

**THE ESTABLISHMENT AND INAUGURATION OF
INFORMATION ACCESS CENTER (IAC) IN THE
UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

Prepared by:

Emmanuel Owusu-Oware (ICT Directorate)

Barfi-Adomako Owusu (ESU, Balme Library)

Mrs. Gladys Kwadzo (Balme Library)

Public Affairs Directorate, UG

April 2012

Table of Contents

Introduction	2
Phase I - Construction and Interior Decoration	4
Phase II –Installation of Computers & Accessories	4
The University’s contribution (counterpart funding).....	5
Inauguration of the Facility	7
Appendix – A	12

The Establishment and Inauguration of Information Access Center (IAC) in University of Ghana

a) Introduction

In early 2011, the Republic of Korea made an offer to the University of Ghana to establish an Information Access Center (IAC) under the auspices of Korean Official Development Centre (ODA). The facility is made up of Internet Lounge, Computer Laboratory, Seminar Room and an Administrative Office that will be equipped with computers, LCD projector, printers, video conference equipment and CCTV among others.

For the University of Ghana to access this assistance, it was required that:

- The University provides space with stable power supply, telephone and internet connectivity, security for the IAC equipment and 4 Mbps internet bandwidth through the existing internet infrastructure, and
- The University should also have the capacity to operate and take full responsibility of the Centre and its equipment when it is established.

After preliminary consultations and search, a space in the Balme Library was identified for the project. The Director of the ICT Directorate therefore sent a memorandum dated 7th April, 2010 to the Vice-Chancellor after consultation with the University Librarian and the Library ICT unit on the offer from the Koreans.

As a follow up on the memorandum, a team from the University of Ghana comprising the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ernest Aryeetey and Mr. Emmanuel Owusu-Oware held a meeting on the April 14, 2011 with Messrs Je En Kim and Godfred Hadjah from the Embassy of the Republic of Korea. Subsequently, a proposal was submitted by the University of Ghana to the Korean Government expressing interest in the establishment of the Centre. The proposal basically spelt out the availability of space for the project, and the university's plan and capacity to operate the facility.

The proposal was accepted and a team of five (5) from the National Information Society Agency (NIA), Korea, visited University of Ghana from 30th August to 3rd September 2011 to carry out feasibility study on the project and inspected the facilities. A meeting was held

during the period between the NIA team and the University to discuss into details concrete plans about the project. Present at the meeting were the Vice-Chancellor, the University Librarian, Director of ICT and the Head of Balme Library ICT Unit.

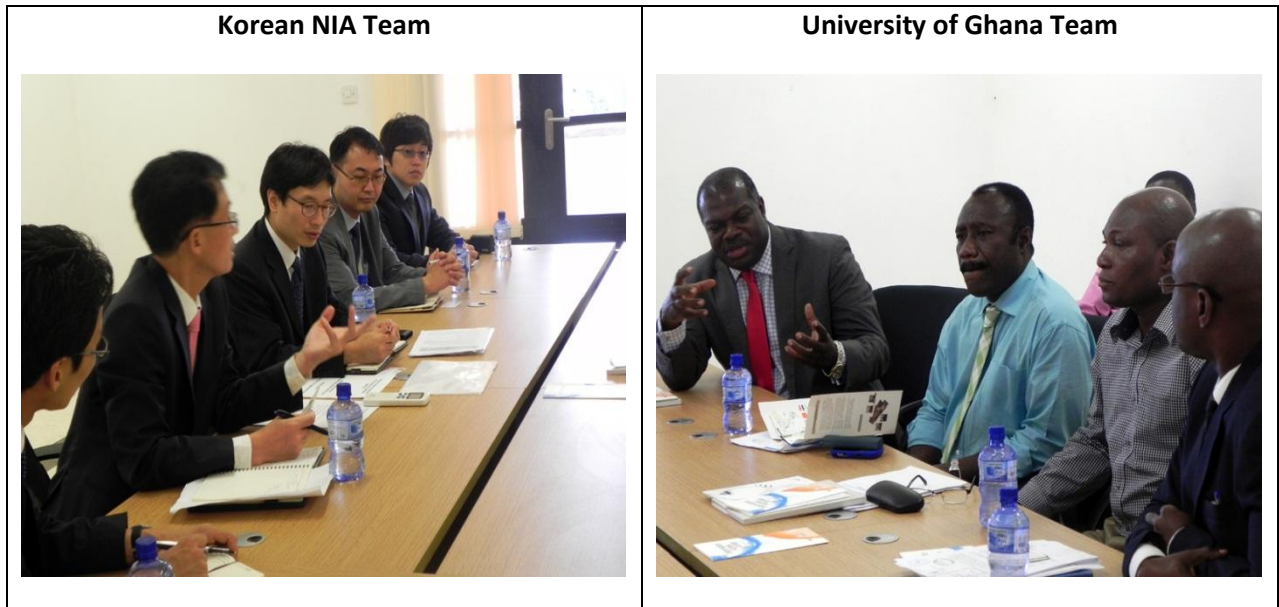


Figure 1- The Vice-Chancellor stressing a point at a meeting with the Korean Team

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed on September 2, 2011 for the establishment of the centre by the Vice-Chancellor and the Korean counterpart.

