

# Shanti Volunteer Association



ANNUAL REPORT      2005

ACTIVITY PLAN      2006



## Our Wishes

SVA stands at the side of people oppressed by poverty, war, strife, environmental destruction or disaster and wishes to realize a society at peace (*Shanti*) in which the people of the world are able to "live together and learn together."

A society at peace means a global community where the dignity of all people and every individual is respected. Differences within the nation, its people, its religion, its language and its culture are looked upon as inherent diversity, and there is mutual agreement that differences and conflict are settled through dialogue.

SVA intends to realize such a global community, particularly in Asia, through educational and cultural activities.

The educational and cultural activities we envisage are those that we hold in high esteem in the regional community, which arise from traditional culture and values, and cultivate the thinking ability or imaginative power to solve various problems in life and society.



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## Greeting from the President



Rev. Zendo Matsunaga

President

A book titled "Bodhisattva in the Mire" was published on March 10 this year. The book was written by Mr. Toshiyuki Osuga of our Public Relations staff, and comes from his recollection of Rev. Jitsujo Arima who performed a leading role in the foundation of SVA and also devoted his life to developing NGOs in Japan. SVA celebrated its 25th anniversary last year and will hold the 7th memorial of the passing of Rev. Jitsujo Arima this year. We closely observe Rev. Arima's deeply ingrained vision for the activities of NGOs and his enthusiasm for devoting his life to be a Buddhist priest.

Heavy snowfall since last year-end finally has come to an end and a new school year has commenced. But the heavy snowfall, the first in 25 years, is now cruelly covered with mud, scattered tree twigs and leaves depicting the arrival of winter's end. At the beginning of the year, we wished that the coming year would be a somewhat more hopeful one, but viewing the present circumstances, it looks like we will have another severe year again.

Looking back over the previous year, we have participated in the World Expo 2005 Aichi, implemented a system of Child Book Supporters and, on the occasion of a severe earthquake in northeastern Pakistan in October, SVA representatives from the Afghanistan and Tokyo offices rushed to the stricken area to conduct emergency relief activities. In addition, we planned and conducted the "Asian Children's Cultural Festival" in December at the world heritage-registered Angkor Wat in Cambodia. When we observed the children slipping out of their serious natures and behaving with imposing cheerfulness, we had an impression of having a similar expectation for the future. Keeping the above impression in mind, we intend to go forward positively and with great presence of mind.

Now that it is the time again to write the greeting in the annual report, I wish to take this opportunity to extend my sincerest gratitude to all those who have continuously offered us warm support. On the occasion of our 26th year, I wish to continue co-operating with all of you for the well-being of the children of the world.

## History of SVA

1980	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 Sakeo refugee camp.	1997	SVA donated relief foodstuffs to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. SVA organized Shokichi Kina charity concert at Sojiji Temple in Yokohama. Tokyo office was moved from Sugamo to Daikyocho, Shinjuku-Ku. SVA organized "Shinjuku Asia Festival."
1981	Volunteers of JSRC established Sotoshu Volunteer Association (SVA).	1999	SVA was registered with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a public association and re-named as Shanti Volunteer Association (SVA.) SVA undertook relief activities for the victims of great earthquakes in Turkey and Taiwan.
1983	Campaign to donate clothing was developed in several places in Japan.	2000	SVA started library activities for refugees from Myanmar (Burma) in Thailand. Rev. Jitsujo Arima, former executive director of SVA, passed away.
1984	First development project was commenced in Baan Sawai village, Surin province, Thailand. SVA was awarded Shoriki Matsutaro Award.	2001	SVA undertook relief activities for the victims of earthquake in western India. SVA undertook emergency food support to Afghan refugees in Afghanistan and Pakistan.
1985	Printing project commenced at Ban Vinai 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. SVA received the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan Award.	2002	First "SVA Day" celebrated. Kazuhiro Sasaki, then with Seattle Mariners and now professional baseball commentator, was nominated SVA goodwill ambassador.
1989	SVA opened vocational training center at Klong Toey slum in Thailand.	2003	Opened Afghanistan (Jalalabad) office. Launched relief activities for victims of great earthquake in southeastern Iran. Published posthumously "Serenity on Earth", a manuscript of the late Rev. Jitsujo Arima.
1991	SVA opened office in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. SVA established Sikkha Asia Foundation, local subsidiary of SVA in Thailand.	2004	Launched relief activities for victims of flooding caused by typhoon no.23 in Toyooka city of Hyogo prefecture, victims of the great earthquake in Niigata Chuetsu, and tsunami victims of Sumatra. 10th memorial service for Hanshin/Awaji great earthquake took place.
1992	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.	2005	Launched support activities for refugees from volcano eruption on Miyake Island to return to their homes. Participated in the World Expo 2005, Aichi. Launched relief activities for victims of great earthquake in northeastern Pakistan.
1995	SVA undertook relief activities for the victims of the Hanshin/Awaji great earthquake. SVA received a letter of appreciation from the head of Toshima Ward, Tokyo. SVA served as the secretariat of the Japan NGO Forum for HABITAT II, and participated in international conferences as a representative of Japanese NGOs.		

# Retrospect of 2005

# Highlights of Activities

## IMPLEMENTATION OF 25TH MEMORIAL EVENTS:

2005 was the 25th year since SVA commenced support activities in the Cambodian refugee camps in Thailand. Taking the memorial as a turning point, we planned several events with the theme of "Picture books - Storytelling - Library Activities" which have given the children dreams and hope.

