

End of project popular science description

Port Efficiency and Public Private Capacity Development in Ghana

Introduction

PEPP aimed to map and improve approaches to capacity development for the maritime sector in Ghana in order to enhance the potential for Ghana's sustainable economic growth. Engaging with the community at Tema Port and relevant theoretical literature, the PEPP team conducted research, posed critical questions and shared different viewpoints, to address the concerns of the people who work in the port. The concerns included digital transformation, national content, labor, and corruption.

Completing the last round of fieldwork in Ghana just before the lockdown in 2020, the PEPP team spent the rest of 2020 and all of 2021 analyzing the collected data, attending virtual conferences, and working online finalizing six academic articles on legitimacy, trust, community, and power. The question of private and public sector interests in the port surfaced in all the articles, whether on digital transformation, the berthing meetings, capacity development, or the Black Star Shipping Line. The last six months we finalized the phase two application for PEPP II and planned the closing events at Aarhus Port on November 19, 2021 and in Tema on January 14, 2022. We also continued submitting abstracts to various conferences and academic articles and prepared a radio program in collaboration with a local radio, Simli radio in Dajun

Results

The project collaboration among different academic disciplines and professionals at the ports of Tema and Aarhus as well as our very engaged International Advisory Board enabled lively conversations and steep learning curves for all involved. The Port of Tema has great potential, but is still hampered by lack of clarity of ownership and clear communication among stakeholders. These findings informed our application for PEPP II, where we focus on port governance, communication, and economic, social, and environmental sustainability.

Conclusions

Very respectful engagement between pilots and tugboat masters in Ghana and Denmark made the capacity development truly fruitful for all. A rich capacity development environment in local institutions such as Regional Maritime University and the Berthing Meetings need recognition and support, because communication among different professions and stakeholders at the port of Tema challenge the efficiency of the port and has, therefore, become a main focus of the PEPP II project.

Recommendations

Direct involvement of local Tema businesses and potential entrepreneurs in the planning of further developments in the port would benefit the Ghanaian economy as well as the image of the MPS terminal. In this context, an initial introduction to our results about communication gaps, our intricate stakeholder map, and the parallel (mis)understandings, we have identified, is useful in setting out concrete goals for an efficient and sustainable port development in Tema