

## ***Building partnerships for scaling up improved environmental sanitation services – NESCON sets the tone***

“Building partnerships for scaling up improved environmental sanitation services” was the theme of the first National Environmental Sanitation Conference (NESCON), which took place in Kumasi from December 8–10, 2010.

Investment Plan (SESIP) and District Environmental Sanitation Strategy and Action Plans (DESSAPs).

NESCON 2010 provided a platform for learning and sharing among sector stakeholders, including



The conference focused on the wider view of environmental sanitation in Ghana and brought attention to the issues of raising awareness for behavior change towards all aspects of wastes, better management of filth and environmental health that will lead to a better quality of life in line with the Government of Ghana's “Better Ghana Agenda”.

The conference presented, among others, highlights of the Environmental Sanitation Policy (Revised 2010), the National Environmental Sanitation Strategy and Action Plan (NESSAP) and the Strategic Environmental Sanitation

Ministers and Metropolitan, Municipal and District Chief Executives (MMDCEs), legal experts, academics, sector practitioners, private operators, bankers, insurers, NGOs, development partners, behavioral change communicators, etc.

The conference was organized by the Environmental Health and Sanitation Directorate (EHSD) of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD) in partnership with Development Partners (DPs), Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs), Private Operators and sector collaborators.

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### **EDITORIAL TEAM:**

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Emmanuel Addai (WSMP Ghana)

# EDITORIAL: New opportunities for improving sanitation for the Urban Poor

## Introduction

Globally, it is estimated that by 2015, 3.9 billion people will live in cities, of which 15% will be in mega-cities with population over 10 million. The majority will live in small and medium-size cities with little experience with urbanization.



*The then Minister for MLGRD opens NESCON 2010.*

In Ghana the proportion of people living in low-income and squatter areas constitute between 40-70% of the urban population in most cities. It is a fact that filth engulfs many major cities of Ghana, especially Accra. Sadly, the management of both solid waste and liquid waste leave much to be desired.

## Current Situation in Ghana:

Mr. Demedeme Naa Lenason of the Environmental Health and Sanitation Directorate (EHSD) of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD) admitted in an interview with the WASH News, that currently the situation doesn't look very good; and that there are lots of challenges; but remained optimistic that there is light at the end of the tunnel as some major policy decisions have led to certain positive developments which can be viewed as opportunities for improving environmental sanitation. According to Mr. Demedeme there is

currently no segregation of waste and that there are limited door-to-door services (estimated 20% in Kumasi and 15% in Accra). He noted that the use of communal waste container system as well as burning and burial of waste at household level and public dumps are still prevalent.

He also added that dumping in open spaces, drains and streets; the use of waste to fill gullies and depressions (to check erosion and for building), scavenging at landfills and crude dumps sites through picking and burning of waste (used tyres) are common practices in our cities.

Furthermore, according to him, this is compounded by the poor management of the only two engineered landfills, and uncontrolled discharge of septage and faecal sludge on our beaches, into rivers and water courses. He indicated that the inefficient approval of sites for discharge of liquid waste, open defaecation and wrap and throw of faecal matter (flying toilets) into drainages, weak enforcement of laws on building permits and building along water drains and weak public education were the current practices.



*Naa Demedeme Lenason - Director - Environmental Health and Sanitation Directorate.*

## Challenges

Mr. Demedeme noted that the challenges and major obstacles

include: the poor attitude/behaviour of the citizenry; weak monitoring and evaluation system for Environmental Sanitation (ES); inability of MMDAs to enforce laws and regulations on ES; weak inter-sectoral collaboration among key sector players; lack of incentive for segregation/recycling of waste; inadequate training and capacity building to enhance private sector involvement in ES and weak cooperation and coordination between private waste contractors and various relevant sector stakeholders.

