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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GSDI III and CoLTEK launch Joint Cooperation in Festive Ceremony

Accra, Ghana, 4th April, 2019:

The Ghana Skills Development Initiative (GSDI III) and the College of Technology Education (CoLTEK) of the University of Education, Winneba (UEW), situated on the Kumasi campus, officially launched their cooperation on April 4th, 2019 in a festive ceremony which included the presentation and signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and the establishment of a joint working group. The working group will focus on the development of teaching material and a manual for in-service CBT-facilitation training.

CoLTEK is currently the only institution training TVET teachers at the university level. TVET teachers are being trained in both theoretical and practical aspects of occupations and are qualified after graduation to train TVET students at the second cycle level (i.e. technical institutes). GSDI III, in turn, is providing capacity development for facilitators (teachers) and management staff of TVET training providers. In order to explore options on how to institutionally anchor this support to TVET teachers in the Ghanaian system and, thus, to ensure alignment and sustainability, GSDI and CoLTEK established contact and deepened cooperation through the signing of the MoU. GSDI III aims at supporting TVET teacher training focused on school management and competency-based training (CBT). The cooperation agreement will assign CoLTEK to implement state-of-the-art teacher training all over Ghana.

Various partners and stakeholders affiliated with the TVET sector participated in the event by addressing the more than 50 dignitaries, guests and participants. During his welcome address the Chair of the meeting, Rev. Fr. Prof. Anthony Afull-Broni, Vice Chancellor of UEW, stated his pride of hosting the important event which marks the official beginning of the cooperation with GSDI. The principal of CoLTEK, Prof. Fredrick Kweku Sarfo, then highlighted the role of CoLTEK in the future development of schooling and teaching standards in the TVET sector. Dr. Fred K. Asamoah, Executive Director of the Council for Technical and Vocational Educational Training (COTVET) pointed out the importance that TVET takes on the agenda of the Government of Ghana. He quoted the State of the Nation Address given by H.E. the President of the Republic of Ghana, in which he announced the establishment of 10 state-of-the-art TVET centres in 2019. The importance of the high-standard skills training was also supported by Mr. Daniel Lauchenauer, Deputy Head of Cooperation, Embassy of Switzerland in Ghana. In order to reach the highest possible level of skills, employability and competitiveness in Ghana, the training of teachers is key, he said. He also underlined the importance that TVET has to meet the demand of the private sector and therefore encourages cooperation between the private sector and training providers.

After representatives of GSDI III presented their contribution to skills development in Ghana in 6 Ghanaian regions and with more than 100 training providers and 20 different trade associations (representing 8 trades), the MoU between GSDI III and CoLTEK was officially

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introduced and signed. As defined in the MoU, GSDI and CoLTEK intend to jointly carry out the following activities for capacity development at training providers (TP): 1. Adapt and develop a manual for in-service CBT-delivery training for facilitators, 2. Train master trainers for in-service CBT-delivery training for facilitators, 3. Update in-service school management training manual, 4. Train master trainers for in-service school management training.

After the official part of the event had ended, the newly established working group between GSDI III and CoLTEK had their first working session while invited guests and dignitaries toured the CoLTEK facilities including the CBT Center.

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Notes to the Editor

About Ghana Skills Development Initiative

The Ghana Skills Development Initiative (GSDI) III is a project commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development under the Programme for Sustainable Economic Development (PSED) and co-funded by the European Union (EU) under the Ghana Employment and Social Programme (GESP) and the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) under its Ghana Private Sector Competitiveness Program (GPSCP). It is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in cooperation with the Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (COTVET) and other public and private stakeholders. Its current phase (GSDI III) started in April 2016 and is planned to run until September 2019.

GSDI supports COTVET's innovative approach to introduce competency-based training (CBT) standards and collaborative training models which combine both workplace-based training and school-based training modules at selected TVET providers. The project particularly seeks to improve the quality of the traditional apprenticeship system and enhance skills and qualifications. It has been working in eight trade areas (electronics, garment making, welding, cosmetology, automotive, electrical installation, furniture works, and block laying + tiling) and six regions (Greater Accra, Volta, Northern, Ashanti, Western, and Eastern). Furthermore, GSDI III develops demand-oriented TVET offers for the agricultural sector (ATVET) along three selected agricultural value chains (cashew, mango, oil palm).

