

2024 NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

ACTIVITY REPORT



*Reformed Youth
Reformed Ghana*



INTERNATIONAL
YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

BRIGHT & CLEAN HEART



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2024 National Youth Conference, organized by the International Youth Fellowship (IYF), in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports was held from September 2nd to 4th at the University of Professional Studies Accra (UPSA). With the theme "Reformed Youth, Reformed Ghana." The conference aimed to empower young people through mindset transformation, skill-building, and cultural exchange.

The event attracted approximately 1,800 participants from across Ghana and beyond, offering them a diverse range of activities designed to inspire personal growth and leadership.

Key Highlights:

Day 1 began with the arrival and registration of participants, followed by a vibrant welcome ceremony featuring cultural performances and a keynote address by Dr. Jing Sung Kim, President of IYF West Africa. The evening set the tone for the conference, emphasizing the importance of youth empowerment and mindset change.

Day 2 was a full day of engagement, starting with impactful mindset lectures from Rev. Ato Edwin; General Secretary of IYF Ghana and Madam Patricia Obo-Nai, CEO of Telecel. The morning and afternoon sessions featured various academies, including Financial Literacy, Languages, Pastry Making, Mobile Phone Repairs, and STEM, which provided practical skill development opportunities. The day culminated in a lively talent show in the afternoon and a cultural festival in the evening, celebrating Africa's rich heritage through dance, music, and several other performances from around the world.

Day 3 continued with a focus on mindset lectures, further developing the themes introduced on the previous days. The afternoon included additional recreational activities and a second round of talent shows, allowing participants to showcase their diverse talents. The conference concluded with a powerful keynote by Dr. Jing Sung Kim, emphasizing Korea's transformation and its lessons for Ghana, followed by the closing ceremony and final reflections.



Participant Engagement and Feedback:

Participant engagement was high throughout the conference, with attendees actively participating in all activities. Social media played a crucial role in maintaining engagement, with continuous updates and participant-generated content shared using the hashtags **#2024NYC** and **#IYFGHANA**.

Feedback collected from participants was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the value of the mindset lectures, skill-building academies, and cultural activities. Participants expressed a strong appreciation for the opportunity to learn new skills, form connections, and gain insights that would inspire them to drive positive change in their communities.

Challenges and Lessons Learned:

The conference faced several challenges, including logistical miscommunications during registration and accommodation arrangements, managing a large turnout, and technical difficulties during live streaming. These challenges provided valuable lessons for future planning, such as the need for improved communication protocols, enhanced technical preparedness, and more flexible program designs to cater to diverse participant interests.



Recommendations for Future Conferences:

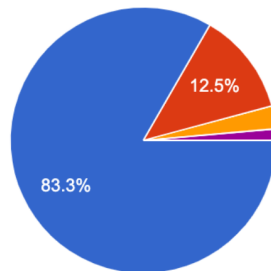
Key recommendations for future conferences include offering parallel sessions to accommodate varied interests, extending the duration of certain workshops for deeper learning, improving logistical planning and communication, enhancing technical support, and fostering greater participant engagement through networking opportunities and real-time feedback mechanisms. Strengthening sponsorship and partnership initiatives and expanding cultural exchange offerings are also recommended to enhance the overall impact of future events.

Conclusion

The 2024 National Youth Conference successfully achieved its objectives of fostering youth empowerment, promoting personal growth, and enhancing community engagement. The event provided a dynamic platform for learning, cultural exchange, and skill development, inspiring participants to become proactive leaders and change-makers. The support from our main sponsors—UPSA, GCB Bank PLC, KGL Foundation, McDan Group, FirstBanc, and Engineers and Planners—along with other sponsors, was crucial in making this event a success. Moving forward, the IYF is committed to building on this momentum, continuing to provide transformative experiences that empower Ghana's youth to shape a brighter future for themselves and their communities.

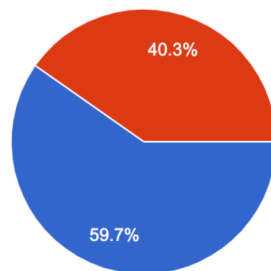


How much would you recommend the National Youth Conference (NYC) to your friends or loved ones?



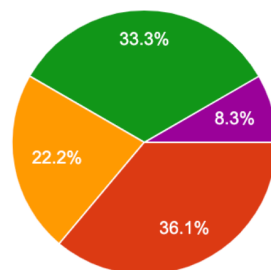
- Yes, I will highly recommend the NYC...! (above 90% certainty)
- I may recommend NYC (60% - 70% likely)
- I am not sure I will recommend NYC (less than 50%)
- I will not recommend it
- I am indifferent (undecided)

What is your Gender



- Male
- Female
- I prefer not to say

What is your age range?

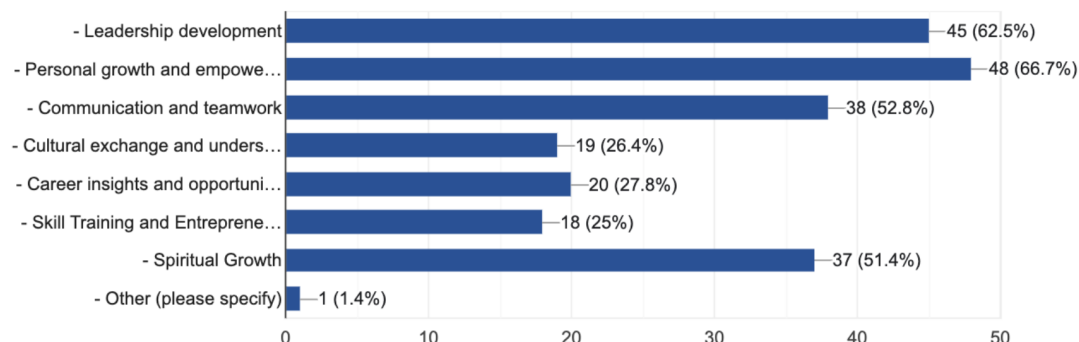


- Below 15 years
- 15 - 21 years
- 22 - 26 years
- 27 - 35 years
- above 36 years

PERFORMANCE METRICS

The event was highly successful, with representation from all across the countries 16 regions. Feedback indicates that the event met its goals, with a satisfaction rate exceeding 95.8%. A survey was sent to a section of participants via online, and responses received as of September 5th show positive results.

