

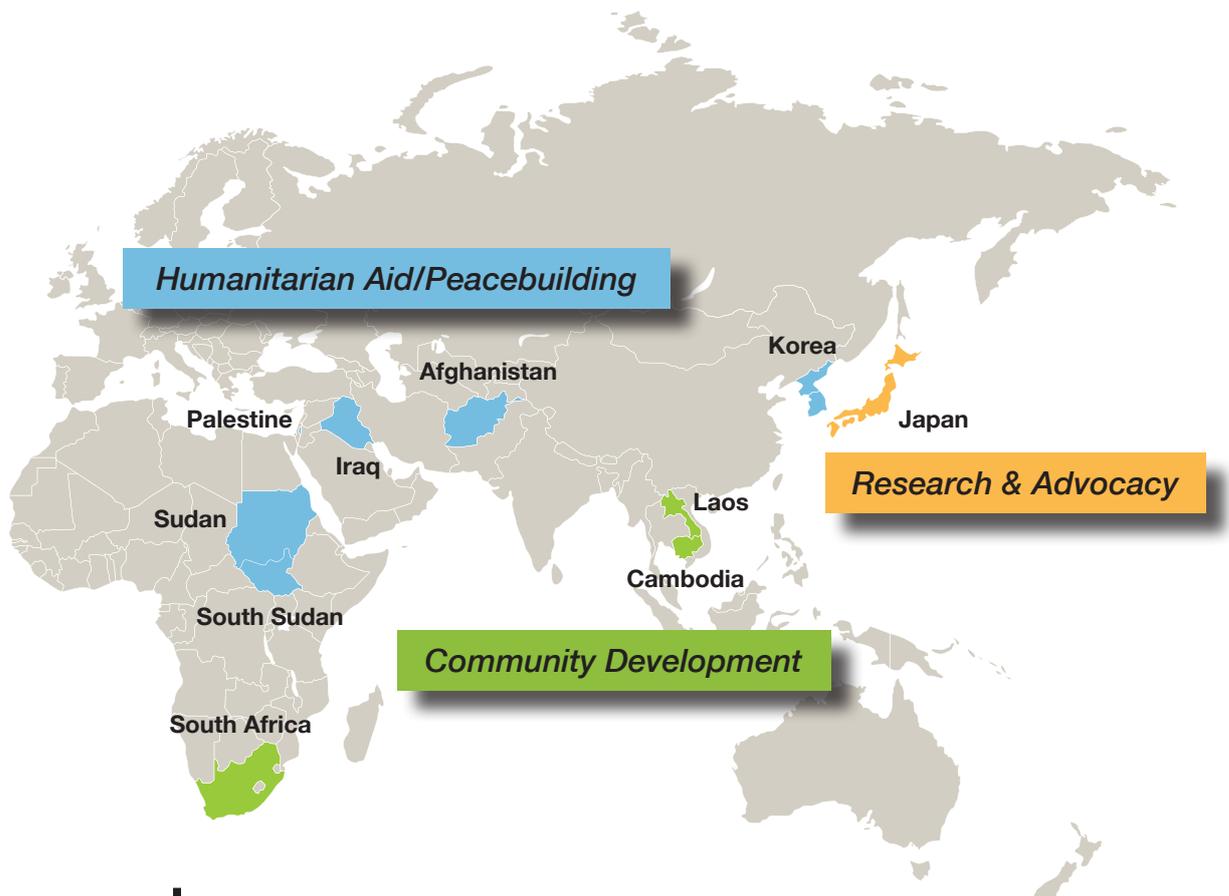
Japan International Volunteer Center



2020 Annual Report



Roun Roem lost her job as a migrant worker due to the influence of COVID-19 and came back to her village. She now makes a living by growing eggplants and basil in her vegetable garden by using the knowledge she got from JVC's agricultural training a few years ago. (Cambodia)



Foreword

Thank you as always for your warm support and cooperation.

A year and several months have passed since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many lives were lost worldwide due to the infection, and the livelihoods of socially vulnerable people are threatened more and more because of the impact of lockdown on the economy and daily life. In the meantime, a handful of wealthy people are getting richer, and the endless expansion of disparity caused by global capitalism has become obvious to everyone.

In the case of Burma/Myanmar, violent repression by the military has intensified. In Japan, too, there is a move to establish an emergency clause in the constitution in response to the outbreak of the disease, and democracy is being threatened in various ways and civil society space is being reduced.

What should JVC do in the face of deepening contradictions in the world? Where should we invest our limited funds and human resources? For the past two years, we have been engaged in a series of discussions to review our activities from scratch. In addition, we have decided to permanently terminate some of the projects that will come to an end in FY2020: the Cambodia, Iraq, and Afghanistan projects, and the Thailand project that had already been suspended. Thank you very much for your support so far.

Even though the long-running projects have been terminated, JVC's direction remains unchanged. We will take the next step to realize a fair society where people's sovereignty (the right to decide for themselves) is respected. In FY2021, we will renew our mid-term goals for five years and conduct research to develop new activities.

I look forward to your continued support for JVC.



IMAI Takaki (President)

Our Vision

We aim to build a society where all people can live in harmony with each other and coexist with nature.

Our Missions

In today's increasingly globalized world, marginalized people are facing difficult living circumstances amidst the structural violence that further discriminates, divides, and oppresses them. In particular, exploitative development activities due to the intensifying market competition and armed conflicts over regional hegemony (initiative), violate the lives of local people and their various rights to live autonomously. We are committed to expanding the circle of social change by working hand in hand with those who are willing to stand up for themselves. In order to achieve this goal, we will carry out our activities with the following specific missions:

1

Conservation of natural resources and respect for residents' sovereignty



In response to the exploitative development activities, we will support practices that protect and utilize local resources, as well as the efforts of those who speak out and are aware of the problems. In addition, we will point out problems to development actors and the international community, encourage them to improve their practices, and make policy proposals.

2

Realization of a fair society and restoration of rights



We will work with people facing various difficulties such as social discrimination and armed conflicts, to consider the background and find out the causes of such difficulties. We will then provide support to restore the human rights of these people.

3

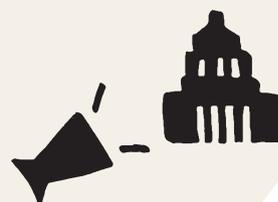
Realization of a convivial society that recognizes differences



In order to promote mutual understanding that transcends divisions based on ethnicity, religion, or political affiliation, we will promote the creation of a convivial society through social and cultural exchanges between members of society.