He added that the other challenges include: inadequate funding for environmental sanitation at all levels; poor operation and maintenance culture for equipment and infrastructure by MMDAs; outmoded bye-laws on ES and weak legal systems at MMDAs; lack of commitment and low prioritization for ES; and limited technological options for ES.

## New Opportunities

Despite the gloomy picture and the challenges raised, Mr. Demedeme was positive of an emerging trend, new opportunities, that gives hope for the future. He identified the new opportunities to include: the approval and launching of the Revised Environmental Sanitation Policy; ES Strategy and Action Plan; the strategic environmental sanitation investment plan being prepared; the favourable legal regime for enforcement of sanitation laws and establishment of sanitation courts in Accra.

He also noted that Environmental Sanitation indicators have been included in the Functional and Organisational Assessment Tools (FOAT) which ensures that MMDAs put premium on sanitation and that the operationalization of the polluter-pays principle has been accepted by



## New opportunities for improving sanitation for the Urban Poor

Cabinet and will help mobilize revenue for enhanced sanitation service delivery.

He further stated that there is increased collaboration between the MLGRD, various sector players and DPs on sanitation, resulting in the willingness of DPs to increase Technical Assistance and investments to the sector.

Mr. Demedeme added that the other opportunities include the renewed committed expressed in the signed and launched Ghana Compact and that Sanitation is one of the six pillars of the NDC Manifesto for a better Ghana. He concluded that Sanitation was recognized as critical to the achievement of the MDGs and that there are well decentralized institutional arrangements and

increased private sector participation.

### Conclusion:

The field of urban sanitation in these areas is extremely complex and poses enormous challenges, yet there is a need to take an all-encompassing view of urban sanitation and address all elements of the sanitation chain, including collection, transport, treatment and disposal. Some key questions that arise are: (i) how can urban authorities provide comprehensive, sustainable and affordable sanitation services in densely low-income areas, and (ii) What best practices are known (both globally and locally) for dealing with the challenges of urban sanitation and how can the lessons be applied to the Ghanaian situation? NESCON 2011 will be another platform to follow through with our reflection on these critical questions.

Abu Wumbei/RCN



*Cross section of participants*

## A call to upgrade Schools of Hygiene Programs to HND



*Prof. Mrs. Esi Awuah*

Environmental Health and Sanitation delivery practice is actually a profession and must be recognized as such but without a degree program this idea would be down played. This is why at NESCON 2010 it was proposed that School of Hygiene programs

be upgraded to the Higher National Diploma level.

The proponent, Prof. Mrs Esi Awuah of the Department of Civil Engineering, KNUST, Kumasi, believes that the present diploma status of the Schools of Hygiene which are in Accra, Ho and Tamale are not in conformity with programs at the University of Cape Coast (UCC), University for Development Studies (UDS), KNUST, University for Education, Winneba (UEW), Catholic University in Sunyani and the New University to be developed in Ho.

"Since these graduates [from School of Hygiene] work

shoulder to shoulder with Planning officers with masters degrees, Community Development Officers, and Agriculture and Forestry officers with degrees, their confidence needs to be boosted by upgrading the Schools of Hygiene level to Higher National Diploma Level with opportunities to do degree programs and post graduate studies," Prof Mrs Awuah stated in a paper titled: "Institutional strengthening and capacity building for decentralized delivery of environmental sanitation services."

## Challenges of managing disposal sites in Ghana



*Lukman of Wastecare on MINT.*

It costs about Three Hundred Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHC300,000) to manage the 1200 tonnes waste generated in the Kumasi metropolitan area for example. The huge cost of managing solid waste was one of the challenges outlined by the Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly during a panel discussion on the *challenges of managing disposal sites in Ghana* at the first NESCON. The panel discussion session featured the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA), the Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly (KMA), the Environmental Sanitation Providers Association (ESPA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Tema Metropolitan Assembly (TMA) and Environmental Health and

Sanitation Directorate (EHSD) and it identified a number of challenges. These included: the difficult process in site acquisition, long and unpredictable consultation processes, lack of appropriate machinery and poor technology choices, lack of funding with very low revenue collection from waste generators (about 5% payment in Tamale), lack of access roads and weak capacity to implement policy and enforce by-laws at the MMDAs.

