



*Move forward, hand in hand.*

Annual Reprt 2013 ➔ Activity Plan 2014

**2013-2014**



Shanti Volunteer Association



Kyoei Wakabayashi, President of Shanti Volunteer Association (SVA), exchanges a Memorandum of Understanding with the Director General of the Department of Information and Public Relations of Myanmar (left) in a signing ceremony held in the capital of Myanmar.

## We Will Convey Your Warm Hearts to Children

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you who are supporting SVA's activities. Thanks to your support, I am pleased to present to you our annual report for 2013 and activity plan for 2014.

Since the SVA started its activities, it has aimed to provide educational support that is rooted in cultures of the target countries and communities. This is because our culture is a condensation of the wisdom of our ancestors, the principles by which we live, and our pride.

We are working to cultivate human resources in each country or region from the viewpoint of valuing their own cultures. We are sowing the seeds so that local staff can become independent and sustain the activities that are rooted in the cultures of each region over long periods of time. Aiming toward this direction, we plan to achieve the independence of the Sikkha Asia Foundation, a local subsidiary of the SVA in Thailand at the end of 2014. Together with these efforts, the SVA plans to open an activity hub in Myanmar, which is in the process of democratization, in order to support children who go to night elementary schools and the public libraries. In Cambodia and Laos, we newly established local offices and launched projects for supporting chil-

dren who are in difficult conditions.

Last year, 2013, was the final year of the Three-Year Project Plan for 2011 to 2013 and a milestone year in which we reviewed the achievements and issues based on the three priority goals of the plan:

- ❶ Expand and enhance our activities to promote reading books
- ❷ Promote independent operation of our overseas offices
- ❸ Approach younger generations

For the third priority goal, "Approach younger generations," we feel the need to continue working on it as a major goal. Even though it is said that the youth today tend to be inward-looking, we would like to build a society through inspiring empathy, where we can "Live Together and Learn Together" based on mutual support. As for other priorities, we will incorporate them into our Five-Year Project Plan 2014-2018 to enhance our activities and make progress step by step.

Based on the basic principle of "Live Together and Learn Together," which the SVA has pursued for 33 years, we would like to convey your warm hearts to children.

**Kyoei Wakabayashi,**  
**President, Shanti Volunteer Association**

### 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 for 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 Picture 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.

### 2003

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

### 2005

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

### 2011

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.

### 2012

The Yamamoto Office was established in Miyagi Prefecture. The SVA started a support project for survivors of the Great East Japan Earthquake in Yamamoto Town, Miyagi Prefecture and also in Minamisoma City, Fukushima Prefecture.

### 2013

The SVA concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Information of Myanmar.

# The history of SVA



## Our Wishes

### Our Mission

We aspire to build a society in which the people of the world are able to "Live Together and Learn Together" in peace (shanti), respecting human dignity and diversity.

### Our Vision

We seek to become an NGO that works alongside individuals, and empowers them to think critically and creatively in finding solutions for both personal and societal issues/problems.

### Our Values

- ❶ To share the pain, sorrow and joy with people who are suffering and walk together with them.
- ❷ To value the traditional cultures of each region and respect the differences between peoples, religions, and languages/dialects.
- ❸ To focus on development that will inspire people to be aware, act and work towards self-support.
- ❹ To act as a catalyst for promoting mutual support and enhancement among people.





① School librarians ②-③ At a library built on an elementary school site in Cambodia

The first year of SVA's Three Year Project Plan 2011-2013, which sets out the "Mid-Term Goals," began with efforts to support the survivors of the Great East Japan Earthquake, which brought great sorrow to Japan. After offering relief activities during the emergency period, the SVA worked with people in the disaster-stricken areas to create a framework for building places and new communities where people can feel at peace through reading books. We will continue our relief activities so that people can support each other through interpersonal ties and move on towards the future.

With regards to overseas activities, the SVA relocated its activity hubs in Afghanistan, Cambodia and Laos in order to reach out to children and adults who are in difficult conditions with less opportunities. The SVA also planned

new projects in Myanmar, a country where it will be launching new activities. In these three years, the SVA changed the direction of its activities significantly.

The SVA temporarily suspended most of its overseas humanitarian relief programs in order to focus on relief efforts for the Great East Japan Earthquake victims. We reorganized our structure and resumed overseas relief programs in fiscal 2013. By November 2013, we responded to six cases of damage caused by wind-storms or flooding that occurred in Japan and overseas. In December 2013, we started supporting the victims of Typhoon Haiyan that hit the central Philippines.

Our four priority goals and the achievements in the last three years were as follows:

## Review of 2011-2013

### ◆ Aim to Expand Reading Promotion Activities

The SVA provided reading promotion activities for 2,559,918 children through libraries, mobile libraries and publication of picture books. This exceeded our target of 1.65 million children.

### ◆ Aim to Promote Autonomous Operation at Overseas Offices

The SVA promoted the "Five-Year Plan for Autonomous Operation" of the Sikkha Asia Foundation, which is our local subsidiary in Thailand, and started transferring the conventional SVA supporters to the Foundation in fiscal 2013. In all countries where the SVA runs activities except Thailand, we formulated a "Three-Year Plan for Autonomous Operation" for our overseas office and stepped up efforts to cultivate national SVA staff and strengthen organizational capability.

### ◆ Aim to Expand Our Projects in New Countries

The SVA conducted a research on planning new projects in Myanmar in February 2013. It was registered as a non-governmental organization by the Ministry of Home Affairs of Myanmar in November 2013. The SVA concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Myanmar Ministry of Information as a cooperative partner.

### ◆ Aim to Build Relationships with Supporters in a Wide Range of Generations

A total of 8,168 people joined our activities as new supporters, exceeding our target of 8,000 people. Younger generations, in their 30s or younger, accounted for 15.4% of the total number of the supporters.



④ People are planting trees in schoolyard to improve the environment (in Cambodia).  
⑤ Staff in national costumes are welcoming visitors at a booth at the "Global Festa."