4

Social change through policy proposals



We will disseminate information about the situations and problems that people are facing. We will actively participate in citizens' networks and work together with the international community and the Japanese society to find solutions.



"We will continue to grow vegetables by ourselves!"

Hoping to continue stable and self-sufficient rural lives

With continuous economic growth, Cambodia sees a widening economic gap between urban and rural areas. In the farming villages in Siem Reap Province, where we conduct our activities, many people go to big cities or neighboring countries to find jobs. On the other hand, those who have no wage earner in the family and must stay in the village live economically severe lives. In the fiscal year of 2020, Siem Reap, a sightseeing city and one of the migrating workers' major destinations, was also affected greatly by the new coronavirus. We have worked in the current activity areas since 2007, providing support for villagers so that they could create a stable life by themselves based on subsistence agriculture.



The town of Siem Reap had always attracted many sightseers before the pandemic (top), but the same place looks quiet in January 2021 (bottom).

A Story in Our Activity Area

"The pond has changed my life. With such great support, working hard every day is not a burden for me. I used to spend a day just going to bed, waking up and eating. Now I enjoy a wonderful life working in my vegetable garden, having something to eat and earning money. On top of that, some people come to buy my vegetables and ask me about my farming techniques. It's a pleasurable experience. Although the activities of JVC came to an end, I will continue what I have learned from them. That is of course for my family, but I also like to continue the activities that JVC did here. More people have started vegetable gardens around me. Witnessing this, I can visualize the future of our village where people can be well-off on food. At that time, I would like people to remember the fact that JVC helped us get to where we are now."



Ms. Nem Sornn (51), one of the villagers living near the dug pond.

Livelihood improvement support

Outline of the Activities

Covering six villages in Chi Kraeng District, we engaged in improving food stability and security by ameliorating local villagers' livelihood. With no water sources in the area, it was difficult to practice vegetable gardening. To resolve this, we dug eight reservoirs ("ponds") and three wells and followed them up. In addition, we conducted various training such as using organic agrichemicals utilizing available resources and agricultural technology training to respond to water scarcity. To the villagers who have succeeded in self-support, we provided opportunities for them to be able to sell their products. We conducted training on how to process 15 kinds of herbs that are harvested in their vegetable gardens. Then, we sold the processed herbs to an organic herb tea company. We organized the sales process so that the villagers can manage the whole process up to the shipment by themselves. In August, we closed the agricultural resource center that we had operated and transferred its functions to five places in our activity villages. We also made a model vegetable garden with volunteer villagers, where any villager could come and exchange information with each other. In February, we provided our first online study tour. The Japanese participants and the villagers of our activity sites enjoyed a special time. We could not give any training during the new coronavirus pandemic, but we cooperated with the Cambodian government in providing emergency assistance such as delivering hygiene items and food to the quarantine isolation facility in the activity sites.

Observed Changes

According to the activity assessment implemented in February, more than 90% of the participants of the training felt that the productivity levels increased. In addition, we confirmed that the variety of products increased up to thirteen kinds on average, compared to two kinds before the training. The ways of getting cash income while staying in the village have increased: villagers who sell vegetables and dry herbs get steady sales every month, and some of them even earn more than US\$100/month when there are good crops. Moreover, villagers started to respond to the changes in society on their initiative. For example, when they had to stop selling their products in the urban areas due to the new coronavirus, they began to think how to be able to sell their products in their community and started production planning by themselves. Many villagers now look more confident. The experience that they could do something by themselves gave them confidence and pride. Here are the voices of the villagers.

"My life has changed. Thanks to the water from the pond, I can harvest vegetables from the land that used to be deserted."

"We have reduced our spending because we eat vegetables from our own garden every day."

"I could buy my children their school uniforms and let them attend a remedial class on my own. I can't read and write myself, but it's me who can give them an educational opportunity."

"I saved the money on a sale and bought a bicycle for the first time in 20 years. Now, every morning, I use this bicycle to sell vegetables."

"Before, I couldn't pay wedding gift money and when I found someone coming to pass me an invitation to a wedding, I hid myself in the rice field. But now, I am proud to be able to receive an invitation and participate in the wedding ceremony using my own money."



The water stored during the rainy season can be used as agricultural water during the dry season.



Ms. Seum Thorng started her vegetable garden after JVC dug the pond. She enlarged it by using the new knowledge she got from the training (left: July 2020, right: September 2020).



Ms. Sam Khorn's vegetable garden can now yield various kinds of crops even during the dry season. She welcomes many visitors to her vegetable garden to share information.



You can purchase herb teas made from materials that are produced in our activity areas. Please search the Internet for Demeter Cambodia Herb Store! ©Demeter





Villagers holding the legal calendars

Protecting our resources and deciding our future

Many people in Laos live in rural areas and make a living by farming and gathering mushrooms, fishes and so on from surrounding forests and rivers. On the other hand, large-scale development projects such as the construction of hydroelectric power dams, mining and large plantations have proceeded under policies to prioritize economic growth. Land expropriation damages the environment and affects the lives of local people relying on the blessings of nature. In order to support the stable life of local people in villages, we provide agricultural techniques trainings for better livelihood and work for management and use of natural resources in a sustainable manner with people in rural areas.



Transmission lines for a hydroelectric dam were installed in target villages.

A Story in Our Activity Area

Mr. Buntar (40s), the head of Alan village, said: *"The forest of Don Plai has been used for a long time by many villagers to gather mushrooms, bamboo shoots and so on. The forest is the source of our lives. It is prohibited to cut trees in the forest, however, the forest in this village has been exploited for the mining of earth and stone for a hydroelectric dam. That was because the boundaries were ambiguous, and it was difficult to show where the community's forest was. We registered the forest as a community forest with JVC and put signboards to show the rules and the boundaries of the forest. Since we put the signboards, people from outside can understand cutting trees is prohibited there. We can easily speak out when a development company comes. We have been quiet but from now on we will speak our minds. We made a list of trees and forest products seen in the community forest. It was also good to know how much woods cost in the market."*



Mr. Buntar in the ceremony to establish a community forest (second from the right).

Supporting independent management and use of natural resources

Outline of the Activities

We established community forest and fish conservation zones in three villages and shared the data of village boundaries and so forth in seven villages. We also held legal trainings to teach the rights of local people on natural resources. In addition, we held trainings to teach gender-equal participation. In total, 1,281 villagers participated in the trainings.

