

# THIS WEEK

## IN BRIEF

### ACCRA TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY AND ACCRA MARRIOTT HOTEL SIGN MOU TO ENHANCE HOSPITALITY EDUCATION

Accra Technical University (ATU) and Accra Marriott Hotel owned by African Hospitality Limited, have entered a formal partnership to strengthen academic and industry collaboration in the hospitality sector. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at the ATU Council Chamber.



## Accra Technical University and Accra Marriott Hotel Sign MoU to Enhance Hospitality Education

Accra Technical University (ATU) and Accra Marriott Hotel owned by African Hospitality Limited, have entered a formal partnership to strengthen academic and industry collaboration in the hospitality sector. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at the ATU Council Chamber.

During the signing ceremony, Acting Vice-Chancellor of ATU, Prof. Amevi Acakpovi, expressed his optimism about the collaboration. He intimated that the agreement would facilitate knowledge exchange and professional development for the University's faculty. "Working closely with Marriott's team of experts, our educators will gain insights into the latest industry trends, innovations, and best practices," he said.

Mr. Luciano Scelza, General Manager of Accra Marriott Hotel, also conveyed his enthusiasm for the collaboration. He highlighted the importance of providing students with practical experience to complement their theoretical studies. He added that the collaboration is the first of its kind, with more in the offing to ensure that students benefit immensely. "We don't want to give a job; we want to give a career and brighter future for everybody. Want to use our name, our standard operating procedures and our policies to make sure this dream come true for our students", he said.



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The MoU aims to establish a comprehensive framework for cooperation between the two institutions, focusing on practical training, research collaboration, and knowledge transfer. This initiative is designed to enhance the practical training of students in the hospitality industry, ensuring they acquire both theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience.

The primary objectives of the MoU include training students with the necessary theoretical knowledge and practical skills to meet the human resource needs of the hospitality industry, enhancing the relationship between academia and industry, and promoting the growth and self-development of ATU students through exposure to best practices.

Key components of the collaboration will involve practical training in hospitality management for students and teaching staff, practical attachment and internship programs, research collaboration, and knowledge transfer through seminars, workshops, and guest lecture series.

This partnership is expected to address the skills gap and reduce shortages in the hospitality industry, producing a job-ready workforce and improving the employability of ATU graduates. Additionally, the MOU provides an opportunity for staff of Accra Marriott Hotel to receive certification from ATU.

Prof. Acakpovi signed on behalf of ATU whereas Mr. Scelza signed on behalf of the hotel.



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## IN BRIEF

### ATU AND GERMAN ORGANISATION, AWA-E.V FORGE PARTNERSHIP FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATIONAL

Accra Technical University (ATU) and the German educational organization gemeinnütziger Aus-und Weiterbildungsverbund Altenburg -AWA- e.V. have formalised a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance academic cooperation.



## ATU and German Organisation, AWA-e.V Forge Partnership for Vocational Educational

Accra Technical University (ATU) and the German educational organization gemeinnütziger Aus-und Weiterbildungsverbund Altenburg -AWA- e.V. have formalised a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance academic cooperation.

Signed by representatives from both institutions at the University's Council Chamber on April 2, 2024, the agreement outlines plans to develop dual vocational education programmes catering to the needs of both Ghanaian and German employment markets. Additionally, it includes initiatives like Train-the-Trainer programmes to enhance the teaching capacity at ATU, fostering a high standard of education within collaborative efforts. The partnership stresses academic, vocational, and cultural exchange, facilitating participation in relevant conferences, seminars, and the exchange of materials and work experiences to enrich the educational experience.

The collaboration between ATU and AWA-e.V. aims to internationalise dual vocational education, addressing the evolving labour market needs in Ghana and Germany.

Acting Pro-Vice-Chancellor of ATU, Prof. Felix Kutsanedzie, sees this partnership as a significant step towards enhancing vocational education quality, and enriching students' experience in line with the University's Strategic Pillar One, while Mandy Kasel from AWA-e.V. expressed excitement about the collaborative possibilities.

Both parties envision a fruitful partnership that will advance educational excellence and cross-cultural understanding, opening up vast opportunities for meaningful impact in vocational education.



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## IN BRIEF

### ATU, Vanuatu Trade Commission Sign MoU to train Students in AI

The Accra Technical University (ATU) and the Vanuatu Trade Commission (VTC) in Ghana have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide an estimated grant of \$1 million to ATU to train students and staff in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Applied Research.



## ATU, VANUATU TRADE COMMISSION SIGN MOU TO TRAIN STUDENTS IN AI

The Accra Technical University (ATU) and the Vanuatu Trade Commission (VTC) in Ghana have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide an estimated grant of \$1 million to ATU to train students and staff in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Applied Research.

The MoU formed part of a partnership between the commission and the African Diaspora Central Bank (ADCB) to train some young people across Africa in AI for free, starting from Ghana.

A key component of the collaboration is the establishment of a dedicated AI training centre at the ATU for 2,000 students and staff at a sponsored cost of \$250 per participant, costing \$500,000 in total.

Additionally, there is a stimulus package of \$100 per participant, amounting to \$200,000, bringing the commission's overall sponsorship cost for the AI training programme to \$700,000.

The commission will also provide a seed fund of \$200,000 to support the ATU Research Innovation Funds (ARIF) for the award of grants to staff, students and researchers with innovative applied research projects in the university community and for the advancement of science and technology.

The acting Vice-Chancellor of ATU, Professor Amevi Acakpovi, said the MoU represented a pivotal moment for both institutions, as it had set the stage for a robust exchange of knowledge, resources and expertise in the field of AI.



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“At ATU, we believe in the transformative power of technology to drive innovation, solve complex problems and improve lives of our societies. Through this partnership, we are committed to harnessing the potential of AI to address pressing challenges and foster sustainable development in our respective regions,” he said.

Prof. Acakpovi expressed gratitude to the Vanuatu Trade Commission for its commitment towards the collaboration, and the vision to harness AI for positive change across Africa.