As the raining season kicks off, welcome to the May edition of the JICA Ghana Education newsletter, Vol. 13. As usual the Edu newsletter brings you all you need to know about the Education sector with each project’s progress report, interesting facts, upcoming events and of course the hot topic of the month. Enjoy the read, Mama.

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**Hot topic: Highlight of JOCV activities - a Craft’s tour from Elmina to the Chief’s palace in Busua, Central Region**

In Ghana, beads are one of the many ornaments we use to adorn ourselves. They can be as beautiful as pearls based on their design and crafting, but have you ever wondered what it takes to make these beautiful items? In this month’s issue of the Edu Newsletter we take you on a Craft’s tour with our JOCVs from Elmina, to the Chief’s palace in Busua, Central Region.

Interestingly some JOCVs aside from their main assignment have formed a Craft’s sub committee to help motivate youngsters in their area, as well as hold interesting workshops. At one such workshop in Elmina (Pride revival in the youth at the Youth Center) targeting young children, the purpose of the workshop was to show and let students know the enjoyment of bead work. Each child chose their own beads to make a set of earrings and bracelet, and with the support of the craft members, completed their own earrings and bracelet accompanied by a big smile ☺ within two hours.

From Elmina the next stop was the Chief’s palace in Busua where a second workshop to provide some useful ideas about bead making to Ghanaian craftsmen who make products to sell at the busy tourist destination of Busua was held. The contents of the workshop were the same as Elmina’s but this time the craftsmen also experienced cost simulation. After which a competition was held to seek the best work in terms of quality, creativity and pricing. Are you thinking IGA? OVOP? Maybe, but it’s good to remember it’s SIMPLY FUN too.

Ghana has a solid craft base; maybe the volunteers’ fresh ideas could be the contributing factor in achieving success.
INSET project progress report from Mr. NAGUMO and the project team

The previous month has been a relatively quiet month for the INSET project with nothing much to report. Looking ahead to the next month though the number of planned activities remain the same as reported last month, including: (1) District INSET Coordinator's meeting at GESDI; 16th May, Agenda: Monitoring (Collection of data), (2) National Guideline Workshop at GESDI; 19th - 20th May, Agenda: Revising National Guideline, (3) 2nd National Guideline Workshop at GESDI; 29th - 30th May; Agenda: Revising the draft National INSET Guideline, (4) Nationwide dissemination Seminar within all regional capitals except Accra - to take place in June 08, the agenda being to sensitise all District Director's of Education to INSET. June 08 will also see the start of the terminal evaluation for the project. Please keep visiting the project website (Japanese) for more info: http://project.jica.go.jp/ghana/0604654/02/news.php

Some more interesting fact(s)

- In Finland, Classroom teachers, Subject teachers and Special-education teachers hold a minimum of a Master's degree [source: www.sool.fi/english.html]

Capacity Development in Educational Planning project progress report from Ms. Kamei

The Terminal Evaluation for the project ended in April 08 with the holding of a meeting with key stakeholders of the project to present the findings of the evaluation report - the meeting was positive with all in attendance agreeing to continue dialogue as to the next steps forward. The project was deemed successful with the following findings: (1) Relevance: High - fits within the development policy of Government of Ghana i.e. GPRS II and the ESP, and also fits within Japan’s ODA Policies (Country Assistance Programme to Ghana). (2) Effectiveness: Very high because (i) required inputs were delivered on time, (ii) out of the 9 project activities only 1 had not been effected at the time of evaluation, and (ii) almost all the criteria for the attainment of project purpose / outputs had been met. (3) Efficiency: High because (i) more funds were spent to support district level work as compared to the central level work, and (ii) was seamlessly integrated into the work of MOESS / PBME thus promoting / deepening ownership. (4) Impact - likely to be high – as ESP and Education Reforms targets to be harmonized will be attained with the help of the education
management structures / processes that the project has contributed to installing i.e. ADEOP, RESAR, NESAR, etc. (5) Sustainability: Appears high mainly because the ADEOP process, RESAR, NESAR, etc are now firmly rooted in the culture of the MOESS and GES, and the MOESS and/or donors could contribute financially towards sustainability. Subsequently the development of the TOR for the next Expert in Capacity Development in Education planning is under way.

Other activities carried out in this same period included following-up on the internal workshop organized for PBME which has resulted in the first ever PBME monthly meetings being held (in April and May), conducting a 2-week education management training for approx. 55 newly promoted GES directors (April 13-27), and supporting GES in the preparation of the 2008 Regional ESARs. Also final activities for winding up the project include preparation of a final report as well as consulting with GES on the way forward as the new counterpart agency for future cooperation.

TVET project progress report from Mr. Kimura and the project team

The TVET project welcomed the new TVET chief Advisor Mr. Kenji Kimura. The new Chief Advisor has been meeting with key persons involved in the project implementation, alongside making courtesy calls to TVET related Ministries including Trade, Manpower and Education. Plans are also underway to revise the project activities to meet the project budget for the fiscal year 2008/2009. Looking ahead for the next month planned activities for June 08 include: (1) Briefing new COTVET staff about the project as soon as they are appointed, (2) Drafting Guides to Certification, (3) Preparation for CBT piloting at TVET Training Institutions with technical teams at Accra Polytechnic and NVTI working on developing occupational standard and specification/unit writing with the TVETS Project, (4) Taking of inventory at Accra Polytechnic and NVTI in late June 08 re donated equipments, as well as (5) Printing the Baseline Survey report.

News / what’s happening in the Education Sector group (JICA Ghana)

- The education team would be attending the National Education Sector Annual Review (NESAR) scheduled to take place from 17th to 19th June 2008 at M-Plaza. The NESAR is organised by the MOESS in collaboration with stakeholders with the aim of providing the opportunity for all to participate in the review of educational sector performance, assess progress towards the achievement of sector goals and objectives, including the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). All in an effort to aid the delivery of quality education in Ghana.
- Proposed School Construction project: Plans are ongoing; the confirmed list of candidate sites/schools has been received from GES. And a mission team is due in Ghana early July 08 to conduct a Basic Design survey; this will be followed by a second mission team in November to inform the results of the Basic Design survey. Tentatively we should sign the Records of Discussion in February 09, followed by the start of Construction work in June/July 09.
- 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/others/index.html

Useful website: The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); a reminder of some of the goals we are all working towards: www.un.org/millenniumgoals

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 hot topic in this issue, the address to use is: gn_oso_rep@jica.go.jp
Thank you.