

GHANA NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY, 2016

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With the vision of enhanced delivery, the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO is currently composed of twenty-one (21) members who are drawn from relevant Ministries, Departments, Agencies and Civil Society.

The Commission serves as an effective link between UNESCO and the Government of Ghana in promoting the ideals of UNESCO through Education, the Sciences, Culture, Communications and Information.

Over the years, the Commission has contributed to national development through facilitating programmes or projects on quality education and teacher training, environmental protection, Bioethics, cultural heritage, information and communication technology, peace and global citizenship.

This report mainly covers issues on the Profile of the Commission and the Secretariat, Staff information, Programme Delivery for 2015 and Projections for 2016.

Major activities for 2015 included the celebration of the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies; Ghana's participation in the World Education Forum; the 38th General Conference of UNESCO and Ghana's hosting of the 4th Session of the General Assembly of the African Network of Biosphere Reserves (AfriMAB) among others.

In the Outlook for 2016, the Commission will participate in Sessions of the Executive Board of UNESCO; promote quality education, peace-building, sustainable development through ASPnet and Club activities; build capacities of staff of the Secretariat on the requisite skills to improve productivity; enhance international relations among others.

One main challenge being faced by the Commission is our indebtedness to UNESCO. At the local level, funding for servicing of meetings of the National Commission and its Specialized Committees require enhancement to sustain the valuable interest of members. The Office of the Permanent Delegate in Paris also needs enough funding to perform its functions at UNESCO. In addition, the current low staffing situation has affected the work of the Secretariat tremendously.

Moreover, the Secretariat requires satisfactory office space.

The Commission is grateful for the support of our Chairman and the Vice Chairman thus far. We do look forward to being strengthened further, as a quasi-international organization.

PART ONE

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PART TWO

PROFILE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Establishment

The Ghana National Commission for UNESCO started as a Committee for UNESCO Affairs in 1953. In 1958 when Ghana attained full membership of UNESCO, Cabinet approved the reconstitution of the National Committee under the new title *Ghana National Commission for UNESCO*.

Vision

To be a highly progressive National Commission that improves access and participation in programmes and activities within UNESCO's fields of competence in Ghana.

Mission

To promote UNESCO's objectives and ideals in Ghana as a contribution to global peace, poverty alleviation, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through Education, the Sciences, Culture, Communication and Information.

Functions

The National Commission for UNESCO is a subvented agency under the Ministry of Education, serving as a link between UNESCO and Ghana. In furtherance of its primary objectives, the Commission performs the following functions:

- Acts as an advisory body to the government in determining policy with regard to UNESCO and its programmes
- Serves as a liaison agency involving Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in UNESCO activities for the advancement of Education, the Sciences, Culture and Communication, with the aim of advancing mutual knowledge and understanding of UNESCO's work towards the common welfare of human-kind.
- Disseminates information from and to UNESCO
- Exchanges information and experiences with its counterparts in Member States of the Organization
- Fosters close co-operation between state agencies and services, professionals and other associations, universities as well as other centres of research and education in the promotion of UNESCO's objectives and ideals.

- Co-operates with Government delegations to UNESCO General Conferences and other intergovernmental meetings convened by UNESCO, in the preparation of Ghana's position papers by preparing the contribution of Government to the work of these meetings.
- Participates in the search for candidates for vacant UNESCO posts financed under the regular programme or from extra-budgetary resources, and in the placement of UNESCO Fellowship holders.
- Participates in the planning and execution of activities entrusted to UNESCO which are undertaken with the assistance of the other sister agencies of the United Nations in Ghana.

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission presently comprises 21 members drawn from relevant Ministries, Departments, Agencies, Institutions as well as non-governmental organizations in Ghana. Below is the list of members:

