

Staffs Dispatched Overseas and Their Introduction (as of March 2013)

Bangladesh

Ayako Yamauchi (Physical Therapist)

She has been dispatched as a JOCS staff to Mymensingh prefecture in Bangladesh to provide training to physical therapists since July 2007. Currently, in the second term of her stay, she gives lectures and guidance to physical therapists, training to cleft lip and palate children, therapies to the people who need rehabilitation at the rehabilitation centers located in Mymensingh, Dhaka, Tangail, and Dinajpur. Although authorized physical therapists exist in Bangladesh, it will likely be a long future ahead for them to reach the poor areas. In the areas Ms. Yamauchi works, physical therapists with a certain level of skills train and educate the handicapped people, and encourage them to participate in the society. Ms. Yamauchi's main goal is for above therapists to be able to provide better services to the people.

<Introduction on Bangladesh (People's Republic of Bangladesh)>

East Pakistan became independent from England in 1947, and then People's Republic of Bangladesh gained independence from Pakistan in 1971.

Bangladesh is said to be the world's poorest country, but the economy is growing with the capital city of Dhaka being the pivotal city. On the other hand, the economic inequality is increasing, and there are still people who cannot receive adequate healthcare services in the rural district.

Many local NGOs are actively involved with the assistance from overseas.

A large majority of the country's population is Bengalese and Muslim, with roughly 10% of the population being Hindu.

There are some Mongolian ethnic minorities who practice Buddhism and Christianity mainly in the border regions. Sometimes conflicts between religions happens

<JOCS Involvement>

Starting with dispatching doctors in 1976, JOCS has dispatched 21 staffs to Bangladesh by 2006. In the southern district of Barisal, Human Development Organization (HDO), to which JOCS dispatched 3 staffs in the past, has now become an independent NGO being active in the area.

JOCS currently cooperting by providing scholarships, along with dispatching staffs. JOCS is especially assisting the training of ethnic minorities and women.

<Counterpart Organization>

Community Centre for the Handicapped (CCH)

It was established in 1997 with great efforts by the brothers of The Taizé Community (*), who have continuously been involved with the handicapped persons in Bangladesh for many

years.

Goals of CCH

- Alleviate the anguish of the handicapped people in the area and improve their living.
- Educate the communities about the rights and the dignity of the handicapped, and about the handicaps in general.
- Give suggestions and motivate individuals and groups.
- Provide groups of women with opportunities to learn how to read and write.
- Provide opportunities for the handicapped persons to learn some skills to become independent.
- Provide healthcare services related to preventing and treating handicaps.
- Protect the human rights of the handicapped people.
- Provide handicapped people with various opportunities to become aware of their potentials and abilities.
- For economical and social improvement purposes, provide opportunities to participate in various activities to acquire skills, encourage independence, and establish the rights for the handicapped in the society.

(*) The Taizé Community : It is an ecumenical monastic order founded in 1940 in Taizé, France by Brother Roger Schutz. The fraternity has been established in Bangladesh over 30 years ago.

Naomi Iwamoto (Nurse)

She arrived in Mymensingh, Bangladesh in March 2008, and has been involved actively with a group called 'L'Arche'. The aim of the group is to create communities where people with mainly intellectual disabilities and people without disabilities to live happily together. Currently, Ms. Iwamoto lives in the L'Arche community with people with intellectual disabilities, provides guidance to the assistants who support the lives of people with disabilities, gives opportunities in workshops to gain knowledge, assembles and runs the organization so the homes where these people are living get protected by the laws of Bangladesh. She also provides trainings on how to make candles, postcards, etc ..., so these people with disabilities can hold jobs and live healthy. This seems to fill the young men and women with disabilities with joy and they become full of life.

She is also involved in emotional care and building communities where people with disabilities who are in vulnerable position can live happily. The most important is to make it clear the value of people just as they are, through elimination of deep prejudice and discrimination against disabilities, early detection and intervention of disabilities, education to the society about human rights, and proper treatment and education to recover the bodily functions.

Living in the L'Arche Community - Naomi Iwamoto

Russell, with severe intellectual disabilities, is now living in our L'Arche community. He was abandoned by his parents, wandered the streets, and then spent 5 1/2 years in prison in Dhaka without knowing why he was put there. He finally arrived at the L'Arche community after going through various events and circumstances. At first, he just sat expressionless, and we didn't see him move much either. When a person isn't loved by anyone, I think he/she becomes like that. He was weak, and when he had a fever, he wouldn't accept even one spoonful of food. I thought he would not be able to survive for very long. However, after living here with us for a while, Russell slowly began to remember how to smile.