As a preparation for the implementation of the project, three (3) staff from University of Ghana (Emmanuel Owusu-Oware, Barfi-Adomako Owusu and Gladys Kwadzo) were invited to Korea to undergo IT training from November 6 – 16, 2011. They were joined by nine participants from Nepal, Panama and Ukraine who had similar Centers to be established this year (2012). The program was organised by the National Information Agency (NIA) with the objective of equipping operators of Information Access Centers (IACs) to manage and operate these centers in their respective countries in line with the ideals of the Korean experience. These centers are supposed to be opened to the public where the community can access the Internet and also train people to become IT literates in order to bridge the digital gap between the rich and the poor, between the rural and the urban societies



Figure 2- Participants of IAC 2011 Training in Seoul

Below is the progress report on construction (Phase I) of the Ghana-Korea Information Access center..

b) Phase I - Construction and Interior Decoration

A technical team of four (4) from Korea came to the University of Ghana on December 14, 2011 to start work on partitioning, paneling and flooring of the rooms allocated for the project. They also mounted white boards and some internal decorations with pictures and paintings on the walls.. Two sign posters/banners have been put up to publicize and inform the university community about the facility. One is placed inside the Balme library, at the entrance to the facility and the other one outside the library, facing the ICT Directorate. Korea's supporting and collaboration role is prominently indicated on the posters. The technical team from Korea completed the work on January 5, 2012 and had since returned home.

c) Phase II –Installation of Computers & Accessories

The equipment to be installed were expected to arrive in Ghana by diplomatic cargo on 30th December 2011. Another technical team from Korea will arrive on January 17, 2012 to start the installation of equipment. These would include 57 computers, three laptop computers, wireless access points, servers, projectors and video conferencing equipment.

d) The University's contribution (counterpart funding)

The University's contribution to the project (counterpart funding) is as follows:

	Funding	Description	Cost (GH)	Status
1	Relocation of Air conditioners	Relocation and servicing of air conditioners	561.20	completed
2	Air conditioners	Five additional air conditioners are required for four seminar room and staff room	7,117.35	supplied
3	Internet connection	Provision of 4Mbps internet access to the Centre		available
4	Power supply	Provision of 30Kw power supply to the Centre		available
5	Power cables	Supply of power cable to connect the main switch on the floor to IAC server room	550	completed
6	IP cameras (CCTV)	Eight (8) IP cameras would be required to provide security to the facility	13,400	outstanding
7	Painting	Painting of Exterior walls of the facility	1,500	completed
8	Staff	It is the responsibility of the University to provide staff to manage the facility as stated in the project proposal		provided
9	Clearing and Customs Levies	Payment for clearing of construction materials and accessories	2,758.21	completed
10	Publicity and Training	To publicize the facility and offer training to stakeholders in the University	3,000	On-going

e) Inauguration of the Facility

An ultra-modern internet lounge, seminar rooms with video-conferencing facilities, computer training laboratories and administrative offices has been inaugurated at the University of Ghana. The Centre, known as the Ghana-Korea Information Access Centre is expected to help raise Information Technology literacy and awareness in Ghana as well as promote cooperation in the field of Information Technology between Ghana and Korea. 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 his remarks, Prof. Gyapong described the Centre as an excellent facility and said the University was willing to enter into more collaborative relationship with other organizations and countries, noting that there were prospects of having more of such facilities in the University. He thanked the Government and people of Korea for their kind gesture, hoping that the facility would achieve the laudable goals of expanding the horizons of knowledge acquisition in the University and knowledge and understanding of the Korean peoples, essentially cultural collaboration between the two countries. He hoped Koreans would in turn come to better know

Ghanaians. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor noted that the University would soon come out with modalities to ensure unfettered access to the Centre for the public, including the Senior High Schools.

In his remarks, the Korean Ambassador to Ghana, His Excellency Kyun Jaemin noted that Korea was one of the most advanced countries in the world in the area of ICT penetration and noted the important contribution ICT continues to play in his country's economy. He said globally, Korea was the 15th largest in the world. He hoped that in the present "age of computing", the Centre would offer meaningful facilities of instruction for the University as well as the public. The Ambassador expressed appreciation to all who assisted in the establishment of the Centre and hoped that it would lead to closer friendship between the two countries.



Figure 3 Korean Ambassador to Ghana, His Excellency Kyun Jaemin at the Inauguration Ceremony

In his address, Hon. Attuquaye Armah, who stood in for the Minister of Communications, Hon. Haruna Iddrisu, said that the establishment of the Centre was important for the strengthening of bilateral relations between Ghana and Korea. He hoped that the Centre would be properly maintained in order to derive the maximum benefit and achieve the expected results. He also called on the University of Ghana to ensure that the project becomes a model capable of being

replicated on other campuses in the country. He expressed similar sentiments to the Government and People of Korea, saying that government was appreciative of the support.



