

HFHJ Newsletter

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Rebuilding Japan : Expanding the Program for Sustainable Assistance

It has been more than half year since the earthquake and tsunami hit Tohoku and the situations surrounding the disaster survivors and the area are ever changing. The response efforts are now shifting to recovery phase; now there's less labor intensive debris cleaning mainly done by the mass volunteers and NGOs, and almost all the survivors have moved into temporary shelters. Habitat Japan has started its work for temporary housing complexes in Ishinomaki city, Miyagi Prefecture from August, besides its continuous presence at Ofunato and Rikuzentakata city in Iwate Prefecture, mobilizing over 300 volunteers by the end of



Futon Sets Delivered to Temporary Shelters of Onagawa, Miyagi



Land Subsidence Sank Vast Area of Onagawa in Ishinomaki, Miyagi

Help Is Not Reaching...

Ishinomaki city of Miyagi Prefecture is one of the areas greatly hit by the earthquake and the tsunami resulting in more than 4000 people have been killed or missing. Help had reached some parts of Ishinomaki only after the recovery of lifelines like electricity and water, infrastructures like bridges; enabling land access in the summer. These places were left untouched since the disaster. In response to that many communities needed help from the volunteers, Habitat Japan started to provide assistance.

Student Volunteer Leaders Made Paths for Assistance

Since August, members of Habitat Japan's student organizations called

Campus Chapters have been leading volunteer teams to Tohoku. They were one of the first to be in places like Onosaki in Ishinomaki where land subsidence is so severe that vast area submerges under water once the tide comes in, to assess and



Student Volunteers Lead Teams



Fresh Water Flow Through the Neighborhoods Thanks to Volunteers'

prepare for the volunteer teams. Their participation made the field operation possible.

For a Sustainable Program

Habitat Japan is gradually shifting its focus from debris cleaning to

repairing homes and assisting temporary shelter living. On September 22nd, 144 futon sets were delivered to 45 survivor families in Onagawa, Miyagi. The plan is to distribute a total of 728 sets by the end of October.

Help is not reaching, at least not equally for those living in temporary shelters; but it is because of many aspects like timing of construction and location. Now we see that preparation for the winter months and community revitalization are urgently needed in the Tohoku region. Habitat Japan continue to repair homes and is working to conduct sustainable programs to support the survivors living in temporary housing complexes and the surrounding communities.



Futon Sets Distribution

Corporate Support : Nissan Projects Launched in Thailand & Indonesia



Employees of Nissan Thailand and the Homeowner

Nissan Motor Thailand operates its factories in San Phra Kan, located about an hour drive away from Bangkok, the capital of Thailand, and it also is the community where the company started to sponsor 10 houses (equivalent to 70,000USD). Thanks to the local employees participated in the actual building in August, a total of four houses are complete as of September. Additional six houses will be completed by the end of November.

In Indonesia, construction, renovation and water sanitation support on 100 houses (equivalent to 147,000USD) in Purwakarta, West Java is to start. As this industrial town holds one of Nissan Motor Indonesia's factories, Habitat and Nissan joined forces for sus-

Nissan Motor Co., Ltd. (Yokohama, Japan) have confirmed to support projects in communities surrounding their factories in Thailand and in Indonesia, after their commitment of 75 houses in Chennai, India. The employees of Nissan Motor Thailand have also volunteered in house building in August.

tainable programs to better local people's livings.

◆ Project Report from India

63 houses completed and 43 of which were dedicated to homeowners. Rising cost of construction material is delaying to build remaining 12 houses. The construction is scheduled to resume once materials are secured.



Volunteers at Work (Thailand)



House Completed (Thailand)

Sri Lanka Project : Toward 100 Houses of Hope

In August, it was decided that Habitat Japan build 70 houses in Mannar district of Northern Sri Lanka, thanks to additional funding from Japan Platform (JPF). Besides the 17 houses completed, the plan is now moving forward to build a total of 100 houses by next spring. This project begun in April, with funding from JPF, and partnership with Habitat Sri Lanka, to house the refugees returning home after the civil war ended in 2009.



