

# NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON DAMS AND DEVELOPMENT IN GHANA

## 11<sup>th</sup> National Coordinating Committee Meeting

### Minutes

Date: Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2010

Time: 9:00 – 12:00

Venue: AGRA 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	Togbe Adom Drayi II	NAVRAT 52
4	Dr. Liqa Raschid-Sally	International Water Mgt. Inst.
5	Mr. Richard Koranteng	Volta Basin Development Foundation
6	Nene Tetteh Amoako IV	Natriku Community
7	Nana Kwadwo Wuo II	Bui Community
8	Mr. Stephen A. Tetteh	Manya Krobo District Assembly (Rep.)
9	Mr. K.D. Bright Siayor	Volta River Authority
10	Togbe Emmanuel Kpakpa	Akanyakrom

### **OBSERVER**

11	Mrs. Rhoda Arthur	Volta River Authority
12	Mr. Ben Sackey	Volta River Authority
13	Mr. Rajeev Ahal	Organization Development Centre
14	Mr. Joseph Edusie	CSS - KNUST
15	Mr. P. K. B. Asamoah	CSS - KNUST
16	Mr. Edmund K. Akoto-Danso	International Water Mgt. Inst.
17.	Ms. Patience Asem	VRA Resettlement Trust Fund

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

1.	Mr. Minta A. Aboagye	MWRW&H
2.	Mr. Bob Alfa	Water Resources Commission
3.	Mr. Samuel Ayeh-Dateh	Ministry of Energy
4.	Mr. Mike Anane	League of Env. Journalists
5.	Mr. S.A. Appenteng	AGI
6.	Dr. Mrs. Cecilia Amoah	VBRP

The NCC meeting began at 09:20 am with a prayer from Nana Kwadwo Wuo II.

Agenda:

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> NCC Meeting.
2. Update on past events / activities
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Dam Affected Communities Meeting.
  - Institutional Networking with the Media.
3. Discussion on upcoming events /activities
  - Briefing on the Livelihood study by KNUST.
  - Preparation for the 4<sup>th</sup> Ghana Dams Forum
  - Developing Models For the Future Ghana Dams Dialogue

ITEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY
1. Confirmation of Minutes of the 10 <sup>th</sup> NCC Meeting.	Members reviewed the minutes of the 10 <sup>th</sup> NCC meeting. Mr. K.D. Bright Siayor moved for the confirmation of the minutes and was seconded by Nene Tetteh Amoako IV.	
2. Update on past events	<p><b>2.1 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting for Dam Affected Communities.</b></p> <p>Mr. Richard Koranteng briefed the NCC members about the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting for Dam Affected Communities held on the 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2010. He said the meeting which was themed “Building Synergies and Cohesion between Dam Affected Communities” was aimed to provide a platform for the dam affected communities to deliberate on issues affecting them and also position themselves well in a situation where there are no funds to support their annual meeting. The DAC meeting was also used to give a feedback from the Hydropower Sustainability Protocol Consultation with the Dam Affected Communities in Ghana. He indicated that one of the key resolutions from the meeting was the request for the Ghana Dams Dialogue to support the 27 formed executives of all the affected communities of Akosombo, Kpong and Bui Hydropower Dams to meet during the 4<sup>th</sup> Ghana Dams Forum. They will use the meeting to structure the unified group of the affected communities.</p> <p><b>2.2 Institutional Networking with the Media</b></p> <p>Mr. Richard Koranteng informed members of the rationale for the institutional networking with the media. He indicated that, 10 media houses were taken to the Akosombo and Kpong hydropower projects and some of their resettlement townships. This was to encourage the group to appreciate the impacts of the two historic projects and efforts being instituted to address some of the challenges. It also helped the group reflect on the lessons learned that could be useful for the ongoing Bui hydropower project. After the visits, they were informed of the 4<sup>th</sup></p>	

	<p>Ghana Dams Forum in the form of a press conference. Live transmissions were made by the radio stations who participated</p> <p>Mr. Richard Koranteng added that the team was gladly received by all the visited communities, where the communities used the opportunity to bring out some of their unresolved issues. Considering the issues that were brought out, the Secretariat of the Ghana Dams Dialogue in collaboration with the Volta River Authority team arranged for the journalists to meet with the Town Manager of Akosombo (Mr. Meister Afriyie) for him to respond to some of the issues raised in the communities.</p> <p>Dr. Raschid-Sally invited participants to seek clarification or comments on the matters that were raised. Mr. K.D. Bright Siayor commenting on the way forward for dam affected communities. He informed the meeting about a request that was sent by communities around the Kpong dam to the President of Ghana on the issue of their non-inclusion in the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund. He assured the meeting that, VRA has been notified and the Legal Department is working on it and further promised to inform members on the outcome in the next meeting. Mr. Ben Sackey recommended a process of making the affected communities as independent as possible, as a way forward. He added that, VRA will completely hand over these communities with time and it will be prudent to find ways to encourage for the communities to stand on their own rather than always expecting support from VRA. A recommendation was made to the Ghana Dams Forum to write a proposal to seek funding for empowering communities towards independence by providing them with leadership and other skills.</p>	<p>Mr. K.D. Bright Siayor</p> <p>Ghana Dams Dialogue</p>
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Mr. Ben Sackey wanted to know how different this study was from what the Bui Power Authority (BPA) did at the commencement of the project. Mr. Joseph Edusei said that the scope of this current study is beyond the rapid needs assessment of the Jama resettlement conducted by his Institute for the BPA, since it covers every household of the Jama Resettlement and the other communities to be settled. He said this study could be used as a basis for future reference. Chief of Bui was happy with the initiative taken and gave the community's full support to the study. Other members and observers also welcomed the initiative.

