

Ensuring access to good drinking water and safe sanitation for all

The third edition of the Ghana Water Forum took place from 5th September to Wednesday 7th September, 2011 in Accra on the theme “Water and Sanitation Services Delivery in a Rapidly Changing Urban Environment”, with an assurance by government that it remains committed to ensuring access to good drinking water and safe sanitation for all.

sector have made and continue to make huge strides in deepening rural supply since the national community water and sanitation programme was launched by government in 1994. However, he lamented the state of urban water, noting that “Urban water supply coverage has however stagnated over the same period with water rationing being the norm rather than an exception.”



Section of participants at GWF 3

“It is the policy of government to ensure that all the good people of Ghana have access to good drinking water and sanitation,” His Excellency President John Evans Atta Mills assured in a key note address delivered on his behalf at the opening of the forum by Hon. Alban S.K. Bagbin, the then Minister for Water Resources, Works and Housing.

“We as a government are intent on doing what is best for the people of this country. To this end government will spare no effort to ensure that we do better than the target set for the year 2015. Government's target for the water sector is 85 percent by the year 2015,” the President noted.

He was happy that rural and small towns

To address the challenge, he said government has launched an initiative to provide bore holes fitted with hand pumps to all the remotest part of the country including peri-urban areas. “We are also in the process of implementing the Sanitation and Water for All Compact to which the government of Ghana has committed itself.” In addition, the World Bank grant of over 100 million dollars for the implementation of the urban water project is ongoing. “The Chinese have also supported us to construct an additional treatment plant at Kpong” which will increase water supply by several millions of gallons per day.

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EDITORIAL TEAM:

Abu Wumbei (RCN Ghana),
Janet Alamisi Dabire (IRC Ghana),
Emmanuel Addai (WSMP) Ghana
Ben Arthur (CONIWAS),
Abrefa Sarpong (CWSA),
Seyram Asimah (TREND Group),
Ida Coleman (RCN Ghana),
Victor Otum (IRC, Ghana).
Credit: www.ghanawaterforum.org

EDITORIAL:**Time for Reflections: MWRWH Postpones 4th Ghana Water Forum**

The fourth edition of the Ghana Water Forum (GWF4) scheduled for the year, 2012 has been postponed to 2013 due to what the organizers describe as 'recent national developments'. This was announced by the Ghana Water Forum organizing committee on behalf of the Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing (MWRWH).

In a statement signed by the committee chair and Deputy Director of Water, MWRWH, Mr. Harold Clotey, the organizing committee indicated that they will be reflecting on the past GWF events, reviewing and following up on past decision points, to report on progress at the forthcoming forum. The committee called for inputs, suggestions, comments, etc. from various stakeholders to ensure improvement over the past events. It will be recalled that the Ghana Water Forum (GWF) was established in 2009 out of the then Joint Government of Ghana/Development Partners Annual Review Conference with the following key objectives:

- To create a platform for Ghana's political leadership, water sector professionals, stakeholders and partners to discuss opportunities and challenges of achieving water security for Ghana's socio-economic development;
- To take stock of the status of the achievements of the MDGs in Ghana, reviewing key achievements and challenges and propose strategies and actions for accelerating the achievement of the water and sanitation

targets;

- To build consensus on water security and provide recommendations for consideration at the highest political level;
- To formulate concrete policies, strategies and actions to accelerate water resources development and the provision of services;
- To provide a platform for exchange of WASH sector knowledge and information;
- To serve as a forerunner to the Africa Water Week, where proceedings from the GWF would be presented

In our reflections on this postponement is important to note that the GOG/Donor annual review conference was consistent year after year until 2008. The GWF since its inception in 2009 was also consistent until this year's postponement. The question is what could have necessitated the postponement of the GWF4?

The WASH News investigations revealed that the then GOG/Donor annual review conference was sponsored mainly by DANIDA, and the GWF forum started at a time that the EU funding, under the Improving Water Sector Performance Management Framework (IWSPMF) project had just taken off. A bulk of the funding for GWF1-GWF3 was from the IWSPMF project funding, which ended in 2011. This created a huge funding gap. This notwithstanding, the GWF4 could have been organized, at least on a small scale.

