Welcome to the November 2013 edition of the ‘Edu’ newsletter, the last issue before Christmas. Are you ready for the end of the year? Let me, hopefully, be the first to wish you a merry Christmas. In line with the upcoming festivities, this bountiful edition is full of the latest information from the Education programme - progress reports from the projects, interesting thoughts, upcoming events, and of course the interesting topic: Enjoy your lesson yourself! Advice from a JOCV to Ghanaian teachers! Hope this newsletter finds you well. Enjoy the read, Mama Laryea 😊.

Interesting topic: Enjoy your lesson yourself!

Mr. Yukio KAKE is a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) attached to the Ghana Education Service (GES) Tamale in the Northern region. The Tamale Metropolitan was a designated pilot area for the JICA supported GES In-Service Education and Training (INSET) project. Mr. KAKE goes to rural communities to demonstrate model lessons. He has been teaching primary school students for the last 19 years mainly in Japan and he tries to make full use of his experiences. There are two main characteristics of Mr. KAKE’s lessons, the first is “full of fun lessons using game-assisted learning” and the second is “handmade Teaching and Learning Materials (TLMs)”. Mr. KAKE has never thought negatively of his teaching in Ghana because his lessons are filled always with enthusiasm and he also enjoys teaching.

The specific activities Mr. KAKE does as he visits schools in Tamale are as follows. The students (above) are enjoying bowling and quoits. But these are mathematics lessons! After the game the students try to calculate their points even if...
they are not good at addition. “7+6+10+4+8 is 35. At addition, the idea “How many and how many” is very important like 10 is 1 and 9, 10 is 2 and 8.

The students (to the left) are enjoying a fishing game in a mathematics lesson. “There are 10 fish in the Volta Lake. Let’s go fishing!” Two students try to get fish which have iron clips handling the fishing rods which have magnets. “Now she gets 6. How many fish did he get?” “Sir, the answer is 4!” After this lesson, all students could answer easily.

“Can I help you?” “One banana and one apple, please”, “50 pesewas”. The students together with Mr. KAKE (right) are enjoying a shopping game. In the rural community, the students hardly get a chance to go shopping. This study of money with the “shopping game” then becomes their precious experience.

The students (below left) are trying to adjust their paper clocks. They are enjoying the “contest for adjusting clock”. “What time is it?” “It’s 3:30.” “Set the clock to 3:30!” To touch and handle these TLM improvised clock made them understand time and clock.

Another group of students with Mr. KAKE (below right) are enjoying the multiplication card game. The cards have multiplication sentence on the front and the answer on the back. Cards are spread out on the desk. Two students try the game: “2 times 6”, now they try to find and get “12”.

And finally, the students (below) try to put their result of the game into graphs. These TLM graphs are adjustable. Students were able to understand how to treat data and comparison examination deeply by operating this “adjustable” bar graph and pie graph. These are just some examples of Mr. KAKE’s activities. Mr. KAKE thinks that to make lessons interesting and to make TLMs are actually very easy and all Ghanaian teachers can do it. His advice, if you want to improve your lesson and your teaching skill, please try to use games and TLMs and enjoy your lesson yourself!
The school construction project

We are pleased to report on the project for Improvement of Access to Basic Education in Deprived Areas. We handed over one school at Bereku Nyamebekyere D/A Primary to the Ministry of Education in September, 2013. In total, one 3 classroom block with a headmaster’s office including furniture for both pupils and teaching staff and a 3-seater Kumasi Ventilated-Improved Pit (KVIP) latrine were handed over. In attendance at the handing over ceremony was the Deputy Director General of The Ghana Education Service (GES) Mr. Charles Tsegah as well as representatives from Japan International Cooperation Systems (JICS) and JICA. Below are selected pictures from the ceremony. As of October 2013, 20 schools out of the target 33 had been handed over: 14 schools in Phase 1 (Central region) and 6 schools in Phase 2 (Northern region). Hopefully we will be handing over some more schools in the Northern Region come December 2013.