2. Which topics have you so far been exploring during the conference? (Select all that apply)



4. How do you foresee the conference contributing to your personal or professional development?

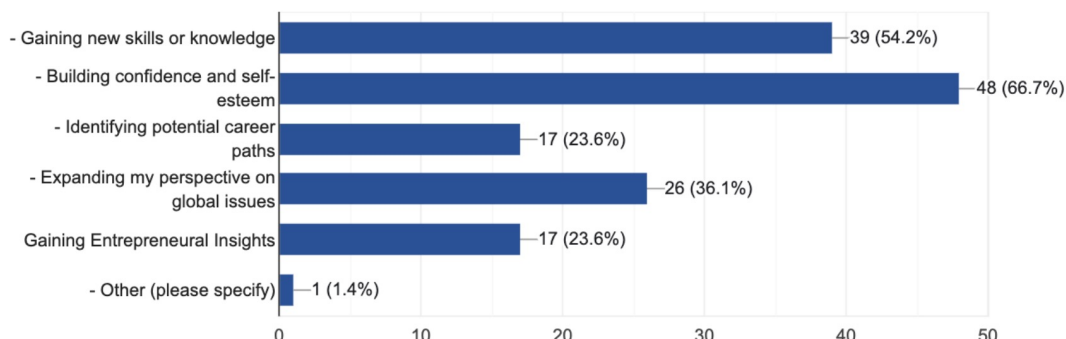


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INTRODUCTION

Background and Context

The IYF is a global youth organization and NGO founded on Christian principles, established by prominent figures from diverse backgrounds who are united in their commitment to addressing youth challenges worldwide. The organization focuses on instilling positive values, encouraging personal growth, and fostering leadership skills among young people. Recognized by the Ghanaian government, the IYF has been instrumental in forming a cooperative network aimed at enhancing youth education and development.

The collaboration between the IYF and the Ghanaian government through the Ministry of Youth & Sports, and the Ministry of Local Government Decentralization and Rural Development underscores the organization's pivotal role in youth development. The government's request for the IYF to contribute to youth education and development by establishing educational and social infrastructure highlights the trust and confidence placed in the organization. This partnership reflects a shared vision of nurturing a new generation of leaders equipped to transform their communities and the nation.

The 2024 National Youth Conference, themed "Reformed Youth, Reformed Ghana," was designed as a dynamic platform to bring together young people from across Ghana and beyond. The conference aimed to address the pressing issues facing today's youth, provide transformative educational experiences, and promote cultural exchange. Through a blend of mindset lectures, skill-building academies, and cultural activities, the event sought to empower participants to drive positive change in their lives and communities.

The conference's significance lies in its ability to combine practical skill development with mindset transformation. By integrating activities that promote personal growth, leadership, and social cohesion, the event aimed to create a holistic developmental experience for participants. The slogan "Reformed Youth, Reformed Ghana" encapsulates the vision of nurturing a generation of young leaders who are equipped to overcome challenges and drive societal reform.



OBJECTIVES

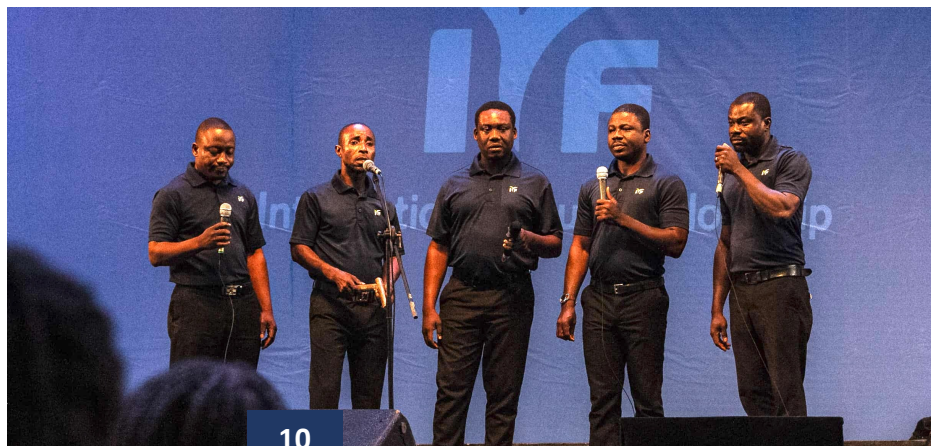
One of the primary objectives of the conference was to empower young people by providing them with the tools, knowledge, and inspiration needed to become proactive leaders in their communities. This empowerment was achieved through a series of mindset lectures, interactive workshops, and motivational sessions designed to challenge participants to think critically and act decisively.

The IYF's core philosophy revolves around the concept of mindset change—instilling a healthy mindset that allows individuals to break free from self-imposed limitations and experience genuine transformation. The conference sought to promote this philosophy by offering lectures and activities that encouraged self-reflection, resilience, and a forward-thinking attitude among participants.

Beyond mindset change, the conference placed a strong emphasis on practical skill development. Various academies were organized to equip participants with essential skills in areas such as IT, financial literacy, phone repairs, and more. These sessions aimed to provide young people with tangible skills that are valuable in the modern job market and essential for personal development.

In line with the IYF motto, "Change. Challenge. Cohesion," the conference aimed to foster a spirit of unity and collaboration among young people from diverse backgrounds. Through cultural festivals, talent shows, and interactive activities, the event provided a platform for participants to share their cultural heritage, build mutual understanding, and strengthen social bonds.

Another key objective was to build a strong network of young leaders who are capable of supporting each other in their personal and professional endeavours. The conference aimed to create lasting connections among participants, fostering a community of like-minded individuals committed to making a positive impact in Ghana and beyond.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The conference was successfully conducted with participants registration fees, donations and sponsorships from some corporate organizations.

The National Youth Conference 2024 was a resounding success, demonstrating its effectiveness in empowering young people and achieving its goals. The high level of participation and overwhelmingly positive feedback underscore the event's significance in shaping a brighter future for Ghana's youth. This conference has paved the way for future initiatives that prioritize youth development and contribute to a more vibrant and progressive society.



CONFERENCE STRUCTURE AND PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Day 1: Arrival, Registration, and Welcome Ceremony

Day 1 of the 2024 National Youth Conference marked the beginning of an inspiring journey for all attendees. The focus was on orienting participants, setting the tone for the conference, and creating a welcoming and inclusive environment. The day was structured to ensure a smooth arrival and registration process, followed by a vibrant welcome ceremony that highlighted the cultural richness and the transformative goals of the conference.

