

Report to  
Climate Alliance of Ghana for Sustainable World  
Development (CAGSWOD)

**Introductory Trip To Accra and Eastern Region:  
Overview and Responses**

by

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## **I. Trip to Ghana, 24 April – 2 May 2014**

### **A. Purpose of Trip**

The original purpose of my trip was to attend the 2014 West African Regional Meeting of ANSOLE – the African Network for Solar Energy at The Energy Center, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi, 25-26 April, 2014.

ANSOLE was formed by three African organic chemists involved with solar energy research who were attending the 2010 International Conference on Conducting Materials in Sousse, Tunisia. Concerned about their isolation from other African solar energy researchers as well as their remoteness from the practical problems of extending solar energy to ordinary Africans, the Cameroonian, Tunisian and Ethiopian scientists decided to form a network that could link African researchers and students, promote the use of renewable energy, and encourage capacity building in its application. ANSOLE grew rapidly, and now has very active programs, thanks to the enormous efforts of the founding coordinator, Dr. Daniel Egbe, of Cameroon, who is based at the Institute for Organic Solar Cells (LIOS), Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria. The website, at [www.ansole.org](http://www.ansole.org), provides details of events, activities, and opportunities, and intends to become a major site for networking and locating information about all renewable energy efforts on the African continent.

After informing the Director of the Centre for World Environmental History, Dr. Vinita Damodaran, of my plans, she suggested that I contact Mr. Mawukofi (Kofi) Klu, the Ghanaian collaborator in the Centre's Academics and Activists Network. The broad aims of this network are to turn the academic study of environmental history into an active research effort that can support local claims to environments; demonstrate the superior ecological management of indigenous land use practices; and bolster campaigns against environmental degradation and social injustice associated with interventions imposed by governments and other agencies, or as a result of corporate activities. Kofi lives in London, but I was based in Lewes and Oxford. Due to time constraints, we were only able to meet briefly the afternoon before I left for Ghana. After introductory conversation, Kofi gave me four names and telephone numbers, and told me the first to contact was Charles Nii Yebuah Malm, who would meet me at the airport.

I had no idea what these names meant, and was astonished to learn that being met at the airport meant, literally, as soon as I left the plane. Charles guided me through the airport formalities, and made sure that I was safely in the KNUST Guest House that had been arranged by my ANSOLE hosts. When problems arose the next day with my connecting flight, Charles appeared and sorted everything out. I was delighted to take him the three books Kofi had given me. They were written by people well known to me and to Dr. Vinita Damodaran and her husband, environmental historian Dr. Richard Grove.

### **B. The Energy Center, KNUST and African Network for Solar Energy (ANSOLE)**

In Kumasi I was met at the airport and taken to the conference. The academic papers presented by faculty and students from around the region (but primarily Ghana) ranged from reports of laboratory research on thin films used in coating organic solar cells for reduced costs and increased energy efficiency, to an attempt to generate electricity from a backyard septic sewage tank, and government policies on renewable energy. The discussion was lively, enthusiastic and friendly.

### 1. ANSOLE- Ghana

At the end, it was decided that Ghana, with the third largest number of ANSOLE members, should form its own national group. Discussions will be held in the coming months to determine what kind of an organization to create, and what its name should be.

### 2. ANSOLE Days

It was further agreed to host an event – ANSOLE Days – in 2015, which would not only provide another opportunity for academic paper presentations, but also promote solar and other forms of renewable energy. These plans will also be discussed in the coming months.

### 3. KNUST Renewable Energy Short Courses

At the end of the conference, an announcement was made of the Energy Center's 2014 Renewable Energy Short Courses in Solar Photovoltaic Systems Design and Installation; Biogas Systems Design and Construction and Biofuels Technology and Economics. Each course will run for a week, and cost 400 Cedis/USD 170. This is the kind of capacity building program that ANSOLE will seek to encourage in coming years.

### 4. Mr. Samuel Adu-Asare

One of the participants in the meeting was Mr. Samuel Adu-Asare, who earned his degree in sociology at KNUST and was among the first to do social impact studies for the Ministry of Energy. He subsequently worked for the Energy Commission. After approximately 20 years in public service, Sam decided to start his own business as a consultant so that he might have greater ability to help rural and remote Ghanaians find access to electricity. To this end, he ran an extremely successful donor-funded project selling solar panels to residents of 10 northern districts.