- The Hon. Minister for Education - Chairman of the Commission
- The Chief Director, Ministry of Education - Vice Chairman of the Commission
- H. E. The Ambassador to France - Ghana's Permanent Delegate to UNESCO
- The Secretary-General
- Chairman, Social and Human Sciences Committee
- Chairman, Legal and Administrative Committee
- Chairman, Natural Sciences Specialized Committee
- Chairman, Education Specialized Committee
- Chairman, Culture Specialized Committee
- Chairman, Communication and Information Specialized Committee
- Chairman, Man and the Biosphere (MAB) National Committee
- Chairman, Information for All Programme (IFAP) Committee
- Chairman, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Committee (IOC)
- Chairman, International Hydrological Programme (IHP) Committee
- Chairman, Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC)
- Director, Multilateral Relations Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Reg. Integration
- Chairman, Parliamentary Select Committee on Education
- The Representative, International Non-governmental Organizations (INGOs)
- The Representative, the Mining Community in Ghana
- The Representative, the Oil Community in Ghana
- The Representative, Mass Communication (Airtel, Expresso, Glo, MTN, tiGO, Vodafone)

Permanent Delegation

The Permanent Delegation is the official Government representation to UNESCO in Paris. Ghana's Ambassador to France is the country's Permanent Delegate to UNESCO. The Permanent Delegation has its offices in the premises of the Ghana Embassy.

Specialized Committees

There are six (6) Specialized Committees which reflect the five main fields of competence of UNESCO, namely Education, Natural Science, Social/Human Sciences, Culture, Communication/Information and Legal/Administration. The members of each of the specialized committees are selected from government and Non-governmental organizations.

The Committees, comprising seven (7) members each, provide expert advice relating to their sectors and help the Secretariat to prepare draft briefs for the Ghana delegation to the UNESCO General Conference and the Executive Board.

National Committees

The National Committees are the Commission's resource of experts drawn from various governmental and non-governmental agencies. They are involved in all projects implemented by the Commission either as implementers or advisors. They are responsible for advising Government on UNESCO technical issues. Currently in operation are the:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| i. Man and Biosphere Committee (MAB) | - Environmental Issues |
| ii. Intergovernmental Oceanographic Committee (IOC) | - Marine Water Issues |
| iii. International Hydrological Programme (IHP) | - Fresh Water Issues |
| iv. National Bioethics Committee (NBC) | - Issues on bioethics |
| v. Information for All Programme (IFAP) | - Issues on Communication |
| vi. Committee on Management of social Transformation (MOST) | - Social Issues |

The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of the Commission coordinates the activities of the Secretariat and the Committees. It takes decisions for the effective and efficient operation of the National Commission. It consists of the following members:

- The Chairman of the Commission
- The Vice Chairman of the Commission
- The Secretary-General to the Commission
- The Chairmen of the six (6) Specialized Committees
- Ghana's current/immediate past Representative to the Executive Board of UNESCO

The Secretariat of the Commission

The Secretariat serves as the main channel of communication between the Government of Ghana and UNESCO. It operates under the supervision of the Chairman of the Commission.

With a staff quota of fourteen (14), the Secretariat administratively operates under the supervision of the Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Commission. The breakdown is as follows:

1. The Secretary-General
2. Deputy Secretary-General
3. Programme Officers
4. Accountant
5. Administrative Assistant
6. Library Assistant
7. Stenographer Secretary/Typist
8. Drivers

Currently, the Secretariat has seven (7) members of staff as follows:

1. 2 Programme Officers
2. 1 Accountant
3. 1 Private Secretary
4. 2 Stenographer Secretaries
5. 1 Driver