Morning to Afternoon: Arrival and Registration

•**Arrival of Participants:** Participants began arriving at the University of Professional Studies Accra (UPSA) as early as 9:00 am. The logistics team was well-prepared to manage the influx, ensuring a seamless check-in process. The arrival phase was characterized by a sense of excitement and anticipation, as attendees from various regions of Ghana and beyond gathered for this significant event.

•**Registration Process:** Registration desks were set up in strategic locations to facilitate easy access and efficient handling of participant details. The process involved verifying participant identities, distributing conference materials such as badges, programs, and welcome kits, and assigning accommodation. By 7:00 pm, approximately 1,800 participants had been registered, out of the expected 2,500.

•**Logistical Coordination:** Despite a slight miscommunication regarding accommodation, the logistics team acted swiftly to resolve the issue, ensuring that all participants were comfortably settled. This prompt response highlighted the team's preparedness and adaptability, setting a positive tone for the rest of the event.



Evening: Welcome Ceremony

•**Opening Prayer and Introduction:** The welcome ceremony began with an opening prayer, setting a reverent and focused atmosphere. This was followed by a brief introduction to the conference's theme, "Reformed Youth, Reformed Ghana," which was projected on screens around the venue to reinforce the central message of the event.

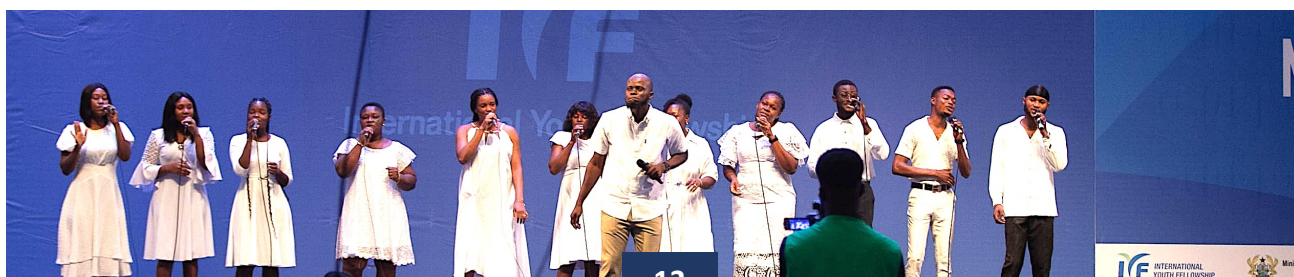
•**Cultural Dance Performance:** A vibrant cultural dance performance kicked off the ceremony, featuring a troupe of dancers showcasing traditional African dances. The performance was a celebration of Ghana's rich cultural heritage, capturing the diversity and dynamism of African culture. The colourful costumes, rhythmic drumming, and energetic movements set a lively and engaging tone, drawing participants into the spirit of the event.

•**Music and Poetry Performances:** Following the cultural dance, participants were treated to a series of music and poetry performances by talented young artists. These performances were not only entertaining but also carried deep messages about youth empowerment, unity, and the importance of embracing one's cultural roots. The poetry recitations, in particular, were powerful and thought-provoking, resonating with the conference's theme and inspiring participants to reflect on their roles in driving positive change.

•**Welcome Address by Dr Jing Sung Kim, President of IYF West Africa:** Dr Jing Sung Kim delivered a keynote welcome address, emphasizing the significance of the conference and the critical role of youth in shaping the future of Ghana and the world. He spoke passionately about the power of mindset transformation and the potential for each participant to become a catalyst for change in their communities. Dr. Kim's address set a motivational tone for the rest of the conference, encouraging participants to fully engage in the sessions and activities planned.

•**Introduction to the Conference Agenda:** The emcee provided an overview of the conference agenda, highlighting key activities for the upcoming days, including mindset lectures, skill-building academies, recreational activities, and the talent show. This introduction aimed to orient participants and prepare them for a dynamic and diverse range of experiences over the next two days.

•**Logistics and Housekeeping Announcements:** To ensure smooth proceedings throughout the conference, logistical announcements were made regarding the location of sessions, meal arrangements, and emergency protocols. Participants were also informed about the available support services, including medical assistance and information desks.



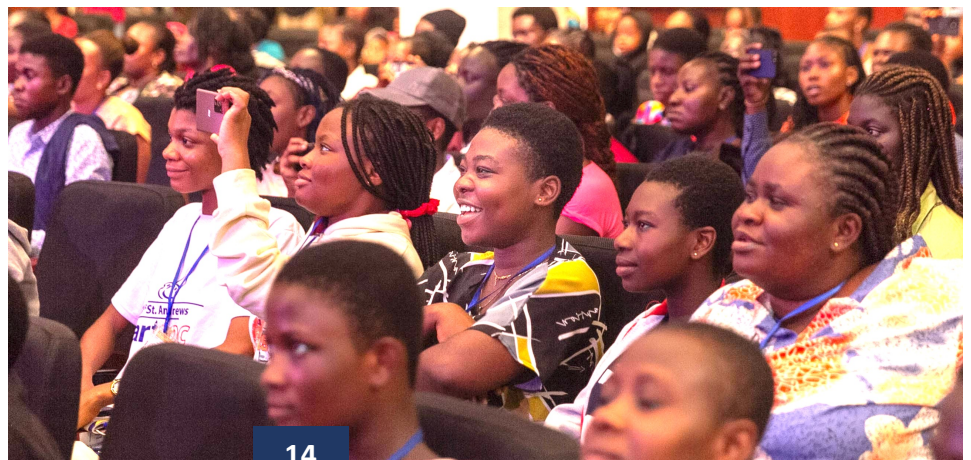
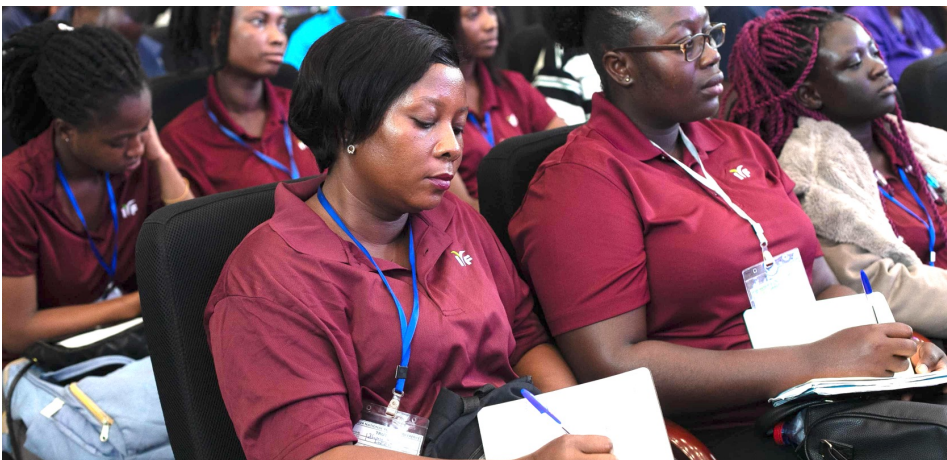
Day 2: Mindset Lectures, Academies, Talent Show, and Cultural Festival

Day 2 of the 2024 National Youth Conference was packed with a diverse range of activities designed to engage participants intellectually, creatively, and culturally. The day was structured to provide a balance of mindset lectures, skill-building academies, recreational activities, and cultural performances, allowing participants to explore new perspectives, acquire practical skills, and celebrate their cultural heritage.