Observed Changes

After setting up the signboards presenting the village map and establishing the community forest, the border of the villages and forest became clearer. It became easier for villagers to protest the unfair land expropriation and avoid troubles associated with logging. Some villagers have started the process of obtaining land certificates to rent and borrow land or claim compensation. Some participants of gender-equality trainings said that not only husbands but also couples should participate in meetings for the community.

Training on agricultural techniques for better livelihood

Outline of the Activities

We held trainings on different agricultural techniques such as the improvement of rice farming, home garden, and cultivation of fruits, mushrooms, and rattan. We set up livestock banks such as cows and goats and vaccinated the livestock. We also provided water tanks and ponds as small irrigation. We held trainings on repairing deep wells and cleaning shallow wells. We delivered rice seeds to 241 households, 18 kg each and set up rice banks in three villages. The capital amount of rice in the banks was 42,100 kg.

Observed Changes

The villagers improved their livelihoods by harvesting vegetables in their home gardens, getting more cows and goats through the livestock bank and so on. As we set up the irrigation and wells, it became easier for villagers to get water for cultivation and everyday life. Rice seed and rice bank helped villagers affected by flood solve food shortage.

Building network and sharing information

Outline of the Activities

We held joint meetings in the target villages three times. Villagers discussed how to improve rice cultivation and so forth. Also, we attended meetings of local network organizations and introduced legal training. We shared booklets compiling the data about each village, community forest and fish conservation zone with government bodies and other NGOs.

Observed Changes

We provided a place for villagers to interact by holding joint meetings. They recognized common challenges in the area and deepened their interest and motivation to solve them. We could share the efforts of the project as grassroots cases through network meetings.



The training using the legal calendar made through cooperation with other organizations.



Villagers discussing divisions of roles between men and women with illustrations.



The training of techniques to sort out rich rice seeds with saltwater.



Rice bank supports the lives of the villagers affected by the flood.





Children receive food as emergency support after the outbreak of COVID-19.

Wishing to create a society full of hope for children

South Africa is a country with the most unequal society in the world. The younger generation under the age of 35 is especially facing a serious situation with an unemployment rate exceeding 50%. The country is also home to the world's largest number of people living with HIV and AIDS, and one in five adults is infected. Under these severe social conditions, about 70% of children under 14 years old are living in poverty, and the number of AIDS orphans, who lose their parents due to AIDS, is continuously increasing. Children from poor families in rural areas face major challenges such as limited access to food while their relatives or guardians are away from home for migrant work. A vicious cycle of the social situation continues across generations. Thus, we are supporting children from difficult family backgrounds.



Children receiving food aid.

A Story in Our Activity Area

“First of all, I would like to thank the Mphego Child Care Center and JVC. I was devastated when my children could not eat meals at school and the Center when both were closed due to COVID-19. I live with my mother and children and the increase in food expenses put a big burden on us because I could not do any day labor in the village due to COVID-19. My mother's pension is the only income we have. The support of food and hygiene items sustained our lives and helped us save money. Our vegetable garden also saved us. We are still eating tomatoes from the garden, so we do not need to buy vegetables for a while. I feel relieved that I could buy school items for my children with the money saved. My trust towards the care volunteers from the Center became stronger in 2020 and I realized again the role and importance of the Child Care Center.”



Ravhutsi Thanyani Mavis (49), a parent of an OVC who attends a Child Care Center.

Support for children living in difficult family environments

Outline of the Activities

In every region of South Africa, there are orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) from difficult family backgrounds such as those experiencing poverty and absence of guardians, including the impact of HIV and AIDS.

Child Care Centers (Centers) are public facilities where OVC aged five to early 20s can drop by after school to play, study, and get necessary support. The Centers are run by “Care Volunteers” who are mainly women from the community but most of them do not have opportunities to receive trainings, and therefore do not have enough knowledge and skills to provide care for OVC. We started a project in 2019 with the two Centers in two villages in Limpopo Province, which is considered as the “poor province” in South Africa. We provide trainings on the following topics to Care Volunteers (1, 2, 3) and OVC (3, 4): (1) how to take care of OVC, (2) how to conduct activity programs to provide OVC with opportunities to learn and play, (3) how to grow vegetables using natural farming methods to provide meals to OVC every day at the Center, (4) life skills and leadership through learning about HIV/AIDS, human rights, and social issues. We are aiming to stop the vicious cycle in the future by helping OVC to understand the current issues, support each other, and to think and take actions by themselves while addressing and supporting their current challenges.

Observed Changes

After March 2020, the schools and Centers were forced to close due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and our activities were restricted as well. Schools resumed in October, but the Centers are still closed as of March 2021. OVCs have not been able to access support outside their homes for over a year. In June, we conducted a home visit survey with Care Volunteers to understand the current situation of OVCs. We found out that all OVCs (about 130) were not able to access food properly because they could not have the meals provided at school in the morning and at the Center after school. We also learned that the food expense had become a big burden to their households while they did not have enough income to cover the costs. In response to this situation, we began distributing food and hygiene items as emergency support in July and conducted it six times by March of the following year. After each distribution, we visited all households to check on the condition of the OVCs. At the same time, from October 2020, we provided training on gardening for OVC with particularly difficult home situations and their guardians so that they can self-supply vegetables in their own garden. They had no experience in gardening before, but by the beginning of the following year, they were able to harvest vegetables.



Training on gardening. They first learn how to make ridges and plant seeds.



An OVC harvests vegetables.



A child living with his grandmother. There are even families consisting of only children. The woman on the left is our staff Duduzile Nkabinde.





With the staff of our partner NGO

Protecting our lives through our own efforts despite difficulties

Women in Palestine are often suffering from violence by men who are stressed in the suppression which comes from Israeli occupation and patriarchal Arab society. People in East Jerusalem are further exposed to oppression and violence by Israel, as this area is confronted by the Israeli police and army. We are providing vocational trainings and trainings on human rights and gender equality for women. It helps them make their own decisions and become socially and economically independent from these circumstances. The economy in Gaza deteriorated during the 14 years of blockade and it worsened in 2020 when outings and gatherings were restricted due to COVID-19. Children are vulnerable in these conditions, so we continued to support the region to help them grow healthily.



We conduct activities in three refugee camps and one community in Central Gaza. The economic conditions are especially poor in this area (Gaza).