The ESPA representative identified one other challenge. He stated that the Assemblies are unable to pay for services provided, adding that “we are owed sometimes up to three years by the Assemblies and the lack of adequate disposal sites normally lead to delay and difficulty in disposing waste”.

The discussion then focused on the measures to mitigate the challenges of solid waste management in Ghana. Naa Demedeme, the Acting Director of the EHSD proposed that DA's capacity be improved. DAs should provide disposal sites as they are

required to do, and the financing issue should be looked into as it is the basic underlining problem. He urged the DAs to look at sanitation management as business and that the NESSAP should be a good guide to start with.



*Vincent of TREND makes a point.*

It is significant to note that the lack of disposal sites is a big challenge in Ghana with regard to waste management and more especially its disposal. In Accra for instance, the Oblogo dumping site, which served as the main disposal site for the more than four million residents of the national capital, Accra, is full. The Kwabenya Landfill site, which is seen by many, as the only hope for a long-term solution to solid waste disposal, has also stalled for several years because of a stalemate between the city authorities and some land owners in the area. AMA is reported to be scouting every nook and cranny of the city in search of a temporary dumping site, while negotiating for the development of a permanent landfill site at Kwabenya. Currently some sanitary sites in the metropolis are overflowing with garbage, leaving the contractors without anywhere to dump. The panel discussion was facilitated by Prince Antwi - Agyei of KNUST/TREND.



*A waste disposal site.*



## Implementing Revised ESP: multi-track Communication Plan required

Policies and legislations, by themselves, do not bring about change unless they are understood and owned by the people they are targeted at. Understanding of policies and legislations is also dependent on effective communication which in turn results from the execution of effective communication plans. By the foregoing, it is imperative that Ghana develops a communication plan for the Revised Environmental

legislate to disseminate? Developing a communication plan for the Revised Environmental Sanitation Policy (2010)."

Dr Opoku-Amankwa gave an exposition on the role and importance of communication in development. He said:

Communication is an important aspect of development initiatives in health, nutrition, agriculture, family planning, education, and community

reliable information on environmental sanitation, environmental management and sustainable development issues;

Planned communication strategy will break down the jargon and scientific terms and information about environmental sanitation and its direct impact on local level activities for stakeholders to understand; Effective communication will make the environmental sanitation interventions more vernacular, and more meaningful to specific local contexts;

Communication enables expression and dialogue; raises awareness of socio-structural problems and fosters self-reflection among marginalized and disadvantaged populations.

In addition to the above, communication facilitates policy implementation. Therefore, a communication plan will help Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) and environmental sanitation officials to identify the best strategy to facilitate the implementation of the revised ESP.

Furthermore, a communication plan will help to avoid most common mistakes, including those characterized as "the political explanation of failures" – the common excuse that: "the policy was good but its implementation."



*Exhibition at NESCON 2010*

Sanitation Policy, 2010.

A communication (plan) strategy, according to Dr Kwasi Opoku-Amankwa, is a well-planned series of actions aimed at achieving certain objectives through the use of communication methods, techniques and approaches.

At NESCON 2010, no one was in doubt that Ghana needs a communication plan for the Revised ESP after Dr Opoku-Amankwa had walked participants through the development of communication plans and what options were available for the country. He treated the topic "Implementing policies effectively: Should we

economics, environmental management, and sustainable development;

Studies show communication and people's participation as two crucial factors for the successes and failures of most development projects and social intervention initiatives (UN Economic Commission for Africa); Communication is the basis for generating participation in processes of change and development;

Communication will provide new, clear, adequate and

## Implementing Revised ESP: multi-track Communication Plan required

### What to watch out for

In order to make the communication plan work, caution must be taken not to misconceive and wrongly apply communication.

