



## Global Village Trip [2008]

[Yogyakarta, Indonesia]



As we crossed the runway tarmac to our plane, one by one, heads turned to soak in the sights of Yogyakarta, to give it one last glance before climbing the Garuda aero-stairs to board the plane for our flight home.

And just as we reached the top of the rickety stairs, Amit suddenly pulled a group of us into a huddle! Whilst each giving the other a knowing glance, we linked arms and cheered with gusto **“Goodbye Jogja! Thank you for the journey!”** over the drone of the whirring propellers.

And what a journey it has been!

In April 2008, out of an overwhelming array of applicants, our Board of Directors selected and endorsed a team of 15 DPians to partner with

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Habitat for Humanity in a Global Village Trip. Each individual was hand-picked by their Director to spur team bonding amongst different studios, as well as to cultivate personal growth and development of the true DP spirit!

Once the team was consolidated, in 3 months through a series of events, we fund raised over \$18,000 which was directed towards furthering Habitat's cause of eradicating sub-standard housing.

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*“To share our inspiration to the fullest by building the homes habitable for needy people that their dream will come true”.*

*– William Chew on his motivation to participate in DPA-Habitat Global Village Trip*

### The Global Village Trip

Under the Team leadership of Toh Sze Chong, the Global Village trip was scheduled for July 28<sup>th</sup> to August 3<sup>rd</sup> trip to Yogyakarta, Indonesia!

There, we worked hand-in-hand with our home partner (beneficiary of the house we are building) to build his house brick-by-brick, and in doing so, not only learnt the basic fundamentals of construction but also expert skills of concrete smearing from Arthur Loh and the shimmy-shake of sand sieving from Bhavna Singhal. What was even more impressive was seeing the meticulous moves of rebar wire tying from our tallest member, Steffen Kleinert, while our smallest member, Katherine Khoo, was wheeling heavy mounts of earth to and fro!

Our home partner, a teacher in an elementary school in his village, Pagerharjo, was so touched by our team's effort that he invited 4 of us to teach English at his school for a day; an honor that Lloyd Caneta, Steffen Kleinert, Amit Pathak and Lisa Teo could not refuse!

Yet, that was not the only visit to a school. Under Professor Henry Feriadi's invitation, the director in-charge of Habitat for Humanity Yogyakarta and a Professor of architecture, Jaye Tan gave a presentation on Green Architecture to architecture students at Duta Wacana Christian University, while Raja Fairuz showcased a moving video of our Habitat experience to encourage more young students into action.

However, no matter how much fun we had on site, we also managed to squeeze in some R&R time to take in the sights of UNESCO World Heritage sanctioned Borobudur, Prambanan Complex and Cho-De community settlement (the recipient of the 1992 Aga Khan Award for Architecture). All within a span of 5 days!

The journey was multi-fold and faceted, with the highlights of each team member shining through; be it through team-work on site, sharing a bottle of wine under the stars at night or taking the reins of leadership during times of mishaps.

Let's hope that this trip is the first of many, and we'd like to share a video of our experiences to stir more hearts into action, in the office and beyond!

### Memorable Quotes

“Don't worry; be happy, build the home, you are not alone”. ~ Wang MunChin

“To help make someone's life better in a tangible way. To make a REAL difference!” ~ Koh Sock Mui

“To give myself a chance to be happy by helping others.” ~ Chan Pau Moy

“Its always good to give than receive. Its' such a blessing too!” ~ Quek Fionnah

### The DPA-Habitat for Humanity Team

Raja Mohammad Fairuz  
Lloyd Caneta  
Toh Sze Chong  
Bhavna Singhal  
Amit Pathak  
Lisa Teo  
Wang Mun Chin  
Koh Sock Mui  
Steffen Kleinert  
William Chew  
Chan Pau Moy  
Jaye Tan  
Quek Fion Nah  
Katherine Khoo  
Arthur Loh

### The Team's Personal and Collective Objectives

Habitat for Humanity (HFH) is a global humanitarian organization which seeks to make decent shelters for the underprivileged a matter of conscience and action. The Participants' objectives:

- To uphold our social responsibility as architects to aid families who are in need of decent and affordable shelters
- To cultivate personal growth and self-renewal by forming new relationships with host communities, and opening our eyes to existing world poverty
- Spur personal growth and team bonding amongst different studios for the development of the true DP spirit!

