

# HFHJ Newsletter

BUILDING HOUSES, BUILDING HOPE

Issue #18 July 2010

## Nissan Project has Launched in India ~75 Homes of Hope~

Nissan Motor Co., Ltd. (Yokohama city in Japan) has entered into a partnership with Habitat for Humanity India to provide shelter to 75 socially and economically less fortunate families (375 individuals) in Mangadu and donated \$73,925.07 for it. 75 Homes of Hope project was launched on April 24<sup>th</sup> 2010 and Mr. Kiminobu Tokuyama, CEO & Managing Director, Nissan Motor India laid the first brick and commenced the project in the presence of Mrs. S.P. Saruguna Pandian, chairperson, Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women, Mr. Dino L. Touthang CEO Habitat for Humanity, India and the local community and Government authorities. (by Kentaro Yamazaki of HFH Japan)



Mr. Kiminobu Tokuyama CEO Nissan Motors India addressing the gathering at the launch function



The first brick laid at the launching ceremony

### A Housing Deficit in India

In India, there are 180 million houses and more than 60% of these houses are made from inferior materials such as mud, leaves of grass like reeds, and bamboo. Most of the Indian population lives in houses that are substandard for living. In urban areas, people live in large numbers in slums, situated in water conduits, garages, train and bus platforms, and pavements. For the poorest of the poor, the wide expanse of the blue Indian sky is their roof.

As per the 2001 census, it is estimated that 1.95 million of people are homeless and the rural housing shortage was 14.1 million in the rural area, while 10.6 million in the urban region. It is estimated that 2.5 million houses are annually added to this list. Poverty housing has truly become a part and parcel of the Indian society.

In order to bridge the gap and to

shelter more families in a safe environment, the Government of India through the State Governments had launched housing programs, especially for the disadvantaged groups such as Schedule Caste and Tribes and Salt Pan workers. Despite all these efforts, the housing need is increasing every year due to growth of population, delay in the implementation of the programs, etc.

### Partnership over Sectors

In the last twenty six years, Habitat for Humanity has constructed over 33,000 houses for the less fortunate in Indian society. Today, implemen-



Project site in Mangadu

tations in corporation over sectors, such as the partnership between Nissan and Habitat for Humanity, has become more essential. Mr. Tokuyama said, "Through our corporate activities around the world, we also aim to contribute to the development of the societies where we do business. Toward these twin goals, we carry out management that combines our pursuit of sustainable profitability with our efforts to bring sustainable development to society. This project is set to improve the health and hygiene condition of 75 families and we are happy to make the difference".

The project is being implemented in partnership with a local NGO, Women Education and Economic Development Society (WEEDS), who will facilitate the community mobilization aspect, and will be completed by March 2011.

## Update: Haiti Quake Relief – Traditional Solution

Six months after a magnitude-7.0 earthquake, which destroyed nearly 190,000 homes and left more than 1.5 million survivors in need of shelter, the need in Haiti is great and undeniable. Haitian hearts still mourn for family, friends, homes and jobs lost on Jan. 12. As part of the second-phase of its disaster response efforts... <To be continued to page 3>



In front of the completed shelter



# Japan Update

## Panel Discussion with Former Mayor of Yokohama (Jun 6th)



Representatives of the 1,500 students (17 university groups) who join the Habitat Japan's Youth Program discussed on Habitat and the future of Japan, with Hiroshi Nakada, the former mayor of Yokohama and one of the Young Global Leaders selected by the World Economic Forum in 2005. (by Shintaro Yamamoto of HFH Japan)

On June 6th at the JICA Global Plaza, a panel discussion was held titled "Hiroshi Nakada & HFH Japan: How Young People Can Help Craft the Future of Japan through Grassroots International Development".

### Value of Grassroots Field Experience

The discussion was split into two parts. The first half focused on the question; *What important lessons can be learned through participation in grassroots development work?* Looking back on their Global Village (GV) experiences, the student representatives commented, "We were only there for two weeks, but had such a powerful experience that we were reduced to tears when we returned a year later," and "We grew as individuals and as a team through the hard work we did together."

"Habitat is dedicated to giving the poor opportunities for independence, but what is interesting is the benefits for program participants" said Mr. Nakada. "There is still no structure in place that can turn the good intentions of the Japanese people into practical action" but Habitat can play a major part in developing that structure.

