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**DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION  
PRESS RELEASE**

**Kingston, March 26, 2013**

**EU gives Early Childhood Education in Tower Hill a boost**

The Tower Hill Missionary Early Childhood Institution in St. Andrew has received a much needed makeover through the European Union funded Poverty Reduction Programme II (PRP II). The school refurbishment is part of an ongoing project focused on improving early childhood education facilities island-wide. The project is undertaken by the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) through PRP II funding and will see over 106 students benefitting from an improved learning environment.

With the handing over of Tower Hill Missionary, 33 schools have received much needed support, improving early childhood education facilities in underserved communities for hundreds of children.

The upgrades to Tower Hill Missionary were done at a total cost of J\$29.5 million, the community provided an additional contribution of \$9.9 million in the form of land discounted labour and other services.

Works on the premises included:

- *Removal and replacement of roof,*
- *Installation of block wall partitions,*
- *Construction of a play area,*
- *Installation of new windows and doors,*
- *Installing new sanitary fixtures,*
- *Termite treatment,*
- *Installation of new cupboard and kitchen fixtures, Installation of fencing;*
- *General repainting; Equipping of classrooms*
- *Provision of play equipment*

Charges d' Affairs ai, of the European Union, Jesús Orús Báguena spoke at the ceremony of the importance of education at the early childhood level: "**The rehabilitation work at the Tower Hill Missionary Early Childhood Institution is now finished, but the work of educating the children of the community and by extension the children of Jamaica continues. I encourage you to remain committed to this cause; remembering always that your children are the 'real wealth' of Jamaica and that your continued investment in their education, will not only lead to long lasting benefits and improvements in their lives, but will contribute to development progress in the wider Jamaican society "**

Contact- Andrew N. Raymore  
Delegation of the European Union to Jamaica,  
Belize, Turks and Caicos Islands, Bahamas and the Cayman Islands  
Tel: 1 876 924 6333

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