



IN BRIEF

GHANA MONTH: ATU MANAGEMENT VISIT KWAME NKRUMAH MEMORIAL PARK

In a poignant journey through Ghana's storied past, the management team of Accra Technical University embarked on a profound visit to the hallowed grounds of the Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park in Accra on 11th March 2024. Led by the Acting Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Amevi Acakpovi, the delegation undertook an exploration of the park, delving into the legacy of the nation's first president.

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Situated on the Accra High Street, the Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park stands as a testament to Ghana's rich history and the indelible mark left by its founding father. It is also an educational hub preserving the history of the nation's struggle for independence. The park, home to the mausoleum and museum dedicated to Kwame Nkrumah, offers a window into the illustrious life and times of one of Africa's most influential leaders.



The group converged at the mausoleum, the final resting place of Dr. Nkrumah and his wife, Fathia. Standing in silent reverence, they paid homage to the visionary leader whose tireless efforts paved the way for Ghana's independence in 1957.

Following their visit to the mausoleum, the delegation proceeded to the museum, where a treasure trove of artifacts and memorabilia

awaited. From photographs capturing pivotal moments in Ghana's history to personal effects belonging to Dr. Nkrumah himself.

As the ATU delegation departed from the memorial park, they carried with them a renewed sense of inspiration, reaffirming their dedication to advancing the legacy of Ghana's founding father in their own small ways.

