

## REPORT OF

### PROJECT CLOSE-OUT DURBAR OF THE GHANA DAMS DIALOGUE

**Date: Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2011**

**Venue: Bui Community**

The day began with a brief meeting with some staff of the Bui Power Authority (BPA) to inform them about the objective of the visit. The visit was aimed at getting to know the status of the resettled and yet-to-be resettled communities of the Bui Hydropower Project and also have a durbar to inform the communities about the close-out of Phase three of the Ghana Dams Dialogue project and to inform community members on the way forward. Representatives of the BPA also told the team of the benefits chalked including the completion of about 85% of work on Bui resettlement site (Resettlement Phase II), and the arrival of some people from the Dokokyina Community to the new resettlement site. We were also informed that, plans are far advanced to transfer the cultural remains to the new resettlement site and this is being supported by the Archeology Department of the University of Ghana-Legon.



School building for the resettlement communities.

The team then left for the Resettlement Phase II which is built for three communities comprising Bui, Dokokyina and Battor. Mr. Wumbilla Salifu (Resettlement and Community Relations Officer) showed us round the sites and the facilities which have been provided for them. The facilities include among others the following: houses ranging from a two to six bedrooms with a hall and its ancillary facilities (bath, toilet and kitchen) depending on the

family size and of course the size of the original houses. Other facilities on site were a six-unit classroom block for the primary school, twelve boreholes, road network, electrification project yet to be connected to various homes, a community centre and a public toilet.

Outstanding issues brought forward during the visit to the site include:

- I. Small land size for farming
- II. Non-payment of crop compensation and packages of the livelihood empowerment programme
- III. Non-availability of churches, mosque, clinic, Junior High School Building and electricity supply to homes at the resettlement site.

## Durbar at Bui Community

The team arrived amidst a colourful cultural dance drama of Agbazdza with chiefs and people dressed in their traditional regalia. About 400 people were present for the ceremony from the six affected communities. The occasion was used to install two new chiefs, a linguist and other leaders of the community. The event began with an opening prayer and introduction of guests and hosts and was followed by a welcome address by Nana Kwadwo Wuo II, the Chief of Bui.

Nana Kwadwo Wuo thanked Dr. Liqa Raschid - Sally and bid her farewell and assured her that since the world is a global village they will still be in touch with each other. He went on to congratulate the Ghana Dams Dialogue (GDD) for bringing the communities this far. Additionally GTZ (now GIZ) received praises from the chief. He ended by calling for a cordial relationship between the Bui Community and Sri Lanka with the assistance of Dr. Liqa Raschid-Sally. He also called for the setting up a 5 year development plan and continuation of the GDD project with other NGO's to enhance the livelihood of Bui community.



Nana Kwadwo Wuo II with his community leaders.

In her opening remarks, Dr. Liqa Raschid-Sally began by acknowledging the presence of the chiefs and people of the Bui community. She recounted her previous memories of all that transpired since the first phase of the GDD project in January, 2009, at Bui. Thereafter the National Coordinating Committee (NCC) of the GDD wanted to understand the plight of the resettlement community learning lessons from Akosombo and Kpong Hydropower dams to assist the community present their case to the Bui Power Authority. This was momentous since she entered Bui and gained the name Afua Bui she added. She said her working in Ghana for the past four years have connected her to Ghana through the hospitality and friendship of the people of Bui.

She congratulated the Chief Nana Kwadwo Wuo II, the people of Bui, BPA, Ghana Government and all members of the GDD for contributing their quota to the resettlement of the Bui communities. She acknowledged the close collaboration of BPA with GDD and hoped that this could be the basis for resolving issues faced by affected communities. She concluded that the new resettlement arrangements were a definite improvement on the resettlement arrangements of the Akosombo and Kpong.

Mr. Richard Koranteng Twum on his part showed his appreciation to the people gathered for coming together to make this ceremony a success. He traced the history of the GDD which led to the creation of a multi-stakeholder platform with representation from all stakeholders including the 52 VRA resettlement communities and the Bui communities. He further pointed out that on the NCC the communities from the Bui project area had proportionately a larger representation than even the Akosombo communities and were thus well represented. He further brought to the fore the contributions of the GDD in toward the resettlement of the Bui community and the good working relationship that has existed between BPA and the GDD. He ended his address by giving the community the assurance that the dialogue will still continue.

Mr. Salifu Wumbilla representing the Bui Power authority thanked the GDD for sustaining a good collaboration between the BPA and the Bui affected communities. He appealed to the Bui community to still join them in the same way to administer and fulfill the other resettlement packages like the livelihood empowerment programme.

The Chief of Akanyakrom (Togbe Kpakpa II) re-emphasized on the need to continue with the project and a good collaboration with the BPA. He also thanked the communities for gracing the occasion.

Dr. Liqa Raschid-Sally in her closing remarks launched a Girl Child Educational Endowment Fund for the Bui community and pledged One Thousand Ghana cedis as seed money for the Fund. She promised to seek more support for the growth of the Fund. She asked that a three member committee comprising the Chief of Bui and 2 community members with at least one woman be formed to manage the fund. He added that Messrs. Richard Koranteng Twum and Edmund Kyei Akoto-Danso will represent her when she goes back to her country. The community was well pleased with the establishment of the Fund.



Nana Afua Bui I (dressed in a Kente cloth) being presented with a citation.

As a sign of appreciation from the Bui community for the good work in the Bui Community, Dr. Liqa Raschid-Sally was enstooled and honoured by the chiefs and people of Bui as the Development Chief under the stool name Nana Afua Bui. She was presented with the following: a kente cloth, a native sandal, a stool, a set of beads, a calabash and a bowl of fish. She responded by accepting the offer and the position as a Development Chief and promised to live up to expectations.

The Queenmother of Akanyakrom thanked God and everybody for coming and making the occasion a successful one. The durbar came to a close by 12:15pm

### **Visit to Bui Dam Site and Jama Resettlement Site**

After the durbar, the team visited the construction site of the Bui dam to see the progress of work so far. The team later visited the new constructions for the Jama resettlement site. Mr. Salifu Wumbilla informed the team that, BPA recognized the need to reconstruct the Jama Resettlement with the same structures and facilities like the Bui resettlement to be able to provide equitable conditions to the resettlers. The secretariat of the GDD applauded the position taken by the BPA. .



### **Conclusion**

The visit of the team to the project area and site has been well received by the BPA, and the team saw the whole exercise as a very positive one. The welcome from both the community and the BPA is indicative of the progress made by the GDD as a dialogue platform, which has empowered it to continue even after the project closes.

### **Team Members**

Members of the team who took part in the activities are:

- I. Dr. Liqa Raschid-Sally
- II. Mr. Richard Koranteng Twum
- III. Mr. Edmund Kyei Akoto-Edmund
- IV. Mr. Kupualor Ebenezer Tetteh
- V. Mr. Martin Ofori
- VI. Mr. Salifu Wumbilla



Team in a picture with the leadership of the Bui Community.