



# Engineering/IT/Environmental Sub Group

## Summary Report on the visit to Mbale, October 2007

The main aims of the visit were to:

- ✓ Meet Mbale Rotary to discuss funding arrangements for possible water projects.
- ✓ Make preparations for the setting up of a Mechanical Engineering Workshop business.
- ✓ Make preparations for a visit of an engineer from the Royal Glamorgan Hospital to Mbale General Hospital
- ✓ Investigate the potential for Environmental and Civil Engineering projects

Progress was made on all of these.

### 1. **Water Project**

The proposed project is to improve an existing GFS scheme at Mooni by discontinuing the current single water source, which does not provide safe water quality, and replacing this with 3 new safe water sources.

Funds have been raised for the project by Pontypridd Rotary, and these are being channelled via international Rotary to Mbale Rotary in order to benefit from matched funding grants. Meetings were held with Mbale Rotary to discuss their involvement in this.

### 2. **Mechanical Machine Shop IGA Project**

This project is to set up a mechanical machine shop IGA (Income Generating Activity). This will utilise redundant machines provided and shipped to Mbale by Cogent Power Ltd (part of Corus). The business will be owned by PONT-Mbale and will provide vocational training as well as operate as a business. Profits will augment the funds available to PONT-Mbale for poverty alleviation projects.

During the visit the proposed building (provided by the Bunghoko sub county LC3 council) was inspected, and details of the project discussed. The project looks promising, with considerable enthusiasm being expressed by all. A good market should be accessible as this will be the only facility of its kind for a considerable distance.

### 3. **Mbale General Hospital - Engineering**

The Medical team visiting Mbale at the end of November will include various hospital personnel, in particular someone from the estates dept. In preparation for this a list of faulty equipment began to be prepared. Digital photos were taken of various faulty items. The list will be completed by Mbale Hospital and emailed to PONT UK in advance of the November visit.

### 4. **Environmental**

The possibility of installing small scale solar power systems in schools was investigated and found to have potential. Initial investigations into the possibility of schools in Mbale (together with schools in RCT) collecting climate data.

### 5. **Civil Engineering**

Two possible projects were identified:

1. The local roads are in a poor state of repair, partly due to the level and type of traffic now utilising them. There was potential for a project to investigate improvements to the murrum used to make these roads.
2. One of the NGOs (UWCM) has a machine for making compressed (as opposed to fired) bricks. There was potential for a project to investigate improvements to these bricks

Initial contact was also made with local higher education establishments.