

**REPORT ON SIGNING OF MOU BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA AND NATIONAL INFORMATION SOCIETY AGENCY (NIA), KOREA FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF GHANA-KOREA INFORMATION ACCESS CENTER**

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**Introduction**

The University of Ghana and the National Information Society Agency of the Republic of South Korea (NIA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at the University of Ghana to renovate the Ghana-Korea Information Access Centre. This will involve the upgrading of the IT Equipment and interior decoration. It will further sustain the co-operation between the two institutions for the next four years.



Present at the signing ceremony were from left Mr. Hang Jin Cho (*Forum Architecture, Korea*), Mr. Solomon Dartey (*Deputy CITO, UGCS*), Mr. Barfi-Adomako Owusu (*IAC Manager & Head, Academic Computing Unit*), Mr. KangYun-Hee (*Principal Manager, NIA*), Prof. Aryeetey (*Vice-Chancellor*), Prof. Ellis Badu (*University Librarian*), Mr. S. Y Amebley (*Administrator, Balme Library*), Mr. Kingsley Ofosu-Ampong (*IAC Administrator*) and Mr. Francis Boachie (*Deputy CITO, UGCS*).



## **Background**

The Ghana-Korea Information Access Centre (IAC) was set up by the Republic of Korea for the University of Ghana under the auspices of the Korean Official Development Centre (KODC) to promote co-operation in the area of ICT between the Republic of Ghana and the Republic of South Korea. The IAC is an ultra-modern facility domiciled in the Balme Library. The Centre was jointly inaugurated by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana, Research, Innovation and Development, Prof. John Gyapong, who deputized for the Vice-Chancellor, the Korean Ambassador to Ghana, His Excellency Kyun Jaemin, and the Deputy Minister of Communications, Hon. Ernest Attuquaye Armah, at a ceremony at Legon in April 2012.

The Centre has an IT training lab, seminar rooms, Internet lounge and an administrative office, all equipped with computers, scanners, printers, projectors A/V equipment to promote IT education and Internet access.



As a follow-up practice, the NIA sent a two-member team, comprising Mr. YH Kang and Mr. A.J. Cho, to assess the current state of the IAC and then upgrade the software and equipment. The team would also consider the possibility of renovating the IAC in terms of interior design. The final purpose of the visit was to sign a new MOU to guide the co-operation between NIA and University of Ghana.

### **Next Steps**

At a meeting with the NIA team the previous day, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ghana, Professor Ernest Aryeetey expressed his pleasure at the contribution of the IAC to teaching and learning of ICT in the University of Ghana. The Vice Chancellor assured NIA of the total support and co-operation of the University of Ghana. He also observed that the University would like to know the kind of support and for how long the teaching of the Korea language will be supported. The University was also looking forward to receiving and working with Volunteers for the NIA. The team also negotiated the opening of *Sejonghagdang* in the IAC to offer Korea language and information about Korea culture. A courtesy call was paid to Nana Aba Appiah Amfo, Dean of School of Languages, to further discuss the Korean language programme. In attendance was Dr. Josephine Dzahene-Quarshie, the Head of Modern Languages Department.



The team later called on the University Librarian in the Balme Library to further discuss the project and its implementation. As part of the developments on the co-operation between NIA of the Republic of South Korea and University of Ghana, the latter is being considered for additional resources dubbed the Foreign Window of Korea (WOK) for 2015/2016 through which the Korea language would be introduced to Ghana. The team inspected the IAC and interacted with staff working in the facility.

