

HFHJ Newsletter

BUILDING HOUSES, BUILDING HOPE 

Issue #19 October 2010

One Year After Carter Work Project 09 –The impact of a Home–

One year has been passing after the Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project (JRCWP09) united volunteers and families in need of decent, affordable housing in the Mekong region in November, 2009. Habitat built with nearly 166 families in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and China's Sichuan Province. In the weeks and months since the 3,000 volunteers from 32 countries departed, the families had been moving into their new homes and starting their new lives. This makes an one year reports on the lives of 82 families at Nong Kon Kru, the main site of the JRCWP09, a suburban district, a half hour drive from the north of Chiang Mai in northern Thailand. (HFH Japan)



A "New Community" takes shape

The dedication in January of a community center at Nong Kon Kru marked a new beginning for 82 families. "We gave a name to this community in Thai, *Ban Mai Sa Makee*, which means 'New Community, New Unity'," said Habitat home partner and leader of the community Kumsaen Suon.

Among the first was vegetable seller Guan Matip. She was only too glad to bid farewell to her old house built over a polluted canal and prone to flooding during the annual rainy season. "I always thought that it would be impossi-

ble to have my own cement house in a clean new community, but my dream has come true."

Another Habitat home partner Chunksam Duangtip said "The community here has been very successful with working together ever since we began to contribute sweat equity (before the build week). This was very helpful in bringing the families together and getting to know one another prior to the build."

The impact upon nursing

Already the community is changing. Several families have added extensions. Others have started businesses in their homes. The houses are all well maintained showing the pride that the families take in their homes.

One of the greatest impacts has been

the creation of a secure and healthier living environment for children to play and grow.

For sustainable development

In one year after the JRCWP09 was held in 5 countries along the Mekong River, Habitat has shifted to a community support which is emphasizing on sustainability and health of the lives of families. This is Habitat's way and JRCWP10 is being carried out to build, rehabilitate and repair 86 houses in communities across the United States.



Corporate Support : Building a House with Thai Family

On Aug 30th, the volunteers of "Japan Hope Builders" completed their mission in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Receiving financial support from Daiwa House Industry Co., Ltd as the last year, the team helped building a house that would be a new start for the homeowner family; Surin's family... <To be continued to the 3rd page>





Japan Update



The First Trip to Bali, Indonesia by Ritsumeikan Univ. Team : Aug 29–Sep 13



Passing the bucket of cement



With homeowner family

Do you know the reality of Bali ?

Bali is very familiar as a tourist spot worldwide, but its particularity is said to be the only Hindu island in Indonesia which consists of more than 17,000 islands. Bali is the island in which the economic discrepancy as of the tourist spot and the caste system from Hinduism exist.

Our mission of a Global Village Program (GV) was to build a house in Gigit district, the northern part of Bali. Gigit is one of the poorest areas in Bali, and the local Habitat staff said that it was also Habitat's mission to remove the class discrepancy of the status in Gigit. The homeowner whom we met applied for the Habitat house in need of adequate housing for bringing up their children. Achieving their dream, we started to build a house of concrete blocks in where there were not even foundations of the house. The first day of the work started smoothing the ground, then making the props, and continued making the walls by laying bricks with cement until the last day. The words "Work as a team" said by the Habitat staff touched our heart when the buckets were relayed by all members. Although we couldn't complete building the house because of heavy rains and a religious event, the bond

From this summer, Habitat Japan has sent GV teams to one of the attractive tourist spots for beach, Bali in Indonesia. Rits Habitat from Ritsumeikan University is among the teams and will report activities about their Bali GV including preparation in Japan. (by Tatsuya Yoshikawa & Nami Hasegawa of Ritsumeikan Univ.CC)

between the local people and the team and also among the team arose in these memorable 16 days.

Thankful to all support given to us!!

This summer before joining Bali GV, we did both street fund raising and fund raising from stores. We visited one store to another in Gion area in Kyoto to get a support by showing them our project summary under the heat of midsummer. This is something we could have done because we are students. We are so thankful to be able to visit 67 stores in 2 days and received the financial support from 2 stores. It gave us a valuable experience of learning people's warm heart, the severity of society and also the easy thinking we tend to have. "It would surely be trivial in this summer if we didn't join this GV. Though we'll miss all our work we have done for this Bali in Japan, we'd like to tell what we have learnt among friends and the society" said members of the GV. We'd like to thank everyone who has supported us such as donors, the homeowner family, the local carpenters and the Habitat staffs!