Figure 4- Hon. Attquaye Armah delivering the Keynote Address



Figure 5 - Mr. Kin Kyung-Sup making remarks at the Inauguration

Earlier, the President of the National Computing and Information Agency of Korea, Mr. Kim Kyung-Sup, who was the Special Guest of Honour, hoped that the opening of the Centre would facilitate the development of the information technology sector in both countries. He said Korea started establishing information access centres worldwide from 2002. He was confident that the strides made by Korea in the area of ICT would be shared with other countries in the world. On behalf of his Government he expressed appreciation to all who supported the Project, including the Ministry of Communications and Management of the University.

The University Librarian, Prof. Ellis Badu, in brief remarks said the University of Ghana Library System in its quest to equalize the digital and information divide of users, has entered into cooperative programmes with its partners, adding that the Government of South Korea was the UGCS' latest partner. He paid glowing tribute to the Korean government for assisting the University to achieve one of its foremost objectives.



Figure 6- University Librarian, Prof. Ellis Badu at the inauguration ceremony

Mr. Emmanuel Owusu-Oware of the University of Ghana Computing Systems, spoke about the Operating Plan of the Centre, after which the Head of the Technical Team of the Project, Mr.

Barfi Owusu-Adomako led officials and other invited guests for a guided tour of the Centre. The President of the NCIA of Korea later presented gifts to the Deputy Minister, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor representing the Vice-Chancellor, and the University Librarian.



Figure 7 - Mr. Emmanuel Owusu-Oware at the inauguration ceremony



Figure 8 - IT Training Lab



Figure 9 - Officials browsing the Internet at the Internet Lounge

Appendix – A

Pictures showing the facility before and after construction



Figure 10 - Space provided in the Balme Library before construction works

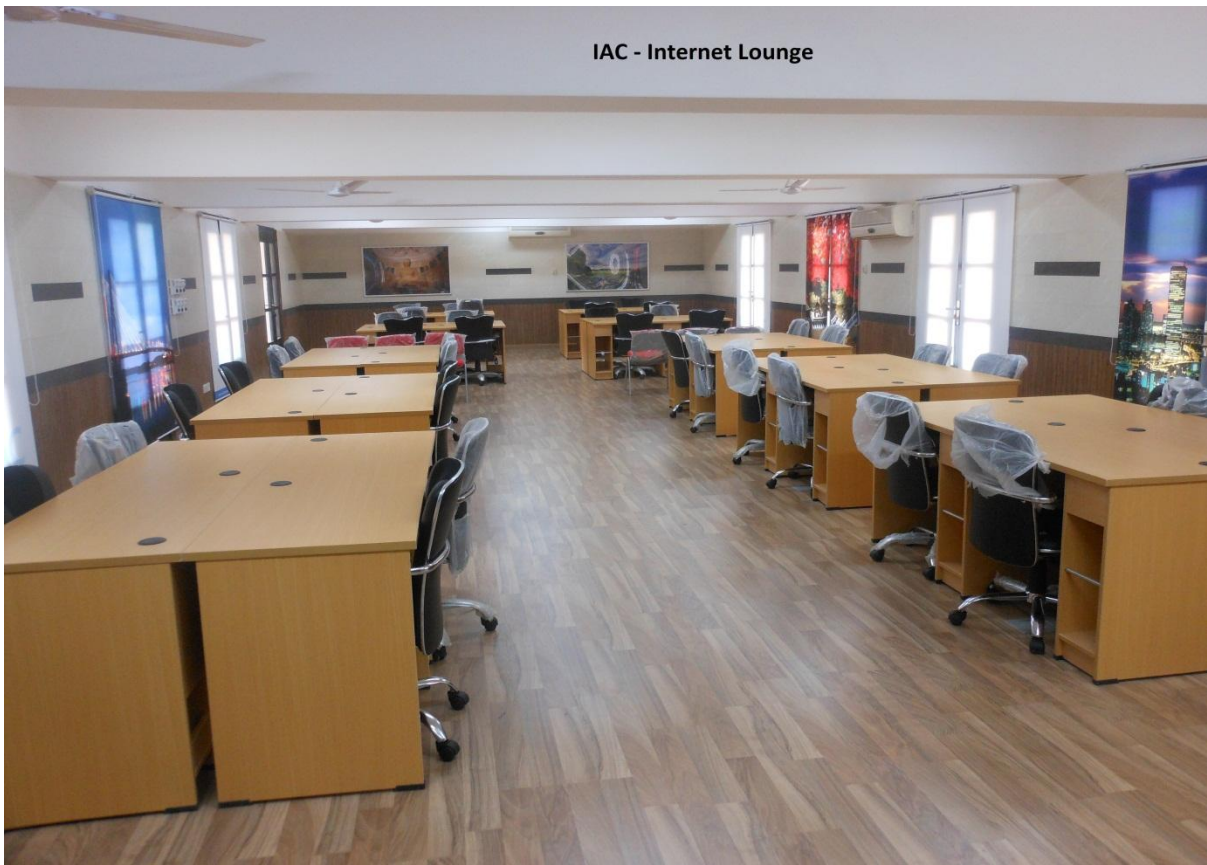


Figure 11 - IAC Conference Room & Internet Lounge



Figure 12 - IAC IT Training Lab. & Reception