World Expo 2005, Aichi	In July, we participated in the World Expo 2005, Aichi. A Myanmar refugee camp library was recreated in the Global Village and library staff from the camp gave demonstrations of storytelling, which presented onlookers with a good opportunity to know about the activities of SVA.
Child Book Supporters	In order to give continuous support to our library activities SVA implemented a system of Child Book Supporters in several countries in July, and we are now actively canvassing for supporters.
Local Supporters Assembly in Sendai	The assembly was held in October. Highlights included the opening speeches by Mr. Kunio Yanagida, a popular non-fiction writer, and Ms. Hideko Ise, a picture book writer. A symposium was also held on regional solidarity in disaster prevention.
Picture Book Contest	This was the second in the series and a number of superb entries were submitted. Though there was no grand prize winner this time, Mr. Hikaru Otaki and Ms. Cherry Pua-Africa were awarded prizes.
10th Asian Children's Cultural Festival	The festival was held in December at the world heritage-registered Angkor Wat. 130 children participated in the festival, including those stricken by the earthquake in Niigata Chuetsu and those suffered from the Indian Ocean tsunami. They performed dancing and singing and made a deep impression on the onlookers.

## REVIEW OF OVERSEAS ACTIVITIES AND ACCELERATIVE PARTICIPATION:

In the overseas co-operative development projects, we have continued the development of local staff and promoted them to management positions. We also endeavored to evaluate the qualitative improvement and expenses of the projects now being carried out. With the emergency relief activities, we have aggressively launched support projects for the victims of the earthquake in northeastern Pakistan, for the refugees from the volcano eruption on Miyake Island to return to their homes, and continued indirect support for the victims of the earthquake in Niigata Chuetsu and others.

## INTENSIFICATION OF OPERATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE:

In compliance with the governmental reformation of public service corporation system, over the past year we have been intensifying our accountability and public disclosure of information for the purpose of administrative soundness of the structure. With fund raising, we are making every effort to reduce the ratio of public funds in the budget and solicit more private funds such as membership fees, donations and others.



## TOWARD 2006

We highly esteem our guiding principle of the past 25 years in pursuing: "Improve our campaign in order to foster more emotion and sympathy" Thus, we will focus on the following 4 areas as our essential projects.

### Clarifying the Principle of Our Activities and Vision and Revitalizing Domestic Activities:

In order to garner understanding and support from more people, it is important to clarify more distinctly the principle of our activities and vision, and also revitalize more extensively our domestic activities such as craft aid, campaign to deliver picture books and Child Book Supporters. We plan to carry this out as one total movement.

### Restructuring the Secretariat:

We will continue restructuring of the Tokyo office into three sections (Domestic Activities Section, Overseas Activities/Planning and Research Section, and Accounting and Administration Section) for the purpose of strengthening closer cooperation between each section, reinforcing data control within the structure, centralizing information, administering supporters, and for more effective publicity.

### Accelerating Autonomy of Overseas Offices:

In overseas offices, we will accelerate the transfer of authority to the local staff. In addition to the implementation of projects, we will carry out a program to develop the local staff's administrative ability to the level required for autonomy.

### Intensification of Private Funds Focused Management:

We will make every effort to reduce the ratio of public funds in the budget, and will endeavor to constitute overseas projects mainly with private funds such as membership fees or donations.

# Thailand

2005 was a year of accelerated economic growth, but on the other hand, political uncertainties such as social unrest in three provinces of the far south and an “anti-Thaksin” street movement became conspicuous. Steady economic growth is creating a bigger middle class in the urban areas, however the economic gap is certainly increasing and the living conditions of low income group are becoming harsher. Crimes involving children are not uncommon, and in the present situation children in city slums, farming villages and highland areas are compelled to live confronting with physical and mental risks.

In view of the above situation, SVA intends to continue the library and scholarship activities for the children of city slums, underprivileged farming villages and highland areas. In 2006, we will hold training camps for the scholarship recipients’ youth leaders, seminars for child-care staff and reinforce the level of quality in library activities, while emphasizing public relations programs and fund raising activities in Thailand.



Photo: Masao Seto



## LIBRARY ACTIVITIES:

2005 was the second year of a three-year program of the project for child-care staff, involving storytelling and the expansion of the network as main parts of the project. We were planning to expand our activities beyond our usual areas such as to Chiang Mai province and other areas, but we had to postpone the project due to the urgent necessity for library activities in the relief and rehabilitation activities for the victims of the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami. Nevertheless, we have carried out 222 tours of the mobile library in the city slums of Bangkok, the northern province of Payao where highland people live, and underprivileged areas in the northeastern provinces of Loei and Surin. We have also conducted 4 seminars for 312 child-care staff and assisted them to improve their ability. As for the permanent libraries, more than 70,000 people have visited, and in Baan Sawai of Surin province where the library was rebuilt, a library administration committee was organized to bring about a more resident-focused administration.

## ASIAN SCHOLARSHIP ACTIVITIES:

In 2005, scholarships were granted to 450 students. In October, as a first trial, we carried out a scholarship recipients’ “Youth Leaders Training Camp” beside the Mekong River in Chiang Khan of Loei province. This was for scholarship recipients from various areas who rarely have an opportunity to meet each other all together, and for nurturing youth leaders. 40 people participated this year.

