

Shanti Volunteer Association

# Annual report 2015

## “One Book Can Empower One Child”



公益社団法人

シャンティ国際ボランティア会

Shanti Volunteer Association

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# The library I regularly visited since my childhood opened up my eyes

**“I am working as an elementary school teacher after graduating from a school in a refugee camp. I learned various things by reading books in the library. I believe that my mission in life is to continue studying hard and develop leaders of the next generation.”**

Her name is Now July Paw, 23 years old. When she was five, she moved from Kya Dree Su Village in Myanmar to MaeLa Refugee Camp in Thailand with her parents.

Life in the village was so poor that it was difficult to have enough food. Her parents felt that it was difficult to continue living there, so they decided to head for the refugee camp by climbing long and steep mountain roads over the Thai border. However, her parents were always fighting at the refugee camp where they moved in.

Not wanting to see her father and mother having an argument, she gradually began to go to the library whenever her parents were disputing.

In the library she could avidly read many books.

She could also draw pictures, which she loved to do.

She won the second prize in a picture contest held at the library. She felt

proud of herself, because her picture was posted on the wall and she was awarded the prize in front of everybody. She had started going to the library because she felt uncomfortable at home, but she got to like the library more and eventually participated in story telling activities willingly.

The library gave Ms. Paw an opportunity to meet books and learn to study. As a result, she was recognized for her excellent grades upon graduating from high school and was able to fulfil her life-long dream of becoming a school teacher.

Children who cannot go to school because of conflicts, natural disasters and poverty, who don't have a library nearby, and who have no access to books will become adults without having an opportunity to study or dream about their future. To open a book is to open up your future. Things learned through books give children like Ms. Paw the power to open up their own future.



# Three Projects by SVA



## Providing Opportunities of Reading Books

Why do we read books? Because it is fun?, or helpful?, or useful? Yes, books teach us about the unknown worlds such as knowledge, information, and excitement, which lead us to “notice” various things in our mind. Reading books gives us a precious opportunity to discover ourselves and reassess where we are at in the world.

As we think of this “power of books” as the “power to live,” the Shanti Volunteer Association (SVA) publishes picture books and also runs the Campaign to Deliver Picture Books, delivering books from Japan to countries where there are not enough books for children. By reading books, children can learn characters and obtain information that is essential to their lives.



## Developing Human Resources

We at the SVA think it is important “to stand close to everyone” and therefore put effort into developing “human resources” who will engage in library work. For children to have more chances to read books, it is essential to have “library staff” who will accept children in a friendly manner. Librarians should be “friendly companions” who welcome everyone, rather than “intimidating teachers.” “Even if you can’t read characters, it is alright because the staff will help you…” To realize libraries with such a friendly atmosphere, the SVA is training librarians, nursery teachers and teachers in the workshop for practicing storytelling with picture books and performing paper theaters.

In addition, the SVA conducts workshops for writers, painters and editors of picture books and holds picture book contests to discover and cultivate picture book creators.



## Creating a Place of Peace for Children

It is important for children to have a “place where they can spend time in peace.” Children can feel at peace in the library even when they are having a hard time. When they go to the library and open a book, they can calm down and learn things. We are building community libraries and library rooms because we want children to think of library as a place to meet books, calm down and be saved. Libraries are also open to community people and so that we can teach them the effects of and the need for education more clearly. Libraries can also be a place to increase the understanding and awareness of education. We are constructing not only libraries but also schools and orphanages so that children can learn safely. Schools constructed with community participation allow the children to study hard without worrying about rain, and are the pride of not only the children but also the teachers.



# To All of You

## Rev. Kyoei Wakabayashi, President



I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you who have approved and supported Shanti's aim of realizing a peaceful society, and I am pleased to present our 2015 annual report. Thirty-four years have passed since the establishment of the SVA, and the scope of our activities have expanded over the years. Children who were supported by the SVA in the early years have grown up and are actively participating in society as respectable persons. Thanks to your support, local staff has gained experience and become more proficient in developing effective projects. In November 2015, I visited Nepal where the big earthquake had occurred on April 25, 2015. Our emergency relief activities

had settled down by then. A group of children came crossing a suspension bridge built over a gorge, treading expertly to welcome me with flowers in their hands and smiles on their faces. I was at an elementary school in Bhadrata, Nuwakot District, which was one of the 91 schools to which we provided permanent school buildings in the districts where support was hard to reach. Luckily no child was trapped under the collapsed building on the day of the earthquake because the school was closed. At the presentation ceremony, many villagers including the school principal gathered and it was like a festival. I was able to feel their deep gratitude though I didn't understand their language. Based on this kind of trusting relationship, the SVA has decided anew to continue to support education and culture in Nepal in the future. I sincerely ask for your continued support.

## Hitoshi Ichikawa, Managing Director



The SVA has set goals in five fields under the five-year mid-term plan (from 2014 to 2018): (1) development and management of projects, (2) networking and advocacy, (3) public relations, financial management, and fundraising, (4) operation and management of organization, and (5) development of staff (human resources).

