

Ghana Transport Forum Newsletter

Issue #1, January 2009

Introduction

Welcome to the maiden Newsletter of the Ghana Transport Forum. The Ghana Transport Forum is a network of accomplished Ghanaian Transportation Professionals and Researchers in the United States. Ghanaian students in colleges in the United States also participate in the Forum. The focus of the Forum is to encourage professional development of its members. Forum members currently meet annually during the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Annual Meeting in Washington DC.

Below is a list of Ghanaians in attendance at the 2009 TRB Annual Meeting.

Attendance at 2009 TRB Annual Meeting

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| 1. Dr. Adjo Amekudzi | 9. Franklin Gbologah |
| 2. Dr. Alex Appea | 10. Julian Mills Beale |
| 3. Dr. Alex Appiagyei | 11. Dr. Sam Labi, |
| 4. Dr. Anokye-Boateng | 12. Leslie Mills |
| 5. Dr. Cornelius Nuworsoo | 13. Seli Agbolosu-Amison |
| 6. Dr. Charles Nunoo | 14. Dr. Senanu Ashiabor, |
| 7. Dr. Edward Fekpe | 15. Yaw Okyere |
| 8. Dr. Felix Ammah-Tagoe | 16. Yolanda Oliver-Commey |
| | 17. Dr. Stephen Mensah |
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Forum activities during 2009 TRB Annual Meeting



Lunch Meeting: We met at the Akosombo Restaurant on 613 K Street in DC on Tuesday January 13, 2009. More than ten of us met at the Marriott Hotel lobby at TRB prior to lunch. However, only six members could make it to Akosombo Restaurant due to TRB schedule conflicts. We discussed issues related to the 'Ghana Transport Forum' during lunch. It was noted that apart from the email and contact information circulated after the 2008 TRB Annual Meeting not much had been done. This newsletter is the first step in that direction to make the Forum more active.

Present at the lunch from left to right in the picture above are: Dr. Alex Appea, Dr. Sam Labi, Dr. Stephen Mensah, Dr. Senanu Ashiabor, Yolanda Oliver-Commey, and Leslie Mills. Lunch was a great time for networking, catch up with each other and enjoy some delicious Ghanaian food. We want extend a special thank-you to Dr. Labi and Appea for picking up the cab fares to and from Akosombo Restaurant. We appreciate your support to the group.

Other Ghanaians at TRB also met for lunch and networking at Akosombo on Wednesday, January 14. Several others also met for lunch, dinner and drinks during sessions at TRB.

Presentations: As usual several of our members had papers and poster sessions presentations at TRB this year. Below is a list of their publications with their names in bold:

Adjo A Amekudzi, Yolanda Oliver-Commey, Factors Influencing the Success of Road Pricing Schemes in the Context of Urban Area Sustainability

Adjo A Amekudzi, Michael A Meyer, Value-for-Money in U.S. Transportation Public-Private Partnerships

Alexander K Appea, Todd rorer, Trenton Clark, Case Studies on Processes Involved in Production and Placement of High Rap Asphalt Concrete Mixes in 2007 on Selected Routes in Virginia

Joseph Anochie-Boateng, Erol Tutumluer, Resilient Behavior Characterization of Naturally Occurring Bituminous Sands

Cornelius K Nuworsoo, Elizabeth Deakin, Transforming High-Speed Rail Stations to Major to Major Activity Hubs: Lessons for California

Cornelius K Nuworsoo, Edward Sullivan, Xudong Jia, Neil Hockaday, Bruce Chapman, Benefit-Cost Evaluation of Smart Transit Features at Small-Scale Transit Operations

Rafael Cobian, Tony Henderson, Sudeshna Mitra, **Cornelius K Nuworsoo**, Vehicle Emissions and Level-of-Service Standards: Exploratory Analysis of Effects of Traffic Flow on Vehicle Greenhouse Gas Emission

Zhanping You, **Julian Mills-Beale**, Keat Ghee, Wireless Sensor for Monitoring Water Content in Highway Infrastructure Materials

