

Ghana Dams Dialogue

Contributing towards well-informed decision-making and sustainable planning and management of dams in Ghana.

COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED BY PARTICIPANTS OF THE 4TH GHANA DAMS FORUM ON 12 OCTOBER 2010

The World Commission on Dams brought together representatives from a wide range of sectors all with a common stake in large dam development. It conducted a global, comprehensive study covering both the technical aspects, and the governance contexts and societal relations that underpin such infrastructure projects. The Commission's final report outlined five core values that should form the basis of future large dam development: equity, sustainability, efficiency, participatory decision-making and accountability.

Inspired by both the process and the findings of the World Commission on Dams, the Ghana Dams Dialogue (GDD) was created on the principle of increased interaction between key stakeholders in dam development. Since 2006, the Ghana Dams Dialogue has brought together a broad group of stakeholders to collectively deliberate on large dam development in Ghana and share information to support public policy. The GDD is the first successful dialogue on dam development in West Africa.

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For more information about the project, please visit:

<http://ghanadamsdialogue.iwmi.org>

We, the 135 participants of the 4th Ghana Dams Forum on the theme “Empowering multi-stakeholder platforms – consolidating the Ghana Dams Dialogue”, have resolved as follows:

1. The Dams Dialogue and Forum should be established and strengthened as an independent body.
2. Implementation capacity of the Ghana Dams Forum has to be improved, and capacities of members built, to be able to move beyond advocacy into influencing policy that ensures sustainability in all aspects related to dams.
3. The involvement of government and private sector stakeholders in the dams and development discussion should be enhanced.
4. The Forum should retain a non-partisan, non-confrontational approach in its deliberations.
5. Evidence-based research should be the driving factor in decision-making, in order to make informed decisions for sustainability.
6. Improved communication and sharing of information with all stakeholders at different levels is critical for consensus building.
7. The Forum should play an integrative role for developing and defining national perspectives on critical issues relevant to the dams debate.

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