

Bulletin *of The American Committee for KEEP, Inc.*

Volume 19, No. 1 Spring 2007

Connecting the Separated

Tanzanian Intern Program Celebrates 3 Years

KEEP welcomed the first Tanzanian interns on a program of practical job training combined with study of rural development through ecotourism in 2003. Since then, KEEP annually welcomes interns for two months each fall. The 2006 interns were the first female participants.

Mrs. Haika John Bayona is an employee of the Tanzanian National Park (TANAPA) system. She was recently transferred to Saanane Island Proposed National Park where she is the Park Warden in charge of overseeing the conservation and development activities throughout the transition from a game reserve to national park. Haika says the skills she learned at KEEP have helped her, especially in time and waste management.

Mrs. Ala Mbwilo works for FEMA, a community association she founded in Matamba village adjacent to Kitulo National Park. Originally started as a women's group dedicated to improving hygiene and promoting efficiency, the group's popularity grew and now men are participating too. Mrs. Mbwilo visited Japan previously and lived for a short time in Germany.

The interns lived in a dormitory where they quickly bonded with women from various KEEP departments such as International Relations, Environmental Education, Jersey Hut, and the Gift Shop staff.

Current Brian Kane Fellow Ms. Emma Allum enjoyed working with Haika and Ala in the International Relations Department. Emma and Ala realized they could each speak German and had fun conversing in this non-native language for both women. Emma commented, "(The) experience reaffirmed my belief that it is always worth learning new languages. I never thought I would be practicing my German with a Tanzanian lady in Japan!"



2006 Tanzanian interns Mrs. Haika John Bayona (second from left) and Mrs. Ala Mbwilo (second from right) with fellow dorm resident and KEEP staff member Ms. Rie Tanaka (far right). They are joined by their friend Kim (far left), a German intern living near KEEP.

Interns are selected for their leadership potential. Participants work in community development either for TANAPA or as leading staff of NGOs near national parks. The trainees learn valuable techniques by observing and participating in the broad range of KEEP's work. Each year, the interns return

to their jobs in Tanzania to implement new ideas sparked by their experiences. Previous interns are now organizing an alumni group so they can support each other as they work for the best interests of their local communities.

The program began thanks to the connections created by Mr. Katsumata, a specialist of Tourism Development for JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency). Mr. Katsumata worked for three years in Tanzania and traveled all over the country. Wishing to further support development in Tanzania, Mr. Katsumata brought the Tanzanian Ambassador E.E.E. Mtango to KEEP in 2000 for County Fair. Following the introduction to KEEP, the idea of the internship program was discussed, and the first interns came to KEEP in 2003. The first year there were two TANAPA staff and one NGO's ecotourism guide.

Looking forward, there are hopes to build an international goodwill center in Kitulo modeled after Seisen Ryo. Past trainees' knowledge will be a valuable asset for this important community education and outreach center. The 2006 interns focused on KEEP's approaches to exhibit design and creating educational materials in preparation for the new center.

ACK News

Board Member Spotlight: Herb Donovan

We are pleased to periodically introduce ACK Board members in Spotlight feature articles.



Herbert Donovan III, Board member since April 2006, moved to Tokyo in 1986 upon graduating from the University of Virginia. He studied Japanese history at school and became interested in Japan's rapid economic development. He also felt that among developed nations, Japan was as different a place to the U.S. as could be found. Herb's plan was to stay a year or two in Japan, and then see the rest of the world. He is still fascinated, 21 years later, by the many things he learns every day from his life there.

Several paths led Herb to KEEP and the ACK. After arriving in Tokyo, he contacted Fred Honaman, a former Board member of the ACK. Fred and his wife, Eleanor, lived in Japan as Episcopal missionaries for nearly 50 years. Eleanor recommended Herb for an interview at Rikkyo High School, where he then taught for three years. While at the high school, Herb began working part-time in the President's Office of Rikkyo University, succeeding longtime missionary Gene Lehman. He then moved to the University full time, teaching English first in the College of Tourism and later in the College of Business.

Paul Rusch, KEEP's founder, taught at Rikkyo University for 14 years, and often brought Rikkyo students to KEEP for retreats. Herb's first experience at KEEP came by helping a Japanese priest facilitate and staff a diocesan exchange with students from Maryland. Herb then discovered KEEP's Forester's School and its Interpreters Program. He was drawn to the hands-on, interpretive approach to teaching, which connects students to knowledge they already have in their own natural world. This helps them relate to the subject being taught.

Herb began bringing his own students to KEEP for the fieldwork portion of the Environmental Education courses he taught through the College of Tourism. The environmental and ecotourism course content is used to teach English language skills, and he often co-taught with Forester's School

staff members, including KEEP's Managing Director Tadashi Kawashima.

Herb majored in biology at university, and spent summers working and vacationing with family in Wyoming. The curriculum at Teton Science School in Wyoming is similar to KEEP's, and Herb's affinity for one extended to the other. He brings his students to KEEP to learn about the nature of Japan and the country's environmental education methods before taking them to Wyoming for an environmental training program at the Teton Science School. He is currently working to develop an exchange program between the two schools.

Asked what it is about KEEP that continues to attract his interest, Herb answers: "Parts of KEEP are like a little piece of the U.S. in the mountains of Japan; I feel very much at home whenever I go up there." Like fellow Episcopalian Paul Rusch, Herb grew up in Kentucky, and says KEEP is "... a magic connection, giving me a special feeling of being at home." KEEP's mission is all about making connections; connecting people to their environment and to one another. Herb Donovan's connection to KEEP and the ACK continues to bridge the distance between the U. S. and Japan, just as Paul Rusch would have wanted.

