

Cambodia – Starting Project at Kampong Cham

Having completed its 10 year operations in Kampong Thom Province where PHJ launched its project in Cambodia, PHJ selected Kampong Cham Province as the second project site. PHJ-Cambodia Office in the new site opened in September 2014.



Kampong Cham Province is located about three hours by car northwest of Phnom Penh, the nation's capital. In terms of the maternal and child health situation, the province does not have the sufficient number of midwives to meet the needs of the people and also lacks human resources who can train less-skilled midwives. Especially the Stueng Trang Operational District (OD*), our new target, is a new OD created in 2014 by the reorganization of the province. Hence the administrative system from the OD to health organizations is not yet established and requires assistance.

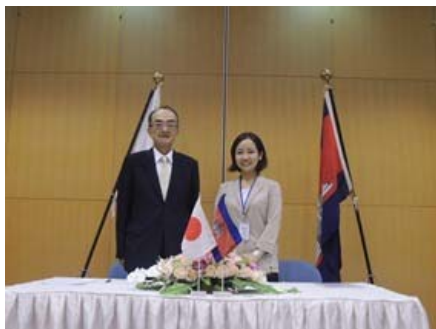
PHJ will implement the following four components of maternal and child health improvement in Kampong Cham based on its accumulated knowledge and experiences in Kampong Thom.

1. Capacity building of OD,
2. Midwives training
3. Strengthening health center administration
4. Increasing villagers' health awareness

Our first step of the project activities was to implement the baseline survey to understand current status of OD and villages. The investigation took place during the rainy season and the road conditions were terrible even with the four wheel vehicle. Our survey included the interview of mothers with less than two year old children about the use of the health center and child birth conditions. Through the survey, we found that many pregnant women received the antenatal care (ANC) at the health center but only 51% of them had child birth at the health center, 25% delivered at a more expensive private clinic, while 17% had child birth at home with the assistance of traditional birth attendants.

Also, many women thought that the postnatal care (PNC) is important but only 25% of them knew that such service was available at the health center, and the percentage of the women

who actually received such service remained at 6%. Based on these findings, we will decide the details of the program.



In October, PHJ was awarded the grant from the Japanese Government for Japanese NGOs and a signing ceremony was held at the Japanese Embassy in Phnom Penh. Ambassador Yuji Kumamaru and other embassy staffs including the staff responsible for grass root civil projects attended representing the Japanese Government. On the other hand, 18 persons including all PHJ staffs, members of

the Kampong Cham Health Department, Provincial Hospital, Stueng Trang OD, Health Center, attended the ceremony as representing PHJ. Many journalists and press gathered and published the event on newspapers, television and Internet.

PHJ started recruiting new staff in August at the new site and completed it in November to commence the project. It is all PHJ Cambodia staffs' wish to contribute to the maternal and child health improvement in Kampong Cham Province.



Note:

* In Cambodia health administration is divided from the province, OD, to health center.

Photos:

Above right page 1: Buddhist monks preside the office inauguration ceremony

Above left page 2: Grant signing ceremony. The left is Ambassador Kumamaru and the right is K. Ichihara

Above right: All PHJ-Cambodia staffs

By Kazuko Ichihara, Country Director, PHJ-Cambodia Office

Indonesia - PHJ Office Moved to Serang District and Implements Sanitary Education



PHJ moved its Indonesia Office from Jakarta to a main town of Serang District located two hours west of Jakarta by car. The town is comparatively large and has many markets and a shopping center.

In mid-October 2014, I started my assignment as the Country Director of PHJ-Indonesia Office and began to investigate the project progress status to prepare for

coming projects. Our office team consists of three midwives, one driver and myself. We visit 13 villages in the Tirtayasa Autonomous District (AD) located one hour to one hour and half from the office to implement projects.

In this AD, the villagers have little awareness of importance of keeping healthy and sanitary conditions. We find trashes and garbage left at random in many places. The lifeline river is used for drinking, washing, and even for toilet. Tirtayasa AD clinic is concerned with these sanitary issues and hope to improve the conditions.

Among the 13 villages, Sujun Village most requires improvement of sanitary environment. The AD clinic staffs responsible for sanitation, midwife at Sujun Village and PHJ staffs discussed the present status and issues from medical and health point of view, by making practical assessment. From the findings, PHJ staffs learned the importance of this sanitary education program.



Then we organized a workshop together with the PHJ Tokyo staffs to discuss and decide the contents of this year's programs and issues to deal with. Based on the result of the workshop, we will proceed with the programs to enhance the maternal and child health improvement in Tirtayasa AD. I will do my best to lead the programs learning and developing my capabilities together with the PHJ Indonesia staffs.

Photos: Left above: PHJ staffs in front of the PHJ Office

Lower right: Workshop to determine the activities plan

By Yoshiko Yanase, Country Director, PHJ Indonesia Office

Thailand - Supporting Physically Challenged Children and Children with Chronic Diseases

Since 1998, PHJ has been extending support to 228 poor children in Northern Thailand who are suffering from chronic diseases and disabilities requiring regular medical attention yet unable to receive such treatment. As a result, their health condition deteriorates leading to productive family members spending less time at work and more time at home taking care of their sick child. In addition to the problem of lack of access to medical treatment, many of these patients and their families have been isolated from important health knowledge on taking care of their child. There is a great need to not only make necessary medical treatment more readily accessible to the poor children but also to enhance their knowledge about taking care of their own health to ultimately enhance their quality of life.

