

# HFHJ Newsletter

Issue #11, June 2008.

## Japan-Funded Project Completed In Three Months

DHAKA, 18th March 2008: Annual flooding in a low-lying country like Bangladesh is a common bane but for 120 families in the central Tangail district who were affected by floods last summer, the problem can now be faced with greater peace of mind. These families recently received bamboo core houses built by Habitat for Humanity Japan in a project funded by the multi-agency Japan Platform.

The benefits of Habitat's post-flood reconstruction project were highlighted by Tangail's deputy commissioner who was the chief guest at a recent dedication ceremony in Bhuapur subdistrict. Deputy commissioner Mohammad Akther Ali Sarker said: "Every year the people of the river bank along the Jumana River suffer greatly from the annual floods causing untold damage and hardships. Many of their homes are washed away during flood."

"But the technology and design that Habitat Bangladesh has used in building the houses will definitely keep these 120 families much safer during the normal flooding season."

The 120 bamboo houses on stilts in Bhuapur were built in just three months by more than 90 local construction workers including skilled masons and volunteers.



**Handover: Yoshihiro Sakakibara (right), first secretary for development cooperation and economic affairs at the Japan embassy in Bangladesh, presenting a symbolic key to a home partner in Bhuapur.**

In addition to the Habitat home partner families, others present at the dedication ceremony included several Japanese guests. Guest of honor was Yoshihiro Sakakibara, first secretary for development cooperation and economic affairs at the Japan embassy in Bangladesh. Also on hand were Kazuo Watanabe, Japan Platform's project manager; Megumi Nishijima, HFH Japan's international program officer, along with volunteers from Ritsumeikan University's Habitat campus chapter.

Tangail's Ali Sarker also highlighted Habitat's method of engaging the families in contributing "sweat equity" or their own labor. He noted that Habitat did not simply distribute relief aid to the flood victims. Instead, Habitat helped the affected families to get back on their feet by asking them to help rebuild their homes. Impressed, Ali Sarker asked HFH Bangladesh to extend the flood response project to help another 5,000 homeless families along the river bank area.

Funding for the project came from Japan Platform, an international humanitarian aid organization that helps refugees and victims of natural disasters. Japan Platform gets funding from the Japanese business community and Japan's foreign affairs ministry with support from private foundations such as the Japan Foundation Center. Projects funded by Japan Platform are implemented through the partnering non-governmental organization.

There were other players who were instrumental in the successful completion of the project. HFH Japan's Megumi Nishijima, who was closely involved in the project, appreciated the dedication of HFH Bangladesh's staff who worked during holidays and thanked each project staff for their enthusiasm.

Lauding the volunteers from Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, Japan, the deputy commissioner noted: "I have no words to express my thanks and gratitude. You traveled to Bangladesh to work under the sun to build Habitat homes. Thank you for your hard workers to make Habitat's project successful."

In addition to the national and local government's cooperation, HFH Bangladesh's national director Roger Bodary was full of praise for the affected families.



"It was wonderful working with the people of Bhuapur. Their hospitality and simplicity amazed all the staff and workers of the project. We are only sorry that more families couldn't have benefited from this project. We hope and believe that this is the initial start of a long-term relationship."

The contrast in the families' lives is vivid. As HFH Japan's Nishijima, who was part of the Japan assessment team that visited Bangladesh, recalled: "The area almost looked like an ocean. We witnessed people trying to evacuate with their belongings by boat." At the temporary shelter camps, "people were living in congested, tiny shelters made of jute sticks. There were no safe water and sanitation. People do not have enough food. Agricultural products were damaged. But people had the urge to go back to their own places after the water subsides and start all over again".

With their new Habitat homes, the people's hope of starting afresh can now be fulfilled.

One home partner, Ajufa Shek, said earlier: "Not even in our dreams did we think we can live in this kind of house in our life. We are very poor; we do not have the ability to build this kind of house by ourselves. We were in trouble when the flood came. Now we are safe. We are not worried about my children's future, thanks to Habitat."

