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GHANA YMCA NEWSLETTER



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July 2019

YMCA collaborates with the Narcotics Control Board (NACOB)



The Ghana YMCA collaborated with the Narcotics Control Board for three days to reach out to 3,000 young people in the Eastern Region of Ghana. The schools engaged included Presbyterian, Catholic, Salvation Army, Methodist schools in Asiakwa and Abuakwa State College in Kibi. The students were informed

about the effects of drug abuse

on the central nervous system. The experts from NACOB cautioned the students to stay away from bad friendship and associations that could lead them into illicit drug use and concentrate on their studies. The students were also informed on some of the tricks employed by drug peddlers and to be cautious especially when travelling outside the shores of Ghana.



Ghana YMCA promised to strengthen its partnership with the

Narcotics Control

Board to engage with different

categories of young people across all the 16 regions in



Ghana.

Open Day Exhibition at the YMCA Centre in Takoradi

The YMCA Vocational Training Centre in the Western Region held their annual Open Day Exhibition program this year on 27th June, 2019. Since 2017 this program is held at the YMCA Centre to allow stakeholders and immediate community members to experience and interact with graduating trainees as they display the results (outcomes) of the skills training/enhancement gained from the YMCA.

This year's exhibition had more Junior High School students trooping to the Centre in large numbers and batches together with their class teachers to have a firsthand feel and interaction with the graduating trainees and the work they had done over the years at the YMCA Vocational Training Centre.

There were beautiful displays of bead works, wedding gowns, hats, hand bags and back packs, cakes, pastries, local drinks and many others – all very well crafted and made by the trainees.

The day also featured guest appearances in the persons of Mr. Emmanuel Koomson (Regional Treasurer, YMCA Western Region), Mr. Emmanuel Otoo (Regional Coordinator, Ghana Skills

Development Initiative – GSDI Western Region) and Mr. Thomas Ahiagble (Regional Coordinator, National Vocational and Technical Training – NVTI Trade Test Division, Western Region) who were all very impressed at the display of well-made crafts by the trainees of the Centre. Parents and guardians also expressed how proud they felt seeing all that the trainees had achieved during their training at YMCA.



Other young people and continuing trainees also expressed how inspired they have become as a result of their enhanced skills seeing all the works displayed.

This program we believe is our way of promoting the essence of vocational training for useful and productive citizenship.



Make A Difference Project - Beneficiary

Awuni Tijani comes from Bawku in the Upper East Region of Ghana. Tijani has been directing traffic in different parts of Accra for the past 20 years. As part of the Weltfilme.org documentary project in Ghana, he was featured as the



protagonist in the film “Life on the Road” to tell his story including struggles and the work he does to make a difference in the country.

The group presented to him a bicycle, some clothes and toiletries.

Filmmakers Chat

On 15th July, 2019 the Ghana YMCA initiated the second edition of the filmmaker’s chat, a platform where young filmmakers and producers get to meet with very experienced filmmakers and producers and discuss the ethic of the job while teasing out the business aspect of the film industry.



Filmmakers get to interact, network, share ideas, discuss trending issues in the industry and peer assist each other in various aspects of filmmaking. The second edition offered the platform for young talented filmmakers to submit their short films for public screening. Facilitated by experienced film producers, young filmmakers made significant contributions to a number of selected productions.

National Executive Committee Meeting

This year the National Executive Committee Meeting was held in Koforidua on the 27th July, 2019. The main agenda for the meeting was to discuss the financial report for the first half year of 2019, the new Strategic Plan 2020 – 2023, the upcoming National Youth Conference, Regional Elections and the submission of Names for Sub Committees and Regional Reports.



Retirement Farewell



A beautiful retirement farewell was organized for Eckard M. Geisler, the Secretary for World Service and International Relations, for his 25-year dedicated service to the Ghana YMCA. He was enstooled as “Nana Osompa Hene” as part of the appreciation for his enormous efforts towards developing the Ghana YMCA.



August 2019

Entrepreneurship Workshop

Ghana YMCA hosted Christine Souffrant Ntim, an award-winning Haitian –American entrepreneur and startup ecosystem expert for emerging markets. She engaged over 20 youth on how to build a business idea into a business. She also shared 100 free resources on how to scale a business in the digital age.



2019 National Youth Conference



The 16th National Youth Conference of Ghana YMCA with the theme “Powering the Youth to Face the Vast Development Digital Economy” was held from 21st to 25th August, 2019 at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Kumasi.

More than 100 Youth representatives from our five regions converged at the KNUST for the event.

As a part of the National Youth Conference, volunteers and members of the Ghana YMCA paid a visit to King Jesus Charity Orphanage, a Kumasi based orphanage located at Boadi. In line with its community-oriented and people-centered initiatives, Ghana YMCA members spent time playing, eating and interacting with the children bringing smiles to their faces. The highlight of the occasion was the presentation of items including bags of rice and charcoal; oil, biscuits, toffees and toiletries to the orphanage which also serves as a school to preschoolers. This act is just one of many community-centered initiatives that the Ghana YMCA has and will be rolling out across the country in preparation of young people for the African renaissance.



The opening ceremony of the National Youth Conference was graced by dignitaries such as the Manwerehene of Morso, the Mayor of Kumasi, MCE of Oforikrom among others. There were also our National Executives and Regional Directors. The opening ceremony saw performances from the Konongo, Wawase, Morso and Kumasi branches of the Ashanti Regional YMCAs as well as the Royal dancers from the Koforidua branch of the Eastern Regional YMCAs.



All the invited guests advised participants that in as much as there are good and bad side of the use of social media, they should be careful of what they acquire there. Two workshops were held for an hour each on personal grooming and cyber bullying.



