Learning and Advocacy – Talking Teachers 2010 held

25 December 2010

Organized by VSO Ireland in Doulin from 17-19 November 2010, Mr. Yohnnes Benti, President of Ethiopian Teachers Association (ETA), who closely works with VSO Ethiopia programme office in Addis Ababa, was invited to participate in the meetings and activities to highlight the valuing Teachers work that VSO is doing internationally. The title of the research done in Ethiopia is “How Much is a Good Teacher Worth?”

Photo with ASTI & INTO officials

In his meetings and visits, Mr. Yohannes had the chance to participate in the opening session of GCE Northern coalition meeting. In addition he had also a meeting with Moira leydon, Assistant General Secretary of the Association of secondary Teachers (ASTI) and Alison Gilliland, Senior official of Irish National Teachers’ organization (INTO). Meeting was also made with

Photo with Senator Joe O’Toole

Senator Joe o’ Toole, former Secretary General of the INTO, to share his experience in talking for teachers and education. As per the prgramme arranged, visit to St.Mark’s secondary school

Meeting in St. Mark’s S/school

in Tallaght was made for half a day study visit to discuss on issues pertinent to learning. Valuable knowledge was gained after discussing with school leadership, some team and students. Moreover meeting was made with
Ballymun visit

Ballymun principals network where they deal with issues of common problems so as to have better voices as a group in solving their school problems. Final visit was made on the 5th of November 2010 to Cork, located about 220 Kilometers away from Dublin, to participate in Education Committee INTO teachers union conference in Silver springs Hotel, Cork.

It was a great opportunity to experience that members of INTO were participating in the 25th Annual Education Conference, the main theme of which was the issue of Learning Communities.

In his stay in Ireland, Dublin, Mr. Yohannes Benti has presented a paper to an audience of 50 people (among the participants of whom were Stephen
Nock, VSO International and Other distinguished participants) on the progress made in education in Ethiopia, main challenges facing teachers in Ethiopia and VSO Ethiopia’s involvement in ETA’s work and explained the need for improved quality of education.

Photo with VSO Ireland staff

As a whole the visit was exciting and very useful lesson were learnt out of it. ETA would like to thank VSO Ireland and its staff as well as VSO Ethiopia for arranging the study /visit programme.