

Ghana Transportation Professionals Forum (GTPF)

Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting

DATE: January 14, 2020

VENUE: Marriot Marquis, Washington, D.C.

ATTENDANCE: Over 60 attendees

We had in attendance over 60 people including professionals and students from across Africa, Asia, Europe and North America. Attendance list is appended.

WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm by Dr. Dan Seedah, president of GTPF. Then, he welcomed all members present at our meeting and those who joined online. The president acknowledged the hard work of the executives and thanked GTPF members for their cooperation and support in running the affairs of the group.

SELF INTRODUCTION

A microphone was passed around for everyone at the meeting to introduce themselves. Members joining the meeting online were acknowledged as well.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

- **Membership Database**

Dr. Kwaku Boakye, the secretary of GTPF, reported that we have about 230 email subscribers, and 110 members on our WhatsApp platform. He mentioned that our membership database needs an update. He indicated that a new membership form will be emailed to all members to update their contact information.

- **2019 Annual Meeting Minutes**

The secretary noted that the 2019 Annual meeting minutes was distributed in April 2019 and requested that if any items are missing from the minutes, members should notify him.

- **Newsletters**

In 2019, two newsletters were released: the first in August and the second in December. The newsletters highlighted the activities of the group throughout the year.

- **Webinar**

Naa Alabi, our webinar coordinator, gave a brief summary of the two webinars that were organized in 2019. She thanked Dr. Yaw Adu Gyamfi, the speaker of the first webinar, for sharing his research and knowledge on using machine learning for video data collection. Naa also acknowledge the efforts of Dr. David Mahama and Ms. Yolanda Oliver-Commey for serving as our panelists during our second webinar on the topic of job search and interviews. She indicated there will be more webinars this year and encouraged members to participate in such events.

- **Web & Social Media**

The organization's media communications are the WhatsApp group and emails. The president urged everyone to sign on and receive communications and other important announcements. He also mentioned that the organization seeks to increase its social media presence to include other platforms such as Facebook and Twitter.

- **Finance Report**

The budget for the past year 2019 was presented at the meeting by Dr. Margaret-Avis Akofio-Sowah (Vice president of GTPF) on behalf of Dr. Stephanie Amoaning-Yankson (GTPF Treasurer). She gave a brief summary on the 2020 budget and opened the floor for discussion. Upon deliberations, Professor Sam Owusu-Ababio moved for the 2020 budget to be accepted. Dr. Julius Codjoe seconded the motion and members voted to accept the 2020 budget.

- **Membership Dues**

The vice president thanked members who paid their dues and encouraged all members to take their membership dues seriously. She noted that as a non-profit organization, our day-to-day activities are sustained by our membership dues and so it necessitates that we all honor our commitments in paying dues. Dues for professionals is \$100 and \$20 for students, as she confirmed.

- **Partnership**

Dr. Dan Seedah shared with attendees some of the activities GTPF partnered with the Transportation Research and Education Center Kumasi (TRECK) in 2019. He talked about the student mentoring program some of our members have volunteered to be part of and his visit to KNUST last summer. He also acknowledged the visits by the following GTPF members to Ghana: Professor Nii Attoh-Okine, Professor Cornelius Nuworsoo, and Dr. Kofi Adanu. He mentioned that as an organization, we are actively seeking for opportunities to contribute to the development of the transportation systems in Ghana.

- **White Paper Series**

The white paper series, as the president noted, is to assist in documenting needs and develop roadmaps to address transportation challenges in Ghana. In 2019, one white paper was released. President expressed his desire for the group to be able to publish more white papers on the state of Ghana's transportation infrastructure in the coming years. He thanked Dr. Julius and members who have signed up to be on the team.

DEPARTMENT OF URBAN ROADS, GHANA

Mr. James Amoo-Gottfried, a representative from the Department of Urban Roads, provided some updates on the status of the transportation infrastructure in Ghana, specifically, the new Traffic Management Center (TMC) in Accra. He entertained questions from members (Dr Julius Codjoe, Dr. Dan Seedah, and Kwabena Aboagye (TDOT)) which included reasons for the TMC setup, ability of the Department to share data, and enforce traffic laws. Mr, Amoo-Gottfried and Ms. Patricia Onny, also of the Department of Urban Roads, responded to all the questions.

