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ANNUAL REPORT

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Overview of IIPGH



IIPGH AT A GLANCE

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

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...



Our Vision

To become the most reliable partner in ICT development in Ghana and beyond.

Our Mission

To mobilize all ICT professionals under one professional body to positively influence the development, standardization and delivery of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) across Ghana.

Our Core Values

Professionalism

The Institute is committed to promoting professionalism in the ICT industry by providing training and certification programs for professionals, advocating for local participation in ICT sector activities, and publishing journals on ICT development and strategy in Ghana.

Innovation

The Institute promotes innovation that would solve basic societal problems by supporting members to take advantage of ICT job opportunities and providing opportunities through networking.

Advocacy

The Institute advocates for the deepening of local participation in ICT sector activities by influencing policy formulation and supporting members to take advantage of ICT job opportunities.

The Board



**Prof. Fred
McBagonluri**

BOARD CHAIR

President, Academic City University College

Prof. Fred McBagonluri, a distinguished Ghanaian Engineer, Inventor, and University President, co-founded SparX Learning Xperience (SparXLX). Born in 1970 in East Legon, Accra, he currently serves as the President and Provost of Academic City College in Haatso, Accra. Prof. McBagonluri has held key positions in academia and industry, including being the founding Dean of Engineering at Ashesi University and Vice President of New Product Development at Joerns Healthcare, Arlington, TX. His impressive career spans Fortune 500 companies in the US, such as Siemens Medical and Becton Dickinson and Co, where he held significant leadership roles in research and development.

Prof. McBagonluri's academic journey is marked by excellence, including an MBA from MIT, a Ph.D. in Materials Engineering from the University of Dayton, and numerous degrees in engineering. He has also made a name for himself as a prolific inventor with 22 US Patents and has received prestigious awards like the 2008 US Black Engineer of the Year: Most Promising Scientist Award. His extensive educational background and professional accomplishments underscore his status as a distinguished figure in engineering, innovation, and academia.



**Abraham Kuuku
Sam**

**Data Policy Advisor
at GIZ African
Union Office**



David Gowu

**Executive Director,
IIPGH**



Francis Gatsi

**Lecturer,
Ashesi University**



**Amma
Benneh-Amponsah**

**Head of People for
Africa, Newmont**



**Prof. Robert Ebo
Hinson**

**Pro Vice Chancellor,
Ghana Communication
Technology University**



**Richard Kafui
Amanfu**

**Director, Operations
and Membership,
IIPGH**



**Nana Adjoa
Adobea Asante**

**Secretary
to the NCA**



**Grace Elizabeth
Anim-Yeboah**

**Director,
Business Banking,
Absa Bank Ghana**



**Muniratu
Musah**

**Core Network
Planning Engineer,
MTN Ghana**



C.K. Bruce

**CEO,
Innovare**

Our Focus

- **Membership**
- **Professional Services**
- **Academy**
- **Public Awareness**



Membership

- Mobilization of professionals, students and businesses in the ICT ecosystem
- Membership administration: Recommendation letters, attestations and networking
- Professional Development Training and Certifications



Professional Services

- ICT Consultancy and Solutions for businesses
- Curriculum review for educational institutions (from basic to tertiary)
- Job placement and recruitment of experts for companies
- IT Human Resource Provider



Academy

- Coding Program (for kids, teens, and adults) in web technologies
- Professional Skills Development - Python for Data Science for professionals; Cybersecurity; Data Protection; Internet Governance
- National Teaching Council accreditation – Continuous Professional Development for teachers
- Digital skills education (basic, intermediate, advanced)



Public Awareness

- Articles publication in dedicated column (ICT insight with Institute of ICT Professionals) in the Business & Financial Times news paper and other digital portals.
- Workshops, Seminars, Symposiums, trainings for professional development in emerging technology areas such as Data science, Cybersecurity, Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Data Protection, Cloud Computing
- Quarterly Symposiums – Industry – Academia Tech Dialogue (INDAC-TED); Cybersecurity Awareness
- Annual Tech Job Fair (TJF)
- Annual Tech Entrepreneurs Forum (TEF)
- Advocacy – Women in Tech, Girls in ICT
- Radio and Television programs



Our Initiatives

Early-Start Skills Development

ICT skills training for young ones from “early start” in digital skills, various computer programming languages, web technologies, digital design and creative coding, etc.

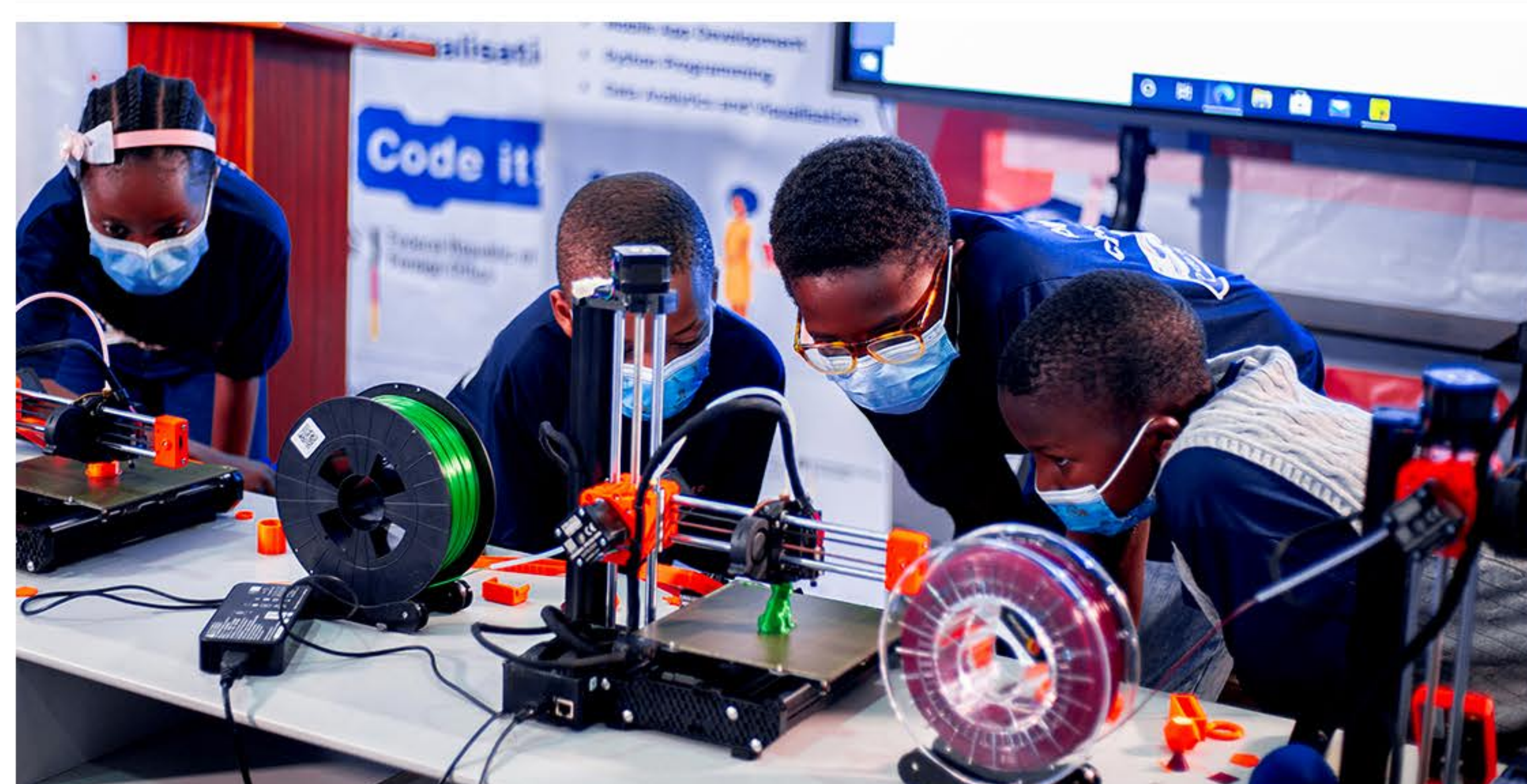
Professional Skills Development

ICT skills training and continuous professional development for students, young graduates and professionals.

Emerging technology training and other forms of capacity building to support the digital transformation agenda of the country

Industry-led Public education

ICT public education and sensitisation



INITIATIVES AND UPDATES

Tech Job Fair 2023



Tech Job Fair 2023

“Leveraging Technology to create Inclusive and Sustainable Jobs”

The 2023 edition of the annual tech job fair was held at the Accra International Conference Centre, Wednesday 22nd February 2023. The fair drew over 2500 participants, with 1926 attending in person and others participating remotely via Zoom and Facebook to learn, seek internships and employment from employers/recruiters, and understand the future of work. Fifty (50) firms were allocated booths to exhibit in the foyer of the conference center. In total, 3994 persons registered to participate in the event.

The fair is a flagship recruiting event planned, produced, and manned by the Institute of ICT Professional Ghana (IIPGH) in collaboration with the AFOS Foundation, with the goal of closing the country's unemployment gap. Last year, approximately 900 people attended the fair, and out of over 250 jobs offered, 70 people were successfully employed.

The full-day event, moderated by Ama Bawa, from the Cyber Security Authority, and Kafui Dey, GTV morning show host, had four sessions: the plenary session, an open fair exhibition, breakout sessions, and a business and networking cocktail session.

Beginning the first session with a welcome address, Professor Fred McBagonluri, Board Chair for the Institute of ICT Professionals Ghana (IIPGH) and President of Academic City University College, challenged the current generation to take advantage of volunteering and internship opportunities. He urged them to let go of the ambition to make quick money and instead seek out opportunities that would provide them with the necessary education and experience that would help them acquire their dream jobs and achieve their desired objective.

“You can always have your beautiful, desired career by walking into an organization and asking to volunteer. It is delightful to take these opportunities, and the next thing you know, you are employed. There are a lot of jobs out there, but they require the requisite skills, and how do you gain these jobs without taking learning opportunities? As a tertiary student, this is the time to take up these opportunities to be job ready,” he said.

Executive Director for the Institute of ICT Professionals Ghana (IIPGH), David Gowu, presenting on the overview of the institute noted that the fair is part of a larger objective by the institute to mobilize all ICT professionals, students, and businesses under one professional association/body to positively influence policy, development, standardization, and delivery of ICT across Ghana and beyond.

“At the Institute of ICT Professional Ghana, we are focused on educating society in diverse ways through our annual Tech Job Fair (TJF), annual Tech Entrepreneurs Forum (TEF), Advocacy—Women in Tech, Girls in ICT, Radio and Television ICT programs, and our Workshops, Seminars, Symposiums, and training for professional development in emerging technology areas such as Data Science, Cybersecurity, Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence and Ma-



chine Learning, Data Protection, Cloud Computing,” he mentioned.

Hannah Schlingmann, the project manager for the AFOS Foundation, emphasized the importance of better education and training for young people about new technologies and trends. She said, “We all need to stay current and updated in the tech industry because it is a dynamic field. Along with educational institutions, we provide training and work to connect them to business. We provide training that is in line with the demands of the sector. As young people, we must be creative and seize the opportunities that are available because technology is everywhere.”

Presenting on the event theme “Leveraging technology to create inclusive and sustainable jobs”, Adwoa Fosua Owusu Ofori, the guest speaker for this year’s event, and the founder and executive director of Women’s Haven Africa said, getting a digital job may help high-potential, underprivileged youth escape poverty. She believes that the internet economy offers huge potential for formal employment creation for historically marginalized youth.

Speaking in turn as the special guest of honor, the Director General of the National Information Technology Agency (NITA), Richard Okyere-Fosu, stressed the importance of ICT and its effect on society’s growth while urging all stakeholders to make an intentional effort to maximize and use ICT. He said, “as much as digitalization propels our development and offers opportunities to leapfrog most of the challenges we face as a developing country, it also comes with great risk if we do not manage the process well and put the right structures in place. One of the areas of concern is the caliber of human capital and the right numbers to support the digitalization agenda.”