Street fund raising

Habi-Bito

Build with everyone! Mr. Hiroshi Ishii points out a charm of Habitat so. Before encountering with Habitat, he thought of himself as "a person who can do anything by himself."



Mr. Ishii encountered Habitat when he was working in sales for a travel agency. Because he

Mr. Hiroshi Ishii Regus Japan K.K.

wanted to "help people abroad," he joined a Global Village Program (GV) in Thailand in 2007. "I was overwhelmed by good spirits and warm hearts of young people who joined the GV trip by doing many part-time jobs to take part in international cooperation." He recalls his impression as such. Also he says, "I did build houses thanks to everyone. I naturally felt the kindness for people by human connection I had through this GV".

After returning Japan, Mr. Ishii sought what he could do for the youth involved in Habitat activity while working and started to give advice about travel mat-

ters such as passport and visa acquisition at GV trainings. He says, "I've been joining in regular meetings and trying to listen to young people who are eager to participate in GV."

In 2009, he joined the Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project (JRCWP09). He worked with thousands of volunteers thinking "what can I do for people in need?," and built 82 houses. "It could have done thanks to everyone!"

"Start with something I can do. Listening to young people, meeting people who has the same will. What is important is such connections." Mr. Ishii tries to do something one by one and aims to participate in one GV per year. (by Rena Karino of Aoyama Gakuin Univ. CClub)



Japan Update



Corporate Support : Habitat Premium Night with Oakwood !!

August 19th, "Habitat Premium Night" was held at Oakwood Premier Tokyo Midtown. Over 60 people from 50 different companies and organizations, including Habitat supporters, had joined the event.

At the event, the participants enjoyed the movies and slideshows from Habitat's activities around the world, and Habitat trivia quiz for raffle prizes provided by both Habitat and Oakwood. Some of the guests told us "Drinking wine at such a luxurious lounge but still for a good cause, I love it !", "All the guests are very experienced people from many different industries. I can't believe it's organized by an NGO, but sure a great change for me to network," and "I joined the party without knowing

Habitat Japan opened a fundraising party in Roppongi, Tokyo. Celebrating its 50th anniversary of foundation, it was hosted by Oakwood Premier Tokyo Midtown, a company that provides apartment services in about 30 countries, as part of its social action program. (by Shintaro Yamamoto of HFH Japan)

anything about Habitat, but I actually learnt a lot from the photos and games." It seemed that everyone got to enjoy the night off from the Tokyo's heat, with a little bit of learning about Habitat's worldwide programs.

The event raised the total of 166,000

yen (approx. US\$2,000) and the whole amount is donated toward the next spring's house building program in Thailand. Habitat Japan thanks Oakwood Premier Tokyo Midtown and all participants for their kind contribution to support Habitat's activities.



Building Hope in Chiang Mai, Thailand

with Globe-Trotter
(Chikyu-no-Arukikata)

<From the 1st page>...Habitat Thailand has been building nearly 600 houses in Chiang Mai area since 1998. With the homeowner family and local carpenters, 12 volunteers (among them are 9 students)



Laying bricks for wall

worked hard on making concrete, laying bricks of walls and digging a hole for septic tanks for 8 days. After the last day's work, volunteers presented a house key to the homeowner. He expressed his full gratitude, fighting back tears. Tears also welled up in the volunteers eyes and all promised to see again each other. Aside from the work, volunteers enjoyed visiting a local elementary school, the JRCWP09 Habitat village (see page 1), and also a sightseeing in Chiang Mai. Next trips will be held in the coming Spring and the recruitment is to start soon; Join us building hope overseas. Your participation can

make a difference. You will build a house for people in need and learn the reality of the world while touching a different culture. (by Noriko Takahashi of HFH Japan)



