



Ho! ManaBU Newsletter

To meet the smile of children!

Attitude change and leadership are the key!

- Interview with Obo Daba, head of OEB -

We are pleased to inform you that the third issue of our educational magazine 'ODA' has been published. We started publishing ODA magazine last year, aiming to provide a forum for sharing good practices as well as concerns on educational issues among educators. The third issue of ODA features an interview with Obo Daba Debele. The head of Oromia Education Bureau (OEB) tells us about OEB's work, his vision for educational development and his enthusiasm about the training in Japan in which he takes part in this month.

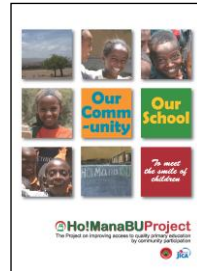


In his interview, Obo Daba emphasises the importance of leadership and attitude change of those who are involved in school management - not only school directors, but also CRC (Cluster Resource Centre) supervisors, PTA, parents and community. He also stresses the critical role of education for the national development and shares his vision for education development in Oromia region. According to Obo Daba, OEB is planning to expand access to



general education by building more schools, to deliver quality education by employing and training more teachers. Obo

Daba also shares his excitement of participating in the training in Japan. He is very keen to learn about the leadership of Japan which has brought the success and prosperity to Japan after the second world war. The third issue of ODA magazine will be delivered to you together with Ho! ManaBU poster and the 2012 calendar very soon.



The third issue of ODA magazine (above) and Ho! ManaBU poster (left) will be delivered to schools and WEO/TAE0 very soon.

OEB Initiative announced

- The fifth JSC Meeting held -

The fifth Ho! ManaBU Joint Steering Committee (JSC) Meeting was held on 20th September at the Red Cross Training Centre in Addis Ababa. The aim of this JSC was to announce the regional dissemination plan of Ho! ManaBU Training, or 'the OEB Initiative' and to discuss the way forward with stakeholders. 23 officials from federal and regional governments and the Project target Zonal Education Offices participated in this important meeting.

The meeting started with the opening speech by Obo Merga Feysa, deputy head of OEB. He praised the achievements of Ho! ManaBU Project and



Obo G/Michael and Obo Getachew presented OEB Initiative (above). The participants enjoyed participating in Ho! ManaBU Training 'Drop-out' (below)

showed great determination to implement the OEB Initiative. Following the Project progress report, the outline of OEB initiative was presented by Obo Gable Michael, the head of Planning department and Obo Getachew, an expert of TDP department. At discussion session after demonstration

Ho! ManaBU means 'community-based school management'.

'Ho!' is abbreviation of an afaan Oromo word 'Hoggansa', referring to 'management'. 'ManaBU' stands for **Mana** Barnoota Ummataa in Afaan Oromo, meaning 'community-based school'. 'まなぶ/manabu' also means 'to learn' in Japanese.

of Ho! ManaBU Training, the participants raised the questions including the relevancy of the distribution strategy of the Training materials, monitoring and so on. OEB answered to each of the points and assured the participants that OEB would take responsibility for managing the OEB Initiative. Mr. Koji Ota, the Representative of JICA Ethiopia Office, gave the closing remarks and expressed his fascination for Ho! ManaBU Project and his dream of seeing Ho! ManaBU Training disseminated not only in Ethiopia but also in all over the world.

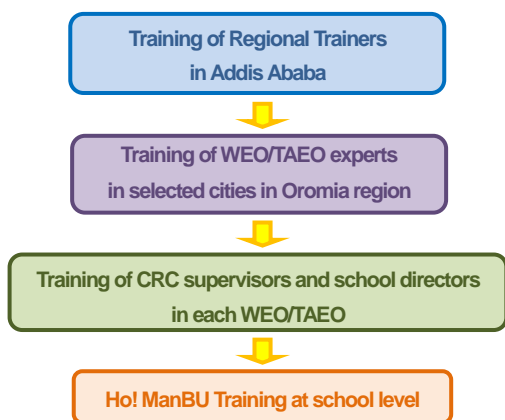
The JSC meeting was very successful in the sense that the OEB Initiative was announced by OEB and the idea was well received by the stakeholders. The Project will continue to work with OEB for the OEB Initiative implementation.

Gearing up for OEB Initiative

- The Training of Regional Trainers organised -

Under the OEB Initiative, Ho! ManaBU Training facilitators (CRC supervisors and school directors) are trained through the cascading system as below.

