

2019

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.

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

Goal 3: Good health and well-being

Goal 4: Quality education

Goal 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure



Telemedicine



Community Radio



Human Resource Development

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 (Refer to Table 1.)

- 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 threaten people's 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 recovery after disaster.

The projects BHN has conducted (Refer to Table 2.)

- 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 a core 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 to bring up 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 charged with human resource development programs and symposiums entrusted by the authorities, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity(APT) and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

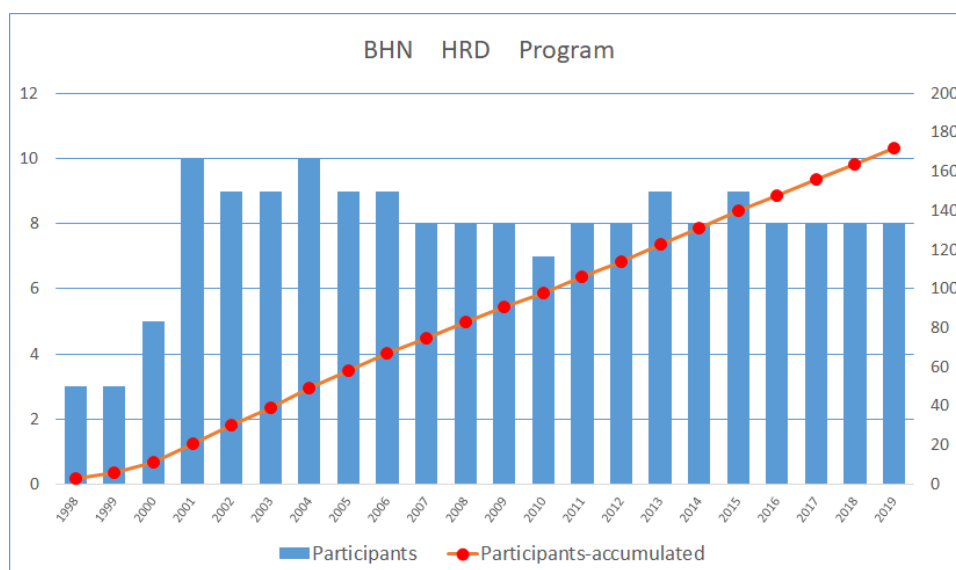
- ‘APT HRD Programs’ annually held programs for ICT engineers in the region, entrusted by APT since 2012. Ninety-nine people from thirty six countries enrolled the program.
- ‘Symposium on ICT Utilization’ inviting participants from the Asia-Pacific region entrusted by ASEAN, 2013 - 2016. Ninety-one people from nine countries took part in the program.

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 partic



Financial Status

BHN’s income totaled JY 364 million in 2018, up by 106 million from the preceding year. From a source viewpoint, ‘Grants and Subsidies’ totaled by JY192 million, ‘Business Income / Trustee’ JY 10 million and contributions – ‘Membership Fee / Donation’ – JY 163 million.

Expenditures totaled JY 256 million, up JY 19 million from the preceding year. ‘Social Development’ item increased up to JY 184 million, 72 % of the total. ‘Emergency Relief’ expenditure was 18 million, 7 % of the total, 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 15 million.

