

## **Ecosys09: International Symposium on Sustainable Ecosystems: Some organisational hints**

### **1.1 Start and end**

The Symposium starts with the Opening Ceremony on Monday morning, 20<sup>th</sup> July, from 10.00 on. Before you can do your registration, if you didn't do that on Sunday evening from 18.00-20.00.

The Symposium ends Thursday afternoon, 23<sup>rd</sup> July around 16.00. You easily can get evening flights, if you depart this day.

### **1.2 Transport**

When you have registered and announced your times of arrival and departure, you will get transport from and to the airport by Valley View University (VVU) staff. In case some flights are nearly the same time we do joint transporting. If you have chosen hotels outside Valley View daily transfers in the morning and evening are arranged.

### **1.3 Accommodation**

You can choose accommodation at the women's center at VVU campus or at hotels in Dodowa, some 15 km from VVU. The comfort there is slightly better (airconditioning for example). The women's center is near the sites of the symposium and offers simple quality with fan, shower and toilet in your room.

### **1.4 Climate and clothing**

Normally Ghana's climate is hot and humid, always around 28-32 degrees Celsius. In the moment however there is still rainy season, most likely this year also during the symposium, with lower temperatures around 24-26 degrees. Thus it is good to be prepared for rain (umbrella) and somewhat colder weather, especially during the nights (but still it's tropical Africa), but also for warm weather conditions.

Your clothing and shoes must not be too formal and should have in mind muddy roads in the rainy season and the workshop character of our symposium. Casual clothing will be best.

Because of Malaria you should have long trousers and skirts for the evenings and some mosquito spray or milk. This is especially important if you take part in the after-symposium tour to the West Coast and the Kakum National Park (Rain Forest).

### **1.5 Infrastructure**

Most of the time electricity and water will be available (drinks always), internet some times.



## 1.6 Program

A detailed overview of the program you find as attached document.

## 1.7 Approach

This is a symposium (from Greek: festive meal combined with dialogue and exchange), where we exchange our experiences, ideas, insights and recommendations in an interactive and living being together. We will have only few official presentations and most of the time we will exchange in workshops with world-cafe and other methods. So everyone has the chance in actively taking part in the exchange and contribute his valuable insights. This is especially true for the open market on Tuesday evening, where everyone can offer his contribution, like discussions, readings from books, music or dance, selling traditional handcraft, presenting his organisation or work or giving a presentation. This event is mostly self-organising the organisers will make available the necessary materials and space, but you have to bring along your materials, posters, presentations, instruments etc. With your registration on campus you will be asked to name your sort of offering for the open market and this will be announced on a big wall paper in the course of Monday and Tuesday.

Because we will collect all our knowing of positive eco-examples, it will be very good when you bring along information and materials, that can contribute to this. Also from other examples and organisations you know of.

One special topic will be an international study in ecological engineering or design, management and operation of human ecosystem. We appreciate, if you can share your special knowledge for this field, be it more practical or be it more academic, but always intended for application and implementation.

We intend to produce a manual of the shared and collected knowledge and wisdom and to distribute it to all of the participants after the symposium.

## 1.8 Participants

Will come from various places of our planet, covering different cultures, landscape-ecosystems, professional and personal backgrounds, Most of the participants come from Ghana and the neighbouring West-African countries, Germany and Austria, but some even from China and others.

Their background is partly academic, partly more practical, thus giving a good mixture for exchange.

## 1.9 Presentations of eco-highlights

Monday-afternoon the following eco-highlights will be presented:

- The Songhai example Centers for training, production, research&development of sustainable agricultural practices in Benin since 1980's
- The IWRM-example Integrated Watershed Management: succesful African examples with people's commitment



- The Tongji-university example An existing campus eco-friendly, a new campus as sustainable eco-campus and a new design-center as climate-friendly eco-building and research-object
- The ROSA- and NETTSAFexample Holistic ecosanitation examples in East- and WestAfrica
- The VVU-example The way towards a holistic, sustainable, climate-friendly-eco-university in Ghana

