



The Society of African Physicists and Mathematicians

c/o Edward Bouchet Centre for
Science and Technology
P. O. Box 197
Legon – Accra, Ghana

Telephone: 233-21-501360
Fax: 233-21-501965
E-mail: fka@ghana.com
President: **Prof. Francis K. A. Allotey**

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Dear Prof. Martial Ducloy,

GHANA'S ACTIVITIES FOR WORLD YEAR OF PHYSICS 2005

The World Year of Physics (WYP) was adopted in Ghana in 2004.

The National Planning Committee was set up to organize the WYP 2005 activities.

The activities enthusiastically supported by the Ghana Government, Lecturers from the Universities, Science teachers in the High Schools and members of the Ghana Association of Science Teachers (GAST), Ghana Institute of Physics and Society of African Physicists and Mathematicians (SAPAM).

The National Planning Committee organized a National Launch of the WYP at the University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast, and regional launches in Accra, Koforidua, Sunyani, Kumasi, Tamale and Takoradi. This number represents 7 out of ten regions in Ghana.

The National Launch which was held at Cape Coast was well attended by highly recognized dignitaries like Prof. F. K. A. Allotey (Chairman of the National Planning Committee of WYP – Ghana, and President of SAPAM), His Eminence Peter Cardinal Appiah Turkson (Archbishop of Cape Coast), Prof. E. A. Obeng (Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Coast, UCC), Prof. K. Yankson (Pro-Vice Chancellor UCC),

GENERAL SECRETARY: Dr. Akintayo Adedoyin, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.
REGIONAL COORDINATORS: Prof. Christian-Sina Diatta, Dakar, Senegal Dr. Sydney M. Chagwedera Harare, Zimbabwe
Issa Ramadhani, Kinshasa, Zaire
AU LIAISON OFFICER: VACANT

Prof. J. J. Fletcher (Head of Physics Department, UCC), Prof. S. Y. Mensah (Dea Faculty of Science, UCC), Prof. J. Jackson (Institute of Mathematical Sciences IM: Prof. A. Akaho (Director General, Ghana Atomic Energy Commission, GAEC), Dr. Anane-Fenin, Prof. C. Schandorf (Director, Radiation Protection Institute, RPI), Prof. H. Amuasi (Former Director-General, GAEC), Mr. E. A. Gyamera (Natio Coordinator, National ICT & Science Resource Centre), Mr. Charles Kwame Appia (Secretary, WYP – Ghana), Mr. A. Kruger (President, GAST), In addition, Professors Lecturers and students of the Universities as well as teachers and students from some High Schools in Ghana attended . Also present were some government officials a traditional chiefs and queen mothers. In all there were over 1,400 High school students of which about 50% were girls.

During the National launch, an exhibition was mounted by University of Cape Coast Physics Department and some Science students from some High Schools in the Country

1. The WYP organized a number of public lectures. The first one was by Prof. (Mrs.) Aba-Bentil Andam of Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) on the topic **“Physics for Wealth Creation”**

The Second one was by Prof. F. K. A. Allotey on the topic **“Physics and Development**

The Third lecture was by Prof. John Amuasi (Former Director General, GAEC) on the topic **“Physics and Health Care”**

The WYP activities enjoyed a wide coverage from the numerous electronic and print media.

The Physics Talent Search was organized at the District level through to the Regional and the National level. At the District level, so many students participated in the competition because they were very enthusiastic and had much interest in the competition. On the whole about 6000 students and pupils took part in the project. The Talent search has raised the awareness of the students, Education Planners and the Government about the importance of Physics.

Finally, twenty seven (27) students were selected to compete at the National Level out of which six (6) were selected to represent the country. Five students and one leader went to Taiwan to attend "Physics Young Ambassadors Symposium". The six (6) students produced very interesting, challenging and creative projects. They have been put on our website.

The National planning Committee organized a series of selection exercises in 2004 to pick students for the 1st International Junior Science Olympiad (IJSO) which took place in Jakarta, Indonesia. Nine students and two team leaders attended the Olympiad.

This year, six students and two team leaders attended the 2nd International Junior Science Olympiad in Indonesia in December 2005.

There are a lot of activities that took place. These include:

- i. The final Physics Quiz competition telecast live on the National Television on 15th January, 2006
- ii. Outreach programmes Science on wheels
- iii. Issuance of commemorative Stamps by Ghana Government
- iv. Awards presentation to participants of physics Talent Search and International junior Science Olympiad
- v. The Talent Search for young physicists
- vi. There was a wide media coverage. One of our activities was covered by SciDev.Net
- vii. Video and picture albums were made

Some effects of the World Year of Physics (WYP) in Ghana

1. a) The Government awareness about Science has improved and as a result it gave out \$50,000 for the WYP activities in Ghana.

- b) The local Industry gave \$ 40,000 for the WYP activities in Ghana
 - c) Minister of Education and Minister of Science gave their full support
2. There is now a weekly program every Friday from 1600 to 1700 Hours GMT on Science, Technology and society on the National Radio. This program has been running for about a year now and hope to continue for some time.
 3. More female students are now getting involved in Science in the schools. This is evident in the number of female participants who
 - a. attended the launching ceremonies
 - b. took part in the talent search
 - c. took part in the Physics competition
 4. Outreach programmes: Science on Wheels will continue
 5. Physics Talent search will be an annual affair
 6. There will be more public physics lectures

PROF. F. K. A. ALLOTEY
(CHAIRMAN – W.Y.P)