

Jan. to March 2023 | Edition 1



GRIDCo Quarterly

The GRIDCo Quarterly is a quarterly newsletter, with a summary of selected key events with external value, which occurred during the quarter (Q1).

Themes in this Issue:

- GRIDCo's Strategic Partnerships
- Technical Stories
- Training and Collaborations
- International Women's Day Celebrations
- Board Engagements

GRIDCo's STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

During the first quarter, a number GRIDCo's strategic partners engaged with Management to buttress the cordial relationship between both entities.

ERERA, GRIDCo Engage on ECOWAS Transmission Tariff

The Chairman of the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERERA), Monsieur Kocou Laurent Rodrigue Tossou, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Ghana Grid Company (GRIDCo), Ing. Ebenezer Kofi Essienyi held discussions on the approval processes for the ECOWAS Regional Transmission Tariff.

The two met on 16th January, 2023. The approval of the tariff will enable stakeholders in the power transmission sector, especially those engaged in regional trade in electricity to be appropriately compensated. Ing. Essienyi said, "The absence of an approved transmission tariff has created bottlenecks, which impede power trade flows in the region and together this needs to be addressed". The ERERA Chairman Mr. Tossou added, "ERERA will finalise a transmission model that will ensure synergy in the electricity market for review in February, and we trust GRIDCo