Ajufa and her husband Samad have four children aged six to 14. The family of six depend on sole breadwinner Samad who brings home about 2,000 taka (US\$30) a month as a daily wage laborer. Nishijima urged the home partners at the ceremony: "Now it depends on you how you will make your lives comfortable. You have to work hard, face new challenges and bring changes in your lives."

# Japan Update

## Join the Global Build in India (Sep.28th- Oct.7th)!!

Come join our team to experience a unique Global Build celebration where you will be building in India alongside other GV teams from all over the world! Our team will be joining GV teams arriving from countries such as Great Britain, New Zealand, Australia, Singapore, Northern Ireland, Canada, Holland and Korea. Global Village India invites volunteers from across the world to impact communities and lives by building decent, durable and affordable homes. In the past two years, Global Village India has been



proud to engage a total of 422 volunteers in 2006 and more than 600 volunteers in 2007 — but 2008 marks a special challenge in attracting 1,000 volunteers.

■About India■

India is home to one of the oldest civilizations in the world and is a land as diverse as it is vast. Its population is expected to exceed China's by 2010, making it the world's most populous country.

India gained its independence from Great Britain in 1947 and is the world's largest democracy. Since independence, India's history has been turbulent. Now in a period of liberalization, India faces the challenge of modernizing while trying to preserve its ancient culture. With an annual per capita income of \$300, most Indian families are unable to afford a decent home.

HFH India was formed in 1983 and has built more than 1,000 houses that are approximately 350 square feet, with at least two rooms and a latrine. House designs vary, depending on materials available in the area and the specific needs of the local community.

■Tentative itinerary■

Sep. 28,(Sun) - Arrive Indira Gandhi International Airport (Delhi airport); orientation in evening

Sep. 29-Oct. 3,(Mon-Fri) - Build

Oct. 4, (Sat) - R&R activities (tour of India Gate, Safdarjung Tomb, Qutub Minar, Red Fort, Jama Masjid, etc).

Oct. 5, (Sun) - Travel to Agra to see Taj Mahal and Agra Fort

Oct. 6, (Mon) - Half-day build and celebration of World Habitat Day

Oct. 7, (Tue) - Depart to home country

■Accommodations■

Team members should expect to stay at a hotel or a retreat center, depending on location and team preference. Rooms will be at least double occupancy in a hotel and will usually have a private bath. If our team is staying at a retreat center, the team members should expect a shared space and a shared bath.

■Meal■

Breakfast : at the hotel / retreat center

Lunch : at work site

Dinner : at restaurants / hotel / retreat center

■Cost■

The approximate cost : about \$1,200 (This number includes fees and costs such as program participation fee-57,000JPY, meals, lodging, local transportation and recreation costs.)

\*Airline reservations and a visa to India are not included in the trip cost. We will inform all of the participants about these arrangements in a few days. The point of arrival and departure for the trip will be Delhi, India.

■Application■

Refer to the application form online.

\* Please specify that you are applying for the Global Build India

\* Application due: Saturday July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008

## Lecture by HFHI CEO, Jonathan Reckford

Habitat for Humanity, international NGO operating in more than 100 countries, builds houses together with the volunteers and the local communities. Not just give, we build together.

What is the youth's role in today's socially conscious society?

Jonathan Reckford, CEO of Habitat for Humanity International with backgrounds in leading various international companies and NGOs, inspires the Japanese youth to be the leaders of tomorrow in the international development.

Date: Monday, June 30th, 2008  
Time: 17:30 – 19:30 (Doors open at 17:00)

Venue: Sophia University, Building 12, Room 102

- \* 1F on the building on the right hand side at the North gate
- \* Free entrance, English with Japanese translation

<Jonathan Reckford Profile>

BA with political science from the University of N. Carolina. MBA, with a certificate in nonprofit management, from Stanford University Graduate School of Business. Financial analyst at Goldman, Sachs & Co. in New York.

Volunteered for the Olympic Organizing Committee in Seoul, Korea. Various management and executive roles at Walt Disney Co., Circuit City Stores Inc., Musicland (now Best Buy Inc) etc.

Decides to leave the business world and commit to nonprofit work in 2003, and elected chief executive officer by the board of directors of Habitat for Humanity International in August 2005.