We are ① expanding our reading promotion and library activities so that the people in more difficult and vulnerable positions can gain the ability to think for themselves and solve problems on their own, and ② working on advocacy

so that national and local governments and relevant organizations in the countries we work for will include reading promotion and library activities in their education policy. The year 2015, the second year of this mid-term plan, was especially a year of change in our project development. The reconstruction project for the Great East Japan Earthquake, now into the fifth year, is now in the stage of handing over its roles to the local organizations and gradually phasing out, while monitoring the status of reconstruction situation in each area. On the other hand, the project has taken a new step in Fukushima. In the Cambodian project, which marks the 25th year, a task team will be formed to examine the project's role and direction in the future and continue to discuss future development.

## Hisashi Seki, Secretary General



The richest 20 percent of the people in the world enjoys 80 percent of global wealth while one in five people still lives under severe poverty. To remedy this unfair social structure and reduce poverty by half, the United Nations Millennium Development Goals were established in

2000 and efforts have been made to achieve those goals. The year 2015 was set as the deadline and many achievements have been confirmed around the world. The SVA also has been working hard in several countries to achieve the

goals in the educational sector, such as complete dissemination of primary education and improvement of adult literacy levels by 50%. While we achieved noticeable improvement at the local sites of our activities, the overall rate of students finishing primary education is still at around 70% and the literacy rate is still at around 80%. The SVA will continue to work on these issues. We will also move forward towards achieving the educational goal of "ensuring inclusive and equitable education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all." This was newly set in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the next 15 years, which was adopted in September 2015 under the principle of "Leave No One Behind."

# "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 SVA 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.

*move forward. hand in hand.*

Afghanistan

Myanmar

Laos

Thailand

Cambodia

Japan

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1 Scholarship award ceremony  
2 Scholar's home (Tak Province)



1 Storytelling with paper theaters  
(Community Learning Center in the slum)  
2 Picture books published by SVA  
© Yoshifumi Kawabata



## Work on Scholarship Project to Support Children of Slum Dwellers and Migrant Workers

Thailand seemed to have restored order under the Prayuth's interim government following the military coup of 2014. However, it is still on high alert and restrictions on freedom of speech and freedom of the press continues to exist. The interim government has been promoting the development of special economic zones along the country's border as one of its policies. Mae Sot, the border city where Shanti's office is located, is one of the priority areas for development and is expected to promote logistics, investment, and employment as a strategic place of the East-West economy.

The development of these border regions aims to bring in labor force to Thailand from the neighboring countries. Nearly 120,000 migrant workers have reportedly come from Myanmar to Mahachai District in Samut Sakhon Province, the area with many fishery processing facilities. Even more people are expected to cross the border in the future thanks to the ongoing large-scale development led by the ASEAN Economic Community.

On the flip side of the development, the increase of migrant workers will also raise concerns on the educational issues of migrant children. A free education system (15 years, consisting of 3-year pre-primary schooling and 12-year basic education up to high school) has been introduced in Thailand, but in reality, schools are facing a shortage of operating funds, so parents are forced to pay additional fees. As a result, families in poor

regions and slums are suffering the heavy financial burden.

In view of this situation, Sikkha Asia Foundation (SAF), established by the SVA, focused on education support projects to expand educational opportunities for children in the urban slums and those of ethnic minorities or migrant workers who are in difficult situations.

The scholarship project for Phayao Province, Tak Province, and the slum districts in Bangkok City offered scholarships to about 430 students in middle schools, high schools, and universities of the relevant areas. SAF continues to select recipients and helps them with scholarship applications in cooperation with their school teachers. Also, staff members of the scholarship project pay home visits in these areas and screen applicants based on the selection criteria. In June 2015, staff members were given an opportunity to visit Japan and report the situations of scholarship students in Thailand to supporters and relevant parties in Japan. SAF became independent from the SVA in March, 2015, and marked its first step as a more sustainable and socially responsible NGO of Thailand. The SVA will continue to support SAF as a partner organization to help children of urban slum districts and rural areas and of ethnic minorities in mountainous areas who cannot go to school due to social and economic difficulties. We will continue to provide assistance so each child can determine their own future by themselves.

## Establishing Guidelines for Community Learning Center (CLC) Modeled on SVA's Projects

Cambodia has undergone a remarkable development in recent years. Monthly income of teachers has been raised from USD125 to USD162, and the educational environment is showing steady improvement resulting in raising the pass rate of high school graduation tests by 30% from the previous year. At the same time, however, the weak are left behind from the economic development because of the educational inequality spreading and the illiteracy rate being high. This has become a big issue. In order to resolve such challenges, the SVA has launched a new project called the Quality Improvement of Early Childhood Education (ECE) in fiscal year 2015. We visited and surveyed 66 kindergartens in Battambang Province and offered raising awareness workshops and in-service training to three of them, which were selected as model cases. In addition, we distributed picture books and furniture such as bookshelves and renovated classrooms at two kindergartens. We also developed an educational manual for children with the cooperation of the Social Welfare Corporation TENRYU-KOHSEIKAI (Hamamatsu City, Shizuoka Prefecture). Meanwhile, the Ministry of Education of Cambodia established guidelines for the Community Learning Center (CLC), which is a type of community library built by the SVA and used as a model. CLC is equivalent to a community center in Japan. Since the establishment of the guidelines for CLC, full-scale literacy classes have started and multi-purpose rooms have been set up. Also, it

