

Community Support Project

- Building strength, stability, self-reliance and shelter in Indonesia and Thailand -

Habitat for Humanity Japan usually sends the largest number of volunteers to build decent and affordable houses in the Asia-Pacific region under the Global Village program. The difference, however, is that Habitat Japan's volunteers will provide comprehensive support to specific communities in Indonesia and Thailand in the next few years.

One such community is Selopamiro in Bantul, located in southern part of Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Rice farming and forestry are the main industries in this hilly region where Habitat has started to support Srunggo Satu hamlet.

Housing issue

Srunggo Satu hamlet is home to 334 families totaling 1,316 residents, and 141 of these families are poor by national standards of poverty. Many families live in old houses without proper sanitary facilities. Due to holes in the roofs and walls, rain

gets into the house and makes the earth floor muddy.

Health issue

About one in five people in Indonesia practices open defecation, according to a 2015 report by UNICEF / World Health Organization. However, more than 50 percent of the families in Srunggo Satu do not have access to adequate, proper sanitation. Although a cave nearby provides a ready source of water, the villagers cannot afford the high cost of operating a diesel-powered water supply system built by the local government. The few wells in the hamlet dry up when there is a lack of rain. During the dry season, people do not even have enough water to bathe, and defecate in the open such as in rivers and fields.

The Community that Habitat aims for

Habitat is supporting the construction of 104 houses, along with an affordable, gravity-fed water system. Habitat also plans to build a



water purifying plant to purify water from the cave which contains limestone.

In addition to providing the solution to supply clean water, Habitat plans to build 100 individual toilets. The Japanese volunteer teams who are sent to Srunggo Satu will help to build houses and sanitary facilities as well as train the villagers in hygienic practices. Please support us by joining a GV team and/or donating financial resources.

**Please note that we are temporarily suspending support to project communities in Thailand until spring next year due to the bomb attacks in Phuket in August 2016.*



Global Village,
summer of 2016

30 teams,
442 volunteers

Mutsumi, a member of Kyoto Gaidai Habitat from Kyoto University of Foreign Studies, who had visited Srunggo Satu twice, said: " We helped to build a new house for one of the residents who had a very large plot of land. However, the old house was decrepit. I saw many holes in the ceiling which made me worried about leaks. The floor was made of mud and there was no door at the entrance of the house. " Mutsumi made the second visit to Srunggo Satu hamlet this summer. She met a family who she worked for last summer and she said that she could see what changes she could have delivered to the family by helping to build their new home.



Habitat for Humanity Japan announced the completion of its response in the areas affected by the Kumamoto earthquake on April 14 and April 16, 2016, at the end of July. In the beginning, Habitat Japan made a decision to support the operations of the disaster volunteer center in the worst-affected area of Nishihara as there was a lack of manpower. Our volunteers also provided necessary information and connected housing experts with the families who needed advice on how to safely reconstruct their houses.



April 14

A magnitude-6.4 earthquake hit Kumamoto prefecture and neighboring areas in Kyushu island. Two days later, on April 16, a magnitude-7.0 earthquake struck again. About 60 percent of the houses in Nishihara were damaged or destroyed by the earthquakes.



May 6

The first batch of volunteers, comprising mostly Habitat Japan's campus chapter members, were sent to Kumamoto. They cleared debris as well as passed on housing reconstruction information to the survivors.



June – July

With the help of supporters, Habitat Japan rebuilt a damaged community center in Mantoku which is the second largest district in Nishihara. The center plays a role in revitalizing the local community by bringing residents together.

April 26

Two staff members of Habitat Japan conducted an initial assessment in Kumamoto and Oita prefectures. A decision was then made to support the operations of the Nishihara disaster volunteer center in Kumamoto prefecture.



May – July

Habitat Japan sent a housing support team to Nishihara who advised local residents on housing rehabilitation issues. The team also helped to connect housing experts with the survivors in order to respond to their housing needs.



July 30 – July 31

A craft workshop was conducted by Habitat Japan for families who faced the problem of limited shortage space while living in temporary housing units. About 45 families joined the workshop and made shelves they needed with the help of local builders and volunteers.



We are thankful for the support of Alwaleed Philanthropies, individuals, companies and other organizations as well as a total of 104 volunteers, mainly campus chapter members, who contributed to Habitat's disaster response in Nishihara, Kumamoto prefecture. Hidemitsu Minamoto, a mayor of Mantoku district where Habitat rehabilitated the community center, said the neighborhood community association was able to hold a yearly event for the elderly this autumn. Local residents have taken over the running of the craft workshop launched by Habitat Japan and are organizing it regularly for those living in the temporary housing units.

While Habitat Japan had completed its earthquake response, we will continue to support the reconstruction of Kumamoto through the efforts of our campus chapter members.

Thank you for supporting our Kumamoto response.



Campus Chapter Work Camp



In October, Habitat Japan held an annual campus chapter work camp in Gotenba, Shizuoka prefecture. A record number of 350 campus chapter members gathered for a time of learning and networking. During the workshop, campus chapter members discussed what they could do when a disaster happened in their community. Those who had volunteered in earthquake-affected Kumamoto and the Tohoku region shared about their experiences in relating to survivors and understanding their needs.