A Story in Our Activity Area

Women having small children have been involved in an SNS group with the AEI public health nurse, volunteers, and other mothers. This group became very useful when outings and gatherings were restricted to prevent COVID-19 infection. For example, when someone had a concern with her child not eating baby food, another mother advised, “Try giving mashed potatoes or fruits such as banana. It might be difficult at first, but children will like it if you change the shape of the food, and it will help improve their appetite” and the problem was resolved. By exchanging experiences among mothers and getting advice from the public health nurse and volunteers through SNS, they were able to overcome difficulties during the COVID-19 pandemic.



The penetration rate of smartphones in Gaza reaches 90%. It is reported that this SNS group is helping mothers give comfort to other mothers and feel connected, as well as being a tool to talk about child-rearing.

Improvement of livelihood and empowerment of women (East Jerusalem)

Outline of the Activities

For our new project on women’s support, we selected a partner NGO, AWC, and investigated challenges and needs in the chosen locations. With these results, we made plans for vocational trainings, trainings on human rights, gender equality, and leadership, experience exchange tours, and so on. We started the project for women in Silwan and Al Thouri districts in February 2021. In consideration of COVID-19, we exercised maximum care for infection prevention and conducted the trainings in small groups. The participants were able to learn about gender equality, logical and critical thinking through discussions.

Observed Changes

The participants were full of enthusiasm from the beginning to be able to learn new skills to gain income, so this project was highly anticipated. The capacities for the five vocational training courses (maximum of 10 persons per course) became full as soon as the registration started. Active discussions were held in the gender equality course based on actual cases. In the logical and critical thinking courses, the participants practiced building their opinions logically. They gained new knowledge and realized that they were accepted by others. After freely expressing themselves, they gained confidence.



Meeting with the staff of our partner NGO to prepare for the trainings. Everyone is full of enthusiasm (East Jerusalem).



We could not hold many sessions, but we tried to hold trainings as much as possible by taking precautions for COVID-19 infection such as keeping air circulation in the room and taking physical distance.

Malnutrition prevention and health improvement of children (Gaza)

Outline of the Activities

In four regions of Central Gaza, we conducted follow-up activities and medical check-ups for children aged five and under with volunteers and a public health nurse of AEI, our local partner NGO. To prevent COVID-19 infection, we built a temporary clinic and gave medical check-ups by appointment. We explained to the parents about nutrition and growth at the time of the check-up, as gatherings for lectures were restricted. We also distributed food items to poor families having malnourished children. The project finished in two sites out of four and we have handed over the activities to volunteers. We will continue to follow up with them regularly.

Observed Changes

Two-year-old Rosan was underweight and lacked appetite. The public health nurse gave a nutrition supplement and encouraged her mother to participate in a nutrition lecture. The mother learned about children’s nutrition, anemia, and the methods of making nutritious and easy-to-eat meals for children. She put them into action when she returned home. The improvement of the meals helped to increase Rosan’s appetite and her body weight, so the mother became very happy and visited back the partner nurse to say thank you. The health condition of children is gradually improving through the effort of their mothers and their willingness to see their children grow more healthily.



We could not visit households individually due to the restrictions of the pandemic, so instead we opened a temporary clinic and gave medical check-ups by appointment (Gaza).



Al Thouri Silwan Women’s Center (AWC), East Jerusalem

The organization was established in 2007 to create a society without discrimination against women. It provides vocational trainings and gender equality trainings for women in the Silwan and Al Thouri districts.

Ard El Insan (AEI), Gaza

The organization became independent from a Swiss NGO in 1997 and became the first organization in Gaza that specializes in supporting mothers and children’s health. It has its own clinic and aims to decrease common children’s diseases by providing health services, health education, and mental support.



Sudan/South Sudan

Children raising hands in Arabic class (South Kordofan)

Making progress towards a post-conflict society

After conflicts broke out in 2011, we have been supporting people who sought shelter in the in-state government-held areas, the ones who fled to and live in refugee camps in nearby South Sudan, and the ones remaining in in-state rebel-held areas. In October 2020, the Sudanese government signed a peace agreement with rebel groups operating in different parts of the country. Although the rebel group based in South Kordofan was not part of this, some progress on the peace negotiation is still expected. In 2020, we continued to implement our humanitarian activities, despite all the difficulties caused by both COVID-19 and intercommunal conflicts.



Tilow IDP settlement area raided by an armed group in May 2020

Stories in Our Activity Areas

Kadugli County, South Kordofan State, Sudan

“Although I evacuated to the Yida Refugee Camp following the conflict, I came back to Kadugli to live with my father. When I got back here, I could not even write my own name in Arabic (Arabic is the official language in Sudan) but after attending a follow-up course, I became proficient in reading and writing in Arabic. I also received the top score among all the course attendees on the final exam. I was able to enter fourth grade, and to my delight, I continue to perform well on exams. I will keep studying hard to become a doctor in the future so that I can help the sick.”



Marghani, a teenager who completed the follow-up course

Yida Refugee Camp, South Sudan

“I have been attending JVC’s training program for volunteer teachers over the past several years. It is very interesting to learn about the relationship between education and society. I want to utilize this knowledge to raise awareness among a wide variety of people, particularly for those who are engaged in education. I am now able to read and write without the help of others. The knowledge I have gained through this training is priceless.”



Ninwa, a volunteer preschool teacher (right)

Educational support for conflict-affected children and quality of life improvement support for returnees (South Kordofan State, Sudan)

Outline of the Activities

We operate alternative courses aiming to expand educational opportunities for children unable to attend school or those who dropped out in the past. This program takes place in five villages within Kadugli, South Kordofan where school enrollment rates are extremely low. In 2020, we were temporarily forced to close due to the pandemic while armed attacks also made adverse impacts. Six months later, however, we managed to resume activities and assisted a total number of approximately 380 children to enter formal school upon program completion.

In IDP (Internally Displaced Persons) resettlement areas with insufficient water supply and limited means for sustaining lives, we carried out livelihood enhancement activities. We aimed to improve the villagers' living conditions by building hand-pump wells and their livelihood by providing training for making vegetable gardens in three villages, and also providing essential school supplies like blackboards and notebooks in areas with limited humanitarian access.

Observed Changes

Nearly all children who completed our six-month program were admitted to formal school. Since the understanding and cooperation of parents is indispensable for children to continue their education, we conducted a series of awareness-raising sessions for the community, holding discussions with many groups of mothers. Parents' attitudes towards education showed significant improvements as a result, and some even volunteered to clean classrooms to support the children's progress.

