



## GHANA SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

### 30TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE GSA

Theme  
**THE GALAMSEY MENACE:  
THE ROLE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND  
INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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Date: **24th - 27th JULY 2017**

Venue: **KOFORIDUA TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY, KOFORIDUA**



## Background

Illegal mining, popularly referred to as ‘galamsey’, provides employment for many unskilled persons living in and around mining communities and river bodies in Ghana. Galamsey activities have become widespread in recent times due to high youth unemployment rate. The operation is problematic because it is most often illegal, unregulated and involves the use of dangerous methods and extremely toxic chemicals. The crude processing methods used in galamsey expose people to extremely high levels of mercury poisoning. Incidences of death as a result of collapsed mining pits burying miners alive have been reported, most significant being the fatalities recorded on the concession of AngloGold Ashanti (Ghana) Limited within the nine months of the invasion of the mine by illegal miners. A confirmed total of 154 illegal miners lost their lives during the nine month period and 21 unconfirmed fatalities were also recorded.

Siltation and chemical pollution from these activities most often render the water bodies unsafe for humans, livestock, wildlife, irrigation and domestic use. Water treatment plants are sometimes forced to shut down as a result of river course diversion and pollution by miners.

Galamsey has also resulted in massive destruction of forest and farmlands, notably cocoa farms. The pits and water holes left behind after galamsey operations have become death traps and mosquito breeding grounds further compounding the problem. The levels of environmental destruction and health hazards left behind by these practices have assumed a position of national and international concern. The government, mining companies and civil societies have expressed worry about the trend of galamsey operations in the country. Despite its illegality and associated dangers, the practice continues to spread due to the ever increasing demand and ready market for gold and other precious minerals and the fact that other sources of livelihood such as farming, trading and hunting are considered less lucrative.

The use of force, dialogue, and advocacy by government, civil society organizations and NGOs to discourage the practice has not yielded the expected results. There have been suggestions by some stakeholders to support galamsey through licensing and provision of financial assistance. However, galamsey operators have shown less interest in these interventions. Additionally, the one-size-fits-all alternative livelihood strategies have failed to yield the necessary results because proponents have not considered the needs of the communities very well.

This calls for a holistic approach and community need - based interventions to ensure adoption of best practices for sustainable management of galamsey in Ghana. All stakeholders should therefore come on board in adopting ecological, educational and dialogue approaches that will reduce the environmental pollution and health hazards occasioned by the use of mercury in the recovery of gold. It is envisaged that the search for alternatives to the use of mercury, pursuance of remedial measures in affected lands, awareness campaigns, policy and governance reforms, and community economic diversification will help reform galamsey in Ghana.

It is in the light of the foregoing that the Ghana Science Association intends to create a platform for the exchange of ideas by all stakeholders to arrive at practical solutions for a sustainable management of small scale mining. Technological and innovative ways of making galamsey more environmentally friendly and

less hazardous would be explored. The platform will also provide an opportunity for discussion and exchange of ideas as well as seeking a practical approach for effective regulation and management of small scale mining activities in Ghana. The Government, NGOs, landowners and other stakeholders are encouraged to support the GSA to achieve this urgent and important goal. There is no gainsaying the fact that lot of support is needed to achieve this laudable objective.

## Objectives

1. To create a platform for the scientific community, landowners and other stakeholders to deliberate on the illegal mining (galamsey) menace in Ghana and the way forward.
2. To enable scientists and technologists present reliable and sustainable alternatives for mitigating the “galamsey” menace.
3. To deliberate on mechanisms for practical solutions to the effective management of the galamsey menace to improve the livelihood of the people.
4. To enable scientists, technologists and stakeholders leverage the knowledge of best practices in legal small scale mining.
5. To identify investment opportunities and attract financiers to invest in ways to transform illegal to legal small scale mining.
6. To sensitize policymakers and stakeholders to enforce regulations on Ghana’s small scale mining.

## Subthemes

- Impact of illegal mining on Ghana’s agriculture, water bodies, water purification, human health and ecosystem.
- Mitigating strategies through Science, Technology & Innovation.
- The role of landowners and other stakeholders in combating illegal mining in Ghana.
- Sustainable small scale mining for socioeconomic development.





## Expected Outcomes

1. A consensus would have been reached as to the way forward in finding solutions to the galamsey crisis.
2. Reliable and sustainable alternative for illegal small scale mining would have been identified.
3. Investment opportunities in small scale mining for socioeconomic development would have been explored.
4. Policymakers and stakeholders would have been sensitized on their role to combat galamsey in Ghana.

