

HAITI CONTINUES TO REBUILD

Categories: Hygiene Assistance/Community Building/Looking Back

BE A PART OF THE PROJECT: PARTNER WITH JEN AND CONTRIBUTE

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Hygiene Assistance

JEN Initiates New Hygiene Project

On December 1, 2013, JEN began a new eight-month water and hygiene project through financial assistance from the Japanese Foreign Ministry and JEN supporters. The project itself consists of three main objectives: To ensure access to clean and safe water to local residents; to establish a sustainable maintenance management system for water facilities; finally, to promote better hygiene practices in order to avert preventable diseases such as diarrhea and cholera.

The project involved a number of steps, but with the cooperation of JEN staff members and local residents. So far, a water conduit has been built, along with nine kiosk-style water stations and a central water tank which provides local residents with access to safe water.



Above: One of many kiosk style water stations

In addition, a Water Committee was formed in order to ensure that the water stations would be sustained in the long run by community

members who have been elected into the committee by the local residents.

Finally, in order to spread knowledge, to prevent certain illnesses, local volunteers have been recruited and have been trained in proper hygiene practices. These volunteers have visited homes and have also organized local campaigns in order to spread awareness on how to sustain a healthy lifestyle through simple techniques.



Above: Hygiene promotion campaign organized by trained volunteers

Community Building

A Celebration of Japanese Culture in Haiti

Following the earthquake that hit Haiti in January 12, 2010, the Haitian Japanese Association for Social and Cultural Promotion (CUSOPHAJ) was established to stimulate Japanese culture in the region.

There are currently twenty students studying Japanese, and this number has been gradually increasing, for the program has been rapidly expanding. At the start of the programs, instructors were primarily Japanese expatriates who sought to share their own culture to the

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people of Haiti. The program has expanded to include the participation of the Japanese Embassy, which now organizes cultural celebrations which include kendo training, calligraphy, Japanese dancing, and film screenings.



Above: Students practicing the Japanese art of kendo

At JEN, we understand the importance of creating ties between cultures, for it allows us to have faith in one another, which ultimately leads to a brighter future. While teaching the Haitian students about Japanese culture, JEN staff members have had opportunities in learning about Haitian culture as well.



Above: Students learning to write in Japanese

Looking Back

Four Years Later

January 12 marked the fourth anniversary since the devastating earthquake that struck Haiti in 2010. While the disaster remains an event that many would like to forget, it is an incident that all Haitians will remember.

A national survey was recently published concerning the humanitarian response following the disaster, and 70% of those who opted to participate claimed that they were satisfied with the humanitarian response they received following the initial disaster. In fact, “free medical service” was the most valued form of care. Haiti had already lacked a proper healthcare infrastructure well before the earthquake, thus the disaster had consequently worsened the country’s healthcare status. Therefore, the medical care provided by international aid was well appreciated.

It is important to note that although the media has been talking about rebuilding Haiti, four years have already gone by and the process is still continuing, with no end in sight.

On that note, JEN will continue to work with the people of Haiti in order to help people regain their livelihoods and to create a self-sustainable community.



The 7 EN’s of JEN

- Engage
- Entrust
- Encourage
- Endeavor
- Enjoy
- Encounter
- Enable

DONATE NOW AND HELP THE CAUSE!

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