

ENERGY FORUM



ACEP wins GOGA award as Best Policy Activist for the Year!

IN THIS ISSUE

Energy Personality - Hon. Emmanuel Armah-Kofi Buah

Internal News – ACEP wins GOGA award as Best Policy Activist for the Year!

Up Close with Mr. Amegah, ACEP's Administrative

Meet Isaac, ACEP's Administrative

ACEP in the News – Media Interviews and Interactions

ACEP's End of Year Retreat

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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Hurray!!!

We have made it to the end of the year. Indeed, it has been a year of hard work and a lot of success stories.

ACEP won the best Policy Activist for the whole year at the Ghana Oil and Gas Awards (GOGA)! We were represented by our Deputy Executive Director, Programs Manager, Finance Manager, Administrative Manager and Communications Manager. In this edition, you will find an up-close moment with ACEP's Administrative Clerk, Mr. Eric Amegah. We also have featured the media interactions during the month of December as ACEP makes the news with more unfolding revelations of the power crisis and barges in Ghana.

We want to thank you very much for continually reading our newsletter and we look forward to more interesting interactions next year.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

Afehyiapa oo!!!

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**WE WISH YOU ALL A MERRY
CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY
NEW YEAR!!!**



MEET MR. ERIC AMEGAH, ACEP'S ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK



1. If you had to say thank you to someone for who you are today, who will it be and why?

Response: It will be my mother, Madam Ellen Ladzekpo. When I lost my dad at the age of ten, she took care of me and my four siblings. She catered for all of us through school, till we all became of age and could fend for ourselves. She is very hard working. She owned a canteen where she sold banku, fufu and her specialized soup which is tilapia light soup. Due to her hard work, she won Tourism Award for the Best Canteen in Volta Region. This was in the 80s.

2. What aspect of your job do you enjoy the most?

Response: The aspect I enjoy most is when I need to receive visitors because I get to meet people from different backgrounds. Sometimes, there are people who come to look for the Executive Director, who do not want to go through the laid down procedures, because of their relationships with him; but

I have a way of dealing with such people to make them feel at home and more compliant. I also enjoy dealing with correspondence as it gives me the opportunity to interact and meet different kinds of people. I am someone who really likes to be active and move from place to place and my work affords me the chance to move from office to office as I handle correspondence.

3. Who motivates you in life?

Response: That would be my father because even though he died when I was very young, he left behind a very good legacy for me to emulate. My father was a successful entrepreneur, dealing in stationery and he worked with Ghana Publishing Corporation. His hard work really motivated me to be hard working too. I have some entrepreneurial ideas myself, that I will like to embark on in the near future.

4. What do you like to do for fun when you are less busy?

Response: I love to read a lot especially on health issues. I have a long way ahead of me and there is more I want to achieve in life. So it is very important to me to be in good health so I can do those things. You know, once you are sick, you are out and you can never do much. I hardly get sick because

I put in practice what I discover from the health materials I read on.

5. What would a “perfect” day look like for you?

Response: My perfect day will be a day when I have very good appetite in the morning because I hardly like to eat in the mornings. Breakfast in the morning will afford me the strength to carry out my day's work effectively. Then I will come to work, and carry out all my work for that day very effectively. I will like such a day to end with me feeling very strong and fit, read, listen to some cool jazz (which is my favourite type of music) and then sleep.

6. How did you meet your wife and why did you marry her?

Response: I met her at a church's convention, which is Apostolic Revelation Society. She also came for the convention and immediately I saw her, I knew she was good for me. So I approached her and we started talking. So from there, we kept in touch, visiting each other and through that, we got married. I married my wife mainly because she is such a good person. She is someone who understands me and knows how to protect my interests.



MEET ISAAC, ACEP'S OFFICE ASSISTANT

I am Isaac Korsah, born in Nkusukum Duadze in the Central Region of Ghana. I had his senior secondary school education at the Asuansi Technical Institute in Cape Coast.

I joined ACEP in 2014 and since then I have learnt a lot of things like bank transaction from the finance department, among many others. I enjoy working with everyone in ACEP, especially Dr. Ishmeal Ackah and Henry Obeng.

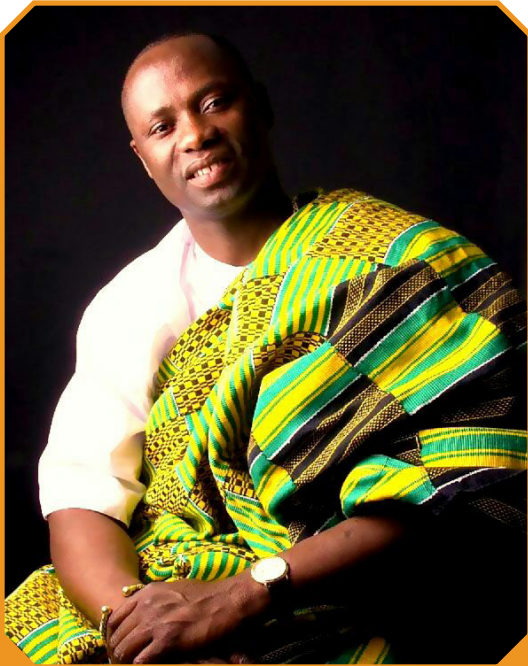
I love to play football in my my leisure time and to listen to music; especially from Sarkodie, Stonebwoy and Jupiter. I am very friendly and jovial. I love to crack jokes and make sure that everyone around me is happy. I get uncomfortable around people who always discriminate others.

