

MOTEC IN KERALA STATE OF INDIA

A humbling experience.

September 2009

Motec Recourse Personnel paid a four day observational tour of Kattappana in the Kerala State of India. The tour group consisting of P. Ofori-Ata, Dr Louisa Draper and Mrs Gladys Ofori-Atta was sponsored by the International Development Corporation of (Stillorgan) Dublin, Ireland. All three had experienced assessing various projects for Motec and appeared well suited for a tour that was intended to help bring the best out of the doctors and nurses in Motec's target hospitals in Ghana.



The Group at The Abu Dhabi Interchange



Kattappana town on the horizon

The journey from London to Kattappana took 17hours on the road and in the air, connecting flight in Abu Dhabi. It seemed the longest parts were on land – M25 in England to start with. When the team was picked up by the Hospital from Cochin airport on time, it was felt that everything was coming together very well. At first the 'short-waved' road snaking up the mountain looked pretty, even in darkness. We travelled along the tortuous long stretch of narrow road up the mountain. The team seemed to have lost sight of the beauty of the landscape as the driver hurried along. At times, the silence in the lovely car spoke words. How long more do we have to go? That was the first question that came out from a brave member who obviously did not want to upset the driver half way down the road track. The driver mumbled a few words.

At last we were in Kattappana after three and half hours on the road. Was it worth the waiting for that long in the air and on the ground? The unfolding story will be crucial.



Kattappana town centre comes alive



The entrance to the 'manger'

Initially the town itself seemed quiet. At first sight, we could not believe what we were seeing. A hospital facility most beautifully structured, laid out pleasantly on a beautiful landscape. We

likened it to the 'manger'. St John's Hospital - it was named and belonged to the Order of St John of God, a Catholic Order. It was established in 1969 by Brother Fortunatus, a German missionary whose remains rests in a humble abode within reach of the hospital. We were warmly welcomed by Brother Thomas, the Deputy Director of the Hospital. After being ushered to our accommodation, the intentions of our visit were re-stated and programme discussed. Four hour rest was good enough for the trio eager to make the most of a short visit.

The first meeting after lunch was only the beginning of a series of meetings and observational tour of the Hospital. We had an amazing experience with a people working together in unison, with a common purpose of alleviating suffering and curing diseases of their own people. The health workers and patients of Kattappana were very friendly. From the paramedical staff to Nurses, doctors, head of departments, administrators, directors of nursing, medical, the religious and what have you. Our assessment of the health service delivery services at St John's Hospital involved five formal meetings and two tours of the hospital. We were welcomed by all. Overall, we witnessed an efficient health care delivery system committed to education and training with dedicated and efficient staffs who work with smiles, even working for longer hours. There were lots of good things that will cement and support our educational drive in Ghana through observational attachment of health workers from our target hospitals. The objective is to provide some continuity and the vigilance necessary to move health care to a higher standard.



Front view of St John's Hospital



St John's College of Nursing. A second School of Nursing is about 150 yards away



The Emergency Services are well catered for.



Meeting- from left - Deputy Director of Hospital. Administrator, Medical Director, Dr Louisa Draper and Mrs Gladys Ofori-Atta



Meeting heads of departments - on extreme right, head of paramedical staff, Director of Nursing



Meeting the Hospital Director Bro Pius



Meeting the Consultant Medical Staff



Presentation on Motec Life-UK and objectives of visit to Kattappana.



Meeting the Director of Nursing with Hospital administrator – attention to detail



Bonds of friendship



IT COULD ONLY GET BETTER ON THE JOB.

A detailed report of the visit is now being studied by all interested parties including the sponsor in Dublin, the host institution in India and Motec's target hospitals in Ghana. Our sincere gratitude to Mr John Mitchell and Brother Laurence Kearns of The International Development Corporation of the Order of St John of God, Dublin and the authorities of St John's Hospital, Kattappana, especially Reverend Brothers Pius and Thomas, The Administrator, The Medical and Nursing Directors, The Departmental Heads, our mentor Miss Sudila and others. The Nursing and Medical, Paramedical Staff were fantastic, as well as the patients with whom we had brief chats on the wards and the clinics. The people of Kattappana were lovely. Last but not the least, the cooks made sure we had enjoyable meals.



A whistle stop to the shops and there were 'friends' there too. 'Nanee' Kattappana



'We can see in you, the beauty of the Lord. We love you with the love of the Lord'
This Christian family seem to say.