is expected that the SVA can contribute to providing and operating even better CLCs by offering activities for health and hygiene, sports and so on. We also opened new CLCs during this fiscal year, one in Kampong Thom Province and two in Banteay Meanchey Province. We now operate five CLCs in total. At three of them, we offered workshops for vegetable cultivation, poultry raising, and rice growing to 54 agricultural extension workers in cooperation with a local NGO. This CLC project was awarded the Global Award at "ESD Okayama Award 2015," which honors the best practices of ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) both in Japan and abroad.

In addition to the above projects, we have carried out the following projects as well: Dream Primary School Project, Improvement of Management of School Libraries with participation of the local people (conducted second librarian workshop and donated books to 14 elementary schools, monitored participant schools and carried out follow-up surveys), construction of elementary schools (five in Battambang Province and two in Banteay Meanchey Province), Promotion in Buddhist Education and Library Project (Buddhist libraries were set up at one temple in Phnom Penh and four temples in Kampong Cham Province), Urban Poor Basic Education Project in Phnom Penh (a permanent CLC was built in Akphiwat Meanchey Slum).



1 Storytelling in mobile library, [How Animals' Tails Work] Fukuinkan Shoten Publishers, Inc.  
2 Elementary school in Viengkham District  
© Yoshifumi Kawabata

## Project to Improve Educational Facilities and Capacity for Teaching Executed for Ethnic Minority Children

In Laos, mainly in Vientiane, economic development has accelerated. However, the gap in the availability of education between urban and rural areas is significant. In 2015, as part of the ASEAN integration approaches, the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) of Laos worked hard to eliminate this gap and started to plan better education environments and improvements in school management of the rural areas.

In line with the MoES plan, our Laos office conducts projects in Viengkham District of Luang Prabang Province in northern Laos. Viengkham is the 13th poorest among the 143 districts. Viengkham District, where 90% of the population is composed of ethnic minorities, is located in a remote area and is in constant poverty. The ratio of children who can speak Lao, the official language, is very low because newspaper delivery is not available and many homes don't even have TVs or radios. In order to improve such conditions; the SVA Laos Office is working to make it easy for children to receive education by providing seminars to teachers with the aim to upgrade the quality of education, developing and producing supplement teaching materials (publication of paper theaters and picture books), and conducting mobile library activities; in addition to the Project to Improve Educational Facilities to construct school buildings and install bathrooms developed as a community participatory project.

The project starts in September after the rainy season, and teachers and local residents themselves will collect lumber to construct the school buildings as well as monitor the construction work. The Project to Improve Capacity of Teaching aims to improve the quality of education. We carried out seminars for teachers to acquire efficient teaching methods for multi-grade classes which are caused by the severe shortage of teachers and classrooms.

At schools, teachers expressed various concerns, including; "I'm in charge of three grades. Some pupils are always disruptive and it's a challenge to make them concentrate in class.", "Sometimes I get confused about what and how I'm teaching during class.", and "It's really hard to teach 50 students of different grades at the same time." However, we received positive feedback following the project such as, "It was very helpful for reviewing my teaching method.", and "Thanks to the new school building, we no longer hear voices from neighboring classrooms and we can concentrate on classwork."

In addition, we created two titles of picture books and paper theaters on folktales of ethnic minorities. We also initiated the production of "flash cards (word cards)" to teach Lao, the official language of Laos. (Scheduled to be completed around August 2016)



1 Community library in Nupo refugee camp  
2 Mae La Oon refugee camp  
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## Training Programs for Library Activity to Take Root and Shelf Arrangement at Library in Preparation for Voluntary Repatriation

In 2015, Myanmar experienced a great political turning point. The Myanmar Army and the Ethnic Armed Groups came to agree on ceasefire, so it is expected that the long lasting conflict will come to an end. In addition, the negotiation between the Thailand and the Myanmar government on refugee repatriation, which started in late 2014, has made progress, so many refugees are expected to return home in these few years. However, people in refugee camps think that it will take longer for everyone to return home. "I can't fully trust the ceasefire. We may need to watch the situation for a while." "As a matter of fact, the repatriation will be left to the refugee's independent decision. Neither the Thailand Government nor the Myanmar Government has made announcements about the repatriation yet." As shown in these comments, many refugees are little optimistic about realization of the repatriation.

Meanwhile, in refugee camps, the international support is decreasing year by year and more NGOs are closing their offices or downsizing their activities. Also social services such as food allocation are decreasing and serious problems including juvenile delinquency and increase in suicide have become evident. But we have heard some delightful words from residents in refugee camps or persons involved in community

libraries such as "I want to build a community library when I return to Myanmar. I hope for your support," or "I want to build a larger library than the one in the refugee camp."

