Hello all and welcome to the first ever edition of Anigye Newsletter. You are probably thinking why the name Anigye? Well, we intend to bring some happiness (which is the meaning of the word Anigye in Twi) to everyone who reads this newsletter. The aim of issuing an English newsletter in JICA Ghana Office is to inform, educate and entertain Ghanaians and Japanese alike, as well as other people around the world, and share information on what JICA Ghana is doing up to now.

Of course no newsletter would be complete without the contributions (be it articles or verbal accounts) of you the readers, for this, the editorial team humbly request all divisions and their staff to voluntarily and happily contribute to the contents of Anigye newsletter.

Topics to look out for would be what’s happening in JICA Ghana such as ongoing projects, new topics and buzz words, the voice of counterparts and ex-training participants, and JOCV activities amongst others.

The newsletter would be a periodical; issued four times a year so more time for you to get all your interesting stories and business trips to us. Being Anigye Newsletter, articles could range from Archeology to Zoology, so far us you make it fun and easy to read (although I hesitate to think how anyone could make archcoology fun - of course if you know how, let us know, we would stand corrected).

All fun aside, JICA Ghana, as part of JICA exists as a bridge between the people of Japan and developing countries, to advance international cooperation through sharing of knowledge and experience, and to work to build a more peaceful and prosperous world. So hopefully this newsletter would contribute to the “sharing of knowledge and experience” and to “working to build a more peaceful and prosperous world.” Thank you for working for a better tomorrow for all.

Message from Resident Representative of JICA Ghana Office

Two years have soon passed since I took up position as Resident Representative of JICA Ghana Office. Though my schedules have been a bit tight in these two years, I have enjoyed working in this office with your strong support.

Ghana is politically stable, peaceful, friendly and secure. The economy of Ghana is booming, so to say, and the democratic dispensation is admirable. Decision making here is participatory at all levels of government, with the introduction of decentralization.

At this point of Ghana’s socio-political and economic transformation, the country has more challenges to overcome, in order to achieve her ambitious middle-income status she has set herself for, the year 2015. I am hopeful that Ghana will achieve her development agenda within the set time frame. In this regard, Ghana will need enhanced support from its traditional friends like Japan and others to achieve her ambition of a middle-income country with strong sense of ownership.

I am privileged during my duty tour in JICA Ghana Office, to meet the 30th anniversary of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) programme in Ghana. I thank all who contributed and participated in the 30th Anniversary celebration of the programme with many activities and finally, a festival.

As Resident Representative of JICA Ghana Office during all this period, I have had cordial relations and cooperation from every staff of this office. While thanking every one of you, I also wish that the same cooperation would be extended to my successor who will take over from me in December.

I also wish to thank the Government and people of Ghana for the cooperation during my tenure of office here and may the prevailing excellent Japan-Ghana friendly relations continue to be enhanced in the years to come.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New year to you all in advance.

Thank you and good bye.

Hiroshi MURAKAMI
Resident Representative
(JICA Ghana Office)
The education sector is one of the core sections of JICA Ghana which has been playing a key role in the Ghanaian economy. JICA's cooperation with Ghana has been longstanding, with particular emphasis on the same educational policy as the Ghana government; which focuses specifically on the quality, access, management, and the improvement of Science, Technology and Technical, Vocational Education Training (TVET).

**Current projects of the Education sector**

**In-Service Training (INSET) project:** a model of in-service training program to improve the quality of education for primary school science and mathematics teachers in 10 pilot districts since 2005.

**Capacity Development In Educational planning project:** to strengthen the management and planning of education: an expert is working with the Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring and Evaluation Division of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports to help capacity build the educational management functions of the department.

**The Technical, Vocational, Education Training Support (TVETS) project:** which aims to strengthen Technical, Vocational Education Training, delivery and accreditation in Ghana.

**Volunteer Programme:** Japanese volunteers support to improve Science and Math Education and TVET at school level.

**Technical Training Programme:** the sending of people from Ghana to Technical Training Programs in Japan to help transfer knowledge and technology. The Training Programme also supports the Ghana government's Best Teacher Award scheme by sending award winners for Training in Japan as part of the prize they win. On a yearly basis around 60 people are sent from Ghana to Japan for training.

**TOPIC**

What is ASEI/PDSI?

ASEI/PDSI is a buzz word that has been around for sometime, and in the last few weeks (October 14th to 27th), ASEI/PDSI came to Ghana (in the form of a workshop organized by the INSET project).

You are probably thinking what is ASEI/PDSI? Well, its Activity, Student, Experiment, Improvisation (ASEI) and Plan, Do, See, Improve (PDSI); an approach that is key to revitalizing classroom activities in mathematics and science education in Africa being promoted by the Strengthening of Mathematics and Science in Secondary Education (SMASSE) project in Kenya.

ASEI is about Activity: a shift from chalk and talk, Student: a shift from teacher-centred teaching to student-centred learning, Experiment: from theory to practical approach, and improvisation: this is for the teacher to use innovativeness in designing simple experiments/activities to enhance student curiosity, interest, participation and learning. And PDSI: Plan: spell out lesson activities (design and delivery) based on the ASEI principles, Do: carry out the planned activity, See: evaluate the process against the plan in terms of effectiveness in achievement of lesson objectives, Improve: use the outcome of evaluation to enhance performance in subsequent lessons.

