

# 2002 Annual Report



Shanti Volunteer Association

# Greetings from the President



In 1980, when we began our relief activities for the Cambodian refugees who had fled to Thailand, someone who visited to inspect our activities simply said, "There is a way not to create dependency in refugees, and that is to stop merely providing relief activities for the refugees." It was a shocking comment, but we accepted it as an admonition we should never forget.

The refugee problem is a worldwide concern, as well as an environmental problem, that mankind has created. If mankind has created it, then mankind ought to solve it. We wish to believe it can be solved but, at present, there is no sign that it will be solved.

The world is small and it is possible to go anywhere in the world, and to obtain information from anywhere in the world. Small it is, however, the earth is outrageously large to every human being. More than six billion people are in existence on the earth, but no two of them has an identical face. Living conditions are not identical. Even in a family, brothers are living with different ideas. Needless to say, if language, race, religion, surroundings and habits are different, there will be conflicts one after another. This will lead to strife and result in the division of the strong and the weak, causing some of them to be eliminated.

The growth of political economy and culture brings to us a fear of changing values and inequity, and that feeling also esca-

lates the fear of strangers and leads to war. I guess that the history of mankind might have been a history of strife. Even the religions that pray for peace in our society have been exploited for the cause of strife.

But at the same time, I guess that there has been no history like that of today, in that many people as well as religions themselves all over the world pray and jointly act together for peace and the happiness of mankind. Yet, there are still too many people in distress around the world.

I believe in what Mother Theresa said, "Never be unconcerned about the fact before your eyes." Therefore, we should not ignore the helpless people in Afghanistan, Palestine, Africa, East Timor, North Korea, South America, Southeast Asia, or any other place in the world. We know what we can do is very limited, but we should proceed step by step with what we can do. We also should not be self-centered and blame others. Our lives have a limit but reality does not. Hence, I believe we should live with hope and prayer in our lives.

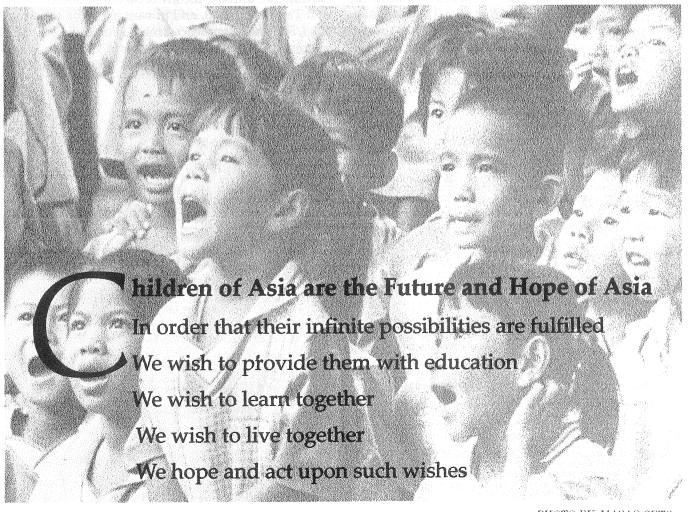
The late Rev. Jitsujo Arima, former executive director of SVA, aptly said, "The road of the volunteer is trailblazing, and also described as a "thorny path" ("animal trail.") I wish to walk along with our supporters, staff, and all others, step by step, to let an "animal trail" be a road that mankind is able to walk together.

Zendo Matsunaga

Shanti Volunteer Association President

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# Activities of Shanti Volunteer Association (SVA)

hanti Volunteer Association (SVA) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) for international cooperation in the fields of education and culture, operating mainly in Thailand, Cambodia and Laos. The name of the organization was changed to its current name in 1999 from Sotoshu Volunteer Association (SVA), and the organization was granted accreditation as a Shadan Hojin (legal public association) by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Japan. "Shanti" means "peace" or "tranquility" in Sanskrit. Peace throughout the world with tranquility in everyone's mind - this is our wish.

ecause of the great number of refugees who fled Indochina due to the war in that region, Japan Sotoshu Relief Committee (JSRC), antecedents of SVA, was established in 1980. JSRC immediately commenced relief activities in the fields of education and culture, such as libraries, and printing and publishing in the refugee camps in Thailand. Following the closure of the camps. SVA extended the same activities of educational and cultural cooperation to Thailand, Cambodia and Laos.

Our Background & Activities

What is Shanti Volunteer Association?

At present, SVA is operating an educational support campaign in the slums of Bangkok and in the villages of northeastern and northern Thailand. Also, in Cambodia and Laos, we are operating a support campaign in school constructions, library activities and the preparation of teaching materials.

Currently, in Japan, SVA is going ahead with

Craft Aid, a campaign to promote handicrafts made by women in Thailand, Cambodia and Laos to Japanese consumers, in order to support their selfreliance. We also operate a campaign to deliver books to support library activities.

Furthermore, SVA copes with emergency relief in the event of disasters, both overseas and at home, through supporting restoration activities. SVA has participated in relief activities since the flood in Shimane prefecture in 1983, the Hanshin/Awaji Great earthquake in 1995, the great earthquakes in Turkey and Taiwan in 1999, and in western India this year. Also, SVA has commenced relief activities for the Afghan refugees whose conditions are becoming worse because of attacks by American military forces in that country.

#### HISTORY OF SVA

- Japan Sotoshu Relief Committee (JSRC), antecedents of SVA, was established.
  JSRC opened office in Bangkok, Thailand and commenced mobile library services to Cambodian refugee camps. Then, JSRC opened printing unit and permanent libraries in
- Volunteers of JSRC established Sotoshu Volunteer Association
- Campaign to donate clothing was developed in several places
- First development project was commenced in Baan Sawai village, Surin Province, Thailand. SVA was awarded Shoriki Matsutaro Award.
- Printing project commenced at Ban Vinai Lao refugee camp in Thailand. SVA also commenced library activities at Chiang Khan district in Loei province and Suanphlu slum in Bangkok. SVA received the Soroptimist Japan Foundation Award.
- 1988 SVA received the Minister of Foreign Affairs Award in Japan
- SVA opened vocational training center at Klong Toey slum in Thailand
- 1991 SVA opened office in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
- SVA established Sikkha Asia Foundation, local subsidiary of SVA in Thailand. SVA opened office in Vientiane, Laos. The name of organization was changed to Sotoshu International Volunteer Association (SVA).

