

Annual Report

2024



"Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed"

– UNESCO Constitution (1945)

Impact. Influence. Institutional Strengthening

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FOREWORD

HON. DR. YAW OSEI ADUTWUM (MP) MINISTER FOR EDUCATION & CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION

It is with great pride and anticipation that I present this Annual Report for the year 2024. This year has indeed been an exceptional time of transformation and growth, with resilient adaptability facing a continuously changing landscape. Each page of this report reflects our journey shaped not only by our goals and ambitions but also by the challenges we have faced and the impactful differences we have made.

This report captures a year of diligent work, collaboration, and impactful initiatives that underscore our commitment to UNESCO's values and our shared vision of a world enriched by education, science, culture, communication and information.

I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to the dedicated staff of the Secretariat of the Commission, whose relentless passion and professionalism have made our achievements possible. The work we do as the Ghana Commission for UNESCO relies on the synergy between our staff, partners, and stakeholders at both local and international levels. It is through their efforts and collaborative spirit that we continue to strengthen our contributions to UNESCO's mission.

This year has been marked by numerous milestones in all our priority sectors:

Education: We have championed inclusive and quality education initiatives, reaching underserved communities and making strides towards literacy and lifelong learning. Through capacity-building programs, teacher training, and advocacy for inclusive policies, we are working toward an equitable education system that leaves no one behind.

Natural Sciences: Our programs in this sector have focused on environmental conservation,



climate resilience, and the sustainable management of natural resources. These efforts are part of a global response to pressing challenges such as biodiversity loss and climate change. Our projects have engaged communities in sustainable practices, promoting both awareness and action.

Culture: This year, we have advanced cultural preservation and promoted cultural diversity, enriching our national heritage and fostering respect for cultural identities. We are proud to support initiatives that empower local artisans, preserve indigenous languages, and safeguard intangible cultural heritage. Through these efforts, we aim to build a society that values its cultural richness while embracing innovation.

Communication and Information: Access to reliable information and freedom of expression are critical to a thriving democracy. In this regard, we have strengthened programs that promote media literacy, digital skills, and freedom of the press, enabling citizens to engage constructively and critically in our information-rich world.

I would like to thank the staff, our partners, and our stakeholders – we could not have achieved this without you. This report is a testament to our hard work and unwavering commitment to the mandate of the Commission. Let us move forward together, inspired by the progress we have made and determined to achieve an even greater impact in the year ahead.

WELCOME MESSAGE



AMA SERWAH NERQUAYE-TETTEH (MRS.)

SECRETARY-GENERAL

It is with great honor and privilege to welcome you to join us as we reflect on our shared journey, marked by dedication, collaboration, and a steadfast commitment to UNESCO's ideals of peace, sustainability, and human development.

In a world facing complex challenges, the Commission has continued to play a pivotal role in promoting education, the sciences – natural and social Science, culture, communication and information as cornerstones for national and global progress, underpinning the Sustainable Development Goals. This year, our activities have been guided by the principles of inclusivity, innovation, and resilience, ensuring that our programmes created tangible impacts across the diverse communities we serve.

As you navigate through these pages, you will find insights into our initiatives, stories of success, and lessons learned. From empowering marginalized groups through education and skills training to fostering cultural heritage preservation, these accomplishments are the result of tireless efforts by our stakeholders, partners, and the dedicated team at the Commission.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all for contributing to making this year a success. To our partners and stakeholders, and to the public whose participation has enriched our programmes, we appreciate your unwavering support.

This report is a summary of our achievements – a testament to what we have accomplished together as we envision a better future for all. We hope it inspires you to join us, in the coming years, as we strengthen our collective efforts to uphold UNESCO's mission.

As we reflect on the progress made in these sectors, we also acknowledge the challenges we faced, which required a united and persistent response. I am confident that with our combined dedication, we will continue to advance UNESCO's mission and contribute meaningfully to a more just, peaceful, and sustainable world.

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...the Commission has continued to play a pivotal role in promoting education, the sciences – natural and social science, culture, communication and information as cornerstones for national and global progress.

**-MRS AMA SERWAH
NERQUAYE-TETTEH**

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AFL	- African Foundation for Lifelong Learning	MFWA	- Media Foundation for West Africa
AI	- Artificial Intelligence	MIL	- Media and Information Literacy
ATBs	- Ashanti Traditional Buildings	MOTAC	- Ministry of Tourism, Arts & Culture
AWBC	- Accra World Book Capital	MoU	- Memorandum of Understanding
CEA	- Complementary Education Agency	MoW	- Memory of the World
CEO	- Chief Executive Officer	NatCom	- National Commission
CI	- Communication & Information	NCA	- National Communications Authority
CONIWAS	- Coalition of NGOs in Water and Sanitation	NCC	- National Commission on Culture
EU	- European Union	NCCE	- National Commission for Civic Education
GBC	- Ghana Broadcasting Corporation	NFB	- National Folklore Board
GCRN	- Ghana Community Radio Network	NGOs	- Non-Governmental Organizations
GIBA	- Ghana Independent Broadcasters Association	PRINPAG	- Private Newspapers and Online News Publishers Association of Ghana
GIDA	- Ghana Irrigation Development Authority	Q & A	- Questions and Answers
GIFEC	- Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communications	QPR	- Quadrennial Periodic Reporting
GJA	- Ghana Journalists Association	RAM	- Random Access Memory
GMMB	- Ghana Museums and Monuments Board	RSIM	- Research, Statistics, and Information Management
GTA	- Ghana Tourism Authority	SDG	- Sustainable Development Goals
ICH	- Intangible Cultural Heritage	SHS	- Senior High School
ICT	- Information Communication Technology	SHS	- Social & Human Sciences
IDUAI	- International Day for Universal Access to Information	SIDA	- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
IFCD	- International Fund for Cultural Diversity	SRC	- Student Representative Council
IHP	- International Hydrological Programme	STEM	- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
IoT	- Internet of Things	TCC-CIMET-	- TCC-Centre for Innovation, Manufacturing, Entrepreneurship and Technology
ISRQ	- Inter-School Reading Quiz	UN	- United Nations
KERIS	- Korea Education and Research Information Service	UNESCO	- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
KNUST	- Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology	WRC	- Water Resources Commission
KRIVET	- Korea Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training		
GPE	- Global Partnership Education		
MCEP	- Media Capacity Enhancement Programme		
MESTI	- Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation		

OUR TEAM



Mrs. Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh
Secretary-General



Mr. Apollonius Osei-Akoto Asare
Chief Programme Officer (Natural Science)



Mr. Riche-Mike Wellington
Chief Programme Officer (Social & Human Science)



Mrs. Edith Ababio-Amoah
Principal Accountant (Finance)



Mr. Moses J. Y. Gemeh
Principal Programme Officer (Education)



Ms. Marian S. Nortey
Snr. Admin. Officer (Administration & HR)



Mr. Christopher Wetcher
Programme Officer (Culture)



Mr. Kofi Takyi Kwakye
Programme Officer (Education)



Ms. Joan Agyekum Nsowah
Programme Officer (Communication & Information)



Mr. Ransford Benyin
Yard Foreman (Transport)



Ms. Odarkor Ankrach-Addison
Admin. Assistant (Secretary-General's Secretariat)



Ms. Anita Ndzibah
Ass. Programme Officer (Culture)



Mr. Nasta Quarshie
IT Officer



Mr. John Asare
Assistant Accountant (Finance)



Mr. Abraham A. Laryea
Driver (Transport)



Mr. Arafat Abubakar Sufyan
PR Unit



Mr. Kofi Arhin
National Service Person (Finance)



Ms. Beauty Enyonam Soku
National Service Person (Admin. & HR Unit)



Ms. Pearl Kpodo
National Service Person (Admin. & HR Unit)



Mr. Osman Abubakari-Sadiq
National Service Person (Comm. & Info. Unit)



Ms. Lauren Chrishana Palm
National Service Person (Natural Science Unit)



Ms. Freda Antwiwaa
National Service Person (Education Unit)



Ms. Grace Adjei
National Service Person (Secretary-General's Secretariat)



Mr. Felix Allotey
National Service Person (PR Unit)



Ms. Anna Reilhac
German Kulturweit Volunteer

Ghana's Permanent Delegation to UNESCO



H.E. Anna Bossman
Ghana's Ambassador to France &
Permanent Delegate to UNESCO



Mrs. Vivian Asempapa
Deputy Head of Mission



Mr. Gilbert Dadzie
Research Officer



Ms. Morrin Kinda
Bilingual Secretary

ABOUT THE COMMISSION

The Ghana Commission for UNESCO is the national body that coordinates government's contribution to UNESCO and implements the activities of UNESCO in Ghana. The Commission's establishment is inspired by Article 7 of UNESCO's Constitution and anchored by the Ghana Commission for UNESCO Act 2023, (Act 1104). The Commission operates under the Ministry of Education. The Commission's mandate is to promote peace, intercultural dialogue, and cooperation among nations through education, the sciences, culture, communication, and information.

National Commissions are unique institutions found in all Member States of UNESCO. The Ghana Commission for UNESCO exists to localize the ideals of UNESCO in Ghana through UNESCO's five fields of competence to broker peace. The Commission works closely with a diverse range of partners – national and regional governments, ministries, departments, and agencies, other UN agencies, international and bilateral development partners, local and international NGOs, local civil society, academia, the media, and communities.

| OBJECTIVE OF THE COMMISSION

The objective of the Commission is to perform the functions of UNESCO in Ghana as a contribution of the country to global peace, poverty alleviation, sustainable development, and intercultural dialogue.

| FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

To achieve its objective, the Commission:

- ✚ liaises with Ministries, Departments, and Agencies for the advancement of education, the sciences, cultures, and communication with the aim of promoting mutual knowledge and understanding of the work of UNESCO towards the common welfare of humankind.
- ✚ contributes to the maintenance of peace, security, and the common welfare of humankind by participating in the activities of UNESCO.
- ✚ implements projects of UNESCO in the

country.

- ✚ participates, with the assistance of the United Nations, in the planning and execution of activities entrusted to UNESCO in the country.
- ✚ advises the Government on policies regarding UNESCO and the programmes of UNESCO.
- ✚ fosters co-operation among Government, Ministries, Departments and Agencies, professionals and other associations and academia on matters regarding UNESCO.
- ✚ is responsible for the dissemination of information on UNESCO.
- ✚ organizes fundraising activities to raise moneys for the Commission; and undertakes activities which are ancillary to the object of the Commission.

| FOCUS AREAS OF THE COMMISSION

The Ghana Commission for UNESCO works in five focus areas known as the UNESCO fields of competence:

Education: UNESCO believes that education is a human right for all throughout life and that access must be matched by quality. The Organization is the only United Nations agency with a mandate to cover all aspects of education. It has been entrusted to lead the Global Education 2030 Agenda through Sustainable Development Goal 4.

Natural Science: UNESCO's work in science covers two broad areas – promoting science, technology and innovation and using science to manage the environment in a sustainable way including the ocean, freshwater, and the Earth's natural resources, ecosystems and biodiversity.

Social and Human Science: The Sector supports issues concerning the youth, sports, women empowerment and gender equality through gender mainstreaming, child right promotion and protection, social protection/development, combating domestic violence and human trafficking.

Culture: The culture sector of UNESCO is dedicated to protecting heritage, both tangible and intangible, fostering creativity and the creative economy, and promoting the diversity of cultural expressions. It works to safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage while supporting dynamic cultural sectors to address global challenges like climate change, poverty, inequality, and conflicts.

Communication and Information: The Communication and Information sector of UNESCO works to empower key actors to safeguard fundamental human rights in both online and offline spaces. It focuses on several fields, including Freedom of expression and the safety of journalists, Media development and media in emergencies, Media and information literacy and digital competencies, Universal access to information and digital inclusion, Digital policies and digital transformation, Documentary heritage through the Memory of the World programme.

| THE SECRETARIAT

At the operational level, the National Secretariat of the Commission is headed by a Secretary-General, who serves as the Secretary to the Commission and the main channel of communication between the Government of Ghana and UNESCO. There are programme officers in charge of the five areas of expertise as well as Legal and Administration.

| PROGRAMME SPECIALIZED COMMITTEES

There are six (6) Programme Specialized Committees which reflect the main fields of competence of UNESCO in Ghana, namely Education, Natural Science, Social & Human Science, Culture, Communication & Information and Legal & Administration. The members of each of the programme specialized committees are selected from government and non-governmental organizations. The Committees, comprising eleven(11) 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. The Programme Specialized

Committees meet as and when necessary.

| NATIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEES

The National Intergovernmental Committees are the Commission's resource of experts drawn from various governmental and non-governmental agencies. They are involved in projects implemented by the

Commission either as implementers or advisors. They are responsible for advising the Government on UNESCO technical issues.