Habitat for Humanity International CEO

## Jonathan Reckford 氏講演会



**日時:** 2008年6月30日(月) 開場 17:00 開演 17:30  
**場所:** 上智大学 12号館 102教室  
**講師:** ジョナサン・レックフォード氏 (ハビタット・フォー・ヒューマニティ国際CEO)  
**演題:** 「住宅を築く、未来を築く」  
\*入場無料、逐次通訳つき (どなたでもご入場できます: 定員 200名)

世界100以上の国・地域で活動しているハビタット・フォー・ヒューマニティ。住宅を「与える」のではなく、ボランティアも支援を受ける側も、対等の立場で「一緒に築く」ことでコミュニティの自立支援を行っている。

国際協力・社会貢献が日本でも浸透し始めた中、日本でも将来を担う若者達は、どのような活動ができるのか。現在ハビタット・フォー・ヒューマニティのCEOであるレックフォード氏が、日本の若者が参加できる国際協力・社会貢献のアイデアを紹介する。

「ハビタット・フォー・ヒューマニティ」の本部は、米国カリフォルニア州にあり、日本支部は、1978年、アメリカで設立。住宅を建てたことで50以上の国・地域に自立支援を100で、1978年、アメリカで設立。貧困削減と健全な発展を中心に、これまで約100万回で20万軒の住宅を建てた。今では世界中で、一日あたり60軒の住宅を建てている。



問合せ: 上智大学カトリックセンター TEL.03-3238-4161

# Japan Update

## Disaster Response: Earthquake in South China

Habitat for Humanity International is responding to 12th May's devastating earthquake in the provinces of Sichuan, Gansu, Chongqing, Yunnan, Shanxi, Guizhou, XiaXi and Hubei in southwestern China.

Habitat has mobilized an assessment team, involving staff from Yunnan and nearby Guangdong provinces to make an initial assessment of the affected area. Habitat for Humanity will offer technical support to local authorities and other non-governmental organizations in support of long-term shelter reconstruction efforts. Habitat for Humanity organizations in Hong Kong and Singapore are among those launching fund raising efforts to support the Habitat response.

Habitat for Humanity has active programs in China and is currently involved in reconstruction programs following snow storms and flooding in Yunnan and Guangdong.

Habitat for Humanity is looking at ways of working with partner organizations in support of long-term shelter reconstruction efforts for those affected by the devastating earthquake in southwestern China. Habitat for Humanity International has been involved with rebuilding efforts

following a range of natural disasters in China and elsewhere in Asia and will bring its considerable experience in rebuilding permanent housing following the events in China.

Habitat Japan is now speaking out in an effort to gather donations in Japan to join in this recovery effort. Your kind support would be highly appreciated.

### POSTAL BANK ACCOUNT

Account Number: 00100-2-278431  
Account Holder: HFH Japan

### BANK ACCOUNT

Bank name: Mitsui Sumitomo Bank, Nakanosakaue Branch Office  
Account Number: 4180738 (Savings)  
Account Holder: トクヒ) ハビタット  
フォー ヒューマニティ ジャパン

\* Once the transfer is completed, please notify us that your donations funds are meant for the MyanmarCyclone Relief. Also, please include your name and contact information. Kindly note that more than 80% of your donation would be sent to Indonesia, but HFH Japan will deduct up to but no more than 20% for administrative costs.

### \*Volunteers to China\*

Volunteers are a vital component of the Habitat ministry. International and domestic volunteer build teams to unaffected areas of China are continuing as scheduled including Global Village teams to popular destinations in Yunnan.

At this stage it is too early to know the need for and placement of volunteers in earthquake-affected areas. The role of volunteers will become clearer once Habitat for Humanity has formulated the nature and extent of its response.

We would recommend that you visit our website for updates.



REUTERS/Nir Elias, courtesy www.aertriet.org

## Disaster Response in Noto UT Habitat

[May 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>, Ishikawa] Students volunteering with Habitat at Tokyo University, known as UT Habitat participated in the reconstruction of the Dozo project in Noto. Dozo, traditional Japanese style storage buildings is widely used for warehouse for Urushi lacquer ware and Sake factories in the area. Habitat also considers it is important to support the rebuilding efforts of Dozo since it plays a significant role in the local community's cultural conservation.

