



3rd Annual Report

1999

*Kumasi Institute of Technology
Energy and the Environment (KITE)
Ghana*

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MEMBERSHIP

KITE Council

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Siapha Kamara | - | Chairman |
| 2. Dr. Jerome Antonio | - | Member |
| 3. Dr. Abeeku Brew-Hammond | - | Member/ Acting Director |

KITE Members

1. Ms. Theresa Osei-Tutu
2. Dr. Jerome Antonio
3. Dr. Abeeku Brew-Hammond
4. Dr. Dotse Tsikata

Chairman's Statement

It is two years now since I accepted my nomination to serve as Chairman of KITE's Executive Council and there is no doubt in my mind that I made the right decision. During the past year, in particular, KITE has seen some very interesting developments and many of the projects currently in progress or in the pipeline promise to make significant contributions to energy and technology policy development in Ghana as well as other countries across West Africa.

We are in the process of building a credible organization that is recognized by our peers for high-quality outputs. We are making a special effort for KITE to run on sound business principles and we are investing in office systems to ensure that staff morale remains at a very high level. As we enter the new millennium, it is our firm belief that organizations like KITE will need to respond to the challenge of alleviating poverty in the developing world and it is our determination to do this to the best of our abilities in the coming years.

Siapha Kamara, Chairman

Projects Completed or In Progress

Energy Efficiency in Ghana

A feasibility study on Energy Efficiency and Performance Contracting in Ghana started in 1998 with the main objective of exploring the role of independent organizations - such as Energy Service Companies (ESCOs) - using performance contracting approaches, to promote energy efficiency and cleaner production. The project was implemented in a network of six developing countries, namely Brazil, China, Chile, Colombia, Ghana and India. The Ottawa-based Policy Research International provided coordination for the international project and funding came from two Canada-based organizations – the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Ottawa, and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), Winnipeg.

In Ghana, energy efficiency initiatives since the mid-1980s were traced and the key policy issues identified. One of the main findings was the need for reliable energy supplies as a prerequisite for sustained energy efficiency efforts at firm level. It was therefore recommended that a follow-up study be conducted in the sawmilling industry where energy efficiency improvement opportunities abound and where there are also considerable levels of wastes which could be valorized in heat and power generation systems.

Climate Change Country Study

A “Climate Change Country Study” was initiated by KITE as part of a research project coordinated by the National Environmental Trust (NET) of the US and Pelangi, an NGO based in Indonesia. The purpose of the project is to demonstrate that developing countries are currently implementing voluntary unilateral climate policies and are ready to do even more, thereby debunking the notion that developing countries are free riders in the global movement towards a better environment.

KITE is working in collaboration with senior personnel at the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology (MEST) to produce the Ghana Study which will be published together with similar studies conducted in 13 other developing countries in a joint NET/Pelangi publication titled “Confronting Climate Change: Economic Priorities and Climate Protection in Developing Countries”.

Renewable Energy Technologies (RETs) Project

KITE collaborated with the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and the Riso National Laboratory in Denmark to develop a Renewable Energy Technologies (RETs) Project to be sponsored by DANIDA during the first half of the year under review. The project is being coordinated by the UNEP Collaborating Centre on Energy and Environment (UCCEE) which is based at the Riso National Laboratory in Denmark.

The project began in June 1999 and it is being implemented in three countries – Egypt, Ghana and Zimbabwe – with the aim of using case studies of renewable energy implementation projects in each country to analyze the reasons for success or failure of specific projects or technologies. The project is aimed in particular at identifying possibilities for removing the barriers to RETs, thus promoting increased implementation of RETs. KITE has been implementing the sub-project for Ghana.

Financial Institutions and Technological Capabilities in Africa

The African Technology Policy Studies (ATPS) Network based in Nairobi, Kenya, sponsored a research project on Financial Institutions and Technological Capabilities in Nigeria from 1994 to 1996. Partly in response to ATPS' appeal for projects with regional dimensions and as a follow-up to a study on finance for innovation in Ghanaian manufacturing enterprises, KITE presented an action research proposal to ATPS with the view to linking up with the Nigerian researchers and sharing experiences from the two countries.

The proposal was approved for funding by ATPS late 1996 but several difficulties within ATPS delayed release of funds for implementation of the project. The project eventually started during the year under review and an intensive period of data collection has been completed. A workshop for key stakeholders in the financial sector is planned for early 2000 and the whole project should be completed by about the middle of the year.

Projects in the Pipeline

Participatory Learning and Action in Micro and Small Enterprises

An action research proposal on Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) in Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) was submitted to the UK Department for International Development (DFID) in 1997 and the proposal received favourable reviews within DFID but for many reasons it was not possible to secure funding from DFID. The proposal was therefore redone and submitted to the African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) based in Nairobi. Formal notification is yet to be received but preliminary indications are that the proposal has been accepted for funding by ATPS.