Sam was kind enough to offer me a lift back to Kumasi after lunch on Saturday, April 26th. Charles had been in touch with Ama Selasie Agbitor, and I had been told to contact her upon my return to Accra. She would arrange my programme during the remaining week that I would be in Ghana. We rang Ama en route, and she directed Sam to drop me off at the Novotel, where she worked.

### **C. Ashaley Botwe Guest House**

Sam and Ama were introduced, and had time for a brief conversation before Sam left to drop off his other passengers and go home. Ama called Kojo Prah Annan. When he arrived, we set out in a taxi for a guest house he had arranged in Ashaley Botwe. The owner, Mr. Edu, had lived in a Toronto suburb for many years, and knew where I lived in Canada. He and his wife were very welcoming, and their guest house proved to be a reasonably priced (Cedi 35/night), quiet, safe and pleasant place to stay.

Despite being recently married, Kojo came around on Sunday after church and took me by tro to Medina Market, by foot to Ritz Junction and then to his parents-in-law's house to meet his

wife. Aside from wonderful hospitality, this was an excellent orientation for me, as I learned about trotros, Accra street markets, and how to move safely about on my own. From then on Ama, Kojo and Sam (from ANSOLE), were in constant touch with me to be sure that I was safe and happy.

#### **D. New/Old Fadama**

On Monday I met Ama at the Novotel. She arranged for me to meet Mr. Mohammed at New Fadama. First, she sorted out why my phone seemed not to work, and then took me for a lunch of banku, palava sauce and fish (my request) at a chop house before putting me in a tro tro. Mr Mohammed met me and took me to his office for discussion, and then for a tour around the houses, shops and schools that constitute Fadama. The amount of economic activity was impressive. He showed me the river choked with plastic bags, and the large screw-like machine that had worked for a short time to remove the trash. When in operation, he said, the river water had been good.

Mr. Mohammed told me that most residents came from the north. The social problems he described - and had been mentioned by others - resembled those of southern Africa, where disrupted families, socially displaced men, and lack of high value work are also legacies of historical migratory labour systems. This was the context in which teenaged girls/young women left - or from which they were taken/coerced to leave – their homes and fell into various aspects of the sex trade. Mr. Mohammed's determination to ensure that this tragedy affected only one generation by providing schools and encouragement for young children was very far-sighted.

#### **E. GHACEM Limestone Quarry, Yongwase-Krobo**

Ama had arranged for a trip to Kojo's village in the Krobo region and a trip to the limestone quarry for Tuesday, 29 April. I had understood that I was to stay the night, so packed my bednet and other essentials. Sam Adu-Asare had mentioned to Ama an interest in the trip, and had offered to drive us in his Land Rover. Neither Sam nor I could reach Ama by phone in the morning to confirm our departure, so we set off alone. Later we learned that Ama had been taken to hospital quite suddenly - and without her mobile phone. As we drove, Sam told me of his interest in both the environmental consequences of mining and the potential of environmental history as a practical tool.

We met Kojo, and drove out to see the limestone quarry. The degraded road and the dust were very evident, as was a work party repairing a part of the road. Sam expressed disgust that in the 21<sup>st</sup> century women and children were walking long distances carrying water on their heads. I was surprised to see boys carrying water – in southern Africa this is women and girls' work. I had been told on the way down from Kumasi about the horrible destruction of the forests; we were clearly driving through forest remnants. We were able to enter the gate and drive near the actual mining site, but remained at a distance and felt uncomfortable about taking a photograph. A sign indicated that a blast had taken place an hour or two before our arrival.

Upon our return to town, there seemed to be confusion. Kojo said that the community people were busy, it was late, so time for us to return to Accra. As we set off, I rang the guest house to say that I would need a room for the night after all - there had been a misunderstanding.

In discussion with both Sam and Kojo about the quarry project and community concerns, I promised to look on the internet for further information. Sam agreed with Kojo that the government had to be pressured to restore the road, control traffic, and, most of all, provide a copy of the impact assessment report that EPA requires before permits are granted in order to know exactly what the companies involved had originally agreed upon. I promised to look on websites for indications of corporate weakness where pressure could be made, and to see if there were other campaigns against the companies involved.

