



REPUBLIC OF GHANA

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT RURAL DEVELOPMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SANITATION DIRECTORATE

1ST NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION CONFERENCE



(8 -10 December 2010, Golden Tulip Hotel, Kumasi, Ashanti Region)

**"Building partnerships for scaling up Improved Environmental Sanitation
Services"**

Conference Proceedings

Volume 1: Conference Summary

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1. ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AMA	-	Accra Metropolitan Assembly
CIDA	-	Canadian International Development Agency
CLTS	-	Community Led Total Sanitation
CWSA	-	Community Water and Sanitation Agency
DDF	-	District Development Fund
DFID	-	Department for International Development, UK
DHO	-	District Health Office
EHS	-	Environmental Health and Sanitation
EHSD	-	Environmental Health and Sanitation Directorate
EPA	-	Environmental Protection Agency
ESPA	-	Environmental Services Providers Association
FOAT	-	Functional Organisation Assessment Tool
GHS	-	Ghana Health Service
GoG	-	Government of Ghana
GPRS II	-	Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy II
KMA	-	Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly
KNUST	-	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology
LGA	-	Local Government Act
LGSA	-	Local Government Services Act
LI	-	Legislative Instrument
M&E	-	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDAs	-	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MDG	-	Millennium Development Goal
MFI	-	Micro-Finance Institutions
MINT	-	Materials-IN-Transition
MLGRD	-	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
MMDA	-	Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assembly
MMDCE	-	Metropolitan, Municipal and District Chief Executive
MP	-	Member of Parliament
MWRWH	-	Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing
NESSAP	-	National Environmental Sanitation Strategy and Action Plan
NGO	-	Non Governmental Organisation
NHIA	-	National Health Insurance Authority
NHIS	-	National Health Insurance Scheme
O&M	-	Operation and Maintenance
OPD	-	Out Patient Department
RDE	-	Royal Danish Embassy
RNE	-	Royal Netherlands Embassy
SESIP	-	Strategic Environmental Sanitation Implementation Plan
SSDP	-	Sector Strategic Development Plan
SWA	-	Sanitation and Water for ALL
SWAp	-	Sector Wide Approach
TaMA	-	Tamale Metropolitan Assembly
TMA	-	Tema Metropolitan Assembly
UESP	-	Urban Environmental Sanitation Project
UNICEF	-	United Nations International Children Educational Fund
WMD	-	Waste Management Department
WRC	-	Water Resources Commission

2. FOREWORD

Improving all aspects of environmental sanitation services continue to be a challenge and concern to all - policy makers and enforcement agencies; Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs); private operators charged with delivery of the services; traditional authorities; ordinary households; providers of health-care services; NGOs; and Development Partners. In recent times the Government of Ghana (GoG) has achieved a number of important milestones such as the preparation of the Environmental Sanitation Policy (Revised 2010), the National Environmental Sanitation Strategy and Action Plan (NESSAP) that gives “legs” to policy measures as well as the drafting of the Strategic Environmental Sanitation Investment Plan (SESIP) that lays out the financing required.

The National Environmental Sanitation Conference (NESCON) designed as an annual affair, offers frontline sector actors – especially those involved in practical research and implementation of policies, plans, programmes and projects on the ground – a platform for sharing experiences and lessons that can be replicated to accelerate adoption of best practices country-wide. The theme of this maiden conference; *“Building partnerships for scaling up Improved Environmental Sanitation Services”* is a reflection of the critical need for effective collaboration of all stakeholders if incremental progress is to be made and sustained.

The Environmental Sanitation Policy (Revised 2010) emphasises 4Rs, Reduction, Re-use, Recycling, Recovery –of all kinds of wastes (both solid waste and liquid); while the NESSAP, sub-titled Materials-in-Transition (MINT) indicates the value of wastes (“minting money”) and the potential of creating jobs through the adoption of this change in perception regarding wastes that also leads to reduction in the volumes of waste that is meant for final disposal.

The proceedings of this maiden edition of the National Environmental Sanitation Conference are presented in two volumes: Volume 1, Conference Summary contains the Conference Statement issued by participants after deliberations; outcomes of the main sessions during the two-and-half days including feedback from panel discussions, speeches of the opening ceremony, conference programme and list of participants. Hard copies of Volume 1 are being made available to all participants and relevant ministries. Volume 2, Conference Presentations includes papers presented at the conference and made available electronically to all participants.

NESCON 2010 provided a platform for sharing lessons among political leaders including Ministers and Metropolitan, Municipal and District Chief Executives (MMDCEs), legal experts, academics, sector practitioners, private operators, bankers, insurers, NGOs, development partners, behavioural change communicators et cetera. It is expected that all sectors of the economy will support the implementation of MINT to spur job creation and growth in line with the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA), the medium-term development policy framework (2010 – 2013) towards meeting the MDGs.

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Conference Organizer

Environmental Health and Sanitation Directorate, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development

Conference Planning Secretariat

Naa Demedeme (Host)

Organizing Working Group

Naa Demedeme, Chairperson

Lukman Salifu (Lead Facilitator)

Evans Darko-Mensah (Facilitation Support)

Secretarial and Administrative support was provided by Kobina Afful, Selasi Amekudzie, Rhoda Boakye, Khalida Luqman, Samira Alhassan (WasteCare Associates) and Rita Nettey, Augustina Amoanyi(EHSD, MLGRD).

Conference Reporting

The collation, preparation and editing of the Conference Proceedings were carried out by Lukman Salifu (lead facilitator) and Evans Darko-Mensah (facilitation support).

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4. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

Preamble

The Environmental Health and Sanitation Directorate of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, in partnership with Development Partners, Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs), Private Operators and sector collaborators, organized the 2010 National Environmental Sanitation Conference (NESCON 2010) from the 8 - 10 December 2010, in Kumasi, Ashanti Region.

The Theme for NESCON 2010 was “building partnerships for scaling up improved environmental sanitation services”. The conference focused on the larger view of environmental sanitation to bring attention to all the issues in raising awareness for behavior change towards all manner of wastes, better management of filth and environmental health that will lead to a better quality of life in line with the Government of Ghana’s “Better Ghana Agenda”. About 150 participants attended the 3-day conference.

In line with its theme NESCON 2010 provided a platform for sharing lessons among political leaders including ministers and Metropolitan, Municipal and District Chief Executives (MMDCEs), legal experts, academics, sector practitioners, private operators, bankers, insurers, NGOs, development partners, behavioural change communicators et cetera. The conference presented highlights of the Environmental Sanitation Policy (Revised 2010), the National Environmental Sanitation Strategy and Action Plan (NESSAP) and the Strategic Environmental Sanitation Investment Plan (SESIP) and District Environmental Sanitation Strategy and Action Plans (DESSAPs).

NESCON 2010 also showcased practical applications of the means to achieve reduction, re-use, recycling and recovery of all forms of waste both liquid and solid. Exhibitions mounted by private entities, research institutions and entrepreneurs on composting, ecological sanitation, charcoal briquetting, recycled plastic clothing and recycling of paper and metals, gave further support to the adoption of the concept of “Materials-in-Transition “(MINT) as a slogan for changing behaviour towards regarding discarded materials as “waste”.

The persisting challenge of poor management of treatment and disposal sites received urgent attention and the adoption of Materials Recovery Facilities was proposed as a more sustainable means of handling all forms of “waste” and also providing tremendous job creating opportunities. The issue of the low access to improved household sanitation facilities also received attention with presentations on scaling-up Community Led-Total Sanitation (CLTS) and the rolling-out of a national programme for home latrine promotion in partnership with Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs), MMDAs, NGOs and small works contractors.

In his opening address, the sector Minister, Hon. Joseph Yiekeh Chireh (MP), urged participants to deliberate on actionable issues that all stakeholders can pursue and remove the barriers to improving environmental sanitation services as the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development will provide the necessary political leadership for improving environmental sanitation.

Participants discussed a number of key issues including;

- Effectiveness of Policies, Plans and Programmes - The Environmental Sanitation Policy (Revised 2010), and National Environmental Sanitation Strategy and Action Plan (NESSAP) and draft Final SESIP how these compare with other sectors;
- Capacity enhancement and institutional arrangements for environmental sanitation;
- Issues of changing behavior and specific practical experiences of Community Led Total Sanitation;
- Sustainable financing, options for financing environmental sanitation services and how to involve Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs);
- The impact of poor environmental sanitation on health and its impact on the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS);
- Value-chain Analysis of waste streams, Materials-in-Transition and Job Creation;
- Industry experiences and new developments - focusing on issues of land acquisition for disposal sites and the partnerships between MMDAs and private operators.