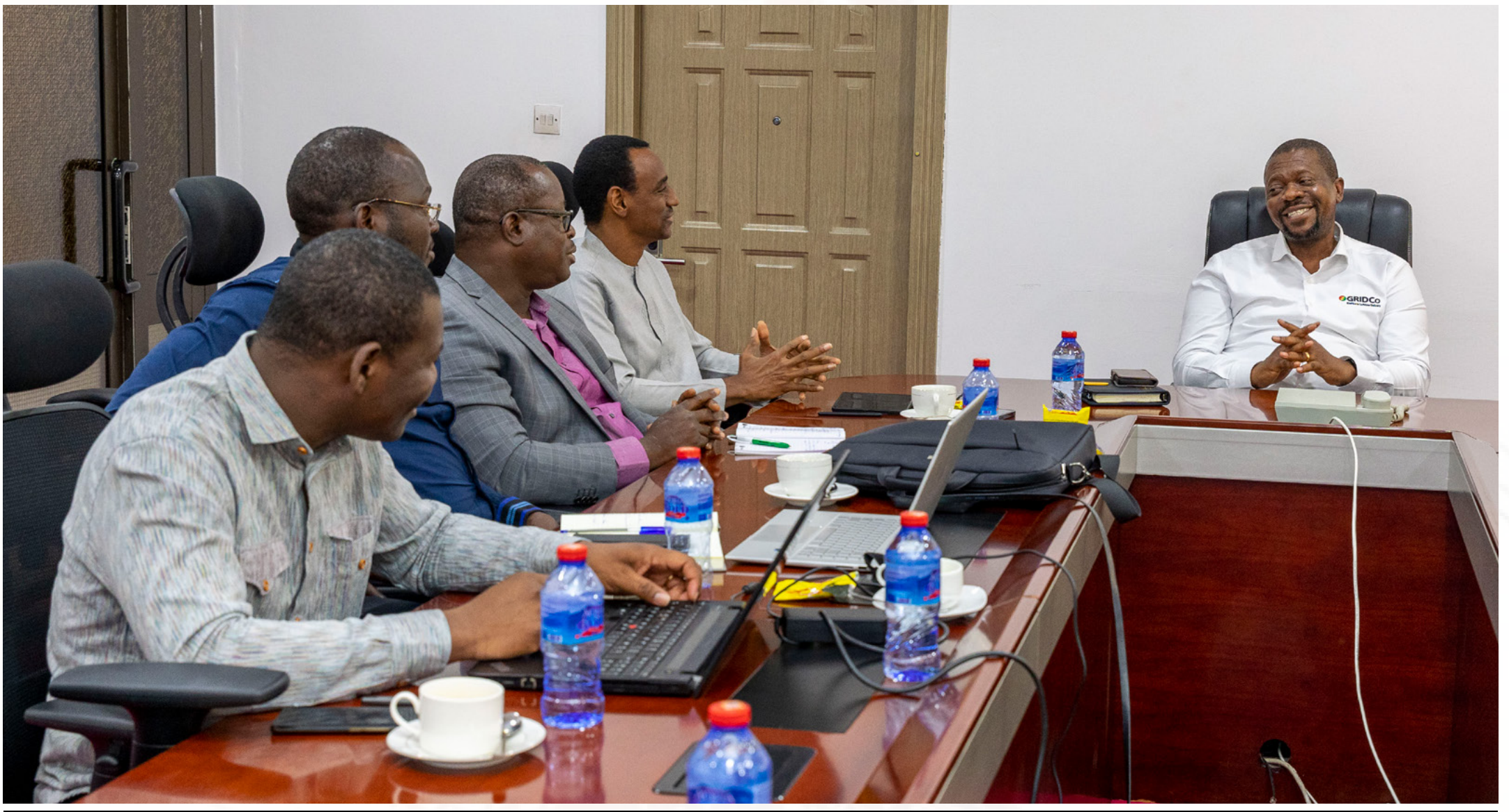


to play a critical role in the review of these models going-forward".

ERERA is mandated to regulate cross-border trade in electricity in West Africa. As part of its functions, ERERA is to approve critical documents for the development of the regional power market.



SONABEL Management Pays a Working Visit to GRIDCo



A delegation from the National Electricity Company of Burkina Faso, [Société Nationale d'électricité du Burkina Faso (SONABEL)], one of GRIDCo's West African utility partners, met with GRIDCo's Management Team, led by SONABEL Board Chairman Dr. Konate Souleymane and Director General Daniel Serme

Discussions focused on commitments for continued bulk power export to Burkina in the second quarter (Q2) of 2023.

Ing. Ebenezer Essienyi the Chief Executive, reassured the SONABEL team of GRIDCo's commitment to delivering on agreements made.



GRIDCo Management Meets European Investment Bank (EIB)



During the period, an European Investment Bank (EIB) delegation undertook a mission to Ghana to follow up on outstanding operations and identify new projects eligible to be funded by the organisation.

Mrs. Marielle Leseur, EIB's Loan Officer for Ghana, led the delegation to GRIDCo to discuss possible areas for cooperation, particularly on funding critical projects, such as funding the second interconnection between Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire at 330kV and co-funding the 330kV Pokuase–Anwomaso project with Kreditanstalt Für Wiederaufbau (KfW). When completed, these projects, will improve reliability, reduce transmission losses and promote Ghana's export agenda.

EIB's focus areas include the infrastructure and financial sectors, energy, water & sanitation, transport, cities, SMEs and private sector support.

World Bank Delegation Holds a Consultative Meeting with Management



A World Bank Implementation Support Mission held a consultative meeting with the Management team of GRIDCo, for the Ghana Energy Sector Transformation Initiative Project (GESTIP, P163984) during the first quarter (Q1), 2023.

Ing. Ebenezer Kofi Essienyi, GRIDCo's Chief Executive, commended the World Bank for its immense support for Ghana and took the opportunity to solicit more support for Ghana and GRIDCo. Mr. Dhruva Sahai, Programme Leader for Infrastructure & Snr. Energy Specialist led the eight-man delegation from the World Bank.



GRIDCo CE Presents at State of the Agencies Press Conference



The Ghana Grid Company took its turn at the State of the Agencies Report at the Ministry of Information (MoI).

Chief Executive, Ing. Ebenezer Essienyi's presentation



focused on “The State of the National Grid”, during which he shared more information on GRIDCo’s operational performance, project updates, such as the \$60m EBID, and \$116m KfW projects. He shed light on some of the challenging aspects of GRIDCo’s business, such as Right of Way (RoW) obstructions, the impact of galamsey operators, who dig around the towers and also steal steel members, as well as overgrown vegetation along the lines.

Answering questions on the GHC2.7 billion legacy debt owed GRIDCo, and how this impacts the Company, Ing. Essienyi explained that the government is making efforts to address the debt overhang, while a system is in place to facilitate current payment.

The media brief was organised under the auspices of the States Interests and Governance Authority (SIGA) and the ministry of Information.

GRIDCo, Ghana National Fire Service (GNFS) to Sign MoU



Fire prevention at GRIDCo's Substations and Safety Training was the focus of discussions when a delegation from GRIDCo, led by the Chief Executive, Ing. Ebenezer Essienyi engaged the Chief Fire Officer and Management of the Ghana Fire Service (GNFS) on Thursday 16th February, 2023.

