

# HFHJ Newsletter

Issue # 21 April 2011

## Corporate Support : Japan Hope Builders 2011 Spring @ Thailand

Japan Hope Builders, consists of 12 volunteers gathered from throughout Japan, have returned from Chiang Mai of Thailand on March 14, after completing a house. Like the last summer's trip, the team received financial support from one of Japan's leading construction companies, Daiwa House Industry Co., Ltd. Since last year, Habitat in the northern Thailand has been working on their house design modifying it from 6m×6m (36 m<sup>2</sup>) to 6m×9m (54 m<sup>2</sup>), based on the requests from homeowners and assessments. The team worked together with the homeowners and skilled workers to built this bigger sized house. (Shintaro Yamamoto, HFH Japan)



### The Homeowner

The team worked with the Pradiths, the homeowner. Mr. Pradith Chaiyasith used to live with his family; his wife, mother and his son in an old small house. The half of the house was made-shift from wood and metal sheets and it was supposedly a temporal home. But he realized that he did not have enough income to build another, new and better house after all. The family had to stay in this house for almost 20 years. Raining season was the most difficult time as the deteriorating house did not protect them from the wind, rain and the mosquitoes that follow the rain. Though Mr. Pradith was born blind on his left eye, he never took it as a problem believing that he would build a new house someday.

### The Team Builds for Hope

March is summer and very hot in Thailand. Yet the 12 volunteers worked hard hoping to help construct the better house and future of the Pradith family. The team showed the tremendous teamwork while working on a tight schedule as well. On the first and second day, they made the foundation and the floor under the



direct and strong sun light. From the third day onwards, their primal task was to mix and make cement and lay blocks to make walls. The volunteers were so serious building a real house for the first time; this is not a child's play. They managed to complete most of the framework only within four and a half days. Four walls seemed so beautiful reflecting all the



passions put into them.

### "As If I Can See..."

At the house dedication ceremony, the team celebrated the completion of their tasks and presented the key symbolizing transfer of the new house ownership to the family. Mr. Pradith gave a heartwarming comment; "I have no word to thank all of you. We finally came to such a wonderful moment I dreamed for so long. I can see a better future clearly as if I was not visually impaired."



## Habitat Japan to Start Two Projects in Sri Lanka

### About Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is located to the southeast of India. The country was colonized by the British



Empire in 1796 and went through the Dominion of Ceylon, and in 1972, it declared republic independence and changed its name to Sri Lanka, which means “Resplendent Island.” Sri Lanka is a country with vast variety in nature, ethnicity, history and culture. It is popular as a resort destination, famous for spicy curries, aromatic Ceylon tea, beautiful beaches, high-quality jewels, and so on. Also Sri Lankan and Japanese governments have a good relationship.

### Core Houses for Peace Building in The North

Since 1986, the country has been divided by the ethnic conflict between the Sinhala, whose majority are Buddhists and constitute of about 70% of the country’s population, and the Tamil whose majority are Hindus. The situation had evolved into civil war and many people in the northern and eastern areas were internally displaced. When the Sri Lankan military interference ended the war in 2009, many people returned from refugee camps to start a new life, but instead they only found their homeland ravaged and family members still separated. The people are living in temporary houses made with straw, decayed logs and branches and plastic sheets unable to keep the elements out. Habitat Japan

In April, Habitat Japan started two projects in the northern and eastern areas of Sri Lanka in partnership with the Japan Platform. It is the third time for Habitat Japan to directly implement an oversea’s project. We send three staffs from Habitat Japan to Sri Lanka and develop the projects, cooperating with Habitat for Humanity Sri Lanka. (Shintaro Yamamoto, HFH Japan)

responded to these internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Jaffna district of the Northern Province, aiming to support resettlement through building houses while preventing the frustrated citizens to resort back to another civil war.

### Shelter Kits for Flood Relief in The East

In January and February of 2011, the eastern Sri Lanka suffered the flood caused by monsoon and 1.25 million people were victimized. Habitat Japan plans to deliver 1,000 shelter kits in the severely damaged Batticaloa district, and to support the affected households to build the emergency shelters and restore the damaged houses until about June.



Returnees and their temporary shelter in Jaffna

## Habi-Bito

Ms. Ayumi Imai tells us “I want everyone to be happy!”

