



January 2010 Newsletter

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **February 1st:
(Monday)
Ozone House
5:30pm—8pm**
- **February 8th:
(Monday)
Ozone House
5:30pm—8pm**
- **February 9th:
(Tuesday)
Ginsberg
Workshop
6:30pm-8:30pm;
4448 East Hall**
- **February 10th:
(Wednesday)
Ozone House
5:30pm—8pm**
- **February 15th:
(Monday)
Ozone House
5:30pm—8pm**

BY JEN NIECE TEH

AND

NEESHA SARKUNASEELAN

MASS MEETING YEAR 2010

A couple of Tuesdays ago, on January 19th, 7pm—8pm, we had our mass meeting at the Kuenzel Room at the Union. The turnout was pretty good and we had a good session introducing the club to our new members. Among things that we talked about were the Haiti wristband sale for the following week and the Peanut Butter Fundraiser for April. We also talked about the upcoming Alternate Spring Break trip with International Rescue Committee (IRC) to Atlanta, Georgia and our pending project to Haiti during the this summer. Everyone stayed throughout the meeting and we got a good reception at the end, especially the signups for Ozone House workshops.

Ozone House Kick-off!!

Youth Hope Organization had hosted the first Ozone House workshop for this semester on Wednesday, the 27th of January from 4:30pm to 7:00pm. Six members from YHO went there on that day. The group started off the event with a couple of ice breakers, among them 2 truths/1 lie. The group also introduced and discussed the YHO plans for the semester— which included a money management workshop and a rap night. Later, they had a relaxing conversation with the teenagers there about their personal issues, and thus, learnt a lot about them. It was a good beginning session and we are all looking forward to work with the teenagers there.

‘Haiti Hang In There’ Fundraiser

Throughout the week of January 25th, Youth Hope Organization, in cooperation with other campus group such as UM School of Public Health and UM Medical School, had a fundraising event for the victims of the Haiti earthquake. With the help of dedicated volunteers, our organization set up a booth giving out wristbands at the Posting Wall of Mason Hall everyday from 9am to 5pm.

The blue and red wristbands are inscribed with the words “Hang in there, Haiti” in Haitian Creole. All the proceeds from the fundraiser will be sent to Partners In Health (PIH) which is based in Haiti for sponsoring medical supplies and other necessities. This event has been well received by all the students and faculties of UM. By the second day, we have given out the first batch of the wristbands. Encouraged, we opened another booth on North Campus with the arrival of the second batch of wristbands and were met with equal success. We thank all those who had contributed generously towards the success of this event. =)



HAITI EARTHQUAKE



A woman makes cookies out of mud, salt and vegetable shortening to sell in the Cite Soleil neighborhood in Port-au-Prince.

"A preliminary assessment from Haiti's government put the body count at 150,000 on Jan. 23."



Fast Fact:

- The earthquake struck on January 12, 2010 at 4:53 p.m.
- The 7.0 magnitude quake's epicenter hit 10 miles west of Port-au-Prince and its 2 million inhabitants
- The major quake sent 33 aftershocks ranging in magnitude from 4.2 to 5.9
- The U.S. Geological Survey called it the strongest earthquake since 1770 in what is now Haiti
- 3 million people in need of emergency aid after major earthquake

One of the poorest and least developed countries in the world, Haiti in recent years has struggled with problems ranging from near-constant political upheaval, health crises, severe environmental degradation and an annual barrage of hurricanes.

On Jan. 12, 2010, a massive earthquake struck Haiti, reducing much of its capital to rubble. It was the worst earthquake in the region in more than 200 years. A preliminary assessment from Haiti's government put the body count at 150,000 on Jan. 23. The devastation created serious obstacles to those attempting to deliver promised foreign aid.

Huge swaths of the capital, Port-au-Prince, lay in ruins, and thousands of people were trapped in the rubble of government buildings, foreign aid offices and shantytowns. Schools, hospitals and a prison collapsed.

The country is, by a significant margin, the poorest in the Western Hemisphere, with four out of five people living in poverty and more than half in abject poverty.

During the 18th century the western portion of Hispaniola, called Saint-Domingue, was one of the richest colonies in the French empire, known for its lucrative sugarcane and coffee plantations. (The rest of the island was controlled by Spain.) In 1791 the African slave population revolted, eventually winning independence from Napoleon Bonaparte's France and becoming the second country in the Americas to free itself from colonial rule and the world's first black republic. The country was renamed Haiti.

Haiti's history has been marked by many periods of profound political disarray, including frequent changes of governments, military coups and, beginning in 1915, a two-decade occupation by the United States.

Haiti needs jobs, a particular challenge in the current economic climate. Haitians often seek work in the United States, but that safety valve has been squeezed given the recession. With some 900,000 youths expected to come into the job market in the next five years, dismal prospects are the main threat to stability.

<http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/haiti/index.html>