

2017

# BHN Association

**Telecom for Basic Human Needs**



## About BHN Association

Instituted by top leaders of ICT industry in Japan, the BHN Association (BHN) was established in 1992 as a non-governmental organization specializing in ICT\*. BHN commenced its first support activity for the people afflicted by the catastrophic disaster at Chernobyl (1992-94) constructing microwave networks between Obninsk and Moscow, about 120 km, and implementing medical information system as well as TV conference system to the hospitals. Since then, we had continued our efforts to realize our vision to this day.

BHN stands for basic human needs, that is, fundamental requirements to be satisfied for a person to live like a decent human being. Securing food, clothing, and shelter have traditionally been supposed to form essential part of basic human needs requirements. However, at the present time, we could say that gaining an access to ICT also constitutes the requirements.

The activities of BHN are performed mostly by volunteer experts –experienced skillful ICT engineers and specialists. BHN mobilizes its human capital such as knowledge, experience, skill and human networks to carry a variety of projects. In order to deliver the best result to the local communities, we collaborate with local actors such as people, communities, partner organizations and governmental agencies. BHN deploys activities in three major groups – i) social development, ii) emergency relief, and iii) human resource development.

\*ICT=Information and Communication Technology

The fundamental importance of ICT infrastructures as an essential element in the economic and social development has been recognized at United Nation's Assembly in 1981.



## Vision

We seek a society where anyone can live with a sense of security and safety no matter where they were born and no matter where they live. We also strive to assist people to have sufficient access to information and communication that are indispensable to accomplish the aforementioned society.

## Mission

We endeavor to fully employ the power of ICT so as to help people improve their standard of living in developing regions and save the lives of people in disaster area.

## Midterm Plan

In our midterm plan from 2018 to 2020 (fiscal year), BHN aims to contribute on achievement of SDGs, specifically Goal 3, 4 and 9\*, through our activities. We will focus on making betterment for the local people of our targeting area in terms of telemedicine and rural health care, ICT education and training and disaster risk reduction utilizing appropriate ICT tools.

\*SDGs highly related to BHN's activities are the following:

Goal 3: Good health and well-being

Goal 4: Quality education

Goal 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure



Telemedicine



Community Radio



Human Resource Development Program

# Activities

## I. Social Development

There are a number of underprivileged people whose basic human needs are not sufficiently met. BHN supports such people and communities to improve their standard of living and to develop their capability by ICT.

### The projects BHN has conducted

- Establishment and management of a community radio station for disaster risk reduction and betterment of rural communities
- Electrification of rural habitation with solar power generation
- Training for usage and maintenance of ICT systems following implementation
- Telemedicine network over internet for mother before and after childbirth and her infant (perinatal period care)
- Telemetering system to monitor river water level for disaster prevention
- Distance learning system at isolated school utilizing multimedia technology

## II. Emergency Relief

Natural disasters such as earthquake, flood, cyclone and tsunami disrupt communities and threatens lives. As an emergency relief, BHN provides those affected in the devastated areas with ICT support to get lifeline information and to access to communication networks for quick recover after disaster.

### The projects BHN has conducted

- Community addressing system to furnish timely indispensable information
- Restoration of community radio station and provision of broadcasting equipment
- ICT support – PC, printer and internet access – for local governments and residents
- Safety confirming system using telephone
- Wireless and satellite communication system as an emergency measure

## III. Human Resource Development

Human Resource Development is an essential activity field of BHN. We are giving ICT

engineers and governmental officers of ICT department in developing countries opportunities to learn the forefront technologies and its application to their countries.

### **Original program**

BHN has been organizing original executive seminars, BHN Human Development Program since 1998. These two-month seminars are intended for future leaders in ICT and related areas. These participants not only learn about state-of-the-art ICT but also brush up their skills in management and leadership.

### **Entrusted program**

BHN has also been in charge of human resource development programs and symposiums entrusted by the authority, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

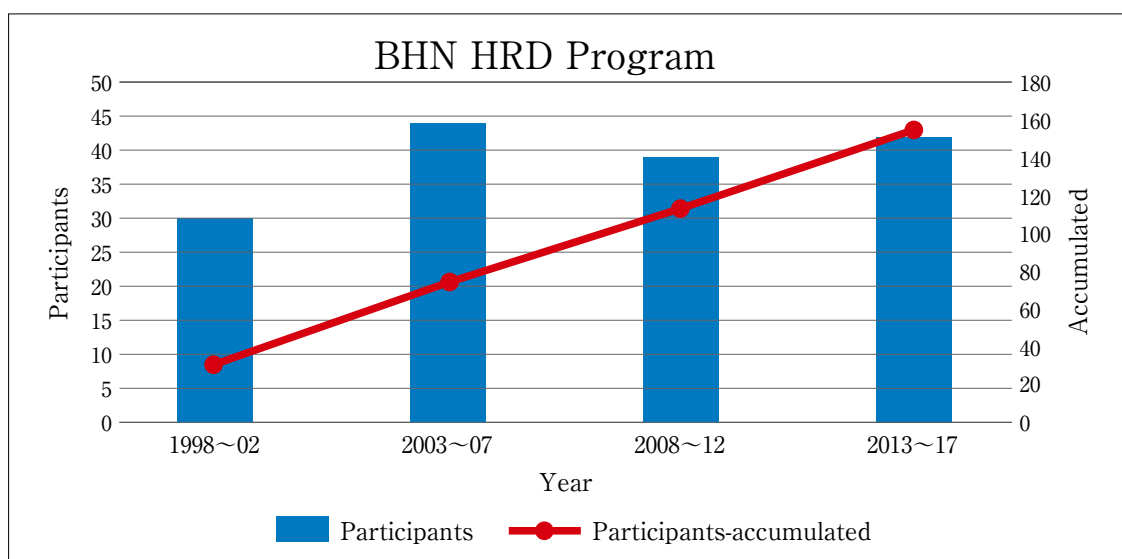
- ‘APT HRD Programs’ annually held programs for ICT engineers in the region, entrusted by APT since 2012. 90 participants from 27 countries in total.
- ‘Symposium on ICT Utilization’ inviting participants from the Asia-Pacific region entrusted by ASEAN, 2013 - 2017. 91 participants from 9 countries in total.

### **Business collaboration**

Since the resolution of Sustainable Development Goals at UN Assembly in 2015, every business sector started pursuing socially worthy business more than before.

BHN is offering the original program to shift the business conception learning SDGs, mainly targeting on business persons at national leading ICT companies in Japan.

- Started from 2017, for the first year, 175 persons from two companies participated.





## Financial Status

BHN's income totaled JY 258 million in 2017, up JY 47 million from the preceding year. From a source viewpoint, Grants and Subsidies totaled JY 157 million, business income JY 38 million and contributions – membership fee and donation – JY 63 million.

Expenditures totaled JY 238 million, up JY 28 million from the preceding year. Social Development item increased up to 179 million, 75% of the total. Emergency Relief expenditure was only JY 2 million, even though in 2012, the following year of Great East Japan Earthquake, it amounted to almost 40% of the total expenditure. Human Resource Development has been keeping a stable portion through time, JY 17 million, 7% in 2017.

