



Digital Skills Awareness Initiative





About IIPGH

- A professional Association of ICT Professionals in Ghana with the following objectives:
- Mobilize Professionals in the ICT Sector & Business
 - Train and certify ICT Professionals
 - Educate the public on ICT
 - Influence Policy formulation
 - Provide opportunities for ICT Professionals
 - Lead in Technology Innovation

JOIN OUR DIGITAL SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAMS

STUDENTS' TRAINING PROGRAMS

- Coding for kids
- 3D Design
- Robotics
- Web Design
- Microsoft Office Tools

PROFESSIONAL COURSES

- Cybersecurity
- Data Science
- Artificial Intelligence
- Cloud Computing
- Continuous Professional Development



IIPGH AT A GLANCE

- ▣ Membership
- ▣ Professional Services
- ▣ Academy
- ▣ Public Awareness

ABOUT IIPGH

The Institute of ICT Professionals Ghana (IIPGH) is a professional association which is made up of professionals in various domains of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) practice.

6 Years of Leading Digital Transformation initiatives through partnerships with public and private organizations, civil society, academic institutions and development partners.

Over 2,000 Members comprising ICT Professionals from Government, Academia, Corporate enterprises, Start-ups and Students.

Over 10,000 Professionals and Students trained in Web Development, Data Science, Cybersecurity, IOT, Artificial Intelligence, Data Protection, Cloud Computing and 3D Design.

Over 4,000 Media engagements and Publications online, radio, television, newspaper and social media

Over 30,000 persons exposed to Coding / Programming and other emerging skills in Ghana and abroad.

Over 50 Partnerships with local and international organizations across Private, Government and Development Agencies etc...

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Digital skills are one of the leading skills required for one to excel in the professional landscape now and in the future. New technologies are being realized at a faster pace than before and this requires individuals to easily adapt and acquire new proficiencies, to remain relevant. Coding imparts these digital skills, while simultaneously enhancing the learners' capacity to readily adapt to the changing intellectual requirements in the world. Such an important tool as this should be democratized so every child, regardless of background or location, would have the opportunity to learn and excel in this area.

This has served as the driving force behind the Coding Caravan, an initiative of the Institute of ICT Professionals Ghana (IIPGH), which seeks to bring access to digital skills directly to communities, schools, and individuals who may otherwise lack such opportunities. IIPGH highly values the transformative potential of partnerships, which have played a pivotal role in extending the reach of its digital transformation initiatives, including the Coding Caravan, to diverse communities despite resource constraints. It has over 2,000 members, trained over 10,000 individuals in critical fields like Data Science, and Cybersecurity and leveraged over 4000 media engagements to expose more than 30,000 individuals to coding and emerging digital skills. These collective efforts have consistently demonstrated remarkable progress and improvement in program delivery.

To our partners, Ghana Chamber of Telecommunications, It Consortium and Code for Africa, we truly appreciate your unwavering commitment and trust in our capabilities. To prospective partners, as you peruse this document, may it underscore the significant impact achieved by the Coding Caravan and the immense potential for even greater influence with the right resources. Moreover, the Institute of ICT Professionals Ghana (IIPGH) trusts that through its consistent advocacy for early exposure to digital skills, reinforced by its tangible training implementations, and its network of 50+ partnerships across sectors, it is evident that the organization serves as the right vehicle for achieving global adoption of Coding as a basic educational right for every child. Together, IIPGH aims to continue empowering future generations, bridging the digital divide, and ensuring that no child is left behind in this transformative digital age.

David Gowu
Executive Director, IIPGH

PARTNERS OF THE CODING CARAVAN INITIATIVE



The Ghana Chamber of Telecommunications (GCT), is an industry association, representing the interests of telecommunication operators and infrastructure companies namely: AirtelTigo, MTN, Vodafone, American Tower Company, Helios Towers, Huawei, Comsys and C-Squared. Our members offer services ranging from fixed and mobile telecommunications to mobile data solutions, Internet services and mobile financial services.



IT Consortium is one of Africa's leading financial services technology solutions provider. Our mission is simple: To provide innovative systems that bring obvious value to our patrons. We adapt technology to create systems that provide clear competitive advantages to our customers. At IT Consortium, we strictly adhere to high ethical standards and exhibit pure dedication to excellence in all operational aspects.



