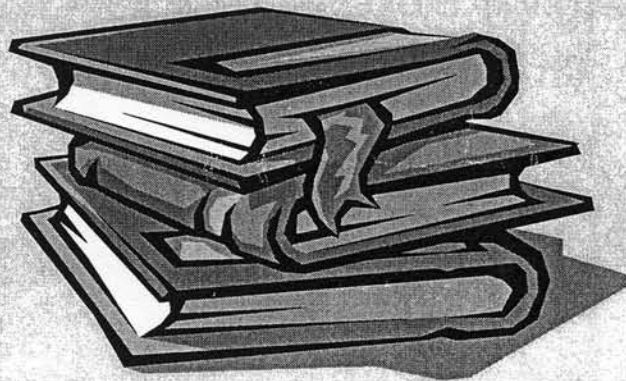


FINAL REPORT

JOINT
AFRICAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT
AND
S.E.E.D.S. INC. USA

BOOKS FOR LIBRARY INITIATIVE



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JANUARY 2003

1. Introduction

This is a brief report on the joint Books for Library initiative between the African Centre for Human Development and SEEDS Inc. USA. It covers activities undertaken in respect of the clearing and distribution of the books to the beneficiary institutions.

2. Background of the Initiative

The African Centre for Human Development (ACHD) is a Ghanaian development organisation established in 1987. Since its inception, the ACHD has developed considerable experience in the management of rural development programmes and projects and in offering social service to the rural and urban marginalized. It has developed a number of capacity building activities at the district and community levels and has been implementing district-based integrated projects for the past ten years. To date, the work carried out by ACHD has given it a broad level of acceptance and has also had influence over initiatives within the NGO development community both in Ghana and abroad.

As part of our mission to act as a social conscience organisation and exhibit effective social responsibility in development practice in Ghana, ACHD collaborated with SEEDS International to secure and distribute books to as many schools as possible in the country.

S.E.E.D.S (Service Education Economic Development Science Inc.) is an American Organisation devoted to providing voluntary development assistance to deprived communities all over the world within its Global Communities Sustainable Strategies Campaign (GCSS). The first GCSS initiative of SEEDS is the Library Resource Centre (LRC) Programme. This programme aims at equipping community resource centres, libraries and schools with books and literacy material to enhance intellectual development and provide opportunities of library services to needy communities and schools. SEEDS started its LRC Programme in Ghana in 2000 with the establishment of library centres in some communities. The continuation of this ambitious literacy and sustainable development effort resulted in the collaboration with ACHD in 2002.

Following discussions between the Directors of the African Centre for Human Development and SEEDS Inc, an agreement was reached whereby ACHD would receive donated books from the International Book Bank in the USA and distribute to SEEDS LRCs and needy schools and institutions

in Ghana. The US-based International Book Bank is an outstanding literacy support organisation, specialising in the collection and transshipment of donated books. As part of this joint initiative, the West African Rotary Club (Accra Chapter) was also to benefit by receiving some number of books for distribution to their project sites/communities.

On this note, the IBB shipped a consignment of over 23,000 assorted books to Ghana to be received by the ACHD in February 2002, through the shipping company P & O Nedlloyd West Africa

3. The Clearing Process.

The shipment of books consigned to the ACHD, arrived at the Tema port in Ghana on April 26th 2002. The consignment was freighted by the vessel Delaware Bay V2665 of the P & O Nedlloyd Shipping Company.

Shipping documents: Bill of Laden, Deed of Donation, Insurance Cover and Packing List were sent to ACHD for the necessary clearance application to be made.

In view of the Import duty demands on the shipment which would have amounted to about ₵30,000,000.00¹ and the fact that the books were donated items for distributions to schools and community library centres, an application was forwarded to all the government agencies responsible for a waiver of import and customs duties. According to the Customs and Excise Regulations, such items should by law be exempted from import duty and Value Added Tax.