Intergovernmental Committee	Function
National Committee of the Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme	Handles environmental issues
National Committee of the International Oceanographic Committee (IOC)	Handles marine water issues
National Committee of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP)	Handles freshwater issues
National Bioethics Committee (NBC)	Handles issues on bioethics
Ghana Heritage Committee (GHC)	Issues on natural and cultural heritage
National Committee of the Information for All Programme (IFAP)	Handles issues on communication
National Committee on the Management of Social Transformation (MOST)	Handles social issues
Memory of the World Programme National Committee (MoW)	Handles Documentary Heritage

OUR IMPACT

WORK IN GHANA

EDUCATION

STRATEGIC MEETING: COURTESY CALL ON THE SECRETARY-GENERAL BY THE NATIONAL GIRLS' SPEECH AND DEBATE CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM

The National Girls' Speech and Debate Championship (NGSDC) is a platform that aims to empower young girls through speech and debate and to promote their participation in civic and social issues.

The NGSDC team called on the Secretary-General of the Ghana Commission for UNESCO, Mrs. Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh, on January 18, 2024.

During the meeting, the team expressed their gratitude for the Commission's support towards the successful hosting of the 2023 NGSDC, which had over 100 girls competing. The meeting also discussed ways to collaborate for the 2024 edition of the championship, which is expected to officially open on 18th July 2024, to cover more regions and schools in Ghana. The Secretary-General commended their efforts and assured them of the Commission's continued support.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF EDUCATION 2024: THE GHANA COMMISSION FOR UNESCO AND KARPOWERSHIP GHANA INSPIRE STUDENTS TO PRIORITIZE EDUCATION AND AVOID HATE SPEECH

On January 24, 2024, the Ghana Commission for UNESCO and Karpowership Ghana, in collaboration with the Takoradi Technical University (TTU) SRC, organized an event to mark the 2024 International Day of Education. The event, themed "Learning for Lasting Peace", aimed to raise awareness of the crucial role of education and teachers in countering hate speech, discrimination, violence, and conflict, and promoting peace and sustainable development.

UNESCO dedicated the 2024 International Day of Education to the crucial role education and teachers play in countering hate speech, a phenomenon that has snowballed in recent years with the use of social media, damaging the fabric of our societies.

In a statement delivered by the Chief Programme Officer of the Ghana Commission for UNESCO, Mr. Apollonius

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Learning for peace should be transformative, equipping learners with the knowledge, values, attitudes, skills, and behaviors essential for achieving peace in their communities

-Mr. Apollonius Osei-Akoto Asare

Osei-Akoto Asare, he stressed the important role of teachers in turning schools into havens of peace and unity. He emphasized, *"Learning for peace should be transformative, equipping learners with the knowledge, values, attitudes, skills, and behaviors essential for achieving peace in their communities."*

GHANA BRIDGE LITERACY PROJECT: PROF. MOON SUK HONG LEADS THE FEASIBILITY STUDY IN GHANA

Leveraging on the North-South Co-operation existing between the Korean National Commission for UNESCO and African National Commissions for UNESCO, the Ghana Commission for UNESCO, under the Bridge Project, submitted a proposal for consideration by the Korean National Commission for UNESCO.

The proposal, which was in literacy, focuses on improving access, quality, and lifelong learning opportunities through Non-Formal Education for marginalized groups in Ghana. The main goal is to contribute towards the attainment of SDG 4 by providing improved literacy and lifelong learning, education mobility, social inclusion, and improved livelihood for marginalized groups such as

out-of-school children and adults in the Tamale Metropolis in the Northern Region.

In considering the proposal, the Korean National Commission for UNESCO undertook a feasibility study to Ghana, led by Prof. Moon Suk Hong, a renowned expert in non-formal education and literacy from Korea, from 24th – 26th January 2024.

Prof. Moon paid a courtesy call on the Minister for Education and Chairman of the Ghana Commission for UNESCO, Hon. Dr. Yaw Osei Adutwum, and the Chief Director of the Ministry of Education, Mrs Mamle Andrews. Prof. Moon, during the meeting with the Minister, discussed how Ghana and Korea can strengthen their partnerships to support the implementation of the project, as well as the alignment of the project with the national education policies and priorities. She further held a meeting with the Complementary Education Agency to seek their input on the project.

THE GHANA COMMISSION FOR UNESCO PARTICIPATES IN STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ON THE GPE PARTNERSHIP COMPACT

The Ghana Commission for UNESCO, as part of its mandate to support the implementation of the UNESCO 2030 Education Framework for Action and the Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) on quality education, participated in a stakeholder engagement meeting on the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) Partnership Compact on February 5, 2024, at Abokobi. The meeting was organized by the Policy Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring & Evaluation Directorate of the Ministry of Education, as the coordinating agency for the GPE in Ghana.

The GPE Partnership Compact is a roadmap for unlocking major funding from the GPE to transform education in Ghana, by addressing the key challenges and gaps in the sector, and by aligning with the national education policies and priorities. The meeting was an avenue to present the overview of the Partnership Compact and to incorporate input from relevant stakeholders, including government officials, donors, civil society organizations, media, and academia, to finalize and submit the final document to the GPE.

The Programme Officers for Education at the Ghana Commission for UNESCO, Mr. Moses J. Y. Gemeh & Mr. Kofi Takyi Kwakye, joined the meeting and contributed to the discussions on the Partnership Compact, especially on the areas related to the UNESCO domains of work, such as teacher development, curriculum reform, inclusive education, literacy and numeracy, technical and vocational education and training, and education for sustainable development.

The Commission committed to working closely with the Ministry of Education and other partners to ensure the successful implementation of the GPE Partnership Compact and to achieve the desired outcomes and impact in Ghana.

LAUNCH OF THE AFRICAN FOUNDATION FOR LIFELONG LEARNING AND FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

In a launch event organized by the Moroccan National Commission for Education, Sciences, and Culture in Rabat, Morocco, from 29th – 30th May 2024, the Moroccan Government officially outdoored the African Foundation for

Lifelong Learning (AFLL), under the theme '*Lifelong learning for Africa's Development*'.

The AFLL aims at enhancing lifelong learning opportunities across Africa by sharing best practices, developing strategies, identifying national policy priorities, and translating them into actionable plans for each country.

The launch also featured the first board of directors meeting of AFLL. The Secretary-General, Mrs. Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh, represented the Commission at both events.

KOREA-AFRICA UNESCO EDUCATION NEXUS FORUM

Organized by the Korea National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU), under the auspices of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Korea, in collaboration with the Korea Education and Research Information Service (KERIS), and the Korea Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training (KRIVET), the Korea-Africa UNESCO Education Nexus took place in Seoul, Republic of Korea from 25th – 28th June 2024.

The Forum aimed to explore the significance of educational cooperation between Korea and Africa, aligning their achievements with global initiatives like Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want and UNESCO's Global Priority Africa.

The Secretary-General, Mrs. Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh, represented the Commission in this meeting and its post-forum seminar, particularly the thematic session on 'With Africa: Korea's Education Cooperation', sharing insights

into Korea-assisted projects in Ghana and the Korea-Ghana NatCom Bridge proposals.

TRAINING OF TEACHERS IN MATHEMATICS PROGRAMME

The Commission collaborated with Project Partners to pilot a revised curriculum in Numeracy from July to November 2024 for seventy-seven (77) teachers through its UNESCO Club and Associated Schools outreach media across Ghana. The pilot programme included workshops that integrated narrative, creativity, and collaboration into mathematics lessons to enhance student engagement.

At the end of the workshop, twenty-one (21) teachers successfully completed all requirements and were awarded certificates, directly impacting approximately 2,310 pupils by fostering a positive perception of mathematics as an enjoyable and accessible subject. The feedback gathered indicated notable improvements in teaching practices, with increased student participation observed through storytelling and collaborative activities.

RAISING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENTS – THE GHANA-KOREA STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

In the Commission's quest to contribute to creating global citizens, it is imperative and pertinent for the young ones to immerse themselves in different cultures. Undoubtedly, exchange programmes help students to navigate through different cultural landscapes, appreciate and tolerate diverse perspectives, develop cross-cultural communication and adaptability skills and contribute to the

sustainable development of their respective communities.

On 29th April 2024, the Secretary-General of the Ghana Commission for UNESCO, Mrs. Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh, on behalf of the Commission, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Mayor of Seocho-Gu District of Korea for the implementation of a student exchange cooperation for students of junior and senior high schools.

Under the 2024 programme, ten (10) students from Ghana's UNESCO ASPnet family were selected from Trom Basic School, ATTRACO and The McCarthy Hill School to embark on a 5-day visit (from 14th – 20th July 2024) to the Seocho-Gu District.

The experience was a transforming and defining one for the students as it allowed the learners to interact with their counterparts in Korea, impacting their perceptions on inter-cultural diversity and behaviors.

2024 NATIONAL GIRLS' SPEECH AND DEBATE CHAMPIONSHIP (NGSDC)

On 18th July 2024, the National Girls' Speech and Debate Championship (NGSDC) officially opened in a ceremony held at Accra High School.

The ceremony featured empowerment sessions with Lady Akosua Dentaa Amoateng MBE (a British Ghanaian entrepreneur, actress, TV presenter, manager, singer and producer) and Madam Sophia Kudjordji (a Public Relations expert and communicator).

The Commission was represented by the Secretary-General, Mrs. Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh and supported by Ms. Marian Nortey, Senior Administrative Officer.

In a solidarity message by the Secretary-General, she expressed gratitude to the NGSDC for availing such a platform to students to enhance their presentation skills and for peer learning. She encouraged the students to utilize the platform to their advantage.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ESD) INITIATIVE

The Ghana Commission for UNESCO, with support from the UNESCO Accra Office, organized a two-day workshop from 13th – 14th August 2024 to discuss the implementation of the country's Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) initiative.

Over the two-day period, the workshop brought together stakeholders from government, civil society, academia, and the private sector to review progress on the Ghana ESD Country Initiative, identify challenges and opportunities for advancing ESD in Ghana.

At the end of the workshop, a collaborative action plan was developed to support stakeholders in the ESD implementation.

58TH EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY: CELEBRATING MULTILINGUAL LITERACY THROUGH DIGITALIZATION TO PROMOTE PEACE

The Ministry of Education, through the Complementary Education Agency (CEA) mobilized Ghanaian literacy stakeholders

to observe the 2024 edition of the International Literacy Day set on the theme *"Celebrating multilingual literacy through digitalization to promote peace"* on 6th September 2024 in Jachie, Ashanti Region.

With inspiration from the global theme *"Promoting Multilingual Education: Literacy for Mutual Understanding and Peace"*, the commemoration sought to highlight achievements and sustain efforts to address foundational literacy challenges, promoting the relevance of literacy among communities, and individuals.

The Commission was represented by Mr. Apollonius Osei-Akoto Asare (Chief Programme Officer), Ms. Marian Nortey (Senior Admin. Officer) and Mr. Ransford Benyin (Transport).

The Commission was further represented in the global commemoration held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, on 9th and 10th September 2024 by the Secretary-General, Mrs. Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh.

LAUNCH OF THE 2025 INTER-SCHOOL READING QUIZ (ISRQ)

In line with igniting a vibrant culture of reading among learners and to contribute to promoting literacy in Ghana, Perbi Cubs Ghana launched an Inter-School Reading Quiz (ISRQ) on 25th September 2024 at the British Council in Accra.

The Secretary-General was represented by Ms. Marian Nortey, Senior Administrative Officer at the Commission. She extended the appreciation of the Commission to Perbi Cubs in partnering with the Accra World Book Capital (AWBC) Committee

to organize activities to mark Accra as the UNESCO World Book Capital, 2023 and not relenting in its efforts to contribute its quota to improving literacy among learners. She further encouraged young learners to grab the opportunity presented to them and make the best out of it.

RATIFICATION OF THE UNESCO CONVENTIONS RELATED TO EDUCATION

The Commission, on the 11th of December 2024, held a meeting with the Ghana Tertiary Education Commission (GTEC) to discuss the ratification of some outstanding UNESCO Conventions.

The meeting considered the Revised Convention on the Recognition of Service Certificates, Degrees, and Other Academic Qualifications, emphasizing Ghana's active role in its development. The convention aligns with UNESCO's broader role in setting global standards for higher education and promoting transparency, quality assurance, and international mobility. Ghana's tertiary sector stands to benefit greatly, as seen during the COVID-19 pandemic with initiatives like Open Science and Open Educational Resources. Other key UNESCO Conventions, such as the 1960 Convention against Discrimination in Education, were discussed, highlighting the importance of aligning global frameworks with national priorities.

