GHANA NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO



2012 ANNUAL REPORT

PART ONE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Ghana National Commission for UNESCO is composed of thirty-five (35) members who are drawn from relevant Ministries, Departments, Agencies and civil society. The Commission operates under the chairmanship of the Minister for Education.

It serves as an effective link between UNESCO and the Government of Ghana in promoting the ideals of UNESCO through Education, the Sciences, Culture and Communication.

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

This report mainly covers issues on the Profile of the Commission and the Secretariat, Staff information, Financial Performance for 2011 – 2012, Programme Delivery for 2012 and Projections for the year 2013.

Major activities for 2012 included the participation of the Commission in the Johannesburg Education for All (EFA) Regional Coordinating meeting at which the ECOWAS group identified key areas requiring attention before the 2015 deadline as Early Childhood Education, supporting the girl child in education, linking formal and non-formal learning, training teachers and strengthening access in education.

The launch of the 2012 Global Monitoring Report on Education for All also gave insight on the global theme: "Youth and skills – putting education to work." The Report assessed what national governments are doing to address challenges of creating educational opportunities and skills development. The outcome is expected to feed into the Education Sector Review of the Ministry of Education for subsequent planning.

The Resolution on the International Year of Light (IYOL) was adopted at the 190th Session of the UNESCO Executive Board. We are optimistic it will be adopted by the next UN General Assembly. Activities within the IYOL subsequently, are expected to enhance public awareness on the central role light plays in the development of nations, as regards industry, energy, job creation, education, agriculture, health, information and culture.

A UNESCO-led training in Bioethics for members of the National Bioethics Committee in November 2012, emphasized Principles and Practices based on the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights that were internationally agreed on in 2005.

In the Outlook for 2013, the Commission will participate in the 191st (spring) Session of the UNESCO Executive Board, which will prepare the agenda and programmes for the consideration of the forthcoming 37th General Conference in October. The participation of the Commission in both meetings is crucial.

Regarding programmes in Education for All, the necessary follow-up will be undertaken and sustained in terms of contributing to regional, sub-regional and national coordinating meetings. This is necessitated by the fact that the Africa Group has admitted the need to pay attention to issues in equity, quality, sustainability and inclusive education within the post 2015 period.

One main challenge we have is funding. At the local level, servicing meetings of the National Commission and its Specialized Committees require enhancement to sustain the valuable interest of members. We are still indebted to the Permanent Delegate's office in Paris, since circumstances often do not permit us to provide adequate financial support for them.

In addition, we require satisfactory office space.

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

PART TWO

PROFILE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Establishment

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

Vision

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

Mission

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

Functions

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

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

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

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION

The Ghana National Commission for UNESCO presently comprises 35 members drawn from relevant Ministries, Departments, Agencies, Institutions as well as non-governmental organizations in Ghana. Below is the list of members:

The Minister for Education
Chairman of the Commission

Chief Director, Ministry of Education
Vice-Chairman of the Commission

H.E. the Ambassador to France
Permanent Delegate of Ghana to UNESCO

The Secretary-General
Ghana National Commission for UNESCO

Ex-Officio Member - Ghana's Representative on the Executive

Board of UNESCO

- · Chairman, Legal and Administrative Committee
- Chairman, Education Committee
- · Chairman, Culture Committee
- Chairman, Communication Committee
- Chairman, Natural Sciences Committee
- Chairman, Social Sciences Committee

The Representatives of:

- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration
- National Commission on Culture
- Ministry of Tourism
- Vice-Chancellors Ghana
- Ghana National Commission on Children
- Ghana Journalists Association

- Ghana National Association of Teachers
- Ghana Geological Survey
- EPA/MAB National Committee
- Ministry of Communications
- Parliamentary Select Committee on Education
- Ghana Association of Private Voluntary Organizations in Development
- Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences
- National Committee on the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
- Ministry of Food and Agriculture
- Ghana Library Authority
- Ministry of Manpower, Youth and Employment
- Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs
- National Council on Tertiary Education

Permanent Delegation

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

Specialized Committees

There are five (5) Specialized Committees which reflect the five main fields of competence of UNESCO, namely Education, Natural Science, Social/Human Sciences, Culture, Communication/Information and Legal/Administration. The members of each of the specialized committees are selected from government and Non-governmental organizations.

