

Fact-finding mission to the port of Tema and environs (5-10th of February 2017)

From the 5th until the 10th of February 2017, the Sustainable Ports Development research team travelled to Ghana on a fact-finding mission. The multi-disciplinary research team consisted of 11 researchers from the TU Delft, Deltares, Unesco- IHE, Wageningen Marine Research and The VU Amsterdam. During and prior to this week they actively worked together with their Ghanaian counterparts, 9 researchers from the University of Ghana. The objective of the exchange visit was to learn from the past and from each other, but mostly from the Ghanaian experts and local stakeholders. As the project incorporates an integrated approach to port design that is stakeholder-inclusive and encompasses *engineering, ecological, economic and governance* aspects, the exchange with Ghanaian knowledge and expertise from various disciplines enabled the researchers to share their findings and integrate them.

The week started off on Sunday by a fieldtrip from Accra to Tema, visiting various sites along the coastline and the Sakumo lagoon protected area, arriving at the port of Tema where the group was guided around the port terrain by the Ghanaian Ports and Harbour Authority (GPHA). The field trip was followed by a mini-symposium with the Ghanaian researchers to feed into the (preliminary) findings of the Dutch researchers, finetuning the set up and content of the multi-stakeholder workshop at the end of the week. In addition, the Ghanaian team pinpointed new sources of data and interesting stakeholders to speak to in the days to follow. On Tuesday and Wednesday, the researchers arranged individual appointments within and across their disciplines to gather more information and verify their findings.

On Thursday, the inclusive multi-stakeholder workshop took place in the GPHA Tower in the port of Tema, hosting both research teams and 37 stakeholders that are one way or the other, involved in or affected by the port extension. Participants included representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency, Hydrological Service Department, Ghana Shippers Authority, Friends of Ramsar Sites and the Ghana Institute for Freight Forwarders. After a week of collecting data and fact-finding, the workshop served to verify the data collected and fill in the blanks from the bottom-up, opening the floor for local stakeholders to share their values, experiences, perspectives, expertise and knowledge. The workshop included a mapping exercise ('indicate where you were born, where you live and your area of interest on the map'), expert talks, a system story developed by local stakeholders for Tema and environs in plenary and stakeholder mapping and vision building in groups. Dystopic visions of the future included slums around the port, traffic congestions, unplanned settlements, a loss of biodiversity and ecosystem stability, plastic waste in the ocean and coastal erosion. Utopic Visions of the future included an offshore port with windmills for energy and a clean and wide Sakumo and Chemu Lagoon, sewage treatment, railway linkage and inland port linkage to Tema, a port built with nature, tourism and affordable housing, urban planning and livelihood programmes. The positive visions for the future of the port demonstrate the workshop dynamics. It was a day full of energy, new insights and fun and we would like to thank the participants for all their input and enthusiasm. The report of the exchange visit will be shared with the participants and posted here shortly.