### **3.2 Preparation for the 4th Ghana Dams Forum**

Mr. Richard Koranteng and Dr. Liqa Raschid-Sally informed the meeting about the preparation towards the 4<sup>th</sup> Ghana Dams Forum themed "Empowering multi stakeholder platforms – Consolidating the Ghana Dams Dialogue" scheduled for 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2010 at Alisa Hotel, Accra. The programme for the day was detailed to the members of the meeting.

### **3.3 Developing Models For the Future Ghana Dams Dialogue**

Mr. Rajeev Ahal presented on the above subject and indicated the need for the next phase of the Ghana Dams Dialogue as was agreed by the National Coordinating Committee during the Exit Strategy meeting and summarized as *'The work on Sustainable Dams Dialogue is a long road and we have not arrived at the destination'*.

Mr. Rajeev Ahal indicated that, some expectations that has come out of the GDD so far includes enhancing implementation and capacity building support to members; moving beyond advocacy into lobbying. He said there has also been a feeling of increasing involvement of government and

private sector stakeholders. He mentioned the need to strengthen the GDD as a separate, independent identity with a non-partisan, non-confrontational approach. The meeting also added the expectation that GDD would spearhead the generation of evidence based research which can be used as a tool to drive decision making.

Mr. Rajeev Ahal further presented the functional sub-systems of the future GDD. He identified three functional areas – Leadership, Management and Engagement & Action functions and discussed the forms that these should take. The functional areas and the roles, and responsibilities within these were thoroughly explained and discussed by the meeting (please see the table below).

As part of the way forward, the new form of the GDD was discussed and the Institutional arrangements identified for the future GDD.

14 institutions were identified to constitute the NCC which includes International Water Management Institute (IWMI); Volta River Authority (VRA); Bui Power Authority (BPA); Ministry of Energy (MoE); 3 Representative from Dam Affected Communities of Akosombo, Kpong and Bui respectively; Water Resources Commission (WRC); Ministry Of Water Resources Works And Housing (MoWRWH); Water Research Institute(WRI); Volta Basin Development Foundation (VBDF); Association of Ghana Industries (AGI); Secretary of Secretariat of the GDD and an Observer.

An 8 member Advisory Council was also identified which includes Chief Directors from the following Ministries MoE; MoWRWH and Ministry Of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR) CEO's

of VRA and BPA; the National Focal Point of the Volta Basin Authority (WRC); one Non-Government Individual's (NGI's) (Chris Gordon, Kalitsi) and the Chairperson (NCC). He/She would gather a Team of the NCC in support of the items discussed

Members unanimously agreed to make the VBDF as the secretariat and recommended the VBDF to build its capacity to take over such a responsibility.

The Forum will remain with the same structure. It would keep the same stakeholder groupings and there would be no "permanent members". For e.g. the selection of the specific ministries within the MDA stakeholder group, could be more focussed in response to the specific issues being discussed at the forum.

Responding to various queries about the need for electoral procedures, constitutions etc, it was agreed that accountability for outputs did not equate electability, and that a legal constitution was not necessary at this moment but a set of rules for functioning should be developed. The NCC would work with commitment to get the different subsystems to work.

The last discussion was on the NCC Chairperson, and the frequency of NCC, Council and Forum meetings. It was agreed that, the NCC Chairperson be selected by consensus on an annual basis with another year extension. The NCC Chairperson would be given a honorarium. The meeting further discussed on the attributes of the Chairperson and suggested that the person should be committed, a team player, have proven leadership quality and be prepared to devote the time needed. .

It was suggested that NCC Meetings would be held at least once in two months with a two weeks' notice but emergency meetings would also be possible.

Council Meetings would be held twice a year whilst Forum would be once a year. Invitations to Forum meetings would be more focused to respond to the theme of the Forum. Sub Committees were also suggested to be constituted based on the theme.

The meeting ended with a list of activities to do between now and December, 2010.

- Tele Conference with Donors by the Secretariat.
- Review vision, mission and objectives by the NCC and Secretariat.
- Develop an Action Plan for Jan. 2011-Dec. 2011 by the NCC and Secretariat.
- Present the GDD design at the 4th Ghana Dams Forum; obtain buy-in on constituents of various mechanisms; by the Secretariat and Mr. Rajeev Ahal.
- Source short term funding and in-kind support pledges – donors, activity based funding from MDAs, Private sector by the NCC and Secretariat.
- Validation Workshop of the Livelihood Impact Study at Bui by the Secretariat and CSS-KNUST.
- 2 NCC Meetings to be organized by the Secretariat.
- NCC Chairperson selection
- IWMI-VBDF Transition
- End of Project Report

The meeting ended with a consensus on a selection of a banner design for the 4<sup>th</sup> Ghana Dams Forum. The meeting closed at 14: 00 with a closing prayer from Togbe Emmanuel Kpakpa.