

## HIGHLIGHTS



■ Creating a learning focused water sector in Ghana



■ SWAp in the WASH sub-sector: Ugandan experience "scares" new entrants



■ Water Directorate launches 1.97m Euro pilot initiative in Accra



■ Six communities benefit from WATERHEALTH facility



■ Minister Launches Triple-S Initiative in Ghana

### EDITORIAL TEAM:

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## Creating a learning focused water sector in Ghana

By Patrick Moriarty, IRC



Multi-stakeholder sector sharing in progress

As we all know, knowledge is power. Yet what is knowledge, where does it come from, and how is it related to learning and information? And how can we create a knowledgeable and self confident WASH sector in Ghana?

At its simplest, knowledge is the attribute of knowing how to do something. People, as individuals or groups, possess knowledge: the knowledge to maintain a hand-pump or to wash our hands thoroughly before eating. Knowledge is created by the act of learning; it is transferred through teaching. Therefore, if we want a knowledgeable water sector in a Ghana, a sector that knows how to solve the pressing problems facing it, or make informed choices about different options offered by outside well wishers; then we also need a sector that knows how to learn!

Information sharing has a crucial role in learning. Information is the raw material for creating knowledge, but it takes people and institutions to turn raw information into useful knowledge. So, we can read an article about communities managing bulk water supply in slums in India, but only when we have tried the approach in Accra and modified it appropriately can we say we have the knowledge to implement the approach. Yet having created this information at the level of a pilot project, how do we scale it up to other areas? This is where information comes in again. We need to systematise and document our new knowledge so that we can share it with others. Yet even this is not enough. Because it is very likely that in implementing our Ghanaian version of the Indian experience,

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**VISION** Strengthening capacities for a dynamic knowledge-driven sector providing improved and sustainable pro-poor services

**MISSION** To promote improved KM within the WASH sector in Ghana through the facilitation of a dynamic network of partners.

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we have found that some aspects of current policy or practice need to be modified. Maybe a new type of contract between Ghana Water and communities has to be developed. Or a bye-law modified. If the first loop of learning is our ability, as individuals, to take information and apply it in a new context; the second is the ability to use it to change the wider systems in which we live and operate.

Many of us practice the first learning loop in our lives and work. Far fewer of us contribute to the second: to extracting the broader lessons of what we have done, systematising them, documenting and sharing them, and using them as the basis for wider debate and change in the sector. Yet it is precisely this second loop that is essential to creating a genuinely

knowledgeable and learning focussed sector in Ghana.

RCN is working hard to help to create the basis for a genuinely learning focussed sector in Ghana. So too are others through activities like the Ghana Water Forum, or the long running Mole conferences; through new initiatives like WASH News or the monthly meetings of the National Learning Alliance; through learning focussed projects like the WASHCost or TPP; or through the postgraduate research programmes of our Universities. All of these initiatives need your support as practitioners and we hope that you too will contribute to the creation of a knowledgeable water sector in Ghana, by documenting and sharing your own experiences or by taking part in learning and sharing forums. We look forward to hearing from you!

## Towards a Sector Wide Approach (SWAp): Government of Ghana and Development Partners confer

A large number of representatives of Government and Ghana's Development Partners met in Accra on February 2 and 3, 2010 to discuss the development of a Sector Wide Approach (SWAp) for the Water Sector in Ghana.

The workshop, organised by the Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing was the first in a series of eight action oriented workshops that will ensure that the key elements required in the SWAp are in place by early 2011.

Welcoming participants on behalf of the Honourable Minister, the Chief Director of MWRWH Alhaji Yakubu Ziblim assured all present of government's firm commitment to the water sector and to the development of a SWAp. Two days of

discussion followed, during which a roadmap for developing a SWAp was discussed and validated.

On the second day, the key elements were identified for an overarching strategic sector development plan, unifying water resources, rural and urban water and providing a prioritised and action oriented plan for the implementation of the National Water Policy.

A subsequent meeting, facilitated by the EU in late March focused on raising awareness of the key elements of SWAp, while at the same time developing the main elements of a key underlying document: a code of conduct for water sector actors.

