



Agbogbloshie E-waste Recycling Pilot Project; Phase 1

Launching of Copper Recovery Equipment at Agbogbloshie Scrap Yard

Thursday, 9th October, 2014



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Launch of Program

The Agbogbloshie E-waste Recycling Project Phase 1 was first initiated in November 2013, which later culminated in the launch of the Copper Recovery Equipment with an impressive event which took place on the 9th October 2014. The objective of the first phase of the project was to eliminate burning of cables at the site. The introduction of the wire stripping machines will enhance the value of Copper and Aluminium extracted from the cables for sale thus improving upon the livelihood of the e-scrap workers. The lead stakeholders involved in the project are Blacksmith Institute of New York, Greater Accra Scrap Dealers Association (GASDA) and National Youth Authority (NYA).

1.2 Preparation and Organisation

Canopies were put up and chairs arranged outside of the facility. A banner was hung on the gates of the containerised facility and a billboard put up close to the entrance of the scrap site. Pictures were put up on boards whilst tables were laid out for different purposes. The tables displayed handheld wire stripping tools, a television to show tools being used to strip wire cables and cocktails.



Figure 1.0 Event Preparations and organization

1.3 Programme Commencement

Guests were welcomed to the event with drumming and array of cultural dances performed by the Dromo Naa Folkloric Dance Ensemble. The event was held in two parts. The first part took place outside the facility under the canopies and consisted of cultural display, speeches and drama. The second part included the opening of the facility, exhibition, demonstration, media interaction, photographs and cocktails which took place within the facility. The event officially started at 10:30 am with a cultural dance staged by Dromo Naa Dance Ensemble and after a welcome address by the Executive Director of Green Advocacy Ghana/ Country Coordinator for the Blacksmith Institute Mr Yaw Amoyaw Osei.



Figure 2.0 Cultural performances to welcome guests

In his welcome statement, he underscored the role that the Agboghloshie E-scrap Site played in the recycling of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) generated by households and

institutions in the country. He bemoaned the hazardous practices associated with e-waste recycling in Agbogbloshie especially the burning of cables to extract copper wires, which poses risks to the environment and human health. He indicated that the new facility will help resolve the burning problems at the site and also go a long way to assist the over 3,000 e-scrap workers. He was hopeful that the facility will be scaled-up to accommodate the large quantities of e-waste that finds its way into Agbogbloshie.



Figure 3.0 *Mr Amoyaw-Osei delivering his welcome statement*

1.4 Chairperson’s Address

The event was under the chairmanship of Dr. Edith Clarke. In her address, she reiterated concerns earlier expressed by Green Advocacy’s Executive Director indicating that the issue of E-waste recycling can be considered as a double edged sword, in that while it is a means of livelihood for its workers and dependants, its practices poses grave environmental and human health risk. She recalled the study conducted at Agbogbloshie Scrap Site in 2009 which revealed high levels of heavy metals in blood and urine samples taken. She noted that the presence of such heavy metals can cause lung, liver and kidney diseases leading to death.



Figure 4.0 *Dr Edith Clarke giving her address*

She stressed on the need to address the occupational health and safety of workers at Agbogbloshie E-Scrap Site as well as promulgation of a law to prohibit the burning of hazardous waste materials. She was elated about the launch of the facility and hoped that the equipment would be well maintained.

1.5 Drama by School Children

Children from the Environmental Club of Queensland International School put up a drama display titled 'Wahala dey Agboglobshie'. The play depicted the day to day activities at Agboglobshie Scrap Site and the health effects of pollution associated with cable wire burning.



Figure 5.0 Queensland International School Environmental Club performing a play

2.0 STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT

Representatives from the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), GASDA, GRATIS Foundation, NYA and Blacksmith Institute took turns to deliver supporting statements.