So, why did MWRWH decide to

postpone the event all together? Speculations had it that donors were not forthcoming with sponsorship due to a number of reasons including the bumping into the GWF3 opening ceremony of a Deputy Minister for Water Resources Works and Housing, when the UNICEF country representative (then the donor lead) was at the middle of her address. Many insiders therefore hold the view that the hesitation of donor partners to extend support for GWF4 was a kind of protest to register their displeasure. Some however, hold the view that the MWRWH do not seem to appreciate the relevance of the GWF and are therefore not fully committed.

Whatever it is, these are key learning points we need to seriously reflect on as a sector. Sector leadership and ownership of the GWF has to be taken seriously. The WD-MWRWH should take this as a wakeup call and begin to commit, own and budget for the annual sector review festival (GWF). Alternatively, the ownership could still be with MWRWH and the budgeting and organizing responsibility ceded off to one of the sector agencies like the CWSA. This way, the sustainability of the platform could be guaranteed.

The planning committee stated in the announcement postponing the event, that it will finalise and communicate the rescheduled date and details of the GWF 2013. The sector looks forward to that communication and to a much more improved GWF 2013. – Abu Wumbei

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"I'm told that this will also be able to get water for us to serve Adenta and its surrounding areas. The World Bank project is expected to end this year and the Chinese project is expected to end in three years time," the president said. He was optimistic that "With the completion of these project and other projects we will soon see a rapid improvement in the delivery of water supply in urban centres."

On the issue of urban sanitation, the President issued a fiat, saying, *"I want to urge all Metropolitan, Municipal and District Chief Executives to implement*

relevant by-laws to ensure all households have access to appropriate sanitation facilities in their homes. I further urge these assemblies, especially those in Accra, to come together to coordinate their activities in accordance with the local government Act (Act 462)" and other relevant laws of the country.

He also urged the various assemblies and their regional coordinating councils to imbibe the Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach. He concluded his address by expressing government's appreciation for the role

and contribution of various stakeholders including development partners, civil society organizations and the private sector. There were various fraternizing messages from sector partners, including children, business community, development partners, civil society and allied ministries, departments and agencies. Largely, the speakers noted progress made on the recommendations from GWF 2 and urged that more should be done to address pertaining challenges.

Time to intensify rain harvesting campaign – Jemila



AGGRESSIVE rain water harvesting campaign is needed to increase the current low adoption level to complement urban water supply.

The adoption according to Mrs. Jemila Mashhod of Maple Consult is even easier considering the type of roofing systems in the urban areas.

Delivering a paper on rainwater

harvesting as a complementary approach to improving water supply in Ghana, Mrs. Mashood stated that rainwater harvesting was currently insignificant (0.6%) even though the country has between 800 and 2,000 annually.

Making her presentation at the Water Session, Mrs. Mashood

conceded that the initial high cost of constructing rain harvesting systems was a huge disincentive adding that "in the long term, the facility is cost effective as it can last for 50 years if well constructed".

At the same session but speaking on the Degradation of Water Resources and the Effect of Drinking Water Treatment in Ghana, Mr. Evans Balaara stated that increasing pollution of primary water sources remained a huge challenge in the treatment of water.

Without stating real figures with regards to cost of treating water, Mr. Balaara stated "cost of treating water is still high due to pollution."

Some of the systems, including the Weija/Kpong, Daboase/Sekyere Herman, Axim/Inchaban, Anyinam, D a m o n g o / Y e n d i and Osino/Bunso/Kibi are frequently shut down due to poor water quality and dry weather.

By Naa Lamiley Bentil – Ghana Watsan Journalists Network

Ghana will miss sanitation MDG target by 40% – Habila



With Ghana's current rate of progress in attaining the sanitation Millennium Development Goal of 54%, Ghana is set to fall behind by 40% by 2015, says Othniel Habila, Chief of WASH, Unicef in Ghana.

