

2013 Winter Edition

PH-Japan

Donation of Small Doctor Car to Ishinomaki

One year and nine months have passed since the great earthquake and tsunami hit Northeast Japan. Most of the disaster victims are suffering from inconveniences residing in temporary housings. Particularly, the older people in these temporary housings tend to stay home and the number of people not receiving medical care services is increasing. Also the disabled persons cannot visit hospitals due to the lack of transportation.



The winter in Ishinomaki is extremely cold for those older people and disabled persons who need medical care services. So a doctor car (mobile clinic) is truly needed. On November 29, 2012, a donation ceremony of the doctor car was held at Ishinomaki Kaisei Temporary Clinic. Shingo Oda, Chairperson of PHJ handed the list of donation to Mr. Kameyama, Mayor of Ishinomaki City followed by ribbon cutting by concerned persons.

The Clinic is located at the middle of the 2,000 temporary housings. The head of the clinic is Dr. Jun-ichi Cho, who had been involved in local medical services in Saku Hospital, Nagano, and joined the Kaisei Temporary Clinic to help the older people in the disaster areas.

After consulting patients in the morning and quick lunch, Dr. Cho and nurses visit patients with the doctor car.

The car has an ultrasound image system, ultrasound calcaneus bone analyzer, pocket-size X-ray system and other medical equipment. PHJ will be responsible for five year maintenance support. It is our sincere wish that the vehicle will be useful to the medical services of the clinic and bring health and peace of mind to the people in the area.



This donation is realized by the donor who truly wishes for the reconstruction of the

devastated area and entrusted the fund to a special trust for disaster reconstruction run by Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Bank. The Bank in turn designated PHJ as the recipient of the fund. We also extend sincere thanks to GE Healthcare Japan for valuable advices on the concept and operation of the mobile clinic.

By Masaru Yokoo, PHJ Tokyo

Organic Auditing



**Kazunori Yagi, PHJ Auditor
Advisor to Yokogawa Electric Corporation**

I was appointed as PHJ's auditor at the General Assembly and Board of Directors Meeting held in August 2012. Having long served at an administrative sector of Yokogawa Electric Corporation, I have known about PHJ since its establishment and have supported it as an individual supporting member. However, I was not aware of the actual projects PHJ has been carrying out until I attended the annual meeting and talked with the staffs.

I understand that the PHJ activities do not merely consist of transaction of funds and goods and how efficiently distribute them. But the talks with the PHJ staffs at the annual meeting enlightened me on their precise knowledge of the true requirements of the project sites and their sincere efforts to meet these requirements together with local staffs and volunteers. I was truly impressed with the PHJ operations, focusing the sites to Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, and Vietnam and continue meeting the local requirements. I am convinced that a small but steady effort is accumulated to improve conditions.

Throughout my career in the administrative sector, I have been involved directly or indirectly in audit of financial operations or accounting. Business companies aim at increase of gains or added value. So they seek to increase income or sales and efficiently control expenditure. In auditing, we acknowledge the appropriateness of the sales versus expenditure. Each receipt, invoice and other accounting forms express the company's varied operations in terms of funds. Auditing aims at checking the propriety of expenditure which is rather mechanical or inorganic.

From the accounting point of view, PHJ's income is similar to the sales of a company. But in fact, it consists of valuable donations from individuals and corporations and subsidies from a public sector. Its expenditure is also comparable to the expenditure of a company but shows what support projects have been carried out. So, PHJ's expenditure should be strictly audited to clarify how the donations are used. As the PHJ's auditor, I will perform auditing

organically, while maintaining independence. In other words, I will check each accounting form thinking of the concerned project staff's hard work at the site and deepening my understanding of PHJ's operations. I truly wish for further growth and success of PHJ.

Thailand – Supporting Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgery Project

In Thailand, PHJ has been extending support to the children with heart diseases whose families are too poor for their children to have surgery or are located in rural areas where the quality of the medical services is not sufficient. The Edwards Lifesciences Fund has been supporting PHJ's pediatric cardiovascular surgery project since 2010. We asked Ms. Takako Nishiyama, Manager, Communications, to introduce the background of this donation.

Edwards Lifesciences, a medical device manufacturer with its headquarters in the United States, is a global leader in the science of heart valves and hemodynamic monitoring. The company's history dates back more than 50 years ago when Miles "Lowell" Edwards, an electrical engineer and inventor, came up with the idea to develop an artificial pump to replace a failing heart.



But the technology available then was not advanced enough to develop an artificial heart. Instead, he partnered with Dr. Albert Starr of Oregon University, to develop the world's first commercially available replacement heart valve.

Their vision to support clinicians in helping patients fighting against cardiovascular diseases and to improve patients' quality of life has kept our company at the forefront of innovation. In 2004, we established the Edwards Lifesciences Fund to extend this vision to our global communities. In 2012, the Fund expects to grant nearly \$5 million to support approximately 250 non-profit organizations that provide services in more than 50 countries.

