

Shanti Volunteer Association

2014

Annual Reprt

Move forward, hand in hand.



Shanti Volunteer Association



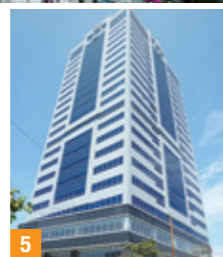
[CAMBODIA]

Destruction of education under the Pol Pot Regime and increasing gap between rich and poor

Although the enrollment rate in elementary school now exceeds 90 percent, Cambodia experienced the worst era of destruction of education in 1970s when the education system was abolished by the Pol Pot administration. Under drastic communist policies, Pol Pot destroyed school buildings, executed many teachers or subjected them to forced labor, and all the books were lost by the biblioclasm policy.

Educational system recovered following the end of the civil war but shortage of schools and teachers continued, forcing villagers to become teachers without formal training. As a result, more than half of the elementary school teachers did not have a high school diploma.

Although the recent enrollment rate exceeds 90 percent, the graduation rate from elementary schools is still less than 50 percent. The Cambodian constitution stipulates a compulsory education of nine years, but the percentage of students who go on to junior high or high schools is extremely low. Particularly in the rural farming areas countless children leave school or repeat the same grade. The major reasons are that they have to work because their household is poor, they cannot afford the necessary stationaries and school uniforms, and their houses are located far from their schools. These facts explicitly illustrate the educational gap between urban and rural areas. Cambodia appears to be enjoying a steady economic growth centering on tourism and sewing industry. Behind the growth, however, the serious issues of gap and poverty have been left unsolved.



- 1 Elementary school in a rural farming area, with a wooden building and only one classroom
- 2 Cambodian refugee camp in the 1980s
- 3 Phnom Penh City in 1992
- 4-5 Phnom Penh City with large supermarkets and skyscrapers being built

Low literacy rate among youths and adults as well as children

Inability to read and write due to lack of education not only affects one's daily life and employment but also poses a problem in one's health and hygiene. If people cannot read, they will not be able to get information about food or medical care, which will leave them to rely only on the knowledge and wisdom passed down by their ancestors. It is not uncommon for people to die from malnutrition or infectious diseases because of their inability to access accurate information.

Also, we cannot overlook the issues related to women who are involved in pregnancy, childbirth, housework, and child-raising. Poor understanding of family planning in rural areas often leads to early marriage and unwanted pregnancy. There are also many cases of divorce, resulting in more single mothers in rural areas than urban areas. Lack of education and literacy significantly hinder women's precious opportunity to participate in society.

As such, the issues on education and literacy have serious impacts on not only children but also youths and adults. Similar problems are also seen in slum areas in the cities as well as in rural areas. It is estimated that there are 400 to 700 slums in Phnom Penh and reportedly about twenty thousand people from rural areas annually migrate into the city. Because of poverty and poor living environment, combined with events such as forced evictions associated with urban development in recent years, people in the slums are still in a situation today where they cannot get enough clothing, food or housing, not to mention education.



- 1 Teachers organizing 180 books recently delivered at a rural school
- 2 Classroom with no walls, where class will be cancelled in case of rain



[CAMBODIA | LAOS | AFGHANISTAN | MYANMER]

Poverty and delay in education caused by civil war

These issues in Cambodia commonly exist in other developing countries such as Myanmar, Laos, and Afghanistan, which SVA has been supporting.

In Myanmar where the conflicts between the antigovernment forces of ethnic minorities and the military government lasted for over twenty years, more than half of the children have not finished their elementary education, including orphans who lost their parents and children who cannot go to school because of poverty. On the other hand, more than 140 thousand people are living in the refugee camps near Thai border, having fled from the conflicts. In refugee camps, there is a chronic shortage of school buildings and textbooks, and, even though children can receive fundamental education, they cannot go out of camp to receive higher education. While Myanmar is starting to show signs of economic growth because of the rapid democratization, environment for children to receive appropriate education is still underdeveloped.

In Afghanistan in the Middle East, people have been exposed to dangerous and unstable situations: the civil war known as a "proxy war between the U.S. and Soviet Union" after the Soviet invasion in the 1970s; the air strikes against Afghanistan triggered by the September 11th terrorist attacks on the U.S.; and the conflicts between antigovernment armed forces and multinational forces.

Enrolment rate in elementary school is only 55 percent and the percentage of schools with usable buildings remains low at 50 percent. In such a poor educational environment, many children are forced to study in tents or outdoor. The situation was aggravated even more in 2013, when 481 schools were closed or burned down by antigovernment armed forces. Urgent and long-term support for education is strongly desired to break through the status quo.



- 1 Temple school in Myanmar; not enough facilities for the increasing number of students
- 2 Wreckage of a tank in Afghanistan
- 3 Children in Afghanistan
- 4 Construction of school buildings is falling behind the population growth in Afghanistan



3 projects by SVA

1 Providing Opportunities of Reading Books



Reading books encourages children's mental growth just as eating food leads to physical growth. Beyond providing practical benefits like pleasure, usefulness, and enlightenment, reading various picture books or listening to many stories will develop the ability and confidence to work on things, and courage and hope to cope with difficulties.

