



REPORT ON REGIONAL CONVENTION-GHANA SECTION

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INTRODUCTION:

DATE: 5TH MARCH, 2005

VENUE: Institute of Renewable Natural Resources Lecture Theatre, KNUST
(Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology)

1. Chairman: Oheneba Agyeman Badu

2. Guest Speaker: Ackaah Kwarteng

Topic: **"YOUTH IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP"**

Speaker's profile: General Manager, Spirit FM

3. Other Speakers:

Name: Anthony Mensah

Topic: **"THE ROLE OF MODERN EDUCATION IN SANITATION"**

Speakers Profile: Director, Waste Management Dept, Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly

Name: Prof. Wellington

Topic: **"THE ROLE OF THE AFRICAN YOUTH IN PROMOTING GLOBAL DEMOCRACY"**

Profile: Head of Quality Assurance Division of the Vice chancellor's office

Name: Prof. Momade

Topic: Contribution on **"PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION"**

Profile: Provost, College of Engineering-KNUST

Name: Kwame Anane Frempong

Topic: **"YOUTH SEXUALITY AND HIV/AIDS IN AFRICA"**

Profile: Regional Representative, Ghana

Name: Sakpa Enoch Yaw

Topic: **"DEMOCRACY IN TOGO, A REALITY OR MYTH?"**

Profile: Representative from Togo

MEDIA PARTICIPANTS:

- TV3 Network, Ghana
- Ghana Broadcasting Cooperation (Radio and TV)
- Kessben FM
- Luv FM
- Spirit FM
- Focus FM
- Hello FM
- Ghana News Agency

STATEMENT:

The KNUST chapter hosted the first regional conference of the Student World Assembly-Ghana Section on 5th march, 2005. The theme was "**Preparing the Next Generation**". The programme was attended by delegates from University Of Ghana, University of Cape Coast, Methodist University, Harvard College, Takoradi Polytechnic and members from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST).

The chairman of the occasion was Otumfour Osei Tutu II but Oheneba Agyeman Badu was delegated to take up this role and also to give the goodwill message on behalf of the King.

The occasion witnessed a parading of dignitaries who shared in the vision and mission of SWA. These were:

Oheneba Agyeman Badu
Mr. Anthony Mensah.
Mr. Ackaah Kwarteng
Prof. Wellington
Prof. Momade

A participant of almost **two hundred and fifty** filled the three hundred capacity lecture theatre. The vision for the programme was in line with the dream of Ghana SWA all over Africa. The strategy for success was non conventional and experiential rather than empirical, even as seen in the unconventional format of this report, all geared towards the achievement of efficient work.

DETAILS:

- PREPARATORY STAGES
- SPONSORS
- MEDIA PARTICIPATION
- INVITED GUESTS
- SPEECHES
- PERFORMANCES
- INTERVIEW
- POST CONVENTION INTERACTIONS
- EXECUTIVE CAUCUS MEETING

1. PREPARATION TOWARDS THE PROGRAMME

A vision was defined a goal was targeted, to reach out to the voiceless, those who needed the message. We had to set a standard and let people hear of our existence especially the business community and individuals to know the capabilities of SWA.

First of all the executive body had to come out with a strategic planning committee within which was media committee, publicity committee and outreach committee. A number of sponsorship letters were sent out and introductory information packages were also sent out. The booking of venues, acquisition of materials and purchasing of other items followed briskly.

2. SPONSORS

Sponsorship letters were sent to over 30 companies and individuals requesting for assistance. The responses from these houses were however not material. Excuses given by these companies imply that as an infant organization they needed to see something feasible we had done before. And the convention we had was a step in the right direction, to gain the confidence of the business community.

3. MEDIA PARTICIPATION

Invitations were sent to majority of the media houses for both radio and television coverage. And this was meant to reach out to a wider audience. A press release that has been signed by the regional representative and the KNUST president is on circulation to the media houses.

4. INVITED GUESTS

To add some colour to the programme and highlight SWA's credibility and its concept, personalities who were activists in the areas of SWA's vital areas were invited to speak on various issues. These persons are stated above.

5. SPEECHES

Vital issues were addressed and the topics were:

- The role of modern education in Sanitation
- Youth and entrepreneurship
- Gender equity, the role of the student
- The role of the African in the world
- Youth sexuality and HIV/AIDS in Africa

Other speeches were:

- President's ceremonial address
- Regional Representative's keynote address
- Goodwill message from the founder and Chairman, Mr. Paul Raynault.

6. SIDE ATTRACTIONS

The programme had entertainment packages such as:

- The "**desidarata**" which was performed by Nana Konadu, a female student from Technology Secondary School.
- A traditional performance by the Technology Secondary School.
- Choreography by the Ayeduase Catholic youth

7. INTERVIEWS

The media houses took turn to interview the regional representative, president and members. The interactions were centered on the foundation, history, activities and vision of SWA

8. POST CONVENTION INTERACTION

Kwame Anane Frempong as well as the chapter executive caucus took time to talk to the senior secondary schools that were present.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES:

A short meeting was held after the programme to congratulate the organizers, and briefly discuss the event. It was also an opportunity to introduce Charles Akponah, the regional representative from Nigeria and he talked about the state of SWA in Nigeria.

CHALLENGES:

The main obstacle was with the issue of funding. Each member paid commitment of 20,000 cedis (2 dollars) in support of the event. This was a matter of affordability, while we waited on the sponsors. Incidentally, no sponsor gave any monetary Assistance or material except Kessben FM. All other forms of publicity were paid for. The sum of member's contribution could barely cater for the budget. The fund from headquarters was received and was useful in paying for the venue and part payment of pastries. The monies, which were promised by some Volunteers also never came and we didn't receive any support from any, volunteer. The money, which was promised by Kwao, has at present not come. Kwame Anane Frempong and the executive caucus had to support majority of the programme's budget with personal funds. We also had to seek for loans from friends who saw the difficulty we were facing. *The vision inspired us in taking every step we took, for the concept cannot and must not die.*

ANALYSIS:

Plans were strategically implemented, with difficulty though, due to lack of funds. Sample comments gathered indicate that the convention was one of the most organized and patronized, with the presence of all the invited Guests. In conclusion, everything was successful but not without difficulty.