

HFHJ Newsletter

Issue # 22 July 2011

Tohoku : Project “Rebuilding Japan” started with Habitat Volunteers

It has been already 4 months since the 3.11 disaster. Civilians, the governments, and also those affected have been uniting their efforts to bring about the fastest recovery possible. And in April, Habitat started a disaster response project named “Rebuilding Japan” and has dispatched volunteers to Ofunato and Rikuzentakata in Iwate prefecture. Since Golden Week, though it’s said the number of volunteers throughout Japan has been rapidly decreasing, the demand remains as high as ever. Habitat with its volunteers is now keep helping survivors in need through a grass-rooted approach where heavy machinery can hardly reach. (HFH Japan)



Volunteers remove debris from a ditch

Habitat volunteers has been cleaning up residences and shops since June, working with the homeowners who survived the disasters to remove mud and damaged sheetrock, and organizing lost belongings.



His house after tsunami

On March 11...

One of the homeowners Mr. Masaharu Sato told about his experience to the volunteers.

At the time of the earthquake, he was in a meeting at the printing company where he worked. As soon as he heard the tsunami warnings being broadcast by fire trucks patrolling the area, he ran outside and saw the whitish water of the encroaching tsunami. Fortunately he was able to escape to high ground in his car. When

he returned to his house the next day, he found the frame of his house still intact but his possessions scattered everywhere. It was a terrible scene to witness, but he said he feels glad to “to still have a house at all.”

“I Thank You for Habitat”

The volunteers in his house removed the nails and screws from the floor-



Shovels are the only way to remove mud from under the floor

ing one by one, and also the 10 cm of mud that had accumulated under his floorboards. They have recovered some precious mementos, bringin a smile to Mr. Sato’s usually stoic face. They removed about 30 bags of mud from his house. “I am so grateful that they came,” said Mr. Sato. Even though he and his family is facing a grave situation and there is so much more work to be done, the volunteers are being cheered on and



A foundation remains under all of that mud

motivated by the strength and fortitude that he expressed.

To Long-term, Larger Support

Habitat Japan plans distributing “Home Starter Kits” that will contain basic supplies, tools, and daily necessities that are essential to equipping a house into homes, in addition to sending volunteers continuously. Also, possible future activities include rebuilding not only houses, but also the sense of community in areas with temporary shelters. Improving living conditions, providing child care, and ensuring that elderly people do not die alone are just a few items on the to-do list.



We organized Disaster Response Team @ Habitat Japan office
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Sri Lanka : Habitat Japan Helps Lives of Refugees & Disaster Survivors

Post-war Resettlement: 18 Core Houses Now Under Construction

The project was originally designed for implementation in Jaffna, a district at the Northern end of the island. However the Sri Lankan government released a special requirement to Habitat to change the location, right before the start date. After series of adjustments and assessments, we have decided to move to Mannar district, as we came to realize that it was one of the most desperate for core house needs of war returnees. In Neelasenai area, we are operating a project to build 18 houses. Under the direct sun light and strong sandy wind from the beach nearby, staff and the local engineers' hard work is essential to such progress. The homeowners are also actively involved in the construction of their own homes to be. At times, new neighbors help one another make foundations. One of such homeowners, Mr. Mayilvahanam told us "joining the construction is my least



Mannar: Homeowners work for their houses as "Sweat Equity"

In April, Habitat Japan started two projects in Sri Lanka in partnership with Habitat Sri Lanka and the Japan Platform. In the north, we build 18 core houses for returning refugees after war, on the other hand in the east, to deliver shelter kits for those affected by water disaster. (Shintaro Yamamoto, HFH Japan)

duty I can do because this will be my house. I want to work hard to build a good home for my family." Since the end of last civil war, more and more displaced peoples are returning to their communities, however, the situation is complicated that the reality waiting for them is not always a rosy one. Habitat Japan will continue to support these returnees in need of better living condition and peace in the Northern Sri Lanka.



