



Education International

Africa Regional Bulletin

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EIRAF New Office

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The new EIRAF staff in front of 24 Tanbu Street.

EI Africa Regional office finally moved to Accra in April. The office, which has been in Lome, Togo for the last 15 years, is now located found at 24 Tambo Street, East Legon Accra- Ghana.

Before the office moved, The EI Africa Regional Committee (EIARC) held its regional meeting from the 15th to 18th March 2009 at Ghis Palace hotel in Lome-Togo, with the participation of the committee members, Mr. Charlie Lennon, the Deputy General Secretary and Mr. Pai Obanya, a member of the Experts Committee who gave the key note address.



Members of the EIARC and other guests pose for a Photograph with the Ministry of Education Representative (2nd right front row)

The new Education International Africa office is close to Kotoka International Airport and eight Kilometres from the City Centre. This lends easy access to the airport especially with the sometimes unbearable traffic jams of Accra. The moving of course ends the diligent and long service of the staff like Simon Ayivor the

receptionist, Rodrigue Amegnaglo (accounts Officer), Chantal Assi (Office Assistant), and Gisele Azaglo (Bilingual Secretary), who could not move to Ghana.

The office has acquired new staff. Anais Dayamba joins EIRAF as Project Officer for AWEN, Rosette Sitti as professional Assistant, and Israel Jones Fiagbe the Assistant accountant, and Edward Humado as the Administration and Finance

Officer. The new receptionist is Odile Abra Afegbedzi, Yossa Kombate Nene is the new Bilingual Secretary and Franklin Davson is the office Assistant.

They join the old staff of the Chief Coordinator (Assibi Napoe), Emmanuel Fatoma, Samuel Ngoua Ngou, Rita Quaynor, and Richard Etonu Eringu.

EI AFRICA REGIONAL Committee (EIARC)

The regional African Committee of Education International (CRAIE) held its regional meeting from the 15th to 18th March 2009 in Lome-Togo, with the participation of the committee members, Mr. Charlie Lennon, the Deputy General Secretary and Mr. Pai Obanya, a member of the Experts Committee who gave the key note address.

In accordance with the rotation system established by the committee, the African Regional Conference will be held in 2011 in Central Africa. Necessary steps are being taken to select the host country.

The Committee deliberated on the impact of the emerging global economic challenges on Education provision and the corporate responsibility to face the challenges and sustaining the unity and strength of member organisations. Consequently recommendations were made for member organisation to: support stronger union integration with emphasis on South-South Cooperation; help colleagues in crisis or difficulties; infiltrate the education policy making domain, monitor and research on the development trend of education policies internationally and locally and make the requisite interventions; get back to the basics of union work such as mobilization, collective bargaining and union rights; and honour their obligations in paying their EI contribution on time and that all pending payments be settled to enable the Regional office provide other services. It was also recommended that EI be cognisant of the unprecedented multiplicity of Teacher Organisations in some member countries and take appropriate measures to curb the trend; continues to provide

training for the leadership of member organisations; takes into account suggestions made by the Regional Committee regarding programmes and budgets for the Region, in particular for such programs to reflect the real needs of the member organisations.

To EIRAF the Committee recommended that: the Finance office of EIRAF provides a more comprehensive report on the collection of dues and this be accompanied with notes to the Accounts; develops and coordinates an African Agenda at EI Congress; and seeks observer status in African Union.

EIRAF Zonal meeting

The first ever zonal meeting of Education International was hosted by NTAL from the 12 -13th February 2009 in Monrovia, Liberia. Zone two consists of teacher's organisations from Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Cape Verde, Senegal, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The meeting which was held at Corina Hotel in Sinkor-Monrovia was officially opened by the Deputy Minister of Education, responsible for instructions, Madam Hester Williams- Katakaw. She commended Education International for convening the meeting in Monrovia which as she put it was a vote of confidence in NTAL.

EI PAN — AFRICAN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



A cross section of the participants of the Early Childhood Seminar held in Accra from 28th to 30th September 2009.

