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New Driver's Guide Released in Ghana

TEMA, GHANA, AUG. 26, 2010 – Ghana's National Road Transport and Transit Facilitation Committee released a new "Truck Driver's Guide to Ghana" today. The booklet was specifically written for the thousands of truck drivers, Ghanaian and foreign, who use the country's primary trade corridors.

U.S. Ambassador Donald Teitelbaum and Ghana's Minister of Transport Mike Hammah formally released the guide to hundreds of drivers in Tema, home of Ghana's primary sea port.

"This is exactly the type of resource we need when we're on the road," said Boukari Ouedraogo, a Burkinabe truck driver. "It's written in plain language and has very useful information."

"This is an invaluable new booklet that offers drivers important information in an easy-to-read format," said Godwin Brocke, the committee's chairperson and director of policy and planning at the Ministry of Roads and Highways. "It will make a major impact and save lives."

The new 20-page booklet was conceived and written with assistance from USAID's West Africa Trade Hub based on information provided by the public agencies that are members of the committee.

The members include the Ghana Police Service, Ghana's Customs Excise and Preventive Service, the Ghana National Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Ghana Immigration Service, Ghana Highway Authority, Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority, Ghana Shippers' Authority, the National Road Safety Commission, the ECOWAS Brown Card Secretariat, SIC Insurance Co. Ltd., the Attorney General's Department, the Lands Commission and the Ghana Institute of Freight Forwarders. The ministries of Roads and Highways, of Transport, of Trade & Industry, of Foreign Affairs, and of Food and Agriculture also form part of the committee and contributed to its publication.

"Every day, drivers ask me questions about the rules for driving in Ghana," said Yaya Yedan of the Burkina Shipper's Council, which works with thousands of Burkinabe drivers and who assisted with reviewing the guide. "The booklet includes information that every driver wants at his finger tips: It has emergency numbers, basic guidelines for dealing with accidents, information on how to deal with harassment at checkpoints and locations and procedures to follow at the weighbridges now used to implement the axleweight regulations."

The new guide is available in French and English from the Ghana's National Road Transport and Transit Facilitation Committee on +233 302 621 445 and online at www.borderlesswa.com.

