



June 2015

J•PNG EKIDEN COMMITTEE

FINAL REPORT

J•PNG EKIDEN COMMITTEE PROMOTIONAL DRIVE

This report is based on the activities and events organized by the J•PNG Ekiden Committee in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea and staged between the 17th- 20th June, 2015 as part of its promotional effort in show casing Ekiden in PNG and fostering better understanding and cooperation between Japan and Papua New Guinea through sports.

June 20th the Ekiden march at Wardstrip:



Events undertaken during the three days include seminars, demonstrations and exhibition races. The committee chose three schools to engage in the promotional drive. The schools chosen were Wardstrip Primary School, Port Moresby National High School, and Gordon Secondary School. Initial contact with school principals/ headmasters was very positive and allowed for the committee to go ahead with the planned activities.

The committees planned activities was well received by staff and students. Day one (Wednesday) of the Ekiden events schedule included a morning visit to Port Moresby National High School for a brief introduction to Ekiden, followed by a demonstration of how the race is run. In the afternoon, the committee visited Wardstrip Primary school for a seminar presentation followed by a lesson on how the sash or tasuki is passed.

Day two (Thursday) of the events schedule saw the committee visiting Gordon Secondary school for an Exhibition race. The event was a huge success as the students gathered in numbers to part take in the first ever PNG Kizuna Ekiden event to be staged in PNG. The races were run successfully with students displaying outstanding running abilities and students from the respective house colours cheering their runners on.



Day three of events featured a public march from the school grounds to the roundabout along Cameron Road with the statue of the running man, and back at the school. The morning event ended with a mini race event with students sorted in their respective house colours for an exciting showdown. What made the event more memorable was the fact that students, teachers, parents all cooperated well to ensure the event proceeded without incident. Moreover, we had youths from around the Gordons and Five-Mile suburbs volunteering to assist where needed.

The three days were very memorable for the visiting committee members from Japan namely Mr. Ishii (Japan Ekiden Committee Representative), Mr. Nishiuchi (Professional Triathlon Olympian), and Mr. Saura (Committee Advisor). Mr. Nishiuchi added much excitement to the Ekiden demonstrations as the students were able to see first-hand an authentic samurai in full formal attire and learn more about the historical connection between Ekiden and the Samurai culture of Japan.

As stated in the previous report, the reaction from schools and the students in particular have been positive and as such, the committee is of the opinion that a future planned Ekiden event in September would be feasible. The support from parents and volunteers alike has been overwhelming as well. Therefore we believe staging of a next Ekiden race would be readily received by schools around NCD.



Ekiden Event Details

Assigned Tasks:

Committee Members	Duties / Roles
Mr. Saura	Event Adviser, facilitator, and liaison
Mr. Ishii	Committee Representative, facilitator, photographer
Mr. Nishiuchi	Ekiden race and Clinic / Class Planner
Mr. Kerenga Nombri	Local Liaison Assistance, Translator, Photographer, Local Adviser
Mrs. Esther Nombri	Logistics, Administration, Legal and Local Adviser
Mr. Asahi Nombri	Press Officer, Media Liaison, MC, Local Adviser

Race Event Details:

Venue / Schools	Approximate Course Length (Meters)	Race Format
Port Moresby National High School	40m	4 team race, 4 runners per teamx4
Gordons Secondary School	350m	4 team race, 4 runners per teamx4
Wardstrip Demonstration School	140m (70m x2)	6 team race, 6 runners per teamx2