



SAPESI Mobile Library Project News: Jan - June 2014

Free State Mobile Library service covers 33% of schools without school libraries

Free State has 1 300 schools, but 1 150 of these schools do not have functioning libraries. Thanks to last year's donation of 4 vehicles, their Mobile Library fleet (11 in total, 2 buses at each of their five district centres, with one stand-by vehicle) have started to cover 382 schools, which is 33% of their no-school-library schools.



Each bus visits around 40 schools twice a term, once to deliver the books, and once to collect.

Motheo bus - Free State

This remarkable achievement is the result of a pilot Mobile Library operation by Free State's DoE. SAPESI is grateful for this accomplishment since it required a high level of support and dedication from Free State Department of Education's management headed by Education MEC Mr. P.H.I. Makgoe, and also from their Mobile Library team.

We will continue to support Free State in their efforts to improve the quality of the operation e.g.

- 10 starter school libraries donated by Biblionef, as the next step after the mobile library service
- To cover bigger schools in the cities, and school hostels for farm school learners
- Better usage of Libwin library computer programme with onboard notebook PCs for library management

For this achievement, numerous books have been donated by Sony group, and we would like to thank Sony Japan and their subsidiary companies in the English speaking countries for their approximately 135,000 children's books in total, new and second hand collected by them, as the result of the partnership MOU signed between Sony corp. Free State DoE and SAPESI in 2008..

Arrival of 6 additional Mobile Library buses

On June 29, the car-carrier "Sunshine Ace" of our shipping partner MOL, arrived in Durban, transporting 6 mobile libraries namely 3 for Mpumalanga DoE, one each to Free State and Gauteng DoEs, and East Rand NGO Ekufundzeni. The buses were delivered safely to their destinations after a long and laborious custom clearance process.



Sunshine Ace docking in Durban harbour

The South African embassy in Tokyo and SAPESI Japan organized a departure ceremony on May 22 2014 in the embassy. This was, at the same time, in commemoration of 20 years of democracy in South Africa. The ceremony was a great success with the presence of various VIP guests and representation by Japanese newspapers.



Tokyo - departure ceremony

This Mobile Library project has been continuously supported by successive RSA ambassadors to Japan - Dr. Ben Ngubane, Mr. Gert Grobler, and currently Dr. Mohau Pheko.

Our supporters: MOL, Mitsui OSK Lines

MOL is one of the largest global shipping companies which navigates for example numerous container boats, car-carriers, bulk cargo ships for coal, iron-ore and oil tankers, and LNG (liquid natural gas) carriers.

MOL has been transporting Mobile Library buses over years from Japan to Durban at very special freight charges since the beginning of the project.



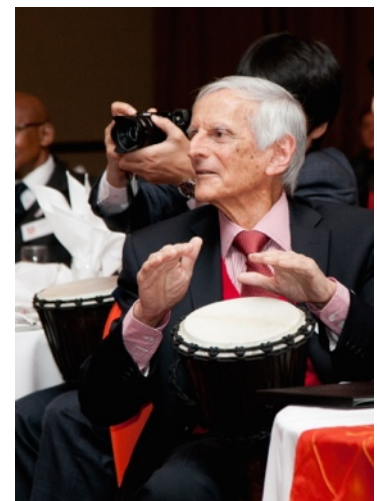
Car-carrier Sunshine Ace at sea

Their Kasado Maru ship was the very first Japanese vessel which called in Cape Town in 1908 on its way to Brazil. A few years later, in 1910, the Japanese consulate was established in Cape Town. The two countries indeed have a long, good and well established relationship.

Thank you, Mr. Jack Cohen

Mr. Jack Cohen, well-known ex-chairman of Tedelex and a prominent South African businessman, was helping SAPESI as our advisor, thus leading his business friends. Sadly he passed away on 28 June 2014.

To lose a friend who has been extremely sympathetic to our cause, is truly sad and a great loss to us. We wish, with all our hearts, that his soul will rest in peace.



J Cohen at the SAPESI's Heart to Heart breakfast meeting - June 2012

Progress - Five Provinces

The Mobile Library of the so-called New Five provinces, namely the DoEs of Mpumalanga, Limpopo, North West, Northern Cape and Eastern Cape, finally have commenced to visit schools, and we would like to assist them as much as we can.

We thank our sponsors for their continued support and all Mobile Library teams (now in all provinces) for their hard work and dedication.

Tad, Tadashi Hasunuma
Director: SAPESI Mobile Library Project