He stated that the government is working to implement the Digital Economy Policy to provide direction for ICT sector players. One

of the major pillars of the policy document is Skills Development. The objective of this pillar is to ensure that we can develop the right kind of skills to support our digital economy and emerging technologies. Achieving the objectives of the Skills Development Pillar of the Digital Economy Policy is a shared responsibility for all stakeholders in the ICT industry and even beyond. Industry, Academia, and Government alike need to collaborate more than ever before to produce the kind of skillset required to power our industries and support our digitalized economy, he added.

Other speakers present at the event were Mike Loose, International Management Advisor, AFOS Foundation; Dr. Jannie J. Zaaiman, Secretary General of TICONA; Dr. Ing. Ken Ashigbey, CEO, Ghana Chamber of Telecoms; Jemima Ashietey, Head of Marketing, Jobberman; Eyram Tawia, CEO, Leti Arts; Anthony Dzamefe, CEO, Caveman Watches, and many more. Visit <http://bit.ly/TJF2023brochure> to download the program brochure and further details.

Exhibition Session

The exhibition session which started at 9am to 5pm, gave opportunities for 50 companies to not only increase their brand exposure but also presented an avenue for them to source the right human capital needed to add value. Participants engaged different companies at their various booths to enquire about their products and services, available opportunities, and how these opportunities can be explored.

Breakout sessions

During the third session, participants were divided into different mini halls to interact with specialists on four selected topics. Partners including Jobberman Ghana, L’aine HR Services, and MTN



Women in Tech took participants through CV Clinic, Interview sessions, and soft skills coaching workshops. GetINNOtized/GIBT and INNGN/4th-IR took another batch of participants through Training and Jobs Placement Workshop. Netherlands Trust Fund/International Trade Center (ITC) and Open Labs took another group of participants through Remote Work and Freelancing Opportunities. Leti Arts and Animax Animation Studios took the last batch of participants through Creative Arts and Game Development and Inclusivity. These courses and topics were designed to provide participants with expert knowledge in these subjects and to train them on how to best capitalize on possibilities in these industries.

Business and networking cocktail session

The last session was a business and networking cocktail event hosted by the German Cooperation (GIZ) that encouraged partici-

pants to step outside of their comfort zones and engage in conversations over refreshments. A few opening statements were made before a panel discussion on connected subjects, such as GIZ's relationship with the IT industry, began the session. The meeting came to an end with networking over drinks.

Participants said in-person interactions helped them gauge the atmospheres of companies and helped them build more direct connections. This session was reserved for representatives of the exhibiting companies and other invited guests to share industry training and development perspectives.

The Tech Job Fair aims to bring together companies looking for new talents, on the one hand, and job-seeking graduates on the other, to exhibit and fill up job openings through an innovative rapid recruitment process. Currently, there are over 300 job opportunities available on the TJF website. Visit www.techjobfair-ghana.com/listings to apply or share with your contacts—to promote graduate employability in Ghana.



INITIATIVES AND UPDATES

Tech Entrepreneurs Forum



Tech Entrepreneurs Forum

“Fostering stronger collaboration between industry and academia to promote tech entrepreneurship”

The Institute of ICT Professionals Ghana (IIPGH), together with AFOS Foundation for Entrepreneurial Development Cooperation and other partners, has set aside June as Tech Entrepreneurship Forum (TEF) Month to foster collaboration between industry and academia.

The month-long event kicked off with a virtual open day under the theme; Fostering Stronger Collaboration Between Industry and Academia to Promote Tech Entrepreneurship. It featured information technology industry experts of companies from Germany, who provided participants with the chance to engage and learn from them.

Executive Director for the Institute of ICT Professionals, Ghana (IIPGH), David Gowu, in his opening remarks during the forum indicated that there is a need to bring academia and industry closer. He said, “We want to bring academia and industry closer; we want to ensure that what is going on in academia benefits industry and vice versa. So, this forum focuses on how to foster collaborations between those in industry and academia. For our organization, that is one of the main objectives.”

Vice president for Internationalisation and Diversity, Bonn-Rhein Sieg University of Applied Sciences, Germany, Professor Juergen Bode, who gave a presentation on the topic ‘German Practice-Oriented Education: Understanding Industry-Academia collaborations’ mentioned that it is best to hire professors who have had some level of experience in the industry besides the theory.



He mentioned that having such resource persons in the university will help in bridging the gap between the two sectors which will go further to help the universities create an easy collaboration with the industries to help address the existing challenge.

“Let me show a few success factors that I believe are important. Every professor at the University of Applied Sciences must have industry experience. He or she must have at least five years of working experience after graduation. Then the minimum of three years must be outside academia,” he explained.

“So, this is the advantage that every professor at the University of Applied Sciences has, contacts with industry, knows how industry processes work, knows how theoretical knowledge is to be transferred into a practical environment, and has personal relationships with companies that help the professor support students also establishing links with industry. And always current with new developments in the industry to transfer this immediately into the university environment,” he added.

Speaking on better approaches to begin good collaboration between academia and industry, he advised it is essential that instead of academia seeking sponsorship from industry, they must rather invite them for programs that provide inputs for industries.

He said this will create networking opportunities for universities, adding that such a move is valued by the industry as one that adds value.

To achieve collaboration between the two sides, there is the need to eliminate mistrust between both, while the government comes out with a policy that will help drive the partnership needed. This is important because both academia and industry will need each other's contribution.

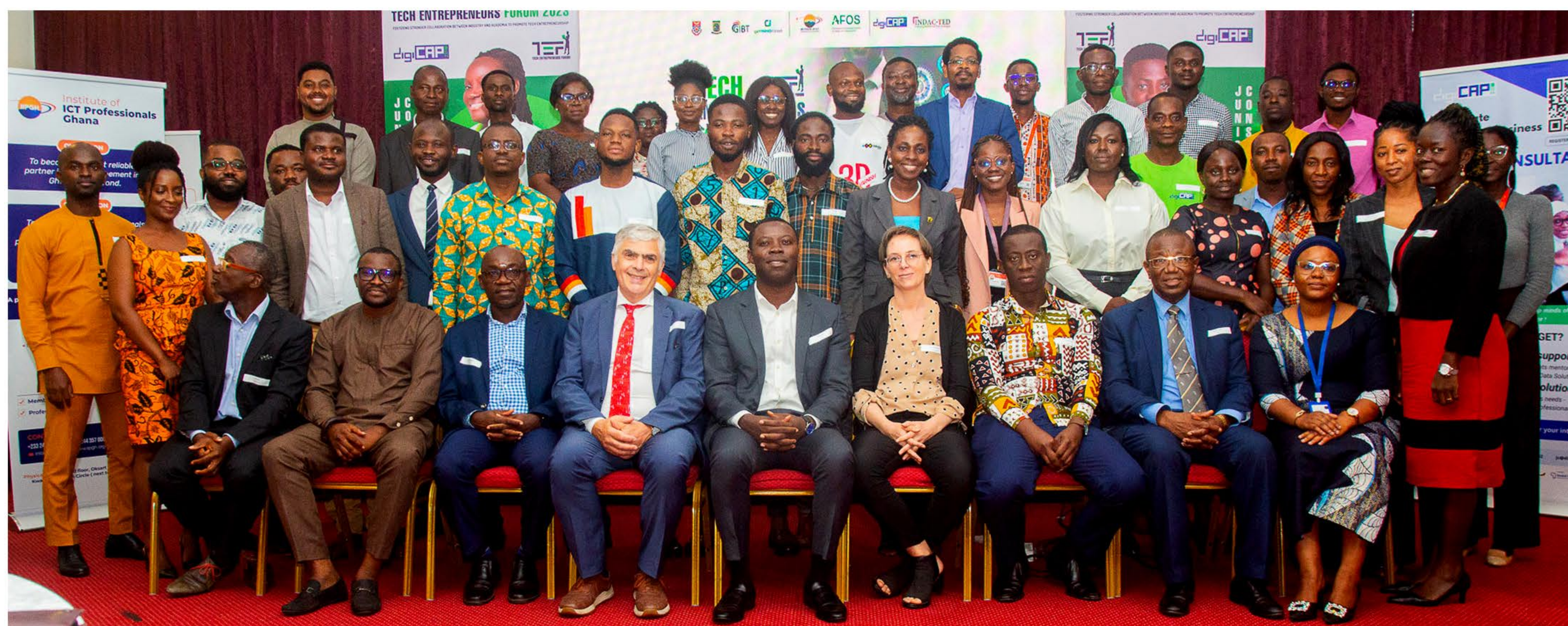
Year in Review

Tech Entrepreneurs Forum

The second day of the forum held a discussion on 'Doing Business in Ghana' which cut across topics like; Work culture in Ghana, work ethics, soft skills required for corporate success, and leading tech skills in Ghana, among others.

Pro Vice Chancellor of the University of Cape Coast, Professor Rosemond Boohene advised young individuals doing business to spend quality time on finding good information that will help them grow their businesses, explaining that it is another form of investing in their business.

The art of doing business in recent times according to business experts cannot thrive without technology as it has been the driving force of the majority of businesses in the world. This has become important for entrepreneurs to tap into the gains technology brings onboard to their businesses.



TEF Month will also include the Industry-Academia Tech Dialogue (INDAC-TED). This session seeks to facilitate healthy dialogue between academia and industry to bridge the skills gap and enhance the training of skilled human resources in the IT sector. It comes off on July 21 at the University of Ghana, Legon.

Then the main highlight of the month, the Tech Entrepreneurs Forum (TEF), initiated by IIPGH, will provide a networking platform and workshop for corporate organizations, SMEs, independent consultants, and startups to showcase their products and services. TEF will take place on June 21 at the Holiday Inn, Accra.

The month then ends with the DigiCAP Business Breakfast Meeting on June 30. It shall serve as an evaluation and wrap-up of the entire Tech Entrepreneurship Month (TEF). This comes off at the IIPGH office in Accra.

For IIPGH, promoting cooperation between industry and academia, Tech Entrepreneurship Forum Month strives to create a supportive environment for tech entrepreneurs, where academia's research capabilities and the industry's market expertise are important drivers of innovation and economic growth.

This partnership project is supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) within the framework of the Special Initiative "Decent Work for a Just Transition" via sequa GmbH.



INITIATIVES AND UPDATES

Industry-Academia Tech Dialogue 7



7th Industry-Academia Tech Dialogue

“Technology As an Enabler for the Creative Arts Industry”

Globally, UNESCO reports that the Cultural and Creative sectors account for about 3.1 percent of the world’s gross domestic product (GDP) and about 6.2 percent of all employment. This makes the sector one of the most strategic when it comes to investments for economic development. In most advanced countries, the sector is well-developed and contributes significantly to economic growth. For example, in the United States, the Creative Arts industry, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis and National Endowment for the Arts, employs about 4.9 million persons whose combined annual earnings amount to \$370 billion. This translates to about 4.2 percent of the country’s GDP, representing \$763.3 billion. In the United Kingdom, the sector in 2015 contributed about £85 billion, which represents 5 percent of the GDP.

Creative Arts are very broad and traditionally span across areas such as arts and crafts, jewelry making, architecture, books, poetry, plays, music, dance, fashion design, etc. With modern technology, the sector has expanded to include photography, videography, radio, television, and more recently software development (gaming, animation, cartooning, websites, social media, online streaming, artificial intelligence, etc.).

Increasingly, the application of technology in the Creative Arts sector is gaining currency in socio-academic discourses. This particularly follows the consequential impact of COVID-19 on the sector. Some analysts have bemoaned the lack of support for the sector, especially in developing countries which, paradoxically,



are home to young energetic populations. These analysts believe that in the post-COVID-19 era, it would be important for countries to pay special attention to how technology can be used as an enabler for Creative Arts.