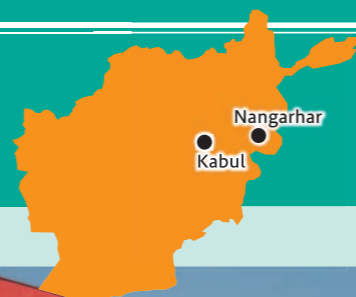
The SVA now operates 21 community libraries in seven refugee camps. One of the challenges in our business is that the outflow of residents from refugee camps for resettlement has caused the community library management anchored by residents to face difficulties. To solve this problem, we conduct training programs for camp committee members and librarians to encourage them to keep proactive in the library management.

Also, in order to make use of the library projects for improving the quality of school education, we also organized training programs for teachers in charge of nursery, primary and secondary education to learn how to utilize books as supplement teaching materials.

In addition, we shelved at the libraries books, newspapers, magazines, and educational books which we bought in Myanmar for the residents in the refugee camps to gain knowledge and information about Myanmar as a preparation for their future repatriation.



# Afghanistan



1 A school library set up by the SVA  
2 A constructed school building

## Despite Surrounded by the Attacks of Armed Opposition Group (AOG), School Constructions and Library Activities Conducted.

Afghanistan has still remained unsafe. The number of civil victims has been increasing year by year with about 3,300 people wounded in 2015 - about two times more than in 2009.

Almost 90% of the causes to victimize the people are battles or suicide attacks, 70 % of which were carried out by AOG. Schools are also targeted. During the 2014 - 2015 fiscal year, over 70 schools were attacked, with 11 children killed and 46 injured. In August 2015, a truck on the way to transport textbooks was attacked by Taliban and the textbooks were burned out.

In a part of Nangarhar Province, where the SVA is taking its activities, not only the battles between the government army and AOG but also the conflicts between IS and Taliban have escalated. Though it is expected that the Taliban's new leader is promoting a peace negotiation with the government, the opposition group to the peace process has a possibility to be disunited, so it is forecasted that the unstable situation will continue for a while.

Even in this condition, with caring for the safety to the

staff and the office, we have conducted the Improving Learning Environment of Primary Schools Project via school building construction and library activities which focused on setting up libraries and training librarians. In 2015, we constructed two school buildings in Kabul City, so approximately 2,400 children are supposed to study in comfortable classrooms from March 2016.

In the School Library Project in district areas, we opened libraries in two schools we constructed in order to facilitate library activity, and conducted teacher workshops for 300 teachers of nine schools and librarian workshops for 60 teachers and librarians of 15 schools. We published five picture books and a paper theater, five picture books.

Children's Reading Promotion Project we supported children's space at five public libraries in Nangarhar Province and one in Kabul City, and implemented library activities and special classes at the Children's Library in Jalalabad City.



# Myanmar



1 Classroom at a Monastic School (Pyay District)  
2 Pupils in a Monastic School  
© Yoshifumi Kawabata



## Built Monastic Schools and Held Picture Book Contest for Improving Children Books Publication

In Myanmar where democratization has grown rapidly since the establishment of the civilian controlled government in 2011, the government and the 16 ethnic armed groups agreed on a ceasefire at the end of March, 2015. At the general election in November, the National League for Democracy (NLD) headed by Aung San Suu Kyi won a landslide victory. These events made a prospect that the new government would start soon.

Our activities in Myanmar got into the second year, and making use of the first-year-experience, we have sped up the project operation. In the fiscal year 2015, we conducted 4 projects; the Improving Monastic School Project, the Non Formal Education Project, the Improving Public Library Project, and the Improving Children's Books Publication Project by strengthening the relationship with concerned organizations. In Myanmar, the number of public primary schools is lacking because of the shortage of the national budget to build and run them. For this reason, "Monastic Schools" run by the temples play the role as educational institutes for children instead of the public primary schools. Many children from poor families attend the monastic schools, because unlike the public primary schools, the tuition fee is entirely free. However, as they are managed only by donations from the temples and the local communities, the monastic schools are always facing difficulties in their operations. In order to improve the educational situation at monastic schools, the Improving Monastic School Project built three monastic schools in Pyay District of Bago Region and carried out seminars for the

teachers in order to improve the quality of education.

In the Non Formal Education Project, we held "Life Skill Education Programs for Children who can't go to school" in three villages in Pyay District where 102 children aged 10 to 17 made it to complete the program. We also supported "Night school for children who stopped attending public school" in three villages in Thayawaddy District, which led to result that 20 children aged 10 to 14 moved up to the next grade or graduated from the school.

In the Improving Public Library Project, the SVA donated furniture and books to eight public libraries in Thayawaddy District of Bago Region with setting up child spaces. The SVA also invited library specialists from Japan to carry out seminars for librarians. Furthermore, we concentrated our efforts on a mobile library activity. This project is to provide customized three-wheeled mobile library motorbikes to schools without any access to libraries, among others.