Letters were written to the Parliamentary Committee of Education, the Ministry of Education, the Ghana Education Service, then to the Commissioners of Custom Excise and Preventive Service and Value Added Tax (VAT) Office. Securing the necessary exemptions letters from all these governments institutions and ministries however delayed the clearing of the consignment, which was then being warehoused by the shipping line P&O Nedlloyd at Tema for over three months, thereby attracting warehouse charges (demurrage) ranging into millions of cedis. The final approval was received on August 14th and the books were cleared at the port on the 16th after payment of the necessary charges. A local clearing agency; Lexxico

¹ The total cost of the book was \$27,645 @ 8,500.00 = ₵234, 982,500.00

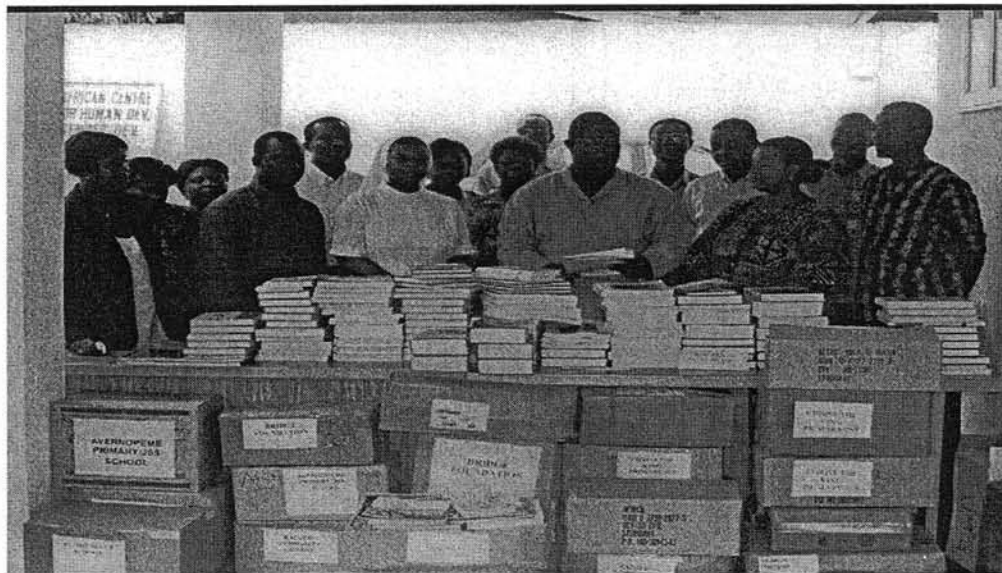
Limited was contracted to help the clearing and the transportation of the consignment from the port to the warehouse of ACHD.

4. Sorting, Packing and Distribution.

Between August and September, ACHD recruited four people to sort the books into various categories: Pre-School, Primary, JSS, SSS, Secondary and Higher Educations as well and into subject areas. The books cover a wide range of areas, including reading, spelling and language concepts, science, nature and environment, technology and mathematics, French, literature, social studies, career education, health and physical education, Dictionaries, Agriculture, economics, accounting, business studies, teaching aids and learning material for Pre-school, primary, Junior Secondary and Secondary School usage. The books were also stamped to prevent reselling. This task was very hectic but thanks to the SEEDS Team in Ghana for their immense help at this stage.