Source: MWRWH

## Water Directorate launches 1.97m Euro pilot initiative in Accra

By Abu Wumbei (RCN/TPP)

Mr. Minta Aboagye, the Director of Water at the Ministry of Water Resources Works and Housing (MWRWH) officially launched the 1.97m Euro African Water Facility pilot initiative for Ashaiman, Huni Valley, and Mankessim at the WASH House in Dzorwulu, Accra on February 23, 2010. This was under the theme, "Improved Sanitation and Water supply to the urban poor in Ghana through Tripartite Partnerships."

In a keynote address read on his behalf by Mr. Attah Arhin of the MWRWH, Mr. Minta observed that the TPP project is steadily growing from strength to strength since its inception. He commended the initiative and commitment of the Team leader and the project team. "I am confident that the project will continue to design many more of such appropriate initiatives which will result in lasting improvements in the performance of the sector towards the achievement of national and MDG targets," he added.

The TPP Project has been actively running since 2008 with a grant funding provided by the Netherlands Water Partnership (NWP) which comprises ICCO, A4A and SIMAVI; TREND and now ADB/AWF. According to him the 1.97 million Euro funding from the ADB/AWF brings the total budget to 3.1 million Euros and extends the project life span from 3 to 4 years.

### THE FIRST AWF APPROVAL FOR GHANA

The 1.97 million Euro African Water Facility (AWF) /Tripartite Partnership (TPP) pilot initiative is the first AWF approval for Ghana since the beginning of its operations in 2006. The facility has since its establishment approved 61 projects from other African countries involving a total Grant amount of 70 million Euros. The start of the TPP pilot projects will mark the start of another important project in the urban WASH sector after the ongoing Accra Sewerage Improvement Project funded by the African Development Bank (ADB). The Resident Representative of the African Development Bank (ADB) Group, Mr Alieu Jeng made this revelation when he addressed the launch of the AWF/TPP pilot project in Accra.

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## Water Directorate launches 1.97m Euro pilot initiative in Accra

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The AWF is an initiative of the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) to mobilise and apply resources for the development of Africa's water sector. The AWF is hosted at and administered by the ADB. Mr. Jeng stated that AWF in line with its mandate to improve water governance and service delivery as well as innovation-promoting investments, has provided a grant of 1.979 million Euros to support the implementation of the TPP pilot projects. He added that the project will seek to contribute to the promotion of improved health and quality of life of the urban poor in Ghana using the tripartite partnership approach involving the public, private and NGO sectors as a key strategy.

According to Mr. Jeng expected outcomes of the AWF/TPP pilot project entail the strengthening of institutional capacity of local government to plan and implement pro-poor WASH service delivery to urban poor. More importantly the pilot projects will ensure the delivery of improved WASH services to about 45000 people in the 3 pilot towns.

He admitted that the TPP facility was approved following a long and very competitive process. He cited the establishment of leaning and knowledge management structures, the support to the establishment of Resource Centre Network, the strong support from the sector ministries and agencies as good start made by the TPP project since 2008, which formed the basis for AWF pilot approval.

Mr. Eugene Larbi, the team leader of the TPP project, named the project's main partners as the Sector Ministries including the MWRWH and the Ministry of Local Government Rural Development (MLGRD); Sector Networks comprising PRUSPA and CONIWAS; Agencies like the PURC, CWSA and GWCL/AVRL; and others like NWP, IRC and Safi Sana Ghana.

Mr. Larbi assured that even though the bulk of AWF support will go to infrastructure development, the project team will continue to channel more effort towards learning, material development and pro-poor advocacy issues. He announced that learning structures like the District Level Learning Alliance Platforms (DLLAP) and Steering Committees will soon be established in the pilot communities. He contended that this will involve beneficiary communities in decision making and project management processes throughout project implementation and beyond.

The representatives of the beneficiary communities individually thanked the Donors for the support and TREND for choosing their respective communities. They collectively pledged their support and commitment to the pilot projects.

