



PRESS RELEASE

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BCS, along with Public and Private Stakeholders in Africa's Extractive Industries Agree that Collaboration is Critical to Successful Community Development

Cape Coast, Ghana, May 20, 2008 — Industry professionals from Chevron, Gold Fields Ghana, Newmont Mining, Rio Tinto Alcan, and the Ghana Chamber of Mines sponsored and attended the event, which was led by IFC's Oil, Gas, and Mining Sustainable Community Development Fund (CommDev) in cooperation with **Business-Community Synergies** and Environmental Resources Management.

Companies, local communities, and governments must work together to ensure that people benefit from oil, gas, and mining projects in Sub-Saharan Africa, if the extractive industry is to continue expanding in the region, experts agreed at a recent workshop held in Ghana. The workshop was led by IFC, a member of the World Bank Group.

At times of record high commodity prices, the extraction and sale of gold, copper, oil, and other natural resources plays an increasingly important role in creating jobs and wealth for African nations. To sustain benefits such as employment, training, and opportunities to sell goods and services, companies must share responsibility for development projects with local governments and community leaders.

"We are committed to building solid and positive relationships in the communities where we operate and believe that participatory approaches are innovative ways to unlock value," said Mathieu Bouchard, Rio Tinto Alcan's Vice President for Sustainable Development and Climate Change.

Nana Kweku Baah I, the Chief of New Atuabo, near Tarkwa in Western Ghana, agreed: "I believe that it is only through effective engagement, collaboration and transparent partnership among all the stakeholders, especially between the mining companies and our community members, that our natural resources can be effectively harnessed for our mutual benefits."

“The workshop has really opened my eyes on the need for us, especially women to also participate in the planning and decision making concerning development projects in our communities. I am ready to present what I learned to my fellow women at our next WCC quarterly meeting,” remarked Beatrice Akyiaa, a member of the Women Consultative Committee (WCC) in the Newmont Ahafo Mine area.

Leading extractive industries companies joined community leaders and local government officials from across Sub-Saharan Africa to share experiences and new methods for maximizing the benefits that extractive industry projects can bring to local people.

“Companies are increasingly recognizing that the quality of local development affects their bottom line through productivity increases, risk mitigation, and improved global reputation,” said Imoni Akpofure, IFC Country Manager for Ghana. “The most effective way to ensure success is to include local stakeholders in the planning and implementation of community development programs.”

“Community relations is a key component of the industry’s community development and social investment agenda. Therefore, the lessons learnt at the IFC’s CommDev workshop in Elmina will enhance the ability of Chamber members to impact positively on the socio-economic development of mining communities” said Joyce Aryee, Chairman of Public Relations Committee of the Ghana Chamber of Mines.