

SYND'S NEWSLETTER

2023 - 1ST QUARTER ISSUE



CSOs Engagement Meeting With AfDB & World Bank

Inception Meeting for Young Green Entrepreneurs Program



Media engagement on Banks and Biodiversity No-Go Policy.



STRATEGIC
YOUTH NETWORK
FOR DEVELOPMENT



CHILDREN
FOR CLIMATE
ACTION (C4C)



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MEDIA ENGAGEMENT ON BANKS AND BIODIVERSITY NO-GO POLICY

BIODIVERSITY

In February, the Biodiversity Team of the Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND) recently hosted a Media Engagement on the Banks and Biodiversity No Go Policy campaign. Solomon Yamoah, the host of the meeting, highlighted the adverse effects of major projects financed by banks on local fauna and flora, resulting in biodiversity loss.

Chibeze Ezekiel, the Executive Coordinator of SYND, provided an insightful context for the engagement by defining biodiversity as the wide array of life found in an area. He highlighted international legal instruments such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and regional interventions like Africa Agenda 2063 and Ghana's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

Chibeze stressed that conserving biodiversity is crucial for the survival of humanity, as ecosystems are essential for our well-being. The media was identified as a key stakeholder in achieving the objectives of the Banks and Biodiversity No Go policy by reporting on banks' works and the projects they finance for ecosystem sustainability and biodiversity conservation worldwide.

Gifty Elikplim Abgenyefia, the Biodiversity Focal Point, introduced the Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND) and its key programs,

including the Youth in Natural Resources and Environmental Governance (Youth-NREG) Platform, Children for Climate (#C4C) Action, Young Green Entrepreneurs, and Parent for Future (PFF) Ghana chapter.

Participants were divided into groups and tasked with discussing and reporting on specific questions related to media influence on Ghanaian banks to adopt the policy.

Group Recommendations included intensifying advertising, identifying education campaigns, deliberate reportage on the effect of inaction, continuous news reportage and interviews, advocacy through awareness-raising, ranking compliant institutions, demanding accountability, capacity building for media personnel, and creating platforms for discussions on ecosystems.



CSO'S ENGAGEMENT MEETING WITH AFDB & WORLD BANK

ENERGY



Since its establishment in 2014, the ACCESS Coalition has been at the forefront of a global movement, uniting over 70 civil society organizations (CSOs) dedicated to ensuring access to safe, reliable, and affordable energy for people living in poverty. With a focus on environmentally sustainable and efficient energy systems, the coalition advocates for inclusive multi-stakeholder participation in energy processes and strives to raise awareness of the energy needs of marginalized groups. The coalition operates through three key work streams, each contributing to its mission. Firstly, by integrating energy planning and promoting universal energy access, the ACCESS Coalition works towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7).

Secondly, the coalition actively engages with the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the World Bank, influencing their investments and policies to prioritize energy access while ensuring the participation of CSOs and local communities. Lastly, the coalition places great emphasis on knowledge and capacity building through NGO learning groups, enabling CSOs to enhance their advocacy on SDG7 and engage effectively with the AfDB. During a recent meeting, the executive coordinator of the West Africa node, representing SYND, shared valuable insights on the coalition's engagement with the AfDB and the World Bank. The discussion underscored the significance of CSOs understanding the banks' policies and actively participating in their

processes to influence energy interventions effectively. A principal country programs coordinator from AfDB provided an overview of the bank's climate change and energy interventions, including key initiatives such as the Country Strategic Paper and the Climate Change & Green Growth Framework. The meeting highlighted the urgent need for capacity building among CSOs to effectively monitor and evaluate AfDB-funded projects. In response, recommendations were made to mobilize funds, increase membership in the West Africa node, engage in policy consultations, and collaborate with district assemblies to integrate climate change into development plans.

The collective efforts of the ACCESS Coalition and its members will pave the way for impactful change in the energy sector. By equipping CSOs with the knowledge, skills, and networks needed to engage with the AfDB and the World Bank, the coalition empowers them to advocate for energy access and sustainable development more effectively. The ACCESS Coalition continues to drive the agenda for energy access, working towards a future where no one is left behind. As we move forward, the coalition invites all CSOs, donors, and policymakers to join hands in this crucial mission. Together, we can create a world where safe, reliable, and affordable energy is accessible to all, paving the way for sustainable development and a brighter future.