In Ghana, the Creative Arts Industry is quite vibrant. For example, there is currently a Ministry of Tourism, Arts, and Culture that oversees the development of the creative arts sector. Beyond the ministry, there is also a Creative Arts Council (CAC) which is charged with the responsibility of promoting a creative arts industry that is thriving and dynamic from the area of “music, to fashion, theatre, architecture and the visual arts and design.” The council believes Ghana is internationally “a strong force to be reckoned with when it comes to the creative arts.”

Last December (2022) Ghana virtually became the epicenter of international music concerts in line with the country’s strategy of using the arts to bring in tourists, especially from the Diaspora. For example, the Afrochella Concert drew in huge crowds from the Diaspora and other African countries. The high patronage of the concerts, some argue, shows that indeed Ghana has the potential to evolve a profitable creative arts industry.

However, it is important to stress that the creative arts go beyond entertainment. The push in Ghana, presently, for technical and vocational education is linked to the need for young persons in school to be given the opportunity to express themselves in different ways rather than the excessive emphasis on grammarian education. More often than not, creative people dislike it when they are boxed into straitjacket systems. They like to be free to create and innovate.

And this is where technology comes in. In today’s world, there are several technological tools for creativity. The emergence of social media has also given young people a myriad of outlets to share their personal creative content with the rest of the world. For example, a lot of young people are using YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, etc. to share content they create using free digital tools.



Year in Review

Industry-Academia Tech Dialogue



Against this backdrop, institutions like the Institute of ICT Professionals (IIPGH) have been interested in bringing together professionals to dialogue and explore ways and means by which technology can support creative people. It is for this reason that the Institute is dedicating its quarterly INDAC-TED (Industry-Academia Tech Dialogue), the 7th edition since its inception, to discuss the theme, “Technology as an enabler for the Creative Arts Industry”.

The event will take place at the Accra Technical University on Thursday, February 16, 2023, as part of the outlined pre-events of the Tech Job Fair 2023, and speakers will include experts who are well-versed in the subject. There will be a panel discussion involving seasoned professionals from both academia and industry. As well, there will be an open forum where the participants could engage in a Q&A session.

Partners/Organizers

DigiCAP.gh is an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) project by the Special Initiative on Training and Job Creation, funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through sequa gGmbH, and implemented by AFOS, the German Foundation for Entrepreneurial Development Cooperation. As part of the project’s objectives, ICT-related capacity-building programs are organized in partnership with the Institute of ICT Professionals Ghana (IIPGH) and its partners from the ICT industry in Ghana and beyond. These programs target employment opportunities for young people and how to unlock sustainable jobs in relevant emerging technologies knowledge areas. Industry-Academia Tech Dialogue (INDAC-TED), a



quarterly symposium, has become one platform to discuss issues of skills development and employment. To expand the conversation on job opportunities, the Tech Job Fair (TJF2022) was organized, which highlighted Remote ICT Service Delivery as another area of employment for the youth.



INITIATIVES AND UPDATES

Industry-Academia Tech Dialogue 8



8th Industry-Academia Tech Dialogue

“Transforming businesses with Data Analytics and AI”

Event Overview

The potential and value propositions of these two distinct but increasingly convergent technologies, data analytics and artificial intelligence (AI), demonstrate broad and varied applications across many sectors due to the dynamic nature of innovation. The use of real-time data and analytics dashboards by major hospital networks has reduced patient length of stay and saved millions of dollars. Mining companies have improved productivity and cut costs by using AI to assess equipment health. Cybersecurity firms have improved protection from cyber threats and attacks by using AI applications to detect new threats, generate alerts and responses, identify new malware, and protect sensitive data that would otherwise be vulnerable.

Several causes have disturbed the corporate world today. In reaction to these upheavals, many businesses have come to understand the importance of data analytics, and artificial intelligence (AI), to their operational effectiveness. Analytics is now a requirement for corporate success to move firms forward. The development of these technologies has made data collection simpler than ever before. As competition among economic sectors has been fiercer than ever, firms have started looking for ways to get an advantage over rivals in the market.



Analytics is, at its core, the expression of trends, behaviours, and interests. It is a means to fully comprehend both your clients and your entire organization. Data is no longer merely a consequence of corporate operations in today's digital world. It has developed into a priceless resource that can be used to open doors and stay one step ahead of the competition. For companies that want to prosper in this dynamic and data-centric climate, adopting data analytics is no longer a choice but rather a requirement.

Without a question, AI is both the present and the future of this digital world. If AI is still not fully incorporated into your company's system, you run the risk of falling behind your rivals. Data analytics as we currently know it is being transformed by AI, creating new development prospects. Businesses all around the world are now able to produce results with unrivalled speed, efficiency, and effectiveness thanks to AI and data analytics.

Businesses are being transformed by AI and data analytics because they can offer insightful data that can boost productivity and efficiency. Big data, AI, and predictive analytics are being used by businesses to personalize and optimize the performance of their digital marketing campaigns, anticipate, and capitalize on new market and industry trends, analyse consumer behaviour, and automate customer segmentation, and use intelligent decision support systems.

Automation, simplification, and acceleration of the data preparation and insight generating processes are all possible with AI. Large streams of streaming data can be automatically analysed to swiftly spot trends and produce insights for useful action. Businesses can swiftly transform unreliable data into trustworthy insights and power business transformation initiatives with the help of data analytics automation. In a competitive market, speed is vital. Real-time data insights are necessary for the effective introduction of new services and the enhancement of current products.

AI significantly reduces the time and effort required to manage the whole data life cycle, from data preparation through visualization and helping users make sense of their data. Thus, in today's

digital age, data-driven decision-making is rapidly taking over as the standard. Businesses, big and small, are using this technology because data collecting and analysis are more accessible than ever. The results are impressive.

Finding value in the data that businesses gather is largely dependent on the convergence of analytics and AI. When used, AI removes analysis paralysis and prevents incorrect interpretations by quickly delivering clear and actionable guidance from massive data sets. By using AI to analyze data, businesses will be able to identify trends, assess current initiatives, and better understand customer behavior, revealing previously unnoticed opportunities. Additionally, companies can adopt innovative automation and consumer engagement strategies that increase productivity, create new revenue streams and lower existing costs.

HOW DATA AND AI WORK TO SUPPORT BUSINESSES

Although gathering data has long been a crucial aspect of business, modern digital tools have made it simpler than ever. Applications with AI capabilities may quickly process any data set, whether it is derived from a database or is gathered in real-time. AI solutions are being used by businesses to boost productivity, create personalized experiences, support decision-making, and cut costs. Analytics and automation are frequently enhanced with data and AI, assisting organizations to transform their operations. Thus, to embark on a successful data analytics journey, it is critical to develop a data-driven culture within your company. Employees must be trained to understand and apply data in their daily work, and they must be encouraged to base their decisions on factual evidence rather than just their intuition.

The market offers a wide array of data analytics tools, serving a range of business sizes, sectors, and needs. It is crucial to carefully choose the technologies that correspond with the needs of your firm, from reliable business intelligence systems like Tableau and Power BI to cutting-edge machine learning applications.

Analytics tools, such as Microsoft® Azure® Synapse, help organizations in predicting or identifying trends that guide decisions regarding workflows, product development, and other areas. Your data will also be arranged into readable dashboard visualizations, reports, charts, and graphs.

Meanwhile, business processes can be automated when data and AI solutions are developed. For instance, AI can support inventory tracking, predictive maintenance, and safety checks in the manufacturing sector or on the production line. Any business can utilize AI to evaluate documents, conduct document searches, and handle customer service inquiries.

Due to how AI reads visual, textual, and auditory representations, even while it has not yet equaled or surpassed human intellect, the technology is getting simpler to adopt and integrate into many business techniques. Specific abilities are required for data interpretation and meaningful insight extraction. If your company lacks the necessary skills internally, you might choose to hire data scientists or analysts to fill these positions. As an alternative, you could decide to outsource your data analytics tasks to specialist companies who have the required expertise.

INDAC-TED 8

On the back of this, the 8th quarterly Industry-Academia Tech Dialogue (INDAC-TED 8) shall focus on how data and AI support businesses. The event, organized by the Institute of ICT Professionals Ghana (IIPGH) in partnership with digiCAP.gh, is planned to take place this Friday 28th July 2023, at the R.S. Amegashie Auditorium, University of Ghana Business School (UGBS), Legon. The afternoon event in collaboration with the UGBS, starts from 2 pm to 5 pm, and is themed, “Transforming Businesses with Data Analytics and AI: the Role of Industry and Academia”.



DigiCAP.gh is an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) project by the Special Initiative on Training and Job Creation, funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through sequa gGmbH, and implemented by AFOS, the German Foundation for Entrepreneurial Development Cooperation. As part of the project's objectives, ICT-related capacity-building programs are organized in partnership with the Institute of ICT Professionals Ghana (IIPGH) and its partners from the industry and academia, in Ghana and beyond.

The primary goal of DigiCAP is to enable educational and business institutions to sustainably administer practice-oriented ICT qualification programs and accompanying strategies to spur employment and entrepreneurship.

The INDAC-TED as a branded service product of IIPGH, supported by DigiCAP.gh, aims to be developed and be positioned for enhancing networking among ICT stakeholders in Ghana and attract other stakeholders (education providers, private and public sector agencies, students, individuals, etc) to take active roles in the development of ICT in Ghana for the future of work. As a capacity-building organization, IIPGH is always very ready to engage relevant stakeholders through such platforms to shape and impact policy.

The partnership project is supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) within the framework of the Special Initiative “Decent Work for a Just Transition” via sequa gGmbH.

INITIATIVES AND UPDATES

Industry-Academia Tech Dialogue 9



9th Industry-Academia Tech Dialogue

"Application of Agritech to improve food production"

In a bid to revolutionize the agricultural sector and tap into its immense potential, experts at the 2nd agritech symposium and exhibition held under the 9th quarterly INDAC-TED have emphasized the need to harness the power of agritech to fully transform the sector.

With a focus on the theme: "Application of Agritech to improve food production", experts from the agricultural and technology sectors gathered to delve into the future of agriculture and explore the potential of agritech as a key driver for increased food production.

With a growing global population and limited arable land, the need for innovative solutions to boost food production has become more pressing than ever. They emphasized that agritech, the application of technology in agriculture, holds immense promise in meeting this challenge.



Presentations

Presenting on the country's agricultural sector, Vice Chancellor, Ho Technical University, Professor Ben Honyenuga, bemoaned the state at which Ghana is dependent on other countries for most of its agricultural produce. He said the continuous act poses huge threat to Ghana's food security agenda.

"The last time I watched the news, traders from the onion market were lamenting on the lack of onions to sell and that is because there is turbulence in Niger where they import these onions. We have the human resource because each year we produce many agricultural scientists and without any scientific prove, we have fertile lands and that is why we have to leverage the right technology to improve our agriculture and not depend on other countries," he said.

Year in Review

Industry-Academia Tech Dialogue 9

Municipal Chief Executive (MCE) for the Ho Municipal Assembly, Divine Richard Komla Bosson in his remarks emphasized the need for the youth to be involved in the agricultural sector reiterating that leveraging technology will not only help make a positive impact on the environment but also tap into a market with significant financial potential.

He said the Institute for ICT Professional Ghana (IIPGH), in collaboration with AFOS Foundation and digiCAP, has been at the forefront of promoting dialogue and collaboration between industry and academia.

Project Manager for DigiCAP.gh, Hanna Schlingmann, expressed her excitement towards the forum emphasizing the need to come together to explore the potential ways that the use of technology can be applied to agriculture to benefit human existence.

"I feel that today's topic is particularly important, why because it effects all of us and I am glad that we have come together to think about and discuss, and share our knowledge on how food production can be improved," she said.

The partnership between IIPGH and AFOS Foundation is supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) within the framework of the Special Initiative 'Decent Work for a Just Transition' via sequa gGmbH.

Harnessing Data and Blockchain Technology

Delivering the keynote remarks, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the Chamber of Agribusiness, Anthony Morrisson highlighted the importance of data in making informed decisions in modern farming practices.

He stressed that leveraging data analytics and advanced technologies could optimize crop management, resource allocation, and supply chain logistics.