Muhammad Irfan, Muhammad B Khurshid, **Samuel Labi**, Panagiotis Anastasopoulos, Econometric Analysis of Influence of Highway Project Size, Project Type, and Contract Type on Contract Duration

Muhammad Irfan, Muhammad B Khurshid, **Samuel Labi**, Service Life of Thin Hot-Mix Asphalt Overlay Using Different Performance Indicators

Panagiotis Anastasopoulos, **Samuel Labi**, Bob McCullouch, Identifying the Appropriate Contract Types for Highway Maintenance and Rehabilitation Projects on the Basis of Project Characteristics

Samuel Labi, Zongzhi Li, Paul Thompson, Vandana Ptidar, Kumares Sinha, Establishing a Common Scale for Measuring and Combining Different Performance Criteria: Discussion and Case Studies in Bridge and Asset Management

Samuel Labi, Amanda Cope, Does Stainless Cost Less? Assessing Feasibility of Stainless Steel as Reinforcement Material for Bridge Decks on the Basis of Life-Cycle Costing

Panagiotis Anastasopoulos, **Samuel Labi**, Bob McCullouch, Analyzing Duration and Prolongation of Performance-Based Contracts Using Hazard-Based Duration and Zero-Inflated Random Parameters Poisson Models

Panagiotis Anastasopoulos, **Samuel Labi**, Matthew Karlaftis, Fred Mannering, Exploring Relationships Between Aggregate Pavement Performance and Surface Geology, Climate and Expenditure: Econometric Analysis of State-Level Data

Seli J. Agbolosu-Amison, Byungkyu Brian Park, Ilsoo Yun. Evaluation of Heuristic Optimization Methods in Urban Arterial Network Optimization

Seli J. Agbolosu-Amison and Byungkyu Brian Park. Performance Evaluation of Dynamic Gap-out Feature at Actuated Traffic Signal Controller Using a Simulation Based Optimization Method

Member Update:

Hip Hip Horray! Congratulations to Abigail and Yolanda on completion of their Masters degrees in 2008. Yolanda graduated from Georgia Tech in August 2008 and is currently working with Parsons. Abigail received her degree from the Civil Engineering department of the University of Florida in December 2008. Abigail is currently looking for a job, so kindly forward her resume to any firm or contacts that may be hiring ([Abigail's Resume](#)).

Future Plans for Ghana Transport Forum

Newsletters: We realize time constraints prevent members from frequently visiting our Yahoo Groups site. We are launching this Newsletter to help keep members informed of the forums activities. In addition to this issue of the Newsletter, two more issues are planned for August and December of 2009.

Yahoo Groups: We encourage members to visit and post any interesting transportation related articles at our Yahoo Groups site (http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/GTP_Forum/).

Facebook Group: We will launch a 'Facebook Group' Forum in addition to the Yahoo Groups. With time, we may decide to migrate to either Facebook or Yahoo Groups based on members preferences.

Website: Our website is under construction and an updated link will be circulated when it is ready. Current site is located at <http://www.av020.cce.vt.edu/GhanaTransportForum/>.

Potential Reception at 2010 TRB Meeting: The process of assembling at the Marriott lobby, and catching a cab to and from the Akosombo Restaurant for lunch, takes a considerable amount of time. Several of our members have opted out of our Tuesday networking/lunch gatherings due to tight time schedules at TRB. We need a different way to meet at TRB. Suggestions are welcome, but two options we want members to consider are:

- Option A: Host a small reception in the evening at the TRB venue. Adding both cab fare to Akosombo Restaurant and cost of food at the Restaurant, it costs at least \$15 per head. We estimate we should be able to have a small buffet type dinner with three or four Ghanaian dishes for about 20 people at about \$500. The key factor will be to plan ahead and keep cost down. We will need some initial commitment from at least five members to foot the initial bill.
- Option B: We lunch at an Asian restaurant close to the TRB hotel so everyone can attend.