- SVA was awarded the Mainichi International Exchange Award by the Mainichi Newspaper.
- SVA undertook relief activities for the victims of the Han-
- SVA served as the secretariat of the Japan NGO Forum for HABITAT II, and participated in international conference as a representative of Japanese NGOs.
- SVA donated relief food items to North Korea. SVA organized Shokichi Kina charity concert at Sojiji-Temple in Yokohama. Tokyo office was moved from Sugamo to Daikyocho.
- SVA organized "Shinjuku Asia Festival."
- SVA was registered with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a public association and became Shanti Volunteer Association. SVA undertook relief activities for the victims of great earthquakes in Turkey and Taiwan.
- SVA started library activities for refugees from Myanmar (Burma) in Thailand. Rev. Jitsujo Arima, former executive director of SVA,
- SVA undertook relief activities for the victims of earth-quake in western India. SVA undertook emergency food assistance to Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

# Global Annual Report of 2001 & Plan for 2002

here was an occasion when, at the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan, held in Tokyo in January 2002, the participation of some Japanese NGO delegates was denied. This was reported in the mass media with bold headlines and it had the effect of making the existence of NGOs widely known to Japanese people. The above incident has inadvertently revealed the views of the government and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs toward NGOs. But, at the same time, it was a warning to re-examine the weak points of NGOs and to have another look at their development and growth. It is urgently needed to establish a close and strong network among NGOs. It was timely that "National NGO Network Conference" was held

in Osaka in February of this year, and a movement toward the networking of NGOs has started to evolve all over the country.

# In Brief

## Members, Supporters & Domestic Activities

Responses to fund donors and the mailing out of appreciation letters have been greatly improved, and membership has reversed its previous decreasing trend to see an increase. In 2002, Domestic Activities Section 1 was established in order to improve assistance to members and to vigorously develop new membership, in cooperation with other sections.

On the "Campaign to Send Winter Clothes to Refugees from Myanmar (Burma)." we have succeeded in sending 160,000 items to the refugee camps. We have decided to carry out the campaign again in 2002.

On the "Books for Children campaign," we exceeded the 8,200 books of the previous year by delivering 8,500 books. We have also commenced a new project. "Recycle Book Aid." with the cooperation of Book-Off Co.

# **Training and Interchange Programs**

Our invitation program for 2001 supported the opening of the "Asian Children's Cultural Festival" in Japan and in Laos and also Japan. Invited were Ms. Oratai Pupunrap, a former SVA scholarship recipient, and the staff of SVA Laos Office. Service overseas trainees will become a normal project.

# **Management of Overseas** & Domestic Activities

In the future, the structure of every foreign office will be gradually transformed for localization and selfsustainability. As the first step, distinct allocation of duties for each office staff and the reinforcement of their capabilities will be undertaken. Also carried out will be a review of each overseas project in accordance with the activities quideline and a reorganization of the program. including the setting of time limits for completion. For our domestic activities, we plan to reinforce the management of each section in terms of planning, execution and evaluation.

Under such circumstances, 2001 for SVA was a year to analyze its activities and organizational structure and take a new step forward. At the end of May, a meeting was held by the executive managers together with the directors of the overseas offices. At the meeting, overseas activities were reviewed in accordance with the activities guideline and a midterm plan was drawn up stressing the localization of the organizational structure by local staff.

In September, a meeting was held by the secretariat staff in Tokyo which discussed the principles and activities of SVA, particularly the issues and problems concerning operational aspects. Proposals toward reformation were also made. At the board of directors meeting in October, it was agreed that each director would become responsible either for financial countermeasures, domestic activities or overseas activities, and would constructively cooperate with the secretariat to strengthen the administration. Of the three, the sections for financial countermeasures and domestic activities have already held several tangible meetings and discussed methods of improvement.

As for emergency relief activities that remain pending, guidelines are now being reviewed by the directors, delegates and staff in the study committee. In addition, "Study Meetings on Volunteers" have already been held several times and participants spoke openly, regardless of each person's standpoint.

As explained above, 2001 was a year to reinforce the link between the secretariat and the many people who have cooperated in administering SVA. On the other hand, we have also organized a network among Japanese NGOs participating in education cooperation. SVA is serving as the secretariat, and actively made proposals to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education and Science.

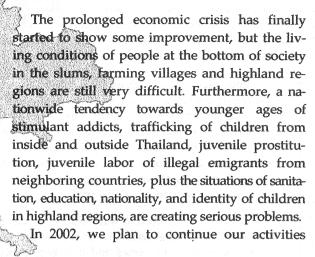
For 2002, it is our objective to strengthen the management of SVA. establish a better relationship for cooperation between members and supporters, and build a good and solid structure. As the first step, we will strengthen the link between directors and delegates to enable directors in charge of the financial countermeasures, domestic activities and overseas activities to perform their functions briskly. In addition, we have received various comments on both the general meeting and delegates meeting as to how they ought to be run, and we wish to reform the meetings to be even more effective.

# REPORT 2001

# Thailand

PLAN for 2002

# **OVERVIEW**



with the clear principle to distinguish between projects that municipalities or local residents can administer, and others that need our support for a longer period of time. In particular, we will place greater emphasis on the projects concerning library, scholarship, dormitory, education and cultural activities, and will promote:

- 1) Intensification of each project
- 2) Cultivation of capable local staff
- 3) Management capability as an NGO
- 4) Substantiation of public relations and fund raising within Thailand

# 1. ASIAN SCHOLARSHIP

In 2001, ordinary scholarships and emergency scholarships were granted to 383 primary, middle school, high school and college students from slums, farming villages and highland regions. All the students are from families who are experiencing financial



difficulties. From the ranks of scholarship students from Phayao province, one has been admitted to Thammasat University (one of the most difficult universities to enter) for the last two consecutive years.

For this year, we plan to place higher priority on the children in highland regions who are in financial difficulty, and will grant ordinary scholarships and emergency scholarships to a total of 500 students. Collecting sufficient funds in response to the increasing applicants for the scholarships remains a problem.

Schools	Phayao	Chiang Khan	Baan Sawai	Bangkok slums	Total
Middle	55	31	51	32	169
High	31	- 21	34	22	108
College	9	3	8	4	24
Total	95	55	93	58	301
Emergency Only in slum areas					
Grand Total					383

# 2. DORMITORIES FOR STUDENTS

For the children of highland people living in remote, isolated villages and who find it impossible to attend high school, we pro-

vide dormitories in the provinces of Phayao, Loei and Surin, all in northeast Thailand.

