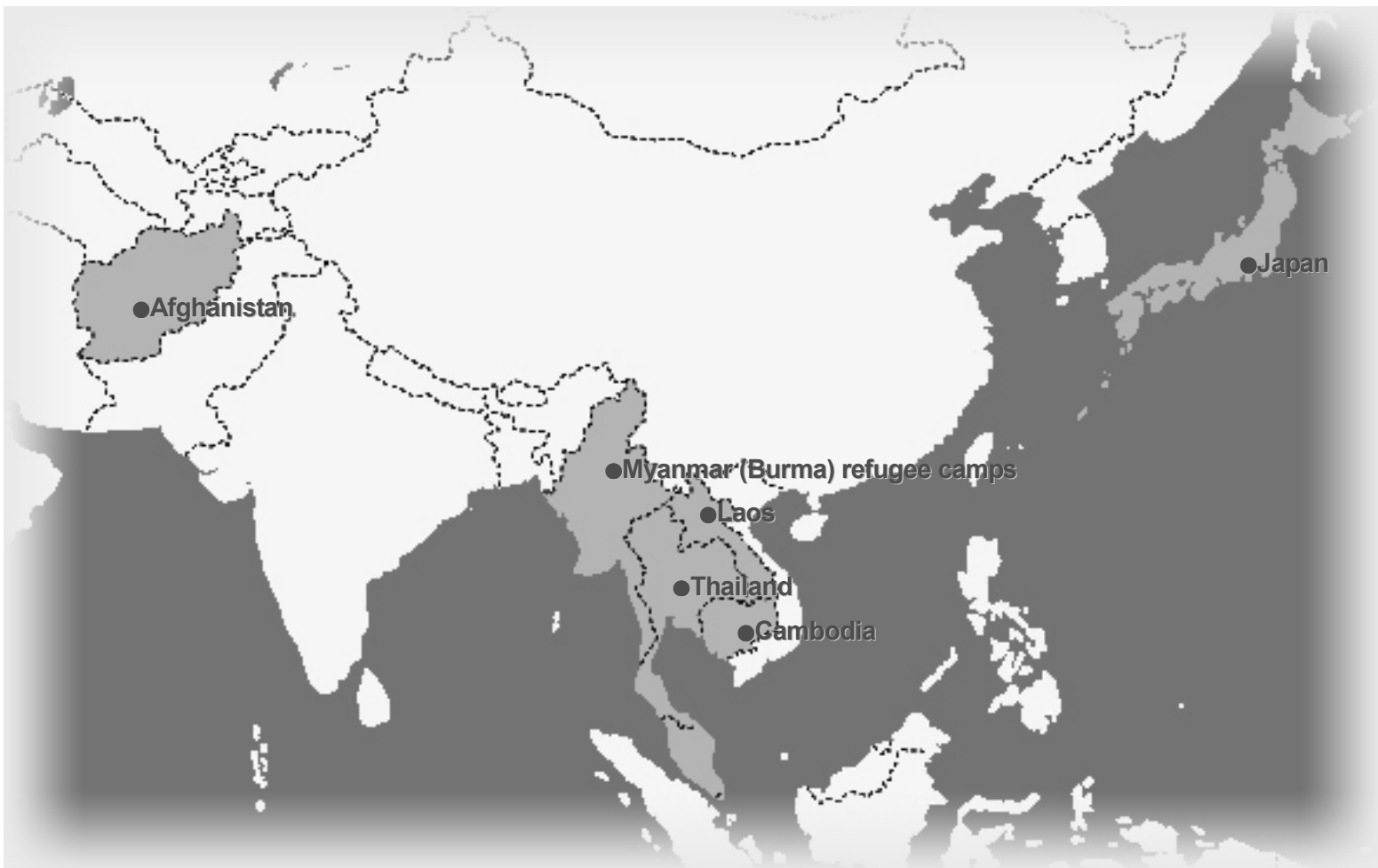


*Move forward, hand in hand.*



**2009-2010**

Annual Report 2009  
Activity Plan 2010



## Our Wishes

### - Proclamation of Shanti Volunteer Association (SVA) -

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 President

**Kyoei Wakabayashi**

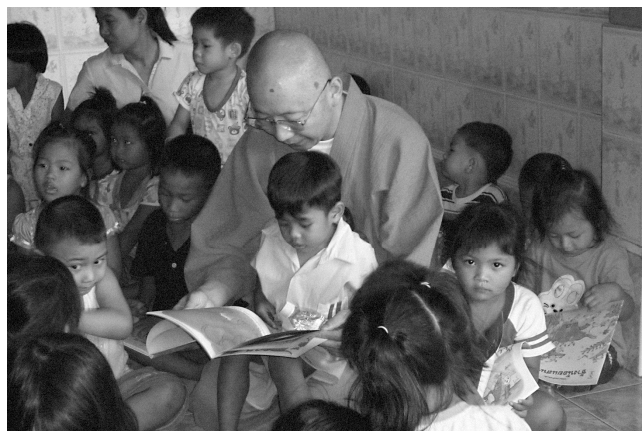
**President, Shanti Volunteer Association (SVA)**

It is truly a great honor for all the staff members working both here at home and abroad to be able to deliver this annual report, with our deepest gratitude to all of you who have given us your abiding support.

In December 2008, the law to reform the public benefit corporation system was enacted and in accordance with it, Shanti was required to take new action to transition to a public interest incorporated association, while continuously reviewing various rules and procedures including amendments of the articles of incorporation, in order to obtain a new legal entity by the end of 2010. Having said that, regardless of what kind of organizational structure we will assume, we will consistently set our eye on the concept of "Learn Together and Live together" as our principle to move forward together with you.

We recently visited the Suan Phlu Slum in Bangkok. The slum was hit by a great fire in 2004, leaving many people homeless. Immediately after that, as many of you may remember, we initiated rescue activities. After visiting the newly constructed library, a librarian, showed us some newspaper clippings. They were large pictures with Thai-language descriptions.... showing a young man standing in front of the Conference Hall of the United Nations. In these clippings the young man introduced himself as a sophomore in the engineering department of Silpakorn University. He said that he had lived

in a house just opposite to the Suan Phlu Library and that he had frequented there since he was a very young child. He received a scholarship and studied in junior and high schools. At the same time, he volunteered at the library quite a lot and gradually he became a leader in local youth activities. Such efforts were recognized by the Khet (Ward) and he took part in the Youth Group Competition as the local representative along with other young people from across Thailand. The newspaper articles said that, at this contest, as a youth leader for the next generation, he was the representative for Thailand youth at the United Nations Children's Conference. Then, as we were walking around the reconstructed residential area, we came across him. Meeting with this mature and polite young man reminded us of the old saying - "Adversity makes a man wise". He may be one of the rising stars born in Suan Phlu. It is as if we saw a green but steadily maturing fruit that has grown from the seed planted by the activities of the SVA.



## SVA History

**1980** Japan Sotoshu Relief Committee (JSRC), antecedents of SVA, was established. JSRC opened office in Bangkok, Thailand and commenced library services to Cambodian refugee camps.

**1981** Volunteers of JSRC established Sotoshu Volunteer Association (SVA)

**1983** Campaign to donate clothing was developed in several places in Japan

**1984** First development project was commenced in Baan Sawai village, Surin province, Thailand.

**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. Craft Aid was organized.

**1989** 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

**1992** SVA opened office in Vientiane, Laos. The name of organization was changed to Sotoshu International Volunteer Association (SVA).

