

SELECTION OF SPEAKER PROFILES - DAY 1



Mr. Philip Acquah- Consultant
Independent Energy and Environment Expert

Mr. Philip Acquah, graduated from the University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, with a BSc. in Chemical Engineering in 1977. In 2001, he obtained a Master in Engineering in Cleaner Production from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), Australia.

He is a member of the South Africa Institute of Chemical Engineers (SAIChE) and United Kingdom (UK) Institute of Chemical Engineers (IChemE). Mr. Acquah is a Diasporean Guest Lecturer in Climate Change and Sustainable Development, Masters and MPhil Degree programs at the University of Ghana, Legon, Accra. He has also served as Director of the Environmental Protection Agency (2002-2006) responsible for environmental management in industry including inspection, investigation, compliance promotion, and enforcement, compliance and enforcement network (CEN).

Mr. Acquah is currently an international consultant, who has specialised in energy, climate change, waste and sustainable development. He has led numerous teams across the globe, especially within Ghana, to carry out several projects relating to his areas of expertise for the World Bank, United Nations, International Fund for Agricultural Development, Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation among others. He has chaired a number of energy related conferences and high profile meetings in Ghana bringing on board his vast knowledge and experience in the energy sector to support national development.



Hon. William Owuraku Aidoo (MP)
Deputy Minister of Energy in charge of Power

William Owuraku Aidoo (MP) is the current Deputy Minister of Energy in charge of Power. He is also the Member of Parliament for Afigya Kwabre South in the Ashanti Region.

He is an Energy Consultant and Agriculturalist with vast experience in Energy Governance, Policy, Management and Farming. Prior to his political career, he was the Managing Director of Kucons Company Limited, a wholly owned Ghanaian company involved in construction and rehabilitation of Hydro Dams. Mr. Aidoo was also the Senior Superintendent at the Ghana Education Service (GES), Senior Manager at the Ghana Commercial Bank (GCB) from 1991 to 1994 and 1995 to 2012 respectively. From 2009 to 2012, Mr. Aidoo devoted his time and energy to impact the life of Ghanaian youth through Education by lecturing at the University College of Education in Winneba, Ghana.

Due to his experience and dedication to farming, he emerged as the National Best Farmer for Cashew in Ghana in 2011. He holds a Bachelor of Arts (BA) Degree in Entrepreneurship from the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA).

He is a native of Hemang-Kwabre in the Ashanti Region.

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Mr. Maximilian Butek
Delegate of German Industry and Commerce in Ghana (AHK Ghana)

Mr. Maximilian Butek has been the Delegate of German Industry and Commerce in Ghana (AHK Ghana) since January 2017. Before his posting in Accra, Ghana, he served in the German Foreign Chambers in South Africa, the Baltic States as well as in Thailand.

Before he started his career in the German Foreign Chamber Network, Mr. Butek gained experience in an international ICT cooperation as well as with a strategy consulting firm, focused on IT, energy and financial services. He graduated with a diploma in economics from the University of Bielefeld.



Mr. Burkhardt Hellemann
Country Director of Konrad Adenauer- Foundation, Ghana

The political scientist and pedagogue Mr. Burkhardt Hellemann worked for AGEH as team leader in the area of International Volunteer Services and later on as team leader of the program «Civil Peace Service». He took over responsibility as Country Director of AGEH in «Civil Peace Service» in Cameroun and has work experience in school and youth work. As a volunteer, he lived two years with a Catholic congregation in Chili, Latin America.

He has been managing the KAS country office since January 2016.



Prof. Benjamin Jabez Botwe Nyarko
Director General of Ghana Atomic Energy Commission

Prof. Benjamin Jabez Botwe Nyarko graduated from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, in 1990 with a B.Sc. (Hon.) degree in Physics.

He was awarded Master of Philosophy degree in Physics in 1999 from the University of Ghana, Legon and a Ph.D degree in Physics through International Atomic Energy

Agency (IAEA) "sandwich" programme between Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada and University of Cape Coast, Cape coast, Ghana in 2007.

Prof. Nyarko heads various professional bodies and is the president of the Ghana Nuclear Society and vice president of the Ghana Institute of Physicists. His hard work and commitment to excellent service delivery has propelled him from his previous position as the Deputy Director-General to his current position as Director-General of the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission.

He is a seasoned researcher with numerous publications to his credit and has also won a good number of awards for his dedication to his career such as the African Development, Award of Excellence 2014.

