



# HFHJ Newsletter



BUILDING HOUSES, BUILDING HOPE

Issue # 20 January 2011

## The Everest Build: 700 Volunteers Complete 40 Houses

For October 2nd-8th, 2010, the Everest Build in Pokhara, Nepal united volunteers and families in need and built 40 new bamboo houses in 6 days. This program was undertaken by about 500 international volunteers from eight countries, including Japan, New Zealand, Australia and the USA, alongside 200 local volunteers, being one of the biggest blitz builds in Asia-Pacific region in 2010 as well as the Blue Sky Build in Mongolia. Habitat Japan sent 12 volunteers to join the effort and completed two houses between them, working with Kiwi volunteers. (Shintaro Yamamoto of HFH Japan)



*Volunteers & families of house No.13*

### Local Needs and Habitat

Habitat Nepal was established in 1997 and has now served more than 6,000 families. Currently, Habitat Nepal hopes to reach an additional 5,000 families in the next two years. The Everest Build was specially programmed not only to celebrate more than a decade of Habitat's work in Nepal, but also to shine a light on the scourge of sub-standard housing by bringing hundreds of volunteers from all over the world.

### Building Hope under the Root of Mt. Everest

12 volunteers from Japan built 2 houses - numbers 13 and 14. Because volunteers requested Habitat to make multinational teams this time, Japanese volunteers too were split into two separate groups of 6 and sweated with other volunteers

from New Zealand and Nepal.

The bamboo houses constructed this time are quite unique and almost all the volunteers were beginners at building this type of house. Especially cutting it into strips of equal thickness was difficult, and the teams worked hard for this throughout the build. The team took turns at different tasks and made a full use of tools like a sickle and chisel, aiming to produce the best work that they could.

Working with Kiwi volunteers,

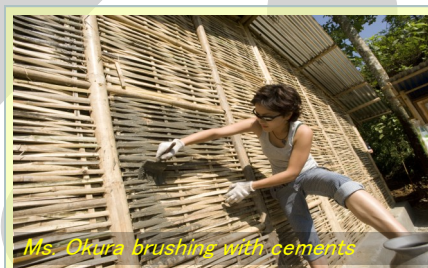
Japanese volunteers felt naturally shy on the first day, but they gradually started to relax, with Kiwi volunteers learning Japanese and telling some jokes. Besides, the homeowner family fully participated in the construction of their new house and everyone was impressed and encouraged to see them working not for the reason that it is the rule.

### Nepal's President Attends Closing



*President cutting a ribbon*

On the final day, Nepalese President Ram Baran Yadav attended for the closing ceremony and celebrated the completion of the project and future work with Habitat by cutting the ribbon of new houses. Although they were naturally nervous at meeting the President, the homeowner families were able to share their gratitude and many tears of happiness were shed.



*Ms. Okura brushing with cements*

■ Volunteer's Voice : The days in Nepal have been the most meaningful of my life. I will never forget things that I experienced with my own eyes and hands. After I returned home, I have thought more about how I can help to make a world that's easier for everyone to live. I can say building with Habitat is an experience that can change us for the rest of our life. (Ms. Eri Okura)



*Splitting bamboo sticks to tuck into the wall*



## One Year Later: Habitat Keeps Building Hope in Haiti



*Camps are stretching to rural north of the country (Zoranje)*

### 2,000 T-shelters to be Completed Soon

Since the quake, Habitat with its 300 staffs have been working tirelessly to help the Haitian people rebuild. As for transitional shelters, Habitat has provided to more than 1,000 families in Cabaret and Léogâne with a total of 2,000 scheduled to be completed by the end of January, accelerating the pace up to 20 shelters per day.

Habitat set a goal of serving 50,000 families over five years and in 2011 transitional shelters remain one of the most important focuses. Habitat is now aiming to deliver 7,000 of them by the end of next summer.

Because Haiti is one of poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere, land ownership was a complicated problem before the quake. And it is murkier now due to all the deaths in that tragedy. Habitat has been working with Clinton Global Initiative, the Haitian government

January 12 recorded one year anniversary after a magnitude-7.0 earthquake in Haiti that killed over 200,000 people and destroyed nearly 190,000 homes. In the affected areas, visible progress has been painfully slow and 1.3 million survivors are still displaced and living in tent camps. Real recovery can take years and thus real effort may start from now. (HFH Japan)

and other stakeholders to create a clear land title so that the pace of recovery will pick up tremendously.