In 2006, we will maintain the level of 450 scholarship students and, at the same time, will organize a monitoring tour for the supporters and another “Youth Leaders Training Camp” in October.

2005 Scholarship Recipients by Area

Area of Activity	Middle School Students	High School Students	College/ Tech. College Students	Total
Bangkok	65 (38)	33 (19)	3 (3)	101 (60)
Surin	61 (42)	49 (36)	4 (2)	114 (80)
Loei	59 (40)	52 (37)	4 (2)	115 (79)
Payao	66 (57)	42 (24)	12 (6)	120 (87)
Total	251 (177)	176 (116)	23 (13)	450 (306)

( ) = Female students





Photo by Masao Seto

### DORMITORIES ACTIVITIES FOR MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:

Continuing on from last year, we carried out the dormitory project for middle and high school students from the remote areas of Phayao and Loei provinces who find it difficult to attend schools due to distance or economic reasons. We assisted a total of 76 students in Shanti Student Dormitory in Phayao province and Chiang Khan Dormitory in Loei province. Under the guidance of dormitory staff, they live a well-disciplined life with boarder-focused activities, and also participate in the activities of neighboring areas. In 2006, we plan to accept about 80 boarders.

### INTERNATIONAL INTERCHANGE AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES:

Due to the emergency relief activities for victims of the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami, we had to curtail the receiving of visitors to less than average year levels. Nevertheless, we still received about 950 visitors. Under the international interchange program, we accepted two college students; and we also accepted one trainee for the long term volunteer training program. In July, we received invitations from Osaka Maipenrai, and in November from Minsei Chapter of Osaka Municipal Workers Union, and we dispatched Thai staff for training to increase their ability.

### RESTORATION SUPPORT ACTIVITIES FOR SUAN PHLU SLUM:

At Suan Phlu slum where a great fire occurred in April 2004, a reconstruction plan was completed in 2005 and is now underway following two separate courses: (a) self-support effort, and (b) a housing complex by the administrative authorities. SVA is administering a makeshift library at the ruined site and along with the rebuilding of the houses we are proceeding with the reconstruction of the community library, which will play a role as the regional center and a nursery school.

### RELIEF AND RESTORATION SUPPORT ACTIVITIES FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI:

A huge earthquake occurred off Sumatra on December 26, 2004 triggering an ocean-wide tsunami that snatched away more than 6,000 lives in seconds in southern Thailand. SVA Thailand office immediately took a leading role providing relief activities at Pang Nga province which suffered the worst damage and distributed food for 500 victims, large sized tents and water tanks. Further, we distributed school uniforms and school supplies to 3,000 children in the area. In cooperation with Hirosaki University Department of Global Environment Studies and Citizens toward Overseas Disaster Emergency (CODE), a disaster prevention publication entitled "Fire on Rice Stack", which is based on a Japanese folktale, has been published in the Thai language and distributed to schools and health centers.

Now that the emergency relief period has passed, the main role of SVA has shifted to educational support. In 2006 and thereafter, we plan to carry out restoration support activities through a two-year program mainly for children with the activities of the storytelling caravan, book lending services, the administration of makeshift and permanent libraries (3 + 1) and scholarship grants to the children in the stricken areas.



# Cambodia

The country of Cambodia is receiving support worth over 500 million dollars every year from the world community. But the disparity between the rich and the poor, and between cities and farming villages, is widening and it is said that people on the poorest level, which represent 36% of the national population, are living under harsh conditions.

In 2004, SVA began supporting children living under harsh conditions in new areas, and further in 2005, commenced educational and cultural support activities in the slums of Phnom Penh. In addition, we also held the 10th Asian Children's Cultural Festival at Angkor Wat. In 2006, we will host the festival again and will invite children from several countries to Phnom Penh for the event.

## LIBRARY ACTIVITIES:

We carried out library activities for 113,000 children in 150 schools in the provinces of Kompong Thom and Banteay Meanchey. In 2005, we also conducted five seminars on storytelling and library activities, training 244 teachers and school staff. We also distributed 11,274 picture books and 540 sets of picture story-cards, and printed 5 titles of picture books. But the printing of 3 titles of picture story-cards was postponed to next year due to financial reasons. On the mobile library project, we made 58 tours in total and 15,135 children and teachers participated. The children's library that we constructed as a model library in the teachers training school in Kompong Thom province is a result of our collaborative activities with the school construction team.



In 2006, in addition to the seminars and printing activities, we plan to construct a model children's library in Banteay Meanchey province.

## SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES:

Out of 14 primary school buildings we planned in the provinces of Kompong Thom and Banteay Meanchey, 12 buildings have now been constructed, accommodating a total of 3,471 children and 59 teachers, to study in a desirable environment.

In addition to the school buildings, construction of toilet buildings and water wells is under way now. At the same time, we are striving to improve the function of the toilets by installing drain pipes to collect rainwater and relocating sewage disposal tanks. In order to reinforce the administrative ability of the schools now under construction, we have carried out a tour and seminars at other schools, with 35 people from 14 schools and 4 departments of education attending. Further, we have also completed the construction of a primary school building that was carried over from 2004, and a building for Sanlong secondary school by the request of the Cambodian government. In 2006, we are planning to construct 12 buildings.