"Data is the backbone of the agricultural revolution we're witnessing today. It allows us to gain valuable insights and real-time information to improve yields, mitigate risks, and optimize resource utilization," he said.

"By harnessing the power of data, farmers and agribusinesses can make smarter, data-driven choices to enhance productivity and reduce waste," he added.

Panel Discussion

In a thought-provoking panel discussion, Co-Founder & Business Strategy Lead for Byte Africa, Jerry Kwaku Afenyo Denou emphasized the integration of robotics and automation as a game-changer. He said: "With the help of robotic systems, tasks such as planting, harvesting, and monitoring crops can be performed efficiently, reducing the need for manual labor and increasing overall productivity".

Head of Department of Agricultural Sciences and Technology at the Ho Technical University, Professor Ken Fafa Egbadzor shed light on precision agriculture.

He said with advanced knowledge, farmers could employ this method as an approach that utilizes data analytics, remote sensing, and other advanced technologies to enable farmers to make informed decisions about crop management.



Year in Review

Industry-Academia Tech Dialogue 9

“Now technology has made it easier to monitor soil conditions, weather patterns, and crop health in real-time, farmers can optimize irrigation, fertilization, and pest control, resulting in higher yields and reduced environmental impact,” he said.

The panelists highlighted the potential for further advancements in this field, with the development of autonomous vehicles and drones that can monitor and manage large-scale farming operations.

At the end of the panel discussion, the forum was opened for students and participants to contribute by participating in the question-and-answer session.



Exhibition

The symposium featured an exhibition that presented participants within the agricultural value chain the opportunity to showcase their array of products and services.

It also provided a network session for participant and experts within these value chain.



INITIATIVES AND UPDATES

Quarterly webinars



IIPGH Cybersecurity Quarterly Workshop is a collaborative effort between IIPGH and partner institutions (government and industry) to ensure every Ghanaian has the resources they need to stay safe and secure online, to create awareness and educate citizens on the importance of good cyber hygiene, while increasing the resilience of the nation against cyber threats. It is a quarterly event spearheaded by IIPGH and its partners. The Institute as a major stakeholder in ICT capacity building and public awareness has been involved in many collaborative cybersecurity awareness programs towards a Safer Digital Ghana. Each one of us needs to do our part to make sure that our online lives are kept safe and secure. That is what Cybersecurity Awareness means to IIPGH.

Objective

The main objective of this Cybersecurity public education and awareness program is to educate and train the public, organizations and employees, users, and digital consumers, about the threats that lurk in cyberspace, to improve their understanding, how to prevent such threats and what they must do in the event of a security incident and develop a good cyber-hygiene. Also, to encourage learners (students and other professionals) to skill-up and build capacity in this area, taking it as a career. Before anything else, one needs to understand their digital footprints and cyber exposure.

Structure and Implementation

IIPGH collaborates with strategic organizations to carry out public engagement activities and capacity building for its professional members and the public. Capacity building programs take the form of a blended approach. As members of the institute are located across the country and some beyond the borders of Ghana, training, and workshops shall be organised in a hybrid mode, physical and online connectivity via platforms such as zoom. Repeated event announcements will be made with countdown prior to the event date via suitable social media platforms, and an invitation sent to potential participants via email for registration and confirmation.

Expected Outcomes

IIPGH and its supporting organization(s), by this program, seek to contribute to and drive a Safer Digital Ghana, enhancing development and capacity-building of its members and networking among ICT stakeholders in Ghana.

The cybersecurity awareness quarterly workshops are preludes to the National Cyber Security Awareness Month, observed in the month of October, globally. This has been a deliberate practice since 2018 to educate the public on cybersecurity related matters. Held every quarter of the year, IIPGH involves interested stakeholders to participate in this important drive. In 2023, we only covered 2 quarters instead of 3 quarters due to logistical reasons.

CYBERSECURITY WEBINAR

Topic

DISSECTING THE CHANGES IN THE ISO/IEC 27002:2022 STANDARD

This webinar will discuss the key changes in the latest version of the ISO/IEC 27002 Standard (Information security, cybersecurity and privacy protection — Information security controls).

Date: 18th May, 2023 **Time:** 6pm to 7pm

Presenter **Sherrif Issah**
Information Security Governance, Risk and Compliance Professional
Director of Communications, IIPGH

Scan to Join

<https://bit.ly/ICW23Q2>

Organized by IIPGH Information Security Working Group

www.iipgh.org / info@iipgh.org

#iipgh_gh #iipgh1 iipgh <https://www.linkedin.com/company/iipgh/>

Deloitte.

WEBINAR

Changes In PCI DSS V4.0, & The Way Forward

The webinar is aimed at discussing the key changes in the latest version of the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS v4.0). With the approaching retirement of PCI DSS v3.2.1, participants will be equipped with effective ways of transitioning, and meeting the new requirements of PCI DSS v4.0.

Wednesday, 16 August 2023 10:00am – 11:30am (GMT) Free

Zoom Webinar Registration Link: bit.ly/deloittepci23

In Partnership With:

Sherrif: +233 501 320 898 Marian: +233 200 168 815 Deloitte Ghana

INITIATIVES AND UPDATES

National cyber security awareness month (NCSAM 2023)



National Cyber Security Awareness Month (NCSAM 2023)

Licensing of Cybersecurity Service Providers, accreditation of Cybersecurity Establishments and Cybersecurity Professionals: Status and key requirements for its long term success

Introduction and Background

The Internet is becoming increasingly interwoven in the daily lives of many individuals, organizations, and nations. It has become second nature to millions of people. The amount of time we spend online increases every year, and more information about us appears on the Web each time. It has largely had a positive effect on the way people communicate. It has also introduced new avenues for business; and it has offered nations an opportunity to govern online. Nevertheless, although cyberspace offers an endless list of services and opportunities, it is also accompanied by many risks, of which many Internet users are not aware. It is not until you are attacked that you realize cyber-attacks are a part of every business in a digital world. As such, the Institute of ICT Professionals Ghana (IIPGH) has developed and implemented cyber-security awareness and education measures to counter the perceived ignorance of the Internet users, and to contribute to a Safer Digital Ghana.

Event Overview

The 2023 edition of the National Cyber Security Awareness Month (NCSAM) was officially launched by the Deputy Minister of Communications and Digitalisation, Hon. Ama Pomaa Boateng on Monday, October 2, 2023, at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Accra, marking the beginning of the month-long program to raise awareness and to improve Ghana's cybersecurity practices among the Public, Businesses, and the Government.

The National Cyber Security Awareness Month (NCSAM, 2023), on the theme "Promoting a Culture of Digital Safety", reflects the commitment of the Ministry of Communications and Digitalisation, through the Cyber Security Authority (CSA), to strategically position Ghana's cybersecurity readiness and to sensitize the public on the need to take digital security seriously.

Cyber Security Authority In Collaboration With Institute of ICT Professionals Ghana Present



NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS MONTH | NCSAM 2023

TOPIC

Licensing of Cybersecurity Service Providers, accreditation of Cybersecurity Establishments and Cybersecurity Professionals: Status and key requirements for its long term success.

PANELISTS



Emmanuel K. Gadasu
Head of Data Protection (IIPGH) & Data Privacy Consultant (IDS)



Edith Esi Mould
Head of Professional Development (IIPGH) & Senior Manager, Risk Advisory (Deloitte)



Jennifer Mensah
Lead, Legal and Compliance (CSA)



Ama Bawa
Moderator

19TH OCT. 2023

11:00 AM

JOIN ONLINE



Scan to Register
<https://bit.ly/NCSAM2023>

www.iipgh.org

For the 2023 year, IIPGH in collaboration with the CSA organized a webinar, focusing and discussing matters around "Licensing of Cybersecurity Service Providers (CSP), accreditation of Cybersecurity Establishments (CE) and Cybersecurity Professionals (CP). The CSA was established by the Cybersecurity Act, 2020 (Act 1038) to regulate cybersecurity activities in the country, thus, the Authority recently announced the commencement of the process of licensing Cybersecurity Service Providers (CSPs), accreditation of Cybersecurity Establishments (CEs) and Cybersecurity Professionals (CPs), mainly to ensure regulatory compliance with the Act and industry best practices.

IIPGH, pleased to be the host of this program, looks forward to an insightful journey into the world of Cybersecurity Licensing and Accreditation in Ghana.

Weekly Titbits

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Week 1 | <i>Password and authentication</i>
■ Multi-Factor Magic |
| Week 2 | <i>Password and authentication</i>
■ Password Managers |
| Week 3 | <i>Social Media Security</i>
■ Smartphone Security |
| Week 4 | <i>Mobile Device Security</i>
■ Regular Update |
| Week 5 | <i>Mobile Device Security</i>
■ App Permissions |

INITIATIVES AND UPDATES

National cyber security awareness month (NCSAM 2023)



The Sherrif Security Indicator v4.23

Introduction

The Sherrif Security Indicator (TSSI) is an annual online survey that is organized to commemorate the Cyber Security Awareness Month. TSSI researches into the most critical security concerns of residents of Ghana. This is the fourth edition of the survey.

TSSI asks respondents to indicate their greatest and least security concerns from a list of security threats including the following: disaster/epidemic, hacking, identity theft, inability to meet financial obligations, mobile money fraud, payment card fraud, personal safety, security of online banking/shopping, and national security.

Respondents in this year's survey rated their inability to meet their financial obligations as their greatest security concern, whilst they rated mobile money fraud as their least security concern.

The survey was conducted using Google Forms, which was shared with residents of Ghana via social media and email.

The survey was conducted for a period of 7 weeks; from 2nd September 2023 to 19th October 2023. Out of the approximately 1,900 persons targeted for this study, 364 responses were received.



OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Coding education for Ghana initiative

CODING,
The 21st Century Skill

**THE
CODING
CARAVAN**



The Coding Caravan

The Coding Caravan is a digital skills awareness program as part of the Coding Education for Ghana Initiative of IIPGH. Since 2018, the Institute has introduced coding to young ones starting from age 8, involving three different stakeholders in the industry, and ten (11) different centers/schools in 5 regions of Ghana. With a vision of taking the coding program beyond the national capital, IIPGH in August 2021 birthed a Coding Caravan initiative that toured the southern parts of the country with a mission to introduce coding to young people. The caravan kicked off in Accra and made stopovers in the Central, Western, Eastern, and Volta regions. Targeting pupils, teachers/trainers, schools, communities, educators, and policymakers in Ghana. 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.

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Vodafone #CodeLikeaGirl Program



IIPGH COLLABORATES WITH VODAFONE GHANA TO TRAIN 1000 YOUNG GIRLS IN DIGITAL SKILLS

In April 2023, the Institute of ICT Professionals, Ghana (IIPGH) in partnership with Vodafone Ghana trained 1000 girls aged between 7 and 18 years in digital skills. The partnership is a significant step forward in promoting gender diversity and inclusion, as it provided young girls with access to digital skills training that might otherwise have been out of reach. The training was an online (via Zoom) interactive program, instructor-led, in five sessions for 5 Saturdays–April 1st to April 29th, 2023. The online program offered a unique opportunity to reach participants from different parts of Ghana, including urban and rural areas, and beyond. As interactive as it was, the younger students had their parents/guardians taking part and helping their wards through the practical and engaging sessions.

Over two thousand six hundred (2600) females applied for this training. The successful applicants were grouped according to age and each group was introduced to a different module. To facilitate this program, and bearing in mind the need for connectivity, participants were provided Vodafone internet data to connect every Saturday to join their morning/afternoon sessions.

The coding workshop provided participants with the opportunity to learn basic coding concepts in Scratch, Code it!, 3D design, and website development.

The scratch module introduced students to the scratch coding platform. They were taught how to use various code blocks to create animations, games, and other interactive projects. Another module introduced was Code it! platform, designed to teach students important coding concepts such as event handling, loops, procedures, and functions. The course, being project-based, included several relatable projects.

