

YOUNG LEADERS FORUM

YOUNG LEADERS FORUM (YLF)

WITH

KUMASI CIVIL SOCIETY GROUP (KuSoG),



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ASSOCIATION OF GHANA (EPAG),

FOUNTAIN OF LEADERSHIP (FOL) CHURCH

AND

LEADERSHIP MEDIA CENTER-RADIO SCHOOL(LMC)

REPORT:

MELTING ICE - A *HOT* TOPIC?

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY CELEBRATION,

5TH JUNE, 2007,

KUMASI-GHANA, WEST AFRICA

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

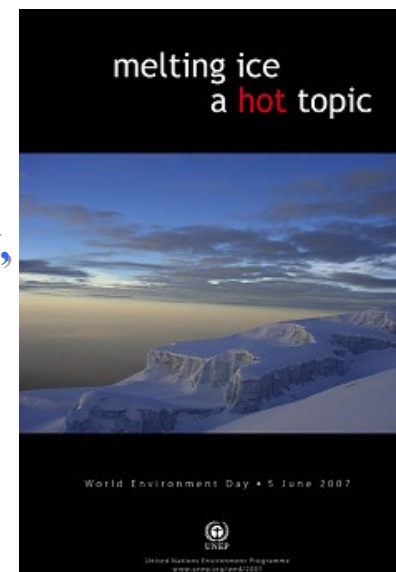
P.O. BOX 4941

KUMASI-GHANA

TEL.+233-244-741-755

FAX.+233-51-23622

E-MAIL: yfghana@yahoo.com



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Seminars

To celebrate World environment day 5th June, 2007, a series of seminars were organized in chosen schools across the Ashanti Region of Ghana. There was one in Kumasi, the capital of the Ashanti Region and overwhelming interest and readiness for a seminar in Mpasatia in the Abuakwa District also in the Ashanti Region. Talks on the theme for the year were given and videos downloaded from WED website shown to make school children understand it the more and also sustain their interest in the seminar. The one held in Kumasi was held at the King's College and attended by school children between the ages of eleven(11) and fifteen (15) in Basic School seven (BS7) to Basic School nine (BS9). The program commenced at 11:49am at the school's assembly hall. Two hundred and forty two (242) students, five teachers and four media men attended. The Resource person for the program who was in the person of Mr. Nelson Agyemang said that this year's theme is a question that we all need to pay much attention to: **Melting Ice-A Hot Topic?** He lamented on the causes of melting polar ice, climate change, global warming due to Carbon substances emissions into the atmosphere from human activity, in our bid to satisfy our daily human needs especially through basic and sophisticated goods like perfumes, Refrigerators, motor fumes, air conditioners, burning and deforestation. He said, the above have made the earth prone to high temperature, due to higher sun rays on the earth than naturally allowed, high humidity in parts of the world and attendant heavy rainstorms hitting some places like Accra in Ghana; excessive drought in Dafur, parts of Ethiopia and the Sahel. They were shown the Africa map via a LCD projector and the various regions with the effects of climate change. He said Africa even though contributes less causes of green house effect and ozone layer depletion, including polar melting ice, it is suffering the more as the poorest continent. Coastal African countries and low lying areas are mostly prone to flooding from rising sea levels and ocean related turmoil and weather changes. We in Ghana and rest of Africa, and the developing world therefore should not make the mistake of thinking

that melting ice is only a problem for the polar regions of the world; we do not have the funds, capacity and preparation to cope if polar melting ice related disasters hit us. We should reduce CO₂ emissions from use of second hand products and burning, and plant more trees, conserve energy, educate others, change behaviors and preserve our forests.

During Question and answer session, Amoah Kyeremeh, a BS 8 student asked; “is the ice melting or is about to melt?” Mr. Kingsley B. Sarpong answered by saying it is melting but at a slow rate and stressed the need to take good care of the environment so that it would not melt so fast, since we can halt it.

Civil Society Think-tank

An NGOs think-tank was organized as part of the celebration to get many NGOs to help discuss the year’s theme. These included analyzing the theme, suggesting solutions and how to implement the suggested remedies and issue a communiqué. Twenty one (21) people representing eighteen NGOs/Civil Society Organizations and three media personnel attended the think-tank.

The Environmental Protection Association of Ghana’s (E.P.A.G.) conference room was the venue of the activity. Environmental Protection Association of Ghana’s conference room is in the premises Asawase Community Centre in Kumasi. The activity commenced at 3:05pm with registration of attendants. Mr. Samuel Amoama of Global Poverty Eradication Centre (GLOPEC) was the Master of Ceremony (MC) for the think tank with Mr. John Kwadwo Owusu, Chief Executive Officer of Environmental Protection Association of Ghana (EPAG) as the chairman and Mr. Nelson Agyemang Chair of Kumasi Civil Society Group (KuSoG) of Business Leaders Consult (BLC) as the Resource Person. The MC introduced the chairman of the program and the chairman accepted the position at 3:41pm. Mr. Martin Larbi from Youth for Rural Education Development said an opening prayer for the program to be

started officially. Mr. Kingsley B. Sarpong, President of Young Leaders Forum(YLF) gave a brief introduction of the purpose of the meeting using excerpts from the United Nations' Secretary General's speech on the year's theme. At 3:45, the MC called on Mr. Nelson Agyemang representing Business Leaders Consult and Kumasi Civil Society Group (KuSoG). Leading NGOs to think about the theme: **Melting Ice-A hot Topic?** He explained how important it was for him to respond to the call by the Young leaders Forum (Y.L.F.) to assist them celebrate the World Environment Day. He further briefed the delegates on the topic of the year using power point and videos downloaded from the WED 2007 website (and online video from WED's website: www.unep.org/wed/2007) and explained scenes that they depicted (The videos that were used to assist in the presentation were:

