

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, SCDE, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA

REPORT OF THE 76TH ANYSC YOUTH SCHOOL

THEME: Attaining the 5-Ps of Sustainable Development for a Resilient
Ghana: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to acknowledge the immense contribution of all our partners, namely the GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS GROUP and the NATIONAL YOUTH AUTHORITY, towards the success of the 76th edition of the Annual New Year School and Conference (ANYSC), Youth School. We also acknowledge the immense contribution of ISSER for allowing us to use the ISSER CONFERENCE FACILITY at the University of Ghana and the UNIVERSITY OF GHANA BUSINESS SCHOOL INNOVATION AND INCUBATION HUB- THE NEST for their generous sponsorship.

76th Annual New Year School and Conference: YOUTH SCHOOL

Introduction

The Annual New Year School at the University of Ghana is a prominent academic event in the nation, serving as a platform for addressing national issues, promoting intellectual exchanges, and facilitating policy discussions. Now in its 76th edition, the event brought together scholars, policymakers, and students from various fields to engage in meaningful dialogues concerning the future of Ghana. One of the features of this year's New Year School was the Youth School, which took place on the final day. This segment aimed to empower the younger generation, specifically senior high school students from various parts of Accra; some of the participating schools included the Accra High School, Presbyterian Boys' Secondary School, and Accra Academy High School Ghana. The Accra High School Choir provided the event with uplifting songs during the musical interludes. The Youth School aimed to inspire and equip these students with the knowledge and tools they need to actively contribute to Ghana's socio-economic development.

Theme and focus

Each year, the ANYSC focuses its themes on pressing national development issues that contribute to the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This year's theme emphasizes the pursuit of the five Ps of Sustainable Development for a Resilient Ghana: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership. The theme establishes a framework for a series of intellectual discussions focused on different aspects of national development, youth empowerment and leadership, as well as the role of technology in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The main school and conference began on Monday, January 14, 2025, and concluded with the Youth School on Thursday, January 16, 2025. The youth school, a critical component of the conference, centred on the themes of leadership and integrity as they pertain to national development. Its objective was to actively engage young individuals in discussions regarding their unique roles in shaping the future of Ghana. Through an emphasis on problem-solving, discipline, and innovation, the program aimed to cultivate a sense of responsibility and agency among the youth in addressing contemporary challenges and contributing to the nation's advancement.

Part 1: Eye on Integrity & Stewardship Towards Achieving the 5Ps

Welcome Remarks

The opening remarks delivered by Professor Samuel Amponsah focused on the role of the youth in achieving sustainable development. He drew an inspiring parallel between the 5Ps of sustainable development and Ghana's national identity. Professor Amponsah reminded students of the values embedded in Ghana's national anthem and the patriotic song "Y3n ara asase ne". He highlighted that the 5Ps of people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership are not new to the nation and have long been ideals woven into the fabric of Ghana's identity. He thus called on participants to be guided by their core values and aspirations, emphasizing the importance of drawing upon their inner strengths and convictions as they navigate the challenges and successes ahead. As he concluded, participants were invited to sing the youth anthem, "Arise Ghana Youth".

Youth School Mandate

In setting out the Youth School mandate, Dr. Jack Dotsey, the Executive Director of ANYSC, provided a brief overview of the purpose of introducing the Youth School as part of the ANYSC by the SCDE at the University of Ghana. He asserted that the New Year School's vision is to cultivate strong leadership around issues of topical interest to drive national development, while the Youth School's mandate is to inspire youth to become proactive torchbearers in the vital mission of shaping the nation's future. He emphasized that discipline plays a vital role in achieving sustainable development. By fostering hard work and personal growth, discipline empowers individuals to reach their goals and gain a competitive edge. This focus on seeking knowledge and discipline not only enhances personal achievement but also contributes to the overall progress of society. Dr. Dotsey encouraged the youth to stay focused and develop soft skills crucial for navigating life's journey.

Integrity & Stewardship: Critical Tools for the Attainment of the 5Ps

The importance of integrity and stewardship as critical tools for the attainment of the 5 Ps was presented by the team from the International Leadership Foundation (ILF). Dr. Ernestina Atsu highlighted how integrity, rooted in values, beliefs, and principles, is central to one's character. She further discussed how a shift in attitudes and perceptions is necessary to create the change we need as a country. Other crucial topics discussed were problem-solving and interpersonal skills development. Students were encouraged to develop skills such as negotiating, effective time management and leveraging stronger relationships. There was a hands-on session at the end of the presentation, which encouraged participant introspection through an individual "corruption self-examination" exercise.

Part 2 Youth School Academy: Immersion into future careers

The second part of the youth school involved students being divided into groups based on their areas of interest: AI and Emerging Technologies, Fashion Design, the Arts, and Mathematics. The respective domain experts facilitated this segment.

AI & Machine Learning - Students were introduced to artificial intelligence, robotics, and machine learning, focusing on understanding the opportunities and prospects in these fields. The session took place in the smart classroom at the School of Continuing and Distance Education.

Fashion – Fashion students explored innovative methods for designing dresses and gowns without the need to cut the material. They created impressive designs, culminating in a showpiece presented during the closing ceremony. This segment was facilitated by a team from the recent Artify project, which was initiated by the Office of Research, Innovation, and Development at the University of Ghana.



Arts – Art enthusiasts were encouraged to create gallery-worthy pieces from their imagination. Beautiful artworks were showcased after the breakout session.



Maths – Representatives from the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) in Ghana helped to dispel myths surrounding mathematics, encouraging students to approach it step by step and reassuring them of their ability to succeed.

Each group was led by facilitators who explained their areas of expertise and shared easier ways to understand and learn them.



Remarks by National Youth Authority Representative

Mr. Ekow Smith, HR Manager at the National Youth Authority, presented the aims and objectives of the NYA as a state institution dedicated to developing and harnessing the creative potential of Ghana's youth. He encouraged students to engage with their

decentralised offices for guidance on career development, particularly in entrepreneurship. Additionally, he urged student groups and organisations to register with the authority to connect with the appropriate stakeholders for valuable training and partnership opportunities. He shared the importance of these initiatives in fostering growth and collaboration among the youth. Students were provided with links to helpful resource materials.

Conclusion

Dr. Simon-Peter Kafui Aheto, Director of ANYSC, delivered the closing remarks, summarising the day's discussions and highlighting key takeaways, which emphasised the importance of integrity, honesty, discipline, and leadership. He concluded by affirming the University of Ghana's commitment to empowering the youth by providing them with the essential skills, knowledge, and leadership qualities needed to make meaningful contributions to their schools and communities. He also gave a vote of thanks to all participants and sponsors.

The youth school, established three years ago, emphasizes the university's commitment to preparing the next generation for leadership roles and socio-economic transformation in line with the SDGs.

Note: Please follow this link to view some of the moments captured at the Youth School.

<https://publicaffairs50.pixieset.com/youthschoolacademy/>