



Gemeente Almere



Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly

&

Gemeente Almere

2012 – 2016

- Signatories:
- ☒ Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly (KMA)
 - ☒ Municipality of Almere
 - ☒ SamenWerk Foundation for International Cooperation
 - ☒ Catholic Graduates for Action (CAGA)



1. Preamble

The municipalities of Almere and Kumasi have been cooperating since 1996 in a twinning programme. This cooperation focuses on establishing direct relations on two levels. The first level is cooperation between city departments such as planning and urban management. The second level is between communities and organisations in both cities, such as schools, women groups and NGOs. In the period 1996 – 2011 four Memoranda of Understanding were successfully implemented. This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which is the fifth, reaffirms the cooperation and its two-level operations for the period of 2012-2016.

2. Key Principles and Objectives

The underlying principles for this inter-municipal relationship are the shared sense of global responsibility to reduce poverty, the participation of stakeholders, and the collaboration of city officials in solving identified problems.

Also, it is a strong belief and conviction of both municipalities that the relationship should be seen as an instrument for a better understanding between the citizens in both municipalities.

Based on these principles the relationship seeks to:

- Expand the horizons of people from both cities through sharing of experiences and exchange of activities;
- Create an opportunity for Kumasi to build its capacity on local governance in the field of water and sanitation;
- Contribute ideas and best practices in the Growing Green Cities concept towards a green, productive, clean and healthy urban environment;
- Assist deprived communities, vulnerable groups and marginalised institutions to improve their lot.

3.0 Focal/Priority Areas

After consultation and consensus building among stakeholders the following priority areas have been identified for the next four years (2012 – 2016).

3.1 Mutual Exchange and Reciprocity

Both Almere and Kumasi municipalities believe that the relationship between our cities rests on mutual cooperation. In the areas of culture, training and education, the parties will continue to identify themes of mutual interest to deepen the relationship.

Moreover, both parties will investigate the possibilities of direct links between educational institutions and other professionals providing a platform for cross cultural exchange.

3.2 Specific Municipal Projects

3.2.1 Local Government Capacity Programme

After the successful implementation of the Logo South Project (2005-2011), the VNG International has initiated a new programme; the Local Government Capacity Programme (LGCP) for the period 2012-2016. The programme financed by VNG International aims to build the capacity of local governments to identify, initiate and strategically plan and develop projects in the field of sustainable sanitation. Both Kumasi and Almere are committed to participate in the programme based on a colleague -to- colleague approach.

The specific objective of the programme is to ensure that the cost of sanitation service delivery at a local level is fully understood and to improve processes in the field of planning, budgeting, implementation, operation and maintenance of sustainable sanitation solutions in the Kumasi Metropolis through knowledge exchange, benchmarking and engaging experts.

3.2.2 Green City Movement

The two municipalities fully appreciate the Growing Green Cities concept of promoting sustainable horticulture and healthy green cities in an ever increasing (global) urban environment. Therefore, both municipalities have the intention to cooperate in the "Growing Green Cities Movement". To this end, the Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly has formally endorsed the bid of the City of Almere for the upcoming Floriade 2022.

In the next four years, both Almere and Kumasi will identify possible areas of mutual interest and collaboration within the Growing Green City Movement to improve and sustain the quality of life in both cities. Areas of interest include best practices in the field of engineering, sustainable systems, clean healthy and productive cities.

3.3 SamenWerk – CAGA Projects

Current projects include the King Faisal sanitation project and interventions for street children in cooperation with Child Support Ghana. An essential aspect of our projects is the participation of the community groups themselves. They understand their problems and can develop specific ideas about how to improve their situation.

For the coming years, SamenWerk and CAGA have identified five projects in Kumasi. These five projects have been presented in the SamenWerk bid book in order to find financial support from third parties. The focus is on income-generating and educational projects aimed at deprived sections of the Kumasi population: street girls, youth and women.

1. Street Children project; training programme for street girls (ongoing);
2. King Faisal sanitation project; construction of a 20-seater toilet (ongoing);
3. Ayigya School; construction of a library/computer laboratory;
4. Parkoso School; construction of a classroom block for Junior High School;
5. Tafo Zongo women group project: socio-economic training for seamstresses.

4. Structure of the relationship

The Almere Municipality has mandated the SamenWerk Foundation to coordinate the projects and activities of the twinning relationship. SamenWerk presents annual plans, budgets and reports to the Almere Municipality about the implementation of the projects and activities. SamenWerk has called upon the assistance of Catholic Graduates for Action (CAGA) to monitor the operations in Kumasi and provide specific information needed for its working groups in Almere. When necessary, CAGA will provide animation and advisory service to local groups (beneficiaries) in the twinning programme.

The KMA International Coordinator will monitor the progress of the project activities, and will work in close collaboration with CAGA. For constructional projects, KMA Works Department will provide technical advice and support.

The specific municipal projects are coordinated by the respective international coordinators of both cities.

5. Evaluation

There will be two evaluation or overall review exercises of the relationship, and these will take place in 2014 and 2016.

Signed on the 21st day of September, 2012 in Almere, The Netherlands by:

Kumasi Metropolitan

Mayor

President of

Vice-Chairman of