Report to

Climate Alliance of Ghana for Sustainable World Development (CAGSWOD)

Introductory Trip To Accra and Eastern Region: Overview and Responses

by

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I. Trip to Ghana, 24 April – 2 May 2014

A. Purpose of Trip

The original purpose of my trip was to attend the 2014 West African Regional Meeting of ANSOLE – the African Network for Solar Energy at The Energy Center, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi, 25-26 April,2014.

ANSOLE was formed by three African organic chemists involved with solar energy research who were attending the 2010 **International Conference on Conducting Materials in Sousse, Tunisia. Concerned about their isolation from other African solar energy researchers as well as their remoteness from the practical problems of extending solar energy to ordinary Africans, the Cameroonian, Tunisian and Ethiopian scientists decided to form a network that could link African researchers and students, promote the use of renewable energy, and encourage capacity building in its application. ANSOLE grew rapidly, and now has very active programs, thanks to the enormous efforts of the founding coordinator, Dr. Daniel Egbe, of Cameroon, who is based at the Institute for**

learn how to build a solar panel or a biogas plant.

Aside from aesthetics, this will have consequences for groundwater storage and water movement.

B. Corporate Websites

1 NORCEM

a.. NORCEM website is in Norwegian, but can be read in English by pushing the Translate button on the Google display.

See: http://www.heidelbergcement.com/no/no/norcem/sustainability/index.htm

b. Significance:

Government of Ghana signed agreement with Norwegian Norcem to create

b..Admission of public relations objective found at

3. ***Environmental Restoration***

http://www.quarrylifeaward.com/about/participating-quarries/limestone-quarry-yongwa

“The limestone will be extracted until 2013 to prov

Email: tighana@4u.com.gh
Website: http://www.tighana.org/

4. The Gaia Foundation

Article documenting solidarity between Krobo Activists and those in Doima Columbia

at; http://www.gaiafoundation.org/colombiaghanasolidarity

E. Anti-Plastics/Plastic Bag Campaigns

1. Plastic Pollution Coalition

http://plasticpollutioncoalition.org/

2. The Plastic Free Times

http://www.theplasticfreetimes.com/

. 3. Earth Resource Foundation: Campaign Against the Plastic Plague

http://www.earthresource.org/campaigns/capp/capp-goals.html

4. The Plastic Bag Wars, by Kitt Doucette, Rolling Stone Magazine, July 25, 2011

Overview article of corporate resistance to anti-bag campigns available at:

http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/the-plastic-bag-wars-20110725#ixzz31q8iZrhB

IV. Environmental History 'School'

Kofi Klu and I met before my return to Canada on 12 May 2014. After reviewing the events of my trip, discussing ANSOLE and describing Mr Sam Adu-Asare, we I talked about how to move forward the idea of activists using environmental history.

Kofi proposed "An Environmental History School" that would last for 2 days. He suggested that it should be based upon a paper written by Richard Grove and Toyin Falola in 1996 "Chiefs, Boundaries and Sacred Woodlands: Early nationalism and the defeat of colonial conservationism in the Gold Coast and Nigeria, 1870-1916", published in African Economic History No. 24, pp. 1-23..

Kate's response:

1. Environmental History as a Tool for Action: A Workshop for Community Activists.

A. Invitations

1. Community Activists' invitation would contain brief explanation of what environmental history is, and the workshop's intention of conversion from academic to activist tool.

2. Pre-meeting data collection

Participants would be asked to bring basic information about issues of concern in their area – photographs, videos, documents, interviews - to share with others at the workshop and use to begin constructing their activist environmental history.

B. Workshop Format..

Day I.

I. Morning Plenary Session – Presentation of Grove and Falola paper

- summarize content
- analyze structure
- identify sources of information used

II. Discussion Sections – small groups: From Academia to Activism

- Does this paper relate to current issues?
- Could this paper serve as a model to write local activist environmental histories?
- What information is missing?
- What other sources could be used to fill gaps?
- How could this academic environmental history be revised to better serve activists' needs?

How could the process of collecting information be used to inform and organize community members?

Lunch

III. Afternoon Plenary

- Reports by small groups of their discussions

Day II

I. Morning Plenary

- Review of Afternoon Plenary's main points;

- Discuss:: How to go about creating an activists' environmental history that would retain the strength of an academic paper but have the focus required for action?

II. Morning Small groups

a. Activists share the materials they have brought concerning their campaigns

– videos, documents, and, above all, questions.

b. Discuss how to construct environmental histories:

– what further information is required,

- how to obtain it: techniques, sources

Lunch

III. Afternoon Small Groups:

- formalize plans for local activists environmental histories

IV Final Plenary Session

- : Presentation of Plans for Local Activist Environmental Histories

- Devise mechanisms for supporting activists once they have returned to their homes and prepare their environmental histories

- Discuss next steps -

- Publications?

- Publicity?

- Further meetings?

2. Possible association with ANSOLE

a powerful base from which activists can work to enhance indigenous structures of respect and cooperation and use them to build sustainable societies for the future.

The Ghanaian landscape provides enough for all creatures so that it is possible to make choices that are not completely at the expense of others. Sharing, and reciprocal relationships are possible. Political will is the major obstacle, as external economic forces encourage greed, selfishness, and excessive consumption.

The Climate Alliance of Ghana for Sustainable World Development has very promising potential and dedicated members working hard to make a positive difference. International recognition and linkages could strengthen their efforts, but there also are low-cost activities which can be undertaken to strengthen the activists' arguments.

Most important is a need for documentation. Governments and corporations want specific facts to.which they can respond. The basic questions of Who? What? Where? When? Why? and How? should be clearly answered.

Documenting local environmental change is an important first step. This can serve as an organizing tool as well as a data collection exercise. Through community-level discussion, interactions and consequences will be uncovered that strengthen local resolve. Once organized in a formal way, the information will strengthen any argument, and force government agencies and corporations to respond.

Knowledge is power, and the communities have the knowledge. Once formalized in a presentation, they will also have power, as they will be able to engage with politicians and lawyers as well as with other groups around the world.

Best wishes to you all.

Kate Showers

St. Catharines, Ontariop, Canada.

17 May 2014