About German Cooperation

Germany has been an important and reliable partner for Ghana since its independence in 1957. The goal of the German-Ghanaian development cooperation is to consolidate Ghana's status as a lower middle-income country by promoting sustainable, poverty-oriented, and inclusive economic growth.

Development Cooperation between Ghana and Germany has a long and trustful tradition. Since the start of bilateral relations with Ghana in 1957, Germany has allocated over EUR 1.5 billion to sustainable development in the country. From 2015 to 2017, bilateral support for Ghana amounts to EUR 241.1 million. Against the background of Ghana's status as a "lower middle income country" and in line with the priorities of the Ghanaian government, the German bilateral development cooperation focuses on the following four priorities: Good Governance, Agriculture, Sustainable Economic Development, and Renewable Energy. In the sector of Sustainable Economic Development, German Cooperation is supporting Ghana through the Programme for Sustainable Economic Development (PSED) with an actual budget of EUR 26.6 million. The German support to TVET in Ghana also encompasses the Ghana TVET Voucher Program (GTVP) amounting to EUR 10 million.

German-Ghanaian Technical Cooperation projects are mostly implemented by GIZ, whilst projects of Financial Cooperation are implemented by the KfW Development Bank. Germany also contributes approx. 21 % to the EU budget.

About the EU

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The European Union is the world's biggest development aid donor. Through the external cooperation, the EU is working around the world in order to reduce poverty, to ensure sustainable economic, social and environmental development and to promote democracy, the rule of law, good governance and the respect of human rights. In the field of education and vocational training, in the current financial framework 2014-2020 the European Union has committed nearly EUR 2 billion to Africa.

In Ghana, under the framework of the Cotonou Agreement, for the period of 2014 to 2020, the European Union is supporting development programmes in three focal areas, Governance, Agriculture and Employment and Social Protection, for a total amount of EUR 323 million. The Ghana Employment and Social Protection (GESP) Programme with a budget of EUR 31.6 million is contributing to inclusive growth in Ghana by strengthening social protection and employment systems in the country.

GESP aims at enhancing social protection services notably for vulnerable population groups and generating decent employment opportunities with a particular attention to the youth. GSDI III is the component of the programme which covers Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) opportunities for the informal sector and in agricultural value chains.

About SECO

SECO is the Swiss government's center of expertise for all core issues relating to economic policy. SECO's Economic Cooperation and Development Division is responsible for the planning and implementation of economic cooperation and development activities with middle income developing countries, with transition countries as well as the new Member States of the European Union. It coordinates Switzerland's relations with the World Bank Group, the regional development banks and the economic organizations of the United Nations.

In Ghana, SECO's development cooperation program focuses on promoting good economic governance and strong institutions and strengthening competitiveness and inclusiveness. Switzerland provides assistance in the areas of economic and financial management, private sector development and entrepreneurship, sustainable trade and urban infrastructure. For more information, visit SECO's website.

About GIZ

As a provider of international cooperation services for sustainable development and international education work, GIZ is dedicated to building a future worth living around the world. GIZ has over 50 years of experience in a wide variety of areas, including economic development and employment, energy and the environment, and peace and security. The diverse expertise of our federal enterprise is in demand around the globe, with the German Government, European Union institutions, the United Nations, the private sector and governments of other countries all benefiting from our services. We work with businesses, civil society actors and research institutions, fostering successful interaction between development policy and other policy fields and areas of activity. The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is our main commissioning party.

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Currently, GIZ promotes sustainable development in Ghana via more than 50 programmes and projects. Our activities cover currently three priority areas: Agriculture, Governance and Sustainable Economic Development. Additionally, our portfolio extends to other areas such as peace and security, renewable energy and climate and environment. Another focus of GIZ's work is linking business interests with development-policy goals. Most of the programmes and projects we support in Ghana have successfully brought together national and international private companies, the public sector, and civil society groups to collaborate on development initiatives.

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