After three days of deliberations and discussions, participants proposed that in order to achieve the needed scaling-up of environmental sanitation facilities and services, the following should be pursued;

Statements and Recommendations

- That Environmental Sanitation should be a stand-alone sector and appropriately institutionalized through transforming the Environmental Health and Sanitation Directorate (EHSD) of the MLGRD into an Authority.
- Establish the National Environmental Sanitation Conference (NESCON) supported with a permanent secretariat as an annual event for sustaining partnership-building, sharing experiences and tracking progress of sector performance with a comprehensive data base for results-based monitoring and evaluation (R-B M&E).
- All stakeholders adopt and vigorously promote the concept of Materials-in-Transition (MINT) as a means of encouraging attitudinal and behavioural change towards wastes while creating jobs and enhancing environmental quality
- Establish a professional institution for environmental sanitation professionals;
- Develop strategies to maximize the impact of the National Environmental Sanitation Strategy and Action Plan (NESSAP), the Strategic Environmental Sanitation Investment Plan (SESIP), and the District Environmental Sanitation Strategy and Action Plans (DESSAPs) on the entire population;
- NESCON 2010 endorses the “polluter-pays-principle” and that this must be extended to cover all segments of the society.
- Government to establish a revolving fund for vigorously promoting household toilets and hygiene employing Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) and using Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs) working through Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs).
- Develop a clear and effective Communication Plan for the Environmental Sanitation Policy (Revised 2010) appropriately targeted at the different levels of stakeholders.
- Develop a comprehensive and consolidated legal framework for environmental sanitation (Environmental Health and Sanitation Act).

5. CONFERENCE SUMMARY

SESSION 1 – INTRODUCTORY REMARKS, WELCOME AND ADDRESSES

Day 1 AM December 08, 2010

5.1.1 Conference Opening and Objectives

The Director of EHSD, Mr. Naa Demedeme began the day's presentation with a quick conference overview. He started by sharing his joy over the noble strides made in the environmental sanitation sub-sector which include:

- Successful launch of the SWA Compact
- Successful launch of the Revised Environmental Sanitation Policy
- Holding of the 1st NESCON

He encouraged participants to make relentless efforts to improve on the image of the sector. He again touched on global efforts made to put water, environmental sanitation and hygiene high on the political agenda though water has left sanitation behind. His message underscored the significance of environmental sanitation as a cross cutting issue that affects all the MDGs and the need to scale-up interventions to ensure Ghana meets the MDG targets.

5.1.2 Conference Welcome and Key Note Addresses

The welcome address was delivered by the Ashanti Regional Minister, Hon. Opoku Manu. The key points in the address included the following:

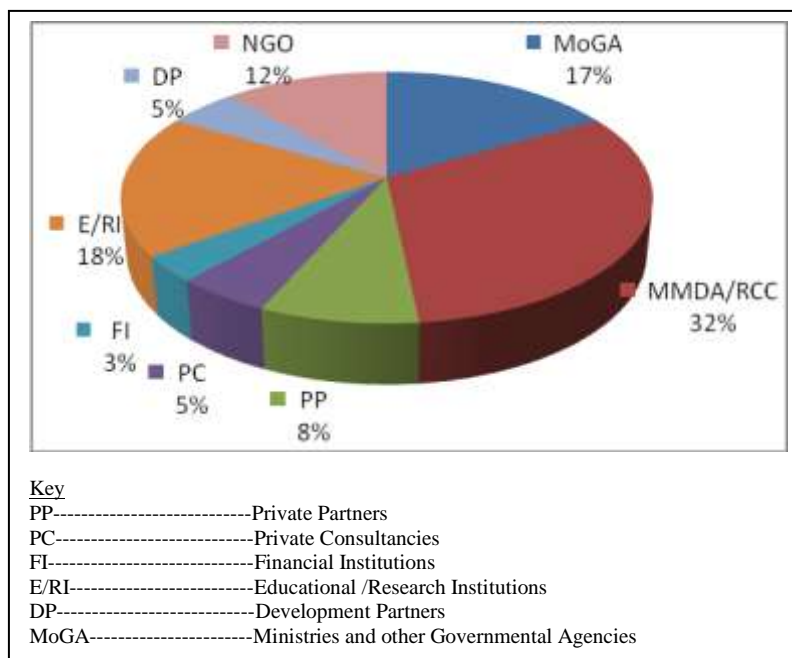
- The need to adopt strategies to ensure effective management of environmental sanitation with the ever increasing population of our cities and municipalities
- Taking bold steps towards the enforcement of regulations which makes it obligatory for house owners to provide toilets in their houses
- The need for stakeholders to embrace the MINT philosophy due to its potential of curbing environmental sanitation challenges and creating jobs
- The address also stated that government alone cannot shoulder the huge challenges of environmental sanitation and encouraged all stakeholders to do their uttermost best to abate these challenges.

A copy of the statement is attached as Annex 2.1

The Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Honourable Yieleh Chireh delivered the key note. A copy of his prepared speech is attached as Annex 2.2. The key issues raised in the sector Minister's speech include the following:

- The launch of the Revised Environmental Sanitation Policy in November
- The launch of the Ghana Compact on Sanitation and Water for ALL (SWA) which seeks to spell out Government of Ghana's commitment on one hand and the responsibilities expected of our Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Civil Society and development partners
- The proposal for 20 percent environmental tax on plastic packaging materials and products, excluding bottled water which already attracts excise duty
- The need to forge effective partnerships to overcome the barriers and challenges of environmental sanitation and that public-private partnerships has to be part of national planning at all levels

This maiden conference saw participation which cuts across all a wide spectrum of sector players including staff of core sub-sector agencies, other relevant ministries and agencies, private sector, academia, financial institutions, NGOs, development partners and representations from private consultants. The chart below shows the distribution of the main sector groups that participated in the Conference.



SESSION 2 - SETTING THE STAGE FOR PROGRESS IN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SANITATION POLICY, PLANS AND SUSTAINABLE FINANCING

Day 1 PM December 08, 2010

5.2.1 *Improving Environmental Health and Sanitation - What is the potential impact on NHIS*

The Deputy Director, Strategy and Corporate Affairs of the NHIA delivered this presentation. In his presentation he spelled out clearly the strong inter-relation and effect that environmental sanitation management has on public health and for that matter the NHIS. Some of the key statements he made include:

- Water and sanitation related diseases remains one of the most significant child health problems worldwide
- Diarrhea is the most serious of these diseases, alone killing 5,000 children daily world wide
- Reduction in diarrhea alone would save the global health sector \$11.6 billion in treatment cost
- When the potential economic gains of providing basic, low cost water and sanitation facilities are put together, the developing world could save as much as \$263 billion a year
- Poor environmental sanitation contributes to other diseases such as malaria, upper respiratory infections, skin diseases, intestinal worms, etc.

He also stated that the majority of the top 10 causes of OPD attendance (GHS, 2009 Annual Report) are environmental sanitation related. See Table . 2.1 for the list.

Table 2.1: Top 10 causes of OPD attendance (GHS, 2009 Annual Report)

Sr. No.	Disease condition	%
1.	Malaria	41.6%
2.	Upper respiratory tract infection	7.3%
3.	Diarrhoeal diseases	4.3%
4.	Skin diseases	4.3%
5.	Hypertension	4%
6.	Acute eye infection	2.3%
7.	Rheumatism	2.1%
8.	Intestinal worms	1.6%
9.	Pregnancy-related conditions	1.5%
10.	Anaemia	1.5%

Further in his presentation, he stated the potential impacts of environmental health and sanitation on the NHIS as follows:

- Reduced burden of disease
- Reduce utilization of health care services at the facility level
- Reduced cost of claims
- Improved savings/investment
- Financial sustainability of the scheme
 - Malaria in children under 5years at OPD = 54%
 - Malaria (in general) OPD = 42%
 - Malaria + sanitation-related health conditions (2009) = 63%
 - NHIS claims cost for 6 months period (OPD) = 967,714.60

Key issues he raised in his concluding statement and way forward include:

- Environmental sanitation lessons for school children
- Encouraging children to demonstrate good environmental sanitation and hygienic practices to families and communities

5.2.2 *The Revised Environmental Sanitation Policy and Highlights of NESSAP/SESIP*

The consultants gave an overview of the NESSAP and SESIP

SESSION 3 - INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT - ALIGNING EXPECTATIONS OF NATIONAL PLANS WITH FIELD EXPERIENCES

Day 2 AM December 09, 2010

5.3.1 *Panel Discussion – State of Disposal Sites; Roles/Challenges of Private Operators, MMDAs, EPA in adherence/enforcement of Landfill Guidelines*

The second day of the conference started with a panel discussion which was preceded by documentaries on the;

- Kpone disposal site (owned and managed by the TMA-WMD)
- Sarbah disposal site (owned and operated Zoomlion Limited)

- Ablekuma disposal site (owned and operated J.S Owusu Limited)
- Anyaa disposal site (owned and operated by Merskworld Limited)
- Kumasi landfill site which includes a septage and faecal sludge treatment facility (owned and operated by KMA-WMD)

There was also a documentary of the Semakau Landfill in Singapore, a well managed unique offshore landfill created entirely from sea space. The documentaries on the Ghana sites showed how ill-managed these disposal sites have been and raise lots of questions about the challenges faced by the various WMDs.