Overall, the revised convention represents a significant opportunity for Ghana to enhance its education sector in collaboration with relevant and key stakeholders to ensure its successful ratification and implementation.

OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

ASSOCIATED SCHOOLS NETWORK (ASPnet)

The initiatives and activities undertaken by ASPnet schools in 2024 reflect a strong commitment to education, cultural heritage, environmental responsibility, and student well-being.

Activities undertaken by members of the network include observation of Menstrual Hygiene Day, educating students on personal hygiene and providing sanitary pads through partnerships with NGOs and the Ghana Health Service (Potsin D/A JHS A&B, Trom Basic School, New Tafo Feden JHS, and Osu Presby Girls); the Wit School and New Tafo Feden JHS celebrated Cultural Day, promoting intercultural respect through traditional dances, songs, and attire, while KNUST Basic School and McCarthy Hill School fostered patriotism by observing Ghana Independence Day with vibrant activities, regional dish showcases, and parent involvement. McCarthy Hill School also celebrated World Read Aloud Day, using Ghanaian folktales and dramatizations to emphasize literacy and cultural values. Environmental awareness featured prominently as Potsin D/A JHS A&B conducted Greening Ghana, planting 40 seedlings to promote sustainability, and Environmental Awareness Week engaged students with first aid training and recycling initiatives. Trom Basic School held an impactful session on the risks of Tattooing, while New Feden M/A educated students on nutrition through Egg Day, highlighting the health benefits of egg consumption. Activities like Love Day, focusing on table manners and culinary skills, and the International Day of Education,

emphasizing peace values, further enriched students' holistic development.

The Associated Schools Network has been playing a significant role in fostering education, cultural awareness, and sustainable development among young people.

UNESCO CLUBS

Reflecting on the projects completed by UNESCO Clubs during 2024, it is evident that these initiatives have made significant strides in promoting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and UNESCO's core values among students.

From impactful workshops and cultural

performances to critical discussions and exchange programs, the clubs demonstrated a strong commitment to education, intercultural dialogue, and youth empowerment. Activities such as the Digital Literacy and the Global Economy workshop, the adaptation of The Sound of Music, and media literacy tours not only enriched students' skills and knowledge but also fostered values of peace, unity, and critical thinking.

These projects have successfully created a platform for students to engage meaningfully with global issues, equipping them to become active contributors to sustainable development within their communities.

NATURAL SCIENCE



SECRETARY-GENERAL VISITS THE TECHNOLOGY CONSULTANCY CENTRE

The Commission, committed to fostering collaboration and innovation among its partners and stakeholders in various fields of science, technology and education, had its Secretary-General, Mrs. Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh visiting the Technology Consultancy Center (TCC) of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) on February 6, 2024.

The TCC Centre for innovation, manufacturing and entrepreneurship transfer (TCC-CIMET) is a UNESCO Category II Center of Excellence in Engineering, Innovation, Manufacturing, and Technology Transfer. The Centre was established in 1972 with the support of the Government of Ghana. The Center aims to promote the development and dissemination of appropriate technologies that can enhance the socio-economic well-being of the people of Ghana and the sub-region.

During her visit, Mrs. Nerquaye-Tetteh was introduced to the various activities and achievements of the TCC-CIMET and also witnessed the demonstration of some of the prototypes of scientific works developed. She expressed her appreciation and admiration for the efforts being made by the TCC-CIMET to convert research from academia into marketable products and services through technology transfer. She also pledged the continuous

support and collaboration of the Ghana Commission for UNESCO to the TCC-CIMET and its initiatives.

STRATEGIC MEETING: COURTESY VISIT BY THE AG. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION (WRC)

On Tuesday, 20th February 2024, Dr. Bob Alfa, the Ag. Executive Secretary of the Water Resources Commission (WRC) paid a courtesy visit to the Secretary-General, Mrs. Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh, to formally introduce himself as the new Chairperson of the National Committee for UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP) and to discuss matters related to the advancement of the Committee.

In attendance were Mr. Apollonius Osei-Akoto Asare, the Commission's Chief Programme Officer (Natural Science) and representative on the Committee and Ms. Adwoa Afran, the Coordinator for the Committee and a Senior Officer at WRC.

Discussions during the meeting focused on collaborating to advance initiatives related to UNESCO's IHP in Ghana.

The Commission, through this meeting, strengthened ties with the Committee and strategized to work together towards shared goals within the realm of water resources and hydrology.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNESCO RECOMMENDATION ON OPEN SCIENCE

The German and Netherlands National Commissions for UNESCO in cooperation with the UNESCO Secretariat organized an online workshop on Tuesday, 20th February 2024 to exchange ideas on how to adapt good practices in how national commissions in member states have contributed to the implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science in their countries.

The participants were stakeholders from the National Commission fraternity, particularly responsible for Open Science.

Mr. Apollonius O-A. Asare, Chief Programme Officer for Natural Science, made a presentation highlighting the roles of national commissions in the application of the provisions of the Recommendation as well as in-roads made by Ghana in the development of guidelines for existing open access infrastructures in the country even though Ghana does not have an open Science policy.

WORLD ENGINEERING DAY 2024: ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD

In highlighting engineers and engineering's achievements and improving public understanding of how engineering and technology are central to modern life and for sustainable development, the World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development was proclaimed to be celebrated annually on the 4th of March each year.

This year's celebration was on the theme

"Engineering Solutions for a Sustainable World".

The Commission, in collaboration with TCC-CIMET, a UNESCO Category II Centre of Excellence, organized activities that highlighted the significance of this day from 23rd February 2023 to 4th March 2024.

Among the activities were a workshop to provide an engaging platform for students to experiment with and explore various aspects of Internet of Things (IoT) [fostering a deeper understanding of this cutting-edge technology]; a STEM Empowerment Program in senior high schools through IoT workshops, sustainable technology solutions, and engineering talks; a webinar on "Harmonizing Nature in Engineering Design for Sustainable Solutions: Insights from the African Indigenous Perspective".

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL DAY 2024: AT THE FRONTLINE OF CLIMATE ACTION

Climate change is a real and undeniable threat to our entire civilization, and everyone has a role to play in climate action.

The Ghana Meteorological Agency organized an event on 21st March 2024 on the theme "At the frontline of Climate Action" to mark the day. The agency took the opportunity to launch the Weather Kids Initiative Programme which is intended to involve children to enable them to play their part in climate action.

In line with its action to support the activities of the agency, the Commission actively participated in the event. The Commission

was represented by Mr. Apollonius Osei-Akoto Asare, Chief Programme Officer (Natural Science).

STRATEGIC MEETING: COURTESY VISIT TO THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (MESTI)

In the spirit of bringing sectors on board UNESCO's work, the Secretary-General, Mrs. Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh, on Tuesday, 20th August 2024, paid a courtesy visit to the Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) to congratulate her on her appointment and to discuss a proposal to host an AI Conference in Ghana.

In attendance were the Mr. Patrick Nomo, Chief Director for MESTI; Mr. Cephas Mensah, Director for Research, Statistics, and Information Management (RSIM), MESTI; Mr. Apollonius Osei-Akoto Asare, Chief Programme Officer (Natural Science), Ghana Commission for UNESCO; Ms. Joan Nsowah, Programme Officer for Communication & Information, Ghana Commission for UNESCO and Representatives from the UNESCO Accra Office.

WORLD MOSQUITO DAY 2024

An event aimed at increasing awareness and involving students in the fight against arboviral infections such as malaria and dengue fever was organized on 20th August 2024 on the theme "The Globe Plus Project: Engaging Students through Citizen Science to Control Arboviral Disease".

This initiative is aimed at educating

students about arboviral diseases and empowering them to actively participate in scientific efforts to combat these health threats. By leveraging citizen science, "The Globe Plus Project" seeks to foster a new generation of informed young leaders dedicated to public health and environmental sustainability.

The event was organized in partnership with the Noguchi Memorial Institute, WAASuN, MMRM, and the US Embassy. It brought together students from six schools - Ngleshi SHS, Teshie SHS, Odorgono SHS, Wesley Grammar SHS, Ghanata SHS, and Madina SHS.

The Commission was represented by Mr. Apollonius Osei-Akoto Asare, Chief Programme Officer for Natural Science participated in the meeting. He was supported by Ms. Laurene Palm, National Service Personnel for Natural Science.

10TH UNESCO AFRICA ENGINEERING WEEK 2024

The 10th UNESCO Africa Engineering Week was observed at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) Technology Consultancy Centre International Centre for Innovation, Manufacturing, Technology Transfer, and Entrepreneurship (TCC-CIMET) from 9th to 13th September 2024.

Held under the theme "Engineering the Future: Innovative Infrastructure Solutions for a Sustainable Africa and Swift AfCFTA implementation", the various events aimed to inspire young engineers to create practical solutions for real-life challenges while integrating indigenous principles. Activities held during the

celebration included a hybrid webinar on September 26, 2024, featuring prominent speakers like Prof. Francis Davis, Director-General of TCC-CIMET, Prof. Samuel Owusu Ofori, Vice Chancellor of the University of Science, Engineering and Technology (USET) in the Gambia, Ing. Alfred Mbayoh, Design Coordinator of UNIPOD, Sierra Leone among others. Prof. Davis announced an initiative to equip engineering students with skills in computer-aided design and smart manufacturing, targeting 40% female participation.

The event which had 24 engineering institutions in Ghana participating, also featured a live talk show with contributions from notable engineering professionals and students across various engineering institutions. Foreign participants included representatives from University of Ibadan, Nigeria and Fourah Bay College, Sierra Leone, the University of Science, Engineering and Technology in the Gambia, which fostered collaboration and dialogue in the engineering community.

The programme was supported by UNESCO, Ghana Institution of Engineering, Institution of Engineering and Technology, and Ghana Engineering Council.

4TH MAB NATIONAL FORUM ON BIOSPHERE RESERVES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The 4th National Forum on Biosphere Reserves and Sustainable Development was held on November 12, 2024, at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Kumasi. The forum's theme was "Synergizing our Resources through Partnerships to

Enhance Biosphere Reserves' Contribution to the Global Biodiversity Framework."

The forum was organized with support from UNESCO Accra Office, Ghana Commission for UNESCO, KNUST, and Cargill Ghana Limited.

The objectives of the forum were to create awareness on the MAB program and the Biosphere Reserve concept, create a platform for knowledge exchange and promote partnerships among stakeholders for sustainable development.

The forum brought together over 200 participants including traditional authorities, researchers, government representatives, academia, students, industry players, private sector, civil society organizations, subject matter specialists, and the media.

Prior to the technical presentations of the forum, the Lake Bosomtwe Biosphere Reserve Management Plan was launched by the Board Chairman of EPA, Prof. Kwasi Appeaning Addo, to guide the sustainable management of the Biosphere Reserve.

Discussions during the forum were in a panel discussion, technical presentations, live art-painting competition on nature among selected senior high schools within the Ashanti Region (Bosomtwe Girls, TI AMASS and Kumasi Anglican).

Mr. Apollonius O-A. Asare, Chief Programme Officer for Natural Science, delivered a message on behalf of the Commission, emphasizing the importance of biosphere reserves as "living laboratories." He called for collective action to inspire

change and empower local communities in conservation efforts.

17TH INTERNATIONAL FORUM OF NGOS IN OFFICIAL PARTNERSHIP WITH UNESCO

UNESCO Secretariat, in partnership with the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee and National Commissions from Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, and Uganda, successfully hosted the 17th International Forum of NGOs in Official Partnership with UNESCO. The event took place online from December 11 to 12, 2024, and centred on the theme “African Leadership, Experience, and Expertise in the International Decade of Science for Sustainable Development (IDSSD).”

The forum aimed at increasing civil society participation in science-based activities during the recently proclaimed International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development, as well as strengthening partnerships with National Commissions for UNESCO, particularly in Africa. The event has engaged stakeholders in consultations and fundraising efforts to address the strengths and challenges of science, particularly in Africa to promote equitable representation throughout the decade.

During a panel discussion on African cooperation for scientific literacy, National Commissions for UNESCO from Kenya, Ghana, South Africa, and Uganda highlighted collaborative opportunities with NGOs. Prof. Rufus Wesi (Southern African Association of Science and Technology Centres) discussed the impact of science centres on scientific literacy and their challenges. Mr. Apollonius Osei-Akoto Asare from the Ghana Commission for

UNESCO also emphasized the need for NGO partnerships in policy advocacy, capacity building, and resource mobilization.