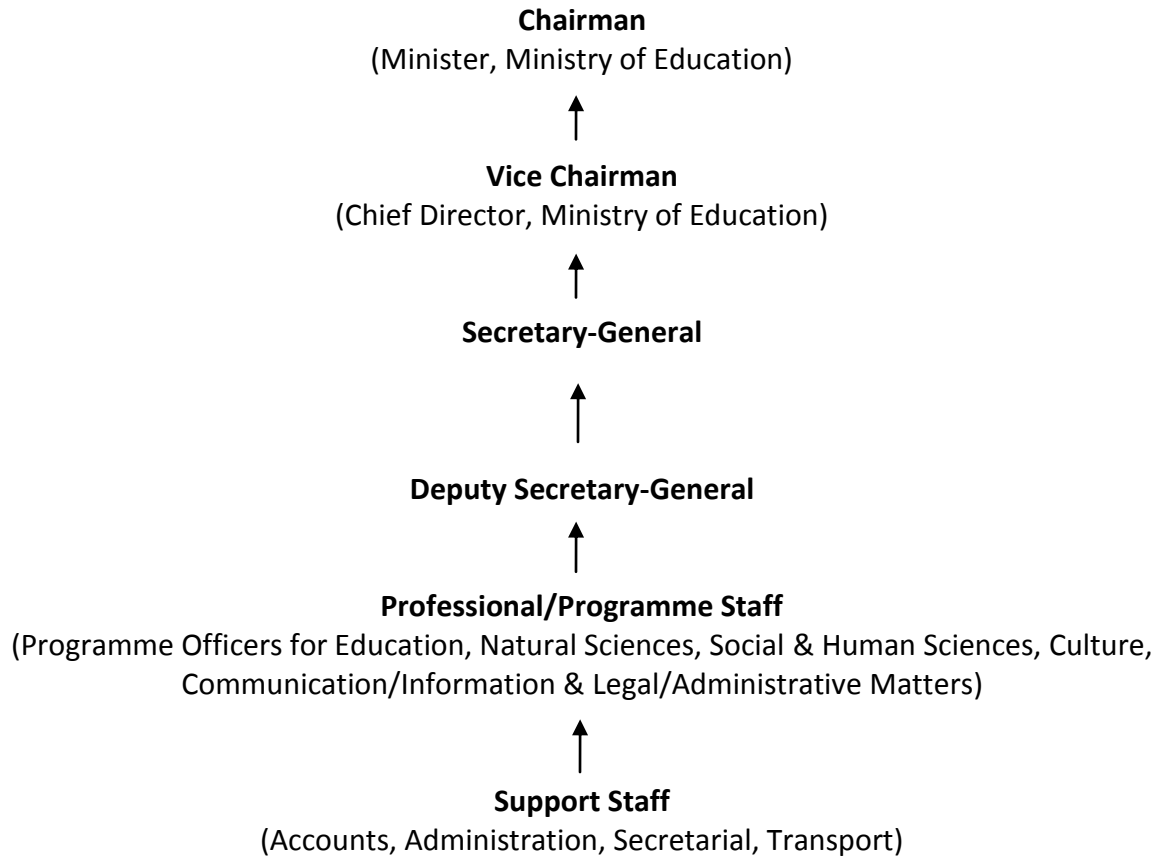
Male/Female ratio - 5:2
 Senior/Junior - 2:1

The Secretariat was also privileged to work with two (2) National Service Persons as Support Staff.