Since the Thai Government established health insurance system some years ago, the medical treatment for asthma and diabetes became available without payment and many children left the program with better health conditions.

Now the 54 donors in the program support 22 children who are suffering from severe cerebral palsy and paralysis symptoms and require prolonged medical treatment, rehabilitation therapy not covered by the health insurance. The program also supports the children of immigrants from Myanmar or other similar backgrounds whose families could not pay the cost and transportation expenses.



The program also has regularly organized monthly health and nutrition education for both the children and their parents including home visits. The children and families learn ways to prevent illnesses, about nutrition required for the growing children, cares to be done at home, and others. The program aims at improving the health behavior, mental health and the quality of life of the poor children suffering from chronic diseases and disabilities.

In addition to medical and transportation support, PHJ Thai staff works closely with a technical team consisting of a pediatric doctor, a physiotherapist, an occupational therapist and a community nurse to conduct the home visit activities. The team assesses the health condition of the patient and reviews the medical care environment at home. The team formulate a rehabilitation program based on their findings and train the patient's family to practice the training at home daily.

Thanks to these carefully organized support, the patients' symptoms are improved and the quality of their life is significantly enhanced. PHJ will keep close contact with the medical organizations and staffs to extend appropriate support to each children.



Photos: left above: monthly health education

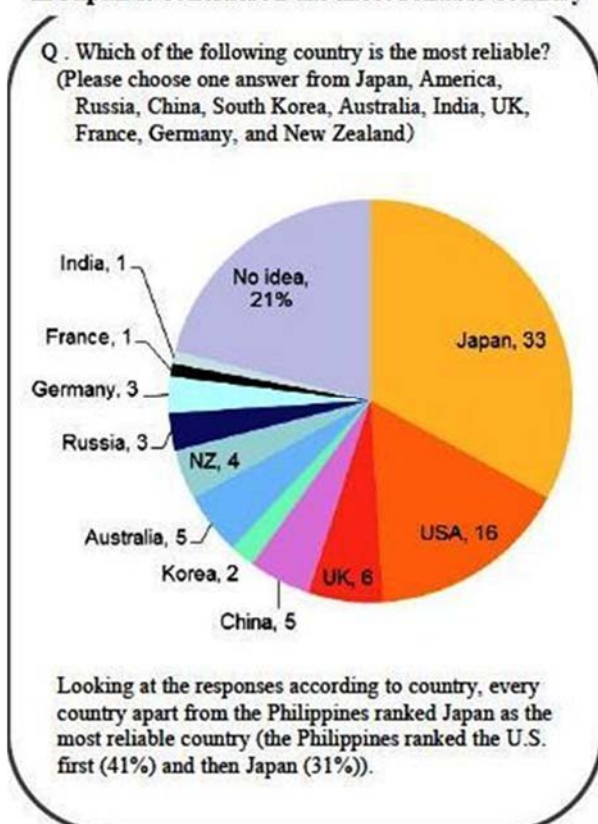
right above: home visit and rehabilitation by hospital staff

By Jeeranun Mongkondee, Regional Director of Thailand and Vietnam

Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam and other ASEAN countries are politically and economically important to Japan. What are the images of Japan among the people in these countries?

Let us analyze the March 2014 opinion poll results concerning the images of Japan organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. * When asked which country is the most trustworthy in the world, Japan ranked the top (33%), USA the second (16%), and the UK the third (6%), Australia and China the fourth (5%), New Zealand (4%) and Russia, Germany, Korea, and France followed.

II Japan is considered the most reliable country



contribution to Asia. Although not in ASEAN, the people in Taiwan chose Japan as the most likable country at 52%, followed by USA (8%) and Switzerland (4%). In Hong Kong, similarly, Japan ranked the top and followed by Singapore, Taiwan and Australia.

Why the people have such positive view of Japan? The respondents said that Japan is technologically developed, economically advanced, affluent and safe, and has a beautiful natural scenery.

Similar responses toward Japan appear on the opinion polls in Europe and North America. According to the BBC Broadcasting Company's investigation, Japan ranks the fourth following Germany, Canada, and USA. The US public relations agency's investigation also ranked

Japan the third but for the US citizens, UK and Canada are relatives and Japan is the topmost likable foreign country.

I am surprised that despite these opinion poll results, many Japanese do not realize that Japan is the most likable country in the world. The UK Economist reported the results of the poll conducted in 33 countries that the ratio of the people trusting their own country is about 90% in Australia, Canada and Finland, 70-80% in China, USA, UK, and Germany, while the Japanese people's evaluation of their own country was the lowest 56%. They are not aware of the wonderful quality of Japan.

It is my sincere wish that the Japanese people working in the NGOs and companies operating in the world should be proud of their identity as the Japanese and conduct their activities with sincerity.