Like every year, an inter-regional quiz competition was part of the programme. Each region was represented by two participants, questions were set from the books of Judges and Ruth, and General knowledge of the Ghana YMCA. Greater Accra emerged winner for the third time.



Benefit Concert at the National Theatre Ghana



A benefit concert was held at the National Theater in commemoration of the 175th anniversary of YMCA. The concert sought to bring together stakeholders to harness the energy, creative vision and initiatives of Ghana's energetic youthful population. The German Classical Orchestra, led by Anna Fuhrländer, led segment of the concert dubbed "Jam Session".

Other performance groups were Musiker Ohne Grenzen e.V. and the Tema Philharmonic Choir. The event was also aimed at celebrating YMCA

Ghana's long-standing partnership with the youth. The event was climaxed with a reception to mobilize funds to support YMCA to increase its investment in youth development.

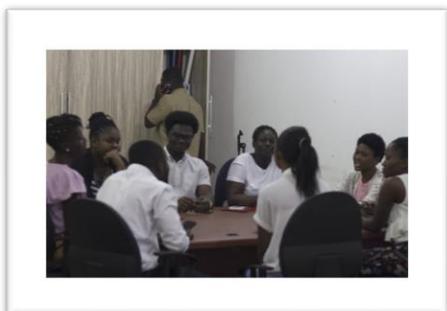


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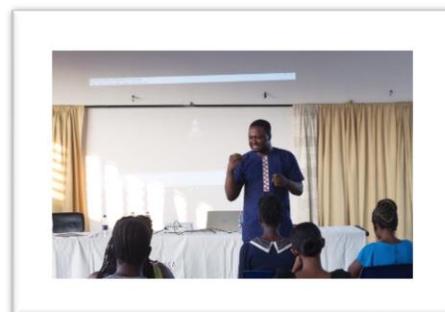
Community Journalism Training Workshop



YMCA-Ghana Institute of Journalism (YGIJ) proposed a newsletter to build the voice and civic competence of young people in the GIJ. This target group was strategically chosen because, these are young people who aspire to become public voices in journalism and the media in the near future.

Hence once empowered, these young people serve as advocates. The value of journalism

in a democratic society cannot be overstated. Journalism ensures equitable distribution of national wealth, decries the excesses of power in government, demands accountability from political actors, and advocates for equality for all peoples of a nation – all causes the YMCA can identify with. That is why YMCA organized the Workshop for the students with a wide range of various inputs, about how to verify and edit news scripts flawlessly.



Poetic Dela Calls For More Investment Into GIJ's Creative Arts Society

by ABA Ra dicat

GIJ's very own Kpataku Alphonsse Dalali, stage named Poetic Dela has called on GIJ's Creative Art Society to make more investments into its variety of talented students in order to help improve upon their creativity.

"GIJ students are very creative, rappers, poets, spoken word artists, dancers, actors and a whole lot. The level of creativity the institute possesses is very high. Sometimes I'm forced to think it's the Ghana Institute Of Creativity instead of Ghana Institute Of Journalism," he confessed.

"To be honest, I haven't seen a better side of the creative arts society in a while," he lamented. Poetic Dela advised, "I think the Creative Arts Society in GIJ needs to be really vibrant. Lots of creative students are on campus. They just need an umbrella to be under and magic will happen."

Specializing in Public writers. "I look up to musicians such as M.anifest," he added. Narrating the support he got from GIJ when he launched his first book, he mentioned, "I had my first book launch on campus. Lecturers Mr. Philip Attawura and Mr. David Apan played a big role at my book launch. Obodai Sonny and David Agyemang, both very creative student of GIJ designed my book cover and helped in the creative process respectively. God bless them all."

His first published book, "The Life Of Dela" inspired by Kanye West's "The Life Of Pablo", is a compilation of 50 poems in which he used his life to describe what humanity is. He further suggested that motivation to entice creatives. Workshops too will be very helpful."

Dela aims at making people read more by bringing deep and thought provoking contents. "My mission is to promote reading through my poetry", he explained.

"My latest poem, 'After God Fear Woman, seeks to show readers women are powerful and should be appreciated. Let's stop seeing them as sex objects.' AGFW is my best project thus far and has given birth to the AGFW March which is still selling at GH¢30."

"Next year more things should be expected from me, another book, an audio book and a project with other writers on a compilation," he announced.

All of Poetic Dela's poems and the excerpt of his book can be found on his blog at,

Jonah Eledi, Journalist at ABC News spoke on developing story angles and cultivating sources. Goddy Nana Mens, Journalist and Content Developer, talked about word processing and editing tools. Some others explained how to identify and develop a story idea, write a news story stylishly and how to write captivating headlines and leads.

A filmmaker, Esene Sorkpor, spoke on basic photography and camera handling. Joscelyne Ahiabile, Communications Manager of Accra Breweries Limited was billed to speak on managing a digital newspaper.

Sample of the Y-GIJ Newsletter

Twi language course for YMCA volunteers



Twi language Course for newly arrived volunteers from Germany was organized at YMCA Accra from 4th to 17th of September.

Four of them will stay for one year with the Ghana YMCA and serve in the

YMCA Schools, two young ladies at the Girls Vocational Training Centre in Takoradi and two young men at the YMCA Junior High School at Mpraeso. Two other volunteers from the Presbyterian Church were part of the training, as well as two other students.



Film Training Workshop in Cape Coast and Koforidua

These workshops were held in Cape Coast and Koforidua. The purpose was to give potential filmmakers the opportunity to learn from well-trained facilitators. These facilitators were trained by Weltfilme.org and are ready to

share their



knowledge with others. In preparation for the Media Hub Education Center, this training program served as a trial to enable trainers develop teaching and learning structures that are practical.

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