

SECOND NEWSLETTER 2018

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF YMCA GHANA

Featured Stories

THE YMCA GHANA VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE AT TAKORADI IS A CENTRE WELL ACCREDITED IN SKILLS TRAINING PARTICULARLY IN THE AREA OF FASHION. OVER 100 YOUTH (98% FEMALES) ARE TRAINED EVERY YEAR WITH DRESSMAKING AND CRAFT SKILLS WITH THE AIM OF MAKING THEM USEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS.



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.



CONTENTS

APRIL

AN EMERGENCY NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING	3
WORKSHOP ON PROGRAMME AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT IN KOFORIDUA	3
TRAINING OF DAY CARE CENTRE TEACHERS AT KOFORIDUA	4

MAY

YMCA GHANA CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT COMMITTEE MEETING	6
INFO DAY AT TAKORADI YMCA VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE	7
LOCAL BUILDING MATERIALS SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP	7
STAFF RETREAT WITH CHRISTIAN KAMARA	8
WRITE IT CONTEST BY THE Y-GHANA INSTITUTE OF JOURNALISM	8

JUNE

WORD CHALLENGE (RUN THE WORLD)	10
VOLTA YMCA ANNUAL REGIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE	10
YOUTH IN TRANSITION (ASHANTI/BRONG AHAFO YMCA)	11
TRAINING CENTRE AT TAKORADI	11
INTERNET ILLITERACY	12
YOUTH INCLUSIVE ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE FOR EMPLOYMENT (YIEDIE)	12
INTERNS FROM GERMANY (CVJM)	13
YMCA GHANA VOCATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE AT TAKORADI	13
COOKERY PRACTICAL	13
FASHION EXHIBITION	14
YMCA LEADER ADJUDGED BEST TEACHER	15

The Editorial Team
Linda Azeodoa
Communication Officer

Sarah Heinlin
Programmes Coordinator

Contact Address
P. O. Box GP 738, Accra, Ghana
Telephone: +233 302224700
Location: Castle Road Accra, adjacent the Psychiatric Hospital, Adabraka

e-mail – info@ymcaghana.org
communication@ymcaghana.org

APRIL 2018

AN EMERGENCY NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

An emergency National Executive Committee Meeting came off on the 21st April, 2018 to deliberate on issues concerning the organization. Carlos Sanvee, the General Secretary for the Africa Alliance of YMCAs' and incoming General Secretary for the World Alliance of YMCAs' was present to do a



presentation on Governance to members and how YMCA Ghana will improve as an organization.



John Haddock, former a volunteer from Canada YMCA also made a presentation on financial sustainability and Social enterprise approach.

WORKSHOP ON PROGRAMME AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT IN KOFORIDUA

25th to 27th April, 2018



The YMCA staff and some members, as well as the interns of the YMCA Ghana held a Workshop on project development for the last days in April in our YMCA Center in the Eastern Region. We designed some new projects, revised some old ones and created some new ideas on what the YMCA could implement in the next half of 2018. We really enjoyed working on developing concrete projects and working on some proposals

to empower our Youth in Ghana.

TRAINING OF DAY CARE CENTRE TEACHERS AT KOFORIDUA

Teachers from 8 day care centres of Ghana YMCA met at Koforidua YMCA Centre for a one week in-service training in April.

All Directors encouraged participants to take active part in the training and ensure to add to their knowledge and skill to make an improvement back in their Day Care Centers on their return.



Five teachers went for the approved Ghana Education Service Course in Accra for 8 weeks at the National Nursery Teachers Training Centre (NNTTC).

The training facilitators are Mrs. Veronica Ampofoah Nanor the Administrative and HR Coordinator of Ghana YMCA and Mr. Tony Pachison Head Teacher of the Oda YMCA Day Care Centre (DCC). There were fourteen (14) teachers from eight (8) YMCA DCCs:

1. Anfeota Tsebi YMCA Day Care
2. Asamankese YMCA
3. Elke Heinemann Memorial YMCA (Jumapo)
4. Tsyome Afedo YMCA
5. Nnudu YMCA
6. Morso YMCA
7. Wawase YMCA
8. Konongo YMCA



Trainees were trained in Creative Arts, Mathematics, English Language, Play & Working with parents, Environmental Studies and Child Development. The objectives of the training were:

- That teachers shall be able to use the Ghana Education Service Syllabus (GES) and other materials to prepare their own scheme of work and lesson notes for all subjects at the end of the training.



- That teachers shall be able to make their own teaching and learning materials with common and inexpensive materials.
- That teacher shall be able to change lessons with songs.



At the end of the training, all schools present were given syllabus, Teachers Guide for all subjects and other materials to make their own Teaching and Learning Material back at school.

MAY 2018

YMCA GHANA CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

YMCA Ghana is in the process of aligning its constitution to the constitutions of other YMCAs and that of the African Alliance of YMCA in terms of the leadership positions and on the new Membership Charter.