Dr. Samuel Atarah (University of Ghana) made a presentation detailing the state of quantum computing in the Global South which addressed challenges and opportunities for innovation.

RENEWAL OF CATEGORY II STATUS - AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES (AIMS-GHANA)

In line with the rules governing the designation of UNESCO Category II Centres of Excellence, which requires the renewal of their mandate quadrennially, Ghana has initiated the renewal process for the UNESCO African Institute of Mathematical Sciences (AIMS Ghana), a Category II of Excellence in the Natural Science Sector of UNESCO, through an official correspondence to UNESCO.

Additionally, Ghana has requested an extension of the agreement's expiration while evaluation and other processes are ongoing. The country is looking forward to receiving an evaluation team from UNESCO to facilitate this process.

ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROJECTS

GHANA COMMITTEE FOR MAB PROGRAMME

The National MAB Committee held its first meeting in January 2024, marking a significant step in Ghana's engagement with the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) program. Ghana also participated in the 36th MAB Council meeting in Morocco this year.

On March 27, 2024, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), through the MAB Secretariat, organized the inaugural meeting of the Eco Certification Ghana Committee. Dr. John Krugu, Chairperson of the MAB National Committee and Executive Director of the EPA, led the swearing-in ceremony for the newly formed committee, which comprises seven core members representing various organizations, including the EPA, Ghana Standards Authority, and Forestry Commission.

The primary objective of the committee is to ensure effective implementation of Eco Certification Ghana. Nana Otuo Owoahene Acheampong from the National Commission on Culture was nominated and confirmed as President of the Eco-Certification Ghana Committee. The committee will be hosted by the Ghana National Cleaner Production Centre and supported by both the MAB National Secretariat and the EPA.

Additionally, the MAB National Secretariat collaborated with the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission and the Ghana Commission for UNESCO to organize a ceremony for the "Ensuring Sustainability Through Gender Supportive Actions in UNESCO Biosphere Reserves in Ghana" (ESGA-GH) project. This initiative underscores Ghana's commitment to sustainability and gender-inclusive practices within its biosphere reserves.

GHANA COMMITTEE FOR THE IHP

In line with Priority Three (3) of the Commission's strategic plan – strengthening the Commission – the Ghana Committee of UNESCO's International Hydrological

Programme (IHP) held its first meeting for 2024 on March 28, 2024 and had its second statutory meeting on 27th August 2024. Discussions aimed at enhancing Ghana's water resource management and addressing water-related issues to advance sustainable industry practices.

The meetings also considered and evaluated the activities captured in its workplan for 2024, flagship activities for 2025, consideration of workplan of 2025, participation in the MOLE conference, planning of national celebration of 50th anniversary celebration of IHP as well as 2025 WASH conference.

The composition of the committee includes the Ghana Water Limited, Ghana Meteorological Agency, Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana Irrigation Development Authority (GIDA), Ghana Water Limited, Bui Power Authority, Ghana Meteorological Agency, Ghana Water Research Institute, Coalition of NGOs in Water and Sanitation (CONIWAS), Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources, Volta River Authority, the Ghana Commission for UNESCO and Water Resources Commission (the host to the Committee). The Commission's representative, Mr. Apollonius Osei-Akoto Asare, Chief Programme Officer for Natural Science, participated in the meeting. He was supported by Ms. Laurene Palm, National Service Personnel for Natural Science.

SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCE (SHS)

NATCOM YOUTH NETWORK WEBINAR SERIES: ADVOCACY AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The Commission, through the Natcom Youth Network, successfully hosted a webinar on the topic "Advocacy and Youth Engagement in Policy Development" on March 22, 2024.

The webinar aimed at empowering young people to participate in policy development and advocacy by educating them on the importance of advocacy and policy development, providing them with the relevant skills and knowledge for policy development, providing them with a platform for the youth to share ideas and best practices, and strengthening the capacity of the Natcom Youth Network for advocacy and policy engagement.

The webinar brought together members of the Ghana Commission for UNESCO youth network, as well as youth organizations from the network.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A YOUTH SECTOR WORKING GROUP

On June 11, 2024, a breakfast meeting was held at the British Council in Accra to establish a Youth Sector Working Group under the National Youth Authority and the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

The event brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including the Ministry

of Youth and Sports, the National Youth Authority, the Ghana Commission for UNESCO, private sector organizations, and donor partners such as the EU, ActionAid, and the MasterCard Foundation.

The meeting provided a platform for stakeholders to discuss common goals, challenges, and opportunities in the youth sector, and to explore ways to leverage resources, expertise, and networks to promote youth development and empowerment in Ghana. The establishment of the Youth Sector Working Group marks a significant step towards ensuring a coordinated and sustainable approach to youth development in the country.

NATCOM YOUTH NETWORK WEBINAR SERIES: GRANT WRITING AND FUNDRAISING STRATEGIES FOR YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

On 30th July 2024, the NatCom Youth Network hosted a webinar on "Grant Writing and Fundraising Strategies for Youth Organizations" to build the capacity of members and organizations of the network in grant and proposal writing. The Resource Person, Mr. Samuel Gariba, an expert in grant writing and fundraising, led participants through the topic and discussions.

The webinar provided a platform for participants to learn about best practices in grant writing, fundraising strategies,

and how to access funding opportunities. Participants gained knowledge and skills in grant writing and fundraising strategies, which will enable them to access funding opportunities and implement projects that benefit their communities. The session ended with a Question & Answer time, where participants asked questions and sought clarifications.

2024 INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY – FROM CLICKS TO PROGRESS: YOUTH DIGITAL PATHWAYS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

On August 12, 2024, the Commission participated in the 2024 International Youth Day Conference organized by the National Youth Authority under the auspices of the Ministry of Youth and Sports at the Pentecost Convention Center in Gomoa Fetteh, Central Region.

The conference, themed “From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development”, brought together over 1,000 youth, youth leaders, policymakers, representatives from UNESCO, UN in Ghana, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, NEIP, and other partners. The Vice President of the Republic of Ghana, H.E. Mahamudu Bawumia, delivered the keynote address, emphasizing the importance of youth empowerment and development.

The Representative of UNESCO to Ghana and Head of Office, Mr. Edmond Moukala, in his solidarity message noted that “we must begin to accept that the future belongs to the youth of today and they must be bold enough to seize it”.

The Ghana Commission for UNESCO

participated in the conference to contribute to the global celebration of youth empowerment and development, promote UNESCO's values and programs among Ghanaian youth and support the government's efforts to empower young people.

“

We must begin to accept that the future belongs to the youth of today and they must be bold enough to seize it.

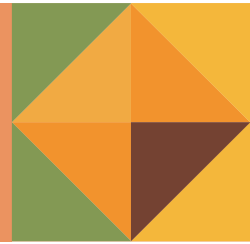
–Mr. Edmond Moukala, Representative of UNESCO to Ghana

PASSAGE OF THE ANTI-DOPING BILL

The Parliament of Ghana passed the Ghana Anti-doping Act, 2024 (Act 1116) in response to meeting the requirements of the UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sports, which was ratified by Ghana on 31st December 2006.

The passage of the Act endorses the establishment of the Ghana Anti-doping Agency which will replace National Anti-doping Committee, co-established by the Ghana Commission for UNESCO and the Ministry of Youth and Sport to oversee all matters concerning anti-doping in Ghana and also ensure that Ghana does periodic reporting to the Conference of Parties on measures taken by Ghana to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Convention.

CULTURE



COMMISSIONING OF KENTE MUSEUM AT BONWIRE, ASHANTI REGION

On January 10, 2024, the Ghana Commission for UNESCO joined the Ghana Tourism Authority (GTA) and the Traditional Authority of Bonwire to commission the first-ever Kente Museum in the Ashanti Region.

The museum is part of the craft villages circuit project initiated by the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture under the Ghana Tourism Development project. The museum is expected to boost tourism, create job opportunities, and generate revenue, particularly for the youth in the area. It is also dedicated to the conservation of Kente cloth, using traditional weaving techniques and methods.

The Secretary-General of the Ghana Commission for UNESCO, Mrs. Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh, in a solidarity statement, expressed delight at the opening of the museum and pointed out that UNESCO is in the process of enlisting Kente as part of the Worlds Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH).

H.E Samira Bawumia, the Second Lady of the Republic, who commissioned the museum, appreciated the efforts of the stakeholders involved in the project and urged the public to visit the museum, get to know the significance of Kente, its traditional, intricate and artistic weaving process, as well as its evolution. Other

dignitaries in attendance were Hon. Mark Okraku-Mantey (Deputy Minister for Tourism, Arts, and Culture), Mr. Kwasi Agyemang (the Chief Executive Officer of Ghana Tourism Authority), Nana Bobie Ansah II (the Chief of Bonwire), and Hon. John Kumah (the Member of Parliament for the area).

UNESCO EARTH NETWORK MISSION ON ASHANTI TRADITIONAL BUILDINGS (ATBS)

From 10th – 27th January, Mr. Christopher Wetcher, Programme Officer for Culture participated in the maiden UNESCO Earth Network Program held in the Ashanti Region of Ghana.

The UNESCO Earth Network is a global intersectoral project intended to tackle issues related to biodiversity loss, ocean and land degradation, and climate change adaptation and mitigation. The project seeks to support ecological restoration and the reconciliation of human-nature relationships in UNESCO-designated sites through the help of experts providing technical advice and training, responding to the specific needs and priorities of requesting sites, for the benefit of local and global communities.

Through the support of the UNESCO Earth Network Program, the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board (GMMB) organized a two-week workshop and fieldwork to examine and document the

ICH and biodiversity elements associated with the ATBs. The workshop sought to train participants on how to map and identify the ICH and biodiversity elements associated with World Heritage Properties.

The workshop was organized at the Forestry Commission's Office at Ejisu, Kumasi and facilitated by Dr. Deidre Prins Solani, a UNESCO Expert.

UNESCO CULTURE|2030 INDICATORS – REGIONAL CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP

In January this year, Ghana received a letter from UNESCO requesting the country to participate in the UNESCO Culture|2030 Indicators Project. Following this, the Ghana Commission for UNESCO from the 12th – 13th, 15th and 19th facilitated a workshop to introduce and orient stakeholder institutions on the project.

The UNESCO Thematic Indicators for Culture in the 2030 Agenda (UNESCO Culture|2030 Indicators) is a framework of thematic indicators which measures and monitors the progress of culture's contribution to the national and local implementation of the Goals and Targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The main project is expected to start after a letter of Agreement has been signed by Ghana and UNESCO.

2004 CULTURE POLICY REVIEW: NORTHERN REGION CONSULTATION WORKSHOP

On January 25, Mr. Christopher Wetcher, Programme Officer for Culture and representative of the Secretary-General, participated in a consultative workshop

organized in the Northern by the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, and Culture towards the review of the 2004 Culture Policy.

The workshop was part of a series of workshops that the Ministry organized to engage the relevant stakeholders to solicit their input in the Culture Policy.

The workshop was attended by the Regional Minister, Traditional Authorities, culture practitioners, academics, and local communities to deliberate on the existing culture policy and its revision.

2024 GHANA CULTURE WEEK SYMPOSIUM

On 15th March, the Secretary-General, the Programme Officer for Culture and the Assistant Programme Officer for Culture participated in a symposium organized as part of the Ghana Culture Week celebration.

The symposium was attended by the Minister for Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs, Hon. Stephen Asamoah Boateng, Executive Director for the National Commission on Culture and Representative of the UNESCO Head of Office.

The Ghana Culture Week organized under theme 'Cultivating the Cultural Capital: Nurturing Ghana's Legacy for Africa's Renaissance', sought to celebrate our cultural heritage as well as discuss issues concerning our cultural development.

The week's events included a Fashion dialogue, inter-school debate, film screening, a symposium and presentation on the African Fashion Report. The week spanned 12th – 17th March 2024.

2024 INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY – MULTILINGUAL EDUCATION: A PILLAR OF INTERGENERATIONAL LEARNING

On 21st April, the Commission, represented by Mrs. Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh, the Secretary-General, participated in the workshop and panel discussion organized by the Bureau of Ghana Languages to observe the International Mother Language Day. The workshop focused on the use of the right language and terminologies by the media, especially with the use of our local languages to ensure that it is promoted and respected.