**1995** SVA undertook relief activities for the victims of the Hansin/Awaji great earthquake.

**1999** SVA was registered with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a public association and re-named as Shanti Volunteer Association (SVA). Campaign to Deliver Picture Books was organized.

**2000** SVA started library activities for refugees from Myanmar (Burma) in Thailand. Rev. Jitsujyo Arima, former executive director of SVA, passed away.

**2002** Kazuhiro Sasaki was nominated SVA goodwill ambassador.

**2003** SVA opened Afghanistan office. Serenity on Earth, a manuscript of the late Rev. Jitsujyo Arima, was printed.

**2005** SVA participated in the World Expo 2005, Aichi.

**2009** Program to Support Victims of the Earthquake in the Indian Ocean off Sumatra begins.

# Reviewing 2009

Jan. 1  
to  
Dec.31

The global recession of 2007 has hung like a shadow over many people's lives and still continues to persist in 2009. Many countries where the SVA has made efforts have seen many people suffering from further adversities; people who were forced to leave their home-towns or home countries to find work; people who have had to abandon their goal of providing an education for their children; these hardships are not uncommon in 2009.

Here in Japan, as a result of the House of Representatives election in August, the ruling coalition was changed. In Japan, people dependent on "public safety nets" to survive have found themselves facing increasing difficulties. Against such a background, the current administration has put forth "New Public Services" as its policy ideal. That has turned out to be a favorable momentum for the activities of non-profit organizations as well as activities in the civil sector. At the same time, it also requires many NPOs/NGOs to face their social roles and responsibilities once again for the creation of new initiatives to realize a truly "civil society" with a strong sense of ownership.

## Promotion to Network People and Organizations

Each overseas office has made a great step forward toward independent operation in 2009. The Thailand office, which has already institutionalized itself as local legal entity, has developed a plan to be fully independent in 2015 and launched a new challenge to reinforce its organization. Even in Afghanistan; where the security situation has deteriorated following the general election in August, and no Japanese staff can reside, the SVA conducted crisis management training and coordinator training for each program/project as well as accounting training by inviting the people in charge to Japan. The SVA has seen extraordinary development in every one of the SVA staff members.

## Stabilization and Reinforcement of the Organization and Financial Status

Following the previous year, SVA has tackled the most urgent operational challenge, that is, the structural financial problem. From office/project level budget compilation to execution, we have paid careful attention to the cost-benefit balance to establish a good management system. In regards to the organization, with new board membership, the board of directors and the secretariat confirmed their roles and responsibilities while promoting collaborative relationships through the sharing of information and effective communication.

## 2009 - Major Events

- Jan** Participated in the "January17 Gathering of Lights"
- Feb** Transported picture books under the "Campaign to Deliver Picture Books"
- Mar** SVA Ordinary General Assembly. Reelected board members
- Apr** Displayed and sold the "Craft Aid 2009 Catalogue"
- May** Exhibited folklore picture-books. Held training for board members and auditors
- Jun** Held "Training for Representatives" in Tokyo
- Aug** Held a Coordinator Meeting where six offices staff members gathered in Bangkok. Study tour to Cambodia.
- Sep** With chiefs of each office in attendance, "2009 Budget Meeting" held in Tokyo
- Oct** Started emergency relief activities for victims of the Indian Ocean Earthquake. Held "Charity YOSE (Japanese vaudeville) and Buddhism Statue Girl Charity Talk" at Kencho Temple in Kamakura
- Nov** Held regular Board of Directors Meeting
- Dec** Held the "Day of SVA" memorial event, as well as the SVA regular representatives' meeting.



## Toward 2010

The SVA, based on its own mission and philosophy, will pursue the goal of enabling all children to have an opportunity to learn without discrimination. Therefore we will further widen and deepen our activities in overseas countries in 2010. At the same time, we will also pay attention to our own issues to assume the role of “the entity of action” to create a self-supporting society and a global citizen’s society, with a strong sense of citizenship, together with local members and supporters.

### Toward a community-initiated campaign

In June, together with representatives, the SVA has planned and held a training session with the aim of “Campaign Organization that Shares Sympathy” where each participant re-recognized the importance of independent and proactive actions by each individual. In addition to that, several events were held in many places under the leadership of representatives. Charity YOSE (Japanese vaudeville) shows were held more than 50 times in various locations across Japan.

### Efforts to Support Affected People

In May 2008, the SVA launched relief activities for victims of a violent cyclone in Myanmar (Burma). We have continued these activities by extending the project period to July 2009. Among the goals of the project were: living support for refugees coming over the borders; resumption of a baby-nursing day care center; construction of an orphanage; holding a seminar to develop librarians. Additionally, starting in October, we have initiated activities to help people affected by the earthquake in the Indian Ocean off Sumatra. The activities include - distributing food, providing construction materials for temporary shelters, rebuilding health-care facilities and constructing a library/community center in cooperation with local people.

### Transition to a new Public Interest Cooperation

The SVA, based on its own history of activities as a voluntary organization, has declared that it shall act as an independent campaign body with a legal entity and successfully obtained an entity as an incorporated association in 1999. After that, in accordance with the “Three Reforms on the Laws regarding the



Public Interest Cooperation System” enacted in 2008, the SVA was required to transform itself into a public interest incorporated association. The SVA, with



its target set for the 1st half of 2011, will go through the necessary procedures to obtain this qualification. This transition to a new legal entity constitutes one aspect of further developing autonomic governance as an organization and therefore it does not affect the way SVA works, rather, the SVA will strive for assuming more responsibilities for further prosperity.

### Toward the 30th Anniversary

In 2011, the SVA will mark the milestone year of the 30th anniversary since the launch of pilot activities at Cambodian Refugee Camp. Together with those who have supported us in Asia as well as many of the members and supporters who have come all the way here with us, we would like to review our past endeavors and leverage them to start an initiative under a new vision. To this end, in 2010, the members, representatives and board members will establish “The 30th Anniversary Executive Committee” to plan and implement a variety of community-based campaigns/events, the publication of commemorative materials and the planning/preparation of a memorial ceremony/symposium.

### Promotion of the Independent Operation of an Overseas Office and Forming a New Vision

Aiming at enabling people to run their activities under their own authority, we would like to keep reinforcing talent development and organizational capabilities. Furthermore, with a newly self-dependent office, we will start discussing desirable partnerships with the SVA and how we can engage each other to indicate direction. While also improving the quality of existing programs, we would like to explore new overseas challenges and domestic campaigns to commemorate the 30th anniversary, laying the foundation for the future vision.



# Thailand

## The Context

In the wake of the airport shutdown in 2008, the image of Thailand was much tainted, regarded as if it were at war, and delivering a huge blow to the tourist industry. However, the political turmoil in Thailand takes place in a different area from where many foreigners (including Japanese) live. In other words, the political upheaval is distinctly limited to the area around the official residence of the prime minister and the location in front of the royal palace.

The People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD), which occupied the airport and triggered the creation of the current administration, has decided to form a political party. The Democratic Alliance Against Dictatorship (UDD) advocated by Thaksin and the anti-government rebels, on the other hand, has continued rallying in the countryside. A definitive confrontation between the poor and the wealthy/middle classes has yet to occur but the situation has been deadlocked without any solution in sight.



