

FIRST QUARTER GHANA YMCA NEWSLETTER 2019

A Quarterly Publication of YMCA Ghana



**OUR VISION: EMPOWERING
YOUNG PEOPLE FOR THE
AFRICAN RENAISSANCE.**

*Our Mission: To enhance the
development of the minds, bodies and
spirits of young people in Ghana in
order to make them productive and
useful citizens.*



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January 2019

Staff Retreat

From Friday 14th to Saturday 15th January, 2019 the planning of programmes and activities for YMCA Ghana for 2019 took concrete shape. The staff sat together and decided on projects and programmes for the coming year. Among other things, the Teenage Pregnancy Campaign will be continued. But also new projects are to be taken up, for example on the subject of waste management.



25th Celebration



Eckard M. Geisler, the Secretary for World Service and International Relations of CVJM-Westbund, had his 25th celebration with a number of staff at Koforidua. He was introduced to Ghana YMCA by the then General Secretary of CVJM - Westbund, in 1994 to strengthen the partnership between Ghana YMCA and CVJM -Westbund. Early this year Eckard invited some few retired staff and present staff to celebrate with him on his 25th year of coming to Ghana and to inform us officially on his retirement at the end of 2019.

You are one of the best partners we ever worked with, the sweet memories we shared together will stay in our hearts forever.

February 2019

Partnership Visit

Niklas Sannerheim, the International Secretary of Sweden YWCA-YMCA with Lloyd Muriuki Wamai, the Programmes Executive of Africa Alliance of YMCA visited Ghana YMCA on the potential of a partnership between Ghana and Sweden YMCA and discussed issues concerning Youth Justice.



YMCA Ghana Climaxes Film Making Training for Females

The Ghana YMCA brought to an end a training session on film making which had the objective to encourage more females to venture into the film making industry in Ghana.



The two-day training programme which commenced on Wednesday 20th February, was the fourth session held in 2019 and a continuation of a project dubbed, “All On Board” which started in 2018. The All On Board project which birthed six films by young filmmakers from Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone is a project by YMCA, partnered by Weltfilme.org.

The objective of the training programme was to empower and equip aspiring young filmmakers with audio-visual production skills to promote social change within the West African Region with focus not just on Ghana but also on Liberia and Sierra Leone. While encouraging participants from afar who attended the training programme to join other YMCA branches close to them, unlike previous training

programmes, this one was organized for only females as YMCA sought to give them equal opportunity to unleash their potential as filmmakers.



Meeting with Africa Alliance of YMCAs

Shillah Raymond, the Public Relations and Communications Executive and Osborne Wanyama, the Programmes Executive of Africa Alliance of YMCAs paid a working visit to the Ghana YMCA. They used the opportunity of their visit to introduce a project called Career Manenoz which has helped Kenya YMCA to improve on the membership. The focus of Career Manenoz is on youth and employment/enterprise development and to give space to those who have skills and talent to fulfil their potential.



March 2019

Takoradi YMCA observes this year's International Women's Day

“Balance for better” was the theme for this year's International Women's Day. Takoradi YMCA observed this day and celebrated women who have grown and experienced empowerment at the Centre. A series of interviews were conducted and shared on the YMCA Facebook page as a way of acknowledging the YMCA's work with young women within the community.



Emelia Chobbah, (Principal of YMCA Vocational Training Institute), Olivia Mensah (a graduate trainee of YMCA VTI who is in the Technical University) and some of the trainees at

the YMCA VTI were interviewed to share their thoughts on the work YMCA has done on gender balance over the years.

Florence Amakye was also engaged in a video interview which was shared on Facebook. Florence was once a trainee at the YMCA Vocational Training Centre here in Takoradi and she is now back as a Trainer. In the interview she testifies of the growth and capacity building she experienced as a young woman being trained at the YMCA VTI and now she's glad to be given the opportunity to train many others like her.

Later an All Women's meeting was held at the Takoradi YMCA center. The main focus of the meeting was to ponder on this year's theme for the international women's day and then strategize on what activities can be undertaken at the YMCA center in Takoradi to build and prepare young women within the immediate community for this balance - socially, economically, culturally and politically.



Manuela Heileman, a German volunteer at the Takoradi YMCA center presented on the theme for this year's international women's day and lead discussions on action steps for the center to take towards this global agenda for women.

A key outcome from this meeting was the dedication of subsequent Fridays in March to hold women empowerment programs and activities at the Takoradi YMCA center.

Ghana YMCA establishes a West African Media Hub in Accra

Ghana YMCA concluded a three-day historic conference in Accra that brought together stakeholders and partners with the aim of drawing expert ideas towards the establishment of the first ever Media Hub Education Centre (MHEC) in Ghana to serve the West Africa Region. The “Kick-Off” Conference, which run from 19th – 21st March 2019 in the Alisa Hotel in Accra, was strategically convened to tap into the expertise and experience of industry stakeholders and to consolidate and sustain the gains in the “All on Board” film project as well as other previous Weltfilme.org interventions in the West African Sub Region.

It was designed to initiate a multi-stakeholder discussion among key industry players on the prospects of establishing a sustainable Media Hub Education Center (MHEC) based in Accra to serve the West African Sub Region.

The comprehensive cross-sector engagement involved stakeholders such as Ghana’s Ministry of Education, the Deputy Ambassador of the German Embassy in Ghana, the National Film and Television Institute (NAFTI), the Ghana Academy of Film and Television Arts (GAFTA), the Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (COTVET), the Ghana

Revenue Authority (GRA), National Youth Authority (NYA), GHome, ETv Ghana; as well as partners of the YMCA such as Weltfilme.org, National Adult Education Association of Liberia (NAEL), Sierra Leone Adult Education Association (SLADEA), EQWIP Hubs and the South African



Film Academy. Financial support for the conference was provided by Bread for the World and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The conference created a platform for experience and knowledge sharing among distinguished players in the film industry and young film makers.



Significantly, the conference resulted in the creation of a strategic plan covering areas of certification, education, curriculum and training, technical equipment and facility. The comprehensive engagement provided a roadmap for a model for an economically sustainable Media Hub, with international partnerships.



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