Further, in line with the commemoration, the School of Languages, College of Humanities, in collaboration with the Commission also held a symposium under the global theme 'Multilingual Education: A Pillar of Intergenerational Learning' at the Maison Française Conference Room at the University of Ghana. Speakers at the event took the opportunity to advocate for the use of the various Ghanaian languages in teaching and learning at the basic levels. The Commission was represented by Mr. Apollonius Osei-Akoto Asare (Chief Programme Officer, Natural Science) and accompanied by Ms. Marian Nortey (Senior Administrative Officer) and Mr. Arafat Abubakar Sufyan (Multimedia Officer).

The celebration of the International Mother Language Day is set aside to celebrate the linguistic diversity within our global community and recognize the crucial role that indigenous languages play in shaping cultures, identities, and education systems worldwide. They serve as a platform for open dialogue, exchanging

ideas and sharing best practices regarding multilingual practices.

INFORMATION SESSION ON INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY (IFCD)

To ensure institutions submit applications that conform to the requirements of the Fund and Convention, the IFCD Secretariat organized a virtual information session on 25th April 2024. The Commission was represented by Mr. Christopher Wetcher (Programme Officer for Culture) and Ms. Anita Nzibah (Assistant Programme Officer for Culture).

Following this session, a call for the submission of proposals was launched, with eight (8) proposals received for consideration. The Commission constituted a 9-member panel to consider the proposals. The Commission organized a pre-selection panel meeting on 18th July 2024 to ensure that the submitted proposals met the outcomes and goals of the Convention as outlined in the IFCD selection criteria.

At the end of the process, none of the proposals qualified to be selected for consideration by the IFCD.

COMMITTEE MEETING ON QUADRENNIAL PERIODIC REPORTING – 2005 CONVENTION

On July 22, the Commission supported the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture to organize a stakeholder meeting to complete the Quadrennial Periodic Reporting (QPR) for the 2024 Cycle.

Periodic reports are a statutory obligation of State Parties as well as strategic tools

for the development of innovative and committed cultural policies for the future of countries. Periodic reports are key instruments that enable government officials and civil society to collaborate in assessing progress made in terms of protecting and promoting the diversity of cultural expressions and to identify areas where investment and human and financial resources may be required.

MEDIA LAUNCH & INAUGURATION OF NATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ARTS AND CULTURE (NAFAC) 2024

On August 6, the Secretary-General, Mrs. Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh, participated as the Special Guest of Honour in the launch of the National Planning Committee for NAFAC held at the African Continental Free Trade Area Secretariat. The Secretary-General was accompanied by Mr. Christopher Wetcher, Programme Officer (Culture) and Mrs. Anita Nzibah, Assistant Programme Officer (Culture). This year's NAFAC was launched under the theme: "Beyond NAFAC @ 60: harnessing culture, the pivot for Ghana's Democracy and Sustainable development."

The National Festival of Arts and Culture (NAFAC) is a celebration of different aspects of Ghana's Culture from all 16 regions of Ghana. It has over the years grown to be one of the most significant cultural events in the country providing a platform for stakeholders in the arts and culture industry to interact, showcase talents and promote the values of Ghana's diverse and beautiful heritage.

In attendance was Hon. Mark Okraku

Mantey, Deputy Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Hon. Kwasi Adu-Gyan, the Regional Minister for Bono East (the host region), as well as chiefs and queen mothers.

2004 CULTURE POLICY REVIEW: STAKEHOLDER VALIDATION WORKSHOP

On August 13, the Assistant Program Officer for Culture represented the Commission in a Validation Workshop to review the 2004 Culture Policy. The Workshop was held at the Conference Center, in Accra. The workshop which brought together chiefs, culture practitioners, academics, local communities, embassies, companies and agencies was intended to validate the views solicited from the consultative workshop from the from the Regions.

WORLD FOLKLORE DAY 2024

The 2024 World Folklore Day was commemorated on 22nd August 2024 by the National Folklore Board, under the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture. The celebration was held under the theme: 'Relevance of Traditional Symbols in the 21st Century'.

In commemoration of the day, the event was used to launch the Ga Samai book written by Dr Richard Afutu Kotei.

Mr. Apollonius Osei-Akoto Asare (Chief Programme Officer, Natural Science) represented the Commission at this commemoration.

UNESCO CULTURE|2030 INDICATORS – MEETING WITH THE CHIEF DIRECTOR OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM, ARTS AND CULTURE

The Commission, on the 17th of October

2024 took the opportunity to brief the new Chief Director of MoTAC, Mr. Robert Ankobiah on the Commission and MoTAC collaborations on the Culture|2030 Indicators Project.

Representing the Commission, Mr. Christopher Wetcher, Programme Officer for Culture briefed on the implementation so far, emphasizing the importance of the project to Ghana in terms of its contribution to the culture sector.

The Chief Director assured the Commission of his support towards the implementation of the project.

CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP ON THE UNESCO CULTURAL CONVENTIONS

On 23rd October 2024, the Ghana Commission for UNESCO through the support of UNESCO organized a workshop for relevant agencies and institutions on the implementation of the UNESCO Cultural Conventions that Ghana has ratified.

The workshop focused on Presentations and discussions on the six Conventions Ghana has ratified. In addition to the presentation was an activity session which was tailor-made to get participants to engage each other, share their insights on the conventions and develop recommendations for the effective implementation of the Conventions.

The workshop was opened by the Secretary-General and was followed by Goodwill statements from the Executive Director for the National Commission on Culture, the National Programme Officer for Culture, UNESCO Office in Accra and the Executive Director, National Folklore Board.

MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: GHANA HERITAGE COMMITTEE

On the 12th of November 2024, the Commission, with the support of UNESCO, organized a meeting for the Technical Committee of the Ghana Heritage Committee (GHC).

The Committee discussed, among other things, reinforcing the importance of the GHC (Involving or Engaging the Committee in heritage programs and discourse in the country), institutional update on the implementation of the MSHSF, follow-up on the decision of the World Heritage Committee at its 46th Session (Decision 46 COM 7B.22), the state of conservation of Ghana's World Heritage Properties (Forts and Castles and ATB) from the GMMB.

HERITAGE AND TOURISM SYMPOSIUM

On November 13, the Commission, through the support of UNESCO, organized a heritage and tourism symposium. The symposium was organized at the Ellking Hotel under the theme "Positioning Ghana's Heritage Resources for Sustainable and Responsible Tourism: The role of the Media".

The symposium discussed key issues on promoting Cultural Heritage through Media: Opportunities and Challenges; the Media's Role in Shaping Ghana's National Identity and Cultural Diplomacy; the Media and the Protection of Ghana's Heritage; Heritage Tourism Marketing Strategies: The Media's Role; the Digital Media and Social Media Influence on Tourism in Ghana.

The objective of the workshop was to

encourage participating institutions, in particular, the media to develop programs to help educate the public about the need to preserve and promote Ghana's heritage resources including the country's world heritage properties.

UNESCO WORLD PHILOSOPHY DAY 2024 CELEBRATION – PHILOSOPHY FOR AN INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

World Philosophy Day is celebrated annually on the third Thursday of November as proclaimed by UNESCO to highlight the value of philosophy for human thought, culture, and individuals, use philosophy to identify the consequences of crises and create a common path for humanity.

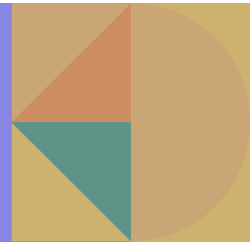
The 2024 UNESCO World Philosophy Day 2024 celebration took place on November

21, 2024, under the theme "Philosophy for an Inclusive and Sustainable Future."

Organized by the University of Ghana's Department of Philosophy, the event featured a series of presentations, performances, and discussions aimed at highlighting philosophy's role in promoting inclusivity and sustainability. This year's event effectively underscored philosophy's vital role in fostering sustainable practices and addressing modern challenges through intellectual dialogue and creative expression.

A statement was delivered on behalf of the Secretary-General by Mr. Apollonius Osei-Akoto Asare, Chief Programme Officer (Natural Science), underscoring philosophy's relevance to contemporary issues.

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION (CI)



WORLD RADIO DAY 2024: CELEBRATING RADIO'S RICH PAST, ONGOING RELEVANCE, AND PROMISING FUTURE

World Radio Day is an opportunity to celebrate radio as a medium of mass communication. It is a chance to promote international cooperation between radio broadcasters, to encourage major networks and local radio stations to foster access to information and freedom of expression.

The Ghana Commission for UNESCO in partnership with the Faculty of Journalism and Media Studies of the University of Media, Arts, and Communication - Institute of Journalism (UniMAC-IJ) organized a one-day field trip to the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC) on Tuesday, 13 February 2024.

The field trip was to expose level 100 students of the faculty to the practical aspects of radio broadcasting. The programme involved about 80 participants, including faculty members and staff of the faculty and the Ghana Commission for UNESCO.

The field trip covered a tour of the various facilities and departments of GBC: the newsroom, the production room, the live studio, the control room, and the digital media unit. Participants had the opportunity of interacting with staff of the GBC on current trends and issues in radio broadcasting and media communication.

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY 2024 - A PRESS FOR THE PLANET: JOURNALISM IN THE FACE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS

The 2024 World Press Freedom Day was held to commemorate the fundamental principles of press freedom, assess the state of press freedom in Ghana, and celebrate the contributions of journalists and media workers.

Themed "A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of Environmental Crisis", the day highlighted the critical role of journalism in addressing environmental crises and promoting sustainable development.

An event was organized on May 3, 2024, at the Koforidua Technical University by the Ghana Journalists Association (GJA) and the Ministry of Information to spark discussions regarding the media's responsibility and abilities to inform the public about environmental challenges, eventually promoting societal change and legislative reform for environmental sustainability. The event featured panel discussions, a presentation by GJA Journalist of the Year, Erastus Asare Donkor, and a presentation of citations to recognize outstanding journalists and media organizations.

The Ghana Commission for UNESCO supported via the participation of Ms. Joan Nsowah, Programme Officer for Communication & Information.

FACT-CHECKING TRAINING FOR STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MEDIA, ARTS AND COMMUNICATION (UNIMAC) MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY (MIL) CLUB

In an era where misinformation can spread rapidly through social media and other platforms, it is imperative that future media professionals are adept at distinguishing between factual information and falsehoods.

It is in this line and in contributing its quota to fostering a culture of truth and accuracy and equipping students with the relevant skills to critically analyze and verify information they receive, that the Ghana Commission for UNESCO organized a two-day fact-checking training for students of the University of Media, Arts, and Communication (Uni-MAC) Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Club and beyond on 6th and 7th May 2024.

The training highlighted the importance of continuous practice and engagement with real-world examples to master the skill of fact-checking. The training programme spanned aspects of fact-checking and information verification, misinformation, disinformation, malformation and ethical considerations and standards of fact-checking. They utilized digital tools to track sources, assess the credibility of information, and learn techniques to debunk false claims effectively.

In a remark by the Secretary-General of the Ghana Commission for UNESCO, Mrs. Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh, admonished the students to practice the skills that were gained during the training especially

as we approach the elections, where information will be critical in making informed decisions.

LAUNCH AND DISSEMINATION OF THE ASSESSMENT OF GHANA'S INTERNET UNIVERSALITY INDICATORS REPORT

The launch and dissemination of the Assessment of Ghana's Internet Universality Indicators Report is a step towards promoting digital inclusivity and addressing the complex challenges of digital access and literacy in Ghana.

Launched on 9th May 2024 at the Kofi Annan ICT Center by the Ag. Administrator of the Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communications (GIFEC), the report provided an assessment of Ghana's internet universality indicators, highlighting areas of strength and weakness and encouraging collective efforts to address the complex challenges of digital inclusivity. The report further shared the findings and recommendations of Ghana's internet universality indicators with relevant stakeholders.

Mr. Apollonius Asare, Chief Programme Officer (Natural Science) at the Ghana Commission for UNESCO, delivered a keynote address on behalf of the Secretary-General.

THIRD AFRICAN MEDIA CONVENTION (AMC)

The third African Media Convention was organized from 15th – 17th May 2024 with the primary objective of bringing together media stakeholders and policymakers from across Africa.

The convention was hosted by the Government of Ghana through the Ministry of Information, the UNESCO Liaison Office in Addis Ababa, the African Union and the Ghana Journalists Association (GJA).

The convention aimed to discuss the state of the media in Africa, the impact of emerging technologies, and the role of journalism in the face of the environmental crisis in Africa.

The convention witnessed the participation of over 1000 delegates, including policymakers, Ministers of State, researchers, academics, and media practitioners. The event featured panel discussions, and case study presentations.

PRESS LAUNCH - INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION (IDUAI) 2024

In 2023, Ghana put in a bid to host the 2024 International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI). After careful and thorough consideration, UNESCO approved Ghana's bid.

