

Move forward, hand in hand.

2011-2012

Annual Report 2011
Activity Plan 2012



Shanti Volunteer Association

Stand with people in need around the world.



Greeting from President

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you who have shared in the philosophy behind our SVA activities and supported us both formally and informally.

Since the Great East Japan Earthquake that occurred on March 11th 2011, we have been awash with encouragement and support both at home and abroad, which drives home the very importance of kizuna (bonding) and en (relationships). We aim to cherish such connections as we conduct activities through the SVA's Offices at Kesennuma and Iwate by walking alongside the survivors, who are forever in our hearts.

The last year holds another significant meaning for us, since we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the SVA itself, as well as the 20-year milestone since the opening of our Cambodian Office. It has made us keenly aware of how far we have come and how much we owe to our predecessors. The SVA is determined to turn this into an important opportunity for further growth, and we have established a three-year plan towards 2013 with priorities on the following:

- 1) The SVA will offer the opportunity of reading books to 1.65 million people through our Library Activities.
- 2) The SVA will promote autonomous operations at each of our offices in various countries.
- 3) The SVA shall aim to realize a society where people "live together and learn together" through sympathies generated by SVA activities.

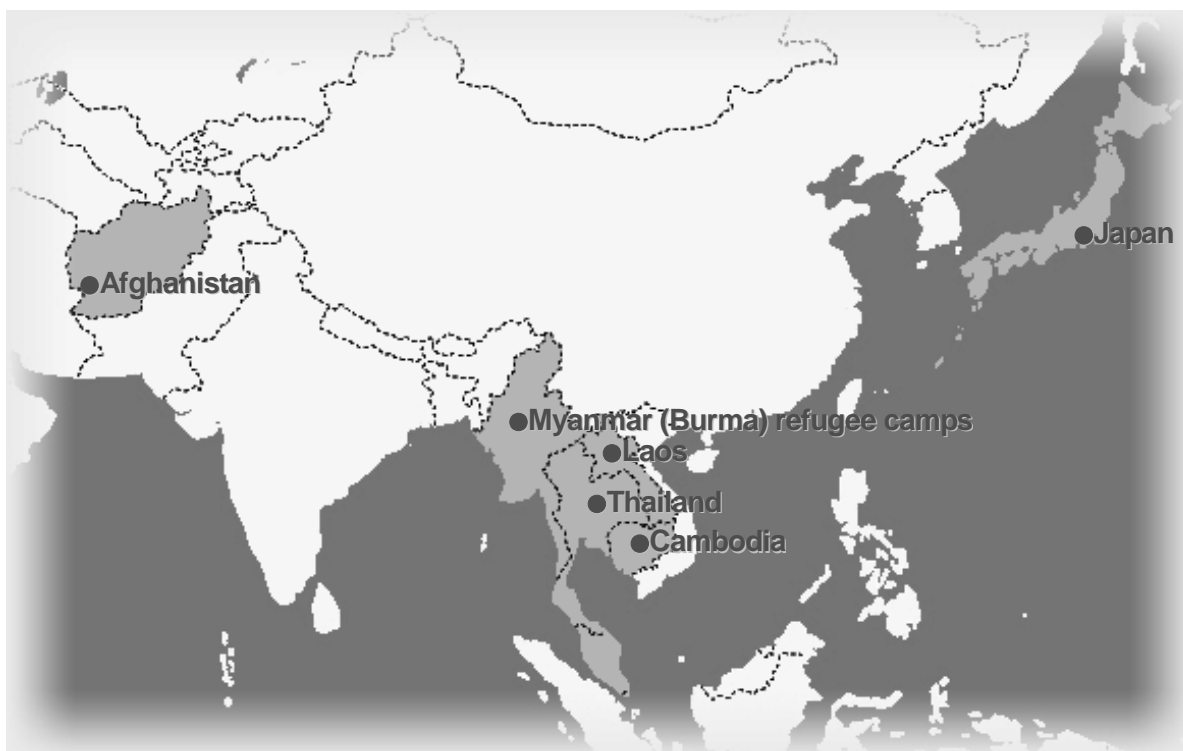
With a focus on these three areas, we will try to galvanize as many people as possible to join in our activities.

The SVA has already launched concrete initiatives for achieving the above-mentioned three priorities put forth in our three-year plan.

The efforts we have made in trying to offer opportunities for education to as many children as possible is well aligned with the cause of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It is said that there are approximately 69 million children across the globe who are deprived of the opportunity for an education. The major culprit behind this dire situation is poverty. If there is any way out of this destitution, it can only be through receiving an education. In other words, this depends on whether we are able to create an environment where education can be ensured for all children. The effects cannot be seen overnight. However, just like the hard work required for cultivating the earth and tending plants that promises an abundant future harvest, we have to soldier on. Therefore, let us urge you to join us in supporting the future of children everywhere and the realization of a peaceful society.

Kyoei Wakabayashi,

President, Shanti Volunteer Association (SVA)



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.

SVA History

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

1981 Volunteers of the JSRC established the Sotoshu Volunteer Association (SVA).

1984 The first development project of the SVA was launched in the village of Baan Wawai, Surin Province, Thailand.

1985 The SVA commenced its printing project at Ban Vinai Refugee Camp in Thailand. The SVA also launched library activities at Chian Khan District in Loei Province and the Suanphlu slums in Bangkok. "Craft Aid" was launched.

1989 The SVA opened a vocational training center in the Kong Toey slums in Bangkok, Thailand.

1991 The Cambodian Office was established in Phnom Penh, and the Sikkha Asia Foundation, a local subsidiary of the SVA in Thailand, was also established.

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

1995 The SVA undertook relief activities for the victims of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake.

1999 The association was renamed the "Shanti Volunteer Association (SVA)". The SVA initiated its "Campaign to Deliver Books."

2000 The Head Office was opened in Myanmar (Burma) for refugees. The Rev. Jitsuyo Arima, the former executive director of the SVA, passed away.

2001 The SVA began activities to support Afghanistan refugees after 9/11 in the United States, embarking on the "Recycle Book Aid" project.

2003 The Afghanistan Office was opened. "Serenity on Earth" by the late Rev. Jitsuyo Arima was published.

2005 The SVA participated in World Expo 2005 in Aichi Prefecture. The "Supporters for Asian Libraries" initiative was initiated.

2011 The organization was transformed from a social cooperation to a public social cooperation.

Offices were established in Kesennuma City, Miyagi Prefecture, and Tono City, Iwate Prefecture, to support survivors of the Great East Japan Earthquake. The SVA celebrated its 30th anniversary. "Libraries Beyond Borders ~ the trajectory of what an NGO has achieved over the past three decades in the area of international cooperation~" was published.



Review of 2011

The Great East Japan Earthquake struck on March 11th and was followed by a one-in-a-millennium tsunami disaster as well as the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant accident, which should be rightfully referred to as a human disaster. Even for the SVA, with all its experience in relief activities following massive disasters both at home and abroad since the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, we were unable to predict what our activities would entail in this case. We were forced to conduct activities in the dark. We established an activity hub and decided on priorities for support... We had to go through much trial and error together with our supporters gathered from across Japan. The SVA ran emergency relief activities in Kesennuma City, Miyagi Prefecture, followed by recovery support, with our eyes firmly focused on communities. The SVA launched library activities in July in Iwate Prefecture by leveraging our overseas experience. We also requested monetary support in countries with SVA footprints, and we were blessed with an enormous amount of support from companies and NGOs across Europe and the United States. This support is evidence of our ties that extend beyond borders.