## **F. Training Programs Short Courses in Renewable Energy**

On Wednesday, 30 April and Thursday, 1 May, I was on my own. I met with Sam Adu-Asare, and walked to Medina Market and Ritz Junction.

### **1. Scholarship to KNUST Biogas Training Course**

In conversation, I had learned that Kojo was really interested in biogas plants. When I had told him about the course being offered by KNUST, he was very excited. I suggested that he should look at the ANSOLE website, and join it if he liked the ideas. I checked with Sam to find out whether the Biogas course would be appropriate for Kojo – what would he learn, how might it be useful. Sam, who had been on a biogas training course in China years ago, said the course would be quite beneficial. With that recommendation, and to honour the memory of my Canadian activist husband, Brian Martin Murphy (friend of Africa, International alternative journalist, participant in struggle against Apartheid and co-creator of his Dept of Communications' programme 'Communications for Social Justice' at Niagara University, USA) who died a year ago, I offered Kojo a scholarship to the course on the condition that he use the knowledge to teach others.

I left the flyer describing the KNUST Short Courses to be held in May and June with Kojo. Ten percent discounts are being given to encourage female participation

### **2. Pay It Forward**

There is a new concept called 'pay it forward'. Conventionally, when someone does something or gives something to someone else, that person has an obligation to repay what was given, to "pay it back". The idea of 'paying forward' is that instead of returning something, one passes it on to someone else, who is also expected to pay forward rather than pay back. In this way, one can generate ripples of generosity and goodness. I explained this idea to Kojo, and said that if he accepted the scholarship, he was obligated in future to pay forward – enabling someone else to have an education, as someone had once enabled me. He agreed..

### **3. Gender Equity**

Concerned about gender equity, and very worried that I had violated my own principles by giving something to someone that I did not know, in a context I did not understand, and concerned that I might disrupt something, create jealousies or imbalances, I asked Sam about other kinds of training programs, ones more suited to someone who did not want to

learn how to build a solar panel or a biogas plant. Capacity building involves more than technology construction.

It has been clear to me theoretically that decentralized power production is essential for socio-economic justice and environmental protection. Both the ANSOLE meeting and my brief experiences around Accra demonstrated that renewable energy at the scale of household production is inevitable, and will arrive in the near future. For it to serve people, rather than enrich corporations who will seek to control access and fix prices through distribution monopolies, it is important that people whose values are consistent with the ideas of the public good, cooperation, and community are involved at every level from the beginning – from research and policy making to promotion and distribution. Ensuring that such people receive training, certificates and other credentials will help to imbed these values as decisions are made and structures are built.

It was from this perspective that I had offered Kojo a scholarship, and from this intention I asked Sam what someone like Ama might do. He replied that there are courses to prepare people to do what used to be called extension work, only now it is called promotion, marketing and sales in the private sector. There are training courses for solar energy promotion.

The last time I saw Ama, I mentioned this possibility to her, suggested that she talk with Sam for details if she is interested, and that if payment equivalent to Kojo's course were required, I would see if that would be possible to do from Canada without incurring enormous bank charges. This would also be done in Brian Murphy's name, as he was not only a strong friend of Africa and committed activist, but also an advocate of gender equity.

## **G. La Beach Pollution**

On Friday morning, 2 May, Kojo met me at the Guest house, and we traveled by tro tro to the EcoBank to pay for his biogas course, and then to the internet café to submit the paperwork. Kojo was officially enrolled in the course, and will become certified in biogas digester construction in the first week of June.

Afterwards, Kojo took me for lunch at a chop house, and insisted that we walk to the La beach. In the road a car stopped and I was introduced to the High Priest of La, who is actively opposing the Paramount Chief's development policies. A large sign was posted at the beach front stating that "This Land is Not For Sale or Investment" – signed by the High Priest of La.

Kojo arranged for us to have 15 minutes on the patio of a beach club that is under construction. At first I thought the new swimming pool must indicate a beach made dangerous by currents creating undertow – then I noticed the plastic bags that filled the waves. It was horrible. I mentioned turtle deaths due to choking on plastic bags. Kojo told me about his work with turtle protection, and briefly about the source of the bags in the sea. I offered to look on the internet for anti-plastic bag campaign websites.