## SWAP in the WASH sub-sector: Ugandan experience "scares" new entrants

By Abu Wumbei (RCN/TPP)

The Ugandan experience on the Sector Wide Approach to Planning (SWAP) in the Water and Sanitation sub-sector was an eye opener and a "scare" for WASH sector participants from countries that are now making the effort to follow in Uganda's footsteps. "After listening to my Ugandan colleague I wonder whether SWAP is still the best way forward" Mr. Aboagye Minta, the Director of Water at the Ministry of Water Resource Works and Housing (MWRWH) in Ghana remarked with a wry smile.

This observation was made after Engineer Disan Ssozi of the Ugandan Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) shared some of the SWAP experience in the water and sanitation sub-sector in Uganda in the Harmonisation and Coordination session at the International Symposium on Rural Water Services, which took place in April, 2010.

Mr. Ssozi outlined some of the disadvantages of the harmonised and coordinated approach of a national Sector Wide Approach (SWAP) as against the previous project based approach. These includes reduction in innovation/new approaches, lack of staff motivation, reduced financial flows and slow procurement, all of which were, according to Engineer Ssozi, more efficient under the previous project based approach than under the present SWAP programme where government of Uganda plays the leadership role. He further outlined challenges linked to inadequate sector

financing and rapid decentralisation which is leading to increasing costs of service delivery (due to the creation of many new districts and poor district based operation and maintenance of water facilities). On the way forward, Engineer Ssozi stated that the effect of SWAP was to make clear the need for better governance, and the development of strategic investment plans.

This indeed was a revelation for countries like Ghana and Mozambique, who are now making the efforts towards SWAP. On the question of whether he had a change of mind on SWAP after the presentation, Mr Minta of Ghana answered in the negative, stating that the problems of SWAP enumerated will be taken as great lessons and that Ghana will do well to avoid some of the pitfalls. And indeed, even Engineer Ssozi confirmed that there was 'no going back', rather emphasising the need to engage with and improve the government systems that are hampering progress under the SWAP.

The experience of Uganda clearly indicates that SWAP in the WASH sub-sector does not automatically answer the question of sector harmonisation and coordination, much less service sustainability. By removing the handy scapegoat of disorganised donors, SWAP puts the spotlight squarely on the national water sector, as well as its relationship to other actors particularly the Ministry of Finance.

## Regional Sanitation and Hygiene Symposium takes place in Accra

The West African Regional Sanitation and Hygiene symposium took place late last year in Accra, Ghana. The symposium was organized by IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre, West Africa Water Initiative (WAWI), UNICEF, WaterAid, and the Resource Centre Network (RCN) in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government Rural Development (MLGRD).

The 3-day bilingual symposium registered over 150 participants from over 15 countries across the world. Impressions gathered from participants indicate that the symposium was a big success! All the abstracts, papers, photo essays and presentations of the symposium may be found at [www.irc.nl/page/westafrica-symposium](http://www.irc.nl/page/westafrica-symposium)

Source: RCN

## High level sector retreat discusses sector harmonisation



Left to right: Dr. Patrick Moriarty, Mr. Minta Aboagye, Alhaji Yakubu Ziblim, Mr. Emmanuel Gaze, Mr. Ebenezer Gabrah, Ms. Vida Dutu, Mr Ben Ampomah, Dr. Kwabena Nyarko, Mr RKD Van Ess, Honourable Alhaji Saani Iddi, Mr. K. Frempah-Yeboah

Senior Government of Ghana stakeholders in the water sector met in Akosombo from January 13-14, 2010. The retreat was under the distinguished patronage of the Honourable Minister for Water Resources, Works and Housing (MWRWH). The retreat which was sponsored by IRC International Water and Sanitation Center, had the theme "Towards effective government leadership in harmonization of the water sector".

The retreat touched on a number of pertinent issues, primarily the role and staffing of the Water Directorate itself, as well as government's leadership in the development of a Sector Wide Approach (SWAp) for Ghana's water sector. Honourable Deputy Minister, MWRWH, Alhaji Saani Iddi reaffirmed government's strong commitment to the sector and its intention to play an active leadership role in the development of the SWAp.