Reading books also give children precious opportunities of getting to know characters. Literacy enables children not only to obtain the information essential for them to live, but also to acquire knowledge by learning about the history and culture of their own and other countries.

The SVA's activities are based on the belief that "the power of books" is linked to "the power to live." Our activities include publishing picture books and picture-card shows, and purchasing books for the countries where children have less access to books. The SVA also has been setting up various opportunities for children to meet books according to the situation and the need for educational support in the target countries. For example, we remodel unutilized classrooms into libraries, promote the use of book boxes which also function as bookshelves, build community libraries, and operate mobile libraries using minivans equipped with bookshelves.

2 Developing Human Resources



In order to increase opportunities for children to meet and read books, it is necessary to build libraries that will be loved and widely used by children. Above preparing facilities and equipment, it is critical to develop "human resources" that will engage in library operation. The SVA conducts seminars for librarians, childcare workers, teachers, principals, and administrators, to learn the history and the genre of picture books, child psychology, and the necessary knowledge for selecting and organizing books. Maintaining an active library with constant visitors requires not only the motivation and the skill of librarians but also the support from related organizations. Therefore it is also important to develop school staff and administrators who will provide support and guidance to the libraries.

Our seminar includes practicing skills such as storytelling and picture-card shows. Not a few librarians and teachers express embarrassment or reluctance to storytelling at first, but they gradually understand its necessity and pleasure through their own experience of storytelling to children.

We also provide training programs for authors, painters, and editors who create picture books. Book publication has not yet penetrated in many of the aided countries, and the situation is worse for picture books. The first thing we should do before publication is to find and develop creators of picture books.

As one of our activities for that purpose, we hold picture book contests in refugee camps. There are many people in the camps who are good at painting and interested in creative activities. Evaluating the works of art at the contest provides a good opportunity for those people to better understand picture books and develop an eye for appreciating them.

3 Creating a Place of Peace for Children



War and poverty deprive children of their smiles. These children have a skinny body, a grim expression, and sharp eyes like adults. But once such children come to the libraries, open picture books, and listen to storytelling, they show an innocent, child-like face with a beaming smile. For the children who are mentally hurt by war and violence, libraries are the place of peace and salvation where they can regain their childishness. We have also been working hard to convey the necessity and effects of education by actively holding events such as exhibitions and opening libraries to local residents. Libraries can be expected to become a place for improving people's understanding and awareness for education.

Besides its original roles such as storing books, providing opportunities of reading books and storytelling with picture books, a library also functions as a public space for connecting adults together, just like a community center or a public hall. In a case where construction of a new library inspired people living in a slum to work hand in hand to build a nursery by themselves, we provided support and advice for sustainable management of the nursery.

In addition to the library projects, the SVA has constructed schools and orphanages to create an environment for children to live and study in safety. A project called "Children's House in Asia," in which we supported the construction and management in Cambodia and Laos, was later handed over to the local people or became a model for children's centers organized by the government.

Prolonged conflicts, poverty, and repeated natural disasters take away from people the power and dignity which are necessary to live on, and bring them feelings of sorrow and hatred in return. It's no exaggeration to say that these situations can provide a hotbed for terrorism, which is now threatening the world peace. What we can do is to stand by the people in grief, share their grief, and together seek a way to resolve the situation, and to continue our support activities to develop the "power to create the future" of the children by promoting the projects for book-reading and operating libraries. Believing that the power of books is the power to live, we will continue to create hope for the future.



To All of You

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you who are supporting Shanti's activities, and I hereby present our annual report for 2014.

This year, the Sikkha Asia Foundation (SAF) has started to operate independently in accordance with its own self-supporting plan. I would like to express my profound gratitude for your more than thirty years of support which made it possible, and also would like to ask for your continued support in the future. 2015 will be a year of challenges as well as rapid progress for the local staff.

In 2014 we were able to open a local office in Myanmar. Though the political situation turned democratic, children are still facing great difficulties. When I visited Myanmar last year, I observed "the night elementary school." Looking at the children diligently taking notes in small letters under dim lights, I not only felt their desire to find hope for future in learning, but also could not help praying for them to overcome various hardships in their future.

The SVA is aiming at realizing a peaceful society in which everybody can live with dignity. It may seem like an endless journey, but as long as there are people who will support us, we would like to walk together with them.

I sincerely ask for your continued support in the future.



**Kyohei
Wakabayashi**

President, Shanti
Volunteer Association

In 2014, the Shanti came to several major turning points. This was the first year of a five-year plan that aims for "delivery of reading promotion activity and library activity to 6.7 million people by 2018," so that the people in more difficult and vulnerable positions can gain the ability to think for themselves and solve the problems on their own.

