

**Daily Graphic**  
*Truth & Accuracy Every Day*

Friday, October 2, 2020

# Day of German Unity 2020



## Celebrating 30 years of German Reunification



TOP RIGHT: Signing of the Unity Treaty in 1990.  
BOTTOM RIGHT: Chancellor Angela Merkel welcoming President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo to Germany.  
LEFT: Celebration at the Brandenburg Gate.



• Nana Addo Dankwa  
Akufo-Addo, President of  
the Republic of Ghana

## President Akufo-Addo's congratulatory message on the 30th Anniversary of German Unity

ON the occasion of the 30th anniversary celebration of German Unity, I extend the best wishes of the Ghanaian people and their government to the government and people of the Federal Republic of Germany on this milestone.

Germany, under the guidance of the great German statesman, Konrad Adenauer, founder of modern, democratic Germany, and, currently, under the leadership of the redoubtable Chancellor, Frau Angela Merkel, the outstanding European leader of our time, has become, for the 21st century, the global symbol and beacon of freedom, democracy and prosperity. Germany is an

inspiration for all those of us who want to help build successful nations on the basis of free, democratic principles.

Ghana values very much her relationship and friendship with Germany. Sixty-three (63) years after the establishment of formal diplomatic relations, Ghana has assumed the position of being Germany's 4th largest trading partner in sub-Saharan Africa, and the fruits of Ghana-German relations are evident.

I have, during my time as President, had the honour to welcome to Ghana my good friends, German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Chancellor Angela Merkel, with the ultimate goal of deepening the bonds of friendship and co-operation that exist between our two countries.

We are encouraged by the fact that more German companies than ever are looking to invest in Ghana, symbolised by the recent opening of an assembly plant by the world-renowned German automobile company, Volkswagen, and we will continue to create and maintain the conducive investment atmosphere that would not only guarantee the safety of their investments, but good returns on investments as well.

It is my fervent wish that the next thirty (30) years will see even stronger relations between our two countries.

Once again, I wish the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Germany the very best on this occasion.

## Message from Heiko Maas, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, to mark Day of German Unity

JUBILANT masses at the Brandenburg Gate, people in one another's arms, simultaneously laughing and crying for joy. It is moving images like these that we associate with the fall of the Wall in November 1989 and German unification 30 years ago.

The whole world watched incredulously, amazed by the power unleashed by people's courage and by how the longing for justice and freedom could peacefully overcome a dictatorship. As surprising as the events of autumn 1989 were for everyone, the fall of the Berlin Wall did not come from nothing. The ground was prepared by a policy of reconciliation and rapprochement and by decades of civil society dialogue - between individuals - forming a bridge across the Wall. Courageous people then brought about its collapse. One year later, on 3 October 1990, the unification of the two German states followed, the result of intensive and dedicated political negotiations with the Allies and neighbouring countries. It is also down to them that our country today is firmly anchored in the international community and in a united, peaceful Europe.

Thirty years of German unity provide an occasion not only for many people in Germany but also for many others throughout the world to look back. The message at the time was that major successes cannot be achieved

singlehandedly but only in close cooperation with neighbours and partners.

Close cooperation based on trust is a guiding principle of German foreign policy. Even though efforts to find joint solutions do not always produce results as quickly as everyone would like, uncompromising go-it-alone efforts and the retreat into national egoism are wrong turns that do not lead to anything good.

We all sense that the major issues concerning humanity can only be resolved by joining forces, or not at all, as the COVID-19 pandemic has most recently shown us. These solutions must be based on efforts to foster greater exchange and a deeper understanding for one another. That is a task not just for policymakers but also for civil society, education and culture.

Art and culture in particular can build valuable bridges of dialogue. They can help us to understand the dreams and traumas of our societies and to seek common perspectives.

Germany, which has now been united for 30 years, advocates a policy of peace and focuses on cooperative solutions - in the European Union, in the United Nations and also in the Alliance for Multilateralism, which Germany launched together with its partners.

The fall of the Berlin Wall and German reunification showed us that many things are

possible that long seemed impossible. To achieve them requires courage, determination and the instinctive ability to take the right decisions at the right time. We still need all these qualities today: as the international community we are facing particularly great challenges. But we have no reason to resign ourselves to our fate. Let us cast our minds back to the founding of the United Nations 75 years ago, right after the horrors of the Second World War. At that time, people had every reason to distrust one another. They had every reason to be afraid of what the future might hold. And yet they said: We are founding this United Nations organisation because we believe that together we can be more effective in our work to promote peace and freedom.