## Towards 2014

The economies in Cambodia and Laos have been growing at roughly 6 to 8% per year, as the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community approaches in 2015. On the other hand, some point out that a widening gap between the rich and the poor is hampering the trend of democratization and leading to an unstable political situation. These counties are remaining in a vicious cycle, where the poverty-stricken people are forced to live in harder conditions because of frequent disasters caused by worsening climate changes.

As we approach the 2015 target date for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), further efforts are being made to achieve the goals. At the same time, there is an increased discussion to develop a post-2015 development framework, and "Realization of Universal Human Rights and Human Security" is being examined once again as a principal goal of the framework. We feel that this is in line with the SVA's mission, "We aspire to build a society in which the people of the world are able to live together and learn together in peace (shanti), respecting human dignity and diversity."

In 2014, the SVA will start the Five-Year Mid-Term Action Plan 2014-2018, which focuses on promoting reading and library activities. We set the following two main mid-term goals:

- ① To promote reading and library activities, so that even those in difficult conditions or disadvantaged situations can cultivate their ability to think and solve problems on their own.
- ② To advocate the mainstreaming of reading promotion and library activities in the education policies of national and regional governments, as well as related institutions.

We will deal with the following four priorities in 2014, the first year of the Five-Year Mid-Term Action Plan:

### ◆ Reorganizing Program Development and Operations

The SVA will launch projects such as public libraries, non-formal education and publication of children's books in Myanmar.

We will implement the projects using our local offices as hubs, in order to conduct activities for people in Cambodia and Laos who are difficult to reach.

We will start reorganizing our policies and projects so that our activities for promoting reading can be incorporated in all our projects.

We will strengthen networks with partner organizations in order to actively conduct emergency humanitarian aid in Japan and overseas.

We will perform an interim assessment of our support for reconstruction for the Great East Japan Earthquake and develop an activity plan up to the end of 2015.

### ◆ Improving Public Relations and Finance

We will strive to have 2,000 more supporters who will assist us, mainly in our projects such as the Asian Library Supporter, Campaign for Delivering Picture Books, Donating Books Project, Craft Aid and Fundraising for Children in Asia.

### ◆ Enhancing Organizational Management and Administration

The Sikkha Asia Foundation (Thailand) will be established as an independent, self-supporting entity by the end of fiscal 2014.

SVA Directors in charge will organize working groups to discuss basic strategies regarding the following:

- ① Overseas projects
- ② The concept and future direction of the project for eastern Japan
- ③ Fund-raising and marketing

We will conduct an external audit once every three months to strengthen the account checking system.

### ◆ Human Resources Development

The SVA will formulate a "Fundamental Policy for Human Resources Development," which outlines the desired qualities of Japanese and local staff, and develop a "Human Resource Development Plan."



# Myanmar



In 2013, we conducted research for launching new support projects in Myanmar and prepared for opening new offices. In November, the SVA signed an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the Ministry of Information of Myanmar. It has been 10 years since the SVA last opened an office and operated projects for supporting culture and education in a new recipient country.

In 2014 we are planning to set up offices in Yangon and Pyay District of Bago Region, which is located 300 kilometers northwest of Yangon. Four support projects will start mainly in Bago Region.

In Myanmar, there are more than 1,500 temple schools which are built and operated by Buddhist temples. These schools are similar to the old Japanese "Terakoya." The study curriculum of temple schools is the same as that of public elementary schools. Many children from poor families go to temple schools because they can at-

tend the classes entirely gratis. There are some problems with the quality of education, such as dilapidated school buildings and shortage of teaching materials and books, because temple schools are operated by the efforts of the temples and the communities. The SVA will carry out projects to reform the temple schools.

Also, the percentage of children who are able to graduate from elementary school is only 56%, although enrollment rate is 88%. For children who can't go to school due to poverty, the SVA will work with local NGOs to support "Life Skill Education Program" that teaches children what they need to live, private "night elementary schools" where they can get an elementary school diploma, and "Community Learning Center." In addition, there are not many quality books for children in Myanmar and most librarians are not experienced. Thus the SVA will carry out projects for improving public libraries and for supporting publishing of children's books.

## Plan for 2014

### ✧Project for Reforming "Terakoya" Temple Schools

- Construct two temple school buildings and one orphanage attached to the school.
- Distribute 200 children's books to 14 temple schools and provide seminars for teachers.

### ✧Project for Supporting Children Who Can't Go to School

- Support seminars of lecturers and administration of the "Life Skill Education Program," which is run by a local NGO.
- Support administration and hold seminars for teachers of night schools.
- Donate teaching materials, books and equipment to Community Learning Centers. Train lecturers and plan and implement programs.

### ✧Public Library Improvement Project

- Donate 200 children's books in Burmese and furniture and equipment for children's rooms to 14 public libraries. Hold a seminar on children services for librarians.
- Carry out mobile library activities using motorcycles and cars. Donate personal computers to libraries for Internet access.

### ✧Project for Publishing Picture Books and Children's Books

- Hold a picture book contest in cooperation with an association of Myanmar writers to foster new Burmese writers. Select six titles of picture books or children's books and publish and distribute them.
- Foster writers of picture books and children's books.

# Thailand



- **Official language** : Thai
- **Capital** : Bangkok
- **Land area** : 514,000km<sup>2</sup>
- **Population** : 66.78million  
(The World Bank data as of 2012)
- **Per capita GDP** : US\$5,480  
(The World Bank data as of 2012)
- **Currency** : Bart (B)
- **Time difference with Japan** : - 2 hours

On November 1, 2013, Thailand's lower house approved the amnesty bill that could have led to the return from exile of former Prime Minister Thaksin, but opponents of the bill held large-scale demonstrations in Bangkok. The lower house was dissolved by Prime Minister Yingluck and a general election took place in February. However, because of the boycotts of the election and demonstrations against the government which prevented people from going to polling stations, the constitutional court declared the election invalid. Confused situation is expected to extend over a long period. Regional gap between urban areas and rural areas is still significant. For example, in areas near the border with Myanmar, school children in lower grades go to branch schools, which have only small classrooms. After attending the branch school, those children go to the main school in the city while living in a dormitory in many cases.



