

# Report 5: WASH Visit to Accra by Atsiekpoe Action Group for Development

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**Participants from Stepping Stones for Africa:** Cindy and Apollo Panou, Petra van Liere and Wisdom Kpegba

**Organizer/host:** Cindy Panou of Stepping Stones for Africa

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## SUMMARY

### Introduction

The primary purpose of the visit to Accra was to gain information and expertise on how to construct an environmental and affordable toilet facility near the proposed clinic, the CHPS-center, in Atsiekpoe. We agreed on this visit during our last community meeting at 25th May 2015. The main activity of our visit was the Africa Water and Construction Fair organized in the International Conference Centre in Accra. The visit to the exhibition was combined with a company visit to the company Biofil and some tourism highlight, like the National Museum and the TK Glass Beads Factory. Accommodation was offered by Jolinaiko Eco Tours in their Sunbird Lodge in Amrahia. All the participants from Atsiekpoe are members of the Action Group for Development. Report writing was also part of the program in order to build capacity of the Action Group for Development.

### Report on visit to National Museum by Mr. Awuku Ameko

The team reported to the above place Wednesday morning and the guide explained the importance of the museum and allowed us to go round. A lot of items were paraded neatly at the museum including historical, archeological and cultural artefacts. Especially, the first president of Ghana and the British governor's presidential seat was shown to us. Very amazing. Other items were war drums, earthly pots and ladles, textiles and old currencies of Ghana. Information on diverent regional and tribes customs was presented. The experience alert us to do more at the museum at Atsiekoe-Battor to attract tourists. It was suprising to us and good for all to get there one day to see the wonderful look.



### Report of the AFRICA WATER AND AFRICA CONSTRUCTION EXHIBITION by Benjamin Akati and Solomon Torbiza

The only relevant company we met at the exhibition was **Samalex**. The founder Sammuel Gyabah presented his toilet facility with a digester (see paragraph below). Other relevant encounters were with **Polytank Limited** who have invented a simple system for rural communities to role a polytank (that can contain 5 buckets of water). The system includes a tank and a handle and cost 300 GHC and could be relevant for the clinic in the future. We also obtained the contacts of **Diamond Cement** in Aflao who could be interested in assiting us with cement.

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### Samalex Solutions

Samalex is a new company founded by Sammual Gyabah who invented lasting solutions to building a hygienic toilet facility with any number seater capacity. This toilet facility is constructed by digging a 3 feet rectangular hole and a digester built in it before the structure and toilet seater is fixed on it. A handwashing facility is fixed and connected to the toilet seater of which the water that is used to wash hands is used to flush the faecal matter. Only small quantity of water is needed to do the flashing. It is an odourless toilet facility. The digester usually process the faecal matter and it becomes a manure for crop production.

The toilet seater facility is divided into three categories and prices:

- A. Bucket Pot - A simple system – Cost 1000 GHC per seating, digester and hand wash system
- B. Concrete Pot - A more advanced system – Cost 1300 GHC per seating, digester and hand wash system
- C. Ceramic Pot - A modern system – Cost 1500 GHC per seating, digester and hand wash system

Note: Only the digester and seater is taken to consideration in the above pricing. Nevertheless, building the whole structure from the digester to the roofing can also be considered and priced. The total cost depends on the type of building the community decide to build.

### **The advantages of Samalex compared to a normal KVIP:**

- Maintenance and dislogging is simple and affordable
- Cost depends on the type of building, and it's possible to make it as affordable as possible
- The system is hygienic and odourless
- The system has been developed for deprived rural areas and only a little water is needed
- First impression is that the founder is a visionary and dedicated person who won an award

### Biofil Toilet System Solutions (Company Visit)

After the exhibition, we visited the company Biofil. Biofil is another toilet system that operates similar to the Samalex facility. The system operates on the principle of aerobic digestion, creating a living filter where natural organisms thrive in order to breakdown solid waste into useful endproducts. It's an odourless toilet facility. The Biofil toilet system combines the benefits of the traditional flush toilet system and those of the composting toilet while eliminating the drawbacks and disadvantages of both systems. The water used for flushing is channeled for irrigation purposes. What differentiates Biofil from Samalex is their patented construction system where they use a iron-molded skeleton for the building structure and plaster it with cement. It's a easy to build and very durable system. Also the roofing is constructed by an iron grid and cement only.

The cost of a Biofil toilet seater and digester including the building is 4.500 GHC per toilet. If you build a six-seater toilet, the total cost are 4.500 GHC x 6 seats = 27,000,- GHC excluding transport. The price is negotiable.



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**Conclusion:** Both toilet facilities are environmentally friendly and are recommended for facilities like schools, clinics and community household. Both systems are very suitable for our proposed CHPS-center. Based on our observations, the main difference between the two systems is the construction method applied by Biofil. The principle of decomposting the faecal matters is quite similar. We also believe that operating the toilet facility as a private enterprise will improve sustainability and maintenance of the system and at the same time, improve livelihood for the selected persons in charge.



### ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

Topic	Description	Action	Person	Deadline
Museum Visit	Exposure of more community members to the museum will be helpful to improve upon our own museum in Atsiekpoe. However, we first need to reorganize the management of the tourism project to improve on communication, proactivity and benefits.	Organize a meeting to set up an new tourism and development managment board and communication structures.	Togbe Akatti and Cindy Panou	8 July 2015
Building Plan CHPS-compound and toilet facility	A complete building plan including the cost and quantity of items of the clinic and toilet facility is needed for both approval by district and fundraising activities. Cost should be inquired at community level and in Accra.	Provide itimized budget of building items.	Solomon and Ezeikel	8 July 2015
	We need an budget for a 4-seater toilet block from Samalex in order to compare the two systems, and to include the cost in our proposal.	Obtain an estimate of total cost 4-seater from Samalex	Cindy	8 July
	We need a presentable document/proposal to submit for approval and fundrasing.	Write a complete proposal on CHPS-compound including toilet.	Cindy, Benjamin	24 July
Develop trainer for trainers workshop	Behavior change on WASH is urgent. Capacity building is one of the aims of SSFA. The idea we have is to develop a training model to train Action Group Members, who eventually should become facilitators who could train their own and other communities.	Develop a draft outline of a manuel.	Cindy, Sophia, Solomon	September (first training in October)