- *UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner's World Environment Day Message 2007,*
- *Our Planet in Transition From Pole to Pole*
- *Melting Ice – A Hot Topic WED PSA English Version Duration 1'00' (+5FREEZE) ASPECT RATIO:4:3 STEREO 22:05:07*
- *WED2007_VNR_English).*

He emphasized the fact that Melting ice has global effect that we all need to know and do something about, it should not be construed merely as a polar, since we in Ghana are already affected by Climate change and global warming in the form of rainstorms and droughts in parts of Ghana, and are one of the Poorest countries likely to be hardest hit by effects of sea level rise due to melting ice, whether we are major contributors or not, effects hit everyone. NGOs who are both at the forefront of Environmental issues and closer to the grassroots of our people, need to understand these phenomena if the mass of our people will come to appreciate how melting from what looks like far away regions will affect our daily lives.

Recommendations, Outcomes and Conclusions:

- ✓ Individuals, NGOs and government all have roles to play in the adoption of the use of bio-fuels like bio-diesel can help because they do not produce much carbon dioxide that causes global warming. NGOs and Civil Society Organizations should advocate for the use of bio-fuel instead of fossil fuel.
- ✓ Aforestation should be encouraged by individuals, schools, NGOs, Churches, FBOs, Private Sector, and the government
- ✓ Measures should be put in place to curtail pollution.
- ✓ We should focus on children; make them understand that they are the younger generation and will suffer the more and the need to contribute to saving the environment.
- ✓ But Adults have moral responsibility not to deprive future generations of their right to life and survival on this planet by living sustainably.
- ✓ We urge all governments in Africa to divert to the use of solar as there is enough sunshine in Ghana and Africa at large.
- ✓ We urge Developed Country Governments to sign the Kyoto protocol and its follow ups, and implement them fully.
- ✓ We urged developed Country Citizens to reduce the extent and pattern of their consumption to reduce poverty in the world and save our planet.
- ✓ All people should change their behaviors and attitudes. And we the 2/3 world should not indiscriminately follow unsustainable life patterns of the developed world in the name of modernity. We should look at the healthy and sustainable ways of life and maximize them.
- ✓ We should reduce CO₂ emissions from use of second hand products and burning, and plant more trees, conserve energy, educate others, change behaviors and preserve our forests.

- ✓ We call on the wide spectrum of Civil Society Organisations to act responsibly eschew unprofessionalism and wrong doing and embrace accountability and transparency in all their dealings to assure confidence and trust with other development stakeholders.
- ✓ We call on Governments, Donors, Private sector to take extra necessary measures to assure the availability of finance, resources, personnel, capacity and the freedoms to allow active and vibrant Civil Society roles in Ghana, Africa and the world and eliminate any bottlenecks that stifle Civil Society and Citizens actions.
- ✓ We especially call on Private Sector and Business entities to take extra precautionary and responsible measures to prevent and clean up their pollutions, including environmental impact assessments and other non-pollutant measures and be good corporate citizens in their communities and the world and observe best practice production and corporate social responsibility reminiscent of the overt respectability of business.
- ✓ Business, Governments and Citizens need to cooperate to save our planet.
- ✓ Traditional leaders are urged to help in solving the problems because they have influence on their people.
- ✓ The WED Celebration follow up will be linked with International Polar year, since they are both on Melting Ice.
- ✓ NGO's and FBOs should all have interest in environmental issues. We should be committed to the course of preventing and solving environmental problems
- ✓ The media need to take keen interest in environmental issues.
- ✓ Civil Society Networking on Environmental issues needs to be strengthened. NGOs and FBOs need to strengthen their impact through Networking which will focus on joint-action, coordination, financing, capacity building and advocacy on environment,

sustainable development, Poverty reduction, achieving the millennium development goals, Promoting Good governance, democracy, transparency, anti corruption and accountability, civil participation and equity, equality and empowerment of Women.

- ✓ The need to link the way forward and follow up with celebration of International Polar year (IPY), also focusing on melting ice; the need to set up a follow up committee to look into how to link our WED to IPY, and communicate with Government, donors and Global IPY concerns regarding hosting, National and Regional activities. First, copies of this report need to be sent to IPY concerns, UN system, World Bank group, EU Government, and others to indicate our willingness as civil society, including Faith-based Civil Society Organization (FBOs), to collaborate on Environment, Climate change, Global warming, Melting ice and IPY.
- ✓ The need to continue this follow up, in the form of taking the think-tank and seminars into churches, Church Networks and Councils and Church Leaders Training sessions. Fountain of Leadership (FOL) Church Executive Council is urged to adopt the continuing mobilization of churches to be involved in Environment, Global warming, IPY issues. FOL is urged to involve its Apostolic Network-Ghana of some 100 Evangelico- Pentecostal-Charismatic Churches in the middle Zone of Ghana i.e. Ashanti, Brong Ahafo, Eastern and Western regions.
- ✓ The Apostolic Network Ghana is urged to take this up at its next regular meeting, with a seminar and videos on WED, and use it as a spring board to launch Churches into this initiative. 100 churches and pastors are expected to attend in Kumasi on 25th June, 2007
- ✓ Churches which participate in this need to collaborate with other FBOs such Muslim Family Counseling Services and others.

