



IOM International Organization for Migration

COLLOQUIUM OF THE DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

“Linking the Ghanaian Diaspora to the development of Ghana”

22 – 24 August 2012

AIRPORT WEST HOTEL, ACCRA GHANA

DAY 1

- 8.30 – 09.00 Registration Of Participants
- 9.10 – 10.15

OPENING SESSION

- Welcome Address
 - **Ms. Dyane Epstein**, Chief Of Mission, International Organization For Migration Ghana.
- Overview Of The Diaspora Engagement Project.
 - **Mr. Tsatsu K. Dawson**, Consultant, International Organization For Migration Ghana.
- Opening Statement
 - **His Excellency. Ambassador Chris Kpodo**, Deputy Minister Of Foreign Affairs And Regional Integration, Ghana

10.15 – 10.30 COFFEE/TEA

10.30 – 12.30 SESSION 1: The Ghanaian Diaspora: An Overview.

This session will seek to situate the discussion, while providing an overview of the Ghanaian diaspora. It will look at the profile of Ghana's diaspora and consider the evolving nature/context of the diaspora. It will look at the challenges and opportunities which face the diaspora and what it means for Ghana. It will also look at the *National Migration Policy* and what the implications are for the diaspora.

Speaker: Prof. Mariama Awumbila, Prof. Edward Kwankye, Centre For Migration Studies.

12.30 – 14.00 LUNCH

14.00 – 15.45 SESSION II: The Ministry Of Foreign Affairs And The Ghanaian Diaspora: Protecting The Interest Of The Ghanaian Diaspora

This session will consider the challenges faced by the Ghanaian diaspora and what the role of the Ministry has been to address them. It will look at some of the best practices in engaging the diaspora and how the State can better improve on its services to the Ghanaian diaspora.

Speaker: Mr. Ebenezer Appreku, Director, Ministry Of Foreign Affairs And Regional Integration, **Mr. Daniel Dake**, Union Of Ghanaian Associations In Germany (UGAG)

Moderator: Mr. Tsatsu Dawson, Consultant, International Organization For Migration.

15.45 – 16.00 COFFEE/TEA

16.00 – 18.00 SESSION III: Partnership For Economic Growth And Development: Foreign Direct Investments And Remittances.

The Ghanaian diaspora's monetary contribution to the country outweighs all official development assistance. Building a partnership which is mutually beneficial to both parties is, therefore, very important. This session will look at the diaspora's contribution and how the Government is harnessing this potential for development. It will also look at Government fiscal policy towards the diaspora and its policy in addressing some of the bottle necks which prevent active participation of the diaspora in development.

Speakers: Mr. Joseph Acheampong, Research Department, Bank Of Ghana, **Dr. Richard Adjei**, Ghana Investment Promotion Centre, **Mr. Toni Kofi**, The Representative Council Of Ghanaian Organizations In The Netherlands (RECOGIN)

Moderator: Prof. Mariama Awumbila, Centre For Migration Studies

DAY 2

9.00 – 10.30 SESSION IV: Addressing The Challenge Of Dual Citizenship, Immigration And Residence Of The Ghanaian Diaspora.

This session will look at contemporary issues in citizenship, facilitating immigration and residence for Ghana's diaspora. It will explain the current state of affairs with regard to dual nationality, special immigration and residence arrangements for Ghanaians and their families. It will also seek to address challenges faced by Ghanaians even where they possess dual citizenship. It will also consider how the current state of affairs affects the Ghanaian diaspora.

Speaker: Mr. David Agorsor, Director, Migration Unit, Ministry Of Interior. **Dr. Prosper Asima**, Assistant Director, Ghana Immigration Service, **Mr. Kwao Amegashie**, Ghana Association Of Minnesota.

Moderator: Mr. Ebenezer Appreku, Director, Ministry Of Foreign Affairs And Regional Integration.

10.30 – 10.45 COFFEE/TEA

10.45 – 12.45 SESSION V: Diaspora Participation in National Processes and Dialogue.