Ms. Imai works for veteran travel guidebook publisher *Chikyu no Arukikata* (“Globe Trotter”). She works at the company’s division of organizing overseas volunteer programs and published its pamphlet. She has made efforts to promote Global Vil-



### Ms. Ayumi Imai

Diamond-Big Co., Ltd.

lage (GV) trips since 2008.

In planning for each program, what Ms. Imai puts her priority is that volunteers get to mingle with the local people, and feel they are making a genuine contribution to society. There is a reason for her to believe this. “Volunteering overseas is kind of a daunting task, and when I first started, I wasn’t sure if I could actually do anything useful,” said Ms. Imai, reflecting on her college years. Because she experienced this herself, she was able to understand what students are concerned when going overseas, and she sets out to plan

activities that would be enjoyable for the young volunteers.

Ms. Imai likes the idea of GV that people from all over Japan come together with local families and NGO staff members in the areas they visit and become one under a single, clear objective – to build.

“The most important thing in planning the trips is to think of a way to bring smiles to the faces of everyone involved. Planning programs that will bring joy to people is what really makes my job worthwhile,” says Ms. Imai of her work. Her passion of “building smiles” will keep going and seems never to end. (by Mayuko Kuwata, Aoyama Gakuin Univ. CClub)

## A Japanese Traditional Long House Completed !! – Fujino Project –



### Q. About Long House Construction

All the construction materials were natural and collected locally, we had to spend a very long time looking for local organic rice farmers for the hay mixed into the mud walls and harvesting bamboos in a low-impact ways. Thanks to many people's help, we could come to complete our new house.

### Q. About Completion

I was deeply moved that hundreds of people showed up at the house dedication

The Fujino Project has completed at the house dedication ceremony this February. Based on "local production for local consumption," the traditional long house called Nagaya marked a new beginning for the four families in Kanagawa. One of the homeowner Mr. Kazunori Kobayashi shared his thoughts with us. (HFH Japan)

ceremony, I am still in shock but in a very good way words can't explain. I believe this sensation comes from my appreciation for the volunteers and their kind support, and also my excitement towards the fact this house will continue to mean a lot for many of us in coming years.

### Q. About Life in a Nagaya

One of my simple pleasures in this new life style is when I visit with the neighbors in a communal area. Especially after the earthquake in March, I feel safe and content knowing that I have friends nearby who we can lean on one another. This secure feeling plays a big role in keeping my family as a team.

### Q. Message for the Readers

We had to overcome any hardships but we also gained a lot from sticking to the tradition, using organic and locally available natural materials, and revolving around the shared spaces. I'd say that our project is a success only if we can convey the happiness we get from growing with this project. Please feel free to visit us and the house you volunteered to help build. Thank you very much for everything!



## Fair Trade Fashion Show 「Habi☆Collection」 @ Harajuku, Tokyo (2/10)

February 10<sup>th</sup>, 7 chapters of Habitat Japan's CC & CClub held a fair trade fashion show, themed "your small step will change the world" in Harajuku, Tokyo, a popular area among young people.

Fair trade is the movement to empower the people working under harsh condition, by paying them fair wages for their labors and ultimately they can lead a decent life. Similarly, Habitat's activities are to support people suffering from poor living conditions; "poverty" is the common notion for both activities. CC & CClub carried

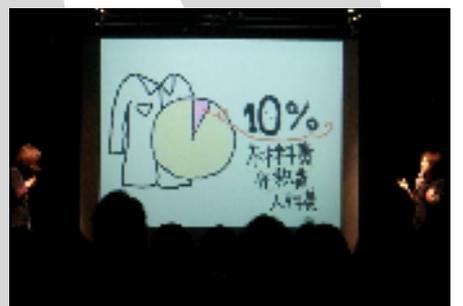
out this event for letting people know about the poverty around the world, and as many as 272 young people showed up on the day of this event.

At the event, explanation about the fair trade was given, and students debated on the importance of international cooperation and the ways to get involved. "I want to do something myself", "I feel like taking some action" were the responses from the audience.

One of the organizers Mr. Tomonori Ozaki, a sophomore at Aoyama-Gakuin University gave us his com-

ment: "Things you can do alone may be quite small but we can pursue a big goal when lots of people get together, I really feel so. I'd like to keep acting by thinking what I can do as a student, and would like to make contribution to the society with everyone in Habitat Japan's CC&CClubs."

