BRIEF REPORT ON THE 48TH ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE AND 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF GIP

Introduction

On the 8-9th November 2019, the Ghana Institute of Planners (GIP) held its 48th Annual General Conference and 50th Anniversary under the theme “GIP @50: PLANNING FOR GHANA BEYOND AID”. The objective of this Conference was to celebrate the accomplishments in planning in Ghana and in the sub-region as well as share relevant information and knowledge on the subject matter of “Planning for Ghana beyond aid”. The event also provided an excellent opportunity for participants to reconnect, fraternize and network for professional development.

Conference Participants

The AGC was attended by Planners from across the West Africa sub-region as well as from the Commonwealth Association of Planners (CA) secretariat in the UK. The CAP was represented by its Secretary-General, Clive Harridge, whilst those from the sub-region comprised representatives from the Nigeria Institute of Town Planners (NiTIP) and the Gambia. Also present were student Planners from the various Planning Schools in Ghana and delegates from sister professional bodies, including the Ghana Institute of Architects, Ghana Institution of Surveyors and the Ghana Institution of Engineers.

The event was graced by some high ranking Ghanaian politicians, including, the Minister for Planning (Professor George Gyan Baffour), Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (Professor Frimpong Kwabena Boateng) and the Deputy Local Government Minister (Kwasi Adjei-Boaten).

Plate 1: A group picture showing GIP members, invited guest, Snr. Planners & Staff of DoP. KNUST & UDS
The event was chaired by Nana Dr. Appiagyei Dankwasoso I, the traditional chief of Asante Juaben Traditional Area and the President of the Ghana National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GNCCI).

Speeches and Papers
The keynote speaker was the Minister of Planning Prof. George Gyan Baffour who represented the President of the Republic of Ghana, His Excellency, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo. The speech by the CAP President Dyan Currie, was delivered by Mr. Clive Harridge the Secretary General of CAP.
Clive Harridge (left), Exec. Secretary of Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP) delivering the CAP Goodwill message.

Some senior Planners at the event (Prof. Pln. Tamakloe, Prof. Pln. Afrane and Pln. Mike Mensah among others).

Hon. Kwasi Adjei-Boateng (left), Dep. Minister MLGRD delivering a speech on behalf of the sector Minister and Mr. Alfred Kwasi Opoku, (right) the Immediate Past President of GIP also delivering his speech.
In all, three (3) papers were presented on various subjects related to the theme, that is: GIP @ 50 
Planning For Ghana Beyond AID.
The first presentation was delivered by Dr. Felix Addo-Yobo (MGIP) of the National Development 
Planning Commission on the topic “Leveraging on the SDGs to Achieve Ghana Beyond Aid: the 
role of a Planner”. In his presentation, he emphasized that, in order to achieve Ghana Beyond Aid, 
there is the need for a fundamental change in attitudes, work ethics and respect for rule of law to 
achieve a vision of prosperous and self-confident country that is not dependent on aid.
Mr. Isaac Gyamfi who is the Regional Director of Solidaridad West Africa also spoke on the topic 
“Ghana Beyond Aid Agenda; Addressing the Pathway towards a Transformed and Modernized 
Agricultural Sector, the role of a planner”. He indicated that, the Ghana beyond Aid agenda 
envisages a structural transformation of the economy that invariably will results in a modernized, 
competitive and resilient economy. He emphasized that, to achieve a rapid economic transformation 
as other advanced economies have done, it was imperative to modernize agriculture which currently 
employs about 40% of the population.
The final paper presentation was done by Mrs. Audrey Smock Amoah, a Chief Development Planning 
Officer of the La – Dade Kotopon Municipal Assembly. Her presentation was on the topic 
“Participatory Decision Making in Decentralized Planning Systems”. She emphasized on the need 
for community participation at the local level which will ensure good governance and development in 
our local Assemblies.

Establishment of the West Africa Association of Planners
A motion was moved by the Vice President of CAP – West Africa, Dr. Stephen Yirenkyi for the 
formation of a West African Planners group called the West Africa Association of Planners 
(WAAP). This motion was unanimously and a resolution was made by leadership of the Ghana 
Institute of Planners (GIP), the Nigerian Institute of Town Planners (NITP) and Gambian planners to 
that effect. Dr. Stephen Yirenkyi noted that he had prior interactions with CAP on the subject of a 
West African Planners group and CAP was fully in agreement. Representatives from the various West 
African countries represented, namely, Ghana, Nigeria and the Gambia were selected to constitute the 
nucleus of the WAAP.

New Executives and Inductees
A seven-member newly elected National Executive s of the Ghana Institute of Planners (GIP) were 
sworn in at the ceremony. The National Executive Committee of GIP comprises a president, two vice
presidents (in charge of Policy Planning and Spatial Planning), a Secretary, a Vice Secretary, a Public Relations Officer and a Treasurer. The term of office of the GIP executives is two years.

Newly Elected Executives the period 2019-2021. from right to left are; Pln. Mohammed Alhassan (President), Pln. Dr. Clifford Amoako (Vice president, “spatial”), Pln. Percy Anaab Bukhara (Vice president “Policy”), Pln. Dr. Nana Apparently-Djan (Secretary), Pln. Keneth Yaoh Ketur (Assist. Secretary), Pln. Iris Dalaba (Treasurer) and Pln. Anthony Kanyi Foli-Addo (PRO/Editor).

In a related development, fifty-two (52) people who were successful in the 2019 GIP membership examinations were inducted as Corporate Members of the Institute. Four people who made significant contribution to the practice of planning in Ghana were admitted as Fellows of GIP at the event.
A group picture of newly admitted Fellows of GIP for year 2019. They are from 2nd Left to Right as follows: Pln. Prof. Mike Opoku Boansi, Pln. Salifu Abubakari, Pln. Mike Mensah and Pln. Mohammed Alhassan after being inducted on the Dinner night.

Special Awards

The Clive Harridge, the Executive Secretary of Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP) led the presentation of the following special wards:

- **Vida Duti (Mrs)** was awarded the 2019 OFID Annual Awards for Development in recognition of her remarkable achievements in the field of water and sanitation work in Ghana.

- **Belinda Bukari (Ms.)** was awarded the Outstanding Planning Achievement in the commonwealth for 2019.

- **Audrey Smock Amoah (Mrs.)** was awarded with a Citation for her meritorious service as a Development Planning Officer in the Local Government Service by the Civil And Local Government Staff Association, Ghana (CLOGSAG).


Ms. Belinda Bukari waiting to receive her award for Outstanding Planning Achievement of the commonwealth, 2019.
Arrival of CAP Exec. Sec. and Vice President Pln. Dr. S. Yirenkyi to the induction and dinner night.

West Africa Solidarity: The Nigeria and Gambia delegation were honored at the occasion.
A picture showing the chairman of the occasion with the immediate past president and Town Planner Lekwa Ezuta (President of the Nigeria Institute of Town Planners)