

HFHJ Newsletter

BUILDING HOUSES BUILDING HOPE

Issue #14 July 2009

Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project 2009 : Nov 15th to 20th!!

Each year, Jimmy Carter, the former president of the United States, his wife Rosalynn, and strong supporters of Habitat are giving a week of their time—along with their construction skills—to build homes and raise awareness of the critical need for affordable housing.

This year's (26th) Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Work Project (JRCWP) will be held through November 15th to 20th in 5 countries along the Mekong River (Cambodia, China, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam). We are aiming to build about 160 houses with volunteers from around the world. The couple will be participating the event mainly at Chiang Mai site where 3,000 volunteers will join.



Michigan, United states (2005)

History

While the former president (pictured right) is a noted carpenter (the White House staff gave him tools for his workshop when he left the presidency), Rosalynn has also gained building experience with Habitat.

Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter's involvement with Habitat for Humanity International began in 1984



With children in South Africa (2002)

when the former president led a work group to New York City, helping renovate a six-story building with 19 families in need of decent, affordable shelter. That experience planted the seed, and the Jimmy Carter Work Project has been an internationally recognized event of Habitat ever since. Through the project, the couple continuously send a message to overcome poverty housing problem in the world.

In the next issue, we will introduce JRCWP's past achievements.

*The project has been renamed Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project (JRCWP) since 2006.

Chiang Mai Project

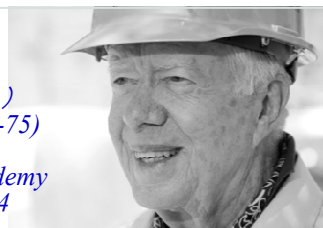
Chiang Mai is one of the most-developed city in Thailand, after Bangkok. Indigenous families seeking a better life migrate to the city

in search of work and a more promising future. But with few social services to meet the demand, many families are forced to live in informal slum communities. Their homes are constructed of whatever materials they can find to protect them from the sun, wind and rain. They have no direct access to basic services and are forced to use the nearby canal for sanitation and cleaning water.

JRCWP 09 will work with one of these communities. The goal is to build up to 82 houses on that main site during the week, in honor of the King of Thailand's 82nd birthday on December 2, 2009. This will be a traditional JRCWP-style event with opening and closing ceremonies.

Jimmy Carter

- 2002 Nobel peace laureate
- 39th US President (1977-81)
- Governor of Georgia (1971-75)
- State Senator (1962-66)
- Graduated from Naval Academy
- Born in Georgia, US in 1924



Join us and sweat together!

For JRCWP 2009, participants from Japan will build in Chiang Mai site!

- Date: Nov 14th-21st, 2009 (Returning back to Japan on 22nd)
- Team size: 30 members
- Application deadline: July 31st
- Requirements: To be older than 18 years or older, no skills needed.
- * For more detail, please visit www.habitatjp.org





Japan Update

Tokai University Team's Trip to Bangladesh : Feb 22th~Mar 8th



With the children at the building site

Bangladesh

We visited Bangladesh, a country well known for the constant floods caused by cyclones and heavy rain. Due to the fact that the land is lower-lying, half of the country is often flooded. A serious flood hit Bangladesh in 2004, engulfed 41 districts out of 64, affected 1 million houses and more than 35 million people. Three years later, cyclone Sidr hit the same area, resulting 8,923,259 people to suffer from damages caused by the flood.

People in Bangladesh are so familiar with floods that they have two types of flood in their minds: good ones and the bad ones. This is very different from Japanese attitude towards flood that they only cause disasters.

■ Asia Arsenic Network

During our research about Bangladesh, we found that 30% of well water there was contaminated by arsenic. Having a House is not a guarantee for life, people can't have decent life without clean living environment even where we have a shelter.

We requested cooperation of a NGO called "Asia Arsenic Network." We learnt about the sanitary condition of the local area and tested the well water at the construction site. It turned out that all wells were safe. The contamination level was lower than the standard of the administrative organ. We will keep addressing these problems on the basis of residence and living environment.



There even are objections against building banks to prevent floods, and sometimes completed banks are destroyed by those who oppose.

What Same Same but Tokai team done

Because Bangladesh has constantly been hit by natural disaster like floods, it greatly needs house construction supports. Same Same but Tokai, a-fourteen person team has done construction work for two weeks in Birisiri, Durgapur. The original houses had a straw-thatched roof and mud walls, which obviously was not so durable. This kind of problem is common in Bangladesh. Habitat Bangladesh mainly uses bricks from local area, and those are what we used for the two houses.

We worked from 9 to 5 on things we could do such as bringing/crushing/laying bricks, making basement (carrying mud and harden it), or mixing cement. You might think that professional skill is needed to build a house. Actually, though we don't have any building experiences, we can contribute in various works including manual labor.

Construction work involves lots of hard work, but anyone who has enthusiasm can take part, and it's rewarding and the sense of achievement is immense. We could not complete construction of the two houses but we've done works around the roof. Remaining work is continued, and I'll keep track of the construction. I hope to visit there again in the near future to see the houses completed. (Koichi Shinjo, Yuya Motegi of Tokai University CC)



■ Yusuke Terazono, Tokai University Dept of International Studies

This was my 5th time in the GV program but this time I had an experience that I can never forget, again.