The year 2011 marked the 30th anniversary since the SVA began its first activities at the Cambodian Refugee Camp. However, we had to cancel any commemorative celebrations for the 30th anniversary due to the earthquake. In addition to that, the amount of ordinary donations declined more than 30%,

and proceeds from handcraft sales also dropped. The number of people who participated in domestic activities such as delivering picture books precipitated. The earthquake had significant ramifications for us.

With regards to overseas activities, the SVA strived to offer reading opportunities to 16.5 million children as part of our goals under the three-year plan (2011 - 2013), more specifically referred to as the "Further Expansion of Reading Promotion Activity." In just one year (2011), we successfully reached out to 805,000 children. Although the amount of ordinary donations decreased, we were privileged enough to receive donations designated for overseas activities from one of our greatest sources, enabling us to overcome difficulties. Meanwhile, we also reinforced the auditing function for our own business organization, and conducted a large-scale accounting and general administration seminar for the first time, which made us realize the importance of having a framework that supports the implementation of our activities.

With the passing of a bill in Japan pertaining to the public legal entity system, the SVA changed its entity to that of a public social cooperation in 2011. Due to this, the SVA changed its accounting principles, assigning clear legal status to the Board of Directors. In an effort to become a more responsible organization, the SVA has tried to reinforce its organizational structure.



Towards 2012

■ Activities for Supporting Survivors of the Great East Japan Earthquake

The SVA will continue to support earthquake survivors in 2012 until they are able to stand on their own feet and realize an independent lifestyle. We will keep working together with communities who have the same mindset as ours to move towards a full recovery.

■ New Developments in Afghanistan

Ten years have passed since the 9/11 terrorist attack devastated the world and the SVA embarked on activities that promote education in the Nangarhar Province located in the eastern part of Afghanistan. These ten years have generated steady results thanks to close cooperation with the people of Afghanistan, though the tough situation still remains.

With regards to school construction activities, the SVA will enter a new phase by shifting our target area to the Kabul Province in 2012.



■ Towards the Localization of Individual Country Operations ~ Striving for Further Improvements in Emerging Countries

Based on the SVA's basic policy of "Localized Operation," we will develop an action plan for each country's office.

In parallel with this, in countries facing great difficulties, the SVA will define a development policy to begin education and cultural support initiatives and perform a feasibility study for identifying possibilities by leveraging our experience based on what we have learned through reading promotion activities.



■ Expanding the SVA Support Base

The SVA admits that it has not yet adequately reached the younger generations and we will therefore put more energy into establishing a rapport with youth, while continuing to share information with people whom we have encountered through emergency relief activities for the great earthquake. The SVA will launch an initiative to expand "pro-SVA", or SVA fans, so people know who we are.

Thailand



Official language: Thai

Capital: Bangkok

Land area: 514,000 km²

Population: 63.88 million
(IMF data as of 2010)

Per capita GDP: US\$4,992
(IMF data as of 2010)

Currency: Baht (฿)

Time difference with Japan: + 7 hours

In a general election held on July 3rd 2011, the opposition party For Thais Party won, and Ms. Takshin Shinawatt became the first female prime minister of the nation. In addition to the political change, there were disasters caused by violent natural acts. Prolonged torrential rains in the northern part of the country as well as other regions left 58 prefectures and the capital of Bangkok flooded, accounting for 76.6 % of the nation's land area. This was the worst flooding the country had seen in half a century. Major industrial complexes were also flooded, forcing them to suspend operations.

Many people were laid off, or even worse, asked to leave their companies, shedding a huge negative cloud over economic activities.

The government of Thailand has ensured free education for 15 years from third-year preschool to the high school level. However, there is not enough money for classrooms to operate and additional fees need to be collected from parents, placing a huge strain on parents and caretakers in financially weak communities. Mainly along border areas and in Bangkok, it is said that there are more than 1.5 million immigrant workers from Myanmar (Burma) and these immigrants can only get work in extremely poor working environments. As if this were not enough, because their social status is unstable, it makes it extremely difficult for their children to receive an education. That is why the SVA is determined to provide assistance to the children of immigrants in border areas in 2012.

Aiming to make the Sikha Asia Foundation (SAF) an autonomous organization by the end of 2014, we will proceed with various initiatives to equip the SAF with the capacity for operation management, financing, planning and management while assuming development and assistance projects in Thailand.

2011 Activity Report

■ Promoting Reading in Border Areas with Myanmar (Burma)

A seminar catering to teachers at nurseries and elementary schools was held in Tak Province, attracting 162 participants. Since then, picture books and teaching materials encountered at the seminar have been used in their classrooms.

The SVA ran a mobile library service at 30 schools where children of immigrants from Myanmar (Burma) study as well as at 19 nurseries in the Umphang District. In addition to 11,386 children taking part in these activities, 517 faculty members also attended to learn necessary skills. The SVA also tried to reinforce networks in these areas by attending general conferences for the schools of immigrants hosted by the district's Education Department.



■ Transferring Community Library Operations in the Bangkok Slums

The SVA had operated the Chua Plerng Library for almost 20 years, but was determined to transfer its operations to the district's administrative body, and undertook a series of discussions with the Regional Development Section and head of the community committee. In 2011, the SVA submitted an application for transferring operations to the Regional Development Section of the Yannawar District and these documents will be reviewed during 2012. The Chua Plerng Library has 11,506 users annually.

■ Scholarships

The SVA initiated a scholarship program for children of ethnic Karens in the Umphang District and for the children of immigrants from Myanmar (Burma) in the Mae Sot District from 2011. Under this program, 405 students from junior-high-school level to university, including the Bangkok slum area, have been granted scholarships. 334 students on the scholarship program took part in community clean-up activities, while 60 scholarship students in the Payao Province demolished old abandoned huts and turned them into warehouses for storing agricultural tools for the community. These are just some of examples showing how proactively scholarship students participate in activities and contribute to the community

■ Student Dormitory Maintenance and Management

The SVA has continued its efforts for realizing independent operations at a student dormitory housing 50 junior high school and high school students from minority ethnic groups living in mountainous areas in the provinces of Payao, Nan and Chiang Rai.

Since vegetables, rice and vegetables are grown on the dormitory campus as well as the implementation of pig and fish farming, food costs are reduced by 20%. Currently, SVA members gather after meeting with the school principal to obtain money for operations from the administration.

■ Suan Phlu Slum Nursery

In 2011, 93 children enrolled in the Suan Phlu Slum Nursery. Our renewed focus emphasizes capacity-building with regards to teaching staff, and we have promoted their attendance at a total of eight seminars, covering topics such as the Montessori method, art therapy, picture book therapy and textile toys.

With regards to transferring the nursery school operations, we have conducted many discussions between the Nursery Operation Committee, mainly consisting of community leaders, and the Regional Development Section of the Sathorn District. Thanks to these efforts, the application process for transferring operations was successfully completed. This makes it possible for the nursery to receive contributions from the district to cover part of its labor costs and lunch fees for nursery teachers, effective as of May 2012.