Batticaloa: Homeowners in front of the Habitat shelter

Eastern Flood Relief: All Kits Delivered

On the Eastern side of the island, we are operating a shelter kit project for the survivors of Jan-Feb's floods in Batticaloa district. The kit distribution will complete by August, helping approximately 1000 people. While the shelter construction using these kits are under way as well as the needs are shifting from rescue to rehabilitation phase, we are transferring the operation to Habitat Sri Lanka.

Habi-Bito

Mr. Ko Miyake

Intern for Youth Programs at Habitat Japan

After completing a year as a former president of one of the Habitat Japan's biggest student groups with 150 members, Mr. Ko Miyake has now been working as an intern at Habitat Japan since this April. As his sincere words "Habitat has let me grow up a lot" tell us, he has been joining a Global Village (GV) program 4 times and has learned a lot through these experiences.

"All the members have worked on GV by full strength, so I have led the team by responding to their desire."

He says that while experiencing the leader, it became his custom to talk after considering how the others may react to it. Moreover, he learned to admit to his insufficiencies and depend on other members. "I think that I grew up by coming to know what being requested, and learning how to take the lead."

Though he has obtained a lot through Habitat, there are a lot more he wants to challenge. His desire extends to the present, and he is helping for the Youth Programs that supports the activities of the Habitat

Japan's student groups as well as the Tohoku disaster response program.

"I would like to absorb a lot more things by relating to the activities from a different standpoint from before." Integrating all of his experiences, he now considers how activities of the student groups can be more united into Habitat Japan's objectives. (HFH Japan)





Japan Update

Rebuild Today : Reports from the Tohoku Volunteers

Ms. Mayumi Ochsner Fujita

“Ever Expanding Circles of Help”

In her first time volunteer trip, Ms. Fujita got to clean houses and rice field by removing debris. “Seeing things that should belong in homes, like plates, clothes and memorabilia, in the middle of rice fields saddened me so much. It just brought me to tears as I was reminded of the fact that there were people living here before but not anymore.” “I am also surprised how much



Ms. Ochsner

stronger I feel for the survivors and my urge to help now that I’ve done it once,” she shared with her family. After hearing her

In April, Habitat Japan started to engage volunteers into the project “Rebuilding Japan”. Many people have been joining the teams with enthusiasm to help the survivors. Amongst those students and business workers gathered together, here are two of those volunteers’ stories. (HFH Japan)

stories, her brother joined the next team and her father is also wanting to experience what moved his children. The circles of help is expanding like ripples in water.

Mr. Ryota Ezaki

“I’ll do what I can do for the survivors”

All the way from Kansai, Mr. Ezaki from a Habitat Japan’s student group traveled to Tokyo the night before by bus to join the trip. He kept humble but excited to go into the disaster area. He was in a team that cleaned a Japanese inn for reopening someday. “I was impressed to see the survivors



Mr. Ezaki cleaning the inn (on the right)

looking and actually moving forward, even after their homes are washed away.” He seemed content as he told us how “this experience definitely has a huge impact on my future.” On July 9-10th, he led nine student groups in Kansai area and successfully hosted a fundraising event for the “Rebuilding Japan Project.”

Youth Programs : Students Across Japan Promotes Habitat

< Kansai Event >

An informative meeting “En” run by the student associations that work on the international cooperation was held at Kyoto University of Foreign Studies on May 15. To make Habitat’s activity known to the students in Kansai, 7 Campus Chapters (CCs: Habitat Japan’s student support groups) in Kansai area, namely JCC Kansai exhibited a combination booth to show both the world’s poverty housing issue and Habitat’s international house building volunteer program (Global Village Program: GV). Using many photographs made it easy for the audience to understand what Habitat does. As a result, 277 students came to visit and commented that they are interested in the program and joining the group.



I’d like to stay involved and develop my group’s activities more aggressively as JCC Kansai to spread Habitat’s work. (by Arata Kita, Kwansai Gakuin Univ. CClub)

< Kanto Event >

7 Campus Chapters (CCs: Habitat Japan’s

student support groups) in Kanto area, namely JCC Kanto, came together to hold a forum session to welcome freshmen, at JICA Global Plaza on June 4. It was a new project which JCC Kanto had prepared for many months, to bond with one another. Gathering nearly 100 freshmen, the theme was to raise awareness about the world’s poverty housing issue and Habitat’s work against it, by presentations, photos and movies. The fun part included the GV Sugoroku (a board game where players move forward by rolling dice), played with the teams divided by the members past volunteer experiences with Habitat. After the game, we shared everyone’s thoughts on the game and what they felt by playing it. Some mentioned “a house is the place where humans start and end each day”, and “poverty means that there’s no choice for the future.”