We should remind ourselves of that more often. We have reason to be hopeful. When, if not today, should people in Germany be more aware of that



• Heiko Maas, German  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

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# Germany-Ghana partnership stronger than ever

On the occasion of the celebration of 30th anniversary of the German Unity, the Daily Graphic had an interview with the German Ambassador to Ghana, Mr Christoph Retzlaff. We publish below the interview. We use GA for the German Ambassador and DG for the Daily Graphic.

By Kate Baaba Hudson

**K**INDLY brief me on the history of Germany's Unification Day and its significance

**GA:** The fall of the Berlin Wall on November 09, 1989 was a defining moment for Germany, Europe and the world. It was unexpected at the time, made possible by courageous people who stood up for freedom, human rights and democracy. And they prevailed because no blood was shed. It was a peaceful revolution that changed the world and still is an inspiration for many people.

We are still grateful to our international partners, mainly the US, Russia, France, and the UK for their trust and support. And we thank our Eastern European neighbours for their trust and courageous contributions.

On the 3rd of October Germans celebrate the reunification of Germany. This day, the 3rd of October 1990, formally brought about a united Germany after the partition of our country as a consequence of the Second World War.

So we are celebrating a very special anniversary this year. For us Germans, reunification was a once in a lifetime event, a day of great joy and deep emotions.

It was also a defining moment for Europe and the world as German reunification paved the way for a united Europe after decades of cold war and division into Western Europe and

Communist Eastern Europe. Europe today looks completely different from 1990.

The former Eastern and Central European countries are now members of the European Union. Our European continent became the most peaceful and prosperous continent in the world.

**2. DG: Briefly tell me about German-Ghanaian cooperation since your celebration last year**

**GA:** The partnership between Ghana and Germany is stronger than ever. President Steinmeier and Chancellor Angela Merkel visited Ghana in 2017 and 2018. President Akufo-Addo has to Berlin several times since taking office in 2017. Chancellor Merkel and President Akufo-Addo last met at the G20 Investment Summit of the G20 Compact with African countries in Berlin in November 2019.

The first meeting of the Ghanaian-German Business Council meeting took place in Berlin in November last year. This new high-level forum aims to increase German investment in Ghana.

Talking about business and investment, I would like to highlight only some of our most important recent projects in 2019 and 2020:

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Ghana's electrical grid modernisation was signed between Siemens and GRIDCO.

- Ghana's biggest public solar power plant is being built in Kaleo / Upper West Region co-financed by the German KfW Bank.

- We cut the sod for the construction of a state-of-the-arts Waste to Energy plant in Kumasi which is a pilot project for more plants in other regions.

- And last but not least the Volkswagen assembly plant in Accra was launched in August



Mr. Christoph Retzlaff  
— German Ambassador

**3. DG: COVID-19 has really affected nations and governments. There have been collaborations at various levels. Please tell me about the German-Ghanaian Cooperation under COVID-19 support and interventions; any lessons?**

**GA:** Germany has funded Rapid Covid-19 support measures in Ghana to the amount of more than 27 million Euros. This includes the set-up of intensive care units, testing equipment for the Kumasi Centre for Collaborative Research (KCCR) and protection equipment for several Ghanaian institutions and more, as well as financial support for small and medium-sized enterprises in Ghana.

Many countries might just be hit by a second wave of the virus. So I would advise the Ghanaian people:

Follow the Government's instructions: Be on your guard and keep the basic measures of caution in place at all times, that is: wearing a mouth and nose mask, keeping social distancing and observing general measures of hygiene such as

washing hands regularly and using sanitiser.

This pandemic could stay with us for a long time. We should all work together on keeping it restrained as much as possible.

**4. DG: May we please talk briefly about Germany's 2020 EU Presidency?**

**GA:** Both Chancellor Merkel and EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen have stated that the partnership between Europe and Africa is a top priority for the EU and for Germany's EU Presidency.

The upcoming EU-AU Summit, involving all EU and AU Heads of State, will give new impetus to our partnership and will chart the way forward for our mutually beneficial cooperation. I am sure we will see new initiatives which will bring the two continents closer. And if Germany as the current EU Presidency can be instrumental to this aim, we are of course very proud to lead the way.

**5. DG: Ghanaians will be going to the polls in December; any comments/advice/observations?**

**GA:** Ghana has built a strong democratic legacy since 1992, of which all Ghanaians can be proud. All Ghanaians must guard this legacy. Germany and Ghana are both built on the ideas and principles of democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights.