On Wednesday, June 5, 2024, the Ghana Commission for UNESCO, in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and the UNESCO Accra Office, launched the International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI) at the Ministry of Information. The event brought together stakeholders from government, civil society, media, and academia to emphasize the importance of access to information in promoting democratic governance and sustainable development.

The launch was used to share plans and

preparations for the upcoming celebration in October 2024, and to raise awareness about the significance of access to information in promoting transparency, accountability, and good governance. The press briefing was addressed by Hon. Fatimatu Abubakar, the Minister for Information, who emphasized the government's commitment to promoting access to information and transparency, highlighting the importance of empowering citizens with accurate and timely information to participate meaningfully in the democratic process.

The Secretary-General of the Ghana Commission for UNESCO, Mrs. Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh, stressed the need for a concerted effort to promote a culture of transparency and accountability in Ghana, urging stakeholders to work together to ensure universal access to information for all citizens.

VERIFY FIRST, SHARE WITH CAUTION SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY TOUR: LABONE SHS

The Verify First, Share with Caution Senior High School Media and Information Literacy Tour was organized to empower final-year students, who are first-time voters, with the necessary skills to navigate the media landscape critically. The tour aimed to promote media and information literacy, peaceful coexistence, and political tolerance among the students.

On Friday, July 19, 2024, the Ghana Commission for UNESCO and the UniMAC MIL Club successfully held the Verify First,

Share with Caution Senior High School Media and Information Literacy Tour at the Labone Senior High School in Accra. The event featured a presentation and discussion on "Media and Information Literacy and False News During Elections" led by Mr. Stephen Tindi, a lecturer and patron of the UniMAC MIL Club. The Education Unit at the Commission also engaged the students in a dialogue on political tolerance and peaceful coexistence, led by Miss Awurama Tuffour, an intern with the Unit, and Mr. Moses J. Y. Gemeh, Principal Programme Officer.

THE GHANA REPORT SUMMIT : DEALING WITH MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION – ELECTION 2024

On August 1, 2024, the Ghana Commission for UNESCO participated in the Ghana Report Summit held at the Kempinski Gold Coast Hotel, Accra on the theme "Dealing with Misinformation and Disinformation – Election 2024".

The event brought together a high-powered delegation from the government, led by H. E. the President of the Republic, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, as well as thought leaders, policymakers, media professionals, and technology experts. The Summit discussed strategies for mitigating the risks associated with false information and enhancing the resilience of digital spaces.

The Ghana Commission for UNESCO participated in the Ghana Report Summit to contribute to the national conversation on addressing misinformation and disinformation in the context of the 2024 elections. This aligns with UNESCO's

global priorities on promoting peace, democracy, and access to information.

STRATEGIC MEETING: MEETING WITH THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS & DIGITALIZATION

In November 2021, 193 UNESCO member states adopted the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence. Countries around the world are currently in the process of implementing the recommendation, with the support of the European Commission's Directorate General for International Partnerships (INTPA). In Africa, the countries selected for this exercise are Ghana, Morocco, Nigeria, Kenya, and South Africa.

On 20th August 2024, the Secretary-General of the Ghana Commission for UNESCO, Mrs. Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh and the Representative of UNESCO to Ghana and Head of Office, Mr. Edmond Moukala, held productive discussions with the Minister for Communications and Digitalization on UNESCO's support to Ghana in the implementation of the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) and advancing our national science, technology, and innovation agenda.

The Secretary-General also used the opportunity to discuss the possibility of hosting an AI Forum in Ghana in 2024.

UNESCO MEMORY OF THE WORLD INTERNATIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP

From August 27 - 30, 2024, the Ghana Commission for UNESCO, in collaboration with the Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU) and the Korea Heritage

Service, hosted the 15th edition of the UNESCO Memory of the World (MoW) International Training Workshop at the Oak Plaza Hotel in Accra.

Eleven (11) African countries participated in the four-day workshop, which focused on promoting, preserving, and documenting the contributions and experiences of women in documentary heritage. Participants presented their nominations for the Memory of the World Register and discussed the significance of documentary heritage. Over the following days, participants engaged in group discussions with experts, refining their nominations based on feedback.

The workshop ended with field visits to sites related to documentary heritage in Ghana, including the Balme Library, Leventis Digital Resource Centre, J. H Kwabena Nketiah Archives, and the Ghana National Museum. Participants were able to learn about preservation methods and the archival system of Ghana, with a glimpse of invaluable historical records. A short visit to the Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park was made to allow participants to experience the work of the former Ghanaian statesman.

MEDIA CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME (MCEP) – PHASE III

The Media Capacity Enhancement Programme (MCEP) is a training initiative that aims to equip journalists in Ghana with essential skills and knowledge to enhance their work and ensure quality and effective reportage. The programme was organized by the Ministry of Information in collaboration with the University of Media, Arts and Communications (UniMAC)

and other media stakeholders.

The overall objective of the MCEP is to enhance the capacity of media practitioners in Ghana to safeguard Ghana's democracy with verifiable news content and support quality as well as timely information to aid decision-making at all levels.

The opening ceremony of Phase III of the MCEP was held at the UniMAC auditorium on Tuesday, 10th September 2024. The Hon. Minister of Information, Hon. Fatimatu Abubakar, delivered the keynote address emphasizing that "the dynamic nature of the media demands continuous learning and capacity development".

Prof. Eric Opoku-Mensah, Vice Chancellor of UniMAC, Mr. Albert Kwabena Dwumfour, President of the Ghana Journalists Association (GJA), Mr. Andrew Edwin-Arthur, President of Private Newspapers and Online Publishers Association of Ghana (PRINPAG), and Ms. Joan Agyekum Nsowah, Programme Officer for Communication and Information at the Ghana Commission for UNESCO were in attendance.

The speakers emphasized the need for journalists to continuously build their capacity, adhere to the ethics of the profession, and put the country first in reporting on national issues.

The programme included non-residual training for 100 journalists conducted by experienced media experts from UniMAC and other institutions. The training covered topics such as Media ethics and professionalism, media law and regulation,

media and democracy, media and peace-building, election reporting and among others.

GHANA HOSTS INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION CONFERENCE: MAINSTREAMING ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND PARTICIPATION IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

The International Day for Universal Access to Information aims at recognizing the importance of access to information and the right to know, promoting accessible sharing of information as a key part of developing thriving societies.

The 2024 International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI) conference was held in Accra (the first time an African Member State hosts the conference) on 1st and 2nd October 2024 on the theme: "Mainstreaming Access to Information and Participation in the Public Sector."

Over two thousand local and international stakeholders attended this crucial event, which was organized by the Government of Ghana in conjunction with UNESCO. Participants included ministers, policymakers, civil society organizations, and global development partners. In a speech delivered on behalf of H.E. the President of Ghana, he underlined the importance of access to information for democratic engagement. He urged public authorities to regard knowledge as a public good rather than something to be withheld, emphasizing the importance of transparency and open governance citing the 2019 Right to Information Act.

In climaxing the conference, the Hon.

Minister for Information, Hon. Fatimatu Abubakar, led a team of ministers and dignitaries on a guided tour of Accra's historic and cultural monuments.

GLOBAL MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY WEEK – YOUTH AGAINST DISINFORMATION CONFERENCE

The Global Media Information Literacy (MIL) Youth Against Disinformation Conference is to enhance young people's decision-making and participation in Ghana's democratic process by facilitating discourses and capacity-building on the adequate use of MIL skills to combat issues of disinformation in elections.

The Ghana Commission for UNESCO joined Penplusbytes and other partners to celebrate the Global Media Information Literacy Week with a Youth against disinformation conference. The Conference took place on the 24th of October 2024 in Accra.

The event focused on equipping the youth with tools necessary to combat the rise of misinformation and disinformation which are growing threats to Ghana's democratic processes.

Throughout the conference, participants engaged in capacity-building sessions aimed at enhancing their critical thinking skills to access information accurately. It also provided a platform for the youth to explore how disinformation influences electoral decisions and how young people can be agents of change in curbing its spread.

The conference is scheduled to be replicated for youth in Tamale to climax

the week-long celebration to enable them benefit.

CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY MEDIA IN GHANA

The consultative meeting organized by UNESCO Ghana was to bring together key broadcast stakeholders in Ghana to discuss and improve community media legislation within Ghana's Broadcasting Bill.

The Consultative meeting was held on October 24, 2024, outlining UNESCO's goals and expected outcomes for the Broadcasting Bill 2024. Representatives from the broadcasting sector in Ghana (GCRN, Farm Radio, GBC, GIBA) also shared their perspectives and objectives regarding the Bill. The Secretary-General of the Ghana Commission for UNESCO, Mrs. Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh, also gave brief remarks.

The meeting also hosted a roundtable discussion on the 2024 Broadcasting Bill, the evolving role of community media in Ghana, the challenge of securing sustainable funding for community radio stations. A recommendation for the term "unique community" in the bill to be changed to the UNESCO term "marginalized community" was made.

HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON MEDIA AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN GHANA

The Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) in collaboration with Canal France International (CFI) a French media development agency organized a high-level conference themed 'Media and Women Empowerment in Ghana'. The event took place on 30th October 2024 in Accra.

The Ghana Commission for UNESCO participated in this conference which focused on women's empowerment issues, women's leadership in newsrooms, media representation, gender inclusivity and women's participation in governance among other issues. The conference also highlighted the barriers against women empowerment and discussed ways the media can help to break those barriers and amplify women voices, ideas, innovation and power for inclusive development.

The conference brought together leaders and top executives of media houses, women's rights and women empowerment organizations and gender activism groups.

OUR INFLUENCE

WORK IN UNESCO

INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP CONCERNING PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON ILLICITLY TRAFFICKED CULTURAL PROPERTY

The Ghana Permanent Delegation took part in the Intergovernmental Working Group concerning public statements on illicitly trafficked cultural property established by the 11th Session of the subsidiary Committee of the 1970 convention, on the 16th January 2024 regarding the Director-General's public statements on stolen cultural properties with a view to halt sales by art dealers.

This was done within the context of the revision of the Code of Ethics for Dealers in Cultural Property, as well as negotiations between Member States requesting for the return or restitution by another State Party. Such issues directly affect Ghana and countries having suffered colonialism and cultural expropriation.

WORLD DAY FOR AFRICAN AND AFRO-DESCENDANT CULTURE

Ghana took part in the organization and celebration of the World Day for African and Afro-descendant Culture on the 23rd of January 2024 at UNESCO's headquarters. Two Ghanaian dancers took part in the cultural performances.

At the 40th Session of the General Conference in 2019, the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Togo

presented a resolution to proclaim 24th January as the World Day For African and Afro-descendant Culture in memory of the date of the adoption by Heads of State and Government of the AU of the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance. The World Day for African culture and Afro-descendants is more commonly known as the Journée Mondiale de la Culture Africaine et des Afro-descendants (JMCA). This year's edition was celebrated under the theme Global Africa for a Reconciled Humanity.

SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE – INFORMATION MEETING

Ghana took part in a very important information meeting on UNESCO's engagement in the Summit of the Future on the 2nd of February 2024 which continued throughout the year 2024. The 75th Anniversary of the United Nations was marked in June 2020 with a declaration by Member States that included 12 overarching commitments along with a request to the Secretary-General for recommendations to address both current and future challenges. In September 2021, the Secretary-General responded with his report, Our Common Agenda, a wake-up call to speed up the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and propel the commitments contained in the UN75 Declaration. In some cases, the proposals addressed gaps that emerged since 2015,

requiring new intergovernmental agreements.

The report, therefore, called for a Summit of the Future to forge a new global consensus on readying ourselves for a future that is rife with risks but also opportunities. The General Assembly welcomed the submission of the “rich and substantive” report and agreed to hold the Summit on 22nd – 23rd September 2024, preceded by a ministerial meeting in 2023. An action-oriented Pact for the Future is expected to be agreed by Member States through intergovernmental negotiations on issues they decide to take forward. Ghana is engaged in the negotiations towards the elaboration of the Pact.

UNESCO CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION DATA AND STATISTICS

The UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) organized the first UNESCO Conference on Education Data and Statistics from the 7th to the 8th February 2024. The conference aimed to: (1) Establish an international community of practice of education statisticians guiding the TCG, (2) Communicate, discuss, and reach consensus on concepts, definitions, methodologies, and operational aspects of indicator measurement in the form of recommendations and guidelines for adoption as international standards, (3) Debate the impact of technology on education statistics and ways in which the community of education statisticians can benefit from opportunities and address challenges.

