

HFHJ Newsletter

BUILDING HOUSES BUILDING HOPE

Issue #15 October 2009

Corporate Support/House Supporter Project 09: House Building Project Has Completed!

32 volunteers from all over Japan (two teams) have returned from Bangkok, Thailand, having completed the house building activities. These two teams were named “Japan Hope Builders” and the second team was financially supported by a leading Japanese company, Daiwa House Industry Co., Ltd. We can say that indeed a “Japan project” was achieved. There was another project led by volunteers from Cosmos Initia Co., Ltd. and individuals of the “house supporters” of which the mission was also successfully accomplished. Below, you will find the report from the second project, which features the house of Mr. Niroot Soiraya. (Kentarō Yamazaki of HFH Japan)



The Project

Habitat voluntary activities in Thailand are carried out in four different areas; North, North-east, Central, and South, and each area has a branch leading its own projects. The team this time was sent to a suburban district called Pathumtani, an hour drive north of Bangkok. The Pathumatani project is one of the three projects worked



on by the Habitat Central - the two others are in Rayong and Chonburi - and there has already been around 50 houses built since the project commenced. The material used to build these houses is usually concrete blocks - strong and reasonable in price. However, we may use different material and add extra facilities or expand the house according

◆Message from the Soirayas◆
Thank you very much for your support to my family. I appreciate that we have got unforgettable experience though Habitat works. We all hope your life will be grateful and you will remember us forever...

to needs and request of homeowners and also their financial situation. We will try our best to be as flexible as possible to accommodate these special requests.

Homeowner: The Soirayas

Mr. Niroot Soiraya family has been living in the Pathumtani area over many years. They make a living by incomes from Niroot who is a daily worker and his wife, Kalya who works in a Pandanus orchard. Although Niroot’s parents had built



the current house for their son and his family and themselves some time ago, but it was difficult to find enough space for five to live there.

Niroot therefore wanted a better living environment for his wife and daughter and was hoping to build a house of their own. He also wanted this house to be close to where his parents were living. He then found out about Habitat’s house building activities being available and, just around the same time, he was fortunately given a piece of land, which

was big enough for a house to be built and was just behind where his parent’s house, so he applied for our aid in building their new home.

The work by Japan Hope Builders

Despite being in the rainy season, the sun was out every day. This helped the 17 strong volunteers (16 university students and one adult) had all the work finished within a given deadline. The group showed the tremendous teamwork while working on a tight schedule as well. On the first day, they made the foundation by being exposed to the direct, strong sunshine because the



roof has not been installed yet. From the second day onwards, their primal task was to mix and make cement and layer bricks to make walls. In the evening, they made cranes out of Origami to give them to homeowners and local carpenters. With only four and half days, they managed to build most of the framework of the house. The family should be able to move in to their new house in Oct.

Aoyama Gakuin University Team's Trip to Indonesia: Aug 16 to 31st



Above) Elementary School in Building site

What is House Building?

We joined the project to build an elementary school and two houses in Bandung in the west part of Java in which the capital of Indonesia, Jakarta is also located. We tore the school down and started to build a new one. It was a rare experience for us since we have built only houses before. We also learned that the second homeowner family had to wait for 3 years for their turn to build the house and realized again that there is still huge need of houses there. Since all three were built of brick, our main works were carrying bricks and rubbles, layering bricks, making foundation, digging and painting. Every work was simple but laborious and hard. The desire to work more directly related

to architecture was arisen among the members, but we confirmed again that having no skill or knowledge, we had taken part in making walls, foundation, and building houses under supervision of local skilled workers. We realized that such simple work was an important part of the house building through this GV activity.

Disaster after returning home. What can we do?

On Sep 2nd, 2 days later we returned, the earthquake of magnitude 7.3 struck Indonesia, and the seismic center was near Bandung. We contacted the local staff and learned there were considerable damages there, but haven't informed the situation of the houses and the school we have built yet. Afterwards, another severe earthquake struck there again, and we are so concerned about the homeowners and the local staff. Although we have a limitation, as we learned through this GV, we would like to continue supporting them by what we can do little by little. (Asaki Nagaoka, Teru Watanabe of Aoyama Gakuin University CClub)



Right) with Local Residents and staffs

Global Festa JAPAN 2009: Oct 3rd & 4th

At Hibiya Park, "We Built a House!"

