

## Kumamoto Disaster Relief 100 days with campus chapters

Two months have passed since a magnitude 6.8 earthquake struck the island of Kyushu located in southwestern Japan on 14 April. This was followed by a magnitude 7.3 quake two days later. Responding to this disaster, Habitat for Humanity Japan assigned two staffs for initial damage assessment in the earthquake affected region. Following the assessment, Habitat Japan decided to begin a disaster relief program in Nishihara, Kumamoto in order to improve shelter conditions for survivors.

Nishihara is a small district where 2,600 families live, forming a total population of only about 6,809 people according to a report from the Kumamoto prefecture. Nishihara is located on the line of the active Futagawa fault which was believed to be the origin of the earthquakes. Due to the strong shakes, about 60% of the buildings in Nishihara were damaged.

### Staff and volunteers respond

After Habitat Japan staffs were stationed in Nishihara, they began by supporting operations at the disaster volunteer center, which was opened by the social welfare

council. The volunteer center acts to fulfill the role of mobilizing volunteers to respond to the needs of those affected by the quakes. For one month after the center was opened, Habitat Japan supported the volunteer center to mobilize more than 5,000 volunteers to clean up the inside of area homes, as well as removing earthquake debris and rubble from damaged communities.

### Together with youth

Habitat Japan produced a 100 days response plan called, "Youth for Kumamoto" for the relief and early recovery stages in Nishihara. This plan includes the following: supporting the operation at the disaster volunteer center, mobilizing volunteers to respond to the needs of families that were affected by the quakes, and mobilizing youth from Habitat for Humanity Japan campus chapters to deliver information related to the revitalization of homes. With this plan, Habitat Japan aims to support the process for survivors to have a decent place to live. This disaster response program in Kumamoto is supported by numer-



ous donors including Alwaleed Philanthropies and Airbnb. Habitat for Humanity Japan wishes to thank Alwaleed Philanthropies and others for their support during this time of crisis.

### VOLUNTEER VOICE

I could not do anything when the Great East Japan Earthquake happened. So when Habitat started the disaster relief in Kumamoto, I had no doubt about devoting myself in Kumamoto. I stayed in Nishihara for eight days and supported the operation at the volunteer center. During my stay, I also had a chance to hear from those who were affected by the quake. I feel that it will take a long time to revitalize their lives and rebuild their communities. I will share my experience to bring attention to Kumamoto. This is what I can do now," said Mr. Takagai. (Chuo University)



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Youth for Kumamoto

# Habitat Young Leaders Build

On 2 April 2016, the Habitat Young Leaders Build (HYLB) campaign came to an end. This annual campaign took place in 16 Asian countries for four months between December and April. During this period, students from all over Asia organized and took part in various activities including building projects, community volunteering, fundraising, workshops, and conferences. In Japan, Habitat Japan campus chapters organized a charity fashion show called "Habi Colle" on the day the campaign was launched. Using fashion as a way to get attention from youth, campus chapters advocated for fair trade and poverty issues that they are fighting to support. Also during the campaign period, 582 volunteers travelled to countries in Asia to help build homes. Campus chapters also devoted themselves to volunteering in their own communities, for events such as neighborhood beautification projects, and advocating to raise funds and support.



## Youth find what they can do in their community

In Japan, there are people who have lost their homes due to poverty, or due to other reasons. Some of them who have lost their homes have suffered from violence from their partner or from their families. Habitat Japan supports the KYOFUKAI-Japan Christian Women's Organization, which offers abused women shelter so that can have a safe place to stay, and so that they can receive support towards self-reliance. Last February, Habitat Japan visited one of the shelters they have operated and helped

to clean up the shelter.

"It is very important to clean up the shelter. If not, they will think that they cannot stay in such a place," said a staff member. Campus chapter members listened to the staff and residents, and recognized that they could do something to provide a decent place to live for women seeking shelter in their community. During the HYLB period, campus chapters visited this shelter twice to clean. Habitat Japan will continue to support the shelter.

## Bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope

As a culmination event of the HYLB campaign, a long-distance relay race called "Habitat EKIDEN" took place in Saiko Park in Saitama Prefecture. "The long-distance relay race is a sport which does not have any barrier between genders, or ages, whether you are good at it or not. Handing a baton to the next runner is similar in that Habitat brings people together to build homes, communities and hope," said Mr. Miyamoto, who led Habitat Ekiden.

On the day of the relay race, it was chilly and sprinkling in the morning at dawn. However by the time the event was held, the sun had come out and we had clear skies. Although it was the very first EKIDEN, a total of almost 360 runners, volunteers and supporters gathered for the event. Special thanks are given to Mr. Yusuke Kogure of Aoyama Gakuin University. As a special guest

runner, he had run the most famous long-distance relay called the "Hakone Ekiden" in Japan. Through Habitat Ekiden, the campus chapters brought people together.



## 1 year on after the Nepal Earthquake

One year has passed since a devastating magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck Nepal on 25 April 2015, with the epicenter 80 km northwest of the capital, Kathmandu. The earthquake left over 750,000 houses and buildings destroyed or damaged and caused over 8,790 deaths.

Faced with this situation, Habitat for Humanity, (in Nepal since 1997) decided to support disaster relief efforts to assist the people of Nepal. Overall in the first year since the earthquakes, Habitat provided assistance to more than 43,700 families through various disaster response programs. This included a safety assessment project implemented by Habitat Japan, in collaboration with Habitat Nepal. To align fully with government reconstruction policy, Habitat developed a recovery plan called, "Build Nepal". Habitat will focus on self-reliance, working holistically with the govern-



ment, whole communities and families to plan and rebuild strong safe and decent homes using proper house designs and safe construction techniques in order to 'build back safer'. Plans are as follows;

### "Build Nepal" Plans

1. Increase disaster resilience by empowering communities through participatory methods.
2. Provide non-financial technical support through Housing Support Services and increase local knowledge of building back safer methodologies, enabling communities to self-recover.
3. Facilitate self-recovery of earthquake-affected households through income generating activities so that they may build their own capacity through tiered support for the most vulnerable, as per the vulnerability index set forth in government guidelines.
4. Address weaknesses in the housing value chain by strengthening access to quality construction materials and labor.

Habitat will implement the "Build Nepal" reconstruction plan in five communities in Kavre and Nuwakot. Habitat Japan will restart the mobilization of Global Village Volunteers this summer to support disaster relief in Nepal.

## The first female mason

Sharada Danuwar is 22 years old, and she lost her family home to the quake. Her extended family of eight have been living in a temporary shelter built with materials from Habitat. Sharada decided to join the informal on-the-job mason training that Habitat provided as part of the village reconstruction project. "I like to learn, and want to be a skilled mason," said Sharada. She has studied hard to be the first female mason from her village, ever. "I feel very happy and it will be a very proud moment for me to be the first female mason from Pilpaltar," said Sharada. "I feel very thankful to Habitat for Humanity for providing me with the opportunity."



**36** teams, consisting of 582 volunteers joined in the overseas building program called the Global Village Program last spring. Volunteers travelled abroad to support families who were in need of a decent place to live. Volunteers worked to build homes, communities and hope. During this summer, Habitat Japan will support community development in Indonesia and Thailand through Global Village team visits.

## Global Village Program



### Volunteer Voice from Ms. Kotone Sakuragi (Kwansei Gakuin University)

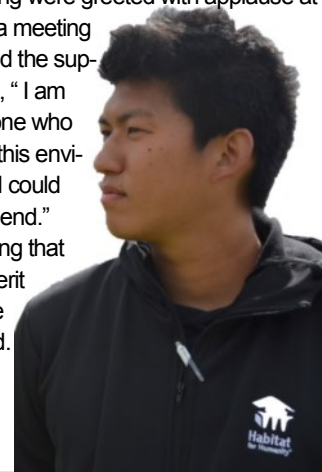
I was very eager to meet with the family that we would work with. Then Habitat Thailand introduced the family to our team. It was such an exciting moment to meet them in Thailand. We only spent five days to building their home, however, those five days were special for all of us. I now have a family in Thailand. And the voice that said, "You are always welcome in my home," is still in my mind.