Mr. Habila said this when he made a presentation on the topic, “The Sanitation Gap in Ghana” at Ghana's 3rd Water Forum, which took place in Accra. He said for the country to speed up its rate of progress, there was the need to be clear on definition of Basic Sanitation as defined in UN's World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002 and made up of seven elements.

He listed the elements as the development and implementation of efficient household sanitation systems, improvement of sanitation in public institutions, especially in schools and promotion of safe hygiene practices.

The other elements are promotion of education and outreach focused on children, as agents of behavioural change, promotion of affordable and socially and culturally acceptable technologies and practice, development of innovative financing and partnership mechanisms and integration of sanitation into water resources management strategies in a manner which

does not have negative impact on the environment.

Unicef's WASH Chief further stated that Ghana must understand and introduce the social dimension of Open Defecation, describing it as a “Social Dilemma” and a “Tragedy of the Commons.”

“We also need to maintain the clear link with disease prevention and reduction and “We need to recognise the power of the CLTS approach,” he stated.

Mr. Othniel Habila listed urgent actions that need to be taken by the Government of Ghana as Coordination and Planning, Mobilisation, Building of Capacity, embarking on a Phased Implementation and setting up of a monitoring system.

Under these subheads he called for the designation of national, regional and district CLTS coordinators and the establishment of the Regional Implementation Coordinating Committees (RICCS) and District Implementation Coordinating Committees (DICCS) for coordination, among others.

- By Edmund Smith Asante

WASH services delivery in Ghana - Prof. Kwamena Ahwoi

WASH News brings you the full unedited theme address delivered by Prof. Kwamena Ahwoi at the 3rd Ghana Water Forum. The address offered suggestions covering managing the WASH sector, institutional re-arrangement, public private partnership, urban water management, urban sanitation among others.

Introduction

About twenty years ago, the urban population of Ghana was about 5.6 million or 36 percent of the total population. Today, it is about 12.2 million or 50 per cent. Clearly, systems that were designed to service a 5.6 million population will have to be modified to be able to service 12.2 million people. That represents the challenge of urban water and sanitation delivery in Ghana today.

Managing the Water and Sanitation Sector: The Problems

In those long ago days of centralized and state-controlled administration, water and sanitation services for the whole country was the legal responsibility of the Ghana Water and Sewage Cooperation (GWSC). This was understandable, because of the smallness of the population which therefore made the management of water and sanitation by a monopolistic para-statal logical response to the problem caused by the economies of scale. But those who are old enough will remember that this arrangement was wholly disadvantageous to the rural population, as the activities of the GWSC barely touched the rural communities.

It was the PAMSCAD (Programme of Actions to Mitigate the Social Costs of Adjustment and Development) of the late 1980s and the early

1990s that first alerted the country to the reality that the rural community was being shortchanged in the area of water provision by this arrangement and that it was possible for a dichotomized approach to water and sanitation services provision between urban and rural Ghana to be adopted. Thus the WATSAN projects of the PAMSCAD gave birth to the Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA) of today. But the problem of water and sanitation provision has not been attributable to the monopoly of the GWSC only. The segmentation of the sector has represented another major problem. Whilst GWSC WATSAN, WASH CWSA and other acronyms all suggested that water, sanitation and hygiene belong to the same sector, they have unfortunately been bifurcated or trifurcated between the Works and Housing, Local Government and Health Ministries. It is therefore



virtually impossible to deal with the sector without calling a meeting of all three sectors, and we all know that such meetings only spawn sub committees which also spawn their own meetings leading to the establishment of Expert Groups which also hold their own meetings ad infinitum. At the end of the day, the problem is left unsolved because one is not sure as to even who is to take the final decisions. There is yet a third problem, a

problem which I choose to describe as “settlement before planning”, a phenomenon which is best illustrated with a story, 'Numoo' Kwamena is a hunter who hunts in the peri-urban area of Accra in the Accra Plains somewhere in the Dangbe East District. Whilst hunting one day, he chases a rat far into the Plains, kills it, skins it, and because it is night, lights a fire and cooks it, eats it, and settles for the night. The next day, he invites his wife and children to join him to finish the rat meat. Because there is a stream nearby and the rats seem to be in abundance, 'Numoo' Kwamena never goes back and before you can say “Kwamena” Kwamenakope (or Kwamenakrom in Akan), a new village is born. Kwamenakope has not been planned for, and yet the settlement of Kwamekope has come into existence. Forget about the fact that it is an illegal settlement, but 'Numo' Kwamena and his descendants have votes and therefore come election time, politicians will go and promise them water and sanitation services. No service provider whether a monopoly, a duopoly or a 'multi-poly' can redeem this promise, especially if such a scenario is a regular occurrence in the spatial development sector of a country, which it is in Ghana.

