



## Young Leaders Build 2019 - The Future we Build -

Habitat for Humanity believes that every person needs a peaceful and safe living environment. We partner with corporate, organizational, and individual supporters, as well as proactively engage with next generation volunteers. Campus Chapter is a student organization established around the globe, including the United States, Japan, Singapore, and South Korea, where Habitat supports student-led volunteer activities such as awareness building and fundraising events. Habitat also holds an annual Habitat Young Leaders Build (HYLB), which is known as the largest youth campaign in the Asia-Pacific region. The campaign is themed around “Play, Lead, Share” where young people from various countries inspire each other. A number of Japanese campus chapters joined the campaign to raise their voices via social networks and events, and participated in volunteer activities domestically and abroad.

### Building homes abroad, improving homes locally

HYLB started on International Volunteer Day, 5th December 2018. 781 youth volunteers joined Global Village (GV), an overseas building volunteer program, and served 68 families to build their homes in 12 countries. Domestic HYLB activities included participation in “Project HomeWorks (PHW)”, a domestic housing support program, on 29th March. A total of 28 students gathered from across the country, including the Kansai district and Aichi prefecture, to participate. Since this was the first engagement for many, the morning was spent going over PHW’s background, societal issues, as well as the role and objective of the student volunteers. Members spent the afternoon in four groups organizing and cleaning homes of the elderly and people with disabilities. Through these activities, each group helped improve the living conditions of those who have challenges taking care of themselves. For Shiori Yamazaki, a senior from Doshisha University in Kansai, this was her first time taking a part in housing-related activities outside of GV. After the activity, she commented that “Japan is known as a developed country, but today’s activities made me realize that there are elderly and people with disabilities who are faced with difficult and inadequate living conditions.”



### “The role of volunteers”

Habitat has seen an increase in support requests from community welfare nurses and social workers. “The role of volunteers is to provide support that cannot be offered by neighbors, families, or friends,” says Ms. Sekine, a public health nurse who takes care of an elderly that Habitat supports. She believes that people grow through interacting with other people. We hope that through interaction with volunteers, those who are receiving support will open up and welcome assistance in improving their living conditions. At the same time, we also hope that there will be a significant learning opportunity for the students.



This spring, Habitat Japan supported to build two community centers in the village of Selopamioro (Selo Village), in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, where Habitat Japan has been sending GV teams since 2016 to provide community support.



Selo Village, surrounded by rice fields, is a tranquil area set in lush greenery during the rainy season. Because farm produce is their main source of income, almost 80% of the villagers work in agriculture. However, according to a government survey, 68% of the inhabitants (14,387 people in 4,615 households) live in poverty. The households that get housing support from Habitat have an average monthly income of less than one hundred US dollars. So far, 26 teams from Japan have helped build homes for 49 families.

This spring, construction began on resident requested community centers. These multi-purpose buildings will not only serve as community gathering places, but will support the village with many other uses. Examples include the providing space for women's and men's groups to meet, as well as for the hosting of Posyandu, an Indonesian government health program. This program distributes nutritional supplements to mothers of children five years old and under and teaches child nutrition and health management classes. Because many village women get married at an early age and give birth to children in conditions of need, this effort is deemed necessary to reduce the number of underweight and developmentally-delayed children. A similar program, which can also be

conducted out of the centers, is aimed at those aged sixty years and over and teaches them about managing their own health. Another use will be for the operation of a vocational training program called Skilled Training where college seniors teach others the skills that they have learned in their field of study. For example, female students teach the traditional arts of Batik dyeing and sewing, while male students teach agricultural skills such as the proper use of fertilizer and how to make coconut charcoal. This program is said to be particularly effective because of the many middle-aged people who have entered these professions without learning the proper techniques. Lastly, we also expect the centers to be utilized to teach traditional dancing to children in the community. With the centers, residents will have a communal place that will be utilized to help improve their lives.

Mr. Sukandar, the 39 year old leader of Lanteng I, a district where we helped build a community center, says that he never thought Habitat Japan would go so far as to help fulfill this need. As a result, he cannot find the words to express the gratitude he felt for the donors and volunteers especially when 50 students came from Japan to do the hard work every day to build the community centers.

To build a foundation for better living conditions requires safe and decent home, but building strong community that supports daily life cannot be overlooked. Completion of the community center is planned for the end of May.



Mr. Sukandar, a community leader of Lanteng I district



# Habitat's Initiatives: Safe Water and Toilets for All

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Habitat Japan was selected as a partner of the "Toilets for All" initiative established by LIXIL corporation. This program was created to improve hygiene conditions in developing countries through the use of "SATO", a portable toilet system designed by LIXIL. Habitat Japan has collaborated with the company to install the system in India and Myanmar.

It is estimated that in India, 40 percent of the population of 1.3 billion people have to defecate in the open. Reasons for this include personal habits and poverty, but the most significant factor is the influence of Hinduism; 80 percent of the population believes in a strict separation between cleanliness and dirtiness. Therefore, vault toilets, which are the most common, are not well accepted. To help address these factors, Habitat has hosted community gatherings to discuss good hygiene practices, the risks associated with outdoor defecation, and the merits of the SATO toilet. As a result of these efforts, Habitat has been able to install 360 SATO toilets to help ensure that homes are safe and sanitary. Habitat would like to thank LIXIL for contributing to Habitat's initiative of building strength, stability and self-reliance in order to achieve a better life for all.