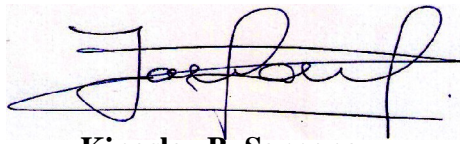
List of Content

Executive Summary	ii – vii
Acknowledgement	1 – 2
1.0 Introduction and Background	3
1.1 Objectives of the Program	4
1.2 Activities	5
1.3 Preparatory Meetings	5 - 6
1.4 Other Preparatory Activities	6
1.5 Seminars in Schools	7 – 8
1.6 NGO Think-Tank on the theme of this year’s celebration	9 - 10
1.6.1 Analysis, Discussions and Questions	10 - 13
1.6.2 The Way Forward	13 - 15
1.7 Successes	16
1.8 Challenges	17
1.9 Solutions	17 - 18
2.0 Appendices	18
2.1 Appendix 1: Minutes of all preparatory meetings and attendants	18 - 19
2.2 Appendix 2: Participants and their respective Civil Society Organizations/NGOs	20 – 21
2.3 Appendix 3: Members of organizing committee	22
2.4 Appendix 4: Civil Society Statement of Recommendations and Actions	23 - 26
following celebration of World Environment Day, 5th June, 2007 in Kumasi, Ghana	

Acknowledgement

First and foremost, we thank God Almighty for the Opportunity to serve humanity and protect the earth which He made for our sustenance and for steering us through such a successful work. The People who have helped to make this such a great success are too numerous to mention in such a short space. Let us mention a few of them, Rev. Nelson Agyemang, Chair of Kumasi Civil Society Group (KuSoG)/President of Business Leaders Consult (BLC), a Consultant of distinction, with two decades of past Civil Society experience and now also a Clergyman, who agreed to be a resource person for all the Conception, planning, implementation, reporting and follow up of what is reported here. Without this immense selfless service, we could not have done such a great job, We thank Mr. Francis Frimpong, Proprietor, Teachers, Students and Pupils of King's College who agreed to welcome us for the School's Seminars, and Rev. and Mrs. Baffo Gyan Proprietors of Life Model School, Mpasatia for their keen interest and patience, Mr. J.K. Owusu, CEO of Environmental Protection Association of Ghana (EPAG), who gave us the venue for the NGO think-tank and agreed to Chair the Think-tank and his able staff, who made all things possible. Rev. (Mrs.) Charlotte Agyemang, Vice Chair and Dr. George Oppong Ampong, CEO of Youth Development Foundation (YDF), which gladly house The Kumasi Civil Society Group and its 15 NGO and FBO Members, including Young Leaders Forum(YLF), making all these possible, and Fountain of Leadership(FOL) Church, BLC/KuSoG and the other many NGOs listed in the appendices 2 and 3 which spent funds, provided equipment, did errands, attended meetings, provided meeting space, participated in seminars and think-tank and are committed to follow through the recommendations. Special Mention for Rev. (Mrs.) Charlotte Agyemang, Senior Pastor of Executive Worship Center/Fountain of Leadership Church, Founder/President of Vulnerable Girls and Women's Committee (VuGWoC) and Founder/President of Business Women's Round (BusWoR) and MD of Agyemang Innovations

Group's (AGYINO) supermarket who provided refreshments, Transportation and Fuel to the planning committee; and Ohemaa Yaa Serwaa Kyerewa Awua MD Oyska Beauty Parlour for stand-by generator. Then UNEP and UN staff in Nairobi and Accra who assisted in various ways including supply of softcopy materials, communications and ideas, particularly His Excellency Daouda Toure (UNDP Resident Country Representative & UN System Coordinator), Dr. Duah-Yentumi (Head, Environment Section of UNDP) and his staff Thelma Amarquaye, UNEP staff especially Elizabeth Guilbaud – Cox, Elizabeth Waechter, Rajinder Sian, Harold Rapasi.; Ghana Government- for providing such good governance environment in which Civil Society activities can thrive, then The Media, including Leadership Media Center-Radio School's Faculty(especially Mr. Augustine Yeboah) and Students for news recordings and interviews. Last, but Not the Least, My able team of colleagues, The National Executive Committee of YLF, all of you have done well, but Let me single out Francis Opare Gyau, Our able National Secretary, who does all the typing and ICT related work and phone calls, Samuel Amoama-National Vice President for contacts and calls, Oswald Takyi – National Public Relations Officer for coordination, contacts, errands and above all good rapporteur work, Enoch Boakye Gyimah Accra Liaison, Eric Nyarko – National Project/Business Coordinator, Richard Atakora Baafi – National Organiser, Martin Larbi – National Networking Coordinator, Ebow Tompori – National Treasurer and all of you listed in appendix 3, good work done. Please forgive us, if we have left out any who should have been mentioned.



Kingsley B. Sarpong
National President
Young Leaders Forum (YLF)
Kumasi-Ghana
15th June, 2007

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Young Leaders Forum (YLF) is a civil society Organization based in Kumasi with three branches across the city aims at nurturing, training and exposing the youth as excellent Leaders in the areas of their endeavors. This includes Young Leadership in addressing environmental challenges and issues threatening our world, especially the Africa continent. YLF mobilized other civil society organizations and Networks, including Kumasi Civil Society Group (KuSoG) and Environmental Protection Association of Ghana (EPAG) in the Kumasi Metropolis to celebrate the World Environment Day to raise awareness on the effects of climate change on the World, especially Africa, using The World Environment Day Theme for 2007: *Melting Ice - A Hot Topic?* Africa contributes less to the human causes of global warming, climate and melting polar ice, but Africa will be the hardest hit and the least able to cope with the effects of Melting ice. However, we are the most likely to think that this “polar” issue is very far away from us. There is the need to make Africa’s publics including civil society organizations, children, men and women, policy makers, academia and media aware of the need to fight this next potentially “global war”.