We now face two challenges: first, to monitor children's regular attendance at formal schools, and second, to provide opportunities for children nearing school age. We intend to continue our efforts to expand the children's access to education and cooperate with the people who strive to break the status quo.

Assistance to preschools and child protection (Yida Refugee Camp, South Sudan)

Outline of the Activities

Although COVID-19 forced the closure of the preschool at the refugee camp for an entire year, we continued to conduct training sessions for voluntary teachers. We also kept offering educational support for children who have been separated from their parents due to war or other domestic circumstances. As a result, we secured a safe environment for children and also succeeded in facilitating educational opportunities in follow-up classes and extracurricular activities, where children are also provided food as part of the assistance.

Observed Changes

The closure of schools deprived children of environments where they can enjoy social interaction with friends and others. Although it was unclear when schools could be reopened, residents and voluntary teachers repaired a thatched house previously used as a school and facilitated it for children's use. Thanks to this effort, children now have a safe environment to hang around and study with friends. Since 2013, when we started to provide humanitarian aid to the above communities, the importance of preschool education has become widely acknowledged among the refugees, reflecting the efforts of JVC staff and partners such as the volunteer teachers.



Mother and daughter congratulating themselves for receiving an award at the graduation ceremony of the follow-up school



Farming vegetables during the dry season for livelihood improvement. Growing nalta jute (Jew's mallow) and rucola (arugula)



Assistance with sports goods for extracurricular activities





Bringing a place of peace to children and the community

In 2009, we have started working together with a local partner organization, INSAN, to support the community in Kirkuk City. We focused on a Children's Peace Workshop, where children can learn about peaceful coexistence while interacting across ethnic and religious barriers. Since 2015, we have been accepting refugee children and implementing Peace Yard that includes care for children who are mentally injured. The number of children who participated reached 730 in total. The project, however, was terminated after the program review of JVC due to our limited finances and the difficulty of entering the site for security reasons.

Outline of the Activities

In Iraq, due to the spread of COVID-19, the restriction on going out intermittently continued from March 2020, but it was lifted in the middle of September. For two months from September 15th, we conducted Peace Yard activities to provide children who were mentally injured and traumatized in conflicts with a place to stay and learn about mental care and peaceful coexistence. We reduced the number of participants to about half the conventional one and adopted infection prevention measures such as wearing masks and keeping social distance. Thirty-six children aged 6 to 13 participated (12 Arabs, 18 Kurdish, 6 Turkish; 17 girls, 19 boys). We conveyed knowledge and countermeasures about COVID-19. In addition, to look back on our activities of the past 10 years, we conducted (1) interview surveys of the local people and the parents of past participants, and (2) video production to record past activities and to widely convey the concept of peacebuilding.

Observed Changes

Security was poor and a feeling of being trapped spread due to the restriction on going out. We, therefore, provided children with an environment where they could spend time at their ease. They gradually recovered their mental stability and self-affirmation, and we could see their smiles. Because of the mental care program, the conditions of children who were restless and did not show interest in the surroundings improved. Schools in Iraq are classified into ethnic groups. Children of different ethnic origins have few opportunities to meet. In Peace Yard, children from various backgrounds get to know, share their experiences, and deepen mutual understandings. "Buds of coexistence" that transcend ethnic and cultural differences are emerging. There have been some cases where children who participated in this program engage in peace activities after they grow up. We also informed the parents of the children and local people of the basic way of thinking about conflict resolution and peacebuilding and spread the idea about coexistence. People of different ethnic groups, denominations, and birthplaces usually had no opportunities to get to know each other. But now, they can meet each other, establish new relationships, and start discussions toward coexistence.



"The armed conflicts with the extremist organization, ISIS, have an enormous impact on people, especially on children. The situation is severe due to the decline of international interest, unstable domestic politics, COVID-19, and so on, but we will continue giving support." (A message from Aari Jabari, the representative of INSAN)



An activity to become a genie



Making a "Peace Tree" together

INSAN Iraqi Society

INSAN is an Iraqi organization working since 2003 in Kirkuk. Diverse ethnic groups live there, and conflicting feelings are strong among them due to historical backgrounds and interest in oil resources. INSAN implements activities to ease tensions among residents, foster peace, and support internally displaced persons.



Women learning in a literacy classroom

Supporting the people's wish to learn

Following the peace agreement between the Taliban and the United States in February 2020, peace negotiations started between the Afghan government and the Taliban in September, but despite this, the situation in Afghanistan has been difficult. Due to the spread of COVID-19 and the decrease of international aid, the social situation has deteriorated, and the livelihoods of citizens have become even more difficult. In the fiscal year 2020, we conducted literacy activities to protect the people's right to education in the Nangarhar Province in cooperation with YVO, an NGO localized from the former JVC Afghanistan office. We completed this three-year project in April 2021 and closed all activities in Afghanistan.

Outline of the Activities

We conducted enlightenment activities to convey the importance of education to the younger generations in the entire region. We held literacy classes and offered opportunities to learn reading, writing, and simple arithmetic regardless of gender to realize the equal right to getting an education. In addition, we conducted a survey and held interviews with families who were the most seriously affected by COVID-19 and provided emergency food assistance in July (this activity was not included in the original annual plan).

Observed Changes

Due to the spread of COVID-19, the start of classes was delayed for two months from the initial plan, but we conducted activities almost on schedule after that. About 300 people (90% were female) learned how to read and write in their mother tongue and basic arithmetic. We took infection preventive measures in the classrooms. Through the three-year activities of this project, the interest in literacy education has increased, and many residents request YVO to hold advanced literacy classes soon. In addition, on the occasion of an exchange event between graduates and new participants, we interviewed the graduates until the fiscal year 2019 and the former teachers. We used the results of the interviews in the final evaluation of the program together with YVO. As for the countermeasures against COVID-19, we conducted interview surveys and found that the most seriously affected families are day laborers without lands. We explained the detailed selection criteria of aid recipients to elders and religious leaders. Then we provided emergency food assistance to 80 families, who lost jobs due to infection and faced poverty. They could not receive social support and could not even purchase enough food for their families.



We also conducted countermeasures against COVID-19.



Students doing group work in a classroom.



We conducted a COVID-19 prevention campaign in several districts of the Nangarhar Province together with the village youth.

Your Voice Organization (YVO)

YVO is a local NGO that became independent from the former JVC Afghanistan office in March 2019. In cooperation with JVC, it is engaged in community education and peace building activities.