Code for Afrika e.V. is a non-profit organization that promotes tech education and entrepreneurship in Germany and Africa. The main goal of the organization is to offer people the opportunity to build capacity that will help them to create new ventures to serve as a source of employment for themselves and others.

The organization seeks to empower people to become independent and promote tech education and entrepreneurial awareness among African diaspora living in Germany, Germans and people in Africa.

The Coding Caravan Road Map



Oksart Place, Accra, 2021

2021



7th August, 2021

Oksart Place, Accra

13th August, 2021

Shield Int. School, Adenta

20th August 2021

Alpha Beta School, Dansoman

27th August, 2021

Ho-Dome RC Primary/JHS School Complex, Ho

2021



11th October 2021

Golden Pride International School, Kasoa (110 Girls)

22nd October 2021

Rev. Grant Methodist JHS, Takoradi (100 Students)

23rd October 2021

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic School, Takoradi (150 Students)

6th November 2021

Aspire Educational Complex, Koforidua (150 Students)

Total number of students trained

750+

2022



14th July 2022

Ankamu Al-Kasima Islamic Basic school, Apam (242 students)

20th July 2022

Nsawam Municipal Assembly Basic School, Nsawam (210 students)

27th July 2022

Tsiame MA Basic School, Tsiame (200 students)

Total number of students trained

600+

2023



27th April 2023

Oda Methodist College of Education, Akim Oda (200 Girls)

13th July 2023

St. Anthony of Padua Roman Catholic Church Agona Swedru (212 Students) (42 teachers)

19th July 2023

Dawhenya Methodist Basic School, Dawhenya (200 Students) (67 teachers)

26th July 2023

Ofoase D/A JHS, Ofoase Ayirebi (200 Students) (62 teachers)

Total number of students and teachers trained

**800+ Students
170+ Teachers**

Total number of persons impacted by the Initiative

2300+



INTRODUCTION

In 2018, the Institute of ICT Professionals Ghana initiated a coding program for children dubbed "Coding for Kids" with the concept to introduce children to coding/programming at an early age. This is because research has shown that

they are able to build cognitive skills that enable them to become adept at creative, critical, and computational thinking. It also improves their problem-solving skills and builds their confidence in generating innovations. These skills enable them to seamlessly embrace Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) which many of them find challenging.

Developing economies such as China and India are evidence that technology has the power of leapfrogging the development of nations. Indeed, in the last 30 years or thereabouts, much of the so

cio-economic progress that has been recorded in these countries have largely been spurred by technology. It is significant to note that the countries made a conscious effort to invest in their young people by introducing them to technological skills as part of their academic training. India, particularly, is now harvesting the fruits of their investments in technology by exporting their experts around the world. Inspired by the success stories of the above-mentioned countries, IIPGH introduced its Coding Program for Kids with the vision of revolutionizing the teaching, learning and application of technology in Ghana.

Fortunately, the Institute received the buy-in of some German organizations, particularly Code for Africa, Code-It! and Tinkertoys who supported the establishment of the Digital Design and Creative Coding Hub. The hub is

equipped with ultramodern, state-of-the-art laptops, smartboards, and 3-D printers.

To promote and sustain the coding program in schools, IIPGH has entered into an agreement with more than a dozen schools including Englebert School (Airport Residential Area), International Community School (East Legon), Alpha Beta

School (Roman Ridge), among others, where the Institute has introduced coding as an extra-curricular activity.

CODING,
The 21st Century Skill





CODING,
The 21st Century Skill

Digital Skills for Life

2023 Coding Caravan with Ghana Chamber of Telecommunications

Akim Oda Eastern Region

Science and Technology have been seen as the preserve of males, and females have historically been sidelined in the quest for education, especially in these fields. A lot of efforts have been made to correct this anomaly, including the inception of the Girls in ICT Day by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) of the United Nations, to inspire and encourage girls to pursue a future in the ICT space. As was stressed by the Union, "For girls and young women to thrive in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) careers, they need to acquire skills to become both ICT users and creators in the digital world." For this reason, the theme for the 2023 Girls in ICT Day was "Digital Skills for Life".

