

**AMDA's Rehabilitation Project for Haiti
for Recovery from the Earthquake of January 2010**

Activity Report

【AMDA's emergency relief activities】



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AMDA President Office
3-31-1 Ifukucho, Kita-ku,
Okayama-shi,
Japan 700-0013

1. Outlines of AMDA and its activities in Haiti after the earthquake in January 2010

On 12th January 2010, Haiti was hit by a disastrous 7.2 magnitude earthquake. The estimated number of deaths was 250 thousand, and that of the injured was over 300 thousand. Among those who were injured, thousands of people had to have their legs amputated and were left in need of social rehabilitation. Since mid-October 2010, the outbreak of cholera has caused another tragedy in the country. Each time these disasters took place, the Association of Medical Doctors of Asia (AMDA) immediately took action by considering what was actually needed by the people in Haiti.

AMDA is a non-profit, non-governmental organization dedicated to humanitarian aid for people affected by either natural or man-made disasters. While focusing on emergency aid as its main mission, AMDA has conducted various activities towards the reconstruction of the communities of the sufferers of disasters. This unique style of aid is based on AMDA's guiding principle of appreciating diversity of culture, and on the spirit of "Sogo Fujo", which is a Japanese traditional ethic of mutual aid. Thus AMDA has respected the positions of those who receive aid and encouraged them to be able to support themselves so as to become providers of aid in the future.

Having its headquarters in Okayama, Japan, AMDA has an international network of 30 chapters and 47 collaborating organizations around the world that allows a quick dispatch of personnel. Since its foundation in 1984, AMDA has worked in 51 countries and 123 places in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe, in collaboration with governments and UN agencies such as UNHCR, WHO, WFP and UNOCHA. Since 2006, AMDA has held General Consultative Status in the Economic and Social Council of the UN.

AMDA's activities in Haiti have included emergency relief, provision of prosthetic limbs, and medical treatment for those infected by cholera. In August 2010, AMDA held a sports event in the Dominican Republic for the young Haitians, Dominicans and Japanese by way of psychological care for the survivors and of cultural exchange. On 12th January 2011, AMDA staff and the New York branch of Tenrikyo (a religion founded in Japan with over 2 million followers worldwide) will hold a memorial service in New York City for the victims of the 2010 Haiti earthquake. AMDA has also arranged an opportunity for Japanese people who survived the huge Hanshin Awaji earthquake in 1995 to meet a Haitian girl, who is one of the recipients of prosthetic limbs from AMDA. The girl will visit Japan in mid-January 2011 to see the people who wish to share the experience of overcoming disabilities after a huge natural disaster. In these ways, AMDA is sincerely committed to its mission of humanitarian aid in Haiti following its guiding principle, as it always is anywhere in the world.

2. Details of AMDA's activities in Haiti after the earthquake in January 2010

2-1 Emergency relief activities (from January to March 2010)

Two days after the earthquake struck Haiti in January 2010, the first AMDA medical team was dispatched from Japan and Canada, followed by more teams until the end of March. For those three months, thirty-six medical staff in total were dispatched from AMDA's chapters in Japan, Columbia, Nepal, India, Canada, Peru and Bolivia. They engaged in emergency relief activities mainly in two hospitals in Saint Marc and Gonaives, respectively. As the airports in Haiti were shut down, medical staff arrived via land from Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic. In addition to supporting these local hospitals, AMDA donated medical supplies and food through local NGOs who had been in a collaborative relationship with AMDA.

2-2 Provision of prosthetic legs (from May 2010 to date)

When local needs shifted from medical aid to reconstruction, AMDA started the project of providing prosthetic limbs for those disaster victims who had their limbs amputated during life-saving treatment. Jean-Max Bellerive, the Prime Minister of Haiti, announced that about four thousand people had to have their limbs amputated. AMDA started a project of providing prosthetic limbs free of cost as it realized the importance of the amputees rejoining society and helping to reconstruct the country. AMDA Prosthetic Centre was launched in DASH Hospital in Port-Au-Prince, and one Japanese prosthetist has been dispatched to the centre.