**In Thailand, the SVA has provided its support through a local legal entity “Sikha Asia Foundation (SAF)”. Starting in 2009, we have worked on management, language issues and public affairs capacity building, based on a five-year organizational plan to achieve independence.**

**With regard to program operations, in the border area with Myanmar (Burma), we have tried to shore up education conditions through library and scholarship projects. The SVA also promotes networking that will connect many individual sites with each other by sharing experiences and know-how, centering on the Training & Educational Development Center that was newly established in Bangkok.**

## Libraries

In 2009, the SVA has run mobile-library activities for children of immigrant workers from Myanmar (Burma), in parallel with ones for the Karen hill tribe in a border village of the Tak province in Myanmar (Burma). In a village of the Karen people, we have seen that the picture books that we have distributed as well as the ideas introduced in training have been routinely employed. As well, the SVA has opened the Teaching Material Development and Training Center to leverage and share what we have learned about training activities. For the program as a whole, approximately 100,000 people have benefited from this

program, out of which 94,316 people have used one of eight community libraries, 5,381 people have participated in mobile-library activities, 219 people have taken part in training, and about 2,000 children have indirectly benefited from this.

In the year 2010, the SVA will continue the library campaign in the areas bordered with Myanmar (Burma) to further expand its effectiveness. As for the two libraries located in the Bangkok slums, we will transfer its operation to the local community.

## Student Dormitories

In two student dormitories in the northern and northeastern areas respectively, the SVA has supported 48 junior and junior-high school students. Specifically, 44 Mon children in the Payao province in the northern area, and 4 children in a northeastern part of a farm village bordered with Laos. As educational conditions in the region improve, the need for student dormitories decreases. Therefore, the SVA has determined to close the Chiangkhan Student Dormitory after the completion of curricula for existing students in March 2010. The student dormitory for the Mon ethnicity in the northern region has focused on agricultural activities to promote independence and they have grown vegetables quite steadily in the newly developed fields. In the year 2010, the student dormitory accommodating the northern Mon people will promote agriculture to achieve operational independence.

## Scholarships

The SVA has offered scholarships to 378 students from the Bangkok slums and from minority ethnic groups. The number of students who are on scholarships is; 185 junior-high school students, 120 high school students, 25 college/university students and 48 dormitory students . The SVA has focused on information collection in places where we have operated as well as on collaboration with administrative authorities to conduct our activities. We have established a new operations system through discussions with related parties to achieve independent project management by local staff with a sense of ownership. In 2010, in order to precisely know the education conditions in the area bordered with Myanmar (Burma), we will maintain a close collaboration with the administrative authorities while trying to reinforce relationships with local citizens and school faculty members. In the area of operations, we would like to work on smooth and efficient management under the new system.

Area	Middle School Student	High School Student	College Student	Total
Bangkok	31	22	7	60
Payao	67	39	13	119
Loei	24	32	5	61
Tak	63	27		90
Total	185	120	25	330

### 2009 Scholarship Recipients by Area

## Reconstruction Aid for Victims of the Suan Phlu Slum Fire Disaster

Five years have passed since this devastating fire occurred. Finally, all of the affected areas have completed rebuilding shelters as of May 2009 and have accommodated people. The SAF runs a nursery school inside the re-built shelter premises and it has 76 children enrolled. Moreover, in order to build up the capabilities of the nursery school staff, we have proactively conducted such activities as training and field visits to external organizations. In 2010, in order to transfer operations to the Khet (ward), we would like to deepen our collaboration with a citizen committee and work on administrative offices. We will also try to develop human resources to improve the operating quality of the nursery school.



# Cambodia

## The Context

Even Cambodia, that had achieved an average of 9 % economic growth during the ten years leading up to 2008 has suffered from the global financial crisis. This has forced many companies to withdraw their business, while many plants and factories have been shut down, thereby causing the entire economy to halt its growth. Fortunately, this is just a transient phenomena. More investment has now been resumed. However, because of military tension with the neighboring state of Thailand, Cambodia's defense budget has increased. Education and sanitation related items narrowly escaped from the budget cuts, but many other items have seen enormous funding reductions to reinforce the military budget.



**The year 2011 falls upon not only the 30th anniversary of the launch of the SVA but also upon the 20th anniversary of the opening of the Cambodia Office. By taking this opportunity, the SVA would like to once again share the principle concept of “Live Together and Learn Together” with all the staff members and to make an all-out effort to implement project plans and routine activities across the board. At the same time, the SVA would like to further deepen our understanding by putting ourselves in the other party's shoes, assuming the intermediate role between those who are in need and those who wish to help them.**

## Libraries

Since 2007, the SVA had conducted the “Talent Development Program to Spread Library Activities in Elementary Schools” for three years in the Siem Reap province and completed it in March 2010. This program was conducted together with those who spread library activities, namely people from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and the Siem Reap Provincial Education Office, district education bureaus, principals of schools, teachers and librarians, and conducted five types of training courses 16 times in four provinces and in one city, with a total of 692 people participating in 2009. The SVA has completed a manual on library activities covering from the level of a school to the one for the Ministry of Education and distributed it to all the provinces. This manual will be used by the Ministry of Education to spread library activities. The “National Story Telling Rally” that the SVA has held every year had 108 people attending from 10 provinces and one city. The activities of each province were also exhibited at the same time. The SVA also conducted mobile-library activities at 144 elementary schools, which 32,509 pupils attended. The SVA

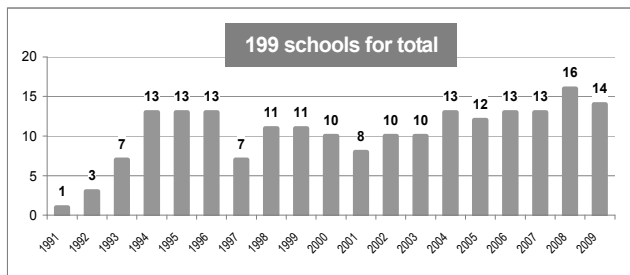
has published 15,000 copies of five picture-books and 1,400 copies of four paper-card shows, which have been distributed mainly to elementary schools together with picture-books that were distributed through the “Campaign to Deliver Picture Books”. Two model libraries have been constructed where many elementary students and students learning at teacher training schools are currently using. In 2010, the two-year “Library Activity Penetration Program involving Satellite Elementary Schools under Cluster School System” will start in the Banteay Meanchey province.

## Dream School

Although the SVA has been profoundly affected by the global financial crisis, we have started to see the result of our across-the-board efforts that have proceeded together with the Tokyo Office, as all the planned 12 elementary school buildings completed their construction as scheduled. In addition to that, acting upon an urgent request from the Head of the Education Bureau of Siem Reap province, the SVA constructed another two school buildings to replace old and dangerous ones by the end of the year. With this, we have completed construction of 14 elementary school buildings that now accommodate 3,340 students (as of October 2009), studying in a safe environment and using sanitary bathrooms.

Thanks to other NGOs and supporters, the SVA installed water purification devices and conducted arsenic testing, allowing children to drink safe water inside the school premises.

The SVA would like to continue cooperation with the education bureaus of the Siem Reap and Kompong Thom provinces to seek further solutions which will enable more children to enroll in school.