The other modules that were taught are the website development module and 3D design module which provided participants with the foundations of web development, including HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and an introduction to the world of three-dimensional modeling and design. Throughout the coding workshop, 40 classes were conducted. The virtual setting allowed for interactive sessions, screen sharing, and real-time feedback from participants/parents/guardians, volunteers from Vodafone, and instructors. Participants engaged with their peers, asked questions and received guidance from experienced coding educators.

Impact of the Program

The Code Like a Girl program is promoting females to take learning and opportunities in digital skills and emerging technologies—the very essence of IIPGH focusing on younger ages (early start). Providing training and mentorship opportunities through virtual platforms allows for larger participation, overcoming the challenges of distance and accessibility that had previously limited its reach.

The program has also helped to challenge the stereotypes and biases that have historically kept females and other underrepresented groups such as the rural communities out of the tech space. Showcasing the talents and abilities of these young females in technology helps to break down barriers and create a more inclusive and fair space.

Conclusion

This program and other initiatives have demonstrated the importance of promoting diversity and inclusion, not just for ethical reasons but also for economic and social reasons. A more diverse and inclusive tech space can lead to more innovative and creative solutions, better products and services, and more prosperous society. Thus, it is encouraged that policymakers, organizations, and other stakeholders get involved to play critical roles in promoting diversity and inclusivity in the tech space. As digital skills become more relevant than ever, it is just right that females are not left out in this male-dominated space.

The Institute continues to collaborate with organizations to deliver tailored training programs for females of all ages, to encourage and guide them through careers and opportunities in emerging technologies.

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Coding Caravan with Ghana Chamber of Telecoms



GHANA CHAMBER OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

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 OFOASE AYIREBI

EASTERN REGION AKIM ODA
GREATER ACCRA REGION PRAMPAM



www.telecomschamber.com / www.iipgh.org



Digital Skills for Life

'Maiden Coding Caravan for the year 2023'



Akim Oda

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 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.





Agona Swedru

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.



Ningo-Prampram

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.



Ofoase Ayirebi

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 Oppong 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.

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

International Day of the Girl Child
IIPGH Women's Wing

www.iipgh.org



IIPGH WOMEN'S WING Presents

Digital Skills Workshop

for JHS Girls at Ofankor MA Basic School to commemorate
International Day of the Girl Child

THEME

**Breaking Barriers, Building Futures:
Mentoring Girls for Rights and Equality**

Breaking Barriers, Building Futures: Mentoring Girls for Rights and Equality

The Women's Wing of the Institute of ICT Professionals Ghana (IIPGH), as part of its "Digital Girls" initiative and to commemorate the International Day of the Girl Child, organized a 1-day workshop on Friday 13th October 2023, for one hundred and fifty (150) Junior High School Girls at the Ofankor MA Basic School in partnership with the IoT Network Hub. This workshop was divided into three (3) concurrent sessions. There was a 3D Design/Scratch session, a Mentoring Session and Internet of Things (IoT) session. Students took turns participating in each session, guaranteeing that everyone derived value from every session.

The theme adopted by the Women's wing this year – "Breaking Barriers, Building Futures: Mentoring Girls for Rights and Equality", resonates well with the main theme adopted by the United Nations' – "Invest in Girls' Rights and Leadership," and emphasizes the significance of empowering girls as leaders within their communities. The IIPGH women's "Digital Girls" initiative actively promotes girls' involvement in STEM fields while addressing the technology industry's existing gender gap. It provides girls with the necessary tools and support to excel in tech-related areas. During this session, IIPGH Women encouraged the JHS girls to pursue STEM courses. The aim was to understand the challenges and obstacles these girls encounter and offer them solutions to achieve their goals. Juliana Ametorwogo (Director, Women in Tech, IIPGH) and Mrs. Gifty Mottey (Administrative Director,



IIPGH), presented themselves as mentors and women in STEM who have excelled in their fields, inspiring girls to break free from misconceptions and stereotypes. Christiana Ankrah (Girl Child Coordinator, Ga North Municipal Education Directorate) encouraged the girls to invest in themselves even as stakeholders are investing in them, so they could safely acquire the level of education that they seek, to ensure that they also become the changemakers the world is looking out for. They encountered myths like girls being told they are too small for science or equating engineering to car repairers wearing dirty clothes and working under cars.

However, by the end of the session, they witnessed a group of motivated girls ready to make a difference in their communities and lives, who now understood that they are perfectly capable of overcoming challenges and excelling in what they once considered difficult subjects. They discussed with them the latest technological trends and urged them to embrace and keep abreast with technology, ensuring they are never left behind. They provided real-life examples of how technology has transformed daily living, simplifying various aspects. The girls were inspired to consider roles in ICT, to enable them to develop tailored solutions for Ghanaian women within cultural contexts. It was truly exciting to witness the girls' happiness as industry professionals came to engage with them.

All three sessions were an exciting opportunity to interact with the girls and impart important skills into their lives, thus giving them a glimpse into the numerous possibilities available to them.

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Public education & Media Engagement Radio Talk Shows and Newspaper Articles

16 technology

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023

ICT Insight with
Institute of ICT Professionals

The crucial role of effective cyber regulations in enhancing national cybersecurity readiness

By Desmond BSAE, Digi

Historically, cyber threats have been a constant presence in the digital landscape. As technology advances, the threat of cyberattacks grows, posing significant risks to individuals, businesses, and nations. In this context, effective cyber regulations are not just a necessity but a critical factor in enhancing national cybersecurity readiness. This article explores the importance of these regulations and how they can be leveraged to build a more secure digital environment.

Firstly, cyber regulations provide a legal framework that defines acceptable behavior in the digital space. They establish the boundaries of what is considered a cybercrime, such as unauthorized access to systems, data theft, and the distribution of malware. By having these laws in place, governments can deter potential attackers and provide a basis for prosecution if a breach occurs.

Secondly, effective regulations mandate the implementation of security measures. For instance, they might require businesses to adhere to certain standards for data protection, such as encryption and regular security audits. This not only helps in preventing breaches but also ensures that organizations are prepared to respond effectively in the event of an incident.

Moreover, cyber regulations play a crucial role in fostering a culture of cybersecurity awareness. By educating the public and professionals about the risks and consequences of cyber threats, regulations can encourage more responsible digital behavior. This is particularly important for businesses, where a single security lapse can have severe financial and reputational impacts.

In conclusion, while the digital world offers numerous opportunities for growth and innovation, it also presents significant challenges in terms of cybersecurity. Effective cyber regulations are essential to address these challenges, providing a structured approach to managing risks and ensuring the resilience of our digital infrastructure. As technology continues to evolve, it is imperative that our regulatory frameworks keep pace to maintain the security and integrity of our digital lives.

Strategic Resource Allocation: It is not just about having resources; it's about allocating them effectively. This involves understanding the current state of cybersecurity readiness and identifying the gaps that need to be filled. Strategic resource allocation ensures that the right people, tools, and processes are in place to address these gaps.

Building a Resilient Future: Cybersecurity is not a one-time effort; it is an ongoing process. Building a resilient future requires a commitment to continuous improvement. This involves regularly updating regulations, implementing new technologies, and conducting training exercises to ensure that the organization is always prepared for the next threat.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

ICT Insight with
Institute of ICT Professionals

ESG: Why should your organization be concerned?

By Emmanuel K. GADUKE

In an era marked by growing awareness of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues, organizations are increasingly being held accountable for their impact on these areas. ESG is not just a buzzword; it is a framework that helps organizations measure and manage their performance in these critical areas. This article explores why your organization should be concerned about ESG and how it can benefit from a strong ESG strategy.

Firstly, ESG is becoming a key factor in investment decisions. Investors are increasingly looking for companies that are not only profitable but also socially responsible and environmentally friendly. A strong ESG performance can attract more investment, leading to financial growth and stability.

Secondly, ESG is a reflection of a company's values and culture. It shows how a company treats its employees, the environment, and the community. A strong ESG strategy can enhance a company's reputation, leading to increased customer loyalty and brand value.

Moreover, ESG is a risk management tool. It helps organizations identify and mitigate risks related to environmental, social, and governance issues. For example, a company that is not environmentally friendly may face regulatory fines or reputational damage. By addressing these issues proactively, a company can avoid these risks and ensure long-term sustainability.

In conclusion, ESG is no longer just a nice-to-have; it is a must-have for any organization looking to thrive in the 21st century. By adopting a strong ESG strategy, organizations can improve their financial performance, enhance their reputation, and ensure their long-term sustainability.

technology 19

24 ict

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2023

ICT Insight with
Institute of ICT Professionals

Digital skills for life

...IIPGH's transformative coding caravan reaches students in Ningo-Prampam District

By Desmond BSAE, Digi

Beyond the classroom, the Institute of ICT Professionals (IIPGH) is committed to providing digital skills training to the youth. This year, the institute launched a transformative coding caravan that reached students in the Ningo-Prampam District. The caravan, which was led by IIPGH staff and volunteers, provided students with hands-on experience in coding and digital literacy. The students learned the basics of programming, web development, and digital marketing. They also participated in various workshops and activities that helped them develop their problem-solving and critical thinking skills. The caravan was a great success, and it has inspired many more students to pursue digital skills training. IIPGH is proud to be a part of this journey and will continue to provide more such initiatives in the future.

Early childhood ICT education: The Institute of ICT Professionals (IIPGH) is committed to providing digital skills training to the youth. This year, the institute launched a transformative coding caravan that reached students in the Ningo-Prampam District. The caravan, which was led by IIPGH staff and volunteers, provided students with hands-on experience in coding and digital literacy. The students learned the basics of programming, web development, and digital marketing. They also participated in various workshops and activities that helped them develop their problem-solving and critical thinking skills. The caravan was a great success, and it has inspired many more students to pursue digital skills training. IIPGH is proud to be a part of this journey and will continue to provide more such initiatives in the future.

Teachers' role in digital skills training: Teachers play a crucial role in digital skills training. They are the ones who guide the students, provide feedback, and ensure that they are learning the right skills. Teachers should be encouraged to update their own skills and stay up-to-date with the latest trends in digital technology. They should also be provided with the necessary resources and training to effectively teach digital skills. By doing so, teachers can ensure that their students are well-prepared for the digital world and are able to compete in the job market.

Parents' role in digital skills training: Parents also play a crucial role in digital skills training. They should encourage their children to learn digital skills and provide them with the necessary resources and support. They should also monitor their children's online activities to ensure that they are safe and secure. By working together, parents and teachers can ensure that their children are well-prepared for the digital world and are able to compete in the job market.

Government's role in digital skills training: The government has a crucial role to play in digital skills training. It should provide the necessary funding and resources to support such initiatives. It should also create a favorable policy environment that encourages the private sector to invest in digital skills training. By doing so, the government can ensure that there is a steady supply of skilled digital workers in the country, which will help to drive economic growth and development.

Private sector's role in digital skills training: The private sector also has a crucial role to play in digital skills training. It should invest in digital skills training for its employees and provide them with the necessary resources and support. It should also collaborate with educational institutions to provide digital skills training to students. By doing so, the private sector can ensure that it has a steady supply of skilled digital workers, which will help to improve its productivity and competitiveness.

Benefits of digital skills training: Digital skills training has numerous benefits for individuals and the economy. For individuals, it helps them to acquire new skills, improve their employability, and increase their income. For the economy, it helps to create new jobs, drive innovation, and increase productivity. Digital skills training is a win-win for everyone.

Challenges of digital skills training: There are several challenges associated with digital skills training. One of the main challenges is the lack of infrastructure and resources. Many areas, especially in rural and semi-urban areas, lack the necessary infrastructure and resources to provide digital skills training. Another challenge is the lack of qualified trainers. There are not enough qualified trainers to teach digital skills, which limits the scope of digital skills training. These challenges need to be addressed to ensure that digital skills training is accessible to all.

Conclusion: Digital skills training is a crucial part of the digital transformation process. It helps individuals to acquire new skills, improve their employability, and increase their income. It also helps the economy to create new jobs, drive innovation, and increase productivity. Digital skills training is a win-win for everyone. We need to work together to address the challenges of digital skills training and ensure that it is accessible to all.