## Budget

	GH¢
Pre Conference Expenses	2,220.00
Accommodation	29,905.00
Telephone calls	400.00
Honoraria	6,400.00
Programme & Book of Abstracts (300 @ GH¢15.00)	4,500.00
Brochure (100 @ GH¢6.00)	600.00
Folders [300@ GH¢ 50]	15,000.00
Note Pads, Pens & Name tags (300 @GH¢6.00)	1,800.00
Bus & Fuel	1,000.00
Local Organizing Committee Expenses	10,200.00
Publicity	17,359.00
Hire of Venue and Equipment	4,600.00
Photograph	1,200.00
Janitals (4 @ GH¢200.00)	800.00
Catering Services	38,040.00
Subtotal	134,024.00
Contingency (5% of GH¢134,024.00)	6,701.20
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>140,725.20</b>

## Collaborators

1. Ministry of Environment, Science , Technology and Innovation
2. Ministry for Lands and Natural Resources
3. COCOBOD
4. Ministry of Food and Agriculture
5. Environmental Protection Agency
6. Lands Commission
7. Ghana National Association of Small Scale Miners
8. Ghana Chamber of Mines
9. Newmont Ghana Limited
10. Goldfields Ghana Ltd
11. Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana
12. Precious Minerals Marketing Co. Ltd (PMMC)
13. Golden Star Exploration Gh. Ltd
14. African Mining Services (AMS)
15. Ghana Water Company
16. Water Resources Commission of Ghana
17. Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
18. National Development Planning Commission
19. AngloGold Ashanti
20. Minerals Commission

## Topics

No	Topic
1	Impact of illegal mining on Ghana's agriculture and Forestry.
2	Effect of illegal mining on Ghana's water bodies and water purification/treatment.
3	Impact of illegal mining on human health and ecosystem in Ghana.
4	Mitigating strategies through Science, Technology & Innovation
5	The role of Landowners' and other stakeholders' in combating illegal mining in Ghana
6	Sustainable small scale mining for socioeconomic development





## Sponsorship Opportunities & Benefits

### Platinum Plan

#### Certificate of Sponsorship

Indoor exhibition space----- Prime location  
Outdoor front space ----- Prime location

Feature one full page A4 colour advert on inside cover of Conference

Media Pack ----- **Corporate Logo on:**

Conference Brochure/Book of abstracts

Conference Promo Print ads

Conference Promo Radio ads

Conference Promo TV ads

Conference Banners

Conference Hall Branding

Conference Room 300 seats----- 20 mins.

Presentation during the 2 days allocated.

Cost -----**GH¢50,000.00**

### Gold Plan

#### Certificate of Sponsorship

Indoor exhibition space -----Secondary location  
Outdoor front exhibition space ----- Secondary location

Feature one full page A4 colour advert.

Inside Conference Brochure/Book of Abstracts

Media Pack ----- **Corporate Logo/mention on:**

Conference Programme & Book of Abstracts

Conference promo print ads

Conference promo Radio ads

Conference promo TV ads

Conference Banners

Conference Hall Branding

Conference Room 300 Seats -----15 Min.

Presentation during the 2 days allocated.

Cost -----**GH¢40,000.00**

### Silver Plan

#### Certificate of Sponsorship

Indoor space ----- Secondary location

Feature half page A4 colour advert.

Inside Conference Brochure/Book of Abstracts

Media Pack ----- **Corporate Logo/mention on:**

Conference Brochure / Book of Abstracts

Conference Hall Branding

Conference Room 300 Seats -----10 minutes

Presentation during the 2 days allocated.

Cost -----**GH¢20,000.00**

### Bronze Plan

#### Certificate of Sponsorship

Indoor space ----- Secondary location

Feature half page A4 colour advert.

Inside Conference Brochure/Book of Abstracts

Media Pack ----- **Corporate Logo mention on:**

Conference Brochure/

Book of Abstract advert ----- 1/4 Page Colour

Cost -----**GH¢10,000.00**

### Exclusive Branding Sponsorship Opportunities (Non Exhibitor)

#### Corporate Logo mention on:

Conference Programme and Book of Abstract

Conference promo Print ads

Conference promo Radio ads

Conference promo TV ads

Conference Banners

Conference note pads

Certificate of Sponsorship

### Provide by sponsor

Seminar Hall - Up to 10 stand alone Banners /  
Rollups standard size

Corporate gifts to conference participants (select per topic).

Conference Hall - Up to 25 flags (size 100x300cm.)

Up to 2 Mesh Banners (size 200x600cm.)

Outdoor – up to 25 Poles & Flags

Cost -----**GH¢25,000.00**

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310

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