

H F H J News Letter



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2015 April

Habitat for Humanity Japan Newsletter
Issue 34

 News from the Field

Four Years with Tohoku

Jimmy Carter Work Project An Interview with Model Arisa Kamada



Jimmy Carter Work Project 2015 in Nepal!

Each year since 1984, former President Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, give a week of their time to help us improve and build homes. The Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project helps raise awareness of the critical need for simple, decent and affordable housing. This year, the 32nd annual Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project will be held in Pokhara, Nepal for 6 days from November 1 to 6. Nepal is located at the Himalayan foot, and is said to be one of the poorest countries in the world. There are many ways to be a part of this exciting event.



How can I participate? /

Traveling hammer – Let's do a good deed with the hammer of hope which travels around the Asia Pacific region!



Volunteer – We will build 100 houses with 2,000 volunteers in a week at the Himalayan foot.



Invitation for the dinner with the Carters.



Nepali dinner for a good cause.



Youths unite against poverty housing

The people who cannot live in decent houses reach 1.6 billion worldwide, and it is said that half of them live here in the Asia-Pacific region. Habitat Youth BUILD (HYB) is a campaign in which youths in the Asia-Pacific join forces to confront the poverty housing issue of the world. Now in its fourth year, HYB 2015 kicked off on December 5 with a slogan "Play, Act, Share". During HYB 2014,

Habitat mobilized 800,000 volunteers from 11 countries and supported 1,700 households. This year, we expanded its scale with 15 countries participating. This spring, nearly 400 students from Japan took part in volunteer activities where they build houses overseas.

In addition, students organized charity events and nationwide street fundraising activities.



Street fundraising was carried out in various parts of Japan



Three Japanese students participated in the 2014 Habitat Youth Build in Cambodia



Students from Kyoto University of Foreign Studies organized a GV trip to India

Play • Act • Share! /

Looking back – Tohoku

2011



HFH Japan first went into the disaster stricken areas in March 2011. We removed rubble and mud and cleaned the streets and residential area with many volunteers. We listened to the voice of those who were affected by the disaster and sought for ways to support them.

- **Rubble and mud removal** (Ofunato city, Rikuzentakada city, Iwate Pref./ Ishinomaki city, Miyagi Pref.)
- **Distribution of the futons at temporary shelters** (Onagawa town, Miyagi Pref.)
- **Distribution of heaters at temporary shelters** (Higashimatsushima city, Miyagi Pref.)
- **Distribution of heaters at victim's homes** (Higashimatsushima city, Miyagi Pref.)
- **Repair of the affected houses** (Ofunato city, Iwate Pref.)

2012



One year after the disaster, HFH Japan carried out various activities to meet changing needs on the ground. We repaired damaged houses in Iwate Pref. and installed decks and eaves to the temporary shelters in order to make better living environment in Miyagi Pref. Furthermore, we repaired a public hall and built an arbor in response to the people's request for a place to gather. We built waiting rooms at school bus stops for children who have to go to a remote school by bus since their previous school closed due to the disaster. We also built fisherman huts so fishermen can get back to work.

- **Repair of the affected houses** (Ofunato city, Iwate Pref.)
- **Housing consultation** (Ofunato city, Iwate Pref.)
- **Repair of a public hall** (Higashimatsushima city, Natori city, Miyagi Pref.)
- **Building bus stops** (Ofunato city, Iwate Pref./ Higashimatsushima city, Miyagi Pref.)
- **Building fisherman huts** (Onagawa town, Miyagi Pref.)
- **Building an arbor** (Ishinomaki city, Natori city, Miyagi Pref.)
- **Support activities in temporary shelters** (Ofunato city, Rikuzentakada city, Iwate Pref./ Ishinomaki city, Onagawa city, Tagajo city, Higashimatsushima city, Miyagi Pref.)
- **Other community support activities**

2013



In 2013, we began repairing homes in Miyagi. In addition, as the number of people who consider moving out of their temporary shelters increased, we provided consulting services. We introduced various systems and choices to each household according to their circumstances such as the possibility of returning to their original houses, moving to higher ground, or available house loans.

- **Repair of the affected houses** (Higashimatsushima city, Miyagi Pref.)
- **Housing consultation** (Ofunato city, Iwate Pref./ Higashimatsushima city, Miyagi Pref.)
- **Solar system installation** (Ofunato city, Iwate Pref.)
- **Support activities in temporary shelters** (Ofunato city, Iwate Pref./ Tagajo city, Higashimatsushima city, Miyagi Pref.)
- **Other community support activities**

2014-15



After the Great East Japan Earthquake, the coastal area affected by the massive tsunami received much attention from all over the world. In contrast, the inland area, despite experiencing the greater magnitude than the coastal areas, did not receive enough support. We learned that there were many people who continued to live in houses which had sustained damages in nonvisible areas such as foundation and structure by the great earthquake. Hence, we began repairing such affected houses in the inland communities. Self-Build Project, in which a home partner built his own house with the support of his community as well as many volunteers from all over the world, was also successfully executed.