For the Improving Children's Books Publication Project, we invited specialists from Japan to hold a picture book production seminar for about 30 people, including authors, illustrators and editors, aiming at improving and developing children's books publication in Myanmar. We also organized a picture book contest on the topic of "friendship" under the joint sponsorship with the Myanmar Writers Association. Two of the six prize-winning books have already been published, and the rest would be scheduled to be printed in February, 2016.



Completed Temporary Learning Center (TLC) in Nuwakot District, Nepal



In front of the Padawan library in Pyay District, Myanmar

## Carrying Out Disaster Relief Activities for Nepal Earthquake, Myanmar Flood, and Waziristan Refugees' Outflow to Afghanistan

### Nepal Earthquake Relief Project

The SVA implemented relief activities after the earthquake which occurred on April 25, 2015, at 7.8-magnitude with epicenter in central Nepal. Following the great earthquake, another huge earthquake at 7.3-magnitude hit the region on May 12. The two great earthquakes left over 8,000 people dead and more than 500,000 houses completely destroyed.

Immediately after the earthquake, SVA distributed relief supplies and conducted an initial survey in the badly damaged Nuwakot District. Based on the result of survey, we launched the following two projects in accordance with Education in Emergencies (EiE): 1) Disaster Management in Education and 2) Woman and Child Protection Project.

The Disaster Management in Education supported a total of 91 schools by constructing Temporary Learning Centers (TLCs) (248 classrooms in 124 buildings) and latrines (in 34 buildings), and installing 14 water tanks. We also supplied stationary, play equipment and picture books to these schools. These TLCs are utilized as learning space for children in earthquake-affected schools.

In the Woman and Child Protection Project, SVA built a women's shelter with Child Friendly Space (CFS) in together with latrines (in seven buildings). We also held a three-day seminar regarding childcare activities including storytelling with picture books and toy-making with local familiar materials. The shelter is utilized as an important

facility for earthquake-affected women to rebuild their lives in cooperation with each other.

### Waziristan Refugee Assistance Project

Triggered by a massive terrorist attack which the armed opposition groups carried out at Karachi Airport in June, 2014, the Pakistan government has initiated a large-scale cleanup operation in the Waziristan area where theses rebels have been based. Ever since, heavy battles have been repeatedly breaking out, forcing many residents to flee to Afghanistan. As of November 4, 2014, the number was over 280,000. The rapid flow of refugees has caused the UN food stock to almost run out. As severe winter approached, the SVA has distributed emergency food and relief supplies, and provided winterization assistance to 7,280 refugees who have escaped to Afghanistan.

### Myanmar Flood Relief Program

The heavy rainfall that intermittently continued from late June caused flooding in Myanmar. Residents in some areas had to evacuate to temporary sheds along the main roads or take shelters in temples which were opened for the evacuees.

Under these circumstances, the SVA coordinated with the district administration office in Pyay District, our coverage area, as well as persons in charge of the shelters to provide canned fish, vinyl sheets that can be used as roofs and rugs, and oral rehydration salt that helps alleviate diarrhea and other physical ailments, to 3,500 people of 845 households in 11 shelters.

## Kesennuma and Iwate Offices Continue with Activities to be Handed over to the Local People; Yamamoto Office Continues with Activities of Close Personal Support

Almost five years after the great earthquake, Kesennuma City is lagging behind in the development of public housing for disaster victims, as only roughly 20% of eligible people have moved into public housing for disaster victims as of the end of 2015. Eighty percent of public housing for disaster victims is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2016, but the move-in process may not be completed until the spring of 2017.

Calling for "Bring people together (Wa-FROM PERSON TO PERSON)," Kesennuma Office engaged in several projects, including a community development project based on an agreement with local residents, a project for supporting children which provided children with opportunities to experience nature, and a livelihood support project aimed at revitalizing fishing villages, through the construction of processing facilities and collaborating in the "Umi-no-eki Yorimichi" (Stop by at the Coastal Station) event. At the same time, Kesennuma Office worked on creating a system for establishing each project in the local communities.

On the other hand, large public housing complexes for disaster victims and upland relocation housing complexes have been completed in the affected areas of Iwate Prefecture, which accelerated the relocation from the temporary housing complexes. Although the occupancy rate of the temporary housing complexes was still around 60 percent as of December 2015, an increasing number of people are expected to move out of the temporary housing complexes and are now in the stage of waiting for the completion of the housing complexes and residential lots of their preference. Under these circumstances, the SVA continued to focus on providing opportunities to read books and venues for people to interact, through the mobile library activity, operation of community libraries and promoting the "Bunko" Home Library in the temporary housing complexes. Considering that the reconstruction effort will still take a long time, the SVA has decided to hand over the activities in Yamada Town, Otsuchi Town and Ofunato City to the local municipalities or private organizations, so that the achievements of our activities will be sustained after the closure of Iwate Office.

