

ECOMOF 2015: PRESS RELEASE



1st ECOWAS Mining & Petroleum Forum & Exhibition

Accra International Conference Centre, Accra, Republic of Ghana, 06 – 08 October 2015

Theme:

‘Valorising West Africa’s Mineral & Petroleum Resources through Regional Cooperation’

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ACCRA, GHANA, 26TH SEPTEMBER 2014 - The first **ECOWAS Mining and Petroleum Forum (ECOMOF 2015)** will take place at the Accra International Conference Centre from **6 – 8 October 2015**. This regional mining and petroleum forum is organised by the **ECOWAS Commission, Government of the Republic of Ghana, and AME Trade Ltd.**

ECOMOF is an initiative of **ECOWAS Commission** on behalf of ECOWAS Member States. Upon the recommendation of **ECOWAS Ministers responsible for Mineral Resources Development through the ECOWAS Council of Ministers, the Authority of Heads of State and Government, at their 40th Ordinary Session held in Abuja, Nigeria from 16-17 February 2012, approved the organization of ECOMOF every two (2) years, to be rotated among Member States**, as part of the activities to promote and develop the mining and petroleum potentials in the ECOWAS Region.

ECOMOF 2015 will gather the **highest ranking government delegations** from the **fifteen ECOWAS Member States** including: **Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal Sierra Leone and Togo**. The event will also feature local and international private and public sector participants who are the key decision makers in the West African mining and petroleum industries.

The main outcomes that are expected from this event are to:

- 1. Promote and develop the mining and oil potentials of Member States*
- 2. Help ensure the socio-economic integration of the West African region.*
- 3. Harmonise legal, regulatory and taxation instruments*

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4. *Catalyse and develop artisanal and small-scale mining*
5. *Establish, develop and organize geological, mining and oil databases for Member States.*
6. *Develop human resources and create a network of experts.*
7. *Use the mining and petroleum industries to develop Community infrastructure*
8. *Add value to mining and petroleum products and strengthen trade in these products*
9. *Promote corporate social responsibility and increase stakeholders' awareness of the development issues of their local communities.*

ECOMOF 2015 will include: pre conference training and interactive workshops, an Industry conference with plenary and parallel sessions, roundtables and country presentations, a collocated trade exhibition and post event technical tours. The main theme of the event is: '**Valorising West Africa's Mineral & Petroleum Resources through Regional Cooperation**'.

The Republic of Ghana is the host country of ECOMOF 2015. The country is a shining example of best practises in mining and petroleum management in West Africa. It has significant natural resources, achieved continuous 22 years of contemporary multi-party democracy since 1992, and centuries-old history of mining. It is now the 9th largest gold producer in the world. It has made available total coverage of airborne data (magnetic and radiometric). It also has significant reserves of bauxite, iron ore, solar salt, chlor-alkali and other industrial minerals. Ghana operates an attractive legal and fiscal mining regime in line with international best practices. Ghana has a stable regulatory environment that provides for transparent and equitable treatment of all investors and stakeholders.

The **petroleum sector** is undergoing a major transformation following the commercial discoveries of **deep water oil and gas fields in the Tano/Cape Three Points Basin**. The legal and fiscal reforms being introduced in this sector take from the **best practises of other oil producing countries**.

For further information on the event and press accreditation please contact:

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