



Ho! ManaBU Project Newsletter

Project on Improving Access to Quality Primary Education by Community Participation

No.5 <November 2010>

Akkan Jirtu! Hello, everyone! After long and cold rainy season, we have finally had a lovely sunshine here in Addis Ababa. The new school year has started, and we see many children going to school with big smile. Ho! ManaBU Newsletter No 5 brings you the latest news on our activities in September and October 2010.

Ho! ManaBU project participated in the Annual Education Festival

The Oromia Regional Education Festival took place at Aba Gada Hall, the Oromia Regional Hall in Nazaret on September 20 and 21. This annual event, organised by Oromia Education Bureau (OEB), is an open forum for all the educators in Oromia region at various levels where participants share the important issues and pay tribute to the efforts of organisations and individuals for quality education. This year, hundreds of education officials and teachers in Oromia region came all the way to attend the Festival. Ho! ManaBU was also invited to the Festival following the last year and we took part in this two day event.



One of the highlights of the Festival this year was an education exhibition. Many zonal education offices and special towns presented the education development of their area by displaying the charts and tables while Asella College of Teacher Education demonstrated various teaching materials. Ho! ManaBU displayed a wide range of colourful materials and video which attracted curious glance from participants.

They took a look at demonstration 'Raise Awareness of Drop-out', one of the Ho! ManaBU Training and our work displayed at the hall with great interest. This was a very good opportunity for us to promote Ho! ManaBU to wider circle of educators in Oromia and we are obliged to OEB for giving us such a chance.

On the second day, honourable guests including Ato. Demeke Mekonnen, Minister of Education and Obbo. Abdul Aziz, Vice president of Oromia Regional State were invited and they presented the awards to the schools, teachers and students of the best performance. This was followed by the award presentation to development partners and JICA was presented the cup along with other organisations. Working with schools and communities in Oromia itself is very rewarding and we are extremely honoured that our work is acknowledged in this way. Galatooma!



Learning from schools and communities in Oromia region - what is different from other Sub-Saharan countries?

JICA Hokuriku, one of JICA centres in Japan has organised the Training 'Improving of school management in Sub-Saharan Africa' since 2006. The training course entered the second phase last year, and it was held in Japan and Ethiopia from 30 August to 15 October this year.

12 participants from Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi and Zambia first took part in the five week core phase in Japan, and flew over to Addis Ababa on 10 October to continue the Third County Phase.

During their four day stay in this country, the participants, accompanied by Prof. Toshiharu Tanabe, a course leader and Ms. Tsutayo Kimizu of JICA Hokuriku, learned good practice of school management in Oromia region through discussion with OEB officials, school visit, and discussion with teachers and community members of the schools.

The group seemed truly impressed by the active community participation in the two schools they visited. The first school was Limat Behibret primary school in Asella special town, one of the 104 Ho! ManaBU pilot schools. Limat Behibret demonstrates good teamwork of a school director, key teacher and CRC supervisor and has been actively implementing Ho! ManaBU Training. The participants were amazed that there were so many female participants and wondered if females in Ethiopia could play a part in decision-making. One of the community members said, 'Mothers are closer to their children and can work together with school. As time changes, people have gradually accepted the idea that female are as capable as male, and more and more female are now in the senior position.' Other participants also questioned how the school attracted the community to the Training. 'The community had been first reluctant to take part in the Training and the school also had thought it would be additional work.'



However, the community members who had participated in the Training are now more aware of the importance of education and become more cooperative with school. We also see the Training as a part of our activities for school improvement.'

The second school was the legendary Deya Debeso primary school in Herosa woreda, Arsi zone. The primary school was constructed by community members with support of Japan's Grant Assistance of Grass-roots Human Security Project four years ago. Learning the importance of participatory approach from ManaBU model, the community members took part in this school project from the very beginning and completed the school in amazing 45 days!! The community participation extended to volunteer work of building school fence, teachers' accommodation, additional classrooms and so on. Their commitment and passion for 'school for our children' is now realised as zero drop-out. The participant from Ghana commented, '*The active community participation at Deya Debeso reminded me of our community in the old days. I will make a plan and work to improve our partnership with them after I go back.*'



Back to their countries, the participants are now expected to implement the action plan they made during the training in respective country. The two participants from Ethiopia (Head of West Wellega ZEO and Head of Guliso WEO) are planning to develop data management capacity for quality education at school levels. Ho! ManaBU would like to express our gratitude to OEB and the two schools that cooperated for this training course despite very busy time. We also wish the participants from the four countries all the best for their good work in their country!

'Discover our school' try-out started

The Training of Trainers for Ho! ManaBU Training is just round the corner and the forth Interactive Training Package (ITP) 'Discover our school' is now in the process of finalising. For the meantime, Ho! ManaBU team is trying out the newly developed ITP to see how it works at school level in cooperation with two schools - Deya Debedo primary school in Hetosa woreda, Arsi zone and Bole primary school in Debra Zeit Special Town.



In the second year, the Ho! ManaBU Training focuses on 'analysing the school environment by school' (Part 1) and 'sharing the issue and discussing how to work on it among school and community members' (Part2). At the try-out, the participants responded well and the Training went quite smoothly. At the same time, it was also identified that some modifications mainly of the procedure of the Training would be necessary to bring about better outputs. Based on the feedback, the project team is now modifying the materials, checking every single part of the Training manual and finalising them. We are looking forward to sharing our new ITP with Ho! ManaBU partners very soon!



Ho! ManaBU computer at school...finally!

Ho! ManaBU project team is glad to report that the delivery of the Ho! ManaBU computer set (desktop computer, printer, generator and stabiliser) to Ho! ManaBU target WEO/STEO has been completed by August 2010 and the equipments are now being used at Ho! ManaBU pilot CRCs. We hope the Ho! ManaBU computer set will help school to manage data, documents and to produce learning materials more efficiently. We are keen to learn how the CRCs utilise the computer. Let us know good practice of your school!



Galatooma, Obbo. Dereje Asfaw and welcome, Obbo. Eshetu Dessie, to OEB!

Obbo. Dereje Asfaw, the former head of OEB left office in October 2010. Obbo. Dereje has worked at OEB more than seven years and has played a pivotal role in education development in Oromia region. Obbo. Dereje also has been working closely with JICA and managed various educational projects including ManaBU, Ho! ManaBU, SMAPP and school building construction. Ho! ManaBU team would like to express our deep gratitude for his dedication to the work and tremendous support to our projects. Obbo. Dereje is now entering the global arena as an ambassador. We wish him all the best in his new job.

Let us also welcome Obbo. Eshetu Dessie as the new head, and Obbo. Fite Abera Wako as the new deputy head of OEB who works along with another deputy head, Obbo. Marga Feysa Tufa. Ho! ManaBU team is honoured to continue to work with OEB under the new management. We look forward to go to field and to monitor Ho! ManaBU Training at school with the head and the deputy heads soon.