Targeted recipients: 30-50 Haitian sufferers of the earthquake who had legs amputated

Number of prosthetic limbs produced: 42 (as of the end of 2010)

Number of Staff: 1 prosthetist dispatched from Japan
3 local staff (coordinator, assistant/bodyguard, driver/interpreter)

Place: DASH Hospital (Delmas, Port-Au-Prince)

Activities:

1) Procurement of materials and a machine to make prosthetic limbs

Used parts and materials were collected in Japan to reduce the cost and help more people who needed prosthetic legs. Thanks to cooperation by the Kumamoto College of Medical Care and Rehabilitation in Japan, 500 used parts weighing 230kg were collected from prosthetic limb makers in Japan and shipped to the Dominican Republic on 15th July 2010. The package of the used parts and materials was delivered to Haiti in late September 2010, after being kept at the customs for months due to strict customs clearance procedures.

A large machine to make prosthetic limbs was purchased through OMEGA in Puerto Rico using a donation from Rotary International 2780 District.

2) Activities by the staff:

With the machine and used parts/materials that were delivered to AMDA Prosthetic Centre, 28 prosthetic legs were made and given to recipients free of charge by the end of November 2010. The total number of prosthetic limbs made at the centre was 42 as of 30th December 2010. The Japanese prosthetist worked with local staffs to make prosthetic legs and provide gait training to the recipients.

In September 2010, a Haitian coordinator started "Haiti-Japan Cultural Club" in

Port-Au-Prince as a means of providing continued psychological care to Haitian children after the sports exchange programme in August. The Japanese prosthetist was involved in this activity as an adviser. At the Cultural Club, Haitian children, who only have rare opportunities for entertainment, enjoyed such events as experiencing traditional Japanese craft work (“ORIGAMI”) and sports. It is also expected that the Cultural Club will contribute to a better understanding of Japan by Haitian children. A Japanese language class for Haitian young people was also held every weekend. As the number of applicants increased to more than 40, the number of classes was increased to two.

【AMDA Prosthetic Centre in DASH Hospital】



A: DASH Hospital A



B



C



B: Japanese prosthetist treating a Haitian child
 C: Japanese prosthetist making prosthetic limbs
 D: The first recipient of a prosthetic leg
 E: Japanese prosthetist and recipients



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←AMDA is holding a meeting
to explain its project to Haitians.

**Total number of staff who joined the multi-national medical teams dispatched to Haiti
(including those who joined cholera missions) as of 30th December 2010**

Chapter	Doctor	Nurse	Midwife	Coordinator	Prosthetist
Japan (AMDA Headquarters)	7	1		10	2
Canada		5	1		
Columbia	3	2			
Peru				1	
Nepal	2				
Bolivia	5				
India	3	1			
Total	20	9		11	2

19 Doctors, 9 Nurses, 11 Coordinators, 2 Prosthetists (41 in total)

2-3 “Grass-Roots Citizen Diplomacy by Humanitarian Aid” : Project of an international soccer and cultural exchange programme (August 2010)

AMDA organized a soccer and cultural exchange programme for juveniles in August 2010, as a treatment for trauma, inviting junior high school children from Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Japan including eighteen Japanese children. It was the first event to realize the “Grass-Roots Citizen Diplomacy by Humanitarian Aid” that AMDA has advocated, and provided an opportunity of teaching young people of these three countries about their important role as members of the international community.

Japanese participants also had a chance to visit United Nations in New York, which gave them more understanding of international cooperation.

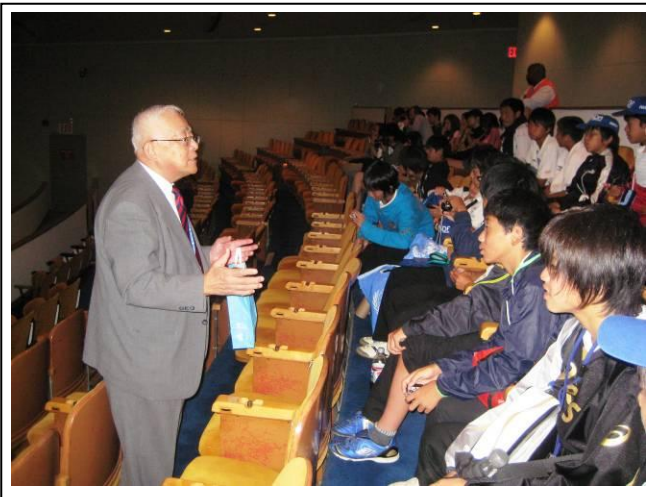
{Soccer exchange}



↑ Gifts from AMDA



Players at lunch→



Mikio Tajima, Honorary Advisor to UN, and Japanese team

Soccer pitch in the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo

2-4 Emergency relief for treating cholera epidemic (from November 2010 to date)

