

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **EnterpriseWorks/VITA Participates in 2006 Rural Water Supply Network Forum in Accra, Ghana**

Washington, DC- EnterpriseWorks/VITA (EWW) today announced that four EWW delegates participated with other delegates from 25 countries in the 5th annual Rural Water Supply Network (RWSN) forum in Accra, Ghana, November 27th-30th. The forum, entitled "Scaling up Local Entrepreneurship in Rural Water Supply to meet the MDGs" aimed to present new trends and good practices in the field of Rural Water Supply and allowed for participants to exchange information and experiences. It was designed for sector specialists, program managers, advisers, and project staff from governmental agencies, multilateral organizations, bilateral donors, NGOs, the private sector, research and development groups.

EWW's Director of Field Operations, Jonathan Naugle, EWW/Ghana's Country Coordinator, Atsu Titiati, EWW/Niger's Project Manager, Ibrahim Mamadou, and EWW/Nigeria's Project Manager, Ahmed Boubacar, represented EWW at the three-day forum. Mr. Titiati and Mr. Mamadou presented papers on "Integrating the Transfer of Skills, Knowledge and Technology for Low Cost Self Supply" and "The History of Low Cost Well Drilling in Niger". Mr. Naugle, a member of the steering committee for the RWSN Flagship "Cost Effective Boreholes" was selected to sit on an expert panel discussion on the Challenges of Meeting the MDGs in Rural Water Supply. Through sponsorship by UNICEF and The World Bank, EWW trained well drillers from Niger, Burkina Faso, and Senegal were also able to attend the forum. "This is the first time that decision makers, experts, donors and private sector implementers were in the same forum to exchange ideas on an equal footing," said Mr. Naugle. "It was wonderful to see the Minister of Water Resources exchanging ideas with a private driller who uses low-cost manual drilling techniques. I hope that this is the beginning of new partnerships to bring water to the un-served in rural areas."

RWSN is a global knowledge network promoting good practice in rural water supply development. The 2006 forum provided stakeholders with an improved, in depth understanding of the concepts, opportunities and challenges of scaling up local entrepreneurship to meet the MDGs; provided a platform for extensive dialogue regarding self supply, cost-effective boreholes and the sustainability of rural water supplies; enabled stakeholders with experience of local solutions for scaling up to present their experiences and ideas for discussion, and provided feedback to the RWSN core team regarding future focus for the network.

For over 40 years, EnterpriseWorks/VITA has worked diligently to fulfill its mission to combat poverty by helping entrepreneurs and small producers build sustainable businesses that create jobs and increase productivity, market opportunities and incomes. EWW achieves this by expanding access to appropriate technologies, technical assistance, knowledge and finance. EWW maintains a close-knit network of field and affiliate offices in Africa and Asia – enabling substantial knowledge sharing and collaboration across countries and regions.