Education International held an Early Childhood Education Seminar in Accra, Ghana from 29-30 September 2009. The seminar, whose theme was “**Quality Early Childhood Education: Every Child’s Right**”, was attended by representatives of EI member organizations from 14 countries in Africa, members of the EI ECE Task Force and representatives of sister teacher unions in Europe. UN agencies and partners from civil society also took part in the seminar which was hosted by the Ghana National Association of Teachers (GNAT) and supported by the Danish Federation of Early Childhood Teachers and Youth Educators (BUPL) of Denmark, Laraforbundet of Sweden, Union of Education Norway (UEN) and the National Education Association (NEA) of the United States.

The Minister of Education in Ghana Alex Tettey-Enyo, in his opening remarks of the seminar, urged governments in Africa and elsewhere to prioritize ECE in their planning and budgeting. The Ministry of Women and Children, other government departments, the Chairperson of the EI Task Force, UNICEF and other stakeholders addressed the opening ceremony which was made more colourful by performances by pre-school children.

Mister Cyril Dalais, Advisor of Ministry of education of Mauritius and former consultant for UNICEF, delivered the keynote address in which he stressed that ECE should be holistic and future intervention should bring the child back to the centre of ECE.

Experiences exchanged by the various countries revealed that ECE is becoming a priority in a number of

African countries. However low access to ECE services, limited funding, shortage of qualified teachers, and the increased number of orphans due to HIV/AIDS were an impediment to the provision of ECE.

The Seminar recommended that Governments should prioritize ECE in their policy-making, planning and budgeting with a view to increasing access and improving the quality of ECE services for young children.

Another recommendation required teacher unions and their members to get conversant with the provisions of international instruments governing child rights, education and early childhood education.

EI and its member organizations should engage in advocacy activities with governments, the World Bank, United Nations’ institutions, the Sub regional institutions and other stakeholders using various strategies including media, workshops, and publications.

It was agreed that the report of the seminar be disseminated among EI member organizations and other stakeholders. On the basis of the report union leadership should come up with concrete follow up plans. They also felt that EI Africa Regional Committee/ Conference should take up the recommendations and consider establishing a Working Group and developing a Regional Policy on ECE.



Pre-Primary School children entertain guest to the rich cultures of the various regions of Ghana

Zimbabwe one time boasted one of the best education systems in Africa. This no longer holds due to a series of problems that hit this one time prosperous country.

Things seem to have come to a peak after the failed elections of 2008. Elections were held and because there was no outright winner, which was boycotted by the opposition which had earned higher votes. The opposition boycotted the re-run on the grounds that people were being harassed to support the party of ZANU PF which had been the ruling party. The situation deteriorated into violence. According to the PTUZ General Secretary, Raymond Majongwe, seven teachers were killed on the grounds that they were supporters of the MDC. Many schools were also taken over by militia loyal to the ZANU PF. Many teachers were harassed and others dis-



ZIMTA officials pose before a consignment of office consumables donated by Lararforbundet at the Parktonian Hotel, Johannesburg. Office stationery which ZIMTA took for granted not so long ago was difficult commodity for the union to afford as the members did not earn a meaningful salary. Teachers were paid less than 2 US\$. The stationery helped them organise the annual conference in April 2009.

placed all together. All their families and meet this was happening other bills. The dollar amidst a lot of economic exchanged for quant-hardships and according trillions of ZIM dollars. to ZIMTA about 20,000 Many teachers could teachers left the service for no longer afford to col-greenier pastures in lect their salaries as it neighbouring countries. was not enough for the transport. The problem

The economic situation was accentuated with left all sectors broken the lack of commodi-down including educa-ties. Even when they tion. Teachers could not be had the money they paid a meaningful salary. simply could not buy The currency lost value the basics. and the teachers were The situation took its earning less than two dol-toll on the unions as lars a month. The teachers well since the member-could hardly afford trans- ship dues were worth- port to work let alone feed less. The unions could

no longer pay their staff and run the union functions. The unions could not hold meetings and conferences and keep communication with their membership.

Some hope was restored with formation of the Government of National Unity.

A multi-currency system was introduced and the local currency which had become worthless was replaced by mainly the US dollar and the south African rand. The teachers and all the other public workers were paid 100 US\$ per month as an allowance. In the more affluent urban areas parents supplemented the teachers pay with incentives but 70 % of the teachers were not benefiting from such incentives. The allowance has been increased to 155 and is now called a salary.

(Continued on page 8)



A cross section of teachers in a ZIMTA study circle in Zimbabwe. The teachers use the study circles to discuss development issues.

