

3rd Educational Conference

January-March 2010 First Quarter Edition

Area Students Learn About Sustainability of African Resources and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities in Water Problems at Embassy of Ghana, Washington, D.C. January 20, 2010



Michael Levine addressing the audience

Picture by Let's Go Africa Foundation 2010

By Kwasi Bosompem

More than 150 Washington area students, teachers and public activists groups learned about African Resources Sustainability and CSR activities and Water Problems in Africa at an Educational Workshop. The event was organized by the Let's Go Africa Foundation, hosted by the Embassy of Ghana and moderated by Michael Levine, the chair of the American Bar Association CSR and of Epstein, Becker & Greene LLP.

The moderator, Michael Levin highlighted the current CSR agenda associated with many corporations and multilateral guidelines. He stressed the legal framework and principles of CSR while welcoming the Speakers, namely Denise Knight of Coca Cola, Bill Kramer of International Rural Water Foundation and Charles Freezel of the World Cocoa Foundation. This CSR Educational program in the Washington DC area was the third event on CSR in Africa educational series organized by the Let's Go Africa Foundation. According to Mr. Kwasi Bosompem, the Executive Director of Let's Go Africa Foundation, social justice forums have become very popular among schools, colleges and religious organizations and issues regarding ethics, fair labor, HIV/AIDS, education, child labor and environmental pollution in Africa have become discussion items for activists. The Educational Conference is organized to create awareness, reinforces education programs on socially responsible investments, UN Global Compact and Global Reporting Initiatives and the Equator Principles. The Foundation also engages multinationals to demonstrate and show cause, their investments and responsibilities in Africa. He explains that in Africa, legislation and enforcement are poor and social justice groups and civil society scrutiny and consumer activists are largely absent or best poor. Thus the awareness programs on Sustainability and CSR by Let's Go Africa Foundation is a move in the right direction.



The Ambassador of Ghana, His Excellency Dan Agyekum speaking at the Conference

Speaking at the Educational Conference, the Ambassador of Ghana to the United States, His Excellency Dan Agyekum recognized the efforts being made by the Government of Ghana to strengthen investments in the natural resources. He stated in his speech that "We as Ghanaians understand the importance of supporting the hundreds of families depending on these resources." He highlighted the sustainability and social investment efforts of mining companies such as Newmont Mining in Ghana.



DCM Mrs Edith Hazel



Denise Knight, above highlighting
Coca Cola CSR in Africa



Bill Kramer of IRWA



Charles Freezel of WCF speaking to the audience



Dr. Atobrah presenting
the IDUN concept

In her address to the audience, The Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) at the Ghana Embassy, Mrs. Edith Hazel, highlighted the opportunities and constraints of the Urban Water Delivery systems in Ghana. It was noted from the presentation that the Ghana Water Company Limited (GWCL), in spite of external assistance, continued to suffer from massive financial, managerial and technical problems. The gap between supply and demand increased while demand for potable water in the cities was on the rise and the supply systems were degenerating. To introduce greater efficiency, options for public-private partnerships (PPP) were developed. Investors should not only be aware of the rural water problems but also urban water issues. The Conference notes, that Ghana's peri-urban cities grow rapidly and often largely unplanned, and infrastructure cannot keep pace with population growth. This has led to a situation where an increasing number of people live without adequate sources of drinking water and sanitation – a problem especially critical in peri-urban areas surrounding the urban centers. Water as a sustainable element is thus a critical.

Denise Knight, Water and Sustainability Manager with Coca Cola presented the Coca Cola Water Stewardship in Africa and the company's watershed management program. "Water is vital to Coca Cola." Denise explained that the company aims to reduce water ratio, recycle water used in their operations and replenish water use through community watershed protection and restoration. Coca Cola plans to assist Africa's acute water crisis.

Bill Kramer (left) of the International Rural Water Association (IRWA) addressed the audience on assistance programs in developing countries such as the building of sustainable water treatment systems and improved health through safe water in Burkina Faso.

The World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) represented by Charles Freezel spoke on the encouragement of responsible, sustainable cocoa farming and the strengthening of communities in Africa. WCF has been supporting farmers in Africa through its sustainable tree crops program. Realizing that farming families depend on Cocoa. WCF has a comprehensive sustainability program preventing crop loss from pests and disease, increasing productivity due to traditional farming practices, supporting access to quality education, and improving community health challenges such as malaria and HIV/AIDS.