Democracy strives on vibrant political competition that offers the voters a choice to vote on. But it is important that this competition is peaceful and based on respect for the other side.

Politics is a competition, not a battle or fight. I am confident that Ghana once again will come out of the December elections as a beacon of democracy and stability in West Africa. This is in fact one of Ghana's most valuable assets and must be protected by all.

## 17 MW Solar Power Project funded by German Government via KfW Development Bank



**KfW**

At a festive ceremony at Kaleo in the Upper West Region in February, H.E. President Nana Akufo-Addo cut the sod together with H.E. the German Ambassador Christoph Retzlaff for a 17MWp Solar Power Project funded by the German Government via KfW Development Bank.

In the context of the bilateral Reform and Investment Partnership between Ghana and Germany, German Development Cooperation provided funds via KfW to the amount of EUR 22.8 Mio. to finance the project.

The project is implemented at Kaleo and Lawra in the Upper West Region. The sites will provide a capacity of 13MWp and 4MWp respectively which allows the Volta River Authority (VRA), the commercial owner of the plant, to increase its share of renewable energy in the energy mix by 85%.

It is expected that both projects will generate enough energy to power at least thirty-two thousand (32,000) households. At the same time it will increase the geographic spread of power generation in the country. Furthermore, the plants will reduce the amount of energy that would have been transmitted from the hydro and thermal plants located in the south, and thereby, support to reduce transmission losses on the national grid.

This Solar Power Project can be considered a role model as it not only proves the great potential for renewable energy projects in Ghana but also the commitment of the Ghanaian Government to increase the overall share of renewables in the energy mix. The project will be the biggest publicly run solar plants in the country.

As the project is the first of its kind in the



• Launch ceremony of solar panel project at Kaleo

Upper West Region, it will boost the region's electricity supply and will open new development perspectives for the people living

in the Region.

A second phase of the project is currently under preparation.



## Happy Unity Day

SILVER STAR AUTO LIMITED wishes to congratulate the Ambassador and the people of the Federal Republic of Germany on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of German Unity Day.

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## Launch of VW Assembly Plant in Accra

**V**OLKSWAGEN Group South Africa (VWSA) began its journey into Sub-Saharan Africa

in 2016, when its parent company Volkswagen AG in Germany tasked VWSA with the responsibility of expanding its business presence in this region.

On August 30, 2018, Thomas Schaefer, then the Head of the Sub-Saharan Region for Volkswagen, signed a Memorandum alongside Ghana's Minister of Trade and Industry Alan Kyerematen. This Memorandum specified plans to establish a Volkswagen vehicle assembly facility in

Ghana and assess the feasibility of a modern Mobility concept, similar to the one launched in Kigali.

Almost two years later, on August 3, 2020, Volkswagen fulfilled its commitment with the launch of Volkswagen Ghana under the leadership of Jeffrey Oppong Peparah, as well as an assembly facility in Accra. The launch event was attended by the President of the Republic of Ghana, His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, Minister of Trade and Industry, Alan Kyerematen, and cabinet ministers.

Universal Motors Limited, a licensed Volkswagen importer since 2005, was awarded the assembly contract. The



Volkswagen models assembled in Accra are Tiguan, Teramont, Passat, Polo and Amarok. On September 16, 2020,

Volkswagen Ghana signed a Memorandum of Understanding with BlackTvy Ghana, committing to the

mutual goal of sustainable mobility, green growth and more affordable cars and homes in Ghana. The partners' plans for sustainable mobility including assessing the viability of reducing carbon emissions by piloting a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) filling station for trucks and commercial vehicles.

This pilot would be the first CNG filling station in West Africa, while a fleet of CNG trucks could save on logistics cost, reduce carbon emissions by up to 20%, and decrease harmful particulates, a driver of air pollution and associated health risks, by approximately 85%.

Long-term, the partnership could deliver Volkswagen electric vehicles and the associated charging infrastructure to Ghana.

## Kick-off for Waste-to-Energy pilot project funded by German govt

The Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), Professor Kwabena Frimpong-Boateng and the German Ambassador Christoph Retzlaff

attended a kick-off meeting in Accra regarding the construction of a 400-kilowatt (KW) hybrid power plant at Atwima Nwabigiya in the Ashanti Region.