Habi-Bito

Ms. Amy Hanashiro

Executive Assistant Manager,
Oakwood Premier Tokyo Midtown

Amy Hanashiro, who has been leading Oakwood Japan's involvement with Habitat, wishes that more "companies create a CSR committee's (corporate social responsibility) efforts." Oakwood has been in the serviced apartment business in metropolitan areas worldwide, and in Japan, there are seven properties in Tokyo. The company collects donations by placing Habitat's coin banks at all properties and by selling Christmas cards handmade by



the Oakwood employees and has organized a "Habitat Premium Night" for Habitat Japan's supporters.

Born and raised in Hawaii, Amy first participated in Habitat's cause during her college years and since then moving to her grandparents origins in Japan, she brings with her the "spirit Aloha" with the meaning of giving more than receiving.

Amy also tells us that planning charity events and making gifts to give the proceeds for Habitat is a big part of team building. Charity begins from the simple things in life... imagine buying a cup of coffee and instead donating that amount to charity, giving up your seat to others, picking up

litter and it all becomes a natural part of your daily life. Without much thought, her staff has become involved in activities of CSR and they will learn and gain this skill with ease.

Looking ahead, "it would be good if more Japanese companies offered options for charity donations from the associates and matching those percentages for CSR. However, it can begin on a small scale by using the company's services and network" says Amy. Currently, Oakwood hosts a weekly complimentary networking event "Wine Nights" at one of their lounges and where Habitat is invited; offering opportunities and ideas for CSR in action.

Events : Making Habitat's Work Known Inside & Outside Japan

CEO Visit Sep. 14

Habitat International's CEO Jonathan Reckford visited Japan. Gathering almost 50 supporters and staff of Habitat Japan, Habitat Japan has organized a program report session. It has been four years since his last visit in 2007. After the reporting session, Reckford expressed gratitude for the supporters and urged, "Disaster in Tohoku was such a tragedy, but especially in the situation like this, Habitat must do its best to be of support for the survivors." On the other hand, he expressed the significance of the impact Japanese volunteers give in Asian countries through the Global Village program. Some participants shared "being in Asia, there is a support Japan can offer especially." The event reminded many about the important role and its responsibility placed upon Habitat Japan.



Event in Tokyo Oct. 1 to 2

This year we again joined GLOBAL FESTA 2011, the biggest international cooperation event across Japan, held at Hi-biya Park (Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo). "Bond" was the theme of the event this year, and there were many booths related to the disaster recovery works in Tohoku. Wearing Habitat Japan T-shirts and jump suits, staff at the Habitat booth together appealed the feature and the structure of GV (house building programs), fun of participation and program process. Also, we had an opportunity to join a panel discussion with a comedian group, Sandwich Man on the main stage on the first day. In front of many visi-

tors, Ms. Misa Imanishi (Kansai University) talked about the meaning and fulfillment of the volunteer activities through her experiences of both GV and our volunteer trips to Tohoku regions.



Youth Program : Joint Efforts by Habitat Student Groups Across Japan

Fundraise Drive Jul. 9 to 10

The student branch of Habitat Japan (CC: Campus Chapter) carried out a simultaneous street fund raising campaign for Tohoku and raised about 650,000 yen in 2 days. Putting a slogan of giving a power of Kansai to Tohoku, CC group of Kansai (JCC Kansai) led the plan. 11 CC in the whole country from Shizuoka to Oita participated, and a total of 200 students appealed for support on the day. There are many members who had a great pain by facing the sight of devastated areas, and we have discussed over and over what we can do as a CC of Habitat Japan and came to the answer of this joint fund-raising. I myself went to the disaster area and felt many things through participation of volunteer activities, and hope the thought of us and the people who have supported us will lead to revival of the stricken area. (Ryota Ezaki, Kwansei Gakuin University CC)



Youth Camp Sep. 24 to 25

The annual JCC (Japan Campus Chapters) summer youth camp was held in the National Central Youth Exchange in Gotemba, Shizuoka. It was themed "Exchange & Understanding: the two days to consider a new possibility." While habitat Japan is starting new projects, we wanted to share our new viewpoint with the student branches. 80 people from 14 CC and CC candidate organizations across Japan gathered and spent short but meaningful time together. On one of the workshops called "Negotiation cooking," each team picked items responsible by drawing lots, then they made supper by exchanging each other's foods through negotiations. In diplomacy called negotiation, they learned the importance of cooperating with one another. Next workshop "Habitat cafe" helped exchange opinions on joy and importance of the GV (house building programs), and discussed about future possibilities.





