EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

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

This report mainly covers issues on the Profile of the Commission and the Secretariat, Staff information, Programme Delivery for 2017 and Projections for 2018.

Major activities for 2017 included participation in UNESCO Executive Board Sessions; Ghana’s participation in the Global Education and Skills Forum; the 39th General Conference of UNESCO and outreach activities among others.

In the Outlook for 2018, the Secretariat envisages observing the International Day of Light and opening the Museum of Light; participating in Sessions of the Executive Board of UNESCO and other intergovernmental meetings; capacity-building for staff of the Secretariat on the requisite skills to improve productivity; and development of an Establishment Act for the Commission among others.

Two main challenges facing the Secretariat is office space and transportation.

The Secretariat 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.
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PROFILE

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.

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.

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.

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

- Acts as an advisory body to the government in determining policy with regard to UNESCO and its programmes.
- Serves as a liaison agency involving Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in UNESCO activities for the advancement of Education, the Sciences, Culture and Communication, with the aim of advancing mutual knowledge and understanding of UNESCO’s work towards the common welfare of human-kind.
- Disseminates information from and to UNESCO.
- Exchanges information and experiences with its counterparts in Member States of the Organization.
- Fosters close co-operation between state agencies and services, professionals and other associations, universities as well as other centres of research and education in the promotion of UNESCO’s objectives and ideals.
- Co-operates with Government delegations to UNESCO General Conferences and other intergovernmental meetings convened by UNESCO, in the preparation of Ghana’s position papers by preparing the contribution of Government to the work of these meetings.
- Participates in the search for candidates for vacant UNESCO posts financed under the regular programme or from extra-budgetary resources, and in the placement of UNESCO Fellowship holders.

- Participates in the planning and execution of activities entrusted to UNESCO which are undertaken with the assistance of the other sister agencies of the United Nations in Ghana.

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION

The Ghana National Commission for UNESCO has 35 members drawn from relevant Ministries, Departments, Agencies, Institutions as well as non-governmental organizations in Ghana.

The Commission meets in plenary session twice a year, preferably March/April and September/October. However, in a General Conference year, the Commission meets more than twice.

The members of the Commission serve in honorary capacity and receive no salary except sitting allowances for the sessions. 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 Specialized Committee
- Chairman, Education Specialized Committee
- Chairman, Culture Specialized Committee
- Chairman, Communication and Information Specialized Committee
- Chairman, Natural Sciences Specialized Committee
- Chairman, Social & Human Sciences Specialized Committee
- Chairman, Information for All Programme (IFAP)
- Chairman, Management of Social Transformation (MOST)
- Chairman, National Bioethics Committee
- Chairman, National Committee on the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC/IHP)
- Chairman, Man and the Biosphere (MAB) National Committee
The Representatives of:

- Ministry of Justice & Attorney-General’s Dept.
- Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
- Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology & Innovation
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration
- National Commission on Culture
- Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Creative Arts
- Vice-Chancellors Ghana
- National Media Commission
- Ghana National Association of Teachers
- Ghana Geological Survey Authority
- Ministry of Communication
- Ministry of Information
- Parliamentary Select Committee on Education
- Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences
- Ministry of Food and Agriculture
- Ghana Library Authority
- Ministry of Youth and Sports
- Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations
- Ministry of Gender, Women and Social Protection
- National Council for 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 UNESCO Miollis building, Paris.

**Specialized Committees**
There are six (6) 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 specialized committee 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.

The Specialized Committees meet as and when necessary.

