitat Day [and related presentations]
- * World Urban Forum III, 30th Anniversary [of Habitat for Humanity's foundation]

Disaster response and reconstruction

- * Pakistan Earthquake
- * Tsunami reconstruction
- * Hurricane Katrina

Reference:
"Working with UN-HABITAT to further the MDGs." *The Forum* Vol.13, No.4 (2006)

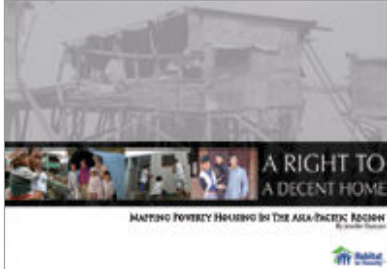


Anna Tibaijuka, executive director of UN-HABITAT and Tom Jones, HFH.

Event and Project

Future housing needs defined By high urban growth in Asia Pacific area

BANGKOK, February 02, 2007 – Failure to address the real and growing housing needs of the rural and urban poor today, will have severe implications for those living in poverty in the next generation.



Commissioned by Habitat for Humanity, the report is the first of its kind bringing together in one document statistics and research compiled from a wide range of recognized publications on general poverty. It also contains short case studies on promising current initiatives by several organizations including Habitat for Humanity. This research highlights many of the causes and effects of rural and urban poverty housing and their implications on emerging economies.

Extensive footnotes and references for further reading make **A Right to a Decent Home** a valuable resource for urban planners, policy makers, development organizations and aid agencies, shelter professionals and others interested in the state of housing in the Asia-Pacific region. It is a useful background for executives responsible for their company's corporate social responsibility initiatives as well as individuals with a social conscience and celebrities in search of a cause.

(PR Department)

Recognition Gathering on Dec. 2nd.

On December 2nd, HFHJ organized the 1st Recognition Gathering at Nakano ward's chamber of commerce hall. We had a total of 45 guests such HFHJ members and directors, students of campus chapters and clubs, volunteers participated GV and many other supporters of HFHJ. Thank you all who joined, and we truly hope that you could feel the sense of belonging by meeting with other supporters.

For us staff at HFHJ, it was a good opportunity to express our appreciation in person. Also, we realized the significance of our daily word as seeing so many people are in the same movement with us. Thank you all for joining us there, and please stay tuned for the invitation to the next gathering!



Habitat's Original Goods Now Available!

Spread the words and share the "Habitat spirit" with the original novelties! Items listed below are now available for your purchase at HFH Japan. Please contact us for the details.



(From the left) White Enamel Pin, Silver Pin, Key Ring

Reporting the Charity Event : "BANGLA"



On December 16th of last year, Japan Kanto HFH Campus Chapters organized a charity event called "BANGLA" held at a performance hall in Omotesando. There were more than 280 attendees, and the donations raised amounted to 610,000 yen, which came from entrance fees, and sale proceeds from street fund-raising; the fundraising was later presented to HFH Bangladesh by Global Village volunteers, on behalf of our members. Through an image gallery and performances during the event we attempted to inform the visitors about Bangladesh; we based the event on the "Build A Next Gratified Life And..." concept, which seeks not only to build a house, but also to build hope, confidence, happiness, and joy.

In the beginning, it was not easy for us to plan the event be-

cause of initial obstacles. We had tried to get to know a little about Bangladesh through an interview with the Bangladesh ambassador and by attending some festivals. Next, we visited Bangladesh on a GV trip and we were able to touch their lives and bring back some goods for sale at the event. Of special concern for us was how to attract attendees,, how to explain the reality of the situation, how to find a location, as well as making fliers, running an add in a newspaper (Tokyo Shinbun) and advertising on the Internet. Furthermore, we researched Images of Japanese people in conflict with Bangalis. As we worked harder, the project became bigger and our responsibility increased with every step. It was difficult for us to maintain every member's motivation and share information. Finally, we approached the day of the event with passion and anxiety; in the end it was a success.