The Renewable And Sustainable Group presented the use of Renewable Energy for Water, Sanitation and Electricity, through the Integrative Distributive Utilities Network (IDUN) system. The Integrated Distributed Utilities Network (IDUN) provides support for infrastructure requirements for such basic needs as potable water, telecommunications and Internet access.

Dr Atobrah explained that an IDUN can be located at community-based clinics, village and town clinics, clinics-on-wheels and portable medical labs for dispensing anti-viral treatment for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other endemic diseases that plague those living in the developing world. Adequate medical care requires that practitioners and patients have access to such basics as a refrigerator, a light, record keeping and communication. From remote areas, a satellite phone powered by solar energy can send data to a central location to coordinate care and handle emergencies.

EXHIBITS AND FORUMS AT THE EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

Exhibitors at the CSR event included Newmont Mining, Proctor and Gamble, Etruscan Mining, IAMGOLD Corporation, Banro Corporation, OM Group World Cocoa Foundation and Nestle Water. The students explored many of Africa's natural resources and learned about corporate investments, social responsibility, and sustainability in Africa.

Newmont Mining



Kwasi Bosompem of Let's Go Africa Foundation having a discussion on Newmont Mining Water programs in Ghana at the Conference

At the Exhibits, Newmont Mining demonstrated the company's commitment to water safety, quality and environmental controls, including the Ahafo Social Responsibility programs, Agribusiness Growth Initiative and the Livelihood Enhancement and Community Empowerment Programs all in Ghana. Newmont has collaborated and partnered with community development experts in its community development intervention programs. As a mining company, Newmont continues to participate and transform the lives of people within the communities where they work. Newmont is an example of a good investor social responsibility program in Africa. The Let's Go Africa Foundation has analyzed Newmont's Sustainability programs in Ghana using the three components of sustainability, population, technology and affluence. The company is noted to encourage practices that minimize resource intensity and maximizes resource productivity with a very careful resource management practices.



Nathan Graham of Proctor and Gamble explaining the P&G Pur packet safe drinking water program in Africa
Students at the Conference demonstrating Proctor and Gamble PUR packet at the Conference

Proctor and Gamble demonstrated their Children's Safe Drinking Water Program including the PUR Packet clean water process in several African Countries.

Through this technology, Proctor and Gamble has provided clean water to improve lives by providing people with a healthy body as well as a healthy planet. Their exhibits demonstrated that Africa's population access to clean water can be resolved. Proctor and Gamble has demonstrated this program and donated several of the PUR packets to several African Countries. The conference learnt a lot about the program and the students and audience were overwhelmed.



IAMGOLD- meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations of Tanzania and Botswana to meet their own needs

IAMGOLD of Canada exhibited their educational program in Botswana, Tanzania.

IAMGOLD SUSTAINABILITY

- Environmental Stewardship, Accountability and transparency in Action
- Protecting Cultural Heritage in Botswana
- 3 New Pre School Facilities in Tanzania
- Zero Spills of Cyanide in 2008/2009

The students reviewed and learnt about IAMGOLD's comprehensive health, safety and Sustainability programs in Africa.

OM GROUP

Of particular interest were the OM Group social responsibility exhibits mainly on health, education and the large financial contributions paid to the central government in the DRC. OM Group seeks to improve the quality of lives in Lubumbashi areas of the DRC while maintaining an adaptive capacity of environmental systems. The company over the years has prevented damage to the ecosystem and human health and has also accepted global responsibility for its work and finally it has integrated environmental, social and economic sectors in developing sustainable policies.

Highlights of the OM Group Exhibits were

- Job Creation at the Big Hill Plant in the DRC
- Cash Generation for the DRC
- Health, Environment and Safety Standards and
- Zero Pollution and Lost Time accidents at the Plant

ETRUSCAN RESOURCES

The Company's exhibited its most successful projects the "CSI John et Margaret Savage de Touré", a medical clinic in Niger offering primary health care services to a rural population of approximately 15,000. In partnership with Rotary Club of Dartmouth and Rotary Club of Wolfville, the Company has arranged funding for the renovation and expansion of the local school in the village of Bossey Bangou, located approximately 10 kilometers from the Samira Hill Gold Mine in Niger. In Mali, the Company has worked with its joint venture partner Resolute Mining Limited to repair water wells in the village near the Company's Sexploration activities. Etruscan also demonstrated their health, education programs, in Mali, Niger.