This year, with its partner, the Ghana Chamber of Telecommunications (GCT), IIPGH celebrated International Girls in ICT day by organizing its maiden Coding Caravan for the year with 200 girls from different schools in the Birim Central Municipal, Akim Oda, led by the women's wing of the Institute on the 27th April, 2023. The girls who were a mix

GHANA CHAMBER OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
IIPGH
INSTITUTE OF ICT PROFESSIONALS GHANA
PRESENTS

THE CODING CARAVAN 2023

The CODING CARAVAN is a Digital Skills Awareness Program of the CODING EDUCATION FOR GHANA INITIATIVE

INTERNATIONAL GIRLS IN ICT DAY 2023
DIGITAL SKILLS FOR LIFE

CENTRAL REGION AGONA WEST EASTERN REGION AKIM ODA
EASTERN REGION OFOASE AYIREBI GREATER ACCRA REGION PRAMPAM

of Primary and Junior High School students were introduced to the concept of Computer Programming using Scratch, a fun, interactive, and easy-to-use platform, developed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). They created some simple animations and were shown the 3D Printer, which is used to print three-dimensional objects designed with an application like Tinkertoys.



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Agona Swedru

Central Region

The Coding Caravan had its second major stop on 13th July 2023 in the Agona West Municipal Assembly. 212 Students, both girls and boys, were selected from 38 JHS and Primary schools in Swedru, Mkum and Nyakrom (all in Agona Swedru). Dr. Ing. Kenneth Ashigbey, the CEO of the Ghana Chamber of Telecommunications, as with previous GCT-partnered caravans, led an engaging and mind-stimulating session with the students. He initiated the session by inviting the students to share their understanding of ICT and mention key occupations the municipal community engaged in. He further prompted them to identify challenges faced by community members and explore how ICT tools could offer potential solutions.

One of the most touching and gratifying experiences was the participation of five basic school students from the Swedru Salvation Army School for the Deaf in the coding lessons. To ensure their full engagement, Mr. Elidad Senyo Akakpo, a sign language interpreter,

conveyed the content to them throughout the session. Witnessing their active involvement and learning despite their hearing impairment brought immense joy and pride. This meaningful inclusion of students with special needs was a testament to the institute's unwavering commitment to support and promote inclusivity in all its forms.



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Ningo-Prampram

Greater Accra Region

IIPGH continued its digital skills workshop at Ningo-Prampram District. On the 19th of July 2023, the team from the Institute and the Ghana Chamber of Telecommunications arrived at the Dawhenya Methodist Basic School which served as the venue for the workshop. A total of 200 students and 67 teachers from Nyigbenya, Ayetepa, Ningo, Dawhenya, Afienya and Prampram were involved in this workshop.



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Ofoase Ayirebi

Eastern Region

On July 26, 2023, the Coding Caravan arrived at Ofoase D/A JHS in Ofoase-Ayirebi, a community within the Akyemansa District, as it embarked on a dynamic initiative to engage 200 primary school

students and 62 educators from the local community in an immersive day of coding education. As a continuation of its successful endeavours in preceding locations, this event ushered the eager young minds into the world of coding through the innovative Scratch Platform nurturing their ability to craft animations and providing them with fundamental insights into 3D design and printing.

Hon. Kwadwo Opong Nkrumah, the Member of Parliament for the Constituency, recounted his anticipation since he first heard of the Coding Caravan in 2022. For him, witnessing the Caravan benefit the students within his community was not just an aspiration but a determination to enhance the technological literacy of his constituents.



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Teacher Participation in The Coding Caravan

As part of the new initiatives introduced during this workshop, a separate training session was arranged for the teachers accompanying the children. Recognizing the pivotal role teachers play in guiding the students' learning journey beyond the workshop, it was envisioned

tion of an ongoing educational process for the students. During the workshop, the teachers were engaged in an introductory session on Scratch and 3D technologies. This approach held significant importance as it facilitated discussions about equipping teachers with fundamental digital skills, particularly knowledge of Scratch programming software. Remarkably, this course is already included in the Basic School Curriculum, but many of these schools have yet to incorporate it into their teachings, due to lack of expertise/understanding, and lack of the required learning tools and setup.



By addressing this concern and empowering teachers with essential digital competencies, the workshop sought to lay the groundwork for a brighter future where young learners can confidently embrace the world of technology.