Parktonian Accord Renewed



EI Vice-President, Irene Duncan Adanusa and Dede Amanor-Wilks, AA International Director for Africa Launched the Education Financing Tool Kit.

From the 1st and 2nd October 2009, 65 delegates from 20 countries gathered in Accra, representing Education International (EI), teacher unions, ActionAid (AA) and national education coalitions. Delegates came from Benin, Burkina Faso, Congo, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Zambia, South Africa, India and Nepal, Belgium and UK.

The purpose of the meeting was to review progress on the Parktonian agreements reached between EI and AA in Johannesburg in April 2006 and plan a way forward for deepening partnerships between EI, teacher unions, ActionAid and education coalitions – at national, regional and international levels. The delegates built a collective capacity on education finance issues and a new toolkit on Education Financing produced by AA and EI was launched.

The meeting shared feedback from the countries on the areas agreed upon in the Accord. These areas included; Macro-Economics and Education Finance, Non-Professional Teachers, Gender and Education, HIV and Education, school level governance, Privatisation and Public Education, and the Code of Ethics for teachers.

The issues of Early Childhood Education, Adult literacy

especially for women, the right to education – legal and constitutional rights were emphasized as new areas with potential for collaboration in.

Successes in the collaboration were sighted in which Action Aid and teacher unions had successfully worked together on to build capacity to support teacher unions, influenced national constitutions, carried out research, mobilized other CSOs into the education coalition on teacher issues, development of union budgets, adaptation of EI code of ethics into national code, education sector plans, upgrading non-professional teachers.

The country delegates agreed on the next steps at the country level and at the regional and international level, a small task team to concretise the next steps forward in implementing the Parktonian Recommendations was called for. Popular versions of the Parktonian Accord would be produced to be circulated widely. Future joint workshops would also be held in sub-regions in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Carribean. The need for fund raising was underscored to support the roll out of training.

It was also agreed to make the toolkit a major feature of the Global Action Week in April 2010 which focuses on education finance. Both Action Aid and Education International were urged to seek continued commitment for the Parktonian recommendations within their organizations.



Delegates in session acquaint themselves with the toolkit.

GENDER; AWEN and VAG



AWEN Trainers of Trainers busy with computers during the workshop

Twenty three women trainers convened at Le Baron Hotel in Accra Ghana from the 19th to 22nd October 2009. The women were leaders of the sub-regional networks of the African Women in Education Network (AWEN) brought together to further their skills in training. The workshop provided training in the use of ICT for training in which they developed and used PowerPoint presentations and searched for information using the internet. The participants were also taken through sessions on the training of adults. The workshop which was opened by the President of EIRAF and EI Vice-President Irene Duncan Adanusa was Facilitated by Adele Sock, Anais Dayamba, and Richard Etonu.

The Chief Coordinator in her remarks observed that the women programmes had come along way considering the number of women now in key leadership positions. She noted the role of Mrs Adanusa and Adele in the initiation of the programme PWE (Promotion of Women in Education) which had now transformed into the AWEN (African Women in Education Network). The workshop closed after the trainers had developed workplans for the future training.

Violence Against Girls con-

A Regional meeting between TU and NGOs on violence against girls at school was held at the Grand Hotel Mensvic, Accra, on 3rd & 4th October 2009 with the aim of building a strategic partnership between NGOs and TU in addressing gender based school violence.

The meeting intended to lay the foundations of a long term strategic and institutional collaboration with teachers unions through a minimum common action in the different sub regions

The organizations present included ANCEFA, ActionAid International (+ Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Senegal), Amnesty International (Togo, Ghana), African women network (IWN Africa), FAWE, Plan West Africa (Mali, Burkina, Ghana), Save the children (Cote D'Ivoire), UNICEF, World Vision International, Education International Regional office, National teachers Unions representatives EI Africa region / African Women in Education Network

'Violence against girls in schools' was among the seven recommendations made in the Parktonian meeting in 2006 based on the fact that Violence against girls in

schools is too often ignored and yet represents a major obstacle for girls wanting to secure their right to education.

The meeting recommended that EI and AAI should collaborate to break the silence, build conceptual understanding, undertake joint research and define clear positions, to ensure gender-based violence is addressed seriously in teacher training colleges. Curriculum review should be influenced to this end and zero tolerance should be advocated for vigorously.