In 2001, the total number of boarders was 82. With support from the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects of the Japanese embassy in Thailand, the dormitories in Phayao and Chiang Khan have been renovated, and improved environments for study as well as farming facilities and training were completed. The dormitories also functioned as centers for the interchange program.

For this year, we plan to accommodate a total of 90 boarders, and place our priority on the improvement of living conditions, expansion of the facilities, and keeping the farmland for self-sustenance in good order. Problem is how we can accommodate an increasing number of boarders.

# 3. NURSERY SCHOOLS

We support three nursery schools in the slums, farming villages and highland regions. In 2001, the nursery schools have enrolled a total of 461 children. Each nursery school became a focus point of its area, and moved toward self-sufficiency. Suanphlu Slum nursery school in Bangkok has been acknowledged by the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA), and part of the operating expenses have started to be borne by the metropolitan office.

For this year, we have an objective to urge the BMA to give more support to Suanphlu Slum nursery school, and also urge the

residents of the slum to participate in the management of the school. We are planning to work on the transfer of the management of Baan Sawai nursery school to the municipality. We

Villages	Boys	Girls	Total
Surin	94	113	207
Phayao	40	36	76
Suanphlu slum	91	87	178
Totals	225	236	461

also plan to assist construction and management of the nursery schools that will be constructed in Phayao and Surin provinces, with the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects of the Japanese embassy. Our new challenge is how we can manage to teach disabled children and ordinary children in the same class, which is quite rare in Thailand.

# 4. LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

Under the motto of "Books for all Children", we managed five libraries and some mobile units in the slums and provinces. We have renovated the old libraries at Surin and Chiang Khan. About 140,000 people in total "have visited the libraries. "Storytelling" and cultural and artistic activities by the children have been emphasized at the libraries. The mobile library units have attracted considerable attention by the Thai mass media.

In 2002, we plan to nominate some model districts, carrying out library activities there, and also emphasize the training of teachers and library staff. At the same time, we plan to promote, in cooperation with other organizations, a campaign of book reading for infants. The problems are the scarcity of suitable books in Thailand, and how we can overcome the current tendency for children to show more interest in computer and TV games than in book reading.

Name of Library	Books on Shelves	Visitors	Lent Out	
Klong Toey	4,387	26,749	4,876	
Mobile Library	734	38,850	N/A	
Cheua Pleung	6,495	24,473	6,675	
Suanphlu	4,694	22,083	1,950	
Baan Sawai	4,121	22,621	12,890	
Chiang Khan	5,619	8,792	6,494	
Totals	26,050	143,568	32,885	

# 5. VOCATIONAL TRAINING

We have been providing training in printing, sewing and leather craft in both slums and work centers for women in the highland regions, for the purpose of helping residents generate additional income and vocational training. Printing has almost reached the level of self-sustainability. We have opened a branch shop for the sale of the leather craft items in Bangkok. We will encourage the printing section to improve their technical abilities and operation system from 2003. The problems are improving merchandising, marketing and customer relations .

# 6. PREVENTION AND ERADICATION OF NARCOTICS

Against the worsening problem of narcotics among young people, we have emphasized, in cooperation with the residents and Thai government, a prevention and awareness campaign of narcotics for younger people. This year, we plan to assist the residents' campaign on prevention and eradication. The problem is a lack of experienced staff.

# 7. Environmental Improvement of

SLUMS

— Eco-safe Soap Project — Clean & Green Project

In April 2001, UNEP Goodwill Ambassador Ms. Tokiko Kato inspected out facilities, which was televised on TV Asahi's program of "Wonderful Spaceship Earth". The Clean and Green campaign is for the exchange of gar-

bage from the slums for flowers and young shrubs and trees. We have collected six tons of garbage per year and exchanged this for 5,000 flowering plants. As for the production of recycled soap, many visitors from various places have visited for inspection. For 2002, we plan to expand the recycled soap project. The problem for the Clean & Green campaign is a lack of land to grow plants and a scarcity of nursery trees in the slums.

# 8. SUPPORT FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED PEOPLE

In 2001, we organized a support project for 200 elderly people at three places (in highland regions and slums), mainly in the form of medical and health care, culture, and mental care. For the support project for disabled people, we have looked after 49 people in Surin province. In 2002, with support from the Thai government, we plan to continue the project for the elderly people at all three places. For the disabled people, we plan to continue our support at Surin province on the basis of community participation. The problems are a shortage of funds and a lack of know-how for self-support by the disabled people.

# 9. STUDY TOURS & INTERCHANGE PROGRAMS

In 2001, 1,500 people visited SVA Bangkok, mainly to inspect and study our activities. Visitors on study tours varied from middle school students who refuse to attend school in their home country, high school and college students. Study tours to visit farming villages or slums, for the purpose of international exchange, are increasing. In 2002, in order to meet the needs of various training or exchange programs, we plan to formulate an internship system. The problems are a shortage of experienced staff and overwork of our staff.

#### 10. International Seminar Network

We organized fieldwork at Baan Sawai as the working site for the post-graduate students and NGO staff of ASEAN member countries, under the program of the Foundation for Advanced Studies on International Development (FASID). Mr. Tatsuya Hata, Director General of International Affairs of SVA served as a fieldwork director. "The Asian Children's Cultural Festival," which had already been held five times, was held in Laos. In Thailand, with the financial support of the Tourism Authority of Thailand, it was held on a smaller scale with guest appearances by popular Thai singers and children from Japan. Next year, we plan to participate in "Asian Children's Cultural Festival" in Laos and also further strengthen the network with FASID.

# REPORT 2 O O 1

# Cambodia

PLAN for 2002

# **OVERVIEW**

As happened in 2000, heavy rains and flooding occurred again in 2001 along the basin of the Me-kong River. Cambodia office has obtained a total of US\$50,000 from the support fund from Japan and the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects of the Japanese embassy. We have distributed 25 kilograms of food rice to each of 8,282 families in Kandal and Svay Rieng provinces. As 2001 was the first year of a three-year plan for SVA, we had a series of meetings with all staff and reconfirmed the principles and missions of SVA. While the Japanese economy still remains depressed, we are convinced that the activities of NGOs must also find ways to operate more efficiently. We have, therefore initiated a plan to integrate where possible the activities of all sections.