- **Self-Build Project support** (Ofunato city, Iwate Pref.)
- **Repair of the affected houses in the inland** (Osato town, Higashimatsushima city, Misato town, Wakuya town, Miyagi Pref.)
- **Housing consultation** (Ofunato city, Iwate Pref.)
- **Advocacy on the affected houses in the inland** (Osato town, Misato town, Wakuya town, Miyagi Pref.)
- **Community support through electricity sales after solar system installation** (Ofunato city, Miyagi Pref.)
- **Other community support** (Ofunato city, Iwate Pref./ Onagawa town, Higashimatsushima city, Miyagi Pref.)

Four Years with Tohoku

Habitat for Humanity Japan started the Great East Japan Earthquake disaster relief operation in March 2011 and continued working in Iwate and Miyagi until March 2015. We are very grateful for the supporters and the volunteers who have supported this operation during the past 4 years.

Thank you!!



Mr. Sato's house

1 Chatting in the living room. It is a house where people keep visiting.

floor plan

entrance

2 stained glass

sofa

table

3 kitchen

2 The stained glass was a house warming gift from a local friend.

3 Mr. Sato cooks "fisherman meal" every night.

Interview with Mr. Sato

A staff member from Habitat for Humanity Japan visited Mr. Sato who had just moved into his new home. The house she stepped into was no longer the familiar "construction site" where they worked together pouring concrete and cutting the insulation material—it has turned into "a home". After the tour of the house, they sat down to talk about Mr. Sato's experience and now.

Q1 How did you feel on the day of moving?

On the day of moving, I was so busy that I didn't have time to think much. My mother was having a health issue, so I was considering staying at the temporary shelter until spring. She, however, insisted that she wanted to move into our new home as soon as possible. That's why the moving happened in such a hurry. Now that we have settled in, **we are so much more relaxed than in the temporary shelter.** Having our own house where we don't have to worry about thin walls is wonderful.

Q2 What does it feel like to live in a house built by locals and volunteers?

I am so happy. I'm constantly thinking "That volunteer built this part" or "that person painted this wall" in my daily life (while pointing at various directions in his home). I often read the work diary and take a look through a photo album from the Project over and over again. I can remember everyone who came to help, down to when they came and what they **did!** To me, every corner of this house is made of memories.

🏠 Looking back – Self-Build Project

Habitat for Humanity Japan worked with communities through housing-related projects in Ofunato, Miyagi from April 2011. While repairing the affected houses and supporting communities with solar power generation system, we started to take notice of those who stay in houses affected by earthquake with no prospect of receiving help from the government or aid agencies. This is when we met Mr. Sato.

Mr. Sato lost his house because of the tsunami, but did not have a future residence since the local government had no plans to build a public housing in his area. Due to financial reasons, rebuilding a house by himself was not an option. Mr. Sato, a former carpenter, asked us "I will build my house, so will you help me gather volunteers?" We decided to work with him, and the Self-Build Project was born.

Our first step was to ask local architect, lumber dealer, civil engineer, and roofer if they would join us; they were all surprised but happy to get on board this "rather unusual project."

It was October, 2013 when the first stake was knocked into the empty lot. Habitat for Humanity Japan supported Mr. Sato throughout the entire process from adjustment and negotiation between the suppliers to recruitment and coordination of volunteers from all over the world. Mr. Sato moved into his brand new house with his elderly mother in the spring of 2015.

The house would not be there today had it not been for locals, Japanese people, and people from every corner of the world who gathered in a small town in Japan to build one house.

Benefits of Self-Build Project went beyond providing Mr. Sato's family a safe place to live; a community came together over building a house, and fostered a strong bond after the devastating earthquake.

Building on this experience, we at Habitat for Humanity Japan would like to seek ways to help disaster victims who do not have access to housing support in the future.