Children of Pyongyang looking at the work from Japan

Connecting relationships with citizens not in the frame of the state

Since the emergency aid for the damage caused by flood in 1995 in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK, North Korea), we have formed a network with other organizations to support children in North Korea. However, it was difficult to gain an understanding of the support in Japanese society. We recognized that mutual understanding is important for building peace in Northeast Asia. We, therefore, started an exchange program on children's paintings in 2001 called Friends of Northeast Asia - Exchange Exhibition of Children's Art (Friends of Northeast Asia). Since 2012, we have also been conducting an Exchange Program for University Students from Japan and DPRK (University Student Program).

Outline of the Activities

The 19th Friends of Northeast Asia in Tokyo was scheduled for February 2020 but was canceled due to COVID-19. Instead, we introduced the paintings collected from respective countries from July to August online and received more than 1,500 visitors and about 3,200 times of browsing. In the milestone year marking the 20th anniversary of the program, it was difficult for the children to meet in person, so we returned to our starting point of "connecting hearts by paintings because we cannot meet" and conducted activities toward the 20th anniversary painting exhibition scheduled in June 2021. We held an online exchange event with South Korea in August and an online workshop with China in November.

In the University Student Program, we could not visit overseas due to the entry restrictions in each country. Instead, we held online study sessions four times (June, July, September, January) and fieldwork in Osaka (September) and Tokyo (November). At the end of February 2021, five students took the stage at the Friends of Northeast Asia in Osaka, and at the end of March, we could finally have a face-to-face retrospective session in Tokyo. Some students participated in a project collaborated with a Korean social enterprise (September) and a series of lectures co-sponsored by the Institute of Korean Studies, Waseda University (September–December).

Observed Changes

In commemoration of the 20th anniversary of our exchange program, we held the "East Asia Peace Conference" online in November together with the Corporation Okedongmu Children in Korea, our partner organization for the Friends of Northeast Asia and past participants of Friends of Northeast Asia. We originally had various plans for the University Student Program in the expected visit to North Korea, but it became difficult to gather face to face. The interns of the executive committee and the JVC office planned together an exchange meeting of paintings with the young Koreans living in Japan and held it for two days in November.



We aim to provide heartfelt emergency support even on a small scale, differing from the large-scale governmental one.



In the Friends of Northeast Asia 2020, we connected children through the concept of "what we can do without meeting."

Corporation Okedongmu Children in Korea

An NGO that supports children in North Korea and conducts cultural exchange and peace education. Okedongmu means "friends having arms on each other's shoulders" and having the same height and the same mind.

Participant's Reflection

"It was my first time to be involved in the University Student Program, so I was inspired by what I learned. I have been participating in the Friends of Northeast Asia since childhood and I thought I already knew it. But there were many things that I didn't know yet. It was very impressive."

When she was an elementary school student, she visited Pyongyang and Seoul in the Friends of Northeast Asia. She also worked as an intern for the executive committee in 2020.



SATO Tara



Imai, the president of JVC, gives a lecture at Sofia University (2019).

Expanding a network of international cooperation and changing society through the voices of citizens

Global issues in the world tangle each other in a complex way across borders. In order to solve such issues, we work together through a network of citizen's organizations. We are aiming at expanding a network of international cooperation to build societies where everyone is respected.

Events, Lectures, Development Education

To spread information about world situations that are not covered by the media, we gave lessons and lectures in elementary, middle, and high schools as well as in universities. We delivered the voices of local people and taught them how to be involved in international cooperation in Japan. We organized 35 events either online or face-to-face with a limited number of participants and dispatched information. Listed below are some examples.

- “Peace study tour in Palestine: A country divided by walls” (online)
- “Let us experience Africa under COVID-19 pandemic: An international cooperation workshop learning from the incidents in Sudan” (online)
- “An urgent online event to face COVID-19: Crises of the people who are left behind and solidarity to overcome the issues” (online)
- A lesson on international cooperation (at an elementary school in Kawasaki, Kanagawa)

Media Coverage

Besides the direct transmission of information through events, we appeared on various media such as newspapers, radio, and television to appeal to a broad range of people. We were introduced 33 times in the media in the fiscal year 2020. Our activities in Cambodia, Palestine, and Pyongyang were introduced in a film, *I Don't Allow Division*, which was directed by a journalist, HORI Jun (p. 21), as well as in a book with the same title.



I Don't Allow Division (2020)



Press conference held following the end of Japan's ODA ProSAVANA in Mozambique. It was covered by TV news and other media.

Delivering voices from the field to society

We continued to work in two main areas, “Networking and advocacy with people fighting against land grabbing caused by free trade” and “Advocacy on conflict and peacebuilding.” In 2009, Japan, Brazil, and Mozambique made a contract titled “ProSAVANA”, an agricultural development project in northern Mozambique, under the Official Development Assistance (ODA) program. Local farmers and civil societies raised an objection and we have been working with them to stop the project. But in July 2020, it was suddenly announced that the project would be effectively terminated. In response to the movement to create a country capable of war including the deployment of the Self-Defense Forces overseas, we have been involved in a lawsuit against the unconstitutionality of the Security Law. We continued to point out the problems of the Security Law from the standpoint of an NGO.

Networking and advocacy with people fighting against land grabbing caused by free trade

ProSAVANA Project

Since local smallholders raised concerns about the project in 2012, the situation surrounding the project has deteriorated, with increased threats and repression against local smallholders and civil societies. As a result, in 2017, the local lawyers' association filed a lawsuit in the Administrative Court against the Ministry of Agriculture, which supervised the ProSAVANA coordination office. In 2018, the judges unanimously ruled that the project violates the right to know of the people of Mozambique and that the documents must be fully disclosed within 10 days. However, both the Mozambique and Japanese governments have not taken any action. We have continued discussions with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in collaboration with Diet members. In late July 2020, MOFA suddenly announced the termination of the project. The master plan, the main pillar of the project, was originally scheduled to be completed in 2013, but despite the fact that it took about eight years and 800 million yen to complete (the total project cost was about 3.5 billion yen), it was terminated without being completed, which in effect meant cancellation or suspension.



Mr. Costa, a local smallholder leader, also participated in the press conference online.



JVC's Watanabe reporting at the press conference.

However, no explanation has been given either to local smallholders and local citizens or in Japan regarding the reason for the termination. The project ended without any response to the requests from smallholders and citizens based on specific cases and surveys. We believe that a review of the past 8 years of this project is necessary and have begun to work with other organizations and Diet members.

