

FORIG NEWS

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CSIR at 50

Research is the bed-rock of development. No country could improve upon its developmental agenda without strong emphasis on research. The developed countries of the world today thrive on research. Most countries striving to develop their human as well as natural resources are prepared to go a step further in supporting research activities in their countries. In view of this, the establishment of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) some 50 years ago was a laudable one. Since its establishment, the CSIR has chalked a number of successes in the fields of research and development. The CSIR has been able to translate research findings into real life problem solving process by providing solutions to some of the nation's problems in the field of agriculture, medicine, construction as well as the environment.

The CSIR-FORIG in particular has been researching into problems associated with the forests of Ghana.. In its efforts to restore the degraded forest cover, the institute has developed a number of technologies to assist private as well as commercial plantation developers in the country. Among the technologies developed include; procedures for forest resource management planning in the high forest zone, fire hazard forecasting model, appropriate methods for rehabilitating mined sites, Girth limits model for harvesting sustainable timber species, Woodlots establishment techniques in the derived and savanna agro-ecological zones, Site-species matching and techniques for plantation establishment, Mass production of superior genotypes of indigenous tree species and Processing and utilization of Lesser Used Species. In view of the achievements of the CSIR, we take this opportunity to urge government to adequately fund research activities of the CSIR.

We also wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the incoming Director-General, Dr. Abdulai Salifu and his Deputy, Dr. (Mrs) Rose Entsua-Mensah to their new positions. We hope that the new management will foster a good working relationship with scientists, the government and other stakeholders to forge ahead the vision of the organization. We wish them a good and successful tenure of office and pledge our support to them.

In conclusion, we congratulate the CSIR on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

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FORIG NEWS

Forestry Research Institute of Ghana

Volume 3, Issue 3 July-Sept, 2008

CSIR CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

On 27th May, 2008 the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), consisting of 13 Research Institutes celebrated its 50th anniversary at the Council's Head Office in Accra. According to the immediate past Director-General of CSIR, Professor E. Owusu-Bennoah, the year long celebration will drum home to government and industry the importance of science and technology.

As part of the celebration, a ceremony was held at the Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG) Conference Room to celebrate the achievements of the Council and the way forward. Dr. D. A. Ofori, head of Environment, Land Use and Biodiversity Unit represented the Director. In his opening remarks he wished all members of staff a happy anniversary year and traced the history of CSIR to 1958 when it was first established as a National Research Council and later changed to CSIR by a NLC degree 295 in 1968. It now operates under CSIR Act 521 that empowers it to commercialize its research activities.



Dr. D. Ofori, Delivering His Anniversary Speech

He listed the 13 institutes comprising the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research as follows: Animal Research Institute, Crops Research Institute, Food Research Institute, Forestry Research Institute, Institute of Industrial Research, Institute of Scientific and Technological Information, Oil Palm Research Institute, Plant Genetic Resources Research Institute, Savannah Research Institute, Science and Technology Policy Research Institute, Soil Research Institute and Water Research Institute; all with a common vision to use the transforming power of science and Technology for wealth creation.

In his address, Dr. Ofori drew attention to some significant achievements of FORIG including:

- Production of improved planting materials
- Promotion of Lesser Used Species
- Development of pulp and paper techniques
- Snail Farming and bee keeping technology
- Training in Mushroom Farming, example Domo
- Production of insecticides from plant sources
- Provision of information on logging disturbance and timber exploitation on natural regeneration

He said it was worth mentioning that the way forward was for CSIR to be duly recognized by government and that it was time research conducted became very responsive to national and global trends.

Dr. Ofori congratulated members of staff for their massive support by wearing the anniversary cloth to help raise the image of CSIR.

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CSIR GETS A NEW DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND DEPUTY

On Tuesday July 22nd, 2008 Professor Owusu-Bennoah, the outgoing Director-General of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) formally introduced the incoming Director-General Dr. Abdulai Salifu and his Deputy Dr. (Mrs) Rose Entsua-Mensah to members of staff of Forestry Research Institute of Ghana. Present at the ceremony were the Chairman of FORIG Management Board, Director of FORIG, Acting Director of Building and Road Research Institute and members of staff.