One of GRIDCo's Core Values is Safety; for staff and the protection of the National Interconnected Transmission System from fire. The GNFS emphasised the need to undertake a risk assessment of GRIDCo's

facilities. Based on the report, the GNFS will then advise on the best strategy to adopt to protect GRIDCo's Sixty-Eight (68) substations and other assets from fire.

Once completed, GRIDCo and GNFS agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to govern how the proposed collaboration, which includes Safety Training, will be executed will sign an MoU to concretise pending actions.

UETCL Picks up Collaboration with GRIDCo



Six (6) months after the Board of the Ugandan Electricity Transmission Company Limited (UETCL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate with GRIDCo, a second team from Uganda recently spent 3-days with GRIDCo, to concretise discussions on Optic Fibre Business, for which GRIDCo has excellent expertise.

Mr. Sam Acquah, Acting Director, Office of the Chief Executive led the GRID Consult and Southern Network Department to conduct interactive sessions on working models adopted by GRIDCo in respect to the commercialisation of fibre.

Head of the Ugandan delegation, Jjumba Abdu Karim, indicated that the team had gathered enough information to incorporate the lessons learnt in GRIDCo. These include taking pragmatic steps to revamp UETCL's Fibre Business model to make it an economically viable fibre business. Significantly, the team is poised to correct past mistakes to avoid losses and litigations.

The UETCL after its operationalisation in 2001, held a Public Infrastructure Provider's License from the Uganda Communications Commission for owning and operating their optic fibre infrastructure with the primary purpose to support the Supervising Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system in ensuring grid availability and reliability in Uganda.

GRIDCO IN FOCUS

The Company made a few strides in the technical field, during the quarter. Below are some of such accomplishments.

Takoradi Area Completes Work on OPGW for Aboadze-Tarkwa Tower

The Lines and Telecommunications Maintenance team at Takoradi Area successfully completed refurbishment work on a series of broken Optical Ground Wire (OPGW) Strands and rusted bolts on the first tower on Aboadze-Tarkwa (TT5R) transmission lines due to rust.

The timely intervention to undertake this critical piece of work was to avoid complete failure of telecommunication links of the corporate and commercial telecommunications networks at Takoradi, Prestea, Kumasi and the Northern part of Ghana and eliminate the high risk it posed to users of the telecommunication network.

The Southern Network Department's Network Maintenance Manager, Ing. Hussaini Adams and the telecommunications team, led by Messrs. Emmanuel Nugloze and the Line Maintenance Team, led by Samuel Odoom worked together to execute this work. The Board, Management and staff congratulate the entire for a job well done!



GRIDCo Advances Set Up of Capacity Market with Inauguration of Working Group



A Capacity Market Implementation Plan Working Group (WG) was constituted and inaugurated during the quarter. The move is part of actions for the operationalisation of the Ghana Wholesale Electricity Market required by Ghana's Electricity Regulation, which entails developing: an Energy Market; a Capacity Market and an Ancillary Services Market.

Following Board approval, GRIDCo decided to initiate action to make the Capacity Market a reality. This will be followed by activities towards the full implementation of the Wholesale Electricity Market. The mandate of the Capacity Market Implementation Plan Working Group (WG) is to develop a comprehensive Market implementation plan, which when approved, will support two separate entities; one to be set up by the Energy Minister and the second, a committee of Directors of key stakeholder organisations. This will guide activities throughout the Capacity Market implementation process.

A Capacity Market ensures the commitment of resources for the provision of energy when needed at a reasonable cost to meet future generation requirements. The Capacity Market enables Ghana to address challenges encountered with generation resource adequacy and procurement.

Leaders of GRIDCo's Accra Operational Area Visits ECG's Sub-Transmission Department



To foster a stronger relationship with its customer - the Electricity Company of Ghana - the Management of GRIDCo's Accra Operational Area, Southern Network Department (SND) led by the Manager, Ing. Benjamin Ahunu paid a courtesy call on their counterparts at the Sub-Transmission Directorate of ECG.

Ing. Ahunu expressed his appreciation to the ECG Team for the support and acknowledged the strong collaboration existing between the two companies over the years. General Manager for Sub Transmission, ECG, Ing. John Slippe supported the need for

collaboration and communication between both utilities and expressed satisfaction that the completion of the upgrade of the 161kV Volta-Achimota-Mallam corridor, there has been an increase in the reliability and operational flexibility of the network. Both parties agreed to regularly hold technical meetings during the year to address some outstanding issues.