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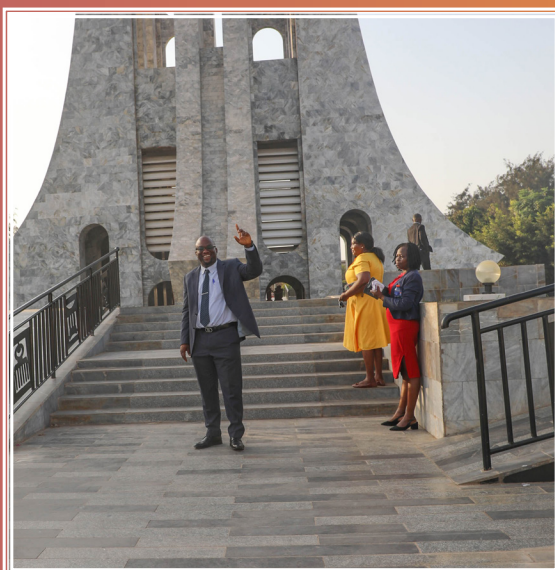
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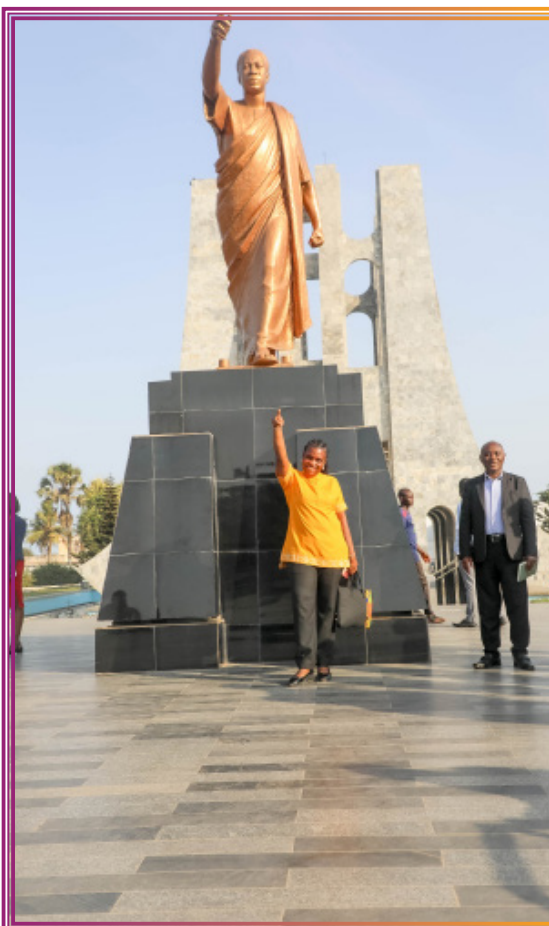
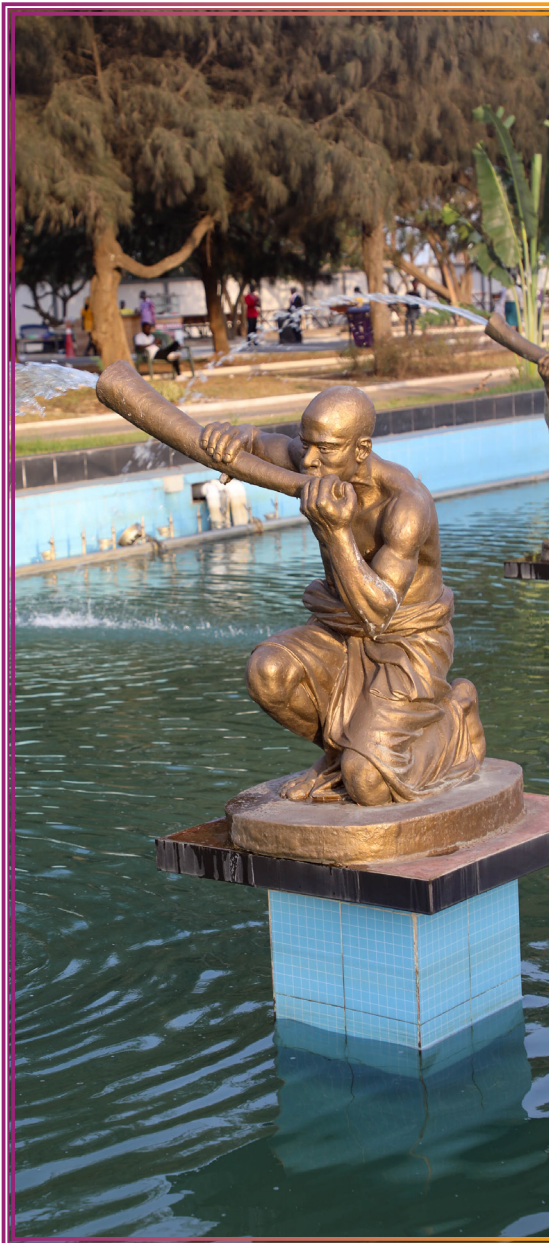
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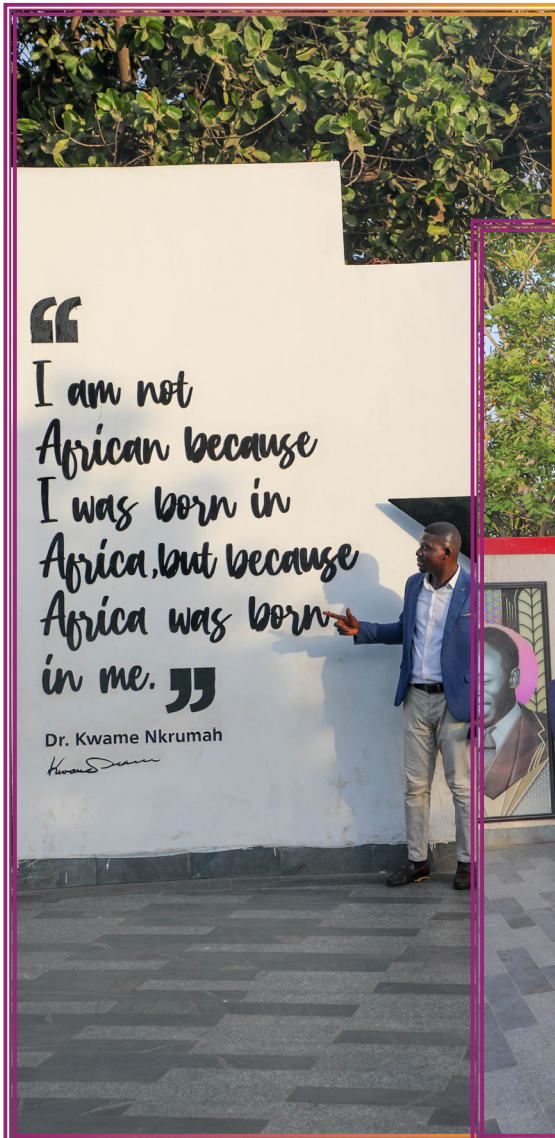
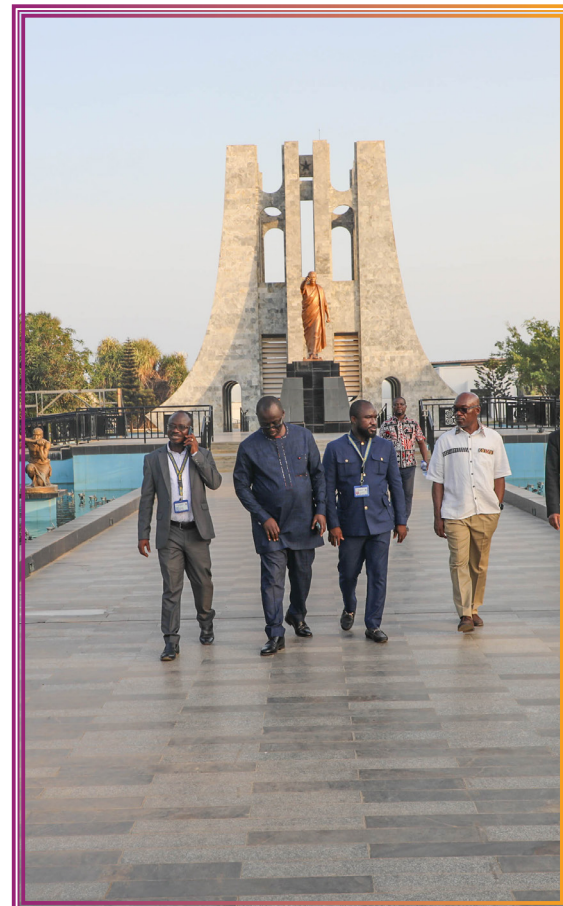