## **H. Journey's End**

With the image of plastic-filled waves in my mind, we left for the tro tro to the airport. Kojo found Charles in terminal 1, so I was able to say good bye I left with an enormous sense of optimism because of the sincerity of commitment to positive social and environmental change I found in both networks – ANSOLE and the Climate Alliance of Ghana for Sustainable World Development..

I shall do my best to pay forward the enormous hospitality I received and generosity of spirit shown to me, and do my best to support continued work by community activists.

Kate B. Showers

St. Catharines, Ontario,Canada

16 May 2014

## II. Environmental History Applications

### A. Environmental History as an Activist's Tool

Environmental history can provide activists with solid facts from which to argue their case with government agencies and corporations. In addition, an environmental history analysis could help activists as they seek to collaborate and link with other communities engaged in similar struggles. Finally, when all of the small pieces of information are collected, and then arranged in a sequence over time, it is possible to see linkages between social and environmental events that have not been obvious, suggesting less direct consequences that governments and corporations would prefer to ignore. This information would be useful in seeking compensation for the environmental, lifeway and economic losses, provide solid evidence from which to engage in discussions with government; and point to directions for restoration companies claim to be making on their websites.

1. Documents change
2. Provides base from which arguments for restitution can be made
3. Guides formulation of goals for mitigation efforts
4. Helps to identify linkages between social and environmental events that are not obviously linked in time or in space

### B. New/Old Fadama

1. Environmental history could help to support claims that the trash in the river is dominated by materials discarded upstream which then collect in New/Old Fadama, and to demonstrate the increasing need for systematic sanitation facilities (household waste as well as sewage).

2. Systematic documentation of environmental change in the recent past and present would provide a solid base from which to lobby for more services.

3. Comparative Social History

Could show similarities and differences with other regions that have been affected by migratory labour – Mozambique, Lesotho and South Africa come immediately to mind. The historical loss of male identity and social function within communities makes contemporary solutions complex.

**C. GHACEM Limestone Quarry, Yongwase-Krobo**

1. An environmental history of the area would document the consequences of both forest destruction and mining operations.

a. Source material

A lot of the information about environmental change would have to come from local residents, in the form of individual interviews, group discussions, and walks through the landscape to note the changes that have taken place. Wherever possible, changes should be related to other events to establish dates, and creativity should be used to think of how to quantify the amount of change – how much lower a water table, decrease in water, increase in dust, loss of agricultural land, etc etc etc.

2. Application

Systematic documentation of change would build a baseline for comparison, and strengthen arguments about the extent of negative effects of the mine itself as well as the mine operation.

a. sources

Where possible, photographs should be taken and interviews collected by means of video. Residents should also be asked to find any photographs taken in the past – when the forest still existed and before the mining operation began. Stories, songs, poetry or other art forms documenting environmental change should also be collected.

Any documentation of the condition of the roads before the mining began should be gathered, especially photographs. This would strengthen any argument that there once was a good road, but the mining trucks have destroyed it, and should replace and maintain it.

**D. La Beach Plastic Bag Pollution**

1. An environmental history of plastic bags could provide a broad picture of the beginnings of their use and environmental destruction worldwide as a context for documenting the arrival and spread of plastic bags in Ghana. This would help identify



those who benefit – from the manufacturers and sales people to street vendors and consumers who use them, as well as those who suffer from their use – consumers who find them as litter on the streets, sanitary engineers who find drains clogged with them, waste management services overwhelmed by them (they clog machinery), by anyone using the sea, and finally, by non-human life and the landscape whose processes are disrupted.

2. A broader study of plastics would reveal their toxicity and hazard to human health. Much of this work could be based on reading what has already been written and summarizing it for Ghanaians, who are unaware of the problem.

### 3. Campaigns

Once assembled, the information could be used in educational activities and as a basis for campaigns to ban plastic bags.

### 4. Local economic benefit

Perhaps create an industry based in Old /New Fadama to make small bags from natural fibers or recovered/recycled materials that could be sold or distributed in some way to replace plastic bags offered by vendors, markets and shops.