This session will look at integrating the diaspora into Ghana's development planning. It will look at ensuring the participation of Ghanaians in all aspects of Ghanaian life. It will look at proposed constitutional provisions which are favorable to the Ghanaian diaspora.

Speaker: Ms. Mary Mpereh, The National Development Planning Commission, **Dr. Raymond Atuguba**, Executive Secretary, Constitution Review Commission, **Alhaji Mohammed Mardah**, National Council Of Ghanaian Associations, Inc, USA

Moderator: Dr. Richard Adjei, Ghana Investment Promotion Centre.

12.45 – 14.00 LUNCH

14.00 – 15.45 SESSION VI: Charitable Giving And Humanitarian Assistance: Understanding The Context: Project Management And Implementation In Ghana.

Understanding the local context is a prerequisite of a successful implementation of projects. This session will discuss some of the challenges that diaspora associations face when they attempt to undertake projects. It will also look at the local context, and what is required for a successful implementation of programmes. The discussion will also look at building successful local partners for development. This session will also seek to explain the criteria, procedures, mechanisms and requirements for charitable giving and humanitarian assistance provided by the diaspora.

Speaker: Dr. William Brown, The Adventist Development And Relief Agency (ADRA), **Dr. Larbi-Siaw**, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, **Mr. Isaac Acheampong**, Council Of Ghanaian Organizations In The Netherlands (COGHAN)

Moderator: Mr. Daniel Sam, International Organization For Migration, Accra, Ghana.

15.45 – 16.00 COFFEE/TEA

16.00 – 18.00 SESSION VII: Return and reintegration: opportunities and challenges.

The session will look at the experiences and challenges faced by returnees. It will also consider programmes which aim to encourage returns to Ghana, and opportunities that exist in the country. Lastly, it will consider attempts which are being made by various actors to encourage returns and reintegration to Ghana.

Speakers: Mr. David Tette, Advisor, Migration & Diaspora, Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM) at the Deutsche Gesellschaft Für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, **Mr. Daniel SAM**, MIDA Project, IOM, **Rev. Frank P. Twumasi**, Scholars In Transit, Nkoranza, Brong Ahafo Region.

Moderator: Mr. Peter Owusu-Mainoo, Ministry Of Foreign Affairs And Regional Integration.

DAY 3

9.00 – 10.30 SESSION VIII: Understanding the Ports, Customs and Excise procedures.

The session will be dedicated to understanding the mechanisms of Ghana Ports and Harbours, the Excise and Custom duty as well as efforts at simplifying and modernizing the system.

Speakers: Mr. Nii Amasa, Ghana Ports And Harbour Authority, **Mr Robert Nana Mensah**, Customs And Exercise, Ghana Revenue Authority, **Ms. A. Amoah**, *Gcnet* (Ghana Community Network Services Limited)

Moderators: Dr. Prosper Asima, Assistant Director, Ghana Immigration Service

10.45 – 11.00 COFFEE/TEA

11.00 – 12.30 SESSION IX: FOLLOW-UP AND NEXT STEPS

This will be an opportunity to further examine follow-up to recommendations and outcomes from the video conferences. It will also be used as a wrap up of all the discussions in the last two days. Concrete steps will be enumerated and proposed follow-up structures will be developed in light of those discussions. The session will seek to agree on the way forward from the consultation.

- **Mr. Tsatsu K. Dawson**, Consultant, International Organization For Migration Ghana.

12.30 – 13.00 SESSION X: Launch Of The Diaspora Website And Diaspora Support Unit.

- **His Excellency, Chris Kpodo**, Deputy Minister For Foreign Affairs And Regional Integration

13.00 – 13.30 CLOSING

Closing Statements:

- **His Excellency, Chris Kpodo**, Deputy Minister For Foreign Affairs And Regional Integration
- **Ms. Dyane Epstein**, Chief Of Mission, International Organization For Migration (IOM)

13.30 – 14.30 LUNCH

Press Briefing With Dyane Epstein, Tsatsu Dawson, Daniel Dake And Ebenezer Appreku.