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ACCRA TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY TO RUN MASTERS' PROGRAMME NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR – ACTING VC

Professor Amevi Acakpovi, the acting Vice-Chancellor of Accra Technical University, has declared that the institution has secured accreditation to introduce masters' programmes. Out of the 25 master's programmes



23RD CONGREGATION GRADUANDS

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submitted to the Ghana Tertiary Education Commission, nine have received partial accreditation and are set to commence in the upcoming academic year. These programmes include a Master of Science (MSc) in Logistics and Transport Management, MSc in Marketing Strategy, Administration, and Management, MSc in Construction

Technology and Management, MSc in Food and Bioprocess Engineering, an MSc in Integrated Infrastructure Systems, and MSc in Interior Design Technology.

The announcement was made by Professor Acakpovi during the University's 23rd Congregation, where 5,862 graduates in

Bachelor of Technology (BTech), Higher National Diploma (HND), and Diploma programmes were honoured. The event, themed "75 Years of Impacting Society and Driving Innovation," took place at the National Theatre in Accra. Additionally, Professor Acakpovi revealed that the University's Governing Council has sanctioned a scholarship fund and allocated GHc 400,000.00 for disbursement in the 2022/2023 academic year. "For the 2023/2024 academic year, the Council has again approved an amount of GHc 400,000.00 with the scholarship committee working on selecting successful applicants," he said. He added that Progress in Education, a charitable organisation in 2023, offered scholarships worth GHc3,500.00 per beneficiary to 10 needy female students in STEM programmes. The Ghana National Petroleum Corporation also granted scholarships to 13 deserving students pursuing various HND and BTech degree programmes.



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He mentioned that the University had established Centers of Excellence with backing from external stakeholders via grants, aimed at providing training in digital literacy and Artificial Intelligence skills through the AFOS DigiCap Laboratory for both staff and students. Additionally, the Center collaborated with A-Tech Korea to develop drone technology, facilitating the training and certification of students in operating Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and Drones.