**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.
These are the:

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

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

- The Chairman of the Commission
- The Vice Chairman of the Commission
- The Chairmen of the 6 Specialized Committees
- The Secretary-General
- Ghana’s Representative on 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 (Chief Programme Officer)
3. 4 Programme Officers
4. 1 Accountant
5. 1 Administrative Officer
6. 1 Library Assistant
7. 1 Stenographer Secretary/Typist
8. 2 Drivers
Currently, the Secretariat has six (6) members of staff as follows:

1. Ag. Secretary-General
2. 2 Programme Officers
3. 1 Accountant
4. 1 Administrative Officer
5. 1 Driver

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Male/Female ratio</th>
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<td>Senior/Junior</td>
<td>2:1</td>
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The Secretariat also works with three (3) National Service Persons who serve as Support to the Staff.

The German Kulturweit Voluntary Service Programme is an arrangement between the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO and the German National Commission for UNESCO which opens up opportunities, annually, to young Germans for intercultural learning and skills development. It further affords the sharing of educational experiences as well as promoting international cooperation.

Under the Programme, the Secretariat was glad to host a German volunteer, Ms. Rebecca Ingenhoff, as part of its support staff for six (6) months.

**Age Distribution**

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</table>
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Ministry of Education (Host Ministry)

The Office of the Permanent Delegation to UNESCO

Secretariat of the National Commission

Education Committee

Natural Science Committee

Social & Human Sciences Committee

Culture Committee

Communication/Information Committee

Legal/Administrative Committee

Stakeholders working in the Ministries and relevant fields of UNESCO’s competence

Stakeholders working in the Ministries and relevant fields of UNESCO’s competence
PROGRAMME DELIVERY

201ST UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD SESSION, 19TH APRIL – 4TH MAY, 2017, UNESCO HEADQUARTERS, PARIS, FRANCE

Ghana participated in the 201st Session of the UNESCO Executive Board which took place from 19th – 4th May, 2017 at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France.

The 201st Session considered, among other things, the appropriation of the 39 C/5 budget of UNESCO within the context of the Medium-Term Strategy (2014 – 2021), 37 C/4. The Board also considered the timetable of work and the Agenda of the 39th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO to be held in November, 2017.

The Board further conducted interviews for the nomination of a new Director-General of UNESCO. Contestants to the position were:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Mr. Polad BÜLBÜLOGLU</td>
<td>Azerbaijan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Mr. PHAM Sanh Chau</td>
<td>Viet Nam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Ms. Moushira KHATTAB</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Mr. Hamad bin Abdulaziz AL-KAWARI</td>
<td>Qatar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Mr. Qian TANG</td>
<td>China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Mr. Juan Alfonso FUENTES SORIA</td>
<td>Guatemala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Mr. Saleh AL-HASNAWI</td>
<td>Iraq</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Ms. Vera EL-KHOURY LACOEUILHE</td>
<td>Lebanon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Ms. Audrey AZOULAY</td>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Ghana’s delegation from home, ably supported by the Permanent Delegation in Paris, was composed as follows:

- Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh
  Hon. Minister for Education & Ghana’s Representative on the Board

- Mr. Bonaventure Adjavor
  Charge d'Affaires, Embassy of Ghana in France

- Mrs. Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh
  Secretary-General (a.i.), Ghana National Commission for UNESCO

- Prof. Alfred A. Oteng-Yeboah
  Chairman, National Bioethics Committee, Ghana National Commission for UNESCO
Mr. Riche-Mike Wellington  
Programme Officer, Legal & Administrative Matters, Ghana National Commission for UNESCO

Mr. Apollonius O-A. Asare  
Programme Officer, Natural Science, Ghana National Commission for UNESCO

Mrs. Betty Osafo Mensah  
Embassy of Ghana in Paris & Permanent Delegation to UNESCO

Mr. Gilbert Dadzie  
Permanent Delegation of Ghana to UNESCO

OUTREACH:

VISIT TO ST. JOHN’S BASIC AND JHS, ACHIMOTA, ON WEDNESDAY, 24TH MAY, 2017

Over the years, the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO has employed the Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet), one of its outreach vehicles, for propagating the ideals of UNESCO.

St. John’s Basic and JHS is one of the many ASPnet schools in Ghana and one of the oldest serving member of the ASPnet fraternity in Ghana.