Morning: Mindset Lectures and Academies

•Mindset Lectures:

- The morning kicked off with a powerful mindset lecture delivered by Rev. Ato Edwin. His talk centered on the topic – Communication and Exchange: Seeking help is no humiliation but wisdom. He spoke about the need in maintaining a positive mindset as a crucial element for achieving success in both personal and professional life. Drawing on examples from his own experiences, Rev. Edwin emphasized resilience, adaptability, and the importance of self-belief.
- Following Rev. Edwin, Madam Patricia Obo-Nai, CEO of Telecel, took the stage to discuss the concept of a growth mindset. She highlighted how a willingness to learn, adapt, and grow can open up opportunities and drive personal and professional advancement. Her speech resonated with the youth, encouraging them to embrace challenges as opportunities for growth.



•ACADEMY SESSIONS:

The morning continued with a series of engaging academy sessions, each tailored to provide practical skills and knowledge in various fields. The academies offered included:

•**Financial Empowerment:** Participants learned about managing personal finances, investing wisely, and understanding the fundamentals of financial literacy. This session aimed to equip young people with the tools they need to achieve financial independence.

•**Languages (French and Spanish):** Language instructors provided interactive lessons in French and Spanish, offering participants an opportunity to learn basic conversational skills and cultural nuances. These sessions emphasized the importance of language skills in an increasingly globalized world.

•**Fascinator & Beadmaking:** This creative workshop allowed participants to explore their artistic talents by designing and creating fascinators and bead accessories. The session was both a creative outlet and an entrepreneurial opportunity, highlighting the potential for handmade crafts in local and international markets.

•**Pastries:** Budding chefs and baking enthusiasts participated in the pastry-making academy, where they learned the fundamentals of baking and pastry decoration. The session encouraged creativity and offered practical skills for those interested in the culinary arts.

•**Mobile Phone Repairs:** This technical workshop focused on teaching participants the basics of mobile phone repairs, including diagnosing common issues and performing simple repairs. It was particularly popular among those interested in technology and entrepreneurship.

•**STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics):** The STEM academy provided hands-on experiments and interactive learning opportunities in science and technology fields. Participants were encouraged to think critically and innovate, fostering a spirit of inquiry and problem-solving.

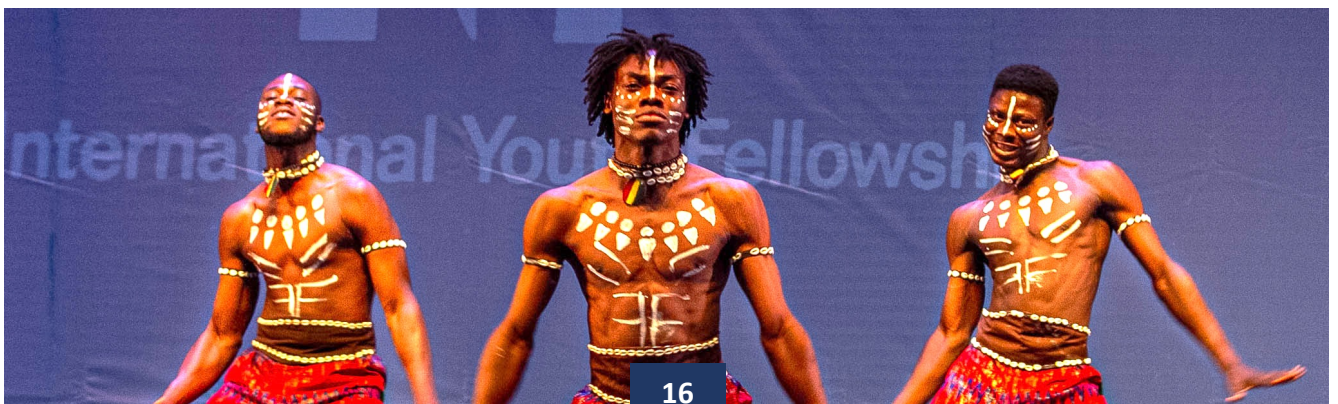
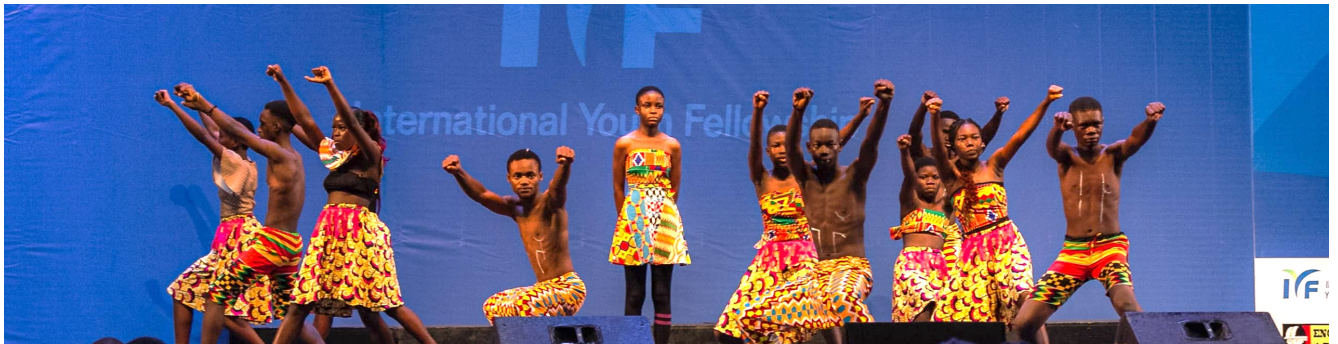


Afternoon: Talent Show

Talent Show Highlights:

The afternoon was dedicated to a vibrant talent show that provided a platform for participants to showcase their diverse talents. The performances ranged from singing, dancing, and spoken word poetry to comedy and dramatic skits.

