The IOP and the Ghana Education Service have established a Physics and Electronics Centre at Ada on the banks of the great Volta estuary. The Centre has a large laboratory area with office and a workshop. The Centre was opened by the President of the IOP Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell in May 2010. The workshop is situated in Ada Secondary High School which is a Government funded school in an area where there is a real need for improving the provision for physics education. The aim of the Centre is to:

- To promote and introduce the use of practical equipment in physics, electronics and ICT as part of the Physics Curriculum.
- To promote excellence in physics amongst Ada SHS students as part of the talent search for science students scheme.
- To encourage girls to elect for physics at SHS level.
- To train science teachers in practical work for teaching physics, electronics and ICT.
- To develop a programme of fabrication and repair of scientific equipment.
- To become a centre for the development of ‘science on wheels’.
- To become a centre for e-learning.

Working with local and national agencies was essential in developing this project

The time between the initial concept of an IOP centre and its completion was only three months – a very short period of time. This was achieved by working closely with a wide range of organisations. For example without the involvement of the Ghana Education Service, including the enthusiastic involvement of the Minister of Education Hon. Mr Alex Tettey-Enyo, this project would not have been completed. The involvement of Professor Allotey an eminent theoretical physicist and President of the African Physical Society was a crucial link to the Ghanaian physics community.

The opening ceremony see photograph reflects the local and national involvement in the project. The success of this project was also achieved by enlisting the support of the commercial sector. International Education and Training Consultancy (ITEC) provided transport and free consultancy. The IOP also involved the Ghana representative of Findel (previously Philip Harris the science education laboratory suppliers.) He is a well respected Ghanaian with a wide experience of developing educational projects in Ghana over many years.

We wanted the Centre to be in operation on the day of the opening ceremony. The IOP sponsored Dr John Nunn from the National Physical Laboratory on a weeks lecturing course in Ghana. One of these lecturers was arranged to
coincide with the day of the opening. Twenty physics teachers from the Volta Region were the first to use the centre using computers donated by the National Physical Laboratory.

The opening of the Centre by Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell President of the IOP and the minister for education the Hon. Mr Alex Tettey-Enyo ensured thorough local and national publicity.

The visit of Professor Burnell, the lecture tour by Dr John Nunn and the Ada IOP Centre have put the IOP firmly on the map of physics education in Ghana.

Professor Burnell also visited the experimental nuclear reactor at the Atomic Energy Commission in Accra and the LASER department at Cape Coast University.

The Future

Our priority now is to ensure that the Centre at Ada carries out its aims and becomes an example for the way that the IOP can become a real value to the physics education in an African country.

We hope to appoint a coordinator and technician to implement the aims listed above. One of which will be to set up a physics on wheels vehicle which can travel the length and breadth of Ghana with equipment and expertise.
Dr John Nunn tutoring a group of physics teachers from the Volta region viewed by the Minister of Education and traditional elders on the opening day of the Ada Centre

Professor Jocelyn Bell Burnell viewing the experimental reactor in Accra with the Deputy Director of the Atomic Energy Commission (left)