Top row: classroom block, furniture inside the classroom. Middle row: KVIP, JICA representative address. Bottom row: community members including the queen mother cutting the tape and students inspecting their new classroom.
Upcoming projects:

1) Supporting the teacher development policy

A very exciting approved upcoming project is the Project for Supporting Institutionalization of the Pre-Tertiary Teacher Professional Development and Management (PTPDM) policy. The aim of the proposed project is to formulate a replicable career progression mechanism that utilises training records and School-Based INSET (SBI) and Cluster-Based INSET (CBI) practice of pre-tertiary teachers. The proposed project period is four years from April 2014 to Mar 2018 and the target area is five pilot districts (yet to be selected). Some expected activities of the project whilst piloting will be (1) reviewing and modifying the proposed career progression framework (including licensing and registration) for operationalization, (2) reviewing and refining the existing database of teachers to administer career progression, and (3) revising and developing mandatory training courses to support the progression of teachers. These details were agreed to after a mission from Japan and JICA Ghana office, based on the Ministry of Education (MoE)’s request for Japan’s Technical Cooperation assistance, had extensive discussions with related persons from the MoE, the National Teaching Council (NTC), the GES and related major DPs as well as making site visits to selected districts from 24th Sep to 4th Oct 2013. It is hoped that through the nationwide implementation of the PTPDM policy, School-Based INSET (SBI) and Cluster-Based INSET (CBI) will be more firmly institutionalized to provide further opportunities for teachers to strengthen their teaching capabilities in the classroom and, as a result, improve the quality of education in Ghana.

2) Expert for decentralised education management

As announced in the August 2013 edition of this newsletter, the Advisory Unit on Decentralised Education Management (AUDEM), which was supported by Mr. Daisuke Kanazawa, a JICA Expert completed its assignment period at the end of September 2013. At the request of the GES, a proposed follow up (yet to be approved) is to have another expert for Decentralised Education Management attached to the Basic Education Division of the GES, but this time focused on strengthening the capacity of the GES on decentralized education management between the school and district level. The proposed assignment period is from July 2014 to July 2016. Selected expected activities are (1) Studying the process of planning and performance review between districts and schools to identify any gaps, (2) identifying possible solutions to the problems in a participatory manner, and (3) piloting the proposed solutions, if feasible, to make them implementable policy options. In the interim, the outputs of the AUDEM’s work including all the Advisory Notes issued and several sector documents are available at https://sites.google.com/site/audembed/

Nationwide INSET programme progress report

Building on the achievements of the JICA supported GES teacher In-Service Education and Training (INSET) project that had been supporting the Teacher Education Division (TED) of the Ghana Education Service (GES) to implement the Nationwide INSET Programme, the GES is continuing to implement the Nationwide INSET Programme.

Three activities undertaken successfully by the National INSET Unit (NIU) of the TED recently mainly focused on Capacity Building/refresher workshops for District Teacher Support Teams (DTSTs) from the twelve UNICEF focus Districts on (1) the Teaching of Language and Literacy at the primary school level, (2) the teaching of mathematics at the primary school level, and (3) for District INSET Committees of the said districts. The objectives of the Capacity
Building workshops was to strengthen the subject content and pedagogy of DTSTs in the teaching of Language and Literacy at the primary school level, to equip participants with general teaching strategies including Learner-centered/Activity Based, Gender-Sensitive Methodologies, and pedagogical skills to hold their staff accountable to teaching and learning.

On the refresher course for the District INSET Committees (DICs) of the twelve UNICEF focus Districts, effective organization of INSETs at the district level requires an active management structure that is committed to its laid down responsibilities. In view of this a four day training workshop / refresher course was organised to refresh the management capacity of the DIC members and to equip participants with the knowledge and skills in effective INSET management at the district and school levels.

Some more interesting thought(s) / fact(s)

Ever thought of doing a PhD? Here are some of the more unusual areas of university research that may take your fancy:

- The history of footwear – did you know some shoes cannot be worn, or at least cannot be worn as shoes for walking but are for display purposes only?
- Study flies: did you know flies have an uncanny similarity with the podocyte cells of our own kidneys? Yes flies do have kidneys.
- Study tattoos: did you know tattoos have never been the sole preserve of bikers and sailors? You could delve into the primary source material of tattooing - the machines and needles used, the design books and the adverts of old.

You can read on other interesting areas of PhD research such as female body building and cow tracking from [www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-24363025](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-24363025)  (last accessed: 20/08/2013).

Upcoming event(s) in the Education sector

- Six new JOCVs including electronics and auto mechanic teachers for selected polytechnics and an Information Communication Technology (ICT) teacher for a College of Education will be arriving in March 2014

Useful websites

- Checkout the JICA Ghana website for information on JICA’s activities in Ghana, Sierra Leone and Liberia: [www.jica.go.jp/ghana/english/index.html](http://www.jica.go.jp/ghana/english/index.html)
- Don’t forget we are online, old/new copies of this newsletter are available via the JICA Ghana English website: [www.jica.go.jp/ghana/english/office/others/newsletter.html](http://www.jica.go.jp/ghana/english/office/others/newsletter.html)

Have your say: and finally thank you for your reports, views and comments which make up this newsletter. Keep them coming including your feedback on the interesting topic in this issue, the address to use is: gn_osr_rep@jica.go.jp Thank you.