

# palm sector meet

By Dzifa Emma Tetteh

**A FORUM on Environment and Natural Resources has been held in Accra for institutions whose work is related to the oil palm plantation industry in Ghana.**

It was aimed at having a roundtable on sustainable palm oil (RSPO) to discuss the principles and criteria for sustainable palm oil production.

It also aimed at looking at the RSPO document which has components on natural resources and specifically adapting them to Ghana.

Mr. Richmond Yeboah-Amoako of SAL Consult Limited said one of their aims was to ensure that all institutions whose activities affected the oil palm plantations sector complied with the laws of the nation.

He expressed the hope that through the forum, all the participants would become more socially responsible as far as issues of their operation were concerned

Mr. Yeboah-Amoako said three previous forums had been held in the Asian region and the current one was targeted at African groups to see how best they could equally move the oil palm plantation industry in the right direction.

The meeting brought together about 30 participants from the Ministries of Food and Agriculture, and Water Resources, Works and Housing, Environmental Protection Agency, Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research, Benso Oil Palm Plantation and Twifo-Praso Oil Palm Plantation.

It was organised by SAL Consult Limited, on behalf of the Ghana National Interpretation Working Group (GNIWG), together with the secretariat of the Ghana Oil Palm Plantation Development Corporation (GOPDC).



Mr. Seth Lomie (second from left) of SAL Consult, chatting with Mr. Anke Hassart, Director of Agric (GOPDC), after the opening session.  
Photo: Maxwell K. Bilson

ing. The Minority Leader said corruption undermined the delivery of public services such as health care and education on which the poor depended.

Mr Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu said where the rule of law was weak, the poor could not depend on the judicial system to uphold their rights, adding "the poor are less likely to prevail the elite where money and power influence the judicial decisions".

The Executive Director of APNAC, Daniel Batidam, said procurement constituted a significant component of the public budget and important instrument for achieving socio-economic development.

## New standards for outdoor billboards

By Lawrence Markwei

**THE Ghana Standards Board is to introduce standards for the erection of outdoor billboards in cities, towns and villages.**

The action is to address the haphazard manner in which billboards are placed along roads and save life and property.

Mr Kofi Amponsah-Bediako, Public Relations Officer and head of Marketing Department of the board, disclosed this in an interview. He said the standard was designed to encourage the provision of well-designed and adequately supported bill boards with regard to the structure, location and materials for erection.

He said the standard would particularly look at materials, maximum area of the billboard, its design and construction and the strength it had on the ground.

It will also ensure that the materials used for advertising structures are durable, weather proof and can withstand pressures from winds and resist seismic forces through good bracing and anchorage.

Mr Amponsah-Bediako said though the display of advertisements often added colour and interest on the roads and commercial centres, "it is imperative to prevent cluttering important landmarks and conservative areas from potential negative effects of advertising".

He said a well-designed and sensitively displayed adverts with thought to size, colour and

level of illumination could contribute positively to visual effects of an area.

He said in the past, the unclear process for the procurement and permitting of adverts as well as the lack of adequate laid-down specifications and enforcement compounded the phenomenon.

"Consequently, there arose the need for the promulgation of the standard to set and define the requisite requirements to curb the menace", he said.

He said the document, now known as the National Outdoor Advertising Standard, was drafted by a technical committee made up of the Department of Urban Roads, the Advertising Association of Ghana, and the Ghana Standards Board.