### GV Program for the future of Japan

The second half of the discussion was titled *How can these experiences be available to build the better future of Japan?* Identifying some of the key problems in modern Japanese society, the student representatives said "we are drowning in wealth," and "we have no dreams to follow." And by taking part in a GV, "volunteers can learn just how fortunate they are in their lives, they can discover the true value of teamwork, and gain the motivation to challenge themselves more in the future."

Mr. Nakada said, "Japan today is crying out for strong Japanese leaders but the young people could have a lot to offer, especially ones with the experience gained through international volunteerism like the GV program. Mother Teresa once said that the opposite of the word love is not hate, but indifference. In order to build a brighter future for Japan, we need to combat indifference by sharing about the GV experience with many people."



## Habi-Bito

**K**EEP BUILDING! This is the motto for Ms. Kristi Hemmer. It is not only about building houses but also hopes and bonds with others.

For 3 years, Ms. Hemmer has been working hard as a teacher at the American School in Japan. It was 10 years ago when she first got involved with Habitat. Activities include joining a Global Village Program (GV) in New Zealand, recovery projects in Thailand after the Indian Ocean Tsunami and in the U.S. after Hurricane Katrina. Today she is an active supporter of HFH Japan., organiz-

### Ms. Kristi Hemmer

Teacher at American School in Japan

ing "Travelers with Purpose (TWP)" meeting and joining GVs with her students.

As the eldest of 5 brothers and sisters, Ms. Hemmer loved to help people since she was little. She chose to be a tutor when she was a student, and then became a teacher. Anyone can see how positive she is when she says, "I act before I think!"

Ms. Hemmer says that Habitat gives everyone a "chance". Building house gives for the beneficiaries to cut off a cycle of poverty, and for the participating

volunteers to encounter new values and viewpoints. "Thinking is not necessary. You can see changes after a day hard work." She told us the allure of Habitat as if she was talking to her students.

But soon, she will leave Japan and embark for a worldwide journey. "Of course I will be joining Habitat's activity!" she says. We look forward to her future "KEEP BUILDING". (by Mayuko Kuwata, Rena Kanou & Ryoichi Nishi of Aoyama Gakuin Univ. CClub)



# Japan Update

## Let's Build A Japanese Traditional Long House !! – Fujino Project –

Nagaya is good at connecting people together, and it has been loved by Japanese people for that. As seen from the recent trend that house sharing is becoming popular in a big city, there are quite a few people who find value in living together with someone, nowadays. Fujino Project is a new project focusing on nature, tradition, and community, and its goal is to realize sustainable life style.

It's been 3 months since we started to support the project, and more than 300 people of all generations have already participated, and worked together with those 4 homeowners.

While learning about traditional archi-

Row house, called Nagaya, is traditional architecture in Japan. Four families are trying to pursue a sustainable life through Nagaya and currently building the house in Fujino (Sagamihara, Kanagawa prefecture). Habitat Japan is supporting this project and hoping that we could help people be aware of the importance of housing and Japanese traditional architecture. (by Natsumi Takada of Meiji Gakuin Univ. CC, Erika Nagai of Tokai Univ. CC & Taishi Yagyu of Aoyama Gakuin Univ. CClub)

tectural method, volunteers are helping in preparation of Takekomai (or Bamboo laths to be used for wall), putting together processed bamboo in a reticular pattern, kneading and laying the fermented soil to the woven Takekomai to create walls.

We hope that this project will help people understand the significance of the Japanese Nagaya, as well as the impor-

ance of having a house. We are glad to see that this is inspiring the local community to come together with visiting volunteers. So far, we hear "It was great to learn about traditional architecture and working on it myself", "I was able to meet people with variety of backgrounds", "I learned various ways of thinking by meeting new people".



*Now recruiting volunteers for the Fujino Project through the end of July. If you are interested, please visit our website - everyone is welcome!*

## Haiti : Toward 7,000 Homes & Hope

<From page 1> ...Habitat has started building transitional shelters in Cabaret and Leogane, two smaller towns outside the capital of Port-au-Prince. Over the next five years, Habitat aims to build 7,000 shelters, helping 50,000 earthquake affected families move toward safer, secure and permanent places to call home.