## TRADITIONAL CULTURAL ACTIVITIES:

In April, in cooperation with the Ministry of Religion, we held "National Evaluation Conference on the Buddhism Education" for the purpose of ascertaining the overall situation of Buddhism education in Cambodia. For the event, we invited 134 priests from provinces and districts all over the country and also delegates from the departments of religious education. In June in Kratie province, we also held the "Buddhism and Social Development Seminar" for 250 priests and representatives from the departments of religion of four eastern provinces. And in August, we conducted research on 50 temples in Siem Reap province to study their histories and details. Further, we reprinted books on morals and ethics (2 titles x 10,000 copies each) and distributed them to 4,000 temples and main institutions. In 2006, we plan to start activities on the preservation of culture and conservation of the natural environment.





## EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL SUPPORT ACTIVITIES IN SLUMS:

These activities began this year. Out of the total population of Phnom Penh (approximately 300,000), about 20% is said to live in the slums, among which the largest is Basak slum (5,000 inhabitants). Currently, all our activities are taking place in Basak slum. Whereas the overall school attendance rate in Phnom Penh exceeds 90%, only about half of the children in the slums have the opportunity to attend school. For the children of Basak slum, residents have set up a shabby community school with classes from nursery school to third class, with 109 children attending. In 2005, we donated teaching materials and supported the school meals fee for the orphan students, and built additional classrooms.

At the class of traditional culture, 38 children, mainly orphans, are practicing and they participated in the Asian Children's Cultural Festival held at Angkor Wat. In 2006, we plan to open a library and vocational training classroom for women.



## ASIAN CHILDREN'S HOUSE PROJECT:

This project commenced in 1995 in cooperation with JICHIRO (All Japan Prefectural and Municipal Workers Union) in order to improve pre-school education and give educational support for children under oppression. But SVA will terminate the support at the end of this year and the project will be taken over by the Phnom Penh National Kindergarten Teacher Training School. In 2005, we also supported the meal fees of 100 students in the dormitory for children from remote provinces.

## ASIAN CHILDREN'S CULTURAL FESTIVAL:

In 2005, which is the 25th anniversary of SVA, the 10th Asian Children's Cultural Festival took place for the first time in Cambodia, with 130 participating children from 7 countries, at the world heritage site of Angkor Wat. From Cambodia were children from slums and kindergartens; from Thailand were children from slums and tsunami stricken area; from Laos were children from the Children's House for Culture and Education; from Vietnam were children from Hanoi Children's Palace; from Myanmar came a team representing traditional cultures of various ethnic groups; from Japan were children from earthquake stricken Tokamchi; and for the first time from Afghanistan came children from the SVA community library.

All the children lived under the same roof at the festival to deepen mutual understanding, and performed traditional dancing and singing on the grand stage at Angkor Wat, making a deep impression on the onlookers. It is scheduled to take place again in Phnom Penh in 2006.



# Laos



In December 2005, the Lao People's Democratic Republic celebrated the 30th anniversary of its founding. At present, the security situation is comparatively calm, but politically, socialism with one-party rule by the People's Revolutionary Party is still holding power. As symbolized by the rapid increase of vehicles and motorbikes, a consumer society is rapidly growing in Vientiane and along with it, is a commensurate increase in street children and beggars. The economic disparity between the capital city and the farming villages is becoming conspicuous.

We have been undertaking the administration of the public library and network support activities as our main work, and we will carry out collaborative projects in the field that other organizations are unable to do.

## LIBRARY AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES:

From 2005, we operated the mobile library project on a regular basis. The project provides reading opportunities not only for the students of primary and middle schools but also for the people in rehabilitation centers for drug addicts, nursing facilities, and vocational schools for handicapped persons. Participants at the mobile library activities reached 20,216 in one year. We distributed 90 book-boxes to 60 primary schools of 3 districts in Luang Prabang province. At the public libraries in Savannaket and Luang Prabang provinces, the number of visitors and books lent out is continuously increasing. "Diffusing Activities of Book Reading through Support to Public Libraries", a JICA grassroots partner project, has commenced at the above two libraries with their construction, and at the two public libraries in Champassack and Xienghouang.

In 2006, we will participate in the construction of Vientiane Municipal Library and multi-purpose hall (Ishida Memorial Hall) in a joint operation with JICHIRO and EFA Japan, as well as a Public Library for Vientiane province (a JICA grassroots project). We will also carry out the construction of model kindergarten attached to the Dongkhamxang teacher training school in co-operation with Ibaragi Asia Education Fund.



No. of Participants in  
Library Activities

Children and Youth Library attached to SVA office	31,475
Participants at SVA Mobile Library	20,216
Public Library of Savannaket Province	25,406
Public Library of Luang Prabang Province	65,402
Children's House Library	20,297

## CHILDREN'S HOUSE ACTIVITIES:

In 2005, an average of 600 children (800 during summer vacation) visited the house every week and the activities are being carried out briskly despite the limited budget. The Children's Cultural Center, which is modeled after the Children's House, has increased to 21 centers throughout the country.

In 2006, we will facilitate the autonomy of the Children's Cultural Center in Vientiane, which is acting as the counterpart of Children's House activities.



## SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND JOINT EDUCATIONAL REFORM ACTIVITIES:

In 2005, we supported the construction of 3 primary school buildings, which has made it possible for 806 pupils to study in new and safe schools. For the teachers of 17 primary schools in the Thabok cluster school area and Ban Thouay cluster school area of Bolikhamsai province, we have conducted training courses on child-focused teaching and the making of teaching materials. Also, we have carried out at the above two cluster school areas, training courses on library activities and conferences for annual evaluations, including meetings of parents' associations. Villagers' understanding of and support for the education of their children has increased significantly.

