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First year success story of TCSPP shared with stakeholders



Mayor of Sekondi-Takoradi, Abdul-Mumin Issah addressing the news conference

The Project Team, led by the Mayor of Sekondi-Takoradi, Hon. Abdul-Mumin Issah, updated journalists on the activities implemented in the first year of the project and those earmarked for this year, 2023. The event happened to be the third occasion journalists have been updated on the implementation of the project.

Addressing the news conference, Hon. Issah noted the commitment of the Assembly to update the public on the project through regular radio discussions, press releases and briefings, as well as sites visit for firsthand information. He indicated that frequent engagements with the general public through identifiable stakeholders are in tune with STMA's commitment to transparency, accountability and popular participation which are cardinal indicators of open governance principles. The Mayor added that the three-year project

is on course to address issues of United Nations Sustainable Goals 11 and 17 focusing on sustainable cities & communities and partnerships for development. He mentioned that the project would help both Sekondi-Takoradi and Palermo to implement interventions meant to improve urban management, foster transnational cooperation, enhance socio-economic development through employment generation and raise the value of the cultural heritage of both cities.

Presenting the update report, the Project Coordinator, Mr. Isaac Aidoo, said that a demonstration farm equipped with 2 greenhouse tunnels for vegetable cultivation, cages for poultry, catfish, snail and rabbit rearing have been constructed. Also, 150 small-holder vegetable farmers, unemployed women and youth were trained at the center in urban agriculture techniques.

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He mentioned that the construction of the Integrated Skills & Entrepreneurship Training Centre on Climate Smart Production Technologies to train 150 unemployed women and youth in bio-digester technology, eco-friendly oven production and plastic waste recycling, is progressing steadily. Mr. Aidoo again mentioned that over five thousand (5,000) fruit trees have been planted across the Metropolis to address the adverse effect of climate change and enhance food security at the community level. Also, 2,195 seedlings have been plated on the premises of 38 Basic, Secondary and Tertiary Schools and 10 public institutions; 349 households who expressed interest also benefitted from 2,805 seedlings. Climate Resilience Schools' Educational Campaigns have also been organized at selected basic schools to sensitize the children on climate-change-related topics to enable them serve as 'change agents' to the rest of society.

Two separate training workshops on integrated urban governance and spatial planning were organized for officials of the Assembly made up of Assembly Members, Metropolitan Planning Coordinating Unit and Spatial Planning Committee members. Additionally, Mr. Aidoo noted that community campaigns on Youth-Oriented and Gender-Sensitive Topics have also been organized in selected communities, schools and religious places of worship (chapels and mosques). The campaign aimed to increase awareness of issues confronting vulnerable groups like teenage pregnancy, school dropout, drug abuse, early marriage, child prostitution, child abuse, truancy, parental irresponsibility and neglect.

He also mentioned that awareness campaigns on Municipal Taxation were organized as part of the Assembly's efforts to widen the tax net and encourage voluntary compliance. The activities implemented include a breakfast meeting with the business community, engagement with Assembly members and revenue collectors within their electoral areas and radio programmes.



Mr. Isaac Aidoo, TCSPP Coordinator presenting the implementation report at the news conference

The project coordinator further mentioned some of the activities to be undertaken this year as the construction of 500 bio-digester toilets and 100 eco-friendly ovens for households in low-income coastal and fishing communities across the Metropolis, the development of 10 community-based local plans; E-Government Platform to enhance municipal service delivery, access to information, citizen participation in local governance.

Capacity building in social accountability, green social enterprises and integrated urban governance and spatial planning will be organized. Similarly, campaigns will be conducted on Municipal Rates & Fees to enhance revenue generation; public health behavioral change on WASH and COVID; climate resilient, youth-oriented and gender-sensitive issues.



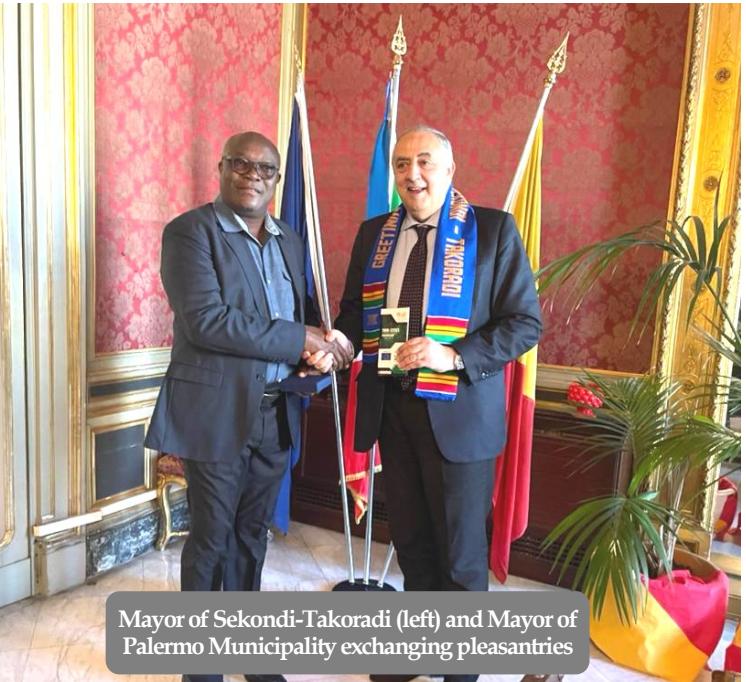
Mr. Vincent Annan, CEO of Sekondi-Takoradi Chamber of Commerce & Industry sharing his expectations from the Project