The library adjacent to the nursery has changed its role from a community library to an in-nursery library and will continue to serve as a center for various activities aimed at nursery students and their parents.

Plan for 2012

■ Promoting Reading in Border Areas with Myanmar (Burma) *

- Conduct a mobile library service and seminars, and distribute picture books
- Hold seminars to improve the quality of infant education in the region

■ Transferring Community Library Operations in the Bangkok Slums *

- Enhance participation by communities in dealing with issues including eviction, while promoting community autonomy
- Conduct continuous negotiations with the district's administrative body

■ Scholarships

- Review the way this project is implemented including details and methods of payment
- Focus on understanding the current conditions of education in target regions

■ Student Dormitory Maintenance and Management

- Enhance independency by increasing agricultural crop yields
- Procure financing for operational costs from governmental and private bodies

■ Suan Phlu Slum Nursery *

- Support the Operation Committee and capacity building towards autonomous operations
- Organize a structure and develop an environment capable of supporting an expected increase in enrolling children since the Suan Phlu Slum Nursery is now a district-run public nursery



Note: Items marked with an asterisk (*) indicate direct support from the SVA will end and the SAF will therefore inherit the operations based on project evaluation results in July.

Cambodia



Official Language: Khmer

Capital: Phnom Penh

Land area: 1,810,000 km²

Population: 14.29 million

(as of 2010, according to the IMF)

Per capita GDP: US\$813

(as of 2010, according to the IMF)

Currency: Riel (KHR)

Time difference with Japan: - 2 hours

Water damage in August 2011 caused by the worst flooding in Cambodia's history affected more than one million people in 18 out of 24 states. Flooding occurred in 17% of the country's rice paddies, leaving a serious impact on agricultural areas.

The government of Cambodia has continued to prioritize economic growth as the pillar for the nation's policies, placing much effort on infrastructure development for strengthening its economic platform. At the same time, it has also regarded education as an important national cornerstone and has focused on quality improvement in this area.

The SVA's Cambodian Office celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2011, providing us with an opportunity for review. The SVA is determined to leverage its experiences for the purpose of future activities. Office operations are now conducted under a new organizational structure introduced in 2011. The office aims to enhance talent development of future leaders, partly for the purposes of encouraging senior-level local staff to become involved not only in organizational operations but also in projects. In addition to this, further efforts will be made to deepen the specialties of staff members to provide a higher quality of support. With regards to projects, the SVA will keep an eye out for new challenges and identify any hidden beneficiaries in new regions based on the evaluation of past projects. The SVA will continue to pursue new project development as it fully utilizes its unique position.



2011 Activity Report

■ Libraries

The Standard for Elementary School Libraries (a minimum standard guideline) was established in Cambodia. The SVA has conducted various discussions with related organizations and also with the Education Ministry on the state of the guideline.

The promotion of library activities in satellite elementary schools under the "cluster school system" supported by the grassroots cooperation project grant from the JICA in Banteay Meanchey Province covered 86 core schools as well as 86 satellite schools across 2 districts. The "Seminar on Studying Library Activity Manuals" targeting satellite schools was attended by 267 librarians and school principals. Based on monitoring of the core and satellite schools, participants discussed the challenges faced by the schools in conducting library activities, while receiving technical training. Mobile library services were conducted as many as 243 times during monitoring and other occasions, and 47,699 people including students, teachers, parents and other related persons took part. The "Library Activity Seminar" catering to trainees and trainers at teacher training schools was conducted in the provinces of Siem Reap and Pursat where 323 people attended. In the 16th Storytelling Contest, three representatives from each of 17 provinces and cities showed off their excellent storytelling skills as they competed against each other.

The SVA published seven picture books (3,000 copies of each title) and one picture-card show (350 copies) as well as republishing two titles (3,000 copies of each title). The SVA distributed 45,172 books and 811 picture-card shows in 264 locations. It should be noted that the picture books (approximately 40,000 copies) published by the SVA will be distributed by the Education Ministry at target elementary schools across the nation.



■ Slum Activities

The SVA conducted mobile library services 108 times at 11 locations including slums and resettlement areas in and around Phnom Penh, which were attended by 8,787 children and residents. At the same time, the SVA distributed 1,472 picture books, 38 picture-card shows and book boxes as part of its mobile library services to four organizations active in these regions. Since the operational handover to a local NGO is complete, the SVA will no longer conduct these activities. However, as part of its publication project, the SVA will continue to conduct the mobile library service and distribute books in slum areas over the next year.

■ Dream School Project

Due to flooding where the SVA had planned to construct a school, we offered emergency relief to deal with the situation. Still, nine schools out of the 10 planned have been completed (four three-classroom buildings and five five-classroom buildings). Among these 9 schools, four bathrooms and other facilities were installed. Once construction was complete, we planted approximately 100 seedlings in each school yard. As additional support, the SVA provided repair work for the damaged buildings at two schools in the Takeo Province and one school in the Prey Veng Province. As part of monitoring activities conducted during and after construction, the SVA offered free-reading opportunities at each school in which 8,757 children and 395 teachers from 127 schools took part.

In order to increase collaboration between schools and the SVA, while encouraging community participation as well as the smooth operation and maintenance of schools, the SVA held a seminar, offering a three-day session for representatives from 33 schools.

■ Cultural Programs

In Kompong Thom Province, the SVA held a seminar on "Ethnic Education Based on Buddhist Teachings." This was attended by 130 people including monks, village chiefs and principals. The SVA also organized a study tour to teach about protecting traditional cultures in the provinces of Svay Rieng and Kompong Thom, which was attended by 29 monks and village chiefs. Furthermore, we held a seminar on strengthen temple management in the Kompong Thom Province, and 29 monks and interested persons took part. In Siem Reap Province, the SVA organized a seminar and study tour related to nature preservation, traditional culture inheritance and temple management which was attended by 29 people.

As part of its activities on saving nature and promoting biodiversity, the SVA planted 32,000 seedlings along the 17.4-km irrigation canals in Svay Rieng Province, and we have found these trees are growing very well. The SVA also ensured 10,020 seedlings for Kompong Thom Province and 55,182 seedlings for Svay Rieng Province.

The SVA invited deputy provincial governors, monks and village

chiefs to a seminar for reflecting on what we have achieved over the past five years. This was attended by 112 people from Svay Rieng Province and 92 people from Kompong Thom Province. Attendees evaluated past projects and discussed future plans after the withdrawal of the SVA.