All these problems point to one thing: water and sanitation are micro, localized needs which are very difficult to manage from distant, centralized locations. They point to the need to decentralize the water and sanitation sector in a way that they will be managed at the local level with the participation of the local people. They suggest that not even the bifurcation of the water and sanitation sector into urban and rural sectors will resolve the problem. They argue for a total decentralization of the water and sanitation sectors. The call for new arrangement for the provision of

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WASH services delivery in Ghana - Prof. Kwamena Ahwoi

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water and sanitation services and because of their sheer numbers, they argue especially for a new arrangement for urban water supply.

Managing the Water and Sanitation Sectors: The Questions

In responding to the identified challenges, a number of questions arise:

Should water, sanitation and environmental hygiene continue to belong to separate sectors or should they be clustered as a single sector issue to be handled by one sector Ministry?

Should the production, transmission and distribution of urban water be considered, as one activity to be undertaken by one agency or organization or can they be split between different agencies or organizations as has been done with electricity?

Is it possible to at least regionalize urban water supply if decentralizing it to the district level will not be defensible from the point of view of the economies of scale?

How can we get urban residents to be involved in the provision of water and sanitation services given the difficulty that is encountered in mobilizing especially the urban elite for any community activity whatsoever?

Is cost recovery a feasible option in the provision of urban water and sanitation services or are there alternative options that can provide these social and human needs?

I will share a few of my own thoughts on some of these difficult questions.

- A Disparate or a Single Sector?

Water, sanitation and environmental hygiene are so closely related that they are best treated as a single sector. The common thread running through them is water. Lack of or too little of water causes the sanitation and environmental hygiene problems. Water is therefore the cause of the problem; the others are merely symptoms. It is therefore necessary to treat the cause by making the entire sector the responsibility of the agency responsible for water which to me would be the ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing (MWRWH). But that only means responsibility for water and sanitation policy. Responsibility for water provision should be decentralized to the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) which will continue to be overseen by the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD). Environmental hygiene training will continue to be the responsibility of the MOH, but that would not mean a transfer of the responsibility from environmental health back to the MOH. Environmental health is the decentralized responsibility of the MMDAs and it should remain as such.

Within the framework of these proposals, and consistent with my proposal elsewhere that local government should not continue to be a line Ministry, policy responsibility for water, sanitation and environmental health would be the responsibility MWRWH; training of environmental health personnel would be the responsibility of the MOH; but the provision of water and the

implementation of sanitation and environmental health policies would be the decentralized responsibility of the MMDAs. After all, the Ghana Medical School which trains our doctors is under the Ministry of Education, but the doctors who are the products of the school are under the MOH.

Production, Transmission and Distribution of Urban Water

There seems to be an unquestioned assumption in Ghana that production, transmission and distribution of water should necessarily be undertaken by the same agency or organization. We used to think the same for electricity. But once we decided to allow Independent Power Producers (IPPs) into the sector, the VRA, GRIDCo and the ECG emerged as three distinct entities in charge of production, transmission and distribution of electricity respectively.

Similarly with urban water, because of the large cost and investment outlays, it is possible to have different agencies or organizations handling the different aspects of the water operation. In South Africa, for example, water is produced by one agency which sells it in bulk to the local authorities which are responsible for its distribution within the cities. This does not mean that the local authorities have to do the distribution by themselves by all means.

They can also contract out that responsibility to private companies under public-private partnership arrangements. Is private participation in any of these aspects of the water chain an option in Ghana and specifically is MMDA involvement in water distribution also an option in Ghana? This Forum must interrogate that possibility.