This four hours packed with informative activities was a great chance for the freshmen to know the activity of Habitat while having fun. (HFH Japan)





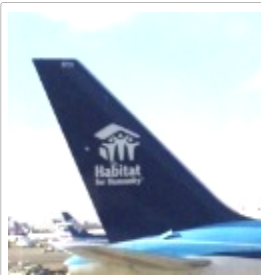
Japan Update

Housing Grants from Prestigious ILBS



Habitat Japan is to receive grants of one million yen from ILBS (International Ladies Benevolent Society), and attended the presentation ceremony held in French Embassy on June 7. Last October, Habitat Japan was invited to the ILBS's regular and did the presentation about our activities that was assessed this time. This grants will be used for our housing programs in Asia Pacific. ILBS is a welfare organization established in 1953 in which the ambassadors, wives of politicians and royal families at times participate, and it helps social charitable activities domestically or internationally.

Habitat Jet Touches Down at Narita !



Delta Air Lines Boeing 767-300 flies throughout the world, featuring a unique Habitat logo. The "Habitat Jet" land also in Japan and take off to the world. Habitat has partnered with Delta as their first official "Force for Global Good" partner since 2006.

Editor's Note : Since the 3.11 disaster, Habitat Japan has been working on the project named "Rebuilding Japan" in addition to the regular activities to fight against poverty housing around the world. While we have been receiving many letters of gratitude from the people we met through the project in Tohoku, the desperate reality doesn't seem to have an ending even after four months has passed. Now is the time that we unite to realize "A world where everyone has a decent place to live" in the world and in Japan. HFH Japan team highly appreciates your continuous support.

LIST OF DONATIONS AND GRANTS (2011.4.1-6.30)

4/01	疇地 里美	10,000
4/04	大山 舞	2,000
4/05	田部井 彩子	5,000
4/07	饗場 和彦	8,000
4/11	岡村 匠	10,000
4/12	勝原 万理	13,230
4/12	福沢 雅子	10,000
4/13	関西学院大学 (上ヶ原ハビタット)	289,165
4/13	早稲田大学 (WHABITAT)	286,704
4/15	(特活)国際協力NGOセンター	202,514
4/18	前田 智之	10,000
4/19	山上 義明	5,000
4/25	早稲田大学 (WHABITAT)	109,971
4/28	Watanabe, Minori (米国)	34,516
5/06	Oakwood Korea	25,007
5/09	ブライアン ランドバーグ	10,000
5/09	皆川 智子	10,000
5/09	イエズス会	50,000
5/13	関西学院大学 (上ヶ原ハビタット)	80,154
5/18	鶴 雄亮	1,000
5/18	神戸市外国語大学 (Kobe Gaidai Habitat)	26,794
5/18	Black Orchid Event	7,032
5/18	同志社大学 (Doshisha Habitat)	36,298
5/18	Osaka International School	150,000
5/24	カレン リー	57,260
5/25	早稲田大学 (WHABITAT)	10,395
5/31	(特活)国際協力NGOセンター	1,071,936
6/06	関西学院大学 (上ヶ原ハビタット)	44,536
6/06	京都外国語大学 (Kyoto Gaidai Habitat)	37,800
6/07	ジョンストン テリー	15,000
6/09	井田 昌彦	20,000
6/09	鶴 雄亮	1,000
6/16	Fukuoka International School	71,252
6/20	スタンダードチャータード銀行	4,184,568
6/20	同志社大学 (Doshisha Habitat)	52,303
6/22	春蔞プロジェクト(株)	100,000
6/23	Friends of Mimi and Mike	55,146
6/30	麻生ファウンデーション(株)社員有志	506,559



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.

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