The Fund focuses on health and community related philanthropy with a specific focus on increasing awareness of cardiovascular disease, its prevention and treatment and enhancing support and access to care for underserved cardiovascular patients. The Fund also focuses on programs that strengthen the communities in which our employees live and work and provide opportunities for employee involvement through volunteerism. In 2010, the Fund selected PHJ's Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgery Project as the first case of supporting a Japanese charitable organization.

In Thailand, about 8,000 children are born with chronic heart diseases every year. One third of them require heart surgery but about half of them are unable to receive surgery and

become seriously ill due to economic and technical reasons. PHJ is working with Chiang Mai University Hospital and Lampang Provincial Hospital to extend surgery to patients and also provide training to clinicians such as medical doctors and nurses.

Since the Fund started the support in 2010, 24 children have received surgery and they are recovering well. As the heart is a pump of life, the children with improved heart function look physically healthier and their expressions are happier and joyful. Each time we receive reports from PHJ, we are pleased to see smiling faces of children after surgery. We hope to continue our support to PHJ's project to help the children requiring surgery.

Photo: Jakarin after surgery looks well.

Greetings from Cambodia

Greetings from Asako Hayashi, Cambodia. I started working as a Director of PHJ Cambodia Office in September.



My pursuit in public health career stems from one-year experience in Kenya where I worked as a community health volunteer during my school days. The reality of health inequity in developing countries opened my eyes. In those countries, “the value of life” tends to be swayed by external factors surrounding people such as politics, economic, social norms and tradition. Even in the same country, it can be often observed that while some babies are born at modern hospitals, others are born on the unhygienic soiled ground without any professional assistance and easily lose their cherished young life due to infections like diarrhea.

Since then, I have had my goal to contributing to build up a society which equally empowers people to enable them to protect their own health and receive adequate medical support whenever needed.

After my experiences in a private-sector company, Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers in Ghana, and study in the Master of Science in Public Health, I'm excited that I finally met this work which would realize my goal.

Working as a Director in Cambodia is hard with full of challenges to tackle. However, at the same time I appreciate for this opportunity where I can put utmost efforts for better maternal and child health and community health.

Visiting the villages in Cambodia brings me to find out various problems which are not

merely matters of healthcare availability and quality. They are about poverty, the lack of information and human resources, and poor infrastructure such as road and electricity.

What is the correct practice in healthcare? There are always theoretically correct answers. However, while each village has its own reality which faces these problems, these correct answers do not always fit their reality. How much can we stand by the villagers' reality? Keeping this question in mind, I would like to carry out our projects in collaboration with local staff in Cambodia.

Thank you very much for your continuous supports to PHJ. We always welcome your visit to this fascinating country, Cambodia! In fact I am a big fan of this country that already had 3-time visits in the past when I was a student. I have felt even closer ties with Cambodia since I got a chance to return to this country after 10 years.

Indonesia- Visit to Ponorogo Province, East Java

PHJ is now extending health educational support activities in Banten Province, far west of Java Island. At the timing of authorization update for the next three years, I and five officials



from Ministry of Health visited a potential candidate site Ponorogo Regency in East Java Province for investigation. Ponorogo is about 650 kilometers east from Jakarta which is 11 hours by train. It was three-day visit from October 9 (overnight in the train.)

I took a night train for the first time since I started working in Indonesia.



The Regency is surrounded by high volcanoes in the east, west and south. It is extremely dry and hot, and rivers dry up without a drop of water. It is close to the Solo river which is known for "Bengawan Solo" and the findspot of "Java man fossil". Although it has history and culture, its economic activity and life style are simple and commodity prices are one-third that in Jakarta.

According to explanation from Ministry of Health, the area has the high number of children with congenital disorder due to malnutrition. I saw volunteer staffs offer rehabilitation activities to those children. Regardless of the numbers, there is only one medical specialist in six neighboring regencies and people have no access to adequate medical and physical care services.

In spite of the high rate of 99.8 for childbirth at medical institutions, maternal and child health index in Ponorogo is three times worse than that of Serang Regency, Banten Province where PHJ is carrying out health educational support activities. Eating habits during pregnancy and insufficient care are considered to be the factor for the high number of children with disabilities.

By taking advantage of this visit, I would like to propose projects by collecting and analyzing more information about healthcare.

By Mika Ito, Director of PHJ Indonesia

Director Saotome's Column Vol. 8

Mitsuhiko Saotome (Japan's First Ambassador for Civil Society; former Ambassador Plenipotentiary to Zambia & 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)



International Understanding – Easy to Misunderstand, Difficult to Understand

The year 2013 is the 160th anniversary of the Commodore Perry expedition. The year 1853 is noted as the year of the opening of Japan to the West. Since East India Squadron (USS Susquehanna and three other steam frigates)* commanded by Perry ported at Yokosuka, the Japan-US relationship has been the most important bilateral relationship for 160 years. Although there were good and difficult times, rough and stable times, trusting and distrusting times, the two countries have overcome challenges and deepened mutual understanding to give great influence over the world.