These set of documentaries set the tone for an interesting panel discussion. Panelists were drawn from various departments and agencies as follows;

- Samuel Kpodo (AMA-WMD)
- Prosper Kotoka (KMA-WMD)
- Akwettey Sampson (TaMA-WMD)
- Lysander Nartey (ESPA)
- Demedeme Narh (EHSD-MLGRD)
- Cosmos Kombozie (EHSD-UESP)

Panelists gave their opinion on various questions posed to them. On the issue of the challenges faced in effective and efficient management of waste, panelists lamented on lack of machinery and financial constraints. There was also the issue of the neglect of the waste management unit at the assembly and the creation of a separate fund for waste management at the assembly level.

5.3.2 Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Enhancement for Decentralized Delivery of Environmental Sanitation Services: What are the options?

The presentation under this topic was delivered by Professor Mrs. Esi Awuah of KNUST. In her presentation she re-countered the history of sanitation education in Ghana. She also stressed the need to upgrade the Schools of Hygiene to degree awarding institutions as this would help to boost the confidence of the Environmental Health Officers. Furthermore, she outlined some options for capacity building and decentralization of training programs.

5.3.3 Acquisition of Site for Treatment and Disposal – Challenges of Local Authorities (MMDAs)

Alfred Kwasi Opoku delivered the presentation under this topic. He explained the importance of proper waste disposal on environmental health, public health and climate change. With regards to challenges, he cited examples from both legal and social perspectives. In his concluding remarks, he recommended the following:

- Flexible land legislation
- Public education on MINT
- Develop full blown landfills
- Support recycling ventures

5.3.4 Implementing Ghana's SWA Compact: What are the roles of Key Partners? Will they deliver?

Aoife Gibbons of CIDA made the presentation on behalf of the development partners. She started by enumerating the progress made in the Water and Sanitation Sector up to date and these include:

For the MWRWH;

- Establishment of the Water Directorate
- National Water Policy
- SSDP/SWAP Workshops
- Code of Conduct
- Water Forum

For the MLGRD;

- Establishment of the EHSD
- Environmental Sanitation Policy

- NESSAP
- SESSIP
- DESSAPS
- NESCON

The presentation also touched on the SWA Compact signed in July 2010, which aims at sustainable financing of the Sanitation and Water Sector. Further on she mentioned the need for coordination through:

- Promotion of a Sector Wide Approach for water and sanitation with all key partners working in a harmonized and coordinated way,
- Creation of a platform to discuss water related sanitation issues,
- Harmonization of M&E and Reporting
- Institutional strengthening at the National, Regional and District levels

In her concluding statement she stated that in order for the water and sanitation sector to be managed responsibly, budget should primarily focus on providing support in the following areas BEFORE using funds to scale up new investments, such as:

- Institutional strengthening of Water Directorate, EHSD to successfully and strategically manage SWA/SWAP funds
- Ensuring coordinated Capacity Development (based on NESSAP/SSDP capacity assessments) and institutional strengthening
- Verifying performance especially at the District Level (DDF/FOAT)
- Strengthening M&E



5.3.5 Strategies for Enhancing Capacity of Local Authorities.

The presentation was made by Callistus Mahama-Deputy Director of the Institute of Local Governance Studies (ILGS). The presentation first outlined the factors that led to the establishment of the two lead public institutions responsible for capacity building i.e. the Local Government Service (LGS) and the ILGS. The main factors outlined included;

- Lack of coordination in capacity building arrangements and programmes
- Neglect of certain category of staff within the local system hierarchy in training while others were being overburdened.

The establishment of the two institutions therefore evolved a new approach to capacity building. The ILGS, under Act 647 of the ILGS law has the objective of organizing the training of;

- Members of the Regional Coordinating Councils (RCC), MMDAs and lower local government units
- Staff and personnel in the local government and related sectors, and
- Any other person or body, local or foreign interested in governance, to enhance the managerial, administrative, financial and operational efficiency of organs and units of the local government.

On the other hand the LGS according to Act 656,, is to secure the effective administration and management of local government in the country.



However, despite the establishment of these services, there were still some critical issues regarding the specific roles of each service in capacity building of local government service.

In the presentation, he further went on to state that under the new policy both the LGS and ILGS are collaboratively mandated to;

- Establish standards of training design and delivery that accredited training providers would be expected to maintain
- Develop a framework for training, monitoring and quality assessment
- Provide technical assistance to accredited training service providers in order to ensure relevance to the needs of the assembly.
- Ensure systematic training delivery in ways that will contribute to comprehensive development of the local government sector.

In conclusion, the new policy also mandates both services to:

- Engage in broad operational planning to identify key activities for delivering capacity-building as appropriate
- Identify other activities that can be undertaken within the collaboration framework to enhance capacity building.
- Periodically review the collaboration with a view to strengthening capacity building requirements of assemblies

5.3.6 *Implementing Policies Effectively: Should we legislate to disseminate? Developing a Communication Plan for the Revised Environmental Sanitation Policy (2010).*

This paper was delivered by Kwasi Opoku-Amankwa. In his presentation, he outlined the role and importance of communication development, misconception and wrong use of communication and developing a communication plan. A key issue he raised in his presentation is; “A good communication plan will help MMDAs and environmental sanitation officials to identify the best strategy to facilitate the implementation of the policy

SESSION 4 - CHANGING ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION BEHAVIOUR THROUGH JOB CREATION - PROSPECTS AND PROGRESS

Day 2 PM December 09, 2010

5.4.1 *Changing Perception on Wastes – Practical Considerations*

This presentation re-echoed the MINT philosophy through showcasing the re-use of plastic waste for various items under the “Trashy Bags” project.

5.4.2 *Loans for Home improvements: Are toilets important? Prospects and Constraint*

This presentation showed the case of HFC Bofo which started operations in April 2007 as a joint venture between HFC Bank Ghana Ltd and CHF International. The mission is to serve the credit demands of low and moderate income households in Ghana by leveraging capital from the domestic market to meet the shelter and enterprise financial needs of Ghanaians, especially women. According to the presentation, a market research showed that landlords were willing to provide improvements in sanitation facilities but often were unable to do so due to the cost.

Challenges encountered included high cost of funding resulting in the end user paying high interest rates, lack of long term funding and expensive and costly formal sector systems

5.4.3 *What is Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS)*

A field experience on the CLTS concept was presented. Participants were briefed on the focus of CLTS, notable results in Sub Saharan Africa, CLTS process and tools, successes and challenges in Ghana.

5.4.4 *Effective Dissemination and Implementation of Environmental Sanitation Policies, Plans, Programmes and Projects*

This presentation was made by CONIWAS. It basically focused on the capacity of NGOs in the water and sanitation sector to disseminate and implement environmental sanitation policies and plans.

5.4.5 *Strengthening the Legal framework for environmental sanitation*

Maxwell Opoku Agyeman, Esq., gave an enlightening presentation under the topic. Participants were taken through the current legal regime, legal status of sanitation management and a comparative study of development of the legal framework from Singapore and South Africa. In conclusion, he stated that:

- Environmental health and sanitation sector does not suffer from legal lacuna. Laws from colonial through to post-colonial era still exist (laws similar to Ordinances effectively in use in Hong Kong and Singapore, of course with modifications)
- The problem is to identify the appropriate legal status of EHS within the current legal framework especially under LGA Act 665 and LI 1961; dealing with the mandate of DHO and WMD in MMDA
- What is needed is a dedicated statute setting up an autonomous Agency, Authority or Commission, as was done in the Water sector culminating in the splitting of rural water (CWSA), and water resources (WRC) from Ghana Water and Sewerage Corporation (GWSC).

5.4.6 *Mint Gala Night*

The Mint Gala night amongst other activities, showcased a fashion show with models dressed in apparels made from re-used plastic waste. Background music was by Agya Koo Nimo Ensemble and Golden Tulip Live Band.