The GRIDCo team included Ing. Daniel Laryea Annan, P&C Supervisor, Ing. Cyril King, Operating Supervisor and Togbe Kafui Aguadze, Line Maintenance Supervisor.

TRAINING AND COLLABORATIONS

The quarter witnessed a few engagements with the USAID. The first of such meetings was with the Management of GRIDCo

USAID Training Team meets GRIDCo Management



It has been almost five (5) years since the Ghana Grid Company (GRIDCo) partnered the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to train and drive women's inclusivity in the Company. The effort is in line with SDG 5 - "Achieving Gender Equality", which calls for full participation and equal opportunities for women at all levels.

Ms. Khumo Mochethi, leader of the four-member USAID delegation commended GRIDCo for deliberately growing women's presence, particularly in the engineering and operations spaces. Ms. Florence Agyei, Director of Human Resource, expressed gratitude to USAID Team for their work and collaboration saying, "we are on a journey, we keep growing, we keep learning, it is an energy company and I look forward to the day that we have a female CEO".

Other training programmes by the USAID's Engendering Industries Programme in GRIDCo during the period were for Managers and a 5-Day Trainer-of-Trainers on Men's Engagement.

The USAID Engendering Industries programme rolled out in 2015 however, GRIDCo became a partner in 2018. The programme seeks to achieve: Empowerment of Women; Improve Women's Workplace Participation and Deployment of best practice framework for male-dominated work environments.

KNUST College of Engineering & GRIDCo Discuss Engineering Training & Collaboration



The Ghana Grid Company (GRIDCo) and the KNUST College of Engineering, have discussed opportunities for the two to collaborate more impactfully. Ing. Ebenezer Kofi Essienyi, Chief Executive led the GRIDCo team, while Prof Kwabena Britwum Nyarko, Provost, led the College of Engineering Team. The two groups toured a location for a proposed GRIDCo Centre of Excellence and the Responsible Artificial Intelligence Laboratory Centre aka (RAIL) which drive AI training.

The Provost shared four (4) thematic areas of interest namely; the construction of a proposed innovation building, dubbed GRIDCo Centre of Excellence; providing Adjunct Lecturers; accelerated Masters Programme.



GRIDCo has been supportive of the KNUST's Endowment Fund, and continues to provide internship training for which Prof. Nyarko and his team are appreciative.

The College of Engineering has maintained a reputation for quality training over half a century and has been at the forefront of preparing manpower to support the technological and engineering advancement of KNUST, Ghana, and beyond.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Annually, women are celebrated worldwide on 8th March, for their support and achievements. This year, the GRIDCo Ladies Association (GRIDLASS) organised a conference to celebrate female staff of GRIDCo in particular and women in general.

GRIDCo Participates in International Day of Women and Girls in Science Programme



In February 2023, female Engineers in GRIDCo commemorated the International Day of Women and Girls in Science (IDWGS) by interacting with girls in Junior High Schools in Tema, encouraging them to consider choosing studies in Science Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). The programme was organised by the Science Education Unit (National

STEM Centre) of the Ghana Education Service in collaboration with UNESCO, under the theme; “Innovate, Demonstrate, Elevate, Advance (I.D.E.A.) - Bringing communities forward for sustainable and equitable development”.

Mrs. Azara Amadu, President of GRIDCo Ladies Association (GRIDLASS), who led the delegation from GRIDCo, commended the organisers for giving GRIDCo the opportunity to participate in such an important mentorship programme. She urged the young girls to take their studies seriously. Ing. Mrs. Doreen Ampadu, Electrical Engineer particularly volunteered to be a personal mentor to the girls.

Mrs. Christiana Ablakwa, Chairperson for the event, and Mrs. Bernice Ofori, Director of Education for Tema Metro ended the programme, by urging the girls to develop interest in Maths and Science and also take their studies seriously.

Other members of the delegation - Ing. Mrs. Sheila Bortey-Kharis, Senior Electrical Engineer; Ing. Mrs. Pearl Elikem Obuo Principal Electrical Engineer; Ing. Mrs Alberta Mukaronda, Supervising Technician Engineer; Ing Harriet Owusu-Banie, Senior Electrical Engineer Mrs. Naa Bortelely, Principal Administrative Officer Corporate Services Branch and Mrs. Ruth Abanga, Administrative Officer, Corporate Communications. and communities.