• Prof. Kwabena Frimpong Boateng, Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, cutting the sod for the "Hybrid-PV-Biogas-Pyrolysis-Plant"

The six-million Euro enterprise, dubbed Waste-to-Energy (W2E), is a pilot project being funded by the German government, with a consortium of ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) serving as implementers.

The German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) is the lead agency that signed the project contract with Ghana.

The Ghanaian counterparts are the Ministries of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Local Government and Rural Development, Energy and Education, as well as the West African Science Service on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL).

The Council for Scientific and

Industrial Research (CSIR), the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) and the University of Energy and Natural Resources (UENR) have also contributed to the project.

The W2E project is a major move towards creating sustainable access to energy by using solid waste as a resource. It is expected to be completed in four years.

It is anticipated that the project will bring about improvement in sanitation, as it will convert the huge volumes of waste generated daily to energy for productive use.

Prof. Frimpong-Boateng said the project was timely, particularly when Ghana faced a huge challenge managing the over 14,000 tonnes of waste generated daily.

He described the W2E project as one that had a multiplier effect, since it would create sustainable access to energy, while helping to tackle sanitation challenges, as well as providing fertiliser for agricultural purposes.

The German Ambassador to Ghana, Mr Christoph Retzlaff, emphasised that the German funding would contribute to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

"The German government is happy to contribute to clean air and waste-free streets in Ghana, supplying farmers with fertiliser and creating sustainable work spaces, considering that 800,000 tonnes of waste will be eliminated each year," he said.

## Delegation of German Industry and Commerce (AHK Ghana)



At AHK Ghana, a team of 20 experts supports the German-Ghanaian business relations in different fields: Market Entry, Energy/Environment, Vocational Training, Startups & New Economy are just some of the focal points.

AHK Ghana cooperates closely with the German Embassy, development agencies and relevant Ghanaian institutions and associations. AHK Ghana proudly organises flagship events like the West African Clean Energy & Environment Trade Fair & Conference (WACEE) and educates Ghana. Ghana ranks high on the agenda of German companies at the moment, and AHK Ghana is well positioned to further strengthening the bilateral business relations.

## DAAD Information Centre Accra

THE DAAD Information Centre Accra was established in October 2000. Since then it has offered advice and information on all matters related to scholarships, studies and research in Germany to thousands of Ghanaians and other West-Africans.

information and connect representatives of academia is another main function of the Information Centre in Accra. [www.daad-ghana.org](http://www.daad-ghana.org) [www.facebook.com/daad.ghana](https://www.facebook.com/daad.ghana) [www.twitter.com/daad\\_ghana](https://www.twitter.com/daad_ghana) [info@daad-ghana.org](mailto:info@daad-ghana.org) 050 0990939 / 026 1090939



Organising events to spread

## German Desk Ghana – Financial Support and Solutions For German and Ghanaian companies



TOGETHER with its partners, Access Bank (Ghana) Plc, DEG and the Delegation of German Industry and Commerce (AHK Ghana), DEG has offered services in Ghana since February 2019. The Desk enables companies to gain access to financial support and solutions.

The German Desk has helped to strengthen the Ghanaian health system during the covid-19 pandemic by facilitating the purchase of medical equipment.



## German Armed Forces Technical Advisory Group (GAFTAG)

SINCE 2001 GAFTAG and the Ghana Armed Forces (GAF) have carried out numerous joint projects. For example, the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) in Accra was established and equipped in the framework of AHK-P. In January 2020, a 128 bed-accommodation

block worth GHS 4.2 million for the Engineer Training School (ETS) was handed over to GAF. Cooperation with the Ghanaian partners has constantly improved over the past years.

On the basis of mutual trust, we appreciate and respect each other's technical and military capabilities.

**Happy German Unity Day!**  
Today, Ghanaians join you as you celebrate 30 years of your reunification.



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• First Ghanaian German Business Council meeting, Berlin, November 2019



• Discussion of cultural cooperation between Ambassador Resthoff and Mrs Barbara Döring-Gyeli, the Minister of Culture and Tourism



• State-of-the-art eight-bed intensive Care Unit funded by German Development Cooperation for the Effia Nkwanta Regional Hospital in Sekondi-Takoradi



• Donation of state-of-the-art equipment to the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) for document examination



• Signing of an MOU between Sonesac and CIBSD for modernisation of Ghana's electricity transmission infrastructure