1.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

- To celebrate the World Environment Day
- To use this celebration, to launch a number of subsequent celebrations, including International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking,
- To promote Civil Society collaboration, networking, advocacy, capacity building and participation in solving contemporary development challenges, including Environment, sustainable development, poverty, human rights, good governance, democracy, accountability, transparency and anti corruption, Gender Equality, Equity and Empowerment of Women and Millennium Development Goals.
- To create awareness on climate change, global warming and effects of Melting Ice on the world, especially Africa and individual and collective actions to halt it.
- To begin a series of Civil Society participation in International Polar Year March, 2007-March, 2009.
- To promote the World Environment Day and Other UN days and the need to celebrate them.
- To reach out to Africa publics including civil society organizations, children, men and women, Local authorities, grassroots stakeholders, business, policy makers, Governments, Donors, academics and media and remind them of the need to fight this next potentially “global war”.

1.2 ACTIVITIES

1.3 PREPARATORY MEETINGS

The Young Leaders Forum and other NGOs/Civil Society Organizations met three times before 5th June, the day of the celebration.

The first meeting was convened on the 25th of May, 2007 to discuss the activities to be done on the day of the celebration and how to go about them. The meeting was attended by three Civil Society Organizations. There were discussions on schools to be chosen for seminars, how to get financing for the program and participation of many Civil Society Organizations.

On Wednesday May 26th, 2007, the group met for the second time. The group then registered their activities on the UNEP website on World Environment Day celebration. They also thought about and discussed how to finance the celebration. They wrote letters to other NGOs to invite them to join the celebration. Prior contacts had been made with UNEP offices in Nairobi, Kenya, which had directed how to download soft copies of celebration materials (videos, booklets, and posters). But these materials needed to be duplicated locally or many copies required from the UN, so letters were also written to the United Nations offices in Ghana to inform them of what the group is doing and intends to do and material or financial assistance that will be needed to make materials widely distributed.

Tuesday May 29th was the day the groups met for the third time to assess progress on designated assignments on their second meeting. This meeting was attended by five Civil Society Organizations. Members briefed the attendants on the progress they have made on various assignments designated to them. And times were fixed for the seminars and the NGOs Think-tank were confirmed as well as venues and other practical details. It was confirmed as earlier decided that seminars will be held in schools in

the morning and an NGO Think-tank late afternoon on the theme of the celebrations. Any other deliberations made in the earlier meeting were concluded since it was the last official meeting before the celebration even though there were continuous contacts from time to time between some of the organizers on progress and feedback.

1.4 OTHER PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES

A host of other activities were undertaken for the celebration to achieve its set targets. These included:

- ❖ Phone calls to various offices, schools, prospective sponsors and other Civil Society Organizations.
- ❖ Visits to stakeholders
- ❖ Letters to schools, prospective sponsors, Civil Society Organizations and U.N. System Resident Coordinators office in Accra (the capital city of Ghana).
- ❖ Securing schools for the seminar and a venue for the NGOs Think-tank.
- ❖ Getting and briefing Resource Personnel.
- ❖ Securing equipment like Laptops, Projectors, Microphones and Cameras.
- ❖ Arranging for transport to convey equipment to and from schools and venues where seminars and Civil Society think-tank were held.
- ❖ Photocopying hand outs on global warming, climate change, melting ice and the international polar year for participants of the Civil Society think-tank.
- ❖ Downloading of videos, booklets, posters at WED website for preparation of presentations and power points.

1.5 SEMINARS IN SCHOOLS

Seminars were organized in King's College on the theme for the year using videos downloaded from WED website shown to make school children understand it the more and also sustain their interest in the seminar. They were attended by school children between the ages of eleven (11) and fifteen (15) in Basic School seven (BS7) to Basic School nine (BS9). The program commenced at 11:49am at the school's assembly hall. Two hundred and forty two (242) students, five teachers and four media men were present. Mr. Kingsley B. Sarpong, the National president of Young Leaders Forum (YLF) introduced the theme of the year and further explained it to the understanding of the school children. He asked the children to test their knowledge about the United Nations (U.N). He asked the children who the Secretary General of the United Nations was and the children answered it correctly. He went on to tell children as to how they can help stop Polar ice from melting as they saw in the videos they watched. At 12:10pm, Mr. Kingsley Sarpong introduced the Resource person for the program who was in the person of Mr. Nelson Agyemang. He said that this year's theme is a question that we all need to pay much attention to: **Melting Ice-A Hot Topic?** He lamented on the causes of polar melting ice, climate change, global warming due to Carbon substances emissions into the atmosphere from human activity, in our bid to satisfy our daily human needs especially through basic and sophisticated like perfumes, Refrigerators, motor fumes, air conditioners, burning and deforestation. He said, the above have made the earth prone to high temperature, due to higher sun rays on the earth than naturally allowed, high humidity in parts of the world and attendant heavy rainstorms hitting some places like Accra in Ghana; excessive drought in Dafur, parts of Ethiopia and the Sahel. They were shown the Africa map via a LCD projector and the various regions with the effects of climate change. He said Africa even though

contributes less causes of green house effect and ozone layer depletion, including polar melting ice, it is suffering the more as the poorest continent. Coastal African countries and low lying areas are mostly prone to flooding from rising sea levels and ocean related turmoil and weather changes. We in Ghana and rest of Africa, and the developing world therefore should not make the mistake of thinking that melting ice is only a problem for the polar regions of the world; we do not have the funds, capacity and preparation to cope if polar melting ice related disasters hit us. We should reduce co2 emissions from use of second hand products and burning, and plant more trees, conserve energy, educate others, change behaviors and preserve our forests.