In Thailand, although free education system started in 2009, parents are forced to pay additional fees because of lack of operating funds. There are many necessities that must be prepared for school life such as school uniforms and tools, and the cost of attending school is also placing a large financial burden on poor families in the mountainous regions in many cases.

In 2014, the SVA plans to work on a scholarship project in the areas of minority people. The project to make the Sikkha Asia Foundation (SAF) an autonomous organization has entered its fifth and final year, and the SVA will focus its efforts on establishing relations with supporters in Japan and improving the fundraising capacity both in Thailand and abroad.

## 2013 Activity report

### ✧Scholarships

The SVA provided scholarships for a total of 399 students, including 375 junior and senior high school students and 24 university students, for students of ethnic minorities in Phayao and Tak Provinces and in the slum districts of Bangkok. Breakdown of the high school scholarship students were 145 from Phayao Province, 200 from Tak Province and 30 from Bangkok.

The SVA carried out home visits for the secondary selection of new scholarship students. We visited 72 homes in Phayao Province, 99 in Tak Province and 19 in the slum district of Bangkok.

In Tak Province, the SVA strengthened cooperation with schools and conduct-

ed interviews with teachers as well.

Scholarship award ceremony for the first half-year is held in May, and ceremony for the second half-year is held in November every year. The SVA holds a year-end evaluation meeting in December to review and reflect on the year.

Every year in October, 60 representatives of scholarship students gather from all regions and attend a camp to learn about volunteer spirits and experience volunteer activities. The camp also provides an opportunity for the students to learn about the differences in cultures and life styles, through volunteer activities and by performing traditional dances, songs and musical instruments.

## Plan for 2014

### ✧Scholarships

- Provide scholarships for a total of 400 students, including 375 junior and senior high school students and 25 university students, for the Mon people in Phayao Province, the Karen people in Tak Province, and students in the slum districts of Bangkok. Increase the amount of scholarships for junior and senior

- high school students to be able to concentrate on study. Hold scholarship award ceremonies twice a year, with presentation of their regional culture.
- Make home visits once a year.
- Organize a scholarship student camp for 50 representative students from all regions.

- **Official language** : Burmese
- **Capital** : Naypyidaw
- **Land area** : 678,500km<sup>2</sup>
- **Population** : 63.67million  
(IMF data as of 2012)
- **Per capita GDP** : US\$834  
(IMF data as of 2012)
- **Currency** : Kyat (K)
- **Time difference with Japan** : - 2 and half hours

An influx of foreign capital has been continuing since 2013 with the rapid democratization after a civilian government was established in 2011. The number of Japanese companies increased rapidly from 53 in 2011 to 133 in 2013. The Japanese government doubled ODA and announced that it would grant ¥91 billion to Myanmar while waiving the ¥500 billion overdue debt. On the other hand, literacy rate of adults is estimated to be around 55%, much lower than the number made public. The percentage of children who can graduate from elementary school remains low at 56%. There remains an issue of the weak people who are left behind despite the administrative reform.



# Cambodia



Completed school library

In Cambodia, elementary school enrollment rate has reached 97% but the percentage of the students who go to junior high school is still about 50%. In rural farming areas, literacy rate of adults is currently less than 50%.

In 2014, the SVA will focus on supporting deprived areas in terms of public education, mainly through its local offices in Battambang and Siem Reap. In the school construction project, the SVA will consider its project development policies for the future, since enrollment rate of elementary school education has been improving and many support organizations are now involved. In non-formal education, the SVA will try to carry out each activity carefully so that it will be accepted steadily, since the SVA is new to this field.

To start the new projects, the SVA will strive to improve the quality of each project by implementing the PCM (Project Cycle Management). The SVA also intends to enhance the abilities of leader staff as well as the managerial and administrative abilities of Cambodian staff at each office.

## 2013 Activity report

### ➤ Dream Elementary School Project

The SVA constructed school buildings and libraries at six schools in Banteay Meanchey Province and Battambang Province and held seminars on management and specialized seminars for librarians.

The SVA constructed another library and two more school buildings at schools which were previously constructed with SVA's assistance.

### ➤ School Library Operation Project with Community Participation

Targeting eight schools, the SVA held a seminar on library management based on "The Standard for Elementary School Libraries" published by the Ministry of Education. The SVA donated decorations, equipment and books for libraries and conducted the reading promotion activities. Sixty-seven people from eight schools attended the seminar and 1,927 people from four schools participated in the event for promoting library activities. The staff of Provincial Education Office also served as lecturers at the seminar.

### ➤ Project for Publishing Picture Books and Picture-Card Shows

The SVA published six titles of picture books (four new titles, second edition of two titles), 18,000 copies in total, and 350 copies of one picture-card show, and distributed them to 118 schools and related organizations. In order to make high-quality picture books, the SVA conducted a seminar by experts and prepared a draft of evaluation sheets with the cooperation of writers, artists and editors.



1 Mothers reading picture books for children after learning about library activities through the event.  
2 Picture books distributed to school libraries. Children checking the titles with librarians.  
3 Experts giving a seminar on publishing picture books.

The SVA joined a network of the related organizations with an aim to facilitate and improve the projects through friendly relationships.

### ➤ Community Learning Center Project Centered on Library Activities

Construction of Community Learning Centers (CLC) started in Kampong Thom Province and Siem Reap Province. Each CLC has a library and a multi-purpose room. The multi-purpose rooms are planned to be used for literacy education by the District Education Office, events of the villages, and seminars of groups. Books will be available for children and adults in the library. The SVA intends to make CLC a useful facility that will provide various information to the residents as well as function as a place for lifelong learning.

