

HFHJ Newsletter

Issue #13 Apr 2009

Globe-Trotter (Chikyu-no-arukikata) & HFH Japan's Collaborative Project II Report on Japan Hope Builders - "Let's Build a House in Thailand"

The second project of the GV program entitled "Japan Hope Builders" took place from Feb. 25th to March 5th. It was a joint project amongst the publisher of the famous travel guide "Globe-Trotter," STA Travel, and HFHJ. The unique part of this program is that unlike traditional GV, it allows volunteers to participate individually. Since HFHJ's staff members and professional tour guides accompany the participants, even the volunteers who had never been abroad can feel comfortable joining.



Hard Work, Hard To Forget

The mission given to us, the 16 volunteer members who met for the first time at Narita Airport was to build a house for the Pantip family of four in the town of Patthun Thani, an hour's drive from Thailand's capital, Bangkok. Due to the dry season in Thailand, it was quite hot there. Our first task was mixing cement and relaying it in buckets over and over to fill the foundation of a house. It was very hard! (picture on the left below).

Some of us were surprised to learn we had to start from the very beginning such as mixing cement by hand. However, as we kept working, we gradually started enjoying ourselves and began to bond as a team. Because the previous project took place in the same neighbor-

hood, neighbors and local carpenters gave us a warm welcome. For lunch, local people prepared delicious Thai food for us and even toned down the spices to compensate for Japanese people's tastes. 5 days later, when we officially presented the house to the homeowners (picture on the right below), all the volunteers as well as the Pantip family were tearing up, realizing that we had to say good-bye.

Visiting Local School & Sightseeing

After we completed each day's work as well as on the last day of the tour, we enjoyed sightseeing in Bangkok, including the famous floating market. We also visited a local elementary school to interact with the children. There, by the request of the children, we sang the "Doraemon" theme song and played both Japanese

and Thai games with them. Even though the tour was only 8 days, we truly enjoyed the experiences of cultural exchange and sightseeing while working on the main construction project. The memories we made there will definitely stay with us forever.

After coming back to Japan, some of us are working on launching a student affiliate called Habitat's "Campus Chapter" at their universities. This project is ideal for both students and working people who wish to start volunteering. Why don't you join in and share the heartwarming experience of working with the local people? You will never be able to have this sort of experience if you go on a sightseeing only tour!

(Akiko Hoshi, Meijigakuin University CC)



Japan Update

Events by Student Supporters of Habitat

Currently, 11 universities (13 campuses) and a high school located mainly in Kanto and Kansai regions, have worked on activities of Habitat for Humanity as Habitat's student affiliate called "Campus Chapter (Regular Group Member)" and "Campus Club (Supporting Group Member)."

Campus Chapters and Clubs have three main activities; educational campaign, fundraising and home-building activity. Not only to participate the home-building activity abroad, university students in Kanto and Kansai also jointly hold some charity events for enlightenment and fund-raising. Also, we had some events to acquaint the poverty housing issue in different countries and held the photo exhibition. Here is the report from the event held in February.

Give students a chance

When we talk about Habitat to students who don't know us well, then they usually answer something like "What does Habitat do? Why do they need a house? But GV sounds interesting!" For students, it is attractive to go abroad to build houses with their friends during their spring or summer vacation. But, unfortunately few students know about this wonderful activity. That's why we planned this event to spread the word. In this sense, it is the event that nobody but

such students can organize in order to provide opportunities to understand Habitat.

Kanto; "The house of helping hands- We love, we dance, and we save lives"

On February 10th, 2009, four student affiliates in Kanto held a charity dance event named "HOUSE DANCE PEACE- The house of helping hands- We love, we dance, and we save lives -". In this event, in addition to the dance by university dance clubs, we had speeches made by Global Village participants and reports on their summer trip to Thailand. Then we had a special program for upcoming Valentine's Day; selecting the "sweetest" of many emails gathered from participants. Also, we invited a comedian as a judge. Through them, the stage was filled with laughs and excitement. On the day, 135 people were participated. It was very successful to share what Habitat does and how students like us can help, with those who hardly know or are interested in Habitat.

Guests: Ayane Nagabuchi, Airi Miyata, Shingo☆

Sponsors: Imio, Minoya, Ezaki Grico, Joypolice (SEGA), NanjaTown (namco)

Kansai; "The arts with charity - What's a house for you?"

February 9th to 15th, five student affiliates in Kansai jointly held a photo and art exhibition "What's a House For?" at Bodaiju café in Osaka.

In the exhibition, artworks collected by students, photos taken in Global Village activities, and drawn by children were exhibited.

In the evening, we showed a video which we made through Habitat activities and short movie called "Houses made of Tsumiki (marble

blocks", and made a space where we could feel warm like in a house. Through this, Habitat donation boxes will be placed at the cafe.

It's meaningful to convey our experiences through this program. We'd like to participate this kind of activity more and more in the future too.

Through the café, we wanted you to feel warm as you are with your family and know how important building a house is; this hope actually came true and shared with not only visitors but also ourselves. We got to know one another through Habitat and build a strong solidarity. We are looking forward to future activities of the student affiliate in Kansai.

