

Faustina Afrah Yeboah

WORKING IN THE PORT: LOGISTICS

TEMA CITY



*Image above:
Ms. Faustina Afrah
Yeboah.*

We meet Ms. Faustina Afrah Yeboah in the city centre of Tema, asking her for directions to a restaurant for lunch. She happens to be an employee of one of the businesses serving Tema Port, and explains to us what the expansion of the port means for her work and life.

Who are you and how is your work connected to the port?

My name is Faustina Afrah Yeboah. I live in Tema and for three years now I've worked at the Cargo Center Ghana Ltd, a company that works on clearing cargo and the logistics linked to this. We have an office just outside the port premises, and in our company about 27 people are employed. I'm a data-entry officer, I enter information into the system for goods going in and out of the port.

How does the new port development affect your work?

The new port development is very good, because it cuts delays and therefore minimizes workers stress. As the port expands, the trucks will have more physical space to turn and move around. This will reduce much of the congestion within the port itself. Currently, when there's a lot of on and off loading, the trucks often get blocked and have difficulty getting in and out of the port.

Furthermore, the new development is aimed at a paperless system. This makes my work easier; I can enter information quicker, and get my data in the shortest time possible. We then work with barcodes that are scanned, instead of people having to walk from place to place to get the information and then bring it to us, as we do now. The automated system will make everything faster.

What do you think the port will look in 20 years time?

I think the port will also become a tourist attraction, both for local and international visitors. Lots of people are interested to see what is going on here, because it is a special place. It is very big and tourists like to get informed about the new port and how it works in the new way. Maybe there might be even a tourist office in the port, when the port management sees the need for this.

I don't think there will be any other real effects on the town of Tema and Community 5 where I live. The new port expansion will create more employment though, and both people living in Tema as well as people from outside will take up those jobs.

What do you hope for Tema in 20 years time?

For Tema, I hope that the congestion on the roads outside the port will be reduced, that things become more efficient, just as they are becoming more efficient within the port with this new development.

Also I hope that the new port will help to increase the export of Ghanaian products and that revenues will also increase. The port expansion can be a boost for the income of our country.