Ho! ManaBU Cascading Training System



To begin with, OEB and Ho! ManaBU Project jointly organised the Training of Regional Trainers at the Red Cross Training Centre in Addis Ababa from 25th to 27th October. The purpose of the training is to train the potential trainers so that they could train Woreda and Town Administration Education Office (WEO/TAEO) experts as a regional trainer at Training of WEO/TAEO experts. 56 participants including WEO/TAEO experts, CRC supervisors and school directors who have good experiences of Ho! ManaBU Training facilitation and management and focal persons from all the 17 zones and Oromia special

zone took part in the three day intensive training and developed the skills and knowledge as regional trainers. From OEB, Obo Gable Michael, Obo Assagid, head of Accrediation department and Obo Yusof, an expert of Curriculum department joined us and supervised the participants at each session.

Meanwhile, the Project also supports OEB to arrange 770 sets of Ho! ManaBU Training materials which will be used at school. We are now busy with the final preparation for loading the materials which will be distributed to CRC via WEO/TAEO. We will update you on the news!



The participants were given Ho! ManaBU jacket and umbrella by OEB on the final day of the training

Mid-term report on 'Discover our school' Training

- More than 5,500 people participated! -

Ho! ManaBU Training 'Discover our school' (DOS) has been implemented at many pilot schools since December 2010. DOS Training consists of two parts. Part 1 facilitates school staff to conduct research about their school and to analyse the situation. Part 2 is open to community and they learn the research findings and analysis through game-style training, discuss how to improve the situation with school staff. Let us look at some of the achievements and challenges based on the reports submitted and our monitoring.



<Achievements>

- Part 1 and Part 2 sessions have been implemented 66 and 51 times respectively (as of 9th Nov. 2011).
- More than 5,500 community and school staff members participated in the Training.
- Researching and analysing the school environment (Part 1) helps teachers to understand the situation of their own school more.
- The game style training (Part 2) helps community to learn basic information and key issues about their school such as facilities, drop-out rate and allocation of female teachers.
- The Training helps community to develop a sense of ownership.

<Challenges>

- There is a long interval between Part 1 and 2.
- Analytical skill of teachers is underdeveloped.
- Facilitation skills including the proper use of the Training materials, facilitation of discussion, time management need to be improved.
- The wrong use of report formats.
- Teachers as well as community are reluctant to take part in the Training.

Many schools comment that Part 1 is comprehensive and helpful for teachers to develop their research skills and to learn about their school environment. On the other hand, other schools say that it adds teachers' workload and it is difficult to get them involved. Consequently, it affects the implementation of Part 2. The Project will carry out more systematic and in-depth monitoring of the DOS Training very soon. We will learn more about the outputs of the DOS Training through the monitoring results.

Ho! ManaBU and JOCV were popular!

- The annual regional Education Festival -

The annual regional Education Festival was held at *Aba Geda* Hall in Adama (Nazaret) from 22nd to 25th August. Along with hundreds of educators, Ho! ManaBU took part in the four day Festival.

At the education exhibition hall, Ho! ManaBU Project joined Adama Town Administration Education Office, secondary schools and Asella Teachers

Training College, and displayed the wide range of Ho! ManaBU Training materials and visual materials. Demonstration of Ho! ManaBU Trainings also drew attention of visitors. Next to the Ho! ManaBU booth, science teachers of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) demonstrated 'Science Show' by using locally available materials. Both booths were very popular and attracted hundreds of visitors including Obo Daba, Obo Merga and an honourable guest, Obo Eshetu, the former Head of OEB.



On the final day of the Festival, several schools were awarded for their good practice of school improvement activities and community participation. Some of the schools were Ho! ManaBU pilot schools. Congratulations, Ho! ManaBU schools!

Galaatoomaa, Fira!

- Fira has left after 5 and half year work in Oromia -

July 1 was a very sad day for Ho! ManaBU Project. Mr. Takashi Nobe or Fira, as widely known, left for Japan on 1 July after nearly three years' assignment as a chief advisor of Ho! ManaBU Project. Obo Daba hosted the farewell party for Fira and many OEB staff members joined the party in Sululta. Prior to Ho! ManaBU, Fira had worked for ManaBU project for nearly two and a half years. His dedication to education development in Oromia region was praised by OEB members. Fira will be greatly missed by all of us. Galaatoomaa, Fira!



Mr. Nobe with Obo Daba (left) and Obo Merga (right)