

# H F H J News Letter



28 February 2013

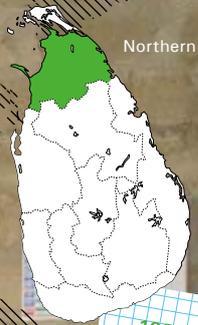
Habitat for Humanity Japan Newsletter  
Issue 28



News Around the World

## Sri Lanka

The Solar Home Recovery Project  
MUJI Donation Ticket for the Rebuilding Japan Program



Northern Sri Lanka

**1983~**  
The breakout of civil war resulted in 300,000 internally displaced people.

**2009~**  
The end of the civil war led the internally displaced to return home.

**~Today**  
People are living in temporary shelters made of straws and tarps.



News 1

## Decent Houses for More Than 300 Internally Displaced Families

Before

After



### Mannar, Sri Lanka

In April, 2011, Habitat Japan started to support the internally displaced families in Mannar, Northern Sri Lanka with an institutional partner, Japan Platform, in order to help them return to decent homes.

At Vaddakandal village located 25 kilometers away from downtown Mannar, more than 100 core houses (Habitat's most compact but decent housing with minimum functions) were built for those families.

### Home Partner Story Warrook Sabuhan from Vaddakandal Village

Warrook Sabuhan lived at a refugee camp for more than 20 years before he finally had his own home. Now as 31 years old, he finally has a decent place to live.

To Sabuhan and his family, this new house is like heaven. He said, "Thanks to Habitat, I am able to have a peaceful and stable life."

After moving into his house in March 2012, Sabuhan turned a room into a small provisions store selling dried fish, bananas, peppers and light bulbs.



## Wells and Latrines Promote Better Sanitation

### Sannar, Sri Lanka

Sannar is another small village in Mannar, Sri Lanka. Over 200 people have resettled there after the civil war, but there were no usable toilets and only two wells to be shared by everyone. Since July 2012, Habitat Japan has been building latrines to promote better sanitation in Sannar. The project is paired with sanitation training for the home partners and their children in the village where the importance of boiling drinking water, washing hands with soap, and the cleaning and maintenance

of toilets are not a common practice.

By the end of February, the villagers are to be celebrating the completion of all wells and toilet facilities. Habitat Japan will then hand over the after-care and the long term assistance for the whole community to Habitat Sri Lanka. The rebuilding of the recently resettled community will continue on.

### Digging Wells for Drinking Water

- 1: Digging
- 2: Making the separation of groundwater and seawater
- 3: Rock drilling and casing
- 4: A valve, a pump and a lever placed



Children drinking and playing with clean water

### Installing the Precast Toilets

Precast toilets are made of precast concrete sandwich panels and a simple latrine. The precast panels are structured first and they are installed later with a latrine. It takes about 3 days to complete and can response to the urgent needs of Sannar.



This is our family's first toilet. Thanks to it, we no longer have to go in the bushes.

The Rushbans, a home partner family who received a toilet.

## Sweat Equity

"Sweat Equity" is the practice where Habitat's home partners provide volunteer labor for building their own or a neighbors' house. By being a part of the construction, self-respect and dignity are grown, and community ties are formed.

### Advantages

- 1 Reduce the cost of construction
- 2 Gain a sense of pride and ownership
- 3 Improve house-maintenance skills
- 4 Grow community ties and involvement

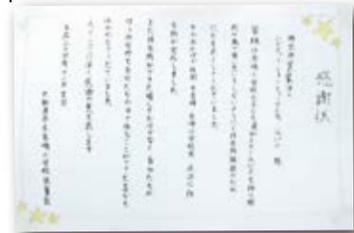
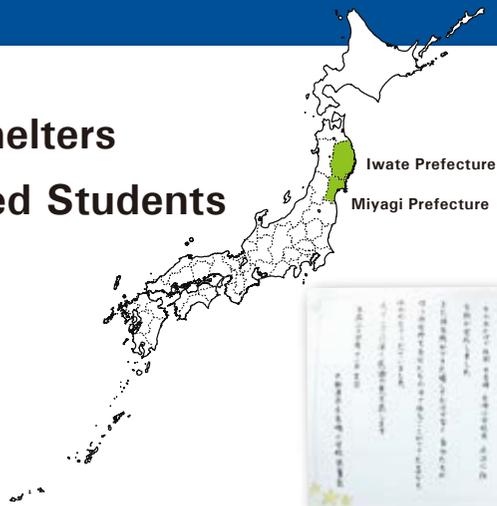




## School Bus Stop Shelters for Tsunami-Affected Students

Many students living in tsunami-affected areas in Tohoku now have to commute to different schools by bus after their schools were closed in the wake of disaster. Some bus stops were surrounded by debris and others were standing in the middle of nowhere. In response to the local voices, "Safer shelters for those students," Habitat Japan started building bus stop shelters with the local residents and other local NPOs. Total of 5 shelters were built in Higashimatsushima, Miyagi Prefecture and Ofunato, Iwate Prefecture in October and November, 2012.