Professor Owusu-Bennoah commended FORIG for always maintaining a clean environment and for conducting high quality research aimed at the development of the forestry sector. He again asked for the support of all staff to make the work of the new Director-General easy so as to help lift the image of CSIR high.

The Director of CSIR-FORIG, Dr. V. K. Agyeman in his welcome speech formally thanked the Director-General and his entourage for making such a historic visit to the Institute in particular and all other institutes of CSIR in general with the aim of formally introducing the Incoming Director-General and Incoming Deputy Director-General to members of staff.

Dr. V. K. Agyeman then mentioned that CSIR-FORIG Management Board which was inaugurated earlier the same day had members with expertise related to the work of the Institute. The Director further stated that the appointment of Mr. Nsenkyire who is also Board Chairman of the Forestry Commission as Chairman of CSIR-FORIG Management Board is a clear manifestation of the Institute's recognition of his capabilities. and his commitment to help solve some of our problems.



Incoming Director-General of CSIR addressing CSIR-FORIG Staff

TWO FORESTRY BOOKS LAUNCHED

On 11th June, 2008 two Forestry Books titled: “*100 Tropical African Timber Trees From Ghana: Tree Description and Wood Identification with Notes on Distribution, Ecology, Silviculture, Ethnobotany and Wood Uses*”, and “*Non-Pressure Rural Wood Preservation for the Tropics*” were launched at the La Palm Royal Beach, in Accra.

The launching coincided with ITTO operational meeting

which was held in Accra, Ghana from 9th to 12th June, 2008.

The author of the two books, Dr. A. A. Oteng-Amoako, Chief Research Scientist and is currently on contract at CSIR-Forestry Research Institute was grateful to ITTO for funding Lesser-Used Species (LUS) and Lesser-Known Species (LKS) project which resulted in the publication of

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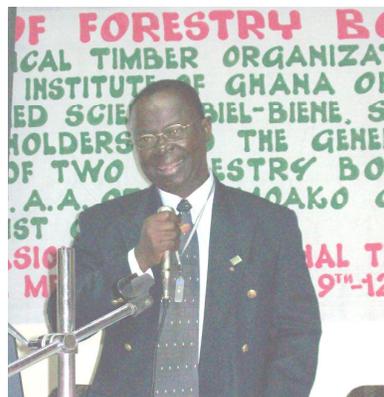
the two forestry books.

The author said the first book addresses the problem of tree and wood identification as a first step in increasing sustainable use of LUS and LKS. The book also presents information on geographical distribution in Africa, vegetational distribution in Ghana, ecology and silviculture, ethnobotany and wood uses. He further stated that the success of the project was built around strong collaboration between scientists of Switzerland and Ghana, making it an example of north-south cooperation promoted by ITTO.

The second book "Non-Pressure Rural Wood Preservation for the Tropics" serves a useful purpose for students, lecturers, building inspectors, those involved in the treatment of wood, sawmillers, community leaders and all stakeholders interested in extending the service life of wood, bamboo and allied products

through non-pressure preservation methods.

In Kumasi, the books were again launched at the CSIR-FORIG Conference Room on 18th June, 2008. Present were the Director of FORIG, former Director, Deputy Director, members of staff and other invited guests.