Having the event turned out to be the biggest event our chapters organized in Kanto area in history, we came to believe the great power and the potential those students have to realize Habitat's goal of "a world where everyone has a decent place to live". (HFH Japan)



## Service Learning @ Habitat Japan (2/2)

February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5 ninth graders at Tokyo Jogakkan middle school came to have their service learning at Habitat Japan office. The students first learnt about Habitat at Global Festa held at Hibiya Koen Park last fall, and this time, they further learnt about our work through volunteering at the office. The students responded to the staff explaining the pleasures and hardships behind the works of building houses with the people around the world; “the experiencing the Global Village program seems to offer a lot for the participating volunteers while they help and share with the people in need of houses” and “I’d like to try on the challenge in the near future.” Their curiosity didn’t end at the programs, but wanted to know how and why some of the staff started their career at Habitat. While they looked the part of regular young kids who are into regular young kids stuff, they all left the office so motivated promising “to come back anytime if help is needed.” (HFH Japan)



## LIST OF DONATIONS AND GRANTS (2011.1.1-3.31)

\*Please refer to the attached list for Japan Earthquake and Tsunami

1/6	JCCハイチ合同募金	976,662
1/25	藤井 信也	5,000
1/31	エナテッド・ヒューマンズ(株)	1,073
1/31	一般財団法人ジャスト・ギビング・ジャパン	7,895
2/18	(特活) 国際協力NGOセンター	6,357
2/21	大和ハウス工業(株)川越支店	24,575
2/24	関西学院 Eco-Habitat	139,796
3/04	Spring Love 春風	20,000
3/04	Oakwood	33,908
3/08	小林満知子	30,000
3/17	立命館大学 (Rits Habitat)	73,139
3/22	(特活) 国際協力NGOセンター	10,378
3/31	(株)インテージ	50,000
3/31	一般財団法人ジャスト・ギビング・ジャパン	1,506

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE SUPPORT!

## Coming TWP Schedule

- Date & Time: Start at 19:30 on April 21, 2011
- Place: Ben's Café (at Takadanobaba)
- Topic: Japan Earthquake and Tsunami recovery, Updates on new projects in Sri Lanka, etc.

## Editor's Note

An 9.0-magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of Japan on Friday, March 11. The resulting aftershocks and tsunami killed more than 13,000 people and 14,000 more are still missing.

Habitat Japan has decided to provide relief aid, and currently, our disaster response team is assessing the needs to prepare the program that serves the victims promptly. (HFH Japan)

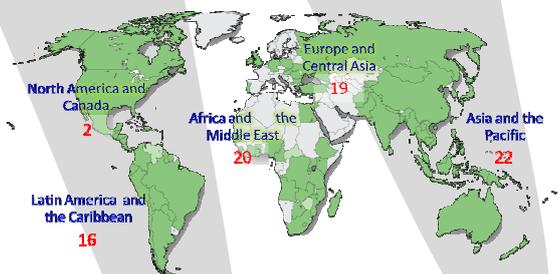
## Announcement

Spring means graduation for approximately 200 Habitat supporters at 19 school chapters across Japan. One of the students who passed her commencement, Ms. Nozomi Arima of Shizuoka University of Art and Culture chapter has shared her story with us: “Experience with Habitat led me to act and do what I can, even if it seems too small. I learnt the importance of helping one another.” Habitat Japan’s Youth Programs support Japanese youths to explore the world through volunteerism, experience the cultural exchange and learn about development aids. (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 400,000 houses, without regard to race, religion or personal background. Now, Habitat has activities about 100 countries and regions, and is building a house every 21 minutes in the world.

#401 CHARI Sendagaya  
1-13-11 Sendagaya, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 151-0051  
Tel: 03-6459-2070 / Fax: 03-6459-2071  
URL: [www.habitatjp.org](http://www.habitatjp.org) / Email: [info@habitatjp.org](mailto:info@habitatjp.org)  
Published by : Hiroshi Oda  
Edited by : K. Yamazaki, N. Takahashi, S. Yamamoto, F. Nakagawa, Y Higuchi, J. Tam



# Japan Update Special Edition

## Japan Earthquake and Tsunami



REUTERS/Aly Song, courtesy Trust.org-Alertnet

### ■ Biggest Damage in the Country's History

February 11<sup>th</sup>, a 9.0 magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of Japan. The resulting aftershocks and tsunami destroyed homes, crushed cars and killed hundreds of people and left unprecedented levels of damage.

