

Co-funded by:



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OFFICIAL LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF GSDI III IN ASHANTI REGION

KUMASI, Ghana. 2 February, 2017: The Ghana Skills Development Initiative (GSDI) III has successfully launched its activities in the Ashanti Region with new support from the European Union at a ceremony at the Kumasi Technical Institute (KTI) in Kumasi. On behalf of the German Government and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in cooperation with the Council for Technical Vocational Education and Training (COTVET), GSDI seeks to improve the quality of the traditional apprenticeship system in the informal sector to enhance skills and qualifications. Its current phase (GSDI III) started in April 2016 and is co-funded by the European Union under its Ghana Employment and Social Protection Programme (GESP).

The ceremony was attended by H. E Christoph Retzlaff, the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Ghana, H.E. William Hanna, the Ambassador of the European Union to Ghana, Hon. Matthew Opoku Prempeh, the Minister of Education, Sebastian Deh, the Executive Director of COTVET and over 100 guests from trade associations, members of the international community, traditional leaders, training providers and other GSDI partners.

The project supports the introduction of competency based training (CBT) standards and a cooperative training model. It combines both workplace-based training in the informal sector and school-based training modules at selected TVET training providers. "The strengths of the German approach were adapted to the Ghanaian context" stated the *German Ambassador* during his speech, while adding "Young people need skills to build secure livelihoods for themselves."

The Minister of Education, represented by the Acting Vice-Chancellor of the Kumasi Technical University, Prof. Mike A. Acheampong, highlighted the support that the German Development Cooperation has been providing to the TVET sector over the last five years. Since 2012, a total of 16 training providers and 10 trade associations cooperated on the implementation of the cooperative apprenticeship training for 232 apprentices and 232 master craftspersons in 3 regions and in 5 trade areas in Ghana. In March 2016, 188 apprentices (81%) successfully achieved their assessments and received a nationally recognized *National Proficiency I* certificate.

GSDI will now expand to 3 additional trade areas and 2 agricultural value chains. It will also reach out to 3 additional regions – amongst them the Ashanti Region. The new financial support from the EU will contribute to this upscaling. "Today is the beginning of a new partnership between Ghana and the European Union in the area of skills development. Working together we are investing in youth." said the *EU Ambassador*.

After the inaugural ceremony, the dignitaries present took a tour of the KTI and interacted with some of the students who were engaging in their training activities. The KTI is one of the training providers, which will participate in the programme and introduce CBT courses for apprentices, workers and master craftspersons as part of the developed cooperative apprenticeship training system.

Co-funded by:



NOTES TO EDITORS

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 competency based training (CBT) standards and a cooperative training model. It combines workplace-based training and courses at selected TVET training providers

So far, GSDI has been working in five trade areas (electronics, garment, welding, cosmetology, and auto mechanics) and three regions (Greater Accra, Volta, and Northern). GSDI III will expand to 3 additional trade areas, 3 additional regions, and 2 agricultural value chains.

About GIZ

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is a global service provider in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development with around 16,400 employees. 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. Our business volume exceeds two billion euros. As a public-benefit federal enterprise, GIZ supports the German Government – in particular the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) – and public and private sector clients in around 130 countries in achieving their objectives in international cooperation. With this aim, GIZ works together with its partners to develop effective solutions that offer people better prospects and sustainably improve their living conditions.

Currently, GIZ promotes sustainable development in Ghana via 48 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 and renewable energy. 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.

About 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. Since its start in 1963 Germany has contributed more than 1.5 billion Euro to Ghana's development. For the current period of three years, German development

Implemented by:



In cooperation with:



Co-funded by:



cooperation amounts to 123 Mio 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 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 Ghana, under the framework of the Cotonou Agreement, for the period of 2016 to 2020, the European Union is supporting development programmes in three focal areas, Governance, Agriculture and Employment and Social Protection. The 'Ghana Employment and Social Protection Programme' (GESP); 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 at generating decent employment opportunities, with a particular attention to the youth. GSDI III is the component of the programme that covers technical and vocational education and training opportunities for the informal sector and in agricultural value chains.

For further press information please contact Ms Anna Nordmann/Araba Pratt, Corporate Communication Unit GIZ Ghana – anna.nordmann@giz.de or araba.pratt@giz.de

Implemented by:



In cooperation with:

