

## Edward Ababio @ 57!



**With over 20 years' experience in Petroleum Engineering and Upstream Petroleum Project Management, we celebrate Edward Ababio at age 57!**

Opolee, as he's affectionately called has been a shining example in his career and an inspirational leader, having groomed many young engineers who work with him. After a birthday treat from GNPC management in Kumasi (5<sup>th</sup> Aug), we caught up with Edward to know a little more about him. He shared some wonderful memories with us.

### Did you know ...?

Edward presented the **First Oil** from the Jubilee field with Samuel Obeng Djan (ex GNPC Geologist) to the then Minister of Energy, Mr. Joseph Kofi Adda to mark Ghana's first discovery of commercial oil when the Honourable minister visited the Belford Dolphin drilling rig in June 2007?

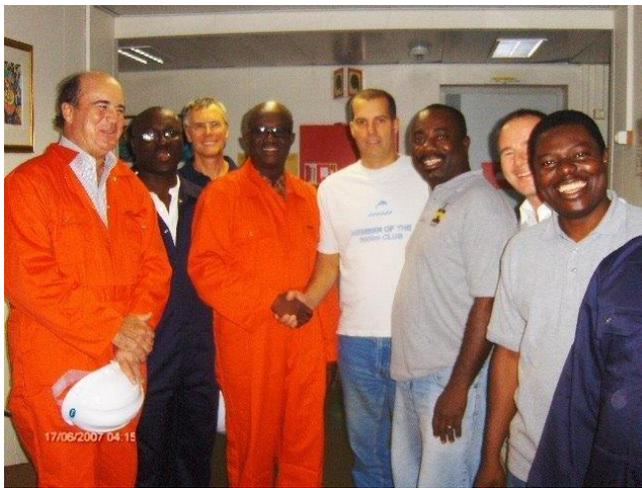
Edward was the GNPC Engineer and Government representative on board the Belford Dolphin rig, as part of the team that ensured supervision, monitoring, and drilling of the Mahogany-1 exploration well by KOSMOS Energy leading to the discovery of Ghana's First Commercial Oil in 2007. He was initially involved in the well engineering design of the Mahogany-1 well with the



Collins A Gyamfi (Fmr Board Member, Edward Ababio (GNPC), Joseph Adda (then Energy Minister), Thomas Manu (Fmr GNPC Deputy CEO), Obeng Gyan (Geologist) – 17/06/2007

Anadarko well engineering team in Houston, Texas. He assisted in setting up the Takoradi Shore-base in preparation for the first mahogany exploration drilling campaign.

Fresh from the university, Edward's remarkable journey in GNPC began in 1989 as a National Service Person. Owing to his hard work and dedication, he was offered full time employment after national service. Starting off as an Assistant Petroleum Engineer, he rose through the ranks and is currently Reservoir and Production Engineering Manager at GNPC where he leads an integrated team of reservoir and production engineers working on the Jubilee, TEN and Sankofa Gye-Nyame fields.



Jim Musselman (Fmr Kosmos CEO), George Owusu (EO Group), Joseph Adda (then Energy Minister), Edward Ababio (GNPC) and others – 17/06/2007



GNPC Engineers & Ghanaians on rig during the first oil discovery – 17/06/2007

### Tell us a little bit about your personal life

Born in Efiduase in the Eastern region, I attended Koforidua Experimental School and Koforidua Secondary Technical School. I am a proud member of the **Mmarima Mma/APSU/SOTGA** Association. I also went to St Augustine's College for my sixth form secondary education and it was there that the inspiration to become a petroleum engineer was birthed when I saw the operations of the engineers and other technical hands on the Saltpond field. With this burning desire, I continued to Moscow Gubkin Institute of Oil and Gas in 1982 to study petroleum engineering.

I have a Masters degree in Petroleum Engineering. I also have a management certificate in Upstream and downstream gas business. I am a member of the Ghana Institution of Engineers and the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE).

I have been a family man for over 30 years. I married my beautiful wife, Doris, in Moscow, Russia where we were both pursuing higher education. We have been blessed with children and we take care of many other children too.