## Plan for 2014

### ➤ Dream Elementary School Project

- Construct a five-classroom school building, water tank facility, four restrooms and a school library at each of six schools in Banteay Meanchey and Battambang Provinces.
- Distribute 750 copies of books and teaching materials in each of the first two years.
- Hold a library promotion campaign once a year and work to promote residents' interest in school libraries.
- Aim at achieving the followings: principals, teachers, officers of Education Office and representative of local residents will gain knowledge of school management; librarians will be able to engage in library activities, and; local residents will understand the importance of libraries.

### ➤ School Library Operation Project with Community Participation

- Conduct internal research of existing libraries at eight schools in Banteay Meanchey and Battambang Provinces. Make samples of library furniture, distribute reading materials and decorate the interior of libraries.
- Hold meetings with teachers, librarians, principals and the Head of District Education Office in order to spread "The Standard for Elementary School Libraries" and urge the Curriculum Development Office to hold seminars.
- Hold seminars for improving the skills of librarians.
- Make guide books for selecting and buying picture books and distribute them at the seminars.

### ➤ Project for Publishing Picture books and Picture-Card Shows

- Publish four titles of picture books (three new titles and the second edition of one title) and one title of picture-card show and distribute them mainly to school libraries and library spaces in Banteay Meanchey, Kampong Thom and Siem Reap Provinces and the slum districts of Phnom Penh.
- To improve the skills and abilities of writers and artists of picture books/picture card shows, develop teaching

### ➤ Traditional Culture Projects

The SVA published 3,000 copies each of two titles of textbooks for Buddhist elementary schools in cooperation with the Ministry of Cult and Religion and distributed one copy each of the two books to 1,000 participants in the annual meeting for monks and 13 Provincial Religion Offices. We will finish distributing the textbooks to the remaining 11 Provincial Religion Offices by the end of January 2014, completing distribution to Buddhist elementary schools. The SVA printed 1,000 copies of "Pali/Khmer language dictionary" at the request of the Ministry of Cult and Religion and distributed them to 838 Buddhist elementary schools all over the country. The SVA conducted a research on current situation of the Buddhist Institute and drew up the report.

materials and programs, hold seminars, and develop and utilize evaluation criteria and classification tables by age group for picture books/picture-card shows.

- Hold collaborative meetings with related organizations in order to strengthen the network for improving children's literature.

### ➤ Community Learning Center Project Centered on Library Activities

- Construct Community Learning Centers centered on library activities in Kampong Thom and Siem Reap Provinces and support their autonomous operation by holding seminars and making manuals for operation.
- Develop reading materials for adults, conduct CLC promotion activities in the target areas, and establish the network of CLCs at provincial and district levels.

### ➤ Traditional Culture Project: Library Promotion Project at Buddhist Schools

- Establish a Buddhist library working group in the Buddhist Institute and hold library seminars for educating trainers.
- Establish a model library at one of the Buddhist schools in the target area, provide reading materials, desks, bookshelves, etc. and hold seminars for librarians.
- Establish a Buddhist school working group in the Buddhist Education Office of the Ministry of Cult and Religion and hold seminars for formulating the plans and budget documents for autonomous operation.

### ➤ Community Library Project in Slum Area

- Establish one community library in Phnom Penh with books available for children and adults. Hold seminars to strengthen the abilities for autonomous operation.
- Carry out support activities for those who have completed literacy classes (literacy review courses, courses on basic knowledge for improving life, etc.)
- Carry out mobile library activities in and around the slums of the target areas.



- **Official language** : Khmer
- **Capital** : Phnom Penh
- **Land area** : 1,810,000km<sup>2</sup>
- **Population** : 14.86 million  
(The World Bank data as of 2012)
- **Per capita GDP** : US\$944  
(The World Bank data as of 2012)
- **Currency** : Riel (KHR)
- **Time difference with Japan** :  
- 2 hours

In the fifth general election held in July 2013, the opposition party took a great leap forward, as dissatisfaction with the present government mounted and protest activities intensified. This is attributable to the widening economic gaps, corruption and young people's dissatisfaction with the growth gaps between urban and rural areas. The year 2013 can be described as a big transition period towards building a truly peaceful society in Cambodia.



# Laos



Children studying in a classroom with no walls



1



2



3



4



5

- 1 Children enjoying books delivered through the Campaign for Delivering Picture Books.
- 2 Viengkham District, our new project area, is located deep in the mountains.
- 3 Many of the school buildings have deteriorated by aging.
- 4 Children studying in a small classroom.
- 5 Public libraries with librarians trained in story-telling are crowded with children.

We operated a library in the Laos Office to promote reading for local children in the neighborhood.

We completed publishing four picture books (3,000 copies of each title) and distributed them to public libraries, Children's Cultural Centers and elementary schools where there were teachers who had attended a seminar on reading promotion activities.

Through the reading promotion activities mentioned above, we provided reading opportunity to 160,498 children. (Nine public libraries: 145,763, 16 mobile libraries at elementary schools: 13,578, library in the SVA office: 1,157)

## ➤Project for Supporting School Education

Together with local education administration officers, we carried out monitoring to survey the situation of school management at a school in Borikhamxay Province and another school in Saravane Province where construction of school buildings was completed in fiscal 2012.

We built three elementary schools in the Viengkham District in Luang Prabang Province. Through this project, 787 children have been able to learn in a safe and suitable environment for learning. We held seminars on school management and on cleaning school facilities and bathrooms to keep the school building clean, at all the schools where construction of the buildings were completed.

## Plan for 2014

### ➤Project for Improving Elementary School Facilities with Community Participation

- Construct three elementary schools. Introduce designs in consideration of classrooms for combined classes and of suitable learning environment for children with disabilities and preschool children. Install sanitation facilities (including bathrooms and water supply facilities) at all schools.
- Hold seminars on school administration for teachers and representatives of villagers, for better school management and maintenance of the school buildings. In addition, hold seminars on hygiene education for children as well as teachers and representatives of the villagers, to learn the importance of hand-washing and how to use bathrooms.
- Conduct monitoring with education administration officers of the provinces and districts. Aim to improve school management by enhancing the school

management capability of education administration officers and through mutual cooperation between teachers and the officials.