Board Elections Held for 2007-2008

At the ACK Board of Directors meeting held January 30-31, 2007, board member and officer elections were held for the 2007-2008 fiscal year which begins April 1, 2007. The Rev. John E. Kitagawa, Rector of St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church in Tucson, Arizona was elected President. The Rt. Rev. Stacy F. Sauls, Bishop of Lexington, will be the new Vice President. Current Secretary J. Patrick Mauney was reelected to his post, and Dr. Richard T. Dailey will continue as Treasurer.

Other directors for the 2007 fiscal year are Herbert Donovan III, Assistant Professor and Assistant to the President of Rikkyo University in Tokyo, Japan; Andrew M. Honaman, Senior System Support Analyst at the University of Arizona; and J. Randolph Osborne, Special Assistant to the President and Consulting Chaplain for Berea College.

The ACK Board and Staff wish to express their heartfelt gratitude to Randy Osborne for his servant leadership as ACK President since the fall of 2004.

ACK and KEEP News

Reception held in Los Angeles

The ACK Board of Directors hosted a cocktail reception in Los Angeles on January 30, 2007 to meet local donors and friends of the ACK and KEEP. To honor KEEP's long-standing relationship with Rikkyo University in Tokyo; members of the Los Angeles Rikkyo-kai Alumni Society were also invited. The evening brought guests together to renew old acquaintances and make new friends.

We were honored to have Mr. Shigeo S. Mizutani, the Chairman of the Los Angeles Rikkyo-kai, and his wife in attendance, along with other alumni. Another guest entertained the group with stories of his 1962 summer at KEEP, building the Lenox Chapel with a student volunteer group from his school, proving that special ties do indeed extend widely here in the United States. Former Brian Kane Fellow Cindy Maeda was delighted to reconnect with her KEEP and ACK friends and hear about the current program developments. We also presented a slide show of KEEP's past, present and future plans, recalling warm memories for many, and providing a picture of KEEP's landscape to our new friends.

The ACK Board is committed to expanding our outreach efforts, and is planning more receptions for the future. Our next event will be on June 6, in the Chicago area. The gathering is especially for those who are interested in KEEP, Japanese culture and environmental issues. For more information about this event please contact Jennifer Riskind, Director of Development, at jr@ackeeep.org or at (800) 368-5337.



KEEP Managing Director Takao Okemoto (right) greets Los Angeles Rikkyo-kai Alumni Association Chairman Shigeo Mizutani (left).

“KEEP for the Future” Update

As of January 31, 2007, over 1.8 million dollars has been raised for the “KEEP for the Future” project. We have started the first phase of construction on the new International Training and Exchange Center, thanks to the generous support of our friends in the United States and Japan who have donated or pledged to the campaign.

Construction permits were issued in December 2006 and tree-clearing around the construction site was begun. These trees are being recycled by methods such as creating woodchips for use on the hiking trails around KEEP. In preparation for using thermal energy and constructing hot spring baths in the new facility, drilling began in December and will eventually reach a depth of 1500 meters. The formal groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for late March. Construction will be finished in April 2008, but the building will not be in use until the following October in order to finish an eco-friendly sewage system for the new facility.

Hokuto City approached KEEP to partner with them in expanding the public sewage system since KEEP is a model of environmental practices. The cost of the new sewage system will be funded by Hokuto City. This is an enormous show of support from the local government, and KEEP is honored and excited to be partnering with Hokuto City to improve environmental systems in the community.

Joint Fundraising Committee News

With the “KEEP for the Future” campaign in full swing, fundraising has become a major focus for the Board and staff of both the ACK and KEEP. In Japan, there is a volunteer committee of community and business leaders managing the fundraising for the campaign. The committee is staffed by KEEP Executive Director Minoru Masaki, who reports on the committee's progress to KEEP's Board of Directors. In the United States, it is the Board of Directors of the ACK who comprise the fundraising committee, lead by Director of Development Jennifer Riskind.

The first joint Fundraising Committee meeting was held in Tokyo last fall. The local committee was pleased to welcome their U.S. counterparts to the table. The very successful session focused on brainstorming, sharing ideas and successful strategies, and finding new ways to work together to attain the campaign's goals.

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The ACK gratefully acknowledges the following donors who gave gifts from August 1, 2006 through January 31, 2007.

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Barbara Bush

First Lady of the United States
from 1989 until 1993

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Access this feature at www.ackkeep.org.

Just click the **Donate Now** tab in the upper right corner of the navigation bar.

Upcoming Events

March 24-25	Environmental Education Festival <i>A weekend celebration with special program offerings</i> KEEP	April 29	Yamane (Dormouse) Program <i>First of the Mysterious Yamane series of 2 hour educational programs</i> KEEP
April 14-15	Rice Paddy School Program <i>First program of 2007 series - focus on field preparation and a cooking class</i> KEEP	May 3, 4, 5	Mysterious Yamane Programs KEEP
April 20	Deadline for BKF Internship applications for summer position Contact the ACK office	June 6-7	ACK Board meeting Evanston, Illinois
		June 6	KEEP/ACK reception Chicago area

Visit our web page at <http://www.ackeeep.org/currentevents.html> for more information on other upcoming events.

**The ACK Bulletin is published by the American Committee for KEEP, Inc.,
a not-for profit charitable organization.**

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