House dedication

CC/CCLub Joint Workshop

~2 days for raising new awareness~

The 2nd Joint workshop of east and west of CCs was held in Gotenba, Shizuoka on Sep. 25th and 26th. 100 students from Habitat Japan's 15 CCs/CCLubs and also from Nagoya University of Foreign Studies scheduling their first GV trip in next February united together under the theme "Exchange & Understanding~ 2 days for raising new awareness". On the 1st day, as Workshop A, 10 teams of each 10 members worked on making the supper of the night without a recipe. They cooked assigned menus, discussing and helping each other regardless of their universities and years. The next day, participants joined Workshop B titled "Solving the poverty housing issue ~How you can develop a housing project?". Trying to have a good mix of the broader angle and their GV's grassroots experience, they created their original, unique plans from the viewpoint of Habitat's policy makers. (HFH Japan)



Habitat @ Global Festa Japan 2010 : Oct 2nd-3rd

Habitat Japan participated the biggest annual international cooperation event in Japan, "Global Festa Japan 2010." Marking the year of due for the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), some 106,000 people has gathered under the sunny autumn sky for a common cause.

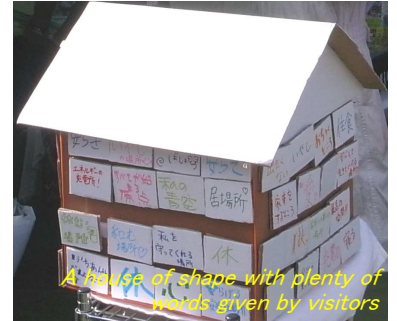
Student volunteers at the Habitat booth asked a question to all visitors; "What does a house mean to you?" The booth exhibition was designed to raise awareness on the global



poverty housing issue and Habitat's efforts to overcome it as it is an essential to a decent human living. Along with the photos and panels on the walls, the visitors had plenty

opportunities to hear the voices of the student volunteers of CCs/ CClubs in person who had experienced Global Village Program(GV).

The visitors also enjoyed writing the brick-shaped cards with their answers to the question



above, to fill the walls of a model box house. Sharing words like "relaxation", "necessity", "rest" and so on, they formed a house of hope. (This model house will be used as a donation box at upcoming events.)

This fruitful two-day event also gave opportunities for student volunteers to meet and exchange thoughts with the fellow volunteers, young and old visitors who share a common interest in international cooperation. (by Toshiyuki Sugawara of Meiji Gakuin Univ.CC)

Announcement

We are happy to announce that we have two new Campus Clubs; C-Habitat at Chuo University and KOBE Gaidai Habitat at Kobe City Univ. of Foreign Studies! Also WHABITAT at Waseda Univ. has become a Campus Chapter after their two years of active involvement in Habitat's activities as a Campus Club. To know them more, go to the "Youth Program" section on our web site. (HFH Japan)

Editor's Note

Welcome home to all 21 teams/350 volunteers who traveled overseas to join GV programs. Also, a team of 12 volunteers is now working in Pokhara, Nepal for the Habitat's global event "Everest Build"(Oct 3rd-8th). The program is to build 40 sustainable bamboo houses with 600 volunteers from the world. We will be reporting this in the next newsletter. (HFH Japan)

LIST OF DONATIONS AND GRANTS (2010.7.1-9.30)

7/16	野崎 元廣	3,000
7/30	(特活) 国際協力NGOセンター	116,400
8/19	オークウッドプレミア東京ミッドタウン	166,000
8/23	American School in Japan	133,173
8/26	稲垣 寛樹	3,000
9/15	オークウッドプレミア東京ミッドタウン	35,000
9/30	榎ネプロアイティ (募金箱)	468
9/30	オークウッドプレミア東京ミッドタウン	2,156

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 350,000 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.

#401 CHARI Sendagaya
1-13-11 Sendagaya, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 151-0051
Tel: 03-6459-2070 / Fax: 03-6459-2071
URL: www.habitatjp.org / Email: info@habitatjp.org

Published by : Hiroshi Oda
Edited by : K. Yamazaki, N. Takahashi, S. Yamamoto,
J. Tam, F. Nakagawa

OFFICE LOCATION CHANGE NOTIFICATION

This is to inform you that we have moved our premise as indicated in the left column on the 16th September 2010.

Please note that your primary contact and all billing, shipping and mailing address will be changed. Our URL and E-mail address are remained as in the past.

