



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

German Embassy Donates to Re-Opened Garment Department at ATTC

ACCRA, Ghana. 28 November, 2017: Germany and the European Union demonstrate their support to TVET at ATTC. *The Accra Technical Training Centre (ATTC) in collaboration with the Ghana Skills Development Initiative (GSDI) has organized a one-day programme to increase interest in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) especially among Junior High School (JHS) pupils. The German Embassy also donated twenty sets of furniture to equip the newly-revived garment department at the school. This event is in line with the school's 50th Anniversary.*

The programme was attended by H. E Christoph Retzlaff, the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Ghana, Paolo Salvia, Head of Political Section, Delegation of the European Union to Ghana (EU), Dr. Fred Asamoah, the Executive Director of the Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (COTVET), executives from trade associations, students from other technical schools, JHS pupils and other GSDI partners.

The event which is titled 'My future in my hands - Skills development at ATTC' was in line with the school's plan to set aside a day for students to go through demonstrational training to build their capacity in technical skills as part of its 50th Anniversary celebration. 200 pupils from 10 surrounding JHS attended the event and tried out practical training exercises in welding, garment, electronics and automotive. The aim of the programme is to promote the image of TVET and to build up the interest of students in technical training.

"Investing in Ghanaian youth and the development of their skills is the right way to promote economic development and contribute to solving unemployment." the German Ambassador stated in his speech. "It is encouraging to see young pupils getting excited about the skills they develop in different trades already during the training sessions in the workshops today." he added. The principal of ATTC, Mr. Ernest B. Asare, commended the support of GSDI to the school and highlighted that "GSDI fosters the cooperation between our school and the private sector. Following the collaborative approach of the project, we are now cooperating with trade associations to deliver demand-driven training to local business actors."

ATTC is one of the schools which has benefited from GSDI's training programmes since its inception in 2012. School management, departmental heads, and facilitators have been trained in technical, pedagogical, and managerial skills to implement the newly developed Competency Based Training (CBT) programmes for master craftspersons, workers and apprentices of the informal sector.

After a round tour to visit the demonstrational trainings at the workshops, Ambassador Retzlaff handed over a set of chairs and tables to the ATTC principal as a donation to the garment department. "The furniture is an important precondition to reopen the department and offer garment courses to the beneficiaries" the principal stated. The tables and chairs were manufactured by students of the furniture works department of the school as part of their practical training. "This demonstrates that the skills students acquire are highly demanded and enable them to make a living." the German Ambassador explained.

The Executive Director of COTVET commended the GSDI project for supporting and taking up specific components of its "My TVET" campaign which is the council's initiative to transform the image of TVET in Ghana. "We are grateful to the German Government and the EU for supporting this initiative to change the face of TVET in our country. We are

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certain that all the interventions under the campaign will enable us to achieve our goal of making TVET a preferred option for the Ghanaian youth” he added.

Paolo Salvia from the European Union reiterated the unwavering support to Ghana’s TVET sector and encouraged the Government of Ghana to continue to invest in TVET institutions to promote sustainable economic development. “In the current financial framework 2014-2020 the European Commission has committed nearly 2 billion EUR to Africa in the form of bilateral education and VET programmes.” he informed the audience during his speech.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Ghana Skills Development Initiative

GSDI is a project commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and 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 sector stakeholders. GSDI III started in April 2016 and is co-funded by the European Union.

GSDI seeks to improve the quality of the traditional apprenticeship system in the informal sector to enhance skills and qualifications. The project supports the introduction of competency based training (CBT) standards and a collaborative training model. It combines workplace-based training and courses at selected TVET training providers

So far, GSDI has been working in five trade areas (electronics, garment making, welding, cosmetology, and automotive) and three regions (Greater Accra, Volta, and Northern). GSDI III is currently expanding to 3 additional trades (electrical installation, furniture works, and block laying + tiling), 3 additional regions (Ashanti, Western, and Eastern), and 2 agricultural value chains.

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 56 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.

About German Cooperation

Germany has been an important and reliable partner for Ghana since its independence in 1957. Development Cooperation between Ghana and Germany has a long and trustful tradition. Since its start in 1963, Germany has contributed more than 1.5 billion Euro to Ghana's development. For the current period of three years, German Development Cooperation amounts to 123 Million EUR. German-Ghanaian Development Cooperation works in three sectors: Good Governance, Agriculture and Sustainable Economic Development. German-Ghanaian Technical Cooperation projects are implemented by GIZ, whilst projects of Financial Cooperation are implemented by the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW- German Development Bank). Germany also contributes approx. 21 % to the EU budget.

About the EU

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. The EU remains Ghana's foremost development partner. Over the past ten years alone, the European Commission and its Member States have provided, on average, more than EUR 400 million per year in official development assistance to Ghana, far more than any other development partner. 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 as well as Employment and Social Protection, for a total amount of EUR 323 million. The EU supports the new Ghana Employment and Social Protection (GESP) Programme with a budget of EUR 31.6 million to contribute to inclusive growth in Ghana by strengthening social protection and employment systems in the country. The GSDI III is the component of the GESP programme which covers Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) opportunities for the informal sector and in agricultural value chains.

About ATTC

The Accra Technical Training Centre has since 1966 churned out over 5000 graduates who are either gainfully self-employed or wage-employed across the globe. The school's

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mission is dedicated to advancing the cause of demand-driven TVET employable skills for the youth to enable them fulfil Ghana's technical human resource needs. Some of the programmes offered at the school include, Motor Vehicle Engineering, Welding and Fabrication Technology, Electrical Engineering Technology, Wood Construction Technology and Computer Technology. The school currently has a population of 2500.

For further press information please contact Ms Eunice Asante, Communication Officer – eunice.asante@giz.de or 0556615961

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