A parent talked to Habitat volunteers, "I am excited to see this bus stop shelter being built up each day." On the last day of the operation, the students who use the bus stop shelters and their parents painted pictures on the walls of shelters. A few days later, Habitat Japan received a thank-you letter and a pleasant drawing bus stop shelter from the students; "Thank you Habitat! We enjoyed building the bus stop shelters by ourselves that we are using now!"



Thank-you letter from the students at Akasaki Elementary School, Ofunato, Iwate



Bus stop shelters are also used as gathering spots for the local people



## House Repair Project for Flood Survivors

In 2011, a wide area of Southeast Asia was damaged by the biggest cataclysmic disaster ever, affecting more than 2 million people in Thailand alone. Particularly in Phitsanulok, there were 2 larger rivers that overflowed; the Yom River and the Nan River. Over 20,000 houses and buildings were damaged. In some areas of Phitsanulok, the water reached 3 meters high and in other areas, water remained there even 6 months after the disaster.

However, the survivors still have not received enough support both domestically and internationally over the past year, so many families will remain living in inadequate living conditions for a long time.

Habitat Japan aims to help more than 50 families from the socially vulnerable who are not able to repair their houses by themselves, and have family members such as the needy, the elderly, widows, infants, the sick, the challenged or multiple-child families.

**Support the Flood Survivors in Thailand!**

For more information at [www.habitatjp.org](http://www.habitatjp.org)



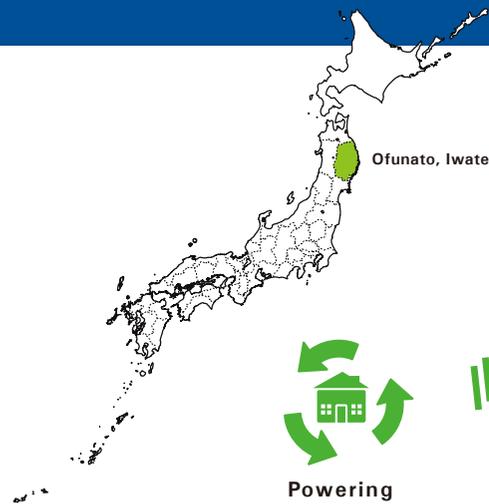
Many survivors are living under the conditions with no walls or floorboards, broken latrines and inclined pillars



## The Solar Home Recovery Project

Habitat for Humanity Japan announced in November, 2012 that it will partner with Hilti, a provider of leading-edge technology to the global construction industry, and business and financial information provider Bloomberg, L.P. to develop a solar project in Ofunato, Iwate Prefecture. By installing solar panels in homes, disaster-affected families are able to not only save on utility costs but make money by selling excess electricity to the regional utility provider as a result of the government's revised national scheme to encourage the use of renewable energy.

Habitat Japan has been working with affected families in Iwate and Miyagi since the disaster struck. Activities initially involved cleaning mud and debris from houses and community spaces. As time passed and needs changed, activities developed to include house repairs with financial assistance and renovate public facilities. After these activities, Habitat Japan found that the lack of income-generating opportunities is a serious issue. During the pilot phase, Habitat Japan supports the families, many of whom are living with disabilities and unemployed due to the disaster, and are in great need of financial support.



Powering Houses



Disaster Preparedness

The average size of a residential solar panels in Japan is 3kW, and the home partner families can save in energy bills and earn income from the feed-in tariff scheme. The total amount can be estimated up to JPY some thousands per month or 100,000 yen per year.

Habitat Japan began accepting the first round of applications. The assessment and consultation of the selected families and implementation are to follow hereafter.

## Youth Program

Higashimatsushima and Natori, Miyagi

## 50 Campus Chapter Members Helped Rebuild Japan

Habitat Japan Campus Chapters (CC) are actively involved in Habitat's work in the world. Many members from 19 chapters join Global Village volunteers and also the Rebuilding Japan volunteers. In November, 2012, these CC members visited Higashimatsushima and Natori, Miyagi Prefecture to help rebuild the tsunami affected houses and facilities.

The leader of the team, Takayuki Konishi is a sophomore of Chuo University in Tokyo. He was born and grew up in Rifu, Miyagi that is located near Habitat work sites. On March 11, 2011, he happened to return home during spring break and he and his family were also affected by the huge earthquake. Since then, he energetically joined Habitat relief works in Tohoku, and also planned to send a CC team there. His call brought 50 members on the first day of recruitment.

The team worked for 2 days and helped remove debris, gut broken walls and floorboards, renovate a community center and build benches and tables at a temporary shelter. On the 1st day, Takayuki thought that people could never understand what was happening in the disaster areas unless they experienced them. The current sight of disaster areas appear too tidy to him. However, he learned his friends could feel

something important from the even by seeing the tidy areas. Takayuki said, "I was touched to read one of member messages saying, 'it was an unforgettable experience and felt honored to join.' I re-found it important to actually visit the sites and work there. I hope every member can convey their messages from what they have learned from this visit and the circle of helping hands will be expanded in that way."