SESSION 5 – GIVING CENTRAL POLICY LEGS AT LOCAL LEVEL; STANDARDS/LEVELS OF SERVICES AND FIELD PRACTICE AND FIELD TRIP

Day 3 AM December 10, 2010

5.5.1 *Accelerating Home-Latrine Promotion – Perspectives on SESIP Revolving Fund and the Role of Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs)*

This presentation, delivered by Mr. Yaw Gyamfi, covered recent strides being made globally by MFIs in financing sanitation projects although historically microfinance has not been available for home sanitation. Examples of successes made include:

- ▶ Financing urban sanitation in Wogodogo, Burkina Faso
- ▶ Micro credit for VIP latrines – Lesotho
- ▶ Unsuccessful micro credit program for Ghana - the program achieved the aim of accessing people's ability to pay for improved sanitation
- ▶ Revolving fund for sanitation - Honduras
- ▶ Promotion of latrine construction and sanitation upgrade - South Africa

From the presentation, although the proposals made with regards to the Revolving fund for household toilet delivery in the SESIP is laudable, there is the need for an increase in the funding to facilitate quick coverage of the whole country. The facilitators of the sanitation program should also:

- Develop sanitation strategy
- Sensitise the communities involved
- Develop sustainable financial strategy

5.5.2 *Presentation of DESSAPs*

Presentations were made by Planning officers from the Agona West and Ledzokuku-Krowor Municipal assemblies on the preparation of their respective DESSAPs and the benefits that have been derived from putting together the plan.

5.5.3 *Materials-in-Transition (MINT): Options for Closing the Loop*

The presentation by Lukman Salifu gave further elaborations on MINT as a philosophy geared towards behavioural change in the perception of wastes and not necessarily a technology or provision of facilities for environmental sanitation.. Further clarification was also given on MINT not only limited to solid waste but also encompasses all other forms of wastes. Several scenarios of wastes (MINT) being transformed into viable resources were highlighted. The presentation also touched on the potential job creation opportunities in adopting the MINT philosophy and suggested a look at how such opportunities can be exploited by the government's Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) program.



5.5.4 *Field Trip*

There was a field trip to the KMA landfill, one of the two engineered landfills in the country. Both sections of the site i.e. the sewage and faecal sludge treatment section and solid waste disposal section were visited. Mr. Prosper Kotoka, Head of KMA-WMD, briefed participants on the operations and management practices of the site. He also highlighted some of the challenges the KMA-WMD is facing in the management of the facility.



Participants being briefed on the operation and management practices at the site upon arrival



Participants walk up to the refuse heap



Up-hill view of the landfill with a compactor in site



The liquid waste disposal section of landfill site



Participants being briefed on the operation at the liquid waste disposal section of the site

5.5.5 *Poster Exhibition*

A poster exhibition was set up to showcase various efforts already being made at actualizing the MINT philosophy. The poster exhibitors included:

- KMA- Project: Show case of KMA-CBD Traffic Management Project and the benefits derived to Cleaning of the CBD
- Zoomlion Co. Ltd- Project: 300 T/D Compost Plant, Adzen Kotoku

- Trashy Bags- Project: Re-use of Plastics in handy every-day applications
- TCC-KNUST - Project: Installation of simple briquetting machines for domestic refuse
- Valley View University, Accra: Project: Ecological Sanitation
- Biogas Technologies, West Africa- Project: Installation of Bio-digestion Systems for Bio-waste and wastewater in Health-Care Facilities



The Zoomlion Gh. Ltd and KMA stands at the Poster Exhibitions

SESSION 6 - CLOSURE

Day 3 PM December 10, 2010

The Head of the Local Government Service, Akwasi Opong-Fosu delivered the closing address for the conference under the topic –“Decentralized Services Delivery within Decentralized Governance: Oversight at the Centre and Performance at the Local Level- How to Optimize? In his opening remarks, he made mention of the UN forum on local development under the theme, “Pursuing the MDG’s through Local Government”, which underscored the important role of local governments in accelerating progress towards achieving MDGs and also the launch of the National Decentralisation Policy Framework and the National Decentralisation Action Plan which seek among others to operationalise decentralized service delivery, as recent efforts made at the global and national levels to deepen the decentralization process.

The full text of his speech is shown as Annex 2.3

The Ashanti Regional Co-ordinating Director, S.O. Kusi-Appiah delivered the final closing address of the conference on behalf of the Regional Minister. The full text of his speech is shown as Annex 2.4.

ANNEXES

6. ANNEX 1: CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7

Arrival of Participants	3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Overview of Logistics and Conference Management Procedures	5:30 p.m – 7:00 p.m.
Dinner (for only Registered Resident Participants)	7:00 pm

DAY ONE – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

Morning Session: Opening Plenary Session & Key Note Addresses:	
08:30 – 9:30 am	• Registration /Arrival of Guests
09:30 – 9:45 am	• Opening Prayer/Introduction of Participants
09:45 – 10:00 am	• Announcements and Conference Procedures (Facilitator)
10:00 – 10:20 am	• Conference Overview: Improving Decentralised Environmental Sanitation Governance: Director, EHSD-MLGRD
10:20 – 10:55 am	• The Revised Environmental Sanitation Policy and Highlights of NESSAP/SESIP MLGRD/EHSD (Part 1) – Consultants
10:55 – 11:20 am	Snack/Cocoa Break
11:20 – 11:25 am	• Introduction of Chairman
11:25 – 11:40 am	• Chairman’s Response
11:40 – 12:00 pm	• Welcome Address Hon. Opoku Manu, Minister, Ashanti Region
12:00 – 12:40 pm	• The Role of Partners in the Implementation of Policies and POWs of the Health Sector – implications for environmental sanitation: Director-General, Ghana Health Service
12:40 – 1:20 pm	• Key Note Address: Implications for Accelerating Environmental Health and Sanitation delivery – Government’s Responses Hon. Yieleh Chireh, Minister, MLGRD
1: 20 – 1:50	• Improving Environmental Health and Sanitation – What is the potential impact on the NHIS (Part 1) : CEO NHIA
1:50 – 2:00	• Chairman’s Response
2:00 – 3:00 pm	Lunch
Afternoon Session	Setting the Stage for Progress in Environmental Health and Sanitation: Policy, Plans and sustainable financing
3:00 – 4:00 pm	• Improving Environmental Health and Sanitation – What is the potential impact on the NHIS (Part 2) : CEO NHIA
4:00 – 5:00	• The Revised Environmental Sanitation Policy and Highlights of NESSAP/SESIP MLGRD/EHSD (Part 2) – Consultants
5:00	Evening Open Discussions and Interactions
5: 00 – 6:00	Film Show: Learning from the past and present for the future – snippets of interventions, Kumasi Sanitation Project, Improved Landfills etc.

DAY TWO – THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9

Morning Session: Institutional strengthening and capacity enhancement – aligning expectations of national plans with field experiences	
08:15 – 9:45 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel Discussion – State of Disposal Sites; Roles/Challenges of Private Operators, MMDAs, EPA in adherence/enforcement of Landfill Guidelines: Discussants: AMA, KMA, Wa Municipal Assembly, MEST-EPA, MLGRD-EHSD, MLGRD-PCU, CSIR, ESPA, Media
09:45 – 10:15 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Enhancement for decentralised delivery of environmental sanitation services: What are the Options Professor Mrs. Esi Awuah KNUST
10:15 – 10:45 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition of Site for Treatment and Disposal - Challenges of Local Authorities (MMDAs). Consultant- Alfred Kwasi Poku
10:45 – 11:00 am	Snack/Cocoa Break
11:00 – 11:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing Ghana’s SWA Compact: What are the roles of Key Partners? Will they deliver? DPs (Water and Sanitation)
11:30 – 11:55 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies for Enhancing Capacity of Local Authorities ILGS/ Local Government Secretariat
11:55 – 12:20 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Ghana’s Performance in Environmental Sanitation over the last medium-term period: plans, prospects and constraints (with special reference to revenue allocation and utilisation?” Director General, NDPC
12:20 – 1:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing policies effectively: Should we legislate to disseminate? Developing a communication plan for the Revised Environmental Sanitation Policy (2010). School of Communication Studies, UG
1:00 – 2:00 pm	Lunch
Afternoon Session	Changing environmental sanitation behaviour through job creation – prospects and progress
2:00 – 2:25 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing Perceptions on Wastes – Practical Considerations CEO Trashy Bags
2:25 – 3:05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loans for Home improvements: Are toilets important? Prospects and Constraints, CHF-Ghana/HFC Bank Partnership (Boafo Micro-Finance)
3:05 – 3:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) Field experiences, Central Region, Northern Region (UNICEF)
3: 45 – 4: 00	Snack/Cocoa Break
4:00 – 4 :25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective Dissemination and Implementation of Environmental Sanitation Policies, Plans, Programmes and Projects: What is the evidence-base of the effectiveness of NGOs (CONIWAS)
4: 25 – 5:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening the legal framework for environmental sanitation: What is required to enhance implementation of policy measures and NESSAP strategies and actions; Maxwell Opoku-Agyemang, Ghana Law School.
5:00	Closure
7:30 – 9:30	Dinner and MINT Gala Night (Life Band/Traditional folkloric Music –Agya Koo Nimo)