In Yamamoto Town, Miyagi Prefecture, relocation from temporary housing complexes to public housing for disaster victims is also accelerating, and more than two-thirds of the residents have moved out of the temporary housing complexes. On the other hand, in Minamisoma City, Fukushima Prefecture, there still are people who are left behind and feeling insecure about the unclear future, as the decision to lift the evacuation order has been postponed

Under such circumstances, Yamamoto Office provided a place of comfort for such people and supported interaction between residents through the mobile library, making sure not to overlook disparities as the communities head towards reconstruction. For the community support activities in Minamisoma City, a staff in charge has been stationed in the city since October 2015 and is working to build a relationship with local people for starting up a full-scale activity, in time with the lifting of the evacuation order in Odaka District which is scheduled in April 2016.



Kesennuma Office: Building a tree house at the "Hamawarasu" event.



Iwate Office: Presentation of vehicles to the Yamada Town Municipal Library, which will take over the mobile library activity.



Yamamoto Office: Mobile library also has many fans among elderly people.



# SVA is Building a Network of Compassionate Supporters

There are various ways to participate in our activities: Pick one that suits you.

## Monthly Supporter (Asian Library Supporter)

In Asia, there still are many children who have no access to books. These children need continuous support such as delivering books, operating libraries and training librarians. “Asian Library Supporter” is a monthly donation program through which you can make donations, starting from 1,000 yen per month. Each supporter will receive a message card with a child’s picture and our journal “Shanti.” In 2015, we had 172 new “Monthly Supporters,” and now 1,340 in total are supporting the library operations in Asia.



- 1 A message card from a child
- 2 A child writing a message on a card
- 3 Our journal (gift)



## Contribution Project: The more you sort out, the more you contribute to society

You can donate unneeded books, CDs and DVDs through the “Contribution Project.” We have a partnership with “BOOKOFF Online,” a popular company that buys novels and comics, and “VALUE BOOKS,” which buys specialized books such as business books and medical books. In cooperation with “Otakeyaya (Meguro Yamate Dori Shop),” we have also started a program called “Otakeyaya Aid,” which collects accessories, brand-name bags, cameras, mobile phones, cash vouchers, gift certificates, etc.



## Campaign to Deliver Picture Books

“Campaign to Deliver Picture Books” is a project to deliver popular Japanese picture books to Asian countries where there are not enough books for children. These picture books have seals with translation in the local language pasted on each page. In 2015, we were able to deliver 16,620 picture books to Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar (Burma) refugee camps, Afghanistan, Myanmar, and Thailand. In 2016, we aim to deliver 18,164 picture books in five languages: Khmer, Lao, Karen, Burmese, and Dari. One picture book set includes a picture book, translation seals, a manual, and a Japanese alphabet chart, and costs 2,200 yen.



A picture book set to be delivered



My Dress (Picture and text by Kayako Nishimaki/Koguma Publishing Co., Ltd.)

## Fairtrade Project [Craft Aid]

Craft-Aid sells handicrafts manufactured by women of minorities or farm villages in Asia. Craft-Aid is supporting the family of these women by paying appropriate wages through fairtrade.

In 2015, we made cards to introduce mountain tribes in cooperation with aurinko, a Japanese illustrator who also produces picture books. We deliver these cards along with products to our customers. In connection with the educational support program newly started by the SVA in Myanmar, we sell bags made from longyi, traditional daily wear in Myanmar, and items newly designed in cooperation with FUJI TATE P, a Japanese designer.



Tribe introduction card “LISU”



Craft-aid catalog 2015



Embroidering from a young age (Mon tribe)

## Public relations activity to inform of the conditions of the places where we work

In 2015, we held 10 debrief sessions and events, which were attended by 394 people. Some of the excerpts of media coverage are listed below:

March	Nishinippon Shimbun	“A child raised in the slum fulfills the dream of becoming a diplomat” (Thailand)
April	Tokyo Shimbun	“Mr. Satoshi Kako contributing with letter papers”
May	Yomiuri Shimbun	“Enlightenment event about fairtrade”
June	The Nikkei	“World Refugee Day: Soccer festival” (refugee camp)
	The Asahi Shimbun	“Mobile Library Motorbike: Lighting up the village” (Myanmar)
July	The Asahi Shimbun	“Myanmar refugees: Hesitating to go home” (refugee camp)
August	Yomiuri Shimbun	“Delivering Japanese picture books to Myanmar: Volunteers needed to paste translation seals in local language”
October	So-En (fashion magazine)	“Gift Show / Craft Aid”
	TV Tokyo Group	“Our step forward opens up the world” by Osamu Hayashi: Introducing the CLC Project in Cambodia
November	The Asahi Shimbun	“Let’s contribute with items in our house” (Contribution Project)
December	NHK G (Chugoku Area)	“Interview with Mr. Waheed Zamani, Deputy Director of the Afghanistan Office”

## Please feel free to contact us if you are interested in our activities

Please feel free to contact us if you are interested in our activities. There are many ways to participate in our activities. You can come to our activity report meeting, or work as a volunteer or an intern at the Tokyo office. You can make your donations through the post office or by credit card. If you plan to donate your assets posthumously or your inheritance from the deceased, please consult with us.