# Key events



• Ambassador Christoph Resthoff interacting with President Akufo-Addo



• President Frank Watson Nana Akufo-Addo



• Mr Kurt Simeon Okwabi, the President of the Ghana Football Association, paying a courtesy call on Ambassador Christoph Resthoff to discuss cooperation



• RUE Ambassador Christoph Resthoff meeting with H.M. the King and Queen of Lesotho to discuss issues of climate change and regional security in the Upper West Region



• Chancellor Angela Merkel and Vice President Dr Mahamade Kwarande in Accra



• RUE Vice President Angela Merkel and Vice President Dr Mahamade Kwarande at the opening ceremony of the G20 Investment Summit for the Compact with Africa (CWA) countries



• Official launch of the African Trade Insurance (ATI) Membership of Ghana supported by KfW bank grant



• German football legend Lothar Matthäus visiting Ghana



• German government representatives at the government hospital in development cooperation



• German delegation visiting cooperation projects in the Upper West Region in the area of Agriculture and Financial Systems Development



• Celebrating West African Energy & Environment Day at WACER 2019



• Staff of the German Embassy in front of a revised Berlin Wall at 50th Day Celebration in 2019



• South-western region celebrating World Savings Day with selected subjects to educate pupils on how to save and invest for a better life



# Happy German Unity Day!!

Evonik Africa (Pty) Ltd, Ghana Branch, wishes to congratulate H. E. Ambassador Christoph Retzlaff, The Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Ghana and the good people of Germany on the occasion of the 30th German unity day.

Happy German Unity Day!!



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(Regional Manager-West & Central Africa Cluster)



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### Happy German Unity Day



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• COVID-19 support donation to the Chief Imam

## KfW Bank

KfW is one of the world's leading and most experienced promotional banks carrying out Germany's Financial Cooperation with developing and emerging countries on behalf of the Federal Government. Since 1961, KfW has actively supported Ghana with commitments amounting to more than EUR 1 bn for grants, concessional loans and accompanying measures. The highlight of cooperation between KfW and its Ghanaian partners took place on February 4, 2020. President Nana Akufo-Addo and the German Ambassador Christoph Retzlaff jointly cut sod for the construction of a total of 17 megawatt solar power project at Kaleo and Lawra in the Upper West Region. The EUR 22.8 million project is implemented by the Volta River Authority (VRA) and is financed by the German Development Cooperation via KfW Development Bank. The first project of its kind in the Upper West Region will generate enough energy to power some 32,000 households.



• Solar Power Project at Kaleo

## German International Cooperation

**giz** Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

SINCE April 2020, GIZ with funding from the German government continues to support the efforts of partner government institutions and private sector organisations to curb the spread of COVID-19. These include providing material and human resources to KCCR to increase treatment and testing capacities; refurbishing the Takoradi Ebola centre into a COVID-19 clinic with 8 new ventilators; support local production of PPE and secure employment across Ghana; supporting SMEs with "COVID-19 Business Grants"; donation of PPE and other relief items to partners and beneficiaries, etc.

We will continue to support Ghana's efforts to curb the virus.

## Senior Expert Service

SES is the largest German volunteer placement organisation for retired skilled and management professionals. Ghana is among the countries of major focus in Africa. Since 1985, SES has conducted approx. 450 assignments. The projects are mainly realised in the areas of Educational Training and Business Development.

## Maria Sibylla Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa (MIASA)

MIASA offers fellowship programmes for both senior and post-doctoral researchers in the humanities and social sciences. Its major mode of operation is Interdisciplinary Fellow Groups (IFG), in which 4-6 academics work together on a particular research topic for four months at the MIASA premises on the University of Ghana campus. As a result of the current COVID-19 pandemic MIASA facilitates a virtual collaboration among 11 researchers from nine countries. For more information on MIASA, please visit <https://www.ug.edu.gh/miasa-afrika/>

## Germany Trade & Invest GmbH (GTAI)



GTAI opened its office in 2014 in Accra from where it informs German companies about trade and investment opportunities in West and Central Africa. GTAI reports regularly about latest developments in different sectors like construction, food and beverage, agriculture and mining industries. This helps in boosting trade and investment in the sub-Saharan region. GTAI is partner of the new Business Network Africa, an initiative of the German Government that offers advice and support services to German companies wanting to unfold business activities in Africa. GTAI is partner of the new Business Network Africa, an initiative of the German Government that offers advice and support services to German companies wanting to unfold business activities in Africa.

World Savings Day 2019 with the pupils of Kokomlemle Cluster of Schools. The pupils were educated on the essence of saving at a young age. About 350 pupils benefitted from the engagement.