GUEST SPEAKER

Professor Reverend Charles Adams was the guest speaker at this year's GTPF Annual Meeting. Highlighted below are key points from his presentation:

- He compared the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals to 2063 Africa Union Agenda and explained how both developmental goals have shaped the vision of Transportation Research and Education Center Kumasi (TRECK).
- As he noted, TRECK's vision is to be the leading hub for advancing applied research knowledge, developing and adapting innovative technologies, providing high quality training, leadership, and technology transfer in transport, mobility and integrated logistics.
- He talked about the types of partnership and networks that TRECK has formed with national, regional and global universities and other stakeholders in the private and public sectors of education, health and consulting. He emphasized the importance of partnership to the success of the transportation program at TRECK.
- Professor Adams also reported on the programs currently offered at TRECK with some statistics on student enrollment in the Master of Science and Doctorate programs
- TRECK's activities since its inception fall under three broad categories: Education, Applied Research/Consulting, and Short Courses

Education

- Enrolment of students from Ghana and regional countries
- Staff/student exchange program
- Regional and internal conferences, etc.

Applied Research/Consulting

- Decongestion of Ejisu and roundabouts on N6 including traffic management
- Datahub for Ghana
- Mobility and accessibility needs of People With Disabilities (PWD) in West Africa, etc.

Short Courses

- Safer roads by design: Intersection planning, analysis and design
- Transport and traffic data collection and analysis
- Leadership course in urban transport and road safety, etc.
- He also shed light on some of the activities TRECK anticipate having with its national, regional, and global academic partners; GTPF; and other stakeholders. The activities included but not limited to:
 - Joint research design and proposals for funding
 - Guest lecturers for course modules
 - Joint effort with GTPF and sector working groups to develop manuals
 - Mentorship for researchers/graduate students
 - Joint short course on transport planning and modeling with PTV
- He talked about TRECK's funding opportunities with organizations such as World Bank, Ministry of Roads and Highways, UKAid, etc

- He concluded his presentation by summarizing some of TRECK’s expectation by 2024
 - High number of publications in reputable journals
 - Stream of young brilliant graduates with critical skills
 - High visibility and impact across Africa, etc.

NETWORKING BREAK

There was a break at 8:00 pm for members to socialize and network. The meeting reconvened at 8:15 pm.

WORLD CONFERENCE ON TRANSPORT RESEARCH SOCIETY (WCTRS)

Professor Shinya Hanaoka, a faculty at Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan, and a member of the marketing committee of WCTRS was at our meeting to talk about his organization. He shared with attendees the mission and goals of WCTRS and how people can be members of the society. He indicated that as at now, there is only one Ghana member in the society and encouraged GTPF members to join the group. He also mentioned that WCTRS is planning to organize its general conference for the first time on the continent of Africa and he gladly wish the conference is hosted in Ghana. Professor Hanaoka noted that WCTRS is seeking for partnership with GTPF to have a significant impact on transportation development in Africa.

SAVANNAH ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (SADA) PROJECT

At the meeting, Ing. Magnus Quarshie gave a brief presentation entitled “What’s Up with our Infrastructure: Thinking Future and Bringing You Home”. His presentation shed light on the status of the proposed developments in the Northern Region including Buipe Inland Port and Waterfront. Ing. Quarshie mentioned that the nation has seen road infrastructure developments, but the progress has been slow. He stated that it would take a collective effort from professionals both in Ghana and the diaspora to make a difference in the country. He encouraged attendees to contribute the best they can to help develop Ghana and possibly relocate home. There were questions about the project feasibility and anticipated land acquisition challenges from the floor. Ing. Quarshie responded to all the questions.

GHANA INFRASTRUCTURE CONFERENCE (GIC)

Ms. Yolanda Oliver-Commey, co-chair of the Ghana Infrastructure Conference planning committee, reported on the status of the planning so far for the upcoming conference. Key points from her presentation are summarized below:

- Conference to be held August 11-14, 2020 in Accra, Ghana
- Theme: Planning & Implementation of Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure
- GIC 2020 is to build on maiden conference organized in 2018
- Tentative program to include workshops, panel sessions, presentations and technical tour
- Provided updates on important deadlines related to call for papers, acceptance notifications, editor’s review comments, etc.

- Encouraged members to get involved with the conference planning by volunteering or signing up to be part of the planning committee, identify potential sponsors/vendors/exhibitors.
- Pleaded with all members to submit abstracts or papers and participate in the conference in August
- Encouraged members to spread the word about the conference with colleagues and on their networks

Mr. Collins Donkor, a representative from Ghana Highway Authority, commented that adding the phrase “The year of return of professionals” to the conference theme would be a great idea. He noted that this would draw government’s attention and support to our efforts of contributing to the development of transportation Ghana, as a similar slogan- “The Year of Return”, was a major landmark in Ghana last year.

RECOGNITION AWARDS

Two students were awarded for Ghanaian graduate students with the highest number of presentations/publications at TRB 2020. The recipients were Naa Bortiorakor Alabi from Purdue University, and Ernest Tuffuor from University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Each student received a token of financial sum and a plaque for their accomplishments.

PRESIDENT RESIGNATION AND ELECTION

Dr. Dan Seedah submitted an appeal to step down from his current position as the president of GTPF. He said this is necessary for him as he is unable to commit enough time at the moment to oversee the day-to-day operations of the organization as a result of increased responsibilities at home and workplace. After serving as president for two (2) years, he felt it is best to hand over to another who could dedicate enough time to the daily operations of the organization. He expressed his belief in the talents within the organization and its ability to impact infrastructure development in Ghana. There was a passionate appeal from Ms. Esuabana Asanye (Ministry of Transport, Nigeria) for Dr. Seedah to hold on with his position as we are at a critical stage of hosting a conference in Ghana. Dr. Seedah reiterated his continued support for whoever takes up his position and willingness to work with the executives, especially to successfully host the organization’s second infrastructure conference, GIC 2020.

Dr. Margaret-Avis Akofio-Sowah and Dr Kwaku Boakye were then nominated for an election of the office of the president of GTPF. Elections will be held by electronic voting scheduled to be conducted by the end of January 2020.

OTHER MATTERS

- Professor Samuel Labi read out a call for papers for two journal papers edited by Professor Nii Attoh-Okine. He encouraged members to submit articles for publication considerations.
- Majority of the members present at the meeting paid their dues. Dr. Stephanie Amoaning-Yankson noted that members who would want to pay dues or make donations to GTPF



this year 2020 can do so via GTPF website or send email request to gtpforumna@gmail.com.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm and was followed by the annual group picture.

ATTENDANCE LIST*

#	Name	Institution/ Company/Affiliation
1	Abdul Rashid Mussah	University of Missouri
2	Afia Serwaa Yeboah	University of Louisiana, Lafayette
3	Alex Adu-Osei	E2CR, Inc.
4	Alexander Appea	VDOT
5	Antwi Boasiako Eugene	Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
6	Baloka Belezamo	Arizona Department of Transportation
7	Charles Adams	TRECK-KNUST
8	Charles Darwan	Joined via Phone/Online
9	Daniel Nti Appiagyei	Department of Urban Roads
10	Desmond Armiegbhor	LAMATA
11	Duke Dodoo	Purdue University
12	Edem Dzakwasi	Economic D. Group
13	Emmanuel Nortey	Department of Urban Roads
14	Eric Adomah	University of Wyoming
15	Eric Nyame-Baafi	Central South University
16	Eric Odosu	Ghana Highway Authority
17	Esuabana Asanye	Ministry of Transport, Nigeria
18	Eugene Amarth	Joined via Phone/Online
19	Felix Ammah-Tagoe	E-Ternational
20	Grace Ashley	University of Delaware
21	Hilda Ofori-Addo	University of Louisiana
22	James Amoo-Gottfried	Department of Urban Roads
23	Joanes Dorcelly	INFRAROUTE
24	Joel Leisch	JPL
25	John Riverson	CITA Foundation
26	Julius Codjoe	LTRC/ULL
27	Kenneth Tutu	Joined via Phone/Online
28	Kofi Acheampong	KCI Technologies
29	Kofi Adanu	University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa
30	Kwabena Aboagye	Tennessee Department of Transportation
31	Kwaku Boakye	Arcadis US Inc.
32	Leslie Mills	World Bank
33	Lori Tavsszy	TV DOZFT
34	Magnus Quarshie	Delin
35	Malal Kane	UGE (France)
36	Margaret-Avis Akofio-Sowah	WSP, USA
37	Moses Akentuna	LTRC/LSU

38	Naa Alabi	Purdue University
39	Patricia Onny	Department of Urban Roads
40	Patience Ammah-Tagoe	E-Ternational
41	Richard Anane	Ghana Highway Authority
42	Richard Boadi	Wood
43	Samuel Mensah	Department of Urban Roads
44	Senanu Ashiabor	IML Consulting
45	Shinya Hanaoka	Tokyo Tech
46	Simon Oladele	Morgan State University
47	Stephen Mensah	Joined via Phone/Online
48	Wayne Kittelson	Kittelson & Associates Inc.
49	William Agyemang	University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa
50	Yaa Amanua Osafo	Kittelson & Associates
51	Yaw Adu-Gyamfi	University of Missouri
52	Yolanda Oliver-Commey	Penoni

*Missing some names. If you were present and your name is not listed, please contact gtpforumna@gmail.com