

# H F H J News Letter



# 32

2014 July

Habitat for Humanity Japan Newsletter

 News from the Field

## Habitat Japan and Students, 10 years and going strong

HYB2014 KIZUNA Project





## Home Repair Project

Misato is an idyllic inland town where Habitat Japan's Home Repair Project takes place. Although tsunami did not reach Misato during the great earthquake in 2011, the earthquake caused severe damages to a number of buildings in Misato. While people and communities victimized by the horrendous tsunami received much attention, inland communities affected solely by the earthquake were often forgotten; as a result, assistance from the government and aid organizations has not been sufficient. Today, there are still many people living in damaged houses. Home Repair Project is currently taking place in Misato, where four houses have already been repaired.

### Media Coverage

Leading and local newspapers including Nihon Keizai Shimbun, Niigata Nippo, Iwate Nippo, Fukushima Minyu, Shinano Mainichi and Kahoku Shimpo carried an article distributed by Kyodo News regarding Habitat Japan's Home Repair project in Misato. Habitat Japan continues to strive in order to reach those who are suffering from the lack of assistance.



The home partner repaired her house with 75 volunteers from all over Japan. They fixed interior walls, repaired doors, and plastered the bathroom and kitchen walls.

I am so thankful for all the help. I couldn't have done it alone.



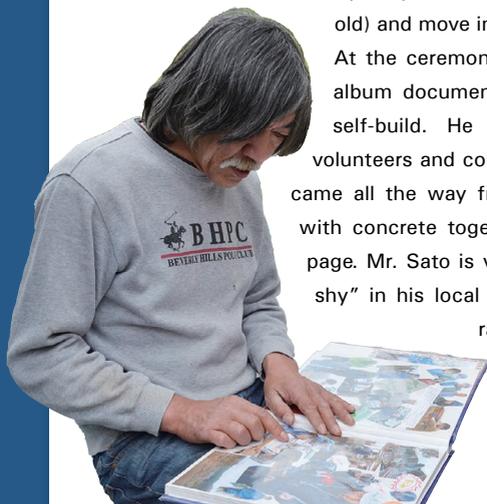
## Self-Build Project

On 25 May 2014, Self-Build Project's dedication ceremony took place in the Okirai district of Ofunato, Iwate prefecture. Habitat Japan assisted Mr. Sato, a home partner, build a house by himself throughout the process from filling paperwork to coordinating building volunteers. The home partner said, "Once we are done building the house, I am going to leave the temporary shelter with my mom (91 years old) and move in here. Drop by any time."

At the ceremony, he was given a photo album documenting the progress of his self-build. He was pointing at each volunteers and commenting on them ("She came all the way from Nagoya, we worked with concrete together.") as he turned the page. Mr. Sato is very oshossu ("extremely shy" in his local dialect), and he used to rarely talk to volunteers he had never met. Today, he is much more sociable and even initiates



conversations; confidence he gained through building his own house is visible in his action. A local volunteer who participated in a plastering session in the past commented "I cannot believe how well put-together the house is now" as she marveled the nearly finished interior of the house and reminisced about the time she volunteered.



# Habitat Japan and Students, 10 years and going strong

QUESTION

Question to  
CC members  
"What does CC  
mean to you?"

Did you know **Campus Chapters(CC)** existed in Japan and volunteered overseas before Habitat for Humanity Japan was established? The first CC was **formed in 1997** as a response to Japanese students participating in Global Village programs (GV) encouraged by a professor strongly sympathetic towards the work of Habitat for Humanity. Fueled by the students' energy and passion for the issue of poverty housing, CCs have steadily spread across the country. Today, there are as many as **27 CCs** across the country, from Hokkaido to Kyushu. Currently **around 1,500 students** all over Japan participate in volunteer and fundraising activities to tackle the poverty housing issues.



ANSWER



Kansai JCC President  
**Yuto Kihara**

CC is a place for me to meet passionate people. I've met so many warm-hearted people including fellow members from my CC, students from other CCs, and locals I met during GVs.

ANSWER



"Groo've" President  
**Chinaru Ogawa**

Since all CC members come from different backgrounds, we can discuss the issue of poverty from multiple angles. It is also a place for us to send and receive information.



ANSWER



"Habitat APU" Vice President  
**Junki Yamazaki**

It's where I have friends I can grow with. Each member has a distinctive personality, but we all respect each other for who we are.



ANSWER



"Igi-tat" President  
**Misaki Hayasaka**

It's a place where we can protect people's lives. As a victim of the great earthquake in 2011, I am going to dedicate my time raising awareness about the tectonic movement at the Nankai Trough, a pressing issue in Shikoku region.

## CC Alumni NOW

- Alumni Interviews -

"There are so many life lessons we learned through CC activities. Here's how they come in handy today!"



