



HFHJ Newsletter

Issue #12, Feb 2009

New Year Greeting

A Happy New Year to all. Wish everyone's health and happiness for this new year.

It has been 6 years since Habitat for Humanity Japan (HFHJ) has registered as NPO in Japan in 2003. 2008 was a fruitful year emphasizing collaboration work with corporations. In overseas volunteer programs, Prudential Real Estate Investors has participated HFHI house-built project as a part of their training program in Thailand and we also gained supporters all over Japan by working with "CHIKYU-NO-ARUKIKATA" magazine (Globe-Trotter Travel Guild book) as the first time. Domestically, Citibank Group got involved with School Repair program and also Scholarship program by Dow Chemical Company was implemented to provide financial support to campus chapters. Those are some new things that we have tried last year in order to seek new opportunities to expand HFH programs in Japan.

This year will be a very tough and challenging year to every one and every company including NPO. In order to cope with this economic situation proactively, we have made changes in the Board of Directors and created new organization with office staff as well as moving to new office to reduce the cost. With new set-up, HFHJ will strive for revitalizing domestic activities, strengthening funds-raising programs, and promoting active participation to Jimmy Carter Work Project in Thailand in November this year. We look forward to your active involvement and continuous support to HFHJ in 2009.

Atsuko Serizawa Chairperson of the Board



Japan's First Corporate Global Village Team: Prudential Real Estate Investors

HFH Japan marked its very first corporate Global Village build recently in Thailand. A 17-member team, comprising mostly staff from US-



headquartered Prudential Real Estate Investors (PREI), built with Habitat in Chiang Mai, northern Thailand. The volunteers from PREI's Japan and Singapore offices were going to a company retreat in the city and arrived earlier in order to build. Most of the volunteers came from PREI's offices in Japan and Singapore and were joined by their corporate contacts from Thailand, Singapore and Japan.

Ahead of the team's arrival, local skilled workers had prepared and had nearly completed the foundation of the house. This made it possible for the team to complete the house by the end of the three-day build. Among the tasks which the volunteers did were mixing cement, laying brick walls, and digging the hole for the septic tank.

The home partner Wandee Sangpayoong and her family were used to cramped conditions in their small window-less house in Namprae village, Hangdong district. The house's wooden walls were rotting and in danger of falling apart. Her 29-year-old son Noppond had to sleep in the living room while daughter Wanwisa, 18, resorted to staying the night at her aunt's place every day. Wandee's dream was to build a new, bigger house but she could not due to their limited finances. The 7,500-baht (US\$244) combined income of Wandee, a housekeeper and her husband Somnuek, a carpenter, was just about enough to cover their children's educational expenses.



With support from the PREI team, Wandee and her family's wish for a new home could be fulfilled. The family contributed labor toward their own home



with the father, Somnuek, working with the volunteers every day. His kind nature and ready smile won him many friends, among whom were the local carpenters from the community, who joined in the build.

For the volunteers, working on a Habitat build brought various benefits. Koki Fukui, assistant asset manager at PREI (Japan), said: "I really enjoyed working with Habitat staff and local people who supported our team. I'm back to my normal life completely now, but that experience will forever be remembered." His colleague Kana Takei appreciated the opportunity to get to know the other team members better, especially as she had not spent much time with her colleagues from the Singapore office prior to the build. Team leader Adrian Chua said: "Everyone enjoyed it and more importantly, found it very fulfilling."



Japan Update

Japan Partners Travel Agency for Habitat Build, Japan Hope Builders



Tapping on the logistical expertise of a travel agency *STA Travel* and the reputation of a well-known guidebook publisher *CHIKYU-NO-ARUKIKATA*, HFH Japan has sent its pilot Hope Builders team to Thailand. The 17-member team, comprising mostly university students recruited through STA travel agency, built with HFH Thailand in Pattun Thani, an hour drive from Bangkok.

The team worked on the foundation of the house by creating a wire frame, painted with reinforced paint and also made cement for 5 days. On the first day, it seemed everyone had some nervousness about working together as part of a "team", as members had only just met one another and it was the first time for everyone to work with Habitat. But as soon as work began, it was as if everyone had known each other for much longer. Although they were not able to complete building a full house in the four-and-a-half days that they were there, the volunteers appre-



ciated being able to do everything by hand, from fashioning tools to mixing cement for foundation work. Among team members, many felt they wanted to "fully complete the house." Even so, to build as much as we did in such a short period of time was thanks to the efforts of each and every team member. Our work was to build the foundation of the house, but it is not just homes which require a strong foundation. A team cannot be built without a sturdy foundation, and we built this one from scratch. Team member Makoto Inoue said: "If the cement and tools hadn't been made from scratch, you would have never known what kinds of things, like wire, were embedded into the floor and foundation. Thanks to that, I feel as if we are building more than just a 'house,' but something more special"

