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New Bortianor, Ghana – July 25, 2024 - The ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) is proud to announce the inauguration of solarization projects at three hospitals in Ghana. These projects include a 61KWp system at Finney Hospital, a 21KWp system at Barnor Memorial Hospital, and a 30KWp system at Mother-Love Hospital.

Developed and implemented in partnership with Tradeworks Limited, a local solar energy company, these projects received technical support and co-funding from ECREEE through the ECOWAS Special Intervention Fund (ESIF). The solar systems will ensure an uninterrupted power supply to the beneficiary hospitals, significantly contributing to the provision of excellent healthcare services in their respective communities.

The inauguration ceremony at Finney Hospital was attended by several notable figures, including the Director for Renewable Energy, Mr. Seth Mahu, who represented the Honourable Minister of Energy of Ghana; the Director for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency at the Energy Commission of Ghana, Mr. Kofi Agyarko, who represented the Executive Secretary; Executive Director of ECREEE, Mr. Jean Francis Sempore; the Chief Medical Director of Finney Hospital, Dr. Allen Steele-Dadzie; and the Chief Executive Officer of Tradeworks Limited, Mr. Randy Sey.

These projects mark a significant step forward in enhancing the quality of healthcare services in the region. By providing uninterrupted power supply through these solar systems, the project ensures that medical facilities can operate efficiently without the disruptions caused by power outages.

As part of its commitment to deliver premium orthopedic healthcare in Ghana and beyond, the Foundation of Complex Orthopaedic Spine (FOCOS) has commissioned a large off-grid solar powered project.

The 700kwh Hybrid Solar System with 1LMWH Battery Storage has been touted by experts as the largest in Africa for a hospital. The project, which is the first of its kind in the nation, estimated at over \$1.5 million, was made possible through the benevolence of United States-based couple (Mr. and Mrs. Heyland) and the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC). Sun Power Innovations, the engineers behind the project, also gave a substantial discount on the project.

Expressing his excitement on the fruition of this project, Prof. Oheneba Boachie-Adjei, the President and Founder of FOCOS Hospital, appealed to the public to support FOCOS Hospital as it is a non-profit hospital taking care of patients who cannot afford spine, joint and bone-related surgery. He narrated how the funding of this project came into realization. He emphasized the fact that a grateful patient in the US (Heylands) decided to give towards patient sponsorships and other hospital projects including this solar project.

"For us, this means more money for the patients as the power bills will be reduced by at least 60%," he

expressed his immense gratitude to the donors of this project. He also used the occasion to appeal to all and sundry to support an endowment fund campaign aimed at raising \$50million to support needy patients and to build capacity for research, education and outreach programs. Such a fund will be made possible if at least 500,000 Ghanaians will each contribute GHS100 to this fund for a 5-year period.

Speaking on the plethora of benefits this installation will give FOCOS, Mr. Eric Adjah, Technical Lead for SunPower Innovation, said, "this is one of the first in the hospital sector which will help FOCOS Hospital cut down on its huge power bills and enjoy stable a 24-hour supply power, to the hospital, with the generator only serving as backup".

Among the FOCOS Management members present at the ceremony were: Ambassador Fritz Poku, Board Chairman of FOCOS Hospital, Prof. Joseph Ogyaadu, Medical Director, Dr. Ofori-Amankwah, Director for Medical Services and Dr. Irene Wulff, Associate Medical Director. The newly crowned Miss Ghana, Rebecca Kwabi, and her runner up were also in attendance.

The Foundation of Orthopedics and Complex Spine is a non-profit organization, established in 1998 in the United States and Ghana by Prof. Oheneba Boachie-Adjei, who was Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College of Cornell University and the Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS). FOCOS" mission is to provide the highest quality and affordable orthopedic care to those who would not otherwise have access to such treatment.

As in many developing and emerging countries, power outages are a recurring problem in Ghana. There is even a word for this: "dumsor". On top of this comes the instability of the electricity supply network. Both have a significant impact on the health sector, leaving operating theatres without light and life-saving medical equipment down. Photovoltaic-based electricity could provide a remedy, but the PV market in Ghana is still relatively undeveloped.

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