

Photos Timor

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Photographs by Robel Mockonen/PIO/UNMISSET



BRUSHING LESSONS BY THE 4TH JAPAN ENGINEERING GROUP

The first brushing lesson by the 4th JEG started at Tasi-Tolu primary school next to JEG's camp on March 10. The toothbrushes used for this lesson were donated by dentists from the Kyusyu region, Japan. They wish Timorese children to have a pleasant life, with healthy teeth, by learning a correct brushing method. To master a correct brushing method, not only means preventing decayed teeth but also improving oral hygiene and good digestion.

Major Iwakawa was chosen as a teacher. He is not only a dentist of JEG but also has a doctorate in dental surgery. He showed children how to hold a brush and said, "Don't apply too hard, use the edges of the brush and move slightly. One, two. One, two." Then the children followed "Ida, rua Ida, rua" and moved the brushes from left to right. After they completed brushing their teeth, the teacher explained, "If you fail to keep your teeth healthy, your jaw will lose their correct alignment. As the result, the balance of your body is also lost. You can't be a good soccer player without correct brushing". The children were surprised with the importance of healthy teeth.

JEG plans to three tooth brushing session in Dili and two in Lliquica. To teach the correct brushing method to as many children as possible is vital. JEG's main task is the maintenance of roads and bridges, but it also conducts this kind of activity, to help the Timorese children grow healthy and enable them to play an important role in the future of Timor-Leste.

