

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVES COMMITTEE (2019-2020) @ CONGRESS-2020

INTRODUCTION

This report is made following the traditions of previous administrations, as a way of archiving the progress of the Union and some deferred-successes of our Dear Union. In accordance, the benchmark for this progress report will be the report of the immediate past NEC (2018/2019 Administration) and the annual plan of this current Administration.

On July 21, 2019, the mandate of managing the affairs of the over 6000 Ghanaian students in China fell on us;

FELIX GYAWU ADDO	President
ROBERT N. APPIAH	Vice President
BEKOE BERNARD BOAMAH	Secretary-General
AHIASI-MENSAH JOSHUA	Financial Controller
OSEI BONIFACE KWESI	Organizer
GLORIA SELORM AKPABLAH	Women's Commissioner

OUR PROPOSED ANNUAL PLAN

If our tenure of office has been a success, it is because we have stood on the shoulders of giants. They say every journey begins with a step, and so did ours. Upon assumption of office, we built a consensus with some elder statesmen of the Union, together with reflections from the report of the immediate past NEC which served as a guide to drafting an annual plan for this tenure. This Annual Plan that was accepted by the Senate on October 12, 2019 centered on issues relating to;

- ✓ Chapter Visitation and Inaugurations
- ✓ Facelift of NUGS-China website
- ✓ Database Collection
- ✓ Registration of Agents
- ✓ Registration of Various Entrepreneurs and Marketers
- ✓ Registration of The Union
- ✓ Welfare Donations
- ✓ A collaboration of Various Schools to seek for the Welfare of Students
- ✓ NUGS-China Magazine
- ✓ ID cards for NEC members
- ✓ Women Conference
- ✓ Yaa Asantewaa Fund

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- ✓ Online women health and lifestyle education
- ✓ Leadership program and development
- ✓ Entrepreneurship education and training
- ✓ NUGS-China Sports Event
- ✓ Empowerment of NEC Sub-committees (Formation of Project and Sponsorship Committees)
- ✓ Website Update/Social Media Handles
- ✓ Quarterly Financial Report
- ✓ Welcoming of New Students

THE RATIONALE

Majorly, these proposed plans were geared toward improving the membership drive of the Union and making the Union attractive to all members and stakeholders. We planned to submit this proposed plan to the Ghana Mission upon a visitation trip to the Embassy for any advice or financial assistance to augment its implementation.

Unfortunately, due to several circumstances beyond our control, coupled with the pandemic outbreak, this visit could not come on. Among this and many challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, we couldn't be any prouder of some of the lifetime and milestone achievements of these Administration listed below.

NB: This report is categorized into Academic Achievements and Challenges, Welfare achievements and challenges, Administrative achievements and challenges, and lastly overall challenges and recommendations.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

African Beyond Aid (AFBA) 2020 International E-commerce Conference. (July 6, 2020)

This program united all NUGS-China members, together with other African country representatives to have a discourse with Professors and professionals from various scholarly fields on the way to achieve an African Beyond Aid. Several students presented their research geared towards ensuring an African beyond Aid Agenda. Apart from the healthy group discussions, other Academic dignitaries (Prof. Douglas Boateng and

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Dr Seth K. Baffoe) were invited to lecture on the way forward for the youth in ensuring total eradication of poverty from Africa. At the end of the seminar, these were achieved;

The participants;

- ❖ Gained expert knowledge from scholars and professionals
- ❖ Gained the requisite needed skills for a specific profession
- ❖ Understood the current STEMIC and SDG's developments in various fields
- ❖ Established a connection for future opportunities

NUGS-CHINA Academic Excellence Award

In promoting members published work to a broader audience and professionals, the Academic Excellence Award was instituted. This was initiated to encourage, recognize and motivate members to continue fostering forward for excellence. Also, acknowledging their works and contributions to their peers, Chapter, entire Union, and society.

NUGS-CHINA Mentoring session for Graduating class of 2020 (June 28, 2020)

This was done to officially wish, encourage, recognize and motivate graduating members leaving the Union. Also, it was another opportunity for experts to share their career and give professional advice to help migrate graduating students into the working world coupled with creating a sense of Alumni. Renowned educationists like Professor Emeritus Stephen Adei (Chairman of the NDPC), and Dr. Victor Agyeman (Director General of CSIR), and other prominent personalities were invited to congratulate, motivate, encourage and advise the audience.

NUGS-CHINA FRESHMEN OPEN FORUM (November 29, 2019):

This program was organized on November 29, 2019, by inviting several experts, educationist and elder statesmen of the Union to orient the fresh students in an open forum discourse.