Plan for 2012

■ School Library Operation Project with Community Participation (Changed from the "Library Project")

- Construct a school library that meets the standard for elementary school libraries (the minimum standard guideline)
- Hold a seminar that acts as a forum where school librarians, teachers and principals can learn and practice basic knowhow on operating school libraries and selecting appropriate books, while allowing community members to deepen their understanding of school libraries
- Promote reading activities

■ Cultural Project on Publishing Picture Books and Picture-Card Shows (Removed from the "Library Project")

- Hold a seminar for authors and painters to improve their techniques and skills
- Distribute books and picture-card shows in target areas
- Monitor and evaluate areas chosen for book distribution
- Implement a mobile library service

■ Dream Elementary School Project (Changed from the "Dream School Project")

- Conduct as an extension of the existing school building construction project involving the establishment of three school buildings (two three-classroom buildings and one five-classroom building) in the provinces of Kompong Thom and Siem Reap
- Construct six five-classroom buildings and five library buildings at five schools located in the provinces of Siem Reap and Banteay Meanchey
- Distribute equipment necessary for school libraries together with books
- Hold a seminar on community-assisted school operation and school library management

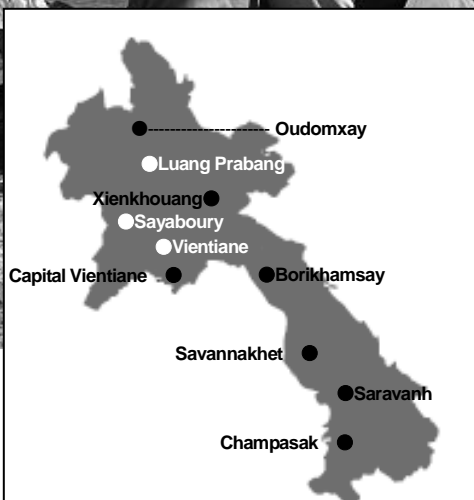
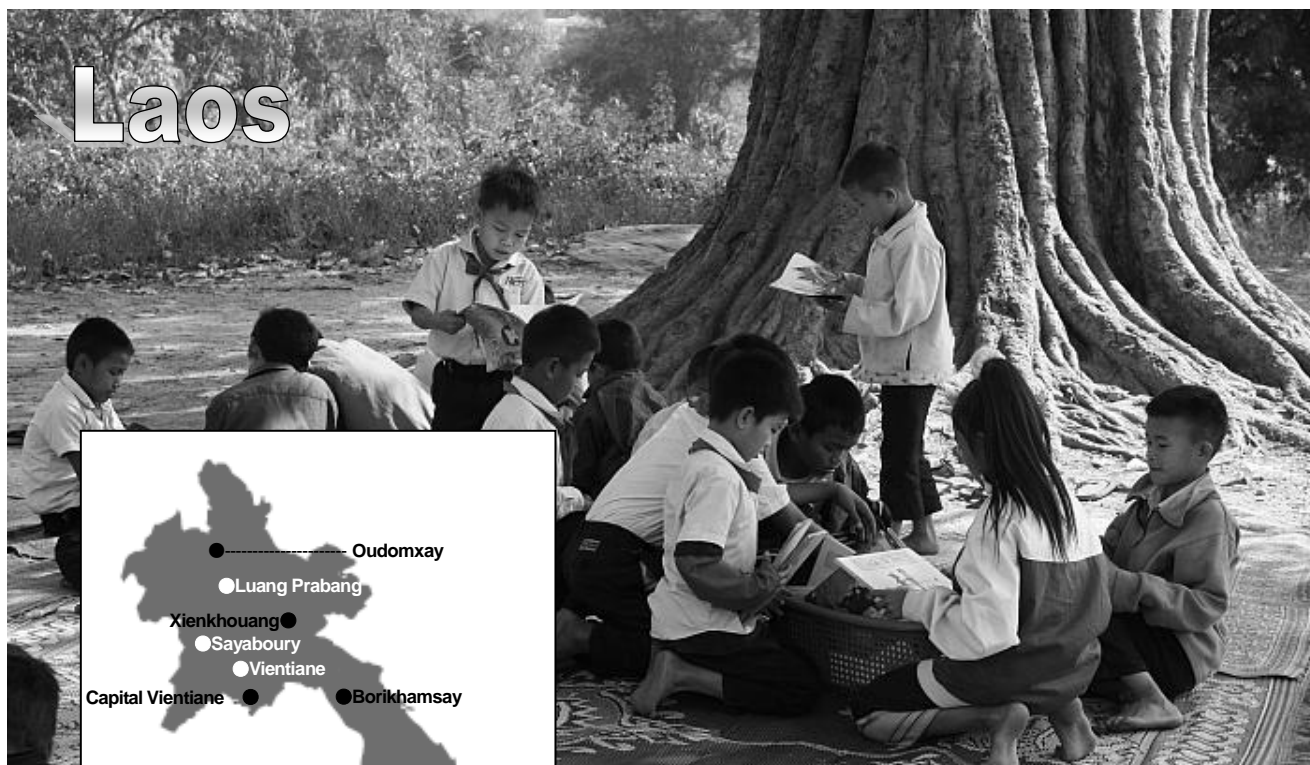
■ Cultural Programs

- Hold a seminar on temple management and transferring operations

■ Community Learning Center Project Centered on Library Activities (New Initiative)

- Conduct a study to initiate the project, while reinforcing collaboration with ministries and government-related bodies
- Hold a planning meeting for the implementation of the project at a core village in the target area
- Strengthen cooperative relationships with government bodies and other agencies to implement the Community Learning Center Project through participation in network meetings

Laos



Official language: Lao

Capital: Vientiane

Total land area: 240,000 km²

Population: 6.32 million

(as of 2009, according to the IMF)

Per capita GDP: US\$885.71

(as of 2009, according to the IMF)

Currency: Kip

Time difference with Japan: - 2 hours

In 2011, good progress was made on development work along the Mekong River facing the capital of Vientiane. The third friendship bridge over the Mekong River opened between the southern part of Laos and Thailand. Lao Airlines, the state-run air carrier, began direct flights to Singapore as it introduced jet airplanes. This series of events forged stronger ties with nations in the region and furthered economic development. With continued investment from neighboring countries, Laos has been able to increase its revenue stemming from mineral development and further promote economic development.

This year marks the 20th anniversary for the SVA since beginning our activities in Laos. In the area of contract projects commissioned by the government of Laos, the SVA is required to stay up-to-date on the latest developments in international cooperation related to education as well as the country's domestic education policies towards the next phase of activities, while gathering as much information as possible. With regards to the SVA's independent activities, continuing on from what we

have achieved over the last year, we will strive to provide a higher quality of services, technologies and materials under the mission of the Laos Office, while further developing local talent to foster teachers and librarians. At the same time, together with the Tokyo Office, the Laos Office will establish a management system including administrative and financial functions to effectively support these operations. This requires clearer decision-making and information-sharing processes within the organization across different sections, and as a result, the SVA will continue to develop the project operation skills and specialties of local staff (e.g., library operation and general matters related to educational development).

2011 Activity Report

■Library and Youth Activities

The Oudomxay Province Public Library was opened with the aid of Reading Promotion Activities through Public Library supported by JICA Partnership Program (JPP)- Partner Type operated by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) since August 2010. The SVA also held a seminar on improving operational skills. The Houaphanh Province Public Library successfully opened its doors in January 2012, thanks to private sector support that assisted with its construction.

In June, the SVA held a seminar to train staff on how to compile budgets as well as ensure human resources, and was aimed at staff from Provincial Information and Culture Service (PICS) (consisting of staff from public libraries and related personnel) and the Education Bureau. It taught them about administrative systems and how to conduct smooth operations at public libraries, and was attended by interested persons from the provinces of Champasak, Savannakhet, Vientiane and Luang Prabang as well as the capital Vientiane.