## AWIS Launches Second Phase

The African Water Information and Documentation System (AWIS) launched two years ago, held a workshop for the second phase of the project at the Laguna Beach Hotel, Senegal from 15th January to 19th January, 2010. The workshop was organised by the consortium of the AWIS project and financed by the European Commission, the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and the Department of International Development (UK). This was to review the pilot phase and to agree on activities for the second phase, referred to as the expansion phase.

AWIS aims at increasing access to information in the water sector on the African continent; and to promote exchanges and relations between various African stakeholders in the sector, to share experiences and improve practices.

The workshop brought together 20 focal points across Africa and the consortium that constitutes the AWIS steering committee. The Consortium comprises the African Network of Basin Organisations (ANDO), Research Centre for Drinking Water and Sanitation (CREPA), Office International de l'Eau (OIEau), Water Solidarity Program (PS-Eau) and Water Engineering and Development Centre (WEDC).

TREND Group, the focal point for Ghana in the network, participated in the recent workshop. The expansion phase workshop agreed on further development of the AWIS portal and the sharing of a number of knowledge products. This phase spans a period of six months, March to August, 2010. For further information visit the AWIS portal on: [www.awis.org](http://www.awis.org)

Source: RCN

## Minister Launches Sustainable Rural Water Service Initiative in Ghana

The Sustainable Services at Scale (SSS) project has been assured of government continued support and cooperation in their quest to maximise investment in the water sector. Hon. Alban Bagbin, the Minister for Water Resources Works and Housing (MWRWH) gave this assurance when he officially launched the project in Accra on Monday 17 May 2010.

Referred to informally as Triple-S, the five-year initiative focuses on promoting an integrated, service delivery approach (SDA) towards sustainable water services, through a combination of learning, advocacy and research programmes. As Mr Clement Bugase, Chief Executive of the Community Water and Sanitation Agency commented, 'If we can tackle the issue of sustainability, we can make faster progress.'

In order to realise this goal, the initiative will work on developing service delivery models for implementation at a district level. 'The success of the Triple-S initiative lies in equipping stakeholders throughout the sector with the knowledge, tools and frameworks to move away from short-term, one-off water system construction projects' states Triple-S Ghana's Country Team Leader, Vida Affum Dutu. 'It is essential that we all have access to indefinite, sustainable rural water services and Triple-S will play a critical role in helping the sector to achieve this.'

Working with key stakeholders in the water sector, the initiative will further support the Government of Ghana in improving sustainable rural water delivery.

Source: Tripple-S/CWSA



Hon. Alban Bagbin, Minister, MWRWH

## More support for taxes on packaged water in Ghana

Some stakeholders in the Water and Sanitation sectors expressed support for the proposed 20 percent tax on packaged water. At a workshop to discuss government's budgetary allocation for the sector, participants agreed that there was the need for more funding in the sector to enable them provide efficient water and sanitation services to all people.

Mr Kwaku Sakyi-Addo, General Manager, Communications at Aqua Vitens Rand Limited, Operators of Ghana Water Company Limited, suggested that the tax should not only be on bottled water but also on sachet water since the latter was produced more and caused more environmental problems.

He said some percentage of the tax should be used for development in the water and sanitation sectors to ensure better provision of services.

Mr Sakyi-Addo pointed out that the water sector especially needs more investment in terms of infrastructure and equipment, and stressed that there is the need for increased funding in the sector. Other participants at the workshop agreed that the tax should be implemented and some even suggested that a greater chunk of monies accrued from such taxes should be used for development in the water sector.

Mr Rudolf Amego-Etego, Executive Director of GrassRoots Africa said the lack of money in the sector was the biggest obstacle that hindered the implementation of policies that could help Ghana achieve improved services in the water and sanitation sector. "The Water and Sanitation sector is the pivot of development", he added.

The workshop was organized by GrassRoots Africa, a non-governmental organization that advocates for improved water and sanitation services especially in rural areas to discuss possible funding options for development in the sector.