In addition to ProSAVANA, the Japanese government is developing resources (coal and natural gas) and infrastructure (railways and ports) in northern Mozambique known as the Nacala Corridor Development. Japanese companies such as Mitsui & Co., Ltd. are involved in both projects and huge amounts of public funds from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI) are being invested. However, there are reports of damage and human rights violations such as destruction of the environment and livelihoods as well as forced relocation of farmers and fishermen. Particularly in the Cabo Delgado province, where natural gas development is being carried out, the Islamic armed group (which calls itself ISIS) has emerged against a background of development disparity and dissatisfaction with the damage it has caused. This has resulted in many casualties and more than 700,000 internally displaced persons (Mozambique has a population of 30 million, and the Cabo Delgado province has 2.2 million). We will continue to monitor the situation and make policy recommendations.

Advocacy on conflict and peacebuilding

Security Policy

In Japan, 25 lawsuits have been filed nationwide against the unconstitutionality of the Security Law, which can be called a de facto “constitutional revision” of Article 9 of the Constitution. In a lawsuit at the Miyazaki District Court, Imai, the president of JVC, appeared as a witness for the plaintiffs in a lawsuit filed in the Miyazaki District Court in October. Based on the incidents that happened in South Sudan, he testified that *Kaketsuke-keigo* (rush protection) and joint protection of campsites could lead to the use of force prohibited by the Constitution. He also served as a lecturer at a pre-conference study session organized by the lawyers. Some participants said that they were able to understand the reality in the conflict area, which they would not normally know, and deepen their awareness of the dangers of the Security Law. Through these activities, we were able to convey our awareness of issues and concerns about Japan’s security policy as an NGO working for international cooperation.

Burma/Myanmar

Since the end of fiscal year 2020, we have started activities in the form of policy recommendations to prevent Japanese funds and taxes from harming the rights and lives of people around the world. In Burma/Myanmar, a coup d’état by the national army took place on February 1, 2021. It has been pointed out that business profits from Japanese companies are flowing into the national army. In order to protect people including children from the ongoing killings, detentions and repression, it is important to cut off the sources of funding for the national army. Even before the coup, we pointed out the financial ties between the army and Japanese companies and have been calling for the elimination of these financial ties. In cooperation with other organizations working on the theme of “business and human rights”, we have submitted requests to the UN, private corporations, and the Japanese government. We also hold seminars with citizens to discuss issues and take action to ensure that businesses and policies do not harm people. We do not want our money to go around and take the human rights or lives of people in other countries. With this in mind, we focus on policy advocacy activities not only overseas but also in Japan. Our activities transcend national borders to create a society where human rights and respect for life are given utmost importance and will not be taken for granted.



A press conference following the end of the ProSAVANA project.



President Imai gave a report to the plaintiffs in the lawsuit against the unconstitutionality of the Security Law at the Miyazaki District Court.



Advocacy in cooperation with other organizations such as Mekong Watch and FoE Japan.

Main proposals and statements delivered in the fiscal year 2020

“The Government of Japan and JBIC must stop massive public financing of natural gas development that is harmful and hurts people” (Mozambique)



About the Finished Activities

A scene of discussion among staff members (2019)

Our activities in Cambodia, Afghanistan, and Iraq finished in the fiscal year of 2020. The activities in Thailand, which have been suspended from 2019, also ended this year. After the establishment of JVC in 1980, the world has been dramatically changing. We have continued discussions about the role of JVC these past two years, looking back on our previous activities and looking at the future in five and ten years. What are the most important activities that we should implement? On which project should we focus within our limited financial and human resources? Based on the discussions, we reviewed our previous projects and decided to close the four mentioned above. We truly appreciate those who have supported these projects for many years.



IMAI Takaki (President)

Thailand

Thailand is the place where JVC was first established. We started emergency assistance for the refugees from Indochina and implemented projects to support sustainable agriculture and to directly connect farmers and consumers. We further implemented a project, Internship to Learn in a Village in Thailand, under which Japanese participants learned agriculture in Thailand. A citizen exchange program between Japan and Thailand aimed to establish an alternative food distribution system for farmers and consumers. Although our project finished, the activities are continued by an organization that a former staff of JVC established.

Cambodia

We have implemented various activities in Cambodia, starting from refugee assistance in the 1980s to vocational trainings and sustainable agriculture. During these 40 years, the social situation in Cambodia has largely changed, and we finished our activities for rural development. On the other hand, the oppression of citizens by the coercive government has become a big issue recently in Cambodia. We thought about a possibility to react against it, but it would be risky to make policy recommendations while having an on-site office. We, therefore, decided to close the project this time.

Afghanistan

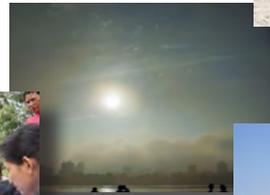
After the military attack on Afghanistan in 2001 under the name of “War on Terrorism,” we have conducted emergency assistance, medical support, educational support, and peacebuilding activities. However, the travel to Afghanistan has been strictly restricted, and the range of our project was also limited for financial reasons. We, unfortunately, closed the project. The former local office of JVC in Afghanistan has become independent in 2019 and started activities as a new NGO, “Your Voice Organization (YVO)”. Since we find that the capacity building for the Afghan staff was not enough at that time, we will continue the follow-up on the management of YVO.

Iraq

After the outbreak of the Iraq War in 2003, we have conducted medical assistance and support of IDPs. From 2009, we have implemented Peace Yard, a project to facilitate the interaction of children from different ethnic origins and to support local communities through education on peace and coexistence. However, the travel to our activity area was quite difficult under the unstable political situation. It further deteriorated the communication with the local partner organization that implemented the project. We, therefore, decided to close the project. Compared with the problems that local people face, the amount of budget that we have spent was too small. It is one of our future challenges, to think more about how we can resolve the gap between local needs and the project budget.



The JVC International Cooperation Calendar was first produced in 1986, and approximately 500,000 calendars have been sold since then. The proceeds will go to support various JVC projects around the world. The 2021 calendar selected pictures from our activity areas taken by a journalist, HORI Jun.



