

The Informal Economy in Ghana: A Comparative Perspective

International Seminar

October 24, 2005

8:00 – 16:00

Damba Room, Homowo Conference Centre

La Palm Royal Beach Hotel

Accra

8:00-9:00

Registration

9:00-9:30

Welcome and Introductions

9:30-11:15

Panel # 1 - Recent Data and Research on the Informal Economy

Speakers:

Grace Bediako, Ghana Statistical Service – “Current Efforts to Improve Labour-Related Data in Ghana”

James Heintz, University of Massachusetts at Amherst – “Recent Analysis of National Data on Links between Employment, Poverty, and Gender in Ghana”

Rudith King, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology - “Recent Research on Street Vendors in Ghana”

Discussants:

Ernest Aryeetey, Institute for Statistical, Social and Economic Research
Abena Oduro, Centre for Policy Analysis (CEPA)

Chair:

Renana Jhabvala, National Coordinator, Self-Employed Women’s Association (SEWA),
India

11:15-11:45

Coffee and Tea Break

11:45-13:30

Panel # 2 - Current Responses to the Informal Economy

Speakers:

James Heintz, University of Massachusetts at Amherst – “An Employment Approach to Poverty Reduction in Ghana”

Kofi Asamoah, Deputy Secretary General (Operations), Ghana Trade Union Congress –
“Organizing in the Informal Economy”
Madam Tagoe, Kuapa Cocoa Cooperative – “Organizing and Promoting Fair
Trade for Cocoa Producers”

Discussants:

Rita Abban, Ministry of Private Sector Development
William Baah-Boateng, University of Ghana

Chair:

William Steel, World Bank and WIEGO Steering Committee

13:30-15:00

Lunch and Break-Out Group Discussions

Over lunch, seminar participants will break into small groups – depending on their own areas of interest as follows:

Data and Research on the Informal Economy
Policy Responses to the Informal Economy
Organizing in the Informal Economy

Each break-out group will be chaired by a member of the WIEGO network who has expertise and experience in the specific area. Each break-out group will also include other members of the WIEGO network who can provide comparative perspectives from other countries.

The break-out groups are intended to encourage a) exchange of information, experience, and ideas and b) brainstorming re future initiatives and possible collaboration.

15:00-16:00

Closing Plenary