9 Volunteers from Japan Participated in Global Build India.



More than 70 volunteers from USA, Canada, Australia, Singapore, Korea and Japan worked in Delhi between September 27, 2008 and October 6, 2008 to help build 14 homes in a district called Bhalaswa. With some as young as 20 and others at a more mature 70, these volunteers who come from different back-

grounds and professions gathered in Delhi with a common goal -- to build houses with Habitat for Humanity. Bhalaswa, a resettlement colony 25km northwest of central Delhi, is surrounded by landfills. Trash infests Bhalaswa's streets, filthy water stagnates in its open sewers and foul smells envelop this densely populated slum of approximately 10,000 families. The build sites were located along narrow residential streets and the build work was conducted amidst the hustle and bustle of daily life in Bhalaswa. Each build team was comprised of a mix of 5 to 6 volunteers from different countries. Over the course of the build, volunteers grew closer to members from other countries, and by the end of the 10 days, everyone had formed lasting international friendships. .

give an example of how international this Global Build was, my build team was comprised of 2 Japanese, 2 Canadians, 2 Americans, 1 Australian, 1 Korean and 2 local staff members. Due to the fact that the build sites were located in central Bhalaswa, we were able to observe the daily livelihoods of Bhalaswa's citizens. We saw women cooking and washing clothes at small wells in front of their homes, men selling goods from bicycles or carts and children playing in its littered streets. The sight of so much litter in Bhalaswa and of families living amongst this trash was honestly shocking. India is supposedly the largest democracy in the world. Yet, the difference in living conditions between the haves and the have-nots and the population of have-nots is so great, that one must wonder if the Indian government is doing enough to alleviate class differences and unsanitary living environments. I hope that the day will come when India no longer needs volunteers from overseas to help with its poor. Having said this however, I think HFH India did a stellar job organizing this Global Build! And even better was the HFH Japan team! The success of this trip can be measured by how tightly our team bonded during and after this India experience. I look forward to more Global Build projects in the future!

(Keiko Yasuda/ Team member)

India was a country that I'd always wanted to visit. After hearing of Global Build in India, I jumped at the chance to join. What better opportunity was there? I was able to travel to Delhi with a group of like-minded individuals and make a contribution to a local Indian community with a very international group of HFH volunteers. Just to





Japan Update

Citi Group' s Global Community Day with Habitat Japan

Global financial services company does their business to some 200 million customer accounts in over 100 countries, and each Citi offices joined community service on the same day.

November 8th 2008, Citi group had their volunteer program *Global Community Day 2008* and their employees all over the world joined local volunteer activities in their areas. 15 Citi participants from several different offices in Japan joined Habitat for Humanity Japan to renovate some facilities at our partner NGO, *Asian Rural Institute* (<http://www.ari-edu.org/>) in Tochigi prefecture.

Citi participants had left Tokyo in the very early morning and arrived at ARI



around 9:30am. After safety orientations were given by ARI and Habitat Japan staffs, participants started working on several different jobs, such as, pouring cement and make the floor, mowing and plough up to find subsoil water pipes, Splitting and transferring firewood, and paint the benches of open space. Beside the work in the fresh air, Citi volunteers also enjoyed the organic



lunch which was cooked with the vegetables grown at ARI. Also, participants had orientations of Habitat for Humanity Japan and ARI, they even could have ARI tour and saw the vegetable fields, animals and their facilities.

Habitat Japan was honored to have this opportunity, and we would like to build stronger relationships with Citi group and ARI.

Dow Chemical Cooperation Grant ~Youth upbringing project~

With the support of Dow Chemical Cooperation who is the global partner of Habitat, we established a grant to promote youth upbringing in our house building volunteer work of the students and domestic enlightenment. SHANTI SHANTI (Aoyama Gakuin University), Habitat MGU (Meiji Gakuin University), and 2 teams from Rits Habitat (Ritsumeikan University) have been selected for the grant. They will do their GV activities in February and March, 2009 and will do the report presentation of their GV after April in Dow Chemical Cooperation (Tokyo) as well as the enlightenment activities in other universities and regional communities based upon their activity plan.



List of Donations and Grants (from 2008/6/1 to 12/31)