Source: Grassroots Africa  
Compiled by: RCN

## Strengthening capacities for effective sector learning

As part of the effort to strengthen national capacities for effective sector learning the WASH Sector, the Resource Centre Network (RCN) launched the National Level Learning Alliance Platform (NLLAP) in Accra in October, 2009.

The NLLAP brings together sector stakeholder to dialogue, learn and share knowledge/information on specific themes. This round table sector stakeholder learning and sharing platform aims at providing a sector wide platform for regular engagement, interaction and discussion of themes and topical issues that affect the sector. This is to build consensus, encourage and promote sector learning processes.

The platform offers learning and sharing opportunity for sector players as one of the practical approaches to improving sector

engagements/sharing with the long term aim of achieving a knowledge driven WASH sector that delivers quality and sustainable services in Ghana.

NLLAP meetings are organized and facilitated by the Ghana WASH Resource Centre Network (RCN), and take place

on the last Thursday of every month. The discussions of each NLLAP meeting are summarized and shared with the wider WASH community in the form of a communiqué. The topics of upcoming meetings are decided on by the RCN secretariat and a list of upcoming meetings can be found on the RCN website: [www.ghana.watsan.net/page/767](http://www.ghana.watsan.net/page/767). You can propose a topic for a meeting please by contacting us on, Tel. (233-21) 769530/769552; Fax: (233-21) 769583 or Email: [rcnghana@gmail.com](mailto:rcnghana@gmail.com).

### Director of Water Opens the WASH House



Mr Minta Aboagye, Director of water, MWRWH

A knowledge centre to support learning and coordination of activities in the Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector in Ghana recently inaugurated its new office in Dzorwulu, Accra: Accra WASH House. WASH House is host to a total of eight non-governmental organizations (NGOs), projects and initiatives working in the WASH sector. These are TREND Group, IRC's West Africa Regional Programme (WARP), Tripartite Partnership (TPP) Project, WASHCost Project, SWITCH Project, Triple-S project, Safi Sana Ghana and the Resource Centre Network (RCN) Secretariat. These organizations and projects have a common vision of a dynamic knowledge-driven WASH sector, providing sustainable pro-poor services.

*"The networks and coordination between the eight organizations had already created a lot of vibrancy in the WASH sector"* Mr. Minta Aboagye, Director of Water, MWRWH.

*"The story of the WASH House will not be complete without a mention of the role of sector ministries, CWSA, KNUST, WaterAid, CONIWAS and WRI; but more especially IRC who have provided technical/financial support throughout the process"* Mr. Eugene Larbi, Managing Director, TREND Group

*"The WASH house hopes to be a force for change in terms of knowledge sharing and leaning about the water, sanitation and hygiene sectors in Ghana"* Dr. Patrick Moriarty, IRC/WARP

### TPP to launch District Level Learning Alliance Platform (DLLAP)

The District Level Learning Alliance Platforms (DLLAP) will be established soon in the three TPP pilot communities, Huni Valley, Mankessem and Ashaiman. Speaking after the AWF/TPP pilot launch in Accra, Mr. Eugene Larbi, the TPP project team leader revealed that the launch of the DLLAPs will start soon after the respective pilot launches in the three pilot areas. He added that the project team will confer with the 3 pilot districts in determining suitable dates, frequency and the wider district target group.

According to Mr. Larbi experiences of Learning Alliances (LAs) and working groups at the national level have so far been very positive and their activities have clearly helped facilitate project interventions. LA members have been proactively involved in project decisions, and are making useful inputs into research aspects of the projects. Ultimately the LA members at the national level are expected to play a key role in ensuring dissemination and scaling up of project materials, toolkits and knowledge products. He contends that LAs activities within each district will be carefully facilitated and the deliberations and change processes will be documented and analysed to capture innovations that emanate.

## Six Communities benefit from WATERHEALTH facility

WaterHealth Ghana, a subsidiary of WaterHealth International has provided safe and potable water to six communities in Ghana so far. WaterHealth International which has more than 300 of such facilities across the globe is serving more than one million people globally with access to safe drinking water. Five of the beneficiary communities are Amasaman, Oduman, Obeyeyie, Afuaman and Pokuase are in the Ga West District of the Greater Accra Region while Tongor- Dzemeni is in the South Dayi District of the Volta Region.