The talent show was a highlight of the day, bringing out the creativity and self-expression of the youth. It was an opportunity for participants to shine, build confidence, and celebrate their unique abilities. The audience was highly engaged, cheering enthusiastically and creating an atmosphere of support and encouragement.



Evening: Cultural Festival and Keynote Speech

Cultural Performances:

The evening began with a colourful cultural festival that celebrated African heritage through music, dance, and traditional performances. The festival featured various cultural groups performing traditional dances from different regions of Africa, showcasing the rich cultural diversity and unity within the continent.

The cultural festival was a vibrant display of Africa's cultural richness, with participants and performers donning traditional attire, performing traditional songs, and dancing to the rhythm of African drums. It served as a reminder of the importance of cultural heritage in shaping identity and fostering community cohesion.

Keynote Speech by Dr. Jing Sung Kim:

The evening concluded with an insightful keynote speech by Dr. Jing Sung Kim, who spoke about Korea's remarkable transformation and the lessons that could be applied to Ghana. He highlighted the importance of mindset change, entrepreneurship, and leadership in driving national development.

Dr. Kim's talk emphasized the potential of the youth to lead change and innovation in their communities. He encouraged participants to adopt a global perspective, embrace entrepreneurship, and develop leadership qualities to contribute to the development of their country.

Key Outcomes of Day 2:

- **Enhanced Learning and Skill Acquisition:** The mindset lectures and academy sessions provided participants with valuable insights and practical skills, contributing to their personal and professional growth.



•**Celebration of Talent and Culture:** The talent show and cultural festival fostered a sense of community, pride, and cultural appreciation among participants, highlighting the importance of creativity and self-expression.

•**Inspiration and Motivation:** The speeches and cultural activities inspired participants to think critically about their roles in society and motivated them to pursue positive changes in their lives and communities.

Day 2 was a dynamic and enriching experience, balancing intellectual engagement with cultural celebration. It provided participants with opportunities to learn, grow, express themselves, and connect with others. The combination of mindset lectures, skill-building academies, and cultural activities created a holistic experience that left participants motivated and empowered for the days ahead.

Inspirational Insights from the Programs

Manager of KGL Foundation: The Programs Manager of KGL Foundation; Nii Ankonu Annorbah-Sarpei delivered a thought-provoking session focused on personal growth, entrepreneurship, and resilience. He shared his personal journey and experiences, providing participants with practical advice on how to navigate their personal and professional paths. The Programs Manager highlighted several opportunities available to young people, including:

Internship Programs: Encouraging participants to gain hands-on experience in various fields.

Mentorship Initiatives: Emphasizing the importance of learning from experienced professionals

Business Funding and Support: Offering insights into how young entrepreneurs can secure funding and support for their ventures.

Career Development Resources: Guiding participants on how to build a strong professional network and enhance their career prospects.

Impact on Participants: The talk was highly engaging, leaving participants feeling inspired and empowered. Mr. Annorbah-Sarpei's practical strategies for success resonated with the audience, motivating them to take proactive steps toward achieving their goals.



Afternoon: Building a Strong Mindset and Valuing Oneself

•**Presentation by Dr. Ernest Ofori Sarpong:** The afternoon session continued with a powerful presentation by Mr. Ernest Ofori Sarpong, who spoke on "Building a Strong Mindset."

Drawing from his extensive experience, he shared practical strategies for:

- Developing mental toughness and resilience.
- Breaking free from limiting beliefs.
- Building a supportive community and network.
- Embracing failure as a learning opportunity.
- Cultivating a growth-oriented mindset.

•His talk was highly motivational, encouraging participants to embrace challenges as opportunities for personal growth and development.



•**Presentation by Madam Mansa Nettey, CEO of Standard Chartered Bank Ghana:** Madam Mansa Nettey delivered a compelling presentation on "Valuing Oneself." She emphasized the importance of self-worth and personal value, offering three key strategies to enhance one's value:

- **Continuous Learning and Self-Improvement:** Encouraging participants to invest in their skills and knowledge.
- **Adding Value to the Environment:** Highlighting the significance of positively impacting one's surroundings.
- **Upholding Core Values:** Stressing the importance of integrity, empathy, and respect in personal and professional interactions.

•Her presentation deeply resonated with participants, empowering them to recognize their worth and strive for personal excellence.



Evening: Creative Performances and Final Reflections

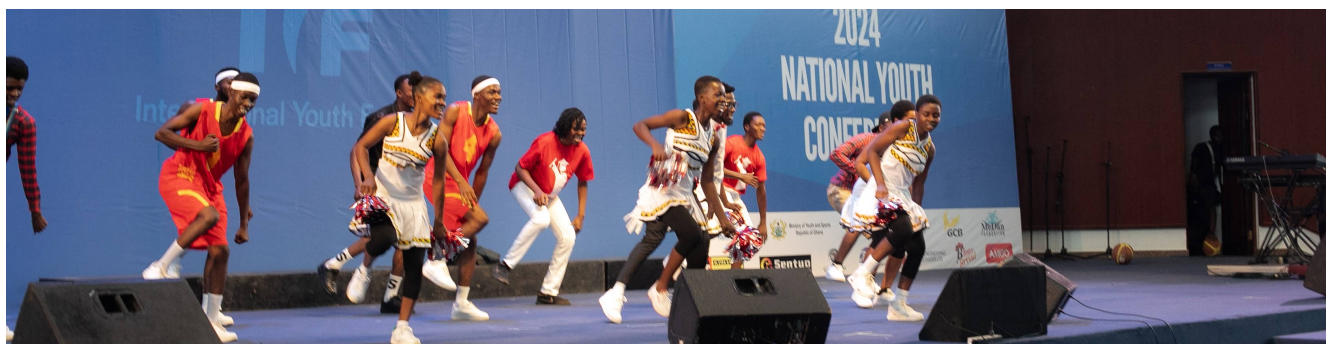
•**Creative Performances:** The evening program took a creative turn with a series of performances by participants, showcasing their diverse talents. The event featured:

- **Thought-Provoking Drama:** A drama that emphasized the value of small actions and how they can have a profound impact on our lives.
- **Musical Performances:** Inspiring singing and instrumental pieces that highlighted the participants' vocal and musical talents.
- **Dance Routines:** Captivating dance performances, including traditional and contemporary styles, that showcased energy, creativity, and cultural diversity.
- **Poetic Recitations and Spoken Word:** Performances that explored themes of self-empowerment, motivation, and personal growth.