2022 CODING CARAVAN

As part of its 10th Anniversary Celebration, the Ghana Chamber of Telecoms in collaboration with the Institute of ICT Professionals Ghana, organized The Coding Caravan in 3 regions

The Institute of ICT Professionals Ghana (IIPGH), believes in the early start, introducing and exposing young ones to digital skills, to prepare the next generation for entrepreneurship, and new job requirements in today's fast-moving technological world. Thus, the Coding Caravan program of the Institute of ICT Professionals Ghana was the vehicle used when the Ghana Chamber of Telecommunications, as part of its 10th anniversary celebrations, decided to give back to society by reaching out to young ones in three selected regions, Volta, Eastern and Central, imparting them with technology skills. This was in line with its strategic partnership with the Institute to scale up its coding program, nationwide and to ensure that many more children, across the country, especially those in deprived and hard-to-reach communities, are introduced to coding. The three locations namely Apam-Junction, Nsawam, and Tsiamé hosted the coding caravan team on the 14th, 20th, and 27th of July 2022, respectively. This third caravan, just as the previous ones, offered a simple and motivating introduction to computer programming and other digital skills like 3D design and creative coding for children. It was very exciting and eye-opening for many children who had never used a computer before nor seen 3D printers.

Tutors during the caravan took turns in separate sessions to teach participants practically and playfully to code. With



assistants, teaching and learning was made easy as the assistants are seen going round to help students to follow the lead tutor in an instructional method. This Coding Caravan carried along on all roadshows over 100 (one hundred) laptops, well charged to stay up when faced with electricity challenges. The caravan also made available its 3D printers to print and showcase 3D designs from creative coding.



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Apam Junction

Central Region

The first location selected was at Apam-Junction; Ankamu Al-Kasima Islamic Basic school, where 242 young ones with 5 teachers gathered from the host school and an adjoining school. In 2 batches, the students were introduced to coding. Many of these children who had never touched nor used a laptop before, however, expressed excitement and the willingness to learn. A few of them were able to answer questions brilliantly. Mrs. Phyllis Asante-Krobea, District Director of Education, Gomoa West at the time, expressed joy for bringing such a very necessary and educative program to her district.



Nsawam

Eastern Region

The Coding Caravan made a second stop at the Nsawam Municipal Assembly Basic School, where the pupils and their teachers drawn from several Education Circuits in the Nsawam Adoagyiri Municipality participated. The 210 enthusiastic students and over 75 teachers from the Municipality were present for an action packed full day coding and digital design workshop. All 75 teachers stayed through the program to participate and learn. There were two sessions as usual. First batch from 10 am till noon, and the second from midday till 3pm. The Municipal Education Director of Nsawam-Adoagyire Municipal District at the time, Mr. Samuel Otopah Ntow, encouraged the students and teachers to embrace technology, and improve their ICT skills.



Tsiame

Volta Region

Tsiame, the last location selected for this coding caravan was on the 27th of July 2022, at the Tsiame MA Basic School where another set of 200 students in two separate batches took their turns to learn to code and explore what 3D design is about. The Keta Municipal Education Director, Mr. Gerhard Avudzivi admonished the pupils to take advantage of this opportunity and learn new digital skills. He appealed to the Chamber and its partners to extend this practical skills development program to other schools within the Municipality. Through the event, the Chief Executive of Ghana Chamber of Telecommunications, Ing. Dr. Kenneth Ashigbey participated and engaged the young ones, sharing experiences and offering doses of advice to the young ones. He presented gifts to outstanding students who answered questions correctly and contributed to the sessions.



10th Anniversary Coding Caravan in pictures



10th Anniversary Coding Caravan in pictures





The Coding Caravan

IT Consortium and IIPGH taking ICT Skills Programs into Communities



Technology education and skills development should not be the preserve of the affluent in our society, it must be democratized and accessible by all. This is because emerging technology skills are now essential tools for employment in the 21st century and in the next decade may become a requirement for any type of job. In order to prepare the next generation and equip them with the skills needed to fit into the demands of the future, IT Consortium, one of Africa's leading financial services technology solutions provider, celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, joined forces with the Institute of ICT Professionals Ghana (IIPGH), to launch The Coding Caravan (TCC).

One important reason for the establishment of the Coding Caravan was to extend coding and other ICT skills development programs to more students, particularly children from underserved or deprived communities, IIPGH collaborated with IT Consortium to run the coding caravan in 4 communities during the month of August 2021. IT Consortium has been involved in the skills development of

young graduates as part of efforts to grow tech skills in Ghana and across Africa.

However, this year, as the organization celebrates its 20th anniversary, management and staff want to go beyond training graduates to training kids in communities. The organization believes that its staff who are working in the technology space will serve as champions and role models that will positively influence young people, especially girls, to embrace technology skills development programs such as coding.

