

HFHJ Newsletter



BUILDING HOUSES BUILDING HOPE

Issue #16 January 2010



166 Houses Completed, Carter Work Project 2009 Comes to a Close

For November 15-20, 2009, the Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project (JRCWP09) united volunteers and families in need of decent, affordable housing in the Mekong region. Habitat built with nearly 166 families in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and China's Sichuan Province. Chiang Mai, Thailand was the main host site for the Project. The Carters joined the Chiang Mai community, celebrities and approximately 2,000 volunteers including 15 devoted volunteers from Habitat Japan (3,000 volunteers throughout 5 countries). During the week-long build, 82 simple, decent homes were built in partnership with low-income families in northern Thailand. (by Shintaro Yamamoto of HFH Japan)



Hidetoshi Nakata (Thailand/Chiang Mai)

Former Japan National Football Team Player, "Hide" Takes Part!

JRCWP attracts a large number of celebrities every year. The latest JRCWP had the wonderful opportunity of hosting another star! That's right; it is the top scoring player of Japan's national soccer team, Hidetoshi Nakata, also known as "Hide". "It's wonderful to build a home with the home owner." said Mr. Nakata with a smile. Even under the spotlight of media attention, he kept working steadily with dedication. That attitude was impressive. "Building a house can be very cool, when Hide does it!" said a participant. Some project participants even sighed with excitement. The project site was filled with various celebrities, including Chinese movie action star, Jet Li. This year, JRCWP operated simultaneously in several countries, which enabled celebrities from



Former U.S. president Jimmy Carter (Yunnan province, China)

many countries, such as Taiwan, Hong Kong, Korea, India, and Sri Lanka, to give a boost to the project.

Residential Environment In Chiang-Mai

Chiang-Mai was designated as the largest project zone among at the four other host countries of JRCWP09. Chiang-Mai is the sec-

ond largest city in Thailand after Bangkok. One of the its biggest social issues today is the migrants from outlying areas to the city seeking jobs and a stable life.

However, its inadequate welfare system has forced most of such migrants to live in slums. <To be continued to Japan Update Special Edition...>

Habitat's Disaster Reliefs in Philippines & Indonesia

Philippines Typhoon DR

By 9.26 Typhoon Ketsana and successive typhoons, over 1,000 people were reported to have been killed or missing. Habitat who immediately responded to the disaster has met the sanitation needs of affected families and distributed shelter repair kits. Presently as the relief efforts have shifted to reconstruction and rehabilitation phase, Habitat started to carry out plans to build 2,000 transitional shelters.

Indonesia Earthquake DR

9.30 earthquake (M 7.6) hit the Indonesian city of Padang in West Sumatra. It is reported that over 1,100 people were reported killed and 200,000 houses were damaged. For Sumatra, the initial plan is to con-



Distribution of House repair kits (Philippines)

struct 100 quake-resistant core houses. Construction has begun on the first 10 houses in the Kodo Ganting community, about 120 km from the city of Padang.

Donation Report (As of Oct 31, 09)

- Philippines 627,839 yen
- Indonesia 52,681 yen

Thank you very much for your support. Please check a HFH Japan website for donations. (HFH Japan)



Japan Update

The Initial Support for Nepal from Japan! : Doshisha Univ. CC (Aug 16~31, 09)



Homeowner family with a Habitat house

Issue of Poverty Housing in Nepal

Roof of the world, as it is called, Nepal is the entrance to the mount Everest and also holds many world heritages. It is one of the most popular destinations for international travelers. Yet not many people are aware that the country is ranked one of the poorest nations in the world. Frequent natural disasters like floods, landslides and earthquakes leaves severe damages each season, causing its chronicle poverty housing issues grow worse.

As a result of natural disasters, unemployment rate remains high, forcing people to migrate to the big cities like the capital city Kathmandu. There, people have no choice but sharing small roofs with others creating urban slums. On the other hand, the abandoned rural areas are often disregarded from the development projects, leaving people in old, unsafe and inadequate houses to live. According to the government of Nepal, 430,000 families

■ the Kingdom of Nepal

◆Capital: Kathmandu ◆Religion: Hinduism (81%), Buddhism (11%), Islam (4%) ◆Unemployment rate: 42% ◆Typical inadequate, below-standard houses in Nepal are built with straw roof, wheat walls, bamboo stilts and other old construction materials. Each year, average of 10,000 houses burn down in fire.

are living in houses that are considered below standard. And this is the country where we, Doshisha University Campus Chapter team (15 members plus 2 supporters), traveled to join the Global Village program. It was the first GV trip taken by a Japanese team in Nepal.

