

HFHJ Newsletter

Issue #8, October 2007.

Disaster Response : Report from Noto

From August 12th to 22nd, Habitat for Humanity Japan sent 20 volunteers to Noto Peninsula, Ishikawa, in order for them to help restore Dozo. This was done through the Wajima Dozo Restoration Committee with support from ADRA Japan (address: 1-11-1, Jingumae, Shibuyaku, Tokyo, URL:<http://www.adrajpn.org>). It is said that out of the 250 Dozo in Wajima, more than 150 Dozo need to be restored. This time, the volunteers



joined 2 Dozo restoration works. The activities have been on our Habitat Japan web page. Here are some experiences from volunteers who participated.

The work was hard everyday...
Atsuko Hori

I just realized that the experience of volunteering at Noto made this year's summer special, because of the warmth of the people in Noto and the other volunteers. When I arrived at "House of Ate", I had some wor-



ries. But actually, it was very beautiful that we, the participants, got along well on the very first night.

The work was hard everyday. At the end of the first day, I lost the grasping power of my hands. Because of this experience, when I pass by the construction site, I appreciate the hard work of the workers. After the work, I enjoyed cooking and doing laundry together with the participants. After that, we went out to the foot bath or to see fireworks. At the house of Ate, I met American college students. They made us cheese burgers, and we taught them Japanese. One good memory was that I was able to talk with them even with my little English. It was probably I first time to felt such warmth of people like Mr. Odawara, the gandma and grand pa who prepared us delicious lunches, and I learned what humanity is.

I was the first one to leave Noto. When I was to leave, I was about to cry. I realized that I really loved the life there. I am thankful that I was able to have such a great experience there at Noto with beautiful friends of volunteers, and learning the realities of people who have affected by the earthquake.

Friendship gives me energy
Koji Okada

I was assigned as a supervisor for dismantling the house of Mr. Nanao. There was one volunteer who got heat stroke and being as a supervisor, I felt the responsibility. Concerned to the health situation of the volunteers, I was happy to be able to finish the whole 6 days of volunteers without any big accident. After that, we worked on the house of Mr. Tenno. We worked hard, and shared our souls. Since we became good friends, we continue to communicate even up to now. This friendship gives



me energy to continue to work with the people.

I worked until the morning of 22nd, and I moved to Sado, Niigata. Now, I have a little rest at my house in Tajimi, Gofu. I think Noto needs more volunteers for reconstruction, so I hope to join volunteer work again in the future.

Report of Global Festa 2007

On Oct. 6 and 7 about 80,000 people came to the Global Festa, and it finished with a great success. To our joy, many people came to the booth of Habitat Japan among a lot of people regardless of age, sex, or nationality.

The most instructive thing for us was that we were able to let many people know Habitat's activities and talk to people who have interests in our activity.

Many members of Campus Chapter participated in as volunteers, and helped us a lot.

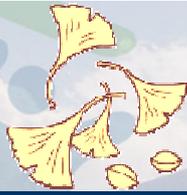
We always appreciate to everyone cooperating with us.

****The profits of Global Festa****
The funds by Brick by Brick
¥18,084

the proceeds from goods of Habitat
¥23,800

We will use the profits for the building in the partner countries.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.



Japan Update

Assessment report on Bangladesh flood

In whole around 10,000,000 people in Bangladesh have been affected by the flood caused by the heavy rain of the monsoon since July. With the funds from Japan Platform, Habitat Japan conducted initial assessment of the damage of the flood from September 4th to 12th.

Bangladesh is situated at the foot of 3 big rivers (Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna) and majority of the nation's land is less than 7 meters above sea level. Almost every year, Bangladesh experiences flooding. However the water level was unusual this year. Heading toward the suburb of the Dhaka, the assessment team saw that the farm was inundated and became similar to a



lake. Especially along with the Januma (Brahmaputra) river, which flows through Tibet and India, many houses and farms were damaged. While we were staying in Bangladesh (around September 8), another heavy rain struck, and

the water level went even higher causing more damage. We visited the affected area in and around the Jamuna River at Arjuna, Gabsara and Nikrail Union in Bhupur Upazila, Tangail. The islands (char) in the river went under the water, and we could see only some remaining

houses on the higher levels. In Bhupur, more than 100,000 people, of the 180,000 (1991) population, have been affected. There has been damage to 1,081 houses and partial damage to 18,581 houses.