At around 6 years after arriving at the L'Arche community, Russell held a cup for the first time, and then, although he was spilling, began to carry the cup to his mouth on his own. Until then, he was especially hesitant about drinking water, and assistants always had a hard time trying to have him take some water one spoon at a time. When we saw Russell take a drink on his own for the first time, we were so overjoyed that we ran to the local store, bought sweets, handed them out to everyone. Since about a year ago, although a few steps at a time, Russell started running slowly. At the age of 19 or 20, he learned how to run for the first time. However, his ankles are so thin that he already sprained them twice since he started running.

Nowadays, Russell chuckles quite often. We are delighted to watch over Russell, who tends to want to start running when he is happy.

Ms. Naomi Iwamoto is being dispatched to the L'Arche community in Bangladesh. L'Arche community is where people with and without intellectual disabilities live together.

<Ms. Iwamoto's Dispatched Area>

The Taizé Community

L'Arche Communities

"L'Arche" means "ark" in French. It is a community started in France by a Canadian, Jean Vanier. In the communities, people with intellectual disabilities and assistants live together. In Bangladesh, day care for the people with intellectual disabilities started from the program for the people with disabilities by The Taizé Community in Mymensingh. L'Arche project started about 8 years ago, when the community welcomed 4 children with intellectual disabilities from a facility in Dhaka, and the young ethnic minority people and students who were involved with The Taizé Community joined, to start living together.

The Mymensingh community in Bangladesh was officially recognized as a community member at the General Assembly in Kolkata in October 2008.

Currently, 3 Nirs, Asha Nir (Home of Hope), Pushpo Nir (Home of Flowers), Shopno Nir (Home of Dreams) are open.

“Nir” means “home”.

Pakistan

Shigeru Aoki (Pediatrician)

Pakistan has very high maternal and infant mortality rates in Asia, and is one of the worst in the world for the neonatal mortality rate (infants born within 28 days).

Dr. Aoki has been dispatched to the St. Raphael's Hospital in Faisalabad, a city in Panjab District in central Pakistan, to be part of their neonatal care effort, to protect the small lives. 1,700 babies are born at this hospital every year.

Dr. Aoki, living in the hospital, treats outpatients, makes rounds of newborns 3 times a day, checks on treatment progress, and makes decisions on the hospitalization and discharge.

Before Dr. Aoki arrived, a pediatrician in private practice made rounds daily for about 20 minutes, and it was not possible in many cases to have a doctor to come right away in cases of emergency.

Also, after entering his second term (4th year) of the stay, other than providing medical care, he is giving lectures at the school for obstetrician within the St. Raphael's Hospital, to raise the staffs expected to be working in areas where there are not many people who can assist childbirths.

<Introduction on Pakistan (Islamic Republic of Pakistan)>

Pakistan covers an area of 796 thousand sq km, and mainly has 3 humid subtropical climates, consisting of temperate climate with rainy summer, steppe climate, and desert climate.

The main religion is Islam (state religion), 97% of the population.

Language used are Urdu (national language), English (official language) and Punjabi, etc...

Pakistan gained independence in 1947 from England. The currency is Pakistani Rupee, and 1 Pakistani Rupee is about 1 Yen.

The population is 161 million 660 thousand people. The major industries are agriculture and textile, and GNI (gross national income) per person is 870 US dollars. The expectation of life at birth is 64 years old, and the mortality rate of infants below the age of 1 year old among 1,000 is 72 infants. The literacy rate of the adults is at 55%.

<Counterpart Information>

St. Raphael's Hospital

(Faisalabad, Panjab District)

Pakistan consists of 4 Districts and Panjab is adjacent to India.

The city of Faisalabad has the 3rd largest population in Pakistan.

St. Raphael's Hospital was founded in 1948 by the nuns of Franciscan Missionaries of Mary.

Franciscan Missionaries of Mary is a Catholic order founded in 1877 in India. Current monastery in Panjab, Pakistan was established in 1912.

The staffs at St. Raphael's Hospital are working mainly for expectant and nursing mothers, newborns, and people who cannot afford to go to hospitals.

Patients come from Faisalabad and different villages in Panjab District.

About 100 people come to the outpatients' ward every day. 90% of the patients are women.

Other than the surgeon and the pediatrician (Dr. Aoki), all the other doctors are women.

Because all maternity nurses are women, St. Raphael's Hospital is known as the hospital for women.