

Workshop Report

The Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER), Legon, in collaboration with the Center on Regulation and Competition at the University of Manchester organized a workshop on “Regulation and Competition in Ghana” and “Regulatory Impact Assessment” on March 25-26, 2004.

The workshop attracted over 50 participants/presenters of papers who came from several of the various regulatory institutions in the country. The regulatory institutions that participated were:

- Public Utilities Regulatory Commission (PURC)
- Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
- Attorney General’s Office (AG)
- National Communications Authority (NCA)
- Association of Ghanaian Industries (AGI)
- Minerals Commission
- Forestry Commission
- Energy Commission

Participating research institutes at the workshop were ISSER, CRC and IDPM. Also, representatives from the Third World Network (an NGO), the Faculty of Law (University of Ghana, Legon) and the Economics Department, University of Ghana participated in the workshop.

Some of the presentations were,

1. “Preparing Towards a Congenial Regulatory Environment in Ghana”, Keynote Address by Mr. Kwame Pianim, Chairman Public Utilities Regulatory Commission.
2. “An overview of the Environment for Regulation and Competition in Ghana,”, Ernest Aryeetey, Director, ISSER, University of Ghana
3. What is Protection against Unfair Competition? Mrs Ama Banful, Principal State Attorney, Attorney-General’s Department
4. “The Legal System and Regulation for Socio-Economic Development”, Kojo Bentsi-Enchill, Partner, Bentsil-Enchill, Letsa and Partners.
5. “Regulating Public Utilities” Mr. Stephen Adu, Executive Director, Public Utilities Regulatory Commission.
6. “Regulating the Use of Natural Resources for Development”, Prof. Akabzaa Thomas, Third World Network.
7. “Regulating the Telecommunications Sector in Ghana”, Major J.R.K. Tandoh, Acting Director-General, National Communications Authority
8. “Regulating the Ghanaian Capital Market”, Ms Eudora Koranteng,

This workshop was crowned with a second day of presentations by Prof. David Parker and Prof. Colin Kirkpatrick on Regulatory Impact Assessment in Practice. Participants were divided into working groups to discuss experiences in their

institutions and how Regulatory Impact Assessment could be inculcated into the activities of their institutions.

There was consensus at the end of the workshop that it had been extremely useful in educating participants and that small units would be formed at the various regulatory institutions to carry out Regulatory Impact Assessments. It was agreed that these units would conduct assessments on their own using the techniques highlighted at the workshop and in documents introduced to them.

Participants also agreed to join a “Network on Regulation and Competition in Ghana” to be coordinated by ISSER. CRC promised to provide logistical support to the functioning of the network.