The Committees, comprising nine (9) members each, provide expert advice relating to their sectors and help the Secretariat to prepare draft briefs for the Ghana delegation to the UNESCO General Conference and the Executive Board.

National Committees

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

i. Man and Biosphere Committee (MAB)
ii. Intergovernmental Oceanographic Committee (IOC)
iii. International Hydrological Programme (IHP)
iv. National Bioethics Committee (NBC)
Issues on bioethics

v. Information for All Program (IFAP) - Issues on Communication

vi. Committee on Management of social Transformation (MOST)

Social Issues

The Executive Committee

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

- The Chairman of the Commission
- The Vice Chairman of the Commission
- The Secretary-General to the Commission
- The Chairmen of the 5 Specialized Committees
- Former member of the Executive Board of UNESCO

The Secretariat of the Commission

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

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

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

Currently, the Secretariat, headed by the Secretary-General, has 9 (nine) members of staff as follows:

- 1. The Secretary-General
- 2. 2 Programme Officers
- 3. 1 Accountant
- 4. 1 Administrative Officer

- 5. 1 Private Secretary
- 6. 2 Stenographer Secretaries
- 7. 1 Driver

Male/Female ratio - 5:4

Senior/Junior - 2:1

Training and Development Undertaken

NAME OF OFFICER	SEX	COURSE OF STUDY		DURATION	INSTITUTION		FUNDING	PAID/UNPAID
	F	Managing	People	4 days	Civil	Service	GOG	
Ms. Elsie Cudjoe		and Supervision			Training Centre			
Ms. Victoria Takyi	F	Managing	People	4 days	Civil	Service	GOG	
		and Supervision			Training Centre			

Academic Training Programmes

		COURSE OF				FUNDING	LEAVE
NAME OF OFFICER	SEX	STUDY	DURATION	STAGE	INSTITUTION	SELF/GOG/	WITH/WITHOUT
		31001				SCHOLARSHIP	PAY
Mr. Riche-Mike Wellington	М	MA. Public	4 years	4 th year	Open	Commonwealth	Distance
		Admin.			University, U.K	Scholarship	Learning
						Secretariat/GOG	
Miss Marian S. Nortey	F	BA. Mgt Studies	3 years	2 nd year	University of	Self	Distance
Wilst Warrant S. Norte,	•	Dr ii Wige Staales	3 years	2 year	Cape Coast	3611	Learning
					cape coust		Learning

Age Distribution

AGE	20 – 25	26 – 30	31 – 35	36 – 40	41 – 45	46 – 50	51 – 55	56 – 60
No.	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	3

GHANA NATIONAL COMMISSION OF THE UNESCO

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Chairman

(Minister, Ministry of Education)

1

Vice Chairman

(Chief Director, Ministry of Education)



Secretary-General



Deputy Secretary-General



Professional/Programme Staff

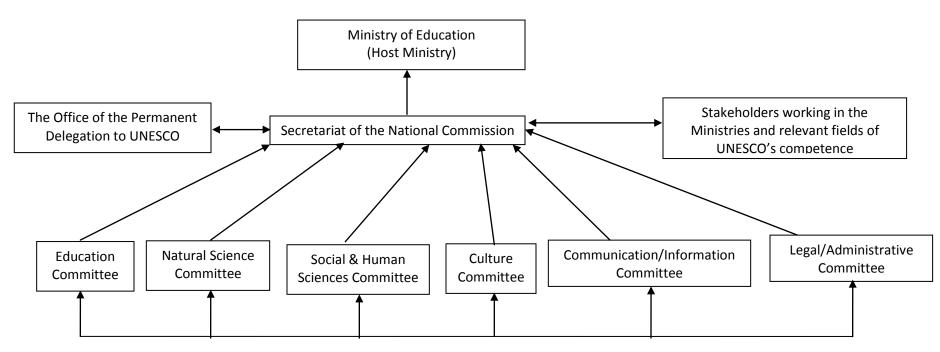
(Programme Officers for Education, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, Culture, Comm./Info. & Legal & Administrative Matters)