WaterHealth Ghana is a private commercial company, which focuses mainly on providing rural and peri urban communities with access to safe drinking water with the goal to reduce water-borne diseases.

The Company which started operations in the Country in 2007, distinguishes itself by using an Ultra Violet(UV) technology which is proprietary to WaterHealth International as the final treatment. The UV system is applied prior to Alum sedimentation, Media and Activated Carbon Filtration to ensure maximum disinfection of the water. The facility uses surface water which can be sourced from rivers, lakes, ponds as well as ground water from shallow wells.

The treated water from the facility conforms to WHO and Ghana Standards Board requirements for drinking water. The WaterHealth facility provides water, superior in quality and has significant health, financial, economic and environmental benefits. Sustainability is a strong identity to this facility.

WaterHealth Ghana manages and maintains the facilities with the support of the various community representatives. The facility has comparatively low average per capita installation costs of \$30 and low operations and maintenance cost. Operators from the various communities are trained to operate the facilities. The WaterHealth UV unit is a very simple technology which can operate in any remote area in the world. The facility has a minimum shelf life of 30 years and comes in two sizes.

One produces 65,000 liters' of water a day serving populations of 3,000 and above and the other produces 21,000 liters' serving populations below 3,000.

There is a community mobilization and education unit of WaterHealth Ghana which promotes health, hygiene and environmental education. This education forms part of the support services provided to the communities by WaterHealth to create awareness of the system and increase patronage, thereby helping to reduce the incidence of waterborne diseases.

The communities pay user fees which are used to operate and maintain the plant and surpluses to be used for community development.

WaterHealth Ghana is looking forward to replicating this Community Water System across the country, while collaborating with all stakeholders in the water sector to help meet the MDG's by 2015.

Source: WaterHealth

## District Assemblies advised to be committed to rural water service delivery

Local Authorities in the various Assemblies have been advised to be committed to issues relating to rural water service delivery. Mr. Mawuena Dotse of the Maple Consult, gave this advice at the first Ghana Water Forum, organised by the Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing (MWRWH) in October, 2009.

Speaking on the theme: "Role of Local Authorities in Better Service Delivery," he said that the effective decentralization of the water delivery services and sustainability of interventions to ensure water supply in rural areas, were key in helping Ghana attain the Millennium Development Goals. "It rests on the District Assemblies to effectively implement the National Water Policy," he said.

Ghana launched the National Water Policy in 2008 with the objective of improving access to safe water and to reduce by half the proportion of people without access to basic water supply by 2015.

He said District Assemblies were unable to exhibit the necessary commitment to investments in the water sector because of the lack of technical skills that hampers the effective supervision of construction of technical contracts.

Mr Doste called for the institution of a pilot programme that would decentralize the provision of water services beyond the District Assemblies level.

He pointed out that District Assemblies are a key component in the community water and sanitation programme, calling for government's support to the District Assemblies to enable them to develop and contribute to finance the District Water and Sanitation Plan.

Mr Dotse therefore called for a change in mindset at the District Assembly level to better spearhead the delivery of water in their respective areas.

Source: GrassrootsAfrica  
Compiled by: RCN

## “1.5% of annual budget should be dedicated to Water and Sanitation issues” - Stakeholders advocate

Stakeholders within the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Sector recently agreed that government needs to increase annual budget for the sector since it is the pivot of all development programmes.

Mr Rudolf Amenga-Etego, Executive Director of GrassRoots Africa, a Non Governmental Organization (NGO) that advocates for improved water and sanitation services especially in rural areas, suggested that 1.5 percent of government's annual budget should be dedicated to improving Water, Sanitation and Hygiene services.

