

Enhancing Port Reputation Through an Improved Environmental Governance: a Case Study of the Takoradi Port Infrastructure Expansion Project

Jemima Sackey, David Kow Saape Halm and James Benjamin Gaisie (Ghana)

Key words: e-Governance; Legislation; Risk management; PORTS

SUMMARY

The study appraises the environmental social governance framework of the Takoradi Port Infrastructure Project. Environmental governance is critical for achieving long-term development and environmental protection. Environmental governance refers to the laws, customs, rules, and organizations that regulate how people interact with the environment. In order to help participants (from the public and commercial sectors, NGOs, and local communities) handle conflicts, establish common ground, and make crucial decisions, this process links and harmonizes policies, institutions, processes, tools, and information (Haque & Ntim 2018).

The study sought to explore the nature of environmental governance, the implementation gaps and make practical recommendations. Based on the research findings, the study, established the implementation gaps in the environmental governance associated with the Takoradi Port Infrastructure project.

Both quantitative and qualitative data approaches was used in the investigation Some of the findings of the study includes; more than half (57%) of the participants disagreed that people in the New Takoradi community who were affected by the project have been adequately compensated, the promulgation of new laws that affect the legal framework of the Takoradi port Development project, the strengthening of environmental governance through ISO 14001 certification and the disposal of dredged material as well as the effect on artisanal fishing as the major environmental costs associated with the Port Infrastructure development project.

Following the findings above, the study proposes several practical recommendations to strengthen the environmental governance framework which includes; the setting up of intergovernmental committee to address inter sectoral/agency implementation challenges, Training seminars for

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project stakeholders to understand complex Port related terminologies, influence positive attitudes, share data and knowledge and skills transfer as well as outsourcing environmental performance indicators monitoring throughout project life cycle.

Good governance assists in the holistic identification and prudent management of environmental costs. Therefore, the strengthening of the environmental governance for port infrastructure projects helps add to significant business value through enhanced reputation and provides a clear sustainable vision for the future.

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