Let us turn our eyes to each country. In Thailand, where we first started our activities, the SAF, our local corporation, became independent as an NGO that solves various social problems on its own. The SAF has started anew as a partnership corporation that shares the same principles and learns together with us. In Myanmar, where we started new activities for the first time in ten years since Afghanistan, we were able to open a local office and start full-scale programs that utilize our experiences. In Japan, 1,500 people became new support members of the Shanti.

These achievements and new challenges after 33 years of work would have been impossible without the continuous help of our supporters in various forms and opportunities up until now. All of us at the Shanti would like to send our most sincere thanks to the supporters; we have been able to continue our activities until now because we were supported by thoughts and action of each one of you and encouraged by your warm words.

We sincerely hope and ask that you will continue to walk together with us towards the goal of "realizing a peaceful (Shanti) society."



**Naoshi
Seki**

Chief Officer

To Open a Book is to Open up Your Future

There are many children in the world who don't know what a book is, just because they were born in a different environment.

The Shanti is conducting library activities for the children in Asia who are in difficult and vulnerable positions, so that they can live with hopes for their future.

Having books is a right given equally to everyone.
Please support them with us.
For the children who have yet to know what a book is.



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Official Language	Thai
Capital	Bangkok
Land area	514,000km ²
Population	67.01million (The World Bank data as of 2013)
Per Capita GDP	US\$ 5,780 (The World Bank data as of 2013)
Currency	Bart (B)
Time difference with Japan	-2 hours

In January 2014, hundreds of thousands of protestors started "shutdown Bangkok" demonstrations aiming to overthrow the government. The army imposed martial law after Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra was ousted. As a mediator, the army chief held a meeting with the former Prime Minister and leaders of anti-government demonstrators, but the meeting ended with no solution. After a coup d'état on May 22, the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO, chairman: General Prayuth) seized power. The interim administration has been in power since General Prayuth was appointed on August 24. Public security is getting better and tourists are coming back, but there are still restrictions on freedom of speech and broadcasting under martial law. Although the administration is shifting to civilian rule, the election scheduled to be held in 2015 will be postponed to 2016.



1 Tak Province scholarship award ceremony (@Masao Seto)

Thailand is referred to as a "newly industrializing country." However, the wealth gap and regional gap in the society still exists and the education quality gap between Bangkok and other regions has been widening.

Even though a free education system has been implemented, there is not a large enough budget for schools to maintain equipment and facilities so parents and guardians are forced to pay additional fees. In Bangkok, students have to pay some amount to maintain school computers and to have special language classes. They also need to pay for transportation. For poor people who live in slum areas, these burdens are diffi-

cult to manage. There are many ethnic minority families engaging in farming in the Tak and Phayao Provinces. They squeeze money out of their limited cash income for their children to go to school. Children who have only one or no parents are facing a harder situation.



2 Staff visiting homes in Tak Province

2014 Main Achievements

The number of immigrant workers from neighboring countries, especially from Cambodia, is increasing in Bangkok including Khlong-Toei. The number of Cambodian children who come to the Khlong-Toei community library is also increasing.

The Khlong-Toei community library finished its repair work and opened on November 29. The renewed library, "Miraibrary" has a foreign language book corner for Cambodian, Burmese, Laotian and English books and an internet information search corner.

Based on this community library, the SVA started to provide mobile library services at Mae Sot district in the Tak Province where many Myanmar immigrant workers live, the Mahachai district in Samut Sakhon Province and slum areas in Bangkok. The SVA donated 30 books translated to Burmese, a set of library boxes and library

book cases to 23 schools. These are going to be used as mini-libraries in the future.

The SVA provided scholarships to 377 junior and senior high school students as well as to college students from Bangkok, Phayao Province, Tak Province, and Loei Province. 88 representatives of scholarship students gathered from three scholarship regions to the Shanti Student Dormitory in Pon district in Phayao Province and attended a three-day scholarship camp. The theme for the camp was to train model leaders who have "volunteering spirits." Students who participated in the camp spent time together and deepened their friendships by planting trees at the natural park that the local people protected, repairing dormitories, and having cultural exchange party by showing traditional dances wearing their own national costumes.



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3 The appearance of the renovated "Miraibrary"
4 Mobile library service (@Masao Seto)
5 Phayao Province award ceremony (@Masao Seto)



1 A child reading a book to an illiterate villager in a community library

Elementary school enrollment rate has reached 97% but the percentage of the students who continue elementary education is as low as 61% in Cambodia, the worst number in the South East Asian nations where data are available. The percentage of disadvantaged children is about 33%. In rural farming areas, the literacy rate of adults is currently less than 50%. The SVA established its local offices in Siem Reap Province and Battambang Province to deal with these issues by

promoting reading activities and developing a co-operative relation with the local governments in educationally underprivileged areas. In line with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport policy to develop human resources, the SVA conducted six projects and provided reading and educational environments to 151,393 people. As a new project, the SVA planned a project to enhance the quality of early childhood education in public kindergartens.

2014 Main Achievements

1 Dream Elementary School Project

The SVA constructed eight elementary school buildings and six libraries in Banteay Meanchey and Battambang Provinces and held seminars on school and library management. According to a follow-up survey for target schools in 2012, the rate of children going to the next grade and the dropout rate improved in three out of five schools.