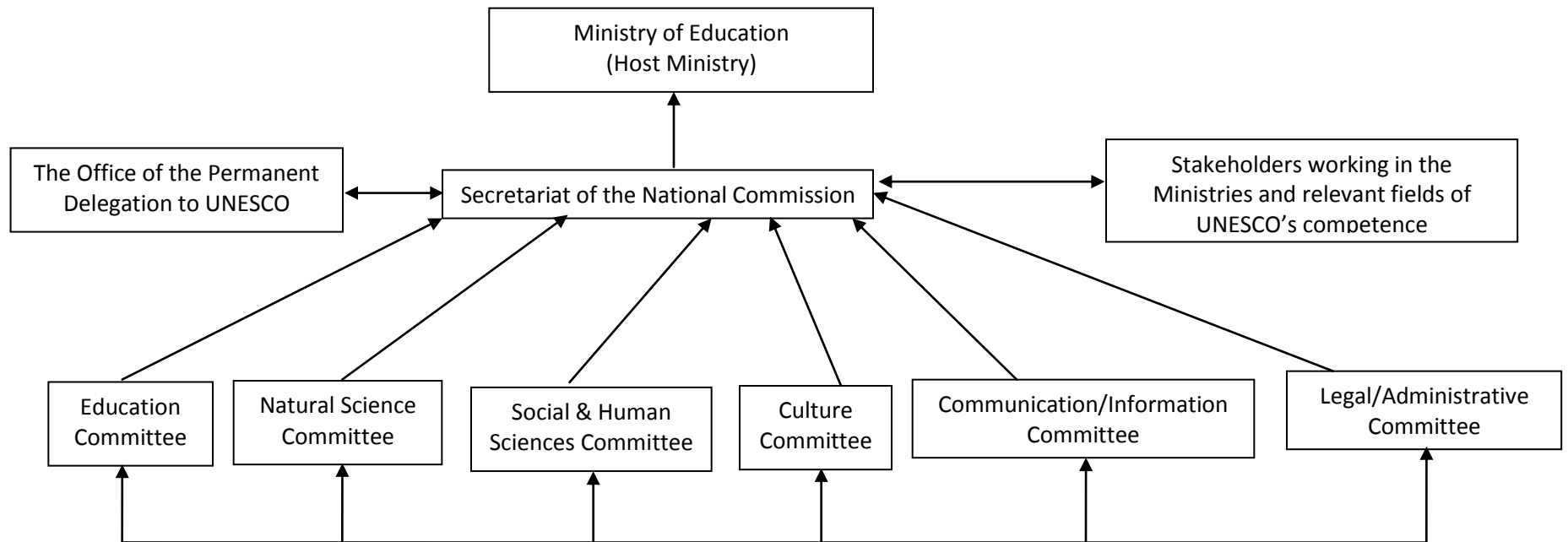
Age Distribution

Age	20 – 25	26 – 30	31 – 35	36 – 40	41 – 45	46 – 50	51 – 55	56 – 60
No.	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	0

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



PART THREE

PROGRAMME DELIVERY

International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies 2015 – International launch in Paris, 19th – 20th January, 2015

At the 190th Session of the UNESCO Executive Board in Paris, the Republic of Ghana in partnership with the African Physical Society, the European Physical Society and the Mexican delegation at UNESCO, initiated a process that led to the United Nations (UN) proclamation of the year 2015 as the International Year of Light and Light-Based Technologies (IYL, 2015).

Following this proclamation, UNESCO officially held an Opening Ceremony and Exhibition to launch the Year from 19th – 20th January, 2015 at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Ministerial Conference on Education Post-2015, 9th – 11th February, 2015, Kigali, Rwanda

The Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Ministerial Conference on Education Post-2015 took place on 9th – 11th February, 2015 in Kigali, Rwanda. The aim of the Conference was to prepare an African vision for the post-2015 education agenda. The Conference provided an opportunity for Africa Regional Ministers of Education to review and assess progress made in attaining the Education for All (EFA) goals set in 2000.

The Conference had a large turnout, with 44 out of 47 countries from the sub-Saharan region and 27 ministers present at the event, of which the Hon. Minister for Education, Prof. Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang and the Secretary-General (a.i.) of the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO participated.

Hosted by the Government of Rwanda and organized jointly with UNESCO's Regional Offices in Dakar and Nairobi, defined the education needs, obstacles, and priorities in the region, in order to inform recommendations for the World Education Forum to take place in Incheon, Republic of Korea in May 2015, and the post-2015 sustainable development goals to be adopted at the UN Summit in September 2015 in New York, USA.

The meeting ended with the adoption of a Statement by the Ministers to promote the development of education across the region. The adoption of the Statement is envisaged to contribute to the African vision of peace, prosperity, and integration as defined in the 2063 agenda for Africa.

Launch of the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies in Ghana, 17th March, 2015, Accra International Conference Centre

Following the International launch of the Year at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, Ghana officially launched the Year and its lined-up activities on 17th March, 2015 at the Accra International Conference Centre.

The official launch was aimed at adequately informing Ghana, the African Continent and the world at large on the upcoming events. It further sought to seek support in the achievement of the four (4) main outcomes of the year-long celebration: the upgrading of the Laser and Fiber Optics Centre at the University of Cape Coast into a full-fledged Institute for capacity-building; the establishment in the country of a sub-regional Laser Medical Application Laboratory (LMAL); a Solar Technology Research Centre to enhance the study and promotion of solar science and the use of alternative energy as well as the establishment of a Museum of Light and Light-based Technologies as part of solutions to emerging needs in the post-2015 UN development agenda.

Capacity-building of School Management Committees (SMCs) and Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Education Oversight Committees (MMDEOCs)

The Natcom supported the Institute for Educational Planning and Administration (IEPA) to organize capacity-building workshops for basic school administrators in two school districts in the Central Region. The workshop was organized for the Municipal/District Education Oversight Committees, members of School Management Committees (SMCs), Parent-Teacher Association executives, GES Activity Initiators, and Headteachers. The theme for the workshops was *“Creating a Vision of Success for Schools”*.

The aim of the workshops is to build the capacity of the SMCs and the MMDEOCs to effectively assume their roles and responsibilities and to adopt best leadership practices.