**Yusuke Yamamoto**

Career Consultant  
Class of 2005,  
Doshisha University

I became interested in maximizing people's potential and matching the talent with companies partly due to my experience as a CC president. In that respect, you could say that I wouldn't be where I am today without my CC. Also, true friendships I fostered with fellow CC members are simply irreplaceable.



**Kazuka Nishitani**

Career Advisor  
Class of 2009,  
Kansai Gakuin University

I learned to think flexibly, which is an extremely useful skill to this day. For example, when everyone has a different opinion during a discussion or in a meeting, I am able to respect everyone's opinion, understand that there is no "right" answer, and work together to find the "best" solution. That is an attitude I learned as a CC member.

# 27 Campus Chapters all over Japan!

# Over 1500 student members at work!

(As of June 2014)

We are always looking for new faces to join our CCs. Contact us for more information.

ANSWER

Hokkaido

"Kenchi-kun" President  
**Emiko Yamada**

There are as many reasons to join a CC as there are CC members. Some joined mainly because they were interested in Habitat and others for different reasons. To me, CC is where people from all walks of life come together to work towards one goal.



ANSWER

Tohoku

"As One" President  
**Itaru Ueda**

If I were to describe CC in one word, it'd be "inspiration." My fellow CC members always share with me the things I didn't realize or come up with.



## Four pillars of CC activities

### 1 Construction

Participate in housing construction and repair work as well as community-related activities.

### 2 Advocacy

Raise awareness about the issue of poverty and people living in inadequate houses as well as Habitat for Humanity's work.

### 3 Fundraising

Raise funds to support the work of Habitat for Humanity and the activities of CCs.

### 4 Networking

Strengthen CC members' and inter-CC connections, and work together to expand the network.



ANSWER

Tokai

"NCB" President  
**Asuka Takizawa**

CC is like my home. Had it not been for the locals I met as well as the fellow CC members with whom I share the same passion, I wouldn't have had such a wonderful time at GV.

ANSWER

Kanto

Kanto JCC President  
**Keisuke Hoshi**

CC equals each university's "potential." The more CCs there are, the more "potentials" we can tap into.

### Toshiyuki Sugawara

Sales for IT network system company  
Class of 2011,  
Meiji Gakuin University

At work, I often act as a mediator between parties, and I find team building exercises I participated in during GV to be immediately useful in such a situation. In addition, I learned the importance of not having fixed ideas at CC; the lesson has been useful in my day-to-day life.

### Azusa Murakami

Web-marketing specialist  
Class of 2014,  
Aoyama Gakuin University

When I was the president of my CC, I learned the importance of "creating a message that's easy for everyone to understand." As someone who just joined the workforce, I draw on that lesson every day. In addition, when I am given an order or a task, instead of just following them, I make a habit of critically thinking about it. That's also something I learned as a CC member.

Message

## Dear Alumni,

Every year, hundreds of CC members graduate from their universities. Although some CCs have their own alumni networks, there has not been an official CC alumni network facilitated by Habitat Japan. Today, Habitat Japan is determined to create opportunities for its alumni to reconnect to the organization and participate in its activities.

We at Habitat Japan give you sincere thanks for your continuous support for the current CC members and Habitat Japan. Please stay in touch and continue to be a part of Habitat's work towards "a world where everyone has a decent place to live."



## HYB2014



Habitat Youth BUILD (HYB) 2014 took place in eleven Asian countries (Bangladesh, China, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines, Korea and Thailand) for three months between February and May, during which students from all over Asia organized and took part in various activities including building projects, neighborhood beautification, fundraising, workshops, and conferences. In Japan, students from many Campus Chapters (CC) participated.

On the last day of Habitat Youth Build, 3 May 2014, around 200 students from Habitat Japan CCs collected donations on the streets at 9 different locations around the country. In Higashi Matsushima, Miyagi, 35 students and Campus Chapter alumni hosted workshops about continuing disaster relief aids and supports. People from all over Japan - from Kanto to as far as Ehime, Shikoku - traveled to Tohoku to participate.

In Bohol Island, where typhoon Haiyan struck last year and disaster relief still underway, 5,000 Filipino students took part

in construction as part of HYB 2014.

In Cambodia, 1,200 students from all over Asia - of which three were from Japan - participated in building activities



## KIZUNA Project

 Sri Lanka



## KIZUNA Project Report



Second KIZUNA Project took place from 6 to 16 March 2014. The Project sponsors victims of the great earthquake in 2011 to participate in Global Village program (GV) in hopes of the participants regaining confidence and finding hope for the future. This time, three members of Tohoku University CC "As One" were sent to Sri Lanka.

### What did you learn through KIZUNA Project?

**Taichiro Hashizume**



It was a great opportunity for me to think about the importance of volunteering abroad and communicating with locals. I am certain that this experience is going to help me go on in my life. I am so grateful to have been given this opportunity.

**Itaru Ueda**



It was a totally new experience, but I enjoyed every bit of it. When I faced a language barrier, my answer to the problem was a "smile" and "energy." As the time went by, our distance with the locals gradually disappeared. It was a delightful surprise that people with no common language can grow so close.

