

## From the Regional Director

A happy event took place on 11 May, 2006 at the Regional Coordination Unit of the GCLME Project. At about 9:30 am, just before the Opening of the Second Regional Steering Committee Meeting, the Ghanaian Minister of Fisheries spent a little time to baptize the Conference Hall of the Regional Coordination Unit as the "Kenneth Sherman Conference Hall".

The event was witnessed by 16 National Project Directors, representatives of the Implementing, Executing and Cooperating agencies from the UN System including UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, FAO, IMO. Government Agencies and Non UN Organizations including NGOs such as Pro - Natura International, Action pour la Gestion Rationnelle des Substances Chimiques et des Déchets Dangereux, (AGCD/ASBL, Congo), Centre for Environment and Development in Africa (CEDA) and the organized Private Sector such as Chukasdorf Consulting and Engineering Services, Vienna were represented.

The naming of the Conference Hall after Dr. Kenneth Sherman, was a token of the immense gratitude which the governments and peoples of the 16 participating countries owe this intellectual giant.

It could have been enough to acknowledge that Dr. Sherman enunciated the Large Marine Ecosystem concept which underpins the GCLME project and the precursor pilot phase Gulf of Guinea LME project (1995 - 1999). But the gratitude of the region goes far deeper than that!

For us, it was more of Dr. Sherman's personal interest in the region and the guidance he has provided for over a decade to institutionalizing this new paradigm, and by implication changing the way marine environmental and living resources management is approached, that inspired this honour.

It was, indeed Honour to whom Honour is due.

## Commissioning of the "Kenneth Sherman Conference Hall" of the RCU, Accra - Ghana, 11 May, 2006.



*Hon. Mrs. Gladys Asmah, Ghanaian Minister of Fisheries being assisted by the Regional Director in unveiling the plaque marking the dedication of the "Kenneth Sherman Conference Hall".*



*Hon. Gladys Asmah unveiling the photo of Dr. Ken Sherman adjacent to the Conference Hall. Assisting is Ms. Gabriella Koranteng watched by Dr. Ken Sherman.*



*Hon. Gladys Asmah presenting a gift from the region to Dr. Sherman during the Opening Ceremony of the Second Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee 11 May, 2006.*



*Dr. Ken Sherman unwrapping his gift under the watchful eyes of the Regional Director.*

To dedicate the Hall, we brought the First Minister of the First Ministry of Fisheries of the Republic of Ghana, Hon. Mrs. Gladys Asmah, MP who in less than 2 years has revolutionized Fisheries management in Ghana.

In calling upon Hon. Gladys Asmah to unveil the plaque, I described her as "our GCLME Regional Fisheries Minister". And it was a designation to be taken seriously because, not only has been a worthy Ambassador for the project, but her attachment to regional and large scale fisheries management has brought the region closer to having a Fisheries Sub-Commission.

Hon. Gladys Asmah described Dr. Sherman as an intellectual giant whose indomitable brain has changed the way the world looks at trans-boundary fisheries management. She applauded his contributions to the region and the sacrifices these have entailed. She expressed her personal happiness at being associated with the event. She wished him many years ahead and to still greater accomplishments in the future.

Dr. Ken Sherman, who has received many honours from across the globe including in his home country the USA, where he is a recipient of the Gold medal of the Department of Commerce was deeply moved by the gesture and expressed his appreciation for the honour done him.

In this special edition, we bring you the sights (and sounds?) of the event on 11 May, 2006 and a little slice of the TPR on 12 May.

Personally, I was honoured to be associated with this event which was why I asked to do this editorial. In the minds of the Steering Committee, "there would be more than where this ONE came from.



*Dr. Ken Sherman showing off his gift to the Regional Steering Committee gathered for their second meeting since the start of the Project implementation in January 2005. The gift was a replica of HMS Victory to salute his genius and tenacity.*



*The Table of Honour at the Opening Ceremony of the Second Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee. From Left are: M. Leonard Muamba-Kanda, GCLME National Director for RD Congo, Hon. Gladys Asmah, Prof. Chidi Ibe and Dr. Ken Sherman.*



*The Table of Honour at the Opening Ceremony of the First Tripartite Review Meeting. From left are: Dr. Abdoulye Ndiaye of UNDP-GEF, M. Muamba-Kanda, Hon. Stephen Asamoah Boateng, Minister Designate for Local Government, Rural Development & Environment, Ghana, Prof. Chidi Ibe and Dr. Ken Sherman.*