## **III. .Follow-Up Internet Search (15-16 May 2014)**

### **A. Overview of results**

#### 1. Green Washing

A quick search of the internet before writing this report revealed that the interlocking corporations are engaged in 'green washing'. They have created an award and given it to themselves, and also advertise a contest with cash prizes for researchers, including students, to study biodiversity at mine sites. The purpose of the Award and contest is to present the image of a concerned corporation whose operations have been recognized as being environmentally conscious and sustainable. The websites do suggest, however, that HeidelbergCement has been held to a higher standard in Europe than in its subsidiaries and operations in Asia and Africa. If the corporations are worried enough to have constructed the eco-friendly facade, then they should be influenced by popular pressure and public embarrassment about their negligence in Ghana (and elsewhere). Below are some excerpts from the websites.

#### 2. Limestone Quarry Environmental Problems in General

According to several websites, limestone quarries are among the least problematic in terms of toxicity – some result in the release of mercury, which drifts with dust and collects in water. But dust is the major problem – and the fact of completely eliminating part of the landscape – either by removing an entire hillside or creating a huge hole.

Aside from aesthetics, this will have consequences for groundwater storage and water movement.

## **B. Corporate Websites**

### **1 NORCEM**

a.. NORCEM website is in Norwegian, but can be read in English by pushing the Translate button on the Google display.

See: <http://www.heidelbergcement.com/no/no/norcem/sustainability/index.htm>

b. Significance:

Government of Ghana signed agreement with Norwegian Norcem to create GHACEM in 1967.

c.. Norcem is now the Norwegian Subsidiary of HeidelbergCement.

d. Image of Environmental Sensitivity Projected

Norcem portrays itself as being environmentally sensitive, and the home page has an "Environment/Sustainability" tab leading to a page with lots of different items. These articles demonstrate their corporate propaganda, and thus sensitivity points

### **2. SANCHEM International**

a. GHACEM is a subsidiary of SANCHEM International

b. No website was found for this institution on Google. But it is listed as a subsidiary of Heidelberg Cement.

### **3. HeidelbergCement**

[www.heidelbergcement.com](http://www.heidelbergcement.com)

a. Contains information and very slick propaganda to portray it as an environmentally concerned company. Clearly the company is held to a higher standard in Europe than in Asia and Africa.

b. the website has a tab called "Sustainability" which should be studied. Some examples follow from this part of the website.

1) *Sustainability Report* (Website tab name)

a) "This report provides information on how HeidelbergCement is living up to its economic, ecological and social responsibility. It describes the key

challenges that our company faces and explains the strategies we are pursuing in order to overcome these challenges. The Sustainability Report is targeted at our employees, as well as at investors, analysts, customers, contractors, politicians and NGOs.”

<http://www.heidelbergcement.com/global/en/company/sustainability/index.htm>

b) “About HeidelbergCement

“HeidelbergCement is one of the largest building materials manufacturers worldwide, as the global market leader in aggregates and with leading positions in cement, concrete, and other downstream activities. The Group employs around 52,000 people at almost 2,500 locations in more than 40 countries.

”HeidelbergCement was the first company in the industry to have implemented a guideline on biodiversity management standards at its quarries, in which all forms of after-use planning are designed to preserve or even increase biodiversity. This guideline is now compulsory for all operations in Europe and an adapted version serves as guidance document for the Asian and African operations of the Group”

See:

[http://www.heidelbergcement.com/global/en/company/sustainability/sust\\_news/2013-09-17.htm](http://www.heidelbergcement.com/global/en/company/sustainability/sust_news/2013-09-17.htm)

2) *Sustainability News* (Website tab name)

articles related to HeidelbergCement’s environmental commitment and concern

[http://www.heidelbergcement.com/global/en/company/sustainability/sust\\_news/index.htm](http://www.heidelbergcement.com/global/en/company/sustainability/sust_news/index.htm)

### C. Websites related to Yongwase-Krobo Limestone Quarry

1 *GHACEM Limestone Quarry at Yongwase-Krobo*



[Business & Finance](#) | 17 November 2004 Last updated at 00:00 CET

## **Limestone Quarry for GHACEM inaugurated at Yongwase-Krobo, by GNA**

“Mr Jean-Marc Junon, Chief Operating Officer of Heidelberg Cement Group for Africa, said GHACEM was one of the largest and most reliable contributors to Ghana's economy in terms of taxes, port fees, import duties and employment.