The first phase of the technology skills awareness program was carried out in August 2021, where over 250 young people in Accra and Ho were introduced to coding (computer programming), 3D designs, and 3D printing.

The Coding Caravan was carried out as workshops, where laptops and coding software were made available for students to learn. Instructors from IIPGH and staff of IT Consortium supported the chil-

dren to code. For some of these kids, it was their first coding experience. Most of them were surprised they could put together codes in sequential order and produce meaningful outcomes.



Coding Caravan First Stop - Oksart Place, Kwame Nkrumah Circle

Every child needs to be introduced to coding as it is being touted as the skill of the future. However, limited resources will hinder a nationwide first-time deployment of the project. The partners, therefore, agreed the first phase will target three (3) communities in Accra and one (1) community outside the capital. After an online advertisement for parents to register their kids and arrangement of children from underserved communities in Tema Newtown, on 7th August 2021, over 50 students converged at the Digital Design and Creative Coding Hub of the Institute of ICT Professionals Ghana (Oksart Place, Kwame Nkrumah Circle). At the Hub, laptops were made available to each child present, as they were guided in an intensive but fun learning environment.



The volunteers (staff of ITC) and tutors from IIPGH, gave the children a memorable experience in designing things in 3D using the interactive smartboard and the portable 3D printers. The interactive session gave the children the opportunity to ask questions on Code-it and Tinkertoys (some of the new software used during the coding lessons).

They were also fascinated by the 3D printer and were very curious to know more about its functionality. The children were given some of the objects designed and printed. At the end of the program, the children were served with packed lunch and drinks. The first workshop ended with smiles on the faces of all participants and all COVID-19 protocols were observed.



Coding Caravan Second Stop – Shield International School, Adenta



The Coding Caravan was designed in a way that every week, the team will organize a workshop in a community. This will afford the volunteers who dedicate a day out of the week, to help young people without impacting too much on their already busy work schedules. The second stop took place at the Shield International School in Adenta on the 13th of August 2021. The setup in the Adenta community was unique. Although the team selected a good private school to host the workshop, the event was held on a day when the students were not in school. Rather,

children were randomly invited, particularly from the deprived communities where most of them attend public schools. Other students were also selected from public JHS in Madina to participate in the workshop.

The experience was the same as the first stop, however; it was observed that some children who were randomly called from the street and communities struggled to use the computer. Some admitted it was their first time using the computer and following coding instructions was a bit difficult. However, at the end of the program, the students were happy about the concept and were yearning to learn more.



Coding Caravan Third Stop – Alpha Beta School, Dansoman

In every community, the organizers of TCC strived to give equal opportunities to students in privileged private schools and public schools. A quota system was adopted where some children from the community and others from public schools will join the students at the school hosting the workshop. The Dansoman workshop had all these three (3) groups fully represented and a successful program was carried out at Alpha Beta Educational Centre, Dansoman, on 20th August 2021.

Management of the school and the tutors were actively involved in the entire preparation and organization of the coding workshop. The students were enthusiastic about the new things they were being introduced to, and the workshop was very interactive. Students from Dansoman Basic II JHS were very active and could follow all the steps. The workshop ended as one of the best organized coding programs.



Coding Caravan Final Stop – Ho-Dome RC Primary/ JHS School / Complex, Ho



After three (3) stops in Accra, TCC embarked on a trip to Ho, Volta Regional capital, to engage students in the Ho Municipality. With the help of Genius IT Foundation, the local partner of IIPGH, Ho-Dome RC Primary/JHS School Complex was identified as a suitable host for the coding workshop on the 27th of August. The headmaster of the school was actively involved in organizing the venue for the program and ensured maximum participation of the students. As was done at previous workshops, information was put out inviting the public to bring children to participate in the workshop. There was an overwhelming response, with over 120 students participating in the workshop. To serve all the children, the training was conducted in batches. The first batch comprised younger children, having their workshop in the morning while the older ones had their turn in the afternoon.



Conclusion

The first phase of the coding caravan has been successful with coding and other technology skills introduced to over 250 children/young people in Accra and Ho. The reception was great, and the children embraced the concept. While this is a good indication that all other communities in Ghana will need such awareness programs, it requires collaboration with more stakeholders. To achieve this bigger objective, the Institute of ICT Professionals Ghana and its partners are inviting corporate institutions, civil society organizations, and government agencies, to team up for more roadshows and awareness programs in communities, to drive the message of ICT practical skills development for young people. The future can be bright if we make a conscious effort in preparing our young ones.