House-Building by “Bamboo” –use of local resource–

The construction method in Nepal is very special, and bamboo is the main material for houses. Although the work there was something we have never done before such as cutting, shaving, weaving bamboo, we built it by referring the house that had already completed. We learned from the local staff that people suffer from the disaster caused by heavy rain in mid August every year. They told us that it is important to keep supporting toward their dream that everyone can have a decent house. We could feel the power of the local support activity.



“Sweat & Build Together,” A • LA • LA !

A•LA•LA! is the word by which the local staff always made us laugh while we were working. Though it was a single phrase, it had a power to change our atmosphere positively and became a word that deeply remained in our heart. Moreover, we enjoyed “Nagashi-Somen” using bamboo between work. Everyone had a big smiling face, and it was the greatest moment that we could build a bond beyond the barrier of countries and cultures as we worked hard together.

This time we visited Nepal to support someone but we learned a lot at the same time. It was very meaningful 2 weeks for us. I would like to thank people who supported us. Next will be your turn to Nepal GV! (by Kana Kondo of Doshisha Univ. CC)

Join us building houses!

2010 Spring



We will build houses again this summer in the suburbs of Bangkok, Thailand, for the local residents who are in poverty or suffering damages by natural disaster. The building of the houses will only be taken place where the safety standards are fulfilled, so constructing skills and experience are not necessary! In addition

to building houses, we plan to visit local orphanage, kindergarten or elementary school and communicate with the local children, sightseeing in Bangkok city, and have a farewell party on the last day. If you are interested, please visit the Habitat for Humanity Japan’s website for more details! (by Aemi Nakamura of Meiji Gakuin Univ. CC)



Deadline is almost here!

■ Schedule ■

- 1) Feb 23th (Tue) ~ Mar 2nd (Tue) (Thailand/BKK)
- 2) Mar 9th (Tue) ~ Mar 16th (Tue) (Thailand/BKK)



Japan Update

Campus Chapter & Club: Awareness Raising throughout Japan!

Many supporters of HFH Japan belong to student-run Habitat organizations, called Campus Chapters (CC) and Campus Clubs (CClub), where their efforts have made a great contribution to those in need of a decent place to live through not only house building, but also awareness raising in Japan. (Koichi Shinjo of Tokai Univ. CC)

<Event in Kanto>

Merry Merry Habitat ...

We held a photo exhibition at Shinjuku Ophthalmologist Gallery (Tokyo) on Dec 13th, a sequel to the previous dance show called "House, Dance, Peace★".

The theme of this photo exhibition named "Merry Merry Habitat" was "Dreams"! The event exhibited the drawings of "dreams" of the children of the Habitat's beneficiaries, photos



from the countries each CC traveled, personal stories of GV volunteers, videos from the trips and the slideshow of "dreams" drawing.

Also, we asked visitors to write "what makes a home" on a brick-shaped paper and lay it on a house-shaped cloth to complete a house tapestry. Many people came, some of them happened to be passing by, some parents of CC members came purposely wondering what their children were involved with. If the Kanto JCC members, got united and worked together more often, we may be able not only to publicize our activities, but also to do something very special. So let's keep JCC hot! Thank you for your visit to the event! (by Maiko Okawa of Tokai Univ. CC)

Kanto JCC Camp

(11/21-22)

On the first day of Kanto JCC camp in Kashiwa-city, Chiba, each CC presented its activities in the summer. Some CCs created promotion videos and delivered scent of the Habitat sites and voice of local residents. On the second day, we had a workshop guided by CC of Kanda University of International Studies. We closed the camp with deeper understanding and exchanges among CCs. (by Yusuke Sato of Tokai Univ. CC)



Writing what's hope for them

Kansai JCC Camp

(12/12-13)

Kansai JCC winter camp was organized by Kwansei Gakuin University CClub (Sanda campus) this time. The theme was "HOME" and more than 200 members gathered in one place. We introduced our activities with handmade posters in the debriefing session, and did mock house building activity by using Sugoroku and doing a round-table discussion. It was only 2 days, but we talked our enthusiasm each other and shared the opinion among 200 people. Kansai JCC became one "HOME"! (by Saya Komatsu of Ritsumeikan Univ. CC)



<Event in Kansai>

Stepping forward to Poverty Alleviation!



At the Shinpukan in Kyoto, the international cooperation event HOT STEP'09 was held on Dec 6th, and Habitat Japan had a display! The theme of HOT STEP was "Not 100 steps for me, but one step for everyone". This event wanted to portray the connection between the attendees and the many people who live in poverty around the world and take a step to a solution. Habitat Japan's CC of Ritsumeikan University is one sponsoring organization.

The theme of the Habitat Japan's booth was "What's home for you?". We had our attendees imagine the word "home", write down their thoughts, and post it on world map. Usually, having a home is something obvious; But, we heard impressions such as "I only need to write one word, however, I can't think of anything..." and "there are people in the world who have no home to return to..."