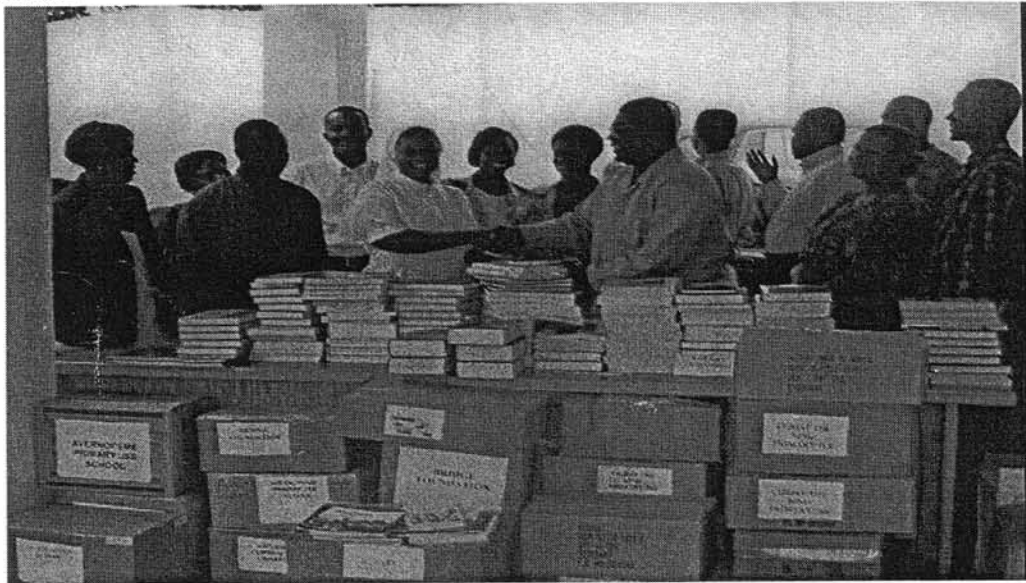
The sorted books were divided between ACHD, Rotary Club and SEEDS Ghana. Each of these organisations further distributed the books to a number of schools, community libraries and institutions. At a short and impressive ceremony in the premises of the ACHD, the Executive Director of ACHD, Mr Wilbert Tengey gave the books to the heads of selected beneficiary institutions. Also present were the representatives of Rotary Club and SEEDS Ghana who took delivery of their share of the books.

Picture 1



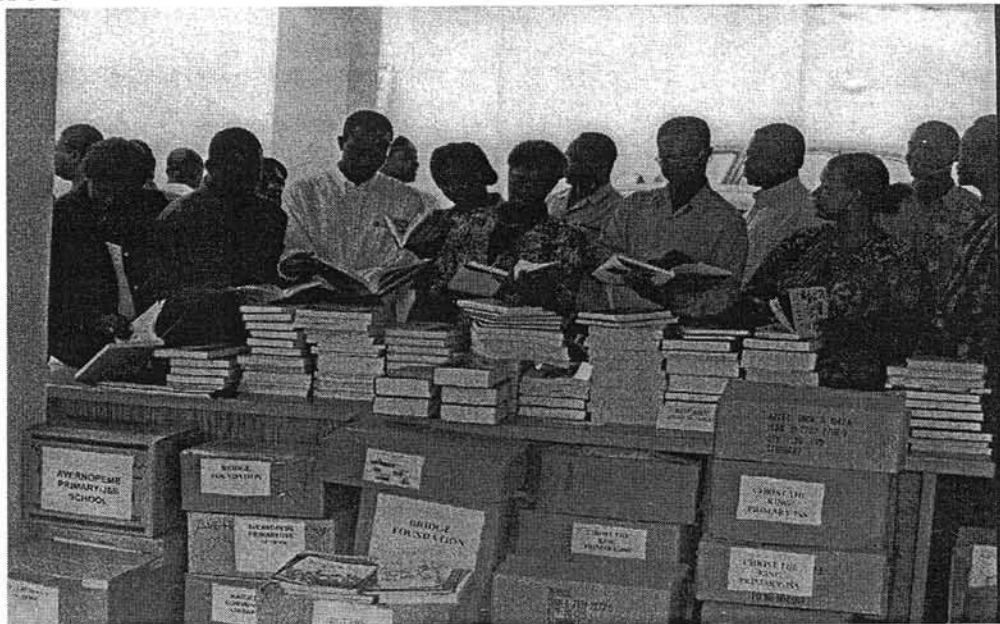
Officials of some of the beneficiary Institutions at the Presentation Ceremony to received their Books

Picture 2



Mr Wilbert Tengey, Executive Director of African Centre for Human Development Resending copies of books to one of the beneficiary schools. Looking on are officials of SEEDS Ghana and other beneficiaries

Picture 3



Officials glancing through some of the books

5. Beneficiary Schools/Library Centres

This collaborative effort resulted in the acquisition of over 20,000 books from the International Books Bank. The books were distributed to pre-schools (Kindergartens), primary and junior secondary schools, secondary and tertiary institutions, other centres of learning as well as community libraries in Ghana. Many of these are in the rural areas of Ghana. Below is the list of beneficiary schools, libraries and institutions.