Communication strategies must not be applied in too general, nonspecific forms in project designs

Don't fail to associate communication with specific mandates on contents, channels, forms, actors, timing, etc

Don't conceive communication mostly in terms of public relations, media production, information dissemination, or mass media campaigns, and, assume that anyone who "communicates" (talks) well is a communication specialist

Don't associate communication mainly with information dissemination and one-way persuasion

"Communication strategies for the successful realisation of the goals and objectives of the environmental sanitation policy will require communication specialists with in-depth knowledge, at both the theoretical and applicative levels," Dr Opoku-Amankwa pointed out. He said adding, "Professionally designed communication strategies avoid problems such as inadequate diagnosis, flawed or ill-conceived design, or inappropriate timing of interventions."



*Dr. Kwasi Opoku-Amankwa, Communication Expert*

### Exploring the options

Communication plan options available include: Extension/Diffusion of Innovations, Social marketing, Behaviour Change Communication, Edutainment (EE), Social mobilization, Information, Education and Communication (IEC), Development Support Communication (DSC), Participatory Communication, Indigenous Communication Forms, and Advocacy Communication, etc.

Generally, the listed options can be divided into two main groups from theoretical and applicative perspective: monologic and dialogic modes.

According to Dr Opoku-Amankwa, the monologic mode is linked to the development communication perspective known as "diffusion." It is based on the one-way flow of information for the purpose of disseminating information and messages to induce change. Based on the main intentions, the monologic communication plan option can be divided into

two different types of applications: communication to inform and communication to persuade.

"Communication to inform" typically involves a linear transmission of information, usually from a sender to many receivers. It is used when raising awareness or providing knowledge on certain issues is considered enough to achieve the intended goal. It is usually used in behaviour change communication and advocacy communication, etc.

On the other hand, the dialogic option is associated with the emerging participatory paradigm and it is based on the horizontal, two-way model of communication. It creates a constructive environment; stakeholders participate in the definition of problems and solutions. Its main purposes are communication to assess and communication to empower.

"The multi-track model is proposed for our situation," says Dr Opoku-Amankwa.

He explains that the multi-track model combines the richness of the monologic and dialogic approaches, incorporating aspects of the wider environment that influence (and constrain) structural and sustainable change. When the two –monologic and dialogic –are fully understood and properly applied the resulting communication design helps to facilitate and engender true and genuine participation, he concludes.



## NESCON advocates for an Environmental Health and Sanitation Authority

Appropriate, uniform, current and strong (biting) laws and regulations have enabled many societies to overcome the challenge of poor environmental sanitation. This is owing to the fact that such laws or regulations provided authority for institutions to take binding decisions; they had power to hold people accountable for environmental sanitation breaches.



*Lawyer Maxwell Opoku-Agyemang*

Presenting a paper on the topic “Strengthening the Legal Framework for Environmental Sanitation Sector” at NESCON 2010, Maxwell Opoku-Agyemang, a legal consultant and senior lecturer at the Ghana Law School, argued that the “Environmental health and sanitation sector [of Ghana] does not suffer from legal lacuna. Laws from colonial through to post-colonial still exist. “What is needed is a dedicated statute setting up an autonomous Agency or Authority or Commission or whatever, as was done in the Water sector culminating in the splitting of community water (CWSA), water resources (WRC) from Ghana Water and Sewerage Corporation

(GWSC).”

In his opinion, one big problem of Ghana is that it has not identified the appropriate legal status of the Environmental Health and Sanitation (EHS) within the current legal framework especially under Local Government Act (Act 665) and LI 1961 in terms of dealing with the mandate of the Department of Health (DOH) and Waste Management Department (WMD) in Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs).

This ought to be done to avoid the culture of 'over-shadowing' of sanitation anytime it goes to pair with any other sector. One sure way to do that is to promulgate an Environmental Health and Sanitation Agency or Authority (EHSA) law.