Ghana was represented by two experts, namely Ms. Anita Frances Cordei Collison

(Head of Delegation), Director, Standards Assessment and Quality Assurance National Council for Curriculum and assessment (NaCCA), as well as Mr. Clement Osei Antwi, National Assessment Coordinator [Statistics, Research, Information Management and Public Relation (SRIMPR)] at the Ministry of Education.

REGIONAL CAPACITY - BUILDING WORKSHOPS FOR THE UNESCO CULTURE|2030 INITIATIVE – INTRODUCTORY SESSION

On the occasion of the preparatory Regional Capacity-Building workshops for UNESCO Culture 2030 – Introduction, the Permanent Delegation was represented to attend an in-person session on 8th February, which provided an overview and introduction to the UNESCO Culture|2030 Indicators initiative in the framework of the Preparatory Regional Capacity-Building Workshops for the UNESCO Culture|2030 Indicators, whose implementation phases have been funded by the EU, as well as the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), and Spain. Ghana has benefitted from this workshop which is meant to serve to assess the contribution of culture to the furtherance of the Sustainable Development Goals.

WORLD CONFERENCE ON CULTURE AND ARTS EDUCATION

In 2006, the Lisbon Conference highlighted the importance of arts education for achieving development goals, resulting in the development of a UNESCO Road Map for Arts Education to guide its

advancement. In 2010, the Seoul Conference reviewed progress and introduced the Seoul Agenda: Goals for the Development of Arts Education, a detailed action plan to support countries' efforts to realize the full potential of quality arts education.

Fourteen years after the Seoul Agenda, UNESCO convened a conference of Ministers of Education and of Culture from 13th to 15th February 2024 in Abu Dhabi. Hosted by the United Arab Emirates, the conference provided a space for Member States and diverse actors to update their perspectives on the subject matter, exchange experiences.

At the end of the conference, Member States adopted a "Framework for Culture and Arts Education" that considers not just the "Arts" but also "Culture".

The Commission facilitated Ghana's participation in the conference with the attendance of Hon. Ibrahim Awal (Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture), Hon. Gifty Twum Ampofo (Deputy Minister for Education), H.E. Amb. Anna Bossman (Ghana's Ambassador to France and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO) and Mr. Christopher Wetcher (Programme Officer for Culture at the Ghana Commission for UNESCO).

17TH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE DIVERSITY OF CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS

The Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005 Convention) held its 17th Session from the 27th to the 29th of February 2024.

The Ghana Delegation was represented by the Deputy Head of Mission, Ms. Vivian Asempapa, and the Research Officer, Mr. Gilbert Dadzie.

At this present session, the Committee examined amongst others, (1) the Report of the Secretariat on its activities and the implementation of the Committee's decisions (2023), (2) the Transmission of new quadrennial periodic reports, Reflection group on the diversity of cultural expressions in the digital environment –results of the call for experts, (3) the Reflection group on the implementation of Article 16 on "Preferential treatment for developing countries" –preliminary proposals, (4) the Celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the Convention –preliminary proposals.

As a state party to the 2005 Convention for the Protection and Promotion of Cultural Expressions, Ghana has been following the proceedings of the Committee as an observer Member State. Notably, through the Ministry for Tourism, Arts and Culture (MOTAC), Ghana benefited from the International Fund for Cultural Diversity to update its Cultural Policy.

EXHIBITION ON THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROUTES OF ENSLAVED PEOPLE

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Routes of Enslaved People, 4th March 2024, Her Excellency Ambassador Anna Bossman took part in a panel discussion as part of the Opening Exhibition on "Slavery" convened by the Permanent Delegation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to narrate "ten stories" related to slavery, including João, former slave from the

then Gold Coast.

219TH SESSION OF THE UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD

The 219th Session of the UNESCO Executive Board was held from the 13th to the 27th of March 2024. Ghana took part as an observer Member State and was represented by the Permanent Delegation, led by Her Excellency Ambassador Anna Bossman (Head of Delegation), the Deputy Head of Mission, Ms. Vivian Asempapa, and Mr. Gilbert Dadzie, Research Officer.

Ghana co-sponsored the four agenda items: 219 EX/30: *UNESCO's programme on the promotion of scientific freedom and the safety of scientists and a related call to action*; 219 EX/35: *"Action on Water Adaptation and Resilience Initiative (AWARE)" by Egypt*; 219 EX/34: *"Commemoration of Silver Jubilee of the International Mother Language Day" by Bangladesh*; 219 EX/31: *UNESCO's action for Indigenous people by Brazil*; 219 EX/36: *Protecting Education from Attack by Qatar*.

WORKING GROUP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITY AFRICA

Ghana was handed over the Chairpersonship of the Working Group on the Implementation of Priority Africa in January 2024 and became co-chair of the Group of Friends for Priority Africa on 8th April 2024 together with the United States of America, following the tenure of Kenya and China.

The Group of Friends is the largest one at UNESCO, comprising 130 Member States. During the 41st Session of the General

Conference, Member States adopted the Operational Strategy for Priority Africa containing five (5) flagship programmes: Flagship #1 on Campus Africa; Flagship #2 on General History of Africa; Flagship #3 on Cultural Heritage; Flagship #4 on New and Emerging Technologies and Flagship #5 on Open Sciences.

Four (4) Plenary sessions chaired by both Ghana and the USA took place, as well as four (4) Global Priority Africa Dialogues. These dialogues were intended to spur a conversation around the Flagships, sensitize participants to Africa's needs and interests, and especially present concrete projects around the flagships that would demand support and partnerships. Ghanaian experts took part in plenaries and dialogues to enrich the deliberations, educate Member States on African challenges, and offer opportunities for collaboration.

Small Action Groups for each flagship programme have also been set-up. Under the overarching leadership of Ghana and the United States of America, these constitute a coalition of interested Member States ready to take concrete actions such as the establishment of partnerships, sharing of best-practices and expertise, as well as funding. This initiative has been lauded by all Member States and the Secretariat as it is unprecedented in the Organization and in the history of the Priority Africa programme.

NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER FORUM ON UN LEGALLY BINDING ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The National Stakeholder Forum on UN

Legally Binding Treaty on Business and Human Rights was organized by the Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice and Action Aid Ghana from 14th to 16th May 2024 at Mensvic Hotel, East Legon.

The purpose of this instrument is to clarify the human rights obligations of transnational business enterprises and to prevent and mitigate the occurrence of human rights abuses in the context of business activation by effective mechanism of monitoring and enforceability.

The forum was aimed at generating a draft national position on the Instrument to regulate the activities of Transnational Corporations and other Business Enterprises (TNCs). Mr. Moses J. Y. Gemeh, Principal Programme Officer (Education) represented the Commission at the meeting.

PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE 10TH WORLD WATER FORUM

The Permanent Delegation of Ghana took part in the preparatory meeting for the 10th World Water Forum to be held in Bali, from the 18th of May to the 25th of May 2024. The meetings were convened by the Permanent Delegation of Indonesia and provided the opportunity for preliminary discussions on the issues to raise during the Forum, including Water Safety and Prosperity, Water for Humans and Nature, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, Cooperation, Governance, and Hydro-diplomacy, Sustainable Water Finance, Knowledge and Innovation.

24TH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR PROMOTING THE RETURN OF CULTURAL PROPERTY TO ITS COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN OR ITS RESTITUTION IN CASE OF ILLICIT APPROPRIATION

Following Ghana's successful election during the 42nd Session of the UNESCO General Conference, the Permanent Delegation of Ghana represented the country at the 24th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to Its Countries of Origin or Its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation, on 29th to 31st May 2024.

Ghana was represented in the meeting by the Prof. Kodzo Gavua, Head of the Archaeology and Heritage Studies Department at the University of Ghana, Legon, and Ghana's Permanent Delegation. Prof. Gavua also addressed the Experts' Forum on 31st May 2024 highlighting cultural restitution of properties stolen during colonial era.

26TH SESSION OF THE IHP INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL MEETING: 50 YEARS OF EVOLUTION OF THE SCIENCE OF HYDROLOGY - FROM SCIENCE TO APPLICATION AND WAY FORWARD

The 26th Session of the UNESCO International Hydrological Programme (IHP) Council convened from June 3 to June 7, 2024, at the UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, to discuss advancements in hydrology and water resource management.

The Session opened with a Scientific Colloquium on the theme "50 Years of Evolution of the Science of Hydrology: From Science to Application and Way Forward", reflecting on five decades of

progress in hydrology, emphasizing the shift from theoretical research to practical applications for global water challenges. Experts shared key milestones and best practices that have influenced sustainable water management worldwide.

The Ghana delegation, as part of its contribution to discussions, emphasized the need to streamline the IHP-IX strategy to better adapt it to local conditions, a point that was well received by other Council members.

The Commission, represented by Mr. Apollonius Asare, Chief Programme Officer (Natural Science), led Ghana's delegation to the session.

10TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF STATE PARTIES TO THE 2005 CONVENTION

The tenth session of the General Assembly of the State Parties to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage convened at the UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, from 11th to 12th June 2024.

Over the two days, State Parties gathered to discuss issues for the safeguarding of living heritage around the world and the future of the Convention.

Ghana's delegation to the session was led by Hon. Andrew Agyapa Mercer, Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture. He was supported by Mr. Kingsley Ofose Ntiamoah, Executive Director, Ghana Museums and Monuments Board and Mr. Christopher Wetcher, Program Officer for Culture.

The Commission facilitated side meetings

for the Minister with the Assistant Director-General of Culture, the Director of the World Heritage Center (WHC) and the Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences.

REGIONAL PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING CYCLE ON QPR - 2005 CONVENTION

The peer-to-peer learning cycle on participatory policy monitoring for creativity within the framework of the SIDA 3 project is an initiative under the Quadrennial Periodic Reporting (QPR) cycle for the 2005 Convention.

The objective of the cycle is to encourage State Parties to submit their quadrennial periodic reports for the 2005 Convention promptly.

Countries were given the opportunity to share their experiences and challenges with countries submitting their reports for the first time. The Commission was represented by Mr. Wetcher and Mrs. Nzibah from the Culture Unit.

REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON THE UNESCO RECOMMENDATION ON THE ETHICS OF NEUROTECHNOLOGY FOR ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES IN AFRICA

The Recommendation aims to provide a framework for the ethical development, use, and governance of neurotechnology to promote a responsible and human-centered approach to neurotechnology, ensuring that its development and application align with human values and promote the well-being of individuals and society.

On July 11, 2024, the Ghana Commission for UNESCO, in collaboration with the

UNESCO Eastern Africa Regional Office and the Africa Bioethics Network hosted a regional consultative meeting on the Draft Text of the Draft Recommendation on the Ethics of Neurotechnology for English-Speaking Countries in Africa. It was a hybrid consultative meeting with a physical component held at Kenya AIDS Vaccine Initiative (KAVI), University of Nairobi, and brought together 63 participants and experts from UNESCO Africa English-speaking countries.

In an opening remark by the Secretary-General of the Commission, Mrs. Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh, she highlighted the potential of neurotechnology to advance human brain development and overall well-being. She also called for a robust regulatory framework to address the challenges and ethical implications arising from this innovation.

Participants were presented with the opportunity to share their expertise and experiences, providing valuable input on the draft text. The meeting further facilitated a productive exchange of ideas, fostering a collaborative approach to ensuring responsible development and use of neurotechnology in the region, to promote a safer and more ethical deployment of neurotechnology in Africa and beyond.

46TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

The 46th Session of the World Heritage Committee, held on 25th July 2024, in New Delhi, India, brought together representatives from 21 Member States to oversee the implementation of the World

Heritage Convention, including decisions on site inscriptions, conservation monitoring, and fund allocation.

Ghana's delegation to the session was led by Hon. Mark Okraku Mantey (Deputy Minister for Tourism, Arts, and Culture). He was supported by Mr. Kingsley Ofosu Ntiamoah (Executive Director of the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board), Miss Natalyn Oye Addo (Ghana Museums and Monuments Board), and Mr. Christopher Wetcher (Programme Officer for Culture, Ghana Commission for UNESCO).

The Hon. Deputy Minister addressed conservation challenges facing Ghana's Forts and Castles, acknowledging UNESCO's support and highlighting the issue as a national concern. He emphasized the government's commitment, citing resource allocation to MoTAC, and the GMMB to address the issue.

2024 UNESCO DIGITAL LEARNING WEEK

On 2nd – 5th December 2024, Ghana participated in the 2024 UNESCO Digital Learning Week held at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. The event was a platform to engage in the use of Artificial Intelligence in education, particularly Generative-AI. UNESCO has successfully launched its AI competency framework for students and teachers, as well as a guide on generative-AI in education for policy makers, of which Ghana has benefitted via the development of its own AI Strategy.

