



PRESS RELEASE

UNDP's Low Emission Capacity Building Project officially kicks off

Accra, June 27 2013 - The Inception Workshop for the Low Emission Capacity Building (LECB) Project took place yesterday at Airport West Hotel in Accra. The overall objective of the two-year project is to strengthen Ghana's capacity to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and align its economic development to a low carbon path.

Over 30 stakeholders attended the workshop and took part in the discussions. Among them, governmental partners from the Ministry for Environment, Science and Technology Innovation (MESTI) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which will lead the implementation of the project.

As the executing partner, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Ghana was represented by its Deputy Country Director, Mr. René Da Silva, who gave a speech on behalf of the organization. He underlined how climate change is already impacting on populations at a faster rate than previously anticipated. He also emphasized that *"the impacts of climate change will be hardest felt by UNDP's core constituents – the poor, vulnerable and under-privileged who are more dependent upon natural resources and also lack capacities to adapt to a changing world and a changing climate"*.

To overcome this critical challenge, UNDP promotes and supports climate-resilient, low-emission development that can deliver economic benefits and sustainable livelihoods. In particular, UNDP sees climate change mitigation initiatives that reduce greenhouse gases emissions as an opportunity to contribute to social and economic development in developing countries, including poverty eradication. Co-benefits indeed can include: cost savings from energy efficiency measures, private sector engagement, green jobs and livelihoods.

UNDP has therefore designed the Low Emission Capacity Building Programme (LECBP), which attracted the generous support of the European Union, Germany and Australia and is being currently implemented in 25 countries. In Ghana, the project will look at promoting investments in energy-related development projects with high potential to reduce carbon emissions, facilitating the involvement of the private sector. The project will also aim at strengthening the national system to collect, analyse and manage data on the greenhouse gases emitted by the country.

The Director for Environment at MESTI, Mr. Fredua Agyeman, represented the Minister at the meeting and affirmed that this project will be critical in supporting the implementation of the National Climate Change Policy, which has low carbon development as one of its main components. In addition and given the focus on energy, the project will eventually contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Energy for All Action Plan that Ghana officially launched at the Rio+20 Summit last year. It will therefore contribute to achieve the Government's objectives of ensuring universal access to energy to its population by using energy for local economic development in a clean and sustainable manner.



UNDP Ghana Deputy Country Director, Mr. René Da Silva (left) was honored to attend the workshop. He delivered a speech on behalf of the development organization. Credits: UNDP Ghana/2013