This spring we were supposed to go Bangladesh on a GV trip with a report about the event, but the GV trip was postponed due to political unrest in Bangladesh. However, we want to inform our partners in Bangladesh about the event's success, and send the money we fundraised as well as some photos. After the event one visitor said, "I was inspired to do something." One of our members said, "It was good experience", and another guest commented "Thank you for your presentation, I got something from the event." I am glad to hear that each of them felt gratified by the experience.

(Akino Okumura, SHANTI SHANTI Aoyama Gakuin Univ.)

Japan Update

Volunteer Voice

Proudly introducing HFH Japan's interns who are/will be working at Habitat offices overseas!

Q: What's "volunteering" to you?

M (Michael Larson, Dartmouth Univ., USA): For me "volunteer" simply means that you are doing something without pay. I've often found that the valuable experience and skills that I've gained while volunteering have been more rewarding than the material compensation I could have received in other positions.
 K (Keiko Shimizu, Waseda Univ., Japan): One way of self-realization.
 O (Machiko Okumura, Tsuda College, Japan): I "volunteered" when I was in the elementary school for class project, but to think of it now, one must drive him/herself to volunteer.

Q: Do/did you have worries and hopes for working abroad?

M: The amount you want to learn about and experience a foreign culture is really up to you – if you are an American or a European and want to live like an American or a European, even in Tokyo, you can. If you want to try to learn the language and experience the culture of that place you are living in then the people around you will probably be extremely helpful and accommodating.
 K: As I will be in Thailand, my worries are mainly about living (in comparison to working); communication, staying healthy and cooking coriander, etc.
 O: Interning in Northern Ireland, I am worried that I won't understand the dialects and intonations of the locals even it is English. Also, I want to keep my expectations low and then I can be happy when I learn and experience things unexpectedly.

Q: Any message to those in your generation or planning to volunteer overseas?

M: Young people especially have the power make positive change, and volunteering overseas is a great way to contribute something to society while gaining an experience you will never forget in your life.
 K: Get involved! Everything around you will start rolling once you speak your mind and reach out of yourself. Then on, you'll just enjoy the ride so listen to your insights.
 O: The key is to take the first step to start something.



Mr. Michael Larson



Ms. Keiko Shimizu



Ms. Machiko Okumura

Good luck on your ways, and we are looking forward to welcome you back at HFHJ! ★Wanted: Office Volunteers★

List of Donations (Nov. 2006~Feb. 2007)

Thank you very much for the support. Your contributions will be used to realize "A World Where Everyone Has A Decent Place To Live."

Date	Donor	Usage	Amount
Nov. 24th	Kyoto Univ. of Foreign Studies	Pakistan	80,189
Dec. 13th	Students and the staff at Nishinasuno Kindergarten	Leyte, Philippines	30,000
Jan. 4th	Yokohama Union Church		54,700
Jan. 12th	BANGLA Event Income	Bangladesh	614,711
Feb. 2nd	Hyogo JET		5,250
Feb. 26th	Akio Uda	Indonesia	50,000

* Amount in Yen, Suffix omitted.

BANKING INFORMATION

POSTAL ACCOUNT :

Account Number:	00100-2-278431
Account Holder:	(特活) HFH ジャパン

BANK ACCOUNT :

Bank Name:	三井住友銀行 中野坂上支店 Sumitomo Mitsui Banking
Account Number:	Savings 4180738
Account Holder:	トクビハビタットフォーヒューマンティ ジャパン

* Please notify us the preferred usage of the donation.



Habitat for Humanity
Japan

Habitat for Humanity seeks to eliminate poverty housing worldwide through participatory, community led programs. In 2006 we mobilized nearly 1,000,000 volunteers in over 100 countries. For further information on our exciting activities and life-changing opportunities for you to get involved, contact us today!

Habitat for Humanity Japan

Add: 1-45-5 B101 Hinode Bldg., Higashi Nakano, Nakano-Ku, Tokyo 164-0003
 URL: www.HabitatJP.org
 Tel: 03-5330-5571
 Fax: 03-5330-5572
 Mail: info@HabitatJP.org
 Published by: Toshiya Tsukamoto
 Edited by: Shuji Mogi
 Also edited by: Mimi Nakagawa

