

# HFHJ Newsletter

BUILDING HOUSES, BUILDING HOPE.

Issue #5 December 2006

## Meiji Gakuin University – Work Camp in the Philippines

The fifth work camp, sponsored by Meiji Gakuin University's dept. of Religion in cooperation with Habitat for Humanity Japan, was held in the Philippines from Sep 9<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006. This program is evaluated as a required credits against graduation at the university's Center for Liberal Arts; therefore, most of the participants were students aiming to receive credits by submitting reports and having presentations.

I went to the Philippines with the team and participated in the Global Village Program at NMA-BTHOA Project Site, in Valenzuela City, one of thirteen cities that consist of the National Capital Region called Metro Manila.



During our stay, we had some afternoons with long and heavy thunderstorms that flooded the street in front of our hotel, and other days with temperatures above 35 Celsius. It felt very hot, but a total of approximately 70 participants could build houses making our activity very lively. Because a two-story terrace houses built of reinforced concrete and concrete bricks was used for the project, our main activities were to mix cement, carry sand and build brick walls. Through those cooperative activities with local people, such as homeowners, their families and relatives, and professional constructors, it seemed that team members seemed to be feeling a great deal of fulfillment than just building a house on their own. Moreover, youth

teams, organized by local high schools and universities, came to the worksite and worked with us so that we could have a very great opportunity for not only voluntary activity, but also cultural exchange. This experience brought us the idea that the Global Village Program was supported by many kinds of people who may not know each other, but share the same goal.

In addition to the activity at the worksite, we did a home-stay in Banai, which was the completed project of Habitat for Humanity, the participation in SALT tour, courtesy visit to the city mayor, the University of Philippines visit, local church visit and sightseeing in Manila. SALT is a Japanese NGO, supporting people who are living in the garbage dump site, called "smoky mountain" in Payatas, Quezon City, though programs like scholarship and medical and health support. We visited there and observed the present situation, while we experienced home visitation to families, cross-stitch with mothers who worked at the daycare center, round a table with daycare children in Kasiglahang, where Philippine government supported the people who lost houses due to a fire. The participation in SALT tour was a valuable experience, which makes our awareness of the present situation in the Philippines that we did not see through everyday life.

Through activity at the worksite, cultural exchange, and home-stay with local people and seeing the lives of the children, especially, a look on each student member vividly changed. It impressed me very much. Although our schedule was too short to complete the project or not enough for the local people who were suffering from poverty, I got an impression that each volunteer's constant belief not only results in reducing the poverty, but also makes them build hope. I hope to support and help foster young imaginations, energy and hope that impel the youth to build a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

(Youth Program Manager, Kentaro Yamazaki)



**Team Name** MGU Work Camp '06

**Trip Dates** Sep. 9<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006

**Member** 15 females, 2 males

1 school minister

**Destination** The Philippines

**Worksite** NMA-BTHOA Project Site in Valenzuela City

**The Number of Families Moving In** 72

## HFH Japan booth at the Global Festa JAPAN 2006



The largest event to gather NGOs in Japan "Global Festa Japan 2006" was held at Hibiya Park in Tokyo on Sep. 30<sup>th</sup> and Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006. HFH Japan set up a PR booth there in cooperation with the student volunteers. The site was filled with not only NGOs, but also embassies of various countries, representative of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and other international organizations for philanthropy motivations. 666,969 visitors came to the event and HFH Japan booth hosted many of them.

We would like to thank all the volunteers for their dedication, and visitors for their interest in HFH Japan.

### Disaster Response: A Year Has Passed Since The Earthquake Hit Northern Pakistan

One year has passed since Pakistan Earthquake on October 8, 2005. Here at Balakot, where they say more than 40,000 people were killed, there are still many refugee tents and broken bricks laying around. However, not so many international NGOs are seen but only the feeling of isolation from the rest of the world has deepened. The rebuilding process still has a long way to go.

With the grant from Japan Platform, Habitat for Humanity Japan has been assisting Pakistan Earthquake victims for more than 6 month. The sawmill service was provided to 1,000 families (about 5,000 people); however, the progress did not show so easily. Monsoon and heavy rain caused a lot

of land slides in the summer; people migrated to other places in autumn to work at the farm preparing for the winter. As the national government started to give assistance, I can finally see the fruits of our activities that the sawmill-provided logs are shaping to be used as the roofs, pillars and walls.

Winter is closely approaching to the victims. This north eastern area of Pakistan is one of the coldest places in the country. There are still many victims living without enough blankets in the temporary tent shelters which can be easily torn anytime. While the weather gets even colder in December and January, I would continue assisting the victims, hoping that the sawmill-provided logs shall be the "pillar" to support their house and effort to live. (Shintaro Yamamoto)



### Visiting Habitat for Humanity Thailand

Fr. Isamu Ando—Chair, Habitat for Humanity Japan

While I had to pay a visit to Thailand through the end of October to the beginning of November, I decided to stop by at Habitat for Humanity Thailand (HFH Thailand) office for the first time. The national office is located on the 15<sup>th</sup> floor of a tall building called SSR tower building in Bangkok. Seven staff welcomed me warmly as if I was the first person to visit them from Habitat for Humanity Japan (HFH Japan).