- Email : [info@sva.or.jp](mailto:info@sva.or.jp) ● Phone : 03-5360-1233
- <http://sva.or.jp>

\*Your donations will be applicable for contribution deduction. The amount of deduction will vary with the amount of donations and your annual income.



Shanti Volunteer Association

Search

# Financial Report

(JPY)

(Fiscal Year: from January 1st to December 31st)

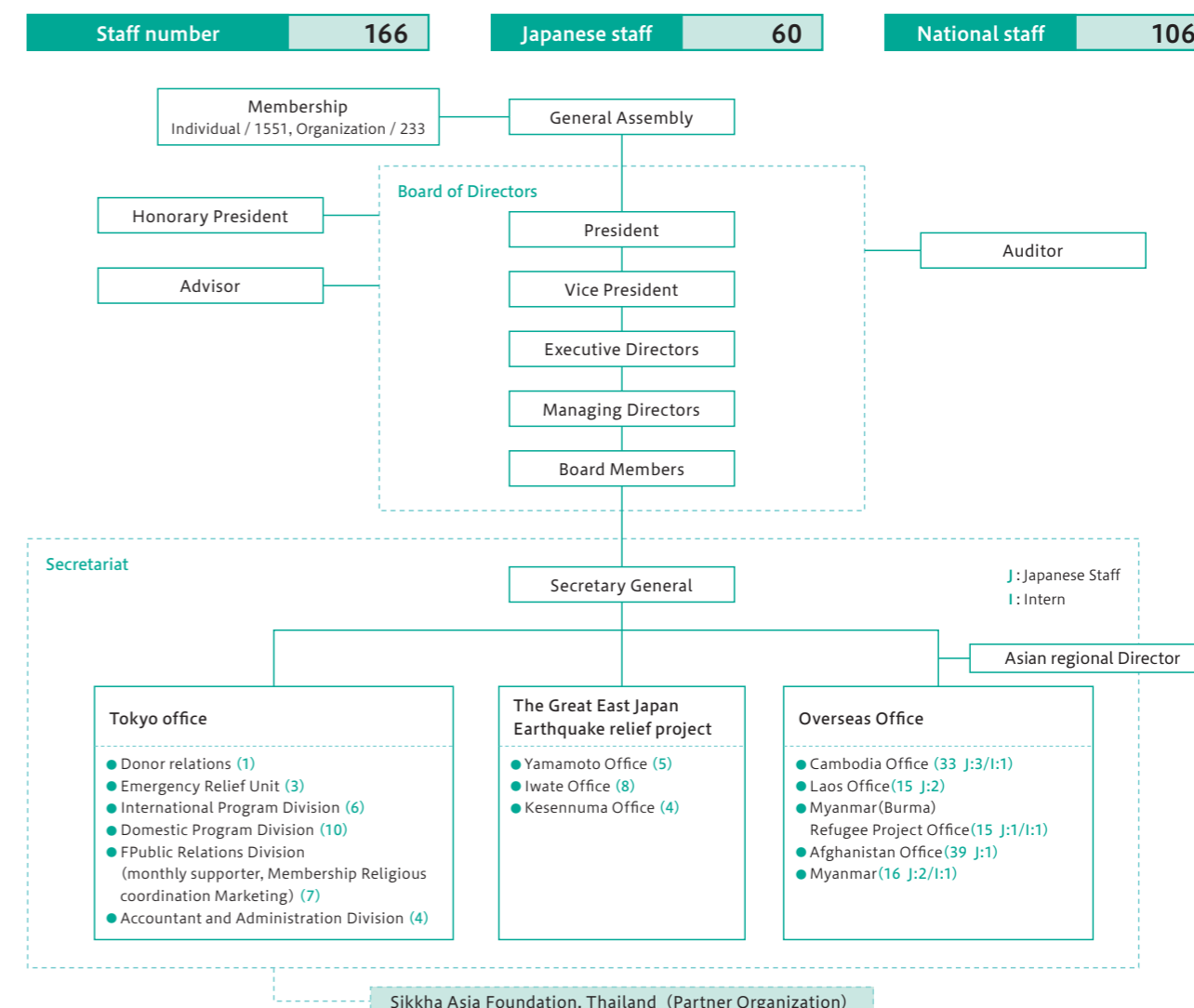
Recurring revenue	2014	2015
Bank Interest	132,870	430,970
Membership Fee	27,255,000	25,903,000
Donation	411,927,824	473,242,295
Subsidy	275,825,183	256,498,151
Operating revenue	97,375,013	116,406,335
Others	4,493,631	3,156,296
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>817,009,521</b>	<b>875,637,047</b>