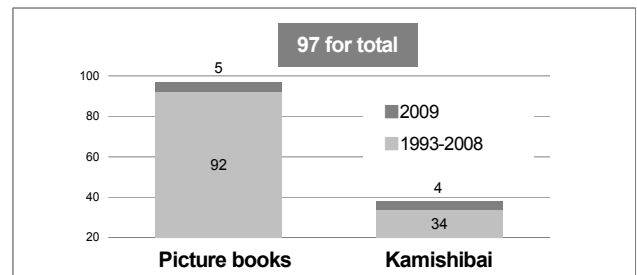
**The Number of Primary School Constructed**

### Activities in Slums

The SVA has conducted 239 mobile library activities in 11 inner city locations and resettlement places in and around Phnom Penh in 2009. The SVA has covered different places every time and a total of 21,856 people (20,714 children and 1,142 adults) enjoyed them. These mobile library activities were operated through collaboration with three NGOs that have operated in the inner city as well as two public schools located inside the activity areas. The SVA has held a seminar for 40 people to enable these NGOs and elementary schools to independently keep conducting this activity on their own. At the end of this seminar, the SVA presented mobile book-boxes and picture books. The SVA has purchased a new vehicle to replace an old one that had been used for long time, enabling us to deliver teaching materials and to move from one activity area to another more efficiently. In 2010, the SVA would like to continue this mobile-library activity while incorporating this into the Library Activities Program to achieve higher expertise for program operation and management.

### Cultural Programs

Through Buddhist temples, the center of Cambodian communities, we have conducted traditional culture preservation activities and natural environment conservation activities. Regarding the traditional culture preservation activities, we have held two types of seminars; one is a seminar involving the preservation of "Khmer traditional dancing and playing", the other is a "seminar involving ethics education based on Buddhism teaching". A total of 357 people participated in them. A study tour to visit our activity sites had 10 monks and village chiefs participating; raising awareness on culture and environment preservation. When the SVA held a seminar to improve management at a Buddhist temple, 29 distinguished monks and related people attended and had a lively discussion. With regard to natural environment conservation activities, the SVA held a seminar concerning "conservation of the natural environment and eco-system diversity", garnering a total of 120 attendees. The SVA has grown a total of 45,415 seedlings of 22 types, at five seedling centers, in addition to the planting, distributing and re-planting of 35,642 trees, in cooperation with monks and local people. The SVA would like to continue these activities in 2010, with a principal focus on preservation of the traditional culture and natural environment.



**A Total Number of Picture Books and Kamishibai Printed by SVA**



## The Context

The success of the South East Asian (SEA) Games in December 2009 has accelerated foreign investment and urban development, mainly in the capital city of Vientiane. Major companies from China, South Korea and Viet Nam have obtained long-term land-use rights and invested in many areas such as excavation of minerals, large-scale plantations and resort development. However, there is a growing concern that these investments may turn out to be exploitation by the major powers, rather than contributing to the general public of Laos.



In the past several years, the SVA has run its activities by “creating model facilities and activities” “penetrating into more difficult areas” and “through networking”. So far we have “modeled”; 1) Public Library Services, 2) Operation Support for the Children’s House, 3) the Place for Teacher Training and Resource Sharing, as well as an approach to improve primary school education with an association for school building construction. In regards to networking and further penetration, the Children’s Cultural Center modeled after Children’s House that started being supported in 1996 is now being spread to as many as 35 places across the nation by the Department of Information and Culture. The SVA would like to evaluate “Primary School Construction and School Cluster Support” and the “Activity to Deliver Mobile Book-Boxes” respectively to examine how we can further roll out these activities in the future.

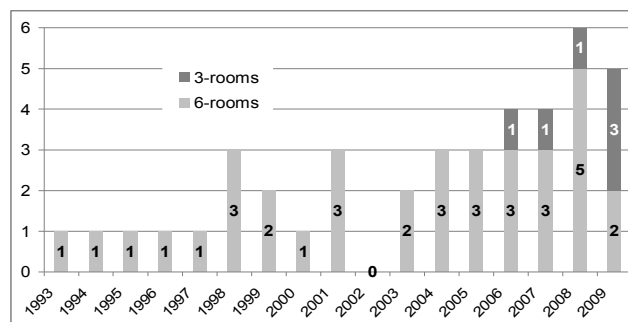
## Primary School Construction and School Cluster Support

In order to improve primary school education, the SVA has provided support for both the “hard” aspect (infrastructure development) and the “soft” aspect (human resource development) in the southern province of Salavane and in a central province of Bolikhamxay. Regarding support for the “hard” aspect, the SVA has helped construct five elementary school buildings (two six-classroom buildings and three buildings with three classrooms), enabling about 440 children to learn in the new school buildings. In regards to the support for the “soft” aspect, the SVA has held a total of four types of seminars as follows; 1) Seminar on school group management (for principals), 2) Seminar on teaching methods and library related matters (for teachers), 3) Seminar on how to participate in school operation (for parents and pupil’s associations) and 4) Seminar on how to check the progress of the operation of the

above-mentioned programs. 420 elementary school teachers and parents attended these seminars.

In 2009 we have seen an increase of construction costs of school buildings due to soaring prices of construction materials, labor costs and transportation fees. There are other issues of the prolonged time for obtaining permission to procure wood because the forest preservation movement has become more intense than before. However, the SVA has successfully continued our program by coordinating with the administrative authority and by cooperating with local residents. For your information, the Department of Education has changed its education policy to: 1) renovate textbooks for primary school education, 2) abolish an examination for advancement to the next year, 3) extend the junior-high-school education period from three years to four years.

In 2010, the SVA will continue to construct more elementary school buildings in the previously mentioned two provinces. In parallel with that, the SVA will hold a seminar for faculties, depending on how the education policy of the government will change as well how the actual classroom situation will develop.



The Number of School Constructed

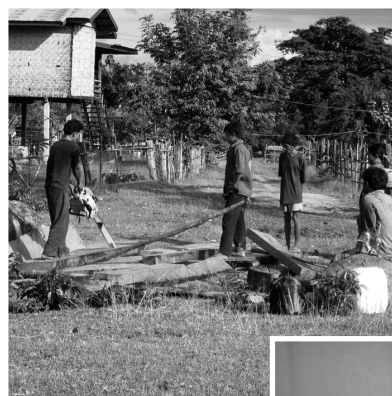
## Library and Youth Activities

In order to further expand and develop the “Reading Promotion Campaign” in Laos, the SVA has constructed a public library in the northern province of Sayaboury and conducted a seminar to develop librarians in 2009. The SVA also distributed mobile book-boxes in the central province of Xienkhouang for three years in a row as well as offering a seminar on how to effectively use mobile book-boxes. Beneficiaries of mobile book-box distribution campaigns in 2009 include 13,500 children and 386 teachers. Two activities in the northern part of Laos, namely, construction of a public library and distribution of mobile book-boxes, offered more opportunities for reading books, for many students and for faculties.

In the capital of Vientiane, the SVA has continued its mobile-library campaign. The SVA has shifted our activity base to a new elementary school and the SVA provided its services at six elementary schools and one facility for visually-challenged people, covering 11,493 students who had previously been unable to appreciate the experience of reading books.

Concerning the publication of picture books, the SVA has published three titles of fantasy/folklore picture books (3,000 copies of each title). These picture books will be distributed to a national library, children’s homes, as well as public and community libraries in seven provinces.