Break GWCL Monopoly

Stakeholders of the just ended Ghana Water Forum have overwhelmingly called on government to break the monopoly of the Ghana Water Company Limited for the sake of efficiency.

Participants from different sessions during the conference made separate calls, which were all read during the closing ceremony on 7th September 2011, thereby forcing the call into the main conference communiqué.

From the Ministerial and Development Partners Roundtable, one of the side events with very high level participation, comprising Ministers and/or high profile officials from the Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, as well as top officials from Ghana's Development partners including the World Bank, UNICEF, the European Union, CIDA, DANIDA, IRC, Embassies and several international NGOs and Civil Society Representatives, a statement was issued as follows;

“Given the fast pace of urbanization, and the need to meet the growing demand for water for consumption, industry and commerce, the meeting called for more drastic reforms in urban water delivery currently under the jurisdiction of GWCL. Reform options for consideration may include efforts to break the monopoly of GWCL such as “Regionalization,” separating the

roles of Water Production and Distribution or complete decentralization up to municipal levels. A more concrete role for communities in the management and delivery of urban water within the GWCL supply areas can substantially improve governance and increase access to Water and Sanitation Services, especially to poor and peri-urban areas.”

The Business Roundtable, whose participation include private businesses led by the Association of Ghana Industries (AGI) and officials from the key water sector

and other top officials from the Ghana Water Company made presentations on urban water supply management options, also came up with a similar recommendation – de-monopolize the Ghana Water Company – and it was captured in their end of session statement as follows, “break the GWCL monopoly and introduce service or supply area based concepts.”

Following these separate calls coming from different sessions of the forum, the call was finally and inevitably captured by the



ministries also called for similar reforms through defining the role of private sector in urban water management such as revenue mobilization and building efficiency in their end of session statement.

The session on Governance, where the Ag Managing Director of the GWCL, the former Director of Water at the Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing,

conference communiqué, “As a way forward for urban water services, management of urban water supply services should be decentralized to enhance efficiency. The separation of the key functions of production, transmission and distribution to be handled by different entities could also be considered.”

Urban water supply in Ghana has gone through several reforms

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Break GWCL Monopoly

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dating back to the pre-independence era. The first public water supply system in Ghana, then Gold Coast, was established in Accra just before World War I. Extensions were made exclusively to other urban areas among them the colonial capital of Cape Coast, Winneba and Kumasi in the 1920s.

During this period, the water supply systems were managed by the Hydraulic Division of Public Works Department. With time the responsibilities of the Hydraulic Division were widened to include planning and development of water supply systems in other parts of the country.

In 1948, the Department of Rural Water Development was established to engage in the development and management of rural water supply through the drilling of boreholes and construction of wells for rural communities.

The Ghana Water and Sewerage Corporation (GWSC), was established in 1965 under an Act of Parliament (Act 310) as a legal public utility entity. GWSC was responsible for water supply and sanitation in rural as well as urban areas and the conduct of research on water and sewerage as well as the making of engineering surveys and plans. The Corporation was also responsible for the construction and operation of water and sewerage works, and the setting of standards and tariffs and collection of revenues.

Documentation by the GWCL indicates that by the late 1980s and early 1990s, 33% of the water supply systems had deteriorated

greatly or completely broken down due to inadequate funding to carry out maintenance and rehabilitation. A World Bank report in 1998 states that: "The water supply systems in Ghana deteriorated rapidly during the economic crises of the 1970s and early 1980s when Government's ability to adequately operate and maintain essential services was severely constrained."

Though some gains were made in interventions by the World Bank and other External Support Agencies from 1971 to 1988, their general impact on service delivery was very disappointing. Due to this several efforts were made to improve efficiency within the water supply sector in Ghana especially during the era of the Economic Recovery Programme from 1983 to 1993. During this period, loans and grants were sought from donors, user fees were increased, for the initiation of rehabilitation and expansion programmes, to train personnel and to buy transport and maintenance equipment etc.