Online Publication portal for Academic research (on NUGS-China website)

The purpose of this initiation is to give an academic outlook on what we do as a committee. The Online publication website page was created to share published works of literature to promote members research works among members and the general public. Thus, a database for information sharing, discussion, collaborations publication, and others. This was geared towards promoting members published work to a

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broader readership and professionals and linking members to other scholars for future collaboration opportunities.

✚ Academic Workshops, seminars, and debates (for example Academic writing workshop)- (June 27, 2020)

The objective of this workshops and seminars was to provide academic information platform in discussing issues such as research publication, conference participation, identifying new research trends, application of research funds, thesis/ dissertation writing, proposal and final dissertation defense, and others. Also, aid members who are willing to discuss their thesis writing challenges with the Committee to assist were encouraged.

✚ Admission and Scholarship Information Database

Seeking the academic welfare of NUGS-China members, this Database is to serve as a platform for sharing free useful up to date admission and scholarship opportunities for members and yet to be members. The aim is to also prevent members from been duped by third-parties who operate as Admission and Scholarship agents taking a huge sum of money from members. A secular was sent out for all members to help with the provision of information for various institutions; however, due to the low response rate, this project was partially implemented.

✚ Creation of NUGS-China WeChat groups for Academic Groups

To foster knowledge sharing, discourse, and exchange among members, the NUGS-China Academic WeChat group was created for members to interact through knowledge sharing, collaborations, teaching and others. Also, it served as a platform to recommend and share eBooks that are useful to different interest groups. Again, collaboration and motivation were other hallmarks of the group.

Academic WeChat Groups Created So far:

- ∩ NUGS- China Computer Science group
- ∩ NUGS- China Public Health group
- ∩ NUGS- China Nursing and Midwifery group
- ∩ NUGS- China Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science group
- ∩ NUGS- China Engineering group
- ∩ NUGS- China Business and Administration group
- ∩ NUGS- China Law and Linguistics group
- ∩ NUGS- China Agriculture and Natural Science group

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- ∞ NUGS- China Economics, Finance, and Accounting group
- ∞ NUGS- China Sport and Physical Education group
- ∞ NUGS- China Medical group (created in previous academic year)

✚ Mentoring and Professional Seminars- Positioning your LinkedIn profile for career success

The program was developed to bridge African professionals and academicians in knowledge and expertise sharing. The aim is to help promote expert knowledge expertise tailored toward our academic and professional development. Establish a connection with professionals, obtaining first-hand information from professionals on issues of professional, educational, cultural interests, and encouraging academic and professional discourse was the central motive for this initiative.

✚ Setting up of Academic Chapter Representatives and Formation of Academic Committees at the Chapter Level

In ensuring that all chapters attend to the academic needs of their members, the Committee requested all Chapters to present an Academic Chapter Representatives for each Chapter. Additionally, the Committee encouraged chapters to form academic committees to address grassroots needs and challenges.

Pitfall Factors (Challenges):

1. The COVID-19 posed a big challenge as members were psychologically traumatized to work efficiently.
2. Lack of interest to take chapter academic affairs by the representatives.
3. Dissemination of national academic programs was hampered as some chapter representatives were not working..
4. Some Chapters did not form chapter Academic Committees
5. Promotion of Union Leadership was not encouraging

WELFARE INTERVENTIONS

∞ MEDICAL ISSUES

Our Administration encountered some unfortunate issues involving fatalities and life-threatening misfortunes of some of our members. Some of these issues that came to the notice of the NEC have been highlighted below;

❖ Deaths

On October 27, 2019, the NEC was served with a letter by the provincial coordinator of Liaoning Province (Hon. Umami Salaimi Sulemana) concerning the demise of our brother Joseph Amoako of Liaoning Shihua

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University in Fushun City. According to a report by the University, our brother suffered severe head injury upon falling over the school's wall one late night. With our brother in ICU, the hospital demanded a sum of 50,000RMB before they could commence surgery. The NEC, in coordination with the Shenyang Chapter, was able to raise an amount of about 18994RMB through Q.R. codes from all members to support the surgery of our brother. Unfortunately, our brother could not survive the operation and passed on to the land of the silent.

❖ Sickness

On September 13, 2019, the National Organizer made a trip to Huaian in the northern part of Jiangsu province to follow up on the medical condition of one **Alpha Addo Gideon** a Ghanaian student who had suffered a complete fracture of the femur. Upon the visitation, the Organizer was informed that the hospital was demanding a sum of 20,000RMB as a down payment before any surgical operations could be conducted on our brother. Since the member did not qualify for any benefits per the National welfare policy, the National Organizer on behalf of the Union, personally loaned the family of the member a sum of 12000RMB to commence the surgery. Our brother underwent successful surgery and recovered fully after the surgery and subsequently paid back the loan on December 20, 2019.