(Shota Shiraishi, Masaki Nagaoka and Haruna Nagamori, Aoyama Gakuin University CC)



Campus Chapters

Kyoto Univ. of Foreign Studies, Doshisha Univ., Ritsumeikan Univ., Kanda Univ. of Int. Studies, Tokai Univ., Meiji Gakuin Univ.

Campus Clubs

Kansai Gakuin Univ., Kyoto Gaidai Nish High School, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific Univ., Ritsumeikan Univ., Aoyama Gakuin Univ., Shizuoka Univ. of Art and Culture, Tama Univ.

(As of Jan. 2009)



Japan Update

Not only Habit but also an exchange between adult & youth

What Is TWP Meeting?

Habitat Japan's Travelers with a Purpose (TWP) is a forum for people interested in Habitat to share each other's information and experiences. Since June 2008, it's been held at Ben's Cafe in Takadanobaba. TWP is growing and now, around 40 people get joined every time. It is providing a communication space among people of all ages. Because the room is not chartered, customers coming by to the bar often get interested and join TWP.



Global Village Activity Reports by High School Students

At the meeting on April 7th, two high school students from American School in Japan reported their experience in Global Village program they joined in Thailand. After their report, they were asked questions like "what did you feel most significant thing during your activity?", and they impressively answered: "Our houses are much more fully equipped and luxurious. However, the Thai people who were given the simple houses had more thoughts and feelings towards their house" said Christy. And "I went

Travelers With a Purpose

TWP Meeting

to Thailand with an intention to make the local people's lives better, but it was my life that has been changed" said Leo. Won't you visit the meeting and share the TWP mind and network?

(Akiko Hoshi,
Meiji Gakuin University CC)

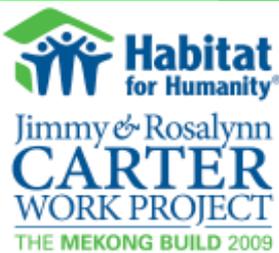
Next TWP Meeting

- Time: June 2 (Tues), 7 pm and on.
- Place: Ben's Café (Takadanobaba)
- Topic: Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project and etc.



(Ben's Café HPより)

Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project



The former president Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn lead a work project with volunteers from all over the world from a week to 10 days each year. The 26th annual Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project (JRCWP 2009) will be held in the countries around Mekong River (Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, China, Laos) in November 15-20th, 2009.

Participants from Habitat for Humanity Japan are planned to work in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The project site of Chiang Mai is the biggest of other 5 sites and our goal will be to build 82 houses and hopes. Check HFHJ's homepage about the details. Application for the JRCWP 2009 have been online since the beginning of May. Please join us and make a difference in the world!

(Masaki Nagaoka & Haruna Nagamori, Aoyama Gakuin University CC)

【Carter Work Project work plan】

- Chiang Mai, Thai: 82 houses
- Hanoi, Vietnam: 20 houses
- Phnom Penh, Cambodia: 20houses
- Kunming, China: 20 houses
- Laos, Vientiane: 20 houses



Mekong translates to "Mother of Rivers" in Thai and Lao, and many consider it to be the lifeline to those who live near it.

Dow Chemical Cooperation Grant Project report

Every year, there are about 800 volunteers from Japan who join the Global Village program and “Building Homes, Building Hopes”. This time, with the help from our global partner Dow Chemical, university students from four student affiliates participated in the GV program in Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Philippines. They will have a presentation on their experience in each country. We are looking forward to seeing you at the site.



LIST OF DONATIONS AND GRANTS (2009.1.1-3.30)

1月6日	石井 多喜子	2,000
1月8日	飯田 恵美	10,000
1月13日	㈱レガメント	300
1月23日	石井 友也	3,001
1月30日	ユナイテッドピープル	2,000
2月5日	藤井 信也	3,000
3月27日	イナガキ ヒロキ	3,000
3月27日	ジェームズ E アリソン	230,000

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE SUPPORT!

Habitat Vocabulary Word

GV: Global Village Program

...A volunteer program that utilizes the worldwide Habitat network where volunteers spend 7-10 days in a different country building houses.

CC: Campus Chapter (regular member)

CClub: Campus Club (supporting group member)

...Habitat's student organization operated by students.



Time: May 23rd (Sat)2-4 pm

Place: Ginza Nissan showroom building (8th floor)

Presenters: Shanti Shanti (Aoyama Gakuin Univ.), Habitat MGU (Meiji Gakuin Univ.), Rits Habitat (Ritsumeikan Univ.)

After editing...

This news letter was edited and produced by the help of volunteers from the Campus Chapters in Kanto. Thank you for your help!

【Voice of our student volunteer】

I would like to write sentences easily understandable to our readers and very exciting topics from a student's point of view.

(Aoyama Gakuin U. Campus club, Akira Kajikawa)

2009 Summer GV Team leader training !

We will have a Summer 2009 GV Team Leader Training for the GV volunteers on the dates below. Please refer to our website for more details.

Tokyo Area : June 13 (Sat), 10 am - 3 pm (venue TBD)

Kansai Area : June 20 (Sat), 10 am - 3 pm (venue TBD)

HFHJ OFFICE LOCATION CHANGE NOTIFICATION

Please note that we have moved to the following address on the 16th February 2009. Please note that your primary contact and all billing, shipping and mailing addresses will be changed.



New Address:

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