DAY THREE – FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10

Morning Session: Giving Central Policy Legs at Local level; Standards/levels of services and field practice; Field Trips and Closure	
08:15 – 9:15 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerating Home-Latrines Promotion – Perspectives on SESIP Revolving Fund and the Role of Micro-Finance Institutions. GHAMFIN
09:15 – 9:45 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of District Environmental Sanitation Strategies and Action Plans (DESSAPs) Perspectives from regions, EHSD
9:45 – 10:50 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of DESSAPs Agona West, Ledzorkuku-Krowor, Municipal Assemblies (DPCUs and Environmental Health Units)
10:50 – 11:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Materials-in-Transition (MINT): Options for Closing the Loop Lukman Y. Salifu, CEO WasteCare
11:30 – 1:30 pm	<p>Poster Exhibitions and Field Trips</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KMA–CBD Traffic Management Project: Benefits of Improved Cleansing etc. • Composting Plant – Zoomlion • Installation of Buy-Back Centres and Re-use of Plastics (Trashy Bags) • Waste-to-Energy: Simple technologies for responding to climate change and creating employment: TCC/KNUST • Ecological Sanitation – Valley View University • Healthcare Bio-Waste Management – what is effective? Biogas Technologies West Africa <p>Field Trip: KMA – Landfill Site and Faecal Sludge Treatment Facility</p>
1:30 – 2:30 pm	Lunch
Conference Communique and Closing Session	
2:30 – 3:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decentralised Services Delivery within Decentralised Governance: Oversight at the centre and performance at the local level – How to Optimise? Akwasi Oppong-Fosu, Head, Local Government Service Secretariat • Main Conclusions of Conference and Way forward (Conference Communique) – Facilitator • Closing Address- Hon. Opoku Manu, Minister, Ashanti Region • Closing Statement: Director, EHSD-MLGRD

7. ANNEX 2: SPEECHES AND KEY NOTE ADDRESS

Annex 2.1 Welcome Address by Hon. Opoku Manu, Minister, Ashanti Region

Mr. Chairman,
 Hon Minister of Local Government and Rural Development; Hon. Yieleh Chireh,
 Development Partners,
 Municipal and District Chief Executives present,
 Heads of Department,
 Friends from the Media,
 Distinguished guests,
 Ladies and Gentlemen:

I deem it an honor and a pleasant duty to welcome you all to this important conference on sanitation.

Mr. Chairman, sanitation management constitutes a major factor in our development efforts. With the ever increasing population of our cities and municipalities and its attendant environmental and sanitation challenges, the need for the nation to adopt strategies that will ensure effective environmental sanitation management in our cities and urban centers cannot be over emphasized.

Mr. Chairman, issues of environmental sanitation are undoubtedly critical since they affect our daily lives. It is envisaged that more than half of the population of this country will be living in urban areas by the year 2020 which certainly would place enormous pressure on existing environmental and sanitation management systems.

To ensure a better quality of life of the people, we need to avoid conditions that will predispose them to diseases like malaria, cholera and typhoid which have close correlation with unsanitary conditions prevailing in most of the communities. Environmental sanitation is therefore one of the most important determinants of quality of life and like education and health, it is fundamental building block in the fight against poverty as it affects all the other seven millennium development goals. Time has therefore come for all stakeholders to put in place strategic plans and measures to prevent the situation from getting out of control. We need therefore, to assess our present capacities relating to sanitation management with the view to positioning the structures of our respective assemblies both human and material, to be able to deal with these challenges.

Distinguished guests, we are however encouraged by the level of commitment of government towards addressing the issues. The organization of the conference under the auspices of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development coming on the heels of a workshop organized recently by the policy implementation and coordinating unit of the office of the president on the same subject, indeed demonstrates the concern and commitment of the of Professor Atta Mills' government towards the maintenance of sound environmental sanitation.

It is however important to appreciate the fact that government alone cannot shoulder this huge responsibility. It is for this reason that I consider the theme of NESCON 2010 i.e. "Building Partnerships for Scaling-up Improved Environmental Sanitation Services" as pertinent. It is my anticipation that the opportunities offered by the decentralize of this conference will be fully decentralized with regards to the engagement of our partners, particularly non-governmental and civil societal decentralized towards finding workable approaches to addressing various environmental and sanitation problems confronting our cities and urban centres

Many people in the country still consider environmental sanitation management as entirely the business of our assemblies. While this perception may be true, it is however important for the people to observe basic environmental and sanitation practices as their contribution towards the maintenance of sound and healthy environment. Indeed we need to take bold steps towards the enforcement of the regulation which makes it obligatory for house owners to provide toilets in their houses. The exercise must not end with the issue of permits but must follow through from start to finish of a building as a means to ensuring that people have access to decent places of convenience. This also calls for re-orientation of our city engineers and environmental and sanitation experts to get them to appreciate the need to ensure that developers comply with this regulation.

Mr. Chairman, going through the topics to be discussed at this conference, the planned exhibitions and particularly field trips, I believe Kumasi presents a microcosm of environmental and sanitation problems in the country and participants would have a lot to learn from during their visit to various sanitation sites in the city.

Mr. Chairman, as I understand, the exhibition will showcase among other things the importance of MINT which stands for Materials in Transition. We all know that discarded materials both liquid and solid are not entirely waste but are materials that could be re-used, recycled or some value recovered from them if we can apply the right methods and as a result reduce the proportion that ends up at the disposal sites which can also be mined in future with the right technologies. For someone who is an advocate for tapping the wealth in waste particularly as an avenue for creating jobs for our youth, I would whole heartedly support the philosophy of MINTING from waste and hope that by the end of this conference we will be able to come out with practical ideas and the means that will make MINTING of waste possible in this country.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, it is my wish that while we devote attention to the programme for this conference, participants will take advantage of their presence in the region to visit some interesting places in Kumasi and its environs.

On this note, I welcome you once again to this conference and wish you purposeful deliberations.

Thank you.

Annex 2.2 Key Note Address: Implications for Accelerating Environmental Health and Sanitation delivery – Government’s Responses by Hon. Yieleh Chireh, Minister for Local Government and Rural Development.

Mr. Chairman

Hon. Ministers of state

Nananom

Development partners,

Hon. Metropolitan, municipal and district chief executives (MMDCES)

The media,

Distinguished sector practitioners,

Ladies and gentlemen

I am particularly happy to be part of this occasion of the maiden National Environmental Sanitation Conference (NESCON 2010). First and foremost, I am delivering this Key note address with some satisfaction since the Environmental Sanitation Policy (Revised 2010) and the Decentralisation Policy Framework were launched just a week ago, Tuesday 30 November.

Secondly, am delighted, because as you recall somewhere in July this year, the Ministry also launched the Ghana Compact on Sanitation and Water for ALL (SWA) which seeks to spell out the Government of Ghana’s commitment on the one hand and responsibilities expected of our Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Civil Society, and development partners. The theme for NESCON 2010 “Building Partnerships for Scaling-up Improved Environmental Sanitation Services” therefore seems to be follow-on to the need for more effective collaboration and coordination among and between stakeholders in order to accelerate the delivery of improved environmental sanitation services.

Thirdly, it gives me pleasure that at this time the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2011 Financial Year has been read already; there are important elements in the budget that will go a long way to benefit improvements in environmental sanitation services delivery and enforcement. For example, in line with the Environmental Sanitation Policy (Revised 2010) measures there is a proposal of 20 percent environmental tax on plastic packaging materials and products, excluding bottled water which already attracts excise duty, to be charged at the importation and any production or collection points, for the protection of the environment.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am sure such a tax can only be positive and inure to the benefits of our local entrepreneurs who are working hard on initiatives of waste reduction, re-use, recycling and recovery; which I hear is in accordance with the philosophy of Materials-in-Transition (MINT). The activities of small-scale enterprises in such endeavours, and given the right incentives, can only spur job creation and contribute to government’s “Better Ghana” agenda and lead to growth as well. May I at this point acknowledge the exhibitors who are attending NESCON 2010 to show case their projects and products.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Ghana is ready to move from stability to growth and very importantly to improve on all services including environmental sanitation to benefit our middle-income status. But there are barriers to overcome and effective partnering to offer pathways for overcoming these challenges.

In considering barriers to improving environmental sanitation in Ghana, let me borrow from lessons learned from elsewhere and internationally paraphrase the four (4) interrelated ingredients that has been suggested for solving our national environmental sanitation crisis:

National policies and political leadership are needed to raise awareness, mobilize resources and scale up best-practices: countries that made progress positioned environmental sanitation more centrally in national development and we are doing that now.

Public participation has to be part of national planning – at all levels: in our context the development of the Environmental Sanitation Policy (Revised 2010) and the accompanying strategies and investment plans were carried out through nation-wide consultations. Indeed District Environmental Sanitation Strategies and Actions Plan (DESSAPs) prepared by Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) constitute the bottom-up contribution to national plans.

