



Solar Power Generation Systems Fitted to 4 Community Centers

Habitat for Humanity Japan (HFH Japan) provided solar power generation systems to assist disaster-affected families and communities in Ofunato, Iwate. The first phase started in May 2013 to support 13 families with severely disabled members. The second phase of the project was for four community centers designated as evacuation facilities. With the solar power generation systems fitted to their roofs, the four centers are able to save on utility bills and to sell excess electricity. The proceeds from the sale are to be used for various community revitalization activities by the locals and power supply in case of emergency.

Voice of a home partner

After the earthquake, we had to live with no electricity. Nights were dark and we had no means of communication. Thanks to those solar power generation systems, we now feel much safer living in our community.



Higashimatsushima, Miyagi



Kawakudari Community Center Repairs Completed

HFH Japan repaired three community centers in Miyagi to support revitalization of the communities affected by the disaster. In September 2013, another community center was repaired in Kawakudari district of Higashimatsushima. HFH Japan celebrated the reopening of the Kawakudari community center with the locals. The center is not only used as a gathering spot and for community events but also designated as an evacuation center.



Oiso, Kanagawa



Renovating the "Grandma's House" at the first Child Respite in Japan

The Ocean View Forest is the first child respite in Japan, a palliative care facility, where the children with serious illness or disabilities can stay with their families. HFH Japan helped to renovate "Grandma's House" on its premises. The HFH Japan volunteers replaced the floors and walls while professionals repaired traditional roof tiles, installed septic tank and daubed Japanese clay walls.

"This house is not only for children but also for their family. It is one of a very few places where these children can visit and stay, as their whole life are spent in hospitals or care centers. Children and their families can relax in this house surrounded by a beautiful forest."

Takayuki Kikuchi, Officer at the Ocean View Forest



TOPICS

HFHJ Newsletter 30

Event Schedule

7 Dec 2013 (Sat) : Habitat Café in Sendagaya
15 Feb 2014 (Sat) - : GV trip to Cambodia – Now Recruiting!
26 Feb 2014 (Wed) - : GV trip to Thailand – Now Recruiting!

Information

Newsletter for Members

Our quarterly newsletter is going digital! Please register through our website to enjoy our monthly e-magazine "Habitat Update" and to receive the quarterly newsletter. Printed version of the newsletter will continue to be sent to our members including House Supporters. Sign up to continue receiving the printed version and other benefits.

Habitat Café

"Habitat Café" is an informal gathering for volunteers, supporters and friends of Habitat for Humanity Japan (HFH Japan) where they share their experiences.

Dates: Saturday, 7 December from 5pm to 7 pm
※ E-mail us today at info@habitatjp.org. to sign up!

Join us as a House Supporter

HFH Japan has been assisting those who need a decent place to live by building houses and communities. As a member of the Habitat for Humanity International family, HFH Japan is recruiting House Supporters who would like to help realize 'a world where everyone has a decent place to live.' Please support us with monthly donations, starting from 1,000 yen!

Your support goes far; for example in Sri Lanka,

- 100 yen for three roof tiles ※One house needs 680 tiles
- 500 yen for 10 wall bricks ※One house needs 1,500 bricks
- 1,000 yen for door lock
- 30,000 yen for a toilet

House supporters will receive our quarterly newsletters as well as news and announcements, and enjoy priority status when participating in volunteer trips and events. We look forward to your participation!

When I wanted to do something for someone who needed support, I learned of an opportunity to become an HFH Japan house supporter. I am very pleased as I can contribute to make a difference, to make the world a better place.



Tsutomu Nagashima, House Supporter



Enthusiasts in Habitat



Noriko Nakayama

Leader of "Step to Peace"

"Step to Peace" is a new project originated from an initiative by the Campus Chapters (CCs) in 2012. The project aims at encouraging shy students to participate in volunteer activities overseas. Ms. Nakayama and other CC members were determined to recruit students from across Japan to form a team to join Habitat for Humanity's event called Mekong Big Builds, which was held in Vietnam in August.

