**THE WAY TO SCHOOL**

Everything that we see on our way to school makes us happy. It feels like the deep green trees, the yellow flowers growing and the goats passing us by are cheering for our dreams. The joy of learning begins on our way to school. Hopefully all children can feel this joy.

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**DEAR PARTNERS AND COLLEAGUES,**

I send my deepest condolences to those who have lost loved ones and suffered emotional and financial distress in the 7.8-magnitude earthquake and the aftershocks in Nepal.

Good Neighbors took prompt action to distribute relief supplies to local communities in Gorkha and its nearby areas, one of the most-affected regions as the epicenter of the recent earthquake, in close cooperation with local governments and international organizations. We are working hard to help the children and community members get back to ordinary life through the reconstruction of buildings and others as a co-leading agency for Protection Cluster in Gorkha District.

In May, we held Management and Strategy Conference 2015 attended by the representatives of field offices. The conference discussed challenges and solutions in the sectors of education, health, income generation, and emergency relief and explored ways to enhance expertise and effectiveness in each project. It was a meaningful opportunity for us to share the direction of mid- and long-term management specific to each field country.

Our colleagues around the world will continue to work to ensure sustainable development through effective project models focused on the self-reliance of communities in the regions affected by natural disasters and poverty.

Sincerely,

*Chanhak Park*

President, Good Neighbors International
LET THE CHILDREN BE OUR FUTURE

06.12 CELEBRATING WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR

BY HYOWON JUN / GOOD NEIGHBORS INTERNATIONAL

168 million. This is the number of children who go to work instead of school every day. Half of them work in hazardous and harsh situations, and every year 22,000 children die at work due to dangerous circumstances.* These numbers are not obsolete; they represent today’s current situation of our children, our future. Countless children around the world are using tools such as hammers and pickaxes instead of notebooks and pencils, and are not able to think about their futures. Good Neighbors provides the opportunities and education to children of child labor to allow them to dream of a brighter future.

* Marking progress against child labour, 2013, ILO
Good Neighbors runs an education support project called “Learning Together” for children like Manik who are deprived of quality education. Concurrently, we are helping with the income generation of the family as well so that their children do not have to work to make a living.

We are providing education facilities and infrastructure such as learning equipment, libraries, and education centers to improve the unfavorable education environment. Also we are expanding the scope of education through after-school and infant programs while improving the quality of education through the capacity building of teachers every year.

Education helps children dream and discover bright futures. Good Neighbors provides continuous support for children of child labor and their families. We want every child in the world to have a fair opportunity.

“I am very happy that I get to study with my friends at school every day! I do not have to go to work anymore because my parents opened a store. I want to help other children like me when I become successful in the future.”

-Manik-
Generally in Guatemala, people use stoves fueled by firewood for home cooking. However, most of the poor families here use a self-made stove where they roughly place stones on the ground, put a flat stone or a wire mesh on the stone pillars, and then burn wood fuel under the stone or mesh tray. They commonly use hazardous materials instead of firewood because it is hard to get. This leads to the massive emission of smoke containing harmful gases. This in turn, frequently causes respiratory diseases or premature death in women and children who spend much of their time cooking in front of stoves.
Good Neighbors has implemented the Cook Stove Project since 2010, to protect women and children exposed to hazardous cooking environments. It, along with technology experts, conducted research to solve these problems, and developed the first-generation cookstove that emits less harmful gases and can prevent fire. Because of this cookstove that uses less fuel than older ones, the children and women of 135 households were able to take care of their health, and saved time and money.

In 2012, Good Neighbors manufactured the second-generation cookstove with a higher heat efficiency, made of steel instead of bricks, which enabled portability. Also it established a GOOD STOVE Factory for mass production in 2014 in collaboration with KOICA(Korea International Cooperation Agency). Now, the Cook Stove Project aims to provide over 2,000 upgraded cookstoves by 2017. The social enterprise will focus on job creation and income generation, to enhance community capacity and seek environmental protection and health improvement.

Cookstove from GOOD STOVE Factory is being improved at this moment. Good Neighbors is developing the third-generation cookstove not only to meet the new needs of consumers, but also to create practical economic effects through a market-targeted design for mass production. It used professional management consulting services to devise a strategy to turn our idea into a business model, through which we can lay the groundwork for sustainable development for community members.

The Cook Stove Project is having a positive impact on the three areas of environment, health, and economy of the lives of Guatemalan residents. It will never stop evolving with the continuous efforts of Good Neighbors and community members. We looks forward to the good change and innovation that the Cook Stove Project will bring in the future.