CLICK / SCAN FOR VIDEO STORY

CODING EDUCATION FOR GHANA PROGRAM

WITH *The Coding Caravan*
(ICT Skills Awareness Program)



The Coding Caravan

With Code For Afrika



**CODE
FOR
AFRIKA**



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VIDEO STORY**

The first phase of the Coding Education for Ghana program had "The Coding Caravan" in three locations: Kasoa, Takoradi, Koforidua, and ended with a stakeholders' workshop in Accra. The Coding Caravan introduces coding basics to young ones, aiming at implementing creative ideas - as one can create computer games, interactive animations and graphics, and many other applications. It offers all children and beginners an easy and playful introduction to programming.

Tutors during the caravan took turns in each session teaching participants practically and playfully to code. With assistants, teaching and learning are made easy as the assistants are seen going round to help students to follow the lead tutor in an instructional method. The Coding Caravan carries along on all roadshows over 150 (one hundred and fifty) laptops, well charged to be able to stay up when faced with electricity challenges. The caravan also makes available its 3D printers to print and showcase 3D designs from creative coding.

With no prior programming knowledge required, participants can learn to code using software such as Codeit!, practicalizing digital design and creative coding, and 3D printing.



KASOA CODING CARAVAN

The Coding Caravan in Kasoa coincided with the celebration of the International Day of the Girl Child. 11th October is celebrated worldwide as the International Day of the Girl Child. A special day to recognize and empower girls. The caravan decided to celebrate this day in a community to introduce coding to girls in Kasoa. Golden Pride International School was the host for the day, and other students from adjoining schools in the community were allowed to participate in the program. About one hundred and ten (110) girls in two batches were introduced to coding and other digital skills.



TAKORADI CODING CARAVAN

Takoradi was the second of three locations planned for this Coding Education for Ghana program. On October 22, 2021, the caravan arrived in Takoradi scheduled for a 2-day workshop for two schools, namely Rev. Grant Methodist JHS, and St Anthony of Padua Catholic School. With great enthusiasm and testimonies, both schools expressed more interest in this program, hoping to have regular exposure to coding concepts and development.

At Rev. Grant Methodist JHS, we had over 100 (One hundred) students participating in the program, while St Anthony of Padua Catholic School offered a bit over 150 (One hundred and fifty) students, between ages 8 and 15. This was a very revealing moment for St Anthony of Padua Catholic School especially, as they have already been preparing for a technology competition.





KOFORIDUA CODING CARAVAN

The last location was on the 6th of November, in Koforidua, at Aspire Educational Complex where over 150 (One hundred and fifty) students participated in 3 sessions. The first and second sessions had students from Aspire Educational Complex, while the third session of 50 students came from other selected public schools in the community (Okrase Methodist Basic School, and Edwisu Mile 50 MA School). Just as many others, these students were inspired to learn to code, exhibiting their creativity, confidence, and interests.



STAKEHOLDERS' WORKSHOP

The Coding Education for Ghana program was climaxed with a stakeholder's workshop, which invited all participating schools in the Coding Caravan. Representatives from the three locations of the caravan (Kasoa, Takoradi, Koforidua) were present. Other participants from the maiden TCC in partnership with IT Consortium were also present from three locations in Accra (Oksart Place, Kwame Nkrumah Circle; Alpha Beta School, Dansoman; Shield International School, Adenta), and one location in Ho, Volta Region, Ho-Dome RC Primary/JHS School Complex. A representative from the Council for Technical and Vocational Educational Training (CTVET) participated in the workshop, as well as the President of Academic City University College, Prof. Fred McBagonluri.

The workshop which took place on the 29th of November 2021, at the Fiesta Royale Hotel, Accra, brought together relevant stakeholders to evaluate the pilot coding programs in schools/communities and to formulate implementation strategies for its sustainability. The workshop lasted 4 hours with a presentation of the concept note of the coding education program, and group round table discussions. All three groups made valuable evaluations, and strategies for sustainability, out of which all suggestions will be fine-tuned for implementation.