TCSPP Team embarked on Transnational Study Visit to Palermo

A fifteen-member delegation from Sekondi-Takoradi visited Palermo in Italy on a 10-day transnational exchange study as part of the implementation of TCSPP in the two cities. The team was led by the Mayor of Sekondi-Takoradi, Hon. Abdul-Mumin Issah, with representatives of the local project partner, beneficiary institutions and the implementation team. The exchange visit forms part of the capacity-building program of the project to foster the exchange of good practices in sustainable and inclusive urban governance. The Ghanaian delegation met with the Mayor of Palermo Municipality, Roberto Lagalla and some of his council members. Separate meetings were also held with the director of Fine Art Institute, Palermo University Department of Architecture, President of the Chamber of Commerce of Palermo, Port of Palermo Authorities and Entrepreneurs of the Business Community in Palermo-Mediterranean.

The delegation also toured some UNESCO Cultural Heritage sites such as the Cathedral, the Royal Palace and Palatine Chapel, Massimo Theatre, the Morettino Caffe museum, the Sicilian ethnographic museum (Giuseppe Pitrè), the Sanctuary Saint Rosalia and the city view. The team also engaged some members of the African community contributing to the socio-cultural development of Palermo City.

Among the fallout from the visit was a decision to establish an International Maritime Organization (IMO) Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) Training Centre at the campus of Takoradi Technical University (TTU) in collaboration with Studio De Santis srl, based in Palermo, Italy). As a coastal and port city, the center will train and certify maritime personnel and fishermen in PSSR for survival and rescue, basic and advanced firefighting and first aid elementary-medical care. The two cities and the training institutions have all expressed their determination to ensure the training programmes commence in September 2023. Additionally, the Sekondi-Takoradi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (STCCI) is collaborating with the Ghana Sicily Business Forum to organize two (2) separate trade fairs and exhibitions in Sekondi-Takoradi and Palermo.



Mayor of Sekondi-Takoradi (left) and Mayor of Palermo Municipality exchanging pleasantries

The events will bring together businesses in the Sicilian Region of Italy and their counterparts across Ghana to encourage, promote and facilitate trade and investment cooperation. Among activities earmarked for the events include showcase of participants' products and services, conferences and business-to-business exchange sessions.

The two cities are committed by their twining pact to promote cultural, social and economic relations; exchange experiences in technical and administrative fields, environment, education, public health, energy planning and sustainable development. The TCSPP is anchoring on this to promote cooperation among businesses, academia, culture and arts in both cities within the next three (3) years. This is in line with the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goal 17, focusing on global partnerships and cooperation.



Group photograph at the Mayor's office

TCSPP Coordinators attended the First Global Meeting of Partners



The European Commission invited the Project Coordinators for Sekondi-Takoradi and Palermo Municipality, Mr. Isaac Aidoo and Margherita Maniscalco, respectively to attend the first Coordination Committee Meeting of the European Union (EU) supported programme of "Partnerships for Sustainable Cities" held in Brussels, Belgium from 7th to 9th March 2023. The event brought together stakeholders from

the 57 city partnerships participating in the EU-supported global programme. The meeting aimed to have a first-time face-to-face interaction among different projects on a wide range of issues of common interest. The gathering provided stakeholders with the opportunity to take stock of challenges encountered, experiences gained, good practices and valuable insights for future EU policy developments regarding cities.

Day one of the meetings had sessions for strategic monitoring and communication tools developed for the overall programme as well as exchanges and sharing of relevant experiences and good practices on project implementation. Day two focused on policy issues linked to the tool of city-to-city partnerships and EU engagement strategies in sustainable urban development and localization of SDGs. The final day provided opportunities for participants to enter into a dialogue with a wider set of EU institutional actors (interested in urban development and relations with cities) or to visit relevant initiatives driven by municipal actors in Belgium.

The TCSPP is a 3-year (2022-2025) project funded by the European Union (EU) at a total budget of Three Million Euros (€3,000,000.00). The project partners are the Municipality of Palermo, Cooperazione Internazionale Sud Sud (CISS), Ghana Sicily Business Forum and Kumasi Technical University.



The Project is geared towards the challenges of rapid urbanization, climate change, exclusion, unemployment, irregular migration and preparedness to battle infectious disease outbreaks such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

DISCLAIMER

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