Expected Effectiveness of the Cook Stove Project

Through the Cook Stove Project, GOOD STOVE Factory evolves itself to a Social Enterprise to pursue Inclusive Economic Development, in addition to Inclusive Social Development & Environmental Sustainability.

**Protection of Environment**
- Reduction of excessive consumption of firewood
- Protection of natural resources

**Local Economic Development**
- Construction of basic infrastructure
- Income generation through vocational training
- Creation of job

**Improvement of Life Style**
- Proper usage of improved cookstove
- Promote family health

**Empowerment of Community**
- Provision of vocational training course
- Encourage local residents’ participation

**Improvement of Life Quality**
- Establishment of basic sanitary education center
NEPAL, RETURN TO NORMAL WITH HOPE

BY KUHWAN CHUNG / GOOD NEIGHBORS INTERNATIONAL

On April 25, an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.8 struck Nepal. The worst earthquake in the nation’s history killed over 8,000 people, injured 17,000, and displaced about 8 million, who still live in fear of earthquakes every day. Good Neighbors promptly sent our emergency relief team to the most-affected area—Gorkha District, the epicenter of the recent earthquake, to conduct relief activities. We provided aid supplies and embarked on relief activities such as emergency medical assistance, and psychosocial support. We were also planning on a long-term reconstruction project focused on education, health, drinking water, and housing.

Good Neighbors distributed relief goods to community members of Finam Village on April 28. We also provided emergency relief supplies such as tarpaulin sheets, blankets, emergency food for 42,515 children and residents of 5,546 households, mainly in the five VDCs of the worst-hit areas of Gorkha, 5,320 households in Lalitpur and 3,620 households in Kathmandu.

INJURIES BEING CURED

A medical relief team was sent twice to assist local community members suffering from injuries. Medical relief teams ran mobile clinics for 1,949 children and residents for simple bandage dressing and stitching, mainly in isolated mountainous villages in the Gorkha District including Soli Village, a five-hour drive away. Hygiene kits and dignity kits which is composed of soap, antiseptic, underwear, and so on were also distributed to children and women.

“This is the first time that I get treatment since the day I was injured. I didn’t know what to do. I was worried, but now I am relieved. I think I can take care of myself because I learned how to bandage and take care of the injury.”

- Roshan Ghale, 18 years old

Roshan Ghale’s wrist was cut by a collapsed roof, and he could not receive proper treatment for over ten days until he made the four hour walk to the clinic.

- 01 A street covered with earthquake debris in Gorkha
- 02 Good Neighbors distributing emergency relief kits
- 03 Roshan Ghale having treatment at the mobile clinic
SOOTHING THE HEARTS OF CHILDREN

Our psychosocial support team created five Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) to provide Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) programs for Nepali children to treat their emotional distress and make them stronger. 15,581 children took the PTSD programs for overcoming the fear of the earthquake until now. Good Neighbors also made sure to continue the psycho-emotional treatment by educating local teachers on PTSD programs.

“Nepal is crying now. I hope that schools and houses are repaired soon so that Nepal stops crying.”

– Roshan Benjara, 13-year-old boy, on a PTSD program –

DREAMING OF HOPE AGAIN

Good Neighbors is making every effort to restore the earthquake-hit area by rebuilding destroyed schools and health centers and reconstructing necessary facilities while conducting emergency relief activities. We plan to rebuild and restore schools and health centers in Gorkha, where 90% of the 42 schools are shattered, and to create a Temporary Learning Space (TLS) for children to continue their studying.

Good Neighbors was selected by the Gorkha District Natural Disaster Rescue and Relief Committee to take charge of major activities to protect women, children, and senior citizens. Currently, we are serving as a co-leading agency in Protection Cluster that coordinates the activities of other organizations. In addition, we will work with the local government to implement emergency relief projects and reconstruction projects worth $3 million USD while establishing a long-term restoration and reconstruction plan. Good Neighbors will always be with the Nepali children and local community members, and will help them get back to normalcy as soon as possible.
FOR A HEALTHIER TOMORROW!

BY SEONGHYUN YANG / GOOD NEIGHBORS INTERNATIONAL

According to a report on the current status of medical services in Cambodia, the number of medical professionals per every 10,000 people there are 2.3 doctors and 7.9 nurses. These numbers are way below the averages of 15.3 and 25.1, in Southeast Asian countries.* Cheung Aek, one of the poorest areas in the capital city of Phnom Penh, has high rates of water-borne diseases from contaminated drinking water, and tropical diseases such as malaria and dengue fever. The only health center in the area already lost its intended function due to the lack of medical facilities, equipment, staff, and supplies. Trust in the health center was very low demonstrated by the fact that merely 7.3% of the people use it. Most local community members were bearing the financial burden of using expensive private medical institutes.