15 students from CC in Kansai joined at the Habitat Japan booth and sold 70 Habitat 2010 Calendar! Everyone said that they wanted to make people aware of the existence of the housing problem in the world, and towards a solution, they wanted people to know Habitat and participate in the GV program. (by Chiaki Kadobayashi, Kwansei Gakuin Univ. CC)





Japan Update

Travelers with a Purpose (Nov & Dec) Jimmy Carter in TWP!!

In TWP held on Nov 9, Waseda and Aoyama Gakuin University CC members presented a report titled "GV report & Philippines & Indonesia in Disaster". They reported on each GV trip and talked what they could do for both countries where disaster occurred just after they returned to Japan.

The topic of 2009 Final TWP (Dec 1st) was Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project (JRCWP09) closed in Nov 20. JRCWP09 Volunteers came to the event and shared their hot experience with participants.



■ **Coming TWP** Date & Time : February 1st (Mon) 2010 19:00-, Place : Ben's Café (Takadanobaba) , Topic : Habitat Japan's International Projects & Disaster Response in Haiti. ★TWP (Travelers with a Purpose) meeting is a café-style forum for people interested in travel and making a difference in the world to meet, socialize, and learn from each other. (HFH Japan)

Student's Editorial Group

Happy New Year!! We, an editorial group, consisting of Campus Chapter & Club members, covers stories, writes articles for a HFHJ News letter with HFH Japan office. One year has passed since the group was formed now that we are incorporating a student's point of view into the articles and demonstrating our mobility. We look forward to meeting more new people through Habitat activities and supporting for Habitat for Humanity with them in order to make a difference from Japan! (by Akira Kajikawa of Aoyama Gakuin Univ. CClub)



Editor's Note

Happy new year to all! Thank you for your heart-warming support last year. Each of your kind and active involvement is highly appreciated. In its first 24 years, Habitat for Humanity built 100,000 houses with people in need of decent, affordable shelter. In only nine years since then, another 250,000 houses were built. Today, more than 1.75 million people are now living in Habitat homes. However, the needs are still great. We look forward to your active involvement and continuous support to us in 2010! Wish everyone's health and happiness for this new year. (HFH Japan)

LIST OF DONATIONS AND GRANTS (2009.10.1-12.31)

10/7	川崎 耕次	1,775
10/14	立命館大学 Rits Habitat	133,095
10/14	関西学院大学 ECO HABITAT	55,866
10/19	京都外大 HABITAT	22,135
10/21	和久 倫也	10,000
10/28	関西大学 Muster Peace	21,300
10/29	足立インターナショナル・アカデミー	313,833
10/30	早稲田大学 WHABITAT	102,910
10/30	京都外大 HABITAT	31,381
11/26	白取 裕子	30,000
11/26	関西学院大学 上ヶ原ハビタット	58,052
11/30	藤井 信也	3,000
12/2	宗教法人 カトリックイェズ会	20,000
12/9	関西大学 Muster Peace	40,246
12/9	京都外大 HABITAT	6,000
12/15	株レガメント	900
12/17	同志社 HABITAT	92,596
12/18	同志社 HABITAT	18,007
12/18	西那須野幼稚園	19,920

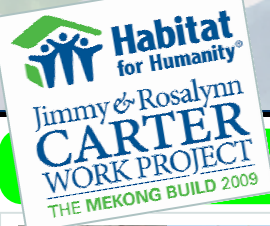
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE SUPPORT!



Since established in 1976, Habitat for Humanity, as an International NGO aiming to build homeowner's dignity and independence through building communities, has built 300,000 houses, without regard to race, religion or personal background. Now, Habitat has activities over 100 countries and regions, and is building a house every 21 minutes in the world.

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Japan Update Special Edition

Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project 09 Report (11/15~20)



From the left, Jimmy Carter, Hidetoshi Nakata, Jet Li

A number of accommodation units are no better than huts that can barely shelter the residents from sunshine, wind and rain. In reality, those accommodation units don't even provide the bare necessities for life. JRCWP09 and the building of 166 houses launched a mid-term to long term scheme to provide continuous support over the next 5 years throughout the 5 countries in the watershed area of the Mekong River.

Team Japan to build Hope for the Niran family!

This time, 15 volunteers participated the project from Japan to be assigned to work on the House No.8, one of the 82 houses built at the Chiang Mai site.



The homeowners of the House No.8 are Niran and his wife Manatchayaa. They are living in an old wooden townhouse with termite infestation and in disrepair. In order to take better care of their 9-year-old daughter, they wish to improve the environment adequate for her to grow and study.

