REPORT ON THE VISIT OF THE WORLD BANK PROJECT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE
HEALTH INFORMATION ACCESS CENTER AT THE COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES,
KORLE-BU ON THE 15TH OF DECEMBER, 2014

By

Project Team

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A representative from the World Bank’s was at the Health Information Access Center (HIAC) at the College of Health Sciences (CHS) to inspect the progress of work. The following is a report of his visit.

The representative, Mr. Richard J. Carrol, an Economist and Financial Analyst and also specialists in Evaluation, E-Learning and Policy Analysis arrived with officials of the Ministry of Communications led by Mr. Nelson Osae of e-Ghana project and the project consultant(s), Mr. Victor Kwarku and other officials from the Ministry of Communications (MoC) and National Information Technology Agency (NITA). A team led by Mr. Barfi Adomako- Owusu, Mr. Solomon Sulemani, Mr. Samuel Bentil Aggrey officials around the facility.

The first place to be inspected was the Internet Lounge. During the tour of the facility, Mr. Barfi explained that the desktops supplied to be used by the students were not enough and has therefore been supplemented by computers from the College. Answering a question from the representative about the number of computers provided by the project, it was revealed that forty (40) computers were provided. The computers have been installed in the IT lab. and the Internet Lounge.

The next place inspected was the conference room. Answering a question about the number of air-conditioners in the room posed by Mr Carrol, Mr. Barfi intimated that one additional air-conditioner was yet to be installed. He added that the contractor was working on supplying the additional air-conditioners before the handing over of the project.

At the conference room, Mr. Carrol was informed that the seating capacity was thirty-six and additional computers will required for the place to be operated at full capacity.

The inspection then continued to the server room where it was explained to the team that two
internet backbones are available to the College through the University of Ghana and NITA and these provide internet connectivity to the PCs in the facility and beyond. The equipment such as the rack, switches and the server which were provided by the project also were mentioned.

After the inspection, the team returned to the computer lab. Answering a question about the number and type of users that were expected to access the facility, the College Librarian, Mr. Sulemani noted that both staff and faculty of the college as well as students from other institutions on Korle-Bu Campus will be allowed to use the facility. He mentioned that the facility would not only be opened to these users but also some staff from the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital and also medical doctors, some of which are both practicing doctors and lecturers. Speaking specifically about the number of students the facility could serve, the College Librarian noted that both undergraduates and graduate students numbering about two thousand from the six schools of the College of Health Sciences would be given access to the facility.

With regards to how the facility would influence the greater community, he indicated that the video conferencing system installed in the conference room would make it possible to hold meetings and lectures with remote partners. He also noted that the facility would make it possible for the college to make use of the UG catalogue and e-resources subscribed by the University. He further noted that the UG catalogue would make the research materials of the university easily accessible by the university research community on Korle-bu campus.

Mr. Barfi also used the opportunity to speak about the other e-learning initiatives the university has launched. He mentioned Sakai and the University of Ghana Learning and Teaching Resource Application (ULTRA) and gave a brief introduction to both platforms. These platforms he noted once fully operational could be made accessible to users outside the university community.

The World Bank representative wanted to know if students wrote their exams on-line. Mr. Barfi noted that this was not presently the case but that with the current purchase of software like Sakai, this could easily be made possible together with the current facilities provided in the HIAC.

On the issue of challenges the college faced during the implementation of the project, Mr. Barfi noted that because the college was not included in the initial planning phase of the project, it became necessary to later modify some parts of the contract. This he noted took a lot of time.
and made the execution of the project unduly difficult. Giving specifics, he noted that the desks had to be replaced because the initial ones supplied were not suitable. He however stated that he was satisfied by the work done by the contractor.

The College Secretary arrived later during the discussions and was introduced to the World Bank representative, the consultants and the officials from the Ministry of Communication.

The tour and discussion ended at 3.00pm. After the interaction, the guests were seen off, successfully bringing the inspection to a close.
Conclusion and Action Points:

The visit by the team was informative and successful. With the near completion of the project the following action points need to be addressed to ensure the inauguration of the facility on time:

Action Points:

1. The Contractor should indicate the time frame for the supply and installation of outstanding equipment to facilitate the inauguration of the project
2. The College Administration should provide furniture and air conditioners for some of the offices which were not covered under the project
3. The proposed management structure of the facility should be drafted and submitted to management for approval and implementation
4. A date should be set in collaboration with Ministry of Communications to officially commission the facility