The workshops took place on 23rd - 24th and 25th - 26th February, 2015 at the Komenda-Edina-Eguafo-Abrem (KEEA) and Twifo Hemang Municipal Assemblies.

In all, 175 people consisting of members of the Municipal Education Oversight Committee, executives of School Management Committees, executives of Parent-Teacher Associations, Basic School Heads, Circuit Supervisors, and Community Participation Coordinators were trained in the KEEA Municipality. Twifo Hemang Workshop also emerged with 78 trained participants from the District Education Oversight Committee, executives of School Management Committees, Basic School Heads, Circuit Supervisors, and Community Participation Coordinators.

Workshop for the Development of Training modules for facilitating youth transition between Technical and Vocational Education Training and the World of work in Fashion Designing Technology & Welding and Fabrication Technology

The Natcom supported the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) division of the Ghana Education Service to develop a training module aimed at upgrading the entrepreneurial skills and competencies of youth.

The Modules were successfully developed.

Launch of the 2014/15 Education for All Global Monitoring Report, New York, 9th April, 2015

The 2015 Education for All (EFA) Global Monitoring Report (GMR) was launched from three global launch locations: Paris, New Delhi and New York bringing together some of the foremost experts from the worlds of education and sustainable development to discuss progress made over the past 15 years and the many challenges countries face in securing a more sustainable future with education at its core.

At the New York forum, Ghana shared her achievements made in the area of Early Childhood Care and Education. Ghana was praised for the strides made in this area.

The Secretariat facilitated the participation of the Hon. Minister for Education and the Chairman of the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO, Prof. Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang and Mr. Enoch H. Cobbinah, Chief Director of the Ministry of Education and Vice Chairman of the Commission.

The 2015 Global Monitoring Report is the 12th and the concluding in the series and is aptly based on the theme "*Education for All 2000 - 2015: Achievements and challenges*." The Report gives the verdict on global progress towards the Six Education for All Goals set in Dakar at the start of the Millennium. It concluded that only a third of countries have met all of the measurable Education for All goals; only a half have reached the most watched goal of universal primary education.

World Education Forum 2015, 19 – 22 May, 2015, Incheon, Republic of Korea

2015 marks the target date for reaching the Education for All goals and the education-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In view of this, UNESCO organized a Forum to take stock of achievements and shortfalls in the implementation of the Dakar Framework for Action and the education-related MDGs during the period 2000 – 2015 and agreed on a joint position for the education goal targets in the post-

2015 development agenda, which will be adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at a Special Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2015. The Forum further agreed on a *Comprehensive Framework for Action* to guide and support the implementation of the future education agenda.

Ghana participated in the Forum with a five-member delegation, comprising the Hon. Minister for Education and Chairman of the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO, *Prof. Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang*; *Mr. Enoch Cobbinah*, Chief Director of the Ministry of Education and Vice Chairman of the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO; *Prof. Yaw Ankomah*, Director, Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, University of Cape Coast; *Mr. Kor Jacob Maaborr*, Director-General, Ghana Education Service; *Mr. Riche-Mike Wellington*, Ag. Secretary-General, Ghana National Commission for UNESCO.

International Conference on ICT and Post-2015 Education, 23rd – 25th May, 2015, Qingdao, China

The Natcom facilitated the participation of Ghana in the International Conference on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Post-2015 Education in Qingdao, China.

The Conference sought to create an interface between education and ICT sectors to debate on how ICT can be leveraged at scale to support the achievement of post-2015 education targets. It further took stock of sector-wide strategies to ensure equitable and quality lifelong opportunities for all.

Ghana was invited to participate in a high-level debate on how ICT reshapes key aspects of the education system, and how policy enablers and ICT innovations should be intertwined in national and institutional policies in order to underpin the achievement of post-2015 education targets.

Ghana was represented by the Hon. Minister for Education, *Prof. Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang*, supported by *Mr. Joshua C. Mallet*, Director of the Centre for Distance Learning and Open Schooling (CENDLOS) of the Ministry of Education.

The Hon. Minister shared forward-looking views on Government's system-wide strategies in the area of ICT in Education. She mentioned that Ghana is deeply involved in the process leading to the Paris Declaration for the use of Open Educational Resources (OERs) and the Ministry of Education has progressively introduced OERs in teaching, learning and content development.