GRIDLASS Sheroes Award for Ing. Nicholina Yembilah



Ing. Nicholina Yembilah, Director of Procurement was the recipient of the surprise recognition of the maiden GRIDCo Ladies Association (GRIDLASS) Sheros Award; one of the high points of GRIDCo's 2023 International Women's Day (IWD) celebrations.

GRIDCo Ladies' Association (GRIDLASS) referenced Ing. Yembilah's 23-year work, spanning VRA to GRIDCo, which has seen her chalk many successes as Project Manager, to Manager, and now Director. Her passion for mentoring young women in her team, her commitment to the cause

of educating young girls in STEM and supporting the development of young girls (she nicknamed "Little Ladies") in her hometown, Bolgatanga in the Upper East Region. These good works, GRIDLASS chose her for the maiden "Sheroes Award".

Ing. Nicholina Yembilah, Director of Procurement, thanked GRIDLASS for the recognition, and for all, who supported and mentored her throughout her career journey. She also acknowledged the Board, and her colleague Directors, especially, Ing. Mark Baah, Director, Southern Network; and Mrs. Monica Senanu, Director, Legal for their efforts in encouraging her to become a better version of herself.

Azara Amadu, President of the GRIDLASS announced the institution of the 2023 Sheroes Award at the GRIDLASS Grand IWD Celebrations held at the Alisa Hotel, Tema on Thursday 8th March, where the Keynote Speaker was Ing. Mrs. Yaa Okudzeto with solidarity messages from the GRIDCo Board, VRA and ECG Ladies Association, GRIDCo SSA and the Divisional Union.

BOARD ENGAGEMENTS

Not only does the GRIDCo Board show commitment to guide Management in taking strategic decisions for the smooth running of the Company, but also engages in stakeholder engagements with the same alacrity. Considering this, the Board paid courtesy calls on former president Kuffour, the Okyehene and the Board Chairman spoke at the recent 2023 National PR and Communications Summit.

Board Chairman Leads Board, CE & Management on Courtesy Visit to the Okyehene



The Okyehene, Osagyefuo Amoatia Ofori Panin has charged the Board and Management of GRIDCo to continue working hard to contribute to the development of Ghana. The Okyehene made the comment during a courtesy call paid on him by a delegation of the Board and Management, led by Amb. Kabral Blay Amihere, the Board Chairman. Amb. Blay-Amihere explained GRIDCo is committed to enhancing

and expanding the national grid. The purpose of the visit was to inform the Akyem Abuakwa State of a planned rehabilitation at the Tafo Substation which will improve power supply to other parts of the country.

Osagyefuo Amoatia Ofori Panin emphasised the need to promote the learning of Maths and Science saying, “We need to have a system where we train people to come to be fine scientists and engineers so that we can provide services to the citizens of this country”.

Osagyefuo Amoatia Ofori Panin is the 35th Paramount Chief of Akyem Abuakwa, also called Okyeman in the Eastern Region of Ghana. Osagyefuo Amoatia Ofori Panin has been on the throne for 20 years, having been enstooled on 4th October, 1999.

GRIDCo Board Chairman Speaks at 2023 National PR and Communications Summit



GRIDCo was strongly represented at the 2023 Institute of Public Relations National PR & Communication Summit & AGM, from 23rd to 25th March, 2023 at Rock City Hotel in Kwahu, Eastern Region.

The Board Chairman of GRIDCo, Ambassador Kabral Blay-Amihere featured as a panel member on the topic “PR in the Board Room: C-Suites Insights/CEOs Roundtable”, based on his expertise in the field for many decades. He emphasised that successful PR is also dependent on a successful relationship between Public

Relations Practitioners and their Heads of Institutions to deliver impact. “ PR is not enough to solve strategic issues. This is why every professional must strive for personal development and growth”.

He charged participants to prepare for greater responsibilities in their organisations, noting that in the last two years, GRIDCo has taken steps to make PR a Management function to enable its practitioners to take initiative. He further stated that, “for an organisation to have an effective PR paradigm, leadership should not see the PR person as a peripheral operator.” Other panelists were the President of IPR, Ghana, Mawuko Afadzanu and the Chief Executive of the Ghana Export Promotions Authority, Dr. Afua Asabea Asare.

KEY STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS

Stakeholder Engagement is one of GRIDCo's key Performance Indicators (KPIs). Engaging with our stakeholders is one of the means by which we improve upon our service delivery to them. During the quarter in review, the Company engaged some of its key stakeholders.