The SVA also supported the Vientiane Provincial Public Library's outreach activities, which aim to connect libraries and schools. While a total number of 383 teachers practiced how they could promote book-reading, 5,560 took advantage of the



opportunity.

Together with librarians from the Capital Vientiane Library, we ran a mobile library service at three elementary schools. This service attracted 13,825 student participants and 6,805 books were checked out.

In the area of publishing, the SVA printed four picture books (3,000 copies of each title). 11,489 picture books were published in Laos and 2,841 picture books were distributed to nine public libraries, 170 school libraries, cultural centers for children (17 provinces and six districts), 19 district libraries, a mobile library service in Luang Prabang (employing two boats), 44 kindergartens, and four resource centers to which the SVA had provided support as part of a school education support program.

Because the number of newly constructed libraries and mobile libraries had increased, the number of library users also increased from 208,001 in 2010 to 208,410.

■ School Education Support

In the Saravanh Province, the SVA constructed three elementary school buildings (one out of two six-classroom buildings is equipped with a well and bathroom facilities; one three-classroom building). As part of a series of seminars for school cluster supporters in the Saravanh Province, we held a lecture on classroom management in March, enjoying a 151 participant turnout, while another 153 people attended our lecture on how to effectively use new textbooks in May. Then 80 people took part in a review meeting in August. After these lectures we explained new teaching methods such as group-work in order to familiarize teachers with an automatic progression system and how to use new textbooks. Not just people related to education but also parents began participating in school operations. A report was issued stating that this change in the parents' attitudes improved the condition of the school buildings and classrooms at approximately 80% of the targeted elementary schools.

Library Support" project.

- Transfer the mobile library service to the library operated by the capital Vientiane, with a specific focus on future expansion
- Hold a seminar on infant education

■ School Education Support

- Construct two school buildings (one six-classroom building and one three-classroom building) in the Saravanh Province; one three-classroom building (with bathroom facilities) in the Borikhamsay Province
- Hold a community seminar and construct four school buildings (one six-classroom building and three three-classroom buildings) in support of school education for communities in the Viengkham District and Luang Prabang Province.
- Transfer management to an administrative body in charge of education at the provincial/district level after monitoring schools in the Saravanh Province

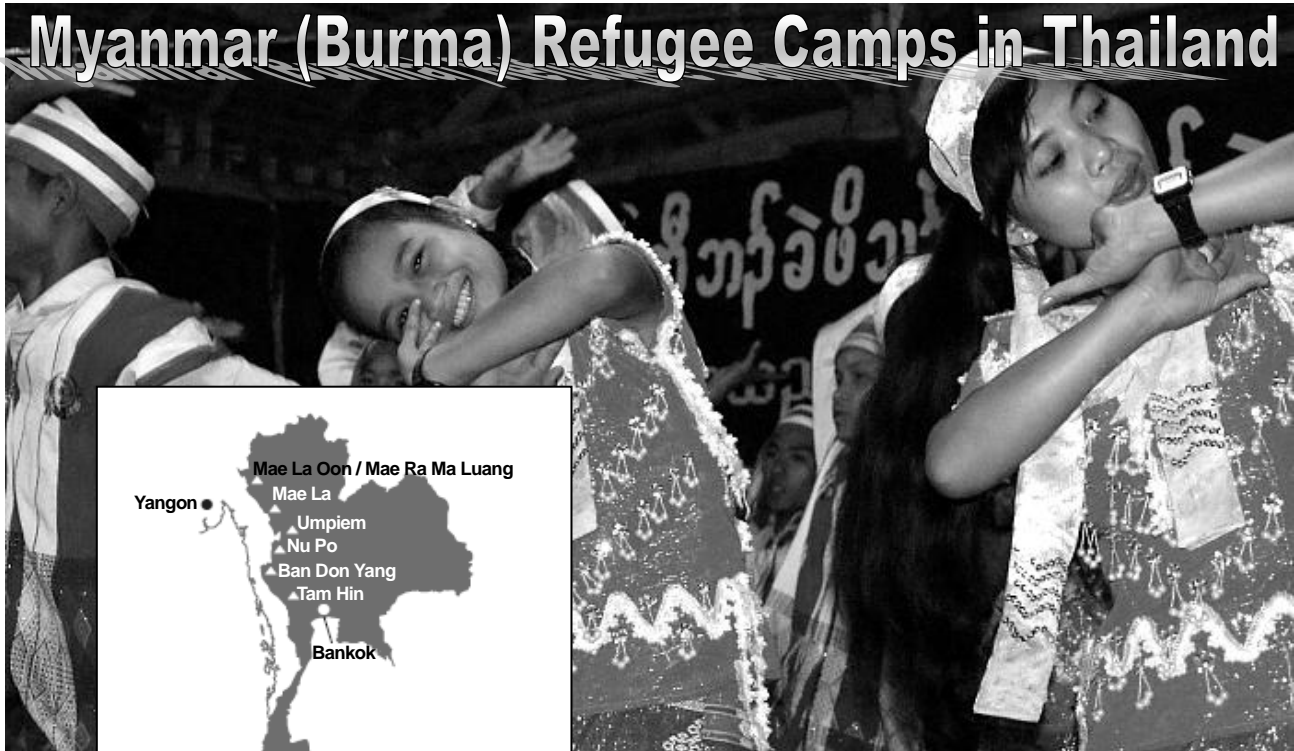


Plan for 2012

■ Library and Youth Activities

- Publish four picture books (3,000 copies of each title)
- Hold a "Seminar on Learning How Administrative Systems Work" (the same content as the seminar conducted last year) targeting the four provinces of Oudomxay, Sayaboury, Xienkhouang and Houaphanh. In addition to the above-mentioned provinces, we will monitor libraries in the provinces of Champasak, Savannakhet, Vientiane, Luang Prabang and the capital city of Vientiane, prepare a manual on outreach activities, hold a study-tour, and continue the "Public

Myanmar (Burma) Refugee Camps in Thailand



©Camps where the main ethnic group is Karens

Mae La Oon: 14,088 people

Mae Ra Ma Luang: 16,163 people

Mae La: 47,391 people

Umpiem: 17,764 people

Nu Po: 15,407 people

Ban Don Yang: 3,868 people

Tham Hin: 7,124 people

Total: 121,805 people

Comparison with the situation as of February 2011: - 2,217 people

[(as of February 2012, according to the TBBC (Thailand Burma Border Consortium)]

The democratization process headed by the newly established government indicates the possibility of providing a new solution for the refugee issue, namely "spontaneous return," since the only answer to the refugee problem to date has been "resettlement in a third country." The Karen National Union (KNU) and the new government have reached a ceasefire agreement, followed by discussions on how refugees and internally displaced peoples (IDP) can return to their native soil safely. However, the actual realization of this will require considerable time. Until this is realized, as long as there are refugees, basic social services should be maintained for these people. According to the TBBC, there are still approximately 140,000 refugees in nine camps. Those refugees welcome the new options now available to them, but at the same time, they are concerned about their near-term future.

The SVA began supporting Myanmar (Burma) refugees in 2000, and this is now in the last year of its 4th phase (2010 – 2012). Aimed at transferring the operation of 21 community libraries to refugee camp residents as much as possible, the SVA has focused its efforts on seminars for community-based organizations. The SVA has also focused on talent development for local support staff. In the wake of Myanmar's democratization, international affairs are drastically changing. However, the opportunity for education should be guaranteed to all of the 140,000 refugees in camps as one of the very basic human rights. The SVA will check progress throughout its evaluation of the 4th phase, while searching for new opportunities based on collaboration between libraries and educational institutions.