### ➤Project for Improving Teaching Capacity in Preschools and Elementary Schools

- Conduct seminars on management of combined classes for 196 teachers from 67 elementary schools and education administration officers of the provinces and districts. In addition, conduct seminars on trainer education for the staff of District Education Offices, in order to maintain sustainability.
- For 16 elementary schools, carry out seminars for teachers to learn the skills of library service and conduct mobile library activities for children to promote reading.
- Publish four titles of picture books about the folktale of the minority people in the Viengkham District.



- Official language : Lao
- Capital : Vientiane
- Total land area : 240,000km<sup>2</sup>
- Population : 6.65 million  
(The World Bank data as of 2012)
- Per capita GDP : US\$1,417  
(The World Bank data as of 2012)
- Currency : Kip
- Time difference with Japan : - 2 hours

The Ministry of Education and Sports has played a central part and worked hard to improve education in line with the "Education for All" and the "Millennium Development Goals." As a result, elementary school education has improved and enrollment rate has reached 94%, but only in the urban areas such as Vientiane, the capital. In the areas where many minorities live and in the rural areas, there remain a lot of problems such as lack of classrooms, shortage and poor quality of teachers, and insufficient educational materials.

The Viengkham District of Luang Prabang Province will be our new project area. More than 85% of its population is composed of minorities and this area is the 13th poorest among 143 districts in the country. About 30% of the schools in this district are "incomplete schools," where children cannot complete all grades at one school. In addition, the ratio of combined classes, in which children in more than two grades take lessons in one classroom, is over 80% (127 out of 157 classes), far exceeding the national average of 30%. These circumstances are making it difficult for teachers to manage the classes and for students to maintain their motivation to study.

Over the three years starting in 2014, the SVA will conduct a project intended for 169 teachers and 6,995 pupils in Viengkham District, which aims to improve the quality of and access to primary education. In terms of office management and operation, we will establish a new local office near the project area in Luang Prabang Province in addition to the Vientiane Office in the capital, which will give us a two-office system. Moreover, we will provide capacity building training so that the local staff will be able to implement projects and manage offices on their own.

## 2013 Activity report

### ➤Project for Promoting Libraries and Reading

In this Three-Year Project (2010 to 2013), we have carried out activities to promote self-sustained development of the public libraries, for nine public libraries across the country.

In the mobile library activity, we conducted seminars for teachers to learn the knowledge and skills of the library service and reading promotion activities such as "story telling meeting" for children, in the Maipakkugumu District in Vientiane, the capital, where a lot of minorities live.



# Myanmar(Burma)Refugees



Toshokan (library) youth volunteers (TYV)



## Camps mainly inhabited by ethnic Karens

- Mae La Oon : 11,957 people
  - Mae Ra Ma Luang : 13,450 people
  - Mae La : 43,255 people
  - Umpiem : 13,154 people
  - Nu Po : 12,572 people
  - Ban Don Yang : 3,251 people
  - Tham Hin : 6,560 people
  - Total : 111,818 people
  - Comparison with the situation as of December 2011 : -8,168 people
- (Source: TBBC (Thailand Burma Border Consortium), December 2013)

The refugee issue has been a problem for 30 years at the border of Thailand and Myanmar (Burma) since the influx began in 1984. Following the democratization of Myanmar in 2010, efforts for the cease-fire and peace agreement between the armed minority groups and the Myanmar government have been progressing little by little. However, since the conditions for voluntary repatriation have not yet been met, the refugees must stay in the refugee camps for some more time, in preparation for repatriation.

The SVA is carrying out reading promotion activities in school education in the Myanmar refugee camps in a three-year project through 2015, aiming to promote reading and cultural activities.

In 2014, we will cooperate with the Karen Refugee Committee Education Entity (KRCEE) to enhance the knowledge and skills of related organizations and individuals to promote reading. In addition, the SVA will play a role as the informant about the future of refugees in cooperation with the Karen Refugee Committee, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and the Committee for Coordination of Services to Displaced Persons in Thailand.

We will strive for the benefit of the 120,000 refugees in nine refugee camps in total. We will develop a reading environment for the 40,000 students in 150 schools located in the seven refugee camps where many Karens live.

In terms of management and operation, we will strengthen the knowledge, skills and experience of the local staff through seminars, so as to establish office and project management led by the local staff. The current Deputy Director of our local office will participate in an NGO management training program (approximately three months) in Tokyo from January to April, 2014.

## 2013 Activity report

### Community Library Project

#### Operating Activities in a Transitional Period

We strived for capacity building of the persons concerned through six kinds of seminars including community library management and practice. A cumulative total of 792 people participated in these seminars. In addition, the community



- 1 Library users looking at the Community Information Bulletin Board.
- 2 Children love picture books and libraries.
- 3 Seminar on practicing library activities.
- 4 Nursery school teacher became a librarian.
- 5 Enjoying games for interchange at the cultural festivals for refugee children.

library was placed formally in the organization chart of the KRCEE and the Office of Camp Education Entity of each camp. This strengthened further the cooperation with the KRCEE.

#### Offering Information and Learning Opportunities

Twenty librarians from all camps attended a joint seminar and shared their roles and issues. We held seminars on "Reading Promotion Activity" for the trainers of camp teachers and the teachers, and 131 educators learned the roles of the libraries and the usage and necessity of the mobile libraries.

We installed a "Community Information Bulletin Board" in front of all 21 community libraries for posting various information including the repatriation of refugees. Introduction of the SVA's activities and future plans will be posted in addition to introduction of new books, in cooperation with other groups. In addition, we delivered news related to Myanmar (Burma) and approximately 20,000 general educational books to the libraries.

#### Cooperative Activities with School Education

We started a check-out service of reference books for junior and senior high school students. In particular,

English reference books and dictionaries were frequently requested because the students have to write many reports in English. In addition, because there was a shortage of textbooks and teacher's manuals in Myanmar (Burma) language, we supported the printing of those books for 3rd to 5th graders of elementary school in cooperation with KRCEE.