At the “Children’s Home” for culture and education, 13 courses including traditional dancing, singing, weaving and others were offered to many children to inherit the precious culture of Laos. These courses also offered children a rare opportunity where they can exercise their talents, which would otherwise be difficult to identify in a school education setting.



District	School name	# of Services Provided	Users	Borrowed
Saysetha	Somsagha	16	1,000	335
	Khamsavath	16	2,856	101
Sathany	Nongviengkham	17	1,856	276
Sikhottabong	Tathong	17	2,719	1,697
	Home of light	31	606	0
Nasaythong	Houakhoua	17	2,156	282
Hinheup	Houahintit	1	300	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>115 time</b>	<b>11,493</b>	<b>2,691</b>

**The Number of Activities of Mobile Library in 2009**

District	# of book-box	Participants of Workshop	# of Beneficiaries	
			Children	Teacher
Kham	68	46	7,258	192
Phasay	13	13	1,503	70
Nonghaat	19	12	3,660	78
Phougoud	6	1	1,079	46
<b>Total</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>13,500</b>	<b>386</b>

**The Number of Book Box Distributed in 2009**

# Myanmar (Burma) Refugee Camps in Thailand

## The Context

The refugee issue lingering since 1984 has seen no fundamental signs of solution. The government of Myanmar (Burma) resumed its attacks on the Karen ethnic group, on the pretext of the preparation for the general election slated for 2010, thus causing 3,000 people to flee to Thailand in June 2009. Permanent "New Refugees" still exist, leaving as many as 130,000 people (140,000 in 2008, according to TBBC statistics) remaining in the camp. The only breakthrough for this situation is a resettlement policy under which 16,690 people (IOM statistics) left for a third country. The first wave of refugees under the resettlement policy will arrive Japan in September 2010.

As the third phase completed, 2010 will initiate a new phase, or the fourth three-year phase. The elements involved in this effort include a library committee, a cultural committee and youth volunteers at a Library, which have been established and the degree of independent operation by camp residents themselves is increasing. On the other hand, due to the resettlement policy and an influx of new refugees, there is extreme personnel reshuffling going on, which makes it difficult to offer social services inside the refugee camp. In the fourth phase, therefore, we regard the refugee camp as one community, and pursuing the creation of a community-oriented library to be run and managed by a resident organization more than ever. To this end, we will try to build up capacity among existing grass-route organizations as well as to further transfer authority. At the same time, within the camp, the SVA would like to develop local staff who can support the above-mentioned process as well as to prepare operation manuals.

## Libraries

### Expansion and Reconstruction of Existing Libraries

The SVA has reduced the number of libraries from 24 to 22, in consideration of the risk of landslides as well as poor accessibility.

The "New Bear Library" in the Mae Ra Ma Luang camp is 1.5 times more spacious than a typical library floor space. It can be turned into a multi-purpose space once partitions between the adults' and children's areas are removed. Also, thanks to special financing by the UNHCR (the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), the library in the Tham Hin camp changed its 2nd floor material to a cement base, ensuring safety.



## Program to Learn Cultures

The SVA has regularly conducted cultural learning activities at libraries. Some libraries have seen activities slowing down due to a librarian reshuffle but still other events such as Story Telling were held on weekends thanks to the cooperation of youth volunteers. The SVA has conducted other events just like last year, including Child Day, Picture Book Contest, Mother's Day, Karen Festival and Father's Day.

## Distribution of Children/Adults Books

Under the "Program to Distribute Picture Books", books with Karen translation stickers attached arrived in early March 2009 and they were distributed to all of our libraries. The number of copies is 2,537 in total, including the year 2008 titles. The local office has imported Japanese language picture books from Japan if the title can be found in the Karen language. Then those books were distributed to each region after adding Burmese translation.

Prices of books for adults have increased by about 15 % compared to two years ago but approximately 30 books per month per library were purchased and distributed.

## Training for Library Staff and Members of the Library Committee

The SVA has offered one time training for existing librarians in each camp while providing orientation training for new librarians as necessary before they actually start working at a library. The SVA also hosted the 6th joint training session for librarians at the Mae Ra Ma Luang camp. Unfortunately, librarians at the Tham Hin camp could not participate but a total of 45 librarians from each region as well as program coordinators working for each camp attended. They learned new operation methods and exchanged their own experiences with each other during the four-day-and-three-night training session.

## Community Activities

A total of 140 library youth volunteers (20 youths at each camp) have played an active role, such as performing puppet plays, reading from picture books, telling stories illustrated with picture cards and playing games on weekends, mainly at libraries. These have come to be a regular event for children. The SVA also twice conducted training involving puppet plays and story-telling. The SVA would like to provide further support to encourage more independent activities.

## Traditional Cultural Activities

Partly because of a shortage of lecturers due to resettlement as well as a decline in students' interest in traditional culture, the SVA has introduced an intensive lecture style at three camps in the Tak provinces, by using such occasions as festivals inside the camps and the childrens' vacations. The SVA will apply this format to all of the camps in 2010.

The SVA conducted the "Refugee Children Cultural Festival" at the Umpium camp from March 31 to April 3 in 2009. At this four-day-three-nights event, about 80 children from eight ethnic groups in the camp participated in cultural exchange through various activities including games, recreations, excursions and group handicrafts. In a stage program, almost 1,000 camp residents enjoyed the dancing, musical instruments and songs of each ethnic group. This event is descended from the "Asia Children Cultural Festival" that the SVA has conducted in the 1990s. Resident organizations in the camps including the Karen Refugee Committee were all extremely cooperative with us.

## The Number of Camps in which Traditional Culture Classes are Organized

The Name of Class	# of Camps
Tanakeklaw (Harp)	6
Kana (Mandolin)	4
Thaw Htu (Violin)	3
Big Mandolin	1
Karen Dance	7
Pwo Karen	1



## Publication of Picture Books and School Materials

We published three titles (fiction) that were awarded with a prize in the 2008 Picture Book Contest as well as two titles (folklore), whose stories were selected from the 2008 Picture Book Creation Contest. Pictures were chosen from applicable pieces from the "Picture" section of the same contest. The SVA would like to cooperate with the Publication Committee in 2010 to publish five titles including stories based on folk tales.

## The Number of Picture Books Printed

Title	Karen Language	Burma Language
Four Friends	1,000 copies	1,000 copies
The White Dove	1,000 copies	1,000 copies
The Birds Wanted the Peace	1,000 copies	1,000 copies
An Orphan and his Grandma	1,000 copies	1,000 copies
Two Princes	1,000 copies	1,000 copies

## Parent-Child Interaction Through Picture Books

In order to assist mothers who do not know about or have not used a library, the SVA has conducted a training session at all camps, targeting mothers with small children. Each library has given consideration to allow parents to check out a book upon user registration following the training. Still, it is also true that people gradually decrease using the libraries after the short term bump in the number of user registrations and usage which immediately follows this type of training. Therefore, we believe that we need to develop something to reinforce collaboration with day care centers and elementary schools, in addition to the yearly training session.

## Mobile-Libraries at Thai-Karen Nurseries and Elementary Schools

The Sikha Asia Foundation (SAF) has conducted training in Tha Song Yang, the Tak province, covering 33 daycare centers and 7 elementary schools. Mobile book-boxes were replenished with books.