Speaking at a day's workshop to discuss Government's budgetary allocation for Water and Sanitation issues, he said about 1.4 billion people will require improved sanitation services in Africa to facilitate the achievement of the Millennium

Development Goal on water and sanitation. “In Ghana, the Ghana Water Company Limited (GWCL) requires about 100 million dollars per year to invest in infrastructure development alone,” he added.

Mr Amenga-Etego identified the lack of money as the biggest obstacle that hindered the implementation of policies that could help Ghana achieved improved services in the water and sanitation sectors.

He admitted that investment in the sector had seen a slight increase; however, he said water was a high investment sector and the development of the water sector was a crucial one for government since water is a basic necessity.

Suggesting alternative sources of funding, Mr

Amenga-Etego said there should be a special levy on high water users such as the breweries and the mining companies as well as special taxes in the likeness of the talk time tax to ensure enough funding in the sector. He also said the business of supplying treated water to ships should be the core business for GWCL and Aqua Vitens Rands Limited since they are the main providers of water in Ghana.

The workshop was organized by GrassRoots Africa in collaboration with CONIWAS and supported by WaterAid Ghana. In attendance were members of the Civil Society Organizations, NGOs, GWCL and AVRL and the Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA) among others and facilitated by CONIWAS.

Source: CONIWAS  
Compiled by: RCN

## CWSA and SHEP on the way forward for WASH in Schools



Application of soap

The Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA) and the School Sanitation and Hygiene Education Programme (SHEP) took turns to facilitate a workshop on the Way Forward for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Schools, organised by the Church of Christ Rural Water Development Programme (COCRWDP) in Ashaiman. The objective of the workshop was to promote the provision of safe drinking water, use



Effective rubbing of hands

of toilets facilities and the practice of good hygiene in schools and communities.

Mrs. Theodora Adomako-Adjei, the Extension Coordinator for CWSA noted that Sanitation and Hygiene components have been left far behind water issues and that sanitation and hygiene should be given the needed attention and should be taught in schools. She indicated that if children are given proper hygiene and sanitation education

at an early age, it helps them to develop these practices in adulthood.

“Water is life, Sanitation is dignity, Hygiene is health; what is life without dignity and health and what is dignity without life and health?” She asked, adding that the three components must always be integrated in all programmes in the WASH sector to maximise the potential health benefits and impact.

Ms. Ellen Gyekye, SHEP Programme Officer, shared the key objectives and strategy of SHEP. She identified the critical challenges confronting sustainable WASH initiatives for schools as,  
i) overloaded curriculum and lack of safe water;  
ii) inadequate soap and hand washing facilities;  
iii) lack of trained school SHEPs coordinators;  
iv) lack of manuals for the SHEP coordinators in schools;  
v) no budget allocation for WASH activities; and  
vi) lack of parental support for WASH programmes.

On the way forward, Ms. Gyekye recommended capacity building for SHEP coordinators; establish partnership between COCRWDP, CWSA & SHEP to further address the challenges; and provide the necessary resource materials.

Bishop N.N.S Adams, the Chief Executive Officer of COCRWDP admitted that the day's dialogue was a success and called for the immediate implementation of some of the recommendations.

Source: COCRWDP  
Compiled by: RCN

# Sector Events Calendar - 2010 (May - July)

RCN Ghana feeds the sector with updates of forthcoming local and international events. Please send all planned events that you would like to share with the sector to rcnghana@gmail.com or call the RCN secretariat on +233 21 769552. Visit the sector website for past and forthcoming events: [www.ghana.watsan.net](http://www.ghana.watsan.net)