🔗 COVID-19 AND RELATED INTERVENTIONS

COVID-19 has come with its impact on the Union. We can boast of a stronger relationship between the Union and the Ghana Mission under the auspices of H.E. Edward Boateng during this time. Most of these engagements came about during the outbreak of the Pandemic in China.

➤ COVID-19 REPORT CENTRE

One of the first safety measures taken by the NEC was to create a COVID-19 report center on the Website to allow every student to report peculiar problems to the NEC through the system. Members were replied with directives and support per their issues.

➤ NEC INTERVENTIONS

The NEC, following the lockdown of Wuhan city and cities within Hubei, gave out a sum of 5000RMB to Wuhan Chapter from the National welfare fund. This money was allocated for the purchasing of nose masks for the various members who were lockdown on their various campuses and had no access to these items. Another sum of 5000RMB, a personal act of benevolence from H.E. Edward Boateng (Ghana's Ambassador to China) was given to the Wuhan Chapter for the same purpose.

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Following these earlier Interventions, the NEC organized all chapter leaders and other city representatives to have a general meeting with the Ghana Embassy to have a thorough discussion on the situational updates on the lives of Ghanaian students in their respective cities and institutions. The outcome of the meeting which was held on January 29, 2020, was the receipt of a sum of 50,000RMB from the Ghana Embassy and Foreign Affairs Ministry by the leadership of the Union on behalf of the entire membership. Due to the intense nature of the lockdown in Hubei, a sum of 30,000RMB was given to the then three (3) Chapters that were in Hubei (Wuhan, Shiyang, and Yichang). The remaining 20,000RMB was committed to the infamous 'NKWA NA EHIA' fund created for the procurement of hand sanitizers, nose masks and gloves for the remaining chapters and cities outside of Hubei Province. Unfortunately due to the scarcity and high price of hand sanitizers, the amount of 20,000RMB could only purchase nose masks. All known Chapters of the Union received the nose masks in enough quantities to safeguard the welfare of all members there. Also, aid was given to Ghanaian students who were non Nugs China members. This good deed resulted in students yearning to join Nugs China since they were not left out of the intervention plans even though they were not members.

🔗 PROCUREMENT OF PPEs FOR DISTRIBUTION TO VULNERABLE GROUPS IN GHANA

The Union was able to raise a sum of about \$1,600 for the procurement of PPEs for some vulnerable groups through Q.R. codes. We believe this will help them in the fight against the pandemic. Due to some challenges, the items had to be shipped via sea hence the delay in delivery. The Items have arrived in Ghana and cleared from the port.

🔗 NUGS-UKRAINE INTERVENTIONS

To augment the supply of nose masks and hand sanitizers for the remaining chapters outside of Hubei province, our sister NUGS branch in Ukraine promised to deliver some of these items to the Union through the Ghana Mission due to the then price hike of these items in China. Unfortunately, due to some situations beyond their control, these items could not arrive in China.

🔗 DISTRIBUTION OF \$500 AND FOOD SUPPLIES TO ALL STUDENTS IN HUBEI

As the case count in Hubei province continued to surge, it became essential for the NEC to engage the Ghana Mission-Beijing and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on possible means to ensure the absolute safety

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of our members. A periodic 48-hour interval meetings were arranged with the Ghana Mission lead by H.E. Edward Boateng (Ghana's Ambassador to China), and the Chapter leaders of Hubei Province spearheaded by Felix Gyawu Addo (President-Nugs China) and Hon. Sampson Opoku (Wuhan Chapter President). Prominent issues discussed during these meetings were the day-to-day updates of the livelihood of the members in their campuses. As it became apparent that, the welfare of these students was deteriorating by the day. Several measures were tabled for discussion. Among these were;

- ✚ Provision of more safety materials (nose masks, hand sanitizers) to all students in Hubei Province.
- ✚ Provision of food items to students to prevent them from going out of their rooms and hence exposing them to the disease.
- ✚ Provision of psychological therapy to students undergoing mental trauma as a result of the case rise.
- ✚ Evacuation of All Students in Hubei province back to Ghana.

After several engagements and negotiations with the mission and the Ministry, the NEC and the leadership of chapters in Hubei were informed that lack of adequate facilities in Ghana, and the difficulty in procuring an aircraft would make immediate evacuation impossible. However, as we wait for further directives from Government, a 'plan B' which will also ensure the safety of all students in Hubei would be executed.

