

Masterplan for the Commercialisation of Research and Innovation Takes Off



The Government of Ghana, through the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, is collaborating with the Korean Government through the Science and Technology Policy Institute (STEPI), a research and development organisation, as part of Korea's K-Innovation ODA Partnership Programme.

The aim of the collaboration is to support Ghana in developing a robust and economically viable Technological Innovation System in the country. The three-year policy collaboration initiative would produce a Master Plan for the establishment and operationalisation of the Ghana Innovation and Research Commercialisation (GIRC) Centre, and build capacity for Ghana to execute the masterplan.

Several activities have taken place over the last twelve months under the collaboration partnership. These activities include a Project Kick-off Workshop, a Capacity Building Workshop and a Dissemination Workshop, all of which drew participants and stakeholders from both Ghana and Korea. A Situational Analysis of Technology Innovation Support Programmes in Ghana was also conducted and the results, together with some recommendations, were shared during the Dissemination Workshop.

The Capacity Building workshop took place on 14th -16th September 2021. During the three-day virtual workshop, both Ghanaian and Korean experts shared their perspectives, knowledge and insights on key Technology Innovation Support Programmes (TISP) in the two countries.

Following the capacity building workshop, a dissemination workshop was held on the 16th of December, 2021, during which nine (9) sector experts from South Korea shared their insights into the current state of Ghana's Science, Technology & Innovation (ST&I) system. Additionally, the experts suggested tailored and sector-oriented Technology Innovation Support Programmes that could transform Ghana's research, innovation and commercialisation landscape, and create pathways for Ghana to become an ST&I and R&D powerhouse.

The workshop targeted stakeholders from the Public & Private sectors, Academia, Government Agencies, Ghana Hubs Network, Development Partners and Research Institutions.

Dr Kwaku Afriyie, the Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, was represented by the Chief Director of MESTI, Mrs Cynthia Asare Bediako. Also present were some dignitaries, including the Ambassador of Israel to Ghana, Sierra Leone and Liberia, Her Excellency Schlomit Sufa and Mr Oliver Boachie (Special Advisor to the Minister, MESTI).

The workshop was led and attended by the project manager of the K-Innovation ODA Partnership Programme, Dr Wangdong Kim, the Vice President of Seoul University, Ms Seohee Yoon, the Project Coordinator and several ST&I experts from the South Korean side.

The workshop was organised by The Heritors People (THP) LLC, digital transformation and innovation consulting firm in collaboration with MESTI.

About the GIRC Centre

The Ghana Innovation and Research Commercialisation Centre (GIRC Centre), is a unit that has been set up by the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), to act as collaborators to drive and grow research and innovation, and to support the transformation of research output and innovations into industrial products and services.

The GIRC Centre will serve as the heart of Research and Innovation in Ghana to pump life into all research institutions, researchers, innovators, academia by linking them to incubator hubs, donor agencies and businesses to commercialise research and innovation outcomes to transform the Ghanaian economy.

About K-Innovation ODA Partnership Program

Through the K-Innovation project, STEPI has provided Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) policy consultation, training programs, and networking projects for 12 countries over the past seven years from 2014 to 2020, starting with Ethiopia in 2014. As a result, these policy consultations in Science and Technology Innovation have contributed significantly to sustainable development by enhancing the STI capabilities of partner countries. Currently, the K-Innovation ODA Partnership Programme is providing Policy consultation and training programmes to four countries: Cambodia, Ghana, Indonesia, and Laos.