During Question and answer session, Amoah Kyeremeh, a BS 8 student asked; “is the ice melting or is about to melt?” Mr. Kingsley B. Sarpong answered by saying it is melting but at a slow rate and stressed the need to take good care of the environment so that it would not melt so fast, since we can halt it..

Mr. Martin Larbi of Youth for Rural Development led children to say “do not pollute the environment. The more you pollute the environment, the more you put your life at risk”. The program ended at 12:44pm with a vote of thanks from Mr. Martin Larbi.

Media Trainees for Leadership Media Center –Radio School, interviewed Pupils, students and Teachers on their impressions of the seminar. These audio recordings are being edited for further education and reporting on the seminar

1.6 NGOs THINK-TANK ON THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S CELEBRATION.

An NGOs think-tank was organized as part of the celebration to get many NGOs to help discuss the year's theme. These included analyzing the theme, suggesting solutions and how to implement the suggested remedies and issue a communiqué. Twenty one (21) people representing seventeen NGOs/Civil Society Organizations and three media personnel attended the think-tank.

The Environmental Protection Association of Ghana's (E.P.A.G.) conference room was the venue of the activity. Environmental Protection Association of Ghana's conference room is in the premises Asawase Community Centre in Kumasi. The activity commenced at 3:05pm with registration of attendants. Mr. Samuel Amoama of Global Poverty Eradication Centre (GLOPEC)/ Vice President YLF was the Master of Ceremony (MC) for the think tank with Mr. John Kwadwo Owusu, Chief Executive Officer of Environmental Protection Association of Ghana as the chairman and Mr. Nelson Agyemang Chair of Kumasi Civil Society Group (KuSoG) of Business Leaders Consult (BLC) as the Resource Person. The MC introduced the chairman of the program and the chairman accepted the position at 3:41pm. Mr. Martin Larbi from Youth for Rural Education Development said an opening prayer for the program to be started officially. Mr. Kingsley B. Sarpong, National President of Young Leaders Forum (YLF) gave a brief introduction of the purpose of the meeting using excerpts from the United Nation's Secretary General's speech on the year's theme. At 3:45, the MC called on Mr. Nelson Agyemang representing Business Leaders Consult and Kumasi Civil Society Group (KuSoG). He Led NGOs to think about the theme: **Melting Ice-A hot Topic?** He explained how important it was for him to respond to the call by the Young leaders Forum (YLF.) to assist them celebrate the World Environment Day. He further briefed the delegates on the topic of the year using power point and videos downloaded from the WED 2007 website

(www.unep.org/wed/2007) and online video from WED's website and explained scenes that they depicted (The videos that were used to assist in the presentation were):

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He emphasized the fact that Melting ice has global effect that we all need to know and do something about, it should not be construed merely as a polar issue, since we in Ghana are already affected by Climate change and global warming in the form of rainstorms and droughts in parts of Ghana, and are one of the Poorest countries likely to be hardest hit by effects of sea level rise due to melting ice, whether we are major contributors or not, effects hit everyone. NGOs who are both at the forefront of Environmental issues and closer to the grassroots of our people, need to understand these phenomena if the mass of our people will come to appreciate how melting ice from what looks like far away polar regions will affect our daily lives.

1.6.1 ANALYSIS, DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS ON THE THEME

At 4:17pm, a discussion on what role we can play do combat the alarming rate of climatic change commenced with Mr. Kingsley B. Sarpong of Young Leaders Forum and Abubakar Hafiz of Asawase Civic Union as the Facilitators.

The question of how used refrigerators contribute to the problem of climatic change was asked. Mr. Humphrey Agblede, a national

service person at Environmental Protection Association of Ghana explained that they contain gasses like Chloroflourocarbon that disintegrates the ozone layer and interrupts the in flow of oxygen.

On the discussion as to how the problem could be solved, the following suggestions were made:

- ✓ Mr. Humphrey Agblede said all have to be on board to help curb it. Individuals, NGOs and government all have roles to play. He continued that the adoption of the use of bio-fuels like bio-diesel can help because they do not produce much carbon dioxide that causes global warming. He appealed that NGOs and Civil Society Organizations should advocate for the use of bio-fuel instead of fossil fuel.
- ✓ He later said we should plant trees since they produce the oxygen we breathe and absorb the carbon dioxide we exhale.
- ✓ The issue of the ban on the import of over-aged cars was raised as they pollute the environment. Mr. J.K. Owusu, Chief Executive Officer of Environmental Protection Association of Ghana said there is a policy for the over-aged cars which is the payment of penalty. He said government is doing much and will soon deal totally with the importation of such cars that produce much smoke that causes global warming.
- ✓ Mr. Yahaya Mohammed from Global Hope for the Development of the Hopeless condemned the use of used refrigerators saying they consume much energy (electricity).
- ✓ Samuel Amoama from Global Poverty Eradication Centre suggested that afforestation should be encouraged by individuals, schools, NGOs and the government; he meant everybody.
- ✓ Mr. Martin Larbi from Youth for Rural Education Development suggested that measures should be put in place to curtail pollution. He said we should focus on children; make them understand that they are the younger generation and will suffer

the more and the need to contribute to saving the environment.