To do so, there has been a Constitutional Review Committee set in place, which met the various Regions and all other stakeholders to discuss the details of the new agenda. The new constitution has to be developed until August for final validation at the National Youth Conference and adoption at the National Council Meeting in September 2018. Thus,

every member can participate in the process and can bring his/her ideas, wishes and suggestion in the discussion.

Scheduled dates in May and June were given to all the regions to meet the committee to critically contribute in the process of reviewing the constitution. The Chairman of the Review Committee took the members through the various areas which will require inputs. He also solicited their inputs based on already prepared questionnaires by the Committee. It had a strong focus on future of the YMCA.



INFO DAY AT TAKORADI YMCA VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE

On the 22nd May, 2018, Takoradi YMCA hosted an info day at their Vocational Training Centre with Ghanaian-German Centre for Jobs Migration and Reintegration (Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit - GIZ). The info day exposed the trainees and staff of the centre to credible and enlightening



information in the areas of career guidance, job search, further studies, entrepreneurship support, working abroad, EU blue card, general migration and reintegration advice.

LOCAL BUILDING MATERIALS SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP



The Department of Rural Housing - Ghana visited students of YMCA Technical Training Centre on 23rd May, 2018. Their main purpose was to introduce to the students the use of locally manufactured clay bricks meant for building. They illustrated the importance and affordable way of these materials for building and construction and urged them to study

hard and patronize the locally manufactured materials for building such as the clay bricks.

STAFF RETREAT WITH CHRISTIAN KAMARA



Wednesday 30th May 2018, the Regional Directors of Ghana YMCA met the Western Zone Coordinator of the African Alliance of YMCA, Christian Kamara in Accra.

Beside presentations of the Regional Directors on their programmes and activities in their various regions and discussions about future plans for

Ghana YMCA, the Western Zone Coordinator introduced the “Power Space Programme” to the Ghana YMCA as a new strategy to empower young people and recruit them as part of meeting the membership charter.

WRITE IT CONTEST BY THE Y-GHANA INSTITUTE OF JOURNALISM (YGIJ)

YMCA with the help of the GIJ Y Club, organized “Write It Contest” “Africa 2063, Ghana 61 Years on” at the Ghana Institute of Journalism in Accra. One of the goals for this project is to encourage responsible citizenship in increasing awareness of society issues and understanding of the processes by which we make laws to govern ourselves.



It is a project designed to be used as a vehicle by Y-Clubs i.e. branches of the Ghana YMCA in tertiary institutions to engage the youth on civic action and engagement.

The winner examined the Agenda 2063 in practical terms and measured how far Ghana has come in realizing the Agenda with prime focus on the media. He then recommended inclusiveness powered by the media as an effective method for engaging the masses and getting them to own and propel the Agenda 2063.

The winners of the writing contest were awarded prizes at a ceremony at the school's premises. The winners; Jeffter Kobby Donkor (first place), Priscilla Mawuena Adjeidu (first runner-up) and Felix Kwaku-Dua (second runner-up) received a tablet, a smartphone and a Mi-Fi respectively.

Each of the top ten finalists also received a pen drive as a consolation prize.

Members enjoyed participating because they were exposed to a positive development agenda that they didn't even know existed and said they will follow the progress of Agenda 2063 closely and contribute its quota towards its realization.

“The Write It” Contest will be an annual writing competition that will be organized by the Y-GIJ with support from the Ghana YMCA. This year's contest, which is the first edition, recorded over thirty participants. The contest exposed many young people at the Ghana Institute of Journalism to the Agenda 2063 and started a conversation about the African Union's development agenda for Africa.

Goddy Nana Mens, Coordinator for the Y-Club Project and members, were happy that such a useful project has been instituted to help develop the civic capacity of young people.



JUNE 2018

WORD CHALLENGE (RUN THE WORLD)

Greater Accra organized games to commemorate the YMCA World Challenge programme. 65 members ran 63 kilometers to contribute to YMCA World Challenge. Game like football, volleyball, eating competition and others.



VOLTA YMCA ANNUAL REGIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

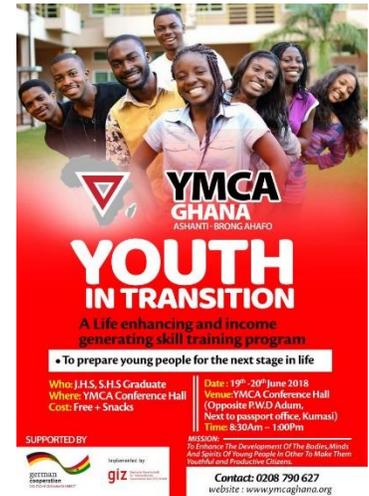
The 2nd Annual Regional Youth Conference of the Volta YMCA was held on Friday 15th June, 2018 at Anfoeta Tsebi YMCA in the rural community. Youth representatives from four local branches Aflao, Ho Central, Hlefi and Anfoeta Tsebi converged at Anfoeta Tsebi for the event.