Cholera has become epidemic in Haiti since mid-October 2010. It started in Artibonite Department, middle-north of Haiti, and quickly spread all over the country within a month. According to the Haitian Government, the number of cholera patients reached 104,918 and that of the dead was 2,539 as of 10th December 2010. It is expected that the number of patients and death would increase further. Due to the desperate shortage of doctors and nurses, aid in the form of medical treatment as well as educational activities to spread knowledge of preventing infectious diseases were needed. Considering such needs, AMDA decided to dispatch a medical team from Japan. The team, including Dr. Suganami, President of AMDA Group, a nurse and a coordinator left Japan for Haiti on the 1st of December 2010. Two more doctors specializing in emergency relief and tropical medicine joined the team later. Pharmaceutical preparations such as oral rehydration solution, lactate Ringer's solution, zinc solution, antibiotics, drip infusion sets and disposable gloves, procured by an AMDA coordinator in the Dominican Republic, were packed in 324 cardboard boxes and shipped to Haiti via land.

Following the decision by the Haitian Health Ministry, AMDA started medical activities in the Salvation Army Hospital in Fond-des-Negres, 120km from Port-Au-Prince. (AMDA and Salvation Army had cooperated in the emergency relief activities in September 2005 for the sufferers of Hurricane Katrina in southeastern U.S.) On December 7th, the team arrived in the Salvation Army Hospital, and medicines carried in two trucks were donated by AMDA to the hospital.

The AMDA team, in cooperation with the staff of the hospital, treated 108 cholera patients from 7th through 24th December 2010. The first death took place on 15th

December, and 8 patients died as of 24th December. At the Salvation Army Hospital, a quiet room in a hospital ward was used for cholera patients. The room had only 15 beds but 26 cholera patients at most were hospitalized there. The room was close to other wards and was used as the entrance to the kitchen. It wasn't even equipped with a washing basin or antiseptic solution. It was recognized that a new, special facility for cholera patients should be built urgently.



Dr. Suganami and AMDA staff carrying boxes of medicine



AMDA medical team and hospital staff



Staff of WHO, Haitian Embassy in Dominican Republic and AMDA



Boxes of medicines



Japanese doctor working with a translator



On 17th December, an AMDA coordinator-nurse in Dominica moved to Haiti and a midwife from AMDA Canada joined the team. After the AMDA team from Japan went

back on 20th December, those two women made painstaking efforts during the Christmas vacation as the hospital went understaffed. This eventually left them and the remaining nurses at the hospital to treat the cholera patients. As the hospital's operation went back to normal on 25th December, the AMDA team handed over its task to the hospital and suspended its activities at the Salvation Army Hospital. Meanwhile, AMDA will continue information gathering in preparation to resuming its mission in Haiti soon.

2-5 Rehabilitation project for Haiti - future plan

A year after the earthquake, AMDA has plans for the following projects:

(1) AMDA Soul and Medicine Programme: ASMP (12th January 2011)

ASMP is a multi-religious ceremony to commemorate the dead, and AMDA has conducted ASMP ceremonies in many places in the world. To commemorate the first anniversary of the earthquake on 12th January 2011, AMDA is planning to hold a memorial service in New York City, in cooperation with Tenrikyo New York branch.

(2) Inviting a recipient of a prosthetic leg to Japan (January 2011)

AMDA is going to invite a Haitian girl, one of the prosthetic recipients, to Japan with an AMDA Haitian coordinator. They will also be accompanied by the Japanese prosthetist who has been working in Haiti since May 2010. Arrangements are underway for them to attend the 16th anniversary of the Great Hanshin Earthquake to meet the survivors. AMDA wants to take this opportunity to appeal to the world that all of us should pay respect to those whose lives were affected by such calamities.

Through all these activities, AMDA would like to call attention to the significance of "Grass-Roots Citizen Diplomacy by Humanitarian Aid" principle that it advocates, as a way of international cooperation and contribution realized by ordinary citizens.

11) "AMDA would like to call attention to the significance of "Grass-Roots Citizen Diplomacy by Humanitarian Aid" that it advocates, a way of international cooperation and contribution realized by ordinary citizens."

>> "AMDA would like to call attention to the significance of "Grass-Roots Citizen Diplomacy by Humanitarian Aid" that it advocates, [as] a way of international cooperation and contribution realized by ordinary citizens."

OR "AMDA would like to call attention to the significance of the "Grass-Roots Citizen Diplomacy by Humanitarian Aid" [philosophy/spirit/ethos/principle] that it advocates, as a way of international cooperation and contribution realized by ordinary citizens."