



Address by Motec President, P. Ofori-Atta to be delivered on his behalf by Motec representative. Dr Christine Amakye at the VRA Hydroelectric Dam Conference Centre. 19/10/15 at the opening ceremony of the National Physiotherapy workshop. Ghana 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015

Protocols observed.

I am sorry I cannot be with you today. All the same, it is indeed a great pleasure to see this day come true. Most of all, it is a beautiful day to have so many physiotherapists here to join us in sharing knowledge and experience towards better patient rehabilitation.

Motec Life –UK, as you probably all know is a British registered Medical Charity based in England and run by volunteers mainly from mainland Britain as well as US, Canada, India, and Holland, Germany with some members also in Ghana. We collaborate with hospitals in seven regions of Ghana. Akosombo has the largest number of projects with Motec: Physiotherapy; Orthopaedic trauma- casting joint arthroplasty and arthroscopy; and the Breast care. To learn more about us, you may visit [www.moteclife.co.uk](http://www.moteclife.co.uk). Our collaboration with the Volta River Authority started in 2008. We began with orthopaedic trauma and extended to include nursing and medical training and education. Some staff members have been part of our health worker training projects in India and UK.

At the onset, we faced the difficulty of lack of permanent physiotherapy services and we had to rely on temporary hired staff. We have worked together with the Health Authority to train a physiotherapist and have seen the establishment of a respectable level of physiotherapy services here. At first the challenges were tough but the tsunami of problems were not enough to stop the will power of a determined people and surely the outcome alone will encourage our commitment to achieving a centre that will be a beacon for the country. I commend the efforts of the Health Authority and the unadulterated impeccable dedication of Gertrude Obodai, the first Akosombo Physiotherapist for the efforts made towards this noble goal. We still have a long way to go. One physiotherapist is not enough and efforts to



get staff trained at Duayaw Nkwanta as Physio- Assistant or fully fledged Physiotherapists at Legon should be pursued without delay.

I know that the vision of our forefathers helped us to establish the all-powerful Akosombo hydro-electric dam. Now we face a giant challenge of diversifying to support innovation. We must not stop improving our health services. We are duty bound to responsibly manage the world we live in to make it better for ourselves, our children and grandchildren. Indeed our children are bound to face even more difficult situations in future. Our population is expanding; demand on our hospital is growing and in the economic climate in Africa would mean that our children may have to get back to work quicker after illness to keep 'afloat'. The need for an expanded role of the physiotherapist in Akosombo and elsewhere is never going to dwindle. I therefore appeal to the Health Authority and other policy makers elsewhere to pay special attention to physiotherapy which is a major force in patient rehabilitation.

Motec is proud of our joint projects with VRA especially our breast care. With the inclusion of satellite clinics for the breast coupled with our public education campaign, we aim at responsibly touching many hearts in the remotest parts of our country. Early diagnosis and cure of breast cancer is achievable through this project, bringing hope to many families in our communities. We know that with education this project is gaining a momentum choreographed to succeed if we continue to receive the amazing support of the Health Authority and the Blessings of our Creator. Thanks to the energetic local breast team of Akosombo and the dedication of our UK breast team surgeons and Nurses.

Without further ado, I welcome you all to this instructional course in patient physio- rehabilitation and I wish you all enjoyable and useful participation.

Long live Motec!

Long live VRA!

Long live the collaboration!

Thank you!