NORTHERN PROJECTS NODE MEETING & PROJECT VISIT
AREWA SUNSHINE HOTEL, TAMALE

PROJECTS NODE VISIT
SALAGA COMMUNITY INFORMATION CENTRE, SALAGA

The project visit to the Salaga Community Information centre is to see and learn from the Wireless Shared Connectivity model that has been implemented. IICD currently uses the Pay-As-You-Go system as a pilot in the Community Information Centre (CIC) leveraging programme in Ghana. The centre in Salaga is the first of the CICs to use Pay-As-You-Go. Salaga's Community Information Centre has a satellite dish that receives the signal for the internet connection. As a result of the wireless shared connectivity module that has been implemented, five other institutions have been connected wirelessly to the Internet facility at the CIC Centre. These institutions include the offices of the National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO), Ghana Health Service, the District Assembly, SEND Foundation, Ghana Education Service and the TI Ahamadiya Senior High School.

The CIC Manager thanked all for coming to learn and share experiences of the shared connectivity module that has been implemented at his centre and wished all a very fruitful day. On his part, the Northern Projects Node Coordinator, Mr. Agbenyo John Stephen reminded all to participate actively and feel free to ask questions and also contribute meaningfully.

The CIC manager of the Salaga CIC, Mr. Mohammed M. Masahudu gave the team a tour of the CIC centre. He first took participants to the Server room where he explained how the Internet through the Satellite dish is directed through the Idirect Modem through to the switch which then spreads the link through the LAN.

Participants were also led to take a look at the Satellite dish and the Mast that sends the wireless signal to the other clients that have been connected to the CIC Centre.

The next point of visit was the East Gonja District Assembly where the Project Node members were granted audience by the New District Chief Executive of the East Gonja District Assembly, Hon. Alhassan Mumuni together with the District Coordinating Director, Mr. Abudu Kadiri.

The DCE was glad that the project team members decided on Salaga for the project visit. He mentioned that Salaga counts its self very lucky. He pledged his personal support for the Slaga Community Information Centre. He mentioned that during the orientation for the newly appointed DCEs, they were educated on the need to support the operations of the CICs hence his zeal to support the

Salaga CIC. He also disclosed that he will be paying regular visit to the CIC to ensure they operate effectively. He also mentioned that he intends to set up a very strong public relations outfit for the District Assembly and promised that the CIC and the Information officer will be a key pillar of the outfit.

The District Coordinating director disclosed that one problem with the CICs across the region is the lack of information flow between the DCEs, the Coordinating Directors and the CIC Mangers. He therefore encouraged the CIC Managers and Information Officers present to facilitate the free flow of information between their centres and their District Assemblies. He mentioned that he was glad that the shared wireless connectivity module has been implemented and said he no longer needs to go to Tamale to have internet access. All he needed to do is to log on to his lap top in his office to have access. This he mentioned is facilitating his work very well.

Madam Patricia Formadi, Coordinator of WADEP thanked the DCE and the Coordinating Director for granting the project team audience.

A visit was also made to the SEND Foundation office in Salaga who are a stakeholder in the Salaga Wireless Shared Connectivity Module. Welcoming the project node members, Mr. Wumpini, Project Officer at the Salaga office mentioned that the Internet has been very helpful in their work at the office. He said the office relied previously on a dial-up connection that only gave up to a 50.6kb speed but with the shared connectivity, he is able to get up to a 100mg

speed. He was excited about the connectivity because it has eased the work at the office. He, together with the Salaga CIC manager and Stephen Agbenyo did a demonstration of the log-in page of the Pay As You Go System.

Visits were also made to the Ghana Health Service office and the TI Ahmadiya Senior High School. At the Ghana Health Service Office, The project node members interacted with the Administrator, Mr. Fatawu.

During the interaction, the Administrator complained that he had been struggling to browse with his newly acquired laptop but tried as he did, he was unsuccessful. The project node members were able to do the configuration for him. He was very pleased and thanked the project node members for their visit.

At the TI Ahmadiya Senior High School, the team members interacted with the ICT Instructor, Mr. Samuel Addo. He mentioned that the school was very pleased to have internet access from the CIC Centre as a result of the shared wireless connectivity. This he said enabled the school to successfully participate in the Global Teenager Project's Learning Cycle.

The projects node members reminded the ICT instructor that very few schools in the Northern Region have internet access and hence encouraged the school to make the best use of the opportunity provided them through the wireless shared connectivity module.