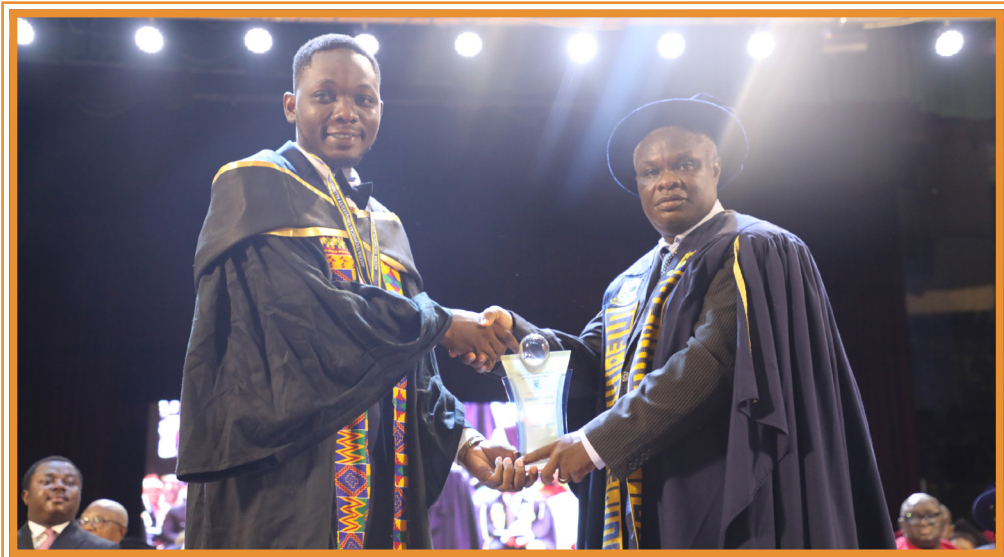
Prof. Acakpovi highlighted the University's progress within its 134-acre facility at Mpehuasem, Samsam in the Ga West Municipality of the Greater Accra Region, particularly in providing practical sessions for engineering and built environment students. Furthermore, he noted various Memoranda of Understanding signed by the University, including one with Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology, fostering exchange programmes. In terms of rankings, he mentioned the University's placement as the 28th best in sub-Saharan Africa and 4th in Ghana according to the 2022 Times Higher Education rankings. Prof. Acakpovi advised graduates to maintain a positive outlook to drive their future endeavors forward. However, he also pointed out challenges such as encroachment at the Mpehuasem campus, poor access roads, and obstacles in obtaining financial clearance for employment.

The guest of honour for the occasion, Reverend John Ntim Fordjour, Deputy Minister of Education, assured the





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University of government support in safeguarding their property against encroachment and addressing their challenges. He emphasized the government's efforts in bridging the gap between industry and academia to create.

sustainable employment opportunities and foster growth. The Deputy Minister called for international collaboration to tackle societal challenges and redefine the principles of higher education.



Dr. Eugene Asiamah-Boadi, Lead Counsel at the Legal Relief Trust and the Congregation Speaker, urged the graduating class to cultivate a clear vision for their future endeavors, emphasizing that "Everything starts with the mind." He encouraged them to collaborate in teams, uphold principles of integrity, and avoid practices.

Detrimental to their progress. Michael Ayiku, recognized as the Overall Best Student in the BTech program within the Faculty of Built Environment, attributed his success to the transformative influence of generosity. He vowed to utilize his acquired knowledge for the betterment of the nation. Johnson Antwi was honoured as the best graduating student in the engineering program, while Abraham Asoyele received the same accolade in BTech Science Laboratory Technology. Naa Odoley Amoako-Asiedu excelled as the top graduate in BTech Fashion Design and Textile Production, and Hussein Muhammadu stood out as the best graduating student in BTech Accounting. Each awardee received a plaque, certificates, and a monetary reward in recognition of their achievements.





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Accra Technical University Matriculates
More than 10,000 Fresh Students for the
2023/2024 Academic Year

Accra Technical University officially matriculated over 10,390 new students for the academic year 2023/2024. The matriculation ceremony, held at the university auditorium on Saturday 2nd March 2024, was a momentous occasion where heartfelt congratulations were extended to the incoming students, marking a record-breaking number of admissions.