2011 Activity Report

■ Libraries

◎ Community Organization Operations

Fifty copies of our "Activity Manual" describing how to operate community-headed activities were prepared and distributed at a seminar to organizations active at refugee camps. We conducted five types of thematic seminars including how to arrange events for occasions such as Children's Day and Mother's Day. Around 20 people per refugee camp attended these seminars.

Although there still exists some differences from camp to camp, librarians, members of the Karen Youth Organization (KYO) and members of the Toshokan Youth Volunteers (TYV) now engage in daily activities and annual events at a total of seven libraries. Storytelling activities such as puppet shows are now implemented by KYO and TYV members after receiving instructions from the SVA.

The annual number of library users is 547,896, out of which 65,425 are children aged between 0 and 4, while 482,471 are children aged five years or older.



©Traditional Culture Activities

Through collaborating with the Refugee Camp Committee and people from minor ethnic groups, the SVA conducted the “Cultural Festival for Refugee Children” at four refugee camps. This turned out to be a major event with as many as 1,000 people attending, including 18 different ethnic groups. In order for children from different ethnic backgrounds to understand each other and enjoy in-depth exchanges, activities featuring recreational exchanges were also incorporated into the program. With each festival, the Refugee Camp Committee’s sense of independence has increased.

© Library Renovations

Reconstruction of seven libraries and the establishment of fences at three locations were completed under the leadership of the Library Committee. This marked the completion of our large-scale construction at library facilities.

© Library Operation System

Libraries are operated by the Office of Camp Education Entity (OCEE) appointed by the Refugee Camp Committee. A camp level organization at the Karen Education Board with a network platform consisting of seven different refugee camps now sends members to the OCEE. Currently, Education Board members have assumed representative positions for the OCEE at no less than two refugee camps.

© Book Publication

Through collaboration with the “Publication Committee” established at the Mera Camp in 2010, we published five book titles in two languages (1,000 copies each for the Karen and Burma languages). The SVA also designed one picture-card show (500 copies).

A total number of 32,505 copies were distributed (four thousand picture books published by the SVA, 2,825 books delivered through picture-book distribution activities, 840 books in Thai with a sticker that shows local language translation, 22,946 copies of general books, magazines, newspapers and others items in Burmese and Karen languages purchased by the SVA, and 1,894 books donated by related organizations).

- Strengthen collaboration between the OECC and the Education Board
- Conduct the five types of seminars mentioned below, catering to those involved at 21 libraries across seven camps, and distribute the Activity Manual as well as teaching materials
 - ① Seminar on activity management and operation (with a specific focus on the Resident Needs Survey)
 - ② Seminar on activity management and operation (with a specific focus on project improvement planning and common areas)
 - ③ Seminar on executing various activities
 - ④ Seminar on publishing and distributing picture books
 - ⑤ Seminar on participation-type construction and library building repairs
- Publish five picture books (1,000 copies of each in two languages; total 10,000 books); Cultural Festival for Refugee Children 14 and 15



Plan for 2012

■ Libraries

- Conduct an event featuring a library by taking advantage of such occasions as Children’s Day (January 8), Mother’s Day (August 12) and Father’s Day (December 5th)
- Hold the “Cultural Festival for Refugee Children” and provide traditional musical instruments and costumes necessary for stage performances
- Maintain 21 library buildings

Afghanistan



Official language: Pashto and Dari Persian

Capital: Kabul

Land area: 652,225km²

Population: 32.4 million (as of 2011, UNFPA)

Per capita GDP: US\$1,000

(as of 2011, CIA) *estimate

Currency: Afghani (AFA)

Time difference with Japan: -4 hours and 30 minutes

There was still no sign of improvement to security in the country in 2011, leaving 3,021 civilians dead from conflicts, a record high over the past five years (the figure for the previous year was 2,790). One of the SVA's target areas is Nangarhar Province, where anti-government forces are still dominant in many areas, making the movement of NGO workers extremely difficult in some spots. The U.S. military withdrawal process was initiated in July, and the transfer of security responsibility to national military forces has been achieved for almost the entire Kabul Province and part of Nangarhar Province.

In 2011, the SVA initiated school library activities for two rural districts in Nangarhar Province. In addition, we established a Children's Book Corner at five public libraries within the province, while publishing nine picture books and picture-card shows. In the country districts, the SVA constructed four school buildings and 28 classrooms, equipping each school with a library. In the city of Jalalabad, we operated the Children's Library which attracted a total of 61,676 users annually (211 people per day). The SVA organized special classes for 50 pupils who could not attend school.

The SVA will relocate its main office in Kabul in 2012. With regards to the construction of schools, the SVA is going to establish two schools or 32 classrooms in the districts of Kabul Province. In Nangarhar Province, school library activities will enter the final year of their initiative and the SVA will therefore try to root library activities solidly within targeted schools. Operation of the Children's Library will be maintained.

2011 Activity Report

■ Libraries

Featuring folklores and parables, the SVA published seven picture books (1,200 copies in each of the Pashto and Dari languages), two picture-card shows in both languages (100 copies each). These books were distributed to targeted schools and public libraries in Nangarhar Province.

With regards to the School Library Project, after garnering understanding from teachers about the importance of books through a mobile library service for children, the SVA provided books and equipment as well as holding a seminar on library activities. As a result, 30 schools now have libraries, and 820 books per school are stocked on average. The SVA also held a seminar for teachers at 38 schools as well as a seminar for librarians at 26 schools. Thanks to these efforts, the average number of books checked out by elementary school children per month came 535 books with the average number of library users coming to 958.

The SVA provided support to five public libraries established by the Ministry of Information and Culture in Nangarhar Province, distributing children's books and offering a mobile library service as well as monitoring. This resulted in the number of books stocked by these five libraries totaling 2,319 on average. In addition, the number of books checked out by children per month was 62 on average, while the mean number of library users was 115.

Children's libraries opened for 292 days of the year, with a total



user count of 61,676, out of which 50% were girls. Special classes for children unable to attend school attracted 50 enrollments, but only 34 of these students completed the course due to relocation and other reasons.

■ School Construction

We carried out construction for schools in the rural area of Nangarhar Province. The SVA constructed four school buildings in total; two nine-room buildings (6 classrooms, one library, one faculty office, one teaching materials room) and another two twelve-room buildings (8 classrooms, one library, one principal's office, one faculty office and one teaching materials room). One of these schools is equipped with five bathrooms. The SVA provided each school with equipment such as desks, chairs and cabinets as well as books and bookshelves necessary for the library. We also distributed teaching materials and stationery. Upon completion of the construction, the SVA held a workshop for teachers and local residents on how to maintain school buildings. Now that the new school buildings are established, parents are more motivated to send their children to school, increasing the number of students attending these four schools, for a total of 812 students.



