

Forum of Small Scale Business Associations (FOSSBA)

The Forum of Small Scale Business Associations (FOSSBA) is the umbrella association of the most important small-scale business organizations in Cape Coast. Its emergence could be traced to the establishment of the Business Advisory Centre (BAC) in Cape Coast in June 1991, one of FES' main partners, then. It became consensus among small-scale entrepreneurs that an umbrella organization for small-scale businesses would be helpful, and consequently the Council for Small Scale Business Associations, later renamed into Forum of Small Scale Business Associations, was established. FOSSBA on the 7th of February 1997 constitutionally and democratically elected its executives to support the efforts of the General Secretary.

The Forum describes its aims and activities as follows:

- To develop linkages among small-scale associations and influence government in favor of small-scale industries;
- to provide a platform on regular basis for members to be briefed/interact with the relevant agencies and officials on topical national, sector and local issues for the purpose of discussing common concerns;
- to arrange workshops, seminars and various kinds of training programmes towards the educational and managerial improvement of members;
- to liaise with financial institutions, funding/donor agencies in securing financial assistance for members;
- to advocate for sub-contracting between small-scale industries on one hand and the medium to large industries on the other;
- to promote the formation of trade associations and develop existing ones.

Over the years, FOSSBA established the reputation of being well informed about the needs of its members and having accurately represented their views.

The decentralization of the Business Assistance Fund (BAF) and the Government's directives that 20% of the District Assemblies' common Fund should be used to support income generating and poverty reduction were also seen as a result of FOSSBA's advocacy work.

Collaboration with FES

FES has been a supporter of the Association's work, since the establishment of FOSSBA in 1993. FES financially supported the association's core activities until the end of 2003. At an earlier stage, FES had also embarked on organizational capacity building programs and has e.g. sponsored FOSSBA's General Secretary to a seminar on planning, organization and management of federations and lobby groups in Germany, to enable him to steer the affairs of the young Association.

Forum for Small Scale Business Associations

President

P.O. Box AB 303

Tel: +233 42 32915

Fax: +233 42 33554