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Mr. Nana Osei-Bonsu
Chief Executive officer of Private Enterprise Federation

Nana studied at Saint Francis College in Brooklyn, in the USA for his first degree in Economics in 1977 and followed up at Fordham University Graduate Arts and Sciences with graduate studies in International Finance. Nana has had an extensive banking career in the USA starting at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in 1972, followed by a five-year service as a Bank Examiner in the New York State Banking Department. He later joined the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York as a Supervising Analyst. Subsequent to that, Nana worked as an Investment Accountant with the Equitable Capital Management Corporation later to become Alliance Capital, and obtained the NASDAQ Series 7 Broker/Dealer License during that period. Nana later joined the investment banking division of JP Morgan Chase as a Compliance Officer.

In June 2011, Nana was appointed the Director- General (now to Chief Executive Officer) of the Private Enterprise Federation (PEF), a position he currently holds. Nana also serves as a board or steering committee member of numerous public, academia and private institutions including the following, Chairman of the Food Research Institute of Ghana, Chairman of the Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition, Chairman of Good Governance Africa(GGA), Member of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Private Sector Development, Member of the Ministerial Advisory Board of Ministry of Trade and Industry, Member Steering Committee of the Environmental Protection Agency on Clean Technology& Climate Change, member, Steering Committee of the University of Ghana Institute of Applied Science and Technology, to mention a few.

Nana has participated in most of the AUC/ NEPAD agribusiness fora from Lusaka in 2013 to the most recent CAADP PP meetings in Accra Ghana in 2015 and April 2016. Nana was a presenter at the MALABO Meeting in 2014 that established The MALABO DECLARATION for the next 10 years of CAADP. Nana was recognized for his selfless contribution to the advancement of humanity by the Lagos-based Women of Purpose Ministry International for his patronage and support to the Society for the Aged, located at Kpone-on-Sea in Greater Accra, of which he is a Life Patron.

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Ambassador Christoph Retzlaff
Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Ghana

Ambassador Christoph Retzlaff had his alternative civilian service in 1981. He completed his studies in Law and history at Freiburg and Berlin in 1989 and had his first legal internship in Berlin and Brussels. He has an M.A. in Contemporary History.

He had his second state law exam in 1993 in Berlin and by 1994 completed the Foreign Service School, Federal Foreign Office.

His first assignment was in the German Embassy Moscow (1994-1997). He also worked at the Federal Foreign Office, Department for United Nations Personnel from 1997-2001. He was the Deputy Head of Mission at the German Embassy Rangoon from 2001-2004. He was the Deputy Head of Division, Political Directorate at the Federal Foreign Office from 2004-2008. He was the Permanent Representation of Germany to the UN, New York, Political Directorate (2008-2011). He was Head of Division at the European Directorate (2011-2014). He was previously the Deputy Head of Mission at the German Embassy in Cairo from 2014-2016.

He is currently the Head of Mission at the German Embassy Accra since 2016.



Dr. Robert Bright Mawuko Sogbadji
Policy Analyst on Nuclear Energy, Energy Efficiency and Conservation and Alternative Energy at the Ministry of Energy

Dr. Robert Bright Mawuko Sogbadji was born on 6th January, 1981. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree (BSc.) in Physics from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in 2005 and a Master of Philosophy (MPhil.) degree in Nuclear Engineering from the University of Ghana in 2008. He currently holds a Doctorate degree (PhD) in Nuclear Physics from the Université de Paris-Sud XI awarded him in 2012.

He possesses substantial knowledge and experience in Energy dynamics in Ghana. He is currently the Policy Analyst on Nuclear Energy, Energy Efficiency and Conservation and Alternative Energy at the Ministry of Energy. Additionally, he is also currently a Senior lecturer at the Graduate School of Nuclear Allied Science and Research Scientist for the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission. Dr. Sogbadji is a member of the Ghana Nuclear Society and Research Scientist Association of the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission.

He has attended and represented the country on numerous trainings, workshops, and conferences on Energy within and outside the country with foci ranging from policy, action planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation among others. Dr. Sogbadji is a proficient writer as well with quality research publications in various scientific journals and conference papers mainly on nuclear energy.

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Dr. Eric Twum
Policy Fellow

Dr. Eric Twum is a Chartered Environmentalist with several years' experience in resources management, public policy, climate change adaptation and mitigation, politics, and project management. He studied in Ghana, Germany and the United Kingdom and was a Lecturer and Academic Researcher. His outstanding experience and skills have been applied successfully in policy development and implementation.

He is currently a Policy Fellow and Senior Consultant and has undertaken numerous projects for various national and international organisations including IFAD, UNDP, UNITAR, UNU, Environmental Protection Agency and Ministries in Ghana on Environment, Energy, Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation.