Inauguration of GIMPA-PURC Centre of Excellence in Public Utility Regulation (CEPUR)

During the first quarter, the Public Utilities and Regulatory Commission (PURC) and the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) inaugurated a Centre of Excellence in Public Utility Regulation (CEPUR). The CEPUR is a collaboration between the PURC and GIMPA, established to develop competencies and expertise in regulation and governance for the electricity, water and natural gas sectors, as well as other public utility sectors.

In a welcome address, the Rector of GIMPA, Prof. Samuel Kwaku Bonsu, reiterated the objective

for setting up the institution some sixty-two (62) years ago. He also noted that, the CEPUR initiative will, therefore, contribute to the field of public utility regulation through research and training of experts in electricity, water, and natural gas.

The Guest of Honour, Hon. Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh, the Minister of Energy, expressed Government's appreciation to the PURC and GIMPA for taking this laudable initiative. He described it as timely and relevant, because of emerging dynamics in the energy sector and the need for a competent and skilful workforce. The Executive Secretary of PURC, Dr. Ishmael Ackah commended the team for this accomplishment, noting that the Centre will deliver programmes leading to the award of certificates in diverse courses related to the regulation and management of the electricity, water and natural gas sectors.

Also in attendance were Hon. Deputy Minister of energy Hon. William Owuraku Aidoo, a delegation from GRIDCo and other key stakeholders of the Energy Sector.



Kumasi Operational Area Hosts Ashanti Regional Minister, GRIDCo CE & Management Team



On 23rd January 2023, the Chief Executive and Management of GRIDCo spent time with the Kumasi and Techiman Operational Areas, which coincided with a visit by the Ashanti Regional Minister, Hon. Simon Osei-Mensah who was also on a tour of key entities in Kumasi.

The Regional Minister reassured GRIDCo staff of his support for the Company's operations and activities. During a question-and-answer session, concerns about Right of Way (RoW) and protection of GRIDCo's assets were raised with a request for support to manage them. On improving security around the Kumasi Substation, Hon Osei-Mensah pledged to provide additional police personnel.

Chief Executive, Ing. Ebenezer Essienyi extended the appreciation of Management and staff to Hon. Osei-Mensah and the Ashanti Regional Security Council for their collaboration, which facilitates GRIDCo's critical work in the Ashanti Region.

Engagements with Chiefs: Konongo- Kumasi(J2K) 161kV Transmission Line Upgrade Project



A delegation from the Ghana Grid Company engaged eight (8) Chiefs and their Elders in the Ashanti Region, whose areas fall within the stretch of the Konongo-Kumasi (a.k.a J2K) Line Upgrade Project, currently ongoing. The courtesy calls followed a sensitisation exercise undertaken in October 2022, preceding the commencement of reconstruction work on the line in November, 2022.

Ing. Kwame Boadi of the Lands & Environment Section, Engineering Department, led the team, including Joana Tetteh and Vincent Agbenyo of Corporate Communications, with coordination from Ing. Peter Acquah (Jnr.), Kumasi Area Manager and Cdr. Ekow Yankey (Rtd.), Security & Right of Way (RoW) Protection Unit. They briefed the Chiefs on the Konongo-Kumasi Line Upgrade Project, emphasising its importance for residents and Ghana upon completion. They were assured of enough redundancy (alternative power lines to serve customers) to limit the risk of outage.

The Traditional Authorities were receptive and exhibited a positive understanding of the scope/rationale of the Project. Refreshingly, they frowned upon the menace of encroachment, promising their readiness to collaborate with GRIDCo in every legitimate way to make encroachers of the Right of Way (RoW) relocate.

The line traverses five Metropolis, Municipalities and Districts in the Ashanti Region namely; Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly; Asokwa Municipal Assembly; Oforikrom Municipal Assembly; Ejisu District Assembly, and Juaben Municipal Assembly, where 19 of affected communities fall under. The traditional leaders visited were, Adako Jachie Hene (Nana Osei Busompem III); Besease Hene (Osaahene Asabe Antwi II); Manhyia Hene (Nana Kwadwo Kwah); Fumesua Hene (represented by his linguists - Nana Asua Amoako



II & Okyeame Kofi Boateng); Asokwa Hene (Nana Fe-Baamoah Baffour II); Ejisu Hene (Nana Oguakro Afrane Okese IV); Queenmother of Kentinkrono (Nana Yaa Akyaa Frimpomaa I) and the Regent of Ayigya (Nana Boahene).

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