Ghana to tap into W.A. pipeline in 2006

By William Yaw Djanwu

GHANAIANS will begin tapping into the West African Gas Pipeline by December 2006 according to projections. The West African countries — Nigeria, Benin, Togo and Ghana — have teamed up to undertake the project which will provide liquefied petroleum gas for the domestic, industrial and commercial use of the people.

To make that dream a reality, pipes and other important equipment for the construction of the pipeline in Ghana will be arriving next month.

Mr E. Quaye-Foli, a petroleum engineer at the Ministry of Energy stated this at an educational forum on natural gas in Accra yesterday.

The forum was aimed at sensitizing the public to appreciate the use of natural gas.

It was organized by the Resource Centre for Energy Economics and Regulation of the Institute of Social Statistical and Economic Research in collaboration with all the major stakeholders in the energy sector.

Mr Quaye-Foli said physical construction of the pipeline would start in June and continue expeditiously so that targets set for completion would be met.

He said Ghana’s equity in the WAGP is 17 percent of the total project cost which he interpreted to mean that “the project is sinking 93 million dollars into the project.”

“The use of natural gas is the most efficient and cheapest in the petroleum sector,” he said adding that “Ghana should take advantage of the abundant natural gas in the envisaged WAGP to improve its economy.”

Dr Gunar Guten of the Institute for Energy Law and Enterprise, University of Houston, Texas, USA, in his presentation, said natural gas has a high potential power base for transportation purposes in the country.

“Pipeline transport system to the powering of private vehicles, the gas will give Ghana a relief from the destructive side of petro-diesel,” Dr Guten said.

Mr Ageman Doss, managing director of Cell-Ghana Limited, who chaired the function said the inability of players in the sector to educate the public on energy policy had sometimes hampered government’s efforts to deregulate and develop the sector.

Mr Felix A. Asante, co-founder of RCEDR said the forum was informed among other things by the need to fill the information gap in the natural gas business and regulation.

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