On Wednesday, 24th May, 2017, the Secretariat dispatched a team of two, comprising the National ASPnet Coordinator, Mr. Apollonius O-A. Asare and the Administrative Officer/UNESCO Clubs Coordinator, Miss Marian Nortey, to engage students and teachers of the school on ASPnet in order to whip up their interest.

In a welcome address, the Headmistress, Mrs. Harley†, recalled the cordial relationship between the National Commission and the school. She further called for the rapt attention and cooperation of all the students.

With an audience ranging from class one to JHS 3 as well as teachers, the National ASPnet Coordinator touched on areas such as: Knowing UNESCO, its formation, aims, objectives and mission; knowing ASPnet, its formation, mission and aims as well as current vision and direction. He further explained to their understanding the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Global Citizenship Education (GCED), Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4.7. He elaborated further by touching on some activities that the pupils, students and teachers could undertake individually and collectively in achieving the mission of ASPnet.

In conclusion, he recalled some of the achievements of the school which had contributed to raising the image of ASPnet in Ghana.
In a closing remark, the headmistress encouraged the pupils and students to out-do the achievements of their predecessors to raise high the image of the school and the Ghana ASPnet fraternity on a whole.

**Activity in pictures**

![Activity in pictures](image1)

**INAUGURATION OF APEGUSO SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL UNESCO CLUB, 2ND JUNE, 2017**

The Secretariat further inaugurated a UNESCO Club at the Apeguso Senior High School on 2nd June, 2017.

The Secretariat was represented by Mr. Apollonius O-A. Asare and Miss Marian Nortey.
The delegation had the opportunity of engaging the entire student body on what UNESCO stands for, its aims and objectives; the Sustainable Development Goals and UNESCO’s role in achieving these goals. Students were further introduced to UNESCO Clubs, formation and membership.

After the inauguration, a five-member interim executive body was sworn into office to steer the affairs of the Club.

The delegation, on behalf of the Secretariat, donated books and four (4) sets of Galileoscopes to the school to enhance learning.

**Activity in pictures**

Swearing-in of executive body
The National Commission held its 38/3 meeting on Wednesday, 26th July, 2017 at the Conference Room of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences.

38/3 NATIONAL COMMISSION MEETING, WEDNESDAY, 26TH JULY, 2017

Mr. Asare making the presentation on behalf of the Secretariat to the school. The Headmaster, Mr. Gyawu Darko, flanked by some of his teachers, receiving the Galileoscope on behalf of the school.
The meeting inaugurated the newly constituted Commission and considered the roll-out of its annual programme.

WORKSHOP ON UNESCO CLUBS AND ASPnet

The Ghana National Commission for UNESCO, as part of its outreach function, embarked on activities to build formidable youth (Global Citizens – SDG 4, target 7) for the future development of our nation and the world at large.

Under the UNESCO Participation Programme for the 2016 – 2017 biennium and in the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO’s quest to expand the Associated Schools network and UNESCO Clubs in Ghana, especially reach out to schools outside the Greater Accra Region, the National Commission embarked on outreach activities in the Volta and Northern Regions.

The Commission sought to establish UNESCO Clubs in second cycle schools to promote UNESCO’s ideals of peace and encourage basic schools to enroll onto the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) with the assistance of the Director-General of the Ghana Education Service and the Regional Directorate of the Ghana Education Service.

The Secretariat organized a two-day workshop for the formation of UNESCO Clubs and ASPnet on 8th - 9th August, 2017 in Tamale, Northern Region and 23rd and 24th August, 2017 in Ho, Volta Region.
In the Northern Region, 34 teachers from 20 schools from various districts of the region were trained with respect to UNESCO Clubs. In connection with enrolling onto the ASP network, 31 teachers and heads of schools from 15 schools were trained.