2 School Library Operation Project with Community Participation

The SVA held a seminar on library management based on the "Standard for Elementary School Libraries" of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport in eight schools in Banteay Meanchey and Battambang Provinces. The SVA donated decorations, equipment and books for libraries and conducted the reading promotion activities. 58 people from eight schools attended the seminar and 1,933 people from five schools participated in the events for promoting library activities. The SVA is a member of a working group to create a "reading promotion guideline" in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport.

3 Project for Publishing Picture Books and Picture-Card Shows

The SVA published two picture books and one picture-card show and distributed them by March, 2015. The survey on the books found that children like the published picture books.

4 Community Learning Center Project Centered on Library Activities

The first Community Learning Center in Kampong Thom Province and the second in Siem Reap Province were constructed. Many residents, children and adults, used the libraries, and an average of more than 100 people came to both libraries per day. More than 400 titles of books, including agriculture and health related books indispensable for improving their living,

are read by these people. The SVA planned a seminar on improving the standard of living of local residents and helped them conduct it.

5 Traditional Culture Support: Library Promotion Project at Buddhist Schools

The SVA established a Buddhist Library Working Group (BLWG) in the Buddhist Institute and a Buddhist Education Working Group (BEWG) in the Buddhist Education Office.

The SVA opened a Buddhist library in Buddhist schools of target temples and conducted library management seminars for BLWG and librarians at those libraries. For BEWG, the SVA developed human resources to enhance the Buddhist school's quality by holding seminars for formulating the plans and budget documents.

6 Library Promotion Project in Slum Area

The SVA constructed one community library in the Akpiwat Meanchey slum. In the five target slums, the SVA carried out mobile library activities as planned. The SVA will recruit and train volunteers who will play a role for mobile library activities in the slum area in the future.



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2 School librarians attending a seminar
3 Children enjoying the school library during recess



Official Language	Khmer
Capital	Phnom Penh
Land area	1,810,000km ²
Population	15.14million (The World Bank data as of 2013)
Per Capita GDP	US\$ 1,006 (The World Bank data as of 2013)
Currency	Riel (KHR)
Time difference with Japan	-2 hours

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport announced the Education Strategic Plan for 2014 to 2018. The Ministry thinks that developing human resources is an essential component for its economic development and announced three policies for ensuring equitable access to education services, enhancing the quality of learning as well as leadership and management skills of educators. In these policies, it strongly focuses on seven sectors such as early childhood education, primary education and non-formal education. The existence of the unsupported people who are left behind despite the economic development has become a serious issue.



1 Signing ceremony to construct a school with community participation

The SVA conducted projects in the Viengkham District of Luang Prabang Province, the center of culture and economy in northern Laos. The Viengkham District is far from the center of Luang Prabang; its infrastructure has been under development due to its precipitous terrain; over 85% of its population is made up of ethnic minorities who do not speak the official language, Lao; and the poverty rate is extremely high. Despite these conditions, the Viengkham District was not a beneficiary of the development assistance projects, such as "Education for All (EFA)."

In 2014, we achieved a great contribution for the improvement of quality of and access to education in the Viengkham District by conducting activities to solve problems in elementary education as planned.

In the operational aspect, we continue to strengthen the ability of the local staff in order to improve their operational skills by sending them to training workshops to learn how to plan new projects based on a plan for autonomous operations and the developmental approach based on human rights.



2 Project areas beyond several mountains

2014 Main Achievements

1 Improvement of access to education (Project for Improving Elementary School Facilities)

We started constructing three elementary school buildings in the Viengkham District of Luang Prabang Province. To make this construction project participatory, the SVA Laos office values two processes. One is that the local residents themselves collect lumber to construct the school buildings. Now in Laos, it takes a lot of procedural steps and time for the locals to collect wood materials due to strict regulations for forest preservation. By participating in the project, they will raise their proactive awareness of the SVA project. The second process is that the elementary school teachers develop the building layout plan by themselves while the building is under construction. This plan involves the school gate and school grounds which are to be designed by the teachers and local people after finishing the school building. Showing this plan in the classroom clarifies the goals the teachers and local residents aim for and motivates continuous training of teachers. Construction began in September 2014 and will be completed by the end of May 2015.

2 Improvement of quality of education (Project for Improving Teaching Skills)

Due to the inadequate number of classrooms and teachers, there are numerous combined classes in the Viengkham District. However, because the teachers don't have enough knowl-

edge and skills to teach children in different grades, many children leave the school without learning anything. To improve this situation, we offered training for all the teachers in charge of the preschool and elementary classes in the Viengkham District. And to promote the reading of books, we developed mobile library activities for 18 schools and published four titles of picture books.



