

Liz Garrett's Report on Teachers' Visit to Bo
Reciprocal Visit Part 1
3-13 February 2012

Preparation

Sept/Oct 2011 schools invited to join clusters in applying for Global School Partnerships (GSP) Grant.

Oct- I attended course at Tide (Teachers in Development Education), Birmingham, on advice for applying for and planning for a GSP Reciprocal Visit (RV) grant.

Oct/Nov further planning meetings, including Tenneh and Emmanuel, Headteachers from Bo- planning the joint Water project, completing the application forms.

9 Nov -Tenneh, Emmanuel + 4 local teachers attend Tide Course: Global Education in Partnership.

18 Nov - applications submitted by 5 schools.

16 Dec - news that we had been awarded RV GSP Grant (DfID) ! Flights reserved for early Feb 2012...

Schools involved:

Jenny Bailey, Y4 Teacher Clapham Terrace Primary, Leam	John Sandi, Headteacher BDEC Sewa Rd Primary, Bo
Danielle Mohacsi, Y4 Teacher All Saints' Junior, Warwick	Hannah Massallay, Headteacher BDEC New Gerihun Rd, Upper, Bo
Natalie Johnson, YR Teacher Emscote Infants, Warwick	Christiana Morry, Teacher BDEC New Gerihun Rd, Lower, Bo
Diane Quayle, Y3/4 Teacher St Peter's Primary, Leamington	Janet Tucker, Headteacher RC Madonna Primary, Bo
Stephen Peet, Y3/4 Teacher St Patrick's Primary, Leamington	Agnes Kamara, Headteacher St Peter's Primary, Bo No 2

Visit Itinerary -whole team:

Sat -Arrival, Welcome Meal.

Sun -Church, walk around Bo.

Mon -Public Holiday - Workshop at OWL Centre. Market. Meet Artist-Alphaeus Lamin.

Tue -In schools.

Wed -In schools, GSP Workshop including Lunch at Centre. Market.

Thu -In schools. Civic Reception. Visit new school. Visit River Sewa + SALWACO (Water Treatment Centre)

Fri -In schools. Radio Interview. Cultural Show. IT Training. Farewell Party.

Sat -Depart Bo for John Obey Beach-Tribewanted, sustainable/Eco -tourism project.

Sun -John Obey + flight.

My Aims during the visit:

- ⤴ Ensure the smooth running of the visit for the 5 RV teachers
- ⤴ Help set up Water Project visits to River Sewa and Water Treatment centre
- ⤴ Visit other linked schools and the newly linked schools
- ⤴ Meet Secondary Schools Link Coordinator, Sheku Kamara, re. Youth visit
- ⤴ Observe some teaching
- ⤴ Learn more about CCL (ChildCentred Learning) and the CCTT (training) teachers have received
- ⤴ Discuss what areas might be useful for future teacher training (Potential visit by HT Richard Machin later this year)
- ⤴ Look at their Primary Curriculum and learn how they plan from it.
- ⤴ Look into Computer training needs and how we can support these
- ⤴ Support other linked schools with how to deliver the Water Project

Observations

Developments:

It was such a pleasure and privilege for me to return to Bo on my second teachers' visit, just one year after the first. I felt so warmly welcomed and it was very encouraging to see many areas of development in just one year;

-the Centre itself was freshly painted and smarter than ever with newly refurbished bedrooms, 4 twin rooms and 2 double rooms,

-posters have been displayed in the upstairs meeting room as a record of OWL activities

-murals of OWL founder members are being painted inside the compound wall

- a large water tank has been placed close to the kitchen area
- the Youth office has been established in a room behind the main building
- more schools had evidence of ChildCentred teaching techniques taking place
- UBC school had built a perimeter wall to protect children from the busy main road
- BDEC Messina school had been completely rebuilt, I witnessed them in a temporary wooden structure last year after a storm had devastated their buildings.

There was more obvious teamwork in the Bo OWL teachers group in organising events and our visit itinerary. Joseph Boakarie, Coordinator, worked hard to ensure every school had representatives at the Monday and Wednesday (over 40 attendees) workshops. He ensured that I was able to meet all the people and schools I had aimed to visit. He had set up some new link schools, one to replace a non-thriving link. He helped facilitate the workshops and all other social events and visits.