In the Volta Region, the Commission trained 27 teachers and schools heads from 20 schools and 8 Circuit Supervisors (School Supervisors) from various districts of the Region as well as 2 officers from the Regional Education Directorate with respect to ASPnet and SDG 4.7. On the second day, training on the formation of UNESCO Clubs and SDG 4.7 was given to 43 teachers from 15 Second Cycle Schools (Senior High and Technical Schools) from various districts of the Region.

They have been issued with certificates of participation and encouraged to form the clubs and enroll on ASPnet.

**Activity in pictures**

**Tamale Outreach**

![Group photograph with participants](image-url)
Group photograph with participants

Participants in discussion groups
Ho Outreach

Participants at the ASPnet workshop in a group photograph

Participants at the UNESCO Club workshop in a group
Participants in a group discussion

A group presenting the outcome of their deliberations
INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY CELEBRATION IN GHANA, 12TH AUGUST, 2017, KUMASI

This year the global theme for International Youth Day was "Youth Building Peace". It was dedicated to celebrating young people's contributions to conflict prevention and transformation as well as inclusion, social justice, and sustainable peace.

In commemoration of the day in Ghana, the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO collaborated with BlankCheque to create awareness of the day and the importance of the contribution of the youth to the development process.

This activity took place on the street of Asafo, a suburb of Kumasi in the Ashanti Region of Ghana. Other partners for the event included Y FM, Databank, Fotostore and tiGO.

Activities for the day included an interactive session with the youth in the area, the collaborators and an exclusive interview session with the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO.

Activity in pictures
Interview session with Mr. Asare

Stand of Foto store

An interview with a tiGO representative
Ghana participated in the 202\textsuperscript{nd} Session of the UNESCO Executive Board which took place from 4\textsuperscript{th} – 18\textsuperscript{th} October, 2017 at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France.

The Session considered, among others, the election of a new Director-General for the Organization. At the end of elections, which was by secret ballot, Ms. Audrey Azoulay, candidate of France, was nominated for endorsement by the General Conference. The candidature of Ms. Azoulay was forwarded for consideration and subsequent appointment by the 39\textsuperscript{th} Session of the General Conference of UNESCO.

The Session further saw the endorsement of the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS Ghana) as a UNESCO Category II Centre for the consideration and subsequent action by the General Conference.

Ghana’s delegation to this Session is as follows:

1. Hon. Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh  
   Minister for Education - Leader of delegation
2. Ms. Anna Bossman  
   H.E. The Ambassador & Permanent Delegate to UNESCO - Alternate Leader
3. Mrs. Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh  
   Ghana National Commission for UNESCO - Member
4. Dr. Mrs. Elizabeth Sarkodie-Mensah  
   Permanent Delegation of Ghana to UNESCO - Member
5. Mr. Riche-Mike Wellington  
   Ghana National Commission for UNESCO - Member
6. Prof. Edward S. Ayensu  
   African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS Ghana) - Member
7. Prof. Francis K. A. Allotey\textsuperscript{†}  
   AIMS Ghana - Member
8. Prof. Moulaye Camara  
   AIMS Ghana - Member
9. Ms. Sarah Osei  
   AIMS Ghana - Member
10. Mrs. Betty Osafo Mensah  
   Embassy of Ghana  
   - Member

11. Mr. Gilbert Dadzie  
   Permanent Delegation  
   - Member
WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES

REGIONAL EXPERT MEETING ON WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT IN AGENDA 2030, 5 – 6 JANUARY, 2017, ABUJA, NIGERIA

The UNESCO Regional Multi-sectoral Office in Abuja, Nigeria, in collaboration with the Regional Centre for Integrated River Basic Management and the National Water Resources Institute of Kaduna, Nigeria organized the above meeting.

The meeting sought to discuss, share knowledge and experiences, learn from each another and develop appropriate framework for strategic implementation of target 3 of goal 6 of the Agenda 2030 SDGs in the countries of the sub-region.