He said in 2003, GHACEM contributed 12 million dollars in taxes and other fees to the Government's revenue, while the GHACEM Cement Foundation established about two years ago had donated 70,000 bags of cement to schools and health institutions throughout the country at a cost of about 3.2 billion cedis.

Mr Junon, who is also the Chairman of the Board of Directors of GHACEM, appealed to the Government for fair competition in the production of cement in the country because GHACEM had been enjoying a zero per cent duty on imported raw materials for the production of cement until March 2002 when their raw materials attracted a five per cent import duty.

The Government of Ghana in collaboration with Norcem in Norway on August 30, 1967 established GHACEM.

Scancem International, which is a subsidiary of Heidelberg Cement, an international German based cement producer, owns GHACEM. Heidelberg Cement is among the world's biggest cement producers and currently active in 50 countries. It has about 42,000 employees and annual sales of about 70 million tonnes of cement.”

<http://www.modernghana.com/news/66839/1/limestone-quarry-for-ghacem-inaugurated-at-yongwas.html>

### *2 The Quarry Life Award*

A mining site provides a great variety of landscapes and habitats that present low disturbances from human activities. As a leading cement and aggregates producer, HeidelbergCement is committed to managing biodiversity during and after extraction. In more than 1000 quarries and pits worldwide we strive to promote the exceptional local flora and fauna. Through The Quarry Life Award and the participating projects, we aim to raise the knowledge of the biological value of mining sites and contribute to further enhancing it. You can help us reach that goal by joining the 2nd edition of the Quarry Life Award!”

<http://www.quarrylifeaward.com>

a. Public Relations article about success of First Quarry Life Award

see

[http://www.heidelbergcement.com/global/en/company/sustainability/sust\\_news/QL\\_proposals.htm](http://www.heidelbergcement.com/global/en/company/sustainability/sust_news/QL_proposals.htm)

b..Admission of public relations objective found at D/M&S Communications website article “Campaign Case: HeidelbergCement: Building and Construction”.

Excerpt follows “ :

“The many positive responses to this global sustainability initiative encouraged the cement group to launch the second Quarry Life Award. We updated the original communication concept – ‘Let your idea boost biodiversity’ and leaflet, advert and poster content and design were also revamped. The visuals featuring flora and fauna urging people to give more attention to biodiversity were retained, but the message was tweaked to give it more oomph, ensuring it appealed to young researchers.

“D’M&S Online added new interactive functions to the website, the competition nerve centre, making it easier for visitors and entrants to chat, leave comments and share ideas. The deadline for all new project submission is March 2014. After the judging process the winners will be announced in the autumn of 2014. Read Update to keep abreast or visit [www.dms.be](http://www.dms.be) and [www.quarrylifeaward.com](http://www.quarrylifeaward.com).”

<http://www.dms.be/en/our-clients/heidelbergcement/campaign-case-heidelbergcement-building-construction>

c. Article on 2014 Quarry Life Award

“Thirty-five proposals have been presented for consideration in the second edition of Ghacem’s Quarry Life Awards (QLA) Campaign.

“The QLA Campaign is an annual competition organised by the Heidelberg Cement (HC) Group and its subsidiaries across the globe, including Ghacem Limited of Ghana, to source ideas towards the effective regeneration and management of biodiversity in its mining sites across the world.

“Out of the 35 proposals received for the campaign, “the strongest five proposals” would be selected by a jury and given €500 each to commence work on their research.

“The QLA Communications Coordinator, Mr. Solomon Ayiah, disclosed this when he led a delegation of the campaign to pay a courtesy call on the Minister of Environment, Science Technology and Innovation, Dr. Joe Oteng Agyei, on Thursday.

“The delegation which also included Mr. Kwabena Larbi Addo, the QLA National Coordinator, were received on behalf of the Minister by the Chief Director, Dr. Sylvester Anemana, and the Director of Finance and Administration, Mr. Kwasi Agyei Tabi.