She further informed that Ministry of Education was embarking on a well-defined project called Secondary Education Improvement Project (SEIP) with funding grants from the World Bank. The Project spans over five years with specific objectives to increase access with equity and quality in Senior High Schools. It targets especially 125 selected low-performing schools. Closely linked to this project are two similar ones with World Bank and Belgian Government funds. The

common themes in all these projects are in line with the Ministry's aim at quality, access and monitoring among others and the key component is the application of ICT.

5TH ASPnet SUB-REGIONAL INTERSCHOOL CHORAL CONTEST BETWEEN BENIN, BURKINA FASO, GHANA, NIGERIA & TOGO, 3RD – 7TH AUGUST, 2015 IN LOMÉ, TOGO

The fifth edition of the choral contest was held from 3rd – 7th August, 2015 in Lomé, Togo.

The Natcom assisted Sky High School at Ashongman to participate in this contest. The Ghana delegation, led by Mr. Apollonius O-A. Asare, the National ASPnet Coordinator, Ghana National Commission for UNESCO, was composed of 17 pupils, 1 choirmaster, 1 keyboardist, 2 chaperons and the Headmaster of Sky High School in Accra. The National ASPnet Coordinator was supported by Miss Marian Nortey of the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO.

Ghana came third in the competition.

African National Commissions for UNESCO Series of Workshop, 1 – 3 September, 2015

The German Commission for UNESCO, in cooperation with the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO organized a series of workshops for National Commissions for UNESCO in Africa, from 1st – 3rd September, 2015 in Kampala, Uganda.

These workshops sought to review and reinforce the cooperation of African Natcoms with the German Natcom, and to develop opportunities for future engagement.

Ghana was represented by *Mr. Apollonius O-A. Asare*, Programme Officer for Natural Sciences of the Ghana Natcom.

The informal group of eight National Commissions for UNESCO (Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Namibia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Germany) agreed to focus their future cooperation on building capacities of Natcom staff through sub-regional and regional cooperation and foster at the same time a basis for bilateral and other cooperation.

In order to foster mutual cooperation of National Commissions in the upcoming years, the group came up with *the Seeta Commitment of Cooperation, National Commissions for UNESCO*.

Launching of the UNESCO/HNA Funds-In-Trust (HFIT) Projects and Invitation to the International Seminar on Girls' And Women's Education, 1 – 5 September, 2015, Beijing (P.R. China)

In 2011, guided by the conviction that educating girls and women can break the cycle of poverty and foster greater social justice, UNESCO launched the *Global Partnership for Girls' and Women's Education*, known as '*Better Life, Better Future*'. The Partnership sought to increase learning opportunities for adolescent girls and women and to find solutions to some of the biggest challenges and obstacles to their education.

Under the framework of this partnership, UNESCO scheduled to initiate two new projects, supported by the UNESCO-HNA Funds-in-Trust (HFIT), focusing on support for African and Asian countries to accelerate their progress in gender equality in education with particular focus on gender-responsive teacher training and professional development.

The first project is envisaged to strengthen global and regional advocacy, networking and communication to ensure girls' right to education, and develop national capacities for gender-responsive education in Ethiopia, Ghana and Nepal.

To kick-start the projects, UNESCO, with the support of the Chinese government officially launched the UNESCO-HNA FIT projects as well as organized a 4-day international seminar on girls' and women's education, from 1st – 5th September, 2015 in Beijing, the People's Republic of China.

The event provided an opportunity for participants to share their experiences and visions on girls' and women's education in the post-2015 era.

Ghana was represented by *Mrs. Catherine Nutsugah-Mikado*, Director of the Girl Child Education Unit, Ghana Education Service and *Sister Elizabeth Amoako Arhen*, Principal of the Ola College of Education, Cape Coast.

WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Africa Regional Conference on '*Harnessing Light and Light-based Technologies for Africa's Development*', 14th – 16th September, 2015, Accra International Conference Centre

Following the launch of the Year in Accra on 17th March, 2015, the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO organized an Africa Regional Conference and Exhibition to observe the Year.

The Conference and Exhibition sought to promote interactions and dialogue among academics, professionals, policy makers, industrialists, entrepreneurs, young minds, innovators and other stakeholders to highlight the relevance of light in the sciences, the arts, culture and the humanities.

It also served to promote the central role of light in enhancing many opportunities in light-based technologies for the welfare of humankind.