Support Staff

(Accounts, Administration, Secretarial, Transport)

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



PART THREE

PROGRAMME DELIVERY

The 189^{th} & 190^{th} Sessions of the UNESCO Executive Board, 27^{th} February – 10^{th} March, 2012 and 3^{rd} – 18^{th} October, 2012, Paris

The National Commission successfully participated in the 189^{th} and the 190^{th} Sessions of the UNESCO Executive Board, which took place in Paris in February and October 2012 respectively. The two sessions of the Board were significant for Member States as they sought to re-orient the Organization's new global programming structure to be reflected in the next UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy (2014 – 2021) as well as the Programme and Budget (2014 – 2017), as part of the process of a new cycle of Medium-Term Strategy and Programme & Budget. Ghana put forward the proposal for youth and youth-related matters to be made an additional global priority for UNESCO.

Acting also on behalf of over 40 Scientific Associations, Institutions and academies around the world, Ghana successfully tabled a motion at the Executive Board which sought to request the United Nations to declare the Year 2015 as the International Year of Light. The Initiative was overwhelmingly supported by over 28 members of the UNESCO Executive Board during the 190th Session of the Board.

WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Sub-Regional Workshop on Reinforcing Capacities of Secretaries-General in the Implementation of the UNESCO Programme and Budget (C/5) for countries in the Accra Cluster Office, Coconut Grove Regency Hotel, Accra, 2nd – 3rd April, 2012

Within the framework of the implementation of UNESCO's Programme and Budget (C/5), the Ghana National Commission of UNESCO held a Sub-regional Workshop on reinforcing capacities of Secretaries-General of National Commissions.

The Workshop brought together Secretaries-General of National Commissions of Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo. Mr. Mogens Schmidt, Director, Bureau for Field Coordination, UNESCO Headquarters and Mr. Stoyan Bantchev, Chief of the Participation Programme Unit, UNESCO Headquarters participated in the workshop as Resource Persons.

The Secretaries-General agreed on the need:

- for Governments to provide the National Commissions with the necessary legal backing and resources to ensure their capacity to deliver on their mandate;
- for a more creative approach in the mobilization of funds from Government, donors and the private sector;
- for regular communication between the Accra Cluster Office and the National Commissions;
- for quarterly meetings between the National Commissions and the Cluster Office to update each other on activities and programmes; and
- to sustain the forum of the Secretaries-General under the Cluster Office by rotating the hosting of the meeting, with support from the Cluster Office and Member States.

Participation in the National Policy Fair

The Secretariat of the Commission fully participated in the 2012 National Policy Fair, which was organized by the Ministry of Information at the Accra International Conference Centre.

The fair was a one-week exhibition of policies in various government sectors, which opened on 16th April, 2012 and closed on 21st April, 2012.

The National Commission exhibited and distributed free to the general public, publications in UNESCO's fields of competence, i.e. Education, Natural and Social Sciences, Culture, Communication and Information.

Guests to the National Commission's stand included the Hon. Minister for Education, the Hon. Minister for Tourism, the Chief Director of the Ministry of Education, H. E the Ambassador to Zambia, Civil and Public Servants, students and the general public.

Training in Bio-ethics

UNESCO has enjoined its Member States, including Ghana, to set up National Bioethics Committees to discuss, inform and offer useful suggestions to opinion leaders, the general public and other practitioners in the area of Bioethics.