This Plan B, involved;

- ✚ Provision of more hand sanitizers and nose masks to students in Hubei Province.
- ✚ The distribution of enough food supplies to all students in Hubei Province (This way chocolate drink, Fante kenkey, Ga kenkey, Sardines, Gari, Shito, Neat Banku, neat Fufu, Gari Mix, etc.)
- ✚ Distribution of a sum of \$500 (out of \$250,000) to all Ghanaian students living in Hubei Province during the pandemic. (About 350 beneficiaries received their monies either through WeChat, Alipay or bank transfers)
- ✚ Provision of psychological therapy by Dr Ama Edwin and her team to all students in Hubei and other interested Chapters (especially Women)

🔗 FURTHER INTERVENTIONS FOR ALL REMAINING CHAPTERS (NOT IN HUBEI)

Following the provisions made to the Students in Hubei Provisions, the discussions were directed towards the general wellbeing of the rest of members outside of Hubei Province. A successful negotiation was

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entered with NEC, the Ghana Mission and the leadership of the Ghanaian community to ensure how the remaining amount from the \$250,000 could be utilized to provide maximum welfare for all members.

NEC and the leadership of the Ghanaian community in China agreed to the provision of food supplies to all members.

- ✚ Bags of rice (2.5 kg) and bottles of cooking oil were supplied to all members who were currently living in China.
- ✚ Following these, several check-up calls and messages (sent from the Database) were conducted by NEC to inquire about the welfare of all members.

🔗 GLOBAL INFECTIOUS DISEASE INSTITUTE (GIDI)-NUGS-CHINA SCHOLARSHIP

Considering the prevalent challenges that were faced by our members as a result of the lockdown, the Union made engagements with some NGOs. Fortunately, the administrators of a US-based NGO, Global Infectious Disease Institute (GIDI) agreed to provide a sum of \$5,000 (35,293.43RMB equivalent) to the Union to disburse to members who were in severe hardships as a result of the pandemic. On April 14, 2020, the said amount was received and distributed to the beneficiaries. These beneficiaries were chosen from the various lists that were submitted by the chapter leaders upon the NEC internal investigations. In the end, 68 students received a sum of 500RMB each. Two students received 400RMB each. A timely outreach to another cause for school-aged children on the Volta Lake, Ghana also got an amount of 480 RMB. This altogether brought the total sum of disbursements to 35,280.00 RMB.

🔗 EVACUATION OF GHANA STUDENTS AND EXPATS;

In collaboration with the Ghana mission and the Ghanaian community, this Administration was able to conduct a successful evacuation for some stranded Ghanaians in China. These consisted of those that needed swift amnesty interventions and students that were suffering eviction from their various universities upon graduation. On July 4, 2020, the first evacuation process (about 270 Ghanaian students and expatriates) was done from Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport with Emirate Airlines. As many students remain in China who are willing to go home, NUGS-China and the Ghanaian Community are coordinating with the Ghana mission to carry out a second evacuation process which is expected to happen by the end of July.

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☞ THE YAA ASANTEWAA FUND

The 2018/2019 NEC first proposed the Yaa Asantewaa Fund. It was handed over to this Administration and having read through, saw how beneficial it would be for women. With that, we revised the proposal upon consultations with several stakeholders, including NUGS-China Women for their inputs, and then to the 2019/2020 Senate for approval. By God's grace, the Yaa Asantewaa Fund was accepted and passed by the Senate on July 3, 2020.

The vision of the Yaa Asantewaa Fund is "to bring people together for the common goal of breaking through educational and economic barriers for women and girls". Its mission is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research

We hope that with time, all women will see the vision of the Yaa Asantewaa Fund and rally around it.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

☞ REVIVED MEDIA AND PUBLICITY

One of the main challenges that we realized upon assumption of office was the lack of popularity of NUGS-China in many cities and institutions across China. We realized that to achieve this we needed a more robust and well-coordinated Media and Publicity team, that will ensure the publication of all events of the Union to the broader Ghanaian community in China and outside of China. This, we were sure will encourage/improve membership drive and make the Union attractive once again.

Under the auspices of the National Vice President, a strong team of experts in I.T., Designing, writing and editing, and public relation officers were put together to the media and publicity team. This group of experts were sub-divided into three sub-committees

❖ The Editorial Team:

- Creating artworks, designs, multimedia contents to publicize the activities of the Union.
- Developing and maintaining the Union's Information Management System (NUGS-China Portal),
- Investigating and identifying potential technological opportunities to promote the Union.
- Ensuring members are regularly updated via newsletters, group notices, info flyers etc.
- Promoting media coverage and ensuring the constant presence of the Union on the internet.

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❖ The Technical Team

- Proofreading and making necessary corrections of all official documents in the form of newsletters, bulletins, and press releases from the National Executive Committee.
- Writing, proofreading and editing any document from any branch of the Media and Publicity Committee.
- Proofreading and editing all script for the NUGS-China Magazine

❖ The Public Relations Team

- To publicize and maintain the professional image of the Union.
- Ensure the proper announcement of Union activities employing publicity materials through bulletin
- We also helped to build trust and credibility within the Union by disseminating messages and taking feedback from students to other executive bodies.
- Develop PR strategies to build positive relationships with executives, students and media committee.