Bangladesh is filled with lots of energy and I had such happy days with new discoveries and moving experiences. I think the relationships between the locals and the GV member were built as we were building the houses together, and we all grew greatly. We were also able to visit one of the houses I had participated before during our stay. I was so glad to see the house rewarding for the supported family, as a result of the volunteering which I started to improve myself. I would like to thank everyone for the supports, giving me this wonderful experience.



Japan Update

Dow Chemical Scholarship GV Presentation

At the Nissan Gallery in Ginza, Tokyo, the Aoyama Gakuin University CClub and the Meiji Gakuin University CC, who received support from the Dow Chemical gave report presentations on May 23rd. This article includes the proceedings of the reports in words by Ms. Serizawa of Dow Chemical. (Maki Nagaoka, Haruna Nagamori of Aoyama Gakuin University CClub)

Know that you can be a part of the force to change the world

Dow Chemical is a socially conscious and active company globally. The company also has a long relationship with Habitat, and



Presentation made by MGU CC

the employees have joined the house building trips around the world in the past 25 years. When I assumed the chief director of Habitat Japan, I asked The Dow's headquarters to support us. At first, they threw out our asking because we hadn't had any building project in Japan. But we explained our mission to them and negotiated with them many times. At last we could get a budget from them.

Housing is the foundation of human life. It gathers family tightly, activates communities, produces development and builds up better habitable environment. It will link to

peace with building up reliable relationship between people through the collaboration with various people regardless of borders. We would like Japanese young people, you, to see the world and realize that you can be a part of the great force to change the world.

An advantage for their futures

The reason why we held this presentations of report is that we would like people to know this project very much as one of The Dow Chemical's social contributions in Japan. I believe that it will be a plus to your lives having learned things through the local community life and work. I hope that you would remember to have sweated at your work under the flaming sun, besides your feeling when you gave the future to local children. We would also like you would widen a circle of Habitatship.

Habitat Campus Club at Waseda University!

WHABITAT

Enjoyed my GV trip very much!

Q: What made you founding this CClub?

Hiromi Sato(S): I would like to not only just to go abroad but to do something different. I joined the GV in Thailand which was held under the auspices of "Chikyu-no-Arukikata" and Habitat as I found it by chance (See the relative article on p.4). On the last day, I felt what the house owner thought when we had an assignment ceremony and realized how



Hiromi's first GV trip to Thailand (2008)

important "a house" was. I might have done a great thing, I thought. When I talked about my experience to my friends after coming back to Japan, all of them were interested in it. Then I have joined Habitat office twice a week as a volunteer staff. I have heard about CC&Club, and I started to think about foundation of CClub by myself.

Q: What did you do for it concretely?

S: First of all, I gathered members for a group from many universities and suggested joining GV again together. And we went to Indonesia. We had made an effort to ask freshmen to join our team since April and finally had founded the club "WHABITAT" including 30 members.

"Make a lead for the next action"

Q: What do you expect to GV and

WHABITAT?

S: I used to think what a volunteer was only in my head before. After joining GV, my thinking way has become positive, like something will be changed if we try our best to do what we should do immediately. I hope the members would enjoy GV and keep the enjoyable feeling. Even if each person has different thoughts, it is OK. I also wish they could make a lead in their own action to the world.

Q: What would you like to achieve hereafter?

S: I would like to make the name of "HABITAT" famous in my university!





Japan Update

Join us building houses!

We will build houses again this summer in the suburbs of Bangkok, Thailand, for the local residents who are in poverty or suffering damages by natural disaster. The building of the houses will only be taken place where the safety standards are fulfilled, so constructing skills and experience are not necessary!

In addition to building houses, we plan to visit local orphanage, kindergarten or elementary school and communicate with the local children, sightseeing in Bangkok city, and have a farewell party on the last day.

If you are interested, please visit the Habitat for Humanity Japan's website for more details! (Sayuri Ishikawa of Tokai University CC)



■ July 7th, 2009; Rits Habitat in TWP!

Rits Habitat, one of student-run Habitat organizations that is officially recognized by HFH Japan reported about their GV trip to Indonesia in this spring with receiving Dow Chemical Cooperation Grant, as well as their domestic activities in Kansai-area. Mr. Yoshikawa who was one of the members of Rits Habitat said; "Our enthusiasm was supported by many people and who had supported our fund-raising and activities." People (including Kanto CC student members) were freshly stimulated by his enthusiastic report of GV and Habitat. Why don't you join us too? Those who couldn't come, we are looking forward to seeing you at next TWP! Next TWP meeting information will be announced soon. (Yuri Taniuchi of Meiji Gakuin University CC)



LIST OF DONATIONS AND GRANTS (2009.4.1-6.30)

4/20	(株)レガメント	900
4/30	特定非営利活動法人国際協力NGOセンター	6,903
5/25	MEITO CHRIST INTERNATIONAL	16,684
5/29	ダイワハウス工業	430,000
6/4	菅野 正人	20,000
6/10	タニヤ カーター	34,000
6/18	(株)コスモスイニシア	360,000
6/19	特定非営利活動法人国際協力NGOセンター	5,527

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE SUPPORT!

Habitat Vocabulary

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.

After editing...

Following the previous issue, this newsletter was edited and published by the help of our student volunteers. Thank you for the energetic news gathering! At our office, we would like to start planning all the activities and events in this summer and autumn. Details of those activities will be announced in the October issue. Have a nice summer vacation! (secretariat/Kentaro Yamazaki)

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.



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