As a result, UNESCO is assisting developing countries to develop guidelines which would be in tune with existing guidelines instituted by the "Assisting Bioethics Committees" (ABC) project. The project targeted 12 developing countries including Ghana. Ghana's Committee was

inaugurated in January 2009 while the Committee received its first training in *Working Methods* at the same time.

UNESCO organized a second training in Ghana, from 12th – 15th November, 2012 on *Principles* and *Practices* in Bio-ethics for the members of the Committee.

The third and final training for the Committee will be organized in 2013.

Consultation on the Preparation of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2014 - 2021 (37 C/4) and the Draft Programme and Budget for 2014 - 2017 (37 C/5) of UNESCO, Côte d'Ivoire, 6^{th} - 9^{th} June, 2012

The consultation meeting of the Director-General of UNESCO is a biennial activity where the Director-General of UNESCO solicits the views of Member States to inform UNESCO's Programme and Budget and the Medium-Term Strategy.

The 2012 Consultation for the Africa region was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire and attended by thirty-four (34) Member States from Africa, including Ghana.

The purpose was to prepare UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy for 2014 – 2021 (37C/4) and the Draft Programme and Budget (37C/5), employing Member States' contributions and observations.

Held at regular intervals of four years, the consultation also offers the opportunity of discussing challenges or sharing experiences on matters of common interest, at the regional level.

Salient issues discussed at this meeting included the debate on Priority Africa and the adoption of a third global priority, i.e. Youth, in addition to the two existing priorities – Africa and Gender Equality for the next 8-year Medium-Term period.

The reformulated UNESCO Mission Statement was proposed as follows: "To contribute to building peaceful and knowledgeable societies through Education, the Sciences, Culture, Communication and Information." As well, the establishment and retention of partnerships with the private sector and civil society was stressed.

UNESCO Clubs Camp 2012 in Korea

The Ghana National Commission for UNESCO sponsored two active female members of UNESCO Clubs in two tertiary education institutions: Ms. Mariam Baba Abdulahi, University for Development Studies, Tamale and Ms. Elorm Patamiah, University of Ghana, Legon to participate in the Camp.

The Youth Camp exposed participants to the challenges of the world, which are threats to peace. The youth shared experiences on how similar challenges had been tackled.

The delegates shared the lessons learnt in their school clubs and developed activities aimed at peace-building in their communities.

CONFERENCES

The Fourth Meeting of ECOWAS Ministers of Education, 1st – 6th October, 2012

The ECOWAS Ministers of Education meeting was held from 5th to 6th October, 2012, in Abuja, Nigeria.

The meeting considered and adopted reports earlier on considered and presented by experts on the following issues:

- The proposal to institutionalize the ECOWAS Inter-Agency Task Team (IATT) at regional and national levels.
- The study on the ECOWAS Regional and National Qualifications Framework
- The ECOWAS Regional Manual for the Teaching of Peace
- The ECOWAS Regional Norms and Standards for the Establishment of Education Management Information Systems (EMIS)
- The Roadmap for the re-vitalization of TVET in the ECOWAS region
- Ratification of related Protocols and Conventions by Member States.

The experts from Ghana included the following:

- Dr. Dominic Pealore (Director, Statistics, Research, Information Management and Public Relations (SRIMPR) Division of the Ministry of Education) represented the Minister for Education as leader of the delegation
- Ms. Veronica Kutin-Harvey (EMIS, Ministry of Education)
- Mr. George Oduro Ayeh (Technical/Vocational Education and Training Division, Ghana Education Service)
- Mr. Samuel Ansah (Director, Teacher Education Division, Ghana Education Service)

The Education for All co-ordination meeting, Johannesburg, South Africa, $16^{th} - 19^{th}$ October, 2012

UNESCO, being the lead-UN agency for Education, invited educational planners and National Commissions from its Member States within the ECOWAS sub-region, to dilate on the achievements, challenges and projections of the Education for All Programme which had been internationally launched in 2000. With the 2015 deadline barely three years away, the need for strengthening mechanisms for "one last big push" was stressed and discussed at length.