After the trip, the CC members started fundraising for Tohoku. This is how they can help those in need far from the affected areas and how they expand their helping hands. Habitat Japan Youth Program continues to support those CC members and their student-led activities.



# TOPICS

HFHJ Newsletter 28

## Be the Hope, Be a House Supporter.

Habitat Japan's House Supporters are there to assist Habitat fight against the world's poverty housing issue. Please join us starting with monthly donation of 1,000 yen to realize a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

### Your support goes far

In Sri Lanka for example, your monthly donation of 500 yen buys a window, 1,000 yen for door and 5,000 yen for a roof.

\*More information is soon to be available at [www.habitatjp.org](http://www.habitatjp.org)

## The Global Village Volunteers Wanted!

Habitat for Humanity's Global Village program (GV) mobilizes volunteers in teams or individuals across the globe. No skills or experience is needed. Take an adventure of a life time and be a part of change!

### As a Global Village volunteer, you will:

#### ► Discover the World Through Hard Work

Work alongside the host community to build simple but decent and affordable houses

#### ► Building Houses, Building Hope

Learn the importance of improved housing and quality of life.

#### ► Giving and Receiving

Become friends with fellow Habitat volunteers and home partners.

#### ► Everyone is Transformed

Create a true global village of love, community, homes and hope.

\*More information is at [www.habitatjp.org](http://www.habitatjp.org).

## MUJI Donation Ticket

Habitat Japan was selected as a recipient organization by MUJI Donation Ticket. MUJI has been working for raising awareness of various issues at home and abroad and the Donation Ticket is a new way of charity that MUJI introduces.

The total of more than 350 supporters bought the ticket.

Your contribution will be used to those in need at the tsunami-affected areas in Tohoku through our Rebuilding Japan program.

Thank you very much for your support!



Click to Donate at MUJI Online Store!



## Rebuilding Japan Volunteers Wanted!

Habitat Japan continues to send volunteers to the tsunami-affected areas in Tohoku. Please join us to help the survivors in need!

### Location:

Ishinomaki, Higashimatsushima and Natori, Miyagi

### Itinerary in February:

A: March 2-3

B: March 23-24

C: March 30-31

\*Upcoming itineraries available at [www.habitatjp.org](http://www.habitatjp.org)

### Work:

Building benches, storage units, gutting of community facilities, house repairs, help local farmers and fisherman communities etc

### Volunteer Fee:

3,000 yen per trip

\*Volunteer fee covers insurance, local transportation, accommodation (public community centers and other community facilities) lunch during your work.

\*Transportation from home to Habitat work sites, dinner, and others are not included.

## Habi-Bito

Travelers with a Purpose



### Mr. Ali Izadi

Analyst, New Energy Finance  
Bloomberg L.P.

When his co-worker took maternity leave in the summer of 2011, an e-mail about volunteering opportunities was forwarded his way – this is how Ali first connected with Habitat. "Many people wanted to go and volunteer in Tohoku then, but didn't know what to do." So he decided to be the one to make it happen alongside the best of Bloomberg volunteer program.

With the support of the company, he and his team of fellow employees worked on the first Habitat trip to Ofunato to help build storage units at a temporary housing complex. Diverse volunteers from various divisions in a company were warmly accepted by the locals that motivated them to work together as a team and harder for the people in return.

This success brought him to continue working with Habitat to lead a total of about 60 volunteers to Iwate and Miyagi.

At the same time in Tokyo, many stayed connected to the program with beyond their divisions and even work hours.

"For a corporation like Bloomberg, team building is one of the most important benefits such volunteer activities offers," he continues, "Corporations should take advantage of such opportunities for their employee training." Being one of many Bloomberg employees who take advantage of support offered for employees to be involved in volunteer activities through the Best of Bloomberg program around the world, he wishes for more companies to do the same. Corporate social responsibility (CSR) is often treated as a part of marketing or a 'responsibility' that the company has to do; but he believes "it should really be based on providing for society."

Having led three volunteer teams to Tohoku, he is not looking to stop there. "Building is fun but through the Solar Home Recovery project that Bloomberg has supported, I can apply my professional knowledge and skills to help people," he continues, "I hope the project model will expand to other parts of Japan and to the world with Habitat's global reach."



### Editor's Note

We are happy to present our newsletter with a new face! Learning from the past, it is designed to keep the fundamental message in spirit and to bring the ease of reading with photos and simple wording. Also through the following issues, we hope to share more stories of our ever-expanding projects and voices from all Habitat supporters from all around the world. (HFH Japan)



Habitat for Humanity Japan

4F CHARI Sendagaya, 1-13-11, Sendagaya  
Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 151-0051

Tel: 03-6459-2070 Fax: 03-6459-2071

Email: [info@habitatjp.org](mailto:info@habitatjp.org) [www.habitatjp.org](http://www.habitatjp.org)

Habitat for Humanity is an international NGO that aims to realize a world where everyone has a decent place to live. It works in about 100 countries and has helped more than 600,000 families across the world.