*Source: http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_000271.html

Mitsuhiro Saotome

(Japan's First Ambassador for Civil Society; former Ambassador Plenipotentiary to Zambia and Malawi; former lecturer of Waseda University, University of the Sacred Heart, etc.; one of the best essayists of Bungei Shunju; author of many books; and PHJ Director)

Current PHJ Support of East Japan Disaster Area

It has been three years and 9 months since the earthquake and tsunami hit East Japan. PHJ has been helping the reconstruction of private sector hospitals in Kesen-numa, Ishinomaki, and Tagajo. At the bay area severely damaged by Tsunami in Kesen-numa, the raising bay by four meters started but the moving of residents from temporary housing to a public housing has not started. At Ishinomaki, the issue of mental health care of the senior residents of the temporary housing is becoming serious. PHJ will continue to extend medical health support to these areas.



Kesen-numa

In cooperation with the Kesen-numa Medical Association, PHJ has extended medical equipment, furniture, etc. to private hospitals in the area. In October 2014 PHJ donated an automatic blood cell counter, automatic CRP (C reactive protein) analyzer, etc. to Inawashiro Hospital that had to order the cell analysis to external organizations due to the lack of these equipment.

Photo: Nurses with the donated devices

Ishinomaki

Ishinomaki Kaisei Temporary Clinic has been extending home visit medical care at emergency housings and senior citizen's homes. In April 2014, the number of doctors increased to five and the doctor car has been in full use. PHJ will continue to extend support to the clinic by helping the comprehensive care center established next to the clinic.



Photo: A doctor is examining a patient at home



Tagajo

In October 2014 PHJ donated a body composition analyzer, extracorporeal shockwave lithotripsy, etc. to Tagajo Kidney & Urology Clinic that is the only facilities in the city treating patients requiring dialysis. The registered patients is 200 now at the same level as before the Disaster. From now on, PHJ will extend support on periodical maintenance of equipment and supply of consumable goods.

Photo: A technician is making periodical maintenance check.

By Masaru Yokoo, Manager for Disaster Support

PHJ Square-Participating in PHJ's Project - Charity Calendar of Asian Fairy Tales

Satoshi Tsuchiya, Instructor of Asuha Kids, Social Service Corporation "Oozora-kai"

"Asuha Kids" is the activity place for mentally challenged children to spend time after school with other challenged children and supporting staff and is located in Yahata-cho of Musashino City. The facilities accept 10 children per day and provide various programs to the children from primary school to high school from Monday to Saturday.



Main daily activities are playing with balls and walking in the park, making sweets, handicraft, shopping in a convenience store, and furthermore, the seasonal activities of Hina dolls festival, splitting watermelon, Halloween, Christmas, etc. are organized. We think participation in regional events and exchanges are important, so sometimes we go outside and actively participate in the region's festivals and other activities.

The motto of "Asuha Kids" is "Having Fun". The organization is not a school nor a cramming school. We just try to provide a place where the children can find something they really want to do by themselves and we support them to realize their willingness. All staff support the children strongly hoping that they can experience special things they never do at home or school and enrich their lives to come.

It's been five years since we first participated in the project of "PHJ's Charity Calendar of Asian Fairy Tales". The pictures drawn by the children of "Asuha Kids" have luckily been

selected for the calendar for consecutive five years.

Through routine activities, the children's efforts are seldom appreciated in a concrete form. But thanks to the PHJ's charity calendar, they look very confident to see their work in the printed calendar .

We gladly hear the children's voices. The child whose work was selected once said, "What will I draw this year? I want to draw something again." Another child whose work was not selected before said, "I want my work to be selected as the calendar picture." The children are not obliged to do something under the staff's instruction, but they truly want to try the drawing by themselves. We thank PHJ for providing such a wonderful chance to give motivation to the children.

When the children draw pictures, we value their bold ideas, composition and color usage. Their original idea and color usage sometimes surprise us and make us admire their hidden talent. We believe this style of practice has been accepted by the PHJ for calendar picture selection.

We highly appreciate PHJ for giving such a wonderful opportunity to pull out the children's motivation and their inner talent. We hope that PHJ continues this project in the years ahead as the children are looking forward to their participation every year.

Report of Recent Events



1. Job Fair Phase 1

Date & time: September 17, 2014 18:45-20:45

Place: Musashino Space

Subject: Employment/transfer experiences of researcher, consultant, and university student

2. Job Fair Phase II

Date & time: December 19, 2014 18:00-20:00

Place: JICA Global Plaza

Subject: Working at NGOs with the employment experiences at corporations





3. Mitaka International Festival

Date & time: September 21, 2014 10:00-16:00

Place: Inogashira Park West

Introducing Asian fairy tale calendar and playing various music instruments

4. Global Festa JAPAN 2014

Date & time: October 4 & 5, 10:0-17:00, 10:00-12:00

Place: Hibiya Park

Introducing Asian fairy tale calendar and PHJ's maternal and child health improvement projects, HIV/AIDS prevention education



5. Musashino International Festival

Date & time: Swing Building, Musashi Sakai

Introducing Asian fairy tale calendar, maternal and child health improvement projects and multi-language picture card story (Indonesian language)

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