Four months ago Daisuke Miyamoto, a former representative of SHANTI SHANTI, and his friends decided to host the student's first 'Ekiden Race' during their senior year, before graduation. "I used to feel I received more than I gave as a Habitat volunteer," said a grateful Miyamoto. "I felt secure about Habitat too."

When Miyamoto served as the Habitat student representative, he recalled briefing volunteers about the overseas building program known as Global Village (GV). These were only students who had already been active in the Habitat project. Moving ahead, he tried his best to pull in more volunteers, and have them share the team's experiences with other students who did not know Habitat. Eventually, 126 people joined the session, where before the average attendance had been about 30 people. When he was invited to be an intern at the Habitat office for his senior year, he confided that he had received so much from Habitat, that now it was time for him to 'give back'

to Habitat. He began his internship in June. He also formed a GV team led by fourth year students. He said that he wants to establish a volunteer flow, to have students continue to participate in Habitat activities up to the last moments of college life. Finally, for the closing event of this year's "Habitat Young Leaders Build" campaign, he planned the "Habitat Ekiden" relay race as a charity event that anyone could enjoy. His challenge of coordinating the Ekiden event, and being the leader of a GV team began only four months before his graduation. The participation and cooperation of many people across generations, was essential to enliven the event, and to leave the Ekiden event for younger members to continue it in the future. Of course not everything went expected, but he found ways to move forward, and made an effort to support every activity. Another event he supported was holding a music event, to gather supporters, and to fund the Ekiden operating costs. As a result, on the race day nearly 360 participants

gathered, and it became one of the biggest youth events organized this year. The event raised approximately 700,000 yen for Habitat. The goal for participants was not to compete for the best time, it was to connect people in the world through running. Miyamoto made such a warm race, that people participating were greeted with applause at the finish line. At a meeting afterwards, he told the supporting members, "I am grateful to everyone who supported me in this environment, so that I could hang on until the end." Miyamoto is hoping that someone will inherit his sash and take this event forward. He will always look back fondly, on the event.



## New Campus Chapters

The number of Habitat for Humanity Japan student led groups, known as campus chapters, increased to 34 groups this spring. From Hokkaido to Oita, from north to south, the circle of youth spreads all over Japan. In March, the second campus chapter was created in Kyushu. The following are the groups which have joined as new campus chapters in the past year:

- Shibaura Institute of Technology (infil)
- Kogakuin University (built)
- Dokkyo University (WAP)
- Fukuoka University (Pascal)

The roles of campus chapters, are to regularly participate in volunteer overseas building activities known as the Global Village Program, to conduct activities to raise funds and enlightenment on shelter, and to facilitate exchanges between regions and campus chapters. Additionally, they endorse volunteer activities in their campuses areas, and aim at encouraging youth to make positive contributions to society.



## Participating as an overseas building volunteer



A key role with Habitat, is participating in the overseas building volunteer program, known as the Global Village Program (GV). Participants support activities of Habitat to build houses in foreign countries. Each team unit has a minimum of 12 people. Habitat Japan plans GV tours that volunteers can participate in twice a year. This summer, we offer a GV tour in Cambodia, a location that is always popular among volunteers.

**Program period: August 21– 28, 2016**

## Join us as a House Supporter

By becoming a House Supporter member at 1,000 yen per month, you can support Habitat Japan's activities inside and outside the country, and participate in building 'a world where everyone has a decent place to live', which is Habitat's goal. Please become a House Supporter, and support us regularly.



➡ For more information, go to our website or e-mail us

## Editor's Note

I have been working at the Habitat Japan office as an intern since April, and I am supporting public relations. I am enjoying working there since I love to write. Although I have been a member of a Habitat campus chapter, there are still many things that I didn't know about Habitat. Now, I feel responsible for "words", as I generate information about Habitat for many people. I realize that my mission is to attract attention to shelter issues, and let them be aware of problems occurring all over the world. Then they can take actions to improve shelter and housing. I will do my best in my job until August. (Riho Murata, Waseda University)

Habitat for Humanity's vision is a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

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