Mr Opoku-Agyemang argues specifically that the body should not be a council because a “Council is mere deliberative and advisory; while an Agency has authority to take binding action.”

He proposes that such an authority or agency should have the following characteristics: it should not be a mere advisory body or part of the administrative bureaucracy of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD) – thus it should be an autonomous body; it should be a body incorporated (to hold property, sue and be sued); finance wise, it should have semi-autonomy.

### Rationale

The rationale for the Agency, according to the presenter, should include: to formulate and implement environmental

sanitation policies and plans and develop and enforce environmental sanitation standards.

In terms of composition of the Agency, he preferred institutional representation or mixture of the institutional and individuals with institutional representation in the majority. According to him, the advantage of institutional representation is it will ensure stakeholder collaboration and resolve duplications even through administrative actions. Some of the institutions that should be considered for the composition should be Ministry of Health, MLGRD, Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Sanitation Providers, Water Sector, etc.

He does not foresee any problems with compliance and enforcement of EHS laws because an Environmental Sanitation Prosecution Unit could be set up under the proposed EHSA to work with the Attorney-General to develop environmental prosecution policy and guidelines; collaborate with MMDAs in actual prosecution; and upgrade the capacity of environmental sanitation prosecutors, etc.

### Current regime

His proposals were premised on the fact that there are currently applicable laws for environmental sanitation but these are dispersed laws spanning the colonial days through post-colonial era. Some of the legislations are the Mosquitoes Ordinance; Towns

## NESCON advocates for an Environmental Health and Sanitation Authority

Ordinance; Vaccinations Ordinance; Diseases of Animals Act, etc.

Besides, some of the laws are outmoded, perhaps, requiring the nation to consolidate some of the laws into a composite Environmental Sanitation and Public Health Act.

Like many stakeholders in the EHS sector, the presenter was unsure about the status of the Environmental Health and Sanitation Directorate (EHSD) of MLGRD and the relationship between the Public Health Division of the Ministry of Health and EHSD.

“Considering Act 665 and LI 1961 can we say Environmental

Sanitation is catered for adequately or will it be subsumed by the Public Health Division of Ministry of Health?” That would be similar to what happened to sanitation under Ghana Water and Sewerage Corporation and Community Water and Sanitation Agency, he noted. And also considering Second Schedule Regulation 1(b) and Reg4, he inquired, “who gives policy direction to DOP [Department of Planning]? Any role for MLG? Have we not overloaded DOP?” , suggesting a reconsideration of the mandate of DOP and WMD to make it more beneficial and consistent.

### Funding

Touching on funding, he cautioned proponents of an environmental sanitation fund to be mindful of the multiplicity of statutory funds. He observed two ways of setting up funds: either promulgating a specific legislation setting up the fund like it was done for GETFUND, Forest Improvement Fund, 1960, Act 12 or dovetailing a fund under the enabling statute like it was done for the Energy Fund (s 41 Energy Commission Act, Act 541). “Considering time and efforts in getting laws enacted, it is preferable to adopt the latter approach,” he advised.

## History of Sanitation Education in Ghana

Sanitation education had started before the independence era as a course in hygiene. This continued even after independence and was examinable at the basic education level. Unfortunately with time, the hygiene education was removed from the school syllabus but inspection of personal hygiene behaviors' was enforced by physical inspection of fingers, teeth, school uniforms, hands and shoes. This gradually died down.

“However, hygiene awareness was created a few years ago and as a result, hygiene education is now taught in the basic schools but is not examinable,” said Prof Mrs Awuah.

The Schools of Hygiene were established during the pre-independence era to look at sanitation practices in the communities. There were two levels. Those with middle school leaving certificate who were

trained for two years and those with ordinary school certificate who were trained for three years. With the introduction of the six year secondary education system, the curriculum of the Schools of Hygiene had to be changed to a diploma level. This is still in progress. The entry requirements to these Schools of Hygiene range from arts to science disciplines. The general qualifications are also low.

