It’s July - the perfect time for a midyear break to somewhere nice. As the holiday season continues, let me welcome you to the July edition of the JICA Ghana Education newsletter, Vol. 14. 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. Don’t forget to take this newsletter with you wherever you go for your break, ☻ Mama.

**Hot topic: the National Education Sector Annual Review (NESAR)**

This year’s National Education Sector Annual Review (NESAR) took place from 17th to 19th June 2008 at M-Plaza. The NESAR is organised by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports (MOESS) in collaboration with stakeholders with the aim of providing an opportunity for all stakeholders to participate in the review of the education sector’s performance, as well as propose recommendations to tackle any short comings identified. Participants were divided into 5 technical groups, with JICA representatives in 4 out of the 5 technical groups.

Overall the technical group discussions were open and frank, also providing a good opportunity to interact with District Directors for first hand information from the grassroots. The main issues proposed for discussion can be found in the Preliminary Education Sector Performance Report 2008; based on discussions the following are some of the Recommendations from the technical groups:

- **Management group** recommendations: School Management and Accountability: leadership and management training package to be included in (1) pre-service curriculum, and (2) for those already at post through In-service training. Also a performance agreement between District Directors and Head teachers to strengthen accountability is to be signed. Teacher Deployment: Distribution – all new teachers to be posted to rural areas. Also existing teacher deployment models developed with the support of JICA to be used for teacher redistribution to ease the excesses and shortages in the current postings. Retention – higher salaries (% of salaries) to be paid to those serving in deprived districts and the deprived districts list to be reviewed. EMIS (Education Management Information Systems): to have its own budget line, more people from the districts (e.g. District Education Office’s Statisticians / Mathematics teachers) to be trained, a school count exercise to be done for a true picture of the number of schools / pupils in Ghana (both public and private). Monitoring: develop a Monitoring and Evaluation plan with the new ESP due June 2009. The Monitoring and evaluation plan to include: clearly defined roles and responsibilities for all of the Ministries Divisions and Agencies, clear reporting lines, validation (spot checks for regions, districts and schools).  

As space would not permit within this newsletter, the other recommendations from the NESAR would be circulated separately.
INSET project progress report from Mr. NAGUMO and team

Progress of task; (1) the nationwide dissemination seminar to sensitise all District Director’s of Education to INSET was held in the regional capitals in June 08, a workshop to revise Sourcebook Module 3 was also held on 28th - 30th July 08, as well as the project’s terminal evaluation having been carried out in June/July 2008. The Terminal Evaluation ended with a stakeholders meeting to present the findings of the evaluation – the meeting was positive with all in attendance agreeing to continue dialogue as to the next steps towards expanding the INSET model nationwide. The project was deemed successful with the following findings: (1) **Relevance**: High because – (i) Government of Ghana (GoG) recognizes the importance of INSET and INSET activities are included in the Education Strategic Plan (ESP) 2008 review, (ii) District level interviews also pointed to a high need for INSET, (iii) Establishing a replicable INSET system which capacitates the district level at a minimum cost is relevant to Ghana’s needs, (iv) INSET is ideal for teachers to share ideas.

(2) **Effectiveness**: High because (i) Management capacity of National INSET Unit (NIU) and District INSET Committees (DIC) are strengthened, (ii) Materials produced are appropriate, and (iii) Monitoring system is functioning - districts reports are done, even though there are some challenges such as; constraint of fuel, delay in submitting of information.

(3) **Efficiency**: High because (i) INSET system is designed based on minimum cost for sustainability, (ii) Previous materials developed by STM project were used and Counterparts (CPs) capacitated by STM contribute as National Trainers (NT) and District Teacher Support Teams (DTST), (iii) The project reactivated the DTSTs originally formulated by DFID’s Whole School Development project, and (iv) Equipment provided is in good condition.

(4) **Impact**: High because (i) Ghana Education Service (GES) has secured the necessary budget for nationwide expansion and expansion processes already underway (ii) With continuous INSET, teachers’ skills measured by the performance standards are expected to be improved compared to the results of the base-line survey, (iii) One district (the 11th district) started implementing INSET with its own initiative and budget, and (iv) Pupils are very interested in the activity-based lessons with TLMs. However, for pupil’s academic performance in future, quality aspects of SBI/CBI need to be strengthened.