In July, they organized a workshop to train 31 participating students. At the workshop, they learned history, culture and community life of Vietnam. "Step to Peace's goal is to raise awareness for international cooperation among university students. For that, we cherish process of realization and learning," says Noriko. The workshop was organized in a way which the participants could share their feelings to build a team. When the event started in Vietnam, Noriko and fellow participants split into 3 teams and built 3 houses for 3 families. She heard home partners saying "my current house is too small for my family. Bad hygienic environment and leaking roof are

ruining our health." That made her realize how horrible their living situation was. "That was when I realized what they needed the most was a decent house. We were not construction experts, but that is not a good excuse for not helping out," Noriko said. When she returned to Japan, she was highly motivated to further her mission. Noriko continued, "we will continue Step to Peace to reach out to students in Japan and tell them what we have learned from our experience, and to raise awareness. Since we are no longer in Vietnam, all we can do is to hope well for our home partner families, but we want to use our imagination to plan what we can do more. Though each of our step is small, I realized that we must continuously make efforts to help make their dream come true. That is what Step to Peace stands for. I want to expand Habitat activities to bring peace to the world, by calling upon students to work together with us to solve poverty housing issues." Let's send hearty cheers to Step to Peace and CCs.

Editor's Note

We still face many challenges in achieving the goal of Habitat for Humanity; 'A world where everyone has a decent place to live'. At the beginning of the second decade of HFH Japan, we renew our determination to overcome those challenges and continue to work at home and overseas together with our supporters and volunteers.



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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 80 countries and has helped more than 600,000 families worldwide.

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News from the Field

10 years of Habitat in Japan

Building Houses with Volunteers
Rebuilding Japan

History of Habitat for Humanity Japan

10 years

Where Habitat Japan has built

10 years of Habitat for Humanity Japan

- 2001:** HFH operation started in Japan
- 2003:** Incorporated as a non-profit organization
- 2005:** The first "Japan Hope Builders (JHB);" Volunteers was sent in response to the landslide in the Philippines
- 2006:** First international project; response to the earthquake in Pakistan
- 2007:** Bangladesh Flood Relief project. (-2008.03)
- 2009:** First domestic disaster response; Noto earthquake
- 2010:** JHB team joined the Big Builds in Nepal
- 2011:** JHB team joined the build event in Thailand led by former US president, Jimmy Carter
- 2012:** Flood relief and peace-building projects in Sri Lanka (-2013.02)
- 2013:** Disaster response following the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami

Continued "Rebuilding Japan" project (-now)
JHB team joined the Big Builds in Sri Lanka
Flood Response in Thailand (-2013.04)

Habitat for Humanity Japan (HFH Japan) celebrates its 10th anniversary this November. Habitat for Humanity operations began in Japan in 2003 with just a handful of dedicated volunteers. Since then, numbers increased rapidly. More than 7,000 volunteers have joined Global Village Program (GV), helping to build simple, decent and affordable housing in countries across the Asia-Pacific region. Many of these volunteers were members of HFH Japan's Campus Chapters (CCs), organized through the Youth Program. They have enthusiastically supported HFH Japan, both as volunteer builders and as fundraisers. HFH Japan has also participated in various disaster response operations around the world. It provided financial aid following the Indian Ocean Tsunami and Haiti Earthquake and implemented rebuilding and repair

projects following disasters in countries including Sri Lanka and Thailand. In 2011, HFH Japan embarked on its first major domestic operation, in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. HFH Japan repaired damaged homes and upgraded community spaces to revitalize affected communities in Iwate and Miyagi Prefectures. In the center of HFH Japan's growth in the last ten years, there were dedicated partners – home partners, volunteers and supporters – and all of its accomplishments were made possible with their love and compassion. With your support, HFH Japan will continue to support vulnerable, disadvantaged families across Japan and the Asia-Pacific region, and work to realize 'a world where everyone has a decent place to live.'