Workshops

Monday's workshop aims were:

- to plan collaboratively the delivery of the Water Project
- to familiarise UK teachers with the SL Syllabus
- to discuss CCTT (ChildCentred Teaching Techniques)

In our GSP grant application we had agreed on the following:

Water Project (Global Issue: Sustainability)- Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this project most children will be able to:

- ^ a) explain where water comes from both locally and globally.
- ^ b) appreciate that water is a universal human need.
- ^ c) appreciate the implications of climate change on water availability
- ^ d) describe how water is used in different parts of the world.
- ^ e) empathise with/compare others' circumstances in relation to water.
- ^ f) explain ways we can save water

A successful day for getting to know each other and discussing how we were going to deliver the Water Project. Many questions answered.

Each UK teacher had planned 5 lessons on Water to deliver during the week. Their schools also had plans for taking them out on a Water Safari around the school locality and plans for other lessons, including sports. We wanted to model different teaching styles eg. Encouraging childrens' enquiry skills by generating questions about a photo, or learning how to make a Mind Map. We also wanted to explain different ideas about using the Water Issues photo packs that we had sent in November. We tried to model good practice by starting the lesson explaining the Learning Objective to the learners. This was something Tenneh and Emmanuel had noted as effective during their visit to UK.

We also planned ahead together for the return visit to UK in June where the Water Project will cover Climate Change and Saving Water.

Child Centred Learning -UNICEF / MEYS Project : Rachel Kpatewa (UMC School New Site -Upper) took the lead on explaining the Syllabus and CCTT to us. She had begun training as a CCTT Trainer in 2008. Since then a rolling program had been in place but still some schools have not received training. We witnessed a variety of views amongst SL teachers on the subject which sometimes leads to heated discussion. While many agree with the theory behind it they feel it is not practical to teach with such methods when overcrowded classrooms are such a problem. Some feel that Heads should not exceed the Gov recommendation of 45 per class, but many do not wish to turn children away. Many are angry that resources have not been made available to schools.

Through my visits to 8 different schools I observed many more classes (than last year) where children were seated in groups and lessons where the teacher actively involved the children.

Wednesday's Workshop Aims:

- Learn how to build effective partnerships
- How to improve communication
- Future ideas for the Water Project
- Requirements for Visa Applications

We had arranged that Michael Dennis (British Council, Freetown) could attend to deliver the GSP training and advise on Visa applications. He was excellent at this. He also announced that a new Computer room was being set up at Bo school where solar power had been installed. A teacher, Moinina Kamara, had received 4 days computer training in Kenya and would be available to teach any teacher who was interested. They expect to receive 15 -20 computers during March. Michael was getting quotes in Bo.

It was very impressive that representatives from all 13 schools attended.(about 40 in total)

While the RV schools discussed their individual Water lessons I facilitated the non-RV teachers by showing them some of the ideas for using the Water Issues pack

IT Training

I arranged for anyone who would like to receive an introduction to emailing to come to Bo school on Friday. 15 teachers attended over 2 sessions where Moinina lead the teaching on basic keyboard and mouse skills and demonstrated how to create a folder. It was obvious that a hands-on approach was what they wanted /needed which was not easy with only one computer. It is hoped that this brief introduction will inspire teachers to return and use the opportunity offered by this facility once it is up and running as a training centre.

I learnt that the Computer room at the OWL centre cannot function on electricity from the generator due to incorrect wiring. However, the computers do work on mains electricity (during rainy season).

The teachers felt that Solar Power for the centre would be an exciting project, linked to Sustainability, which schools in UK would like to support. This idea was suggested to Maada who agreed to discuss it with the Bo Committee.

Future Teacher Training

During discussions with several teachers the following areas were suggested:

- ⤴ classroom management
- ⤴ discipline (now that corporal punishment is illegal, what other strategies work)
- ⤴ engaging children
- ⤴ use of concrete objects (visual aids / practical resources)
- ⤴ social interaction -encouraging good, friendly behaviour (Personal Social Ed)
- ⤴ Maths (see list from Tenneh and Emmanuel)

Obtaining copies of teaching documents has not been easy. I have now made copies of CCTT materials loaned by Rachel Kpatewa, which will be very useful in planning future training materials.

Next Steps

- ⤴ Support the SL teachers to get their visas for Visit here June 6 - 20.
- ⤴ Make plans for school celebration Thursday 14 June-Day of African Child. Need a Planning Team.
- ⤴ We really would appreciate OWL support for hosting meals and providing transport between 7 – 20 June.
- ⤴ Agree on design ideas to commission a banner/s from Alphaeus Lamin for June 16th celebrations.
- ⤴ Solar panels for the Centre? Fund-raising.