

Daily Graphic

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UNESCO donates scientific equipment to WRI

THE United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has donated scientific equipment to the Water Research Institute of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (WRI-CSIR) for the sustainable management of Lake Bosomtwe in the Ashanti Region.

The equipment, which was donated in collaboration with the Spanish government and included portable wireless rain gauges, portable water quality testing kits, GPS and sediment monitoring equipment, a camera for sociological covering and a flow meter, cost US\$39,000.

At a ceremony in Accra last Friday to hand over the equipment, the Country Director of UNESCO, Mr Tirso Dos Santos, said the project was designed to put together a number of measures to help sustain the environment around Lake Bosomtwe.

He noted that Lake Bosomtwe, the only natural lake in Ghana, was degrading at a very fast rate and needed urgent attention.

To save the lake from further degradation, UNESCO requested the assistance of the Spanish government, in response to which the Spanish government gave a grant of 1.4 million euros for the project.

The WRI was awarded the contract in the area of hydrology, hygiene and water

quality.

Mr Santos said as part of the project, the livelihood of the people living around the lake would be taken into consideration to prevent the people from further degrading the lake.

According to him, those living around the lake would be provided with income-generating activities such as rearing of grasscutter and other agricultural techniques to improve productivity.

He added that the project would include capacity building to monitor the lake, sustainable soil management and alternative livelihood, document guide and culture fishing practices, adding that six organisations had been contracted to take care of that.

The Deputy Head of Mission at the Spanish Embassy in Ghana, Mr Juan Frutos, said the project would help establish quality water for Lake Bosomtwe and expressed the hope that it would be completed on schedule.

"The Spanish Government is in partnership with Ghana and we are always happy to support Ghana in developmental projects," he said.

A Senior Research Scientist at the CSIR, Dr Frederick Amu-Mensah, thanked UNESCO and the Spanish government for the support towards the sustainable management of Lake Bosomtwe project and promised to put the equipment to good use. - GNA



• *The CSR Manager, Mr Larrose, (left) with the schoolchildren on the playground device which will power the lanterns.*

Potable water, lanterns for farming community

Story: **Nana Konadu Agyeman, Akyem-Abakoase**

PUPILS of the Roman Catholic Primary School at Abekoase, a cocoa farming community in the Atiwa District in the Eastern Region, are to benefit from the supply of free lanterns for their studies.

Under the initiative, groups of pupils who stay in the same village will be given 40 powered lanterns to take home after school to enable them to do their homework.

The \$10,000-project, which has an installed playground device on which the pupils will play during break, is aimed at making school attractive to the pupils and also to encourage them to do their homework.

The free lanterns and the borehole project form part of the Touton Traceable Project to reward cocoa farming communities.

As the children play on the device connected to a battery, it will generate between 500 and 800 watts of energy to power the 12-volt battery that will in turn charge the lanterns.

The project is being sponsored by the Produce Buying Company (PBC) of the Ghana Cocoa Board and its international partners under the Touton Traceable Project.

The partners are Touton SA, a France-based cocoa buying company, and Transmar Group, a chocolate manufacturing firm in New Jersey, USA.

The project has also constructed a GH¢9,000 borehole for the people of Abekoase to provide clean drinking water for residents.

The Managing Director of the PBC, Mr Kojo Atta-Krah, was optimistic that the project would also enhance the teaching and learning of science during classes.

He advised the teachers and pupils of the school to take advantage of the project to improve the academic performance of the school.

He indicated that between 2009 and 2012, cocoa production from the area increased from 5,000 to 8,000 bags, produced by 800 farmers.

He advised cocoa farmers to expand their farms and adopt appropriate standards to process their cocoa to enhance its quality to attract the best price on the international market.

Rehabilitation work begins on sewage system