- ✓ The issue of diverting to the use of solar by Ghanaians was raised. Mr. Kingsley B. Sarpong said due to the fact that the country generate about 80% of it's electricity from the Akosombo dam, it puts so much pressure on the dam in the face of adverse drought. Hence the energy crisis the country is facing. He suggested that we should all put pressure on the government to divert to the use of solar as there is enough sunshine in Ghana and Africa at large.
- ✓ 'The attitude of the people should be changed' said Mr. Amada Jaama from Government Accountability Improved Trust Project (GAIT II). He said the public should be educated on their bad attitude towards the environment. He continued "traditional leaders should also be used in solving the problem because they have power to change the attitude of people".
- ✓ Hon. Gibril Yussif, the Assembly Member of Asawase Electoral Area suggested the education of the public on how to use electrical power to avoid wasting it. He said gadgets like computers still use electrical power when turned off with the power supply still on.
- ✓ Nelson Agyemang reminded the Think-tank of the urgent need to link this WED Celebration follow up with International Polar year, since they are both on Melting Ice.
- ✓ These perspectives went into a draft statement of NGOs on Melting Ice, Global warming, climate change and Polar year.

The chairman later set in to thank delegates and asked of the way out of the forward. He suggested that:

- ✓ We should all have interest in environmental issues and appealed to the media to take keen interest in environmental issues.

- ✓ We should be committed to the course of preventing and solving environmental problems.

He later spoke on the problems encountered in the quest to solve environmental issues some of which were:

- ✚ Unavailability of funds for dealing with environmental issues.
- ✚ People do not turn up for programs concerning the environment since there are no funds to provide snacks and pay for their transportation.
- ✚ The Press does not pay attention to environmental issues.
- ✚ Cost sharing from donors undermines work on the environment since it is not easy generating income from many environmental projects.
- ✚ People building in water-ways, swamps and natural reserves of which he said some churches start and the public follow afterwards.

The Chairman later introduced the next agenda which was on the way forward and delegates contributed.

1.6.2 The Way Forward

- ❖ Mr. Samuel Amoama of GLOPEC suggested the formation of a network to campaign on the negative effects of not taking good care of our environment.
- ❖ Mr. Nelson Agyemang of BLC and KuSoG argued that the formation of a new network is not the solution now as there are many of them already operating but said the problem is with interest, commitment, coordination and financing. Donor countries now always talk of cost sharing. He said there are too many NGOs in the system now with relatively little effect,

because many exist in name without the necessary resources and capacity to deliver, with so much duplication of uncoordinated efforts. The problem is that they do not co-ordinate but tend to compete for resources and this should not be their focus. They need to use their existing networks to build fund raising and capacity to manage and that his consultancy Business Leaders Consult (BLC) is ready to assist if they will coordinate their affairs. He said Kumasi Civil Society Group (KuSoG) is one such network of about 15 NGOs that BLC is assisting with fund raising and capacity building and NGOs which do not belong to any such networks are welcome to join. He also advised NGOs to create things that generate income so as to get funds to undertake activities even if they do not get funding from government or donors.

- ❖ Mr. Martin Larbi added that starting environmental projects like planting of trees is not a difficulty in this country but how to sustain them. He lamented on sustainability. He said we should do an environmental impact assessment. He continued that when trees are grown, we should see to it that they grow and do not die. He said the media should be proactive and get involved in environmental issues. They should advise the public on the need to take very good care of the environment as they reach out to a lot of people at a time.
- ❖ Mr. Francis Opare, National Secretary of YLF and ICT Coordinator, KCC of YLF, reminded the think-tank of the resource person's advice to link the way forward and follow up with celebration of International Polar year (IPY), also focusing on melting ice, and suggested, a follow up committee to look into how to link our WED to IPY, and communicate with Government, donors and Global IPY concerns regarding hosting, National and Regional activities. First, copies of this report need to be sent to IPY concerns, UN system, World Bank group, EU Government, and others to indicate our willingness as civil society, including Faith-based Civil Society Organization (FBOs), to collaborate on Environment,

Climate change, Global warming, Melting ice and IPY.

- ❖ Mr. Francis Opare also intimated that FBOs will continue this follow up, in the form taking the think-tank and seminars into church, Church Networks and Councils and Church Leaders Training sessions. As National Secretary/Treasurer he will take it to the Fountain of Leadership (FOL) Church Executive Council for it to adopt the continuing mobilization of churches to be involved in Environment, Global warming, IPY issues. FOL will be urged to involve its Apostolic Network-Ghana of some 100 Evangelico- Pentecostal-Charismatic Churches in the middle Zone of Ghana i.e. Ashanti, Brong Ahafo, Eastern and Western regions.
- ❖ The Apostolic Network Ghana can take this up at its next regular meeting, with a seminar and videos on WED, and use it as a spring board to launch Churches into this initiative. 100 churches and pastors are expected to attend in Kumasi on 25th June, 2007
- ❖ Churches which participate in this need to collaborate with other FBOs such Muslim Family Counseling Services and others.

The meeting was called to a close with the MC inviting Mr. Martin Larbi for a closing prayer.

The meeting closed at 5:15pm.

1.7 SUCCESSES

- i. The celebration was promoted made other NGOs and the general public aware of the World Environment Day.
- ii. Schools were reached with WED
- iii. Awareness was created on the need to take good care of the environment.
- iv. Effects of Climate change, global warming and melting polar ice have been highlighted to Civil Society Organizations, FBOs, Schools and Media and the public
- v. NGO's/Civil Society Organizations were brought together to interact, network, participate and share ideas, reviving the need to continue such collaboration in these and other matters of concern.
- vi. Attention has been drawn to other celebrations of the UN days and the need to participate in those celebrations including March, 2007-March, 2009- International Polar Year (IPY), 26th June-International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking; 12th August-World Youth Day;16th October- World Food Day; 17th October- International Day for the Eradication of Poverty;16th November-International Day for Tolerance ;10th December- Human Rights Day;20th December-International Human Solidarity Day .

