

The Road We Came Together

Dr. Takaji Yamaguchi

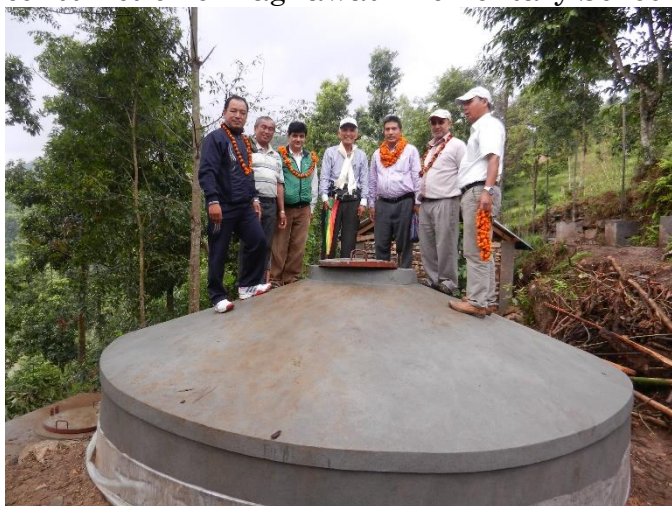


Founding President
Buddha Foundation

Yamaguchi International Heart
Clinic

Isao Mizuno, a friend of the Buddha Foundation since its founding and an active director in charge of education, died in October last year (2020). We would like to express our sincere condolence to Mr. Mizuno and praise his achievements.

Well, I'm at a loss as to what to start writing because I have a lot of memories. He loved Nepal as much as he loved his family, his work and the mountains. The Buddha Foundation has sent delegations to Nepal many times, and it can be seen from the fact that he participated in most of them. He was in charge of construction of Bill Peapal School in Salle Village, Darding Prefecture from 2006 to 2010. He was also in charge of construction of an elementary school in Barat Pokhari Village, Kaski Prefecture (in cooperation with the Hamamatsu Rotary Club) from 2007 to 2009. He also engaged in construction of Baghawati Elementary School



in Phumdi Bumdi Village and coffee plantation project to make it a sustainable education support project since 2009 till now. Lastly, the establishment and operation of Buddha Children's Mobile Library from 2012 till today. These activities would not have been possible without his efforts. In particular, the irrigation project for planting coffee trees and making it successful, and his idea of raising cows and using them as

organic fertilizers are unique to Mr. Mizuno, and he was willing to inject his own funds.



The Buddha Foundation has always held medical camps (mobile medical care) in non-medical villages when sending delegations to Nepal. Mr. Mizuno participated in most of them and took the initiative to work as a volunteer. What I can't forget is Mr. Masahiko Harada (in charge of industrial support), who was the vice president, together with Mr. Mizuno, they were lively like little boys. When I was in the village of Carpani, which was occupied by Maoists, Mr. Mizuno suddenly disappeared and everyone was worried and Nepalese searched for him. He said when he went to the top of the mountain, he encountered Maoists and was called "Hold Up". In the 21st delegation (December 2012), as the chairman of the Hamamatsu Naka Rotary Club and the leader of a total of 21 people including 11 members (the largest delegation so far), the opening ceremony of the Buddha Children's Mobile Library, (Rotary Bunko) we successfully presented a Japanese children's picture book translated into English and Nepali, and the first mobile library to Pame Village.

The most memorable thing for me was when the Buddha Hospital opened in May 2004, I saw 22-year-old Yam Suba (valvular heart disease) at a free medical examination held to

commemorate the opening of the hospital. Heart disease is a disease that can be cured by surgery with funds, but unfortunately NPO that was only donated by members cannot afford to save these individuals. A complaint just came out of my mouth. Upon hearing this, Mr. Mizuno said, "I'll do something about the funds, so please help her." Medical care costs money. If you keep on helping an individual financially, you can't run such a small NPO like ours. We can't do everything by ourselves. I decided to write to Dr. Babwan Koirala, a well-known cardiologist in Kathmandu, to ask for her surgery.

When he returned to Japan, Mr. Mizuno called on members of the Hamamatsu Rotary Club and the Middle Rotary Club to solicit donations, and he invested 800,000 yen in her shortfall. Her surgery was successful and that year she became well.

I always saw her when I went to Nepal. In 2008, she walked for nine hours to visit her hometown of Sikrus (Gurung village). Words from Mr. Mizuno revived. "We cannot say we are supporting the most needy, if we are ignoring those who are asking for help," he said. Great joy and little joy. One patient lives with gratitude for being alive. May small joy lead to great joy.



Since then, I have secretly made personal efforts.