Expenditures	2014	2015
Public Benefit Service 1		
Thailand	15,059,816	4,024,217
Cambodia	152,424,903	141,344,783
Laos	31,710,753	57,945,359
Myanmar (Burma) Refugee Camp	59,845,725	61,392,366
Afghanistan	150,430,575	169,636,880
Myanmar	43,995,139	65,858,562
Others	39,361,915	32,647,280
Public Benefit Service 2		
The Great East Japan Earthquake	123,337,874	105,162,165
Emergency Relief(Overseas)	86,484,311	105,791,430
Others	3,546,147	--
Public Benefit Service 3	69,249,963	70,163,434
Public Benefit Service (Common)	9,435,662	8,320,532
<b>Public Benefit Service Total</b>	<b>784,882,783</b>	<b>822,287,008</b>
Profit-making Activity	41,228,375	44,106,625
Administration	20,268,815	18,139,699
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>846,379,973</b>	<b>884,533,332</b>

The financial report were audited by the independent auditor  
(Yoshiyuki Tanaka, Certified Public Accountant Authorized Tax Consultant).

# Organization Chart

(As of 1February 2016)



## 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 Advisor

Mr. Makoto Okamoto  
Mr. Toshiyuki Osuga  
Ms. Sachiko Kamakura  
Mr. Yoji Nagahama  
Mr. Koji Tezuka

## Board of Directors

### President

Rev.Kyoei Wakabayashi

### Vice President

Ms. Kayoko Kozu  
Rev. Gido Sambe

### Executive Director

Rev. Shunko Chino

### Managing Directors

Mr. Hitoshi Ichikawa  
Prof. Tatsuya Hata  
Rev. Bunmei Hayasaka

### Board members

Mr. Toshiyuki Aoki  
Rev. Shiro Arima  
Ms. Yasuko Isobe  
Rev. Kazuaki Okamoto  
Prof. Takashi Shimosawa  
Rev. Hitoshi Jin  
Mr. Hisashi Seki  
Ms. Noriko Nakamura  
Mr. Shuichi Nomura  
Rev. Kenshi Fueoka  
Mr. Katsumasa Yagisawa  
Ms. Chieko Watanabe

### Auditor

Mr. Shigeru Nonaka  
Mr. Kazuo Masuda

## 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

- 1 To share the pain, sorrows and joys of those we serve by walking alongside them and moving forward, hand in hand.
- 2 To respect each region's traditional cultures, peoples, religions, and languages/dialects.
- 3 To embrace "development" directed and sustained by the local community.
- 4 To act as a catalyst for social development and interconnection.



Storytelling with picture books in front of a Mobile Library Motorbike (Myanmar) ©Yoshifumi Kawabata Picture book: The Gigantic Turnip (Fukuinkan Shoten Publishers, Inc.)

## History of SVA

- |      |  |      |   |
|------|--|------|---|
| 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. | 2000 | Myanmar (Burma) refugee project office was opened in Mae Sariang, Thailand. The Rev. Jitsujyo Arima, the former executive director of the SVA, passed away.                                       |
| 1981 | Volunteers of the JSRC established the Sotoshu Volunteer Association (SVA).  | 2001 | The SVA began activities to support Afghanistan refugees after 9/11 in the United States.   |
| 1984 | The first development project of the SVA was launched in the village of Ban Sawai, Surin Province, Thailand.   | 2003 | The Afghanistan Office was opened.  |
| 1989 | The SVA opened a vocational training center in the Klong Toei slums in Bangkok, Thailand.  | 2005 | The SVA participated in “Global Village” of World Expo 2005 in Aichi Prefecture. The “Monthly Supporter (Asian Library Supporter)” was initiated.   |
| 1991 | Cambodia Office was established in Phnom Penh, Cambodia and the Sikkha Asia Foundation (SAF), a local subsidiary of the SVA in Thailand, was also established.                                 | 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. |
| 1992 | Laos office was established in Vientiane, Laos. The name of the organization was changed to the “Sotoshu International Volunteer Association (SVA).”   | 2012 | The Yamamoto Office was established in Miyagi Prefecture. The SVA conducted a support project for survivors of the Great East Japan Earthquake.   |
| 1995 | The SVA undertook relief activities for the victims of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake.   | 2014 | The Myanmar Office was opened.  |
| 1999 | The association was renamed the “Shanti Volunteer Association (SVA).” The SVA initiated its “Campaign to Deliver Picture Books.”   | 2015 | The SVA conducted relief activities for survivors of the Nepal earthquake. The Sikkha Asia Foundation became a local independent organization.  |



The Very Hungry Caterpillar (Kaisei-sha Ltd.) ©Yoshifumi Kawabata



A community library in Myanmar (Burma) refugee camp ©Yoshifumi Kawabata

### Special thanks to the following persons who cooperated with producing the annual report.

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(Freelance writer)  
Editing : Ms. Kaoruko Otani (Mo Chûisle)  
Designing : Mr. Masaki Sato (Alpha Design)  
Photography : Mr. Yoshifumi Kawabata  
(Photo Journalist)  
Translation : Tokyo YWCA International  
Language Volunteers (ILV)



公益社団法人

シャントイ国際ボランティア会

Shanti Volunteer Association

Shanti Volunteer Association Annual report 2015

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