INSTITUTE OF ICT PROFESSIONALS GHANA

WOMEN-LED PROGRAM

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Message From The President

Juliana Ametorworgo
Director, Women In Tech (IIPGH)

Looking back at the past 6 years, I'm filled with pride for what we've accomplished together as the IIPGH Women’s wing. Our initiatives ignited curiosity and ambition in girls, and their growth reaffirms our commitment.

In 2024, our focus remains on empowering women with essential tech skills through robust capacity-building programs. I envision these programs fostering collaboration, innovation, and knowledge-sharing to create a supportive environment for women in ICT. Looking ahead, I aspire to expand our reach and impact, advocating for more girls in tech and fostering inclusivity, diversity, and excellence. Together, let’s continue inspiring and mentoring future generations, creating a lasting legacy of positive change for women in technology.

Thank you to our dedicated volunteers – I’m excited for the possibilities ahead! Here’s to a year of growth, learning, and collective success.
INTRODUCTION

The Institute of ICT Professionals, Ghana launched its Women-Led program in October 2018, marking a significant stride in narrowing the gender gap within the dynamic ICT sector. Historically, women have faced underrepresentation in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields, with the ICT industry being no exception but this innovative program stands as a beacon of change, with a dedicated mission to impart crucial IT skills to girls and young women.

As the world grapples with an ever-expanding digital landscape, the need to involve girls in the coding world has become increasingly imperative. Recognizing the transformative power of coding in shaping the future, the Institute of ICT Professionals Ghana (IIPGH) has seized the opportunity to impart invaluable knowledge and skills to young ladies in the tech field. In doing so, IIPGH not only contributes to bridging the gender gap in the tech industry but also empowers females to become active contributors and leaders in the fast-evolving world of technology.

Launch Day

On the day of its launch, that’s 11 October, 2018 the Women-Led program visited East Airport International School and Adenta Community Cluster of Schools, engaging in a hands-on session where the girls were introduced to coding, including Scratch programming by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Additionally, there were mentorship sessions to provide valuable guidance and insights into the exciting world of technology.
Some Notable Past Activities

University of Energy and Natural Resources (UENR)

The Institute of ICT Professionals Ghana (IIPGH) and the Department of Computer Science and Informatics at the University of Energy and Natural Resources (UENR) celebrated the 2019 ITU International Day for Girls in ICT at Sunyani Senior High School. With the theme "Expand Horizon, Change Attitude," over 300 female students from SHS1 and SHS2 participated.

Mr. Oppong Ansu, the Assistant Headmaster, emphasized the importance of digitization for national growth, urging participants to embrace technology. Mr. Owusu Nyarko-Boateng, Chairman of IIPGH – BA Chapter, delivered a keynote address encouraging the girls to pursue ICT programs, highlighting the impact of women in the IT sector and their exceptional performance.

In his closing remarks, the chairperson urged participants to prioritize their studies, emphasizing the need for dedication to excel in the field of IT. Drawing inspiration from other accomplished women in technology, he encouraged the girls to take their education seriously as a pathway to success in the tech industry.
Some Notable Past Activities

Adonten Senior High School and Sunyani Senior High School (SUSEC)

On May 25, 2019, the Institute of ICT Professionals Ghana (IIPGH) celebrated the International Day of Girls in ICT by organizing workshops at Adonten Senior High School and Sunyani Senior High School (SUSEC). The Adonten workshop, in collaboration with MTN Women in Tech, aimed to encourage girls to pursue IT/ICT courses seriously. Meanwhile, the Sunyani workshop, led by the Brong Ahafo regional chapter of IIPGH, shared the same goal. During the visit to Adonten Senior High School, the team, including Mr. Nathaniel Duku, the assistant head of academics, emphasized changing the perception of ICT, traditionally associated with “Sakawa” (internet fraud), and motivated girls to take an interest in studying ICT. Muniratu Musah, leading the MTN Women in Tech team, focused on the 4th SDG (Quality Education) during the workshop.

The session included practical interactions, mentoring through Q&A, and a breakout session where students explored the relevance of technology to various career paths. Questions ranged from the connection between technology and professions like chartered accountancy or medicine to understanding entry points into the tech field.

Executive Director Mr. David Gowu concluded by highlighting the girls' active role in technology, emphasizing their increased chances of success and impact in the 21st century. He pledged the Institute's commitment to organizing more educational programs for girls and interested students in the future.
Our Lady of Apostles Girls Senior High School (OLA) - Ho

To address the shortage of students, especially girls, in STEM education, the Institute of ICT Professionals, Ghana (IIPGH) and partners launched an awareness program promoting STEM and ICT career opportunities. In collaboration with Vodafone Ghana Women in Technology, an impactful session was held at OLA Girls SHS on June 14, 2019.