Learning to code is a lifelong activity. The Institute of ICT Professionals Ghana as a confident organization in capacity building, encourages students, parents, educators, and administrators to take a keen interest and sign up for this skill development program to prepare young people for the future of work. Corporate, Civil Society organizations and government agencies are invited to collaborate with the Institute, and its partner, Code for Afrika, to promote coding in communities (both urban and rural) across the country, to drive the message of ICT practical skills development for young people. Other platform developers / providers are also encouraged to come along to make their platforms available for coding and other skills development programs. The future can be bright if we make a conscious effort in preparing our young ones.



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REVIEWS AND TESTIMONIALS



In the next generation, technology and the ability to create it is going to be a mandatory skill for success.

Franklin Elebu
Chief Software Architect, IT Consortium



Hon Kojo Oppong Nkrumah
MP, Ofoase Ayirebi

The knowledge of using computers to solve basic problems is something that will soon become a basic and that's why it's such a big deal that the Institute of ICT professionals Ghana and the Telecoms Chamber is going around the country and have joined us here in Ofoase Ayirebi to introduce our teachers and our students to Coding, to programming and to ICT basic skills. So, I think it's a big deal. It's something that we should mainstream. So that it becomes as basic as any of the skills that we require to function across the continent



Prof. Fred Mcbagonluri
President, Academic City University College

So I say this to underpin the fact that what you guys are doing here, we 30 to 40 years ago, couldn't have dared to dream. You are opening a whole new avenue for them. You are creating the next future leaders, technicians, and programmers. Programming is a skill, if you have a skill you get a job.



Hon. Cynthia Mamle Morrison,
MP, Agona West Constituency

This day and age, technology is the way to go, and so for our children here in Agona West to go through this ICT training is a very laudable initiative for our children. We are privileged that this training will enhance whatever they are doing and they are going to be the pioneers, the role models that we are going to use in the constituency to affect the other children in the smaller communities.



Mrs. Sarah Adobosu
Director of Education,
Ningo-Prampam District)

We are in the world of technology and your coming here to support our students to learn coding is going to help us a lot



Fortune Selorm Akosua Agbele
Board Chair, Code for Afrika

When I asked, what this project is for them and one of them was able to talk about the fact that it inspires them to know that they can take up a career in engineering, in coding. For me, that is it, that tells me that our aim, the goal for organizing this intervention largely has been achieved.



Noble Ahiaklo-Cuz
Board Member, Code for Afrika

We identified IIPGH as a competent institution that we can partner with especially with regards to bringing our concepts or programs in Ghana and we believe they can use them to help us work on the grounds as we are based in Germany



Christiana Adogah
ICT Teacher, Ningbo-Prampam District

This program has really helped me. I've learnt about coding, I now know what a Sprite is, how to create Scratch programs and how to even help my students do the same. I brought some students, and they were very happy. And I will be very happy if this program will be organized every year to train we the ICT teachers so we can also train other teachers. It can also help in some other subject areas like Math, English, Science and even Ghanaian Language. I was really happy, and I enjoyed the class, I was able to create my own cartoon and put life into them. I was able to do a lot of 3D programs.



Samuel Kojo Ameh
ICT Coordinator,
Ningbo-Prampam District)

We are very impressed and grateful for the program capturing us. We've been looking forward to such a program for some time now. Even though we have been doing some few ones, this one has been more practical, exciting and involving in terms of both the children and teachers.



Tophieka Musa
Reverend Grant Methodist JHS, Takoradi

At the beginning, I thought it was something difficult, but at the end I got to know it was something easy and simple.



Edwitta Bruce
Student, Obeng Wiabo Complex, Kasoa

I learnt that the 3D Printers are used to print 3D designs and I learnt that the filament is a plastic which is melted to form the objects I design.



Kyle Xose Daves-Ocloo
Student, Aspire Educational Complex)

The languages that we speak, the computer doesn't understand it and the languages that the computer speaks, we too don't understand it so in order for us to interact with each other, we use code blocks.



Esther Quaye-Sowah
Municipal Director of Education,
Birim Central

I wish we had it like this every day, because even without the teachers, the children are manipulating. No body is sleeping unlike the normal classroom where the teacher will be talking and talking, and nobody is interested. But this is very interactive, and the children are so busy and I know when time is up, they will say, we want more.



Doretha Donkor
Student, Aspire Educational Complex)

When I came here, I was told that every ICT tool we use deals with specific codes and the codes help to manipulate the ICT tools that we use. We used an application called Scratch, certain codes used were events, looks, and others.