Photo 1: Team bonding while hiking around the village!



## FUN-Raising for the Global Village Trip

### Fundraising events leading up to the Global Village Trip!

**29<sup>th</sup> May '08 - Sex and the City Drinks Night Studio3**



A cosmopolitan drink before a much anticipated movie event of the year proved is sure to be a sure-sell strategy! Ladies, and gentlemen alike, indulged in merry-making before moving to the cinemas to catch the screen-release of the HBO hit "Sex & The City" movie! This set the right tone for an eventful night of emotional roller coaster ride together with Carrie Bradshaw & gang.

All proceeds from the sales of the drinks and snacks will go to habitat for Humanity for the construction of decent living environment for the underprivileged in Indonesia

**"Good job!"~ Foo Chai Yee, Associate Director and on the Board of Directors for the Habitat for Humanity Singapore**

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**20<sup>th</sup> June '08- Movie Night!  
Studio 2@200 & 3**



DPA-HFH Movie Nite  
cum Fundraising Drive

The habitat team's magic bag came up with yet another fund raising event! A screening of 2 movies in the common area between Studio 2@ 200 and Studio 3. The movies were chosen as they spoke to the heart of our cause, the problems and strife of the underprivileged and living conditions of slums.

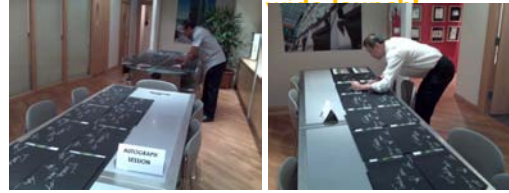
**“A Hero's Journey”**- about the facts of life after earthquake in Indonesia, while **“City of God”** –a movie on truth about Brazilian slums.

And what a movie would it have been without drinks and snacks!! The HFH team enthusiastically baked donuts and brownies and accompanied it with sale of wine and kacang putih. Needless to say, the event was a huge success and more importantly a “FUN-raising event” while crossing yet another milestone to raise the funds. Thanks DPians for your generosity!!

**“Wow that was really a united and great team. Well done! Yes, we help them to build home so that all of them can; “Live life to their years and not years to their life”. ~ Dorothy Yong, PA to Mr Koh Seow Chuan and strong supporter of the Habitat team's cause!**

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**20<sup>th</sup> June '08- DP Family photos sale**



Strokes of silver pen's ink on pieces of momento for all to remember. This meaningful fundraising event was launched on 20<sup>th</sup> June @ the Movie Night which sourced out 3 exclusive photographs of our DPA family for sale, and saw an overwhelming flood of orders! All proceeds of the sale was directed to the overall fund for Habitat for Humanity.

There was a special request for directors to autograph the photographs as well, and all Directors graciously “strained their wrist” for a good cause, autographing on almost 50 pieces of photos!

The whole exercise took almost 2 months preparation work. The people for making this happen do not only involve the 15 of us but also participation from Directors' contribution to everyone in the office!

Apart from this, a warm “ Thank you!” to Mr Teo HP on his donation of rounding up the overall figures during autograph session, as he found out more of the cause.

## 12<sup>th</sup> July '08 – Disco Night! Mama's Caribbean Bar, Clarke Quay



A dance party in the spirit of Humanity! This was the motive behind organizing a fund raising event which turned out to be a huge success at MAMA'S, Clarke Quay.

With the creative team decorating the space with streamers and balloons to the groovy Disco Theme, the event was filled with great music, colorful geometric shirts, big wigs but most importantly, high spirits and happy smiles of almost 400 people who flooded the place and danced to the beat of disco tracks. This event really marked a huge step in the overall fund raising for the by the Habitat for humanity with over \$4,500 raised that night!

**“The DPA-Habitat Team not only has the heart to build meaningful homes, they also showed us how to bring the house down through their fundraising events!”**

~ Brandon Lai, President of Rec Club.

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