

Ghana's Information Minister launches ICT capacity development centre

The Minister for Information and National Orientation, Hon. Stephen Asamoah Boateng launched a 45,000 Euros Information and Communication Technology (ICT) capacity Development Centre in Accra.

The Centre will be used to 'provide an opportunity for all government employees regardless of their academic or professional qualifications their socio-economic status or geographical locations in the country'.

Hon Asamoah-Boateng said a time will come sooner than later whereby if one has no ICT knowledge, one can not face any interview panel for job.

'ICT is necessary for accelerated development of every country,' he stressed.

He has observed that the rate at which technology is changing, if Ghanaians do not position themselves well for its benefit they will be overtaken by event and hence the establishment of the centre.

Hon. Asamoah Boateng hopes all employees of Ministries Department and Agencies (MDAs) this will be given the opportunity to train at the centre will approach the course with a sense of urgency and purposeful.

He asked that the facility would be maintain for the benefit of future generations and advised all to visit government official portal which is ghana.gov.gh for their official information about the country.

The training centre is facilitated by the **International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD)** and is expected to train civil and public servants in the use of ICT as a strategic tool for sustainable development and poverty alleviation as well as technical assistance to MDAs.

The Chief Director of the Ministry of National Security Mr. A. A. Among said ICT is crucial for transformation of the country's economy, adding that the establishment of the centre will give an opportunity to the civil servants to effectively enhance their productivity.

In his remark, The Acting Chief Director of Information Service Department (ISD), Mr Samuel Amankwah, said the facility which is the first of its kind in the Department will

boost work of personnel in the service. He entreated civil servants not to relent in upgrading their knowledge in the area of ICT education.

The Country Manager of the International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD), Mr. Olaf Erz indicated that

ICT for development is most evident in the areas of education, health and agricultural sector. He said the centre is expected to train the needed skilled-based workforce which is a critical input to the development of MDAs.

Mr Erz said IICD will assist government ministries with developing an ICT policy and strategy for sectors such as the Ministry of Communication, Health and Food and Agriculture.

He stressed that his organisation has been assisting the Ministry of Information since 2003 and will continue to monitor and evaluate to ensure that programmes at the centre is modified.

Source:

Ghana Resource Centre - www.modernghana.com

International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD) www.iicd.org

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