Cooperative Agreement in support of the “Smart Development Initiative”

MONTHLY REPORT – DECEMBER 2005

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Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
U.S. Agency for International Development

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January 1, 2006
USAID Cooperative Agreement
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The following are the activities conducted in the month of December. They all fall under Task 1 – Continuation of Work in Ghana.

- In late November, CEE developed a GDA concept paper following the issuance of the APS by the GDA Secretariat. Over the next few weeks, we received valuable feedback from NARUC and various staff members at USAID. We revised the concept paper accordingly and submitted it on December 16. In the meantime, we continued gauging the level of interest among potential GDA partners such as Chevron and its WAPCo partners and the DOE. We will continue to explore the GDA idea with these and other potential partners, including TIPCEE and the Mission during our January visit to Accra.

- CEE and RCEER started working on the natural gas survey. Dr. Asante met with Prof. Akuffo, advisor to the Minister of Energy and Commissioner at EC, who supported the survey idea and suggested focusing on industrial customers in Tema. We collected sample surveys from different regions used to measure demand potential by industrial users in an area where a new natural gas system is considered. We are also developing a short list of questions for a more general audience that can be used to evaluate the level of familiarity with technical and market fundamentals of natural gas. We will approach the Association of Ghanaian Industries and journalism groups to jointly implement this survey.

- CEE and its colleagues in Ghana continued discussing some of the issues associated with RCEER organization, staffing, and leadership. The visit to Ghana during the first week of January will provide face time between CEE and Ghanaian partners to better evaluate our options and strategy.

- CEE and the USAID Mission in Accra continued working on the J-1 process for Mr. Essandoh-Yeddu, who is expected in Houston at the end of January or early February at the latest. As explained in our previous monthly report, Mr. Essandoh-Yeddu, Director of Strategic Planning and Policy Division at EC, will spend about six months in early 2006 to work on his Ph.D. thesis, natural gas issues relevant to Ghana for RCEER and CO2 modeling in the Gulf Coast for BEG.

- Pursuant to the letter of invitation (jointly written by NARUC, USAID and CEE), PURC, EC and the Ministry of Energy selected their delegates for the NARUC exchange visit to the U.S. in early February. CEE and NARUC agreed for CEE to organize a one-day workshop on February 15 while the delegation will be in D.C. attending the NARUC annual meeting. CEE is also pursuing PURC and the Ministry to send one of their delegates to Houston (at the end of their NARUC program) for some joint natural gas work with Mr. Essandoh-Yeddu.

- The work on the RCEER subcontract started.

Next steps
- Subcontract arrangement with RCEER to be finalized
- RCEER to publish its information flyer
- RCEER to implement the public survey on natural gas
- RCEER to publish Natural Gas Primer in book form