### Cholera Outbreak: Death Toll Rises over 3,500

A widespread cholera outbreak has compounded the suffering of families. Habitat and its partner All Hands Volunteers (AHV) have build more than 200 latrines and delivered 750 hygiene kits. In addition to them, Habitat is supporting the families to participate in hygiene promotion classes led by AHV that covered household disinfection as well as cholera awareness and treatment. It is now critical to move families as quickly as possible from camps into safe and decent housing.



*Habitat's T-shelters (Cabaret)*



*Family living in a T-shelter*

## Habi-Bito

Mr. William Perera tells us “the real strength of Habitat is in its method that builds long-lasting support structures.”



Currently working as Education Director of a British cultural center in Japan, where he manages the sale and operation of training programs for schools and businesses.

### Mr. William Perera British Hills. Co. Ltd.

Mr. William was born in England and came to Japan via the Japan Exchange Teaching (JET) program in 2001. As a JET in Gunma prefecture, he taught English in local schools for three years, during which he made his first encounter with Habitat’s Global Village Program (GV). “In the beginning I felt that GV was just a chance to give something to help those less fortunate.” he said, “but in working alongside the local people and actually enjoying their friendship and kindness, I came to regard it less as a gift and more as an exchange – in the end, I felt that I received far more than I gave.”

A year later, he led another GV trip hoping that more people know how wonderful experience GV could be. “Recruiting and preparing the team, organising fund-raising events was a big challenge for me, but in retrospect I can see how meeting these challenges helped me to grow, both personally and professionally.”

Besides teaching and supporting the development of the youth in Japan, Mr. William has recently completed a master’s degree in development management. “There are many ways to be involved in international development. I am working to develop my own skills so that I can then apply them to supporting Habitat for Humanity further and better in the future.” (HFH Japan)



# Japan Update

## 75 Nissan Homes of Hope in India ~ Homeowner Story ~

**K**. Saroja (60 years old) is residing in No. 64. Her husband passed away years back. As a widow, she struggled through life and did odd jobs to make ends meet. She does not work at present and is living with a son who works as a daily waged laborer and earns 3,000 rupees per month on an average.

For many years, they have been liv-



Current House



K. Saroja on the building site

The Nissan project to assist 75 below-poverty-line families in Mangadu, India to reside in a decent shelter is progressing well except for the continuous rains in the month of November. As of December, 2010, 64 houses have been almost completed and the final touches are underway. (HFH Japan)

ing in a small house with a plinth area of 180 sq ft. The house was not built with good materials so the structure gave way to rain water seeping into the house. It became inconvenient for her to live in such conditions. She found out the governmental fund, providing a house under the Basic Services to the Urban Poor scheme. However, it was not sufficient to complete a house. At that time, she learnt of Habitat and

sent an application for support. After the assessment, she was selected to be a beneficiary in the project.

Saroja is very thankful for the assistance of the Nissan project. She did not have a toilet facility in her old house, but now with the toilet, she feels the one attached to her house provides her with the privacy necessary. Today, she feels more secure at night and has no worry about cracked walls and leaking roofs.

## Corporate Support: Credit Suisse Team Build 2010

Continuing from the last year's collaboration, Credit Suisse and Habitat Japan had the second annual "Credit Suisse Team Build 2010" at Asian Rural Institute in Nishi-nasuno, Tochigi. (Shintaro Yamamoto of HFH Japan)

**T**he Credit Suisse team built a poultry house and racks for firewood; in hopes to provide better learning grounds for ARI students who are here to become community leaders in their home communities in Asian and African countries. The fence around the free-range poultry house that the team built last year helped greatly in raising the chickens. ARI therefore requested to build

another poultry house this year.