In 1987, a "Five-Year Rehabilitation and Development Plan" for the sector was prepared which resulted in the launching of the Water Sector Restructuring Project (WSRP). The reforms were aimed at reducing unaccounted for water, introducing rationalization through reduction of the workforce, hiring of professionals and training of the remaining staff. A strong focus in the WSRP was also to improve management and increase efficiency through organizational

change in the water sector.

Accordingly, a number of organizational reforms within the Ghanaian water sector were initiated in the early 1990s. As a first step, responsibilities for sanitation and small towns water supply were decentralized from Ghana Water and Sewerage Corporation to the District Assemblies in 1993.

The Water Resources Commission (WRC) was founded in 1996 to be in charge of overall regulation and management of water resources utilization. In 1997, the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission (PURC) came into being with the purpose of setting tariffs and quality standards for the operation of public utilities.

With the passage of Act 564 of 1998, the Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA) was established to be responsible for management of rural water supply systems, hygiene education and provision of sanitary facilities. After the establishment of CWSA, 120 water supply systems serving small towns and rural communities were transferred from the GWSC to the District Assemblies and Communities to manage under the community-ownership and management scheme.

Finally, in July 1999, GWSC was converted into a 100% state owned limited liability, Ghana Water Company Limited, with the responsibility for urban water supply only.

After heated public debates especially from 2002 on

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Break GWCL Monopoly

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management options for urban water supply, a five-year Management Contract Agreement was finally signed with Aqua Vitens Rand Limited in 2006. However, at the expiry of the contract in June 2011, an assessment indicated a massive failure of the management contract option forcing the government not to renew it. This has thrown the nation into a search for a better management option for urban water supply again.

Rapid urban population growth has been cited as one of the major factors contributing to the perennial failure of the urban water supply utility to satisfy Ghanaians. In 1990 for instance,

Ghana's urban population was estimated at 36% representing just about 5.6m people in absolute terms. Preliminary report from the 2010 census indicates about 51% of the population, more than 12m people in absolute terms, live in urban areas.

This trend of growth has created several other challenges such as development of several slum and unplanned communities, emergence of peri-urban communities hitherto classified under rural communities, increasing demand of water for industrial and commercial use among several other challenges. Investment in the urban water supply sector has not been adequate enough to match all

these challenges associated with urban water supply.

At the 3rd Ghana Water Forum, therefore, an opportunity was created for stakeholders to engage water sector policy-makers, through presentations and plenary discussions and the overwhelming outcome was these calls to break up the GWCL and identify options such as creating companies along production lines, transmission lines and supply lines. Others also suggested creating regional or even municipal level companies or supply area based companies whichever is more adequate to help meet the urban water supply challenge. - By Emmanuel Addai

Environmental Sanitation Policy needs urgent review

A research group, the Energy Research Group of the Kumasi Polytechnic, has called for the immediate review of Ghana's Environmental and Sanitation Policy (ESP 2010).

Although the policy was outdoored just last year, the group maintains that there is an urgent need of a review, because the current policy does not place adequate emphasis on the four 'Rs' which it explains as Reduction, Reuse, Recycling and Recovery in the management of waste in the country.

The research group is also of

the view that the lack of clear targets in the policy does not allow framers of the policy or the government of Ghana to be held accountable and will thus make monitoring and evaluation of progress made in management of sanitation difficult.

Making a presentation on behalf of the group at the ongoing 3rd Ghana Water Forum in Accra on September 6, 2011, Ing. Edem Cudjoe Bensah, who spoke on the topic "GHANA'S REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION POLICY 2010: A REVIEW",

emphasised that "the national environmental and sanitation policy, NESSAP, does not have targets."

According to him, the way forward would be for Ghana to, without delay, review the revised ESP 2010, reconsider the four 'Rs' concept and come up with concrete targets for short, medium, and long term in all seven focus areas.

By Edmund Smith-Asante

Waste reuse for agric and fishing gaining recognition

Participants at a parallel session at the ongoing Third Ghana Water Forum have agreed that it is feasible to create wealth from waste, particularly liquid waste that is generated in the country through agricultural activities.

