
As time goes by the newsletter begins to take on a pattern; with the regular project progress reports, interesting facts and of course the hot topic of the month. As usual, it is worth the read (even if I say so myself), Mama

**HOT topic (Issue of the month): Education Reform continued**

At the (18th) Education Sector Monthly meeting held on 19th Oct. we continued with the scheduled discussions on the education reform taking place in Ghana this year. The reform process started officially this September, and if you may remember this text from last month’s newsletter looking at the reforms at a glance: “students may choose to go into different streams at Senior High School (SHS), comprising 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.

As a stop gap the Nigerian concept of TVET, which is not CBT, (the TVET option being proposed by Ghana), is being taught to selected teachers under a 3 month In Service Training scheme so they can teach the TVET component from next year.

Although Ghana and Nigeria all have TVET, there are differences to be noted; the Nigerian TVET uses a modular approach i.e. a programme of studies that consists of a number of short courses (subjects), where students are given a grade for each module, and accumulate points for an overall pass grade, as compared to the proposed Competency Based Training (CBT) approach which develops the **skills** required to achieve competency standards reflecting the needs of industry, private sector and Government as per an agreed occupational standards framework. The questions are; are students aware this is happening, and when will Ghana be ready to start its own CBT TVET as per the TVET law?
News flash! Efforts to re-connect to the internet after more than 3 months have been successful and Mr. Hashimoto and his team are back online. Apart from this exciting news there has also been the appointment of a Project Administrator due to start end of November, 2007.

Otherwise, the drafts for the Needs Assessment Guideline, the NTVET Qualification Blueprint, the National Assessment Guideline and the Framework for Piloting CBT in Mechanical Engineering have all been completed for further discussion. Planned activities for October include: (1) Compilation of the Guide to Quality Assurance, (2) Compilation of the Guide to Validation, (3) Setting out Job Descriptions and the Structure of COTVET (Council for TVET) Divisions, (4) Revision of more guidelines and blueprints, (5) Identification of Equipment to be used at Accra Polytechnic, NVTI, and COTVET Secretariat, (6) Preparation of Third-country Study Trip and (7) Compilation of a Position Paper for submission to MOESS, Ministry of Manpower and Youth employment (MMYE), and JICA.

Images from recent business trips to the Northern and Central Regions as part of preliminary activities for the school building project titled Project to Improve Access to Basic Education in Deprived areas (23rd Sept to 2nd Oct 07) Below are images of some of the schools currently in need of assistance, and an example of a model school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dani-wuu primary, Sawla, Sawla</td>
<td>Kalba Tuna district,</td>
<td>(mud structure with classes P1 to P6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Northern Region</td>
<td>combined in 3 classrooms)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jakai D/A primary, Assin</td>
<td>Kyekyewere, Assin South</td>
<td>(model school with a library)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>District, Central Region</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bosomadwe AME Zion, Assin</td>
<td>Kyekyewere, Assin South</td>
<td>(school under a tree)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>District, Central Region</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INSET project progress report from our expert Mr. NAGUMO

Activities planned for the month have gone well including the INSET Model Evaluation Workshop from 15th to 17th October at GESDI which had about 30 staffs from various divisions at GES HQ, MOESS and District Education Office taking part, the workshop report is under preparation. Also the ASEI&PDSI Workshop at Ajumako in collaboration with SMASSE (Kenya) and personnel from Sierra Leone is ongoing with positive feedback so far. The training courses offered at GIMPA also went well. The counterpart training in Japan for two high level personnel (Deputy Director Of Ghana Education Service (GES) and District Director of Education (DDE) for Wa municipal) is scheduled for November 07, as well as third country training on CEMASTEA in Kenya scheduled for 14th Jan to 8th Feb 2008; 2 trainees for each subject group are under selection (e.g. Maths, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics). In other news; a monitoring mission team from JICA HQ (Japan) are visiting (20th - 26th October) to
review the project and seek possible ways forward after the current project ends in 2008. The team is made up of Mr. Matachi (leader and a senior advisor) and Mr. Morishita (education programme). Also Mr. Mante, acting director of Teacher Education Division (TED), has been promoted to the Director of TED, and Mr. Adu Deputy Director of TED, has been promoted to the Director of Basic Education Division (BED) as of 1st October 07. The project newsletter has been distributed and the project website: http://project.jica.go.jp/ghana/0604654/02/news.php also has all the latest news.

Some more interesting facts

- The world’s youngest parents were 8 and 9 and lived in China in 1910.
- 'Vodka' is Russian for 'little water'. [Source (facts 2 and 3): www.nicefacts.com ]

Capacity Development in Education Planning project progress report from our expert Ms Kamei

As a continuation of activities from August, September saw continued preparation for training counterpart personnel in Japan; an official invitation letter was forwarded to the ministry with a program outline on September 13, three district directors are to be nominated and the application process is currently underway. Also preparations for the planned internal workshop for PBME are ongoing; Management Development and Productivity Institute (MDPI) and two consulting firms have been contacted to request for technical and financial proposals. Scheduling has not been finalized but it looks like it has to be postponed to December from October.

On the ADEOP (Annual District Education Operational Plan) manual, a team was formed to work on its development. Revision work is underway; finalizing and sending the document to print should happen by the end of October, the distribution to district education offices should happen early November. On the revision of the Education Strategic Plan (ESP); the project had originally budgeted for Technical Assistance (TA) and a stakeholder workshop for ESP revision, however the Ministry intends to apply for EPDF now and education Development Partners (DPs) are assisting the process.

Upcoming events in the Education Sector group (JICA Ghana)

- The seminar on Elementary School Education in Japan held at Akatsi Teacher Training College (TTC) was very successful according to feedback received. The seminar was held for all 218 final year students with 2 sessions running simultaneously in the morning and afternoon thus 4 sessions held in the day! Plans are underway to take the seminar to Wesley TTC (Kumasi) – more details to follow soon.
- This newsletter will soon be online via the JICA Ghana English website: watch this space for the URL once online.

Useful websites: check out http://users.mswave.com/~hrkcocoa/home.html a website designed by a JOCV campaigning for the recycling of pure water sachets (sachets have been turned into bags, raincoats and teddy bears!).

Have your say: and finally, thank you for your reports, views and comments which make up this newsletter. For those of you who haven’t yet got in touch; please do not hesitate to send anything you think might be useful to share. The address to use is gn_oso_rep@jica.go.jp Thank you.