The MDG for sanitation needs to be supplemented with explicit targets for reducing inequalities based on wealth, gender and location: Mr. Chairman, poor environmental sanitation affects women more than men, it affects the poor more, and its effect and impact is more prevalent in poor neighbourhoods of our towns and deprived villages. Women will benefit greatly from improved sanitation facilities in the home more than men but do women make spending decisions in many households?

I dare say that without rapid improvements in environmental sanitation other good interventions like the Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty (LEAP) Programme will not yield the expected sustainable benefits while the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) will continue to be overburdened with costs of common ailments that can be prevented if we do more for environmental sanitation improvements.

At the International level partnerships like the Global Framework for Action for Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) make a difference, so also at the national level; Ladies and Gentlemen as I said earlier forging partnerships with all stakeholders is a key element if we are to make rapid but incremental progress. Indeed identifying actors that often are ignored and mainstream their activities is one sure way of mobilizing hitherto untapped resources.

I am gladdened by the diverse participation at NESCON 2010 – it is not an affair only for MMDAs, their private waste contractors and the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development but research institutions, private entrepreneurs, traditional authorities, academia and above all the media. I must commend you for the choice of the theme for NESCON 2010 as it certainly sets the tone for finding ways for effective collaboration and partnership building from here-on.

Responsive institutional structures matter: one must add a fifth element often omitted in discussing the barriers to effective sanitation. In our environment where there is “pull-push” or is it “pull-pull” or both among decentralized level and central level Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) we should be mindful of the right institutional settings that are responsive to effective partnership building. Empowering MMDAs to go into more Public-Private-Partnerships (PPPs) arrangements and providing quick turn-around on approval decisions for such schemes will only boost rapid coverage in services.

I noticed in the programme that the dimension of home latrines improvement (which is quite a sore point) is to be tackled with the involvement of Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs) – I will keenly await the outcome of all your deliberations on the way forward in arresting the sanitation situation.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in the case of the first issue of giving space to environmental sanitation in national development agenda, let me mention that the new Medium-Term Development Policy Framework “Ghana Shared Growth Development Agenda” (GSGDA) (2010-2013), has prioritized a number of key strategies for improving environmental sanitation including:-

- promote the construction and use of appropriate and affordable domestic latrines;
- integrate hygiene education into water and sanitation delivery;
- support public private-partnership in solid waste management;
- promote cost-effective and innovative technologies for waste management; and
- establish a fund for environmental sanitation.

So clearly the GSGDA decentralized environmental sanitation, supports partnerships and has tabled important strategies that will be pursued.

Mr. Chairman, in conclusion let me add that the idea of a platform such as NESCON 2010 will continue to receive Government support if participants work hard to achieve the objectives of sharing practical lessons amongst MMDAs, private sector and researchers and show case innovative interventions that can be copied to accelerate environmental sanitation improvements country-wide.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen I hereby declare NESCON 2010 open and wish you fruitful discussions.

**Annex 2.3 Address: Decentralised Services Delivery Within Decentralised Governance:
Oversight at the Centre and Performance at the Local Level. How to Optimise?
By Akwasi Opong-Fosu, Head of Local Government Service**

Mr. CHAIRMAN, the theme of the conference “Building Partnerships for Scaling-up Improved Environmental Sanitation Services” is timely and significant in that it has come on barely two months after the UN organized a global forum on local development under the theme, “Pursuing the MDG’s through Local Government”, which underscored the important role of local governments in accelerating progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and environmental sanitation no doubt has a critical role play . It also follows soon after the launch of the National Decentralisation Policy Framework and the National Decentralisation Action Plan which seek among others to operationalised decentralized service delivery. The Local Government Service is mandated to facilitate this process to ensure that MMDAs have the capacity to deliver quality service.

I wish therefore to thank you for your kind invitation to me to deliver the closing address on the topic- “Decentralized Services Delivery within Decentralized Governance: Oversight at the Centre and Performance at the Local Level- How to Optimize? The choice of topic could not be more appropriate. It comes at a time when we are operationalizing L.I. 1961 (Local Government (Departments of District Assemblies) (Commencement) Instrument, 2009 which seeks to give effect to decentralized service delivery within democratic governance.

Mr. Chairman, the topic resonates with globally held view that decentralized service delivery is now a key determinant for developing countries to achieve the MDGs within the context of democratic decentralization. This wave is attributed to what is argued to be the manifest limitations of centralized planning to deliver development goals especially at the local level. One may draw a parallel in the logic of decentralized service delivery from a football game where the forwards who are close to the opponents’ goal area and are better placed to score goals are denied the opportunity by the defense including the goal-keeper who insists without success to score goals. From this analogy, I hope you will agree with me that central planning and delivery of local services is an inverted logic and decentralization is a process of reversal.

In pursuance of this approach, Ghana embarked on a decentralization programme about two decades ago with Constitutional provisions pointing in the direction democratic decentralization- defined by central- local relations through assignment of functions, powers, responsibilities and resources to accountable representative actors with significant domains of discretionary powers (devolution) and local government-citizens relations defined by participation and accountability mechanisms (local governance).

Two key objectives underpin the design and implementation of the programme.

- To open up opportunities for citizens participation in policy making to ensure responsiveness, accountability, and increased local capacity to exercise control over administrative and financial machinery at the local level.
- To ensure economic efficiency through improved resource allocation and utilization.

In furtherance of above, Art 35(6)(d) of the 1993 Constitution states:

“The State shall take appropriate measures to make democracy a reality by decentralizing the administrative and financial machinery of government to the regions and districts and by affording all possible opportunities to the people to participate in decision-making at every level of national life in government”

The autonomous role, discretionary powers and principles of participation and accountability of LGs are provided for by Articles 240(2)(b) and Art 240(2)(e) which states.

“measures should be taken by Parliament to enhance the capacity of local government authorities to plan, initiate, co-ordinate, manage and execute policies in respect of matters affecting local people”

“To ensure accountability of local government authorities, people in particular local government areas shall, as far as practicable, be afforded the opportunity to participate effectively in their governments”

Section 10(2) of the Local Government Act, 1993 Act 462 provides for the deliberative, legislative and executive functions of MMDAs. This means that when the Assembly as a policy-making body makes decisions it has to ensure implementation of the decisions. In order words establishing devolved local government systems is not an end in itself. The deliberative and legislative functions should translate into tangible outcomes. That is- improved service delivery- through the administrative machinery of the local government. Recognizing the limitations in executing local government policies through central

agencies at the local level, the Constitution provided for the establishment of a distinct Local Government Service separate from the Central Civil Service indicating an intention of administrative reform from de-concentration to devolution. Art 240(2)(d) states "As far as practicable, the persons in the service of the local government shall be subject to the effective control of local authorities"

In 2003, The Local Government Service was established with the objective of securing an effective local government administration and management. Membership of the Service consists of the Local Government Service Secretariat, Regional Coordinating Councils and MMDAs. Among the key functions to achieve this objective include instituting performance-based management system, service delivery standards and enhancing human resource competencies at the MMDA level. To give effect to this, L.I 1961- Local Government (Departments of District Assemblies) (Commencement) Instrument, 2009 was passed February 2009. L.I.1961 is intended to achieve four key objectives in the implementation of administrative decentralization:

1. The commencement of the functioning of the decentralized departments at the district level as Departments of the District Assemblies;
2. Transfers functions to the relevant Departments of the District Assemblies;
3. It introduces the composite budget system at the district level by integrating the budgets of the departments of the District Assemblies into the budgets of the District Assemblies
4. It transfers the staff of the Departments of the District Assemblies from the Civil Service to the Local Government Service.

Mr. Chairman, as you can see L.I.1961 has implication for service delivery and public administration in Ghana. When it becomes fully operational, sector programmes as well as budgets will become part of an Integrated District Development Plan. Also, heads of decentralized departments will now be accountable to the MMDAs and not to their Regional Heads as has been the case. The reporting relationship of a head of department will now be to the MMDCE through the MMDCD.

This certainly poses some challenges. The first is resistance to change which is expected. And I illustrate this with a personal experience. Sometime last year during a regional sensitization exercise in Tamale. A press man seeking clarification on the issues raised wanted to know if for instance if a service like feeder becomes decentralized contractors will not have to go to the Departments of Feeder roads in Accra. When I replied in the affirmative, he stood pensive for while shook his head and said, "I am afraid this won't work because those in Accra will resist it".

Second is local capacity to administer and manage decentralized services. The human resource capacity at the MMDA level is inadequate and the establishment of departments such as works, physical planning, trade and industry, human resource etc requires the appointment of competent staff to enable MMDAs carry out their expanded mandate. Though the private sector is a key partner in service delivery their potential has not been fully exploited. In July, the Local Government Secretariat organized a two-week training programme for selected MMDAs on designing policy/legal/institutional framework for PPP as part of capacity building efforts.

Third, and related to the first, is organized resistance to decentralized service delivery by some sectors. Sectors like education and health intend to exist at the local level as centralized sectors.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I am happy to note the linkage of performance to decentralized service delivery and the oversight responsibility of central government.