3 Blackboards installed for each grade to improve the situation of combined classes

4 Smiles from the children after storytelling



1 Children enjoying picture books

Since a ceasefire agreement was signed between the government of Myanmar and the Karen National Union (KNU) in 2012, there has been a lot of discussion on the preparation for the refugees to return to their country. This phenomenon made the movement for the return of refugees more real – the government of Thailand and UNHCR expect that there will be a large scale return of refugees from 2015 to 2017.

In 2014, the SVA conducted activities to promote

the reading of books in educational institutions in addition to the existing community libraries, aiming to expand the promotion of reading activities in educational programs with the cooperation of the Karen Refugee Committee Education Entity (KRCEE) and the Office of Camp Education Entity (OCEE) in refugee camps. In addition, we strengthened the relationship between the educational offices in refugee camps, the dissemination of information, and the human resource development at libraries.

2014 Main Achievements

Community Library Project

1 Providing information for refugees' return

The SVA provided books about Myanmar and set the digital information research service via offline computer in 21 libraries. We also updated the information on the community bulletin boards every month and renovated libraries for further user-friendliness.

2 Cooperation with schools

The SVA provided library services to various age groups of the refugee camp. From preschoolers to college graduates and young adults, we offered services appropriate for each group: circulated picture books and reference books, lent mobile book boxes to the schools, held lectures to promote reading, and related events, and printed and provided textbooks and guides for teachers in the Karen language. These activities enabled us to support basic literacy education and learning with books, which resulted in a 20%

increase in the number of schools using mobile book boxes.

3 Project operation considering the transitional phase

Through five kinds of reading promotion seminars, those in charge of education, library and school teachers have learned the importance of reading promotion activities and acquired necessary knowledge and skills. They are taking advantage of the knowledge and skills in their daily library operation, activities, projects for mobile book box, and reading promotion events by young librarians.

4 Maintaining functions of community libraries

The SVA runs 21 community libraries in seven refugee camps, which are used by the total number of 454,946 residents in a year. Also, children and teachers enjoyed the 6,000 copies (three titles) of picture books in the Karen and Burmese language that we published and set in the libraries.



2 Children reading books at a community library 3 A bulletin board in front of a library

4 A joint seminar 5 A student lending a reference book of a mobile book box



Myanmar Refugees (Burma)



Camps mainly inhabited by ethnic Karen

Mae La Oon:10,539	Nu Po:11,399
Mae Ra Ma Luang:12,099	Ban Don Yang:2,972
Mae La:40,385	Tham Hin:6,346
Umpiem:12,099	

Total 95,389 (Grand total of refugees 110,094)
(TBC: The Border Consortium as of December 2014)

In Thailand, a military government was established due to the coup d'état in May 2014. The government reinforced its policies against immigrants and refugees, and the military officers identified them at refugee camps in July. The government placed strict restrictions on the transfer of refugees and the entrance of outsiders into the camps. We saw significant progress in practical discussions towards refugee repatriation among the governments of Thailand and Myanmar and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), after an announcement on refugee repatriation between the governments of Thailand and Myanmar.



Official Language	Lao
Capital	Vientiane
Land area	240,000km ²
Population	6.77million (The World Bank data as of 2013)
Per Capita GDP	US\$ 1,661 (The World Bank data as of 2013)
Currency	Kip
Time difference with Japan	-2 hours

In Laos, there has been a wide variety of educational activities to improve education. This will play a strong role in bringing the Laotian people out of poverty by 2020, and to achieve its nation-building slogan "Four Break-throughs" adopted at the 9th National Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party. However, as the disparity grows, not only in socioeconomic but in education levels between the urban and rural areas, educational improvement with reinforcement of the government's administrative capacity is needed.

Afghanistan



Official Language	Pashto and Dari Persian
Capital	Kabul
Land area	652,225km ²
Population	30.55million (The World Bank data as of 2013)
Per Capita GDP	US\$ 665 (The World Bank data as of 2013)
Currency	Afghani (AFN)
Time difference with Japan	-4 hours and 30 minutes

2014 recorded the highest number of death or injury to citizens during conflict: 10,548 people including 2,474 children. In 2014, Mr. Ghani won the Presidential election in April, and an international security force withdrew at the end of the year. But the concern remains that the attacks by antigovernment armed groups will be much more violent because of insufficient public security measures by Afghan Armed Forces.



1 Storytelling with picture books in the new library building

The number of schools increased to 16,000, but half of them do not have physical buildings. The net school enrollment rate remains low as 56% (44% for girls) and 3.5 million children have not been able to go to school. The SVA conducted the "School Library Project in Provincial Area" and "Children's Reading Promotion Activity" to improve their educational quality by giving them opportunities to read books, which enabled

70,049 children to read books. We also constructed a school building in Kabul Province.

Since 2007, we have not had a Japanese director on site because of the worsening security, but we have been operating remotely from Tokyo by holding meetings in other countries with local staff.

2014 Main Achievements

1 Project for Improvement of Primary Education through School Construction

In Kabul Province, the SVA constructed a school building with 20 classrooms and eight rooms (library, faculty office, etc.) and bathrooms. Since March 2015, 1,775 children who had previously studied in tents and rental houses have been studying in comfortable classrooms.