### Activity Report

For second time, I joined the Dozo repairing project in Wajima city, Ishikawa.

In March 2007, earthquake in Noto devastated Dozo. Accelerated with the local government's support to demolish the damaged buildings, it is said that more than 500 of the area's

traditional architecture died out due to this earthquake. In reaction, the local NPO "Workshop of Wajima Dozo Bunka(輪島土蔵文化研究会)" started the rebuilding.

Though tasks given to me were hard, I had fun demolishing the walls built during Edo period over 300 years ago. Mixture of mud and hay, used to plaster the Dozo walls, has interesting texture as well. Joining this project inspired me to think of Japanese traditional culture; many vanish away over time. It is easy to forget but very difficult to conserve. The weight of the mud in my hand reminded of the importance of the tradition.

Luckily I could visit with many local people including Dozo owners, craftsmen of Urushi lacquer were and their young trainees. Knowing that I could be a bit of help on working to help

conserve the tradition is still in my heart and moves me long after I joined the program.

(Koichiro Shiratori)



# Event and Project

## List of Donations and Grants(from2008/3/1to5/31)

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

日付	寄付者名	支援国指定	金額
3月11日	S I A 日本中央		300,000
3月21日	内藤 純		3,000
4月23日	大福来・市川 里福		20,000
4月23日	坂本 里美		3,700
4月30日	株式会社エスプレ		63,200
5月12日	安保 亮	ミャンマー	10,000
5月12日	タケムラ ハルカゼ		1,000
5月14日	トミタ ミホコ	ミャンマー	3,000
5月16日	張 裕淵	中国四川省	10,000
5月16日	森川 洋子	中国四川省	10,000
5月19日	ヤマモト タカシ		5,000
5月19日	熊倉 絵美	中国四川省	5,000
5月20日	サノ カズヤ		3,500
5月20日	川畑 陽子	中国四川省	10,000
5月20日	阿部 大	中国四川省	1,000
5月22日	フタムレ マサノリ		10,000
5月22日	神戸大学医学部免疫内科	中国四川省	10,000
5月22日	株式会社遊企画・施 治安	中国四川省	10,000
5月23日	平田 琴恵	中国四川省	10,000
5月23日	中川 健	中国四川省	5,000
5月28日	カン ゲンシュン	中国四川省	10,000
5月29日	タカハシ モトコ	中国四川省	1,000
5月29日	イマイ ユウコウ	中国四川省	10,000
5月29日	宮坂 彰利	中国四川省	5,000
5月29日	榊原 エリン		17,000

## Join Japan Hope Builders in Thailand! (August 27<sup>th</sup> – September 3<sup>rd</sup>)

Spend your summer with Habitat for Humanity this year. The Global Village Program (GV) is originally designed for teams to travel and build houses around the globe; however, here is your chance to join individually. Habitat Japan in collaboration with

Globe-Trotter(地球の歩き方) is now recruiting the member for Japan Hope Builders traveling to Bangkok, Thailand.

Different from the ordinary "visiting" tour, GV lets you visit to join the local project!  
Participants and the beneficiary homeowners work together as volunteer teams!  
No special skills needed!  
One trip includes local school visit, cultural exposure and sightseeing!

Date: August 27<sup>th</sup> – September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008 (8 days)

Place: Bangkok, Thailand

Cost: ¥179,000 per person (Surcharge excluded)

★ Airline used: Singapore Airlines, Thai Air

★ Hotel used: Regional Community Forest Training Center, Kassesat University

★ Cost includes airfare, transportation and other fees related to the activities listed on the itinerary, accommodation (shared with 2 to 3 people, separated by gender), administration charges for staff (local and accompanied), meals (5 lunch and 2 dinner).

★ Orientation seminar: July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008. (Reservation required)

※ Participation is not required but a good opportunity to get to know the program organizers and the details of the trip.



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!

### Habitat for Humanity Japan

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