

Africa's Green Mineral Wealth: A blessing not a Curse

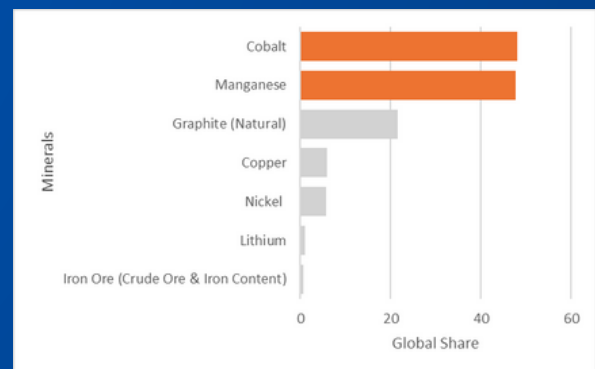
Feature Article

By: Ing. Stephen Fokuo, PE – GhIE

Africa's Green Mineral Potential

Africa is well known for its strategic resource riches. According to the World Economic Forum, Africa holds significant reserves of green minerals. This means that Africa holds a significant global position in reserves for minerals such as manganese, cobalt, and other rare earth elements which makes Africa a crucial player in the global landscape when it comes to green minerals, which are essential for the transition to a

low-carbon economy. From the chart its estimated that Africa holds about 48% of cobalt and manganese, 22% Graphite, 6% copper and Nickel while Lithium and other minerals stood at about 1% of global reserves.



Strategic Opportunities for Africa

According to IMF, it is projected that there is going to be a global increase in demand for green minerals in the coming decades. Leveraging on these abundant resources and the projected demand, Africa has the potential to become a global leader in the green energy revolution. By establishing strategic partnerships, investing in local industries and ensuring ethical mining practices, African nations can maximize the benefits of these green mineral reserves.

Economic Benefits and Growth Potential

Amongst the most noticeable benefits a country will gain from green minerals is economic growth. Countries like Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and South Africa hold significant reserves of cobalt and manganese respectively. It is estimated that artisanal small-scale mining of cobalt in DRC contributes about 12 - 21% of the world's cobalt annually. This emphasizes the country's significant position in the cobalt market. Continue reading [here](#).

Excerpt from our Distinguished Lecture



On April 30, 2025, the SPE Ghana Section hosted a successful Distinguished Lecturer session featuring Marie Van Steene from SLB. The event brought together students, industry professionals, and academics at the Petroleum Commission Conference Room. Participants in Accra engaged in a session focused on the impact of timing in logging operations, highlighting its effects on data acquisition, interpretation, and integration.

Led by Marie, the session improved understanding of optimizing data logging programs for enhanced accuracy and efficiency, crucial for better decision-making in drilling and reservoir evaluation. The program was impactful due to its interactive nature, where attendees asked questions, shared experiences, and engaged in discussions that connected theory to practice. This knowledge-sharing experience fostered collaboration between students and professionals in the oil and gas sector.



APRIL 25

TECHNICAL MEETING

**Enhancing Efficiency, Safety and Cost Savings:
The Role Of Drones in the Oil and Gas Industry**

MODERATOR

John Keomson

16 APR 2025

🕒 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM GMT

Kwadwo Oduro

Business Development Manager
(West Africa)
RocketDNA
(Drones & Automation)

Exploring the Future of Oil and Gas Operations with Drone Technology

SPE Ghana hosted a webinar on the transformative role of drone technology in the oil and gas industry. The session highlighted how UAVs enhance safety, efficiency, and cost savings through remote inspections and real-time monitoring. Attendees learned about the potential of drones to drive innovation and create a more resilient future for the industry. Click [here](#) to watch the session.

Strengthening Industry Collaborations for a Vibrant Energy Future with NPA, Gecric, & GUPC

Fostering Mutual Goals through Strengthening Ties with Industry Players

In April 2025, SPE Ghana continued its courtesy visits to key institutions in the energy industry. The strategic meetings, coordinated under the auspices of the Special Programs Committee chaired by Ing. Fiifi Otoo, continued their proactive industry engagements with visits to the National Petroleum Authority (NPA), Ghana Upstream Petroleum Chamber (GUPC), and the Ghana Energy Commission Research and Innovation Center (GECRIC). These strategic meetings reinforced SPE Ghana's commitment to forging meaningful alliances that drive knowledge advancement, career development, and innovation within Ghana's dynamic energy landscape.



What the Future Looks Like

SPE Ghana is excited about the promising partnerships taking shape and is committed to translating these engagements into impactful initiatives. Plans are underway to launch collaborative programs such as mentorship platforms, advocacy drives, and technical knowledge-sharing events. Through these efforts, SPE Ghana aims to continue shaping a resilient and future-ready energy sector for Ghana.



Expanding the Scope of Collaboration

The discussions explored various areas of synergy, including career development pathways such as internships, scholarships, and national service opportunities. Other key points included organizing technical workshops, promoting SPE programs like Energy4Me, and enhancing student participation and industry visibility. A shared focus on youth empowerment, innovation, and sustainable energy solutions underpinned these engagements.