2025 DECLARED AS THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF QUANTUM SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (IQST)

On 17th September 2024, Her Excellency

Anna Bossman met the Austrian Delegation on a Proposal to organize an Event on the Ethics of Quantum considering Ghana's active role in the adoption of a Quantum Science Resolution proclaiming 2025 as the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology (IYQST). Ghana had already been involved in the successful diplomatic move thanks to its instrumental role in the International Year of Quantum Technology and Science at UNESCO's last General Conference session. With the collaboration of the NATCOM, the Permanent Representation in New York, and the UNESCO Secretariat, the Permanent Delegation of Ghana to UNESCO contributed to this adoption. The event to be held in February 2025 builds on this momentum.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROUTES OF ENSLAVED PEOPLE'S AND LAUNCH OF THE UNESCO NETWORK OF PLACES OF HISTORY AND MEMORY LINKED TO ENSLAVEMENT AND THE SLAVE TRADE

The year 2024 was the opportunity to commemorate the Routes of Enslaved People's 30th anniversary, as well as launch the UNESCO network of places of history and memory linked to enslavement and the slave trade, this on 9th October 2024, UNESCO Headquarters. The Hon. Deputy Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mr. Mark Okraku Martey, represented Ghana and took part in a panel discussion relating Ghana's memorial and cultural actions to ensure the memory of the history of slavery.

Through this international Network, UNESCO aims to preserve such places through local populations' trainings for

their socio-economic benefits, and foster intercultural dialogue, especially among members of the African Diaspora.

This was also the opportunity to celebrate the entry of Ghana's Forts and Castles as part of the UNESCO network of places of history and memory linked to enslavement and the slave trade. With already inscription on the World Heritage List, this will bolster the tourism appeal of the Forts and Castles, as well as their international recognition. Ghana envisages enlisting more slave-related sites such as the Salaga Slave Market, Asin Manso Slave River, Seseme Slave Plantation, Sampa Slave Market and Colonial Officers Grave, Bono-Manso Slave Market, Atebubu Slave Market and Transit Post.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE MEMORY OF THE WORLD PROGRAMME, AND THE 4TH GLOBAL POLICY FORUM

Members of the Ghana Memory of the World Committee took part virtually in the 4th Global Policy Forum and the International Conference of the Memory of the World Programme organized by UNESCO. The conference, which coincided with World Day for Audiovisual Heritage (observed on October 27 each year), began on October 28 with leaders, policymakers, and experts to discuss how documentary heritage can be used as a valuable knowledge asset to improve international understanding and cooperation.

On October 29, the fourth edition of the Global Policy Forum, themed "From Policy to Practice", was held. The forum focused on practical strategies to protect documentary legacy, turning away from prior editions that highlighted policy

development. The conference highlighted experts' experiences and best practices before to, during, and following natural or man-made crises, as well as existing and potential collaboration platforms.

The Chairperson of the Ghana Memory of the World Committee, Dr. Mrs. Helena Hassan-Asamoah, gave a presentation on establishing networks through National MoW Committees with a focus on on-the-ground operations and issues.

3RD UNESCO WORLD OER CONGRESS: OPEN SOLUTIONS AND AI FOR INCLUSIVE ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE

On November 19th – 20th, 2024, the third UNESCO World Open Educational Resources (OER) Congress was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (U.A.E), bringing together global policymakers, educators, and stakeholders to advance the implementation of the UNESCO 2019 Recommendation on OER.

Ghana's delegation, led by Hon. Dr. Yaw Osei Adutwum, highlighted the country's initiatives, such as the provision of one tablet per senior high school student, digital textbook integration under the STEL initiative, and the Ghana Knowledge and Skills Bank.

The Congress focused on leveraging OER to enhance global digital cooperation, foster educational equity, and support sustainable learning ecosystems.

The Congress culminated in the Dubai Declaration on OER, reaffirming member states' commitment to aligning national policies with the Open Educational Resources (OER) Recommendation,

developing inclusive, multilingual, and culturally relevant Open Educational Resources (OER) and strengthening global partnerships to address educational challenges.

The outcomes provide a roadmap for integrating Open Educational Resources (OER) into digital education frameworks, fostering innovation, and ensuring equitable access to learning resources globally.

KENTE INSCRIBED AS UNESCO WORLD INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

On 5th December, at the 19th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee of the 2003 Convention, UNESCO inscribed the Craftsmanship of traditional woven textile Kente (No. 02130) on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The successful inscription of Kente on the Representative List of UNESCO was as a result of the joint efforts of the Ghana Commission for UNESCO, National Folklore Board and Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture in engaging the relevant stakeholders in particular, the local communities who produce the Kente fabric.

Ghana was represented by Ms. Vivian K. Asempapa, Deputy Head of Mission of Ghana's Embassy and Deputy Permanent Delegate, and Ms. Bernice Ann Deh-Kumah, Executive Director, National Folklore Board.

The Representative Lists of Intangible Cultural Heritage was established by

UNESCO with the aim of ensuring better protection of important intangible cultural heritages worldwide and the awareness of their significance. This implies that Kente has now received international recognition and protection as Ghanaian Intangible Cultural Heritage.

34TH SESSION OF UNESCO INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNICATION (IPDC)

On 13th December 2024, Ghana's Permanent Delegation took part in the 34th session of the Intergovernmental Committee of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) during which sensitive resolutions were adopted on freedom of expression, media freedom, and the condemnation by the Director-General of killings of journalists.

COMMEMORATIVE EVENT FOR THE LATE AMADOU MAHTAR MBOW, FORMER UNESCO DIRECTOR-GENERAL

At the invitation of H.E. Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, His Excellency President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo Addo participated in a commemorative event as a guest of honour and keynote speaker to pay tribute to the late Amadou Mahtar Mbow, former UNESCO Director-General and the only African one to attain that till date.

SURVEYS AND REPORTS ON UNESCO CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As a State Party to several UNESCO Conventions and recommendations, Ghana is enjoined to report on the implementation of these Conventions through Quadrennial Reports, surveys and questionnaires. The submission of these surveys and questionnaires are in line with the requirements of the Conventions and Recommendations.

For 2024, four surveys have been completed and submitted to UNESCO:

- ✚ State of Conservation Reports for World Heritage Sites (Forts and Castles / Asante Traditional Buildings)
- ✚ Periodic Report for the 2003 Convention on Intangible Cultural Heritage
- ✚ the Quadrennial Report for the 2005 Convention on Diversity of Cultural Expressions
- ✚ the UNESCO Book and Publishing survey was also completed and submitted to UNESCO

The surveys and reports were completed with the assistance of GMMB, Ghana's Committee on the Book and Publishing Industry and the National Folklore Board.

STRENGTHENING OUR INSTITUTION

A SCHEME OF SERVICE FOR THE GHANA COMMISSION FOR UNESCO

Subsequent to obtaining legal backing to operate, the Commission in consultation with the Public Services Commission developed a framework and guide, the Scheme of Service, for career management of staff which is geared towards placement, progression and systematic training and career development of staff of the organization.

The objective is to ensure that staff who are appointed into the organization can perform efficiently towards the attainment of the organization's goal.

42/2 MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE GHANA COMMISSION FOR UNESCO

The Commission, in its bid to strengthen its institutions, held its 42/2 meeting of the General Assembly on 22nd May 2024.

The meeting updated members on the progress of work at the Secretariat of the Commission and further endorsed the draft Scheme of Service for the Commission.

REGIONAL MEETING OF AFRICAN NATIONAL COMMISSIONS FOR UNESCO – CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE PROMOTION OF PEACE IN AFRICA

The Regional Meeting of African National

Commissions (NatComs) for UNESCO is a platform for reflection, sharing of experiences and good practices on key themes under UNESCO's Global Priority for Africa Programme (2022–2029).

Following the successful hosting of the Regional Meeting of African NatComs in Accra in 2022, coupled with the decision of Member States to hold this meeting biennially, the Angola National Commission for UNESCO hosted this year's edition in Luanda from 18th – 20th June 2024.

In discussing the theme, the programme employed plenary, parallel and roundtable discussion approaches.

At the back of the regional meeting, UNESCO, on 21st June 2024, held a consultation meeting with African National Commissions for UNESCO to engage in a dialogue and discuss regional challenges and priorities, providing guidance to the Director-General on main directions and priorities for UNESCO's future Programme and Budget (43 C/5).

Ghana was represented by the Secretary-General, Ghana Commission for UNESCO, Mrs. Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh; Mr. Apollonius Osei-Akoto Asare, Chief Programme Officer (Natural Sciences), Ghana Commission for UNESCO; Mrs. Edith Ababio-Amoah, Principal Accountant, Ghana Commission for UNESCO and Ms. Marian Nortey, Senior Administrative

Officer, Ghana Commission for UNESCO.

2024 / 2025 KULTURWEIT/NATURWEIT VOLUNTARY SERVICE PROGRAMME

In the spirit of promoting international cooperation, intercultural learning and skills for development, the Ghana and German Commissions for UNESCO engaged in a collaboration to give young Germans opportunity for educational experience to promote cultural diversity.

The Ghana Commission for UNESCO was privileged to host a team of four (4) young volunteers under the 2024/2025 Kulturweit/Naturweit programme for a six-month period (September 2024 – February 2025).

The volunteers are serving in the Songor Ramsar Site and UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, the Bia Biosphere Reserve and the Ghana Commission for UNESCO, supporting the work of UNESCO in the biosphere reserves.

STRENGTHENING THE ADMIN. & HUMAN RESOURCE UNIT OF THE COMMISSION

The Ministry of Education organized a capacity-building session for Human Resource Officers in its various agencies from 18th – 21st December 2024 on the theme 'Empowering HR Practitioners for Success'.

The conference brought together human resources directors, managers and staff

from the agencies of the Ministry to deliberate on issues related to current HR practices, policies and challenges in the sector.

The Commission was represented by Ms. Marian Nortey (Senior Administrative & HR Officer) and Miss Pearl Kpodo (Administrative & HR Assistant)

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2024/2025 UNESCO PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME

For the 2024/2025 biennium, the Commission placed a call for project proposals from Ministries, Departments and Agencies. At the end of the deadline, 14th February 2024, the Commission received twenty-two (22) proposals, out of which seven (7) were recommended to UNESCO.

Out of the seven (7) proposals, four (4) were approved by UNESCO to be implemented in 2025.

ROLL-OUT OF THE 2024 UNESCO FELLOWSHIP CYCLE

Ghana was privileged to receive two (2) fellowships to assist some selected Ghanaians undertake approved programmes:

- UNESCO/People's Republic of China (The Great Wall) Co-Sponsored Fellowship
- UNESCO/Poland Co-Sponsored Fellowship in Engineering

LOOKING AHEAD

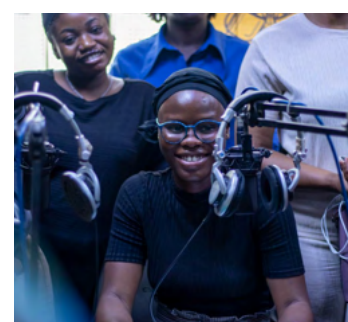
STRATEGIC GOALS FOR 2025

In continuing to implement the Commission's Strategic Plan (2022 – 2026), the Secretariat seeks to:

- Strengthen the Commission through the composition of its Organs;
- Finalized, in consultation with the Fair Wages and Salaries Commission, a Conditions of Service for the Secretariat;
- Partner Africa Dyslexia Organization in the roll-out of activities;
- Partner Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences and AIMS-Ghana to roll-out activities of International Year of Quantum Science for Sustainable Development;
- Promote the 2030 SDG Agenda in UNESCO's fields of competence in Ghana;
- Partner with sister Commissions and stakeholders to undertake joint activities;
- Monitor the implementation of UNESCO's projects in Ghana;
- Ensure the optimal benefaction of Ghanaians and Ghanaian Institutions in UNESCO Fellowship Programmes and the UNESCO Participation Programme Scheme;
- Promote activities within the delivery of quality education, peace-building, sustainable development;
- Promote ASPnet/Club Activities: intensify the promotion of quality education through education for Peace and sustainable development as well as intercultural learning;
- Participate in the biennial 43rd Session of the General Conference of UNESCO as well as any other UNESCO fora;
- Work towards the election of Ghana onto the UNESCO Executive Board and some selected intergovernmental bodies of UNESCO;
- Build the capacity of staff of the Secretariat with the requisite skills to improve productivity.

GALLERY







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