日付	寄付者名	支援国指定	金額
6月6日	廣瀬 雅子	中国・ミャンマー	¥3,000
6月6日	カトリック・イエズス会	中国	¥50,000
6月9日	佐藤 文彬	中国	¥30,000
6月16日	日光市立今市中学校	中国	¥10,000
6月17日	吉田 みどり	中国	¥5,000
6月17日	吉田 みどり	ミャンマー	¥5,000
6月17日	NGOサポート募金 配賦金	中国	¥29,880
6月26日	Habitat KUIS	中国	¥58,392
6月26日	Habitat KUIS	ミャンマー	¥40,134
6月30日	日本郵船グループ	中国	¥29,580
6月30日	日本郵船グループ	中国	¥1,529,950
6月30日	ウメタ マサヒロ		¥29,700
6月30日	同志社 ハビタット		¥40,500
6月30日	福本 光夫		¥5,000
6月30日	藤井 信也		¥3,000
7月2日	立命館大学		¥40,000
7月8日	JCC関西 伊藤 篤史	中国	¥50,090
7月10日	廣瀬 雅子	ミャンマー	¥1,000
7月11日	立命館大学 国際ラティガールTOMSAWYER		¥2,095
7月15日	日本郵船	中国	¥220,100
7月17日	宗教法人 カリタリクス会		¥20,000
7月23日	特定非営利活動法人国際協力NGOセンター	NGO#1-ト募金 配賦金	¥29,986
7月28日	特定非営利活動法人国際協力NGOセンター	NGO#1-ト募金 配賦金	¥107,709
7月31日	ユニテッドヒーブル		¥13,194
8月13日	Borderless Tokyo Shin-Nakano House	中国・ミャンマー	¥10,000
8月20日	特定非営利活動法人国際協力NGOセンター	NGO#1-ト募金 配賦金	¥8,471
8月28日	大妻高等学校 生徒会会長山田理紗子		¥19,005
9月30日	㈱レガメント		¥3,000
10月9日	マスターピース	フィリピン	¥88,683
10月23日	セルフォース・ドットコム有志一同		¥4,252
10月27日	渡辺 雅之		¥1,000,000
10月27日	トソーヤ 国際ラティガール		¥35,416
10月31日	㈱レガメント		¥6,300
11月13日	特定非営利活動法人国際協力NGOセンター	NGO#1-ト募金 配賦金	¥2,000
12月1日	㈱レガメント		¥1,500
12月16日	西那須野幼稚園	ミャンマー	¥19,920
12月17日	読売新聞(高橋)		¥901

Thank you very much for the support.

Disaster Response

Since May 2008, many have been joining us in taking action in response to Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar and the earthquake in central China. Habitat Japan would like to remind our supporters that we have closed the fund raising efforts for both programs as of the end of December 2008.



Thank you for your generous support and please note that we are continuing with the ground operations as scheduled.

Myanmar: Habitat for Humanity continues to rebuild homes in partnership with World Concern in Irrawaddy delta. We plan to complete 400 houses by early 2009. **China:** Disaster response appeal aimed to raise five million USD is benefitting the rebuilding efforts in the most severely damaged communities in the Sichuan province. In the first phase we plan to complete 1000 houses, with a plan for expansion in mind to cover thousands of other victims throughout the region.



Japan Update

INTORODUCING VOLUNTEER STAFF

We would like to introduce our office volunteer staff who are supporting Habitat activities. Our activities are possible because of unsung hero like them. We thank everyone of them for their contribution and appreciate their continued support!

Since I joined the Thailand GV team recruited to the public in last August, I am interested in Habitat's activities and have been doing some volunteer work at the office. Although there's only few staff in the office, I am impressed that there are so many people who are strongly connected to Habitat. It is good to realized that our fun GV activities are able because of the support from the staff in Tokyo and many other people. (Ms. Hiromo Sato/ student)



I have been working as a volunteer once a week since August, 2007. I had never done any volunteer work before, so I could not imagine what it would be like. I have been impressed with the vivid eyes of people whom I meet in the office. Although my work may be limited, I would like to continue doing it. (Ms. Michiko Uchida)



I became the office volunteer because I am studying architecture and was interested in Habitat's construction activities. Before I started it, I was considering a volunteer work to be something to do for someone in need, but now I consider that I am let to do volunteer works. (Ms. Rui Shimodaira/ student)



REPORTING ON HATO LIVE

Nov. 28th, 2008, Suppon Daigaku, a comedy duo by Gaku and Welcome-Daisuke, hosted a charity comedy event named Hato Live, gathering their fellow comedians. Suppon Daigaku has been a friendly supporter of Habitat Japan since they guest appeared for the charity event for Bangladesh organized by Campus Chapters in the Tokyo region. This was the eleventh show and counting, 84 people filled the theater and had a great laughs even though it was a weekday. In addition to comedy, Hato Live offers a bundle of warm smiles. Habitat Japan humbly received the donation of 54,000yen (difference after 30,000yen event cost deducted from the total income 84,000yen) to build descent homes for the needy families around the world.



REPORTING ON THE LAST TWP MEETING

Habitat Japan's Travelers with a Purpose (TWP) is a forum for people interested in travel and making a difference in the world to meet, socialize, and learn from each other. Meeting on the first Tuesday of every month, it also offers opportunities to learn about upcoming Global Village trips.



At the last meeting (Dec. 2008), University of Tokyo Habitat reported on the Dozo project in Wajima, Ishikawa. Also we had the very first cooperate team from Japan report on their trip to Chaing Mai, Thailand. Each meeting focuses on a different theme related to travel, housing, and volunteerism. Attendees enjoy a variety of stories from different teams and volunteers every month. If the regular sightseeing trips don't satisfy you, come join many of the fellow travelers who found the missing pieces with Habitat. The next meeting is on Tuesday, April 14th, at Ben's Café in TakadanoBaba, Tokyo, starting at 7pm. Please refer to our website for details.

HFHJ Office Location Change Notification

Please note that we have moved to the following address on the 16th February 2009. Please note that your primary contact and all billing, shipping and mailing addresses will be changed.



New Address :
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