#### Maintaining Functions as Community Libraries

We are operating 21 community libraries in seven refugee camps. The total number of library users for 2013 was 539,201 (aged 17 or younger: 323,285, aged 18 or older: 215,916). We published three titles (6,000 copies in total) of picture books in Karen and Burmese languages and distributed them to all the libraries. Day after day, many children come to the libraries after school and enjoy the newly published picture books.

In addition, we held cultural festivals for refugee children in four refugee camps in prayer for peace and interchange between children from different ethnic groups who live in the same camp. On the stage at night, children from six to twelve ethnic groups proudly performed dances or songs of their own ethnic group.

## Plan for 2014

- Offer information needed by refugees in making future choices, assuming voluntary repatriation, at 21 community libraries and other facilities. Purchase books about their own country. Update the Community Information Bulletin Boards in cooperation with other groups. Review the layout of the libraries.
- Offer learning opportunities using books. Purchase picture books. Lend the mobile book boxes including reference books to the school education organizations. Conduct the puppet play and annual

events to encourage reading. Hold cultural festivals for refugee children. Print and distribute textbooks and teacher's manuals in Karen language. Publish and distribute three titles of picture books in Karen and Burmese language.

- Conduct five kinds of seminars for school officials and librarians to acquire the information and skills necessary for increasing learning opportunities. Conduct monitoring and follow-up to deepen the understanding of the seminars.



# Afghanistan



School library in Jalalabad City



- **Official language :**  
Pashto and Dari Persian
- **Capital :** Kabul
- **Land area :** 652,225km<sup>2</sup>
- **Population :** 29.8 million  
(The World Bank data as of 2012)
- **Per capita GDP :** US\$687  
(The World Bank data as of 2012)
- **Currency :** Afghani (AFA)
- **Time difference with Japan :**  
- 4 hours and 30 minutes

The number of schools has been increasing every year and reached 15,000. The gross enrollment rate has improved to 56% (girls: 44%). The number of criminal incidents involving NGOs has increased from 164 cases in 2011 to 228 cases in 2012 and 30 NPO staff have died. There is a growing concern about further deterioration of public safety because of the upcoming presidential election in April 2014 and the scheduled withdrawal of multinational forces which will be completed at the end of 2014.

In Afghanistan which is under armed conflicts, 40 percent of school-age children cannot go to school and the literacy rate of adults is only 36% (female: 20%). Only 10% of schools have libraries. The Ministry of Education has made a policy to establish libraries in 60 % of schools, but has made no specific action plan yet.

We have been conducting a School Library Project to improve the quality of education through the reading experience of Afghan children in our five-year plan (2013-2017). We are also implementing the Children's Reading Promotion Project at public libraries and Children's Libraries run by SVA. We aim to provide a reading environment for 34,000 children in fiscal 2014.

In terms of administration and operation, we have no Japanese staff at our office because of the security situation at the site. Instead, we will continue to manage the office remotely from Tokyo, while ensuring the safety of local staff. We will improve the ability of local staff through training so that they can operate the projects and manage the office proactively.

## 2013 Activity report

### ✂ Project for Improvement of Primary Education through School Construction

In Kabul Province, we constructed a school building with 16 classrooms and 8 rooms (library, faculty office, etc.) and bathrooms at two schools. We had planned to construct a building with 20 classrooms at each school but ended up with only 16 classrooms each, due to the sharp depreciation of the yen. The new classrooms enabled 4,085 more students in 93 classes to



- 1 A completed school building.
- 2 Monitoring and reading picture books in an elementary class of high school.
- 3 Joyous children after receiving stationary in front of a new school building.
- 4 Students had been studying on rooftop before school building was constructed.
- 5 SVA supplied books and equipment for the children's room in the National Library.

study in a safe and comfortable learning environment (as of April 2014).

We performed the terminal evaluation of the project in April 2013, because 2013 was the final year of this phase. We concluded that the project met the needs and policies of the area and was highly effective.

### ✂ School Library Project

We established libraries at 18 schools, held the first seminar on library activities for 630 teachers, and held the first seminar on librarian for a total of 72 teachers in charge of library and principals. We also held the second seminar on librarian for a total of 140 teachers in charge of library and principals from four schools.

We published six picture books (2,400 copies each) and two picture-card shows (200 sets each) in both official languages, Pashtun and Dari. To publish these books, we made prototypes and improved them based on guidelines for publishing books and comments by Japanese specialists.

We republished thirteen picture books and two picture-card shows, which had been very popular and sold out.

### ✂ Children's Reading Promotion Project

We monitored the five public libraries in Nangarhar Province. Both the number of books and the number of children's books checked out increased from the previous year. We supported the improvement of the children's room in the National Library, provided equipment and books, and held seminars for librarians. Continued provision of additional books will be needed in the future.

We operated the Children's Library in Nangarhar Province and conducted library and cultural activities. A total of 51,374 children used the library in 2013 (50% of them were girls). Special classes for children who could not attend school were closed in May and the 50 pupils were transferred to an elementary school.

## Plan for 2014

### ✂ Project for Improvement of Primary Education through School Construction

- In Kabul City, construct a building with 20 classrooms and 8 rooms (office, faculty room, etc.) and bathrooms at one school. Provide desks, chairs and other equipment and also supply 720 books to a library. Hold a workshop for teachers to maintain the school building and bathrooms in good condition.

### ✂ School Library Project

- Provide seminars for teachers, library maintenance, mobile libraries, and monitoring at 26 schools in Nangarhar and Kabul Provinces. Improve children's access to books by providing the teachers of those schools with the knowledge and skills for library activities.

- Appeal to the Provincial Education Bureau to improve its capability and policy for promoting library activities, so that the activities will take root.
- Publish and deliver six children's books of folk tale and fiction. Republish five children's books.

### ✂ Children's Reading Promotion Project

- In Public Library Support, continue to hold seminars and provide monitoring at five public libraries in Nangarhar Province and the National Library in Kabul City.
- Operate the Children's Library in Jalalabad City, Nangarhar Province, and provide children with opportunities to experience library and cultural activities.