## Cambodia: Providing Safe Water to as Many as 4 million People in Need

Ensuring access to clean toilets and water is one of Habitat's top priorities of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDGs were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a target that the international community must achieve by 2030. In particular, Habitat is working towards the achievement of Goal 6, which is to provide "safe toilets everywhere on the globe," as part of our effort to help people secure housing with proper sanitary conditions. By doing so, Habitat is helping to provide the basis for a decent standard of life.

In addition to India, Habitat is working towards Goal 6 in countries that need support in the areas of sanitation and the securing clean water. One such country is Cambodia, where a record number of 11 teams totaling 168 people were sent from Japan this spring to volunteer. As many as four million people in Cambodia lack access to safe water and over six million people don't have access to basic sanitary facilities such as toilets.

Siem Reap, which is best known for the Angkor Wat temple, a world heritage site, is one of the areas facing acute problems. Siem Reap province is the third poorest out of 25 states in the country. 25 percent of the population does not live in decent housing, with many living in makeshift houses built illegally along roadsides and rivers. Half of those who own homes do so without a toilet. To address the situation, Habitat is installing toilets in every new home that Habitat builds. In addition, we are educating children in the importance of clean hygienic practices so that these habits are instilled for life.

This spring, we revisited an elementary school near Siem Reap where one of Japanese GV teams helped build a water tank and provided hygiene education five years ago. Prior to the installation of a water tank with a built-in filter, the school's only source of water was a well that was contaminated with rust. As a result of installing water tank, there is now a steady source of clean water for the school to use. Every new school year, teachers provide hygiene education, particularly the necessity of washing hands to students. Subsequently, the children have become used to washing their hands before and after each meal. The Principal of the school said, "Thanks to this water tank, we can now drink clean water, and children have acquired a habit of washing hands."

Safe water is an indispensable part of having a better and healthier standard of life. Habitat will continue its effort to provide safe and decent homes by ensuring access to clean water and sanitary toilets.



## 15th anniversary of Habitat for Humanity Japan

Thanks to a number of supporting companies, organizations, and individuals, Habitat Japan marked its 15th anniversary last November. Approximately 150 people, including campus chapter alumni as well as partner companies and organizations joined us for the Habitat Japan's 15th anniversary celebration on 28th November 2018. Rick Hathaway from Habitat for Humanity headquarters, who contributed in the founding of Habitat Japan gave a congratulatory speech. He also spoke about how the young generation played a big part in the founding of the Japan entity and Japan has become one of the leading countries in youth volunteers. The party took place in a festive atmosphere and included guest speeches, live performance, and a lottery filled with lavish gifts from our sponsoring companies. Donations were provided towards projects that were mentioned during the program and the night signified a new step forward as we celebrate our 15-year journey.

Approximately 1.6 billion people around the world are still believed to need decent home. Shelter serves as a critical foundation and creates better livings for generations to come. In partnership with corporate and individual supporters, we will continue our efforts on youth leader development and housing support both domestically and internationally. We ask for your continued support and engagement in our activities.

Served  
**24** countries

Mobilized more than  
**18,700** volunteers

Served  
**27,000** families



Team of Habitat Japan

### Habi-Bito

There are now 44 campus chapters nationwide! Ms Kokado, who graduated from the Habitat MGU chapter at Meiji Gakuin University in 2017, says that her activities with Habitat helped to shape who she is today. This is Kokado's story about how the lessons she learned as a student are relevant to her life after school:

During college, I volunteered with Habitat to build houses overseas and provide help after the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami in 2011. Wherever I went, it always bothered me that our aim was to help, but we only stayed for a few weeks. It was difficult knowing that the work didn't continue after we returned to our normal lives and that the people we interacted with knew that we would be gone before long. "Please don't forget us" is the phrase I heard over and over, and it always stuck with me. I can't keep going back, but I can remember those I met, tell others about them, and think of what else we can do. That is one of the reasons I chose to become a teacher, and it has motivated me to teach others.

Last March was the first year I spent March 11th at the school I teach at. My fourth-grade students were two years old at the time of the Tohoku earthquake, so they don't really remember it. We had a moment of silence in the morning, but I didn't think they understood why, so I started speaking casually about the affected areas. I told them about how much more happened besides the earthquake. One student asked if elementary school

students were on their way home from school since it was just before 3pm. I told them that some groups of children couldn't get away quickly enough and were swept away by the tsunami. During the moment of silence, I vividly recalled the time when I went to Ofunato and a Habitat staff member tearfully told me to take good care of my loved ones. Those words showed that she had lived there and felt for the victims with her whole being. It is, of course, necessary to remember and pass on the stories of what happened, but there is a limit to how distinctly people will understand it. I passed on the messages of disaster preparedness and the importance of keeping our loved ones close, as much to myself as to the children, to drive the messages home.

I will always remember what I learned through Habitat, and I will make it a starting point from which to pass on my experiences to the children with the hope of inspiring in them a lifelong desire to help others.



[Obituary] We are regret to inform you that Mr. Craig Smith passed on 3rd January 2019 after having fought again his illness for a long time. Mr. Smith was a passionate supporter of Habitat for Humanity and contributed to the opening of the Japan office. He most recently served as the Director of the Community Engagement Center and Professor of Global Affairs at Kyoto Gaidai University where he strongly supported Habitat youth engagement as a long-term advisor of the campus chapter. May he rest in peace.



## Habitat for Humanity Japan

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