I spent the morning there visiting the staff and hearing about their programs, and they showed me one of their construction sites in the afternoon. HFH Thailand had build 1,410 houses since its foundation in 1998, and it is aiming to complete 2,045 more only in 2006 and 2007. Such a high target must be due to the many victims left out in substandard housing from the Tsunami two years ago. There are five affiliates that are operating thanks to volunteer staff and frequent visits by national office staff. Also, HFH Thailand staff seemed very busy because they were hosting the former U.S. president Jimmy Carter a few days later, on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

HFH Thailand suggests a number of ideas hoping to make stronger relationship with HFH Japan. One of them is to approach the Japanese business community in Thailand. Many Japanese companies have been there for quite a long time now, and HFH Thailand sees a big fundraising opportunity with them through HFH Japan's support. They also introduced the possibility of forming the new activities such as hosting temporary volunteers to work in their office, and construction volunteers and professionals of many sorts from HFH Japan.

I am pleased to learn that HFH Japan has such a great opportunity for growth in partnership with HFH Thailand.



### Japan Team in India for

### Jimmy Carter Project 2006



Former US President Jimmy Carter (left), Mr. Brad Pitt (second right), and the HFH International CEO Jonathan Reckford (right).

Since 1984, the annual Jimmy Carter Work Project (JCWP) has been Habitat's signature event. It was held in India from Oct. 29 to Nov. 3 of this year.

More than 2,000 volunteers from all over the world worked together with the actor Mr. Brad Pitt, not to mention former President Carter and his wife Roselyn.

Five volunteers (Ms. Keiko Chen, Ms. Yasuko Nagase, Mr. Koichiro Shiratori, Mr. Takayoshi Suzuki, and Mr. Jeremy Huffaker), joined the JCWP as the Japan Team and did an outstanding job. It was hard work, but they helped realize 100 families' dreams of owning a decent house.

For your information, 60% of the housing is substandard in India. Thus, Habitat started "India Build", which aims to build 50,000 houses in 5 years. The JCWP played a significant role as the prologue for India Build.

In 2007 the JCWP will be conducted in Los Angeles.



# Events & Projects

## New Programs

### BANGLA: Charity Event for Bangladesh Sponsored by 3 Campus Chapters in Kanto Area

Bangladesh Charity Event will be held at the "polygon OMOTESANDO" in Shibuya on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> (Sat), 2006. It is sponsored by 3 Campus Chapters; Kanda University of International Studies, Aoyama Gakuin University, and Meiji Gakuin University, that are student-initiated partner organizations of Habitat for Humanity Japan.

The event consist of 2 public performances at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m., having guests like a pair of Japanese Bangladeshi comedians "Ami-Boro" and a Bangladeshi photographer, Mr. Khandakar Anisur Rahman. Also, there are plans to offer a photo exhibition, crafts, and Chai sales to give a feeling of the country's culture. Through the event, visitors can learn about the country and share their support.

<Objectives>

- **Let's Sense Bangladesh:** to know and raise awareness.
- **Building A House:** to raise 150,000 yen to donate a house.
- **Build A Next Gratified Life And...** to realize the pleasure of having a house, and to share the hope for the people.

**Admission:** 1,500 yen (a cup of Chai included) \*All funds raised will be used for construction in Bangladesh.

**Application:** For the details and the application, please visit the event URL <http://bangla.web.fc2.com/>

We are looking forward to hosting you there!!



~Sponsor a house with 100 yen a day~

### House Supporter Project

This is a new program to sponsor a house from 1 unit which is 36,000 yen (3,000 yen/month).

A 'Unit' refers to a part of a house such as a roof or a wall. Just as we can divide a house into ten parts, we divided the total construction cost into 10 units. The supporter can choose the number of units freely. 10 units are needed to construct one house. Habitat for Humanity Japan will gather the house supporters, put the contribution together and send to the partner countries. Once construction is completed, Habitat will send a report with a picture of the house and the homeowner to house supporters, so that the supporters can feel and see the result of the support. As the outset of the project, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Bangladesh are the candidates for partner countries of House Supporter Project. Would you like to be a House Supporter and support those who need to build a house?

For details, please contact Habitat for Humanity Japan. (The brochure of this House Supporter Project is only in Japanese.)



## Reporting the GV in Bangladesh Aoyama Gakuin University SHANTI SHANTI

Aoyama Gakuin University SHANTI SHANTI team went to Bangladesh for the Global Village Program this summer. I think that there are not many people who can tell what kind of country it is or where it is located; and I was one of them. In such place, we stayed with the local people and build houses for 10 days, though it may be too short to know all about Bangladesh.

