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## International Labour Organisation

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### **Report on 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the I.L.O. in Ghana (April 21-28, 2009)**

#### **90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations in Ghana**

The International Labour Organization (ILO) marked its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Ghana with a week of activities under the theme 'Youth Employment and Job Security' at the national and district levels.

#### **Open Day**

April 21, 2009, was set aside to receive visitors. 'Curious Minds', a youth group that focuses on education and advocacy on children's rights and which has worked with the ILO in the past, visited the ILO offices to learn more about the ILO and the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The group members also took turns to share experiences on their achievements and challenges with the 'Curious Minds' initiative.

#### **Media Interactions**

On April 20, 2009, the ILO issued a press release which was widely publicized by the major media houses including the *Ghana News Agency* and the *Ghanaian Times*. The release set the tone for the celebrations and ushered the general public into the anniversary activities through the media. In the capital, Accra, the ILO and its tripartite partners comprising the Ministry of Employment and Social welfare, the Ghana Employers Association and the Ghana Trades Union Congress, had several sessions with the media, beginning with an appearance on a radio programme called "Workers Link" by a representative of the G-TUC and the ILO. The representative of the Ghana Employers Association could not make it. A soiree with the media on April 22, 2009 at the International Press Centre soiree provided the platform for personal interactions and information sharing about the general work of the ILO as well as its interventions in Ghana. Representatives of the tripartite as well as the ILO addressed the invited guests.

#### **Publicity**

The anniversary was highly publicized in both the print and broadcast media as well as on internet sources. Several radio interviews and discussions on activities for the celebrations took place at the major radio and television stations in Ghana.

Documentaries on various ILO programmes in Ghana, including the Ghana Decent Work Country Programme, HIV/AIDS and the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour were also aired on various television stations.

The activities also featured prominently in various news bulletins of the media houses in both English and the local languages. Details of the coverage by the major media houses are provided below:

No.	Name of ILO official or activity featured	Source	Programme/Type of Coverage	Date/Time
1	Dr. Nii Moi Thompson, interview on 90 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations	Unique FM	Workers Link	April 16, 2009
2	Dr. Nii Moi Thompson, interview and phone-in session on ILO and labour issues in Ghana	Citi FM	Breakfast Show	April 21, 2009
3	Dr. Nii Moi Thompson, Interview on 90 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations	Joy FM	Super Morning Show	April 22, 2009
	Emmanuel Baisie, Interview on Symposium and other activities at the district level	Unique Radio	Interview on ILO	9.45 a.m. April 24, 2009
4		Ghana News Agency	News item on Press Release	April 21, 2009
		GTV	ILO documentary	April 25, 2009
	Emmanuel Baisie, Interview in Akan on Symposium	TV Africa	Evening News in Akan (local dialect)	April 27, 2009
		TV3	Evening News,	April 27, 2009
		<i>Ghanaian Times</i>	News on back page	April 28, 2009
		<i>Free Press</i>	News item	April 29, 2009
5	Patrice Caesar-Sowah, interview on ILOs Decent Work Country Programme and the Anniversary	GTV	Breakfast Show	May 1, 2009
6		TV3	ILO Documentary	May 1, 2009
10	Nii Moi Thompson	<i>Daily Graphic</i>	News item	May 4, 2009

### Symposium

The celebration at the national level was crowned on April 27, 2009 with a symposium in Accra under the theme “Youth Employment and Job Security”. Over 50 participants including the Greater Accra Regional Minister, the Minister of Employment and Social Welfare and the International Project Expert, Local Economic Development of the ILO participated in the symposium. Other participants included parliamentarians, members of the Ghana Employers Association, the Ghana Trades Union Congress (TUC), ILO Staff, academia, civil society and the media.

The symposium saw various partners addressing the audience as well as well presentations and plenary discussions on the national theme, 'Youth Employment and Job Security'. Some of the speakers were Hon. Stephen Amoanor Kwao (Minister of Employment and Social Welfare), who delivered the keynote address, Mr. Kofi Asamoah (Secretary General of the TUC) who presented a paper titled 'Youth Employment and the Informal Economy in Ghana,', and Mr. Victor Atta-Amponsah (Ghana Employers Association) who spoke on 'Addressing the Mis-match between Education and the Employment Needs of Industry.' Other papers included 'A Review of the National Youth Employment Programme in the Context of Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy II (GPRS II)' presented by Mrs. Fati Bodua-Seidu of the National Youth Employment Programme, and 'The International Labour Organization – The Unique Specialized Agency of the United Nations Organizations', presented by Alhaji Hassan A. Sunmonu, the General-Secretary of the Organisation of African Trade Union Unity. The symposium was widely publicized in both the print and electronic media.

#### **Inauguration of Awutu Senya SPGE**

At the district level, the highlight was on the inauguration of the Sub-committee on Production and Gainful Employment (SPGE) at the Awutu Senya District of the Central Region. The 15-member SPGE, made up of members of the district assembly and the private sector, including experienced business men and women as well as representatives of non-governmental and community based organizations were inducted into office by a representative of the Central Regional Minister and tasked to champion local economic development at the district.

With the inauguration, Awutu Senya became the fifth district in the Central Region after Efutu, Ajumako Enyan Essiam, Twifo Heman Lower Denkyira and Mfantseman Districts, to benefit from the LED initiative under ILO's Ghana Decent Work Country Programme (GDWCP).

The inauguration brought together over 500 stakeholders made up of representatives of relevant government ministries, small business associations, Awutu Senya District Assembly, Chiefs, the media and civil society. Among the high-profile guests at the inauguration were the Member of Parliament for the area, Hon. David Nana Larbie, and a representative of the Central Regional minister.

Since 2003, the SPGE has been the key mechanism for GDWCP in unearthing local development potential, linking the potential with District Assemblies' development plans, and mobilizing local and national resources for implementing the plans.