It brought together representatives and speakers from Mexico, Sweden, Senegal, Algeria, Cameroun, Egypt, and other countries.

In a Communiqué, the Conference recommended that the Government of Ghana to take leadership in bringing the issues from the conference to a larger forum that brings together all regional stakeholders at the highest level of the African Union for further deliberation and implementation across the continent of Africa; the Government of Ghana further spearheads the organization of a series of regional conferences to address each of the themes of IYL 2015 and the issues emanating from the conference; the building of effective institutions to bring efficiency in the energy sector to diversify the energy mix, reduce risk and conserve energy with relevant technologies; undertaking of effective research in solar and other renewable energy technologies to reduce cost, increase efficiency, and capacity-building; the development of both software and hardware technologies at tertiary institutions to enhance digital literacy and create high speed networks among others.

The 38th General Conference of UNESCO, 3rd – 18th November, 2015, Paris, France

Ghana successfully participated in the 38th Session of the UNESCO General Conference which took place at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, from 3rd – 18th November, 2015.

The Organization adopted a new Programme and Budget 38 C/5 (2014 – 2017). The Session further adopted strategies and benchmarks for related Sustainable Development Goals in UNESCO's fields of competence.

The Conference further discussed and formally launched the new Framework for Action (FFA) for Education 2030 for which the International Community adopted at Incheon, Korea in May, 2015.

The Conference elected Ghana, being represented by Prof. Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang, Minister for Education, to serve a four-year term of office on the 58-member prestigious Executive Board of UNESCO.

Ghana was also appointed the Rapporteur General of the Communication and Information Commission (CI) of the General Conference; elected onto the Intergovernmental Programme for the Management of Social Transformation (MOST) and the International Hydrological Programme (IHP).



Ghana's delegation was led by the Hon. Minister for Education, Prof. Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang, and accompanied by H.E. Johannes Odonkor Svanikier, Ghana's Ambassador to France and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, Prof. Yaw Ankomah, Chairman of the Education Specialized Committee of the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO and H.E. Riche-Mike Wellington, Secretary-General (a.i.) of the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO.

Public Forum on 'Ocean Governance – The Role of Stakeholders', Tuesday, 17th November, 2015, Water Research Institute of CSIR

The Ghana National Committee of the Intergovernmental Oceanography Commission held a Public Forum on '*Ocean Governance – the role of stakeholders*'.

The Forum aimed at addressing the issues and challenges facing the coastal and marine areas and the various uses in Ghana. It further sought to harmonize these uses in order to generate maximum benefits for the socio-economic advancement of the nation while ensuring sustainability regarding the ecosystem services they provide.

It witnessed presentations from Ms. Hawa Bint Yaqub, Deputy Director, Fisheries Scientific Survey Division, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development; Prof. P. K. Ofori-Danson of the Department of Marine and Fisheries Science, University of Ghana and Mr. Paul Bannerman of the Fisheries Commission.

In a statement by Mrs. Sherry Aryeetey, Hon. Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, she disclosed that the Ministry was in the process of developing a five-year Medium-Term National Fisheries Resource Management Plan to properly manage the country's ocean resources.



Dignitaries at the high table

Regional Seminar On The Development Of Open Educational Resources (OER) Policies For Targeted African Countries, Nairobi, Kenya, 23 – 24 November, 2015

The UNESCO Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems and the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa in Nairobi organized the above meeting in the context of the UNESCO project on supporting the development of national Open Educational Resources (OER) policies, which is one of the projects of the 2012 World Congress on OER, which resulted in the 2012 Paris OER Declaration.

The Secretariat facilitated the participation of *Mr. Joshua C. Mallet*, Director of the Centre for National Distance Learning and Open Schooling (CENDLOS); *Ms. Sarata Omane*, Ghana-India Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT; *Dr. Francis Owusu-Mensah*, Head, Centre for Continuing Education and Action Research, University of Education, Winneba; *Prof. Isaac Dontwi*, Dean, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Tech. Institute for Distance Learning; and *Mr. Charles A. Tsegah*, Executive Secretary of the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NACCA) of the Ministry of Education.