## German-speaking Evangelical Church in Accra

Everyone is welcome to join! The meetings are held in German. At the moment regular meetings take place on Zoom as video conferences. [past.rafael.dreyer@gmail.com](mailto:past.rafael.dreyer@gmail.com) 026 1209236



• Pupils being educated on benefits of saving

## Sparkassenstiftung

SPARKASSENSTIFTUNG works to strengthen the local Credit Unions (CUs) and Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) in Ghana by enhancing financial independence and reducing poverty of the economically disadvantaged. It provides support and carries out training programmes. Sparkassenstiftung in partnership with Jireh Microfinance marked the



• A workshop under the Young Leaders Programme (YLP)

## Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation Ghana



THE Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Ghana (FES) continues to promote the political participation of women and young Ghanaians through its two flagship programmes, the "Women in Politics Training (WIPT)" and the "Young Leaders' Programme (YLP)". In both lines of work Ghanaian partner organisations play an important role. In the face of the COVID-19 global pandemic, FES Ghana had suspended its 'in-person' activities until June 2020 but with workshops and seminars afterwards. FES makes sure that all its activities are carried out with strict compliance to the COVID-19 protocols and safety guidelines.



• Pupils of GSIS

## German Swiss International School in Accra

GSIS is the only certified German School in West Africa and looks back at a history of over 50 years. It offers welcome classes with intensive German language training and provides lessons in German and English by native speakers. It teaches around 100 students according to German and Cambridge Curricula, offering learning in small groups. In 2019 the GSIS received a special commendation for outstanding pedagogical achievements by the Central Office for German Schools Abroad.

## YMCA Ghana



IN 2020, following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Media Hub Education Centre (MHEC) established YMCA Ghana organised an online filmmaking workshop to develop the skills of young filmmakers in Ghana. The virtual workshop reached over 1,000 young people mostly in the Sub-Saharan and across the world. The virtual tour was followed with a filmmaking training tour which included six towns in six regions across Ghana.

The initiatives of YMCA Ghana get financial support from Bread for the World and other partners like the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and WEITFILME.org



• Film making tour in 2019

## DW Akademie



Made for minds. DW Akademie is Germany's leading organization for international media development. In Ghana, projects focus on supporting modern journalism training programs, strengthening media and information literacy of young media users as well as enhancing access to information on district level DW Akademie works in close cooperation with the National Film and Television Institute (NAFTI), the nongovernmental organization Penplusbytes and the Media Foundation for West Africa. All projects are funded by Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, DW Akademie offers many of the teaching programs online.



• Online training programme for journalists in Ghana

## Goethe Institut



THE Goethe-Institut is the cultural institute of the Federal Republic of Germany with a global reach.

Its main goals are to promote knowledge of the German language abroad and foster international cultural cooperation as well as providing information about cultural, social and political life in Germany. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the GI Accra, unfortunately had to cancel most activities. A limited range of some of the language courses are ran online.



• Classical music concert by the German Embassy in partnership with the Goethe Institut

# Silver Star sets standard for quality in automobile industry

By Mary Mensah



Asad Nazir, CEO of Silver Star Auto Limited

SILVER STAR Auto Limited is a leading premium automobile dealer in Ghana with a set standard for quality in the Ghanaian Automobile Industry.

They are the authorised distributor of Mercedes-Benz, Peugeot and Citroen brands of vehicles in Ghana and the company also deals in the sale of genuine spare parts in its capacity as the authorised distributor of the above-mentioned brands.

### Significant growth

The company has seen a significant growth over the last 23 years of operations and currently prides itself among the best performing, most influential and commonly recognised Automobile company in Ghana.

The Marketing Manager of Silver Star Auto, Mrs Rosalind Korkor Adzimah, said the company's range of models harnessed creative flair both on the interior and exterior with cutting edge technology features.

Furthermore, they are now more luxurious with enhanced safety features and better equipped with exclusive comfort and style in both the passenger and the commercial ranges and these technologies improve drivers' experience and comfort while staying committed to the environment and cost-efficiency.

### Impressive performance

She said based on its impressive performance on the automobile market over the years the company had received a number

Interior, Mercedes-Benz S-Class, 2017, Best SUV, Mercedes-Benz (G63), 2017 and award of the year, Mercedes-Benz (E-200), 2017, Motor firm of the year- 2016.