1.8 CHALLENGES

- i. Lack of materials such as posters, handouts, videos and handbills.
- ii. Budgetary constraints.
- iii. General challenge of time to plan the celebration.
- iv. Difficulty in securing more schools for the seminar as some schools were unwilling to participate since the day fell on a Tuesday. Schools preferred Fridays.
- v. Difficulty in getting many NGOs and Civil Society Organizations to join in the celebration due to short notices or lack interest in environmental issues or one-time activities..
- vi. Electricity problems due to the load shedding in Ghana at the moment. Lights sometimes went off in the middle of showing videos/power point.

1.9 SOLUTIONS:

Despite the aforementioned challenges, various strategies were adopted to make the celebration a memorable one. The following means were used

- i. A stand-by generator was hired to supply power anytime the lights went out.
- ii. Heads of schools were convinced by the organizers to allow for the program to take place in view of benefits to the school, the city, nation, continent and the world at large.
- iii. Distribution of tasks to NGOs to help hasten preparations and led to NGOs contributing materials, time, and cash to

cover costs of the activities.

- iv. Participants resolved to continue to sustain the generated interest among several stakeholders by holding a follow up meeting on 15th June, 2007, to take these recommendations forward.
- v. The groups are continuing to celebrate the World Environment Day in the subsequent days. Education is going on in the course of this and subsequent years.

2.0 APPENDICES:

2.1 APPENDIX 1:

Minutes of all preparatory meetings and attendants.

First Preparatory Meeting was held at YDF, Seek Ye Supermarket, and Airport Roundabout in Kumasi. Meeting started at 4pm on the 25th of May, 2007.

In attendance were:

Mr. Nelson Agyemang (in the chair), Mr. Kingsley B. Sarpong, Mr. Francis Opare, Mr. Richard Atakora Baafi, Mr. Eric Nyarko, Mr. Augustine Yeboah, Mr. Samuel Amoama, Takyi Oswald and Enoch Boakye-Gyimah.

Meeting was to discuss the celebration; preparations that is venue and time and which activities be chosen for the day. The organizing team was formed. They later chose to organize seminars in schools, distribute materials being booklets and an NGOs think-tank. The distribution of materials was later cancelled due to lack of funds. Various tasks were assigned to the organizers.

The second meeting had the following people in attendance; Mr. Nelson Agyemang of Business Leaders Consult and KuSoG (in the chair), Mr. Kingsley B. Sarpong (President, YLF National Secretariat), Mr. Samuel Amoama (GLOPEC), Francis Opare Gyau(YLF National Secretary), Eric Nyarko (Projects/Business Coordinator, YLF National Secretariat) and Takyi Oswald (Public Relations Officer, YLF National Secretariat).

Activities that would be organized on the day were registered at WED website. Letters were to be sent to prospective sponsors, other NGOs, UN Resident Office in Ghana and to media houses as well as to schools where seminars would be held.

The third meeting was to finalize earlier deliberations. A time was fixed for the seminar and think tank. A venue for the think tank was also finalized. In attendance were Mr. Agyeman Nelson (in the chair), Kingsley B. Sarpong (YLF), Mr. Samuel Amoama (GLOPEC), Mr. Martin Larbi (Youth for Rural Education Development), Opare Gyau Francis (YLF), Takyi Oswald (YLF), Baafi Richard (YLF), Eric Nyarko (YLF), Ohene-Gyan Charles (Sacrifice Foundation), Augustine Yeboah (YLF), Hafiz Abubakar and Yahaya Mohammed (Global Hope for the Development of the Hopeless).

2.2 APPENDIX 2:

Participants and their respective Civil Society Organizations/NGO's

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
1. Samuel Amoama	Global Poverty Eradication Centre (GLOPEC)
2. Martin Larbi	Youth for Rural Education Development
3. Francis Opare-Gyau	Young Leaders Forum
4. Hafiz Abubakar	Asawase Civic Union
5. Rumana Saeed	Muslim Family Counseling Services
6. Abdul Wahab Gariba	Empowerment Centre for Women and Children
7. Kingsley B. Sarpong	Young Leaders Forum
8. Takyi Oswald	Young Leaders Forum
9. Amadu Jaama	Government Accountability Improved Trust
10. Yahaya Mohammed	Global Hope for the Development of the Hopeless
11. Humphrey Agblede	Environmental Protection Association of Ghana
12. Pascal Noumado	Environmental Organic Farmers & Reproductive Health Services.
14. Joseph Eshun	Environmental Protection Association of Ghana
15. Hon. Gibril Yussif	Youth for Information and Employment Project Society
16. Rachael Owusu	Vulnerable Girls and Women's Committee/ Business Women's Bond

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 17. Nkuah Midas | Defence for Children International (Ghana Section) |
| 18. Donkor Elizabeth | Leadership Media Center |
| 19. Dr. George Oppong Ampong | Youth Development Foundation (YDF) |
| 20. Kate Leyenaar | Ghana National Education Campaign Coalition |
| 21. John Kwadwo Owusu | Environmental Protection Association of Ghana |
| 22. Enoch Boakye-Gyimah | Young Leaders Forum |
| 23. Ohene-Gyan Charles | Sacrifice Foundation |
| 24. Eric Nyarko | Young Leaders Forum |
| 25. Richard Atakora Baafi | Young Leaders Forum |
| 26. Nelson Agyemang | Business Leaders Consult/ KuSoG |
| 27. Yeboah Augustine | Young Leaders Forum |

2.3 APPENDIX 3:

Members of Organizing Committee

1. Kingsley B. Sarpong President
2. Samuel Amoama Vice President
3. Francis Opare Gyau Secretary
4. Richard Atakora Baafi Organizer
5. Eric Nyarko Business/Project Coordinator
6. Enoch Boakye-Gyimah Liaison Officer
7. Martin Larbi Networking Coordinator
8. Takyi Oswald Public Relations Officer
9. Nelson Agyemang Chair-KuSoG/Resource Person