# Emergency Relief



Children support experience program "Atsumare, Hamawarasu!" (Gather, Beach Kids!) [Kesennuma City, Miyagi Prefecture]

The SVA established the "Emergency Relief Office" in May 2013, for the purpose of establishing a system to support the activities for supporting the people affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and to prepare for the implementation of emergency relief projects in Japan and abroad, which are expected to increase due to the effects of climate change.

In our role of linking the affected people with the supporters/parties concerned, we will strive to act responsibly and in good faith in any situation and to convey the voices of the people in the field by ensuring close communication with our supporters as well as between the people in the field and the Tokyo Office.

## 2013 Activity report

### Projects for supporting the victims of flooding in Southeast Myanmar and typhoon in the Philippines

The heavy torrential rainfall that continued for a few weeks from late July of 2013 caused massive damages mainly in Karen and Mon Provinces in Southeast Myanmar. In the southern area of Karen Province, where the victims were left without relief even after two months due to the poor accessibility of the area, we distributed sand filter units for making safe drinking water to 895 households and toilet equipment/supplies to 260 households. We also distributed school uniforms, school bags and stationery sets to 800 children who were affected, and provided learning support for children who had been unable to commute to school due to the disaster, after the school reopened.

The super typhoon Haiyan, which struck the central Philippines on November 8, 2013, caused massive damages resulting from the heavy rain storm and tidal waves and many people died or lost their houses and properties. The SVA conducted initial survey from mid-November on Samar Island in Eastern Samar Province and distributed the life support kits including food, mosquito nets, pots and underwear to 460 house-

holds in two villages in the town of Hernani. From the end of 2013 to February 2014, we also operated a project to distribute house reconstruction sets, including galvanized sheets, plywood, nails and tools, to 2,152 households in 16 villages in the town of Quinapondan, which was one of the towns that were left out of the relief activities because human damage was limited. As the typhoon season continued, we were able to help create a comfortable living environment that was sheltered from the elements by roofs and walls, for the disaster-affected people who had been huddling together in tents supplied by international aid organizations. After March, we will work on reconstruction of the Day Care Center (a pre-school educational facility) in Quinapondan.

### Responding to continuing flood and typhoon disasters in Japan

The SVA carried out relief activities in response to the flood and typhoon disasters that occurred across Japan during and after the summer of 2013, including flood disasters in Yamagata (July), Yamaguchi (August) and Kyoto (September) and typhoon disaster in Izu-Oshima (November). We dispatched staff from our Tokyo and Kesennuma Offices to the local Disaster



- 1 Explaining how to use the sand filter unit (flood disaster area in Myanmar).
- 2 Handing out supplies one by one (typhoon disaster area in the Philippines).
- 3 Residents visiting the mobile library in the snow (Yamamoto Town, Miyagi).
- 4 Holding lively conversations with mothers (Minamisoma City, Fukushima).
- 5 Many volunteers gathered (Izu-Oshima).

Volunteer Centers to help coordinate external support activities, support Center officials, and organize events for encouraging the affected people.

### Wa - FROM PERSON TO PERSON : Kesennuma Reconstruction Project

To support the town development projects, we invited experts and organized study sessions in Toyomazawa and Maehama Districts for the collective relocation plan for disaster prevention. In Oya, Koizumi and Hashikami Districts, we held workshops and provided opportunities to exchange opinions for the residents in order to support them in formulating and implementing the "Community Reconstruction Plan." In the Project for Supporting Children, we organized the "Atsumare, Hamawarasu!" (Gather, Beach Kids!) program, which was intended to encourage children to experience and get familiar with the sea. The event was held a total of eight times in summer and winter, and a total of 70 children participated. In the Livelihood Support Program, we continued to dispatch volunteers for the restoration of culture fishery in the Kurauchi District and to develop sales channels for "Koiwakame (salted seaweed)," which was commercialized.

### Mobile Library Project: Run in Tohoku!

#### Iwate Office

In the mobile library activities, we have visited 25 tem-

porary housing complexes in Yamada Town, Otsuchi Town, Ofunato City and Rikuzentakata City. A total of 11,324 people used the libraries, including the operation of community libraries and private libraries, and lent out 60,844 books (as of the end of December 2013). While providing a place for the residents to relax through each activity, we made an effort to continually pick up the voices of the users such as their expectations for the libraries and anxieties about daily life. In addition, the SVA played a central role in the collaboration between the Rikuzentakata City Library and the private libraries in the city. By carrying out library-related events in cooperation with municipal governments and local organizations, we have been able to strengthen our relationship with the local communities and receive empathy from the local residents.

#### Yamamoto Office

In Yamamoto Town in Miyagi Prefecture, our Mobile Library Car is regularly visiting eight temporary housing complexes in Kashima Area. Roughly 2,500 people used the library and more than 6,000 books were checked out in 2013. In Minamisoma City in Fukushima Prefecture, we increased the service locations from five in 2012 to eight in 2013. As a result, roughly 1,700 people used the library and 3,000 books were checked out.

## Plan for 2014

### Wa - FROM PERSON TO PERSON - Kesennuma Reconstruction Project

- Conduct workshops, seminars and study tours for town development that the residents can easily participate in.
- Plan to provide opportunities for children to play on the beach in peace once again.
- Conduct study tours and workshops and dispatch experts to reenergize the fishing villages.

### Mobile Library Project: Run in Tohoku!

#### Iwate Office

- Conduct mobile library activities, operate community

libraries, and carry out private libraries.

- Support reconstruction of public libraries. Conduct story-telling sessions, learning support activities including book report assistance and events.
- Launch the Rikuzentakata Community Library Supporters Club.

#### Yamamoto Office

- Increase the service locations of mobile library activities.
- Cooperate with events related to the projects for supporting children and town development.



# Japan



1

We would like to express our gratitude for your warm support of our activities in 2013.

