

# **MUNITES OF TIDD-TBI JOINT PREPARATORY MEETING ON SUPPLY OF LEGAL TIMBER TO THE DOMESTIC MARKET: HELD AT WITC BOARDROOM ON FRIDAY MARCH 11, 2011**

## **1. OPENING**

Meeting started at about 2:35pm with an opening prayer by Peter Edem Zormelo.

## **2. MEMBERS PRESENT**

The following were present at the meeting:

<b>Name:</b>		<b>Institution</b>
1. AlhassanAttah	-	Executive Director, TIDD
2. K.S. Nketiah	-	ProgrammeDirector,TBI
3. Raphael Yeboah	-	Executive Director, FSD
4. B.I. Ahmed	-	TIDD
5. Peter Zormelo	-	TIDD
6. KwamenaHaizel	-	TIDD
7. Dr. Emmanuel Marfo	-	FORIG
8. Dr. Kyereh Boateng	-	Scientific Coordinator, TBI
9. U. K. Armoo	-	FC
10. Dr. Beatrice DarkoObiri	-	FORIG
11. Emmanuel Fosu	-	TBI
12. James Parker Mckeown	-	Project Coordinator, EU Chain Saw Project
13. Mrs Mercy Owusu Ansah	-	EU Chain Saw Project
14. Mrs Jane Glen Asomaning	-	EU Chain Saw Project

## **3. ABSENT WITH APPOLOGY**

- i. Mr. Alex K. Boadu (*On annual leave*)
- ii. Mr. Oppon Sasu (*Engaged in other assignment*)

## **4. AGENDA:**

The following items were agreed as the agenda for the meeting after an amendment to the initial one proposed for the meeting:

1. Review report on Joint Consensus Building Workshop held at Erata Hotel in October 2010.
2. Addressing concerns raised by GTMO
3. Strategies to engage industry as a key stakeholder in addressing problems of domestic lumber supply.
4. A Joint Action Plan Committee
5. The legal implication of option 2 to supply lumber to the domestic market

## **5. OPENING STATEMENT**

The Programme Director of TBI Ghana, who co-chaired the meeting with the Executive Director of the TIDD, welcomed members present after giving a brief historical background for the preparatory meeting and emphasized the need to hold such a meeting in order to move the joint process of domestic market supply of legal timber forward. He also touched on the concern by TIDD on the agenda, and the need to engage Industry (GTMO) in the process.

In his preliminary comment and response to issues raised by the Programme Director of TBI, the Executive Director of TIDD emphasized the need to engage all stakeholders, particularly GTMO in the process. He briefed the meeting about the outcome of his meeting with leadership of GTMO and their willingness to support the joint process if the following issues can be adequately addressed:

- ✚ TIDD as a government institution should provide leadership for the joint process.
- ✚ GTMO requires sufficient time of notice to attend stakeholder meetings. This required some level of consultations and agreements with them before the formal invitation.
- ✚ GTMO felt they are not adequately represented on the joint process in terms of numbers.
- ✚ Engagement with GTMO should start with the executive leadership of the organization so that they decide who to attend and represent their interest at any meeting.

## **6. VALIDATION OF DECISIONS OF ERATA MEETING**

The meeting agreed on the need to meet all stakeholders to validate decisions arrived at Erata meeting held in October 2010. It was also agreed that TBI re-brand itself to disabuse the mind of the general public on the misconception that the EU Chain Saw Project was established to legalize and promote chain saw lumbering.

## **7. STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF INDUSTRY**

To address the concerns raised by industry, a meeting with all relevant industry stakeholders i.e. GTA, WAG, FAWAG, GTMO, DOLTA, GREDA, etc. to discuss their concerns related to the implementation of the joint process and also other issues emanating from the selected policy option on the domestic market supply of legal timber.

For effective results and broader participation, it was agreed that the various stakeholder groups should be met separately either at different times on same or different meetings on different days so as to address specific issues related to the specific groups.

## **8. COMMITTEE FOR A JOINT ACTION PLAN**

Following from item 6 above, a 5-member joint committee was formed to develop and submit an Action Plan based on agreement reached during the last joint consensus building workshop held in Accra. The Action Plan should address all issues and concerns that were raised by various stakeholder groups and also strategize on the way forward.

The members of the committee are:

- |      |                        |         |   |          |
|------|------------------------|---------|---|----------|
| i.   | Dr Emmanuel Marfo      | (FORIG) | - | Chairman |
| ii.  | Mr. James Parker       | (TBI)   | - | Member   |
| iii. | Mr. Peter Edem Zormelo | (TIDD)  | - | Member   |
| iv.  | Mr. Kwamina E Haizel   | (TIDD)  | - | Member   |
| v.   | Mrs. Mercy Owusu Ansah | (TBI)   | - | Member   |

The Committee was also tasked to prepare a budget alongside the plan to be considered and approved by the co-chairs for implementation. Deadline for submission of the plan is 21/3/11. It was further agreed to make the team permanent (or core); to plan all activities of the joint processes to the time of submitting a policy option and a national procurement policy to the sector ministry through the FC.