Some of the affected population stay on temporarily land permitted by the local government, and others stay with their relatives. There are even some who built the temporary shelter without permission on others' land and stay there. At the camp where we visited, a few tube wells provides drinking water, but there did not seem to be enough. The condition of the overall sanitation is not good.

When we interviewed the victims at the sites, many showed their desire to go back to their own land once the water subsides. After the water subsides, the local government plans to ask the victims to leave the camp. There is even a possibility for them to be evicted. In such situation, help is needed to build transitional houses on their original land in order for them to transfer smoothly to a recovery phase and to improve the present living situation.

The victims, who lost everything by the flood, can not afford to buy the materials to build their houses. However the people know basic carpentry. Habitat Japan plans to assist them to build transitional houses on their return to their own land.

(Megumi Nishijima, Int'l Programs)

Thailand GV Report : HFH-KUIS

We were more relaxed this time since it was our second visit to Lampang following spring. The town hasn't changed much since then. Thailand has such a modern face that a Seven-Eleven was located next to the hotel but on the contrary, there



are a lot of stalls are still lined up in the town. The Regent Lodge Hotel Lampang where we stayed this time was also one of the ordinary hotels in downtown Lampang. The hotel was well facilitated with hot shower and

clean bath rooms.

Our GV started smoothly and really became memorable especially with Mr. Porn, the homeowner. Mr. Porn who also worked with us was very cheerful and amused us, but all of sudden he started to drink alcohol all day long. He was making a noise at the work and getting worse and worse. We were told that Mr. Porn liked us a lot and could not endure that we were leaving soon and tried to avoid thinking of it by drinking. Though we understood his feeling, it made us discouraged working because we could not see his will to change his life and start a new one. Moreover, there was a member who began to feel fear with his attitude. However, we heard that he has come to rely on alcohol after he lost all his friends at the war. We thought all these memories and feeling crossed each other in his mind when he realized about our return.

We witnessed many of people who tried to change their lives went through a hardship. We felt it is not so easy to change one's life. At the end Mr. Porn seemed to accept the separation with us. He came to see us off at the airport and we could understand each other.

We definitely enjoyed playing with the children at the elementary school and the orphanage where we visited for our R&R. It was so easy to become friend with the children and we even forgot about whether we are Japanese or Thai. It wasn't the matter at all.

HFH - KUIS Team leader

Atsuro Shimizu



Event and Project

Japan Hope Builders Team in Udon Thani, Thailand

General participation type GV in Udon Thani, Thailand which I had been longing for was held on Aug. 25th – Sep. 1st. Participants were 9 people of the men and women of all ages plus myself. The house we built was the 1000th house in the north-east area including Udon Thani. Members' smiling faces were shining day after day, and I was delighted to feel the changes in everyone.

It was a big support for me and finally became a proof of my stay in Thailand. One of the participants said to me that he was happy to be a part of this team at the airport when I saw them off. It meant a lot to me and has become the most important word to me. I went back to Udon Thani again on Sep. 7 to attend the commemoration party for 1000 houses. It was an honor to be able to build the 1000th house of commemoration; however, the fact that there are families who



have started their new lives in all 1000 houses gives me the most pleasure. **(Keiko Shimizu)**

It was my first volunteer work, and I was touched by the phrase "Let's built happiness of the families in Thailand". Though I didn't have much confident for my physical strength first, I wanted to work more conversely. Thai people's gentleness and smiling faces remain in my mind most.

Especially children's brightness, innocence and sparkling of their eyes are different from those of children in Japan, and that gave me a strong impact. My heart was really healed by the children's smiles. We Japanese have enough food, clothes and places to live now, yet I feel our minds are not filled. I also wondered about our future or Japan. I regretted

myself deeply through Thai people's gentleness and thoughtfulness to the people in need and their attitude to respect elder people. I could experience the things I would never forget rest of my life and am so thankful for all of the meetings. **(Yoko Noto)**

I joined the Habitat program again because I remembered my last GV in Philippines and also wanted to participate it from Japan. It is very important for me to recall the GV in Philippines because once I returned to Japan I easily forgot it and tended to vaguely spend every day. The word from the person who helped us a lot in the Philippines GV, "It is important to keep what we felt in Philippines" has become valuable to me. I thank everyone who shared this wonderful time together with me. **(Azusa Iijima)**

