Hello all and welcome to the New JICA edition of the Edu newsletter. You will find in this October edition; the latest information from the Education programme - with progress reports from the projects, interesting thoughts, upcoming events, and of course the hot topic of the month. Hope this newsletter finds you well, enjoy the read, 😊 Mama.

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**Hot topic: New JICA . . . what’s in store? (continued from the last Edu issue)**

Apart from the new logo (on the top left side of this newsletter), the new complimentary cards, and some changes in job titles such as the Resident Representative now being the Chief Representative, the Deputy Resident Representative now the Senior Representative, and the Assistant Resident Representatives now being Representatives, the impact of New JICA on Ghana is gradually trickling in.

Just to give you a brief background to New JICA; the most recent ODA reorganization began in 2005 when the then Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi launched an ambitious plan not only to downsize the administrative apparatus of ODA, but at the same time make it more responsive and cost effective for the taxpayer. Finally, this month, New JICA has been launched with big expectations from all over the world.

**International Responsibilities** – Mrs Sadako Ogata, President of New JICA, and a former High Commissioner for the U.N. Refugee Agency (UNHCR), began structural and project changes within JICA even before the merger was finalized. She shifted more staff to field operations and encouraged wider field participation in identifying and shaping relevant projects. A concept called ‘human security’ which Mrs. Ogata helped to formulate in the 1990s has been increasingly incorporated into JICA programs. While acknowledging the ongoing importance of top-down large-scale and nationwide infrastructure programs such as road building, human security emphasizes a ‘bottom up’ grass-roots approach, giving local citizens and communities a greater say and role in education, health and economic projects which directly benefit them.

Going forward, Mrs. Ogata said New JICA will work on the principle of the three SSSs; speed up, scale up and spread out: 1. Speeding up the overall aid process from project identification to implementation; 2. Scaling up pilot projects into highly effective programs and 3. Spreading out our current activities meaning closer cooperation with agencies such as the World Bank and ensuring that projects produce effective results such as job creation.

Keep watching this space for more information in subsequent editions of the Edu Newsletter. [Source: JICA, News from the Field www.jica.go.jp/english/news/field/2008/081001.html]
INSET project progress report from Mr. NAGUMO and team

Progress of task from Sept to date: (1) the coordinating meeting with District INSET Coordinators was held on 19th / 20th Sept 08 at GESDI as scheduled, to report the project’s progress, collect implementation data and to introduce the 3rd edition of Module 3. (2) Also the 4th and final Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) meeting was held on 14th Oct. at M-Plaza Hotel to share information on the project’s progress, the nationwide expansion of INSET from year 2009, and to seek a way forward. 62 participants in all attended the JCC (3) Procedures are still underway to complete the sending of counterpart personnel to training in Japan for the JICA Long term training: “Masters in Educational Development”, from April 2009 to March 2011, in an effort to continually build the capacity of INSET providers. (4) The final report of the project is also under preparation, and the pilot project is due to end 14th November 2008.

For more information, visit the project website (Japanese) http://project.jica.go.jp/ghana/0604654/02/news.php

Some more interesting thought(s)

Twenty years ago, 22 members of the OECD/DAC accounted for 95% of total aid to developing countries. Today, aid to developing countries is delivered via more than 150 multilateral agencies, 33 bilateral members of the OECD/DAC, at least 10 non-DAC governments and a growing number of global Vertical Funds. The number of donors per country has multiplied threefold in two decades. Some developing countries have more than 700 active (sometimes very small) projects and receive more than 400 missions a year, each with its own specific requirements. Aid channeled through bilateral as opposed to multilateral institutions would roughly be in the proportion 70/30.

In theory, proliferation should not in itself necessarily be negative. New players bring fresh air, resources, innovation, new tools and naturally some competition which in principle, should have driven costs down and improved delivery. But is this happening?


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

Matters of importance: progress on COTVET Organization – Mr. Daniel Baffour Awuah, Executive Director (designate) of COTVET will be appointed soon. The president approved the appointment of Mr. Daniel Baffour Awuah as the Executive Director in September, but the process of officially being appointment by the Public Service Commission is still under way.

Progress of Project activities for Sept/Oct: (a) Kept track of the recruitment of management staff of COTVET, (b) Kept track of arrangements for a COTVET office, (c) Conducted a training workshop on Occupational Standard Generation for NVTI, and (d) Continued working on printing the Baseline Survey results, (e) Distributed 100 copies of the new project brochures through a Ghana Employer’s Association meeting to introduce the project, and (f) Completing processes to send 8 counterparts (selected from COTVET, TVED of GES, ATTC, Accra Poly, NVTI and NAPTEX) to Japan for training on technical education management, and teaching methods and curriculum of TVET.

Planned Activities for October/November 2008: (a) Organizing Occupational Standard Generation workshops for ATTC and Accra Polytechnic, (b) Briefing new COTVET staff about the project as soon as they are officially appointed, (c) Printing the Standard Generation workshop’s report, and (d) Complete printing the Baseline Survey report.
A JOCV awarded one of the Best Teacher Awards

Mr. Naotsugu WAKABAYASHI, a JOCV (Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers) Science and Math teacher assigned to Dahin Sheli Junior High School in the Northern Region was awarded in the ‘Best foreign volunteer teacher’ category at the just ended Best Teacher Awards. Mr. WAKABAYASHI was awarded because he was deemed to be an earnest teacher, with excellent skills in organizing practical lessons, and continually organizing study lessons for teachers in his school, as well as supporting surrounding schools to assist in improving their student’s calculation abilities. The awards ceremony took place on 7th October 2008 at Sunyani, below are selected images from the ceremony:

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

- Plans are underway to take the seminar on Elementary School Education in Japan, after its very successful run at Akatsi Teacher Training College and Avatime Secondary School, to the Hohoe District for all 71 Primary and Junior High school teachers and head teachers within the area. The event is being supported by Mr. Sylvester Adzamli, an ex-training participant on Math’s & Science Education in Japan, and being hosted by Have Technical Institute, which happens to be at a central location for all within the district. The seminar which introduces Japanese primary education by following a day in the life of an elementary School in Kyoto, aids discussions amongst teachers on alternative practices in education, helps them review their teaching methods and encourages best practices for teaching in schools. The tentative date/time for the seminar is Nov. 14th 2008 – 9.30 to 1.30pm.

Useful website(s)

- “Ideas for Development” is an international Blog meant to stimulate debate on development issues: www.ideas4development.org/en/
- 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

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_osorep@jica.go.jp Thank you.