On April 11<sup>th</sup>, a month after quake and tsunami, the National Police Agency announced that 13,116 people were sacrificed and more than 14,000 people still missing. In Fu-

kushima Prefecture, Fukushima Nuclear Power Plants were crippled and radioactive substance leaks became a serious problem. As a secondary disaster, people living near the plants have been forced to evacuate from their own homes.

The refugees from quake and tsunami have spread 18 prefectural governments and the number exceeds more than 147,000.

### ■ Habitat Japan Disaster Relief

The first thing the disaster victims need is house in a community where they can lead life as humans.

Currently, Habitat Japan is conducting the needs assessment in areas like Miyagi, Iwate and Fukushima Prefectures. In cases of Miyagi and Iwate



Toyoma Iwaki, Fukushima

Prefectures, the phase is still considered the initial emergency relief but the operation is expected to gradually shift for housing over short period of time. The problem in that is cleaning the area to secure enough land without debris and fit for building houses. It is nearly an impossible task for the injured and the elderly, but also very difficult for the able bodies due to lack of tools and help. In order to respond to this issue, Habitat Japan is preparing to mobilize domestic and international volunteers, to help clean the areas and houses that are still safe for living, and to distribute the "Clean-up Kit" consisting of various tools needed to restart homes. We also recognize the



REUTERS/Kim Kyung Hoon, courtesy, Trust-org-Alertnet

problems in Japanese Government's plan to construct temporal housing; providing help in housing, sanitation and health management for the evacuees, support for elderly living alone and children, and developments in newly rebuild communities are amongst our future plan of action.

✧ Further information and updates will be announced on our web site.

### Relief Supplies

March 30<sup>th</sup>, 1,000 blankets were delivered to Tochigi Prefecture Fire Training School in cooperation with European Union (EU). 2,689 people in total including 2,587 evacuees from Fukushima Prefecture are now forced to live in the evacuation centers. The blankets from overseas were carried in under the attendances of European Civil Protection Mechanism, a part of EU organization that

provides disaster reliefs, and Habitat Japan. These blankets helped to warm the people's mind and bodies. On April 6, Habitat Japan also coordinated to deliver 112 sleeping-bags and 14 tents donated by EU to Miyagi Prefecture.



Delivering blankets to Tochigi Pref. Fire Training School

# Japan Update Special Edition

## Small Gestures, Together Builds Life. Let's Rebuild Tohoku.

Habitat Japan has assessed the damage caused by the quake and tsunami .

To respond effectively, we need your help.

Please make a donation to help Habitat support families affected by this disaster.

Your kind support would be highly appreciated.

### ■ Donation : Banking Information

**Bank Name: Mitsubishi Tokyo UFJ Bank, Shinjuku-Nishi Branch Office**

**Account Number: 0105112 (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 donation funds are meant for the Japan Quake Relief. Also, please include your name and contact information when you arrange the transfer.

◇ For official receipts, please notify us your name and contact information.

### LIST OF DONATIONS DESIGNED TO JAPAN EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI (- 2011.3.31)

The donation meant for Japan Earthquake and Tsunami will support what Habitat Japan helps families affected by this disaster. Thank you for your continuous support.

3/16	辻村 朋大	1,000	3/22	新井 ルミ子	1,000
3/16	本庄 彩	20,000	3/22	山本 ひとみ	10,000
3/17	タム 順子	10,000	3/22	大和ハウス工業(株)川越支店	9,500
3/18	京都外国語大学 (Kyoto Gaidai Habitat)	255,627	3/22	竹中 聡志	50,000
3/17	仁科 友祐	10,000	3/25	鹿野 慎介	5,000
3/17	前後 薫	100,000	3/28	川邊 悠平	10,000
3/17	湯泉 志緒	5,000	3/29	牧野 けい	30,000
3/22	井田 昌彦	10,000	3/29	神戸市外国語大学 (Kobe Gaidai Habitat)	62,083
3/22	エイクマ ヒロミ	5,000	3/30	Asia Pulp & Paper Group	100,000,000
3/22	田中 順子	10,000	3/30	中瀬 ケイコ	50,000
3/23	小澤 宏	5,000	3/31	飯田 恵美	5,000