

Building Schools to Support Autonomous Children and Communities

To realize a sustainable global society as well as meet its responsibilities as a member of the international community, the MCHC Group has supported school building projects in developing countries since 2006. More than simply providing capital, our support involves various creative methods designed to promote the independence of local communities and children from the perspective of solving the problem of poverty.

Basic Ideas on International Contributions

Realizing a sustainable global society requires that the problem of poverty receive the same level of attention given to the environment. The United Nations established the Millennium Development Goals¹, action guidelines for the international community that address global problems that are beyond the ability of any one country to solve, with the objective of halving the number of people who live in extreme poverty around the world by 2015.

To fulfill its responsibilities as a member of the international community, the Mitsubishi Chemical Holdings Corporation (MCHC) Group is engaged in initiatives to solve the problem of poverty. Specifically, after announcing our endorsement of the UN Global Compact in 2006, we began funding and planning the Local Citizens Building Schools Operations, which local residents and NGOs pursue jointly. As the Millennium Development Goals treat education as a key to eliminating poverty, schools educate the next generation while serving as the center of community development.

Regarding project management, the local community is responsible for the planning, construction and use of school facilities, drawing on the inherent strengths of the community and promoting independence. In terms of project planning and selection, we strive to provide the most effective support through close-knit sharing of information with multiple NGOs and public institutions.

In 2008, the MCHC Group provided a solar power

system using its knowledge and technology to an elementary school in Burkina Faso, where residents suffer from very low adult literacy rates despite stable public safety. The solar power system makes night school possible.

In 2009, with student volunteers from Waseda University we will familiarize the people in Laos with the custom of washing hands and verify and demonstrate the effects.

Positioning international contribution activities as one of its social investments, the MCHC Group will continue to deliver the expertise and ideas of its employees to developing nations and support the autonomy of local communities.

¹ The Millennium Development Goals are to (1) Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, (2) Achieve universal primary education, (3) Promote gender equality and empower women, (4) Reduce child mortality, (5) Improve maternal health, (6) Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, (7) Ensure environmental sustainability and (8) Develop a Global Partnership for Development.

Implementation and Achievements of Local Citizens Building Schools Operations

Countries Involved	NGO Partners	Activity Highlights	Status of Progress
Sierra Leone (West Africa)	Plan Japan	Health and peace education	December 2007 Concluded
Nepal	Plan Japan	10% of project expenses covered by local community	April 2008 Concluded
Burkina Faso (West Africa)	Plan Japan	Solar power system provided by Mitsubishi Chemical	December 2008 Completed
Cambodia	Shanti Volunteer Association	Picture books provided by employee participation (matching gift)	September 2008 Completed
Liberia (West Africa)	Peace Winds Japan	Building of schools by local citizens monitored by NGOs, which hold internal reporting meetings	August 2009 Completed
Laos	IV Japan	Conducted study of health awareness in collaboration with Waseda University	August 2009 Completed

West Africa

Kamsaongho Primary School

Support Details: Construction of new school building, provision of classroom furnishings, installation of solar panels and water well
Project Period: February 2008 to June 2009
Partner: NGO Plan Japan



90 first-year elementary school students learning in a new classroom

Photos: Plan Japan



Safe drinking water from the new well

Rooftop solar panels



Class by fluorescent light

For a village with a large number of school children, this school is indispensable. With the installation of solar panels at the school, children are now able to come to school and study at night. The teachers are happy about the improved environment for preparing their lessons.

Mr. Barsi Kabore, Director of Kamsaongho Primary School

Comments

Upon hearing of the Burkina Faso primary school construction project, I wondered if we could offer support unique to Mitsubishi Chemicals, so I proposed the provision of a solar power system. I thought about which system would be the most appropriate for the school, and conducted thorough demonstrations at Tsukuba Solar Park, Mitsubishi Chemical's R&D base. The system was transported to the school through the cooperation of the Mitsubishi Chemical Logistics Corporation, with the project turning into a larger-scale effort than expected and involving various Mitsubishi Chemical Group companies. I was extremely happy to hear that night classes had begun after installation, and I look forward to development in the region centered around this school.



Takayuki Yoneda
Corporate Marketing Department
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In Cambodia

Anlong Choa Primary School

Support Details: Construction of new school building, provision of classroom furnishings, toilet and water storage tank installation, matching gift (a system where the company provides a monetary amount equivalent to the employee donation) of picture books with translation stickers
Project Period: February 2008 to May 2009
Partner: Shanti Volunteer Association

Photos: Shanti Volunteer Association



Completed school building



Employee volunteer affixing translation stickers in a picture book



This is the first time I have attended classes in such a wonderful classroom, and I am really excited. I can clearly hear the teacher's voice and I am able to concentrate and study. I am especially happy that I no longer have to worry when it rains. Also, I am very happy that I can use the installed toilet facilities in privacy and comfort. I will work hard on my studies and on keeping the school clean.

Hay Sovoeun, age 13



Picture books with translation stickers were donated to Anlong Choa Primary School through a local NPO to help literacy and awareness education