

REPORT ON MOTEC TRIP

Antoinette Dadzie, Projects Officer, Motec Life UK.

- Left for Accra on the 10th of April 2010 to await fellow Motec members Paul Ofori-Atta and Tomoko Iohara due to arrive on 15th April. Unfortunately the volcano erupted and air travel was suspended stranding them in London so things didn't quite go according to plan..!
- On Wednesday 21st April Elaine Bingham (fellow Motec member also stranded in Accra after a 2 week teaching assignment) and I travelled to Akosombo.
- Visited Akosombo General Hospital and met with Chief Nurse (Love Ankara)
- Went on a tour around the hospital visiting the surgical wards, x-ray department, main theatre, eye clinic, dental clinic and supplies department / stores.
- Had meeting with supplies officer who explained the procurement policies, processes and laws within the Hospital, Valco and Ghana. He further explained that majority of the hospital's purchases were procured centrally from Valco either by the local procurement manager for the Akosombo / Akuse district or by the head office in Tema.
- Met with the Medical Director of Akosombo General Hospital and discussed opportunities for Motec to assist in sourcing and procuring medical items for the hospital. What was clear was that the procurement policies adopted by the Hospital would make it difficult for Motec to assist in any purchases of medical items. The conclusion was that we would share ideas with the Hospital if and when our assistance was required. We both agreed it would be advantageous to meet the district Procurement Manager for Valco and the hospital.
- On Thursday the 22nd of April, met with the Procurement Manager to discuss how procurement is run on behalf of the hospital in Akosombo. He explained the financial thresholds and tendering processes that had to be adhered to and how that made it almost impossible for us to help with actual purchasing of medical devices on their behalf. We had several discussions about e-procurement, e-tendering and other sourcing techniques and agreed to benchmark ideas in the future. He added that we could still be of assistance for medical items that were unique and difficult to source or items with a compatibility issue that were exempt from the procurement regulations. We exchanged email addresses!
- After the meeting, Elaine Bingham and I departed Akosombo to Accra and Kotoka International Airport to board her flight back home to London.
- On Sunday 24th April 2010 I went to Kotoka International Airport to meet/greet/see off 3 nurses from Koforidua bound for Kattappana in India for training sponsored by The International Development Company of Dublin and Motec Life -UK. Had some food and drinks at the airport and took photos to mark the day.
- Returned to UK on the 1st of May

Antoinette Dadzie, May 2010