Micro Car of the year, Suzuki Swift Dzire, 2016, Discovery of the year, Suzuki, 2016, Suzuki Automobile Distributors Conference, New Delhi, Runner-Up, Highest Market Share in 2017, Africa Group 1, 2017, Winner, Highest Repair Order Growth in 2017 Africa, 2017

### Other awards

Other Awards: 2nd Ghana Procurement & Supply Chain Awards, Excellence in Procurement & Supply Chain Automobile- 2018, GIPC/Ghana Club 100, Market leader in the Ghanaian Premier Auto Industry- 2006

Quality service is our passion while recruiting the best talents in management equipped with the requisite skills coupled with exceptional 'After sales and Customer Service' to meet global standards.

"Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a key component of the company's overarching goal

to positively impact society and its CSR strategy focuses on four major pillars: Community Development & Social Welfare Skills Training, Education, Sports.

@ a glance



Silver Star Auto, authorised distributor of Mercedes-Benz, Peugeot and Citroen brands of vehicles in Ghana, has seen a significant growth over the last 23 years of operations and currently prides itself among the best performing, most influential and commonly recognised automobile company in the country.

### Commitment

We are committed to creating enduring partnerships and adding immense value to the diverse communities around us", she said.

According to the Marketing Manager, the company's target audience want value for money so it, therefore, has the responsibility towards all their stakeholders to provide great value, treat them fairly and safely secure their interest.

she said these principles affect everything we do, "that is why we are committed to be the "brand of choice".

### Customer demands

With the achievements innovations and brilliance outlined above within the business environment in Ghana and globally, Silver Star Auto Ltd continues to evaluate its products and services range on regular basis to ensure that improvements are made to satisfy the demands of customers", she said.

Silver Star Auto! Quality Service, Our Passion

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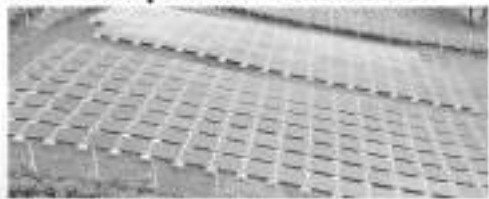


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# Empowering engineering, technology in Ghana – The Siemens lasting legacy

By Mary Mensah

**S**IEMENS, a global technology giant, has invested significantly in various sectors of the Ghanaian economy over the past few years.

Its visible footprints permeate infrastructure, automation, electrification and digitalisation in energy, health care and education.

According to the Managing Director of Siemens Ghana, Mr Edmund Acheampong, those investments were born out of a strong interest and commitment to providing tangible solutions to Ghana's societal challenges.

## New opportunities

"Siemens is geared up for continued growth by increasingly looking for new opportunities to create and deliver value for societies in which Siemens is active," he adds.

He said the future of engineering and technology in Ghana was very bright and Siemens recognised that potential with a commitment to leverage its expertise and technology resources to build capacity and empower the next generation of innovators.

He noted that creating value for societies was a fundamental and core function of the Siemens business model and that fit into the technology giant's African Growth Initiative – which focuses on supporting development around the continent by forming strategic business partnerships, promoting STEM education (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and significantly working towards a shared prosperity for all.

"Siemens' commitment to Ghana is characterised by more than just the provision of infrastructure that is helping to grow the economy. We desire to see and contribute towards genuine and sustainable social upliftment, in close collaboration with our local partners. We make real what matters and this can be seen today", Mr Acheampong said.



Mr Edmund Acheampong – Managing Director of SIEMENS Ghana

## Energy sector

With one of Ghana's paramount constraints to economic growth being sustainable supply of electric power, Siemens has come on board with a deep understanding of Ghana's current and future energy issues, and is well placed to assist the country in addressing these challenges.

To this end, earlier this year, Siemens signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the government of Ghana to address the country's energy and infrastructure challenges, while contributing to the government's growth and development agenda of creating high-quality jobs and enhancing the vocational skills of the youth.

## MoU

The MoU was signed by Siemens and the Ghana Grid Company Limited (GRIDCo) in the presence of the President of the Republic of Ghana, Nana Akufo-Addo, and the President and Global Chief Executive Officer of Siemens AG, Joe Kaeser.

Under the agreement, the two companies will work collaboratively to upgrade and extend Ghana's transmission infrastructure, improve the country's grid capacity and stability, and enable and expand a stable power export

to neighbouring countries in the West African Power Pool.

To help Ghana meet its industrialisation targets, Siemens has also entered into partnerships with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and industrial park developers to build efficient and environmentally friendly power generation plants to augment its already installed fleet delivering approximately 330 megawatts to the national grid.