Collaboration with Corporate X Campus Chapters

On July 9, Habitat Japan conducted the third “Youth United Initiative” to cultivate youth leaders who could contribute to social welfare. This initiative is supported by Goldman Sachs, a long-term partner of Habitat for Humanity. This year, 47 campus chapter members from 29 campuses across Japan got together to participate in a joint workshop to discuss and exchange ideas to achieve their goals of raising funds and awareness of the need for decent housing. During the workshop, the young people were divided into groups with 15 Goldman Sachs employees each taking on the role of a mentor. With the mentors’ advice, campus chapter members worked to solve the issues they faced as a leader of his/her chapter and come up with concrete plans.

※ Habitat Japan welcomes any corporate partners who would like to support the cultivation of youth leaders. Please contact Habitat Japan for more details at info@habitatjp.org.



Collaboration with Corporate X Habitat for Humanity Japan

The bank of America Group is among global partners who have supported the work of Habitat for Humanity in various countries for more than 30 years. Every year, their employees volunteer on Habitat build sites in local communities all over the world. This autumn, Habitat Japan collaborated with the group for the first time.

On October 15, 16 volunteers from Bank of America Merrill Lynch gathered at a children’s home in Machida, Tokyo. The facility was built 40 years ago and the inner walls had never been refurbished. The paint was peeling off and there were stains on the walls. Habitat Japan decided to repaint the interior of the facility with the help of the Bank of America Merrill Lynch employees so that the children of the home can live more comfortably.

A new coat of paint brightened the corridor which drew much attention from the children who returned to school the next day. Some of the children also enjoyed hand-painting activities with the volun-

teers. After having lunch with the children, they sang a song for the volunteers as a parting gift.

Every helping hand makes a difference. Find out how you can partner with Habitat Japan to enable families and children to build a better future. Please contact Habitat Japan for more details at info@habitatjp.org.



“What I experienced through GV (Global Village program) definitely helps my current activities,” said Tatsuya, a former campus chapter member who is currently a member of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers based in the Philippines. Although Hada is now playing an important role in supporting Philippine communities in disaster management, his first overseas experience was with GV in 2006, the year that he entered university.

Hada worked on a Habitat build site as part of a volunteer team, “Same Same but Tokai”, from Tokai University. “I was able to see things from a different perspective from my first GV trip. Everything was really new and I learned a lot of things,”



Hada recalled. After the GV experience, he started developing an interest in development work and hoped to secure an international stint.

Initially, he did not choose to work with an international cooperation organization after graduating from university. Although he had gone on four GV trips, he did not feel that those experiences were adequate for him to go into development work. Therefore, he opted to gain working experience before considering a career in the development field. As he wanted to help others, he did not join a company but made a decision to become a firefighter - a profession that largely affects people’s lives - and stepped into his professional career.

“A firefighter’s job is not only in protecting the community by putting out fires. The important thing is to prevent fires by communicating with the local community,” Hada said. Five years later, in 2015, he went to the Philippines as member of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers. He could leverage both on his experi-

ence in communicating with the community as well as disaster management. Hada was sent to Kalibo on the island of Panay, Aklan province. The city was devastated by the 2013 Typhoon Haiyan and resettlement for local people had just started. In his efforts to help the community, Hada realized the urgency in improving the housing situation in the local community that was vulnerable because of poverty. To tackle such a problem, he felt it was essential to use locally sourced materials as well as to build houses suited to the local climate and terrain together with locals, he said. “Habitat began its support in the very early phase after the disaster and still continues its operation. It was speedy and absolutely rooted in the community.”

While Hada has moved on professionally, he wants to cherish his connection with Habitat. For someone who took his first steps overseas with a Habitat GV team, he has come a long way and is set to contribute to society for many years to come.

Global Festa Japan

Every year, in commemoration of International Cooperation Day on October 6, Japan holds its largest international cooperation event on a weekend. The most recent Global Festa Japan was held in Odaiba, Tokyo, on October 1 and 2, and attracted about 100,000 people. Habitat Japan has been participating in this event for 10 consecutive years. This year, a “House Building Workshop” was conducted by students majoring in architecture. The workshop highlighted the current situation of inadequate housing in the world and allowed visitors to make their own models of an ideal house. Habitat Japan’s booth was full of the energy of young people as 1,850 student volunteers from 33 campus chapters across the country turned up in full force. We would like to express our gratitude to our supporters and members of the campus chapters who came to the event.



Volunteers needed for Women Shelter



Many people may be aware of the problem of domestic violence but not a lot of them know that the people who suffered also face housing issues. There are people who had to leave their homes to escape from domestic violence. Shelters are the facilities that temporarily protect them. Habitat Japan regularly cleans the shelters with volunteers from May 2016 so that the people who stay there can live comfortably. The monthly clean-up program is restricted to female campus chapter members and women supporters. Please contact Habitat Japan if you are interested in volunteering.

Recruitment of House Supporters

Join us as House Supporter for 1,000 yen every month and help to realize our vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Your regular long-term support will have a significant impact on Habitat Japan’s work domestically and overseas. For details, please visit our home page at habitatjp.info/index_e.html or send an e-mail to info@habitatjp.org.



Editor’s Note

Last summer, a total of 30 teams or 442 volunteers from Japan traveled to 11 countries mainly in Asia-Pacific region to build decent homes for families in need. During the long vacations in spring and summer, there are many opportunities for volunteering in overseas construction activities. The bustle continues from the time a GV volunteer team leaves till when the team members return. We are glad that all GV volunteers had successfully completed their summer builds overseas without any major injuries. In spring, we expect to have more volunteers sign up and we are conducting safety orientation and training to ensure that all will have a safe and meaningful experience. We appreciate your continuous support and cooperation.

A world where everyone has a decent place to live.

Habitat for Humanity Japan

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