However, they are concerned about the possible health implications that may arise from contamination. They are also worried about levels of public awareness about new ideas such as the reuse of waste water. These views were expressed when participants benefitted from experience and research information sharing at one of the sessions under the governance parallel session of the GWF-3.

Already Waste Enterprises, a Kumasi-based company is using treated waste water for fish farming while Safi Sana, an Accra based initiative, generates

compost from human excreta for farming.

Addressing the topic “Transforming Sanitation and Health Through Wastewater Reuse”, Ashley Murray, founder and chief executive of Waste Enterprises, said the beauty of her organisation's initiative is that the fish pond provides a means of raising finance to maintain the treatment plant and then there is fish for consumption. “So there is huge, huge potential; it's a huge money-making potential,” she concluded.

Regarding fears about possible contamination and disease spread, Mr Phillip Amoah of the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) office in Ghana said there are low cost opportunities for addressing c o n t a m i n a t i o n .

For instance, vegetable farmers can use non-treatment options to address contamination on-farm. These include cessation of irrigation when crops are due for harvesting; holding water can low when watering; filtering polluted water before using for watering; avoiding stirring up worm eggs; and using matured (composted) poultry m a n u r e . At the market, if the market women can change the water they use for washing the vegetables once a day they can reduce the pathogen level by 90 p e r c e n t . In addition, improving common salad washing practices in homes can significantly reduce risks. “If we are able to observe these we can reduce all the risks,” he emphasized.

Private businesses forge strategic partnership with water sector

Businesses in the water sector in Ghana have established a strategic water partnership initiative to forge a closer working relationship between various stakeholders. This is to allow for the building of synergies among the partners. The decision was taken at the 3rd Ghana Water Forum Business Roundtable organized as one of the key side events.

The partnership will be among the private and public sectors but also among the private sector itself. The Association of Ghana Industries will coordinate the initiative.

The membership of the initiative include Coca Cola Company Limited, National Insurance Commission, Private Utility Service Providers Association (PRUSPA), companies with specific interest in water; sector agencies - Ghana Water Company Limited, Water Resources Commission, Community Water and Sanitation Agency, the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission and Triple-S Project Ghana.

The Business Roundtable was organised under the umbrella of the Association of Ghana Industries (AGI) to deliberate on the contribution of Corporate Ghana towards sustainable water and sanitation service

delivery in Ghana. The roundtable sought to bring out business opportunities for Ghanaian businesses in the water and sanitation sub-sector especially in urban and peri-urban areas.



The participants drawn from the business community and sector agencies participated in discussions on how to promote private sector innovation in urban water and sanitation service delivery.

The participants called for a definition of the role of the private sector in urban water management in the production, transmission and distribution in the water sector. They argue that a clear delineation of

the roles will create room for the private sector to support urban water service delivery.

Making a joint presentation by the Community Water and Sanitation Agency, the Country Team Leader of Triple-S, Mrs. Vida Duti observed government has an unavoidable role to lead the sector in the provision of sustainable water services but it will require the active support of national and international partners and financiers.

On his part, the Director of Technical Services, Mr. Emmanuel Gaze, said there are opportunities for strategic partnership for providing sustainable water services for the private sector. He said the private sector can participate in the operation and maintenance; Water supply chain; innovative options for post construction financing, for example insurance of water facilities and water supply management (BOT, CPPP, PPP).

There was also a presentation by the Safe Water for Africa project led by Coca Cola Africa Foundation, Guinness Ghana Breweries Limited and Water Health International. - By Lamisi Dabire

Relocate sanitation and hygiene to Water Ministry – Ahwoi



(MWRWH),” Prof Ahwoi suggested.

He was delivering the theme address at the opening of the ongoing Third Ghana Water Forum (GWF-3). This year's forum is on the theme “Water and Sanitation Services Delivery in a Rapidly Changing Urban

Environment”.

Currently, the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development is responsible for environmental health and sanitation. But earlier, Prof Ahwoi had argued on another platform that the MLGRD should be scrapped as a line ministry.