For 2006, we will continue the comprehensive educational support activities in Bolikhamsai and Salavan provinces, such as school construction, training for the teachers, library activities and revitalization of parents' associations. We also plan to construct 4 primary school buildings and 3 resources centers (school reading rooms) and carry out library activities in the above two provinces.



## TEACHING MATERIALS FOR ELEMENTARY EDUCATION PROJECT:

The project, which started in 1992, has completed all its planned work and transferred the manufacturing facilities for teaching materials in Vientiane and transportation trucks to the Ministry of Education of the Laotian government. During the 13 years of the project period, 8,360 mimeograph printers, 81,200 alphabet tables of Laotian language and 16,440 maps of Laos were produced and distributed to primary schools all over the country.

## INTERNATIONAL INTERCHANGE ACTIVITIES AND SEMINARS:

In 2005, at the Child Book Supporters Osaka Event held in July, we conducted mutual cultural exchange with the library staff from Thailand, Cambodia and Afghanistan. Also, the co-ordinator of SVA Thailand office visited the Laos office for mutual discussions with our staff. In 2006, we plan to carry on exchanging opinions and suggestions on the quality and development of our activities.



# Afghanistan

Afghanistan is now trying to maintain security to reconstruct their country with the support of the U.S. and International Security and Assistance Forces (ISAF) from 30 countries and their own national forces.

Formation of the Karzai Cabinet was announced at the end of 2004, and in October 2005 the first democratic parliamentary election took place. At the same time, the Ministry of the Economy was established. The ministry has enacted a new regulation to control NGO's active in the country. In accordance with the regulation, both international and domestic NGO's are required to renew their registrations. It is anticipated, however, that less than half of the domestic NGO's will be able to fulfill the requirements.

## SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES:

Following on from 2004, we supported construction of 3 school buildings in two districts of Nangarhar province with the co-operation of the local residents. On the design of the school buildings, plans have been adapted step by step each year. Adaptations have included the construction of a stage at the front of school buildings to be used for the morning assembly, and construction of a connecting passageway and the arrangement of benches in the courtyard. Out of 13 classrooms, one room was designated a reading room. We are carrying forward the book-box project with the co-operation of teachers so that the school will become a model school after its completion. For 2006, taking the new NGO regulation into account, we will try to further intensify co-operation with the Ministry of Education and will further develop the activities.



## LIBRARY ACTIVITIES:

We have classified the activities into four groups, consisting of: publishing of picture books, workshops for teachers, book-box project, and children's library. With the publishing of picture books, we published 8 titles based on folktales and 2 titles of picture story cards. The books, which were completed after repetitive trial and errors, were delivered to the children in various places. In 2006, we plan to expand the activity by publishing the picture books in the Dari language, in addition to the books in the Pashtun language.

With the library activities, we have carried on from 2004 with the workshop for about 1,000 teachers in 24 schools of 5 districts of Nangarhar province, and after completion of the training, books (mainly picture books) were distributed. In 2006, we plan to carry out library activities in a 3-year program for 22 schools in the city of Jalalabad.

At the community library, where an average of 100 children visit everyday, we are holding regular open houses for mothers and secondary events like Tarana (reading of poems, etc.) in order to obtain the understanding of local residents. We are trying to increase the stock of picture books as well. We are also holding literacy classes and sewing classes for the children who live under economic difficulties or who are unable to attend school. In December 2005, 5 children out of those who participate in the community library activities were nominated as representatives to participate for the first time in the "Asian Children's Cultural Festival." In 2006, the community library will be renamed to be the "Children's Library" and try to adapt the facilities to accept more children.



## TRAINING AND EMERGENCY RELIEF ACTIVITIES:

In August 2005, female staff responsible for the library activities were invited to Japan in connection with the World Expo 2005, Aichi and interacted with many people there. In December, 2 Afghan staff visited Myanmar refugee camps in Thailand and SVA Bangkok office and mutually exchanged various information on the projects with Thai staff as fellow SVA colleagues. When the great earthquake occurred in Pakistan in October, staff of the nearby Afghanistan office participated in the initial stage of damage research, and co-operated with Pakistani staff involved in the emergency relief activities.

In the future, we plan to participate actively in the international and domestic interchanges and trainings, improve the capabilities of staff, and carry forward the development of projects which can achieve sustainable growth.



## SECURITY MEASURE:

Among the overseas offices, the one that must give highest consideration to security is the Afghanistan office. Unfortunately, the security situation is not moving in a favorable direction and terrorist actions still continue, mainly against the stationed foreign military forces. In May 2005, SVA opened a liaison office in Kabul to actively collect and exchange information with other related agencies and organizations. We will continue to watch closely measures and policy about security, and carry out the activities safely.