On Oct 3rd & 4th in Hibiya Park in Tokyo, Habitat for Humanity Japan (HFH Japan) once again participated in Japan's largest international cooperation event "Global Festa". In two days, almost 100,000 people came to the event, and we had the opportunities to talk with over 1000 people in the HFH Japan booth.

This time, student staffs from the CC & CClub collaborated with the executive office from the beginning stages. The exchange of idea with many people allowed Habitat for Humanity to develop their projects with a deeper understanding of how to carry them out. The booth's best feature was



that it was easy to understand even for people who are not familiar with HFH Japan. It was set up with a life-size sign, and a seating area inside where they could sit and talk. Inside, people folded cranes which would be brought to Thailand for the next "Japan Hope Builders" (See the relative article on page.1) featuring Globe-Trotter (Chikyu-no-arukikata) next spring in February and March. That day, children, the elderly, men and women of all age, in great numbers, were able to become connected to the work of Habitat for Humanity.

Many supporters and Kansai students visited, so many new meetings and reunions occurred, making the booth a happy place. The many students who are impacting society were able to come and rest in our "home", and we hope they were able to catch a glimpse of the kindness of HFH Japan. (Ayako Tabei of Meiji Gakuin University CC)



Japan Update

Activity Report in Japan: Credit Suisse @ Asian Rural Institute

On Sep 12th, a one-day corporate team build took place in cooperation with an international financial major Credit Suisse at the Asian Rural Institute (ARI) in Nishi-Nasuno, Tochigi. (Tsuyoshi Endo of Tokai University CC)



Left above) Working on the Bench, Right above) Working on the Poultry House roof

Credit Suisse signed partnership with Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) in April 2009. Aligned with this partnership, volunteers from Credit Suisse Japan joined HFH Japan at ARI (www.ari-edu.org), where grassroots leaders from Asian and African countries come to get trained in sustainable agriculture.

Together, We Can!

Due to the rain, the work started indoors. Some were in charge of building wooden benches for conference room; others were in the kitchen preparing meals. In brief moments while the rain stopped time to time, we also got to install roofing for a henhouse and to chop a load of firewood for upcoming winter.

Though the rain made the roof top slippery and interrupting us time to time, everyone gave ideas to overcome such hardships. At the end of the day, it was impressive to see the smiles on volunteers' faces showing how all have provided their best in their own ways.

Team Building—Staff Bonded outside their Office

Participants' voices: "At first I worried about the rain, but I really enjoyed doing so many things throughout the day!" "I'd love to come again!" "It was nice to get acquainted with other divisions' people with whom I usually don't have any opportunity to talk!" Activities in natural surroundings gave them not only body and mind relaxations, but also opportunities to deepen their relationships. HFH Japan would like to broaden such partnership with Credit Suisse and Asian Rural Institute in the future.

~ International news ~ President Obama volunteered for Habitat!

President Barack Obama and First lady Michelle Obama volunteered with Habitat affiliate in Washington D.C. on Sep 11th as part of the "National Day of Service and Remembrance": the day to mourn for the victims of the terrorism on Sep 11th, 2001. After touring the Habitat build site near Washington D.C., the president and the first lady actually joined the Habitat house construction activities in Deanwood, and worked hard in painting walls of the living room. (HFH International)



The U.S. former presidents such as Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, joined Habitat activities. But more than anybody, Jimmy Carter has been deeply committed to Habitat. He leads the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Work Project for Habitat one week every year around the world. This year too, the 26th JRCWP will be held in the Mekong River region in Nov 15-20th, 2009.

Japan Campus Chapters We are Kansai JCC!!

