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VOICES ON SUSTAINABLE PORTS IN AFRICA
STORIES FROM TEMA PORT, GHANA

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The Sustainable Ports in Africa program is a collaborative multidisciplinary NWO Urbanizing Deltas of the World research project

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FORTY-SEVEN STORIES IN ONE BOOK

PREFACE

This book is a storybook. Forty-seven stories from people that are in one way or another connected to the port of Tema. Some live right next to it, or work at the port or in the direct environment. Others are involved in businesses or organizations that provide services, goods, knowledge or research for ports and their facilities, economics or development. Some in Ghana, some in the Netherlands.

All are stakeholders, in their own specific way and with their own specific story. These are the people we have drawn into our academic research project ‘Design of Sustainable and Integrated Ports within an African Context’.

There are two main reflections on this work. The first is that we have written this book together. It is a collaborative effort. The second is that we have written it through stories. We have wanted to capture the voices of the people involved, and to let them tell their stories in their own words. We have tried to capture their ideas, their hopes and dreams, and their expectations. We have tried to capture their experiences and their memories. We have tried to capture their views on sustainability and development.

The final section is somewhat different. It presents the perspectives of the academics involved in the research project. Researchers from multiple Ghanaian and Dutch universities and from diverse backgrounds have been asked to write about their work and the people they have met. They have been asked to reflect on their experiences and their findings. The end result is a collection of essays that reflect on the research project and its implications.

What’s next?

We hope to bring this book back to you, the people that we interviewed in Tema, Accra and the Netherlands. We hope that you will be inspired hearing the stories of other stakeholders. We hope that you will not only read your own words, but also hear the voices of other individuals, communities, organizations and businesses. And we hope you will convey these inspirations and stories to many others in your daily life and working environments.

By telling stories, listening to and sharing the stories of others, we can explore new perspectives and ideas. We can see things from different angles and understand the complexity of the challenges we face. We can learn from each other and work together towards solutions.

This book

On the next page, the three professors heading the academic research project, will start by explaining the project and its vision and philosophy. The book is then arranged in three sections.

In the first section, the people that live and work in the direct environment of Tema Port tell their stories about daily life near the port, about their fears and hopes, dreams and expectations for a future connected to the new port development. These interviews provide an intimate glimpse into people’s lives and ideas.

The second section focuses on businesses and organizations in Ghana and in The Netherlands. These stakeholders explain how or why they got involved with Tema Port, and share their business and organizational views on the port development. Again their stories are revealing and their ideas can invite us to more sustainable action.