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This significant milestone initiated thousands of students into the esteemed student body of Accra Technical University (ATU), granting them the privilege to embark on their academic journey within the institution.

Guided by Registrar Dr.

(Mrs.) Sylvia B. Oppong-Mensah, the matriculating students solemnly took an oath and pledged obedience after the presentation by deans from different faculties. Following this, Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Amevi Acakpovi officially welcomed them to the university, honouring their commitment with the administration of an oath.

In his address at the matriculation ceremony, Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Amevi Acakpovi warmly welcomed the new students, underscoring the university's commitment to providing resources and fostering a vibrant community.

He highlighted impressive admission statistics, with nearly



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11,000 students welcomed, including 10,390 who completed their registrations. Among them, 4,614 students are pursuing a Bachelor of Technology degree.

Professor Acakpovi emphasised the importance of abiding by the institution's rules, with a primary focus on learning and academic excellence. He stressed the need for students to develop skills and competencies while becoming familiar with the university's online systems for information exchange.

Highlighting the global reach of the university, Professor Acakpovi noted the growth in the international student body, constituting 1.5% of the total student population, with 160 international students contributing to the thriving campus community. This marks an 18.7% increase in the entire population from the previous year.

Underscoring the crucial role of determination in academic success, Professor Acakpovi encouraged new students to aim for excellence in their respective academic pursuits. He emphasized that outstanding performance could open doors to scholarships and other advantageous opportunities for further education.

Additionally, Professor Acakpovi highlighted the enduring impact of the academic tools available to students, urging them to fully leverage these resources for a rewarding and successful university experience.

The matriculation ceremony was organised in three segments, starting with students from the Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment, followed by students from Applied Sciences and Arts, and concluding with the section dedicated to students from the Business Faculty.



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PRIORITIZE EMPLOYEE SATISFACTION AND PROFESSIONALISM IN THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

The Chief Executive Officer of Hospitality Plus Limited, Dr. Joseph Mensah-Ansah, has urged stakeholders in the Ghana Tourism and Institute of Hospitality sectors to prioritize the enhancement of employee satisfaction, professionalism, and productivity for sustainable development.



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Addressing the inaugural session of the 12th Delegate Conference of the Institute of Hospitality at Accra Technical University, themed ***“The Hospitality Workforce: Enhancing Employee Satisfaction, Professionalism, and Productivity for Sustainable Development,”*** Dr. Mensah-Ansah underscored the crucial role employers play in investing in their workforce for long-term growth and productivity.

He emphasised the necessity for stakeholders to establish a positive and conducive working environment that fosters employee satisfaction. Dr. Mensah-Ansah highlighted the significance of work plan development, job autonomy, work-life bal-

ance, recognition, reward systems, and growth opportunities as key factors influencing employee satisfaction in the workplace.

Additionally, Dr. Mensah-Ansah reiterated the importance of promoting employee job satisfaction through training and job development initiatives. He pointed out the positive impact of providing opportunities for skill enhancement, career advancement, and demonstrating organisational commitment to professional growth within the industry, noting that employees who receive ad-





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equate training are more likely to feel competent and satisfied in their roles.

He encouraged employees to prioritize their professions by engaging in training programs aimed at enhancing their professional expertise within their respective fields. Dr. Mensah-Ansah stressed the importance of thorough preparation and a serious approach to one's profession.

Dr. Mensah-Ansah also used this opportunity to raise recommendations for the Institute of Hospitality to proactively develop continuous professional programs for its members, create local incentives for various membership categories to stimulate association growth, organize career sections, enhance visibility through awareness creation events, and actively voice concerns on national issues affecting the industry.

Dr. Patricia Owusu-Darko, President of the Institute of Hospitality (IH), stressed in her address the importance for industries and organisations to bolster professionalism through investment in training and development programs. These initiatives aim to equip employees with the essential skills and knowledge required to excel in their respective roles.