To promote mutual understanding, we often depend on printed matters and images. According to the memoir of former Prime Minister Kijuro Shidehara who served as a Japanese Ambassador to the United States, he was surprised to meet many Americans who liked Japan despite the fact that they had never visited the country. Why they were so fond of Japan? Shidehara found that most of those Americans had read “Kokoro” (English novel describing a wonderful life of the Meiji Era Japan) by Lafcadio Hearn (Yagumo Koizumi as he became a Japanese national). The strength of pen (printed books) is formidable. (The above photo shows Lafcadio Hearn.)

Let me take another example of the opinion poll in the United States. The poll was about the feelings toward Japan. The opinion was quite favorable in the South where hardly any Japanese were staying. Why the people in the South who never visited Japan or met any Japanese like Japan? They owned high quality cameras and automobiles made in Japan and they thought of Japan and the Japanese in the light of the excellent Japanese goods.

We appreciate such commendation but at the same time have mixed feelings. It is regrettable that recently there are boycotts of the precious Japanese goods in several countries arising from misunderstanding.

As Japan has difficult issues with neighboring countries now, I cannot but wish that the leaders and peoples overcome the differences with the wisdom of each other. The international understanding has not matured yet among us. It is easy to misunderstand and difficult to truly understand.

*: USS *Sasquehanna*: weight: 2450 ton, the world largest battleship. Compare with Kanrin-maru of Edo Shogunate made in The Netherlands weighed 620 ton, while the largest Japanese ship weighed 200 ton.

Note: This article was translated by PHJ from the Japanese original.

Member's Voice My dear Flook

By Yoshie Okada, HOPE Partner Member

One day when my husband left the hospital after his long stay, he said, “I owe my life to many

people. And I am thinking of becoming a HOPE Partner Member who supports sick children. If something happens to me, I hope you to continue this support.” At that time, he seemed to get better and better day by day and I said to him, “No

problem, I will.”



The name of the child whom he supported was Flook. My husband and I saw his pictures and talked about him, hoping the boy would get better soon. Since my husband became the HOPE Partner, he had made every effort in rehabilitation, such as taking a walk in a nearby park, drinking carrot juice and having brown rice for his health. That made him possible to return

to work in six months. He was always positive and said to us, “Thank you.” Two years later (in July 2008), he passed away.

When I organized his stuff after his death, I found PHJ papers. And I called PHJ and told that I would take over the support. After a few days, Flook’s mother sent a letter to me, expressing her condolences on the passing of my husband and thanking him for his support. It was thoughtful and I was deeply touched by that letter. I sent a reply to Flook’s parents.

Although I am supposed to support Flook family, actually they support me by listening to my problems. Flook’s mother tells me that she wants to work for someone in the future. I have the utmost respect for her because she has such a dream even in a difficult situation.

Four years have passed since my husband passed away. I’m thinking of going to Chiang Mai to see Flook and his parents in the near future.

In closing, I would like to thank PHJ staffs for always translating our letters.

Participation in Fall Events

Global Festa JAPAN2012

PHJ participated in the event held on October 6 and 7 in Hibiya Park, Tokyo. We introduced our projects in Southeast Asia and Asian fairy tale calendar 2013. One of the children who drew paintings came to visit our exhibits.



Musashino International Festival 2012

On November 18, PHJ participated in the event held in

Swing Building, Musashi Sakai, Tokyo.

We introduced our projects in Southeast Asia with a poster and slide shows and exhibited Asian fairy tale calendar 2013. On November 17, PHJ staffs worked with other exhibitors to prepare for the fair. Many serious questions were raised during the visits and we were happy to know that so many people are interested in the PHJ activities. One of the calendar artists visited our booth too.



The 46th Steering Committee Meeting Held

PHJ held the steering committee meeting at 5:30-7:30 pm, December 12, at a conference room of All Japan Hospital Association in Suidobashi, Tokyo. The first half meeting consisted of the activities report of Indonesia, Cambodia, Thailand and East Japan Disaster Reconstruction.



The report on Indonesia covered the follow-up activities of the employees of one donor company. Another donor company reported on an inspection visit to the donation sites as shown on the right photo.

The second half consisted of the investigation visits to the future candidate countries of Myanmar and Laos, proposal from Keio Business School graduate students to PHJ, request for the scheme of donation with beverage vending machine, and the 2013 PHJ study tour.

At the Q&A session, the committee members gave valuable advices on the selection standard of a project site.

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