



GHANA TRANSPORTATION PROFESSIONALS FORUM, 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL MEETING  
INDEPENDENCE SALON B ROOM, WASHINGTON MARRIOTT MARQUIS HOTEL

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2014, 6:30PM - 10:00PM

**MEETING FORMAT:** In-person

**MEETING TOPIC:** Discussion of ongoing and proposed activities and other directions for the Forum.

**ATTENDANCE:** See list at the end of this document.

**MEETING PROCEEDINGS:**

The annual meeting of the organization (GTPA) was held during the 94th Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board. Facilitator: Samuel Labi; Minutes: Kwaku Boakye.

Special guests at the meeting included Ings. Colin Donkor and James Amoo-Gottfried of the Ghana Highways Authority (GHA) and Ing. Magnus Quarshie of Delin Consult and president of the Ghana Institution of Engineers (GhIE). The meeting was called to order by the facilitator at 6:30PM, and started by a round of self-introductions. Sam Labi expressed profound gratitude to the contingent coming directly from Ghana for their ability to attend the meeting. The proceedings of the meeting are summarized as follows:

**1. CONSTITUTION**

The GTPF constitution and bylaws had been sent previously to all GTPF members for their input. A motion was tabled by the facilitator to accept the final draft as the constitution binding of the organization. All members present voted in favor of the motion: none opposed or abstained.

**2. ELECTIONS**

The facilitator called for nominations of new officers to run the organization. There were suggestions that the interim officers should continue their work till next year January. A number of members expressed appreciation of the interim officers for their leadership and work in the past year. The meeting decided to elect the interim executives into substantive roles.

President- Sam Labi; Vice president – Senanu Ashiabor; Secretary – Alex Appea; Treasurer – Mary Kissi. Kwaku Boakye was elected to serve as the Student Affairs Officer. Seli Amison will continue to serve as communications liaison, an ex-officio role that oversees the websites for the organization.

**3. FACEBOOK, WEBSITE, AND NEWSLETTER**

The meeting agreed that communication is a key ingredient for the success of the organization. The facilitator called for new ideas in that respect. Sam Labi stated that Facebook and Linked-In websites had been developed for the Forum, and indicated that he would send out a friend request to all members. After some discussion, the meeting agreed that both Facebook and Linked-In sites were relevant and necessary for the organization, and that these sites should be linked to the main GTPF website which would serve as a more professional forum. In response to a call for volunteers, Samuel Essien agreed to serve as webmaster for the organization. Sam Labi stated that he and Seli would get in touch with Sam Essien to move this initiative along. The biannual newsletter was discussed as also considered as another means to reach out to the public. It was recommended that the newsletter could publish job openings and news about GTPF members who are honored or awarded elsewhere for individual accomplishments in their line of work or study.





#### **4. FINANCES**

Samuel Labi made a call for dues. A few members submitted their payments. Others stated that they will mail their payments to the treasurer. An elder of the organization, Felix Ammah Tagoe and his wife, Patience Ammah Tagoe contributed an additional \$120 to support the dues for 6 student members. It was agreed to use these finds to pay for students who volunteer to play specific roles in the organization. The meeting expressed appreciation to the Ammah Tagoes for their support.

#### **5. INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES**

The facilitator called for suggestions as to how GTPF members could internally or externally establish contacts or connections among themselves and also with other entities.

- It was suggested that a simple form should be created to be filled by each member of the organization to enter their information into a database (an “Experts Database”);
- Others recommended that members could join other organizations or GTPF could partner with other organization, as such initiatives could enhance further awareness of GTPF;
- Mary reiterated that joining TRB committees, initially as a “friend” is a useful way to promote ourselves individually and collectively, and to establish external relations with TRB;
- A member suggested that GTPF members could increase their visibility at TRB by presenting conference papers and publishing papers in the TRB Journal;
- Others mentioned doing charity work as corporate group;
- Organizing annual conferences in Ghana was suggested. Sam Ababio briefed members on some of the conferences he has been helping to organize in Ghana. Magnus talked about plans for a conference planned to be held in Ghana soon; he invited all GTPF members to participate. Upon further deliberations concerning a possible conference in Ghana this year, it was agreed that the proposed conference in Ghana should place not this year but in 2016.