Francis H. Danaye
Member of IIPGH and IT Consultant

Rexford Koomson
Member of IIPGH and IT Consultant

TOPIC: Cyber Crime and its Implications

TOPIC: Understanding CSA's CII Directive

DriveTech
Tuesday, 10th October, 2023
2:15pm - 5:00pm

DriveTech
Thursday, 26th October, 2023
2:15pm - 5:00pm

Joe Kumi
Member of IIPGH and IT Consultant

Public Education & Awareness Program

PUBLIC EDUCATION & AWARENESS PROGRAM

Developing and strengthening the skills, instincts, abilities, processes, and resources that individuals, organizations, and communities need to survive, adapt, and thrive in a fast-changing world of emerging technologies, requires continuous education and capacity building. Thus, IIPGH takes keen interest in public awareness programs, designed to educate the public about topical issue in the tech echo space, promoting the adaption of technology, and ICT development in Ghana, and beyond.

The Institute runs special initiatives to sensitize the public on ICT issues, through articles publication in the newspapers, and many other online news portals. The institute partnered Business and Financial Times (B&FT) Newspaper agency and has since been allocated a column for weekly ICT news publication called "ICT insight with the Institute of ICT Professionals", with its first publication on November 13, 2017. At the close of 2023, IIPGH published its 300th article.

Still on public education, members of the institute specialized in specific areas of technology are engaged on radio talk shows discussing relevant technology topics. This year, the institute does this in partnership with the Empire Radio 102.7FM in Takoradi, Western region, where members volunteer time to be engaged remotely and sometimes in-person to discuss ICT.

In May 2023, the Institute partnered with Radio Empire in Takoradi, to run the "DriveTech" program. An initiative aimed at public education on current ICT issues every Tuesday and Thursday, from 4:30 pm to 5:00 pm.

Francis H. Danaye
Member of IIPGH and IT Consultant

Rexford Koomson
Member of IIPGH and IT Consultant

TOPIC: Cyber Crime and its Implications

TOPIC: Understanding CSA's CII Directive

Joe Kumi
Member of IIPGH and IT Consultant

DriveTech
Tuesday, 10th October, 2023
2:15pm - 5:00pm

DriveTech
Thursday, 26th October, 2023
2:15pm - 5:00pm

The program has been running successfully since its inception, covering subjects such as Online Loan Scams, Managing Technology Addiction, Cyber Espionage, and an Overview of Ghana's Data Protection Act.

Feedback from listeners indicates that "DriveTech" has significantly contributed to bridging the knowledge gap in the ICT space, particularly among the youth grappling with technology addiction and adults struggling to cyber scams, and more.

This follows efforts made in the past with the management of Volta Premier Radio Station in Ho, a community radio station affiliated with Ho Technical University. This initiative, named "Your ICT World," ran successfully for over a year.

The Institute's vision is to extend its outreach through various media outlets, including radio. There is an optimistic outlook that these endeavors will capture the attention of corporate Ghana, leading to potential sponsorships that will ensure the sustainability of these valuable programs.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND ICT DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

TICON Africa Conference



Unifying ICT Talent to Power the African Continent to 2023 and Beyond

The Inaugural TICON Africa conference, took place at the Imperial Botanical Beach Hotel, Entebbe, Uganda, from September 6 – 9, 2023, aiming at powering Africa into the future with the latest technological innovations. Hosted by the ICT Association of Uganda (ICTAU) this year seeks to unify ICT talent and pave the way for a brighter future for the entire continent.

The conference featured keynote speeches, interactive sessions, and panel discussions to equip delegates with the knowledge and skills to tap into, and to develop Africa.

Our theme for this conference, **“Unifying ICT Talent to Power the African Continent to 2030 and Beyond,”** underscores the urgency and importance of our mission. Africa stands on the brink of a digital revolution, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure that this transformation benefits all its people, leaving no one behind.

Opening the conference, Professor Robert Ebo Hinson, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Ghana Communication Technology University, touched on Strategy and Technology, Expanding the Success of Pan-African Brands.

The 3 -day event delved into 5 critical sub-themes:

Bridging the Digital Divide: Africa’s technological disparity hampers progress in multiple sectors, which requires strategy to ensure equal access to technology, connectivity, and digital resources across the continent.

Capacity Building and Skills Development: Empowering our young people with ICT skills, promoting digital literacy, and fostering entrepreneurship as essential steps toward a brighter future.

Public and Private Sector Collaboration: Empowering our young people with ICT skills, promoting digital literacy, and fostering entrepreneurship as essential steps toward a brighter future.

Policy and Regulation: Empowering our young people with ICT skills, promoting digital literacy, and fostering entrepreneurship as essential steps toward a brighter future.

Innovation and Emerging Technologies: Empowering our young people with ICT skills, promoting digital literacy, and fostering entrepreneurship as essential steps toward a brighter future.



DECLARATION BY INAUGURAL CONFERENCE OF TICON AFRICA 2023

Promoting Innovation and Digital Technology Transformation

We believe that innovation is the cornerstone of technological advancement.

We commit to fostering a culture of innovation by participating in and supporting research and development, entrepreneurship, and startup ecosystems across Africa.

We acknowledge the transformative potential of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Blockchain, Internet of Things (IoT), and 5G.

We will actively explore the application of these emerging technologies to address local challenges and drive economic growth.

We commit to creating enabling environments for business developing technology to thrive, including policies that support digital infrastructure development, data privacy, and cybersecurity.

Strengthening Digital Skills and Education

We recognize that a digitally skilled workforce is essential to harnessing the benefits of ICT in Africa.

We commit to enhancing digital literacy and educational programs at all educational levels in Africa, from primary schools to lifelong learning.

We will collaborate in the development of vocational training programmes and initiatives that equip the youth and workforce with the necessary skills to participate in the digital economy.

Fostering Regional and International Collaboration

We acknowledge that the challenges and opportunities in ICT transcend national borders.

We will actively collaborate with fellow African nations and other global partners to share knowledge, expertise, and best practices.

We encourage the development of regional ICT infrastructure and cross-border Africa initiatives to promote connectivity and digital trade.

Ensuring Ethical and Inclusive Technology

We commit to developing and adopting ethical guidelines and standards for the responsible use of technology, including AI ethics, data governance, and digital rights.

We will actively promote gender equality in the ICT sector and ensure that technology benefits all members of society, including marginalized and vulnerable populations.

Action Steps towards 2024 Conference

The Conference Identified the following initiatives/projects for 2024 between member organisations under the guidance of TICON Africa to be reported on at the next conference. Some of these initiatives can include:

Regular sharing of member country news, projects, conferences, and activities in the field of ICT which can be shared on social media.

Identify potential sponsors for members to support delegates to attend the 2024 conference in Mombasa, Kenya and to support the Kenya Associations to be able to present a successful conference.

To activate the four committees to be able to make presentations to the conference about progress.

Identify short courses which can be marketed through TICON platforms to the benefit of the organisations with initiative.

Nominate participants who are willing to participate actively on the research project:

“Evaluating ICT Readiness and Future Preparedness of the African Continent”

In conclusion, we, the participants at the TICON Africa Inaugural Conference, pledge our unwavering commitment to bridging the digital divide and leading the technology transformation in Africa.

By working together, we believe that ICT will empower our continent to achieve sustainable development, economic prosperity, and social progress for all.





INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Maiden IIPGH Internship Program

Maiden IIPGH internship program

- 3 University students
- 2 months intensive training

Training involves

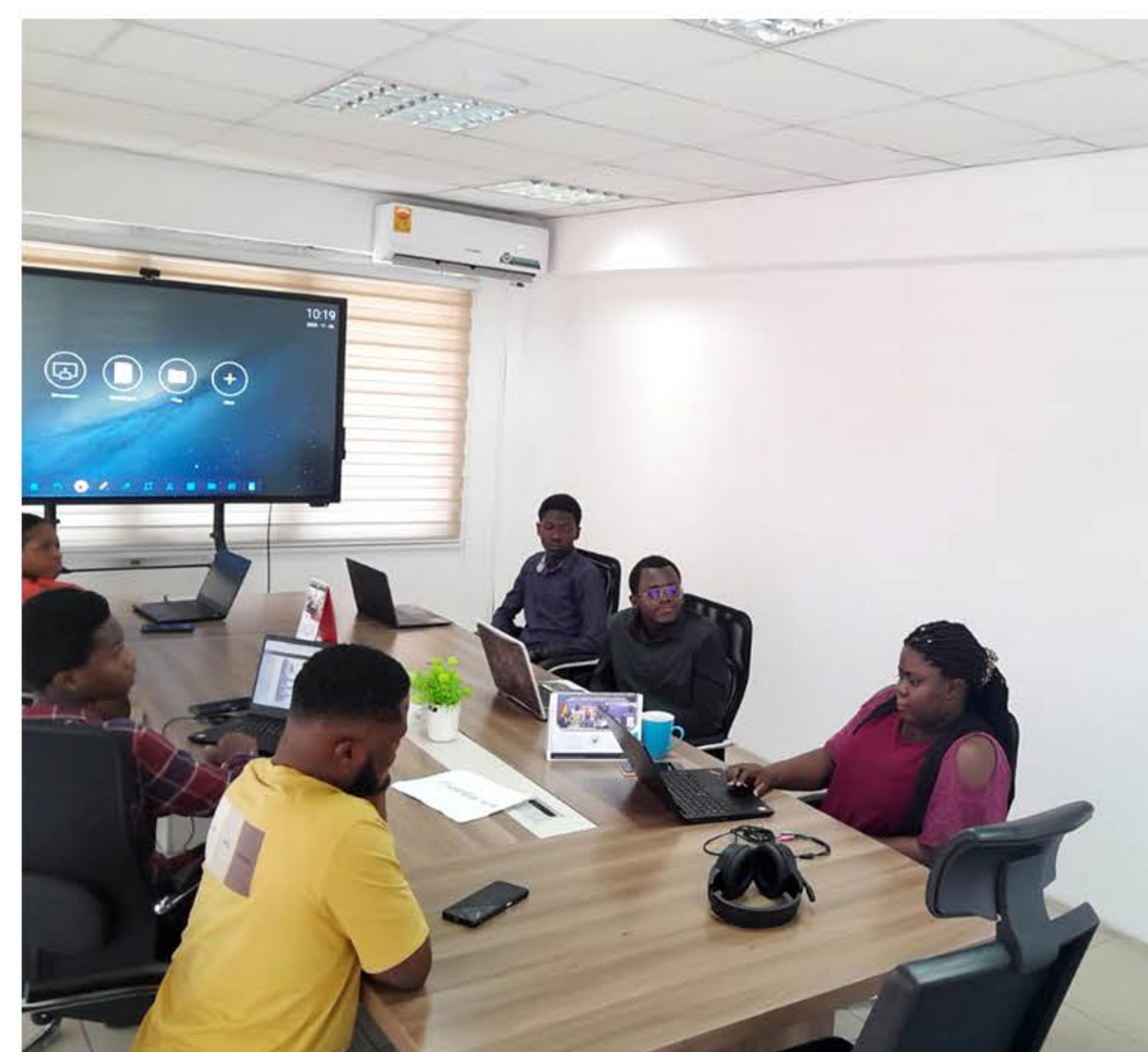
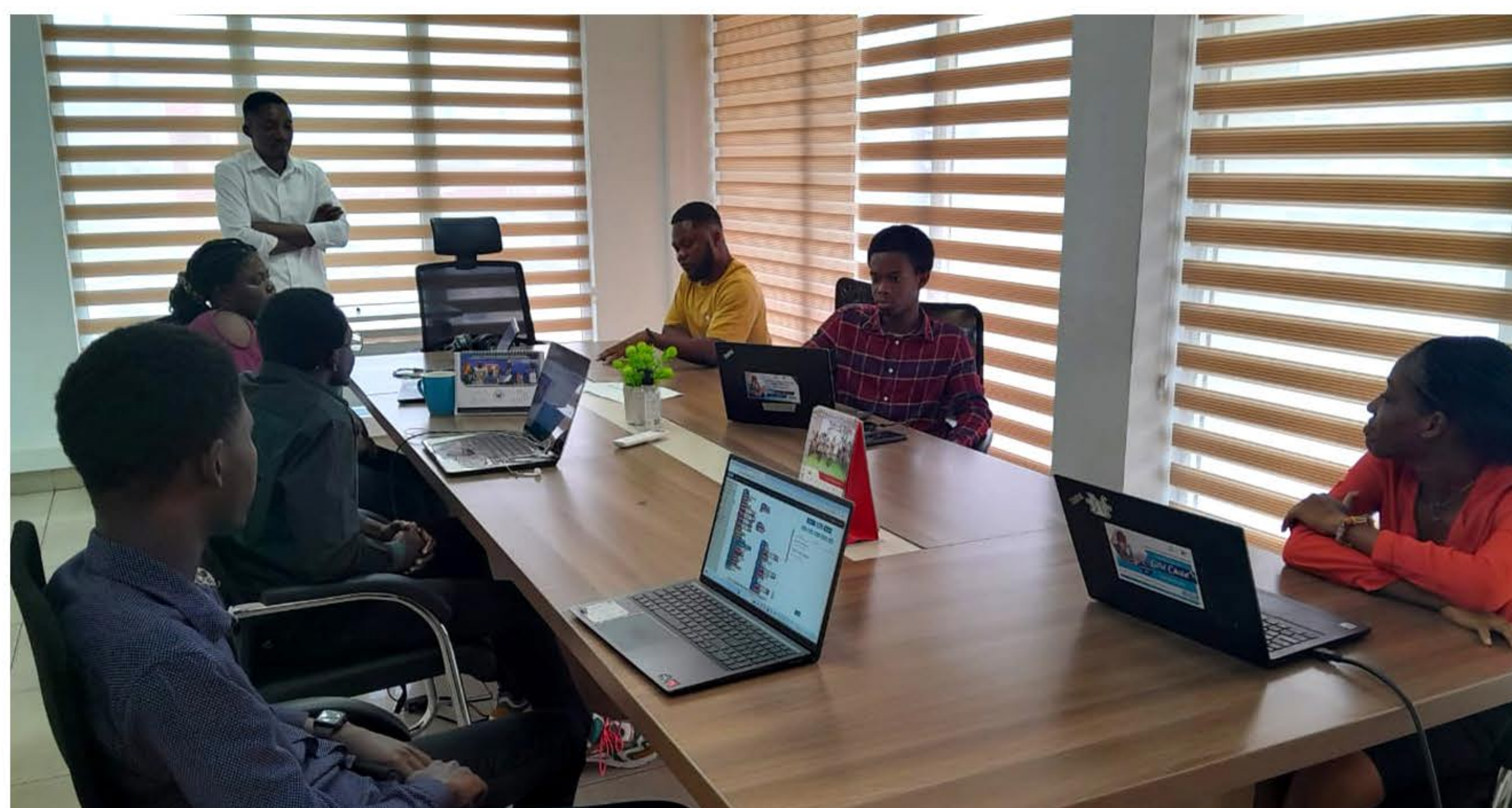
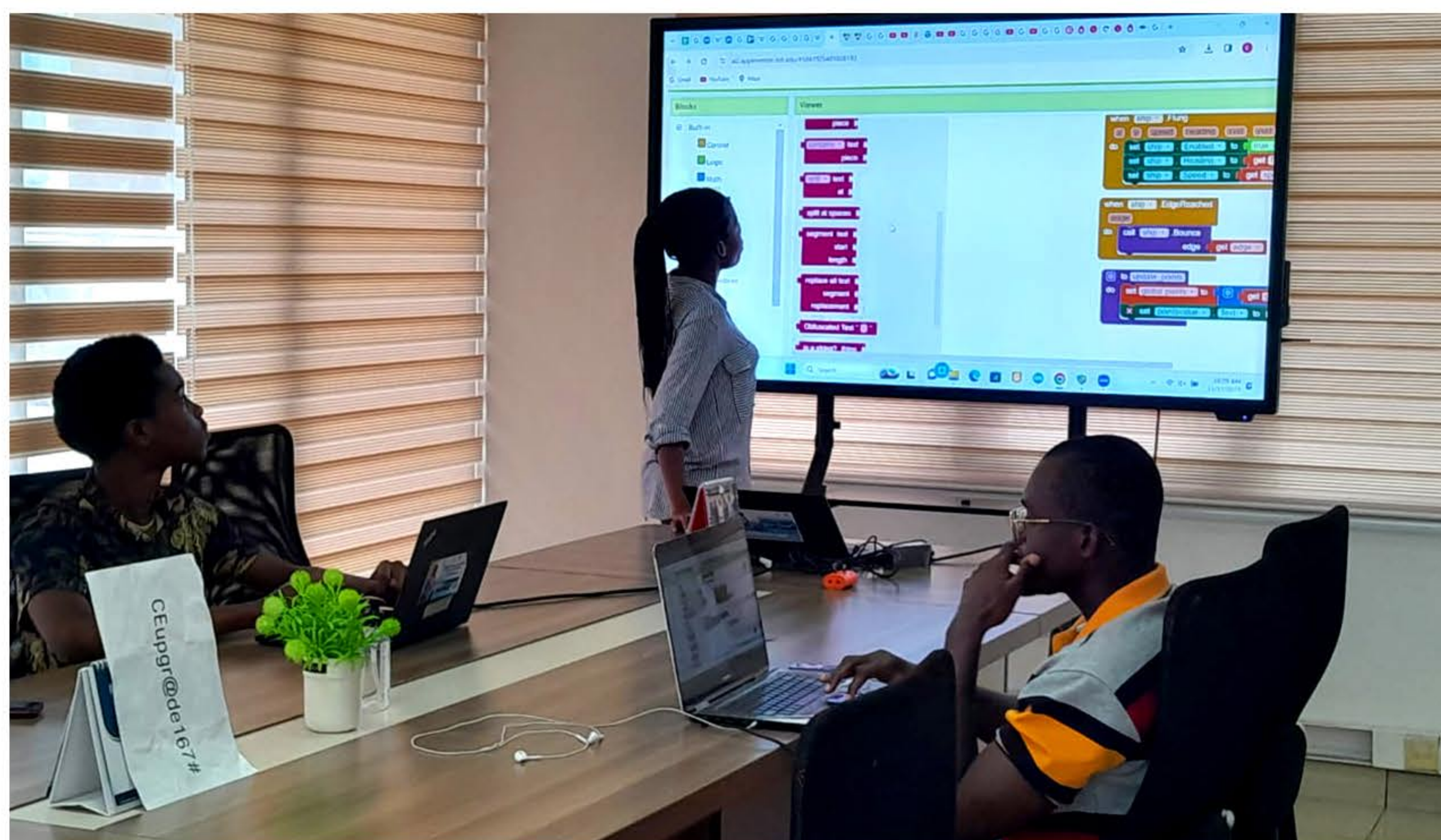
- Block based and text based programming
- Research and projects
- Weekly progress reports and presentations

Programming includes

- IOT
- Mobile programming
 - Data analysis
- Web development
 - UI / UX Design

Purpose of Internship

- Real World Application
- Develop and refine technical skills
- Network
- Resume Boost
- Gain Industry Knowledge and Strength
- Increase Chances of Future Employment
- Develop Key Soft Skills for Workplace Success



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023



December 16, 2023

In a landmark event held on Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023, the Institute of ICT Professionals Ghana (IIPGH) convened its Annual General Assembly Meeting, heralding a pivotal moment in the history of the Institute. The gathering served as a platform for the leadership of the Institute to celebrate its achievements, reflect on its challenges and make projections for the coming year.

The highlight of the assembly was the formal inauguration of the new Board of Directors and Executive Management with the appointment of the President of Academic City University, Prof. Fred McBagonluri as the Board Chair. The others include Prof. Robert Ebo Hinson, Pro Vice Chancellor, Ghana Communications Technology University, Mr. C.K. Bruce, CEO of Innovare, Grace Anim-Yeboah of Absa Bank Ghana, Nana Adjoa Adobea Asante from the National Communications Authority, Muniratu Musah of MTN Ghana, Amma Benneh-Amponsah of Newmont, Abraham Kuuku Sam of GIZ African Union Office, Francis Gatsi, Lecturer – Ashesi University, David Gowu the Executive Director of the Institute, and Kafui Amanfu, Director of Operations at the Institute.

In his welcome remarks, the Executive Director of IIPGH, Mr. David Gowu paid glowing tribute to the outgoing board and management for their dedicated service and outstanding contributions to the growth of the Institute. He noted that 'under their leadership, IIPGH developed all the flagship programs, initiatives, and membership drive resulting in the mobilization of over

2,500 professionals as members of the Institute. Their hard work has therefore laid a strong foundation upon which we now stand, and we are indeed indebted to them for their commitment to the growth of IIPGH'.

Reflecting on the 2023 activities, Mr Gowu stressed that 'IIPGH further amplified its activities from Tech Job Fair, Tech Entrepreneurs Forum, Industry-Academia Tech Dialogue to The Coding Caravan for over 1800 students, Coding for 1,000 girls, and Cybersecurity for professionals.



Year in Review

Annual General Meeting 2023



Juliana Ametorwogo



Kafui Amanfu



Stephen Addo



Dr. Sylvester Hatsu



Gifty Mottey



Mary Ama Bawa



Sherif Issah



David Gowu



Nelson Effah



Charles Baffoe



Kagyah Osei Manu



Elolo Konglo



Edith Mould



Yayra de Souza



Dr. Ian Asare



Alex Ansah



Abigail Odonkor



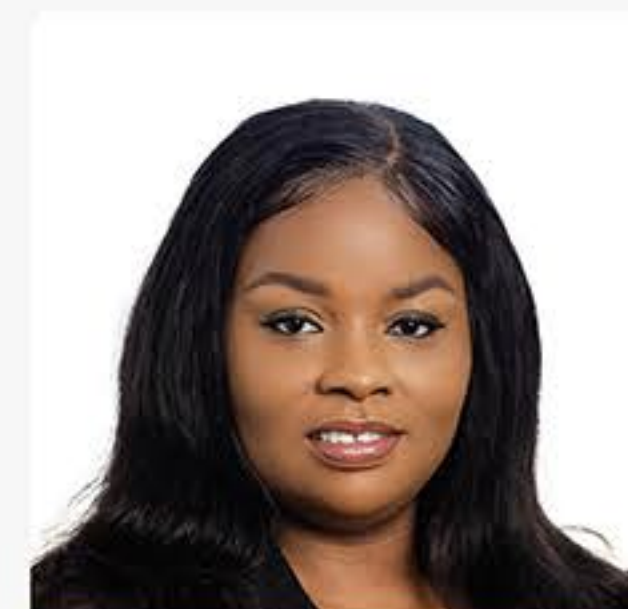
Joseph E. Annan



Emmanuel Gadasu



Christabel Boccoh



Mary Imadojemun



Racheal Popoola



Abu Safian Blay



Godsway Kubi



Deborah Ofori-Dartey



Bernard Sackey



Gilbert Fosu



Isaac Apenteng

Management Team

The Board Chair, Prof. Fred McBagonluri expressed his profound gratitude to the past administration for their unwavering commitment and exceptional service to the Institute and charged the new leadership to build on the excellent legacy of their predecessors. He was optimistic that the new Board and Management would navigate the Institute through the dynamic landscape of Information and Communication Technology with wisdom and innovation.

The Annual General Assembly also provided a platform to recognize outstanding achievements and contributions of Prof. Fred McBagonluri, Ing. Dr. Ken Ashigbey, Chief Executive Officer of Ghana Chamber of Telecommunications, and Mr. Kwame Larnyo, CEO of AdminTelecom, Lifetime Patron of the Institute.