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PROF. ACAKPOVI ADVOCATES WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY IN HOSPITALITY AT INSTITUTE'S BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

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He made this statement at the 12th Biennial Delegate Conference of the Institute of Hospitality held at Accra Technical University on February 28, 2024.

Addressing the theme of the conference ***“The Hospitality Workforce: Enhancing Employee Satisfaction, Professionalism, and Productivity for Sustainable Development”***, during his keynote address, Professor Acakpovi drew attention to technical universities’ substantial contributions to the country’s development and underscored the crucial need to align educational programmes with industry requirements, ensuring that graduates are thoroughly prepared for employment opportunities. ***“We must equip them in a manner that not only prompts them to seek employment but empowers them to create job opportunities,”*** he stated.





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Professor Acakpovi articulated that technical universities play a pivotal role in bridging the gap between academia and industry by providing students with practical skills and knowledge relevant to the job market. He highlighted the need for educational institutions to adapt their curricula to meet the evolving demands of the workforce, thereby enhancing graduates' employability and contributing to national development initiatives.

Additionally, Professor Acakpovi stressed the importance of fostering partnerships between technical universities and industry stakeholders to facilitate internships, apprenticeships, and other experiential learning opportunities for students. These collaborations, he noted, not only enrich students' learning experiences but also enable them to acquire hands-on skills and industry insights essential for professional growth and success in their careers.

He highlighted the essential role of the hospitality sector in Ghana's economic development and stressed the need for continuous investment in workforce development initiatives. He pointed out the significance of enhancing employee satisfaction, professionalism, and productivity within the hospitality industry to ensure its long-term sustainability and growth.



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TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE THROUGH DESIGN THINKING: THE ACCRA TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY'S AFRICA HEALTH RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PROJECT (AHRIP) JOURNEY

Bridging Gaps, Inspiring Students, and Impacting Stakeholders in African Healthcare



TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE THROUGH DESIGN THINKING: THE ACCRA TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY'S AFRICA HEALTH RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PROJECT (AHRIP) JOURNEY

In the dynamic landscape of global health challenges, the Research, and Innovation Systems for Africa (RISA) programme, funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO), has embarked on a groundbreaking initiative to fortify African research and innovation ecosystems. The Accra Technical University's Africa Health Research and Innovation Project (ATU-AHRIP), a pivotal component of this programme executed under the auspices of a grant, stands out for its unique approach - the adoption of the Design Thinking Methodology for fostering innovation in Ghana's health sector.

DESIGN THINKING METHODOLOGY UNLEASHED

At the core of AHRIP is the Design Thinking Methodology, a human-centered problem-solving approach that places people at the heart of the innovation process. This methodology, grounded in empathy and understanding user needs, served as the guiding framework for the project's two boot camps, where students underwent an immersive "learning by doing" experience.

The first boot camp unfolded over three weeks at the Accra Technical University Campus, engaging an average of 50



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students per day organised into groups of five. Facilitators from ATU and Design Thinking Ghana Hub (DTGH) collaborated, ensuring a robust transfer of knowledge and capacity-building. Students delved into modules such as Introduction to Design Thinking in Health Care, Deep Dive into The Double Diamond, and Conducting Ethnographic Research.



Building on the insights gained, Bootcamp 2 focused on ideation, prototyping, and testing. The teams refined their prototypes through low-fidelity prototyping sessions, supported by mentors and coaches. The iterative nature of the design thinking process ensured that solutions were desirable, viable, and feasible.

A crucial aspect of the design thinking process, ethnographic research, involved teams immersing themselves in stakeholders' environments. Through in-depth interviews, direct observation, and shadowing, students uncovered authentic stories and gained profound insights, contributing depth to the collected data.

IMPACT BEYOND BORDERS - NURTURING YOUNG MINDS

The project's reach extended beyond Ghana with design thinking boot camps for Senior High School (SHS) and tertiary students. The SHS Design Thinking Bootcamp introduced 60 students to the methodology, cultivating a culture of innovation from a young age. Tertiary students benefited from a hands-on experiential learning opportunity, navigating the design thinking process from empathy to testing.



