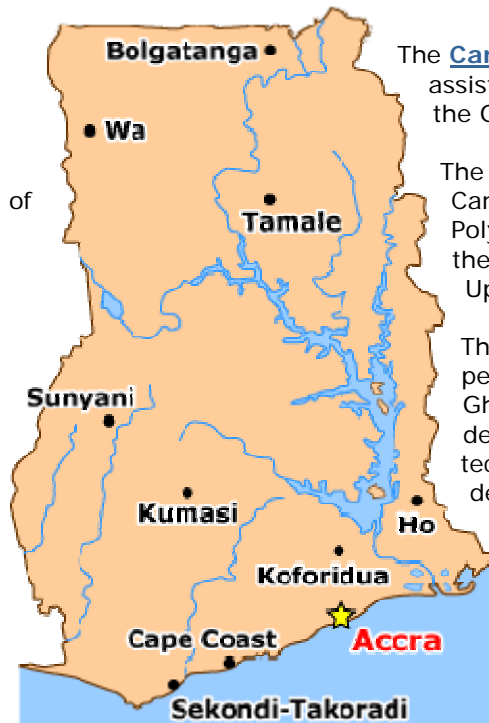


## Ghana Establishing the Wa Polytechnic



The [Canadian International Development Agency](#) is assisting the Wa Polytechnic through funding provided to the Ghana Establishing the Wa Polytechnic Project.

The five year project, administered through the Association Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC), will assist the Wa Polytechnic improve training accessibility and relevance to the income generating needs of the rural poor in the Upper West Region of Ghana.

The goal of the project is to reduce poverty among rural people in Ghana's Upper West Region by supporting the Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy with the sustainable delivery of formal and non-formal skills training and technology transfer programs relevant to the demonstrated needs of local communities.

### Project Description

The Wa Polytechnic was officially established in legislation by the Government of Ghana (GoG) in 1999. Programming and construction of the school site began in 2003. Its prime mandate is to support rural development and poverty reduction in one of the most deprived regions of Ghana. It is authorized to provide tertiary education through programming in agriculture, manufacturing, commerce and applied social sciences.

The Establishing the Wa Polytechnic assists the Polytechnic in its effort to distinguish itself from other polytechnics in Ghana. In order to ensure its relevance to the surrounding community, the Wa Polytechnic has placed emphasis on demand-driven informal and outreach training.

The project will assist the Wa Polytechnic improve training accessibility and relevance to the income generating needs of the rural poor in UWR through:

1. sustained management co-operation with related institutions and stakeholders
2. increased program relevance to community needs
3. improved teaching/learning resources
4. increased capacity to deliver and monitor the results of non-formal community-driven training

### Duration

- April 1, 2004 to March 31, 2010

### Project Budget

CIDA Contribution	CDN \$ 399,978
Local Partner Contribution	CDN \$ 175,895
Wa Polytechnic Contribution	CDN \$ 550,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>CDN \$1,126,273</b>

## Project Partners

### Canadian Executing Agency/Partner

#### Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC)

The [Association of Canadian Community Colleges](#) (ACCC) is the national, voluntary membership organization created in 1972 to represent colleges and institutes to government, business and industry in Canada and internationally.

The ACCC manages the Canadian College Partnership Program (CCPP) which provides project funding to Level 1 and Level 2 projects for implementation by Canadian colleges through a competitive and responsive process. The Ghana Establishing Wa Polytechnic Project is a Level 2 CCPP project designed and implemented by SIAST as the lead institution.

### Recipient Country/Partner

#### Wa Polytechnic

The Wa Polytechnic was established in 1999 and remains in rented accommodations awaiting the completion of new buildings.

In December 2006, the new classroom block was completed and ready for occupancy. The administration block will be ready early in the New Year along with the various workshops (agricultural engineering, mechanical, automotive and civil engineering). Eight staff houses have already been built and are now occupied. The new library is also under construction with occupancy scheduled in 2006.

Work on the project is now at a standstill. The new building site is impressive and the plans for additional student dormitories and a technology park are only two of the ambitious undertakings.

The Wa Polytechnic offers three programs at the present time - Agricultural Engineering, Accountancy and Secretaryship and Management. In September 2006, the polytechnic was accredited to run two new courses, Building Technology and Civil Engineering.

It currently has about 550 students plus others part time. There are now 32 faculty members. The Polytechnic is managed by the principal and a Board of Trustees. When the buildings are completed, recruitment efforts will be increased. Other courses are planned as soon as the buildings are available.

### Canadian Partners

#### Wayne Dunn & Associates Ltd.

[Wayne Dunn & Associates Ltd.](#) is an international management consulting and communications firm that was launched in 1987. They have field offices in Ghana. The firm and its associates have worked with a wide range of public and private sector clients in nearly all provinces and territories in Canada, and in over 25 other countries.