Plan for 2012

■ Libraries

- With regards to publishing picture books and picture-card shows, we will prepare six picture books (1,200 copies in Dari; 1,200 copies in Pashtun), two picture-card shows (200 sets). We will also republish six picture books (1,200 copies in each language).
- Improve school libraries in the districts of Nangarhar Province in line with the improvement initiative for public libraries within the province
- In accordance with the relocation of the main office to Kabul, move the Children's Library within the sub-office of Jalalabad

■ School Construction

- Change the target region to Kabul Province
- Because there are many mega schools with more than 1,700 students in the districts of Kabul Province, construct two two-storied 16-classroom buildings as well as providing equipment and teaching materials
- Offer equipment and books (700 copies) and the use of a room as a library in the schools the SVA plans to construct
- Conduct a workshop on facility maintenance and management

Emergency Relief

The Great East Japan Earthquake that struck on March 11th 2011 brought devastating damage across extensive areas, leaving 15,856 people dead, 3,070 people unaccounted for, 129,404 houses destroyed, and 255,737 houses half-collapsed (as of April 11th 2012; National Police Agency). The SVA visited the afflicted area on March 15th, and began activities such as offering meals and providing relief materials. Establishing offices in Kesennuma City in Miyagi Prefecture and Tono City in Iwate Prefecture, the SVA has provided support activities for survivors.

We have seen great natural disaster not only in Japan, but also in Thailand and Cambodia where there has been extensive flooding. In the rural areas, rice paddies and plowable land, the people's most cherished assets, were totally decimated. Since school buildings were subject to flooding, the enormous amount of damage also extended to children. The damage inflicted on industrial complexes also delivered a huge blow to the economy.



2011 Activity Report

■ Wa - FROM PERSON TO PERSON - Kesennuma Reconstruction Project

Emergency relief activities were conducted up until May 2011. SVA volunteers were divided into two teams (the Motoyoshi area and the Karakuwa area). They visited 21 emergency shelters to identify what was necessary and then distributed required items. The SVA collaborated with supporting organizations across Japan to offer meals at 16 meal stations, providing a total of 6,000 meals. The SVA also covered nine emergency shelters a week to offer a shuttle service to hot spring facilities. This service was operated 45 times over five weeks, with a total of 743 beneficiaries. Furthermore, through collaboration with the education boards of Miyagi Prefecture and Kesennuma City, the SVA distributed stationery kits to 11 elementary schools in Kesennuma City to assist children in getting off to a good start for the new semester. The SVA hosted Gyocha (communication with survivors over tea to discuss their needs) three times at an evacuation shelter, and we were privileged to have 20 to 50 people attend each time. In addition, through cooperation with the NPOs Japan Adventure Playground Association and Youth for 3.11, we opened a play area for children in the Oya region of Kesennuma City. From June onwards, as part of our community support activities, the SVA has helped organize local festivals, kite-making at evacuation centers/temporary shelters, Buddhist sermons, concerts and other events. We also established an outdoor café (blue-sky café) where people could enjoy natural surroundings. In order to warm up people both physically and psychologically, the SVA conducted tours to a footbaths and hot springs. As part of our support activities aimed at children, we took advantage of a post-earthquake evacuation drill conducted in June to distribute 1,092 disaster protection hoods at nine elementary schools and kindergartens. In order to compensate for shortened hours in the classroom, student volunteers supported children's learning.

Little by little, steps towards recovery are already being made. Still, it will be some time before survivors can regain what they lost, making it all the more important to provide continuous support through close cooperation with local people. The SVA intends to develop a basic policy on support and dedicate efforts towards a full recovery.

Basic Policy

- Those afflicted are not passive entities just waiting for external assistance. Rather, they should be the main protagonists proactively engaging in recovery activities. Based on this premise, provide support to allow them greater independent (support from the emergency phase to the beginning of recovery) .
- Support reconstruction of community life founded on a close-knit society; assist in forming mutual-help organizations/residential bodies
- Leverage what the SVA has learned through library activities to offer psychological care to people via the mobile library service
- Regardless of whether it be public or private sector, establish a collaborative mechanism as soon as possible to enable sustainable cross-sectional collaboration. Exchange information to provide survivors with greater independence and present a policy proposal
- Proactively explore ways of achieving reconstruction and the recovery of local businesses such as fishing and provide support



The SVA helped prepare the venue for “Tsumugi no Kai” (a meeting aimed at weaving the community back together). We conducted interviews to relate various earthquake disaster experiences and held earthquake briefings at which we would incorporate an initiative for preventing this type of calamity from being forgotten, helping people to leverage the lessons we have learned in the future.

With regards to other activities, the SVA coordinated a liaison meeting for support organizations operating in Kesennuma City and participated in a volunteer communication meeting. We also acted proactively to form a network through collaboration with administrative bodies and local commercial sectors.

■ Driving Mobile Library for Iwate

The damage inflicted on public libraries in the cities of Rikuzen-Takada and Ofunato as well as in the towns of Otsuchi and Yamada in Iwate Prefecture was so severe that all or partial library functions were lost. Still, the SVA believes we should not let people miss out on opportunities for reading just because they live in these four afflicted municipalities, and established an office in Tono City, Iwate Prefecture in June 2011. A mobile library service was initiated the following month.

The mobile library visits 15 temporary shelters located in the above-mentioned four cities and towns once every two weeks. Users can check out a maximum of five books at a time. The mobile library is equipped with facilities for offering tea, making it a popular gathering place. The total number of users from July to the end of December was 2,791, and the number of books checked out was 5,288.

In order to ensure easy access to books anytime, even when our mobile library is unavailable, the SVA implemented “Iwate no Okibon” (book stocks left in a designated spot) at a meeting space and conversation room located at a temporary shelter in Otsuchi Town. We regularly replenish the books, making sure the range on the bookshelves is always fresh and enjoyable.

At Yamada Town Public Library we lent a helping hand towards recovering library functions by registering library data and carrying out other tasks.

The Japan Library Association, the Japan Council for Promotion of Book Reading, the Iwate Prefectural Library and targeted cities and towns provided us with co-hosting opportunities as well as with support, while 3.11 Ehon Project Iwate, an organization based in Iwate Prefecture, kindly offered their cooperation. The SVA set up a display booth at the Japan Library Association Conference and Library Fair and Forum to establish a nation-wide network of librarians.

■ Massive flooding in Thailand and Cambodia

This time flooding submerged many villages and streets. Water pooled around households in the villages was contaminated

with feces and urea from livestock and effluent, causing extremely poor hygiene conditions. Given this, people had to take refuge along a major trunk road, living in the tents provided, since their houses were under water.

The SVA distributed relief materials in October. In Thailand, we distributed materials in the provinces of Lopburi and Pathum Thani as follows; towels (both big and small sizes), instant noodles, ready-to-eat porridge, lighters, flashlights, mosquito coils, sanitary goods, and emergency relief packs containing ordinary medicines and a first-aid kit. We also distributed the following items in villages in the provinces of Kompong Thom and Siem Reap in Cambodia: 30 kilograms of rice, one kilogram of sugar and salt, pickled vegetables, and instant noodles.

