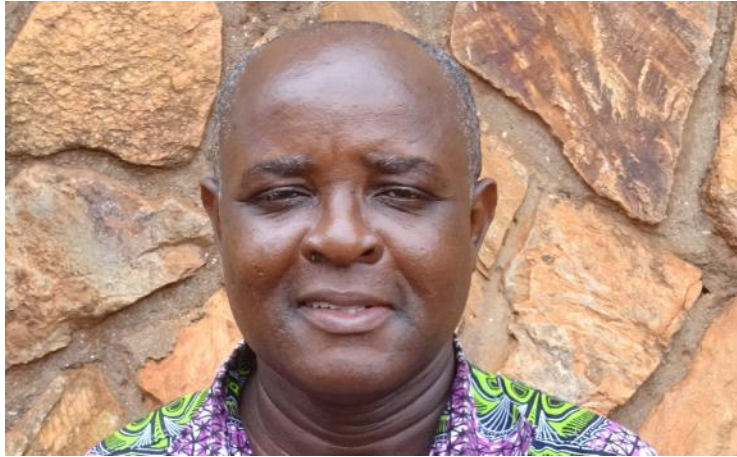


Kwasi Appeaning Addo

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UNIVERSITY OF GHANA, LEGON



Who are you?

My name is Kwasi Appeaning Addo, professor of Marine and Fisheries Sciences, University of Ghana. In the Sustainable Ports in Africa project, I am co-ordinating research activities, administration and science in Ghana, and connecting the project to people within Ghana.

How did you come to be involved with Tema Port and this project?

The Netherlands African Business Council called me about potentially collaborating in an interesting project that involved marine science. I started talking with other interested Ghanaian and Dutch parties and contributed to the research proposal. Finally we won the project, so here we are now.

What do you like about the project? Why are you interested in participating?

I like the collaboration. Although shipping and ports are not my direct area of expertise, I see it as an opportunity to learn about this aspect within the coastal system, to grow my understanding and participate in discussions. I like the openness, the collaboration, the discussions, and I like the methodology that we apply, involving stakeholders from the beginning and people buying into the project. So this will go a long way to helping me in future projects and activities.

What do you think of Sustainable Ports? How have you changed your idea about a Sustainable Port?

My ideas have changed a lot. Previously I thought a port was all about engineering - the design of engineering structures - and trade. This project has taught me that a port goes beyond this. A sustainable port involves the environment, ecology and people in a cohesive and interactive way. This is not something that I was used to. Through this project, I have seen how these systems interact, and sustain economic and operational functions within a port setting.

What is your particular learning?

I have learned about all the systems that operate within a port to enable it to function and to become sustainable. Also, as a scientist I have learned how to develop stakeholder meetings. I think the approach that is used in this project, this way of doing it, involving people in thinking about their futures, is a unique method. I am a natural scientist by training and have never been a moderator of these kinds of processes before. But, moving forward, I realise that the approach in engaging stakeholders is something that I have really learned, and it is becoming more and more part of me. Going around and gathering the information, the right type of information from stakeholders is the right way for me.

What are the next steps?

This knowledge, this information should not remain on the shelf as often happens. We should move it to the next stage where we engage further with the people who are involved in port activities. So that they really understand what it means to have a sustainable port.

Then the developing ports in West Africa and Africa in general will incorporate these ideas into the initial design and into their implementation process, the operation of these ports. But, as a researcher I think it also important to disseminate the new knowledge into academia, into the public domain of science. We need to develop very good papers, publish in journals with wide readership so that worldwide people can begin to think about sustainable ports and how developing countries can implement the idea of sustainable ports into their development agendas.