The worksite, Satkhira where we built houses is about 2 hours away from Dhaka by domestic flight and a bus ride. Satkhira was surrounded by such a rich green nature stretched to the ground



under the blue sky. The rural scenery was very impressive to me. However, the common life style in Satkhira did not seem wealthy enough to live. Especially, most of the local houses were built of wood or bamboo, and some were built of only concrete and tin roofs, which would soon rust and not be able to support living conditions.

Our main activities at the worksite were frame measurement, digging holes for the foundation, mixing cement and building brick walls. Since it was during the rainy season, the holes we dug got filled with water very often, but even such hardships were enjoyable to us working and communicating with the local families in Bengal, the language we don't understand.

I could have a very great experience regardless of race and religion through this trip. I strongly think this experience made my deep awareness of poverty so that I, as one of the members or a voluntary organization, can take a next step to

make a difference in the world. However, I also had a big question; "How much could we contribute to the people in Satkhira?" Of course, we had no knowledge and skill to build houses. Also, we had only 10 days. Under such conditions, our contribution was very tiny so we are not fully satisfied. What can we do to satisfy ourselves with our activity? I suppose it is advanced research before the trip or "awareness raising" in Japan after we return. Especially, awareness raising is the most influential activity we, as a student-led, student-initiated organization, can do because we can be very persuasive with our experience in the field. Moreover, I realized the importance of having experience and knowledge.

Bangladesh is no longer a strange country for us now, and I believe that it makes our GV trip more valuable to raise awareness on the current situation of Bangladesh in Japan. I think that it is our mission.

(Kazuki Hongo, Team Leader)

# Japan Updates

## Recent Projects

### Introducing the New Volunteer Program ! Learn & Build in Florida

After the success of Disaster Response Volunteer Team "Japan Hope Builders" in Leyte, Philippines, HFH Japan has developed a new volunteer program called "Learn & Build". "Learn & Build" offers the opportunity to learn the true meaning of "Volunteering" while participating in house building and community services. Along with showing their building skills, team members will also be able to brush up their language skill.



The destination of the first "Learn & Build" team will be East Pasco, Dade City, Florida, USA. This HFH affiliate is known for its successful operation, not only in housing activities, but also fundraising and a support program for the partner families.

For example, they conduct a bicycle race, sell second hand furniture and fixtures at a "Home Store", and operate a recycle program for aluminum cans, ink cartridges, and mobile phones. The profit from the recycle program alone covers 35% of their housing cost!

The team members will cooperate with volunteers from the local community as well as groups from outside. The itinerary contains volunteering for the bicycle race, taking part in the recycle program, visiting local companies, a university, county fair, and Disney World!

The team leader is Ms. Mariko Terada. Ms. Terada formerly worked as an intern at one of the HFH affiliates in the US. The qualifications for participation are proficiency in English (being able to communicate in day-to-day situations) and being age 18 and older. No construction skills are required.

The participation cost is Y298,000 - Y338,000 for HFH Japan members, and Y308,000 - Y348,000 for nonmembers. These costs include airfare, accommodation, insurance, ground transportation, etc. As the cost of accommodation and ground transportation depends on the number of participants, HFH Japan will settle the price once the number of volunteers is fixed.

If you have any questions or need further information, please e-mail us at [info@habitatjp.org](mailto:info@habitatjp.org).

### List of Donations and Grants (2006.7.1~10.30)

Thank you very much for the support. Your contributions will be used to realize "A World Where Everyone Has A Decent Place To Live."

#### <Donation>

Date	Donor	Proffered Usage	Amount
7・7	Anonymous	Indonesia	21,854
7・7	Anonymous	Leyte, Philippines	10,675
7・10	Professor at Tokai Univ.	HFH Japan Office	10,000
7・28	Saga JET	Bangladesh	180,000
7・31	Koleen Goodwine	HFH Japan Office	17,000
8・1	Mitsugu Saito	Leyte, Philippines	54,446
8・10	Miyagi JET	Papua New Guinea	81,705
8・21	Yokohama Union Church	HFH Japan Office	35,419
9・19	CODE	Leyte, Philippines	500,000
9・29	Suzue Imaizumi	HFH Japan Office	5,000
10・23	Isao Ochiai	HFH Japan Office	1,000
10・30	KUIS	Indonesia, Pakistan	72,829

#### <Grants>

8・16	Japan Platform	Pakistan	4,999,100
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(Suffix Omitted, Amount in Yen)

### DONATION SUPPORT: HFH JAPAN BANK INFORMATION

#### POSTAL ACCOUNT :

Account Number: 00100-2-278431

Account Holder: (特活) HFH ジャパン

#### BANK ACCOUNT :

Bank Name: 三井住友銀行 中野坂上支店  
Sumitomo Mitsui Banking

Account Number: Savings 4180738

Account Holder: トクビ ハビタットフォーヒューマニティジャパン



**Habitat  
for Humanity®**  
Japan

Habitat for Humanity seeks to eliminate poverty housing worldwide through participatory, community led programs. In 2006 we mobilized nearly 1,000,000 volunteers in over 100 countries. For further information on our exciting activities and life-changing opportunities for you to get involved, contact us today!

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