“The call on the Minister, the delegation indicated, was to officially inform the ministry about the ongoing second edition of the campaign, and also to express the gratitude of Ghacem Ltd for the immense support the ministry has given the campaign since its inception last year.

“As an award scheme, the QLA is organised first at the national level after which the top three winners from each country are selected to compete at the international level.

“Mr. Solomon Ayiah noted that this year, the first, second and third national winners would take home an amount of €5000, €3000 and €1500 respectively, whilst the global winner gets €30,000.

“He was convinced that this year’s national winners would emulate the example of last year’s winner, Mr. Paul K. Nsiah, of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Kumasi, who emerged second at the international competition.

“We will even up our game this year to ensure one of Ghana’s top finalists emerges winner globally”, he adds.

“For his part, Mr. K. Larbi Addo described the enthusiasm for this year’s national competition as impressive “compared to last year,” and was therefore sure that the researchers would come out with unique, innovative ideas on land reclamation.

“He said to ensure the success of the 2014 event; the jury had visited and elicited the buy-in of the geology, mining, biodiversity and environmental science faculties of all the public universities in the country.

“And after the top five proposals have been selected, we will open our various mining sites to the contestants to start their research,” he noted.

“On behalf of the Minister, the Chief Director commended Ghacem Ltd and its mother company, Heidelberg Group, for “sustaining this research initiative and making it an annual event.”

“He disclosed that as an initiative on land reclamation after quarrying, the Ministry will study the QLA module to see its suitability for adoption and possible legislation to guide mining activities in the country.

“As a ministry, we will do further studies on the QLA and when we are clear on everything, support it by legislation and make it a standard norm for all mining companies to comply with,” he indicated.”

Found at <http://www.myjoyonline.com/business/2014/March-18th/ghacems-quarry-life-awards-commences-with-35-proposals.php>

### 3. *Environmental Restoration*

<http://www.quarrylifeaward.com/about/participating-quarries/limestone-quarry-yongwa>

“The limestone will be extracted until 2013 to provide the Ghacem cement plants with limestone. The concession covers an area of about 81.45 ha, while the current project site occupies an area of about 46 ha. In 2011 Ghacem started a rehabilitation project. The aims of this project are to reestablish a natural scenery and thereby reclaim the environmental impact. For this purpose, a tree-nursery was built-up to deliver seedlings and assist natural succession. Furthermore the stakeholder-communities are involved in the rehabilitation project to meet their demand for an appropriate after-use of the quarry area.”

### **D. International Anti-Mining Web Sites**

There are many activist groups at the national level with internet presence, including Canada, El Salvador, The Phillipines, USA. Locate by putting “anti-land mine campaigns” in Google. There are also campaigns against HeidelbergCement affiliates in other countries.

Some more general websites I found include:

1. I think mining: Sharp opinions about mines and mining by Jack Caldwell

<http://ithinkmining.com/2012/09/20/controversial-mining-companies/>

A blog with links to other anti-mining websites:

2. Project Underground/Moles

Once excellent source of information, seems to be inactive, but an archival page lists links and resources for anti-mining work:<http://www.moles.org/ProjectUnderground/drillbits/resources.html>

3. Transparency International

- a. Tracks corporate corruption.

- b. Ghana webpage at

<http://www.transparency.org/country#GHA>

- c. local affiliate is:

Ghana Integrity Initiative

Phone: +233 21 78 23 65/ 64

Email: [tighana@4u.com.gh](mailto:tighana@4u.com.gh)  
Website: <http://www.tighana.org/>

4. The Gaia Foundation

Article documenting solidarity between Krobo Activists and those in Doima Columbia at; <http://www.gaiafoundation.org/colombiaghanasolidarity>

**E. Anti-Plastics/Plastic Bag Campaigns**

1. Plastic Pollution Coalition

<http://plasticpollutioncoalition.org/>

2. The Plastic Free Times

<http://www.theplasticfreetimes.com/>

3. Earth Resource Foundation: Campaign Against the Plastic Plague

<http://www.earthresource.org/campaigns/capp/capp-goals.html>

4. The Plastic Bag Wars, by [Kitt Doucette](#), Rolling Stone Magazine, July 25, 2011

Overview article of corporate resistance to anti-bag campaigns available at:

<http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/the-plastic-bag-wars-20110725#ixzz31q8iZrhB>

**IV. Environmental History ‘School’**

Kofi Klu and I met before my return to Canada on 12 May 2014. After reviewing the events of my trip, discussing ANSOLE and describing Mr Sam Adu-Asare, we I talked about how to move forward the idea of activists using environmental history.