•These performances provided a platform for participants to express themselves, share their stories, and inspire others through their creativity. The audience responded with applause and appreciation, celebrating the participants' bravery and talent.

•**Closing Lecture by Dr. Jin Sung Kim:** The evening culminated in a thought-provoking lecture by Dr. Jin Sung Kim, who shared reflections on personal growth, faith, and perseverance. Drawing from a biblical passage, he delivered a powerful message that encouraged participants to embrace challenges and pursue opportunities for growth.

His engaging delivery and inspiring words left a lasting impression on the audience, providing a fitting conclusion to the day's program.



DETAILED HIGHLIGHTS AND KEY OUTCOMES

•Mindset Lectures:

- Overview of the impact of mindset lectures over the three days, including participant reflections and transformations.
- Key themes addressed and notable quotes from speakers.

•Talent Show and Cultural Festival:

- Analysis of the talent show's role in encouraging creativity, self-expression, and cultural exchange.
- Description of the cultural festival, highlighting traditional African dances and their significance.

•Recreational Activities and Workshops:

- Impact of recreational activities on building teamwork and fostering a sense of community.
- Overview of workshops conducted and skills taught, with participant testimonials on their experiences.

Participant Engagement and Feedback

This section provides an in-depth analysis of participant engagement and feedback throughout the 2024 National Youth Conference. It highlights the levels of participation, the responsiveness of the audience, and the effectiveness of communication strategies employed during the event. Additionally, it presents insights gathered from participant feedback, including satisfaction levels, areas of improvement, and overall impact.



Overview of Participant Engagement

•**High Levels of Engagement:** Throughout the three-day conference, participant engagement remained exceptionally high. Attendees were actively involved in all activities, from mindset lectures and academy sessions to the talent show and cultural festival. The energy and enthusiasm displayed by the participants were palpable, contributing to a vibrant and dynamic atmosphere throughout the event.

•**Excitement and Enthusiasm:** The diverse range of activities offered, including hands-on workshops, interactive lectures, and engaging performances, catered to the varied interests of participants. This variety kept the excitement levels high, with participants eager to explore new topics, acquire new skills, and showcase their talents. The blend of educational content and recreational activities ensured that participants remained enthusiastic and motivated throughout the conference.

•**Social Media Engagement:** Social media played a crucial role in maintaining participant engagement and extending the conference's reach beyond the physical venue. There were round-the-clock updates on both Facebook and Instagram, which kept the momentum going and allowed participants to stay informed about ongoing activities. Posts included highlights from the day's events, behind-the-scenes content, and real-time updates, which not only engaged attendees but also attracted the attention of a broader audience.

•**Facebook and Instagram Updates:** The conference organizers utilized Facebook and Instagram to provide continuous updates on the event's progress. Photos, videos, and live streams were posted regularly, capturing key moments from the mindset lectures, academy sessions, talent shows, and cultural performances. These updates generated significant engagement, with numerous likes, shares, and comments from both participants and external viewers.



FEEDBACK COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

Positive Feedback on Content and Delivery: The feedback gathered from participants was overwhelmingly positive, particularly concerning the content and delivery of the conference activities. Many attendees expressed appreciation for the mindset lectures, noting that they were inspiring and thought-provoking. The speakers were commended for their engaging delivery and for addressing topics that resonated with the youth.

•**Mindset Lectures:** Participants highlighted the impact of the mindset lectures on their personal growth and development. The lectures by Rev. Ato Edwin and Madam Patricia Obu-Nai were particularly well-received, with participants noting that the concepts of a positive and growth mindset were transformative and applicable to their daily lives.

•**Academy Sessions:** The academy sessions were also praised for their practical approach and hands-on learning opportunities. Participants appreciated the diverse range of topics, from financial literacy to technical skills like mobile phone repairs and pastry making. The feedback indicated that the academies were effective in equipping them with valuable skills and knowledge.

Constructive Feedback for Improvement: While the overall feedback was positive, some participants provided constructive suggestions for improvement. A few attendees suggested that more time could be allocated to certain academy sessions to allow for deeper learning and practice. Others recommended more interactive elements in the lectures to encourage greater participation from the audience.

Satisfaction with Organizational Aspects: The organizational aspects of the conference, such as registration, accommodation, and venue logistics, received positive feedback. Despite the initial accommodation miscommunication, the prompt resolution by the logistics team was appreciated by the participants. The efficient coordination of activities and clear communication throughout the event were also noted as strengths.

Key Insights from Participant Feedback

Overall Impact and Takeaways: The feedback underscored the conference's impact on participants, with many noting that the event had broadened their perspectives, enhanced their skills, and inspired them to become agents of change in their communities. Participants left with a sense of empowerment and a renewed commitment to personal and societal growth, aligning with the conference's theme, "Reformed Youth, Reformed Ghana."

Recommendations for Future Events: Based on participant feedback, several recommendations emerged for future conferences. These included incorporating more diverse topics in the academy sessions, increasing opportunities for networking and interaction, and continuing the strong emphasis on mindset education and cultural celebration.

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Key Challenges

1. Logistical and Operational Challenges:

- **Registration and Accommodation Miscommunication:** On Day 1, there was a miscommunication regarding the accommodation arrangements for participants, which led to some confusion and delays during check-in. This situation caused initial frustration among attendees, as some were unsure of their room assignments or the location of their accommodations. Although the logistics team swiftly addressed the issue, it highlighted the need for clearer communication and better coordination among the organizing team.
- **Managing High Participant Turnout:** With approximately 1,800 participants registered on Day 1 out of an expected 2,500, managing the large number of attendees posed a logistical challenge. Ensuring smooth transitions between activities, managing crowd flow, and maintaining a comfortable environment required extensive coordination and resource allocation. The high turnout also placed pressure on facilities, including restrooms and dining areas, leading to occasional congestion and extended waiting times.
- **Technical Difficulties During Live Streaming:** There were some technical difficulties encountered during the live streaming of key events, such as the mindset lectures and talent shows. These issues included unstable internet connections and minor audio-visual glitches, which affected the quality of the online broadcast and hindered remote engagement. While these problems were resolved quickly, they underscored the importance of robust technical planning and backup solutions.