2.4 APPENDIX 4:

Civil Society Statement of Recommendations and Actions following celebration of World Environment Day, 5th June,2007 in Kumasi, Ghana

We, 20 Civil Society Organizations, NGOs and FBOs Participating in a Civil Society Think-Tank on The Theme of 5th June, 2007, World environment Day Celebrations in Kumasi: **Melting Ice - A hot Topic?** Having listened to resource persons, after viewing 4 videos on the subject, scanned a -53 page booklet on the subject, and after intense deliberations, debates and analysis issue this statement of recommended actions as a minimum to save our environment from total destruction due to human abuse, greed, consumerism, in-action, inertia, apathy, poor Leadership and lack of Responsibility.

The Current situation of near- collapse of our earth to sustain life, can be reversed, by people changing behaviors:

- ✓ All Individuals, NGOs and governments have roles to play in the adoption of behaviors, actions, policies and interventions including the use of bio-fuels like bio-diesel because they do not produce much carbon dioxide that causes global warming. NGOs and Civil Society Organizations should advocate for the use of bio-fuel and other clean energy options all over the world, instead of fossil fuel.
- ✓ Aforestation should be encouraged by individuals, schools, NGOs, Churches, FBOs, Private Sector, and governments
- ✓ Measures should be put in place to curtail pollution of all kinds; we in the developing world should prevent excessive destruction of forests and burning of vegetations.

- ✓ We call on the wide spectrum of Civil Society Organizations to act responsibly, eschew unprofessionalism and wrong doing and embrace accountability and transparency in all their dealings to assure confidence and trust with other development stakeholders.
- ✓ We call on Governments, Donors, Private sector to take extra necessary measures to assure the availability of finance, resources, personnel, capacity and the freedoms to allow active and vibrant Civil Society roles in Ghana, Africa and the world and eliminate any bottlenecks that stifle Civil Society and Citizens actions.
- ✓ We especially call on Private Sector and Business entities to take extra precautionary and responsible measures to prevent and clean up their pollutions, including environmental impact assessments and other non-polluting measures and be good corporate citizens in their communities and the world and observe best practice production and corporate social responsibility reminiscent of the overt respectability of business.
- ✓ Business, Governments and Citizens need to cooperate to save our planet.
- ✓ We should focus on children and make them understand that they are the younger generation who will suffer the most and must contribute to saving the environment.
- ✓ But Adults have moral responsibility not to deprive future generations of their right to life and survival on this planet by living sustainably.
- ✓ We urge all governments in Africa to divert to the use of solar as there is enough sunshine in Ghana and Africa at large.
- ✓ We urge Developed Country Governments to sign the Kyoto protocol and its follow ups, and implement them fully.

- ✓ We urged developed Country Citizens to reduce the extent and pattern of their consumption to reduce poverty in the world and save our planet.
- ✓ All people should change their behaviors and attitudes for the better. And we the 2/3 world should not indiscriminately follow unsustainable life patterns of the developed world in the name of modernity. We should look at the healthy and sustainable ways of life and maximize them.
- ✓ We should reduce CO₂ emissions from use of second hand products and other carbon related goods, burning of vegetation, drying out of water bodies and plant more trees, conserve energy, educate others, change behaviors and preserve our forests.
- ✓ Traditional leaders are urged to help in solving the problems because they have influence on their people.
- ✓ The WED Celebration follow up will be linked with International Polar year, since they are both on Melting Ice.
- ✓ NGOs and FBOs should all have interest in environmental issues. We should be committed to the course of preventing and solving environmental problems
- ✓ The media need to take keen interest in environmental issues.
- ✓ Civil Society Networking on Environmental issues needs to be strengthened.
- ✓ NGOs and FBOs need to strengthen their impact through Networking which will focus on joint-action, coordination, financing, capacity building and advocacy on environment, sustainable development, Poverty reduction, achieving the millennium development goals, Promoting Good governance, democracy, human rights, transparency, anti corruption and accountability, civil participation and equity, equality and empowerment of Women.

- ✓ The need to link the way forward and follow up with celebration of International Polar year (IPY), also focusing on melting ice; the need to set up a follow up committee to look into how to link our WED to IPY, and communicate with Governments, donors and Global IPY concerns regarding hosting, National and Regional activities.
- ✓ First, copies of this report need to be sent to NGOs, CBOs, FBOs, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), IPY concerns, UN system, World Bank group, EU, Governments, Private Sector and Business entities and others to indicate our willingness as civil society, including Faith-based Civil Society Organizations (FBOs), to collaborate on Environment, Climate change, Global warming, Melting ice and IPY.
- ✓ The need to continue this follow up, in the form of taking the think-tank and seminars into churches, Church Networks and Councils and Church Leaders Training sessions. Fountain of Leadership (FOL) Church Executive Council is urged to adopt the continuing mobilization of churches to be involved in Environment, Global warming, IPY issues. FOL is urged to involve its Apostolic Network-Ghana of some 100 Evangelico- Pentecostal-Charismatic Churches in the middle Zone of Ghana i.e. Ashanti, Brong Ahafo, Eastern and Western regions.
- ✓ The Apostolic Network Ghana is urged to take this up at its next regular meeting, with a seminar and videos on WED, and use it as a spring board to launch Churches into this initiative. 100 churches and pastors are expected to attend in Kumasi on 25th June, 2007
- ✓ Churches which participate in this need to collaborate with other FBOs such as Muslim Family Counseling Services and others.

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