INTERNAL NEWS

ACEP WINS POLICY ACTIVIST OF THE YEAR



ENERGY PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH



Hon. Emmanuel Armah-Kofi Buah

Hon. Emmanuel Armah-Kofi Buah is the current Minister of Petroleum and a Member of Parliament for the Ellembele Constituency, in the Western Region of Ghana. He has a MSc. from University of Maryland, USA and BA (Hons) Social Science from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana. The Honourable Emmanuel Armah-Kofi Buah has held a number of distinguished positions throughout his career including Deputy Minister for Energy – Petroleum in Ghana and Postmaster for United States Postal Service in Maryland, USA.

Hon. Armah-Kofi Buah is an expert in Processing Operations, Delivery Operations, Value Chain Management, Fi-

ancial Planning, Human Resource Management, and Labour Relations. He is specialized in Human Resource Allocation, Problem Analysis, Budget Operations, Planning and Scheduling of work, Safety and Health issues, Labour Relations/Conflict Resolution, Community Relations, among others. He has managed various local and national stakeholders with regards to Ghana's Energy sector, all the while employing his management skills. His legal knowledge has also been applied in the development of various legislative instruments pertaining to the Energy sector.

Keynote Address by Hon. Emmanuel Kofi Armah Buah During Africa Oil Governance Summit

The minister began by commending the choice of theme for the summit adding that it brought into sharp focus the abundant oil wealth yet poor governance and slow development witnessed in some oil rich developing countries. The theme

also allows oil-producing African countries to reflect on the lean contribution of the oil and gas sector to their annual budgets and the way forward.

He noted that before the commercial production of oil and gas five years ago, many were skeptical about the ability of Ghana to effectively tackle the concomitant issues especially given the poor track record from the mining sector. Ghana however vowed to get it right this time around, to avoid failing a second time and has since taken concrete steps to fulfill this. The Government of Ghana has been responding to calls by citizens to uphold effective governance to use our oil wealth to improve the lives of the general populace.

Some of the achievements include the setting up of the Petroleum Commission Act, the Petroleum Revenue Management Act (PRMA) and the Public Interest Accountability Committee (PIAC) amongst others which will improve transparency in the industry. At the

grass root level, there has been the implementation of Corporate Social Responsibility activities in six (6) districts in the Western region of Ghana. Some real improvements have been noticed including the attainment of better water facilities and an improvement in healthcare delivery in the area. Hon. Buah further noted that structures such as the Petroleum Security Centre which liaises with all other Security agencies to enhance security in production areas have been set up. It is also important that the capacity of Ghanaians is built to improve human capital and ensure that locally-trained professionals can compete at the international level. The Graduate Upstream Sector Internship program has been initiated to this effect.

Furthermore, the Minister indicated that the government has heeded the call of the citizen for a more focussed plan of investment for oil revenues targeted at key priority areas instead of spreading revenues thinly across many sectors. To this end, in the 2016 budget, over 70% of the Annual Budget Funding Amount (ABFA) has been allocated to two critical sectors; agriculture and infrastructure development. He commended the civil society for their instrumental role in these advancements. He concluded by urging all African governments to encourage a meaningful, development-oriented cooperation be-

tween oil companies, host governments, local communities and CSOs to guarantee good governance in the management of our oil and gas resources.

Welcome Address by Dr. Mohammed Amin Adam

Dr. Adam began his speech by welcoming the participants and remarking that the Summit afforded a rare opportunity for key stakeholders to come together to deliberate on the importance of good governance in managing Africa's abundant oil and gas resources. He lamented that most African oil-producing countries are often the poorest. This brings in the argument of oil being a curse to such countries. This can be attributed to factors such as undertaking bad resource contracts, corruption, extreme secrecy which shrouds oil deals and the inability to negotiate and sign good deals.

Dr. Adam identified some reasons which have accounted for the challenges faced by oil and gas producing countries with particular reference to Ghana. He pointed out examples such as a licensing regime covered under extreme discretionary powers, Ministerial vetoes, asymmetry of information on the potential concessions between private firms and the Government and lack of citizens' participation in contracting. According to him, when these challenges are recti-

fied, there will be improved prospects at obtaining revenue to fund infrastructure and achieving positive development for the benefit of the good people of Ghana.