2. Engagement and Program Delivery Challenges:

- **Limited Time for Certain Activities:** Feedback indicated that some participants felt there was insufficient time allocated to specific academy sessions, particularly those involving complex skills like mobile phone repairs and STEM activities. This limited time hindered deeper learning and practice, suggesting a need for extended or more frequent sessions in future conferences to accommodate comprehensive skill acquisition.
- **Managing Participant Energy Levels:** With a packed schedule that included morning and evening sessions, as well as recreational activities, managing participant energy levels was a challenge. Some participants expressed fatigue by the end of the day, particularly after the high-energy cultural festival and talent show events. Finding the right balance between intensive learning and rest periods will be crucial for future events to maintain high engagement throughout the conference.

LESSONS LEARNED

- 1. Improved Communication and Coordination:** The miscommunication regarding accommodation arrangements highlighted the need for improved internal communication and coordination among the organizing team. Future conferences should implement more robust communication protocols, including detailed pre-event briefings and clear instructions for all logistics team members to minimize confusion and ensure a smooth participant experience.
- 2. Enhanced Technical Preparedness:** The technical difficulties experienced during live streaming underscored the importance of thorough technical preparation and testing. Future events should include multiple backup solutions, such as alternative internet connections and standby technical equipment, to ensure uninterrupted online engagement and a seamless experience for remote viewers.
- 3. Flexibility in Program Design:** The need to cater to diverse participant interests revealed the importance of flexibility in program design. Offering parallel sessions or optional activities could provide participants with greater choice and allow them to engage in sessions that align more closely with their interests. Additionally, providing more detailed information about each session's content in advance could help participants make informed decisions about their participation.
- 4. Effective Time Management and Scheduling:** The feedback on time constraints for certain academy sessions highlighted the need for better time management and scheduling. Future conferences could consider extending the duration of hands-on workshops or breaking them into multiple sessions to allow for deeper learning and practice. Additionally, incorporating regular breaks and rest periods into the schedule will help maintain participant energy levels and engagement throughout the event.
- 5. Leveraging Social Media for Real-Time Feedback:** The success of using social media for round-the-clock updates suggests it could also be leveraged for real-time feedback during the event. Implementing interactive polls, Q&A sessions and feedback prompts on social media platforms could provide immediate insights into participant experiences and allow organizers to make on-the-spot adjustments to enhance the conference experience.

The challenges encountered during the 2024 National Youth Conference provided valuable lessons that will inform the planning and execution of future events. By addressing these challenges and implementing the lessons learned, the International Youth Fellowship (IYF) can continue to enhance the quality and impact of the conference, ensuring it remains a premier platform for youth empowerment, education, and cultural exchange.

The experience gained from this year's conference will help in creating a more seamless, engaging, and enriching experience for all participants in the years to come.

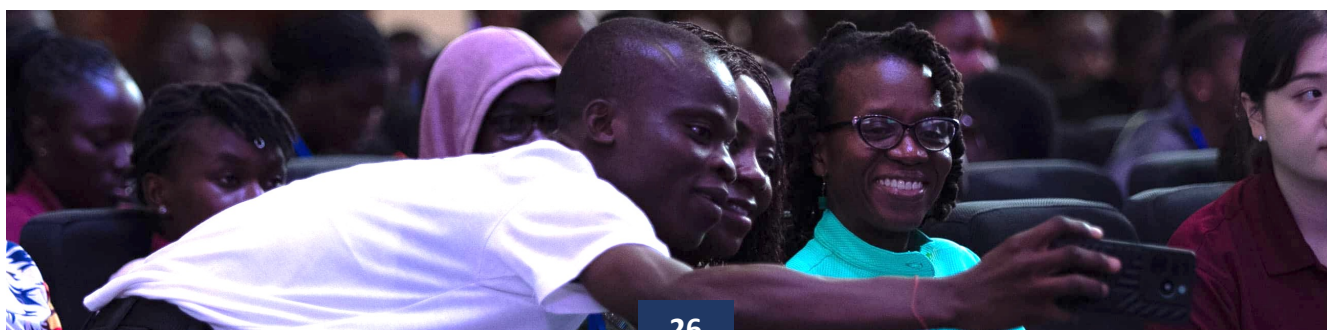
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE CONFERENCES

Enhance Program Flexibility and Diversity

- **Incorporate More Interactive and Hands-On Learning Opportunities:** Given the positive feedback on hands-on workshops and practical sessions, future conferences should increase the number and variety of interactive learning opportunities. Expanding the range of academies to include emerging fields like digital marketing, coding, and environmental science could attract a wider audience and provide more valuable skill-building experiences.
- **Extend Session Durations for In-Depth Learning:** Participants expressed a desire for more time to engage deeply with certain topics, particularly those involving complex skills. Future conferences should consider extending the duration of workshops or dividing them into multiple sessions to allow for more thorough exploration and practice. This could enhance participant satisfaction and the overall effectiveness of the learning experience.

Improve Logistical Planning and Communication

- **Streamline Registration and Accommodation Processes:** To avoid the confusion experienced during the registration and accommodation process this year, future conferences should implement a more streamlined approach. This could include online pre-registration with detailed instructions sent in advance, dedicated registration staff to assist participants upon arrival, and a more organised system for managing accommodation assignments.
- **Enhance Internal Communication Protocols:** Strengthening internal communication among the organizing team is essential for smooth event management. Regular briefings, clear roles and responsibilities, and an accessible communication platform for real-time updates could help prevent miscommunications and ensure a coordinated response to any issues that arise.
- **Improve Technical Support and Backup Plans:** To prevent technical difficulties, particularly during live streaming and multimedia presentations, future conferences should invest in more robust technical support and backup plans. This could include redundant internet connections, backup audiovisual equipment, and dedicated technical staff to handle any issues that may arise swiftly.



Foster Greater Participant Engagement

Utilize Technology for Feedback: Future conferences should use technology for real-time participant feedback via apps, live polls, or social media. This would enable organizers to make immediate adjustments to improve the event experience.

Increase Networking Opportunities: Adding more dedicated networking sessions can help participants connect with peers and professionals. Activities like icebreakers, speed networking, and mentorship circles could enhance personal and professional growth.

Encourage User-Generated Content: Building on this year's success, future conferences should promote attendee-generated content. Setting up photo/video stations, hosting social media challenges, or offering incentives could increase online engagement and promote the event.

Expand Focus on Mindset and Leadership Development

Enhance Mindset Education: Continue prioritizing mindset transformation by introducing varied methods like workshops, discussions, and coaching to deepen participants' understanding and application of the concepts.

Develop Leadership Programs: Include leadership workshops, role-playing, and guest speakers to build leadership skills, supporting the conference's goal of nurturing future leaders.