The meeting aimed at exploring jointly the right ways of working together with the teachers unions to end school violence as in the quest of solution to school violence, teachers unions should be part of the solution.

The Accra meeting agreed to to put together a common forum for teachers' unions and NGOs to organize sensitization campaigns, map the violence against children. Other tasks specific to particular organizations were also identified.



Across section of the participants of the VAG consultation meeting.

EFAIDS

Unions across West Africa have had a busy first half of 2009 working on the EFAIDS Programme, and have been particularly active in the area of training and publications.

Malian union SNEC, Syndicat National de l'Éducation et Culture, organised a series of supplementary trainings on the updated EFAIDS material for existing national and regional trainers. Cascade training was subsequently organised across five districts.

In Mali, refresher courses were organised for existing national and regional trainers to familiarise them with the new EI material developed in the framework of the programme. SNEC carried out research into the state of school infrastructures which will support ongoing advocacy by the union to improve the education system in Mali.

The collective of Senegalese unions, COSSEL, working on the EFAIDS Programme, also organised training workshops on the new EFAIDS resources, this time targeting the leadership of the five unions involved, to highlight the significance of EFAIDS work for their members. Unions received technical training on software so that they are better placed to follow up on the outcomes of the 2008 school audits. The Senegalese unions continued their study on the needs of teachers living with HIV in collaboration with UNESCO and CARVEE, the network of teachers living with HIV in Senegal which was established at the initiative of the teacher unions.

Cooperating unions FSPE and SLECG launched a season of workshops with cascade training taking place in all regions of Guinea, resulting in 712 teachers in 402 schools successfully completing the sessions.

The four partner unions working together in Côte d'Ivoire conducted training sessions in 10 towns most affected by the recent civil war. Over recent months 200 teachers from 40 primary and secondary schools were trained in Ferké, Bouaké, Man, Guiglo and Katiola departments. Further workshops on gender related violence were held with national trainers and unions' women committees. Working in cooperation on policy, the four unions finalised a Code of Ethics.

Read more about activities unions throughout West Africa are carrying out under the EI EFAIDS Programme by consulting the country profiles on the EFAIDS website.



L'AT national and branch leaders joined master trainers in a workshop on the new EFAIDS training materials from 3rd—6th November at Lakeside Hotel, Maseru Lesotho



ZNUT EFAIDS officials Frank and Auster (centre) join the master trainers in June in an activity on the new materials.



ZIMTA General Secretary and Executive Secretary (maroon shirt) and Mashona Central branch officials observe an HIV/AIDS lesson in Tsungubvi Primary School.

Other speakers included Mrs Irene Duncan –Adanusa, who chaired the occasion, Madam Margaret Flomo , President of NTAL and Madam Assibi Napoe, Chief Coordinator EIRAF. In a communiqué at the end of the meeting, the members of the zone called for an improvement in our internal communication strategies and network to enhance greater cooperation, curbing the growth of splinter unions in some countries, and forging a closer links with teachers unions in the zone.

The meeting also called for the devising of realistic responses to the growing commercialization and privatization of education and engaging in strong advocacy for collective bargaining rights to improve the working and living conditions of teachers in the zone. This required designing appropriate union interventions in the provision of quality public education and frequent zonal meetings for the sharing of best practices and ideas.

Other points in the communiqué include more teaching and learning resources in schools, increased South – South cooperation within the zone to strengthen the capacities of unions by providing training for the leaders and members of affiliated organisations, and encouragement of unions in the zone to effect prompt payment of affiliation dues to enhance the execution of EI Africa programs.

Towards the end of the meeting, delegates spontane-



Raymond Majongwe, with black cap the Secretary General of PTUZ on a visit to one of the provinces. His union was particularly targeted. The officials were repeated beaten up, jailed, and in some cases killed. Under the Government of National Unity, they have been able to meet teachers in areas they could not reach be-

ously contributed the sum of USD 2100 towards the construction of NTAL head office in Monrovia.

