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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Implementation of Ghana Skills Development Initiative (GSDI) III at TVET School “2<sup>nd</sup> Image International”

**ACCRA, Ghana, 2 December, 2017:**

A delegation of high-ranking officials from the European Union, led by the Acting Head of the EU Delegation in Ghana, Mr Paolo Salvia, visited on 2 December 2017 *2<sup>nd</sup> Image International*, a private cosmetology and garment training school supported under the *Ghana Skills Development Initiative* (GSDI) III project.

The European Union supports GSDI III through the *Ghana Employment and Social Protection* (GESP) with 7 million EUR. 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. GSDI seeks to improve the quality of the traditional apprenticeship system to enhance skills and qualification.

Discussing with master craftsmen and apprentices from the informal sector, Mr Salvia pledged the continuous joint support of the EU and Germany to the development and growth of TVET in Ghana: “*The informal sector generates more than 80% of employment in Ghana and the EU is committed to developing skills and competencies among Ghanaian youth. This is precisely the objective of the GSDI project which seeks to improve the quality of the traditional apprenticeship system*”, the Acting Head of the EU Delegation said.

Currently, 60 master craftsmen in cosmetology and garment are receiving technical training at *2<sup>nd</sup> Image International*, funded by German Financial Cooperation through the Ghana TVET Voucher Programme, to enable them train their apprentices at the workplace. The project also trains garment and cosmetology trade associations in entrepreneurship, financial management or quality assurance.

The *Collaborative Apprenticeship Training* model introduced by GSDI combines workplace-based training in the informal sector and school-based training at TVET providers like *2<sup>nd</sup> Image International*.

## Background

### About Ghana Skills Development Initiative

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

GSDI seeks to improve the quality of the traditional apprenticeship system in the informal sector to enhance skills and qualifications. The project supports the introduction of

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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 2 billion EUR 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.

## German Cooperation

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

## About 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

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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.

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