

Support country's industrialisation agenda

...Deputy Trade Minister urges CCIFG members

BY KINGSLEY ASARE

THE Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Nana Ama Dokua Asiamah-Adjei has appealed to the member companies of Chamber

of Commerce and Industry France Ghana (CCIFG) to support the country's industrialisation agenda.

She said the objective of government was to industrialise the country through modernised agriculture.

Ms Asiamah-Adjei made the appeal in Accra last Friday during

a dinner dance organised for members of the CCIFG.

Fourth in the series, the programme was graced by the First Lady, Samira Bawumia; Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Nana Ama Dokua Asiamah Adjei; Yofi Grant, Chief Executive Officer of Ghana Investment

Promotion Centre; Irchad Razaaly, European Union Ambassador to Ghana; Anne-Sophie Avé, French Ambassador to Ghana.

It was held under the auspices of Societe Generale Ghana PIC as the Platinum Sponsor, Orsam Oil and Gas Limited, CFAO Ghana Limited, SONAPACK, TotalEnergies, DECATHLON Ghana, Silver Star Auto Limited, DDP Outdoor Limited as gold sponsors and TechnipFMC, Bureau Veritas, PernodRicard, Airfrance KLM, CANAL Plus, as silver sponsors.

The Deputy Minister said there were so many opportunities in agriculture and government would rely on the sector to export value added products to attract a lot of foreign exchange.

To this end, she entreated the private sector, especially companies from France to invest in agriculture to modernise the sector.

She commended the CCIFG for the role it was playing to strengthen business relationship between Ghana and France and also to attract business to and from both countries.

The First Lady, Samira Bawumia

said the two countries had enjoyed cordial trade and bilateral relationship for the past 65 years.

She stressed the need to further promote trade between the two countries to increase the current 500 million euro value of trade between Ghana and France.

The France Ambassador to Ghana, Ms Ave commended the CCIFG for the programme.

The Managing Director of the CCIFG, Armelle Sae-Jeanne said the programme was to honour members for their contributions to the development of the Ghanaian economy and efforts to foster business relations between investors in France and businesses in the country. She said for the past four years, CCIFG had been holding the awards dinner to reward members of the Chamber.

Established in Ghana in May 2014, she said CCIFG is a member of the CCI France International network of 126 French Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CCI FI) in 93 countries.

CCIFG is the biggest European bilateral Chamber in Ghana with more than 140 member companies in the areas of oil and gas, mining, banking, telecommunication, auto industry and services.

"CCIFG supports the business development of French and Ghanaian companies by facilitating trade and financial exchanges between France and Ghana," she said.



• Officials of Auto Parts being commended

KIC signs agreement with five universities to develop youth entrepreneurs

KOSMOS Innovation Centre (KIC) has signed an agreement with five universities to expand its programme across five regions in Ghana.

The five universities; University of Ghana, University for Development Studies, SD Dombo University of Business and Integrated Development Studies, University of Cape Coast and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology will be working with KIC to implement the AgriTech Challenge (made up of Classic and Pro) and incubation modules of KIC's programme portfolios.

The universities will support implementation of the modules in the following regions: Greater Accra, Northern, Upper West, Central and Ashanti.

The collaboration with the universities is made possible with the funding support of the Mastercard Foundation under the Young Africa Works initiative which seeks to target three million young people, particularly women, to secure employment that they see as dignified and fulfilling by 2030.

The four-year collaboration programme similarly aligns with KIC vision of developing the next generation of youth in agricultural

entrepreneurship and would be expanded to include other tertiary institutions across Ghana.

The KIC and the universities strategic partnership will allow both organisations to share strength, experiences, methodologies, and resources to create deeper impact in generating youth interest and changing mindset of the youth about agriculture.

The collaboration will also help create job opportunities, empower the vulnerable and create a resilient

agricultural sector in the long term for Ghana.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Mr Benjamin Gyan-Kesse, Executive Director of KIC, said it had been KIC's plan to reach out to more young entrepreneurs to participate in the programme.

"Our collaboration with the universities allows us to reach more young people to increase our impact agenda of building more entrepreneurs for the agricultural sector. By introducing young

people to the agriculture value chain and the career opportunities available, young people will have more exposure to the industry and discover the interest to pursue a career in agriculture," he said.

For the universities, this collaboration is timely, as it propels them to imbibe the spirit of entrepreneurship in young people in the wake of high unemployment and food security challenges.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University for Development Studies

(UDS), Professor Gabriel Ayum-Teye, said, "it has always been the vision of UDS to get students to take entrepreneurial programmes seriously, as that could be a game changer in their lives and career journey. Because we believe in entrepreneurship, we have initiated entrepreneurship programmes on campus in addition to the business incubator operations.

He further stated that, the "collaboration with KIC is good news, it expands the opportunity for young people across the country."

Prof. Felix Ankomah Asante, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Research, Innovation and Development, who signed the agreement on behalf of University of Ghana, in brief remarks, expressed excitement about the partnership that had been formed.

He was delighted about the innovative opportunities the partnership would bring. "We will take opportunity from Kosmos Innovation Centre to use it as a springboard for our various innovation hubs on campus," Prof. Asante noted.

All the universities have entrepreneurial and innovative programmes that tie into the KIC programme and values. This provides confidence for the success and sustainability of the programme.



• Programme Manager of Blue Skies Foundation, Alistair Djimathey (left) exchanging the agreement with Benjamin Gyan-Kesse (right)