2.1 Statement by the Ministry of Environment Science Technology and Innovation (MESTI)

The Deputy Minister, Hon. Dr. Bernice Heloo felt greatly honoured that she had been invited to be present at the launching of the copper recovery machines to eliminate burning at the Agboglobshie E-Waste scrap yard. She intimated that the Ministry was pleased about this laudable idea conceived and developed by Blacksmith Institute. She extolled the collaborative efforts of Green Advocacy Ghana, NYA, GASDA and the Global Alliance on Health and Pollution for working together amidst various challenges to bring the project to its present status.

She went on to express the Ministry's displeasure about the extent of pollution that the current informal e-waste recycling practices at Agboglobshie Scrap Yard especially the toxic fumes that emanate from the burning of cables. She stated that MESTI was concerned about serious health risk that the e-waste workers as well the businesses and traders in and around Agboglobshie were exposed to.



Figure 6.0 *Hon. Dr Bernice Heloo giving her speech*

Dr. Heloo furthermore added that the Ministry confirms their association with the Project and would provide any needed support to ensure its success. Also, MESTI would like to see this initiative rapidly developed and expanded for possible replication in other urban centers. She entreated all responsible citizens and corporate bodies to release their end-of-life WEEE for proper recycling and encouraged the media to support this noble venture.

In conclusion, the Deputy Minister said one major challenge associated with the launching of such useful equipment is the maintenance of the equipment to maximize its usage.

2.2 Statement by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) representative

The Director, Chemicals Control at EPA, Mr John Pwamang, thanked the Blacksmith Institute and Green Advocacy for making this dream possible. He admonished GASDA and its members to desist from burning cables which was a major source of pollution and encouraged them to make good use of the wire-stripping equipment.



Figure 7.0 *Mr John Pwamang giving his speech*

He appealed to organisations such as the World Bank and other partners to join hands to raise funds to move the project a step further. He noted that this equipment was a sure start to put the burning problems of Agbogbloshie to the back burner. On behalf of the Agency, he expressed EPA's profound gratitude to Blacksmith Institute and GreenAd for making this project see the light of day.

2.3 Statement by the Greater Accra Scrap Dealers Association (GASDA) representative

The GASDA Secretary, Mr Mohammed Alihu, expressed gratitude to the neighbouring businesses whose concerns regarding the site as well as efforts of the lead partners had culminated in the coming to fruition of the project. He indicated that GASDA supplies about 30,000 metric tons of ferocious

metals to industries and expressed concern about the environmental polluting activities that are synonymous with recycling of metals at the site. He expressed gratitude to GreenAd and Blacksmith for their initiatives and ingenuity throughout the years. He ended by appealing to government to support GASDA by bringing unused cables to the site to be recycled and indicated GASDA's readiness to improve upon its operations.



Figure 7.0 *Mr Mohammed Alihu delivering his statement*

2.4 Statement by the Ghana Regional Appropriate Technology Industrial Service (GRATIS Foundation)

The Chief Executive Officer of GRATIS Foundation expressed delight of GRATIS to be collaborating with the other project partners. He gave a brief background about the operations of the organization and indicated that GRATIS would be happy to fabricate and maintain components/equipment to make e-waste recycling environmentally friendly. He gave the assurance in the light of the fact that a lot of discussion had gone on and some feasibility studies done to help design and develop appropriate technology that would be required by the project in future phases.



Figure 8.0 *Mr Emmanuel Asiedu delivering his statement*

2.5 Statement by National Youth Authority (NYA)

The Chief Executive Officer of NYA, Mr Ras Mubarak underscored the importance of society finding solutions to the myriad of problems facing the youth and was therefore pleased when GreenAd approached the Authority to partner on the pilot project. He emphasised that the problem of pollution at the site does not only affect workers but a wider section of the population in Accra and therefore it was necessary to collaborate with GreenAd and Blacksmith to get something sustainable that will help the youth- who are the future of our country.



Figure 9.0 *Ras Mubarak rendering his statement of support*

He commended the key project partners for the laudable idea and indicated that the Authority will therefore be happy to offer additional parcel of land for future expansion of the project. He concluded by encouraging partners of the project to strive to change the face of Agbogbloshie to ensure transformation of the area in a few years to come.

2.6 Statement by Blacksmith Institute

The Program Director for Africa for the Blacksmith Institute for Pure Earth, Kira Traore thanked all who have supported the project till date. She expressed hope that this facility would become a strong, clean and profitable venture and hoped that people from different countries would come and see the transformation that has occurred and learn from it.



Figure 10.0 *Kira Traore presenting her statement*

3.0 INTRODUCTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OPERATIONS TEAM

A seven (7) member board was introduced by the CEO of NYA. The role of the board of directors is to give advice on the management of the recycling facility. A five (5) man operational team selected from GASDA who have been trained to operate the machines were also introduced.



Figure 11.0 Members of the Board of Directors (left) and the Machine Operation Team (right)

The members on the board are:

- Mr Theophilus Anaman-Mensah National Youth Authority
- Abdul Rahman Greater Accra Scrap Dealers Association
- Mohammed Hassan Mohammed Greater Accra Scrap Dealers Association
- Mohammed Alihu Greater Accra Scrap Dealers Association
- Mr John Pwamang Environmental Protection Agency
- Mr Emmanuel Asiedu GRATIS Foundation
- Mr Amoyaw-Osei Green Advocacy Ghana

The machine operators are Sumani Abdul-Karim, Saidu Abdulia, Yahaya Alhassan, Osuman Nasam and Alhassan Yussif.

4.0 OFFICIAL OPENING OF FACILITY

Honourable Bernice Heloo assisted by Kira Traore , Dr Edith Clarke and Ras Mubarak cut the tape to officially open the facility.



Figure 12.0 Tape cutting to officially open the facility

4.1 Exhibition and Demonstration

Invited guests and participants witnessed an exhibition and observed a demonstration of the copper wire strippers. The exhibition included pictures depicting the Agbogbloshie E-waste story, hand held tools used in wire stripping. It displayed several trainings and workshops held with DATEC Technologies, Hunter College and Blacksmith Institute. Also included were pictures of a visit to recycling companies in Sweden to observe e-waste recycling activities.



Figure 13.0 Photo exhibitions



Figure 14.0 Demonstrations on the use of Copper Recovery Equipment

5.0 MEDIA INTERACTION AND CLOSING

Various media houses such as GTV, Metro TV, ETV, JOY TV, UTV, ATV, BTA, Daily Graphic, Citi Fm and Peace Fm were represented. They took turns to interact with the various lead partners, stakeholders, GASDA members and invited guests. Photographs were taken and cocktails were served. The event closed at 12:30 pm.



Figure 15.0 Interaction and Photographs

6.0 LUNCHEON WITH INVITED GUESTS

After the launch event, some participants were invited to lunch at Mövenpick Ambassador Hotel in Accra. Guests shared pleasant moments about the launch event and networked. It also afforded lead and future partners the opportunity to exchange ideas and pledge further commitment to the pilot project.



Figure 16.0 *Guests at the luncheon*

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Attendance List

Table 1.1 *Lists of Representatives from Participating Organisations and Institutions*

