

Monthly report for the Commonwealth of Learning under the
Poverty Reduction through Education, Innovation and Networks
(COL PROTEIN) 2006/7 Programme

September 2007



Project:
Winneba Open Digital Village for ICT Capacity-Building
and Community Development (C07-292)

oneVillage Foundation-Ghana | www.onevillagefoundation.org

Kafui A. Prebbie | kafui@onevillagefoundation.org

Introduction

oneVillage Foundation-Ghana (OVF-Ghana) was selected as one of the winners of the Commonwealth of Learning request for proposal under the Poverty Reduction through Education Innovations and Networks (COL PROTEIN) 2006/2007 scheme in the second quarter of 2007. By June 2007, modalities were completed and OVF-Ghana started the implementation of the project. As per the contract terms under the grant, OVF-Ghana is to submit a monthly report and should detail;

- conduct of activities since last report
- schedule of activities in the next reporting period; and
- issues or problems.

This report summarizes activities undertaken in the month of September 2007 under these headings.

Activities Undertaken

1. oneVillage Foundation, Ghana was selected to be among ten (10) NGO's in Ghana to participate in Microsoft NGO's Roundtable discussions at Coconut Groove Regency Hotel on 21st September 2007 on the topic "Harnessing Africa's Competitive Spirit". We participated and showcased the WODiV Project.
2. An One-Day-for-Open Content was organised on September 28, 2007 at the Winneba Open Digital Village (WODiV) to collect input from the community. In attendance were dignitaries from the University of Education, Winneba; Neenyi Ghartey VII(Chief of Winneba Traditional Area) and members of the Winneba Community.
3. The official commissioning of the WODiV facility was held on the 28th September 2007. It was well attended by civil society from the Winneba community and its environs.
4. The WODiV project was showcased on Monday September 24, 2007 between 17.30 – 18.30 in Room 5 under the tag "Wireless and Open Source Technology projects in Africa" at the Market Place of the **UN GAID Global Form** in Geneva (<http://www.un-gaid.org/en/gfyouth>) which took place from September 24 -26, 2007. This opportunity was pursued to showcase the project as the World Summits on Free Information Infrastructures (WSFII) in Africa is unlikely to happen. Kafui A. Prebbie (OVF-Ghana, Country Director) represented OVF-Ghana after he was selected as one of the (10) selected from three hundred (300) ITU Youth Forum Alumni applicants worldwide . It was a good networking and feedback session.
5. Kafui was involved in a panel to address the topic **ICT Platforms for Youth-led Development-Breakthrough technologies & Applications** at the same UN GAID Global Form on Tuesday September 24, 2007 in Room 3 from 9.00am – 10.30am. Please see <http://www.un-gaid.org/en/gfyouth/agenda>. This provided the opportunity to distribute brochures and explain the blend of ODL and Wireless Technologies within the WODiV Project.
6. The International Software Freedom Day 2007 was organised by WiLUG members and oneVillage Foundation, Ghana on the 28th September 2007 at the Winneba Open Digital Village (WODiV). This also presented an avenue for the showcase of the WODiV project.
7. The WODiV facility has been receiving people from both the University community and the general public for the use of the community wireless broadband Internet access. The following are the breakdowns:

Month	July	August	September
University Community	4	23	184
General Public	6	19	49
TOTAL	10	44	233

Activity	July	August	September
Research	10	20	11
Browsing	X	X	170
Workshops	X	22	38
Visitors /Inquiries	X	X	14
TOTAL	10	44	233

Schedule of activities in the next reporting period: October 1 – 31, 2007

1. Compose a panel of experts to select participants to the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) Materials Production Workshop from the community, Government Departments and the University of Education.
2. Contract and arrange with COL Partners, Dr. C.K. Osei and Mr. Reuben Aggor to agree on the date, time and materials for the ODL Materials Development workshop.
3. Continue to collate materials from the community and Government agencies for the web portal.
4. Follow up on sponsorships requests submitted to potential sponsors.

Issues or Problems

The following issues arose and hindered work directly or indirectly;

1. The monthly cost of utility bills have been increased by 35% which is affecting the cost of maintaining the facility.
2. Efforts at securing computers for the WODiV facility have not yielded the expected results; we are yet to secure any support to meet this need.
3. Funds are not forth coming and OVF-Ghana staff are still looking for alternative resources to support the project.

Conclusion

The WODiV project is gaining relevance with the people of Winneba and the University community. The global Software Freedom Day (SFD) 2007 was celebrated at the WODiV with UEW Deans of Faculty, Heads of Department, Academic Staff, students and the general Winneba community. It truly advertised the project and the Chief of Winneba has promised to provide authentic community history to be uploaded to web portal.



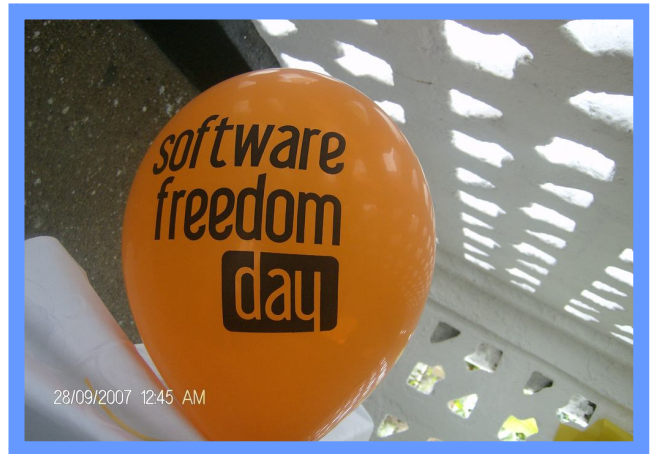
1. The chief of Winneba (Nenyi Gharthey VII) speaking to the audience after the WODiV commissioning.



2. UEW students browsing at the WODiV facility.



3. Kafui A. Prebbie explaining the WODiV Project to participants at the One-Day-for-Open Content at WODiV.



4. Scenes from the International Software Freedom Day 2007 at the Winneba Open Digital



5. Dignitaries and Community leaders seated at the High table during the commissioning of the WODiV facility.



6. On the high table left to right:
 Prof. S.Y. Bofo (Board Chairman, GETFund)
 Prof. J. Anamuah- Mensah (VC, Univ. of Education, Winneba)
 Nenyi Gharthey VII (Chief of Winneba)