Ghana was represented by Madam Esi Biney from the Water Resources Commission.

5TH GLOBAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS FORUM, 18TH – 19TH MARCH, 2017, ATLANTIS THE PALM, DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

The Global Education and Skills Forum (GESF) was organized in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 18 – 19 March, 2017.

The Forum aimed at inspiring new ideas, solutions and partnerships for achieving education, equity and employment for all, bringing together world leaders from the public, private and social sectors. The Forum was on the theme “How do we make ‘real’ global citizens?”

Ghana was represented at this forum by Hon. Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh, Minister for Education and supported by Mr. Enoch H. Cobbinah, Chief Director of the Ministry of Education.

AFRICAN HUMANITIES REGIONAL CONFERENCE, 27TH JUNE – 1ST JULY, 2017, BAMAKO, MALI


The main objective of the Conference was to study how the Humanities contribute at national, regional and international levels to measure, understand and better manage the cultural transformations that are expressed in economic, social and environmental dimensions related to the progressive globalization of exchanges.
To better contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the World Humanities Conference, the African Conference on Humanities reflected on the factors that are opposed to the influence of humanities in Africa, including institutional arrangements that could be considered to allow them to play their full intellectual role.

Ghana was represented by Dr. Josephine Dzahene-Quarshie, Head of the Department of Modern Languages and Ag. Director of the Confucius Institute at the University of Ghana, Legon.

SKILLS ON THE MOVE – GLOBAL TRENDS, LOCAL RESONANCES: FOLLOW-UP TO THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON TVET, TANGSHAN, CHINA, 4 – 6 JULY, 2017

The conference, which was scheduled from 4 – 6 July, 2017 in Tangshan, China, was on the theme ‘Skills on the Move: Global trends, local resonances – follow-up to the Third International Congress on TVET’.

The conference, which was aimed at TVET and wider skills development systems, was a follow-up to the Third International Congress on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) held in Shanghai in May 2012, out of which a consensus – the Shanghai Consensus – emerged.

The event also served as a platform to take stock of progress and challenges since the 2012 Shanghai meeting. It further identified promising policies and practices to enhance the contribution of TVET to the implementation of the SDGs, in particular Goal 4.

Ghana was represented by the Hon. Deputy Minister of Education in charge of TVET and SHS, Dr. Yaw Osei Adutwum, supported by Hon. Mrs. Barbara Asher Ayisi, Deputy Minister for Education in charge of Pre-Tertiary and Mr. Fred Asamoah, Ag. Director of the Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (COTVET).

TECHNICAL VALIDATION WORKSHOP OF THE HARMONIZED/COMMON FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROFESSIONALIZATION OF EXTENDED BASIC EDUCATION TEACHERS IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA, YAOUNDE, CAMEROON, 24 – 25 JULY, 2017

Ghana participated in the above workshop which took place from 24th – 25th July, 2017 in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

UNESCO, in partnership with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECAS), organized the above workshop to carry out the technical validation of the components of the Common Orientation
Framework for the Professionalization of Basic Education Teachers in West and Central Africa.

The workshop was a follow-up on the development of professional standards for teachers, an essential element for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4, particularly in its target 4.C on increasing the number of qualified teachers.

Ghana was represented by Dr. Mrs. Evelyn Owusu Oduro, the Ag. Executive Secretary of the National Teaching Council.

2ND TEACHHER REGIONAL TRAINING IN AFRICA, 24 – 28 JULY, 2017, NAIROBI, KENYA


The training was a success with the combined support of the Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education in Africa (CEMASTEA), UNESCO’s International Institute for Capacity-building in Africa (IICBA), the UNESCO Regional Office in Nairobi, the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE), Microsoft, Fitbit, the Higher Life Foundation, and TeachHer’s core administrative partner – the Institute for International Education (IEE).