Then, in April 2015, there was a big earthquake in Nepal, and the Buddha Foundation also participated in emergency support activities. Mr. Mizuno grabbed the microphone during the fund-raising activity in front of Hamamatsu station and called out

to the people who walked through the city. I couldn't stop crying while standing next to him. Mr. Mizuno didn't drink alcohol, but he always spoke passionately. There is no shortage of his heroic stories. Mr. Shigeo Mizuno was his uncle and was a member of the Communist Party before the war, so he was chased by Officials and the Mizuno family hid him in the closet. I've heard the same story over and over again, such as losing millions in the stock market, the story of being chased by the police in East Germany, and the story of getting lost in Russia.

He was a dynamic, rugged, honest, and innocent person like a boy, who never lost his passionate heart. I was happy to be able to work with him. After working a little more with President Kato, I will go to the place where Mr. Mizuno awaits.

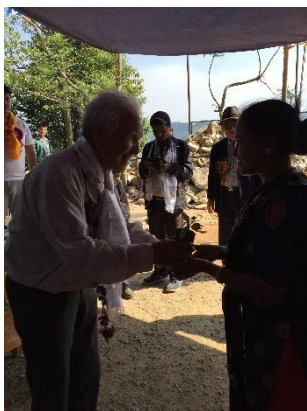


The role of Buddha Foundation Japan in the educational development of Shri Bhagawati Basic School



Prakash Gurung
Chairman

Established in 1960 AD by the local community, Bhagawati Basic School suffered from a lack of classrooms, furniture, playground space, drinking water, toilets and a suitable educational environment, due to economic migration from the local area. Over time this resulted in a diminishing number of students and the school was at risk of being merged with another school. However, students wanted better and more competitive education in English medium - similar to private schools - creating a great challenge for the school to adopt a suitable syllabus and be self-sustainable in order to pay the qualified teachers supported by the local community.



To overcome these difficulties, our efforts with our friends and well-wishers led to a partnership of support from Buddha Foundation Japan (BFJ), coordinated by the Heralo Academy Pokhara, despite a

long gap of government and non-governmental support. Initial assistance from BFJ came in the form of a 1200-tree, organic Arabica coffee plantation on 1 hectare of land beside the school. Its positive results inspired BFJ to provide additional funds to construct a 12-room RCC structure school building and playground extension. As a result of these investments, the school at present has been upgraded to Grade 8 and is known for good quality education. To support the coffee plantation, BFJ has also funded cattle farming for organic compost manure, water irrigation and a dedicated coffee gardener for 5 years. When our coffee was first sent to Japan in 2015, it was found to

have the characteristics of good flavor, aroma and organic production that were very appealing. With these good results, the community has been encouraged to produce coffee in larger quantities. Both Dr. Takaji Yamaguchi and Mr. Isao Mizuno are the distinguished and senior founding members of BFJ who frequently visited our school. On every visit, with the help of an interpreter, Mr. Isao Mizuno was eager to hear about the quality education, discipline and bright future of our underprivileged students. He always wanted to see the achievements of the coffee project, which he claimed to be Dr. Yamaguchi's dream project, and in that all the BFJ members were united. Despite his old age, he would inspect the coffee project and the cattle farming on every visit. Coffee production is increasing every year, inspiring us to produce coffee seedlings to distribute to the villagers with a strong vision of even more production and expanded markets in the future. Our goal is to promote the coffee among the villagers and students, so that eventually they will be able to fund their own schooling.



Mr. Mizuno welcomed by Shri Bhagawati Basic School student

Mr. Isao Mizuno has played a vital role in achieving all these positive results.

We are extremely shocked by his sudden demise, but we will always praise his tireless efforts and follow his instructions to achieve our goals. We extend our sincere condolences and to honor his memory we plan to set up his statue in our coffee garden. For this we respectfully request the support of BFJ.

Medical Experience in Nepal (Medical Camp)



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Medical Doctor

This time I will write about the medical camp in Pumdibhumdi Village in the second half of the trip. After visiting the emergency site at the university hospital and the municipal hospital until the day before, I had a local dish at a restaurant along Lake Phewa with the local Buddha Foundation staff. There were many things that resembled Japanese meals, but I still remember the unique spicy taste.

The next day, after arriving, I finished breakfast with a view of Everest every day and headed to an elementary school in Bagawati on the outskirts of Pokhara. I climbed an unpaved mountain road for about an hour and arrived. I was surprised to see similar roads and scenery when I attended a medical camp in South America before. In the morning, I visited each classroom and had a class tour (including a mini-lecture on geography) with local children. All of them are children who live in the villages around the school, and even though they probably spent hours walking to school they come. If it was myself, I would have been absent from school due to the difficulty of commuting to school. In spite of such hardship, it was wonderful that they showed smile on their face enjoying their studies.

I also visited the teachers who were preparing lunch for us, making spinach and goat curry and learned how to make curry from spices, but I



haven't made it at home yet.