He has been instrumental in the development of Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), Green Economy and the development of a National Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system to track Climate Actions and Climate Finance in Ghana.

Dr. Eric Twum has published widely in peer reviewed journals on Environment, Climate Change and Environmental Financial Assurance.

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Mr. Prince Akpesey
Vice President, Investment Operations at Databank Agrifund Manager, Ghana

Prince is currently Vice President, Investment Operations at Databank Agrifund Manager, private equity fund manager that manages the US\$36 million AAF SME Fund. Prior to that he was Portfolio Manager with the global impact investment firm, Acumen Inc where he led the execution of transactions in Agriculture and Clean Energy Ghana and Nigeria.

Prince has more than 13 years in the financial services industry in Ghana. He is a graduate of the University of Ghana Business School and holds a Masters in Finance and Management from Cranfield University School of Management in the United Kingdom where he was a Chevening Scholar.



Mr. Nelson Amo
CEO, Innohub Limited, Ghana

Nelson has experience in business development, business model innovation and project management in the profit and non-profit sectors, leading projects in Accra, Berlin, Lusaka and Johannesburg. He has an MSc. in Development Studies from the London School of Economics and Political Science. Nelson is a Harambe Entrepreneur Alliance Fellow and a Coach of the Africa Entrepreneurship Awards.

He runs the Innohub Accelerator Program, British Council's ReadyToWork incubator program, and is Academy Manager of the Growing Business Together, an initiative of MBC Africa. He holds a ToT certificate from the Coventry University's Africa Institute for Transformational Entrepreneurship.



Mr. Ebenezer Arthur
CEO, Wangara Capital, Ghana

Ebenezer is the CEO of Wangara Capital which is the first SME fund dedicated to early and growth stage businesses in Ghana with a climate focus. He has over 10 years of experience in management consulting, entrepreneurship, angel investment and business acceleration.

He is also a co-founder of Innohub, a Business Accelerator and Impact Investment Platform, that supports early and growth stage enterprises become investment ready, sustainable and scalable. He previously worked with EY (Ernst & Young) where he provided IT and performance improvement advisory services to companies in the financial services, telecoms, mining and manufacturing industries across West Africa. He has also worked in the financial services industry.

Ebenezer has a Bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering from KNUST and an MBA in Entrepreneurship from Imperial College London. He is an alumnus of the Acton Institute as well as a mentor of the Africa Entrepreneurship Awards and Village Capital.

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Mrs. Anita Arthur
Managing Director, AmericaTowne Inc., Ivory Coast

Anita is a highly regarded and sought after international bilingual vision coach and business mentor who's passionate about helping entrepreneurs (and aspiring entrepreneurs) abandon their excuses, get unstuck and take their vision to six figures and beyond.

She has an in-depth understanding of human behaviour; how the mind is programmed for either success or failure and uses her skills to help business leaders and teams deliver outstanding results.

Anita has over 25 years experience in the corporate world and has held management positions with Deloitte & Touche, Dow Jones Newswires, The Financial Times and CFAO (in Ghana, Nigeria and Côte d'Ivoire). Her vision coaching extends to all areas and impacts sales and business growth with incredible results.

She is currently the Managing Director of Americatowne Inc in Côte d'Ivoire providing businesses with the needed access to capital through the US Capital markets, Hedge Funds and the USA EXIM Bank.

Anita has world-class skills set that includes Performance Mindset Conditioning and the Psychology of Attention.

A graduate of the Westminster Business School in London, Anita is a trusted advisor to entrepreneurs in the areas of business creation with a clear vision and mission, building and wealth transitioning.

An industries' sector finalist of Africa's most influential women in business and government, Anita is a firm believer of Buddha's quote "the mind is everything. What you think you become".

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Mr. R. Yofi Grant
CEO of GIPC

Yofi Grant is a renowned Ghanaian investment banker with over 30 years of extensive work experience in banking and finance. Having served in various capacities in corporate finance, credits, marketing, and investment banking, Mr. Grant has broad knowledge and exposure in the African financial markets and has cultivated strong relationships with international private equity funds, portfolio investment managers and brokerage funds. He was responsible for the development and implementation of AAF SME Fund LLC, one of the largest agriculture funds in Sub-Saharan Africa, and helped them achieve their first close of US\$30 million.

Yofi is a council member of the Continental Business Network of the African Union which advises African governments on private sector finance and infrastructure and has served in many directorship roles in the following subsidiaries of the Databank Group. Databank Agrifund Manager Limited, Databank Financial Services Limited and Databank Brokerage Services Limited. In 2009, he was the Executive Director for Business Development for the entire Databank Group. Mr. Grant was a consultant on finance and business for the Africa Asia Business Forum (AABF) organized by the UNDP which run workshops in 12 African countries and six Asian countries in 2002.