2 School Library Project in Provincial Area

We established a library at a school we built and held the first seminar on library activities for 71 teachers from two schools. We also held the first seminar on the librarian's responsibilities for eight teachers in charge of libraries from two separate schools. We held a second seminar on library activities for 540 teachers from 18 schools and a second seminar on the role of the librarian for a total of 72 teachers in charge of libraries from 18 different schools and librarians from six separate libraries. In total, we served approximately 691 teachers and librarians.

We published five picture books and one picture-card show. To publish these books, we made prototypes and improved them based on guidelines for publishing books and comments



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by Japanese specialists. We received a lot of requests to purchase these books by NGOs. We settled our policy of publishing books for sale and reprinted 500 copies each of five newly published picture books.

3 Children's Reading Promotion Project

We operated the "Children's Library" in Nangarhar Province and conducted library and cultural activities. A total of 31,128 children used the library, which resulted in an increase in the number of users and in the circulation of books compared with the previous year. We also researched the usage status at five libraries in Nangarhar Province.



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2 Students studying in a tent prior to construction of the new school building

3 Completed school building

4 Students waiting for the completion ceremony



1 Students studying in the new building of Myatingy temple school

After assigning a Japanese director and staff in Myanmar, the SVA set up offices in Pyay District of Bago Region in March and Yangon in September, and began conducting activities with a three-year plan.

After organizing our office, we began three projects: the "Project for Reforming Temple Schools," the "Project for Non-formal Education," and the "Project for Improvement of Publishing Children's Books." As the "Library Improvement Project"

was selected as a project for Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan in July, we began to introduce and improve services for children at public libraries in Pyay District.

One year after our office opened, the SVA strengthened monitoring of projects and developed relationships between concerned parties while focusing on improving the skill of our local staff.

2014 Main Achievements

1 Project for Reforming Temple Schools

The SVA constructed two temple school buildings and one orphanage for girls in Pyay District, which enabled 189 children and 158 girls in orphanages to live and study in safe and comfortable buildings. We provided seminars for 98 teachers from 14 temple schools.

2 Project for Non-formal Education

The SVA conducted three projects: "Life Skill Education Programs for Children Who Can't Go to School" for 115 children, from the ages of 10 to 17, in three villages in Pyay District; "Night School for Children Who Stopped Attending School" for 74 children, from 10 to 14 years old, in three villages in Tharrawaddy District; and a "Community Learning Center" where lectures for teachers are provided, as well as activities including the promotion of reading books, holding lectures for more income, and creating employment for tour guides, in three villages in Pyay District.

3 Public Library Improvement Project

The SVA donated furniture for children and children's books to six public libraries in Pyay

District, and conducted professional seminars on library operations for 20 librarians and elementary school teachers. To conduct a mobile library activity for children living in places far from libraries, we developed a three-wheeled library car. It provides 7,392 children in Pyay District with Children Services.

4 Project for Improvement of Publishing Children's Books

In cooperation with an association of Myanmar writers, the SVA held a picture book contest. Selecting three titles by Myanmar authors among 11 titles, we published three picture books, 6,400 copies for each book.



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2 The former temple school building of Myatingy 3 Night school 4 Renovated Child Space at the Baucaun public library



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Myanmar



Official Language	Burmese
Capital	Naypyidaw
Land area	678,500km ²
Population	51.41million (Ministry of Immigration and Population of Myanmar data as of 2014)
Per Capita GDP	US\$ 869 (IMF data as of 2013)
Currency	Kyat (K)
Time difference with Japan	-2 hours and 30 minutes

Since the transition to civil government in 2011, Myanmar has been maintaining a steep economic growth rate higher than seven percent, and has acted as a chair of ASEAN in 2014. Peace negotiations with armed groups of ethnic minorities were held by each ethnic group, and we saw progress in these negotiations by aiming for comprehensive cease-fire and peace agreements. To see if Myanmar is going to be more democratic, people will pay attention to the general election results planned to be held around late October to early November of 2015.



People standing in front of the new day-care center. (Samar Island, the Philippines)

The support activities by the SVA for those affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake mark the 5th year in 2015. In some areas, changes towards reconstruction and securing fair living standards have become evident as many people moved from temporary housing to public housing allocated for disaster victims. On the other hand, healing the hidden psychological wounds

caused by the Fukushima power plant accident is still a big challenge. Responding to such changes of the damaged areas and victims, we will start terminating some of the activities, but our reconstruction support will continue in fiscal 2015 in three prefectures, i.e., Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima.

Emergency Support Activities Overseas

Typhoon Damage in the Philippines and Earthquake Damage in Yunnan, China in fiscal 2014

SVA continued support activities in fiscal 2014 in Municipality of Quinapondan, Eastern Samar Province, Samar Island, the Philippines; which was hit by the typhoon on November 8, 2013. We supplied materials such as galvanized sheets and plywood, and tools such as hammers and nails, to repair and/or rebuild houses for 2,152 households in 16 villages. We restored five buildings of a day-care center, which provides education for children from three to five years old; and conducted a trauma treatment program for them and their parents. The solidly-rebuilt day-care center served as a shelter for the local people in the subsequent typhoons and a mother who took part in the program said, "Now I understand what

my family should do in times of disasters."

