

GSA, MoTI Holds Construction Sector Forum



Dr. Wolfram Schmidt, BAM (second from left) making a contribution

The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTI), and the Ghana Standards Authority (GSA), in partnership with the Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Klimaschutz (BMWK) and Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und-prüfung (BAM), last Wednesday held a stakeholder engagement to discuss new trends and ways to make Ghana's construction sector more sustainable.

The Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Hon. Michael Okyere Baafi, who was the special guest of honour, urged cement manufacturers not to relent in efforts to introduce local substitutes like clay and limestone into the production of cement to reduce harmful emissions.

“These emissions might be reduced by lowering the clinker content, which in the case of Ghana, has to be imported (with foreign currency). The current environmental and economic downturns had propelled today's discussion with stakeholder”.

“The economic benefits of these substitutes could not be underestimated. Clinker is not found in Ghana and every cement manufacturer imports, putting more demand on foreign currencies to pay for imports,” he noted.

The proposed alternative of clay and limestone are sustainable inputs or replacements as they are in vast quantities and mined in Ghana. The Minister added

that clay and limestone also reduce the carbon emission in cement.

According to the Minister, the discussions would define the actions the industry would take towards delivering a carbon-neutral future in the production of cement and concrete, stating that the government is ready to assist businesses and local manufacturers of cement with a conducive environment and testing facilities to produce and stay profitable.

The Acting Director-General of the GSA, Mr. Clifford Frimpong, noted that the forum fell in line with government's efforts of creating an industrialised country while combating the

impact of climate change with the use of green and environmentally friendly materials in the buzzing construction industry.

Stakeholders that attended the forum included the Chamber of Cement Manufacturers, Ghana (COGMA), Civil Engineers and Scientific staff from the GSA, MoTI; Ministries of Works and Housing as well as Environment, Science and Technology, Building Research Institute, among others.



Hon. Micheal Okyere Baafi addressing participants at the forum



Mr. Clifford Frimpong, Ag. DG speaking at the forum



Dr. Wolfram Schmidt addressing stakeholders at the event