Graduate Transitioning into a Professional



Young Professionals recently organized an inspiring webinar focused on preparing students and graduates for a successful transition into the energy workforce. The discussion highlighted the need for resilience, continuous learning, and strategic networking. Industry experts shared practical strategies for navigating challenges, adapting to change, and building fulfilling careers.

The session reinforced the importance of mentorship, early career planning, and leveraging opportunities within the energy sector to achieve long-term success. Access the session [here](#).

Driving Sustainability & Energy Security in Ghana's Energy Industry



In a recent webinar, SPE Ghana convened key industry experts to discuss sustainability and energy security in Ghana's energy sector. The session focused on actionable strategies to enhance operational efficiency, strengthen resilience, and drive sustainable growth. Discussions highlighted the importance of innovation, collaboration, and robust policy frameworks in securing Ghana's energy future.

Through initiatives like this, SPE Ghana continues to provide platforms that foster knowledge sharing, inspire forward-thinking solutions, and empower professionals to lead the transition toward a more resilient energy industry. Missed the session? Watch it [here](#).

International Girls in ICT Day

The SPE Ghana Diversity & Inclusion Committee hosted an empowering event on April 24, 2025, at Labone Senior High School to celebrate International Girls in ICT Day. The theme was "Bridging the Digital Divide: Inclusion and Diversity in Digital Transformation."

A panel of professionals, including a data analyst, AI engineer, software engineer, and a medical doctor, shared their journeys in tech with around 80 female students, emphasizing key values like resilience, open-mindedness, courage, and mentorship. Students highlighted the need for early career counseling in STEM, reinforcing the commitment to cultivating a confident generation of women in ICT for a diverse tech landscape in Ghana and beyond.

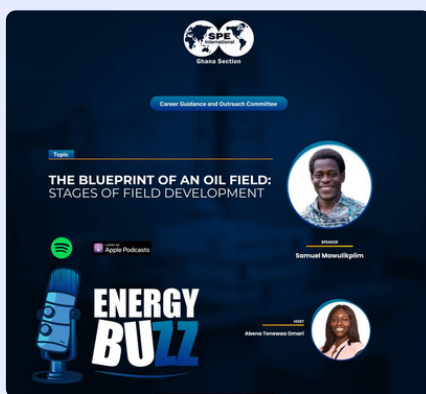




Outstanding Student & Chapter Nomination Webinar

SPE Ghana equipped its student community with the right tools for success. The session emphasized leadership, visibility, and impactful service as the foundation for recognition. The discussion inspired students to embrace consistency, community engagement, and professional development as keys to excellence.

Catch up on the full session [here](#).



The Blue Print of an Oil Field:

This podcast episode explores how crude oil and natural gas are extracted from the ground. We took a deep dive into the stages of field development, giving listeners a comprehensive understanding of the oilfield.

The episode examines how technical stakeholders to equipment and processes work together to ensure sustainable extraction. Do enjoy [here!](#)



Mastering the Art of Public Speaking

As part of the Career Guidance and Outreach Committee's Workshop Programme, SPE Ghana successfully hosted a three-day webinar series on Public Speaking, held on 19th, 20th, and 25th April 2025. The sessions focused on key areas such as building strong foundations, crafting and delivering impactful speeches, and mastering non-verbal communication.

Moderated by Emmanuel Kofi Okraku, with insightful contributions from speakers Josuah Addai Amoah and Osei Tutu Aggrey Sampson, the webinar provided participants with practical tools to boost their confidence and communication skills.

Catch up on the session [here](#)

Student Chapter Activities

Kumasi Technical University

Our student members at KTU recently participated in a field trip to SLB, Zeal, and Cross Energy Limited. This field exercise helped to bridge the gap between academic learning and industry practice for students from the SPE Kumasi Technical University Chapter.

During the trip, students engaged with industry professionals, explored operational facilities, and gained valuable insights into modern energy technologies. SPE Ghana extends sincere gratitude to industry partners for their support and collaboration.



Takoradi Technical University



The Department of Oil and Natural Gas Engineering collaborated with the SPE-TTU Chapter to host a seminar on April 29, 2025, titled "Energy Transition in the Oil and Gas Industry: Leveraging Technology for Sustainable Operations." This session examined the regulatory role of the Petroleum Commission, the integration of emerging technologies to enhance efficiency and minimize carbon emissions, and the importance of collaboration between academia and industry.

Experts discussed the challenges posed by climate change and the ongoing transition to cleaner energy sources while emphasizing advancements in e-drilling, zero-carbon initiatives, and digital solutions, such as the Internet of Things (IoT) for real-time operations. The event also introduced the forthcoming GRO Academy intake and encouraged students to take proactive steps in their personal and professional development, considering the industry's evolving landscape.



S P E G H A N A S E C T I O N

OUTSTANDING

VOLUNTEERS **APR '25**



Eric Kwabena Adabanya

Special Projects Committee



Roselyn Ntim

Communications and Media Committee



Donna Nickson

Career Guidance & Outreach Committee;
SPE TTU Chapter President



Naomi Dery

Communication and Media Committee

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