International Projects

Habitat for Humanity Japan (HFH Japan) implemented disaster response projects to support those who suffered from various natural and man-made disasters to help revitalize their lives.

Pakistan Apr.- Dec.2006

Earthquake Relief Balakot, Mansehra,
Massive earthquake measuring magnitude 7.2 hit Northeastern Pakistan and destroyed 80% of the villages in those regions. 200,000 people were displaced from their homes. Many had no choice but to face the winter in tents. HFH Japan responded with its first international project and established a mobile lumbering team to turn debris into building materials. As a result, 1,100 disaster-hit families were able to rebuild their homes.

Sri Lanka Apr.2011- Feb.2013

Flood Relief Batticaloa district
Batticaloa district in Eastern Sri Lanka was one of the most severely affected by the flood caused by a monsoon that killed 55,000 people nationwide. 11,500 houses were fully destroyed and 21,500 houses were partially damaged. In response, HFH Japan distributed shelter kits and built temporary shelters for 235 families.

Reintegration Assistance program for IDPs Mannar district

The civil war lasted for 25 years leaving more than 300,000 refugees to live in temporary shelters when they returned to their hometowns. To assist their resettlement, HFH Japan built 101 houses as well as 241 toilets and 38 communal wells for improved hygienic conditions.

Bangladesh Dec.2007- Mar.2008

Flood Relief Bhuapur Tangail
Due to a massive flood caused by monsoon, 180,000 residents, about a half of the population of Bhuapur were affected. In this area, 1,100 houses were totally destroyed and 18,500 houses were partially damaged. HFH Japan provided bamboo shelters on stilts for 122 families for their resettlement.

Thailand Nov.2011- Apr.2013

Flood Relief Phitsanulok
Wide area of Southeast Asia was damaged by the cataclysmic disaster, affecting more than 2 million people in Thailand alone. In Phitsanulok area, more than 20,000 houses were damaged. HFH Japan worked with 50 families among the financially vulnerable who could not afford to rebuild their own houses by themselves.

Besides implementation of these projects, HFH Japan also raised funds in Japan in support of other Habitat national organizations' emergency relief efforts, in response to hurricane "Katrina" in the US and earthquakes in Sumatra and Haiti.

Domestic Projects

With its own expertise and participation of a large number of volunteers, Habitat for Humanity Japan (HFH Japan) has also worked in Japan.

Disaster Relief

2007: Noto Earthquake Relief
In Wajima city, near to the epicenter of the Noto Earthquake, HFH Japan distributed 250 blue tarps. In the evacuation centers, HFH Japan set up portable toilets and partitions in big evacuation halls as a part of emergency relief. HFH Japan volunteers helped demolish traditional warehouses which were damaged beyond repair.

2011-now : The Great East Japan Earthquake Relief
Following the twin disaster, HFH Japan began to support not only repairing affected houses but also revitalizing affected communities. More than 2,500 volunteers have participated in the effort.

Others

2010: The NAGAYA Project
Over 140 volunteers joined to help building Nagaya (Traditional Japanese apartments) in Sagami-hara, Kanagawa Prefecture. Through this project, volunteers recognized the importance of "home". The Nagaya has now become a place of communion where residents share their experiences to strengthen their community.

2013: The Ocean View Forest Project

HFH Japan sent 19 volunteers to Oiso, Kanagawa to renovate one of the buildings in the first child respite in Japan. In addition to the renovation, HFH Japan built six benches to be placed in the surrounding-forest. (For more details, read the column overleaf)

Youth Program

In many countries, Habitat for Humanity works with student groups called Campus Chapters (CCs). The first CC in Japan was established in 1996, prior to the establishment of HFH Japan. In the past ten years, the number of CCs has increased to 22, with more than 1,300 members across the country. These students conduct various activities to raise funds and awareness, and to participate in the Habitat program as volunteers in and outside Japan. The scale of the CCs is the biggest among the movements organized by student in Japan. CCs and their members are valuable supporters of HFH Japan.