Over the years, KNUST, UCC, UEW have all been running various programmes on environmental health and sanitation. According to the professor, a new programme which KNUST will be running will look at the institutionalization of the profession of environmental health practitioners. “This will not only boost their confidence but also enhance their performance in the field.”

### Key challenges in the sector and concerns for the Schools of Hygiene

The professor also had questions to ask as well as some food for thought:

Should we upgrade Schools of Hygiene to the HND level and should these programs be run at the polytechnics?

Should we bring students to a two-year ordinary diploma and use them as sanitation police men and women (guards)?

The ownership of Schools of Hygiene should be addressed now since the uncertainties around it may lead to the death of the Schools

The rapid changes in the environment and its impacts on human health and welfare call for specialization in the different components for proper management and quality service.

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## Harmonize capacity building for local government authorities

In Ghana's democratic setting, local authorities (Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies) form the fulcrum of development. Indeed, they are the first point of call for citizens. Take the assembly member for instance, he or she is first to be called upon by citizens who find themselves in trouble, say, not being able to pay their children's fees or hospital bills.

In the same way, assembly members are very influential in behavior change. They, together with other local actors, are therefore very critical in the implementation of environmental sanitation policies and strategies.

Developing their capacities is thus imperative. In fact, when the assembly system was introduced, it was recognized that an essential element in the success of the decentralization process was ensuring the capacity of local level actors.

Given the wide range of responsibilities, the 1992 Republican Constitution envisaged that local authorities needed to have competent technical and administrative staff to implement the decisions of assemblies.

It also foresaw that the citizens and their representatives, the assembly members, needed to be aware of and understand the issues and possibilities in government policy and programmes, their local circumstances, and trends in good governance in order to drive effective local level development.

Against this background, capacity building arrangements evolved in different directions, especially in the decade that followed the passage of PNDC Law 207 and the experiences that followed culminating in the enactment of the Local Government Act (Act 462).

As the decentralization process gained credence, various entities designed, sponsored and delivered a bewildering array of training programmes.

"These interventions, while no doubt useful, did not augur well for consistency, coherence, standards and practicality in the capacities available at the local level," Mr. Callistus Mahama, Deputy Director of the Institute of Local Government Studies (ILGS) said at NESCON 2010. He was delivering a paper titled: *Strategies for enhancing capacity for Local Authorities*.

"Another problem was that in particular relation to training, certain categories of staff were perceived to be targeted more often than others" and these were the Planners, DCEs, Finance Officers, Budget Officers, District Coordinating Directors.

"All in all, training and education as capacity building was patchy and uneven, uncoordinated and did not build on previous interventions and did not appear to be responding to needs assessment and impact analysis," Mahama emphasized.

### Establishment of ILGS & LGS

A need to curb the situation led to the establishment of the ILGS and the Local Government

Service (LGS) following the passage of their legislations in 2003. The two were to play various roles in capacity building. The law establishing the ILGS, Act 647, identifies the objectives of the Institute as: to organize the training of; Members of the regional coordinating councils, district assemblies and lower local government units; Staff and personnel in the local government and related sectors; and any other person or body, local or foreign interested in governance to enhance the managerial, administrative, financial and operational efficiency of organs and units of local government.

On the other hand, Act 656, the Local Government Service Act, identifies the object of the Service as to secure the effective administration and management of local government in the country. Among its functions is the task of developing and coordinating the training implementation plans of District Assemblies and Regional Coordinating Councils in consultation with the respective assemblies and coordinating councils.

But there are still challenges. "Seven years down the line, these two institutions have had their teething problems but have demonstrated capacities to fulfill their mandate," according to Mahama.