In 2002, we plan to organize a comprehensive project involving the library, school construction and culture sections. In addition, we plan to gradually transfer the work of Japanese staff to Cambodian staff. We intend to strengthen the training of Cambodian staff and raise them to an internationally acceptable level.

# 1. BASIC EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

# **► LIBRARY ACTIVITIES**



We held seminars 16 times during the year for the primary school teachers and library staff. We nurtured trainers selected by the Provincial Education, Youth and Sport Office of each province to enable them to conduct seminars by them-

selves. At the same time, we also published a revised edition of the text for the seminars.

We published six titles of picture book, two titles of picture story cards and reprinted four titles of picture book. We also strengthened the training of the people involved in the publication of the picture books.

Since 2001, the Ministry of Education and Sports has established a committee to protect schools from low quality publications and to screen publications for schools. The picture books and paper dramas (Kamishibai) of SVA were approved through the impartial inspection process and have been awarded official publication numbers.

In 2002, we plan to hold 12 seminars for the library staff and the teachers of 318 primary schools. Of the 12 seminars, six are sponsored by SVA and the remaining six are arranged by the trainers selected by the Ministry of Education and Sports, to which we will provide financial and technical support. Through the seminars, we plan to distribute 58,512 picture books and 1,590 picture story cards. We also plan to publish five titles (3,000 each) of Khmer folktale picture books based on the folktales of Cambodia, and two titles (350 each) of folktale picture story cards. At the same time, we plan to reprint the books of which we only have small stocks, to solve the shortage.

## ► SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

In 2001, we built eight five-classroom buildings. Construction sites were selected mainly in the same areas as our library activities, in order to reinforce the link with their activities. We have strengthened our guidance on the maintenance of the buildings after completion, and strived for regular evaluation in order to upgrade the quality of the project. Newly constructed school buildings are annexed by toilet rooms and wells in order to improve the sanitary environment, and several meetings have been held in the schools on the use of toilets for understanding. We also arranged seminars for frequent supporters on the significance of school constructions.

In addition, we tried to collect information on the future needs of school constructions in Cambodia and coordinated with the Ministry of Education and Sports about the construction schedule.

In 2002, we will continue cooperation with the library section and plan to construct seven five-classroom buildings and two three-classroom buildings. We will also continue the collection of information, inauguration ceremo-

nies, presentation ceremonies, and guidance on the use of toilets. We will also continue halfway inspections during the construction work, monitoring and evaluation. Meanwhile, we plan to make post-completion evaluations of the school buildings already built.



#### ► ASIAN CHILDREN'S HOUSE

We nurtured 130 children from financially disadvantaged families at the kindergarten affiliated with the kindergarten teachers training school, the only school of its type in Cambodia. Almost 20,000 people, mainly children, visited the libraries, including the mobile units. We have also supported the home libraries that offer educational opportunity to the infants and children of the underprivileged regions. Children of the classical dance class performed their traditional dances at the "Asian Children's Cultural Festival," held in Japan and Laos.

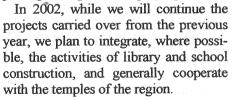
At the kindergarten teachers training school, we have supported meal services for 100 trainees. We have conducted a survey of the actual situation of training school graduates in five provinces, and provided refresher training for them.

In 2002, we plan to continue the activities of refresher training for the graduates of the kindergarten teachers training school, mobile units and home libraries. We also plan to establish a network between the affiliated kindergarten and our model kindergartens. From April, two senior volunteers have been assigned from JICA.

#### 2. CULTURAL SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

We reprinted books on culture and religion in the Cambodian language. Also, the second phase of reconstruction work on the Buddhist Institute has commenced under the sponsorship of Rissho Koseikai. We sponsored the "Seminar on Strengthening the Social Function of Buddhism," held in Kompong Thom province. We have donated traditional musical instruments to Sre Ampil Or-

phanage and gave them playing lessons.



### 3. INTEGRATED SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

We supported community rice banks (three banks) in the Porthom community of Svay Rieng province in the third year of its five-year plan. Though the rice bank project is for a period of three years (two banks in their third year, and the other bank in its second year), we continued regularly monitoring with ordinary evaluations, and prepared an SVA Evaluation Report on Rice Banks.

The support to Porthom community is a project to assist a local NGO, the Porthom Elderly Association (PTEA). We conducted monitoring and general evaluation of their reforestation project (nursery trees, water courses, irrigation ponds and levee-banks). 2002 is the final year of our support to the rice banks and SVA will terminate the rice bank project. Our support to PTEA will also be terminated and our activities on integrated social development will terminate this year.

## 4. COOPERATION WITH JICA

# -Rural Education Development Project

2001 was the first year of a 3-year project "Rural Development Project with Community Participation." With participation from the residents of the rural area, construction of a second school building was completed, and a library and classroom for pre-school children was set up. We have also supported training for the library staff and teachers of the pre-school classes. We have terminated our support of the classical music carried over from the previous year. Our new projects, such as the opening of rice banks, have started on the right track.

In 2002, at the midterm of the projects, we will carry out improvements to the school environment and extension of the rice banks. While monitoring the community-minded activities of the library project, we will also guide the class for pre-school children and activa-



tion of the traditional music band. Currently, we plan to promote our activities more aggressively in close cooperation with the other sections of SVA Phnom Penh office.

# 5. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

# ♦ Japan-Cambodia Friendship Vocational Training Center

In 2001, about 3,000 people were trained at six training courses in offset printing, silkscreen printing, electrical work, electronic work, woodwork and needlework. We accepted missions from Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) and senior volunteers (electrician and computer designer) from JICA. In December, we renewed our contract with the Education Bureau of Phnom Penh City, and SVA will supervise the trainees and bear the costs of teaching materials for them for the next two years.

In 2002, we will continue the project, defining the year as the first year for independence and self-sustainability of the center.

# ♦ Prey Konkhlar Skill Training Center (the former Battambang Training Center)

With cooperation from the residents' organizations of three neighboring villages near the training center, vocational training in dressmaking, silkworm culture and fish farming has been established for the young men and women. Funds for the dressmaking have been supplied by the National Vocational Training Fund (Asian Development Bank).

In 2002, we will continue the training courses and, furthermore, plan to open a ceramic course in cooperation with another NGO, Lotus Bond. SVA will share the funding of US\$10,000 each year and has scheduled support until March 2003.