#### **6. GENERAL**

- There was discussion that for GTPF to be recognized adequately in Ghana, a committee should be set up to look into some of the major transportation related problems at home, and to share TRB research ideas and innovations with professionals in Ghana and to leverage such knowledge and expertise for the benefit of the country’s infrastructure development. Dr. Anochie volunteered to assist in that regard.
- Collins stated that for GTPF members wishing to contribute their expertise for development in Ghana, the GhIE represents an effective and convenient medium.
- An elder of the organization, Dr. John Riverson, encouraged the members to make efforts to incorporate the concerns of the less-privileged (particularly, the visually impaired) in their work. He stated that the US government has an agency that assists persons in the Diaspora to assist in the development of their home countries, and encouraged the GTPF to contact that agency. He further encouraged GTPF members to be prolific in publishing papers as TRB provides a convenient forum for them to share their research results. He added that the newsletter should be expanded to include a variety of contents including articles, including insights on current happenings in Ghana’s transportation arena, including specific problems and opportunities.
- Another elder of the organization, Dr. Felix Amah Tagoe, asked members to look not only at how the organization could benefit them but rather at how they could be of benefit to Ghana. He expressed support for the idea of the Experts Database.





## **7. FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE FORUM**

Magnus suggested that the GTPF can help facilitate the efforts of members who in future will seek to undertake research, consulting, and volunteering opportunities in Ghana. He encouraged members to ensure that they had the needed registrations to do business in Ghana.

Sam Owusu-Ababio encouraged members to play a more active role in the affairs of the organization.

Discussions were held on member's participation in the March 2016 conference in Ghana.

Sam Owusu-Ababio suggested that the GTPF could examine ways to assist the Ghana Institution of Engineers to become more proactive and involved in transportation-related policy formulation in Ghana.

## **8. PRESENTATION**

Light snacks were served. Then Magnus Quarshie gave a presentation about the proposed development of a canal in the northern part of Ghana that would control flooding and provide secondary benefits of agricultural development, tourism, housing, water transportation, and other impacts. This was followed by a lively discussion among Forum members, covering issues related to environmental impact assessment, funding, design, and material acquisition for the canal construction.

## **9. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The vice president, Senanu Asiagbor, informed the meeting that the formal process for registering the organization has been started. The facilitator reminded members of the meeting that as engineers or persons working in related capacities, GTPF members have an ethical responsibility to foster environmental justice and equity through their engineering designs and practices, and policies. Citing the ADA legislation in the U.S., the facilitator stated that engineers could help serve as a voice for the voiceless in society, particularly the disabled. He then passed out fliers that illustrated the charity work of Drs. Esther and John Riverson in providing opportunities for the disabled. The facilitator appealed to members to support such work in any possible way.

## **10. ATTENDANCE**

Adjo Amekudzi-Kennedy, GeorgiaTech

Alex Apeageyi, Nottingham University

Alex Appea, Virginia DOT

Ato Badu-Prah, ABP Consult

Ato Eguakun, Saskatchewan Government Insurance

Christopher Olayinka

Collins Donkor, Ghana Highways Authority

Dan Seedah, University of Texas, Austin

Deo Eustace, University of Dayton

Emmanuel Adanu, University of Alabama

Eric Frimpong, Maryland DOT

Felix Ammah-Tagoe, E-ternational Research Consulting (Member of the GTPF Board of Directors)

Godfred Yeboah

Hubert Onyame, State University of New York, Buffalo

James Amoo-Gottfried, Ghana Highways Authority

John Riverson, World Bank (rtd) and CITA (Member of the GTPF Board of Directors)

Johnson Owusu-Amoako, Maryland DOT

Joseph Anokye Boateng, CSIR, South Africa





Joshua Schultz, Digiwest  
Kwaku Boakye, University of Knoxville, Tennessee  
Kweku Brown  
Leslie Titus Glover, Applied Research Associates  
Magnus Quarshie, Delin Consult  
Margaret Akofio-Sowah, GeorgiaTech  
Marian Ankomah  
Mary Kissi, TRB  
Milhan Moomen, Purdue University  
Moses Akentuna  
Offei Adarkwa, University of Delaware  
Patience Ammah Tagoe, E-ternational Research Consulting  
Paul White, Digiwest  
Phillip Appiah-Kubi  
Richard Boadi, GeorgiaTech  
Richard Attah Boateng, University of Michigan  
Samson Asare, University of Virginia  
Samuel Essien  
Samuel Labi, Purdue University  
Samuel Owusu Ababio, University of Wisconsin Platteville  
Seli Abgolosu Amison, University of Virginia  
Senanu Ashiagbor, Intermodal Logistics  
Vincent Mwumvaneza, UIUC  
Yaw Adu-Gyamfi, Iowa State University.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

The vice president, Senanu Asiagbor, thanked all those who attended the meeting. The next meeting was decided to take place during the 2017 annual meeting of TRB in Washington, DC. The exact location, date, and time will be communicated to GTPF members before the end of the year. The meeting adjourned at 10:00PM.