TeachHer is a Private-Public Partnership that was launched in June 2016 by the United States of America and UNESCO. It is aimed at creating a Master Corps of Educators equipped to deliver innovative, hands-on instruction for adolescent girls between the ages of 13 – 16; opening the door to career opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts/Design and Math (STEAM) fields that are in high demand and where women are greatly underrepresented.

This initiative stems from the unanimous endorsement of UNESCO Executive Board Resolution 199/EX26 entitled ‘UNESCO’s role in encouraging girls and women to be leaders in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art/Design and Math fields’.

More than 80 participants from 10 African countries were trained.

Ghana was represented by 9 head teachers from five (5) second cycle institutions from five (5) regions of the country, together with an official from the Science Education Unit of the Ghana Education Service.

The International Symposium and Policy Forum, co-organized by UNESCO in collaboration with the Institute for the Promotion of Science and Technology at the Ministry of Education of Thailand. The symposium aimed at making the case for strengthening girls’ education in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education, and ultimately female representation in STEM careers and decision-making. The event brought together over 350 participants from over 70 countries.

The objective of the Forum was to debate and share experiences on key issues around girls’ education in STEM, and opportunities and challenges from the policy-making perspective. The Forum held a discussion on key themes which included teacher recruitment and professional development; learning contents and environment and attracting girls into STEM fields.

The Director-General of UNESCO, H.E. Irina Bokova, further launched a global report examining the status of girls’ education in STEM worldwide and factors influencing girls’ participation, achievement and progression in STEM studies.

The event also included a ministerial panel, facilitated by BBC anchor, Zeinab Badawi, where Ghana, among other countries, shared her challenges, lessons and best practices with regard to STEM education.

Ghana was represented at the symposium by the Hon. Deputy Minister of Education in charge of TVET and SHS, Dr. Yaw Osei Adutwum and was supported by Mrs. Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh, Secretary-General (a.i.) of the Commission.

LAUNCH OF UNESCO’S 2017/18 GLOBAL EDUCATION MONITORING (GEM) REPORT


The 2017/18 Report examined new and existing monitoring data related to SDG 4 targets, as well as other education targets in the SDG agenda. It further focused on issues related to accountability in education, analyzing how all relevant stakeholders can provide education more effectively, efficiently and equitably. Furthermore, it examined the different types of mechanisms that are used to hold governments, schools, teachers, parents, students, civil society, the international community and the private sector accountable for inclusive, equitable and quality education.
Ghana was represented at the event by the Hon. Minister for Education & Chairman of the Commission, Hon. Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh. He was supported by the Secretary-General (a.i.) of the Commission, Mrs. Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh.

The Hon. Minister further participated in a ministerial panel, where he shared some of the strategies being implemented to increase accountability and efficiency in education in Ghana as well as highlighted some of the ways in which it is done, including how community-based self-regulation mechanisms help make basic education more accountable.

Subsequently, Ghana’s national launch was held on Tuesday, 28th November, 2017 at the Conference Hall of GIMPA. The launch event brought together members ranging from academia to the general public.

39TH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO, 30TH OCTOBER – 14TH NOVEMBER, 2017, UNESCO HEADQUARTERS, PARIS


Ghana joined the General Policy Debate with a statement delivered by the Leader of the delegation, Hon. Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh, Minister for Education and Chairman of the Commission in the forenoon of Thursday, 2nd November, 2017.

The Hon. Minister for Education, Hon. Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh, led a 20-member delegation (from home and Paris) to the Conference.

In consequence of the successful celebration of 2015 as International Year of Light, Ghana further led in the declaration of 16th May as International Day of Light at UNESCO at this Session. This initiative was supported by the Government of Mexico, New Zealand and Russian Federation.

The Day is expected to provide an annual focal point for the continued appreciation of the central role that light plays in the lives of the citizens of the world in areas of science, culture and art, education, sustainable development and in fields as diverse as medicine, communications and energy.