The plight of teachers in Zimbabwe **From Page 4**

Because of the slight improvement, some teachers who had been pushed out due to economic hardships returned. The unions negotiated for an amnesty for these teachers to return to teach in the schools. This meant that the teachers who were ready to return to the system had to be charged for absconding, dismissed and then reabsorbed. ZIMTA reported that so far 448 teachers who had absconded had been reabsorbed by the September 2009 set deadline. However 1,540 who had applied are yet to be reabsorbed. Many are still hesitant to rejoin the system because the pay of 155 US\$ is still not attractive.

The Government of National Unity is considering some steps to attract children back to school. Children in rural areas are not to pay any fees. While others are to pay US \$ 5 or 10 depending on whether they are urban or peri-urban. The ZIMTA leadership however observed that free education in the rural areas would not be effective unless feeding is provided at the school for the children who come from families which are struggling to survive. The hard pressed parents prefer to keep their children at home to help them look for food.

The biggest challenge in Zimbabwe according to Oswald Madziwa of PTUZ is restoring and managing the little hope that is beginning to emerge. in the people. He appealed to the EI fraternity with similar experience of coming out similar crises. to provide any documentation of countries that emerged out of similar political crises.

The political situation is still plagued by mistrust. The Government of national unity is so fragile and one should only hope that Zimbabwe will not slide back to the situation where life had been reduced to struggling for the bare necessities while cholera, AIDS and lack of respect for human rights had become the order of the day.

WORLD TEACHERS'DAY

MAURITANIA:



A cross section of the World Teachers' Day celebrants at the SNES organized activity in Nouakchott, Mauritania.

GHANA:

Under the theme "Build the Future, Invest in Teachers Now" The World Teachers Day was celebrated in Ho, in the Volta Region of Ghana and attended by the Vice President of Ghana, Mr. John Mahama where, Ms Irene Essel, a catering teacher of the Abeka Motorway One Junior High School was adjudged the National Best Teacher at the 15th National Best Teacher Award ceremony. She received a cheque of GH¢60,000 (about USD 40,000) to put up her own house, computers and accessories, a certificate and a citation. In addition, she will be sponsored by EPP Books and Services to pursue a post graduate course in any country of her choice. Thirty six other beneficiaries across the country also received various financial, material and educational awards.

The President, Professor John Evans Atta Mills represented by his Vice President also announced that a special allowance package to teachers in deprived areas, as well as those who teach Science, Mathematics, Technical and Vocational subjects will be initiated this year as proposed in the ruling government's manifestos. The President also encouraged teachers to take advantage of distance education as a convenient alternative for upgrading themselves, since it is one of the government's motivational packages for teachers.

NIGERIA:

The World Teachers' Day celebrations in Abuja, Nigeria was co-hosted by the NUT and the Ministry Of Education. It brought together hundreds of teachers, as well as politicians and other education stakeholders from all parts of Nigeria. The guest of honour was the Head of State who was deputized by the Minister of Education, who gave a brilliant address recognizing the indomitable role of teachers in national development. Other speakers included the Acting President of NUT, the President of the Nigeria Labour Congress, Action Aid Nigeria Chapter and the Education coalition - CSACEFA. The best teacher award was a brand new Peugeot 206 car which went to the Principal of a Senior High School in Ekiti State. The second and third best went to two female teachers - A large television flat screen and a computer. Hundreds of gifts were given out by both NUT and the government. The event was climaxed by a march past of teachers from the different NUT state wings. The event was witnessed by Helena Taxell of Lararforbundet and Emanuel Fatoma of EI Africa who thereafter proceeded to participate in a leadership training workshop planning meeting with NUT Nigeria from the 4th -9th October 2009.

COTE D'IVOIRE:



To celebrate World Teachers' Day, the National Executive Board of the Syndicat National de l'Enseignement Primaire Public de Côte d'Ivoire (SNEPPCI), held a rally on 5 October at the Complexe Hôtelier «AKPARO» in Dabou. The theme this year was "Build the future: invest in teachers now"



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The Regional Bulletin is the publication of Education International Africa Region. It features news and activities of both EI and its affiliates in the African Region.

Africa is a huge region where EI's affiliated member organisations function in difficult conditions and environments, and in countries which account for the bulk of out-of-school children. EI Africa represents 120 affiliates in 50 countries, from Algeria in the north to South Africa in the south, from Sierra Leone in the west to Mauritius in the east. EI Africa works on Education For All, HIV/AIDS, Gender and Development Cooperation.

Please visit us at www.ei-ie.org/africa for more information