As a country we face a big challenge in building a culture of performance and productivity especially in the public sector. Thus, central oversight should focus on performance-based management framework at improved service delivery at the local level. Such a framework should identify a set of clear priorities to serve as key performance areas from which specific targets by measurable indicators can be monitored and evaluated. I wish to take this opportunity to advocate that FOAT should go beyond organizational assessment and include performance in service delivery. Priority areas such as environmental sanitation and Local Economic Development may be considered for a start.

I wish to conclude with my favourite quote on performance and results which I took from "Managing Performance in the Public Sector" by Van der Walddt.

"What gets measured gets gone

If you don't measure results, you can't tell success from failure

If you can't see success, you can't reward it

If you are not rewarding success, you are probably rewarding failure

If recognize failure, you can't correct it

If you can demonstrate results, you can win public support".

I thank you once again for your invitation and your kind attention

**Annex 2.4 Address Delivered by S.O. Kusi-Appiah, Regional Co-ordinating Director
Ashanti Region on Behalf of the Ashanti Regional Minister**

Mr. Chairman,
Head of Local Government Services,
Distinguished participants,
Friends from the media,
Ladies and gentlemen:

I am delighted to perform the closing ceremony of the 3-day National Environmental Sanitation Conference which is ending this afternoon.

On behalf of the Regional Co-ordinating Council let me commend participants for the high level of commitment exhibited at this conference. The mere fact that you stayed and participated in all programmes and activities of the conference, amply demonstrate your concern to help this nation towards adopting strategies that would ensure sustainable environmental management.

The central nature of Environmental Health and Sanitation makes it a shared responsibility and requires the contribution and active engagement of various Agencies both Governmental and Non-governmental Organisations to be able to effectively deal with the situation.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, with barely five years left for the 2015 target year of the millennium Development Goals, the progress so far made by many developing countries including Ghana is quite low and makes it necessary for us to double our efforts to be able to achieve the targets set for ourselves.

Over the past few years, government has implemented a number of programmes such as the waste Management Module under the National Youth Employment Programme and the Coastal Development Project to support community level improvement on environmental and sanitation services. While there are visible gains in waste collection and street sweeping in our cities and urban centres, there is still much more to be done particularly in the area of treatment and final disposal of solid waste. The continued discharge of night soil directly in to the sea at “Lavender Hill” is an indictment on our City Managers and Environmental Health and Sanitation Technologist. With the background and experiences of most of the participants who attended this conference, I believe NESCON 2010 offered the appropriate platform for you to critically analyze the roles of various Agencies involved in environmental management in this country such as the Environmental Protection Agency, the Environmental Health and Sanitation Division of Ministry of Local Government and other collaborating Agencies and Organizations towards the adoption of synergetic approaches to enhance the capacity of the nation to sustainably manage environmental health and sanitation.

The period in which sanitation issues were solely left in the hands of environmental health officers must give way to a broad base approach involving the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Community Development, the Environmental Health Division and indeed the sub structures of the Assemblies.

I am particularly interested in the MINT. This is because it is one area that can help this country to effectively deal with the challenges confronting us in respect of the disposal of both solid and liquid wastes but also create employment and generate some revenue.

It is my expectation that, as we break from this conference, issues discussed and action plans adopted would be fully implemented back in your respective stations as a means to improving the prevailing poor environmental conditions in most of our communities. This is the only means we can justify the huge resources, time and energy spent at this workshop.

On this note, I wish to declare NESCON 2010 formerly closed and wish participants safe journey to your various destinations.

8. ANNEX 3: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

S/N	NAME	DESIGNATION	Telephone	E-MAIL
1	Augustina Peprah	Dist. Planning Officer	0244867101	pepraha@yahoo.com
2	Stephen Blighton	Muni. Planning Officer	0208188766	sxdighton@yahoo.com
3	Augustina Gyamfi	Dept of Women Ash.	0247083809	augustinagyamfi@yahoo.com
4	Samuel Kpodo	Dept Head/WMD/AMA	0244699554	edinanoak@yahoo.com
5	Francis Abotsi	REHO-Volta	0244705126	fabotsi@yahoo.com
6	S. Owusu –Ansah	MEHO-Obuasi Mun. Ass	0208211190	
7	Eleanor Elliott-Sackeyfio	UNICEF	0244633175	eesackeyfio@unicef.org
8	Armah Andoh Samuel	Mun. Plann. Officer	0242269244	armahandohsamuel@yahoo.com
9	Jonah K. Amanu	REHO-GAR	0244295313	amanujonas@yahoo.com
10	Samuel A. Allotey	MLGRD/EHSD	0208123904	alloteysan46@yahoo.com
11	Samiratu Alhassan	WasteCare	0302786072	asamiratu@yahoo.com
12	Selasi Elorm	WasteCare	0302786072	
13	Kobina Mensah Afful	WasteCare	0302786072	
14	Rita A.S Nettey	EHSD	0274766403	ritash_us2008@yahoo.com
15	Torkuebu Bervllyn	MPHD AMA	0208092780	ber80@yahoo.com
16	Rex Jakpa	REHO-MW	0242105304	
17	Philip D Aratuo	Relief International	0208385723	philip.aratuo@ri.org
18	Prince Antwi Agyei	Project Manager	0243889939	princekaagyei@gmail.com
19	Owusu Francis	Env. Health	0243828503	
20	Isaac Osei	EPA	0208126050	isosei50@yahoo.com
21	Johnson Bonye	Rural Dev. College	0277708652	
22	Ankomah A Sylveste	Reg. Env. Assem.	0208216451	slyankomah@yahoo.com
23	Edward A. Mba	TMA/WMD	0244284795	
24	Edward K. Shardey	TMA/PHD	0244141454	edshardy@yahoo.com
25	Abu Wombey	RCN Ghana	0202110335	awumbey@yahoo.com
26	Justice Amoah	Metro Planning Officer	0208169398	justiceamoah@hotmail.com
27	Jonga Micheal	IRC/RCN	0267526367	jonmii@yahoo.com
28	J. O Appiah	ESS	0244224378	joappia@yahoo.com
29	Lysander E. A Nartey	ESPA	0242910712	Lys.nant@yahoo.com
30	Bernard Ahiadeke	CONIWAS	0244862909	
31	Charles Obeng	Manager Tourist Board BA	0208155760	quaaben@yahoo.com
32	Philip Baidoo	Regional Director GBC Ash.	0243374683	philipbaidoo@gbcghana.com
33	Elvis Aboluah	Trashy Bags	02048766615	aboluahelvis@yahoo.com
34	Zoyaar Turkson	Env. Health	0208081822	
35	Sulemana A Sadiq	MLGRD/EHSD	0243764600	abusadiq@gmail.com
36	Isaac R Mensah	Env. Health	0244708371	
37	Joseph K. Adjei	HFC Bofo	0249183383	jkimos2000@yahoo.com
38	Emmanuel Y. Tenkorang	IDS, UCC	0244624651	eytenkorang@yahoo.com.uk
39	Henry Nartey Adipah	Sch. Of Hygiene	0244746574	narteh20@yahoo.com
40	Rex Adofo	ESPA	0244275112	boyeadofo@hotmail.com
41	Omar Seidu	GSS	0244838054	
42	R. Adu Inkumsa	REHO/RCC/K'dua	0244799761	

