

## **ICT AND GENDER FORUM**



section of participants at the training

In its bid to help further strengthen ICT and gender, the Ghana Information Network for Knowledge Sharing (GINKS) organised a 2-day workshop for female teachers in Junior High schools. This capacity-building workshop was designed to help the participants acquaint themselves with basic ICT tools and solutions that help them in their activities both in their personal lives and as teachers in school.

Welcoming the participants, the co-ordinator of GINKS Mr. Ibrahim Inusah, said that he had high hopes, that the workshop will add a lot of value to the lives and works of the participants, and foster the more effective application of the ICT in Education policy in Junior High Schools. He mentioned that the reason why the workshop was an all-women one was that GINKS among other objectives he outlined, is also particularly interested in Youth and Women empowerment in ICT, building capacity for women in ICT and stirring up their enthusiasm in the area. He thus opened the workshop with words encouraging them to feel free to express themselves in order to make the workshop worth their while.

The resource persons for the workshop, Mr. Eric Acquaye and Mr. Joseph Kpet, after introducing themselves to the participants and began to take them through the introduction to Computer and some Microsoft applications. He took time to give them the gist in theory, of what a computer is and the various components that make it up. After this, a practical session on the use of computer ensued.

After the use of computer session, the participants were taken through the use and creation of PowerPoint, so that they would be able to create a simple presentation. Every participant had a computer to herself and they were very receptive inspite of the fact that they (over 80%) were green-horns in this area. They also did a hands-on experience on word processing, using Microsoft word. They were also given a small test; a practice they were excited to engage in.

The participants could not hide their enthusiasm and eagerness towards this workshop, and were not shy to say that they were looking forward to receiving the package from day 2 of the workshop.

On the second day of the workshop, the participants were given the opportunity to share their experiences from Day 1, and the challenges (if any) they encountered in the process of their exercise. After this session, the participants all put on their computers by themselves, and they were ushered into the session where they were introduced to the internet, its use and the benefits they could derive from its use as teachers, in research and in their private activities. They were zealous about creating and sending e-mails, and they promised they will do all that is practicable to stay in tune with the information they received in the two day workshop.

They only hoped that they will always have as much access to computers and the internet as they did during the workshop.

At the end of the workshop, Mr. Ibrahim Inusah thanked the participants for coming, and encouraged them not only to continue to develop themselves with the information they received, but to also to impart their colleagues and friends (especially the women) with the same information. While admitting that access to computers and the internet might be a challenge in the country presently, he still encouraged them to try as much as they can to make the sacrifice to practice their use, at least once or twice a week. He told them to feel free to come to the GINKS secretariat sometimes for technical support. He concluded by sharing with them, the infamous maxim that “where there is a will, there is a way.

GINKS is a constitution of a broad range of people drawn from various fields of endeavour but mainly involved in Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) and sustainable Development.

