

Engineers Without Borders work in Ghana

THE Engineers Without Borders (EWB), an international association of engineering students in engineers and other disciplines such as Economics, Social Sciences, Town and Country Planning, has been working in Ghana, helping to improve the quality of life of the people in the rural areas.

Recently, some members of the students chapter of the University of Wisconsin, Platteville, United States of America (USA), were in the country and to undertake projects in three rural communities in the Akuapem South sub-Municipal Area, namely Papase, Nsumia and Pokrom.

The group, led by their President, Mr Joseph Elsinger, comprised Rebecca Walsh, Nicole Bindl, Nicholas Confer, Duane Faust, Ben Kuchek, Anthony Seibel and Brad Ryan.

They worked in collaboration with their local partners, Engineers Without Borders (Ghana), represented by Mr Samuel Gamson, President of the Ghana Telecom University chapter of the association, while Dr Sam Owusu Ababio, a Lecturer at the Wisconsin University, served as the advisor and co-ordinator of the programme.

At Papase, the project involved the construction of a driveway and channels, gravelling and grassing to check the intensive erosion at the Roman Catholic Basic School. In addition, volumes of books and allied materials were presented to help build a library for the school.

On the project at Nsumia, the students carried out repair works on the dilapidated drainage system at the side of

the main road that passes through the village. MANSOCO, quarrying contractors in the area, facilitated the project by providing machines, equipment and stones as their contribution to the development of the community.

The other project took place at the Pokrom-Nsaba Health Centre. Here, assorted medical tools and materials were donated. These included stethoscopes, scissors, hemostats, band-aids, ring cutters, rescue blankets, wire splints and other disposables.

Receiving the items, Mr Kwasi Sevor, the Medical Assistant, showed great delight at the kind gesture, which he described as a "timely relief for the centre," as it was in dire need of support to provide health services for the large numbers of people in the catchment area. He affirmed that the supplies would be put to good use.

Present at the presentation ceremony was Mr Kwame Sarfo-Brobby, the District Engineer, commended the students for their generosity, as well as for the efforts of the medical staff at the centre.

Undoubtedly, the EWB is making meaningful contributions to the welfare of the disadvantaged communities. Currently, it operates in more than 40 countries of the world, including Ghana.

It will be recalled that some members of the association came to Ghana and helped to establish such projects as boreholes, KVIPs and poultry farms for the people at Sekyikrom and Obodam, located along the Nsawam-Aburi road in the Eastern Region.