A 6.5-magnitude earthquake occurred in Ludian County of Zhaotong City in Yunnan Province, China on August 3, 2014, hitting poor areas in the mountains. Shanti supplied cookware and down jackets to eight locations in Longtoushan Zhen of Longjing Cun, an unreachable gorge, where virtually no relief supply was provided. Furthermore, we supplied futons, floor mats, cold-proof inner shirts, and down jackets to victims in six locations of Huodehong Zhen who had to live in temporary tents and needed protection against the cold to survive the harsh winter.



Damages in Huodehong Zhen after one month from the earthquake (Yunnan Province, China)



Affected people taking down jackets supplied by SVA (Huodehong Zhen, China)

Approach to Disaster Prevention

Twenty years have passed since the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and "The Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction" was held in Sendai in March, 2015. Since disasters are of frequent occurrence in Japan including the Great East Japan Earthquake and the subsequent nuclear accident, Japan is expected to

disseminate to the world the lessons we have learned. Therefore, Shanti gave a presentation at a side-event of the World Conference on its activities conducted in the areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake to share the challenges and the experiences they went through while taking action.

Reports from Three Disaster Support Offices of the Great East Japan Earthquake

Wa - FROM PERSON TO PERSON - Kesennuma Reconstruction Project

2014 Activity report

By conducting the mobile library project and the library movement along with operating a library, more than 10,000 people visited our facilities and borrowed about 23,000 books. In the town of Yamada, we co-operate the mobile library in partnership with its board of education. In Ofunato City, we discussed library activities at public restoration housings and at the Sanriku Community Center with employees of the municipal library and members of "Ohanashi-kororin" (a volunteer group for reading to children). In Rikuzentakata City, the locals living in and around the city organized the "Rikuzentakata Community Library Users Group," which is actively supporting the library operation by holding events.

Plan for 2015

- Support the autonomous operation of new groups organized by staff members of the local government as part of community development
- Plan projects for children such as nature experience, hands-on learning and participation in community development by exploring the local area on foot
- Support collaborations among those in fishing industry and "Megumi," the fishermen's group, in an effort to revitalize fishing villages



Children out to the sea on a raft they made. (Kesennuma City, Miyagi Prefecture)

"Run in Tohoku!" - Mobile Library Project of Iwate Office

2014 Activity report

By conducting the mobile library project and the library movement along with operating a library, more than 10,000 people visited our facilities and borrowed about 23,000 books. In the town of Yamada, we co-operate the mobile library in partnership with its board of education. In Ofunato City, we discussed library activities at public restoration housings and at the Sanriku Community Center with employees of the municipal library and members of "Ohanashi-kororin" (a volunteer group for reading to children). In Rikuzentakata City, the locals living in and around the city organized the "Rikuzentakata Community Library Users Group," which is actively supporting the library operation by holding events.

Plan for 2015

- Conduct mobile library activities and library movement, and operate community libraries (In Yamada Town, operation of mobile library activities is entrusted by the Board of Education)
- Discuss future library services with staff of Ofunato Municipal Library and members of local group for reading to children
- Discuss ideal state of a community library with members of "Rikuzentakata Community Library Users Group" and execute ideas



Meeting of library users' group (Rikuzentakata City, Iwate Prefecture)

"Run in Tohoku!" - Mobile Library Project of Yamamoto Office

2014 Activity report

In Yamamoto Town the SVA designated to visit all eight temporary housing complexes where 2,083 users borrowed more than 4,000 books. In Minamisoma City, the service was extended to Haramachi area and the number of service locations was increased from 8 to 12 in 2013. We had about 1,700 users borrowing approx. 3,000 books.

Volunteers from Bookoff Corporation Limited were supporting the project in the town of Yamamoto, and in Minamisoma City, support was given by volunteers from Soso Branch of Fukushima Sotoshu Young Priests Association and The Prudential Gibraltar Financial Life Insurance Co., Ltd.

Plan for 2015

- Conduct mobile library activities
- Support conducting and continuing activities for socially vulnerable children and their parents



Mobile library: Place of heartwarming communication (Yamamoto Town, Miyagi Prefecture)

Community Reconstruction Initiative Following Lifting of Evacuation Order for Areas within the 20km-radius of Disaster-struck Nuclear Power Plant in Fukushima

Plan for 2015

Minamisoma City where SVA conducts mobile library activities, the evacuation order is expected to be lifted in 2016 for the evacuees mainly from Odaoka area and environs within the 20km-radius of the nuclear power plant. After a long absence of five years, evacuees will begin returning to their homes although they will continue to face various challenges caused not only by the great earthquake but also by the nuclear power plant accident. Shanti will think together with such residents about their issues including the risks of nuclear power plants and make every effort to make their everyday life comfortable. We will support those who decide to return home but have anxieties about their daily life as well as on radiation and potential accidents at other nuclear power plants.