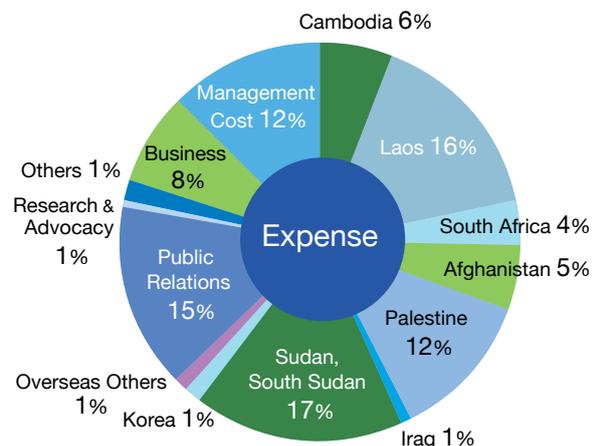
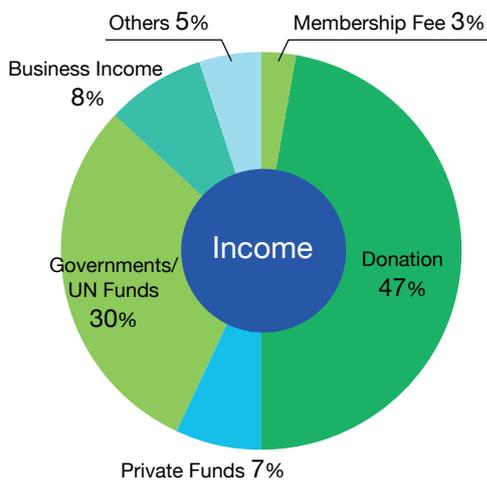
HORI Jun

He was born in 1977 and worked at NHK from 2001 to 2013. He is currently the representative director of a non-profit organization 8bitNews and the representative of GARDEN Co. Ltd. He is also in charge of *Morning CROSS* (TOKYO MX TV), *JAM THE WORLD* (J-WAVE), and *AbemaPrime* (ABEMA).



April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021

| Account | Project | Calendar | Total |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| I Ordinary income | | | |
| 1. Membership fee | 7,166,000 | 0 | 7,166,000 |
| 2. Donation | 109,375,994 | 5,000 | 109,380,994 |
| 3. Grant (private funds) | 17,219,522 | 0 | 17,219,522 |
| 4. Grant (governments/UN funds) | 69,505,418 | 50,196 | 69,555,614 |
| 5. Business income (calendar) | 0 | 18,966,251 | 18,966,251 |
| 6. Others | 12,563,008 | 53,514 | 12,616,522 |
| Total | 215,829,942 | 19,074,961 | 234,904,903 |
| II Ordinary expense | | | |
| 1. Project cost | | | |
| (1) Labor cost | 96,787,548 | 7,185,128 | 103,972,676 |
| (2) Others | 101,664,565 | 11,837,320 | 113,501,885 |
| Subtotal | 198,452,113 | 19,022,448 | 217,474,561 |
| 2. Management cost | | | |
| (1) Labor cost | 24,243,684 | | 24,243,684 |
| (2) Others | 6,489,447 | | 6,489,447 |
| Subtotal | 30,733,131 | | 30,733,131 |
| Total | 229,185,244 | 19,022,448 | 248,207,692 |
| Ordinary profit/loss | -13,355,302 | 52,513 | -13,302,789 |
| III Non-recurring income | | | |
| Profit from prior period adjustment | 745,349 | 0 | 745,349 |
| Total | 745,349 | 0 | 745,349 |
| IV Non-recurring expense | | | |
| Miscellaneous cost | 701,918 | 1554 | 703,472 |
| Total | 701,918 | 1,554 | 703,472 |
| Non-recurring profit/loss | 43,431 | -1,554 | 41,877 |
| Transfer to projects and management | 50,959 | -50,959 | 0 |
| Change in net assets before taxes | -13,260,912 | 0 | -13,260,912 |
| Corporation, inhabitant, and business taxes | 70,000 | | 70,000 |
| Change in net assets during the period | -13,330,912 | 0 | -13,330,912 |
| Net assets carried forward from the previous year | 222,243,175 | -486,083 | 221,757,092 |
| Carry-over | 208,912,263 | -486,083 | 208,426,180 |



As of March 31, 2021

| I Assets | | II Liabilities | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|---|--------------------|
| 1. Current assets | | 1. Current liabilities | |
| Cash on hand and in banks | 316,631,526 | Accounts payable | 12,858,380 |
| Accounts receivable - trade | 877,302 | Advance received | 85,554,157 |
| Inventories | 1,144,732 | Withholding tax deposits | 1,270,061 |
| Stock | 2,821,113 | Accrued corporate tax, etc. | 70,000 |
| Temporary payments | 212,124 | Accrued consumption tax | 395,000 |
| Accounts receivable - other | 363,144 | | |
| Prepaid expenses | 8,780,916 | Subtotal | 100,147,598 |
| Allowance for doubtful accounts | -9,299 | | |
| | | 2. Fixed liabilities | |
| Subtotal | 330,821,558 | Allowance for retirement benefits | 29,759,389 |
| | | Subtotal | 29,759,389 |
| 2. Fixed assets | | Total liabilities | 129,906,987 |
| Equipment and fixtures | 826,563 | | |
| Investment capital | 100,000 | III Net assets | |
| Deposit | 6,585,046 | Net assets carried forward from the previous year | 221,757,092 |
| | | Change in net assets during the period | -13,330,912 |
| Subtotal | 7,511,609 | Total net assets | 208,426,180 |
| Total assets | 338,333,167 | Total liabilities and net assets | 338,333,167 |

Independent Auditor's Report

監査報告書

2021年5月21日

特定非営利活動法人日本国際ボランティアセンター
理事 今井 高樹 様

監事 矢崎 芽生 
監事 田中 雅幸 

私たちは、特定非営利活動促進法第18条の規定に基づき、特定非営利活動法人日本国際ボランティアセンター（JVC）の2020年度（2020年4月1日から2021年3月31日まで）の業務監査及び会計監査を行いました。

理事の業務執行の状況に関する監査に当たっては、理事会に出席し、必要と認める場合には質問をしました。また、財産の状況に関する監査に当たっては、財務諸表等（活動計算書、貸借対照表、財務諸表の注記及び財産目録）と帳簿や証拠書類等との照合、質問等の合理的な保証を得るための手続きを行いました。

監査の結果、理事の業務執行は、法令、定款及び事業計画に基づき適正に執行され、不正の行為または法令・定款に違反する重大な事実はないことが認められました。

また、法人の財産の状況は、NPO法人会計基準に準拠して、財務諸表等に適正に表示されていると認められました。

以上のとおり報告致します。



Sowing the seeds of peace in the world

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