The Conference further designated the Africa Institute of Mathematical Sciences (AIMS Ghana) as a UNESCO Category II Centre. Again, together with the Russian Federation, Ghana was able to rally the support of Member States to impress on UNESCO to make the basic sciences one of UNESCO’s programmes for the next biennium.

Ghana, together with Kenya, tabled a resolution (which was endorsed by the General Conference) recommending the setting up of a trust fund for sustainable financing of the
African Biosphere Reserves Network (AfriBioFund) under the guidance of UNESCO’s Secretariat.

Moreover, the General Conference appointed Ms. Audrey Azoulay as the new Director-General of UNESCO. The Conference further paid tributes to Ms. Bokova, who was ending her tenure of office.

**SURVEY OF TEACHERS IN PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION (STEPP)**

UNESCO, in collaboration with participating countries (The Dominican Republic, Ghana, Namibia, the Philippines, Togo and Viet Nam), OECD, International Taskforce on Teachers for Education 2030 and other partners, aimed to develop and pilot a pre-primary education (ISCED 02) personnel survey, for use in low- and middle-income countries, to strengthen the capacity and improve the working conditions of pre-primary education personnel.

The National Commission, with support from the UNESCO Field Office in Accra, composed a 12-member National Team to oversee this phase of the project. The Committee comprised representatives from a teacher training institution, a teacher Union, the UNESCO Field Office in Accra, the National Commission, Ghana Education Service (Early Childhood Care and Education) and Non-Governmental Organization.

**WORLD LITERACY DAY, 8TH SEPTEMBER, 2017**

UNESCO declared September 8 as the International Literacy Day to highlight the importance of literacy to individuals, communities and societies.

The Secretariat participated in the celebration of the International Literacy Day organized by the Non-Formal Education Division of the Ministry of Education, on 8th September, 2017 in Accra.

The event was commemorated with a grand durbar and exhibition on the theme ‘A digital World in Ghana: The case of Functional Literacy’.
UNESCO CO-SPONSORED FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAMME FOR 2017

The Natcom received applications from numerous applicants, from which it submitted the applications of suitable candidates to UNESCO for consideration.

UNESCO has thus awarded fellowships to the following persons under the following Fellowship Programmes:

UNESCO/Poland Co-Sponsored Fellowships Programme in Engineering cycle 2017 A

Awardee:  Mr. Richard Nii Ayitey Akoto  
Field of Study:  Gas and Oil Engineering (General Scholar)  
Date:  1st October, 2017 – 30th March, 2018  
Venue:  AGH University of Science and Technology Krakow, Poland

Awardee:  Mrs. Maame Adwoa B. Animpong  
Field of Study:  Ceramics and Material Engineering (General Scholar)  
Date:  1st October, 2017 – 30th March, 2018  
Venue:  AGH University of Science and Technology Krakow, Poland

UNESCO/People’s Republic of China (The Great Wall) Co-Sponsored Fellowship Programme 2017 – 2018

Awardee:  Mr. Godfred Yaw Gyawu Darko  
Field of Study:  Finance (General Scholar)  
Date:  1st September, 2017 – 15th July, 2018  
Venue:  Central University of Finance and Economics, China
THE PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME OF UNESCO

In 2016 – 2017 biennium, UNESCO, under its Participation Programme, approved four (4) projects for Ghana per the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRIORITY NO.</th>
<th>TITLE OF PROJECT</th>
<th>IMPLEMENTING AGENCY</th>
<th>ESTIMATED COST IN US$</th>
<th>APPROVED AMOUNT (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Engaging Key Stakeholders in the Education 2030 Agenda</td>
<td>Ghana National Commission for UNESCO</td>
<td>21,500.00</td>
<td>21,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Capacity-building workshop for the establishment and maintenance of UNESCO Clubs and ASPnet in Ghana</td>
<td>Ghana National Commission for UNESCO</td>
<td>23,310.00</td>
<td>15,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Establishment Of Museum Of Light and Light-Based Technologies In Ghana</td>
<td>National Steering Committee of the IYL, Ghana National Commission for UNESCO, Ghana Museums and Monuments Board</td>
<td>24,500.00</td>
<td>20,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>National Campaign to prevent teenage pregnancy among school-going girls</td>
<td>Girls’ Education Unit, Ghana Education Service</td>
<td>21,521.00</td>
<td>21,521.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>78,021.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**CHALLENGES**