The SAF will focus on a campaign to promote reading books for Karen and Burmese people outside refugee camps while the SVA will provide support for those activities.

## The Number of Users of Libraries (Total): 610,836 persons

Age	Male	% of Male	Female	% of Female	Total	% of Total
0-4	54,739	18%	51,560	17%	106,299	17%
5-17	157,336	50%	149,197	50%	306,533	50%
18-59	97,714	31%	94,260	32%	191,974	32%
Over 60	3,064	1%	2,966	1%	6,030	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>312,853</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>297,983</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>610,836</b>	<b>100%</b>

# Afghanistan

## The Context

The presidential election held in August 2009 exacerbated conflicts among anti-government military forces, the government military forces, international security forces and the U.S. military. This has further intensified during 2009, deteriorating the security situation. Collateral damage, or civilian victims caught in conflicts, measured 2,400, putting the country in the worst situation since 2002. 132 out of 355 schools in the Nangahar province do not have school buildings. Therefore, the need for school construction still remains high but many parts of rural areas still have poor security.



**The SVA has rolled out library activities in 2009, with a major focus on all 22 elementary schools in the city of Jalalabad, the capital of the Nangahar province. We also published eight titles of picture-card shows and picture books. We have constructed three school buildings in rural areas. Through the children's library, the SVA has offered an educational opportunity to 50 children who cannot afford school due to financial hardship.**

**Because the year 2010 is the final year of the library program for elementary schools in Jalalabad city, we will focus on making this initiative well rooted in the communities. We will also evaluate programs to start a program formation study in 2011. We also plan to construct four elementary school buildings.**

## Libraries

### Expanding Library Activities at Elementary Schools

Starting in 2007, the program to spread library activities for the 22 elementary schools in Jalalabad city has marked the 3rd anniversary and has had an extraordinary outcome. Before the start of our program, only 28% of children had used a library, but this number has improved to reach 98%. On average, children have used libraries two times a week. Key to this success is that the SVA has conducted training on library activities three times that have covered approximately 1,000 teachers, equivalent to 90% of faculty members by inviting four teachers in charge of a library as well as principals from each school to go through the training course on library operation and management.

We will offer a training course on library operation and management twice, targeting 22 schools in the city, in addition

to providing a training session on library activities for teachers, focusing on nine schools that the SVA has helped to construct buildings in rural districts.

We have conducted a total of 153 mobile book-box activities that have reached 22 schools in the city as well as six SVA-constructed schools in rural districts. In this activity, we monitor to see whether the activity is implemented properly and provide advice and instructions. In the following year of 2010, the SVA will continue mobile book-box activities.

### Publication of Picture Books and Picture-Card Shows

In 2009, we published six titles of picture books, 600 copies for each of the Pashtun and Dari languages. Another two titles of picture card shows were also published, 100 copies for each of the Pashtun and Dari languages. Seven members of the Publication Committee were involved in publication-related work such as the selection of stories and structure. These picture books and picture-card shows will be used by about 70,000 children in 31 schools and children's libraries in the Nangahar province. In the upcoming year 2010, we are going to publish six titles of books and two titles of picture-card shows.

### Children's Library

In 2009, a total of 28,935 children aged from three to 15 have used children's libraries and half of the users were girls. The SVA organized a special class for children who cannot go to school and 50 children studied there. Library activities such as reading and listening, Tarana (recitation of a poem), sewing classes and monthly events were conducted in the same way as in last year. Since the lease contract of the private residence has expired, we relocated to a different residence in November. In 2010, we will help the children who completed a special class to enroll in an elementary school.

## School Construction

We have constructed a total of three school buildings in 2009; two eight-classroom buildings and one six-classroom building. We have equipped each school with a library and a faculty room. After completing construction, we have held a training session on how to maintain and manage school buildings for teachers and residents. We have established a library, distributed books, provided furniture such as desks and chairs as well as other stationery for students at each school. With these buildings, 1,103 children at three schools combined have been released from a classrooms without roofs and started learning in a safe and comfortable environment. In accordance with it, the number of enrolled children has increased by 297.

We are going to construct a total of four school buildings; two eight-classroom buildings, one six-classroom building and one four-classroom building.

### Information of Schools Constructed

Name	# of Student	# of Teacher	# of Classroom
Faqrullah	1,522	56	8
Ahmad Kot	849	18	8
Khair Abad	694	13	6

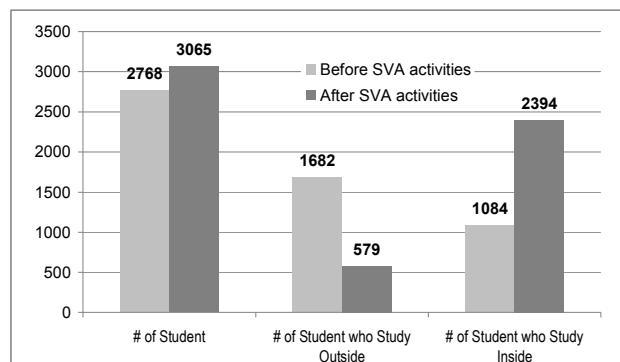
### A Total Number of Schools Constructed by the End of 2009:

The Number of Schools: **22**, The Number of Classrooms: **233**,  
The Number of Student (Beneficiaries): **18,642**

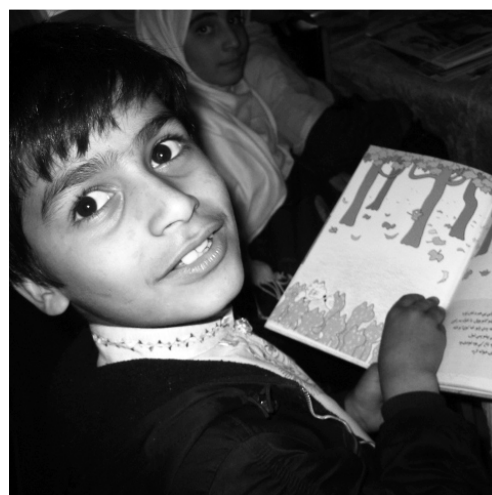
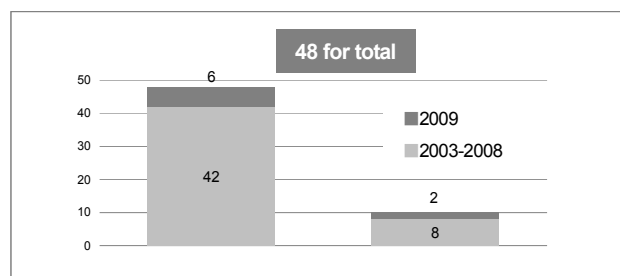
## Faculty Development and International Exchange

Since Japanese staff cannot reside in Afghanistan full time, it is all the more important to shore up the capabilities of local staff members and to promote exchange among them. Therefore, the SVA invited one staff member in charge of accounting and general administration to the Tokyo Office in May 2009 to provide training on accounting. Also the head of the Afghanistan Office and a worker in charge of general administrations took a course on how to ensure safety which was conducted by the UNHCR in May. We also invited the deputy chief of the Afghanistan Office to Japan in October and held reporting meetings in seven places across Japan where 920 people attended and participated in the exchange.