Dr. A. A. Oteng-Amoako
at the Kumasi Launch

STAFF PROMOTIONS

The following research, senior and junior members of staff have been promoted as follows:

- Dr. D. Blay (Jnr) Head, Forestry and Wildlife Unit has been promoted from Senior Research Scientist to Principal Research Scientist, effective 1st January, 2007.
- Dr. Mrs. M. Apetorgbor, promoted from Research Scientist to Senior Research Scientist, effective 1st July, 2004.
- Ms. E. Ampah, promoted from Senior Technical Officer to Principal Technical Officer, 1st January, 2008.
- Mr. G. K. Zorve, promoted from Senior Technical Officer to Principal Technical Officer, effective 1st January, 2008.
- Mr. E. Y. B. Imouro, promoted from Principal Accounting Assistant to Chief Accounting Assistant, effective 1st January, 2008.
- Mr. J. J. Mensah, promoted from Senior Accounting Assistant to Principal Accounting Assistant, effective 1st January, 2008.
- Mr. D. K. Mankoe, promoted from Senior Accounting Assistant to Principal Accounting Assistant, effective 1st January, 2008.
- Mr. A. K. Boakye, promoted from Principal Technical Officer to Chief Technical Officer, effective 1st January, 2008.
- Ms. A. L. Asamoah, promoted from Principal Technical Officer to Chief Technical Officer, effective 1st January, 2008.
- Mr. S. K. Yamoah, promoted from Senior Technical Officer to Principal Technical Officer, effective 1st January, 2008.
- Mr. P. L. Arthur, promoted from Technical Officer to Senior Technical Officer, effective 1st January, 2008.
- Mr. E. K. Frimpong, promoted from Technical Officer to Senior Technical Officer, effective 1st January, 2008.

- Mr. D. Damte, promoted from Jnr. Draughtsman Grade 1 to Draughtsman, effective 1st January, 2008.
- Mrs. A. K. Ofori, promoted from Senior Clerk to Administrative Assistant, effective 1st January, 2008.
- Mr. J. Mensah, promoted from Driver Grade 11 to Driver Grade 1, effective 1st January, 2008.

OBITUARY

- Mr. Osei Kwame, Senior Headman at the Afram Headwaters Research Centre passed away on 19th July, 2008 after a short illness.
- Mrs. Cornelia Damnyag, wife of Mr. Lawrence Damnyag also passed away on 11th July, 2008 and has since been buried.

The final funeral rites of Mr. Osei Kwame and Mrs. Damnyag have been held respectively. Management and staff wish to express their deepest sympathy to the bereaved families.

STAFF DURBAR

CSIR-FORIG workers durbar for the 1st half of the year was held on Friday 27th June, 2008 at the Institute's Conference Room. The Chairman for the occasion, Dr. V. K. Agyeman formally declared the meeting opened at 2.00 p. m.

Some issues discussed at the durbar included the following:

- Lateness to work; leaving offices before closing time and workers bus leaving before closing time
- Junior and Senior Staff Promotions, Training
- Changing Rooms for the Grounds and Gardens Staff
- Payment of 15% salary increment for 2008 and 15% special allowance for the Unionised Staff
- Putting up of more Bungalows for staff

With regard to issues that were raised, certain decisions were taken as stated below:

- Divisional and Units Heads have been empowered to ensure discipline of members of staff
- With regard to promotion of Junior and Senior staff, the Administrative Officer was tasked to make copies of CSIR category and qualifications for the promotion of affected staff
- Internal Management Committee is to take decision on changing rooms for the grounds and garden staff
- All arrangements are being made to ensure quick payment of 15% salary increase to all staff and another 15% increase overtime allowance to all unionised staff.
- Management is renovating the two wooden bungalows at FORIG campus. Additional two bungalows are being constructed at Mesewam for both Junior and Senior Staff respectively.



IUFRO & ITTO CORNER

IUFRO Meetings

For a full list of IUFRO events, please visit <http://www.safnet.org/meetings/iufro>

15 - 17 October, 2008

Forest- Related Knowledge and Sustainable Forest Management in Africa

Accra, Ghana

Contact: Alfred Oteng-Yeboah

E-mail: Otengyeboah@yahoo.co.uk

Website: <http://www.iufro.org/events/calendar/2008/>

ITTO MEETINGS

3 - 8 November, 2008

Forty-Fourth Session of the International Tropical Timber Council and Associated Sessions of the Committees

Yokohama, Japan

Contact: Mr. Emmanuel Ze Meka

E-mail: itto@itto.or.jp

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