2014 Ordinary Meeting of Staff Members

We would like to express our gratitude for your warm support, which enabled us to continue our activities in 2014.

By making efforts to disseminate the name and activities of Shanti, we succeeded in welcoming 1,122 individuals and 263 companies/organizations as our new supporters.

We will further promote our activities and work to develop stronger relationships with you.

Asian Library Supporter

10th Anniversary of the Project

Beginning in 2005, Asian Library Supporter marked its 10th anniversary this year. In 2014, we welcomed 315 new persons and the number of registered supporters exceeded 1,000 for the first time. Currently (as of the end of 2014), we have 1,238 volunteers helping to run the libraries.

Last year, our staff members were given many opportunities to meet and talk in person with members of SVA and supporters at events held in various locations.



Members and supporters at a tea party in Aichi Prefecture.

Campaign for Delivering Picture Books

Delivery of picture books to children in Myanmar begins

With the support of many people nationwide, we had been able to deliver 15,179 picture books to the areas we are active in. We started the same campaign in Myanmar, where we newly opened our office, and 634 books are to be delivered to the children there. In fiscal 2014, our activities were supported by 1,215 individuals, companies, and schools. The number of books delivered to the designated areas exceeded 240,000 since the beginning of this campaign in 1999.



Lao children at our mobile library holding a picture book : The Giant Turnip

In fiscal 2015, we will ask for further cooperation, aiming at delivering 16,563 books.

Public Relations

The Power of Books is the Power to Live

In 2014, the first fiscal year of our five-year mid-term action plan, the SVA developed the copy "The power of books is the power to live" to disseminate our activities. We created a special page on our website and posted messages from our supporter companies and celebrities.

We held ten sessions/events to directly report on our activities to 343 participants.



Our Japanese staff member reported on his activities during his temporary return to Japan.

Contribution Project: Providing Items

The more you sort out, the more you contribute to society

This project calls for donations of books, CDs, and DVDs. In addition to "BOOKOFF Online" specializing in novels and manga (comics), "VALUE-BOOKS" that specializes in books of business and medical fields joined the project.

In cooperation with "Otakaraya" (Meguro Yamate-dori St. Shop), we also started a new program to collect jewelry, brand-name bags, cameras, mobile phones and commemorative coins.



Commemorative coins and jewelry are also being collected.

Craft Aid

Develops brand new products with designer

In collaboration with Mr. Teppei Fujita, a pro bono designer, we developed brand new craft products. Learning directly from the culture, techniques, and the conditions of the local manufacturers in Thailand and Cambodia, we manufactured the products with thoughts on what must be done for the region. While placing great value on what we have accumulated as tradition, we are creating a new stream to develop new products and cultivate new customers (shops).



Staff members discuss new weaving patterns in Cambodia.

Support for Overseas Projects

Beyond the sea, meeting people via books

To endeavor and expand our activities in Myanmar, a new location after 11 years, was a great challenge for us. In Cambodia, we formed a new project for early childhood education and held training sessions to support the local people with a view of protecting the human rights of those involved.

In 2014, the SVA constructed 14 buildings as elementary schools, and nine buildings and one room as libraries. We also printed 45,200 picture books and 1,050 copies of picture-card shows to support the reading promotion activities.



Children and Ms. Nakahara, director of Myanmar Office, praying at the dinner table in an orphanage in Myanmar

Financial Report

Income	Year 2014
Bank Interest	132,870
Membership Fee	27,255,000
Donation	411,927,824
Subsidy	275,825,183
Programs for Profit	97,375,013
Others	4,493,631
Total	817,010,521

Expenditures	Year 2014
Public Interest Purpose 1	
Thailand	15,059,816
Cambodia	152,424,903
Laos	31,710,753
Myanmar (Burma) Refugee	59,845,725
Afghanistan	150,430,575
Myanmar	43,995,139
Others	39,361,915
Public Interest Purpose 2	
The Great East Japan Earthquake	123,337,874
Emergency Relief(Overseas)	86,484,311
Others	3,546,147
Public Interest Purpose 3	69,249,963
Public Interest Purpose (Common)	9,435,662
Total: Public Interest Purpose	784,882,783
Profit-making Purpose	41,228,375
Administration	20,268,815
Grand Total	846,379,973

SVA Association members

Total number of members	1,868 persons
Staff member	308 persons
Individual	256 persons
Organization	52 organizations
Supporting member	1,560 persons
Individual	1,372 persons
Organization	188 organizations

(as at December 31, 2014)

Honorary President

Rev. Zendo Matsunaga

Advisor

Mr. Fusao Adachi
Rev. Hojun Abe
Mr. Masahiro Onoda
Rev. Eisho Kawahara
Mr. Takashi Shiraishi
Rev. Sojun Matsuno

Technical Adviser

Ms. Ryoko Sato
Mr. Yoshifumi Tajiri
Ms. Yayoi Tanaka
Mr. Toshiyuki Osuga

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