The aim was to ensure youth participation and active involvement in membership recruitment effort for the Ghana YMCA to address the African Alliance of YMCAs membership charter. The conference remains the largest forum in the region to provide education and also build capacity of the youth in leadership, civic engagement and other relevant topical issues that confront young people and society at large. There was a brief orientation on the 'Youth Power Space' developed by the World Alliance of YMCA. Election was made to elect new leaders to take over the leadership responsibilities of the committee.



YOUTH IN TRANSITION IN THE ASHANTI/BRONG AHAFO YMCA

Deutsche Gesellschaft für International Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in collaboration with the YMCA in Ashanti/Brong Ahafo Region organized Youth in Transition programme for the youth who have finished Basic Education and High School Education. Career Guidance, Job Search, Entrepreneurial Skills, Further studies and illegal migration was introduced to the participants to encourage them to consider creating their own businesses and also the right channel to search for jobs especially online.



YOUTH IN TRANSITION AT YMCA CENTRE IN TAKORADI



The Acting Western Regional Director who is also a Change Agent of the Ghana YMCA together with his team of young YMCA volunteers shared with young people, how they can develop their minds, body and spirits during this transitioning period by engaging in the various youth programs and projects that the YMCA has to offer in the Western Region and across the nation through the YMCA Youth Power Spaces.

INTERNET ILLITERACY

The Ashanti/Brong Ahafo Regional Director for Ghana YMCA, Mr. Gabriel Ofori Appiah has organized a day's presentation on internet illiteracy for the students of Komfo Anokye Nursing Training on 16th and 17th of June 2018.



YOUTH INCLUSIVE ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE FOR EMPLOYMENT (YIEDIE)

Youth between the ages of 17 to 24 have been selected for the Youth Entrepreneurial Development Initiative for Employment (YIEDIE). This 5-year project which is sponsored by MasterCard Foundation is being implemented by Global Communities Ghana. Global Communities Ghana has subcontracted Ghana YMCA and other organizations in skills training to deliver the downstream implementation. As part of the training of the current cohort, Personal Protective Equipment were distributed to the trainees to protect them from accident on the field of their training. Entrepreneurial Training was organized at the Ghana YMCA Auditorium for young people under the training module by equipping them with entrepreneurial skills. The project is in the third year.



INTERNS FROM GERMANY (CVJM)

Stefanie Schmidt and Kira Otto are volunteers that have been with the Ghana YMCA from last year to undertake voluntary service. It is a yearly programme by “Weltwärts” and the volunteers were placed with the YMCA Regional centre in Koforidua. A farewell gathering with the staff at the National Office was organized for their end of stay with the Ghana YMCA. Ghana YMCA says thank you for their time and hard work during their stay with us.



YMCA GHANA VOCATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE AT TAKORADI

Cookery Practical Experience

The YMCA Ghana Vocational Training Institute at Takoradi in a year trains over 100 young girls in cookery skills. This is to equip these young girls with employable skills so as to enable them start their own businesses or work for the hospitality industry.

A key aspect of this training offered at our Institute is the practical examination, where these young girls set up individual working



tables and cooking equipment all on their own without the aid of their trainers and are given a cutting list from which they develop a menu and present their dishes for awarding of marks/points for their overall certification by an external examiner, usually a professional in the area of cookery or an instructor from a higher institution.



On Wednesday 6th of June, 2018, Ten (10) young girls who have been trained at the Institute had their practical examination. It was an

exciting and intense moment altogether for them. At the end of the day, they all presented their dishes confidently knowing they now have the skill set needed to work in the hospitality industry, having been trained at the YMCA Vocational Training Institute.



Fashion exhibition

The YMCA Ghana Vocational Training Institute at Takoradi is a centre well accredited in skills training particularly in the area of Fashion. Over 100 youth (98% females) are trained every year with dressmaking and craft skills with the aim of making them useful and productive citizens.



On Friday, 8th June, 2018, final year trainees exhibited their craft and dress work made all by themselves from the skills they have acquired during their entire training period at the YMCA. Some of these crafts included wedding gowns, casual

dresses (“slits and kabas”), bead necklaces and bangles, hand bags, bead slippers, pillow cases, arm rests, table cloths and many more. The trainees displayed their work with pride as other trainees, staff and external examiners go through their galleries and give their comments.

At the end of the day, one of the external examiners commented on how amazed the works presented by the trainees were so well made



and so professional that she was finding it difficult to believe that these trainees made all these by themselves. This was a great source of joy and encouragement for the students and their instructors because they actually produced all items that was on exhibition by themselves under the direction and supervision of the trainers at the YMCA Institute.



YMCA LEADER ADJUDGED BEST TEACHER

Reverend Father Cyril Otoo has been adjudged best teacher in Social Studies in the Greater Accra Regional Anglican Educational Regional Vice Chairman of the Kwashieman Anglican School in region to win the coveted award.



Unit Schools. The Greater Accra Ghana YMCA who teaches at the Accra beat several others in the