43	George Frimpong	CCMA WMD	0242831498	frimdo@yahoo.com
44	Abednego Chigumbu	WASH Officer UNICEF	0244942528	achigumbu@unicef.org
45	Emmanuel G. Ossei	GSS	0244835745	ashanti@statsghana.gov.gh
46	Richard Amankwah Kuffour	Mampong Campus UEW	0277432848	kuffour62@yahoo.com
47	Paul Ahiable	MOFEP	0248322421	paulahiabile@hotmail.com
48	Ketor Kenneth Yoah	AMA	0246686612	ketoryaoh@yahoo.com
49	Elijah Danso	Netherlands Embassy	0242102183	elijahdanso@miabuza.nl
50	Othniel Habila	UNICEF	0245352975	ohabila@unicef.org
51	Prof. Jonas Monney	Rtd Prof.	0549689535	kakro1940@yahoo.com
52	Alfred Kwasi Opoku	Jeavco Ass.	0277573316	kwasi.opoku@gmail.com
53	Kweku Quansah	MLGRD/EHSD	0208123972	kwakuquans@yahoo.com
54	Malonin Asibi	Dept of Women	0208224737	amalonim@yahoo.com
55	John Ankrah	Planning Officer	0244670436	johnankrah@yahoo.uk
56	Janet Tsahey	Reg, Env Office K'si.	0541009757	
57	Samuel A. Sarpong	Pronet	0244562626	gyemuel@yahoo.com
58	Stephen Ntow	WASH Health Solutions	0244802265	steve_ntow@yahoo.com
59	Philip Kofi Amonfa	Ash- RCC	020583445	
60	Iddi Asumah	Tamale Metr. Ass	0243331753	
61	Yaw Asante Sarkodie	Team leader	0208192586	yasarkodie@wsmp.org
62	Martin Dery	Pronet North	0244290493	
63	A Y O Moduc	APDO	0208864711	kmodoc2002@yahoo.com
64	Paulina Kukah	Env. Health – Sunyani	0243709532	
65	Enyinnda Enyidar	NGO	0243023325	envoha@gmail.com
66	J A Afari	Wastecare Ass.	0272746518	jakojimi@yahoo.com
67	Kabuka M Banda	WASH Specialist UNICEF	0246175608	kbanda@unicef.org
68	Techie Brown	Wastecare	0242530333	teebrown68@hotmail.com
69	Asamani Cletus	RCC Bolga	0244162204	
70	Akwetey Sampson	WMD/TAMA	0242106776	sampsonakweteyx@yahoo.com
71	Daniel Sarpong	Plan/Watsan Advisor	0244488440	dsarpong2001@yahoo.com
72	Dr. Kwasi Opoku Amankwa	KNUST	0208164325	
73	Alex Asamoah	MCE –New Juaben	0208113935	aslwscon73@yahoo.com
74	Nana Poku	EHSD CCMA	0243169964	
75	Kiree Senelah	CIDA	0244749694	lore.semeluk@international.gc.ck
76	Paul Dogbe	Reg. Env, Health Officer WR	0243411187	kwasisgas@yahoo.com
77	Richard Amfo-Otu	Presbyterian University	0267033808	kbotukoi@yahoo.com
78	Bechesani Demuyakor	New Juaben Mun Ass MEHO	0249469616	bechesanid@yahoo.com
79	Martin Amevor	CR Reg Env. Health	0244884810	mamevor2003@yahoo.com
80	Richard Amoaning	REHO Ash.	0244024241	amoaning@gmail.com
81	Peter Owusu Antwi	CHF International	0244972299	salifuGHS@yahoo.com
82	Salifu Abubakar	GHS NR	0247960456	veetay@hotmail.com
83	Vincent Tay	TREND Group	0275263401	aoifegibbonsinternatioanl.gc.com
84	Aoife Gibbons	CIDA	0244342450	callistus@ilgs-edu.org
85	Callustus Mahama	ILGS	0243248481	grockson@yahoo.com
86	George N K Rockson	Head Composting & Recycling Zoomlion	0243305035	alfredassibi@yahoo.com

87	Alfred Assibi Dang	Principal sch. Tamale	0244874790	hamfauthur@yahoo.com
88	A B Attafuah	EHSD	0248367370	snyanks@yahoo.com
89	Nyankamawu Sakina	Asst. Plann. Officer.	0542023144	
90	Capt FB Amoh-Twum Rtd	Manager Director of Waste Recyclinggh.Ltd	0208483377	gamidu@unicef.org
91	Georgina Amadu	UNICEF PO	0244207607	gamidu@unicef.org
92	Solomon Addai	Env. Officer VVU	0244710983	profkams@yahoo.co.uk
93	Ole K. Jensen	EHSD/MLGRD		okj@pem.dk
94	P. Kotoka	KMA-WMD	027740008	
95	Samuel Asante	Rural DCC College	064222107	isaactet@yahoo.com
96	Isaac A. Tettey	MPO	0244593856	mymens@gmx.nes
97	Dr. M Y Mensah	KNUST	0208537903	
98	Mrs. T Mensah	KNUST		
99	Lorretta Roberts	UNICEF Specialist	0243132113	lroberts@unicef.org
100	Mizpah Asase	KNUST	0244712350	mizpaha@yahoo.com
101	Catherine Oduw Agyarewaa	KNUST	024354850	catherineoduro@gmail.com
102	Nana Osei B Ackursa	KNUST	0208424113	nanobson@yahoo.com
103	Henritta Osei-Tutu	KNUST	0244073706	enreta@gmail.com
104	Charles Gyemfi	KNUST	0243212413	gyamficharlessu@yahoo.com
105	Mahamud Hamid Sidik	KNUST	0244220126	sidik91280@yahoo.com
106	M Opoku Agyemang	Wastecare	0244759536	admax63@yahoo.com.uk
107	Okyere Kobina	NDPC	0243653567	kobokyere@yahoo.com
108	Seth M Adzadi	Reg. Acct. EHO K'si	0208157504	sevadle@yahoo.com
109	Linda Appiah Boamah	Wastecare	0260556786	aferlin@yahoo.com
110	Akosua Korantemaa Agadzi	KNUST	0541816972	akoska2007@yahoo.com
111	Kofi Akodwaa-Boadi	KNUST	0240250416	goldyy1@yahoo.com
112	Patricia Granaham	KNUST	0243419443	pgrnaham@yahoo.com
113	Asantewa Gyamfi Tenkorang	KNUST	0243245553	asantewatenkorang@gmail.com
114	Stephen Quandzie	KNUST	0244653762	squandzie@yahoo.com
115	Francis Xavier Anowie	KNUST	0244444023	fransanowie@yahoo.com
116	Monney Isaac	KNUST	0243472752	monney.isaac@gmail.com
117	Isaac Osei Kwaku	VVU	0244434519	mroseik@yahoo.com
118	Dr. E Clarke	Dept Head GHS	0243629870	essieclarke@yahoo.com
119	Yaa Dansowaa Ampofo	Zoomlion	0244081489	princessdansowaa@yahoo.com
120	Sarah	KMA		
121	Prof. Mrs. Esi Awuah	KNUST	0207417766	esiawuahrt@yahoo.com
122	Diabene Perpetual Yirenkyiwaa	KNUST	0243045339	perp333@yahoo.com
123	Gideon Gasinu	KNUST	0262877968	GNJ.imai@yahoo.com
124	Boakye Robert	KNUST	0207070277	boakyerobt@yahoo.com
125	Moses Paintsil	KNUST	0244582465	moses.paintsil@gmail.com
126	Damel Atitogu	REHO Ash.	0244647881	atitogo@yahoo.com
127	Jonathan Azasoo	Senior Planner	0244763067	jkazagoo@yahoo.com
128	Marian Osei	KMA	0243267237	osei_marian@yahoo.com
129	Luqman Khalida	Wastecare	0243077235	maara2001@yahoo.com

130	Abdul-Salam	Dist. Env. Health Officer Ash.	0244760247/ 0208336685	
131	Quaranchi Adan-Tetty	NDUMP	0244810851	quaranchui@gmail.com
132	Rhoda Boakye	Wastecare		
133	Shirley Osei-Tutu	Wastecare		
134	Esther	KMA		
135	Afia	KMA		
136	Adam Wahab	KNUST	0266289498	mwuntra@yahoo.com
137	Mledah kodwo	Zoomlion	0243583440	komieza@yahoo.com
138	Lucy Owusu-Ansah	REPO	0244710310	luciansah@yahoo.com
139	Priscilla Achiaa – Awuah	CEIA Cape Coast	0208902002	nannahemaa35@yahoo.com
140	Franz Yartel	TCPD-Ash.	0208425828	yarcelfranz@yahoo.com
141	John Afari Idan	BTWAL	0244461959	info@biogasonline.com
142	Peter Obeng	Lecturer/UCC	0244253014	obengpeter@yahoo.com
143	Ken Ketu	Zoomlion	0207321269	ken.ketu@yahoo.com
144	John Buadooh	AANMA MPO	0244264784	johnbuadooh@yahoo.com
145	Mr. Evans Darko Mensah	Wastecare		
146	Lukman Salifu	Wastecare	0244670128	lysalifu@yahoo.com
147	Kwame Frempah-Yeboah	Water and Sanitation Advisor	0244360931	frempah.yeboah@psu-ghana.org
148	Nii Anang Adjetey	Mgr SCAD NHIA	0540898239	Anang.Adjetey@nhia.gov.gh
149	Julices C Ahiekpor	CEESD	0244529589	julicesahiekpor@ceesdghana.org
150	Edem Bensah	CEESD, Kumasi	0246450842	edcube353@ceesdghana.org
151	Kombozie B Cosmos	EHSD/UESP	0243522075	kacesbal@yahoo.com
152	Ibrahim Sayibu			
153	Linda Yeboaa Amponsah	Ext. Services Specialist	0244638253	lynYeboaa@yahoo.com
154	Hon. Thomas Osei Bonsu	MCE	0243337952	oseibonsu52@yahoo.co.uk
155	Mohammed Hamid Sadik	KNUST		
156	Robert Boakye	KNUST		
157	Eunice Naa Norkor Nertey	KNUST		
158	Kweku Michael Commeh	KNUST		
159	Augustina Amoanyi	EHSD		