Results of Activities since 2003 and Forecast for 2006

Year		2003	2004	2005	2006 (Forecast)	Total (Forecast)
No. of Titles of Picture Book Published		5	10	8	8	29
No. of Picture Story Cards Published		0	0	2	2	4
Training on Library Activities	Schools	0	24	24	22	70
	Teachers	0	800	1,000	1,120	2,920
No. of Reading Rooms Newly Adopted at Schools		2	4	3	3	12
No. of Primary School Buildings Constructed		2	4	3	3	12

# Myanmar (Burma) Refugees

In October 2004, Prime Minister Khin Nyunt was discharged and the road to the democratization of Myanmar seems more depressing. There is no positive outlook for the refugees to return to their homes. On the contrary, in view of the fact that the inflow of new refugees is still continuing, the Thai government has approved that refugees can immigrate to third countries. Consequently the U.S., 10 European countries and U.N. organizations have begun preparing to accept them. Immigration to a third country is basically limited only to applicants, but at the end of 2005, the number of applications was reported to be about 20,000. On the other hand, with many refugees still remaining in the camps with the strong hope to return to their home country, early realization of democratization in Myanmar is undoubtedly essential. At the same time, it is important to continue the suggestions to the Thai government on improving the living environment of the camps.

In 2005, UNHCR notified SVA of cutbacks in its subsidy, and thus it became critical to strengthen outside fundraising. On our regular activities, we have carried out qualitative improvement of the library activities and improved the ability of local staff. 2006 is the final year of the second phase, and we plan to make evaluations of the activities and also plan the coming phase with the aid of a feasibility study.

## LIBRARY ACTIVITIES:

In 2005, we extended the first floor of the library building at Maela Refugee Camp and operated a total of 22 libraries in 7 refugee camps. In particular, we have strengthened co-operation with the Library Committee, which is the parent body of library activities, and improved the ability of library staff in order to ensure the ongoing management of library activities for the regions. We carried out more special events than in the past, such as children's day, mother's day, storytelling contest and traditional musical instrument contest, with the participation of children and senior people. This resulted in a deeper understanding of our activities by the Library Committee.

In 2006, we plan to extend the library buildings in Mae Ra Ma Luang, Mae La Oon and Ban Dong Yang camps and also plan to open 3 new libraries. Unlike the design of libraries built up till now, rooms for young people are scheduled to be added. We have been carrying out a mobile library service to nursery schools and primary schools, and at the request of the schools, we are studying the possibility of the mobile library being officially adopted into the curriculum.



### (1) Books:

In 2005, we distributed 15 titles of picture book in the Karen and Myanmar languages and 16,177 books mainly in the Myanmar language for adults. In 2006, we plan to distribute 30 titles of picture book.

### (2) Publication:

We published 5 titles of picture book based on folktales and cultural activities in both the Karen and Myanmar languages. At the same time, we are publishing "Library News" every 3 months using a mimeograph printer with the co-operation of the Library Committee and library staff. In 2006, we plan to publish 8 titles of mainly picture books based on folktales.





### (3) Seminar for Library Staff:

In January 2005, we conducted a seminar for the library staff with a former library specialist in Myanmar refugee camps, and in November we held the third combined seminar for library staff at Mae Sod. At the seminar, the activities of each library were introduced, and participants discussed problems and future library activities. In 2006, a specialist is scheduled to be dispatched from the Osaka chapter of JICHIRO (All Japan Prefectural and Municipal Workers Union), and through a seminar we plan to improve the ability of the library staff.

No. of Libraries Built up to 2005

Province	Refugees Camp	No. of Libraries	Total
Mae Hong Son	Mae La	3	20
	Mae Ra Ma	4	
Tak	Nupo	2	
	Umpium	4	
	Mae La	6	
Kanchanaburi	Ban Dong Yang	1	
Ratchaburi	Tham Hin	2	

### (4) Activities for the Elderly

We invited the people over 65 years of age to the libraries and provided them with fun-filled activities, such as yoga, games, and lectures on health and community issues. We also recorded the Karen folktales and talks which were told by the elderly, and published a book on those folktales.

### (5) Cultural Support Activities

Cultural classes (traditional musical instrument/ethnic dances) were held in the libraries. In each class, about 20 children joined the activities, and those children were given opportunity to perform their music and dances in various events organized in the camps.

### (6) Campaign to Donate Picture Books to Myanmar Refugees:

1,300 picture books incorporating 5 titles were delivered from Japan. In the coming year, 1,500 picture books incorporating 5 titles are expected to be delivered.

### (7) Mobile Book Box Project at Karen Primary School in Thailand:

In 2005, we visited 60 primary schools in 6 districts around the refugee camps with 50 picture books in the Thai language.

## STAFF NURTURING PROJECT:

In May 2005, our two co-ordinators visited the Cambodia office to observe their activities and receive training in the management of projects. In August, we conducted a staff seminar and studied about community development and the nurturing of leaders from a visiting instructor. In 2006, we plan to conduct several seminars and to dispatch our staff for training at overseas offices to improve their ability.



# Emergency Relief

In 2005, we continued emergency relief activities for the victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami and Niigata Chuetsu earthquake, both of which occurred in the previous year. And from February we commenced a support project, together with volunteers, for the refugees from the volcano eruption on Miyake Island to return to their homes. On the occasion of an earthquake in northeastern Pakistan on October 8, we launched relief activities in co-operation with the SVA Afghanistan office.

## NIIGATA CHUETSU EARTHQUAKE RELIEF ACTIVITIES:

In regard to the Niigata Chuetsu earthquake that occurred on October 23, 2004, even after the completion of emergency relief activities we continued our support project for the Social Welfare Council of Kawaguchi town and cooperated until the end of May in the construction of temporary shelter and the setting up of a community centre in the regional meeting hall. We will try to draw up a management system for environmental disaster prevention on a wider scale in conjunction with related agencies.

## EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI OFF SUMATRA RELIEF ACTIVITIES:

When the earthquake occurred off Sumatra on December 26, 2004, we immediately launched relief activities for the victims stricken by the tsunami in southern Thailand and distributed emergency support goods. And to care for the children's mental suffering, we carried out a makeshift libraries project, the reading of picture books and a mobile library project. For the future, we will transfer the relief and rehabilitation activities to the Thailand office, which will prepare to take over by the end of 2007 and nurture the staff. (For details, please refer to the activities report of Thailand)

For our support to other stricken countries, we carried out the distribution of relief goods, reconstruction of houses and support to nursery schools in Tamil province in India (through ASAG), in Aceh province in Indonesia (through PPSW), both of which are regional NGO's, and in Sri Lanka through Renge International Volunteer Association.



## SUPPORT PROJECT FOR RESIDENTS OF MIYAKE ISLAND:

Four and half years after the June 2000 eruption of Oyama Mountain on Miyake Island, while volcanic gas was still emitting, the evacuation order to all residents of the island was lifted on February 1, 2005. Residents then began returning to their homes. In order to assist them, we co-operated with the Tokyo Volunteer Support Center against Disaster in Miyake Island, which has supported the residents since the eruption of the volcano and also helped them return to their homes to rebuild their lives. From SVA, 65 volunteers – mainly college students – participated with words of support for the island people and helped them in the removal work, cleaning up of volcanic ash, cutting of trees, vegetable farming and other things.

The first phase of the project was completed on August 23, but we will continue to support the residents through the Miyake Island House of Winds, which was organized by the volunteers of the island mainly to look after the aged people.





## RELIEF ACTIVITIES FOR VICTIMS OF EARTHQUAKE IN NORTHEASTERN PAKISTAN:

The earthquake in northeastern Pakistan occurred on October 8, 2005 and caused casualties of 73,000 people. More than 3 million people lost their homes. Immediately after the earthquake, we launched relief activities with the staff of the Afghanistan office. As a first step, we distributed indispensable items such as foodstuffs, tents and cooking utensils to 450 families in two regions. After the initial crisis had passed, we re-distributed necessary things for the resumption of living, such as sewing machines, carpenter's tools and sanitary supplies. As of March 2006, we have established 21 facilities of Child Friendly Space on the basis of one for each primary school to enable children with mental trauma to spend time in peace. The facilities are being opened on a regular, staggered basis after brief training for the teachers, and even in wintertime the activities of book reading, storytelling, game plays and sports have all been carried out. We are also planning to take children out on an excursion. We are planning to continue the activities until the end of June.



## DRAWING UP ACTIVITIES GUIDELINES WITH ASSUMPTION OF DISASTER:

In 2006, we plan to draw up an escalated plan of relief activities with the assumption of a Tokai earthquake or earthquake with a hypocenter directly below the southern Kanto plain. We will positively work with NPO or related agencies and maintain daily networking. Further, in order to promptly cope with a large-scale disaster overseas, we will review the existing first step guidelines and also establish a plan for a monitoring and evaluation system.

## DISASTER PREVENTION CLASS:

With the participation of children in the neighborhood, parents, neighborhood associations and administrative agencies, we will organize a disaster prevention tour around the neighborhood and urge the children to draw an evacuation map in case of disaster. We plan to hold the disaster prevention class three times a year with the co-operation of the SVA Disaster Relief Supporters and related agencies and organizations.

## SVA DISASTER RELIEF SUPPORTERS:

For provision against a disaster, a system of SVA Disaster Relief Supporters with the objective of "Build a Disaster-resistant Community" has been established by supporters all over the country. They will carry out several activities related to disaster prevention or disaster reduction, and in the event of disaster they will closely work with SVA.



# Japan



## CHILD BOOK SUPPORTERS:

SVA's objective for educational support activities in overseas countries is to realize (through the management of permanent or mobile libraries, the publication of folktale picture books, and seminars for the library staff and teachers) a substantial library project for the children in rural areas and the continuation of the project by the initiative of the local staff. In order to support them, in 2005, a new system of Child Book Supporters has been set up. We are convinced that the canvassing of supporters here in Japan, who will comprehensively support the library project, will strengthen the project and assure continuation to develop the dreams of children.

Periodically, we will inform the supporters of the children's voices on the spot, and news on activities including the introduction of picture books published with the aid of the supporters. In 2006, with the hope of gaining more supporters, we plan to invite library staff to campaign all over Japan.



## LINKAGE WITH MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS - LOCAL SUPPORTERS ASSEMBLY IN SENDAI:



In co-operation with SVA supporters, we have enthusiastically worked on the craft aids and campaign to deliver picture books. Also, through invitations to overseas staff to visit Japan, we have tried to strengthen their linkage with members and supporters and also tried to deepen the supporters' relationship with the secretariat. In October 2005, with the assistance of SVA supporters of northeastern Japan, we held "Local Supporters Assembly in Sendai", with speeches by Mr. Kunio Yanagida (a popular non-fiction writer) and Ms. Hideko Ise (a picture book writer) on the subject of picture books. A symposium was also held on the regional solidarity in disaster prevention.

In 2006, we plan to further develop the domestic activities in Japan to facilitate support to the overseas activities more efficiently and effectively.