# REPORT 2001

# Laos

# PLAN for 2002

## **OVERVIEW**



The city of Vientiane, once one of the most tranquil capitals in the world, has begun to show signs of urbanization. There are many visible changes such as the rapid spread of the internet, a tremendous increase in Chinese-made motorbikes, and social problems associated with beggars, street children and young stimulant abusers. Although the economic growth helped improve the fundamental education system, it would also help widen the gap between the rich and the poor, which affects children in terms of educational opportunity.

Since its opening in 1992, SVA Vientiane office has conducted activities in international cooperation, in the fields of education for children and culture. We plan to evaluate the experience, human contacts and results accumulated during those 10 years and make the year 2002 the first year to plan new projects for the next 10 years. Details of activities must change with changing times and conditions. In addition, we will strengthen the development of Laotian staff and increase the office's management capabilities as an NGO.

## 1. LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

A new library was opened in July 2001 - an addition to the reading room attached to our office — for older readers over 15 years of age. Its objective is to meet the needs of children who used to utilize the picture books and books in the reading room but who have now grown up to the age of middle school or high school students. Those youngsters cannot find books to read or cannot find reading rooms with books for them.

A book-box campaign was undertaken in two districts of Savannakhet province and 90 book-boxes were distributed. Since one box of 130 books is not enough for a school of 1,000 or more students, we additionally distributed one to five book-boxes according to the number of students. As well, additional book-boxes were circulated particularly within the cluster schools.

In 2002, we will conduct follow-ups and evaluation studies to develop a more efficient delivery method. The mobile unit service was also carried out four days a week, as usual. 3,000 copies of each new picture book were published. Construction of two school libraries has started in the villages of Somsawart and Xiengdar of Vientiane municipality.

## 2. ASIAN CHILDREN'S HOUSE

To expand the project with the support of our counterpart, the Children's Culture Center of the Ministry of Information and Culture, we tried to contact other NGOs and international organizations for financial support. As a result, UNI-CEF funded us to administer their "Say Yes for Children" campaign for children's rights, which UNICEF has sponsored worldwide. Activities of the library and traditional culture were carried out as usual and, on Saturdays and Sundays, the house is always thronged with 200 - 300 children.

In January 2001, in cooperation with the headquarters of JICHIJRO (All Japan Prefectural and Municipal Workers Union) and Autonomy Internationalization Association, we arranged a one week seminar mainly for the library staff of Vientiane city, by library specialists. The seven-year-long support by JICHIRO will terminate in March 2003, but SVA will continue financial support to the project for now with plans to transfer the project to the government in the future.

# 3. DEVELOPMENT & MANUFACTURING OF BASIC TEACHING MATERIALS

Manufacturing of mimeograph printers for primary schools nationwide (8,121 schools) completed 1,141 printers in 2001, with delivery expected to be mostly completed by June 2002. Seminars for teachers have been held in three provinces aiming to promote the use of mimeograph printers.

Furthermore, specialists from Japan were invited to hold experimental seminars in Vientiane on the editing of classroom newspapers, in February 2002. Editing a classroom newspaper helps children to increase their imagination and expressiveness, and the newspaper is also expected to help promote parents' understanding of school education.

Upon completion of delivery of the mimeograph printers, the core of the project will change from delivery of teaching materials to the training of the staff who use the equipment.

Since 2002, this intensive training will be held in five districts in Bolikhamsai province. In negotiations with the Ministry of Education, the compilation of classroom newspapers will be integrated into the curriculum of the mother

language, and we expect more efficient and wider distribution. With completion of delivery of the mimeograph printers and the closure of the local factory, a final meeting to confirm the completion of the project will



be held in Vientiane, in December

▼ Number of mimeograph printers manufactured from 1994 to 2001

Center	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
Udomxai	60	66	100	200	200	200	200	0	1,026
Xieng Khuan	0	0	100	200	200	200	200	0	900
Vientiane	100	100	200	200	200	188	200	200	1,388
Savannakhet	0	100	200	200	200	200	200	0	1,100
Salavan	100	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	1,500
Vientiane Municipality	340	340	200	300	200	200	200	741	2,321
Total	600	806	1,000	1,300	1.200	1,188	1,200	1,141	8,235

# 4. SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT BY RURAL COMMUNITY

▼ School construction support provided:

NO	Province	School Name	Year
1	Vientiane	Lingxan	1993
2	Vientiane	Nadeua	1994
3	Luang Prabang	Donekham	1995
4	Vientiane Municipality	Thongtoum	1996
5	Vientiane	Vernkham	1997
6	Vientiane Municipality	Phonesay	1997
7	Vientiane	Pakpok	1998
8	Vientiane Municipality	Phonekeo	1998
9	Bolikhamsai	Paksar	1999
10	Bolikhamsai	Phonekarm	1999
11	Bolikhamsai	Phonesy	2000
12	Bolikhamsai	Donesangphai	2001
13	Bolikhamsai	Phonesay	2001
14	Bolikhamsai	Huaykhoun	2001

We support improvement to, and expansion of, the access to education in the rural community. In 2001, we continued the activities of educational support by the rural community at the school collectives of Phonsii village, Pak Kading district, Bolikhamsai province. Before the activities finish in 2003, several activities planned by the village people will have been carried out.

In 2001, seminars for the primary school teachers to improve their teaching skills, improvement in the management system of the primary schools, the opening of the village kindergarten and basic training for kindergarten teachers have been provided. Furthermore, in the villages of Huayhoun and Ponexay of Bolikhamsai province and Donesangphai village of Vientiane Municipality, schools have been constructed with community participation aided by the support of Japanese collaborators.

In 2002, we will continue educational support activities to the school collectives of Phonsii village. We'll also undertake training for the teachers of the primary school and kindergarten, a special campaign on book reading, expansion of library services, construction of toilet rooms, and renovation of old school buildings. Support for school construction is planned at two villages in Bolikhamsai province.

# 5. SUPPORT OF BASIC EDUCATION BY FOLKTALES IN 6. ASIAN CHILDREN'S **SEKONG PROVINCE**

The project commenced in 2000 and will terminate in August 2002. At the third training seminar in 2001, after the training on the picture story cards by Japanese specialists, trainees made picture story cards by themselves using the mimeograph printers. At the fourth training seminar, together with the staff of the national library and the Ministry of Education, they selected the folktales of Sekong province from the ones they had collected. They distributed the booklets of the folktales and four sets of folktale picture story cards prepared by the Laotian writers, with emphasis on their significance and instructions on how to use

With the above training, the shortage of teaching materials was solved, the know-how and significance of teachers improved, and interest in the local culture increased. During the time periods between the seminars, periodic trainings have been undertaken at the primary schools for better understanding by the teachers.