I started medical treatment for the community in the afternoon. When I started the

examination, I was examining the children of the school and their parents, so there weren't many patients, but when they returned from the examination and said, "Dr. Yamaguchi came and examined. " The news rushed like the wind, and the classroom became full in an instant.

One of the most memorable cases was when I examined a 32-year-old woman with a disease called Graves' disease. I knew that the disease was caused by a lack of iodine, and that it became less common in many countries around the world after salt contained iodine was consumed, as stated in medical history textbooks. However, I had only seen it in textbooks. The condition itself can be improved simply by ingesting insufficient iodine. When I talked in detail, I learned that they did not consume commercial salt and used natural rock salt. I realized that the familiar salt, which I take for granted, is also valuable to the residents from the suburbs to the mountains. Unfortunately, I couldn't spend much time while many patients were waiting, so I had to see other valuable and rare cases. The only regret was that some patients could not come on time and was not able to get checked by the doctor.

I was able to interact with many people on this trip, and I realized that it is unusual overseas to have a way of life that has a different perspective from Japan and that I usually take for granted. I am looking forward to see the people who could not be examined. When CORONA is cured I would like to revisit to treat the patients whom I could not see in this trip.

REFLECTIONS MY INVOLVEMENTS WITH BFJ WORKS IN NEPAL ②



Iswori Prasad Tiwari

Chief of Buddha Children Mobile Library/BCML

* Funded by Buddha Foundation Japan/BFJ & Managed by Himalayan Buddha Foundation/HBF

In the last article I have written mainly about the mobile library, so I will feature on the program this time.

Correlation of Educational Materials to Learning



In book sharing program and reading camps, we realized that besides teachers and textbooks writing books and pens play most essential role in learning. Children need exercise books to do their class and home assignment, but many parents send their children to community school without exercise books since they cannot afford to these essentials for their children. Children feel nervous with the constant complaints of teachers. So, intertwining free educational distribution programs to needy students proved beneficial to 6587 students as they could use 24,420 exercise books and 6587pens free of cost. Children are happy to do their assignment.

Facilities in Schools– Components of Quality Raise

Many factors contribute to quality raise. It our realization that schools need many facilities to

allow for overall development of students. Sports for physical development, academic activities for exposure to talents and science and computer lab for specific knowledge enhancement. To this effect BFJ donated nearly 632,000 rupees cash to seven schools in Kaski District

Comfortable Sitting –A Prerequisite for Learning and Quality Raise

Children staying in school for six hours need comfortable furniture to sit and study at. BFJ volunteers donated 30 sets of desks and benches to two of our beneficiary schools– Sharada High School and Janajagaran Basic School, Ghachok, Machhapuchhre. Some Australian nationals distributed sports goods and helped with teaching at school.

Good Eyesight –Precondition for Learning

Good eyesight is precondition for learning. Lately, BFJ has funded for school screening program conducted by HBF. The number is not significant yet, but it is a good beginning with just 4 school students benefitting from it. The beginning was made in 2018.



Our Response to Emergency Situations – Social Accountability

We made site inspection of Gyonodaya Basic School, Lumle swept away by flood on 30th July, 2015. School building is most essential to protect student from sun, rain or wind. With this realization, BFJ donated one million rupees to school reconstruction fund to ensure bright future for children. Now children are studying in a standard building.

Educational Materials Matter to Students

On May 2nd, 2015, all 1666 children from Barpak village area returned home with a new school bag with bag full of exercise books and pen. Seven schools were all in wreck due to ever most powerful quake of the century on 25th April, 2015. Each student got a dozen of exercise books a packet of pen in the new bag. HBF BFJ and BCML representative were present with two trucks of educational materials in support of students who literally had nothing to start their school with. The program brought cheer on their face.

Covid-19 Endemic and Students' Confusion in Nepal

To motivate the students to engage in reading and understanding textbooks, HBF contributed 7300 workbooks to Pokhara Education Municipal Authorities for the use of grade one to three students studying in 205 schools of Pokhara Metropolis. This program was a startup program which urged the teachers that they could also do something on their own to help the students come out of this closed and tensed atmosphere.

BFJ's Deep Concern for Education in Nepal

The children of Kalabang, Pumdri hold a bright future due to BFJ's deep concern for education in Nepal. It is fully engaged in the overall development of Bhagawati Basic School. It has funded the construction of whole school as well as sustainable lunch program plus scholarship program for needy students. This is emerging as a model community managed school in the district.

The History of BFJ Social Work Dates back to the Year 2000 in Nepal



During our school visits to many rural communities, people still recall the time BFJ conducted free health camps. We often hear of their wistful talks on health check-up facility held in their own community and free medicines provided to them. Community health care support to 13,193 patients was not a mean achievement. To see some critical people living normal lives we feel that all our efforts together with BFJ were worthwhile.