The work started from raising the stilts. But the rain from the previous day left the ground muddy and hard for the team to secure the foundation for the stilts. After trial and error including laying of the foundation with cement and leveling the uneven height of stilts, volunteers completed the frame of the poultry house. The

firewood racks are essential to housing of the fire woods for heating in winter. They constructed them, handling power tools. A volunteer said, "I am so tired, but had such a productive day. I am already looking forward to the build next year!"



## Join Us Building Houses in Thailand !! 2011 Spring



**C**ontinuing from last summer, we will build houses this spring at Chiang Mai, the second largest city in Thailand, for the local residents who are in poverty or suffering damages by natural disaster. The building of the houses will only take place where the safety standards are fulfilled. Any constructing skills and experience are not necessarily required!

In addition to building houses, we plan to visit the local orphanage, kindergarten or elementary school and the biggest

Habitat community site in Asia Pacific where 82 Habitat houses were built. You can communicate with the local families and children, do sightseeing at Chiang Mai, and have a farewell party on the last day.

If you feel interested, please visit Habitat Japan's website! (HFH Japan)

### ◆ TRIP SCHEDULE TO CHIANG MAI ◆

- ① Feb 22th (Tue) ~ Mar 1st (Tue)
- ② Mar 8th (Tue) ~ Mar 15th (Tue)

## Habitat Campus Chapters across Japan to Raise Funds for Haiti

On December 18 and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010, 13 Campus Chapters (CCs: Habitat Japan's student support groups) hosted the nationwide donation drive for Haiti. About 300 student volunteers split into 14 locations across the country, from Chiba in Kanto area to Oita in Kyushu area. In hopes to raise awareness and funds for earthquake recovery in Haiti, the students bowed and talked

to the passer-bys and resulted in about 1 million yen (approximately US\$12,000) raised in just two days.

One of the leaders of this event was Mr. Yuta Taka of Kwansei Gakuin Uegahara Habitat CC from Kwansei Gakuin University in Kobe. He said "A year has passed since the earthquake and the people have started to forget that it happened. We organized this drive hoping to bring back the public interest in the matter. When I was on the streets, I actually felt that many people were reminded of the tragedy that happened to the people in Haiti."

In 1995, Kobe city where Mr. Yuta is studying had experienced the massive earthquake. Thanks to the aids received nationally and internationally, the city seems to be restored now. Though it has been 16 years, the memory is still fresh for those who survived. "Haiti maybe on the other side of the earth, there must be something we can do in Japan." The young powers came together to preserve the spirit of coexistence. (HFH Japan)



### LIST OF DONATIONS AND GRANTS (2010.10.1-12.31)

10/1	(特活) 国際協力NGOセンター	3,752
10/5	関西学院大学 (上ヶ原ハビタット)	13,923
10/25	関西学院大学 (Eco-Habitat)	100,006
10/25	中島 龍生	10,000
12/2	宗教法人カトリックイエズス会	20,000
12/8	立命館大学 (Rits Habitat)	315,670
12/8	稲垣 寛樹	3,000
12/9	明治学院高等学校 (オリーブ祭実行委員会)	111,270
12/17	西那須野幼稚園	19,920

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE SUPPORT!

### Coming TWP Schedule

- Date & Time: Start at 19:30 on Feb 22<sup>th</sup>, 2011
- Place: Ben's Café (at Takadanobaba)
- TWP is a café-style forum for people interested and/or involved in Habitat and a chance to meet and learn from each other!!

### Editor's Note

Happy new year to all!! Last year, the world faced several natural threats: following the massive hit in Haiti, a series of quakes and floods continued to hit over the world. Habitat offices join forces to fuel the disaster response projects each time, and the collective contributions from Japan became a part of this great effort.

We sincerely appreciate your contribution and support to us. It was also a memorable year as Habitat marked 400,000 houses built and renovated (2 million people benefited) since Habitat was founded in 1976. To achieve the world where everyone has a decent place to live, we would love a pleasure of your active involvement and continuous support to us. (HFH Japan)



Since established in 1976, Habitat for Humanity, as an International NGO aiming to build homeowner's dignity and independence through building communities, has built 400,000 houses, without regard to race, religion or personal background. Now, Habitat has activities about 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](http://www.habitatjp.org) / Email: [info@habitatjp.org](mailto: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 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