In May 2001, the final evaluation meeting was held together with UNV and the Ministry of Education, and the project was highly praised because the teaching mate- in December 2002. rials have been used frequently and also improved communication with students.

# **CULTURAL FESTIVAL**

In November 2001, the 6th Asian Children's Cultural Festival was held for the first time in Laos. In addition to the children from Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. we invited children from Myanmar for the first time. After 50 children from five countries spent four days at the international camp, they performed their traditional culture of performing arts in front of the full audience of 1500 people at the National Culture Hall. The 7th Asian Children's Cultural Festival is scheduled to be held in Vientiane

# REPORT 2001

# Japan

# PLAN for 2002



# 1. LINKAGE WITH MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS

In 2001, with the positive cooperation of members and supporters throughout the country, we succeeded in carrying out various activities, such as "Asian Children's Cultural Festival in Japan", "Prayer and Practice in Buddhism - Learn from the Cultivating Priests" (a cultural event in connection with the 750th Memorial of Rev. Dougen at Eiheiji Temple), "Campaign to Send Winter Clothes to Refugees from Myanmar," "Temples of International Volunteers," "Books for Children Campaign," and "Asian Festival in Shiniuku." The directors cooperated with delegates from the committees on "Finance

Countermeasures", "Domestic Activities" and "Emergency Relief," and also cooperated with volunteers in "Study Meeting on Volunteers" and "Creators" (home page layout team), and have worked positively in the Tokyo office.

As of March 31, the number of members is 1,809, indicating a favorable increase (1,744 at the end of last year). A plate called "Emblem of Group Member" has been designed for the group members and distributed. Furthermore, "Temples of International Volunteers" increased from 52 last year to 127. Through the traveling exhibitions at 32 primary and middle schools throughout the country, and a lecture on volunteers at Tsurumi Junior College, we have tried to promote international understanding and the activities of SVA to the younger generation.

In 2002, we will continue to promote the activities of SVA to members and supporters. In order to reinforce our assistance to the members and supporters and make a clear distinction between the different kinds of supporters, we have established "Domestic Projects Section I." We plan that the section will play a central role in recruiting more members.

### 2. BOOKS FOR CHILDREN CAMPAIGN

In 2001, from all over the country, we collected 8,520 books (4.789 for Cambodia and 3,731 for Laos). The books were shipped from Tokyo port at the end of January and arrived at their destinations in March. With the support of Bell-mark Educational Support Foundation, 41 primary and middle schools have participated in the campaign. In August, a monitoring tour to Laos was organized with 26 participants. As a first trial, other organizations from the Tokyo office, "Handkerchief no Kai - Supporters' Club of Basic Education in Cambodia" (Chiba Pref.) and "Onaji-sora Network" (Nagano Pref.) have collaborated as the collection depots of the translated picture books. Also, a nationwide caravan campaign was undertaken at 11 places by the library staff of the Cambodia office with support from the Mitsubishi Bank International Foundation.

In 2002, we plan to send a total 10,000 books to Cambodia and Laos. We also look forward to the continuing collaboration of the regional organizations in collecting the translated books. This project is already in its fourth year. We intend to draw up a future plan for the future of the project, after evaluation and a review of how the books are practically used, together with library activities.

#### 3. CRAFT AID

In 2001, we reduced our sales prices by about 20% to meet market conditions and, in order to cover the income loss, we have strengthened sales of mementos and gained good results. As a new trial, in cooperation with the Bookoff Co., we have commenced our recycled book aid. This



project was reported through various mass media, and many private companies and organizations such as NEC and ZENTEI (Japan Postal Workers Union) have participated in the campaign. At the same time, it is worth noting that the campaign has led to voluntary activities by middle and high school students.

In 2002, we anticipate that sales will become increasingly difficult due to the current recession. However, we will try to maintain our purchases from NGOs that need our support, through the following incentives, (1) carry out campaigns at department stores jointly with other organizations, (2) develop new markets for expendables, (3) increase sales through the internet, and (4) arrange to link producers and collaborators. Also, we will try to ensure that our cooperation with the supporters creates benefits for both of us.

#### 4. TRAINING AND INTERCHANGE

We have cooperated with the "Asian Children's Cultural Festival in Japan" (a cultural event in connection with Rev. Dougen's 750th Memorial at Eiheiji). About 60 children from Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam visited Japan and participated in the festival to perform their traditional dances in Sendai (Sept. 26) and Nagoya (Oct. 8). They also had opportunities to interact with the Japanese people and children of the regions. Taking the opportunity, they also participated in the cultural event of "Prayer and Practice in Buddhism - Learn from the Cultivating Priests" in Nagoya.

Ms. Oratai, a former recipient of SVA scholarship (invited by Shinwa Gakuen High School), Messrs. Khankeo and Phanthamat, staff members of SVA Laos office (invited by Nung Song Sang, Hamamatsu) and Messrs. Somsak and Phouanguanh, staff members of Laos library (invited by JICHIRO). visited Japan and participated in the exchange program.

In 2002, we plan to continue the interchange program, particularly in the improvement of the internship system of Japanese staff at overseas offices

#### 5. EVALUATION OF OVERSEAS ACTIVITIES

In 2001, under contract with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), we have undertaken research and evaluation of the vocational training project in Laos. In 2002, we also plan to further strengthen the overseas activities guidelines and, in cooperation with the overseas offices, we plan to improve the guidelines for project cycles and also the evaluation of library activities.

# 6. PROPOSALS ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERA-TION AND NETWORKING AMONG NGOS



In 2001, NGOs participating in educational cooperation in developing countries built closer connections and organized "NGO Network for Educational Cooperation" for the purpose of closer cooperation, improvement in abilities, and to present proposals. SVA was appointed to serve as a representa-

tive. At "Japan Platform NGO Unit", a union of organizations connected with human relief activities overseas, SVA was nominated as a deputy representative. SVA is also a member of the Study Committee of NGO/JICA Development Partnership Projects and NGO Reinforced Relief Study Committee, Furthermore, for networking in the event of domestic disaster, SVA participates in "Tokyo Disaster Volunteer Network" and "National Network against Earthquake".

