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# CUSTOMER CONNECTION

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## DREAM TO DELIVER CLEAN WATER TO RURAL AFRICAN VILLAGES NEARS REALIZATION

JM Eagle President and CEO Walter Wang recently witnessed first-hand the difference hundreds of miles plastic pipe can make in the lives of thousands of people in impoverished Africa as he toured water infrastructure projects using donated JM Eagle product.

Shipping from its plants in late 2009, the donation included nearly 400 miles of a variety of 2.5- to 6-inch pipes, worth approximately \$2 million, going to Kenya, Uganda, Mali, Malawi, Rwanda, Ghana and Tanzania. In addition to the product donation, Wang also provided funds to aid in the engineering and design of the project.

“Water is the essence of life,” Wang said at a press conference in Nairobi following the four-day tour, which included Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya. “Every human on this planet should have access to clean water. I believe the single greatest cause of extreme poverty in developing nations is a lack of access to this simple element.”

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JM Eagle’s latest donation is part of a multi-phased broader initiative, the Millennium Villages Project, launched by Columbia University’s Earth Institute in 2005, which will ultimately provide safer water to more than 160,000 people living in Africa’s most needy communities.

In its initial phase, MVP used more than 70 miles of JM Eagle’s plastic pipe to bring safe water to 67 villages and more than 13,500 people in Potou, Senegal. The Potou project has been in operation since September 2008 with 85 active taps now in use.



Having toured Senegal at the completion of the first project in February 2009, Wang’s latest visit is his second to Africa to witness first-hand the construction progress at the Millennium Villages his donations support and, more importantly, see the positive effect that a clean, reliable water supply is having on the people of these villages.

One in five people in developing countries does not have access to safe drinking water, and 2.2 million people die each year from water-borne illness, 90 percent of them children under the age of 5, according to world-charity organizations.

“In learning more about the landscape, I realized something: Africa is not entirely water deficient—there must be a good water source somewhere—it’s infrastructure deficient,” Wang said. “No matter how far it may be, it can be piped to those in need.”

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