



INNOVATIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL SOCIETIES

More Than Good Elections: Ghana's 2009 Presidential Transition

Post-election transitions are often difficult. After Ghana's contentious 2001 presidential handover, leaders in government and civil society wanted to establish new norms and practices to smooth future transfers of power. Before the 2008 election, the Institute of Economic Affairs sponsored a dialogue between the major parties, while President John Kufuor's administration worked separately on a plan to improve procedures. Their efforts eased Ghana's political tensions and allowed incoming President John Atta Mills to focus on policy priorities and ensure continuation of effective projects and programs.

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Flagstaff House, the Ghanaian presidential palace, in Accra. Photo by Jessica Gardner.

Sustainable Watershed Management in Veracruz, Mexico

In 2005, Xalapa, a city of more than 400,000 people in Mexico, faced a water crisis. Deforestation and chemically intensive farming in the nearby Pixquiac watershed threatened the quality and availability of the city's water. In response, SENDAS, a local NGO, began to pay landowners to conserve and restore woodlands along the Pixquiac River. The program introduced more efficient land management techniques and helped raise farmers' incomes. Through partnerships with municipal, state, and federal governments, SENDAS secured financing to scale up the program into a mechanism to support forest conservation. By 2015 environmental leaders were exploring the possibility of replicating this model in other watersheds across Veracruz state.

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ISS Featured Interview

In a 2009 interview with ISS, **Johnson Asiedu Nketiah**, general secretary of Ghana's National Democratic Congress party, discusses the Inter-Party Advisory Committee. Established in 1994, the Committee engaged political parties in dialogue on national electoral policies and conduct.



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