The key objective of this action research project is to assist enterprises in Ghana's micro and small industrial sector to embark on market-led productivity-improving projects and grow. The project also seeks to assist MSEs to go beyond the usual "lack of finance" barrier in order to draw in useful forms of business support and technical assistance which will enable them access the much needed credit facilities. The PLA methodology will serve to provide participating entrepreneurs with a structured approach to reflecting on their situation, understanding the options available to them and choosing as well as pursuing the most feasible course of action. Thus, PLA sessions – to be organized as part of the proposed project - will constitute an essential step for a more holistic identification of key issues confronting MSEs, from the standpoint of the MSEs themselves, and exploring various options for confronting these issues.

African Rural Energy Enterprise Development (AREED)

KITE has been involved with E&Co of New Jersey, USA, and the UNEP Collaborating Centre on Energy and Environment (UCCEE) based in Roskilde, Denmark, in the development of an African Rural Energy Enterprise Development (AREED) project. A proposal for the project was submitted to the UN Foundation and some preliminary activities in the form of country studies have already begun.

The aim of AREED is to help entrepreneurs to build successful businesses that supply clean energy technologies and services to rural African customers by providing enterprise development services and early-stage funding to the entrepreneurs. The project will be implemented in five countries - Senegal, Mali, Ghana, Botswana and Zambia and KITE is expected to play a leading role as far as project activities in Ghana are concerned.

African Technology Policy Studies Network

(ATPS) Ghana Chapter

Since 1998 the KITE office has served as “National Secretariat” for the Ghana Chapter of the African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) following the appointment of Dr. Abeeku Brew-Hammond as the Focal Point for ATPS Ghana. Mr. Ishmael Edjekumhene, a Project Officer within KITE, was appointed internally to serve as Special Assistant to the Focal Point.

The mission of ATPS is to improve human and institutional capacity for technology policy formulation, implementation, research, analysis, assessment, monitoring, evaluation and dialogue. There are four specific objectives of ATPS which are:

1. Capacity Building and Enhancement for Technology Policy Formulation, Implementation and Research;
2. Generating a Critical Mass of Knowledge on Technology Policy Issues;
3. Fostering Networking and Collaborative Research, facilitating inter-disciplinary cross-sectoral and cross-national efforts for comparative and complementary research and exchange of information, experience and skills; and
4. Dissemination of Research Results through workshops, seminars, publications, policy dialogue, voluntary advisory services, information networks and mass media.

Several activities were undertaken, including training and peer review workshops for Ghana ATPS members. A contingent of about ten Ghana ATPS members (second only to Nigeria) went to the regional workshop in Banjul, The Gambia. Four research proposals presented in Banjul were approved for funding. The titles and principal researchers for the four projects are as follows:

1. “Women Dominated Livestock Production and Processing Enterprises in the Kumasi District of Ghana: A Study of Technology and Socio-Economic Issues”, P. K. Karikari (Faculty of Agriculture),
2. “Technology Transfer between African Countries: A Study of Policy Issues on Jatropha Oil as a Substitute for Diesel Fuel”, P. Oti-Boateng and P. Donkor (TCC),
3. “Promotion of Improved Technologies for the Production and Utilization of Soyabean: Combating Protein Energy Malnutrition in Women and Children in Ghana”, S. A. Ennin (CRI),
4. “Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) in Small-Scale Metal-Working Industries in Ghana”, I. Edjekumhene (KITE)

With respect to publications, the regional secretariat in Nairobi published several final reports of completed ATPS research projects. One of these reports, published as an ATPS Working paper (No. 18), was produced by the Ghana ATPS Focal Point (Dr. Abeeku Brew-Hammond) under the title, “Electric power utilities and technological capacity building in Sub-Saharan Africa: The case of Volta River Authority, Ghana”.

General Information

Mission Statement

The Kumasi Institute of Technology, Energy and the Environment (KITE) is committed to contributing towards sustainable energy and industrial development based on technological capabilities, in harmony with the environment.

Expertise

The fields of expertise within KITE include the following:

- energy policy research;
- science and technology policy analysis;
- environment-friendly technology transfer;
- technological capacity-building and bench-marking; and
- energy efficiency improvement and pollution abatement in industry.

Activities

KITE implements action research projects and undertakes feasibility studies as well as project management and evaluation for local and international organisations (governmental and non-governmental). KITE also provides training for personnel from both the public and private sectors in areas ranging from technological learning and technical change, through technology and energy policy research methodologies, to integrated energy resource planning and climate-change mitigation.

Contact Details

Further information on KITE and its activities may be obtained from:

The Director
KITE
P O Box KS 6534
Kumasi, Ghana

Tel: +233 (51) 60231, Fax: +233 51 26026,
E-Mail: ciéd@africaonline.com.gh / kite@ghana.com

*Information on legal issues may be obtained from our company secretary:
Trustee Services Limited, P. O. Box 1623, Accra, Ghana
Tel: +233-21-229396, Fax: +233-21-225129, E-Mail: belm@africaonline.com.gh*