## CAMPAIGN TO DELIVER PICTURE BOOKS:

In 2005, we delivered a total of 16,368 picture books to Cambodia and Laos, which is about 1,800 books more than the previous year. In addition to individual supporters, 110 middle and high schools and about 20 companies participated in the campaign. We also received continued support from Bellmark Educational Support Foundation and from a shipping company with the transportation of the books. In 2006, we will set a target of 13,000 books and, at the same time, will go forward working on the selection of new books, rationalization of the working system and a campaign combined with other activities.

## CRAFT AID AND RECYCLED BOOKS AID:

Sales in 2005 remained at only 84% of the budget, but we received co-operation from about 4,000 supporters (organizations included). In 2006, we will improve the collection and supply of information about producer organizations and their products, and strengthen the liaison between the producers our supporters in Japan. We will also reinforce the mail-order sales through the internet and catalogue. For recycled books aid, we will strengthen the publicity to recruit more participants.



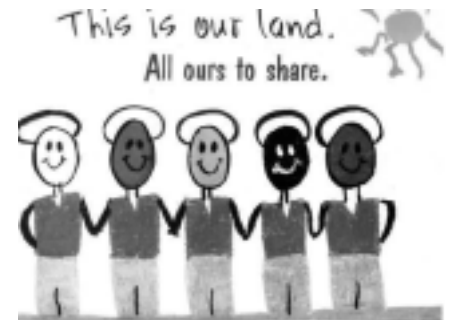


## WORLD EXPO 2005, AICHI – GLOBAL VILLAGE:

At the World Expo 2005, held in Aichi prefecture from the end of March till the end of September, SVA displayed “Asian House of Storytelling” in the Global Village Pavilion by recreating a bamboo library of a Myanmar (Burma) refugee camp in Thailand to demonstrate the storytelling of the local staffs from Cambodia, Myanmar (Burma) refugee camps and Afghanistan. With the enthusiastic help of supporters and volunteers, about 19,000 people visited the pavilion and observed the library activities of SVA.

## PICTURE BOOK CONTEST:

Following on from the success of the previous year, a second picture book contest with the theme "One Earth, One Life" was held. After consideration by the judging panel, there was no grand prize winner. But two entries from Thailand and Japan were selected for prizes, and a commendation ceremony was held at Tokyo Grand Hotel on November 4.



## PUBLICITY ACTIVITIES:

In addition to publicity through printed matter such as periodicals, emergency relief reports and direct mailings, publicity through the internet has drastically advanced. As a result of extensive renewal of the SVA home page, the number of ‘hits’ has substantially increased; and we have started to deliver Mail News every month (626 recipients, 438 of which are media and corporations). As for the printed publications, in addition to "Shanti" for the members and supporters, the first issue of "Temple of International Volunteer" has been published for the member temples (167 temples as of December 2005). In 2006, we will accelerate the use of IT media, and push forward with the design and production of new tools for more effective publicity.



## OVERSEAS SUPPORT ACTIVITIES:

There were conspicuous cutbacks to the income of the public funds and specific allocation funds. We will make an overall revision of the form of nomination to each specific allocation fund and start to solicit more contributions from the private sources. In 2006, we will continue to solicit for contributions to specific allocation funds and, at the same time, will carry out evaluation of activities (Afghanistan and others), staff nurturing (support to the seminar on library activities, NGO overseas training program in Thailand and others) and the interchange project.

## PLANNING AND RESEARCH AND PROGRAM PROPOSAL:

As the current secretariat of the Japan NGO Network for Education (JNNE), we were commissioned to conduct seminars and research work by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education and Science, and the Center for the Study of International Cooperation in Hiroshima University (CICE). We have also continued advisory activities on the educational co-operation program, the national campaign of Education for All (EFA). In 2006, we will continue to serve as the secretariat of JNNE and will also be commissioned to conduct a seminar for the Asian Cultural Center UNESCO (ACCU).



## Financial Report (Years 2003-2006)

					(US\$)
Items/Year	2003	2004	2005	2006 (Budget)	%
<b>Income</b>					
Membership Fee & General Donations	2,823,281	2,598,825	2,719,545	3,215,000	57%
Donations for Emergency Relief Assistance	66,097	1,251,629	1,127,146	465,712	8%
Support from General Programs	661,709	528,046	471,954	417,699	7%
Support from Government & UN Agencies	731,663	423,942	842,009	1,501,515	27%
Total	4,282,750	4,802,442	5,160,654	5,599,927	100%
<b>Expenditures</b>					
Thailand	417,975	363,720	325,530	713,945	13%
Cambodia	884,697	788,304	939,870	970,256	17%
Laos	523,823	501,974	489,856	879,923	16%
Myanmar Refugees	313,137	284,678	289,911	329,569	6%
Afghanistan	337,923	375,562	537,409	508,675	9%
Emergency Relief Assistance	91,251	838,337	713,761	464,702	8%
Domestic Programs	1,139,172	1,165,978	1,014,964	1,084,366	19%
Administration	788,855	747,177	856,513	648,490	12%
Total	4,496,833	5,065,730	5,167,814	5,599,927	100%

## Executive Board Members

SVA Association Members 2,372 members

### SVA Executive Board Members

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As of December 31, 2005

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- Cambodia Office (Phnom Penh, Cambodia)
- Laos Office (Vientiane, Laos)
- Myanmar Refugee Project Office (Mae Sod, Thailand)
- Afghanistan Office (Jalalabad, Afghanistan)

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