Post-2015 Education for All was also discussed, with emphasis on the need for establishing coordinating groups at the global, regional and national levels.

Participants from Ghana were Mr. Elliot Lamptey – Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring and Evaluation Division (PBME), Ministry of Education and Mrs. Charity Amamoo, Secretary-General of the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO.

An Assessment of the Climate Change Impact on Biosphere Reserve

The study, which was undertaken by the Ghana National Committee for Man and the Biosphere (MAB), provided information on the impact of climate change on the Bia Biosphere Reserve and provided a basis for climate change mitigation in Ghana's Biosphere Reserves and protected areas.

This information will be exchanged with other reserves in the African Network as well as the World Network to enhance visibility of the Bia Biosphere Reserve and contribute to providing solutions to the emerging problem of climate change.

The community's perceptions gathered also served as vital input for improved management of the site. As part of the study, a periodic review will also be undertaken and the report submitted to UNESCO for consideration in 2013.

Launch of 2012 Education for All (EFA) Global Monitoring Report (GMR)

The EFA GMR is an annual publication by UNESCO to assess Member States' achievement levels of the EFA goals. It also assists stakeholders to measure how far they were meeting their commitments towards the six EFA goals.

The 2012 EFA Global Monitoring Report will be launched by UNESCO in collaboration with the Department for International Development (DFID) on 14th November, 2012. The main theme of the year's report is: *Youth and Employment*.

UNESCO FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

UNESCO/KEIZO OBUCHI Fellowship

A fellowship in this section was awarded to Ms. Cynthia Laar, from the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission, in the Field of Environment for a research project on "The use of Isotope technique in evaluating the Dynamics of the Hydrogeochemical and Nutrient Pathways at the Sakumo Ramsar Site". This project is to be undertaken at the University of Western Cape, Department of Earth Sciences, South Africa.

UNESCO/People's Republic of China (The Great Wall)

Under this fellowship, Mr. Evans Asenso, a student of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) was awarded a fellowship in the Field of Agriculture Water and Soil Engineering, at the South China Agricultural University, Guangzhou, China.

UNESCO-L'ORÉAL Award

For the first time, a Ghanaian in the person of Ms. Anita Bimunka Tukunka Tingbani won this award in the UNESCO-L'ORÉAL programme for Women in Science. Her research is on the topic "Agricultural Commercialization, livelihood improvements, food security and Environmental sustainability in Northern Ghana".

UNESCO PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME

The Participation Programme (PP) of UNESCO is a medium through which UNESCO partners Member States in implementing projects initiated by Member States themselves which are in line with UNESCO's programme for the biennium in which the project is being implemented.

Submissions for 2012 – 2013

<u> </u>	011113310113 101 2012 - 2013
No	Title of Project
1	Capacity-building – improving Educational Research and Planning, Collecting, Collating and Profiling all
	Educational Research Papers, Policy Documents Acts and Journals into a National Electronic Database
2	Capacity-building for Journalists and Media Practitioners Towards Ghana's Election 2012
3	55 years of UNESCO and Ghana Relations – Partnership in Development
4	Workshop to engage relevant sectors to Review Interventions aimed at boosting Enrolment Levels in
	Education
5	Assessing the Training Needs and building the capacity of personnel in the Informal Sector of the
	Automobile Industry in Winneba Municipality
6	Conducting of Survey and Inventory/Database of Indigenous Ghanaian Creative Industries to assess
	their impact on the National Economy
7	Women and Youth in the promotion of Ghana's Democracy – Enhancing non-violent Election 2012
8	Documentation of Indigenous Ghanaian Games – Heritage for Posterity
9	Science and Technology centres for students on Holidays
10	Training of 80 Mathematics and Science Tutors of College of Education in Ghana in Contemporary
	Pedagogy and Assessment

Out of the ten (10) projects submitted, the first three projects (Project Request numbers 1, 2 and 3) have been approved by UNESCO so far, to tune of \$48,000.00.

