



COUNTRY FACTS

Population: 127,333,002
Capital: Tokyo
Area: 377,835 sq. km.
Ethnic groups: Japanese 99%, others 1%
Language: Japanese
Religions: Shintoism and Buddhism 84%, others 16%

IMAGES of Japan evoke “bullet” trains speeding across beautiful landscapes, *anime* comics, serene Zen gardens, and neon-lit cities filled with colorful, fashion-creating young Japanese. All are today’s modern Japan.

The country boasts the second largest economy in the world and Japan is the world’s second largest donor of overseas development assistance. The country’s citizens enjoy very high standards of life. But costs are also high, with Tokyo and Osaka regularly topping the rankings of the world’s most expensive cities. Behind the economic, industrial and financial strength, Japan is changing. Social problems, from homelessness to unemployment, are more acute and more visible than in the past. However, social ills are less pervasive than those found in other industrialized societies.

Habitat for Humanity International opened a support office in 2001 to accommodate the increasing numbers of Global Village volunteers originating from Japan and to guide the numerous campus chapters that had formed. In November 2003, Habitat’s presence was upgraded and expanded when formal non-profit organization status was obtained. Today, HFH Japan is a full-scale national office with affiliates in Tokyo and Osaka.

HFH Japan sends up to 50 Global Village work teams overseas each year. They mainly go to build in Asia, but many also go to Hawaii and the US mainland. Campus chapters involve about 800 volunteers in advocacy, fundraising, international and local projects. Campus Chapters and individual students are regularly honored in HFH award ceremonies.

Habitat Highlights

- HFH Japan organized and manages the HFH exhibit at the Expo 2005 Aichi, in partnership with the Japan Baptist Mission.
- Prime minister’s award to Habitat for Humanity volunteers in 2002
- Annual “Cycling for Habitat” event across Japan and South Korea



HFH Japan

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