**Office space**
Up until now, the Secretariat has grappled with the issue of office space for officers, a library, stores and an archive.

**Transportation**
The Secretariat is still facing problems with transportation as vehicles are averagely over 18 years and expensive to maintain as indicated in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Make of Vehicle</th>
<th>Make and type of Vehicle</th>
<th>Registration No.</th>
<th>Year of Purchase</th>
<th>Age (years)</th>
<th>Assigned to Officer</th>
<th>State/Condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Saloon</td>
<td>Nissan Sunny</td>
<td>GV 239 - 14</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Pool</td>
<td>Serviceable with high running cost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Pick-up</td>
<td>Nissan</td>
<td>GV 240 - 14</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Mr. F.G Hotor, Accountant</td>
<td>Serviceable with high running cost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Pick-up</td>
<td>Mazda</td>
<td>GV 241 - 14</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Pool</td>
<td>Serviceable with high running cost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4*</td>
<td>Pick-up</td>
<td>Toyota Hilux</td>
<td>GS 824 Y</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>*Sylvia Lutterodt, Former Ag. S-G</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5*</td>
<td>Saloon</td>
<td>Toyota Corolla</td>
<td>GV 522 Z</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>*Sylvia Lutterodt, Former Ag. S-G</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The Secretary-General’s official vehicle (GV 522 Z) and another Toyota Hilux vehicle (GS 824 Y) which were given to the National Commission by the Ministry of Education are in the custody of Ms. Sylvia Lutterodt, a former Acting Secretary-General, since August 2011, and efforts by the National Commission and the Ministry of Education to retrieve them have proven futile as the case is still in court.
PROJECTIONS/OUTLOOK FOR 2018

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

Activities

- ASPnet/Club Activities: intensify the promotion of quality education through education for Peace and sustainable development as well as intercultural learning;
- Participate in Sessions of the Executive Board of UNESCO and other intergovernmental meetings;
- Capacity-building for staff of the Secretariat on the requisite skills to improve productivity;
- Promote activities within the delivery of quality education, peace-building, sustainable development;
- Strengthening of the National Commission and its Secretariat, Specialized Committee, National Intergovernmental Committees and enhancing international relations;
- Development of an Establishment Act for the Commission
- Observation of 60th Anniversary of the Commission
- Observation of International Day of Light and opening of Museum of Light and Light-based Technologies
- Establishment of a National Heritage Committee
- Workshop on implementing Cultural Conventions ratified for Ghana’s benefit
CONCLUSION

We wish to express our greatest appreciation the Hon. Minister and Chairman of the Commission, *Hon. Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh*, for his unflinching support to the Commission. We are further grateful for his passion and vision to uplift the work and image of the Commission and its Secretariat to greater heights. It is our anticipation that the support to the Commission will be sustained to achieve this vision.

To our unrelenting Chief Director & Vice Chairman of the Commission, *Mr. Enoch H. Cobbinah* and the entire Ministry of Education, we are most grateful for your support.

We further express our thanks to all members of the Commission for assisting to steer the affairs of the Commission to success in 2017.

Our profound gratitude goes to members of the Specialized Committees for their expert advice and input in shaping Ghana’s position in international debate.

We further extend a hand of appreciation to our partners who contributed in diverse ways in ensuring a fruitful year.

To all staff members who have contributed towards the successful roll-out of activities of the Commission, accept the highest recognition of the Commission.