



Ghana Transportation Professionals Forum (GTPF-NA) Newsletter

June 2016

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2016. Inside this issue:

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GTPF 2016 Annual Meeting in DC

Meeting Highlights: We held a very engaging Annual Meeting in DC during the 2016 TRB Annual Conference. The president informed members the group is now officially registered as a non-profit in the US. Below are highlights from the meeting but we strongly encourage you to read the full details of the meeting at: <http://ghanatransportationprofessionalsforum.org/minutes-of-meetings>

Website Update: Sam Essien (webmaster) provided an overview and walked members through the new GTPF website: <http://www.ghanatransportationprofessionalsforum.org>. Members provided comments that will be included in planned updates. Sam requested assistance from members with IT skills to help manage the website.

Financial Statement: Dr. Sam Labi (Out-going President) presented the financial statement and informed members GTPF now has a Well Fargo account where members can deposit dues.

Newsletter: Members were asked to help keep the newsletter vibrant by send interesting articles and information about transportation activities in Ghana to [Mary Kissi](#). Also, job positions, especially entry level ones of value to our college students are welcome.

Membership Database: We discussed the development of a central database of the members and their expertise. There were varying positions of how the database could be developed, but the general consensus was that members here and those in Ghana will benefit from the database.

Elections: Alexander Appea (Outgoing Secretary) presided over elections for new executive positions. The following executive positions were filled after voting:

President: Dr Senanu Ashiabor
Vice President: Mary Kissi
Secretary: Mary Ankomah
Treasurer: Dr. Sam Ababio
Webmaster: Sam Essien

Graduate Student Award: A new award for graduate students with the highest number of publications/presentations accepted at the TRB was announced. The maiden edition of the award went to Dr. Margaret Akofio-Sowah from Georgia Tech, a student of Dr. Adzo Amekudzi. Dr. Sam Labi presented here with the award, a plaque and financial token.

Ghana Infrastructure Conference: A proposal to host a transportation related conference in Ghana was discussed. Engineer Magnus Quarshie (Past President of GhIE) and Dr. Sam Ababio agreed to setup a committee was to coordinate with GhIE to plan the conference.

Feature Presentation: Dr. Sam Ababio presented an outline to develop a Transportation Manual for Ghana. Dr. Riverson who had prior experience working with the World Bank suggested submitting a proposal to the World Bank to fund the development of the Manual since detailed work and time input from experts is needed in that area.

Other Matters Discussed After the Elections Included: Managing content on the Facebook, LinkedIn, and GTPF website. Improvement of the newsletters and future collaboration with other sister groups like the Ghana Architects and Engineers Association based in New Jersey.

At the end of the meeting members had the chance to socialize and take group pictures.

Annual Dues

PayPal and Bank Account information for paying your dues are now available on our website. You can also send a check to our treasurer Margaret Akofio-Sowah at 1015 Half Street SE, Suite 650, Washington DC 20003. Dues are \$20 for students and \$100 for professionals, and are due by July 31st 2016.

Professional Development: (tied to membership database form)

GTPF is launching a Professional Development Initiative! We want to help our student and young professional members advance their careers by providing mentoring and support from more seasoned professionals. This initiative will include resume reviews, webinars on various topics and one-on-one advising sessions. If you are interested in participating as a mentor or a mentee, please click [here](#) to send a short note to [Margaret](#).

Updates Since Annual Meeting

The position of External Relations Officer, was not filled during the Annual Meeting. The President initially nominated Margaret Akofio-Sowah to fill the position, but at an Executive Meeting it was decided to let Dr. Ababio fill this position and let Margaret come on as the Treasurer. The updated executive team is as follows:

President:	Dr Senanu Ashiabor
Vice President	Mary Kissi
Secretary	Mary Ankomah
Treasurer	Dr. Margaret Akofio-Sowah External Relations
Coordinator:	Dr. Sam Ababio
Webmaster	Sam Essien.

Upcoming Events/Deadlines

1. Update on First Ghana Infrastructure Conference

GTPF members Drs. Bismark Agbelie of Purdue University, Kofi Acheampong of KCI Technologies, and Sam Owusu Ababio of the University of Wisconsin-Platteville are planning above conference for 2017 in collaboration with GhIE. We want at least one female from GTPF to join the team. The president of the Ghana Institution of Engineers, Ing. Dr. Kwame Boakye indicated by email that the 2017 conference will be an agenda item for the next GhIE meeting. Please send your name to [Dr. Ababio](#) if interested.

2. Transportation Infrastructure Bulletin Series

The next edition of the newsletter will include a Transportation Infrastructure Bulletin Series (TIBS) corner. The purposes of the TIBS are twofold:

a) To provide opportunities for GTPF members to address/comment on specific transportation infrastructure issues that pertain to Ghana.

b) To broaden the knowledgebase of decision-makers in Ghana who deal with transportation issues. The intended audience will be parliamentarians who serve on committees such as Roads & Transport, and Environment, Science & Technology plus other transportation personnel with limited opportunity to engage in any professional development. The Public Outreach Department (POD) is in the process of collecting email addresses for potential audiences for TIBS.

We will periodically send out requests for articles from GTPF members.

3. Ghana Transportation Infrastructure Development Manual (TrIDM)

GTPF is exploring opportunities for funding regarding this initiative. Please send information on any agency that could provide grants or funding for this initiative to [Dr. Ababio](#) via email or phone 608-642-0587.

TRB 2017 Annual Meeting. [Call for Papers due August 1, 2016](#)

2016 International Conference on Transportation in Africa, Accra, Ghana. Click [here](#) for conference details