### Use of Japanese Traditional Building Method

The construction for these houses employs a method familiar to the Japanese traditional *Ishibadate*. This stone foundation is a technique that can diffuse the impact of quake by putting a pillar to a base stone without fixing each other and thus creating space (below: Buckets filled with concrete serving as footings for the shelter). Although *Ishibadate* is not currently used in Japan, it is still valid to build a simple quake resistant house in Haiti. (by Shintaro Yamamoto of HFH Japan)



### ◆◆◆ Donation Report ◆◆◆

Thank you for all your generous contributions for our Haiti project. We received the total 486,511 yen as the end of June. Urgent call for donations will continue, and your continuing support is highly appreciated.

## "Improving together" Created New Bond!

~Habitat Student Members Camp Report~

JCC (Japan Campus Chapter), the association of JCC&CClub, hold a joint camp twice a year in Kanto and Kansai regions. The members from six universities in Kanto got together in Kanagawa through June 19 and 20. It was a good chance to learn about the Spring GV trip of other groups and communicate beyond the walls among the universities. Meanwhile, the Kansai camp was held in Nara on June 26 and 27, where 260 people from ten universities joined. With the theme 'Improving together', the participants were reminded of the importance of sharing ideas. It is hoped that this such new bonds will fuel our work to fight the poverty! (by Aemi Nakamura of Meiji Gakuin Univ. CC & Emiko Ikuyama of Aoyama Gakuin Univ. CClub)



Kansai JCC@Nara



Kanto JCC@Kanagawa

# Japan Update

## Join us building houses in Thailand !! 2010 Summer



We will build houses this summer in

Chiang Mai, the second largest city in 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 the biggest Habitat community site in Asia Pacific and communicate with the local children, sight-seeing in Chiang Mai city, and have a farewell party on the last day. If you are interested, please visit the HFH Japan's website for more details! (HFH Japan)

## Join the Everest Build in Nepal !! EVEREST BUILD

Everest Build is a special "blitz build" scheduled to host over 500 volunteers from around the world to build 50 houses in a week

(Oct 3rd to 8th), at the outskirts of Pokhara, the third biggest city of Nepal. Since the beginning of its work in 1997, Habitat for Humanity Nepal has been working to complete 5,000th house in July 2009, and it is projected to work with another 5,000 families by 2012. Known to be the birth place of Buddha and its 2,600 years old history, the country has the most beautiful views of Everest. Join us and the fellow volunteers at this special event taking place right at the foothills of the world's highest mountain! (HFH Japan)



### LIST OF DONATIONS AND GRANTS (2010.4.1-6.30)

4/5	関西JCC	5,678
4/6	Spring Love (イベント収益)	115,605
4/8	谷山 雄二郎	31,000
4/14	American School in Japan	31,986
4/19	Seisen International School	3,850
5/18	関西学院大学 (上ヶ原ハビタット)	40,356
6/8	関西学院大学 (上ヶ原ハビタット)	30,143
6/11	MEITO CHRIST INTERNATIONAL CHURCH	11,000
6/14	関西JCC	5,284
6/25	石井多喜子	2,677
6/25	京都産業大学 (habitarious)	33,215
6/28	Ariana Jauregui	73,400
6/29	ナカオリユウイテ	10,000

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE SUPPORT!

### Coming TWP Schedule

- Date and Time: start at 19:30 on Aug 4th, 2010
- Place: Ben's Café (at Takadanobaba)
- Topics: Reports from "Blue Sky Build" at Mongolia and panel discussion with Hiroshi Nakada, introductions on the upcoming events; "Everest Build" in Nepal and Oakwood, and etc.

### Editor's Note

HFH Japan has just started a new fiscal year in July, thanks to your support. 46 teams or 728 volunteers joined GV trips, despite the global economic downturn and political upheaval in Thailand. This summer, 23 new teams (approx. 300 volunteers) are already scheduled to conduct their GV trips. Also domestically, we plan to organize house building projects where volunteers can join, in hopes to involve more people in our movement and vision. We humbly appreciate your continuous support. (HFH Japan)



Since established in 1976, Habitat for Humanity, as an International NGO aiming to build homeowner's dignity and independence through building communities, has built 350,000 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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