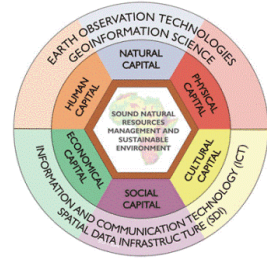




## Earth Observation and Geo-Information for Governance in Africa

7<sup>th</sup> AARSE  
CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION  
ACCRA, GHANA  
27<sup>TH</sup> - 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2008



## CALL FOR SPONSORS

Dear Prospective Sponsor

As the source of livelihoods, the ENVIRONMENT is arguably the most important issue that GOVERNANCE must deliver to Africa. For people living in severe poverty, the NATURAL RESOURCES constitute the daily lifeline, or better still, the only asset for those with few material means. To them the adverse effects of CLIMATE CHANGE will be most striking, because, though they have high dependency on the natural resources, they paradoxically have very limited capacity to adapt to the associated changing climate. Practically, they have high vulnerability to drought, floods, locust invasion, species loss/invasion, etc.

To the powerless and poor majority, GOVERNANCE would mean tackling issues of land rights, access to the critical natural resources information, participatory decision-making, adequate representation, institutional transparency, and fairness not only in sharing costs and benefits from efficient natural resource management, but also partaking in the overall ownership responsibilities. The ability of a nation to achieve this status depends upon Governance, which provides the openness in a nation for improving its key national assets, i.e. the natural, physical, social, economic and cultural environment and human resource. These assets are the fundamental building blocks of progressive nations and sustainable societies. The World Resources Institute (WRI, 2005) argues that, it is democratic governance the process of decision-making that respects the rights and needs of the governed majority, which will bring the poor majority into participatory natural resources management for environmental sustainability.

The 2008 AARSE Conference has chosen governance as sine qua non for sustainable development, convinced that, practice of governance in Africa shall surely change its contemporary image of poverty, hunger and armed conflicts. For achieving it, Earth Observation and Geoinformation have an important role to play, i.e. to provide and disseminate appropriate natural resources and environmental management information, and capacity-building for effective use to achieve sustainable development.

I respectfully invite you to sponsor the 7th AARSE Conference for charting this new course of using Earth Observation and Geoinformation technologies in promoting governance-driven sound natural resources management and sustainable environment.

7th AARSE Conference Director  
Dr. E. Amamoo-Otchere  
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