June: Youth Assembly Recent Activities/
400 CC members from eastern regions gathered for the very first East Youth Assembly in Tokyo.

August: Mekong Big Build
31 CC members joined in "Step to Peace" to take part in the Mekong Big Builds in Vietnam, and built 3 houses in a week.

September: East and West joint CC workshop
140 CC members participated in the annual workshop. CC members from all parts of Japan were invited to share their efforts and ideas.

Interested in HFH Japan lectures at your school?

HFH Japan's youth program offers lectures on international issues such as poverty housing.

For further information, contact us at info@habitatjp.org

Building Houses, Communities and Hope.

During this summer season, Habitat for Humanity Japan (HFH Japan) sent 499 volunteers to overseas building project sites through the Global Village Program (GV). With the efforts of volunteers and Habitat supporters, HFH Japan supported 94 families (or 470 people) in 10 countries.

Volunteers Wanted!!

Join Habitat for Humanity's GV that mobilizes volunteers to travel overseas and build houses with the local community.
* No special skills required. Individual participants are welcome.

- ▶ **GV trip to Battambang, Cambodia** 15-23 February 2014
- ▶ **GV trip to Pathumthani, Thailand** 26 February-5 March, 2014

* For more information, visit at www.habitatjp.org



The work at the building site was pretty hard. The volunteers mixed cement and laid concrete blocks for the walls. Yet their perseverance won in the end.

18-30 August 2013: Pathumthani, Thailand Ritsumeikan Moriyama High School – Socially Conscious School Trip

Ritsumeikan Moriyama High School is sending its students to the GV program as a part of its curriculum to nurture global citizens. This summer in Thailand, the Moriyama team helped the Mam to have their own private home. Participants experienced a joy of working with their fellow volunteers for the sake of others in need. Their experiences would certainly shape a foundation for their own future.

17-24 August 2013: Battambang, Cambodia 8 Days of Building a House in Cambodia

In partnership with a travel agency H.I.S., HFH Japan conducted another Japan Hope Builders trip to Battambang, Cambodia. It is the second largest city in the country, where many people cannot afford to have their own land to build houses. They end up as being squatters in government owned lands. Habitat for Humanity Cambodia works with partners such as the government and World Bank to establish land tenure for those low income families.



This year's Japan Hope Builders team was there to help the Pov Huch build a house on the newly developed land. The family that lives on a monthly income of approximately JPY15,000 includes a wife, an aged husband (74) and young children. The family's hope was to escape from their fear of removal from the current address, and to start life with peace of mind in a decent home.

* "Japan Hope Builders" is a volunteer team organized by HFH Japan that is open to individual participants.

3-10 August 2013: Tien Giang, Vietnam Build with Volunteers from around the World in Vietnam

One of Habitat's build events named "Mekong Big Builds" was held in Vietnam this year. Gathering more than 200 volunteers from all over the world, the event built 25 houses in just five days. 33 volunteers from Japan, including the members of the "Step to Peace 2013" project organized by the campus chapters.



200 volunteers came together for one purpose – to build a decent place for the home partners to live – and worked hard each day. In the end, the event built more than houses, but also friendships beyond borders.

* Big Builds differs from the regular GV trips as it gathers volunteers from all over the world at one work site at the same time.

28 August-4 September 2013: Pathumthani, Thailand 8 Days of Building a House in Thailand

HFH Japan organized another Japan Hope Builders trip, in partnerships with Chikyu-no-Arukikata (also known as the Globe trotter travel books) and STA travel, for volunteers to build a house in Thailand. The team worked with the Kritsada whose old house suffered damages from the flooding in 2011 and termites.



Finish