While the Editorial Board took care of all the writings and editing of any publication and newsletters, the Technical team took care of the design, why the Public Relations team dealt with its publicity on all social media handles and the NUGS-China Hall Pages.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ✚ Creation and managing of a News portal on the Union's Website.
- ✚ Publishing of well-written press statements and program reports on the Website and other media outlets in the Ghana mainstream media.
- ✚ Prompt Responses to questions, concerns and enquiries on the Hall pages and the Report Center.
- ✚ Prompt flyer designs for program advertisement.
- ✚ Proper Management and control of the WeChat Hall page.
- ✚ Creation of Portal-know-how videos to increase patronization of the Website.
- ✚ Creation of a suitable Database Management System.
- ✚ Creation of official email accounts through the Website for all NEC officers, Chapter Secretaries and Financial controllers, Chapter Electoral Commission and all Committees at the National Level.

The Union is currently present at;

- ✚ The Website (www.nugschina.org)

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- ✚ Twitter (@chinanugs)
- ✚ Facebook (@nugschina)
- ✚ Instagram (@nugschina2018)
- ✚ YouTube (NUGS-CHINA)

🔗 THE DATABASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

A robust database system had been a significant challenge for the Union. This problem was highlighted by the two successive previous administrations of the Union. The efforts of the Media and Publicity Committee, a team of Computer programmers and designers was formed which, lead to the re-design of the NUGS-China website, and subsequent creation of a unique database system for the Union. As we speak, it is anticipated, there are about 6,000 Ghanaian students in China. The Database has about 3101 members with 2,155 of them registered (with their full information).

Apart from the Database being a part of a well-designed website suited for the purposes and intent of the Union, the DBMS ensured;

- ✚ First virtual I.D. cards for all registered members.
- ✚ First online shipping Application.
- ✚ First generic E-voting system that meets all electoral purposes of the Union.
- ✚ The first nomination filing process for the Union.
- ✚ First online Dues records for member and executives (Accurate projection of Annual local and National Dues for the Union).
- ✚ First online submission of Congress Delegates.
- ✚ First Academic portal that allows publication uploads, views, search, comment and download.
- ✚ Automated birthday notification email system that sends goodwill messages to members on their birthdays.
- ✚ Improved multimedia artworks that increased the attractiveness of the Union.
- ✚ Automated passport renewal reminder notification system that reminds members in advance to make provision for passport renewal.
- ✚ Reminders to all registered members to participate in National programs.
- ✚ First program attendance record portal to augment member's good-standing status.

🔗 THE NUGS-CHINA MAGAZINE

One of the main challenges we also tried to solve is to create a proper archive of the engagements, activities and programs of the Union. In doing so, a section of the NUGS-China website is dedicated to event publicity and archiving. We realized that another way of achieving this is to have handbook (either electronic or hard copy) of the engagements of all local chapters, committees and NEC, hence the NUGS-China magazine.

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Although still at a production house, the Magazines captures Chapter reports, activities and history of the Union. All committee reports, as well as our engagements with the Embassy, have also been captured. A section is also dedicated to hail outstanding Ghanaian scholars and entrepreneurs in China. An interview with the Ambassador concerning how he dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic in ensuring the safety of all Ghanaian students in China has also been featured.

The Anticipated time for launching the first finished copy is July ending. We hope that this Magazine is the first of many.

📌 CHAPTER INAUGURATIONS

One of the main objectives of this Administration, which was exhibited in our annual plan was the expansion of the chapter base. We must say that COVID-19 has had it's accompanied 'blessings' in disguise. Through the engagements made pre-during-post COVID-19, the Union has been able to integrate many operational chapters and proceeded to inaugurate many of them. On January 1, 2020 NUGS-Jinan was born when the National President and the Organizer made a trip there after several consultations to inaugurate the chapter. On July 4, 2020, a mass inauguration was done for **Xi'an, Jinhua, Lanzhou, Jinzhou, Changchun, and Harbin**, bringing the total active inaugurated chapters to 29 across 9 provinces and 3 autonomous regions;

NO.	CHAPTER	PROVINCE		NO.	CHAPTER	PROVINCE
1	Nanjing	Jiangsu		15	Hangzhou	Zhejiang
2	Changzhou	Jiangsu		17	Jinhua	Zhejiang
3	Xuzhou	Jiangsu		18	Shenyang	Liaoning
4	Zhenjiang	Jiangsu		19	Chengdu	Sichuan
5	Hengyang	Hunan		20	Hefei	Anhui
6	Wuhan	Hubei		21	Jiujiang	Jiangxi
7	Jingzhou	Hubei		22	Zhangjiakou	Hebei
8	Yichang	Hubei		23	Weifang	Shandong
9	Shiyan	Hubei		24	Jinan	Shandong
10	Xiamen	Fujian		25	Lanzhou	Gansu
11	Shanghai	Shanghai		26	Xi'an	Shaanxi
12	Beijing	Beijing		27	Changchun	Jilin
13	Tianjin	Tianjin		28	Harbin	Heilongjiang
14	Chongqing	Chongqing		29	Taiyuan	Shanxi