IRWA

International Rural Water Association (IRWA), a 501c3 corporation was established in 1988 with a mission to establish National Rural Water Association (NRWA) type circuit rider technical assistance programs in developing countries, build sustainable water treatment systems and improve health through safe water. IRWA just completed a project to solve the water problems for the villagers of Tintilou, Burkina Faso with the installation of a new drilled well. The well is 193 feet deep. The project manager noted the static groundwater elevation at the time of drilling was approximately 10 feet deep. Awareness of the importance of water crisis in the Africa's most vulnerable habitats was highlighted by IRWA at the event.



The United Nations Water Program at University of Pennsylvania exhibited information on Global Issues on Water, Health and Sanitation. The Philadelphia Global Water Initiative and other Engineers promoting sustainable development, both through awareness locally and implementation globally in Africa, explained their programs at the event.

Brook Braswell and Cindy Braswell exhibited the proposed Water Program in the Zambia. The Jehovah ireh Sanctuary Water Program in the Zambia, offers hope and uplifting service for the poor. For those interested in supporting their voluntary work n the Zambia. Contact Cindy Braswell at cindy.braswell@gmail.com



Cindy Braswell Showing the Water Programs in Zambia

Banro Corporation demonstrated their health program at the new Kigumo Health Clinic at the event. Through their Banro Foundation, the company has been concerned about gender issues, job creation and health programs for the poor, in the DCR.



Banro Corporation



The Ambassador, Hon. Dan Agyekum, The Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM), Ms Edith Hazel, Ms Martha Pobee, Head of Chancery, and Mr. Francis Addo, Economic Counselor at the Embassy of Ghana. Their leadership, hard work and dedication to duty has been remarkable and second to none in the Diplomatic Community.



Dr Adade speaking at the event, He stated that, Sustainability has become a wide ranging term. Dr Adade mentioned, that as human population has increased, the natural ecosystems have declined and changes in the balance of natural cycles has had an impact on both humans and living systems. He mentioned, that the Ambassador with a wealth of Diplomatic experience will be able to ensure that the Ghana that Sustainability or the capacity to endure becomes a buzz word in Ghana.



Nana, the African Drummer at the Educational Conference



The Ambassador of Ghana, His Excellency, Daniel Agyekum stressing the importance of Sustainability programs in Ghana



Proctor and Gamble Exhibits



Denise Knight of Coca Cola with the UN and H2O water group from University of Pennsylvania

NESTLE WATERS NORTH AMERICA

Nestle Waters displayed their Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability reports at the event. They emphasized their environmentally practices throughout the world to show integrating environmental principles, programs and practices into every business and market while striving for continuous improvement of environmental performance.

Other Corporations that sent in their Sustainability Reports to be displayed include Cabot Corporation, Halliburton and Freeport-McMoran Copper & Gold,



Mr. Kwasi Bosompem and colleagues

KWASI BOSOMPEM

Mr. Kwasi Bosompem is an Urban and Regional Planner managing the consulting firm of TPPI Inc. His work is focused on community development planning as they pertain to the built environment. For the past twenty-five (25) years he has worked for many local governments, civil societies and the private sectors on major community development and comprehensive plans. Mr. Bosompem served on the Technical Forecasting Committee of the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments and has worked on several development projects in the Washington-Baltimore metropolitan area. Mr. Bosompem has an extensive Community Development Planning experience in Ghana, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Lesotho and the planning of new towns in South Africa. Mr. Bosompem holds a B.S., in City Planning from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana and an M.S. in Community Planning from the University of Maryland. He is also the author of three books.



Mr. Kwasi Bosompem closed the educational Conference by stating the need for more emphasis on social environmental and economic sustainability to be the focus of many CSR efforts. The next educational Conference will be held in 2011.

LET'S GO AFRICA FOUNDATION

The Let's Go Africa Foundation is a non-profit organization created to improve the lives of disadvantaged populations in the inner cities of America and African Countries by promoting social and economic development and cultural exchange.

For more information visit: <http://www.letsgoafrika.org>
Email: letsgoafrika@aol.com Tel: 240-752-7341 FAX: 301-809-5814

Let's Go Africa Foundation

10201 Martin Luther King Jr. Hwy

Suite 240

Bowie, Maryland, 20720

United States of America