**What does your role entail?**

I follow up on daily production operations activities on our fields, and ensure optimal management of reservoir and production data. Apart from developing robust in-house reservoir models for production forecasting and reserves evaluation, I am also responsible for ensuring accurate oil and gas production reporting to GNPC's Senior Management and Stakeholders.

**What would you say is the highlight of your career?**

The **discovery of oil** on the Jubilee Field definitely. I was simply excited it happened in my lifetime and I'm glad I played a significant role in this historic blessing for my motherland. I still recall with a lot of joy that fateful day when I had the opportunity to present **the first oil** to the then **Minister of Energy, Mr. Joseph Kofi Adda** - who presented to **H.E. President John Agyekum Kufour** and then to the parliament of Ghana to officially announce the discovery of oil in commercial quantities in Ghana.

To all the Ghanaian men and women who worked in diverse ways to make this oil discovery successful – I salute you all. It has been 10yrs!

**How do you see GNPC 10 years from today?**

If we work together and efficiently, GNPC will achieve operatorship status; GNPC will have structures in place to foster more productivity and progress; and I am positive that GNPC will be exploring oil in the Voltaian basin.

**You have a very small number of females on your team. Is that deliberate?**

Quite frankly, engineering, hitherto had been a male-dominated field and the imbalance in male-female ratio is not peculiar to GNPC. However, we are taking practical steps to encourage more females to venture into engineering. In the last two years alone, we have added two young ladies to the team after completion of their national service. Baby steps, maybe, but we are making progress I must say.

Apart from seeing to the professional growth of my team, I take keen interest in the development of the females and I advise them like my daughters. To manage their career and family, I always encourage them to enjoy their work, marry (early, if possible) and create time for their family. I think it is important.

## **We'll soon launch a cost efficiency campaign as part of measures to prepare us for Agenda 2026. What are your thoughts?**

We must explore key projects and invest in other portfolios. We must ensure optimal production of our hydrocarbon reserves. We must cut waste and spend efficiently. We need to step up our IT systems to boost productivity and efficiency.

## **GNPC back in the day and now, what do you miss?**

We used to be a much smaller team, and when I started work, I was surrounded by my age mates, all of us very young and ambitious. In fact, some of my colleagues have become lifetime friends and family. Most of them, Managers in their disciplines, Sam, Star, Addy, Osei, Eben, Alex, Darko, Kwato, Victor, Corquaye aka Stone, my APSU mate, Mr Francis Ackah, my former Boss. I still cherish the friendship we developed during my stay in Moscow together with Thomas Manu, K.B Amisah Arthur (a.k,a Ato or KB). We attended the same university, shared the same room, sat in the same classroom and did almost everything together and even shared office till we became managers in the engineering department. I miss my youthful days but I'm glad that we still have the 'family' spirit among us.

## **What are your hobbies?**

I love dancing. From Michael Jackson to Daddy Lumba and Amakye Dede, you can't beat me. I also enjoy playing long tennis and I'm currently the Chairman of the TOR Tennis Club and, a Member of the K'dua Sports Club under Chairman John Afful as well as Tema Sunday Tennis Club Chaired by Hon Aidoo and organizer, Friends of Tema (FOT). I also play Chess, Draft and love watching soccer (I'm a die-hard fan of Asante Kotoko- Fabo, and Manchester United-Man U). I'm simply a sportsman. Hahaha.

## **Who would you say have been the most influential people in your life, growing up?**

My late grandmother Madam Ama Konadu and late dad Opanyin Kwaku Charles. These two were formidable and they encouraged me to push hard in life, and of course my mum, Atta Maame. Though my grandma didn't have formal education, she ensured that her children and grandchildren got the opportunity to enjoy quality education. I benefited immensely from her fortitude. Not to mention members of "Concentration"- Effiduase.

I would also like to thank the Chief Executive, Dr. K.K Sarpong and management of GNPC for their support and playing a key role in the improvement of GNPC and my personal career. I cannot say my story without expressing my sincere thanks to my former manager, the Late Tony Deckor of blessed memory for the immense role he played in shaping my professional career and grooming many of us, Engineers.

## **Dedication**

I dedicate this day to everybody who in diverse ways has crossed my path in my professional and social life.