### New Approach

Existing challenges necessitate a new approach to capacity building. In seeking a new

## Harmonize capacity building for local government authorities

approach, some critical questions ought to be asked:

How should capacity building be organised in the regions?

Who should do what in capacity-building and particularly training and education at the local government level?

Should performance or absence of it inform the content of training and education? So what role should the RCC (and in relation to their other responsibilities) play in capacity building?

We are compelled to turn to ILGS

and LGS again for solutions. How do they relate to each other in dealing with capacity building? Mahama's response is that "The laws do not say much about the relationships between the Institute and the Service, except that the Service is represented on the Institute's Council and the Institute on the Service's Council. With regards to Capacity Building in the regions LGS is the demand Institution and ILGS is the implementing Institution."

Going forward, there is consolation in the fact a link can be drawn between the policy strategies of the two institutions. These strategies include to:

Establish standards of training design and delivery that accredited training providers would be expected to maintain.

Develop a framework for training, monitoring and quality assessments

Provide technical assistance to accredited training providers in order to ensure relevance to the needs of assemblies and

Ensure systematic training delivery in ways that will contribute to comprehensive development of the local government sector.

*Continued from page 8*

## History of Sanitation Education in Ghana

Should we break sanitation up into the major components such as liquid waste and excreta management, Solid waste management, pest and disease control and hygiene/ environmental education and have staff administering each of them for efficiency? The ratio of environmental Health Officer to persons is 1-1000. It means that we should control the number we train and we should also negotiate with the Government to create new positions for the graduates we are training. Sector needs assessment may have to be carried out.

Derogatory remarks from the public on sanitation practitioners need to be addressed.

Schools of Hygiene programmes to HND, Prof Mrs Awuah also suggested the following as the way forward:

Hygiene education training should start at the nursery level. This should include training the infants and toddlers how to wash their hands and use the toilets and urinals provided. This means that the toilets should be available in all basic schools in the country.

Hygiene education should be examinable at both the junior high school and senior high school levels

Hygiene education at tertiary levels for all students and should include sex education, including HIV Aids, gender and cultural issues.

Decentralization of training options

Include the training of

Environmental Health and sanitation programs in the Polytechnic

Open Schools of Hygiene in all regions

Develop staff for Institutions running sanitation programs

Run Environmental Engineering degree option in Civil Engineering with emphasis on sanitation

Develop a Centre to Collaborate Education activities and outreach training

Develop a strong research team to address sanitation problems in the country with the involvement of sector practitioners

Identify needs in the sector in collaboration with Institute of Local Government and run professional development courses.

### Way forward

Besides calling for the upgrade of



**2010 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION CONFERENCE COMMUNIQUE - Kumasi, December 10, 2010**

After three days of deliberations and discussions, participants proposed that in order to achieve the needed scaling-up of environmental sanitation facilities and services, the following should be pursued;

1. Environmental Sanitation should be a stand-alone sector and appropriately institutionalized through transforming the Environmental Health and Sanitation Directorate (EHSD) of the MLGRD into an Authority.
2. The National Environmental Sanitation Conference (NESCON) should be established and supported with a permanent secretariat. It should be an annual event for sustaining partnership-building, sharing experiences and tracking progress of sector performance with a comprehensive data base for results-based monitoring and evaluation (R-B M&E).
3. All stakeholders should adopt and vigorously promote the concept of Materials-in-Transition (MINT) as a means of encouraging attitudinal and behavioral change towards wastes while creating jobs and enhancing environmental quality.
4. A professional institution for environmental sanitation professionals should be established.
5. The development of strategies to maximize the impact of the National Environmental Sanitation Strategy and Action Plan (NESSAP) and the District Environmental Sanitation Strategy and Action Plans (DESSAPs) on the entire population.
6. NESCON 2010 endorses the “polluter-pays-principle” and agrees that this must be extended to cover all segments of the society.
7. Government should establish a revolving fund for vigorously promoting household toilets and hygiene employing Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) and using Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs) working through Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs).
8. The development of a clear and effective Communication Plan for the Environmental Sanitation Policy (Revised 2010) appropriately targeted at the different levels of stakeholders.
9. The development of a comprehensive and consolidated legal framework for environmental sanitation (Environmental Health and Sanitation Act).



