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 Mihoko Yamashita,
 IT & Fundraising officer
 ACE

Who are they?

ACE (Action against Child Exploitation)

<http://acejapan.org/english/>

Where are they?

Tokyo, Japan

What do they do?

Protection of child rights and eradication of child labor around the world

How big are they?

7 paid-staff and 2 interns with 80 volunteers

What did they receive?

Symantec Endpoint Protection & Microsoft Office 2007

The outcome?

Full security (physically and psychologically) and professional presentation materials

Action against Child Exploitation (ACE) is an NGO that works to fight against child labor around the world with the focus on awareness raising, advocacy, alliance-building and networking, and collaboration with Japanese, international, and local NGOs.



Mihoko Yamashita, who is now in charge of IT & fundraising for the organization, had worked for an IT corporation before she came to ACE. When she moved to the NGO world, she was shocked by its IT capacity. “Lack of awareness for computer security was one of the worries,” she said. “Before receiving the donation, ACE had been using different anti-virus software products, including a free one, which were installed on different computers. I thought this was a big problem and a challenge to be solved. So when we heard about TechSoup Japan, I thought ‘This is exactly what we want!’ and we immediately applied for it,” she laughed.

Asked what impact the equipment had on the organization, Ms. Yamashita said: “Now we have Endpoint Protection software installed on every computer in the office. I feel we’re very secure both physically and psychologically, and this feeling of security is very important.” She added that she felt the effectiveness of the software first-hand when she heard that one of the ACE members connected to a computer network of their partner NGO in Ghana, whereupon the computer detected a slew of viruses.

Ms. Yamashita also expressed their gratitude toward the Microsoft donation through TechSoup Japan. “Again, we had been using different versions of Microsoft Office, and oftentimes we were frustrated that we couldn’t open certain documents.”



Now with Microsoft Office 2007, the problem has been left behind. She particularly pointed out that with PowerPoint 2007, they are now able to create beautifully-designed presentations. “When doing PowerPoint presentations, particularly to private companies, I really appreciate the benefit of the donation.”

Ms. Yamashita added that she wishes that this invaluable TechSoup program will expand to many countries, especially reaching NGOs in developing countries, because she thinks that those organizations are the ones that are in dire need of donated software.