**Yuka Takae**



I found that rather than simply working on the site, by communicating with the locals proactively, I can put my heart into the building activities, and hence focus more on the tasks. In order not to waste the lessons I and relationships I fostered, I am going to take actions to make a difference.

**We are looking for sponsors to support KIZUNA Project.**  
For details,  
please contact **Habitat Japan.**

# TOPICS

HFHJ Newsletter 32

## Photography Exhibition

Habitat Japan had a traveling photography exhibition to celebrate its 10th year in Japan in JICA Chikyu-hiroba (Ichigaya) and JICA Yokohama. The theme was "Building Houses with the World for International Development" and the photos showcased international building and domestic (Tohoku) repair efforts by Habitat Japan and its volunteers. In Yokohama, in addition to



showing Habitat's work, there were photographs taken by student volunteers to share the fieldwork experience through their eyes.



**Habitat Japan is currently looking for additional venues for the exhibition. Exhibits will be made available free of charge. If you would like to show support and host the exhibition, please feel free to contact us.**

## Call for volunteers



Habitat Japan believes that everyone has something to contribute. Around the world, volunteers participate in construction and other activities along with community members and home partners. Volunteers play a crucial role in Habitat's effort in creating "a world where everyone has a decent place to live."

### Overseas program

Global Village program (GV) is Habitat's overseas volunteer program where teams of 10 - 25 volunteers spend 7 - 10 days building houses abroad. This summer, please join us in building decent houses in Asia-Pacific region.



### Domestic program

Habitat Japan works in disaster affected areas of Iwate and Miyagi. During the volunteer program, participants can interact with the locals and feel that they are catering to the community's needs. Works include repairing a house, painting, building community facilities, supporting local events, and other volunteer activities for community rehabilitation.

\*Activities may change or be canceled in poor weather conditions.

For more information, visit ► [www.habitatjp.org](http://www.habitatjp.org) or contact us at ► [info@habitatjp.org](mailto:info@habitatjp.org)

## Habi-Bito

Enthusiasts in Habitat



### Mariko Inokuchi

Alumna, "Kyoto Gaidai Habitat"  
(CC at Kyoto University of Foreign Studies)

"Anyone interested in volunteering in the Philippines to build houses, come see me after class" - Ms. Inokuchi's first encounter with Habitat for Humanity came in 1997. When her professor called for Global Village (GV) volunteers, her classmate, Ms. Sano, and she responded by participating in a project that summer. She discovered Habitat when she was feeling too powerless to make a change in the world however concerned she was over the state of the world. Habitat, she felt, was a place where students were valued as a crucial force to push towards a better world. Soon after the GV, Ms. Sano and she hosted an informational meeting for fellow students to gather enough sign-ups to form a university club (Campus Chapter). A lecture hall was packed with interested students. "My university years are when I discovered a power of passion - when you find what you are truly passionate about, you find so much focus and determination within yourself that you never imagined you had. Actions naturally follow." Ms. Inokuchi reminisced. After graduation, Ms. Inokuchi set out to open a Habitat for

Humanity office in Japan. She rented a space in Tokyo which she used as an office and her apartment. Together with Ms. Sano, she worked as the first Habitat Japan staff, giving support to Campus Chapters which, by then, were gradually spreading across the country. Soon after, Ms. Inokuchi left Habitat Japan. It was ten years later that her path crossed that of Habitat Japan once again. Professor Kaji, who was the Chair of the Board of Directors then, asked her if she would serve as a member of the Board. When asked why she agreed to come back to Habitat Japan despite her busy schedule, she said "It was a difficult decision, but in the end it felt like a way for me to give back."  
"Some people have an opportunistic view about Habitat, that it was just a vessel for them to go experience the world. But to me, seizing that opportunity and taking that one step made me who I am." says Ms. Inokuchi. Today, she is on the Board of Habitat Japan, working to establish a Campus Chapter alumni network. Her new challenge has just begun.



### Editor's Note

Last May, Habitat Japan relocated its office to Ichigaya, a charming college town with a beautifully tree-lined canal. From the office window, we can admire the budding greens basking in the sun. The office is located near the train and subway stations, and has adequate work space; we feel blessed to be able to work comfortably and efficiently. As Habitat Japan entered its new chapter, we, as Habitat staff, also renewed our promise to work together towards creating "a world where everyone has a decent place to live." We would like to thank you for your tireless and continuous support for Habitat Japan as we embark on a new journey. (HLN)



### Habitat for Humanity Japan

Kindaikagakusha Bldg 3F, 2-7-15 Ichigayatamachi,  
Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-0843  
Tel: +81-(3)-5579-2550 Fax: +81-(3)-5579-2551  
Email: [info@habitatjp.org](mailto:info@habitatjp.org) Website: [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." Habitat works in about 80 countries around the world and has helped more than 600,000 families.