He recommended the pursuit of some best governance practices which included: building a transparent regime for licensing of resource contracts, efficient tax administration and collection to stop the haemorrhage of Africa's resource wealth through illicit financial flows. Again, new reporting requirements and regulations under the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) can be promoted. He further noted that the summit coincided with the celebration of five years of oil production in Ghana and although some achievements have been made there was still a lot of room for improvement.

Dr. Adam concluded by acknowledging the key partners of the Summit especially GOGIG, Oxfam and IBIS for funding the summit. He hoped the communique and recommendations which would be obtained from the Summit would enrich the oil policy discourse in Africa and accelerate efforts at addressing the outstanding and emerging challenges that could threaten the resolve to manage oil wealth effectively.

ACEP's End of Year Retreat

ACEP held a two day retreat to mark the end of its business year. The participation was massive as employees, partners, executive director and executive board chair deliberated over the successes of the year, challenges and how to move the

organization forward. The event was crowned with a football match between ACEP staff and the Graduate Students Association (GRASAG) of the University of Ghana, Legon.







ACEP IN THE NEWS

According to Ghana Business News, ACEP sceptical of Power Minister's denial of inflated cost in AMERI project

The energy policy think tank, Africa Centre for Energy Policy (ACEP) has expressed its scepticism about the Power Minister's denial of inflating the cost of the AMERI power deal.

The think tank has upheld that the 10 turbines alone cost \$220 million but is sceptical that the cost of auxiliary works and equipment which is being implied by government to account for the total of \$510 million, could be as high as the difference of \$290 million.

ACEP wants the Ministry of Power to confirm the costs of auxiliaries in the AMERI deal. "It will certainly not escalate the costs to \$510 million over five years", the think tank believes. "The question is if Government bought the turbines outright at \$220 million, how much would it have spent to deliver them to Ghana and to install and operate them? Would that have cost \$290 million?", the think tank asked in a statement signed by its Executive Director.

According to ACEP also, Parliament approved the contract with wrong information. ACEP has also debunked the Power Minister's claim that VRA will only pay AMERI for the power produced and supplied, like in other IPP agreements.

The think tank explains that it would be impossible for Ghana to pay for only the power produced, and take ownership of the turbines after five years, for the sim-

ple reason that AMERI "is not a charity" to bring 10 turbines and hand them over after five years without Ghana paying for their cost.

<https://www.ghanabusinessnews.com/2015/12/15/151649/>

According to News Ghana, Prosecute advisers in AMERI deal – ACEP

"So, this is the bigger question: why did we not make that diligent effort to reach out to people everywhere in the world, who can supply this equipment but rather got fixated with AMERI and thought that they were the only ones who could give us the power barges at such an exorbitant cost? These are the value-for-money questions we have been raising. We haven't accused anybody of corruption, but we thought the country could have had a better deal. And, therefore, those who lied to parliament need to come and answer for the reasons why they thought that they should put falsehood into the minds of the parliamentarians and not allow them to do the due diligence that they would have done if they knew that Ghana could have bought the plant for \$220 million," Mr Boakye pointed out. <http://newsghana.com.gh/prosecute-advisers-in-ameri-deal-acep/>

According to Joy News, AMERI deal: ACEP accuses gov't of misleading Ghanaians

Contrary to claims by the Power Minister, the African Centre for Energy Policy (ACEP) is insisting that gov-

ernment paid 15 million cedis for civil works on the controversial AMERI project. Deputy Director for ACEP Benjamin Boakye is accusing government of misleading Ghanaians by creating the impression that AMERI is paying for civil works when in fact it is government that is paying for it.

<http://www.myjoyonline.com/politics/2015/december-17th/ameri-deal-acep-accuses-govt-of-misleading-ghanaians.php>

According to Citi fm, ACEP's full statement on AMERI power deal

We wish to commend the Minister of Power for providing clarifications on the AMERI power deal in a press statement following a publication by a Norwegian Newspaper, which also quoted ACEP's views on the deal. However, the statement provides further questions that need urgent answers. Under normal circumstances, we would not have responded to the statement because it was not directed at us.

According to Daily guide, Energy Minister Exposed in AMERI Deal

Africa Centre for Energy Policy (ACEP) is putting more pressure on Minister of Power, Dr. Kwabena Donkor, to come clear following what is turning out to be falsehood he peddled in the controversial AMERI Group deal, which has sparked heated political debate in the country.

However, ACEP, referring to the 2015 Annual Report of the Petroleum Fund by the Finance Minister, Seth Terkper, revealed that Ghana paid a whopping GH¢15 million for civil works alone. <http://www.modernghana.com/news/662805/1/energy-minister-exposed-in-ameri-deal.html>

NATURAL RESOURCE GOVERNANCE THROUGH PARTNERSHIP



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