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Operational Chapters

- ❖ Nanchang -Jiangxi Province
- ❖ Qingdao- Shandong Province
- ❖ Changsha – Hunan Province (**Formerly inaugurated but inactive**)
- ❖ Jingmen – Hubei Province
- ❖ Shijiazhuang – Hebei Province
- ❖ Wuxi – Jiangsu Province
- ❖ Guangzhou- Guangdong Province
- ❖ Zhengzhou - Henan Province (**Formerly Inaugurated but inactive**)

We would, therefore, recommend the incoming Administration to follow up on these chapters to see them inaugurated into the NUGS-China fraternity.

MEMBERSHIP-DRIVE PROGRAMS

A lot of programs and initiatives were put in place by this Administration to boost the membership drive, pre-during-post COVID-19. Although predominantly organized online, these programs have gone a long way to activate the Union and projecting it at home and Globally. Below are some of the programs held during the tenure of this Administration, mostly in collaboration with the Ghana Mission.

- ✚ **Medical and Psychological Therapy:** Medical Health and Psychological therapy by Dr Ama Edwin and her team of experts for all members who experienced mental trauma during the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak (By the help of the National WOCOM, A counselling group was created on WeChat to help students interact with the counsellor on any mental issues they may have).
- ✚ **Breast Cancer Awareness Program:** On October 13, 2019 (Breast Cancer Awareness day), we had an online seminar with Dr Emmanuel Drokow, an Oncologist at the Henan People's Hospital.
- ✚ **International Women's Day Program;** To commemorate International Women's Day/Week, we had two round table discussions with prestigious and accomplished Ghanaian women on the Zoom App. The first was with Madam Elizabeth Ohene (March 12, 2020), and the second was with Dr. Lydia Mosi (March 13, 2020).
- ✚ **Leadership training and development for NUGS-CHINA WOMEN;** This was done online via the Future Learn Website. The WOCOMS registered for the free online course titled "**Managing People: Understanding Individual Differences.**" The goals the course sought to achieve were:

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- i. Understand how people differ and the impact these differences may have in the workplace.
- ii. Understand the link between individual attributes, behaviour, and performance.
- iii. Understand the relationship between individual and organizational performance.
- iv. Learn how to apply this understanding to management practice.

The link to the course is also listed below

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/managing-people-understanding-differences>

OPEN FORUM DISCUSSIONS

We have had several programs on both the NUGS-China hall pages and on Zoom to interact and learn from seasoned panelists. This was also an opportunity to interact with the men in the Union and learn from them. The first was a discussion on the topic, "**Are men intimidated by Career women? And Why?**" on the various hall pages, which was very successful. We also had a panel discussion on Zoom under the topic "**Role of Women in Marriage,**" another vibrant and insightful discussion. In collaboration with NUGS-Nanjing, we had a program also on Zoom under the theme "**Importance of Gender Equality in National Development**" with Miss Janat Issifu, founder and CEO of the Women Advocacy Network (WAN) and a certified Entrepreneur, Business Advocate and Business Startup Trainer as the guest speaker.

On June 20, 2020, we had a strictly women's program under the theme "**5 Men you should Never Marry**". To our menfolk this program seemed bias but what we were basically encouraged as women to know our value in the home.

VIRTUAL KEEP FIT AND LIVE COOKING SHOW

To function correctly and live a healthy life even as we pursue academics, we need to be well rounded. We tackled this on several fronts such as physical fitness, mental health, and a healthy diet. To this, we started a **live cooking show** on Zoom, where we have members of the Union teach us how they prepare various cuisines. During this time, members are encouraged to cook along with the chef of the day. Most Mondays were also dedicated to virtual gymnastics for NUGS-China Women. There were few sessions where some men joined to also exercise with the women.

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VIRTUAL GHANA@63 INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION

To keep the membership-drive alive during the pandemic outbreak, the Union organized a four-day Ghana@63 Independence commemoration event which featured prominent educationist, and technocrats to speak to the members on the roles we need to play towards nation-building. This program featured the president of the Global Union of Ghana Scholars Hon. Lord McMensah, Mr. Abu Osuman, a technocrat at the Ghana Mission in charge of Consular Affairs, and the Ambassador of Ghana to China, H. E. Edward Boateng. Through the celebration, we learnt about the predominant religious groups in Ghana; Christians, Muslims and Traditionalists. Sessions were divided and facilitated by leaders from these respective religious backgrounds.




