

## **Training Capacity Building and Water Quality Monitoring**

*Koforidua - In May 2014 twenty representatives of water quality institutions and organisations in Ghana attended the training 'Capacity Building in Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance for Ghana'.*

This activity was part of the EU Water Facility funded project 'Partnerships for Capacity Development in the ACP Water & Sanitation Sector'. The training was held Koforidua, near Accra and organised by the Dutch trainers Peter Kelderman of UNESCO-IHE in Delft and Geo Bakker and Siemen Veenstra from Vitens Evides International.

The goal of the program was to facilitate, encourage and strengthen the interaction between people – and thus organisations – and to transfer and exchange common experiences and state of the art knowledge on this particular topic.

### **Provocative**

The participants were pleased with the informal and sometimes provocative way the programme was organised. It allowed them to fully and actively participate in it. During evening hours trainings were given on social and soft engineering, which are often considered to be more hard than the "hard stuff itself".

After awarding certificates the participants returned home safely and confirmed that their social and professional interaction in the near future would definitely be enhanced after this training week.

### **Lack of coordination**

Safeguarding water quality is a baseline for economic development and protection of public health. Having said so, the institutional setting is characterised by a weak coordination, cooperation, and communication on this issue. This fragmentation is hampering the political "agendizing" of this topic.

Until today untreated sewage in Accra flows via open drains and sewers and discharges into the ocean. Another major challenge is the illegal and uncontrolled mining for mineral resources, which currently have reached such alarming proportions that the topic is upgraded to an issue of state security.

### **EU project**

The training is part of the EU project Capacity Building in Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance for Ghana. Within this EU funded project technical staff and laboratory technicians of GWCL labs will be trained and be furnished with new equipment. Moreover the cooperation between the partners involved in water quality will be stimulated. To ensure awareness and knowledge about water quality monitoring, the project targets towards a contribution to extend awareness within governmental institutions, the general public and operators, regarding drinking water- and environmental water resource quality. As such this will contribute to a strengthening of the institutional section of the water sector in Ghana.