Kofi proposed “An Environmental History School” that would last for 2 days. He suggested that it should be based upon a paper written by Richard Grove and Toyin Falola in 1996 “Chiefs, Boundaries and Sacred Woodlands: Early nationalism and the defeat of colonial conservationism in the Gold Coast and Nigeria, 1870-1916”, published in African Economic History No. 24, pp. 1-23..

Kate’s response:

1. Environmental History as a Tool for Action: A Workshop for Community Activists.



## A. Invitations

1. Community Activists' invitation would contain brief explanation of what environmental history is, and the workshop's intention of conversion from academic to activist tool.

### 2. Pre-meeting data collection

Participants would be asked to bring basic information about issues of concern in their area – photographs, videos, documents, interviews - to share with others at the workshop and use to begin constructing their activist environmental history.

## B. Workshop Format..

### Day I.

#### I. Morning Plenary Session – Presentation of Grove and Falola paper

- summarize content
- analyze structure
- identify sources of information used

#### II. Discussion Sections – small groups: From Academia to Activism

- Does this paper relate to current issues?
- Could this paper serve as a model to write local activist environmental histories?
- What information is missing?
- What other sources could be used to fill gaps?
- How could this academic environmental history be revised to better serve activists' needs?

How could the process of collecting information be used to inform and organize community members?

### Lunch

#### III. Afternoon Plenary

- Reports by small groups of their discussions

### Day II

#### I. Morning Plenary

- Review of Afternoon Plenary's main points;
- Discuss:: How to go about creating an activists' environmental history that would retain the strength of an academic paper but have the focus required for action?

## II. Morning Small groups

- a. Activists share the materials they have brought concerning their campaigns
  - videos, documents, and, above all, questions.
- b. Discuss how to construct environmental histories:
  - what further information is required,
  - how to obtain it: techniques, sources

## Lunch

## III. Afternoon Small Groups:

- formalize plans for local activists environmental histories

## IV Final Plenary Session

- : Presentation of Plans for Local Activist Environmental Histories
- Devise mechanisms for supporting activists once they have returned to their homes and prepare their environmental histories
- Discuss next steps -
  - Publications?
  - Publicity?
  - Further meetings?

## 2. Possible association with ANSOLE

The Ghana ANSOLE members will be organizing “ANSOLE Days in 1015. Perhaps there could be discussion with ANSOLE to see if there is any overlap in interests. If so, the environmental history ‘school’ could possibly be coordinated with ANSOLE activities.

## V. Conclusions

Ghana is a country well endowed with bountiful and varied ecosystems as well as coherent social structures which support communities and their spiritual earth connections. This provides

a powerful base from which activists can work to enhance indigenous structures of respect and cooperation and use them to build sustainable societies for the future.

The Ghanaian landscape provides enough for all creatures so that it is possible to make choices that are not completely at the expense of others. Sharing, and reciprocal relationships are possible. Political will is the major obstacle, as external economic forces encourage greed, selfishness, and excessive consumption.

The Climate Alliance of Ghana for Sustainable World Development has very promising potential and dedicated members working hard to make a positive difference. International recognition and linkages could strengthen their efforts, but there also are low-cost activities which can be undertaken to strengthen the activists' arguments.

Most important is a need for documentation. Governments and corporations want specific facts to which they can respond. The basic questions of Who? What? Where? When? Why? and How? should be clearly answered.

Documenting local environmental change is an important first step. This can serve as an organizing tool as well as a data collection exercise. Through community-level discussion, interactions and consequences will be uncovered that strengthen local resolve. Once organized in a formal way, the information will strengthen any argument, and force government agencies and corporations to respond.

Knowledge is power, and the communities have the knowledge. Once formalized in a presentation, they will also have power, as they will be able to engage with politicians and lawyers as well as with other groups around the world.

Best wishes to you all.

Kate Showers

St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada.

17 May 2014