He is partner and co-founder to a number of companies including Grant Dupuis Investment Limited, an investment advisory firm and Coldwell Banker Ghana a company which holds the master franchise license for Coldwell Banker (of the Realogy Group in New Jersey, USA, the world's largest real estate organization) for Ghana and Nigeria. In addition to this, he recently co-founded Praxis Fortune Calibre, a firm that offers general business and investment advisory and consulting services across the continent.

He holds several supervisory board mandates in private sector companies in the telecommunications, commodities, and education sectors and has also played many policy advisory roles for government, particularly in private sector development. He was chairman of Ghana Telecom (One Touch), the Listing Committee of the Ghana Stock Exchange, and Venture Capital Association of Africa amongst other prestigious organizations.

Mr. Grant was also Special Advisor to the Minister for Private Sector Development between 2002 and 2006 where he advised and assisted the Minister with policy formulation and implementation and also on financing for private sector development projects.

As the CEO of the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre, it is Yofi's singular vision to make Ghana the 'Best place to do business in Africa'. He lives by the guiding principle of honesty, integrity and hard work. He also believes that everything is achievable and that it is only a question of faith in God, will, desire and focus.

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Mr. Christian Jahn
Executive Director, Inclusive Business Action Network (IBAN), Germany

Christian is heading the IBAN secretariat and is responsible for the leadership and management of the global programme.

Before Christian became the Executive Director of the Inclusive Business Action Network (IBAN) in September 2015 he was based for five years in Addis Ababa as Deputy Country Director of GIZ overseeing a broad portfolio including the private-public-partnership programmes.

He has more than 20 years of experience in international development cooperation with a thematic focus on health systems, population dynamics and social franchise systems. He worked mainly in the Africa and Asia region as long-term and short-term expert and provided advisory services to the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. He also worked for five years in the private sector and was an entrepreneur and founder of a company in the food sector. Christian holds a Master degree and PhD in Political Science from the Free University of Berlin.



Mr. Allwell Nwankwo
Lighting Africa Program, International Finance Corporation, Nigeria

Allwell manages the Lighting Africa Program of the International Finance Corporation in Nigeria. In this role, he leads programmatic initiatives in market intelligence, consumer education, quality assurance and business development/ access to finance to realize the program's objective of catalyzing a commercial market for clean, affordable and modern off-grid energy products in Nigeria.

Allwell is a marketing professional with over 20 years experience spanning multiple sectors including fast moving consumer goods (fmcg), information technology, office automation and educational publishing. He holds a B.Sc. in Mass Communication and an M.Sc. in Marketing from the University of Lagos.

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Mr. Baafour Otu-Boateng
Investment Manager, Investisseurs & Partenaires (I&P), Ghana

Baafour is the Investment Manager responsible for Ghana at Investisseurs & Partenaires (I&P). I&P has invested in over 60 SMEs across 15 countries in Africa, and deploys a family of impact investment funds that represent 75 million euros under management.

Prior to joining I&P, Baafour was a TechnoServe Fellow at TechnoServe Ghana. He previously worked as an investment banking analyst in the Global Consumer Products & Retail Group at UBS in New York.

He holds a BA in Economics and Philosophy from Williams College, and an MBA from the University of Oxford.

Baafour currently sits on the boards of VRS Africa, Eden Tree Ltd, and PEG Ghana. He also serves as a member of the World Vision Ghana Advisory Council.



Mr. Andrew Takyi-Appiah
Co-Founder and Managing Director, Zeepay, Ghana

Andrew joins Zeepay as a Co-Founder and Managing Director. He is an expert on Banking and Mobile Payments and comes on board with over 15 years of experience in Banking and Business Development. Andrew's experience spans the world of Marketing and Banking as he has held various positions from being a Brand Manager for NESCAFE to holding roles such as Head of Retail, Head Corporate – Manufacturing Business, Head Transaction Banking, General Manager Strategy, General Manager Business Performance all in Banking and a Business Development Head and Lead Strategy Consultant for Big Four Consulting.

Andrew has had the opportunity to work with institutions such as Commonwealth Secretariat, Nestle, Barclays UK, GT Bank, Ecobank, UT Bank and PricewaterhouseCoopers. In his spare time, Andrew speaks on Mobile Payments and Banking and has been featured as a guest speaker at several International Conferences. His passion lies within Financial Inclusion and Mobile payments. He is a product of University of Hull and University of California Los Angeles. He has lived and worked in 3 Continents – Europe, North America, and Africa. In Africa he has experience and exposure working in more than 7 markets including Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Ghana, Burundi, Zambia, Malawi and South Africa. He has also been part of key retail deployments across Africa and comes on board with in-depth retail and payments experience.

