

## **MOTEC HOLDS RECEPTION FOR IOM / MIDA-GHANA**

### **PROJECT MANAGER IN HEMEL HEMPSTEAD**

*Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2010*



Mr Hans Eijkhout was in England for a few days and visited Mote Life – UK’s ‘Home Ground’ in Hemel Hempstead on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2010. Motec organised a reception at the postgraduate Centre at Hemel Hempstead General Hospital for Mr Eijkhout, the International Organisation and Migration (I.O.M.) sub-division - Migration and Development (MIDA) Project Manager for Ghana. Mr Eijkhout, based in Holland operates under the umbrella of I.O.M. Holland (The Hague). He arrived in Hemel Hempstead for the occasion at about 5.30p.m. on Monday 25<sup>th</sup>.

Prior to the informal reception, Mr Hans Eijkhout took advantage of his visit to meet Dr Akosua Serwah Hemeng, an Anaesthetist from Kumasi Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital who is on a training programme in London sponsored by MIDA and collaborated by Motec Life –UK and Dr Mike Brunner, Deputy Director of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Anaesthetist of Northwick Park Hospital in London. The feed-back information from the trainers and Dr Hemeng indicated a successful training attachment and New Grounds seemed opened up for supporting Dr Hemeng progress to be a trainer in ITU Care in Ghana. It emerged that other doctors from Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, Kumasi could be considered for the training in order to support Dr Hemeng’s anticipated work load and efforts by others to raise the standards of Intensive Care in Ghana.

At the start of the reception at about 6.40pm, participants were welcomed by the Acting Vice-President of Motec, Dr Christine Amakye. She expressed appreciation of the efforts made by participants in attending the reception in spite of difficult work commitments and long distance travels.

The potentials of the training opportunities for Intensive Care Anaesthetists at Northwick Park Hospital were presented by Dr Hemeng based on her three month observational attachment to the Hospital. Appreciation of the dedication of Dr Hemeng to the training was expressed by a round of applause. Mr Ofori-Atta thanked Dr Mike Brunner and the Hospital Authorities for supporting Dr Hemeng’s training and the sponsorship by IOM / MIDA.

Mr Ofori-Atta then recounted the roots of the collaboration between Motec Life – U.K. and IOM /MIDA – Ghana (since 2007). He explained how a request for help by St Michel’s Hospital Pramso through IOM / MIDA led to an expansion of Motec Life-UK’s Health and Education programme in Ghana expanded and received funding in support. The Challenges of working in the developing world, the flexibility and adaptability of Motec, the projects on the ground in Ghana, proposals to tackle minor but frequent problems experienced by MOTEC in Ghana were touched on by the leader.

There was a short break for Dinner which was catered for by Elizabeth Edward’s Caterer’s with a two course meal watered down by fruit juices.

In response to first series of presentations, Mr Eijkhout gave a brief description of the mandate of IOM/MIDA as a public organisation operating on similar lines but independent of the United Nations. He made it clear the levels of support the organisation provides for immigrants and professionals in the Diaspora to return some hope and lay foundation for development in their countries of origin. In order to achieve progress in development, he stressed on the need for appraisal of individual efforts on IOM /MIDA projects. He also touched on the North – South divide situation in Ghana and drew participants’ attention to the desperate call for help by the people of Northern Ghana. He appreciated the efforts of Motec in supporting Jirapa Hospital in the North of Ghana and fell short of requesting Motec to shift stand with current programmes in the South saying that it would be un-professional to abandon on-going successful projects in the south.

Mr Eijkhout appreciated the cooperation between Motec and the Ghana High Commission in London and the British High Commission in Accra in Motec’s work. He promised to pass on a special invitation from the Motec to the MIDA Ghana Project attaché to the Dutch Embassy in Ghana during a planned inauguration of Motec-led International Surgical Centre in Sefwi Asafo in mid June of 2010.

The meeting was concluded by a vote of thanks by Dr Sarah Daniels, a non-executive Trustee of Motec Life – UK. She expressed Motec’s gratitude to Mr Eijkhout and indeed everybody else for their participation and contribution to good causes.

The meeting was attended by 18 participants – Trustees, members and supporters of Motec. The pictures below show some of the captured moments of the evening.





Dr. Christine Amakye Speaking at the Reception



Participants listen to presentations



Inter-active Session



Happy ending.