INCEPTION MEETING FOR YOUNG GREEN ENTREPRENEURS PROGRAM



In February, the Inception meeting for Young Green Entrepreneurs (YGE) Programme, held by the Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND), aims to identify and empower young entrepreneurs in Ghana who are actively working on green and clean energy solutions, renewable energy, and recycling.

Chibeze Ezekiel, the executive coordinator of SYND, presented an overview of the organization's efforts to promote youth inclusion in the Natural Resources and Environmental sector. Priscilla Adogo Ahiada, the Energy Lead at SYND, unveiled the comprehensive work plan for the program, which includes capacity-building activities, community outreach programs, impactful social media campaigns, and a national forum.

Attendees posed insightful questions about the program's benefits for startups, its mode of implementation, and the support available for developing fiduciary standards. SYND will continue to work tirelessly to empower and elevate the young green entrepreneurs of Ghana.

CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR DEPARTMENTAL HEADS OF THE ASANTE AKIM NORTH MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY IN THE ASHANTI REGION



In March, the Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND) and the Asante Akim North Municipal Assembly (AANMA) collaborated to organize an impactful workshop in Ghana's Ashanti Region to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The workshop focused on raising awareness, educating participants, and implementing strategies to conserve energy and promote environmental sustainability. Barriers to achieving energy efficiency included poverty, importation of second-hand items, limited technological knowledge, and corrupt practices. The Asante Akim North Municipality and AANMA collaborated to create a greener and more sustainable Asante Akim North Municipality.

Participants proposed practical solutions such as government subsidies for energy-efficient appliances and public education campaigns. They also recommended specific actions to promote energy-saving practices, such as posting energy-saving tips, organizing sensitization workshops, and appointing energy efficiency officers or ambassadors.

The workshop also featured demonstrations of energy-saving technologies, such as the GH-certified appliances app and Adwuma Ye foundation cooking bags. This workshop empowered 35 participants.

SYND FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM

FORESTRY



SYND Ghana has initiated a forest restoration project in Agogo to revive 200 hectares of degraded forest at Nsonyameye. This project is led by Prince Yaw Yeboah Okyere.

The first phase of the project encompasses 5 hectares of land. The primary objective of the project is to restore the land to its original ecological state using a forest restoration model that employs native species. Given the history of frequent bushfires in the area, the organization plans to plant trees that can withstand seasonal fires, ensuring sustainability.

Carefully selected tree species such as *Khaya Senegalensis* (Mahogany), *Terminalia superba* (Ofram), *Acacia*, *Ceiba Pentandra*, *Gmelia arborea*, and *Tetrapleura tetraptera* have been chosen for their economic significance and adaptability to the site.

We are excited about this project and the potential impact it will have on the environment and the community. By restoring the forest, we can improve the ecosystem and provide economic benefits for the people.

The project is expected to yield substantial environmental, social, and economic advantages, including soil conservation, carbon sequestration, and the provision of wildlife habitats. Moreover, it will create employment opportunities and contribute to the livelihoods of the community members.

SYND Ghana recognizes the project's importance in safeguarding the environment and preserving the region's biodiversity.

Through initiatives like this forest restoration project, we take a significant stride towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 13 on climate action and SDG 15 on life on land. With persistent efforts from organizations such as SYND Ghana, we can forge a path towards a more sustainable future for ourselves and the generations to come.





We are excited to share with you a report on the recently concluded Rise World Summit, which took place at the Wisdom Ways Academy in Accra on 1st February, 2023. The summit was organized by the Strategic Youth Network for Development as part of the Children for Climate Action Initiative, as a side event under the 2023 Rise World Summit.

