

GINKS ICT4D SERIES

RURAL ACCESS: OPTIONS AND CHALLENGES FOR CONECTIVITY AND ENERGY IN GHANA – 29/04/09

Welcoming the participants, the moderator Mr. Edward Addo-Dankwa, said that connectivity is a major problem in Ghana when it comes to the implementation of ICT projects. He revealed that a study was thus conducted and the report is what the GINKS ICT4D Series for the first quarter of 2009, is focusing on.

The Chairman (Dr. Robert Awuah-Baffour, Vice President of Ghana Telecom University College) declaring the seminar open, said that connectivity is necessary and it is apt that this discussion is a link between connectivity and energy, because there is no connectivity without energy. The statement that the world is a global village is synonymous with connectivity.

The chairman added, that being connected and the energy to sustain connectivity is the reason for the gathering. Relating this to the objectives of GINKS, he shared his excitement about the outcome of the seminar and opened the meeting for discussion. He concluded by stating his gratitude to be part of the presentation of a report of the above thematic magnitude. He however warned that GINKS must have a game plan that will ensure the sustainability of this report even when financial support has died down.

After the Chairman's opening remarks, the moderator invited Mr. Jonnie Akakpo, the consultant on the study and also the chairman of the Ginks Board to present synopsis of the report. Sharing the history and objectives of the assignment, Jonnie mentioned that his presentation is a synopsis of the assignment which lasted for 6 months (properly document and packaged as a journal).

He noted that much as the historical development of ICT in Ghana is encouraging, the situation in the rural area is not that encouraging, noting that there is a lack of political will in Ghana.

After the question and answer session, which was very interactive and focused directly on issues of connectivity and the energy sector, the chairman officially launched the report and out-doored same. He recommended that it is time for Ghana and Africa (by extension) to begin to hold its leaders accountable, reiterating that implementation of this report is key, and without accountable leadership, this cannot be achieved.

In his vote of thanks, Prof. Alemna (a member of the GINKS Board), thanked the chairman for accepting the assignment on a very short notice; he also thanked Jonnie Akakpo for a careful research and a detailed report. He also thanked all the participants (which included members of the media and stakeholders in ICT and energy) and encouraged advocacy towards implementation of the report.