In 2002, we will promote networking activities with other organizations, and also continue our policy proposals to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and JICA.

# 7. CAMPAIGN TO SEND WINTER CLOTHES TO MYANMAR (BURMA)

In 2001, in collaboration with regional organizations all over the country, we collected 165,290 items of clothing through 15 collection depots and shipped them to Bangkok in November. They were then transported to 16 refugee camps on the border in cooperation with BBC (Burma Border Consortium) for delivery at the end of January. At the beginning of February, together with the collaborating organizations, we organized delivery of the clothes.

In 2002, we plan to ask for the collaboration of about 15 organizations and plan to collect 140,000 items of clothing. Monitoring of the delivery is also planned.

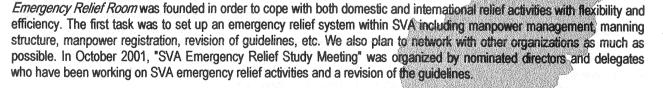
#### 8. Public Relations

In 2001, with the cooperation of our volunteer team, periodic updating and a wealth of content has helped our home page make rapid progress (the number of monthly "hits" increased to 3,000). Print size of our newsletter "Shanti" became larger and the contents more innovative. Furthermore, a video was made to introduce activities of the SVA Laos office. In general, media for public relations have been well furnished.

In 2002, we plan to distinguish between each SVA media and, to meet the needs of present members and supporters. We plan to develop a new media that may lead to the recruiting of new members. In more detail, we plan to transform the character of the newsletter from the members to the public, for better understanding of our organization.

# Report on Emergency Relief Activities

#### **♦** FOUNDATION OF EMERGENCY RELIEF ROOM



# 1. EMERGENCY RELIEF ACTIVITIES FOR REFUGEES IN AFGHANISTAN

When air bombing by American military forces commenced in October 2001, SVA anticipated a large number of refugees and commenced a campaign to raise funds to support them. At the end of November, two staff members were dispatched to Peshawar, Pakistan. With cooperation from "Todai" (Lighthouse), a Japanese NGO participating in the relief activities for refugees, they inspected refugee camps in the area. Based on the results of the visit and with cooperation from an Afghan NGO, NEJAT Center, we have commenced delivery of emergency relief food to Afghan people and emergency relief activities to the children in the refugee camps. As of March 2002, we and to children suffering from malnutrition. have received donations to the sum of 100.5 million year.

## Emergency Food Delivery Activities

We have distributed food mainly to the areas of Nangarhar and Nuristan provinces of eastern Afghanistan where the food situation is extremely grave and relief from the U.N. or other NGOs has not reached. On the distribution of food, we delivered with the full support of the regional and tribal council of seniors. Therefore, there was no pillage or civil disorder. In the province of Nuristan, there were many areas where vehicles were unable to pass through and we had to transport the food on the backs of donkeys or horses. On the other hand, in Kabul, food was distributed mainly to hospitals

Continued on next page

At the facilities of NEJAT Center in three refugee camps near Peshawar, Pakistan (New Akorra Khattack, Pabbi Jalozai and Kurassan), we are providing day care services in the form of medical care, mental counseling, supply of nutritious food and clothes to about 60 orphans, street children and malnourished children who lost their parents or protectors in the war. The service will continue for a period of one year from December 2001 to November 2002.

#### 2 RELIEF ACTIVITIES

for Victims of Great Earthquake & Riot in Western India

On January 26, 2001, an earthquake of magnitude 7.9 occurred in the province of Gujarat, causing an estimated 30,000 people killed and one million homes destroyed. SVA dispatched staff to investigate on February 12 and, with the cooperation of Ahmedabad Study Action Group (ASAG) and Self-employed Women's Association (SEWA), we have provided the activities mentioned below. Furthermore, in February 2002, arson to a train led to a riot in Guiarat province that extended over a long period of time causing more than 700 people killed. We have donated funds through ASAG. In the meantime, for our activities, we received donations totaling 45,141,188 yen from 4,132 persons and organizations.

♦ House Reconstruction for Low-Income Earners (cooperation with ASAG)

At Nani Boru village of Ahmedabad province, 64 houses were newly built and 32 houses repaired. On reconstruction of houses, we first discussed planning with a caretaker and the administration in order to support the lower caste people. We have also prepared a design drawing of each house in order to build earthquake-resistant houses.

Reconstruction of Nursery Schools
 & Management Support

Most of the 45 nursery schools under the management of SEWA in Gujarat province were totally or partially destroyed. SVA held discussions with SEWA and supported reconstruction of nine nursery schools in districts of Surendraganar and Patan provinces. On construction, it took time for the administrative procedures but it is expected to be completed within 2002 (during construction work, the nursery schools operated in tents).

◆ Support to Embroiderers (cooperation with SEWA)

Many women in this area used to earn living expenses from embroidery work or handmade products, but they lost houses and household effects in the earthquake. As an emergency support measure through SEWA, SVA has ordered the craft work of 2,000 women at 40 Rupees (about 120 yen) a day per person until May 2001. This support has provided the embroiderers with substantial support for restoration of their livelihood.

♦ Support Campaign for Riot Victims (cooperation with ASAG)

As a result of the riot that occurred in February, there are still 50,000 people in 24 refugee camps around Ahmedabad city as of June 2002. Immediately after the riot, ASAG provided victims, particularly pregnant women, children, elderly people and sick people, with foodstuffs, medical care and counseling. Through ASAG, SVA has provided relief activities to such victims.

## 3. OTHER SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

♦ Support Campaign for Victims of Eruption on Miyake Island

To support victims who have lived in emergency shelters for a long time, SVA has donated 300,000 yen to Tokyo Volunteer Support Center on Disaster on Miyake Is. for their second Miyake Island inhabitants' gettogether assembly.

 Support Campaign for Victims of Terrorism in the U.S.A.

Our associated group, American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) has provided support activities to the minority group of Arab-American

citizens, who suffered harassment after the terrorist incident on September 11, 2001. They also provided support to the firemen and workers undertaking the clearing work at the collapsed World Trade Center Building. SVA has donated funds to AFSC for their activities.