It was a very meaningful experience. We went to a church and visited the house of Salneri, then took a walk around Laos border on the 1st day. We started the construction on the 2nd day, and it was quite tough to carry soil for the floor. On the 3rd day with the help of Habitat Udon Thani we made the walls by blocks, and could finish more than half of whole construction. We completed about 2/3 of the whole on the 4th day. We worked in the morning and visited a local elementary school in the afternoon of the 5th day. We enjoyed singing and dancing with the children in the school. On the 6th day, our last day we filled in concrete to the floor and worked on the restroom with the help of deaf-mute people in the area. Because of their hard work, we completed the house faster and we held an inauguration ceremony with the neighbors and the village mayor magnificently. I was so impressed with Tasani's leadership and am so thankful to Ms. Keiko Shimizu who took great care of us. I have returned to Japan safely and with happy memories. Thank you all! **(Shinya Fujii)**

I met a lot of people every day and spoke a lot with them. My mind is

filled with various feelings of various people such as the home owners, the staffs of Udon Thani, the children from Salneri which is the facility for HIV-positive children, the local schoolchildren and the students with auditory difficulties who worked together, and I haven't been able to organize them yet. I would say that it was my life-changing experience. I would like to share them with you if I have a chance to have a drink with you. I was also blessed to have such wonderful members. I met most of them for the first time but through this trip we could become one big team. Each one of us had own role and we could not make it without any of us. **(Kouichirou Shiratori)**

Although it was only five days that we worked, it became the house for the whole life of the home owner. When I thought my work would protect the family, I couldn't help being serious. The work was always fun because of smiles and jokes of the home owners, the staffs and the students, and made me want to work more though there was a hard thing in time, too. Our work was completed by installing the outside walls and making the foundation on the floor. The one which was only a roof and



frames now became a house under the blue sky.

When a squall fell, a local man was holding up to the lady who washed the dishes with a slip of a tin roof. I wished that our support to the local people would be just like this. I sometimes looked at the photos of the house and the people around the house in my cell phone, and they make me happy. **(Masataka Take-shita)**



Japan Update

Comedy Charity Event Raise 82,569JPY in Donations for HFH!!

Comedy Charity Event, "HATO LIVE 1st," was held at the "Shinbashi Kumin Kaikan" in Shibuya-ku on Oct. 9th (Tue), 2007. About 100 attendees joined us for a public performance during the evening; the hall was filled with enthusiasm on the occasion. This event was sponsored by a Comedian unit, "Suppon Daigaku," and cooperated by other 10 comedian units with Campus Chapter members' support.



All donations received at this event will go to Habitat activities to build houses in the world.

- Total amount: 82,569 JPY
---Detail---
- Tickets/goods sales and monetary gifts: 97,569JPY+25cent
 - Rent fee for the hall: 15,000 JPY

On Oct. 2nd the 4th meeting was held for Travelers with a Purpose & UN Habitat Day.

Because of the UN Habitat Day (Oct. 1st), we had a different style of the meeting from the usual this time. It is that we not only shared information regarding to HFH-Japan and GV trip, but also had the presentation on the worldwide issue of human settlement and the activities such as a quiz to make awareness of the issue. Fortunately, as a result, more than 30 supporters from a variety of fields, such as Ms. Karryn Cartelle, who carried an article about Habitat for Humanity on the Magazine, "METROPOLIS," (<http://metropolis.co.jp/tokyo/706/globalvillage.asp>) the members of our Campus Chapters, and so on, came. Most of them seemed to enjoy



the meeting because they stayed and talked one another although the meeting was closed. Moreover, we had wonderful guests from Meigaku (Meiji Gakuin University) GV team, Mr. Kimura & Ms. Kurata. They talked about their experience on their Kyrgyzstan GV trip this summer. Their GV report will be updated soon. Please look forward to it!

List of Donations and Grants(from2007/7/1to9/14)

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

<Donation>

Date	Donor	Proffered Usage	Amount
6-Jul	at the My Habitat meeting		357
9-Jul	Society of Jesus		20,000
10-Jul	Monkey Majik		16,556
23-Jul	Board of Directors		1,690
25-Jul	Suzue Imaizumi		10,000
2-Aug	ADRA Japan	Noto	300,000
3-Aug	Jun Naito	Noto	3,000
4-Sep	SCUDERIA ALFETTA 8.4		3,866
12-Sep	Kimiko Mimura & her Friends	Bangladesh	10,000

<Grants>

10-Sep	Japan Platform	Bangladesh	1,797,150
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(Suffix Omitted, Amount in Yen)



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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