## Contribution to Education

To support Ghana's increasing need to reform the national Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system, Siemens is helping to educate and train young Ghanaians in various engineering disciplines and providing training in Siemens equipment for STEM education and TVET.

In 2019, Siemens Ghana paid a

courtesy call on the Minister of Education, Hon. Dr Matthew Opoku Prempeh, to discuss partnership opportunities in the promotion of STEM education in Ghana and to present Siemens – sponsored Senior High School students who participated in the Eskom Science Expo for Young Scientists, an annual science fair held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

## Initiatives

Over the past few years, Siemens Ghana has rolled out initiatives aimed at boosting STEM education in the country and bridging the gap between education and industry.

"Siemens has also set up a Siemens-equipped lab in KNUST to train engineering students with the practical skills and skillset needed in key

industries".

Mr Acheampong explained that selected tutors from the school have also received training to facilitate teaching and preparation of their students for the job market and added that, "we have also refurbished and restocked the ICT lab of Sekondi College with 45 state-of-the-art computers and accessories".

Speaking on the next step for Siemens Ghana, Mr Acheampong said: "It is my desire to expand these and upcoming labs to become Siemens training centres in the country to meet the training and certification needs of technicians, not only in schools, but also professionals in industry."

Humanitarian support

Over the past two years, he said Siemens Ghana has donated food items, bales of clothes, school uniforms, books and calculators among others for the nourishment and upkeep of 266 orphaned children at the Village of Hope

Orphanage in Gomoa Fete, Central Region.

The company had also renovated the PrestonCrest House at the Orphanage - home to some 32 young and teenage girls at the orphanage.

"We are here to plant seeds of encouragement and hope in these children. It's

exciting to know these children have the potential of becoming responsible adults in future. We hope this support will inspire them as they dream about their future careers, especially those who aspire to be engineers".

"A company should not exist if it does not create value for society. Siemens is committed to driving the economy through local jobs and skills training, and value-adding innovations. Siemens is proud to be part of Ghana's development. Siemens is in Ghana for Ghana," the MD said.

**"Siemens is geared up for continued growth by increasingly looking for new opportunities to create and deliver value for societies in which Siemens is active."**

## REDAVIA, leader in solar power, offers free solar for businesses

REDAVIA is an industry leader in solar power as it provides solar farms to businesses and communities in West and East Africa.

With a proven track record in cost-effective, reliable and clean energy, REDAVIA is committed to using solar energy as a key driver for sustainable development.

The company was founded in 2010 with the view that access to affordable and clean energy in the commercial and industrial sector is paramount to the sustainable development of a country.

## Growing economy

Ghana's fast growing economy requires energy that is affordable, reliably and clean, and REDAVIA provides a convenient lease-to-own

solution so businesses that can save on their electricity costs and pay down their solar farm over time.

REDAVIA offers solar power for businesses in West and East Africa, using pre-configured, modular solar systems, which are easy to ship, set up, scale and redeploy.

Businesses benefit from a cost-effective, reliable, clean energy solution with minimal upfront investment.

## COVID crisis

In order to stand by businesses during the COVID-19 crisis, REDAVIA currently offers the COVID-19 Resilience Lease Programme and under this programme, it provides solar power plants to business customers for six months,

completely for free.

After six months, customers may choose to roll over this lease into a regular REDAVIA solar plant lease.

REDAVIA is also making this offer available to selected Kenyan and Ghanaian companies on a first-come, first-served basis, while supplies last.

## Products

REDAVIA's Fast Track Solar Modules reach consistent quality standards and comply with all relevant international standards.

In combination with an energy storage system, REDAVIA's tried-and-tested system controllers and grid and/or diesel generator backup if required, the Fast Track Solar Modules

form a 24/7 reliable electricity supply system delivering clean and highly affordable electricity anywhere.

Other products include REDAVIA Fast Track Solar 80 Ground Mount, (FTS-80GM) REDAVIA Fast Track Solar 40 Carport (FTS-40CP), REDAVIA Fast Track Solar 60 Roof Mount (FTS-60RM) :PIC TBA.

REDAVIA solar products reduce costs thereby generating savings that can be reinvested into the business while also reducing the carbon footprint of the business. Additionally REDAVIA's full-service package relieves businesses of the operational considerations of the solar farm, "its a win-win scenario. email addresses

hello@reversional.com/  
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