EVENT	DATE	VENUE
National Environmental Sanitation Policy Coordinating Council (NESPOCC) meeting	April 8, 2010	Coconut Grove Regency Hotel, Accra
International Symposium on Rural Water Services Providing Sustainable Water Services at Scale (Organised by IRC and partners)	April 13 - 15, 2010	Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala, Uganda
National Level Learning Alliance Platform (NLLAP) The Context Analysis of WASH Sector in Ghana (Organized by RCN Ghana with the Dutch WASH Alliance)	April 14-15, 2010	Coconut Grove Regency, Accra
Stakeholder Forum on Water: Poverty and Corruption in Africa (PCA) – Strengthening Transparency International's ability to respond (organized by GII)	April 15, 2010	GIMPA, Accra
High Level Meeting (HLM)	April 22-23, 2010	Washington, USA
Water Africa 2010 Seminar "Nigeria's Urban and Rural Challenges for the 21st Century" ( info@ace-events.com)	April 29, 2010	Abuja, Nigeria
National Level Learning Alliance Meeting: The Data Puzzle in Ghana's WASH sector with WSMP (Organised by RCN Ghana with MWRWH/WSMP)	April 29 2010	Coconut Grove Regency, Accra
Developing Roadmap for a study into Shared Latrines in Ghana (organised by MLGRD with WSMP)	May 5, 2010	Water Resource Commission Conference Hall, Labone
AWF/TPP Ashaiman Pilot Project Launch: Improved sanitation and water supply to the Urban Poor in Ghana through Tripartite Partnership	May 11, 2010	Ashaiman Municipal Assembly,, Ashaiman
Meeting with MMDAs Sanitation and local service delivery (organised by World Bank with REHO & SWITCH)	May 11, 2010	Erata Hotel, Accra
Triple-5 Project Launch (organised by CWSA)	May 17, 2010	La-palm Royal Beach Hotel, Accra
TPP Project Toolbox Development Workshop (organised by TREND)	May 20, 2010	WASH House, Accra
CWSA Annual Review Meeting	May 18-26, 2010	Tamale
Water Loss Management & Leakage Reduction, "One drop counts, Water lost is water wasted" (lconsulting@polka.co.za)	May 24 25, 2010	Hilton Hotel, Sandton, Johannesburg, R.S.A.
Sanitation Workshop (organised by MLGRD)	May 26, 2010	Coconut Grove Regency, Accra
Sector Dialogue on Water Rights (organized by CONIWAS)	May 27, 2010	Coconut Grove Regency, Accra
Pro-poor Coordination Meeting (organised by PURC & hosted by RCN/TPP)	June 1, 2010	WASH House, Accra
Country Dialogue on Country Status Dialogue (Organised by WD, MWRWH)	June 2, 2010	Coconut Grove Regency, Accra
Minister's 100days- in-office speech: By the Minister, MWRWH (organised by MWRWH)	June 3, 2010	Min. of Information
National Level Learning Alliance Meeting: Sanitation Bazaar: The National Sanitation Policy vs. MDGs, Etc. (Organised by RCN/EHSD/WD, MWRWH)	June 4, 2010	Coconut Grove Regency, Accra
Environmental Film Festival of Accra ( <a href="http://www.effaccra.org">www.effaccra.org</a> )	June 3-11, 2010	Accra
Urban Water Project Assessment Meeting	June 10, 2010	WASH House, Accra
Launching of the WASH United Ghana Campaign (organised by GrassrootAfrica)	June 11, 2010	The British Council Hall
WASHCost International Meeting	June 14-18, 2010	Kumasi
The 1st International Water Quality Conference ( <a href="http://www.wateratleeds.org/water-quality-2010.php">http://www.wateratleeds.org/water-quality-2010.php</a> )	June 23-24, 2010	West Yorkshire, Leeds, UK
National Level Learning Alliance Meeting: Management models for peri-urban areas and small towns	June 30, 2010	Coconut Grove Regency, Accra
SWAP meeting (organised by MWRWH)	June 24, 2010	Accra
Launch of the RCN Steering Committee (organised by RCN with MWRWH)	June 25, 2010	Golden Tulip Hotel, Accra
Singapore International Water Week ( <a href="http://www.siww.com.sg/">http://www.siww.com.sg/</a> )	June 28- July 02, 2010	Singapore
Faecal Sludge Management Training (Organized by SWITCH/ KNUST, <a href="mailto:esiawuhr@yahoo.com">esiawuhr@yahoo.com</a> )	July 5-9, 2010	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Accra , Ghana
Mole XXI Conference (organised by CONIWAS)	July 20-23, 2010	Erata Hotel, Accra

Compiled by RCN Ghana