The event featured women technology professionals sharing experiences and coaching girls on ICT careers. The headmistress welcomed IIPGH guests, and Srabasti Bhattacharjee of Vodafone Ghana emphasized the importance of STEM, encouraging students to pursue coding, software engineering, data analysis, and computer science. The Vodafone Women in Technology Team highlighted the transformative role of technology, discussing SDGs and urging girls to explore careers in various tech fields. Gifty Mottey, an OLA Girls alumna, emphasized the importance of coding for critical thinking and problem-solving, discussing The Coding Project. During breakout sessions, women in technology shared career journeys, encouraging students to prepare for STEM education by learning coding.
Achievers Ghana Foundation in Maamobi-Nima

The Institute of ICT Professionals, Ghana (IIPGH), led by Madam Gifty Mottey, organized a coding workshop during the global celebration of International Girls in ICT Day. The workshop at Achievers Ghana Foundation in Maamobi-Nima targeted girls aged 6 to 16 and showcased the transformative power of coding in unlocking creativity and innovation. Madam Mottey emphasized coding as a pathway to becoming designers, creators, and leaders in the tech world. The event highlighted the importance of coding not only for creating future computer scientists but also for instilling critical thinking and problem-solving abilities applicable across diverse career domains.

Madam Musah, a key organizer, shared her inspiring life journey as the sole female engineer in her department, urging young minds to embrace programming early on. Ms. Deborah Ofori-Dartey and Ms. Barbara Asiamah, coding education specialists from IIPGH, guided the girls in a practical session where they created games and animations using Scratch programming. The workshop also introduced Tinkertoys, a 3D design programming language, allowing the girls to experience the wonders of 3D printing. In total, 43 girls participated, leaving with tangible proof of their potential to shape the future through coding and 3D creation. The workshop aimed not only to impart technical skills but also to empower and inspire girls to become architects of their own digital destiny.
Akim Oda

IIPGH’s commitment to closing the gender gap in technology was evident in its Girls in ICT Day initiative. In collaboration with the Ghana Chamber of Telecommunications, IIPGH organized a Coding Caravan in Akim Oda, welcoming 200 girls from various schools in the Birim Central Municipal.

Led by IIPGH’s women’s wing, the girls, ranging from primary to junior high school students, engaged in computer programming using MIT’s Scratch platform, creating animations and exploring the world of 3D printing with Tinkertoys. Distinguished figures, including Mrs. Esther Quaye-Sowah, Dr. Ing. Kenneth Ashigbey, and Mr. David Gowu, added weight to the event, emphasizing the transformative power of STEM education and encouraging girls to acquire skills in technology.

Under the guidance of IIPGH facilitators, the girls not only created animations but also learned about the synergy between Tinkertoys and 3D printers. The session fostered creativity and learning, with active participants receiving 3D-printed materials and souvenirs. The impact of the Coding Caravan extends beyond the event, breaking barriers and nurturing dreams in the hearts of young tech enthusiasts. This initiative underscores IIPGH’s ongoing commitment to promoting female inclusion in ICT through early education and hands-on experiences.
Learn to code, change the world!

CODE LIKE A GIRL. Discover the endless possibilities of coding and join our virtual programme for girls today.

Apply via: https://bit.ly/3XDdSSD

Registration is free
Age range: 7-18 years
Deadline: 27th March, 2023
#CodeLikeAGirl

**Code Like a Girl**

"Code Like a Girl," a collaboration between Vodafone and IIPGH, is a transformative program actively breaking barriers for young females in technology. Focused on digital skills, mentorship, and networking, it aims to create an inclusive tech space. Successful due to hands-on training and mentorship, the partnership trained 1000 girls aged 7 to 18 in digital skills through an online program spanning five Saturdays, transcending geographical boundaries. Conducted via Zoom, it engaged parents and reached girls in urban and rural areas. Over 2600 females applied, highlighting the demand for digital knowledge.

Equipped with Vodafone internet data, the coding workshop covered modules like Scratch, Code it!, 3D design, and website development, fostering inclusivity through interactive sessions. The program aims to rewrite the narrative for young females in technology, ensuring no one is left behind in this traditionally male-dominated domain.
Ofankor MA Basic School

The IIPGH Women’s Wing, in collaboration with the IoT Network Hub, organized the “Digital Girls” workshop on October 13, 2023, marking the International Day of the Girl Child. The transformative initiative at Ofankor MA Basic School featured sessions on 3D Design/Scratch, Mentoring, and the Internet of Things (IoT). Dorothy Klutse and Deborah Ofori-Dartey guided the girls in 3D design, fostering creativity through printing. In the coding session using Scratch, the girls animated a song, expressing themselves and mastering coding.

Under the theme "Breaking Barriers, Building Futures," mentors Juliana Ametorwogo and Mrs. Gifty Mottey shared inspiring STEM journeys, motivating girls to aspire for greatness. Christian Ankrah emphasized self-investment and overcoming societal myths. In the IoT session, Irene Klu and Bernice Ama Essel introduced STEMaide kits, allowing hands-on programming experiences like controlling LEDs. The workshop bridged the gender gap in STEM, inspiring a new generation of tech enthusiasts.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Women-Led programs initiated by the Institute of ICT Professionals Ghana (IIPGH) stand as powerful catalysts for change, breaking down barriers and fostering inclusivity in the dynamic field of technology. From Girls in ICT Day initiatives to transformative workshops like “Code Like a Girl” and “Digital Girls,” IIPGH, in collaboration with various partners, has consistently championed the cause of female empowerment in STEM education.