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Mr. Kodwo Miezah
Consultant, Zoomlion Ghana Limited

Mr. Kodwo Miezah holds BSc Chemistry degree from University of Cape Coast, MPhil Environmental Science from University of Ghana and currently awaiting a PhD degree in Environmental Science from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST). He is a researcher and works as a consultant to a reputable waste management company in Africa, Zoomlion Ghana Limited. Addition to this he doubles as an Assistant Lecturer in his department of study, Theoretical and Applied Biology, KNUST. He has a deep research experience in managing waste of various types and has interest in waste characterization, biofuel production, waste collection and transportation concepts, landfill management and gas capture as well as the entire environmental sanitation bracket.

As an affiliate member of International Solid Waste Association (ISWA), Kodwo has appeared on several discussion platforms of the association and has delivered presentations on both World Congresses and Beacon Conferences. Beacon Conference in Singapore, 2012.

Mr. Miezah has several peer-reviewed research articles in waste management with outstanding international journals of repute and high rank.



Mr. Immanuel B. Nartey-Tokoli
Managing Director, Jekora Ventures LTD

Immanuel B. Nartey-Tokoli is a certified mechanical engineer with over 29 years post qualification varied working experience in government institutions and private companies both in Ghana and abroad.

He was vetted and approved by the World Bank in 2007 and undertook consultancy work on operational management of waste management equipment for the Urban and Environmental Sanitation Project of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Environment.

He has professional working experience in the setting up & management of private waste management companies; management of mechanical workshops and stores, transport deployment, and personnel management.

He is also a corporate member of the Ghana Institution of Engineers with over 24 years working experience in the waste management sector.

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Mr. Alexander Sipua Ngnoubamdjum
SIPUA CONSULTING, Hamburg, Germany

Alexander Sipua Ngnoubamdjum is an international expert in «Renewable Energies for Africa». He did his studies of Economics at the Hamburg University (Germany) and specialised in Solar Energy at the „Solar Energie Zentrum“ in Stuttgart (Germany). He has an experience of more than 10 years at various positions in Solar Energy Companies with focus on Africa. Alexander Sipua Ngnoubamdjum worked together with academic, commercial and administrative institutions in the realisation of solar projects in several African Countries (Senegal, Ghana, Mali, Kenia, Rwanda, ...). At the moment, he is the coordinating long-term expert of a partnership project in „Professional Training for Solar Energy Technicians“ between the cameroonian institution CPF (Centre Polyvalent de Formation à Mbouo-Bandjoun, Cameroon) and the german institution EBZ (Elektrobildungs- und Technologiezentrum Dresden, Germany). This project is sponsored by the Federal Government of Germany through its ministry of cooperation. Alexander Sipua Ngnoubamdjum was active in the first ANSOLE (African Network of Solar Energy) Conference in Cameroun (2012) and has been appointed as its Regional Representative for Europe in July 2017.



Mr. Daniel Martin Ngwanou
CENTRE POLYVALENT DE FORMATION, Mbouo-Bandjoun, Cameroon

Daniel Martin Ngwanou is a Cameroonian, born in 1955. He did his studies at the university of Yaounde, where he got his Master Degree in Business Administration in 1982. He occupied a couple of high ranking positions since more than 30 years in various companies in Cameroon. At the moment, he is the director of a social institution from the Protestant Church in Cameroon (Elise Evangelique du Cameroun – EEC). One of the main topics from this institution is the professional training in Renewable Energies. In his capacity as director from the CPF (Centre Polyvalent de Formation de Mbouo) since 2009, he is responsible for the career of many young people, who became entrepreneurs in the field of Renewable Energies. He initiated the partnership between his institution and another professional training institution, based in Germany (Elektrobildungs- und Technologiezentrum Dresden), where he went for several practical workshops and training sessions.



Mr. Winfried Owtscharenko
Managing Director, Yingli Namene

Winfried combines an exceptional experience in the solar industry with a deep knowledge of the market in Ghana. Prior to joining Yingli Namene, Winfried held multiple management positions in the renewable energy field, including Managing Director at Q Cells, Director of Project Development for Bosch Solar Energy AG (Germany), and Managing Director of Solarcentury in Ghana. Winfried has been travelling to Ghana for 20 years, where he now lives, and established a very strong local network.