No.	Name of Participant	Organization
1.	Mr Ibrahim Mensah	Ghana Revenue Authority (Customs Division)
2.	Ms Bernice Gyekye	Prolink Organisation
3.	Ms Ruth Kafui Heloo	
4.	Mr Emmanuel Adiku	
5	Ms Emily Yu	University of Ghana
6.	Professor Julius Fobil	
7.	Mr Henry Aryeetey	Energy Commission
8.	Mr Eric Antwi -Agyei	
9.	Mr Felix Oku	World Bank
10.	Ms Isabel Abrev	
11	Mr Samuel Koranteng	Institute of Environment and Sanitation Studies, UG Legon
12.	Mr Joseph Amponsah	
13.	Hon Dr. Bernice Heloo	Ministry of Environment Science Technology and Innovation
14.	Mr Felix Adjotey	Ecobank
15.	Mr Emmanuel Asiedu	GRATIS Foundation
16.	Mr Gabriel Boateng -Appiah	
17.	Mr Raymond Owusu	
18	Mr Ras Mubarak	National Youth Authority
19.	Mr Theophilus Anaman Mensah	
20	Mr Joseph Lamptey	
21.	Alhaji Nabila	
22.	Mr Samuel Afful	Ghana Atomic Energy Commission
23.	Dr J.R. Fianko	
24.	Mr Ibrahim K. Kwarteng	
25.	Mr Isaac Kudu	
26.	Ms Maya Potter	GIZ
27.	Mr Prince Britwum	
28.	Mr Ebenzer Quarcoo	
29.	Mr J. Smith-Graham	Electricity Company of Ghana
30.	Mr John Pwamang	Environmental Protection Agency
31.	Dr Edith Clarke	Ghana Health Service
32.	Mr Amoyaw Osei	Green Advocacy Ghana
33	Mrs Elizabeth Amoyaw Osei	
34..	Ms Christiana Badoo	
35.	Mr Bennett Nana Akuffo	
36.	Ms Emelia Osei - Asante	
37.	Ms Vanessa Jobarteh	
38.	Mr Leslie Asamoah	
39.	Mrs Kira Traore	
40.	Mr Russell Dowling	
41.	Scrap Dealers	GASDA
42.	Abdul Rahman	GASDA President
43.	Mohammed HassanMohammed	GASDA Vice President
44.	Mohammed Alihu	GASDA Secretary
45.	Abdul Karim	GASDA member
46.	Mohammed Adam	GASDA member
47.	Mamound Zakaria	GASDA Executive
48.	Dauda Ahmidu	Onion Market Association
49.	Isaah Fusieni	Onion Market Association
50.	School children and teachers	Queensland International School

Table 1.2 List of Media Houses present at the Program Launch

Name	Media House	Phone Number
Gladys Boakye	Peace FM	0545905383
Selorm Amenyah	Metro TV	
Kweku Osei		0540893910
Yaw Preko		
Stephen Teye		
Abdul Karim	ETV	0243674257
Mark Obeng		
Frimpong I		
Akua Oforiwaa Darko	GTV	0547169228
Liticia Budu		
Prince		
Farli		
Augustina Arthur	UTV	
Jojo Agyare		0242368608
Samuel Aikwei		
Benjamin Epton Owusu	Citi Fm	0249961617
Adwoa Amofa Osei	Daily Graphic	0240609392
Annamarie Nyame	BTA	0274924312
Edem Maylin		
Mark Ntim		
Adjei		
Oheneba Nyarko	ATV	0240502965
Sayibu Ibrahim		
Nat Pobee	Creative Storm	0200311236
Dennis Bentil		0241573929

Appendix 2: Programme for the Event

Table 2.0 Programme for the launch

9:30	➤ Registration	GreenAd Team
10:00	➤ Cultural Display	Dromo-naa Folkloric Dance Ensemble
10:10	➤ Welcome Statement	CEO GreenAd/Country Coordinator, B/S Int.
10:15	➤ Introduction of Chairperson	Ms Christiana Badoo
10:20	➤ Chairperson's Response	Dr Edith Clarke
10:25	➤ Key Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Ministry of Environment (MESTI) ✚ National Youth Authority ✚ GASDA ✚ GRATIS ✚ Blacksmith Institute
11:00	➤ Short Play	Queensland Int. Sch. Env. Club
11:20	➤ Statements of Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ World Bank ✚ AMA ✚ UNDP
11:35	➤ The Agboghloshie E-Waste Story	CEO GreenAd/Country Coordinator, B/S Int.
11:45	➤ Cultural Interlude	Dromo-naa Folkloric Dance Ensemble
12:00	➤ Introduction of the Board	CEO National Youth Authority
12:10	➤ Closing Remarks & Vote of Thanks	Chairperson's
12:20	➤ Opening of the Site / Cutting Tape	Blacksmith Institute / Chairperson
12:30	➤ Refreshment / Cocktail	Emelia Osei Asante
12:40	➤ Exhibition & Demonstration	Bennett Nana Akuffo
1:00	➤ Group Photograph	MC

MC – Mr Israel Laryea