(5) **Sustainability**: moderately high because (i) The ESP revision process has factored in the JICA INSET model, (ii) Although the budget for the next three years is planned, approval has to be sought yearly, (iii) Schools can use capitation grant for SBI/CBI, but the grant is overstretched, (iv) The “11th pilot district, one district implementing INSET by itself, (v) District and school level stakeholders are still motivated to organise School or Cluster Based INSET (SBI/CBI) (vi) However, from field observations, in some SBI/CBI sessions, teachers’ attitude seems not to be active, and most of the comments exchanged doesn’t lead to the improvement of the lesson quality.

Aside from the evaluation and looking ahead to the next month; training for National trainers, and orientation and sourcebook training for existing and newly appointed Head Teachers and Circuit Supervisors are planned. Please keep visiting the project website (Japanese) for more info: [http://project.jica.go.jp/ghana/0604654/02/news.php](http://project.jica.go.jp/ghana/0604654/02/news.php)

Some more interesting fact(s)

- In keeping with the holiday theme, did you know; France is the top destination in the world for tourists, accounting for 11 percent of all tourist arrivals worldwide. [source: www.nationmaster.com/facts.php ]

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

Progress of task from June to July: (1) project activities and budget for the fiscal year 2008/2009 were set, and (2) to establish a good rapport with government, industrial people and the media, visits were made to media houses to
introduce the JICA TVETS Project, as well as keeping informed of COTVET staff recruitment and arrangements being made for a COTVET office. A training workshop on Occupational Standard Generation was held in June and another on Specification /Unit Writing in July, the Baseline Survey results were compiled, as well as taking inventory at Accra Polytechnic and NVTI. Planned Activities for August include: (1) Briefing new COTVET staff about the project as soon as they are appointed, (2) Drafting Guides to Certification, (3) Printing the workshop’s report and (4) Printing the Baseline Survey report. Also equipment provided to one of the project pilot institutes; NVTI-PTC (National Vocational Training Institute – Pilot Training Centre), was officially handed over by the JICA Ghana Resident Representative, Mr. Kunihiro Yamauchi to the Director of NVTI Mr. Stephen Amponsah in an official ceremony in July at NVTI-PTC.

**JICA supports NVTI to celebrate 30 years of Technical and Vocational Education and Training**

Think of Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Ghana, and one of the main providers that would come to mind would be the NVTI, which turns 30 this year. JICA as one of the main stakeholders supporting the TVET sector with the TVETS project is proud to be associated with NVTI, especially as one of the NVTI centres at Kokomlemle is a pilot centre for the project. As such JICA Ghana supported NVTI in celebrating its 30th birthday by providing books to the winners of a quiz, as well as the TVETS project Chief Advisor Mr. Kimura making a presentation at a Symposium on “the role of the donor community in Technical and Vocational Education”. Images of the celebrations are below:

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<tr>
<th>The Dep. Minister of Education (Pre-Tertiary)</th>
<th>The selection of books on General Electricals and Mechanical Engineering provided by JICA for the Quiz winners</th>
<th>Mr. Kimura, Chief Advisor of the JICA TVETS project making a presentation at the NVTI</th>
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<td>Mrs. Angela Baiden with a COTVET board member at the NVTI launching ceremony</td>
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**News / what's happening in the Education Sector group (JICA Ghana)**

- Update on the just ended Capacity Development in Educational Planning project: although we have approval for an expert dispatch as a follow up to this project, we are yet to receive a positive response from the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports as to how we proceed. We will keep you updated with any new information.
- The Proposed School Construction project is on hold: The information received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan is that the **Grant Aid for Community Empowerment scheme has been suspended worldwide until further notice**. This is due to the fact that JICA Japan had requested the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to relook at the rules and regulations of the Grant Aid for Community Empowerment scheme. Whilst the review continues, all projects under the Grant Aid for Community Empowerment scheme are to be put on hold.

**Useful website:** 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](http://www.jica.go.jp/ghana/english/others/index.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 **hot topic** in this issue, the address to use is: [gn_osn_rep@jica.go.jp](mailto:gn_osn_rep@jica.go.jp) Thank you.