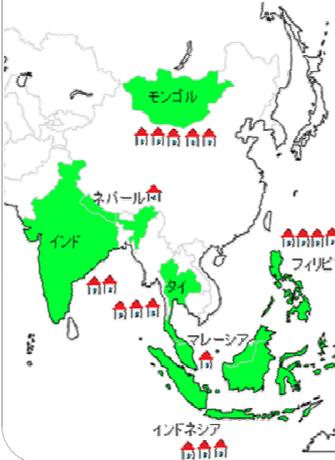
Do you know that there is a big group of youth supporters in Kansai? We are Kansai Japan Campus Chapters and Club (JCC). Based in 7 campuses of 5 different universities in Western Japan, including Kwansei Gakuin university, Kansai university, Doshisha university, Kyoto university of Foreign Studies, and Ritsumeikan university, we act in support of Habitat Japan. On top of each chapter's individual activities, Kansai JCC holds monthly meetings and biannual JCC camps to share information amongst one another. We have been working together actively hosting awareness raising events for general public, as well as the recent sports day event to bring the members together. In addition, the nationwide JCC camps give us opportunities to interact with JCC members in Kanto area. This adds to our moral and raises motivation to thrive together, join us and follow our progress in the future. (Saya Komatsu, Junichiro Maeda of Ritsumeikan University CC)



Above) At the Kansai JCC activity

Summer 09!! Overseas Building Volunteer Teams

This summer, about 300 volunteers, including youth teams from CC&C Clubs and adult teams, participated in house building projects in various countries in Asia. There were several news added to Habitat's history this year; Doshisha university sent the first team from Japan to visit Nepal and volunteers from Waseda, Keio and Tokyo universities participated each team for the first time. (Koichi Shinjo of Tokai University CC)



India	Aug	Team TOCHIGI (Tochigi JETs)
	Sept	Doshisha University (Doshisha Univ.)
Indonesia	Aug	Habitat APU (Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific Univ.)
		TAL Builders (Aoyama Gakuin Univ.)
		KUIS (Kanda Univ. of International Studies)
		Kyoto Gaidai Habitat (Kyoto Univ. of Foreign Studies)
Thailand	Aug	Japan Hope Builders09-1 (Open team)
	Sept	Japan Hope Builders09-2 (Open team)
Nepal	Aug	Doshisha Habitat (Doshisha Univ.)
		Zion's Club (Tama Univ.)
Philippines	Aug	WHABITAT (Waseda Univ.)
		Rits Habitat -youth (Ritsumeikan Univ.)
	Sept	MustarPeace (Kansai Univ.)
		Rippul (Keio Univ.)
Malaysia	Sept	UT Habitat (Tokyo Univ.)
		Habitat MGU (Meiji Gakuin Univ.)
Mongolia	Aug	Rits Habitat (Ritsumeikan Univ.)
		Same Same But TOKAI (Tokai Univ.)
	Sept	SHANTI SHANTI (Aoyama Gakuin Univ.)

LIST OF DONATIONS AND GRANTS (2009.7.1-9.30)

7/21	株レガメント	¥1,500
7/31	ユニテッドピープル	¥1,083
8/4	株レガメント	¥1,200
8/14	Kryjier&Ogawa (シンガポール)	¥127,569
8/28	小林 テツ	¥20,000
8/31	株レガメント	¥600
8/31	チャリティ・プラットフォーム	¥65,596
9/30	株レガメント	¥600

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.

Disaster Response Efforts in the Philippines and Indonesia

Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) is seeking to raise US\$2 million for an emergency assistance program for the disaster recovering in the Philippines. Typhoon Ketsana caused what is said the worst flooding in four decades in Manila. Also, we launched another appeal to support the victims of the earthquakes in Indonesia.



HFH Japan is now reaching out in Japan gathering financial support for these aid efforts. Your kind contribution would be highly appreciated. For further details, please visit our site (www.habitatjp.org) or contact our office. (HFH Philippines)

Editor's Note

◆ This summer, nearly 300 volunteers took part in overseas house building projects that achieved great success. Just as we were completing this newsletter, there were a series of natural disasters in the Asia-Pacific region. To provide further assistance required in these areas, HFH Japan will strengthen its system in cooperation with supporters. (secretariat / Kentaro Yamazaki)

◆ This issue is filled with reports from summer activities. We are planning to start "letters from the readers" section for better contents. Please send us your comments! (Akira Kajikawa of Aoyama Gakuin University CClub)



Since established in 1976, Habitat for Humanity, as an International NGO aiming to build homeowner's dignity and independence through building communities, has built 300,000 houses, without regard to race, religion or personal background. Now, Habitat has activities over 100 countries and regions, and is building a house every 21 minutes in the world.

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