He clarified that his suggestion was not meant to give the M W R W H absolute responsibility for every activity pertaining to WASH. “Within the framework of these proposals, and consistent with my proposal elsewhere that local government should not continue to be a line Ministry, policy responsibility for water, sanitation environmental health would be the responsibility of the MWRWH; training of environmental health personnel would be the responsibility of the MOH [Ministry of Health]; but the provision of water and the implementation of sanitation

and environmental health policies would be the decentralized responsibility of the MMDAs [Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies].”

Justifying his proposal, he identified that some of the problems facing the WASH sector were due to the segmentation of the sector as is the case presently.

Drawing on experience from the health sector he said: “After all, the Ghana Medical School which trains our doctors is under the Ministry of Education, but the doctors who are the products of the school are under the MOH.”

Prof Ahwoi also blamed urban water service delivery to the Ghana Water Company Limited's monopoly. In this regard, he called for a separation of responsibility for water production, transmission and distribution among different stakeholders as is the case in the power sector where the Volta River Authority is responsible for the production of power but the responsibility for transmission and distribution lies with the Ghana Grid Company (GRIDCo) and the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG).

Professor Kwamena Ahwoi, a professor of governance at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) is advocating the relocation of the sanitation and hygiene subsectors of WASH to the Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing (MWRWH).

“Water, sanitation and environmental hygiene are so closely related that they are best treated as a single sector. The common thread running through them is water. Lack of or too little water causes the sanitation and environmental hygiene problems. Water is therefore the cause of the problem; the others are merely symptoms.

“It is therefore necessary to treat the cause by making the entire sector the responsibility of the agency responsible for water which to me would be the Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing



REPUBLIC OF GHANA

Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing
WASH Sector Events Calendar – August–Dec., 2012

WASH sector emergency coordination meeting at 10am.	October 4, 2012	MWRWH Conference Room
Global Hand Washing Day (organised by CWSA)	October 15, 2012	Accra
WASH bottleneck analysis workshop	October 22-24, 2012	Chances Hotel, Ho
GoG-UNICEF 2012 Annual review Meeting.	October 25 -26, 2012	Chances Hotel, Ho
Water and Health Conference: Science, Policy and Innovation (Organised by Institute for the Environment and the Water Institute at University of North Carolina)	October 29 – Nov. 2 2012	Chapel Hill, NC, USA
Faecal Sludge Management- 2 (Organised by Water Research Commission)	October 29-31, 2012	Durban, South Africa
13th WaterNet/WARFSA/GWP-SA Symposium (Organised by WaterNet and Global Water Partnership- Southern Africa (GWP-SA), University of Johannesburg and International Commission on Water Resource Systems)	Oct. 31 –Nov. 3, 2012	Johannesburg, South Africa
II ECOSANLAC: Resource Oriented Sanitation in Latin America (Organised by: Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo in collaboration with the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) and others)	November 4-7, 2012	Vitória, Brazil
International Conference on Fresh Water Governance for Sustainable Development (organised by Water Research Commission and Department of Water Affairs – South Africa together with Australian National University)	November 5-7, 2012	Drakensberg, South Africa
American Society for Hygiene & Tropical Medicine - Annual Meeting	November 11-15, 2012	Atlanta, USA
Training on service delivery approach in the rural water sector (organised by IRC)	November 12-16, 2012	The Hague, The Netherlands
Water Safety Conference: improving service delivery and protecting public health (Organised by: World Health Organization (WHO), International Water Association (IWA) and National Water & Sewerage Corporation)	November 13-15, 2012	Kampala, Uganda,
Tapping the Turn, A Conference on Water's Social Dimensions (Organised by: Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney)	November 15-16, 2012	Canberra, Australia
World Toilet Day	November 19, 2012	TBD
Vlth World Aqua Congress 2012 - Water: Vision 2050 (Organised by Aqua Foundation)	November 28-30, 2012	New Delhi, India
Conference on Decentralised Wastewater Management in Asia – Meeting Urban Sanitation Challenges at Scale (Organised by: International Water Association (IWA), Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association (BORDA) and Consortium For DEWATS Dissemination Society)	November 20-23, 2012	Nagpur, India,

Compiled by the WASH Resource Centre Network (RCN) Ghana, www.washghana.net Email: rcn@washghana.net