**Ghana Coalition of NGOs in the  
Water and Sanitation Sector**

**MOLE XXII CONFERENCE****Participation fee:**

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REPUBLIC OF GHANA

## Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing

**WASH Sector Events Calendar - July-November 2011**

Sector Working Group Meeting	July 7, 2011	MWRWH Conf. Rm., Accra
Singapore International Water Week ( <a href="http://www.siww.com.sg">www.siww.com.sg</a> )	July 4-8, 2011	Singapore
35 <sup>th</sup> WEDC International Conference ( <a href="http://www.wedconference.co.uk/">http://www.wedconference.co.uk/</a> )	July 6-8, 2011	Loughborough Univ., UK
AfricaSan 3 Conference	July 19-21, 2011	Kigali, Rwanda
National Learning Alliance Platform: <i>The Right to Water and Sanitation in Ghana: Developing A National Action Plan for Implementation</i>	July 28, 2011	Accra
Science Congress on the theme: <i>Water, Sanitation and Environment: Securing our Future through Science</i> (organised by the Min of Environment, Science & Technology)	August 2-5, 2011	International Conference Centre, Accra
Pro Poor Coordination Meeting	August 3, 2011	WASH House, Accra
Mole XXII Conference on the theme, <i>Towards Decentralised WASH Services Delivery: Challenges and Lessons</i> (organised by CONIWAS).	August 9-13, 2011	Busua Beach Resort, Near Takoradi, W/R
National Learning Alliance Platform: Regulation, Accountability and Transparency in the WASH Sector in Ghana ( <a href="http://www.washghana.net/page/808">http://www.washghana.net/page/808</a> )	August 25, 2011	Accra
World Water Week 2011 ( <a href="http://www.worldwaterweek.org/">http://www.worldwaterweek.org/</a> )	August, 21-27, 2011	Stockholm, Sweden
Ghana Water Forum ( <a href="http://www.ghanawaterforum.org">www.ghanawaterforum.org</a> )	September 5-7, 2011	College of Physicians and Surgeons, Accra
National Learning Alliance Platform: ( <a href="http://www.washghana.net/page/808">http://www.washghana.net/page/808</a> )	September 29, 2011	Accra
Annual Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage (HWTS) International Network Meeting ( <a href="http://whconference.unc.edu/">http://whconference.unc.edu/</a> )	October 3, 2011	Chapel Hill, USA
Water & Health 2011 ( <a href="http://whconference.unc.edu/index.cfm">http://whconference.unc.edu/index.cfm</a> )	October 3-7, 2011	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, USA
International Conference on Integrated Water Resource Management- Management of Water in a changing world: Lessons Learnt and Innovative perspectives ( <a href="http://www.bmbf.iwrm2011.de">http://www.bmbf.iwrm2011.de</a> )	October 12-13, 2011	Dresden, Germany
Global Hand Washing Day	October 15, 2011	To-Be-Decided (TBD)
Global Forum on Sanitation and Hygiene ( <a href="http://www.wsscc.org">www.wsscc.org</a> )	October 9-14, 2011	Mumbai, India
Visit of the Board of Directors of the Conrad Norman Hilton Foundation (CNHF):  - Key stakeholder meetings - Visits to funded projects  (Hosted jointly by WaterAid, UNICEF, World Vision and CREPA)	October 29 - Nov. 3, 2011  October 31, 2011  November 1-3, 2011	Ghana  Accra  Northern Ghana
National Learning Alliance Platform: ( <a href="http://www.washghana.net/page/808">http://www.washghana.net/page/808</a> )	October 27, 2011	Accra

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