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**ITTO International Conference on
Promotion of Intra-African Trade in Timber
And Timber Products**

Untapped Opportunities for Tropical Timber Producers

30 June – 2 July 2009

La Palm Royal Beach Hotel, Accra, Ghana

Hosted by: Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources of Ghana

Sponsored by: International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)



PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 30 June 2009

08:00 Arrival of Participants/Registration

08:30 Arrival of Dignitaries

Official Opening

- 09:00 * Conference Background and Introduction of dignitaries
His Excellency Amb. J. E. K Aggrey-Orleans, Conference Coordinator
- * Opening Statement by **H. E. Amb. Michael Maue**, Chairperson of the International Tropical Timber Council
- * Welcome Address by **Hon. Alhaji Collins Dauda**, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Ghana
- * Address by **Hon. Martin Mabala**, Minister of Forests, Water and Fisheries of Gabon
- * Address by **Hon. Dr. Daniel Aka Ahizi**, Minister of Forests of Côte d'Ivoire
- Address by **Hon. Dr. Elvis Ngolle Ngolle**, Minister of Forests and Wildlife of Cameroon
- * **Keynote Address by Representative of the Government of Ghana**
- 11:00 *Coffee Break and Group Photograph*

Session 1: Market and Trade Situation – Global and Intra-African Trade

Chair: Mr. Emmanuel Ze Meka
Rapporteur: Dr. Opeyemi Ajewole

This session provides the main findings of the ITTO Annual Market Review and the background study on the current situation and outlook for intra-African trade in tropical timber and timber products

11:40 **International Market Outlook for Tropical Timber**
Ms. Frances Maplesden, , International Tropical Timber Organization

12:00 **Overview of the Study on Intra-regional Timber Trade in Africa**
Dr. Ibrahim Favada, ITTO Consultant

Key Issues for Development of the Intra-African Trade in Tropical Timber and Timber Products

12:40 Dr. Markku Simula, ITTO Consultant

13:00 **Plenary discussion**

13h30 *Lunch break*

Session 2: Exporting and Importing Country Situations

Chair: Prof. Nii Ashe Kotey

Rapporteur: Dr. Ibrahim Favada

This session provides detailed information on country situations among African exporting and importing countries

14:30 **Exporting country situations**

- Ghana, Mr. Alhassan Attah, Executive Director, Forestry Commission, Ghana
- Cameroon and Gabon, Dr. Richard Eba'a Atyi, FORAC, Timber Trade Expert
- Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Martial Me Kouame, Director, SODEFOR, Côte d'Ivoire

16:00 *Coffee Break*

16:30 **Plenary Discussions**

17:30 Conclusion of Day 1

18:30 *Reception*

Wednesday, 1 July 2009

09:00 **Importing country situations**

- The Republic of South Africa, Mr. Mike Howard, Senior Partner, Fractal Forest
- Morocco, Dr. Abdellatif Khattabi, Ecole Nationale Forestière
- Egypt, Dr. Salah Mansour, Zagazig University
- Nigeria, Dr Opeyemi Isaac Ajewole, University of Ibadan

11:30 *Coffee Break*

12:00 **Plenary Discussions**

13:00 *Lunch Break*

Session 3: Opportunities and Challenges of the Private Sector

Chair: Jukka Tissari

Rapporteur: Dr. Ibrahim Favada and Dr. Salah Mansour

The session will provide information on the perspectives of the private sector companies and organizations and their role of cooperative efforts in the development of Intra-African trade in tropical timber and timber products.

14:00 **Panel Discussion :Private Sector Views on Constraints to Intra-African Trade**

- *Speakers to be confirmed*

15:00 **Lessons learned from private sector cooperation:**

- RACE Programme, Ms. Catherine Peguillan, IFIA

15:20 **Plenary Discussions**

16:00 *Coffee break*

Session 4: Key Issues and Emerging Challenges

Chair: Mr. Jean-Jacques Landrot

Rapporteur: Dr. Abdellatif Khattabi and Ms. Frances Maplesden

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This session provides information on key barriers and challenges in establishing a level playing field for economic operators and promoting intra-African trade and marketing of tropical timber and further processed timber products.

- 16:30 **VPA progress and lessons learned in African countries and changing markets**
Ms. Melissa Othman, EU EFI FELGT Facility
- 16:50 **Trade development and logistics in Africa**
Mr. Jean-Jacques Landrot, Timber Trade Specialist
- 17:10 **Trade development in further processed products**
Mr. Jukka Tissari, Forestry Officer – Forest Products Trade and Marketing, FAO
- 17:30 **The Domestic Timber Sector in the Congo Basin**
Dr. Paolo Cerutti, Guillaume Lescuyer, Richard Eba' Atayi, Joachim Nguiebouri, Edouard Essiane Jean Ondua
- 17:50 **Plenary Discussions**
- 19:00 **Conclusion of Day 2**

Thursday, 2 July 2009

Session 5: Tackling constraints and opportunities

Chair: E. Collins Ahadome

Rapporteur: Each Working Group will nominate a rapporteur

- 08:30 **Plenary**
- 09:00 **Parallel working group discussions on addressing constraints and tapping opportunities for intra-African Trade development**
- Participants will divide into working groups to discuss how the constraints of intra-African trade could be removed, how opportunities could be tapped and from the previous sessions
- 11:30 *Coffee break*

12:00 **Reporting by the parallel working groups**

13:00 *Lunch Break*

Session 6: Role of International, Regional and Sub-regional Institutions in the Development of Intra-African Trade

Chair: Mr. Alhassan Attah

This session will identify potential supporting roles of regional and international organizations for follow up action in the development of intra-African trade in tropical timber and timber products

14:00 **Panel Discussion**

- African Development Bank Representative
- ECOWAS Representative
- *Ghana Customs Authority*
- *FAO*
- *Private Sector representatives*

Plenary Discussions

16:00 *Coffee Break*

Session 7: Accra Work Plan of Intra-African Trade Development

Chair: Dr. Markku Simula

This session will identify elements of the Accra Work Plan for follow up action by all stakeholder groups for intra-African trade development

16:30 **Presentation of the Draft elements for the Accra Work plan**

Plenary Discussion

Session 8: Conclusion

Chair: Government Representative

17:30 **Report and Adoption of the Accra Work Plan**

Closing

18:00 **Statement by Representative of Government of Ghana**
Statement by Mr. Emmanuel Ze Meka, Executive Director, ITTO