

National Learning Alliance (LA) Meeting

Thursday 29th October 2009, Accra

Introduction:

The National Level Learning Alliance Platform (NLLAP) was launched on October 29, 2009 at the Miklin Hotel in Accra. The NLLAP brings together multi stakeholder sector players to dialogue, learn and share knowledge/information on specific themes. This round table sector stakeholder learning and sharing platform aims at providing a sector wide platform for regular engagement, interaction and discussion of themes and topical issues that affect the sector. This is to build consensus, encourage and promote sector learning processes.

First NLLA meeting:

The meeting started at 10am with prayer and the introduction of chairman, Mr. Sarkodie of the WSMP/ MWRWH. The chairman welcomed all to the meeting and explained that the purpose was to initiate learning and sharing platform and also agree on the frequency. He then invited Dr. Patrick Moriaty of IRC/ WASHCost to present on sector learning. Dr. Moriaty gave a broad overview of sector learning, touching on the concept of KM, LA and the RCN. He urged the sector to move the learning process forward by beginning to reflect on outcomes of what we do and share, think of doing things together, doing things better and doing things differently.

Abu Wumbei , the Coordinator of the Resource Centre Network then took the floor to present on RCN, its role in the sector, functions, challenges and the way forward. The concept of the NLLAP was further explained as a way of promoting sector learning. Mr. Wumbei assured members of the commitment of RCN to regularly organize such meetings as a way of giving opportunity for stakeholders to develop their capacities, network and dialogue on important sector issues. He mentioned the capacity building exercises the RCN was engaged in at the institutional, organizational and the human resource levels; with the aim of strengthening capacities for sector learning and effective sector performance.

Dr. Kwabena Nyarko of WASHCost Ghana was next to present on findings of recent WASHCost research work undertaken by the project team. After the presentation the meeting suggested that the chairman opens the floor for questions and for clarification after every presentation. The floor was then opened; a number of issues came up for clarification. Benedict Tuffour of TPP was next to present after recess. He touched on the management models for water supply, selected case studies and the challenges.

Frederick Tetteh-Lowor of Safi Sana Ghana gave an update of the project and how these contribute to the learning process. Emmanuel Addai of WSMP, Ghana presented on the role of the WSMP in the sector; there were presentations from Transparency International on TISDA; and from Water Integrity Network WIN.

Key decisions that were taken included the following:

That there was the need for regular round table meetings and that NLLAP was just-in-time; that the RCN should organize these meetings once every month (last Thursday of every month); that specific themes and topical issues be tabled for detailed discussions and uptake; meeting should not be loaded with many presentations but few; that presentations should be short and straight to the point on new insights, successes and failures, challenges and way forward.

The meeting came to a close at 2pm after the Chairman's closing remarks. About 36 people attended the launch including the representatives of MWRWH and MLGRD; the CWSA; AVRL/GWCL; Water Resource Commission; PURC; CONIWAS, NGOs, KNUST, Bill/Melinda Gate foundation; IRC; TREND, TI, WIN, GII, WaterHealth and many projects among others.