

NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON DAMS AND DEVELOPMENT IN GHANA

10th National Coordinating Committee Meeting

Minutes

Date: Monday, 19th July, 2010

Time: 9:00 – 12:00

Venue: IWMI Conference Room

Chairperson

Dr. Liqa Raschid-Sally

NCC MEMBERS PRESENT

1	Dr. E.O. Bekoe	Water Research Institute
2	Mr. Gabriel Apatu	Bui Power Authority
3	Mr. Minta A. Aboagye	MWRW&H
4	Ms. Adwoa Afran	Water Resources Commission
5	Togbe Adom Drayi II	NAVRAT 52
6	Dr. Liqa Raschid-Sally	International Water Mgt. Inst.
7	Mr. Richard Koranteng	Volta Basin Development Foundation
8	Nene Tetteh Amoako IV	Natriku Community
9	Nana Kwadwo Wuo II	Bui Community
10	Hon. Isaac Agbo-Tetteh	Manya Krobo District Assembly
11	Mr. K.D. Bright Siayor	Volta River Authority

OBSERVER

12	Mrs. Rhoda Arthur	Volta River Authority
13	Edmund K. Akoto-Danso	International Water Mgt. Inst.

MEMBERS ABSENT

1.	Mr. Samuel Ayeh-Dateh	Ministry of Energy
2.	Mr. Mike Anane	League of Env. Journalists
3.	Mr. S.A. Appenteng	AGI
4.	Dr. Mrs. Cecilia Amoah	VBRP
5.	Togbe Emmanuel Kpakpa	Akanyakrom

The NCC meeting began at 10:00 am. The chairperson, Dr. Liqa Raschid-Sally, gave the opening prayer and welcomed members.

Agenda:

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the 9th NCC Meeting.
2. Past events
 - Institutional Networking Meetings
 - International Financial and Non Financial Institutions
 - Courtesy Calls – Ministries of Environment, Lands and Natural Res. ; and Local Government.
 - Secretariat visit to Project Affected Communities.
 - Exit Strategy Workshop
3. Upcoming events /activities
 - 2nd Dam Affected Communities Meeting.
4. Action Plan
5. AOB

ITEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY
1. Confirmation of Minutes of the 9th NCC Meeting.	Members reviewed the minutes of the 9 th NCC meeting. Nene Tetteh Amoako IV moved for the confirmation of the minutes and was seconded by Mr. Richard Koranteng.	
2.Past events	<p>2.1 Dr. Liqa Raschid-Sally informed members of the activities that had taken place since the last NCC meeting. She mentioned that, even though it was unfortunate that most of the invitees for the meeting with the International Financial and Non Financial Institutions (IF & NFIs) in Ghana could not make it, the meeting was successful as it had generated interesting insights. She attributed the inability of the invitees to attend the meeting to the fact that a majority of the institutions do not have water sector programme specific to dam development in the country. She noted that, the Ghana Dams Dialogue had emphasised in its interactions with the IF & NFIs, that the issues that would be discussed at that meeting would cut across dams, and pertain to broader questions around civic participation in governance, local government capacities, basic service provision, and others. Nevertheless, the message appears not to have been well received.</p> <p>Dr. Raschid-Sally indicated that on the basis of the statement that, the Volta River Authority (VRA) has commissioned an environmental management plan, one of the outcomes of the meeting was that, a recommendation that a sensitization framework for providing technical support should be prepared to support the environmental management plan. Mr. Richard Koranteng added that, the Secretariat will be working on it with support from Ms. Rhoda Arthur from VRA. He indicated that she promised to get back to the Secretariat on the status and has indicated that, VRA has already done some consultation and if there is an opportunity for them to meet with the dialogue she would push for it. Nene Tetteh Amoako IV informed the meeting that, his community (thus the elders and some community</p>	Secretariat and Rhoda