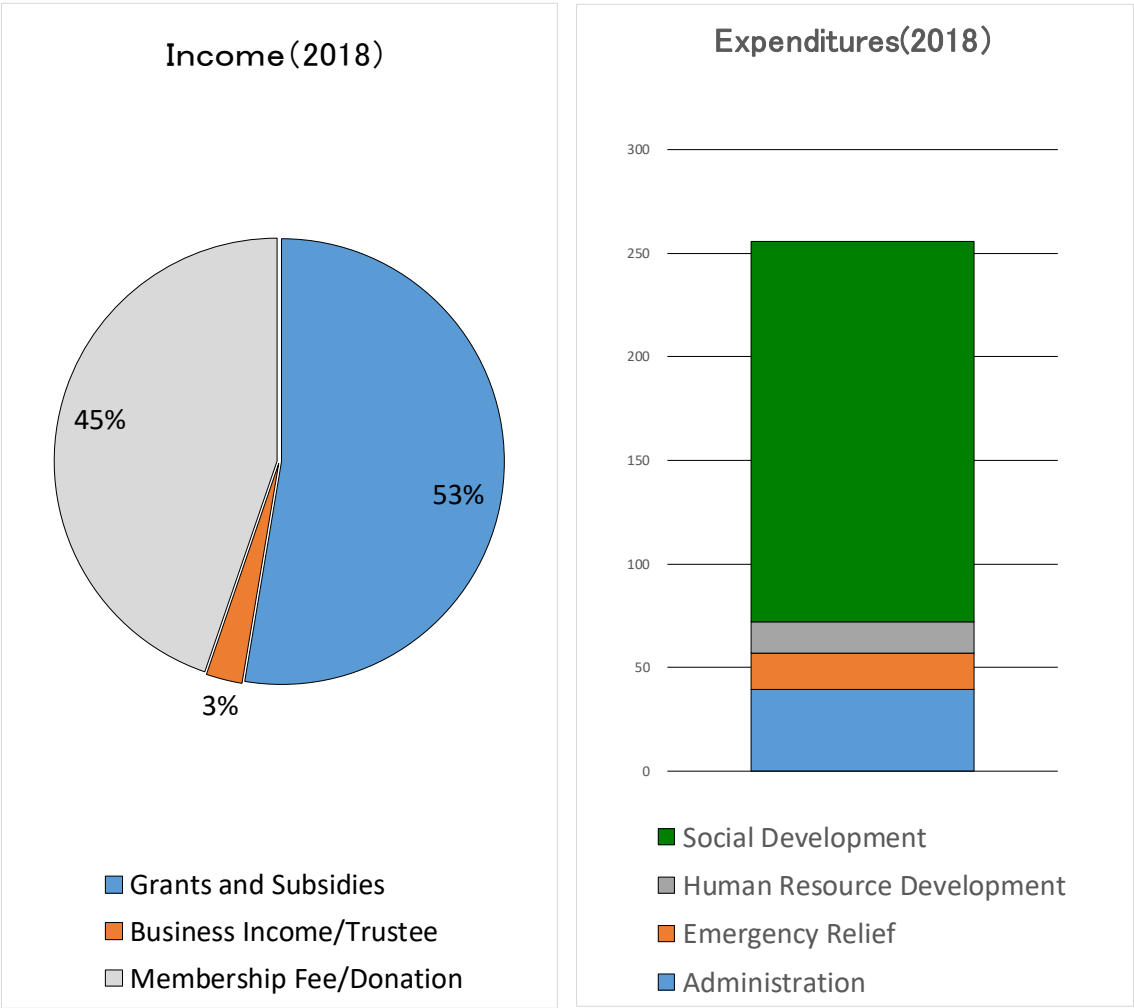


Table 1 Major Social Development Support Activities

Project description	County / Area	Period
Support for victims of Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant accident (Microwave circuit construction for telemedicine via satellite)	Russia, Republic of Belarus, Kazakhstan	1992 - 1994
Support for wireless network construction for medical care centers in rural area	Laos, Afghanistan	1998 - 2007,
Donation of PBX equipment in hospitals	Myanmar, Ukraine, Afghanistan	1997 - 2003
Support for telemedicine systems	Malaysia, Thailand	1999 - 2008, 2010 - 2013
Training of IT skills and wireless technology	Afghanistan	2004 - 2006
Area information transmission system (disaster management, improving living environment) (an application of Japan's Disaster Management Administration Radio System")	Myanmar	2013 - 2019
Installation and training of equipment related to solar power generation systems (Support for ethnic minority returnees, victims of conflict)	Myanmar	2013 - 2019
Construction of and training for community FM broadcasting station	Bangladesh	2013 - 2017
Support for victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake	Japan (Ishinomaki City area, Miyagi Pref., Iidate Village, Fukushima Pref.)	2013 - 2018 2013 - 2019
ICT support activities for the Kumamoto Earth-quake area (including the area of the Heavy Rains in Northern Kyushu)	Japan (Kumamoto Prefecture, northern Kyushu)	2017 - 2019

Table 2 Major Emergency Humanitarian Support Activities

Event	Country / Area	Description of Supports	Period
Earth-quake	Taiwan, Turkey	Providing radio equip't, Free telephone service thru satellite	1999
	India	Communication support for medical teams	2000
	Iran	FM broadcasting station equipment, Distribution of radios	2004
	Pakistan	Free telephone service thru satellite, Community addressing (CA) system	2005
	Indonesia	Well pump, Distribution of radios	2006, 2009
	Haiti	Community FM broadcasting station restoration, CA system	2010 - 2014
	Japan (3 Prefectures in Tohoku)	Construction of Internet environment for evacuation shelters, construction and restoration of temporary disaster broadcasting stations	2011
	Nepal	Construction and restoration of community FM broadcasting stations	2015 - 2016
	Japan (Kumamoto Pref)	Community support such as PCs, ICT environments, etc. for temporary housing estate	2016
	Japan (Hokkaido)	Community support such as PCs, ICT environments, etc. for temporary housing estate	2018
Typhoon Cyclone Hurricane	Indonesia (Sulawesi)	Community FM broadcasting station, Distribution of radios	2018 - 2019
	Honduras	Providing communication equipment	1998
	Myanmar	Community addressing (CA) system	2008, 2010
	the Philippines	CA system, ICT station	2013 - 2014
	Japan (Hiroshima Pref)	Community support such as PCs, ICT environments, etc. for temporary housing estate	2018
Tsunami	Indonesia, Sri Lanka	Community FM broadcasting station, Distribution of radios	2005
	Japan (3 Prefectures in Tohoku)	- Construction of temporary housing Internet environ-ment, operation support, etc. (Coastal cities in Iwate Prefecture, Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture, etc.)	2011 - 2012
		- Construction of Information Network for Victims (Iidate Village, Fukushima Prefecture)	2011 - 2012
		- Construction and restoration of broadcasting stations, distributing radios (Tohoku 3 prefectures)	2011 - 2012
Refugees	Afghanistan	Free telephone service thru satellite	2002
	Iraq	Medical team communication support	2003