Some SHS students delivering a presentation

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A one-day virtual design thinking session for West African participants expanded the project's impact internationally. The session, attended by 30 participants from partner Nigerian Universities, showcased the power of design thinking in creating innovative solutions.

Beyond the virtual interactions, the project's collaborative efforts included working visits to institutions engaged in ethnographic research. The Validation Workshop prepared teams for an upcoming innovation fair, emphasising the transition from prototypes to Minimum Viable Products (MVPs).

Monitoring and Evaluation: A Holistic Approach

A robust Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system tracked project progress and participant outcomes, utilizing surveys and in-depth interviews to measure effectiveness. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) were seamlessly integrated from recruitment to prototype development, ensuring diversity and inclusion throughout the design thinking process.

Impact Stories and Triumphs: A Glimpse into the Future

Encouraging interest from stakeholders and a proposal to include design thinking as an elective course at ATU highlight the project's success. The exhibition of 29 prototypes, including innovations like a blood warmer and a lump detection device, showcases the tangible impact of ATU-AHRIP.

The ATU-AHRIP stands as a beacon of innovation, transforming healthcare through the Design Thinking Methodology. With a focus on empathy, collaboration, and continuous improvement, the project exemplifies the potential for design thinking to drive positive change in African research and innovation ecosystems. As the prototypes transition to real-world applications, the lasting impact of the ATU-RISA Project on healthcare in Ghana and beyond is poised to be significant.



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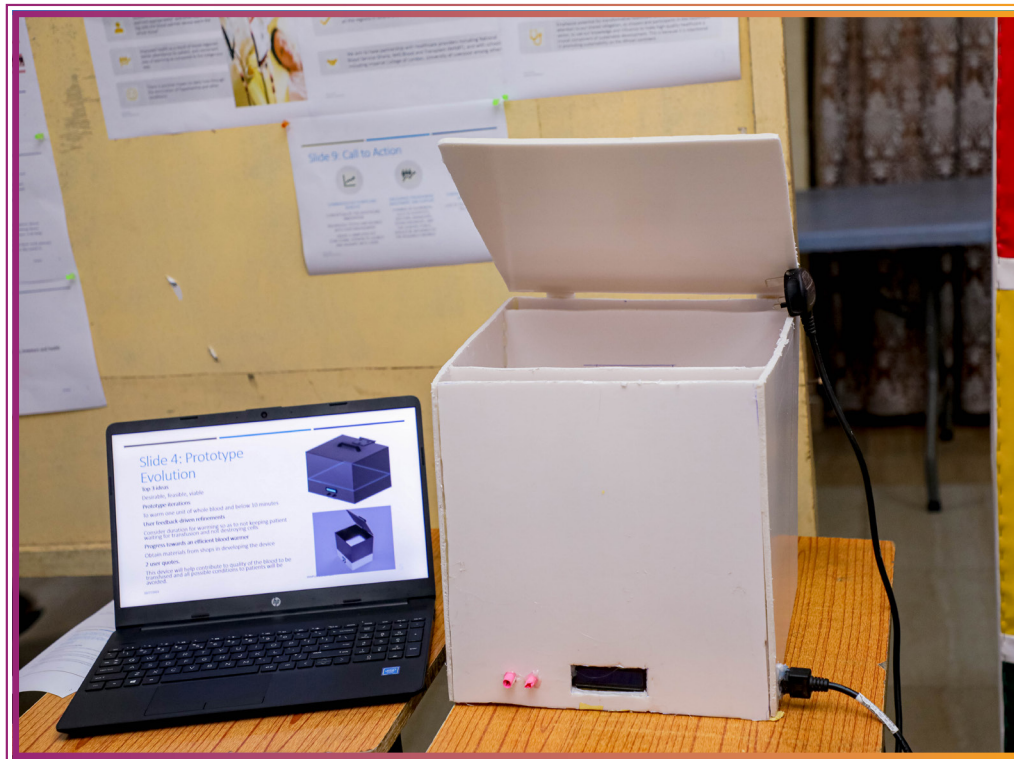


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ATU-TUTAG DONATES TO MEPE FLOOD VICTIMS

The Accra Technical University Chapter of the Technical University Teachers Association of Ghana (TUTAG), yesterday stepped forward to aid the residents of Mepe in the North Tongu districts in the Volta Region in the aftermath of the Akosombo water spillage.