Check out the education sector's own newsletter titled: Ghana Education newsletter which comes out monthly, and is online via the JICA Ghana English website: http://www.jica.go.jp/ghana/english/other/index.html

**The latest happenings in education**

The last day of October saw the set up of the long awaited COTVET (Council for Technical, Vocational Education and Training); would this mean a positive and smooth 'official start' for our TVET project? Only time will tell.

Apart from this, September saw the education reform kick off in Ghana. Looking at the new educational reform at a glance; we will have 2 years compulsory kindergarten, the primary and JSS remain unchanged except for a change of name for the Junior Secondary School (JSS) to Junior High School (JHS). The major changes are in the Senior Secondary School (SSS); which will now be 4 years, be renamed as Senior High School (SHS), and have different streams of education that students can choose from including General Education and Technical, Vocational and Agricultural Education and Training (TVET), however, information provided by our TVET expert Mr. Hashimoto indicates that the TVET stream of SHS is not available for students to choose at the moment, only the general components of the SHS curricula is being taught.
Participatory Forest Resource Management Project in the Transitional Zone of the Republic of Ghana (PAFORM)

About PAFORM
The PAFORM project has been implemented with the Forest Service Division (FSD) as counter-part, which is under the Ministry of Lands, Forestry and Mines, since 2004 until March, 2009. The project aims at improvement of participatory approaches for sustainable management of the forest reserves in Sunyani Forest Reserve as the pilot area.

---The Evaluation Study Was Carried Out!---
In mid-October, the mid-term evaluation study was carried out with FSD, in order to see the progress and the impact of the project, and analyze the way forward for the project to be more effective. The study revealed that while some of activities are behind schedule, the strong initiative and ownership of FSD were identifiable on the ground, so that the catch-up could be possible to achieve the project purpose within the project period. The FSD staff mentioned that the PAFORM project can be regarded as the first attempt in the history of Ghana to manage natural resources by means of involving local people in the decision-making process. In this regard, the project is expected to be a good model in Ghana.

JOCV Activities

About JOCV
It has been 30 years (1977-2007) since Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) program started in Ghana.

On 17th August 1977, the first batch of volunteers was dispatched to Ghana, which consisted of seven Science and Mathematics teachers, one Vegetable Growing volunteer and one Rice Cultivation volunteer. Since then, more than 900 Japanese volunteers have been assigned to work in different communities all over the country. Currently, we have more than 100 JOCV serving in various organizations in different fields.

TOPIC

Best Teachers Award 2007
The National Best Teacher Award is hosted yearly by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports. The 2007 award was held in Tamale on 5th October, 2007, the 13th in the series. The Best Teacher Award programme was started in 1994 aimed at motivating teachers for higher performance of education to Ghanaian students.

A couple of years ago, the award included volunteer teachers coming from outside Ghana as “Foreign Volunteer Category” in addition to the national teachers. This year, JOCV member Ms. Yuri FUJIHARA was given an award as the representative of JOCV in Ghana. She is serving in Akatsi Teacher’s Training College in Volta Region as a science teacher. During her one year and four months as a teacher, she has actively engaged the local teachers and students in her assignment.
My name is Frank Anane Asante and work at the Value Added Tax (VAT) Service of Ghana. I am a supervisor of Enforcement and Debt Management at Head Office Operations.
I arrived at Tokyo International Centre (TIC) on August 29, 2007 for a seminar on taxation titled "International Seminar on Taxation - General Course." The seminar covered a wide range of contemporary issues in taxation. The programme was in the form of lectures, presentations and discussions and observation visits among others. There were special lecturers from Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) who made various presentations at seminars on "tax treaty and tax administration." 24 participants from 19 countries joined this seminar.

I learned about the people, the economy, education and governance, of which will be of great benefit to my future career as tax administrator in Ghana. I have discovered many useful traits in Japanese culture; their hospitality, friendliness, hard work and tirelessness of the Japanese people, these will be an inspiration for me.

My experience in Japan has really broadened my horizon and I look forward to an opportunity to apply some of the values I observed and learnt back home at the work place as well as my daily life. I would therefore wish to use this opportunity to express my deepest and sincere appreciation to JICA, Government of Ghana and especially to the organizers of ISTAX - (General Course), National Tax Agency (NTA) and National Tax College (NTC) for organizing this useful training on behalf of the Government of Japan.

Domo Arigato gozaimasu

---

Japanese Culture

Mochi & Fufu

What's difference and similarity?

Mochi (sticky rice cake) is one of Japanese traditional food eaten during celebrations. For example, people eat Zoni (rice cake soup, not hot taste) and decorate their homes with special mochi called Kagamimochi during Japanese New year. Fufu is a popular Ghanaian food as you know. Ghanaians usually eat fufu during lunch and dinner. It means fufu is not only a special meal but also eaten for celebrations like Japanese culture. However, the way of cooking mochi and fufu is very similar. They need a pestle and a mortar for pounding. One person pounds rice (for mochi) or cassava and plantain (for fufu) and one other person kneads mochi or fufu. Maybe one of Ghanaian cooking style traveled to Japan a long long time ago.

How is it eaten?

Japanese people eat mochi in several ways; baked, boiled and fried. They even eat baked mochi with sugar. Would Ghanaians like to try fufu this way? Can you eat fufu with sugar? Of course No! But why don't you try it? It might be a sweet snack. Don't you think so????