The deputy minister for Local Government, Decentralization and Rural Development, Hon. Osei Bonsu Amoah (MP) launched the three-year project to be implemented in the twin-cities of Sekondi-Takoradi and Palermo Municipality in Italy dubbed, ‘Twin-Cities in Sustainable Partnership Project’ funded by the European Union (EU). The Mayor of Palermo Municipality, Loeluca Orlando and other international partners of the project joined the colorful event which was held at the Best Western Plus Atlantic Hotel in Takoradi through virtual.

The Deputy Minister in his address commended the Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolitan Assembly (STMA) especially the Team that worked on the proposal for the three (3) million euros grant. He expressed the ministry’s confidence in STMA to implement the project citing the Assembly’s enviable record in the successful implementation of infrastructure and urban interventions under the former Ghana Urban Management Pilot Programme (GUMPP).

Mr. O. B. Amoah also lauded the proposed activities to be implemented under the project which he said would contribute to the promotion of urban-agriculture, popular participation and ecotourism between the two sister-cities. The Minister further underscored the importance of the cultural aspect of the project to positively impacts on the local economy with the needed promotion of the annual masqueraders’ carnival and other festivals that makes Sekondi-Takoradi the number one destination. In his welcome address, the Western Regional Minister (MP for Takoradi) and Ag. Mayor of Sekondi-Takoradi, Hon. Kwabena Okyere Darko-Mensah indicated that every intervention to be delivered under the project is expected to help achieve the Assembly’s medium-term plan overall focus of building a prosperous society, creating equal opportunities for wealth creation, safeguarding the natural environment, and ensuring a resilient built environment. Hon. Darko-Mensah further noted that the project is expected to help address the challenges of urban sprawl, climate change, unemployment and preparedness to battle infectious disease outbreaks such as the COVID-19 pandemic. He further acknowledged the enormous benefits to be derived by the teeming unemployed youth, vulnerable, deprived and marginalized groups from the project.

The Mayor of Palermo Municipality, Loeluca Orlando on his part said that Palermo and Sekondi-Takoradi share common respect for human rights and a concrete idea based on hospitality and value of fraternity. “In Palermo, the most representative African community is the Ghanaian one and this project, for which I thank the CISS, the Ghana Sicily Business Forum, the University of Kumasi and all the institutions that have joined, allows us to continue building a bridge between Europe and the African continent which I believe is the future of the world” the Mayor said. He promised his total support towards successful implementation of the project.

Other dignitaries who addressed the occasion were the Head of Local Government Service, Ing. Dr. Nana Ato Arthur; the honorary Consulate of the Republic of Ghana in Palermo, Francesco Campagna; Councillor of Culture for Palermo Municipality, Mario Zito; President of CISS/South-South International Cooperation, Sergio Cipolla; Viviana Corso from Ghana Sicily Business Forum and Alexander Osei Minkah, President of Ghana Association in Sicily.

The function was chaired by Nana Kobina Nketsia V, the Omanhene of Essikado Traditional Area. The well attended event had representatives from stakeholders across the Metropolis including Traditional Rulers, Assembly Members, CBOs, NGOs, People Living with Disability (P WDs), Vegetable Growers Association, Journalists, Fishersfolks and Market Women.
The Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolitan Assembly (STMA) on Thursday, February 3, 2022 engaged the media on the implementation of European Union funded Twin-Cities in Sustainable Partnership Project (TCSPP). The three (3) year project is being implemented in the Sekondi-Takoradi and Municipality of Palermo with the objective to promote a Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development in the two cities.

The Assembly and its sister-city, Palermo Municipality together with other partners (Cooperazione Internazionale Sud Sud (CISS), Ghana Sicily Business Forum and Kumasi Technical University) have been awarded a Three Million Euros (€3,000,000.00) grant from the European Union to co-create an Integrated Urban Governance for Green, Sustainable and Inclusive Development of Sekondi-Takoradi and also strengthen the twinning relationship between the two cities.

In his address, the Hon Mayor of Sekondi-Takoradi, Hon Abdul-Mumin Issah indicated that the project is aimed at enhancing urban management to address challenges such as urban sprawl, unemployment, climate change, poverty and exclusion. It will also cater for the new realities of the COVID-19 pandemic. He further mentioned that the Assembly consciously set the project’s expected outcomes to align with its medium-term development plan of building a prosperous society, creating opportunities for all and safeguarding the natural environment and ensuring a resilient built environment. He therefore called on the Media and all stakeholders to support the Assembly to successfully implement the project and bring the needed change to the Twin-City.

The Mayor on behalf of the Assembly expressed his appreciation to the team of officers who worked on the proposal for bringing such an achievement to the Metropolis. He assured the team of his continuous support to ensure that such more successes are chalked for the total development of the Metropolis.

The project coordinator, Mr. Isaac Aidoo on his part explained the application processes, the project objectives, activity clusters and the expected outcomes of the project. Mr. Aidoo noted that the European Union is contributing 95% whiles the Assembly is contributing 5% of the total project cost.

**STMA ENGAGED JOURNALISTS ON TCSPP**

Some Journalists at the maiden TCSPP media engagement

**TCSPP CORE IMPLEMENTATION TEAM**

![TCSPP Core Implementation Team Members]

- **JOHN NANA OWU** T.A. Administrative Compliance
- **ELIZABETH ARTHUR** T.A. Implementation Compliance
- **ISAAC AIDOO** Project Coordinator
- **AZIZ MAHMOUD** Governance & Social Accountability
- **RHODA KANKAM-DANQUAH** Finance & Administration
- **JOHN LASTE** Visibility & Communication
The project implementation Team of Twin-Cities in Sustainable Partnership Project (TCSPP) paid a two-day study tour to Adentan Municipal Assembly and the National Greenhouse Training & Commercial Unit at Dawhenya. The tour was aimed to help the team draw from the experiences of implementing European Union (EU) funded projects as well as the processes of installation, training and cultivation of vegetables through the greenhouse technology.