Unlike a typical November, it was very hot in Chiang



Chiang Mai site at the Final day

Mai. Sunlight was so strong that some volunteers suffered from the heat. But being inspired by Niran and Manatchayaa working so hard and sincerely, the team could continue with the work till the house was a near completion.



Chiang Mai site before the project started

On the final day, the house was almost completed. The member of Team Japan got together in the house and celebrated the House Dedication. The moment the house key was presented to Niran was more impressive than anything else. Then, by the end of January, a majority of the 82 families including the Nirans will have moved into their new homes.

2010: Jimmy Carter in Washington D.C.

This year, the project will move back to the United States and will be held from October 3rd to 8th, coinciding with the World Habitat Day on the first Monday in October each year. JRCWP10 is expected as a time to reflect on the state of towns and cities and the basic right to adequate shelter for all people. (by Shintaro Yamamoto of HFH Japan)

Participants' Voices

I have experienced many construction projects but the latest project was different from the others before. Everything was so big and everyday there was one surprise after another! I found a new appeal and potential of Habitat through the experience of building houses with as many as 2000 volunteers. (Takumi Okamura, Kansai Univ.)



In the middle of the photo

Participants' Voices

The scene of so many houses being built at the same time was spectacular. I felt that I had experienced a wonderful week of working hard in a theme park which mixed American style entertainment with Thai hospitality. I would like to see how the 82 families have been getting along living in their new homes. (Kei Makino, Company employee)





Japan Update Special Edition

Meeting with Former Mayor of Yokohama



Discover the World through Breaking a Sweet, It is a Ever-lasting Experience

Inviting the former Mayor of Yokohama, Mr. Hiroshi Nakada, we had a talk session on the future of Habitat's program. Along with the advices, former mayor Nakada gave us his compliments and compassion for how

Habitat makes volunteering easy. When the topic shifts to the involvement of Japanese youth, Mr. Nakada stated "being a part of the movement to promote community independence, putting physical labor and breaking a sweat, discovering the world; these experiences are all important assets for the leaders of tomorrow." Working toward "rebuilding Japan," Mr. Nakada's words of hope sounded all so possible. This talk session was a strong force against our backs on our daily efforts bringing changes to the world and to Japan. (HFH Japan) ★ Habitat Japan is mentioned on "Weekly Nakada Hiroshi" in the msn Sankei News:

<http://sankei.jp.msn.com/politics/local/091206/10912060703000-n3.htm>

National Chapters Workshop in Shizuoka

At National Chuo Youth Friendship Center in Shizuoka, Habitat Japan's student chapters (Campus Chapters and Campus Clubs) gathered to join a national workshop. The workshop was aimed to exchange and deepen the understanding of Habitat's and their fellow chapters' works. (by Akira Kajikawa and Asaki Nagaoka of Aoyama Gakuin Univ. CClub)

There is a great variety amongst these Campus Chapters (CC) and Campus Clubs (CClub), while some has more than 100 members and others are just starting up with less than 10 members. Representatives of 15 chapters from all over the country gathered to proceed with the programmed activities.

Two Objectives of the Workshop

While the workshop was aimed to exchange and deepen the understanding of Habitat's and their fellow chapters' works, there were two main objectives. One was to join the lecture by



Habi-Bito

Ms. Misa Saigo
Cosmos Initia Co., Ltd.

The volunteers from Cosmos Initia Co., Ltd. joined the house building program in Bangkok, Thailand in the summer of 2009.

Ms. Misa Saigo, a leader of the team proposed the in-house competition to join the program. Whoever wanted to join it have to set their own goals which are saving certain amount of money, succeeding in dieting, achieving one's sales target, etc.

Ms. Saigo established a support group that provided the scholarship to the students from abroad (the street children in Vietnam) when she was a student and her awareness to social contribution became the motive of joining the house building program.



She says that achieving CSR is not easy but getting customer trusts is a part of CSR as well. She works even on holidays as a sales person and believes that everything will be good experience for her.

Where does her strength come from? It seems to be in the toughness of lacrosse she practiced in her school days. It is important for her to continue her social contribution activities involving her surroundings. (by Haruna Maki of Waseda Univ. CClub)

Habitat Japan and have discussion on its work, and another was to participate in the team building activity through cooking curry for dinner, without a recipe. Many participants met for the first time, yet they figured out their roles in teams throughout the day and appreciated one another's company. It was such a success and the promise for planning a improved version of workshop next year.

Participants' Voices

The biggest gift I got participating the workshop would be meeting people who are strangers to me but has the similar goals. With many of them, I could have many simple conversations to deep discussions. Also, getting inspired by the other university chapters' work was a great gain for me. In these two days, I was reminded that "everything starts from my first step, and there are a lot of things I can start." I would definitely join the next workshop.

(Yurie Seshimo, Kanda University of Foreign Studies)