The event was a unique opportunity for school children between the ages of 12-15 years to learn about the various global challenges, particularly with regards to the environment, and how they can make a difference by contributing to finding solutions in their own small ways. The summit brought together young minds from Junior High School 1, 2 and 3 to engage in interactive group discussions focused on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

The sessions were designed to be interactive, engaging and thought-provoking, encouraging the children to think critically about the world around them. Deepali Bhagatwe, Impact Lead for Projects at Idobro Impact Solutions, shared how children are contributing to achieving the SDGs in India and how activities of some companies are negatively affecting a portion of India's biodiversity. The pupils of Wisdom Ways Academy shared with her insights on how they take their own individual action towards achieving a clean and livable environment

There were break-out sessions where children were grouped together to brainstorm ways to achieve the targets of SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 7 – Energy Access, SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG 13 – Climate Action and SDG 15 – Life on Land in their homes, schools, and community as climate champions. Afterward, they had the opportunity to choose amongst themselves group leaders to report back to their colleagues.

The event was a fantastic success and a testament to the commitment of young people to make a difference in the world. It is essential that we continue to educate and empower our children to be responsible global citizens who are passionate about protecting the environment and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.



ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

with Nsonyameye Basic
School Kids

C4C ENGAGEMENT

with Agogo APWCE Demonstration B
Basic School Pupils



The Children for Climate Action (C4C) team paid a visit to Agogo Presbyterian School on March 8th, 2023. The objective was to engage students from Junior High School 1 to 3 in a discussion about climate change, its causes, impacts, and effective strategies to mitigate its effects while ensuring environmental sustainability.

The day began with an interactive session led by Sarfoh Danquah, the C4C team lead. The students were first taught a powerful chant, fostering a sense of unity and purpose. Energized and eager, the children then actively participated in a conversation to assess their existing awareness of climate change. The level of engagement and enthusiasm displayed by the students was truly heartening, reflecting their genuine desire to deepen their understanding and take action to protect the environment.

To further enhance awareness, the students were provided with educational materials. These resources will serve as valuable tools to broaden their knowledge and inspire them to become advocates for environmental sustainability.



On March 10th, 2023, the C4C Team ignited environmental awareness among the young students of Nsonyameye Basic School in Asante Akim Municipality. The event aimed to deepen the students' understanding of the environment, its significance, and their role in safeguarding it.

The team encouraged the students to share their perceptions and personal connections to the environment. A palpable sense of excitement filled the air as the children enthusiastically expressed their thoughts, visions, and aspirations for a better world. It became evident that the environment held a special place in their hearts, and they recognized the urgent need to protect it for future generations.

To further support their environmental education, the C4C team distributed educational materials on Climate Change Basics, Re-champ, and Children for Climate Action resources. These valuable tools will serve as guides, empowering both the students and their dedicated teachers to delve deeper into the intricacies of the environment and climate change.

Each member of the C4C team took turns addressing the attentive students delivering heartfelt messages of encouragement. The students were urged to remain dedicated to their studies and embrace a brighter future.



The Youth-NREG Platform recently showcased the power of activism through a Virtual Arts Exhibition of some artworks of Lord Kwabena Hanson, held on their social media handles, Twitter and Facebook. Each day, the platform released a series of thought-provoking digital artworks, beautifully interpreting pressing environmental issues. The response to the exhibition was remarkable, with over 1,100 views on social media and even attracted potential buyers.

The Youth-NREG Platform is now planning a physical exhibition to showcase these remarkable digital paintings in all their beauty and significance. The Virtual Arts Exhibition exemplified the transformative power of art in addressing environmental concerns and inspiring positive action, and the physical exhibition will further amplify the impact of these artworks, solidifying their role in raising awareness and inspiring a greener future.

YOUTH DIALOGUE ON THE OPPORTUNITIES IN THE NRE SECTOR AND THE LAUNCH OF NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE ON NRE SECTOR

The Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND) recently hosted an impactful dialogue aimed at inspiring students to explore career opportunities in the Natural Resources and Environmental (NRE) sector. Led by Solomon Yamoah, the dialogue challenged students to think beyond traditional white-collar jobs and embrace the wide range of formal and informal roles available in the sector.

Attendees were encouraged to mark their calendars for the upcoming National Youth Conference on Natural Resources and Environmental Governance, scheduled for April. The dialogue also featured a thought-provoking panel discussion, led by thematic team leads in Forestry, Climate Change, and Energy. The dialogue served as a catalyst for students to explore non-traditional career paths and embrace their roles as stewards of the environment, propelling them to actively engage in environmental preservation for the benefit of future generations. We used the opportunity to launch our National Youth Conference on Natural Resources and Environmental Governance.