Strengthen Cultural Exchange and Diversity

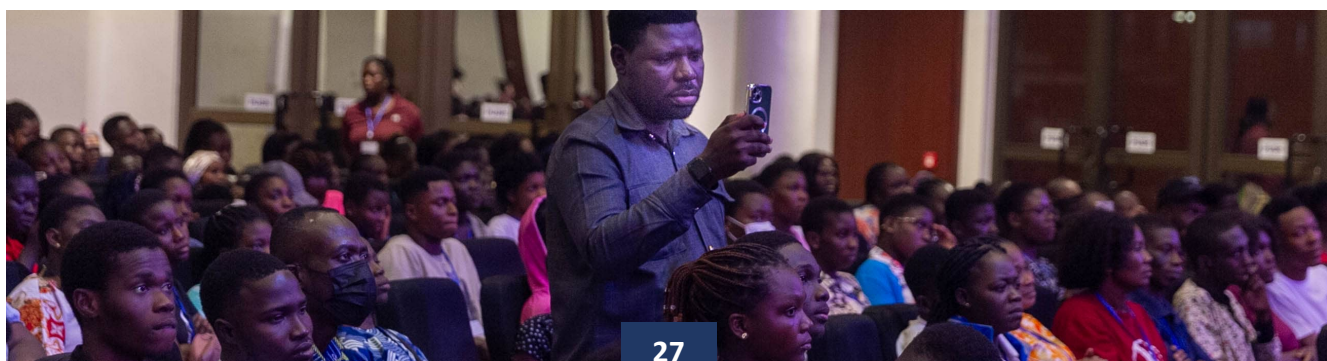
Broaden Cultural Offerings: The cultural festival was a highlight. Future events should expand to include more diverse African cultures by inviting new groups, showcasing crafts, and hosting cultural exchanges.

Promote Inclusivity: Ensure diversity in speakers, facilitators, and topics, focusing on gender balance, cultural representation, and relevance for all demographics.

Implement Continuous Improvement

Post-Event Evaluation: Conduct thorough post-conference evaluations, reviewing participant feedback and engagement metrics. Use findings to guide future event planning.

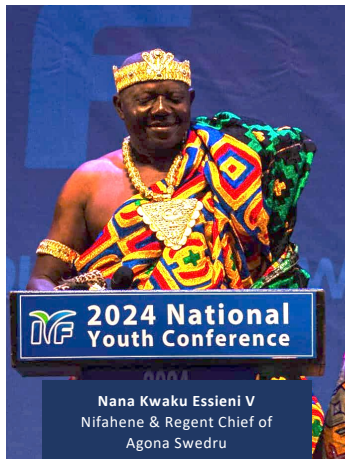
Foster Continuous Improvement: Cultivate a learning culture, welcoming feedback from all stakeholders and adapting based on past success, ensuring each conference evolves.



GALLERY



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GALLERY



CONCLUSION

The 2024 National Youth Conference, organized by the International Youth Fellowship (IYF) in collaboration with The Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Ministry of Local Government Decentralization and Rural Development successfully empowered young people through Mindset Education, skill-building, and cultural exchange.

Over three days, youth from Ghana and beyond engaged in learning and personal growth. The event's theme, "Reformed Youth, Reformed Ghana," inspired participants to take active roles in shaping their future and communities.

The conference offered mindset lectures, hands-on training sessions, and cultural activities, promoting critical thinking and community engagement. Despite facing logistical and technical challenges, the event received positive feedback from participants, who appreciated the range of activities, skill-building opportunities, and networking. Lessons from the challenges will enhance future conferences.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our sponsors, whose generous support was crucial in making this event a reality. We are especially thankful to our main sponsors: UPSA, KGL Foundation, GCB Bank PLC, McDan Foundation, Engineers & Planners,. Other key sponsors include Sentuo Oil Refinery Ltd, Geocom Company Limited, TLB Enterprise, B Foster Bakery, Amigo Bread and MIG Engineering.

Your generous support enabled us to deliver a comprehensive and impactful program.

Additionally, we would like to thank GB Foods, Vivo Energy, Telecel, Special Ice, FirstBank, Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority, Latex Foam, Kwarleyz Residences, Standard Chartered and National Petroleum Authority . Each of these organizations played a vital role in ensuring the success of the event, and we are grateful for their partnership.



A Letter of Gratitude to Partners and Sponsors

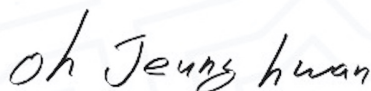
We extend our sincere appreciation to all of our partners and sponsors who played a pivotal role in making the 2024 National Youth Conference a resounding success. We are especially grateful to the Ministry of Youth & Sports and the Ministry of Local Government Decentralization and Local Development, and UPSA for their unwavering support and contributions, which were instrumental in organizing such a significant event.

Our gratitude also goes out to our key sponsors, UPSA, KGL Foundation, GCB Bank PLC, McDan Foundation, Engineers & Planners. Other key sponsors include Sentuo Oil Refinery Ltd, Geocom Company Limited, TLB Enterprise, B Foster Bakery, and Amigo Bread. Your generous support enabled us to deliver a comprehensive and impactful program.

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Your financial and logistical support provided an exceptional experience for our 1,800 participants from across Ghana. Your investment in the future of our nation's youth is invaluable, and we are deeply grateful for your trust and support.

Thank you for believing in our vision and for helping us to transform it into a reality that exceeded our expectations. We look forward to strengthening our partnerships and achieving even greater milestones together in the future.



Sincerely,

Dr. David Oh

Country Director, IYF Ghana



National Youth Conference

G H A N A



MINISTRY OF YOUTH & SPORTS



International Youth Fellowship

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*Reformed Youth
Reformed Ghana*

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Date: 05/09/2024

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Date: 06/09/2024

Acknowledgements:

We extend our gratitude to all committee members, volunteers, and staff who contributed to the success of the 2024 National Youth Conference. Your commitment and hard work have not gone unnoticed.

This report is intended for the stakeholders, sponsors, and participants of the 2024 National Youth Conference. The information contained herein is confidential and should not be disclosed without proper authorization.

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1.0	Obed Asamoah	04/09/2024	Initial Draft
1.1	Frederick Tetteh	05/09/2024	Minor Revisions
1.2	Benjamin Henaku	06/09/2024	Typesetting & Formatting
Final	Ato Edwin	06/09/2024	Final Approval

THANK YOU

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