PART FOUR

CHALLENGES AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Adequate financial support

The Permanent Delegate runs a two-member staff in the office and the Commission caters for the Compensation for the staff in addition to providing for Goods, Services and Assets. The need to provide adequate financial support for the office of the Permanent Delegation is a source of concern.

Additionally, servicing meetings of the National Commission and its Specialized Committees need to be enhanced in order to sustain the interest of the members adequately. Meanwhile, the membership of the Committees requires re-structuring. This will be effected in 2013 to ensure their output is enhanced.

As a mitigation measure, the National Commission continues to make its case for the Ministry to increase its budgetary allocation which is evident in the gradual increase in the Goods and Service allocation for the National Commission during the period 2011 - 2013.

Expansion of office space

The Secretariat of the Commission is in dire need of expansion in terms of office space. As a matter of urgency, a documentation centre/library and space to store items are required in order to eliminate clutter and enable the Secretariat have a neater and a more decent presentation to befit its quasi-international status.

A major step taken by the National Commission to help solve the accommodation problem is the acquisition of a site at the 8th Rangoon Close for the development of an office complex that could host the UNESCO office in Ghana as well as the National Commission. The issue was still under the consideration of the previous Minister and Chairman of the Commission, until he left office.

PROJECTIONS FOR 2013

Promoting Education for All issues

Education is at the foundation of development. The Commission will continue to facilitate meetings and programmes on pushing the education for all agenda up to 2015 and even beyond to ensure that quality education, in terms of early childhood education, teacher and inclusive education as well as other related issues would be followed with all the commitment required at the Ministry and the Ghana Education Service (GES) level. As agreed at the international meeting, key areas of the Post-2015 Agenda include Equity, Quality, Sustainability and Inclusive Education.

Subsequent to the Johannesburg meeting, a National Education for All Coordinating Committee will meet by the end of February 2013, facilitated by the Secretariat of the Commission to consider follow-up and post-2015 issues in Education for All. Political-will is a high stake in this exercise.

The 191st Session of the UNESCO Executive Board

The 191st Session of the UNESCO Executive Board will be held within the first quarter of 2013, to discuss and prepare the programme for the ensuing 37th General Conference to consider and approve. This meeting would mark the end of Ghana's current 4-year term.

The Commission would attend the next meeting as well as subsequent ones, in order to be abreast with new issues at UNESCO and eventually launch a come-back.

The 37th General Conference

The delegation to this conference would be led by the Minister for Education as Chairman of the Commission. It has been advisedly recommended that the delegation be expanded to cover all the commissions and committees adequately. The additional import of this meeting lies in the fact that there would be the need to lobby support for the International Year of Light which currently has been adopted by the 190th Session of the Executive Board.

Subsequently, the International Year of Light is expected to be proposed at the UN General Assembly for consideration and adoption.

Activities within the International Year of Light

The Commission is expected to be involved with activities involving the International Year of Light at the international and local levels. The Year is expected to highlight the important role that Light plays in nations' development, with particular reference to industry, energy, education, agriculture, health, communication and information, culture and job-creation.

ASPnet 60th Anniversary

The Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) in Ghana engages children at the Basic school level in programmes and projects that involve UNESCO's ideals and objectives, such as environmental protection, promotion of peace and learning to live together, inter-cultural learning and twinning of schools.

The Commission expects to celebrate the global 60th anniversary with publications and programmes at the level of the school-children.

Promotion of partnerships

Alongside UNESCO's changing outlook and recommendation to seek and sustain partnerships, the Secretariat of the Commission will also seek to deepen relations with civil society, in particular, Parliament, NGOs, the Private sector and governmental institutions.

CONCLUSION

The Commission will continue in its direction of working to promote peace and sustainable development within UNESCO's fields of competence in Education, the Sciences, Culture, Communication and Information.

While we express sincere gratitude for the assistance from the Ministry thus far, we look forward to receiving increased financial allocations to service our National Commission and Specialized Committee meetings.