	<p>members) has already been consulted. He however indicated that, the consultation was based on broad issues and cannot confirm if it was purposely for the environmental management plan.</p> <p>Members resolved that, the Secretariat should follow up with Mrs. Rhoda Arthur and also involve Mr. Bright Siayor to know the outcome of the environmental management plan.</p> <p>2.2 Dr. Raschid-Sally briefed the NCC members on the courtesy calls to three ministers by the Action Team. These include ministries of Environment, Science and Technology; Lands and Natural Resources; and Local Government and Rural Development. She said that during each visit, presentation of the dialogue was made. She added that, one key objective of these calls was to get advice from the three ministers (as these were key ministries for dams sustainability) concerning the institutionalization of the dialogue process in Ghana.</p> <p>Dr. Raschid-Sally summarised the three different approaches outlined by the ministers. In the case of the Minister of Environment, Science and Technology, the minister suggested that, the Forum could link up with an ongoing project called GECCA (Ghana Environmental Convention Co-ordinating Authority) which facilitates the effective implementation of international environmental conventions. The Minister for Lands and Natural Resources on the other hand suggested that, the Forum should be an independent lobby group to target key personalities from the Parliament of Ghana to move the agenda on sustainable dam development. Finally, she indicated that, in the last meeting with the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development there was no specific option suggested, but the</p>	<p>Arthur.</p> <p>Secretariat, Rhoda Arthur and Mr. Bright Siayor</p>
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Minister informed the team of the challenges that the process will face and suggested the involvement of the district assemblies and key stakeholders like the operators of the hydropower dams.

2.3 Mr. Richard Koranteng informed the meeting about the visit to the project affected communities by the secretariat of the Ghana Dams Dialogue (GDD). He indicated that, the focus of the next issues of the GDD Newsletter is on the Bui Dam affected communities and hence the need for the visit to gather more information. He said during the visit, key personalities like the Municipal Chief Executive of Wenchi, the District Chief Executive of Tain and the Education Director of the Tain District had been met. All the affected communities were presented with footballs, text books and exercise books for the school pupils. He added that, the Chief Executives expressed a strong interest in becoming involved in the Dialogue, given the importance of the Bui Dam to the district. The Secretariat promised to enroll both in the process.

Dr. Emmanuel Bekoe wanted to know how things have changed in terms of their grievances and requests since the last visit to the area by the NCC members. In response, Mr. Richard Koranteng told members that, for the yet to be resettled communities, the outstanding issues which the Action Team of the GDD had mediated, have been resolved. On the other hand, during the visit, the resettled communities had numerous complaints in terms of leaks in their roofs, broken doors, poor drainage, water supply issues among others. Mr. Koranteng indicated that, these issues have been reported to the Bui Power Authority (BPA) by the residents. BPA has promised to come and resolve the issues. Nana Kwadwo Wuo II

added that, he has already visited the construction site for the resettlement where some of the rooms have been roofed and he was happy to see the improvement in the new area compared with the Jama resettlement. Only the programme on livelihood enhancement of BPA was still unclear.

Mr. K. D. Bright Siayor asked how far the community and the district assemblies have been involved in the process. In response, Nana Kwadwo Wuo II informed the meeting that, the BPA regularly meets with the community to find out their problems. He added that, the District Assembly also sometimes invite the BPA for briefing on the project. Dr. Liqa Raschid-Sally recommended that, it will be better for the three stakeholders (the Affected communities, BPA and the District Assembly) to meet together instead of separately. Dr. Bekoe added that, the BPA should rely on the interest of the District Assembly and facilitate the process for a smooth transition, and handing over of the resettled communities to the districts to forestall a situation similar to that in the Akosombo and Kpong projects. Hon. Isaac Agboh-Tetteh made an additional suggestion to his colleague DCE. He recommended to the DCE to get the District Works Engineer or Project Officer to follow up with the dam development and coordinate the grievances of the affected community to the BPA and vice versa.

Mr. Gabriel Apatu responding to some of the issues relating to BPA informed the meeting that, BPA is currently awaiting the resettlement of the remaining communities before commencing the livelihood enhancement programme. He assured the meeting that, it is likely to take off in the last quarter of the year. He also informed the meeting that, the