■ Wa - FROM PERSON TO PERSON -Kesennuma Reconstruction Project

- Together with experts, implement a program to support collective relocation by listening to the voices of community residents, while effectively coordinating with relevant government bodies
- Support the reconstruction of the Maehama Community Center being established through community participation
- Implement a psychological care program aimed at getting children to draw pictures. Publish a picture book featuring the drawings by these children.
- Work on maintaining the “Asobiba” playground initiative to ensure it is well-rooted within the community
- Support new value creation and the establishment of a distribution channel for the resumption of wakame seaweed farming
- Collaborate with bodies (e.g. local commercial and industrial sectors) other than administrative bodies, NPOs and NGOs

■ “Driving Mobile Library for Iwate” Project

- Expand the visitation route to 25 places
- Establish 50 deposit collection sites by enhancing collection-related activities
- Further establish deposit collection sites at meeting places in temporary shelters
- Establish and operate a community library in the cities of Rikuzentakata and Otsuchi
- Forge a network with agencies, organizations and individuals concerning library operations



Japan

In the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011, many people have paid close attention to support in the affected areas. Activities in the prefectures of Miyagi and Iwate were supported not only by people who had already cooperated with us before, but also by 3,746 people who did not know of the SVA until this disaster. All of them supported the SVA generously. Yet, the budget necessary for carrying out our usual projects and initiatives did not reach our set target, and 2011 turned out to be a year in which we struggled.

However, we will make an all-out effort to increase our number of new members and encourage them to engage in activities

■ Asian Library Supporter - Linking Japan to Asia Through Libraries



A library can act as a linchpin for uniting activity target areas and Japan. For instance, message cards from children in areas where we conduct activities were sent out in May to Japanese supporters. In October, we held a special new membership campaign, and new members who signed up for the SVA sent messages to the children of refugees in Myanmar (Burma) refugee camps, which were well-received. As at the end of 2011, 661 people with 755 accounts were registered with the SVA.

■ Campaign for Delivering Picture Books - Picture Books in the Hands of Children



In 2011, 16,007 picture books were shipped overseas. Since the inception of the campaign in 1999, the cumulative number of books dispatched has surpassed 190,000 copies. The SVA reviewed conventional methods as well as modifying the contents of collected titles and the way new translation stickers are prepared. Although the number of books applied for this campaign declined, many people joined in the campaign. The target for 2012 is 15,640 books, and we are currently soliciting for cooperation to help us reach this target.

■ Craft Aid - Bringing People and Nature Together Through Fair Trade



Due to the impact from the Great East Japan Earthquake, there was a decline in traveling sales, contract sales at events and orders at shops. However, orders from individual supporters remained steady. Furthermore, nine newspapers featured our craft as presents, attracting more than 4,300 applications, pushing up our catalog

address list by 1,360. More and more people are reviewing post-earthquake lifestyle and consumption behavior in 2012, and the SVA is appealing the significance of a shift towards direct delivery (from production centers to users/consumers) as well as fair trade beyond national borders.

■ Public Relations - Information Dissemination with Special Consideration for Speed and Quality



Since the Great East Japan Earthquake, the SVA has tried very hard to disseminate information with special consideration for speed and quality as we relate the situation and activities in affected areas. E-mail-based news releases were issued 104

times and press releases for mass media were distributed 57 times. The SVA was featured by newspapers and other external mediums in 296 articles. Last year, we held 84 entertainment events in support of a 3/11 recovery. We will continue to proactively use occasions such as briefings and events that appeal to the public in 2012.

■ Support for Overseas Programs - Fostering Talent for Smoother Operations



Thanks to support from various people, the SVA is close to achieving our goal for designated donations/grants for overseas programs in 2011. With regards to program operations and points for improvement, the SVA supports an evaluation process upon completion of a program or project as well as new initiative planning in Cambodia and Laos. In recent years, we have held joint seminars as part of human resource development at which we combined programs for accounting and general administration. This is the 2nd year of our plan for the independence of the Sikhha Asia Foundation (SAF), and the SVA conducted an interim appraisal as well as an advisor dispatch evaluation. Following on from previous years, we will further strengthen our support for talent development and operational capabilities in 2012.

■ Recycled Book Aid - the 30th Anniversary Event "Book-to-Book Project"



Under the "Book-to-Book Project," 300,000 books were collected through the Recycle Book Aid Campaign in 2011. In addition, we aimed at publishing 10,000 books via overseas

activities. The SVA appealed for cooperation in an attempt to get our initiative printed in the mass media. We also conducted campaigns both internally and externally. In conducting these activities, we felt the keen support of many people. As a result, we received 1,153 annual applications (including 406 new applicants), as well as receiving 15,611 books, CDs, DVDs, game software and other items. We published 10,400 copies of four picture books in six different languages through refugee camps in Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar (Burma) and also in Afghanistan, which were distributed to a total of 773,922 people. Since we did not publish any picture books in Thailand, the SVA placed our focus on mobile library services attended by 900 students from nurseries and schools.



	Cambodia	Laos	Myanmar (Burma) Refugee camps	Afghanistan
Picture Book Title	The Kind-Hearted Ant	Kampha kab looksaophay anak (The Orphan and King of Nagas' Daughter)	Protuberant Eyes and the Squirrel	Independence Wants Sacrifice
Language(s)	Khmer	Laotian	Karen/Burmese	Dari/Pashto
Number of copies	3,000	3,000	1,000 for each language	1,200 for each language
Target(s)	Schools Mobile libraries	Mobile libraries Libraries annexed to SVA offices Public libraries	Community libraries	Schools Children's libraries Public libraries
Number of Beneficiaries	484,928 people	172,221 people	65,425 people	51,348 people

Financial report

Income	Year 2010	Year 2011
Bank Interest	459,130	383,971
Membership fee	28,125,000	26,349,000
Donation	365,844,184	384,863,335
Subsidy	65,353,010	106,127,786
Programs for profit	121,470,370	60,830,172
Others	1,630,409	1175,490
Total	582,882,103	579,729,754

Expenditures	Year 2010	Year 2011
Public Interest Purpose 1	401,299,603	342,253,867
Thailand	34,604,291	33,162,734
Cambodia	138,276,325	88,905,422
Laos	76,784,525	57,180,797
Myanmar (Burma)Refugee	47,906,640	33,111,671
Afghanistan	94,746,968	102,166,049
Other	8,980,854	27,727,194
Public Interest Purpose 2	34,171,311	94,280,690
Public Interest Purpose 3	44,616,995	52,915,527
Public Interest Purpose (Common)		13,863,567
Total: Public Interest Purpose	480,087,909	503,313,651
Profit-making Purpose	44,999,557	46,097,862
Administration	15,246,178	24,590,114
Total	540,333,644	574,001,627

SVA Association Members

SVA Association Members:

Total number of members: 1,901 people

Staff members: 323 people

Individual members: 269 people

Organization members: 54 people

Supporting members: 1,578 people

Individual members: 1,391 people

Organization members: 187 people

(as at December 31st 2011)

Honorary President:

Rev. Zendo Matsunaga

Advisors:

Mr. Fusao Adachi	Rev. Hojun Abe
Prof. Yutaka Aramaki	Mr. Masahiro Onoda
Rev. Eisho Kawahara	Mr. Takashi Shiraishi
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
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Board of Directors:

Mr. Yasuo Uehara	Mr. Hiroki Kamezaki
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Mr. Keiji Watanabe	

Auditors:

Mr. Toshiyuki Aoki	Mr. Kazuo Masuda
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