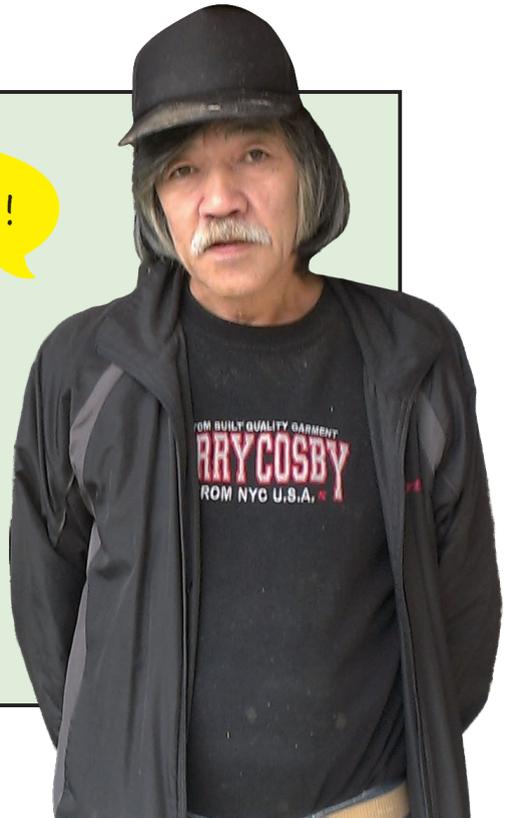


5 The bedroom is full of natural sunlight.



4 His mother is resting in the Japanese style room.

I am so happy!



Q3 What does a house mean to you?

To me, a house represents "the beginning" because **that's where everything starts.**



Q4 Do you have a comment for the volunteers?

Hmmm... nothing but a feeling of gratitude. I would like to ask them to stop by whenever they come to Sanriku again. I will always remember volunteers as **my precious memory!**



TOPICS

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Now recruiting volunteers to build houses abroad!

Join a Global Village (GV) program, and build houses with local families and skilled workers abroad! Under the guidance of Habitat staff and local engineers, even first-timers can participate in the construction work. This summer, trip to Thailand and Cambodia are open to individual participants. You can participate alone or with friends and family. Make this summer unforgettable with Habitat for Humanity Japan!

1 Cambodia 8 days

This Global Village takes you to Battambang, Cambodia. The program includes sightseeing at Angkor Wat, a world heritage site.

Build site Battambang, Cambodia
Schedule 2015/8/22-8/29
Fee 199,000-234,000 yen

2 Thailand 8 days

Let's build a house in Thailand! This Global Village takes volunteers to Chennai, Thailand, to build happiness with a local family.

Build site Chennai, Thailand
Schedule 2015/8/26-9/2
Fee 196,000 yen

Visit Habitat Japan's website for more details
http://www.habitatjp.org/index_e.html



New Habitat T-shirts are now on sale!

Support Habitat while looking sharp in our brand new Tshirt. It is great for freshening up your wardrobe for this season, and perfect as a gift.

Please order from our website
http://www.habitatjp.org/web_to_lead/2014/08/habitatgoods.html

Habi-Bito

Enthusiasts in Habitat



Arisa Kamada
Model



With a home partner

"I want to go on a study tour with my fans" has been my mantra for many years. When Habitat for Humanity Japan said "Let's do it," our dreams became one — the result was the eye-opening GV trip in Battambang, Cambodia.

A house gives us peace and power. This, however, is something that many Japanese people are not able to realize in their day-to-day life precisely because we all have a place to call home and take it for granted. Through this GV trip, I think that all of the participants, including me, were able to rediscover the importance of houses as well as small joy in everyday life that we often overlook. Meeting the home partner and working with local people made me discover how warm people can be. I cannot forget the words by one of the participants; talking about the home partner, she said "This is the first time that I wished someone's happiness besides my family or friends." Starting to wish other people's happiness, I believe, is where the world peace starts.

Our society has many issues, but if we simply label them as "social problems", they become other people's problems. Going to places where people are actually experiencing pain, suffering, and sorrow helps us broaden our minds, and "their" problems become "ours".

Though I am overwhelmed in this big world, in the end, it is each one of us who makes up the world. I would like to keep seeing the world by my own eyes, feeling it, connecting to it, and thinking about it.



Editor's Note

Our first April in Ichigaya was illuminated by colours. The view from our office, located across a tree-lined moat, is serene yet somewhat sleepy until spring knocks on the door. Cherry blossom takes over the streets, as well as people's hearts hardened by winter that never seemed to end. Among the explosion of pink, we see blue, green, white and yellow people dressed up for spring enjoying lunch under the trees. The enthusiasm the city regained is infectious, and we at Habitat for Humanity Japan are feeling the energy. Under the neverending blue sky, we hope that you enjoy this newsletter featuring people as beautiful as my view out the window. (M)



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Habitat for Humanity is an international NGO that aims to realize "a world where everyone has a decent place to live." Habitat works in about 80 countries around the world and has helped more than 600,000 families.