THE NUGS-CHINA/GHANA EMBASSY MENTORSHIP SERIES

This initiative was organized by the National Executive Committee (NEC) and H.E. Edward Boateng to help train, motivate, encourage Ghanaian students in China and the diaspora as a whole. This program featured prominent technocrats, Business Men, educationists, entrepreneurs and nation builders from Ghana to provide periodic virtual training to our members. Interestingly, these programs were attended by all Ghanaian students across the globe, even those in Ghana (Details of each program has been published in newsletters on the NUGS-China website, and several media handles in Ghana). Among the prominent personalities hosted on these programs were:

- ❖ A round-table discussion with Hon. Dr Osei Yaw Adutwum (May 1, 2020)
- ❖ A dialogue with Hon. Kennedy Agyapong (May 9, 2020)
- ❖ A dialogue with Dr Ernest Ofori Sarpong (May 24, 2020)
- ❖ A dialogue with Dr Patrick Gyimah Awuah Jr. (May 31, 2020)
- ❖ A dialogue with Rev. Dr Joyce Aryee (The Role of Women in Corporate Governance) (June 14, 2020)

(Details of these programs have been captured in the press report on the NUGS-China website).

Through these programs, members learnt:

-  The fundamentals of patriotism and nationalism.
-  Economic and financial independence.
-  Self-awareness and self-confidence.

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- ✚ Women empowerment and the essence of women in leadership roles.
- ✚ Our roles in ensuring a Ghana and Africa beyond aid.
- ✚ The role of network building in advancing foreign investments in Ghana.

🔗 REDUCTION ON PASSPORT RENEWAL FEES:

After listening to several concerns of the members and chapter leaders of the Union, it became apparent that the passport renewal fees were unbearable for students in China. NEC called a general meeting to discuss with all chapter leaders, and their concerns were forwarded to the Senate. With the mandate of the Senate, a passport petition committee was formed to put a petition together to the Ghana Mission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning our ordeal. This Committee did a comparative analysis and came up with a report attached to a petition that was signed by over 100 members. The Secretary-General was tasked to deliver the petition to the Chief of staff of the Republic of Ghana, Madam Frema Opare—who had made a trip to China—on November 23, 2019. Thankfully, our efforts did not go waste, the passport renewal fees for the ordinary 32 paged-passport has been reduced from 1320RMB to 936RMB today. It is our hope that the next Administration will do their best to ensure a further reduction.

PASSPORT PETITION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1. Felix Gyawu Addo—Nanjing (National President)
2. Robert Nana Appiah—Chengdu (National Vice President)
3. Bernard Boamah Bekoe—Nanjing (Secretary-General)
4. Kobina Amo Aidoo—Zhenjiang (Jiangsu Provincial Coordinator)
5. Franklin Kumassah—Chengdu (President of Chengdu)
6. Bernard Okwampah—Shenyang (President of Shenyang)
7. Leonard Kpodo—Chengdu (President of Chengdu)
8. Michael Amponsah—Hainan Chapter

🔗 NUGS-CHINA FRESHMEN WELCOME AND AIRPORT PICKUPS

To reduce the stress of fresh students who enter China, the NEC collaborated with various Chapters at the ports of entries (Shanghai, Chengdu, Beijing and reps from Guangzhou) to institute the airport pick up system as a way of welcoming fresh students from Ghana. In order to facilitate this, efforts were made to get the information of these students who had obtained their VISAs at the Chinese Embassy in Ghana. A WhatsApp group was formed for these students, and directives were given them beforehand. We were also able to know their various dates of arrival which helped in the coordination of the events. In a nutshell, more than **150** fresh students benefitted from these airport pickups.

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DISCIPLINE ON NUGS-CHINA HALL PAGES

Indiscipline on the NUGS-China Hall pages were very disturbing and a challenge for successive administrations. To eradicate this;

- ✚ the NEC proposed some guidelines (rules and regulations) which was approved by the J.C. in ensuring discipline. These rules and regulations were applied and implemented by the Hall Representatives who served as the 'Hall Police' in maintaining discipline. These Hall reps also ensure swift dissemination of information and prompt attendance to concerns and queries of members on their respective hall pages.
- ✚ Promptly and duly suspended sub-committee members who broke any code of ethics of the Union. E.g. suspension of Hon. Kumassah Franklin and Michael Amponsah (Agenda) from the media and publicity committee.

NUGS-CHINA SHIPMENT ENHANCEMENT

The NUGS-CHINA shipment is managed by the shipping board which is chaired by the National Vice President. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has curtailed the effectiveness of this year's shipping process, however, one success story of the shipping board is the recent ease of applying for the shipping benefit. This is made possible through the online database system when graduating students can easily log in to their account and initiate the application process upon graduation.