Good Neighbors embarked on the Health Post Project in Cheung Aek last year, in cooperation with the Cambodian government and its relevant departments, as part of the efforts to improve the healthcare environment in this area.

* KOTRA (Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency) Phnom Penh Korea Business Center, 2014
First, Good Neighbors renovated the existing health facilities to improve public health services and the community members’ accessibility to it. With support of construction work and medical equipment, the renovated health center was successfully opened last September.

Furthermore, we have provided basic medical supplies and hired staff to give appropriate medical service to local community members, in partnership with BFIA (Busan Foundation for International Activities in Korea). Over the last year, 20 people have benefited from the medical services every day. In 2015, the Cambodian government upgraded the Cheung Aek Health Post to the Health Center, which has more public staff in the health program.

About 8,200 community members of Cheung Aek now trust the public health system and can easily access it. Good Neighbors is maintaining close relationships with governmental agencies for the effective operation of the Health Post Project and is preparing to hand over it to the Cambodian government. Through this, the local government will continuously provide effective health service to community members under its own leadership. We hope that this will become a trigger to better the nations’ healthcare services in Cambodia.
The Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya was created in 1992, serving people who fled the civil wars in Sudan. Kakuma, meaning “nowhere” in Swahili, has been home to many refugees first arrived over two decades ago to avoid wars and violence. There is no way for the 1.8 million refugees from 21 countries to engage in economic activities or leave the camp due to their status as a refugee. Relief organizations around the world are helping them, but the resources are always in short supply, with about 110 new refugees flowing in every day.

Famine attributable to the sweltering weather of over 40 °C and the four rainless months have been worsening the situation. Most people live in a house with mud walls and a roof made of twigs or tarpaulin sheets distributed by relief organizations. Many are forced to stay on the bare ground because of a flood last November that took their houses away.

Good Neighbors has implemented housing for the safety of the refugees since February. We have provided houses with tin roofs, sturdy beams, doors, and windows for 215 households. We plan to lead the efforts for child protection and education through housing and school building projects. In addition, we will scale up relief projects for refugees in cooperation with the UN and other international agencies and relevant organizations. We look forward to the change that the care and love from good neighbors will bring to the refugee camp.

Good Neighbors International participated in the World Education Forum 2015 held in Incheon, Korea, from May 19 to 22. We discussed the roles and duties of NGOs in terms of the development of education around the world. Working together with many international agencies and civic groups, we will try to meet the goal of ensuring inclusive, equitable, and quality education and lifelong learning for all by 2030, in accordance with Incheon Declaration.

Good Neighbors Laos provided education about hygiene for 6,361 children at 21 schools in Meun and Mok-Mai from April 28 to May 14. Under the themes of proper teeth brushing and hand washing, children were given a lesson. They also practiced the motion of teeth brushing and washing hands properly. Good Neighbors Laos also provided hygiene kits for all participants, to continue to help them develop good habits in their daily lives afterwards.
Good Neighbors Niger has been operating a mobile clinic and vaccination project since October 2014 to improve the basic healthcare of infants and children. Medical teams composed of one doctor and three nurses opened mobile clinics at school and have vaccinated infants and children, as well as taken care of minor cuts. Good Neighbors Niger is planning a vaccination project to fight the meningitis outbreak in Niger.

Good Neighbors Paraguay held a groundbreaking ceremony of the La Victoria Job Training Center at the Némity Center on May 26. The ceremony was attended by Minister Carlos Zarate of SNNA, Director Cho Han-deog of KOICA Paraguay, and community members. Good Neighbors Paraguay expects the job training center will provide not only vocational training for adolescents and adults in the region but also education on the rights of children and adolescents.

Good Neighbors Guatemala opened a fish farm to boost the income of local community members in Nuevo Mexico, on April 14. The community members who received professional fish-farming training are expected to raise and sell about 10,000 tilapias. The proceeds will be distributed to the community members engaged in the project and a percentage will also be used as a fund for the Community Development Committee (CDC).

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Good Neighbors is an international humanitarian development NGO in General Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC). We work in 38 countries around the world. In 2007, we were granted the 'Millennium Development Goals Award' for the advancement of primary education in developing countries.