Regional Consultation and Dialogue on the Education 2030 Framework For Action for West and Central African Countries, Dakar, Senegal, 23 – 25 November, 2015

Following the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Education 2030 objectives by the UN General Assembly, the UNESCO Regional Office in Dakar organized the above consultation to build a common understanding of the new Education 2030 agenda and to prepare and support its implementation at regional and national levels.

Ghana was represented by *Mr. Stephen Adu*, Ag. Deputy Director-General and Director of the Basic Education Division of the Ghana Education Service; *Mr. Isaac Nsarko Biney*, Director, Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring and Evaluation (PBME) Division of the Ministry of Education and *Dr. Alfred Ampah-Mensah*, a Research Fellow at the Institute for Educational Planning and Administration (IEPA) of the University of Cape Coast.

4th Session of the General Assembly of the African Network of Biosphere Reserves (AfriMAB), Accra, 24 – 27 November, 2015

Ghana, for the second consecutive time, hosted the 4th Session of the General Assembly of the African Network of Biosphere Reserves (AfriMAB), from 24th – 27th November, 2015 at the M-Plaza Hotel in Accra on the theme '*AfriMAB: Aligning to Agenda 2030, The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, 2015 – 2030) and the MAB Strategy (2015 – 2025)*'.

The Environmental Protection Agency, host of the Ghana National Committee of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB), successfully hosted the above meeting, which brought together about eighty (80) participants from 30 African countries and donor institutions.

The General Assembly, at the end of the 3-day conference, developed an Africa position and priority for the Lima Plan of Action. The meeting also drew Communique on the role of Member States in achieving the objectives of the AfriMAB.



UNESCO FELLOWSHIPS

The Natcom received applications from varied applicants, from which it submitted the applications of suitable candidates to UNESCO for consideration. UNESCO has thus far awarded Fellowships to the following persons under the following Fellowship Programmes:

UNESCO/Israel (MASHAV) Fellowship on ‘Educational Methodologies – Prevention of drop-outs of school and re-insertion of Youth at risk’

Fellowship in this section was awarded to *Mr. David Asilevi Amanor*, a Municipal Basic Schools Coordinator from the La Dadekotopon Municipal Education Office.

UNESCO/Israel (MASHAV) Fellowship on “Addressing the Urbanization Challenge”

Fellowship in this section was awarded to *Mr. Justice Kwame Agyapong* of the Town and Country Planning Department of the Kintampo Municipal Assembly.

In early August, the Secretariat was saddened to learn of his unfortunate passing on.

People’s Republic of China (The Great Wall) Co-Sponsored Fellowship Programme – 2015

Fellowships were awarded to *Mr. Samuel Angmor Mensah* in the field of Computer Application Technology at the Beihang University and *Ms. Nana Akua Dabankah* in the field of Computer Science and Technology at the Hohai University in China.

UNESCO/Poland Co-Sponsored Fellowship Programme – 2015

Awards were given to Messrs. *Thomas Nsiah* in the field of Materials Science and Ceramics and *Yamoah Afrifa Kyei* in the field of Safety and Reliability.

Mr. Nsiah is an Industrial Ceramist from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology and *Mr. Kyei* is a Nuclear and Atomic Researcher at the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (University of Ghana).

PART FIVE






CHALLENGES

- ❖ Inadequate funding to cater for some of the demands of the Permanent Delegate, i.e. running of the Secretariat and Car.
- ❖ Implication of Ghana's election onto UNESCO Executive Board and other boards
- ❖ Inadequate staffing at the Secretariat of the National Commission

PROJECTIONS/OUTLOOK FOR 2016

To promote activities within the delivery of quality education, peace-building, sustainable development, strengthening of the National Commission and its Secretariat and enhancing international relations.

Activities

-  ASPnet/Club Activities: intensify the promotion of quality education through education for Peace and sustainable development as well as intercultural learning.
-  Participate in Sessions of the Executive Board of UNESCO.
-  Capacity-building for staff of the Secretariat on the requisite skills to improve productivity.
-  Promote activities within the delivery of quality education, peace-building, sustainable development;
-  strengthening of the National Commission and its Secretariat and enhancing international relations

CONCLUSION

The Commission will continue within the present budgetary constraints in its direction of working to promote peace and sustainable development within UNESCO's fields of competence.

While we express appreciation for the Ministry's assistance, we anticipate increased financial allocations and assistance to service our National Commission, Specialized Committee meetings and Executive Board preparatory meetings.