	<p>issues raised by the Jama residents during the visit by the Secretariat have been responded to especially with regards to the repair of their borehole. Mr. Minta Aboagye further advised BPA to coordinate with the Community Water and Sanitation Authority (CWSA) by setting up Water and Sanitation (WATSAN) Committee to help in the future management of the boreholes. He added that, the policy for the establishment of borehole is that, the community should be empowered to take ownership and further management of the facility.</p> <p>2.4 Exit Strategy Workshop</p> <p>Since majority of the NCC members participated in the workshop and report disseminated to members, the meeting did not spend much time on the issue. Dr. Liqa Raschid-Sally briefly reminded the members of the objectives and outcome of the workshop. Dr. Bekoe indicated that the report reflected very much what took place during the workshop</p>	
3. Upcoming events	<p>3.1 2nd Dam Affected Communities Meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Richard Twum and Togbe Adom Drayi II briefed the NCC members on the preparation towards the 2nd Dam Affected Communities Meeting. They said, the meeting which has the theme “Building Cohesion and Synergies between Dam Affected Communities in Ghana” will be held at Akuse on the 30th July, 2010. About 100 participants from dam affected communities in the country were expected to participate. The main agenda of the meeting is to update the participants of the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Forum (HSAF) Consultation and further discussions towards cohesion building among the dam affected communities. Mr. Richard Twum added that, the meeting will be held back-to-back with an Institutional Networking meeting with the Local Level Institutions at Lower Manya Krobo District Assembly on the 29th July, 2010.</p>	
4. Action Plan	Dr. Liqa Raschid-Sally informed members that, as a follow up from the Exit Strategy	

Workshop, an action plan has been developed to be discussed by members. She said the objectives of the action plan are to define and establish the consensual basis for continuing the GDD process into the future; design the mechanism (structure/s, roles and responsibilities) for the way forward; and to develop a proposal for the Dialogue process which will serve as a link between this and the next phase. She went through the action plan and presented three models for brief discussion. The three models that were briefly discussed includes the following: Networking Model e.g. CONIWAS which is a network of civil society of water and sanitation sector in Ghana; Government-Based-Coordinating Model e.g. GECCA (Ghana Environmental Conventions Coordinating Agency) in the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology and Private Sector Association Model representing collective interest e.g. Chamber of Mines which manages issues in the mine sector in Ghana. Mr. Minta Aboagye was of the opinion that, the dialogue could play an advocacy role such that it could lobby the law makers of the country. After a review of the three models, he sided with the Networking Model taking his motivation from the works of the CONIWAS in Ghana. He confirmed that the government was able to collaborate with CONIWAS for many issues pertaining to the water and sanitation sectors.

Togbe Adom Drayi II was of the opinion that, the Forum should strengthen existing structures and improve its activities by lobbying. His motivation was that, even in its current state, the dams dialogue has achieved a lot. He added that, the dialogue should strive hard to maintain the civil society character.

Mr. Gabriel Apatu favoured the third scenario of the Private Sector Association Model based on his personal experience from the Chamber of Mines. He said, from what he knows, even though the Chamber of Mines does not have legal backing, the organization is able to exert

	<p>pressure through various informal mechanisms, and resolve many issues related to the field through dialoguing with its stakeholders,</p> <p>Mrs Arthur indicated that any model with a government connection would lose its independent character and would have to accept the conditions imposed by the associated agencies. Government involvement had to be incorporated differently through co-operation. Togbe Adom Drayi II re-iterated the need to stand outside the government to be able to speak about its policies.</p> <p>Since no other models were proposed, members accepted the three models for further detailed studies and requested feedback on completion.</p>	
<p>5. AOB</p>	<p>5.1 Dr. Liqa Raschid-Sally informed members of the NCC that the Secretariat on behalf of the Ghana Dams Dialogue has commissioned The Centre for Settlement Studies of the College of Architecture and Planning at KNUST to undertake a study of the livelihoods of dam-affected communities in the Bui area. She said, the study intends to develop an understanding of past livelihood practices and how these are likely to be altered as a result of dam construction. The study will also capture the livelihood aspirations of dam-affected communities, and the measures that are needed to support them. The Technical proposal will be circulated to all whilst the preliminary findings are expected by the time of the 4th Ghana Dams Forum at the end of September.</p> <p>5.2 Dr. Liqa Raschid-Sally informed members of the NCC that, an intern of International Water Management Institute is conducting an analysis of the effectiveness of the communications products and strategies of the dialogue process. She added that, another intern will join soon to carry out a more structured analysis of potential GDD models. She promised the members that the outputs from these analyses will be shared with all members.</p>	

With no other business for the meetings, Dr. E.O. Bekoe moved for the closure and was seconded by Nene Tetteh Amoako IV. The meeting closed at 12: 45 with a closing prayer from Nana Kwadwo Wuo II.