Their areas of specialization include corporate sustainability and community relations, privatization and public sector reform, social and community relations audits and assessments, indigenous business and enterprise development, policy development, strategic planning and

human resource management, conflict management, diversity and inter-cultural communications.

## **Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST)**

SIAST, the lead project institution, is a nationally recognized, pre-eminent provider of skills and technical training. More than 12,000 students are enrolled in SIAST programs and it draws approximately 29,000 additional individual registrations. Through four urban campuses (located throughout the province of Saskatchewan) and its Virtual Campus, SIAST offers programs in agriculture, applied/visual media, aviation, basic education, business, community/human services, engineering technology, health services/sciences, hospitality/food services, industrial/trades, natural resources, nursing, recreation/tourism and technology.

SIAST has a strong Business Development and International Partnership department that undertakes international activities (including project implementation, consulting services and international student recruitment).

## **About Ghana**

Located off the Gulf of Guinea in West Africa, the Republic of Ghana faces very significant poverty reduction challenges, as demonstrated by 40 percent of its population living on less than one dollar per day. Although the Government of Ghana has demonstrated recent and sustained resolve to improve political, economic and social conditions despite significant and ongoing sub-regional disruptions, Ghana is ranked 136<sup>th</sup> of 177 countries on the United Nations Development Index 2006 rankings.

Bordering Burkina Faso in the extreme north of Ghana, the Upper West Region is one of the worst affected of the country's 10 regions. Over 70 percent of the region's population lives in poverty. This figure is almost double the national average and approximately 15 times higher than the rate in the capital, Accra.

Over 75 percent of the region's inhabitants are engaged in small scale agriculture. Most worrisome is that prices for agricultural commodities traditional to the upper West Region, such as tubers and shea nuts, are decreasing with market deregulation. Compounding this situation is the swelling use of environmentally unsustainable practices that is rapidly diminishing yields. As a result, a lack of basic food security is a growing concern for the vast majority of households in the Upper West Region.

### **Facts**

- Dagaare, belonging to the Moore-Dagbani language family, and Sissalii, of the Grusi family of languages, are the two prominent dialects spoken in the Upper West Region.
- While English is the language of business and education, there are more than 60 different languages and dialects spoken in Ghana.
- The Upper West Region hosts approximately 575,000 of the country's 23 million people, with 225,000 living in Wa
- Literacy levels in the area are approximately 27% of the population over the age of 15.
- 72% of the population engage in agriculture and related work.

## **Pump Caretaker Project**



Trainers and Pump Caretakers  
after a training session

The Pump Caretaker Project is a sub-project of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) funded project, Establishing the Wa Polytechnic (EWP). The project's goal is to organize short courses/training sessions and provide extension services to the communities.

With support from the project partner, the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIASST), the project has taken off on a pilot basis.

It is believed this project will lay the groundwork for the Wa Polytechnic (WP) to administer further training in pump maintenance activities in rural communities surrounding Wa. Furthermore, the pilot project will assist WP as it strives to provide more non-formal training courses to the community.

The Pump Caretaker Project will prepare a base for strong collaboration between the institution and the communities in this aspect. As an added advantage, valuable skills will be acquired by the staff and students through the training while maintaining strong ties with the surrounding communities and the nation as a whole.

The pilot project revealed the need for additional funds and external governmental support to ease the transition from the pilot course to a full extension-like short course to be delivered to other communities in the Upper West Region. It is hoped that this support will be given to the project as the pilot project was very successful.



To ensure that a project is effective, it needs to have a solid group of committed individuals that take the project needs to heart in terms of project planning, monitoring and evaluation.

Team Coordinators

- Solomon Dansieh - EWP
- Noble K. Ayikutu - Pump Caretakers, Mechanical Engineering Department

Noble K. Ayikutu

Team Members

- Thomas O. Ocloo - Agricultural Engineering Department
- Emmanuel Amankwah - Agricultural Engineering Department
- Eric A. Agyapong - Civil Engineering Department
- Ilyas Alhassan - Civil Engineering Department

The success of the first pilot training (held in December 2006) has motivated the team to seek funding to expand the training to other communities.

Pumps must be maintained, especially for clean and safe water. With this in mind, the rural dwellers will enjoy a decreased likelihood of contracting disease.



Trainers and Pump Caretakers

after a training session

## Contact Us

If you have questions or comments about the Ghana Establishing the Wa Polytechnic Project, please contact:

[Jason Mazzei](#)

Program Officer

SIAST Business Development and International Partnership

119 4th Ave South

Saskatoon SK Canada S7K 5X2

P: +1 306 933-5371

F: +1 306 933-7334