The Next Step and Help Needed

Preparations are being made to complement the workshops organized for the teachers with some virtual sessions to help the teachers develop further their understanding of Programming. To successfully do all these and have future impactful caravans, we need more help.

This caravan can have a wider reach if we get more stakeholders involved. We have been to only few constituencies and made this much impact. Having the 275 ministers or a member of parliament in Ghana attempting embracing this Caravan in their constituencies with at least 200 kids each from this 275 constituencies will create a bigger impact. We need assistance to take the caravan to areas where kids don't have access to the computer, they've never used it before.

In 2023, we included the teachers to participate in the programme from Agona Swedru, then to Dawhenya,

and then in Ofoase Ayirebi. Our reason for including the teachers is that looking at the current curriculum

of GES especially, it is mandatory for them to write examinations on ICT, and for which coding is part of the ICT programme. And if these kids are going to be writing examinations on them, then it is appropriate to have them introduced to the programme. However, if the teachers do not know about these programmes, they will be unable to impact the knowledge to the children to write the examination.

The Institute earnestly appeals to private and public organizations, and other relevant stakeholders, local and international donors, to support its transformative agenda. This valuable assistance will play a pivotal role in empowering the Institute to achieve its mission successfully.



SOME OF OUR INITIATIVES



TECH JOB FAIR

The Tech Job Fair is an annual event that brings together Industry Players, Educators, Students, Government, and Jobseekers to understand the information and Communications Technology (ICT) job roles.



INDUSTRY-ACADEMIA TECH DIALOGUE

A knowledge sharing quarterly symposium that seeks to bring together and foster a closer collaboration among education providers and industry players: Educators, Businesses and Organizations, Students, Policymakers among others, for an industry-academia dialogue on ICT development in various fields, to create opportunities for businesses and for the youth.



TECH ENTREPRENEURS FORUM

Tech Entrepreneurs Forum is an event initiated by the Institute of ICT Professionals Ghana to provide a networking platform for corporate organizations to exhibit their products and/or services in emerging technologies.



CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS

Educating and training the Public, Organizations and Employees, Users and Digital Consumers, about the threats that lurk in cyberspace, to improve their understanding on how to prevent such threats and what to do in the event of a security incident, and develop a good cyber hygiene. Before anything else, one needs to understand their digital footprints and cyber exposure. By doing this, IIPGH seeks to contribute to and drive a Safer Digital Ghana, enhancing development and capacity-building of its members and the public, and networking among ICT stakeholders in Ghana.



CODING FOR KIDS

Given the opportunity and exposure, every child has brilliance. As the skill of the future, it is necessary to introduce coding to every child, strengthening the basics from an early start. Building the youthful population and huge human resource asset of Ghana and Africa, skills development training, particularly in the technology-related fields, needs to be introduced early in their formative years before they are out of school.



THE CODING CARAVAN

The Institute of ICT Professionals Ghana (IIPGH), believes in the early start, introducing and exposing young ones to digital skills, to prepare the next generation for entrepreneurship, and new job requirements in today's fast-moving technological world. The Coding Caravan goes into communities, the unserved and underserved, carries along on all roadshows over 100(one hundred) laptops, well charged to stay up when faced with electricity challenges, and power inverters. The caravan also makes available its 3D printers to print and showcase 3D designs from creative coding. The Institute partners with stakeholders to deliver such insightful program.



The Ghana Chamber of Telecommunications (GCT), is an industry association, representing the interests of telecommunication operators and infrastructure companies namely; AirtelTigo, MTN, Vodafone, American Tower Company, Helios Towers, Huawei, Comsys and C-Squared. Our members offer services ranging from fixed and mobile telecommunications to mobile data solutions, Internet services and mobile financial services.



IT Consortium is one of Africa's leading financial services technology solutions provider. Our mission is simple: To provide innovative systems that bring obvious value to our patrons. We adapt technology to create systems that provide clear competitive advantages to our customers. At IT Consortium, we strictly adhere to high ethical standards and exhibit pure dedication to excellence in all operational aspects.

CODE FOR AFRIKA

Code for Afrika e.V. is a non-profit organization that promotes tech education and entrepreneurship in Germany and Africa. The main goal of the organization is to offer people the opportunity to build capacity that will help them to create new ventures to serve as a source of employment for themselves and others.

The organization seeks to empower people to become independent and promote tech education and entrepreneurial awareness among African diaspora living in Germany, Germans and people in Africa.



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