

Co-funded by:



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GSDI Launches its Activities in the Eastern Region

KOFORIDUA, Ghana, 25 April, 2018:

The Ghana Skills Development Initiative (GSDI) has held an official launching event in Koforidua to commence project activities in the Eastern Region as part of the project's bid to extend to other regions of Ghana. GSDI seeks to improve the quality of the traditional apprenticeship system to enhance skills and qualification.

After receiving co-funding from the European Union, the GSDI is expanding its activities to a total of six Regions, introducing three additional trade areas, and starting to promote agricultural education training. The Eastern Region is one of the new regions. This is to complement the existing four regions and five trade areas.

The launch which was held at the GNAT Assembly Hall in Koforidua was attended by Hon. Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh, the Minister for Education, Hon. Eric Kwakye Darfour, the Regional Minister for Eastern Region, Paolo Salvia, Acting Head of Delegation, European Union Delegation to Ghana (EU), Robin Cordes, Deputy Head of Development Cooperation at the German Embassy Accra, Dr. Fred Asamoah, the Executive Director of COTVET and other GSDI partners.

After the launching event, there was an open forum which allowed the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) trade associations and training providers in the Eastern Region to engage with the GSDI team to become better informed about the project and its activities in the region.

In his key-note address, the Hon. Minister for education commended the work of the German government and the EU in skills development. He also reiterated government's commitment to introducing TVET reforms in the country.

The European Union supports GSDI III through the Ghana Employment and Social Protection (GESP) with EUR 7.0 million. The German contribution to promote Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Ghana through the Programme for Sustainable Economic Development (PSED) amounts to more than EUR 5.5 million.

The Collaborative Apprenticeship Training model introduced by GSDI combines workplace-based training in the informal sector and school-based training at TVET providers like the St. Paul Technical School and the Koforidua Technical Institute. Currently, 500 apprentices and master craftsmen are receiving technical training developed by GSDI and funded by German Financial Cooperation through the Ghana TVET Voucher Programme across the various project regions.

Background

About Ghana Skills Development Initiative

Implemented by:



In cooperation with:



Co-funded by:



GSDI is a project commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in cooperation with the Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (COTVET) and other public and private sector stakeholders. GSDI III started in April 2016 and is co-funded by the European Union.

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

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

About the EU

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

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

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

About German Cooperation

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

Development Cooperation between Ghana and Germany has a long and trustful tradition. Since the start of bilateral relations with Ghana in 1957, Germany has allocated over EUR 1.5 billion to sustainable development in the country. From 2015 to 2017, bilateral support for

Co-funded by:



Ghana amounts to EUR 241.1 million. Against the background of Ghana's status as a "lower middle income country" and in line with the priorities of the Ghanaian government, the German bilateral development cooperation focuses on the following three priorities: Good Governance, Agriculture and Sustainable Economic Development. In the sector of Sustainable Economic Development, German Cooperation is supporting Ghana through the Programme for Sustainable Economic Development (PSED) with an actual budget of EUR 23.1 million.

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

About GIZ

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

Currently, GIZ promotes sustainable development in Ghana via 56 programmes and projects. Our activities cover currently three priority areas: Agriculture, Governance and Sustainable Economic Development. Additionally, our portfolio extends to other areas such as peace and security, renewable energy and climate and environment. Another focus of GIZ's work is linking business interests with development-policy goals. Most of the programmes and projects we support in Ghana have successfully brought together national and international private companies, the public sector, and civil society groups to collaborate on development initiatives.

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

Implemented by:



In cooperation with:

