



uri  **United Religion Initiatives
WEST AFRICA REGION**



2017 Report Young Leaders Training

Legon Centre for International Affairs & Diplomacy
University of Ghana, Accra-Ghana
June 19-21, 2017



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URI WEST AFRICA YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Report by: Korsu Senyo, URI Ghana Contact

Commentary: Laura Mills

Preamble:

United Regions Initiative, West Africa Region organized a two day leadership programme to equip some young leaders in Ghana with the needed skills, knowledge and network enable them become a real agent of change in the various communities.

The Ghana edition of the 2017 Young Leaders Training was held from June 19-20, 2017 at the Legon Centre for International Affairs and Diplomacy, University of Ghana, Accra.



It drew thirty (30) participants from different youth group. The event was resourced with Dr. Emmanuel Aude Ivorgba- URI West Africa Coordinator, Mr. Matthew Youde – URI Director of Young Leadership Programme, Ms. Subhi, India Northern Zonal Coordinator of URI and Mr. Korsu Senyo – URI Ghana Contact who is also the Executive Director of the host CC.

The objectives of the training programme:

- To equip the youth with leadership skills to enable them become development agents in their respective societies
- To develop and enhance the intellectual capabilities of participants to enable them participate meaningfully in issues of governance and national development
- To enhance participants with the necessary skills for self development
- To equip participants with skills in conflicts management
- To adequately prepare the youth for social, religious economic and political endeavors

- To equip the youth with practical ICT knowledge and its relevance in governance

Selection Process:

Participants were selected by the Ghana Contact Office of the URI and the host CC – African Centre for Peace Building. The criteria was based on:

- Activities of the youth groups and their contribution to youth development activities in Ghana
- Potentials of becoming agents of change and sustainable leaders in their community
- Ability to contribute and share knowledge with other participants

The Programme:

1. WELCOME REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION

The training section was opened by Mr. Korsi Senyo who also took the participants through a pre-training discussion on understanding Youth in the context of various definitions and Leadership.

The introductory section engaged the participants with a question which seemed to unveil who a youth is. During submissions, some participants said a youth is a person within the ages of 15-40years, some said 18-35years, others also defined a youth to be someone who is vibrant in the society and contributes his quota to the development of the country.

Mr Korsi Senyo went ahead to ask who a leader is. Some of the views from the participants included:

- a leader is someone who is a spearhead a particular project with followers, others said a leader is someone who leads a group of people with a common interest in order to achieve a particular goal.
- However, Mr Korsi Senyo gave a standardized word which must be included in the definition of a leader and that word was "INFLUENCE". He said a leader is someone who influences people do or achieve what the leaders should have otherwise done directly.

After the definition, he inquired from the participants some characteristics a leader should possess and they included: humility, positive minded, tolerance, respect for others views, must be ready to learn from others, must not be quick to judge, be a visionary, must be self motivated

Training Topics:

AFRICA AND LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE - Mr Korsy Senyo

In this session of the training Mr Korsy Senyo inquired the views of the participants by asking a question before he started the lecture.

The question helped to bring to light why Africa is still not developed as expected despite the fact that Africa is endowed with both natural and human resources. Some responses from the participants attributed the standard of



Africa's retarded development to lack of the technical know how, lack of education, inability of Africans to exploit their resources efficiently and laziness.

Mr Korsy Senyo agreed with the participants, but added that the major problem confronting Africa is the MIND SET of its citizens. He noted that "if we are able to change our mind set, Africa will be able to develop in the shortest possible time".

He also made mention of selfishness where African leaders are only interested in themselves and their families but was quick to add the challenges in Africa cannot be entirely blamed on the leaders but the citizens as well.

He said "it was high time we started taking up the responsibilities of our surroundings rather than waiting upon the authority before something is done about various faults in our societies".

He also emphasised that African must take interest in the Authority Of Ideas rather than Ideas Of Authority.

URI AND YOUTH LEADERSHIP/BRAINSTORMING/GROUP SESSION- Matthew Youde, Subhi Dhupar

In this session, had Matthew and Subhi co-facilitated. Before they began, a four member group were formed. Each group was given questions and tasked to discuss and presentation.

Some of the questions:

- 1.What is the role of the youth in an organization.
- 2.What obstacles do young people face in reaching a leadership position.
- 3.What can be done to support the success of youth leaders.

Each group was given 15minutes to discuss and do a presentation.

For question 1:

Some groups identified various institutions with various portfolios and assigned the youth to them.

The university was an example where the participants considered the SRC, which has a portfolio for the President, General Secretary, Women's Commissioner, Financial Secretary which the youth contest for and take up the responsibilities it comes with.

Some took the Church, with the choir, drummers, ushers among others

In answering question 2, some answers included:

- 1.Financial problems
- 2.Inadequate knowledge
- 3.Lack of technical know-how
- 4.Peer pressure, etc....

In answering question 3, some answers included:

- 1.Financial support
- 2.Organising of leadership training sessions & seminars



RECAP AND ICE BREAKERS - Ms Subhi Dhupar

On the second day of the training which came off on the 20th of June 2017 started after an opening blessing (Interfaith prayers) after which Ms Subhi chaired the session.

Before she began, participants had a recap of what was discussed the previous day and whether they had any new ideas to add up. After that, it was time for the Ice Breakers.



Leadership and Communication - Ms Subhi Dhupar

This topic was taken in a form of practical demonstration.

She set up two groups in front and put the participants into those two groups. After which she tasked each group to arrange ourselves according to the months they were born without talking. This sounded quite impossible, but one group

was able to do it in less than a minute with the other group looking confused as to how to go about it.



After the time was up, she then asked how it was possible for one group to be able to do it and the other group not being able to do it. A member from the winning group said they were able to succeed because of teamwork and planning. He explained further by saying that the

group communicated by the use of their fingers which made it easy for them to arrange themselves so fast and accurately.

After Ms Subhi admonished participants to be smart, should learn to work as a team, communication should be key as leaders and always devise a way out of something which seems impossible.

THE LEADERSHIP ENGINE - Dr. Emmanuel And Ivorgba



In this session by Dr. Ivorgba, he focused on leadership and certain things the participants didn't know about leadership.

First of all, he started his lecture by establishing the fact that Leadership is an engine that drives accomplishment. However, the engine depends on fuel which is the knowledge you have to put into an action to achieve a result.

He went ahead to make it clear that Leadership is not Power various responsibilities that are carried out by the person occupying a position. He also noted that leadership is not Authority but is Service. As such, leaders are servants who have been put into positions to work duly to the interest of the people.

Dr Ivorgba, in his submission also made mention of the fact that as a leader one need certain characteristics to make you whole and they included Knowledge, Skills and Talents.

He then delved into how to identify your talent. He stated as follows :



- 1.Dreams should be driven with vision and passion
- 2.Dreams that are not write always disappear
- 3.Dreams provide solutions to problems you have identified in the community
- 4.Great leaders are great dreamers
- 5.Good visualization

6. Successful leaders are mad and crazy (they think out of the box)



7. You must dream local and act global

8. You should be able to take risk

9. Be restless-don't be satisfied with the status quo

10. Be persistently consistent

11. Package yourself properly

12. Do more, talk less

13. Don't be too quick to share dreams.

The above he stated are to be considered in the identification of your dreams and talents from which you'll develop your skills and then attain knowledge per your interest.

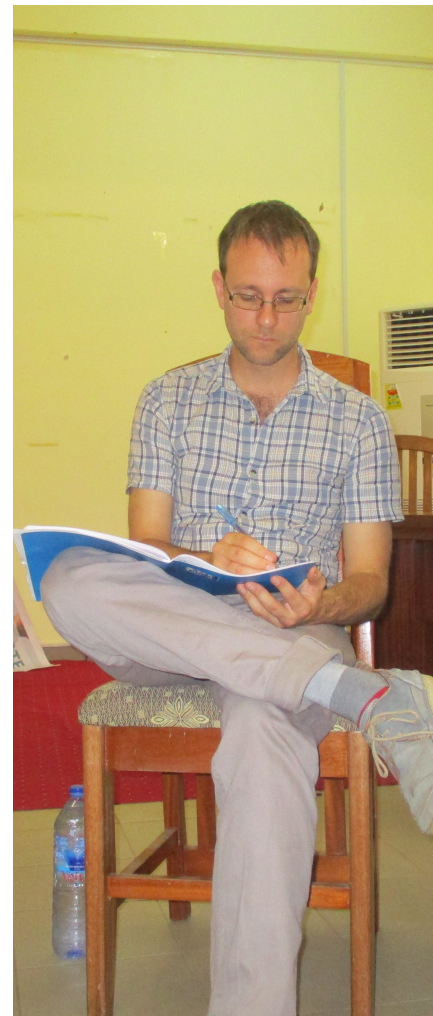
PRACTICAL SESSION/GROUP ROLE PLAY AND PLAN DEVELOPMENT- Matthew Youde

In this session, we were put into a group of two and were given two questions to provide answers to.

The first question :

What will you take from this training. Answers given included

1. Knowledge
2. Skills to inculcate
3. Empowerment
4. Opening of mind to new ideas and how to improve on already existing ones
5. Creation of exposure



The second question: What else can we do together to support each others work?

Answers included :

1. Networking
2. Regular meetings among peers to brainstorm
3. Provision of opportunities for others
4. Technical and financial support
5. Introduction of new ideas and technological innovation



The wrap up was done by you then presentation of certificate.

Observations

It has been observed that the event was very useful to the participants and they wish more for days of such discussion. Economic empowerment for young people in Africa is as lacking as participation in key decision making process and it will be great for URI Youth Leadership Programme to consider Youth in Entrepreneurship.