

# October 2007 Report by David Lewis

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## Motec's First Anniversary Conference

Motec held her first anniversary conference at the British Council in Accra on Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2007. The event was very well attended including the following, some of whom made remarkable speeches:

- Professor Paul Nyame - Rector of the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons. (also Chairman of the conference)
- Dr. Edem K Hiadzi - Medical Director of Lister Hospital, Accra.
- Daasebre Prof. Oti Boateng, Omanhene of the Paramount State of New Juaben.
- Dr. Paul Ofori-Atta - President of Motec Life-UK.
- Dr. E. K. Sory. Director General of Health.
- Rev. Father John Oppong - Administrator, St. Joseph's Hospital, Koforidua.
- Most Rev. Domininc K. Andoh - Emeritus Archbishop of Accra.
- Dr. Edith Clarke – Director of Occupational Health, Ministry of Health.
- Dr. Nkrumah Mills – Medical Director, VRA Hospital, Akosombo.
- Professor K. Koram – Director of Nogouchi Medical Research Institute, University of Ghana
- Dr S. K. Amuzu, Medical Director of Holy Family Hospital
- Dr W. Addo Larbi, Medical Director of St Joseph's Hospital, Koforidua
- Mr. K Amoateng, Administrator of St Michael's Hospital, Pramso

During his address to the delegation Professor Paul Nyame officially announced that St. Joseph's Hospital in Koforidua had been chosen to be the site of a new teaching hospital and centre of excellence for trauma and orthopaedic surgery in Ghana. The project is to be overseen and guided by Motec.



Members of the press, including a television crew, covered the conference. (Motec have a copy of the television recording).

## Koforidua Durbar

Motec were honoured to be invited guests at the Koforidua Durbar on Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> of October 2007. Hosted by the Paramount Chief of Koforidua, Daasebre Prof. Oti Boateng, Omanhene of the Paramount State of New Juaben.



Invited Motec members take cover from the searing heat

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The Durbar is an extremely colourful event held in the town square with all the local dignitaries in attendance.

The sound of drums and trumpets filled the hot town air as dancers weaved in



amongst the seated guests, with only Steve being cajoled out of cash for their trouble. I told him not to wear that hat, "you'll look like a tourist" I said.

Motec, along with other invited guests were soon lead toward the Paramount Chief in a long procession and, as we filed passed them, we shook the hands of each front row seated guest and dignitary until we came to the Chief,



who sat on a raised

platform beneath a canopy of bright red parasols, patiently held aloft and occasionally pumped up and down to move the air, by devoted servants, all bedangled in spectacularly colourful costumes and gold

jewellery. Each member of Motec shook the hand of the Paramount Chief and had a little chat; he seemed rather fond of Motec and her members.



As we all filed past him we continued past the remaining seated dignitaries until we had encircled the whole of the square and returned to our seats.

There certainly was a whole lot of shaking going on.





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Each group of guests presented the Paramount Chief with a bottle or two...or crate of drink, which is the tradition apparently. The master of ceremonies read out over the speaker system, what each group of guests had brought along, to which there was much applause.



*Of course, it had to be checked out first by the Paramount Chief's security guards.*

The Chief then addressed the gathering in which Motec were thanked for their work in Ghana and at St. Joseph's hospital in particular, to which they received a warm round of applause from everyone present. It was a very proud day for Motec.

Then came the time, to sample the local palm wine, for anyone brave/reckless enough, uninformed or wearing a silly hat. Now palm wine is an acquired taste I fancy, and one not recommended to be taken in large quantities. See the photos of Steve - lesson learned, hat now off - and judge for yourself.



Bottoms up



Oh'...I Say!

Convinced?

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When the Durbar came to its end it was the Paramount Chief's turn to file past the guests and wave goodbye.



What a jolly nice man.