CHAPTER VISITATIONS

To engage members in direct conversions as a way of boosting the derailed membership drive, this Administration engaged in some series of chapter visitations prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of these trips were self-funded by the NEC officials who made these trips. Below are some of the chapter visitations undertaken by the NEC;

- Nanjing Schools Visitation – The President and the Secretary-General
- Nanjing Aseda Praise Visitation – The President and the Secretary-General
- Shanghai Chapter visitation – The President and the Secretary-General
- Zhenjiang Chapter Visitation (General Assembly) – The President and the Secretary-General
- Zhenjiang Chapter Visitation#2 (End of year program) – The President and the Secretary-General
- Beijing Chapter Visitation- The Women's Commissioner and the Financial Controller
- Tianjin Chapter Visitation- The Women's Commissioner and the Financial Controller
- Jinan Chapter Visitation - The President and the National Organizer
- Xiamen Chapter Visitation – The President
- Xuzhou Visitation - The President and the Secretary-General

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INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

- Due to the extensive global publicity of the Union, the enjoyed several invitations and acknowledgements from our mother Union (NUGS, Ghana), and other Sister Unions in the diaspora (NUGS-Ukraine, NUGS-Russia, NUGS-Brazil, and the Global Union of Ghana Scholars)
- We were also privileged to host several international diplomats and technocrats on our programs. Notably; H.E. MBELWA BRIGHTON KAIRUKI (Tanzania's Ambassador to China), H.E. ISABEL MAYZA DOMINGOS (Ambassador of Sao Tome and Principe to China), MRS CHRISTINE BOKPE ADOVELANDE (Benin Embassy, Beijing China)
- The Publicity of the Union through press releases and interviews during the COVID-19 pandemic also helped in securing the aforementioned GIDI Scholarship that benefitted about 70 members of the Union who were in dire need of financial support as a result of the pandemic.

ENHANCED RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GHANA MISSION

Although there has always been a good relationship between the Union and the Ghana Mission in Beijing, this relationship has been enhanced through strategic dialogues and negotiations during the pandemic. This has resulted in the first-ever joint-program of the Union and the Embassy (The NUGS-China mentorship series). We must say that it is the height of this relationship that ensured the success of the first evacuation process of both Ghanaian expatriates and students on the 4th of July this year. As we of now, July 10, negotiations are still in place to arrange for a second flight to carry the remaining stranded Ghanaians home safely.

FINANCE (REVENUE GENERATION) BREAKTHROUGH

- In a desperate attempt to divert the excess dependence on dues payment for program funding, the Sponsorship committee was formed. In exercising their duties, the Committee undertook an ambitious exercise of writing over 1000 letters addressed to all Members of Parliament, District and Municipal Chief executives in Ghana. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these letters could not be delivered to their various destination.
- On the brighter side, the database system which has enhanced dues collection and monitoring has improved revenue generation at both chapter level and the National Level. National dues payment is at an all-time high in the history of the Union. A whopping 52, 410 RMB of National dues have been recorded.
- In ensuring accountability, the National F.C., implemented a quarterly report reading to chapter leaders and Senate. This helped members to track the use of their dues payments.

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GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE CHALLENGES

- ✦ Digitization of the entire Union was a challenge for many members who were finding it difficult to deal with the technicalities in the database system
- ✦ Deliberate provision of wrong biodata on the part of some members posed severe challenges for the database management
- ✦ Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, several programs and planned visitations could not be realized, e.g., A trip to Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics.
- ✦ Low membership participation in virtual programs
- ✦ Failure on the part of some chapter leaders to deliver information to their local chapter members
- ✦ Due to the pandemic, we could not implement the NUGS-China Online medical Tutorial which was planned in collaboration with the Academic Committee

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✦ Alternation of Congress Organization. One year virtual and another year in physical.
- ✦ The Union must take steps to get a financial institution/Agent who will assist students in receiving remittances and also in payment of tuition fees.
- ✦ The development of a NUGS China app that will be a platform and community where social networking and interaction would be enhanced.
- ✦ The setting up of NUGS China radio to host educative and social programs.
- ✦ The Union must make an effort to develop a 3 to 5-year strategic plan that will give the roadmap to solve some of the Unions most pressing needs and also to help consolidate the gains made over the years.
- ✦ Implementation of the NUGS-China Online medical Tutorial

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The NEC would like to thank God Almighty for the strength that has brought us this far. We would like to also thank all various committee members, Hall Reps, chapter leaders and all members for their immense support and contribution to the success story of this Administration. Most importantly, we would like to thank H. E. Edward Boateng and the entire Ghana Mission for their support and cooperation.

PREPARED BY:

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
BEKOE BERNARD BOAMAH
JULY 11, 2020