**BRONG AHAFO WASH ALLIANCE**

MAIDEN REGIONAL LEARNING ALLIANCE MEETING

(MINUTES)

**Date:** Thursday, July 04, 2013

**Venue:** CWSA Conference Room, Sunyani

**Attendance (31):**

E.F. Boateng Regional Director, CWSA, Brong Ahafo (Chairman)

Daniel Adomako Chief Accountant, CWSA Brong Ahafo

Dominic Adomako Programme Officer, MAP International

Eric Amo Secretary, Catholic Secretariat

Peter Subaab Executive Director, Centre for Sustainable Development

Abraham Okoh Executive Director, Access to Development Foundation

Nana Osei Kyeretwie Editor, Ghana News Agency

Benjamin Kofi Administrator, Centre for Sustainable Development

Pontius Ninwiiri Deputy Director, M&E, Mission of Hope for Society

Rapheal Ahenu Chief Executive Officer, Global Media Foundation

Belinda Prah Assistant Basin Officer, Water Resources Commission

Frank Tsidzi Senior ITS, CWSA, Brong Ahafo

Mabel Ama Taylor ESS, CWSA, Brong Ahafo

Justice Twene Stephen Assistant Manager, African Assistance Plan

Henry Ofosu-Addo Lecturer, Catholic University College of Ghana, Fiapre

Samuel Doudo Journalist, Daily Graphic

Fred Tettey Amoako Journalist, Daily Guide

George Amartei ESS, CWSA, Brong Ahafo

Addai Albert CWSA, Brong Ahafo

Owusu Ansah Stephen CWSA, Brong Ahafo

Daniel Korkor Environmental Health Officer, Sunyani

Boamah Wilson, CWSA, Brong Ahafo

Hanson Mensah-Akutteh Quality Assurance Manager, Ghana Water Company Limited, Sunyani

Aziizu Issifu Executive Director, SODIA

Kwaku Osafo Affum Senior Hydro-geologist, CWSA, Brong Ahafo

Nuhu Mustapha Distribution Engineer, Ghana Water Company Limited, Sunyani

Abu Wumbei National Coordinator, RCN

Daniel Dzirasah Reporter, Ghanaian Times

Veronica Ayi-Bonte IRC Ghana

Victor Nartey Otum IRC Ghana

Benjamin Agbemor CWSA/Triple-S, Brong Ahafo

**Start time:** **11:00 am**

**Main discussion points**

In his opening statement, the CWSA Regional Director, who chaired the meeting, gave account of how Ghana’s rural water sector had fared in recent times. Mr. E.F. Boateng remarked that, Ghana made remarkable progress towards achievement of the United Nations MDG for water supply. He recounted some challenges facing the sector, such as fragmented approaches to water service delivery and barriers to the uptake of innovative practices. According to him, ‘collaboration and joint learning would be necessary ingredients’ in addressing some of the sector’s challenges. Mr. Boateng was enthused about the opportunity of forming a learning alliance platform in the region. He was hopeful that the platform would bring together civil society, representatives from government and private sector to share ideas and innovations which could lead to sustainable water service delivery in the country. Mr. Boateng commended the interim committee for working tirelessly to ensure that the first learning alliance meeting came-off successfully.

Following Regional Director’s opening remarks, Mr. Abu Wumbei of the Resource Centre Network made a presentation on knowledge management. That was after he facilitated a group work on knowledge management functions of the institutions present at the meeting. Based on contributions from the various groups, Mr. Abu explained how effective knowledge management could lead to documentation of events within organizations for subsequent sharing. He added that, knowledge management could facilitate networking and partnerships that could generate needed ideas for the growth of the water sector. According to him, knowledge is the sum total of what ‘people’, ‘organizations’ and the ‘sector’ know. Knowledge Management then, would be, managing the sum total of what people know. Thus, when an organization could not mainstream knowledge management in its activities, it could lose vital information in the absence of people who are privileged to have those ideas.

Mr. Abu again introduced his next topic on learning alliance with another group work. This time round, he tasked each of the three groups formed to envisage how they would want to see the water, sanitation and hygiene sector in the Brong Ahafo Region in the next 20 years in the light of prevailing weaknesses and prospects. Some feedbacks from the group works were captured as follows:

***Weaknesses***

Inadequate funding for the sector;

Lack of co-ordination and collaboration among sector player;

Weak compliance with sector policies;

Weak flow of sector information among actors;

Weak flow of information between rural community and sector organization;

Inadequate /lack of resource and logistics to execute our core mandate of sector institutions;

***Strengths***

Capacity of civil society to undertake advocacy;

Availability of lead sector institutions to promote effective coordination;

Capacity of media organization to to carry out effective sector information dissemination;

Willingness among stakeholders to support the service delivery concept

After the group work, Mr. Wumbei spent some time explaining the learning alliance concept. His facilitation allowed members present to agree on how the learning alliance platform ought to be run in terms of facilitation, hosting, financing and its overall relevance to the water sector’s needs. It was agreed that CWSA would be the secretariat for the learning alliance platform. A 10-member core group from 8 different institutions was then formed at the meeting. It was tasked with responsibilities of assisting the secretariat in planning subsequent learning meetings.

The following individuals and organizations formed the core group for the Brong Ahafo Learning Alliance Platform.

Frank Tsidzi Senior Information Technology Specialist, CWSA (Chairman)

George Amartei Extension Services Specialist, CWSA

Pontius Ninwiiri Deputy Director, M&E, Mission of Hope for Society

Peter Subaab Executive Director, Centre for Sustainable Development

Victor Ofosu Boamah Director of operations, Global Media Foundation

Nuhu Mustapha Distribution Engineer, Ghana Water Company Limited

Daniel Korkor Regional Environmental Health Officer

Samuel Wiafe Lecturer, Department of Civil Engineering, Sunyani Poly

Aziizu Issifu Executive Director, SODIA

Benjamin Agbemor Regional Learning Facilitator, CWSA/Triple-S Project

It was also agreed that the learning platform would have a minimum of four learning meetings in a calendar year, with core group meeting preceding every major learning meeting. The core group also agreed to meet on July 11, 2013, to finalize a Memorandum of understanding for members, and well as the cost centers for learning alliance meeting.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. E.F. Boateng thanked members for taking part in the learning alliance meeting. He challenged the participating institutions/members to be minded by what they hope to leave with the water sector in the future, and that should urge them to give-off their best.

Mr. Boateng gave final prayers to bring the meeting to a close. Date for the next meeting was to be communicated after the core group had met to confirm it.

**Scribes:**  Boamah Wilson and Benjamin Agbemor