The terms of reference (ToR) for the committee are:

- i. Implement all key decisions and agreements reached at the joint TIDD-TBI multi-stakeholder meetings held at Erata.
- ii. Plan engagement meetings with all key stakeholders to validate the selected policy option two.
- iii. Review of all issues and conditions required (including legal framework) for the implementation of option two.
- iv. Develop an Action Plan with Budget and implementation strategy for procurement policy on timber for the domestic market.
- v. Organize regular TIDD-TBI joint working group meetings to review the joint process.

## **9. A NEW NAME AND IMAGE OF EU CHAIN SAW PROJECT**

Members extensively discussed the need for a new name for the EU Chain Saw Project (EU-CSP) in order to make the project acceptable by all sections of society. Many people perceive “the project”, with the support of the EU, to be promoting chain saw lumbering; as the name appear to suggest.

Members were informed that the project management is considering a change in name and plans are far advanced to come up with a new project title that significantly reflects addressing supply of legal timber to the domestic market. Members were promised by the project coordinator that the new name under a new banner will be circulated for comments by members.

The meeting also agreed that, a press statement be issued by TBI at the next joint meeting after a new name has been adopted to correct the wrong impressions created in the minds of some stakeholder groups and the general public.

## 10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OF POLICY OPTION TWO (2)

The corporate head of legal affairs of FC Lawyer Armoo together with the Executive Director of FSD Mr. Raphael Yeboah made a presentation on the legal implications of policy option two (i.e. sawmillers and artisanal millers to supply legal lumber to the domestic market).

Their presentation touched on the following key issue:

- i The need for a proper definition to be given to the concept of “*artisanal milling*”.
- ii Artisanal mills need to comply with the business registration process by registering under co-operative business law of Ghana which will allow them to operate as limited liability companies.
- iii Being registered as cooperatives could allow artisanal millers to benefit from some tax exemptions provided for under the co-operative Act.
- iv Artisanal mills could be exempted from competitive bidding in resource allocation under Act 617, where the sector minister could grant/approve permits to millers.
- v Should artisanal mill be restricted to supply legal timber only to the domestic market? *[To achieve this, there will be the need for some changes to our current forest laws]*.
- vi The legal team however cautioned that any attempt to enact new laws or amend current laws to favour artisanal mills in resource allocation under policy option two will automatically qualify all formal mills to also compete and apply for that same timber resource.
- vii Another issue worth noting is whether the Minister’s right to grant concession to artisanal millers will oblige them to supply to the domestic market **only**; whereas they are paying all legitimate fees/charges as the regular millers and are to be barred from exporting? These and other issues make it necessary for some amendments to be made to the forest laws.

The legal team was tasked to present a written proposal on the legal implications of the selected option 2, to the meeting by end of March. Their proposal should address other issues such as:

- a) Resource allocation to Artisanal mills for supply of legal timber to the domestic market.
- b) Proposed amendment of relevant forestry laws and policies to allow artisanal mills to operate legally. The formal mills are already covered under the law.
- c) Develop procedures for labeling and tracking lumber produced solely for the domestic market.

- d) The condition under which sawmillers will supply to the domestic market in terms of resource allocation.

## **11. OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS**

### **11.1 Study Report on Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) on Policy Option 2**

The Director of TBI informed the meeting that the study report on the Cost Benefit Analysis on policy option 2 commissioned by TBI will be ready by end of March 2011. He indicated that the report will be circulated to members of TIDD-TBI Joint Working Group for their comment before commissioning. The Executive Director of TIDD advised that the report should be subjected to a broader stakeholder discussion and validation process before commissioning to make the document acceptable to all.

### **11.2 Cost Sharing of TIDD-TBI Joint Process**

The meeting agreed in principle that all cost related to the joint process should be shared equally (50-50) between the two partner institutions. Further decision on this will be taken after the joint action plan committee has submitted their budget proposal.

### **11.3 TIDD's Representation on TBI/EU-CSP PAC/PMT**

The Executive Director of TIDD sought clarification on TIDD's representation on TBI/EU-CSP Project Management Team (PMT) and Project Advisory Council (PAC) meetings. The Executive Director among others, raised issues concerning the method of appointment and subsequent means of communicating TIDD's representatives on the two committees. The meeting was informed by Mr. Peter Edem Zormelo that the appointment was made by the Ag. Executive of TIDD and this was communicated to TBI by e-mail. The Executive Director requested that these appointments should be formalized.

In a brief response to concerns raised above, the Programme Director of TBI intimated that the issue of communication has arisen due to change in headship of TIDD. He however assured the meeting that he has taken note of all suggestion made.

## **12. CLOSING**

The co-chairmen expressed their appreciation to all members present. They entreated all to work hard to move the joint process forward and also contribute towards the development and implementation of policies that address supply of legal timber to the domestic market.

The meeting closed at about 5:25pm after a closing prayer by Mrs Mercy Owusu Ansah.

*Recorded by:*

**PETER EDEM ZORMELO**