Many of those who already knew about Shanti have become supporters who will continually support us. Additionally, we have welcomed 1,773 new supporters in 2013. In 2014, we would like to inform you about the current status and challenges of our activities abroad and in Japan, while placing a high priority on our relationship with people.

① Yuichiro Hanai, founding director of "machi tosho terrasow," the Obuse Town Library in Nagano Prefecture, giving a lecture at an "SVA Gathering" on December 7.

② Participants of the study tour with children in a refugee camp.



2

## Asian Library Supporter

### Network of supporters expanding

We welcomed 338 new Asian Library supporters this year and the number of supporters totaled 979 by the end of 2013. The network of supporters has been expanding. Some supporters volunteered their time for a study tour of the "Mobile Library Project: Run in Tohoku!"

In the spring, we sent our supporters photo greeting cards with messages written by children. We will keep supporting the heart-to-heart relationship between our supporters and the children in Asia.

## Campaign for Delivering Picture Books

### Deliver 15,000 picture books to children

In fiscal 2013, which marked the 15th anniversary of this project, the SVA delivered 15,635 picture books to our supporting areas. Our activities have been supported by 1,251 individuals and organizations. We continued to receive a grant from Bellmark Educational Support Foundation and transportation support from Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha. For fiscal 2014, we plan to call for cooperation with a goal of delivering 15,000 books to children.



We received picture books! (Cambodia)

## Craft Aid

### Conducted a field survey of manufacturers

We conducted a written survey of our 16 partner manufacturers in Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Afghanistan in fiscal 2013. In Laos and Thailand, we conducted field surveys and directly interviewed the craft workers.

We will strive to create new products by listening to the voices of craft workers and sales supporters.



A female craft worker making embroidery stitch by stitch.

## Public Relations

### Providing an opportunity to exchange opinion with supporters

In 2013, we held 19 debriefing sessions by staff members working at overseas offices and 475 people participated. Additionally, we had three debriefing meetings on the support activity for the Great East Japan Earthquake victims. We also organized exhibitions and lecture meetings at libraries, such as Kitashinjuku Library and Yotsuya Library, both in Shinjuku Ward of Tokyo, Tahara City Library in Aichi Prefecture, Mie Prefectural Library, and Shimane Prefectural Library. We encouraged local members and supporters of Asian libraries to attend these events, aiming to create opportunities to meet and exchange views face-to-face locally.



A debriefing session was held when local staff came to Japan.

## Recycle Book Aid

### Supporting Asian children with used books, etc.

In 2013 we started a new approach by creating an envelope-type flyer to ask for donation of at least one book and such, and many people cooperated with us. In 2013, we received 1,057 applications, including 288 new applications, and received 146,000 books, CDs and DVDs in total.

In 2014, the project will be renamed the "Book Donation Project."



Efforts of our partner company

## Support for Overseas Projects

### To support overseas projects

Thanks to the support of many people, the SVA is close to achieving its goal for 2013 regarding the donations designated for overseas projects. In Laos we supported the planning of new projects. In Afghanistan we conducted the terminal evaluation of the project, and supported the formulation of action plan for autonomous operation (for the first year), etc. We also organized a seminar on accounting and conducted research on planning new projects in Myanmar/Burma.

In 2014, we will continue to focus on fund raising, human resource development, and supporting project management.



SVA staff visiting a school in Laos to conduct a survey for planning new projects



## Financial Report

Income	Year 2013
Bank Interest	279,057
Membership Fee	27,033,000
Donation	423,869,622
Subsidy	214,921,703
Programs for Profit	51,956,687
Others	6,146,661
<b>Total</b>	<b>724,206,730</b>

Expenditures	Year 2013
Public Interest Purpose 1	
Thailand	16,929,138
Cambodia	138,349,392
Laos	41,496,223
Myanmar (Burma) Refugee	52,320,969
Afghanistan	142,225,834
Myanmar	3,019,717
Others	37,989,669
Public Interest Purpose 2	
The Great East Japan Earthquake	127,488,942
Emergency Relief(Overseas)	14,028,648
Others	3,746,295
Public Interest Purpose 3	
Public Interest Purpose (Common)	67,440,276
Total: Public Interest Purpose	<b>659,662,187</b>
Profit-making Purpose	<b>40,799,351</b>
Administration	35,076,892
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>735,538,430</b>

## SVA Association members

**Total number of members** : 1,932 persons

**Staff member** : 313 persons

**Individual** : 259 persons

**Organization** : 54 organizations

**Supporting member** : 1,619 persons

**Individual** : 1,431 persons

**Organization** : 188 organizations

(as at December 31, 2013)

**Honorary President** : Rev. Zendo Matsunaga

### Advisor :

Mr. Fusao Adachi

Rev. Eisho Kawahara

Rev. Hojun Abe

Mr. Takashi Shiraishi

Prof. Yutaka Aramaki

Rev. Sojun Matsuno

Mr. Masahiro Onoda

### Technical Adviser :

Ms. Ryoko Sato

Ms. Yayoi Tanaka

Mr. Yoshifumi Tajiri

Ms. Sumiyo Matsuo

### SVA Executive Board members

**President** : Rev. Kyoei Wakabayashi

### Vice President :

Rev. Gido Sambe

Ms. Kayoko Kozu

**Chief Executive Director** : Rev. Shunko Chino

### Managing Director :

Ms. Hitoshi Ichikawa

Rev. Bunmei Hayasaka

Prof. Tatsuya Hata

### Board of Directors :

Rev. Shiro Arima

Mr. Yohji Nagahama

Ms. Yasuko Isobe

Ms. Hitomi Nagahori

Mr. Makoto Okamoto

Mr. Shuichi Nomura

Rev. Rigyo Kurashina

Rev. Kenshi Fueoka

Rev. Hitoshi Jin

Mr. Katsumasa Yagisawa

Mr. Hisashi Seki

Mr. Keiji Watanabe

Ms. Chieko Watanabe

### Auditor :

Mr. Toshiyuki Aoki

Mr. Kazuo Masuda

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