### 4. NETWORK PARTNERSHIP

♦ Japan Platform (JPF)

Japan Platform is a system organized by NGOs, the business community and government, on an equal basis, to cope promptly and efficiently with emergency relief activities. NGOs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Keidanren (Federation of Economic Organizations) have organized JPF Council, and NGOs who are also members of JPF have organized "Japan Platform NGO Unit". SVA participates in the NGO Unit, serving as a deputy representative and also as a councilor.

◆ Tokyo Volunteer Center for Disaster (TVCD)

In anticipation of disasters occurring in Tokyo, about 50 volunteers based mainly in Tokyo have organized a network that regularly conducts training and participates in the arrangement of events to deal with disaster. Four organizations, including TVCD, organized the Tokyo Volunteer Support Center for the Disaster on Miyake Is. SVA is cooperating with TVCD and dispatches a deputy representative, a member of the managing committee and a staff member to the secretariat.

♦ National Network Against Earthquake

A network of organizations participated in the relief activities for the Hanshin/ Awaji Great Earthquake. About 20 organizations have participated. They usually participate in organizing the network, preparation for an assembly or publication of booklets. However, in an emergency, they undertake relief activities. SVA participates in the activity as a secretary, and provides manpower when necessary.

# REPORT 2001

# Mae Sod

PLAN for 2002

## Overview

The current number of refugees in 10 refugee camps on the Thai-Myanmar border who have fled from Myanmar to Thailand due to conflicts between the military regime and minority groups, and suppression of human rights, is over 130,000. There is no hope for them to return to their homeland. On the contrary, the number of refugees is increasing every month.

## 1. LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

In 2001, we built three libraries each (total six) in Mae Kong Kha Camp and Mae Ra Ma Luang Camp, in Mae Hong Son province in northwestern Thailand. As the first step, we organized library committees and then arranged for the selection of the sites, the rules of the library and recruitment and selection of the library staff, in cooperation with SVA and each library committee. 12 library staff (two staff for each library) were selected in the camps and given three days of workshop training by library specialists. After the libraries were opened, periodic monitoring has been conducted. Based on the "Daily Work Log" that staff fill in every day, we have discussed problems on books and children, and advised them on ways to improve. Furthermore, for cultural activities of the library (songs, games, action dances, origami, handicrafts, etc.) We have organized workshops to acquire skills, and continued to instruct them on a regular basis.

As for the books, we have arranged to stock them in two common languages of their home country — Karen, which is the main language in the camps, and Burmese, in preparation for their return to their homeland in the future. On the books for children, the library specialists selected 57 titles of picture book (four copies of each title - three in Karen and one in Burmese), which were translated from English or Thai into Karen or Burmese by Thai/Karen staff of SVA. Library staff posted the translations onto the pages of the picture books. A total of 66 titles of books for children, including books published by other NGOs have been distributed. In 2002, 12 more titles of picture books will be distributed. Since books in Karen and Burmese are in shortage, we have published three books in those languages.

In 2002, five more titles will be published. At the same

#### ▼ Influence of library activities on children

According to parents' responses to questionnaires:

- 34% Speaking capability improved
- 20% Interest in reading improved
- 12% Improvement in personal relationships
- 12% Capability to draw and paint grew
- 12% Capability in origami improved
- 5% Capability in comprehension improved
- 5% Increased interest in learning

time, we plan to open a workshop on mimeograph printers to enable our own publishing and distribution within the camps. As for other activities, we have arranged for mobile



library services, a seminar on storytelling for teachers (in cooperation with the Bangkok office) and performed puppet shows in the camps and at nearby primary schools.

In general, the activities of each library have started to take root in the district, and are accepted by both adults and children as necessary facilities in the camp. After the opening of the libraries, parents and teachers have observed noticeable progress in the children in terms of their knowledge, skills and attitude. Also, library staff have acquired know-how in basic library activities and started to administer the library by themselves. Our future task is to increase the books in Karen (of which stocks are currently limited), promote the functions of the libraries and encourage local library staff to manage the library by themselves. In order to undertake library activities in three other refugee camps, Nupo, Umpium and Mae La of Tak province, our office was moved to Mae Sod in November 2001. We plan to open a total of ten new libraries. The former office at Mae Sariang will remain as a sub-office.

# 2. CAMPAIGN TO SEND WINTER CLOTHES

Since most of the refugee camps are located in craggy mountain areas, temperatures in the dry season (November to February) go down to almost 0 degrees in the morning and at night. Due to a shortage of winter clothes people suffer during this time, with victims of the cold and its attendant illnesses increasing. In 2001, we launched the "Campaign to Send Winter Clothes to Myanmar (Burma)."

With the collaboration of Japanese regional organizations, we delivered 165,290 items of clothing (136,421 pieces for adults and 28,869 pieces for children) to the ten refugee camps and nearby Thai villages, which the people appreciated. We have conducted a monitoring tour to survey the delivery and use of the clothes in order that the participants feel the significance of the campaign. Delivery and distribution of the clothes were entrusted to BBC, an NGO handling delivery of aid materials. We plan to carry out the campaign again in 2002, and plan to deliver 170,000 items to the 10 refugee camps and nearby Thai villages.

# FINANCIAL

# REPORT

Years 1999 - 2002

#### **►INCOME**

#### (US \$)

#### **►EXPENDITURE**

(US \$)

items/Year	1999	2000	2001	2002 Budget	· %
Membership Fees & General Donations	1,886,000	2,067,000	2,264,000	1,936,000	56%
Donation for Emer- gency Relief Assis- tance	392,000	270,000	1,200,000	370,000	11%
Support from General Programs	1,507,000	1,589,000	1,403,000	446,000	13%
Support from Gov- ernment & UN Agencies	1,313,000	1,093,000	1,066,000	678,000	20%
Total	5,098,000	5,019,000	5,933,000	3,430,000	100%

Items/Year	1999	2000	2000 2001		%	
Thailand (including Burmese Refugees)	669,000	750,000	375,000	347,000	11%	
Cambodia*	1,563,000	1,758,000	1,821,000	791,000	24%	
Laos	402,000	379,000	489,000	327,000	10%	
Emergency Relief Assistance	790,000	258,000	1,142,000	304,000	9%	
Domestic Program in Japan	788,000	792,000	855,000	617,000	19%	
Administration	1,217,000	1,475,000	1,247,000	881,000	27%	
Total	5,429,000	5,412,000	5,929,000	3,267,000	100 %	

Note: \*2002 budget in Cambodia does not include printing unit.

2002 budget only covers 9 months due to the change in the SVA fiscal year.

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