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Recognising the challenges faced by the community, particularly in the realm of education, TUTAG-ATU benevolent gesture aims to alleviate the hardships brought about by the unfortunate incident.

The Akosombo water spillage, which occurred few months ago, left several communities grappling with the consequences of flooding, displacements, and the disruption of daily life. Among the affected areas, Mepe found itself in a dire situation, especially concerning educational infrastructure and resources. The generosity displayed by the ATU Chapter, of TUTAG comes as a ray of hope for the people of Mepe.

Presenting the items, Mr. Hanson Obiri-Yeboah, Chairman of TUTAG, ATU Chapter said the relief items presented was under the umbrella body of ATU to help revive education in the community as they gather to get back to their normal life. He also hammered their visit as an opportunity to assess the situation at hand, preparing to give back to the community in their next visit amidst planning on organising health screening for the community members.

The donation, worth GHc20,000.00, consists of essential educational materials, including exercise books, school uniforms, school bags, stationery, and other resources that are crucial for the continuity of learning. The gesture not only addresses the immediate needs of the community but also underscores the pivotal role of education in rebuilding and revitalising the affected areas. TUTAG's ATU chapter initiative aligns with the broader goal of fostering resilience and empowerment within communities facing adversity.

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ATU Strengthens Bonds with Media

Accra Technical University (ATU) played host to a captivating press soiree on January 16, 2024 at the school's guest lounge. Inviting media representatives to participate in an event designed to strengthen the connection between the university and the press.



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Seasoned journalists, news editors, and media managers from print, broadcast, and digital platforms came together for the media engagement, which was called "an Evening with the Vice Chancellor."

Set against the backdrop of the university's esteemed campus, the occasion served as a forum for fostering open dialogue, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas between ATU management, faculty members and media professionals.

The commencement of the evening was marked by a warm greeting from the university's leadership, reaffirming their dedication to transparency and effective communication.

In addressing the assembly, Prof. Amevi Acakpovi, the Acting Vice-Chancellor of ATU, extended a warm welcome to the media professionals in attendance. He expressed, "The primary objective of tonight's



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gathering is to facilitate interaction, foster meaningful connections, and share insights regarding some exciting initiatives currently underway at ATU.”

In his presentation, Prof. Acakpovi commended the media for acknowledging their crucial role in informing the public about policies and programs. As an institution, we are dedicated to improving our communication efforts, aligning them with our core objectives, and creating opportunities to fortify relationships. “I want to take this moment to convey our appreciation to all of you for your varied contributions in supporting us throughout the year and for the accomplishments we have achieved thus far. With confidence, I look forward to the continued flourishing and success of this collaboration in the years to come” he said.

The press soiree featured enlightening panel discussions that provided journalists with the opportunity to interact with faculty members, administrators, and students’ representative council executives. These discussions delved into ATU’s academic programs, research undertakings, and its significant contributions to technological advancements in the region. The interactive format of the sessions enabled media professionals to gain a deeper understanding of ATU’s significant role in shaping the educational landscape in Accra.

The news editor of GBC, commended the management of ATU for its deliberate efforts in positioning the University as the foremost technical university in Ghana. He stressed on the need for ATU to continue projecting their success achievement through the media to promote the name of ATU.

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The university showcased success stories, academic milestones, and the diverse talents that contribute to the vibrant ATU community. Journalists had the opportunity to engage with Deans and faculty members, bringing their narratives to the forefront and spotlighting the positive influence of ATU's educational programs.

As the press soiree drew to a close, it was evident that the event had successfully deepened the connection between Accra Technical University and the media. Both parties expressed their commitment to sustained collaboration, ensuring that the university's accomplishments and contributions are communicated accurately and effectively to the wider public. The event underscored the significance of transparent communication between educational institutions and the media in fostering a well-informed society.





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