These schools were selected based on their need and location. Some schools and communities also applied for assistance to equip their libraries and we used the opportunity to reach them. As shown above, each of the three organisations; ACHD, SEEDS Ghana and Rotary Club selected their own beneficiary institutions. Majority to the institutions and libraries are in the rural areas. In some of the communities, community development programmes are being implemented by these distributing organisations.

Recipient Schools, Community Libraries and Institutions

| Recipients | Number of Books Received |
|--|---------------------------------|
| ACHD Sites | |
| The Bridge Foundation Schools | 1000 |
| Christ the King Primary and JSS, | 1050 |
| St. Theresa's Primary and JSS Schools | 1000 |
| Abokobi Women's Centre, | 1000 |
| Kadjebi Community Library | 700 |
| Avenorpeme Primary/JSS | 700 |
| Dieudonne International School, Madina | 250 |
| Kpalime Area Library and Social Centre | 2000 |
| Alsud Academy | 50 |
| Soul Clinic International School | 50 |
| North Ridge Lyceum | 50 |
| Morning Star School | 50 |
| Ridge Church | 50 |
| Alpha Beta School | 50 |
| Total | 8,000 |
| | |
| SEEDS Ghana Sites/Recipients | |
| Ga District Library | 1000 |

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Obo Community Library | 1000 |
| Sarbah Road Basic School | 350 |
| Harvard College (SSS/Tertiary) | 350 |
| Peki Wudome Basic School | 350 |
| St. Gina's Basic School | 350 |
| Marcells Foundation | 350 |
| Crown Prince Academy, Accra | 300 |
| Aburi Community Library | 300 |
| Koforidua Zongo Community Library | 500 |
| Taviefe Primary/JSS/SSS | 500 |
| Lamptey Mills Memorial Schools | 700 |
| African Child Basic School | 480 |
| Accra Polytechnic | 400 |
| Mizpah Basic School, Accra | 350 |
| Camisco Basic School | 320 |
| Silicon Valley Basic School | 350 |
| Golden Age Basic School | 350 |
| Total | 8,300 |
| | |
| Rotary Club Sites | |
| Atua Community Library | 1500 |
| Abiriw Community Library | 1000 |
| Dawu JSS | 400 |
| Dawu Kindergarten | 250 |
| Akropong Demonstration JSS | 400 |
| Akropong Community Library | 1000 |
| Nifa Secondary School | 500 |
| Dawu/Awukugua Primary School | 400 |
| Mary Mother of Good Counsel Basic School | 600 |
| University of Ghana, Legon | 1000 |
| Total | 7,500 |
| Grand Total | 23,350 |

Picture 4



Presentation to the Mizpah School by an official of SEEDS Ghana

The number of school pupils, teachers, secondary and tertiary education students and community members estimated to benefit from this initiative would be about 60,000. This is made up of about 40,000 pupils, students and teachers and 20,000 community members

Picture 5



Teachers and Children of Golden Age School with their books

Picture 6



Presentation to Harvard College by an official of SEEDS Ghana

Picture 7



Presentation to Crown Prince Academy by officials of SEEDS Ghana. Looking on are some teachers of the school

6. Conclusion

This joint initiative has been of great value to the beneficiaries and should thus be sustained so that as many communities, schools and institution can benefit. Interactions with the beneficiaries show that the books are very useful and relevant to the school curriculum in Ghana. We also believe that the books will be put to good use and will help improve the standards of

teaching and learning in the various schools. This will improve upon the teaching and learning culture in Ghana.

The experience gained with this first project will help greatly in handling subsequent consignments with less stress and delays. In view of this it is recommended that the documents covering the consignment- Bills of Laden, Insurance, Deed of Donation etc, should be sent to ACHD as early as possible so that all possible contacts and exemptions can be secure in good time for clearing the consignment.

The initiative should be continued because there is high demand for books particularly in the rural and deprived communities, which are not easily reached through normal distribution channels and also for more of SEEDS Resource Centres in Ghana to be equipped. This would give such communities the opportunity to improve greatly upon teaching and learning. Knowledge is power - that is why it is imperative for us to help in broadening the scope of knowledge of the youth in particular of this country through the use of these books.