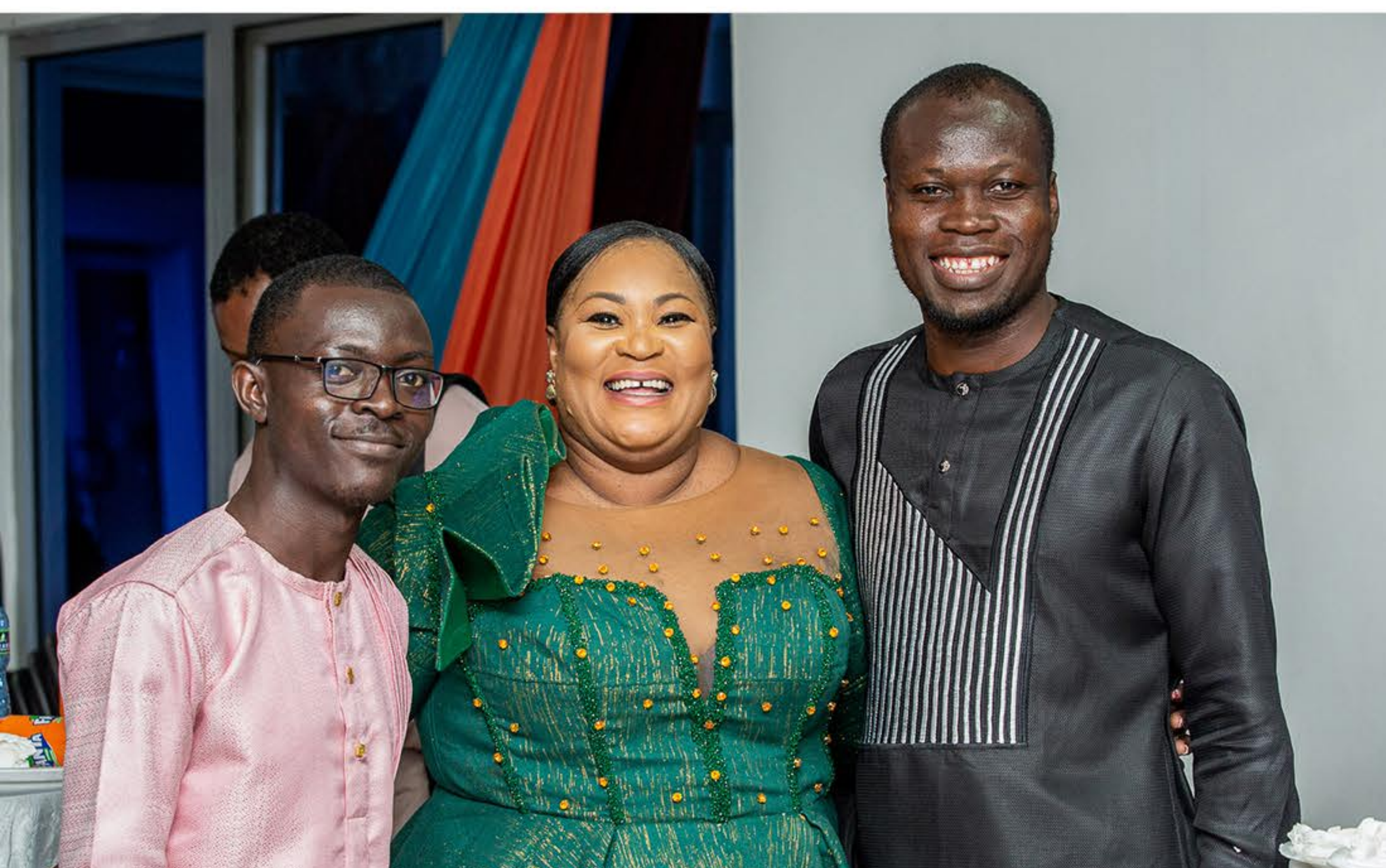
Year in Review

Annual General Meeting 2023

Participants had the opportunity to network with industry peers, fostering collaboration and the exchange of ideas. The assembly served as a hub for forging partnerships that will contribute to the growth and resilience of the global ICT community as part of the grand agenda of IIPGH.

The Institute of ICT Professionals, Ghana (IIPGH), is a professional association made up of professionals in various domains of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) practice. The Institute is a connector of ICT professionals from government MDAs, educational institutions, corporate organizations, start-ups, investors, and the civil society organizations to create a vibrant ICT ecosystem.

With a vision to become the most reliable partner in ICT development in Ghana and beyond, its mission is to mobilize all ICT professionals under one professional body to positively influence the development, standardization, and delivery of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) across Ghana.



Challenges and Opportunities | 2023

Challenges

Low member participation in IIPGH activities

Low Operational revenue

No structures for continuous professional development

Structures of professional body not fully developed

Low visibility among students and some ICT professionals

Lack of enforcement of ICT sector regulation for practitioners and businesses

Opportunities

The only vibrant professional association in ICT

Recognized by key ICT Government agencies (NITA, CFA, GIFEC etc...)

Recognized by development partners (AFOS, GIZ, NTF etc)

Recognized by industry CSOs (Chamber Of Telecoms, Ghana Think Foundation, etc...)

Recognized by continental and international bodies

Accredited by National Teaching Council (NTC)

Exclusive resources, Information and Benefits, networking opportunities and recognition of competence



Annual Activity Plan 2024

2023

Period	Activity	Date
1st Quarter	January - March - Quarterly Domain Engagement (Webinar/Meetup) - Media Engagement & Public ICT Education - IIPGH Day - Cybersecurity Webinar	March 07
2nd Quarter	April - June - Quarterly Domain Engagement (Webinar/Meetup) - Media Engagement & Public ICT Education - International Girls in ICT Day - Germany Business/Professionals Trip - Cybersecurity Webinar	- April - May
3rd Quarter	July - September - Quarterly Domain Engagement (Webinar/Meetup) - Media Engagement & Public ICT Education - TICON AFRICA Conference - Cybersecurity Webinar	August
4th Quarter	October - December - Quarterly Domain Engagement (Webinar/Meetup) - Media Engagement & Public ICT Education - Cybersecurity Awareness Month (NCSAM 2022) - World Teachers' Day - International Day of the girl child - End of year Annual General Meeting	- October - October 5 - October 11 - December

Annual Events



- Tech Job Fair
- Tech Entrepreneurs Forum (TEF)
- Industry-Academia Tech Dialogue (INDAC-TED)

Operational Activities

Media engagement and Public ICT Education ■ The Coding Program ■ The Coding Caravan ■ Training for Professionals ■ Stakeholder Engagement ■ Curriculum Review for Tertiary Institutions ■ National Teaching Council Accreditation (Continuous Professional Development for Teachers) ■ Business Process Outsourcing (Remote Service Delivery)

Registration procedure to join the Institute of ICT Professionals Ghana



MEMBERSHIP

STEPS

- 1 Application submission
- 2 Application review
- 3 Annual subscription payment
- 4 Login to personalised portal

IIPGH is open to all ICT Professionals across all domains, any other professional with interest in ICT, Students and all stakeholders in the ICT space.

MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION PROCESS

STEP 1



APPLICATION SUBMISSION

- Signup on the online portal
- Complete registration form
- Upload updated CV
- Submit form

STEP 2



APPLICATION REVIEW

- Experts review CV and credentials of applicant
- Applicant is approved or rejected

STEP 3



ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION PAYMENT

- Make payment via link provided in the approval email
- Join IIPGH platform using the link provided after payment

STEP 4



LOGIN TO PERSONALISED PORTAL

- Activate your account
- Update your profile picture and other information

Dues and other service fees | 2023

Annual Dues

Professional - 200 Cedis (Includes all ID Cards)

Students - 50 Cedis

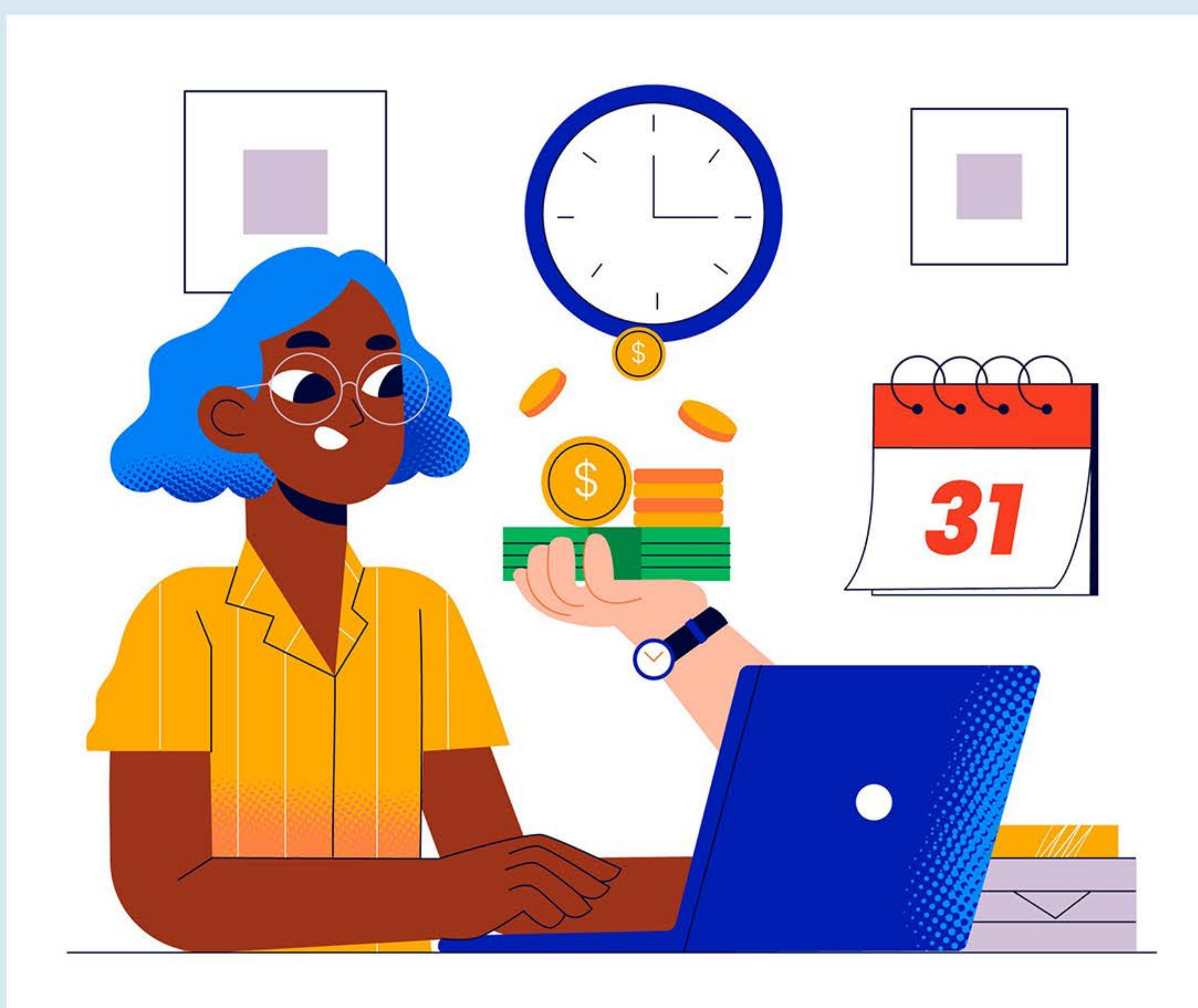
Corporate (Starting 2024) -xxx Cedis

Other Fees

Introduction / Recommendation / Attestation letters - 200 Cedis

Job placement / referrals:

- 0-3Yrs Work Experience- 5% of annual Salary (One-Time Payment)
- 4-10Yrs Work Experience- 6% of annual salary (One-Time Payment)
- 11Yrs and above experience - 7% of annual salary (One-Time Payment)



www.iipgh.org



2023



ANNUAL REPORT



Institute of ICT Professionals Ghana

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