## Impact of School Construction (Data of 3 Schools Constructed in 2009)



## A Total Number of Picture Books and Kamishibai Printed by SVA (2003 to 2009)



## Emergency Relief

From 2009 to the first half of 2010, massive earthquakes shattered many places across the globe including Indonesia, Haiti and Chile. Since 2008, the SVA had worked in disaster-affected areas in Myanmar (Burma) and those efforts were completed in July 2009. After that, the SVA has provided relief activities for six months in the areas hit by the major earthquake off the coast of Sumatra, Indonesia, on September 30.

On the other hand, many places in Japan have also suffered from flooding caused by typhoons and torrential rains from summer to autumn. Especially, we sent our staff to help with operation of the local "Disaster Volunteer Center" established in the wake of the flood disaster (caused by Typhoon No.9) in Sayo-Cho in Hyogo Prefecture in August 2009. On normal days, the SVA organized seminars and training courses on disaster prevention and reduction at schools and social welfare councils.

### Major Emergency Relief Work

- 1995** Hanshin/Awaji great earthquake
- 1997** Relief foodstuffs to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- 1999** Great earthquake in Turkey and Taiwan
- 2001** Earthquake in western India and emergency food support to Afghan refugees
- 2003** Great earthquake in southeastern Iran
- 2004** Typhoon in Toyooka city, great earthquake in Niigata Chuetsu, and Indian Ocean Earthquake
- 2005** Support activities for refugees from volcano eruption on Miyake Island to return to their homes, great earthquake in northeastern Pakistan
- 2006** Earthquake in Central Java
- 2007** Earthquake in Noto Peninsula and Niigata Chuetsu-oki, cyclone Sidr in Bangladesh
- 2008** Cyclone in Myanmar (Burma)
- 2009** Earthquake in Sumatra



### Program to Support Victims of the Earthquake in the Indian Ocean off Sumatra

As early as seven days after the earthquake, the SVA initiated our activities in the Western Sumatra province in Indonesia. Collapsed buildings and mud slides buried people alive, leaving 1,117 people dead.

We provided relief aid in the initial one month. We delivered medical supplies to 1,890 households in six villages; foods (rice, beans, oil, canned foods and so on) to 2,547 households in 12 villages. We also offered construction tool kits (consisting of hammers, shovels, pickaxes, barrows, claws, wires, etc.) to 921 households in three villages to demolish and repair damaged houses as well as to build tentative shelters.

In late October, as the prolonged period for the affected to live in a tent came to be more severely challenging, we offered temporary shelters to a total of 189 households.

Starting in January 2010, with the rallying motto "The Restoration of a



Village starts with Children's Smiles", we have supported children and youths in the affected areas. We have constructed the first libraries for children in four villages. We also offered a total of 1,050 books including picture books and story books for elementary students as well as novels for junior-high and high school students. Moreover, we rebuilt a kindergarten and repaired a daycare center while supporting the opening of two vocational schools. These facilities have been put under the management of neighbors' organizations and local NPOs and therefore SVA activities were completed at the end of April in 2010.

## Cyclone Relief Activities in Myanmar (Burma)

A mega cyclone (typhoon) occurred in May 2008, causing violent storms and tsunami-like high tides to hit villages in the southern parts of Myanmar (Burma). Children and the elderly were caught by waters and failed to escape. Many people were drowned, leaving more than 130,000 people dead or missing. Immediately after this disaster, the SVA initiated relief activities by providing relief aid. We supported the affected areas through local cooperation groups for 15 months until July in the following year of 2009. In the initial two months, we provided drinking water, rice, vegetables and other food, medical supplies, and materials to repair houses to approximately 182,000 people.

We started restoration support in 2009. In order to ensure that cyclone orphans can live in peace, we constructed two orphanages as well as rebuilding 34 daycare centers. In four villages, salt contamination caused by high tides left well water undrinkable and therefore we constructed a “water storage tank” to capture rain and replace useless wells.

In parallel with these local activities, we also appealed to the general public of Japan and ran the “Campaign to Deliver Picture Books to the Affected Area”, resulting in the delivery of a total of 468 books to children living in devastated regions. In order to make sure that these books will be definitely utilized, we conducted training for daycare center staff members to serve as a “Story Telling” teacher.



### “Children’s Library Activity” for Myanmar (Burma) Refugee

In early June 2009, attacks by the government army of Myanmar against minority ethnicities living around the border of Myanmar (Burma) intensified, forcing many people to flee into Thailand by crossing the border. Shelters were established in seven places at such sites as temples, orphanages and private residences in Tha Song Yang, Tak province. It was found that approximately half of about 3,200 people were children age 12 or younger. The SVA had already provided relief activities in the refugee camp and we also helped these “new refugees” for three months by cooperating with local organizations and groups. The SVA’s Mae Sot Office organized an ad-hoc team and made the rounds of three shelters. We ran the “Library Caravan” six times in total, for about 300 children forced to live in refugee conditions that are quite stressful both physically and

psychologically.



## Disaster Prevention Training

In Japan, the SVA sent a lecturer to a disaster prevention seminar/training course to improve regional disaster resilience and disaster alleviation capabilities. In 2009, we held a seminar with a theme “What can you do in an “emergency”?” at 10 places in total including universities, high schools, junior high schools and elementary schools, as well as social welfare councils. Through these activities, we would like to raise awareness about the importance of attitudes toward disaster in everyday life as well as people’s networks.

## Networking

In September 2009, we cooperated in implementing the “Drill to Assist Those Who have Difficulties Returning Home” as preparation for a massive earthquake in metropolitan areas. We also have taken part in the “Map Exercise for Relief Activities by Disaster Volunteers”, which has been held in Shizuoka Prefecture every February, to explore how extensive collaboration should function when an emergency situation occurs. In addition to the above-mentioned activities, we have joined the “Tokyo Disaster Volunteer Network” and the “National Network connected by Earthquake Disaster” to reinforce cooperation in preparing ourselves for an unexpected emergency, with an emphasis on “Relationships with a Face” as an important concept.



# Japan

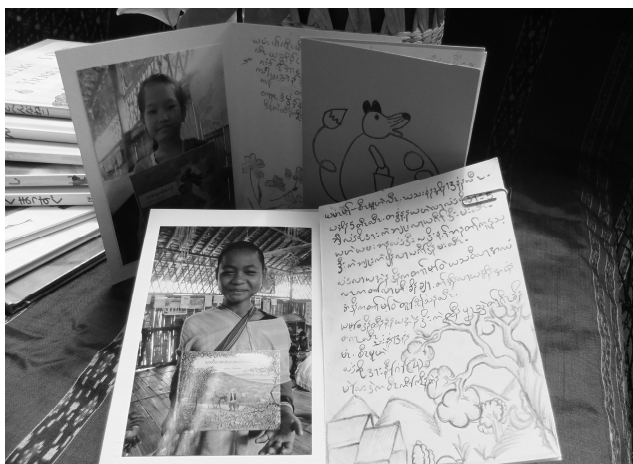
The SVA organized a study meeting for board members and auditors as well as arranging a gathering of representatives of members, to discuss whether we can hold an event where many members in the country side can participate. We would like to turn this idea into reality in 2010. Additionally, since Craft Aid, which originated from a refugee camp in Laos will mark its 25th anniversary in 2010, we will organize a study tour that will visit Laos and northern Thailand. We would like to introduce activities whereby Japanese people do not have to go overseas while also creating more and more opportunities where Japanese people can see a site with their own eyes.