The twelve-member team was led by the Metropolitan Coordinating Director, Mr. John Nana Owo. The team’s first point of call was at the offices of Adentan Municipal Chief Executive, Hon Daniel Nii-Noi Adumuah. The Chief Executive officially welcomed the Team into the Municipality and expressed his administration’s readiness to share their experiences in implementing European Union (EU) funded projects. He admonished the team members to show more commitment in their respective roles and responsibilities towards the project. ‘Without your individual and collective commitment and zeal towards the project, the intended objectives of the project will not be materialized and that will be disservice to the people in your Metropolis’ Hon Adumuah said.

The Project Coordinators for the two EU Funded projects being implemented by the Adentan Municipal Assembly, Fish for Development Project (FIDEP) and Mushroom Production & Processing Project (PROMUSH) took turns to brief the visiting team. A field trip to each of the project’s training center and some beneficiaries were also organized for the Team.

The TCSPP Team, on its second day of the study tour went to the National Greenhouse Training & Commercial Unit at Dawhenya to learn more about the greenhouse technology. The Team were taken round the facility and briefed on the concept of greenhouse technology, the advantages, processes for cultivation, training and maintenance. The Team’s tour ended with a courtesy call on the management of Ningo-Prampram District Assembly (NiPDA).

The TCSPP Coordinator, Mr. Isaac Aidoo sharing his experience on the tour stated that, the trip was worthwhile and has prepared the TCSPP Team to commence work on a positive note. He added that the Team has acquired more insight from their colleagues at Adentan, and as the project coordinator, he will ensure that all the experiences shared guide the team members in the implementation of the project. He also stated that the greenhouse technology will help the Team to achieve one of the project’s goals to promote urban agriculture in the Metropolis. He underscored the determination of the TCSPP Team to successfully implement the project for the benefit of all in Sekondi-Takoradi and Ghana as a whole. He therefore called on all stakeholders to lend their support to the Team to execute the project successfully.
TCSSP Commenced Campaign on Youth-Oriented & Gender Issues

Stakeholders have been urged to be responsive to their respective roles on gender advocacy and guidance to nurture the youth to refrain from social vices such as illicit use of drugs and prostitution in order to ensure that they become responsible to themselves, their family and the society. The call was made by Madam Elizabeth Arthur, officer in-charge of Monitoring and Evaluation for the Twin-Cities in Sustainable Partnership Project (TCSPP) at the first stakeholders’ sensitization programme on Community Campaigns Targeting Youth-Oriented & Gender-Sensitive Topics held in Sekondi. Madam Arthur in her presentation stated that leaders in each community obviously know the specific issues confronting their youth especially women and children and therefore would have to collaborate with the TCSPP Team to devise a targeted approach to address some of the challenges. As part of the Community Campaigns, Madam Elizabeth Arthur noted that the TCSPP Team will visit various communities with resource persons to address the issues of irregular migration, child prostitution, gender-based violence, adolescent reproductive health, inclusive education, human rights, HIV/AIDS and teenage pregnancy.

The one-day training programme was organized for elected Assembly Members, Traditional Leaders, Heads of Institutions, Opinion Leaders, Leaders of Youth groups, Journalists, Religious Leaders, Non-Governmental and Community Based Organizations. Resource persons from the Ghana Health Service, Department of Social Welfare & Community Development and Life Relief Foundation (an NGO) took the participants through topics on Illicit use of drugs & Teenage pregnancy, Child prostitution and Gender-Based violence in the Metropolis respectively.

TCSSP Key Information

- **Thematic Area**: Sustainable Development
- **Lead Implementer**: Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolitan Assembly (STMA)
- **Implementing Partners**: Municipality of Palermo (Italy), Cooperazione Internazionale Sud Sud (CISS), Ghana-Sicily Business Forum and Kumasi Technical University
- **Source of Funding**: European Union (EU)
- **Duration**: 2022-2024 (3 years)
- **Total Budget**: EUR 3,000,000.00
- **EU Contribution**: EUR 2,850,000.00
- **STMA Contribution**: EUR 150,000.00

**Overall Outcome of the Project**

Enhanced multi-level urban governance in Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolitan Area (STMA) oriented towards a green, inclusive and cultural-sensitive integrated urban development

**Intervention Areas/Activity Clusters**

**Multi-Level Urban Governance**

This activity is aligned with the city authorities desire to pursue interventions aimed at capacity enhancement and strengthening the twinning-relationship with the Municipality of Palermo to enable co-creation and implementation of sustainable, participatory and inclusive urban management strategies to address the problems of rapid urbanization, climate change, exclusion, unemployment, irregular migration and preparedness to battle infectious disease outbreaks such as the COVID-19 pandemic

**Culturally-Sensitive & Inclusive Urban Strategies**

This activity also seeks to implement interventions that link sustainable development to social protection and livelihood improvement through the creation of safe-spaces and enhanced access to basic sanitary facilities for vulnerable women and youth, and sustainable and decent jobs for the unemployed

**Urban Climate Change Resilience**

Under this cluster, the project focuses on cross-cutting interventions that are rooted in a commitment to social inclusion, sustainable livelihoods and gender equity to create a climate-resilient city.

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**Twin-Cities In Sustainable Partnership Project**

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