Japan Update

Japan Hope Builders



Habitat Japan recruits volunteers to be on the Japan Hope Builders from the general public in partnership with "Chikyu no Arukikata." This summer's two teams has returned after working in the suburb of Bangkok, Thailand. Total of 34 people (31 college students, 1 high school student, 2 adults) built one house.

◆ Message from a Volunteer, Ms. Tori Kobayashi

“As I worked on a house together with new friends and the local people, walls grew taller and fatigue also changed into joy of achievement. The house felt special to me although it’s not my own, I really hope the homeowner family will live there for a long time. I was the only high school student in the team with majority of university students; I was shy only till the first day of work was over. I got to meet wonderful people and communicate with local staff in English, I learnt a lot and fell in love with Thailand. I can’t wait to go on another trip with Habitat.”

This “Japan Project” that build houses overseas was made possible thanks to the contributions from Oakwood Tokyo and International Ladies Benevolent Society. We would like to express our sincere appreciation for their kind contributions.



Editor’s Note

I was at a temporary shelter complex in Higashi-matsushima, Miyagi early October. Heavy rain and strong winds made it felt like it was already winter there. The real winter will bring harsh weather to Tohoku area very soon, and having adequate living space with proper insulation will be critical. True recovery has just begun. Habitat Japan will continue providing support overseas and in Japan via “Rebuilding Japan” project.

LIST OF DONATIONS AND GRANTS (2011.7.1-9.30)

7/11	NETHOPE	396,950
7/12	関西JCC	110,534
7/14	関西JCC	130,950
7/14	Tompking Charitable Fund	77,770
7/15	Bloomberg	418,000
7/15	関西大学CC (Muster Peace)	41,397
7/19	安保 亮	3,000
7/20	立命館アジア太平洋大学CC (Habitat APU)	89,949
7/20	神田外語大学CC (HFH KUIS)	17,000
7/20	Habitat for Humanity Europe	449,588
7/20	関西JCC	56,022
7/25	東海大学CC (Same Same but TOKAI)	114,335
7/29	関西学院大学CC (上ヶ原ハビタット)	77,987
7/29	東海大学CC (Same Same but TOKAI)	81,000
7/29	同志社大学CC (Doshisha Habitat)	18,888
7/29	(特活)国際協力NGOセンター	303,760
8/1	稲垣 寛樹	5,000
8/1	麻生セメント労働組合	100,000
8/3	末田 清次	10,000
8/10	京都外国語大学CC (Kyoto Gaidai Habitat)	36,754
8/10	鶴 雄亮	1,000
8/16	University of Sydney Union’s Japanese Cultural Exchange Society	154,086
8/19	関東JCC	54,391
8/22	ジエネオン・ユニバー	1,013,862
8/24	神戸市外国語大学CC (KOBE Gaidai Habitat)	132,437
8/31	(特活)国際協力NGOセンター	136,251
8/31	KLA TENCOR FOUNDATION	3,671,890
9/12	稲垣 寛樹	5,000
9/12	鶴 雄亮	1,000
9/16	静岡文化芸術大学CC (SUAC HFH)	14,347
9/16	UPENN CHARTER of Habitat for Humanity	72,803
9/26	関西学院大学CC (上ヶ原ハビタット)	29,685
9/29	石川 早苗	18,152
9/29	鶴 雄亮	1,000
9/30	(特活)国際協力NGOセンター	24,650



Since established in 1976, Habitat for Humanity, as an International NGO aiming to build homeowner’s dignity and independence through building communities, has built 500,000 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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