

# PONT-ATEB Sub Group

Appropriate Technology, Environment & Business development



## Summary Report on the visit to Mbale, April 2010

### Sub Group members on the visit:

Howard Smith, Lis Burnett, Tony Rossetti, Keith Lewis, Marga Quince and Tom Quince.

### Summary

The main aims of the visit were:

- Mechanical Engineering Workshop project:
  - x Provide training in specialist use of the workshop machines
  - ✓ Provide training in setting up a small business
  - ✓ Provide training in First Aid
  - ✓ Assess progress of infrastructure developments
  - ✓ Install a laptop computer.
- Mooni water project
  - ✓ Confirm arrangements with Mbale Rotary and Jenga for implementation of stage I of improvements to the scheme.
- IT
  - ✓ Investigate IT problems at the PONT office at First Baptist
- Compressed/bricks fuel blocks
  - ✓ Assess progress

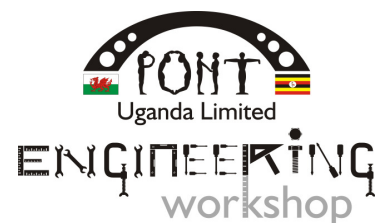
Most of these aims were achieved in full.

Due to events leading to the cancellation of all flights to/from the UK over a period of several days it was not possible for the machine skills training to take place.

### Report on Projects

#### 1. Mechanical Engineering Workshop IGA Project

This project is to set up a mechanical engineering workshop IGA (Income Generating Activity). It will utilise redundant machines provided and shipped to Mbale by Cogent Power Ltd (part of Corus). The machines are owned by Mbale-PONT. A separate company (PONT Uganda Ltd.) has been set up to operate the facility utilising the machines. This will provide vocational training as well as operate as a business. Profits will augment the funds available to Mbale-PONT for poverty alleviation projects.



##### 1.1. Health and Safety

Refresher training was given on risk assessments.

Reports from other companies on accidents which have a relevance to the workshop operations were shared and lessons learned.

## **1.2. Training**

A grant had been obtained to enable people from the workshop to be brought to the UK for a 2 week training course. Unfortunately their application for entry visas to the UK was declined. As a consequence the training was re-organised to take place in Mbale with the trainers, rather than the trainees, travelling.

Advantage was taken of the training being done in Mbale, by making places available for others on the courses, in addition to those from the workshop. Several people attended from other NGOs, together with two people from Busitema University which is working closely with the workshop.

### **1.2.1. Machine Skills**

The eruption of a volcano in stopped all flights from the UK over a period of several days which delayed the departure of the team for the first of the two weeks planned for the visit. Thus the training in machine skills had to be postponed until a future date, yet to be determined.

### **1.2.2. Business Skills**

A two and half day basic small business course was successfully delivered by Lis Burnett, head of the University of Glamorgan Business School Social Enterprise Hub.

There were a total of 23 trainees on the course:

11 from the workshop, plus others:

FDNC(3), Jenga(2), Busitema University(2), YIM (Youth in Mission)(2), SAO(2), Hope Project(1).

### **1.2.3. First Aid**

A two and half day First Aid course was successfully delivered by Tony Rossetti, a First Responder Officer with the Welsh Ambulance Trust.

There were a total of 17 trainees on the course:

11 from the workshop, plus others:

Jenga(1), Busitema University(2), YIM (Youth in Mission)(1), SAO(1), Hope Project(1).

### **1.2.4. Graduation/Publicity**

A graduation event was held, attended by the local council LCV Council Chairman and Chief Administrative Officer, and the parish council LCIII Chairman. Various speeches were made, followed by the LCV Council Chairman presenting the trainees with certificates of attendance on the course.

The media also attended the event, interviewing Bernard Mugasi (LCV Council Chairman), Apollo Mwenyi (Mbale PONT co-ordinator), Apollo Wambedde(Workshop project co-ordinator), and Howard Smith(UK PONT Ateb chair). This material formed the basis of a half hour programme on Ugandan national radio.

## **1.3. Infrastructure**

All the machines are now are now fully installed and commissioned. The milling machine and J&S Grinder require grouting in.

The metered mains water supply has been connected to the site, and piped to sinks in the kitchen and training room, and to the nearest toilet/shower block. The septic tank has been emptied and re-commissioned. All pipes, chambers, etc, in the waste system have been renewed.

The nearest toilet/shower block has been refurbished with new toilet pans and cisterns, a urinal, shower, and wash hand basin and tap. New toilet doors have been fitted, and the brickwork repaired as necessary.

The office end of the building has been rewired, providing lights and sockets to all areas. A 15.5kVA diesel generator and associated change over switch were connected and commissioned during the visit. The system was tested and proved capable of powering all machines together, though without any loading of the machines (i.e. no work pieces being cut, just the machines free running). Experience/trials will readily determine how many, and which, machines may be used at the same time on load.

The skylight panels in the large open area at the office end of the building had been letting in significant amounts of rainwater. These were replaced. This also substantially improved the lighting in the area.

The interior and exterior of much of the workshop had been given a fresh coat of white paint. Together with the other improvements the building now looks very good.

The original PC provided to the workshop had failed. This was likely to have been the result of damage due to power fluctuations. Following the replacement of some laptops at Cogent Power an old laptop was provided for use by the workshop. Due to its internal battery the laptop would be less susceptible to damage by power fluctuations. The laptop was installed and configured successfully.

#### **I.4. Business Review**

A tender for the supply of 100 bunk beds had been submitted prior to the Nov 2009 visit. The outcome of the tendering process was still awaited. Enquiries had been made, and it transpired that a decision may be delayed until the start of the customer's new financial year in a couple of month's time.

Little effort had been made to market the bicycle trailer, as since the Nov 2009 visit effort had been directed at preparing for the training visit, however work was well progressed on constructing a prototype ambulance bicycle trailer.

As part of the funding for the training a sum had been provided for the purchase of tables and chairs. Commendably, the workshop had manufactured these themselves.

Following the training a new, realistic, business plan would be prepared. This would be used to launch the business.

#### **2. Mooni Water Project**

The overall project objective is to improve an existing gravity flow scheme at Mooni. In stage 1 the current water source at Muyanda, which is contaminated, will be disconnected and a new source at Namiko connected. This has been tested and identified as being safe. Stage 2 will connect in a further 2 safe water sources, as Namiko cannot fully supply the system. The project will be implemented by Jenga CDO, one of the PONT partner NGOs.

PONT intends to inspect the completed stage 1 project on the next Ateb visit later in the year.

#### **3. IT**

Some limited IT repair work was carried out during the visit, at the PONT office at First Baptist.

#### **4. Compressed Bricks/Fuel Blocks**

None of the NGOs was making compressed bricks at the time.

There is possible scope for setting up an IGA making Fuel Blocks in Namatala.