## Child Book Supporters

~ Effort to Disseminate Information to Inform People of the Significance of the SVA's Activities ~

As of the end of 2009, 650 people with 834 accounts have registered as child book supporters. We sent a letter of appreciation from the children who have benefited from this activity in April. Many supporters gave us feedback after reading the voices of joy and living situations written by children. We started sending out our in-house magazine "Shanti" in the autumn to give a more specific picture of our activities both at home and abroad, together with news mailings.

We will further strive to let people FEEL the significance and outcome of our activities as well as a greater sense of closeness to Asian children and the SVA.



## Campaign to Deliver Picture Books

~ 150,000 books for children ~

We have made picture books again in 2009 and the amount is 23,409. The cumulative number of books we have sent is now more than 150,000 since we started this campaign. In addition to individuals, 98 schools and 118 companies in total have participated in this. We have enjoyed support from the Bellmark Education Support Foundation as well as continuous transportation assistance from a shipping company. In 2010, we are going to refresh the titles we are going to send to Laos and renew brochures. We will deliver the "Seeds of Picture Book", striving for the target number of 20,000 books.

## Public Relations

~ Communicating our Activities in an Easy-to-Understand Way ~

The SVA has tried to disseminate a great deal of interesting information through our website, blog, and news mailings. As a co-host with the RAKUGO (Japanese sit-down comedy) Art Association, we have held the "Charity YOSE (Japanese vaudeville)" event 52 times a year, mainly at temples. The frequency has increased year by year and we expect that the number will further grow in 2010. Our in-house magazine "Shanti - Spring Issue" featuring an elementary school in each country was highly appreciated by many people, with such feedback of "It is easy to understand what the SVA is doing". In the future, regardless of the entity, whether it be an individual or a company or religious corporation, we will make an all-out effort to let many people know and understand our activities.



## Craft Aid

~ 25th Anniversary from the Laos Refugee Camp ~

We held an exhibition featuring ethnic Mon embroidery in February and held an event to introduce new catalogues in April. As a result, we received coverage in 15 media interviews and articles. We have increased the number of newly registered fair trade shops by nine. The year 2010 will mark the 25th anniversary since the start of the Craft Aid program and we will focus on public affairs and sales activities by developing a variety of events such as a summer study tour where participants can visit manufacturers as well as a mini-fair across Japan through outsourcing.



## Support for Overseas Programs

~ Further Collaboration between Overseas and Domestic Programs ~

We have implemented overseas fund-raising activities almost as planned in 2009. We have evaluated programs and conducted formation studies while supporting the Sikha Asia Foundation (SAF) to help them develop a plan for independence. We also made policy recommendations as well as exchanging information by taking part in NGO networking activities. In 2010, we would like to further promote collaboration between overseas offices and domestic activities to reinforce the support system for overseas programs.

## Recycled Book Aid

~ Everyone is welcome ~

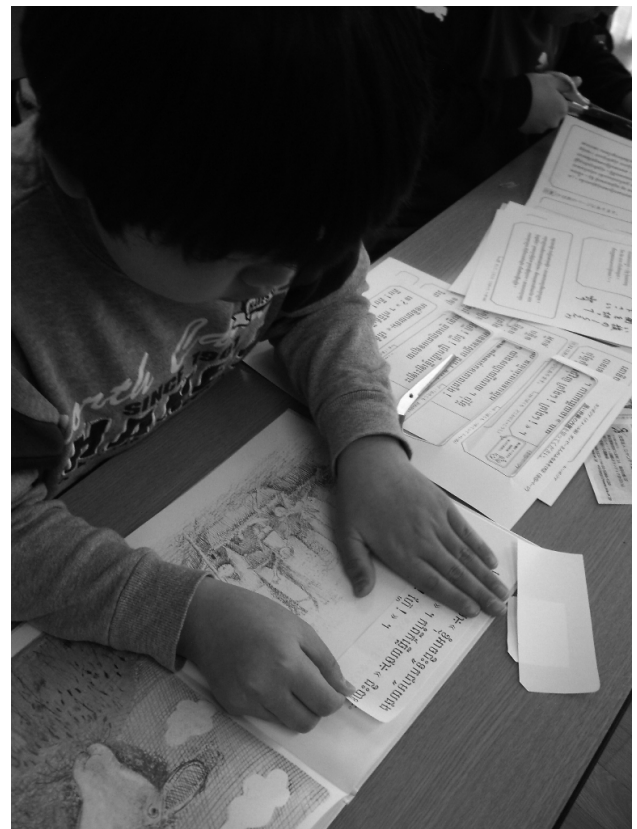
We have held a "Recycle Book Aid" campaign three times, with exposure in many mass media outlets including newspapers, magazines and radio. Many individuals and corporations supported this initiative and the amount of donations has been 108 % higher than last year. Participation in this campaign is of special importance to many people. There are quite a number of people who have participated in this campaign many times, with the result of stimulating interest for participating in other activities and programs. In 2010, we would like to encourage more and more people to join us casually to let them take one step toward action.



## Research and Advocacy

~ Campaign to Give Every Child Education of the World ~

As a secretariat for the Japan NGO Network for Education (JNNE), we have conducted the "Campaign to Give Every Child Education of the World", having 20,000 children from 153 elementary and junior-high schools participating. We also published a Japanese translation version of the "Education for All Global Monitoring Report" while co-hosting a seminar with the Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).



## Financial report

Income	Year 2008	Year 2009
Bank Interest	6,313	4,179
Membership fee	290,417	321,342
Donation	4,354,461	4,040,276
Subsidy	1,604,617	1,686,409
Programs for profit	735,572	660,524
Others	54,116	20,365
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,045,496</b>	<b>6,733,095</b>

Expenditures	Year 2008	Year 2009
Thailand	346,198	384,899
Cambodia	1,515,104	1,827,991
Laos	775,246	808,460
Myanmar (Burma) Refugee Project	478,775	619,226
Afghanistan	874,379	965,554
Emergency Relief	974,539	367,505
Domestic Programs	1,195,236	1,083,594
Administration	193,673	150,741
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,353,150</b>	<b>6,207,970</b>

## SVA Association Members

### SVA Association Members:

1,910 members (As of December 31, 2009)

### Honorary President:

Rev. Zendo Matsunaga

### Advisors:

Mr. Fusao Adachi	Rev. Hojun Abe
Prof. Yutaka Aramaki	Rev. Eisho Kawahara
Rev. Kosho Hatamoto	Rev. Sojun Matsuno

### SVA Executive Board Members:

#### President:

Rev. Kyoei Wakabayashi

#### Vice President:

Ms. Kayoko Kozu	Rev. Gido Sambe
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#### Chief Executive Director:

Rev. Shunko Chino

#### Managing Directors:

Rev. Rigyo Kurashina	Rev. Bunmei Hayasaka
Mr. Katsumasa Yagisawa	

#### Board of Directors:

Mr. Yasuo Uehara	Mr. Hiroki Kamezaki
Ms. Teruko Satomi	Mr. Jikigen Sumi
Mr. Hisashi Seki	Ms. Hiromi Nagahori
Mr. Shuichi Nomura	Ms. Yoriko Hagino
Prof. Tatsuya Hata	Rev. Kenshi Fueoka
Mr. Keiji Watanabe	

#### Auditors:

Mr. Toshiyuki Aoki	Mr. Takashi Shiraishi
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