



NUGS-CHINA

2020/2021 ANNUAL REPORT

NATIONAL UNION OF GHANA STUDENTS-CHINA

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OVERVIEW

NUGS-China, the regulatory body of the Ghanaian student population in China can boast of roughly six-thousand (6000) active Ghanaian students who are currently climbing various academic ladders. However, the NUGS China data system has captured about 2,500 students with the hope of getting the details of every Ghanaian student. The union seeks the academic, social and general welfare of Ghanaian students in China with the support of the Ghana Embassy in China. We aspire to mobilize the intellectual resources of members in an effort to contribute positively to the socio-economic development of our motherland and portray the socio-cultural heritage of Ghana to the world.

The student leadership has worked closely with the help of the Ghana Mission-Beijing to ensure Ghanaian students' wellbeing and safety in China. The great relationship between the Union and the Ghana Mission has been well-documented by successive past administrations over the years.

STATE OF STUDENTS IN CHINA

With the estimated number of Ghanaian students in China that are pursuing various degree programs ranging from Health Profession, Engineering, Business Administration, Social Sciences and others at both undergraduate and post-graduate levels, spanning across about 31 provinces of China, we are pleased to say significant achievements have been made over the past years.

The union continues to hold programs to create avenues and opportunities that harness skills and knowledge within our members. It is our desire that these students are targeted to make notable impact on Ghana's socio-economic development through their knowledge and skills acquired during their study period.

Students who have studied in China so far and have returned home are making a notable impact on Ghana's socio-economic development through their knowledge and skills acquired during their study period.

AKNOWLEDGEMENT

We end our tenure of office by expressing our gratitude to God Almighty for the strength, and wisdom to carry our mandate successfully. Special appreciation goes to the Embassy of Ghana Beijing, for their support to the union.

Further thanks goes to the Chapter executives, adhoc committees formed by NEC, and hall reps for their unwavering support, the leadership of NEC, some outstanding members and the entire NUGS-China members for their support.

Most importantly, we would like to express our appreciation to the old national executives especially Mr. Benjamin Ohene Kwapong Baffoe and his team, Mr. Felix Gyawu Addo and his team for their tireless support towards the progress of the union;

Thanks to the collective effort of each member and the entire Ghanaian student populace in China for contributing to the success story of the 2020/2021 administration.

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INTRODUCTION

Thirty-three (33) years ago, Ghanaian students in China gathered to give birth to an organization that represented all Ghanaian students living in China (NUGS-China). Our founders were in no doubt about the kind of union that they wished to create.

On July 12, 2020 as delegates gathered online for the 32nd Annual Delegates Congress to reflect on our shared progress, as well as our common future, we had the opportunity to serve NUGS-China for one administrative year. The mandate of managing the affairs of Ghanaian students in China fell on us. Our administration was run fully online (without meeting each other in person).

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Our vision **“To be seen as one of the contributing bodies to the socio-economic development of our country as well as increasing the union's membership drive and making the Union more appealing to all members and stakeholders”** was geared towards the union’s motto **“Unity & Progress”**. This vision provided us with a path to come up with plans that will take the union to greater height.

ACTION PLAN

These plans were first presented to the Ghana Mission in Beijing which is a major stakeholder and supporter of NUGS-China for advice, and support. The embassy promised to help the administration carry out the plans to help take the union to greater heights. A meeting was then held with Past National Executives from 2015 and ideas were solicited to aid our plans. After several consultations, the under listed plans were drafted;

- **Membership drive**
This project aimed at embarking on virtual visitation across all chapters to enable the NEC interact with members.
- **Dues Debt Relief Policy for Members**
This policy sort to relief members from all dues debt and helps bring all members to the same level in dues payment.

- **Introduction of E-Certificate Verifiable Online**

NEC sort to introduce E-Certificate as badge of honor for members. Members who participate in projects, activities, and seminars will be issued with E-Certificates that can easily be shared and verified online.

- **Official Registration of NUGS-China**

NEC sort to embark on the official registration process of the union. This registration will pave way for many other opportunities for the union.

- **NUGS-China LAB**

Virtual Labs with instructors was to be setup for some selected courses. Members who join these labs will learn new things to embark on projects that solve real problems in Ghana.

- **GMDCE Prep Class**

NEC sort to organize a prep class for the medical students who intend to take the Medical and Dental Council Exams in Ghana

- **Departure and arrival Policy for Members**

This policy will cater for airport to and fro transportation cost of members who are located at the same city or school to the airport.

- **Hall Pages Cleanup**

This is to ensure that all persons on the various hall pages are current members of the union. This will also improve on the security for members since malicious or unknown accounts will be removed.

- **NUGS-China Radio**

A virtual radio platform to publicize the union and also render services such as academic life improvement, social life, entertainment etc.

- **Mobile App Development**

Develop a user-friendly mobile APP to aid in the dissemination of information to members in a convenient way. This will also bring the union to the fingertips of members.

- **Increase welfare resources**

Seeking for different avenues to expand the welfare resource funds for the union.

- **Integration of African Students Publications**

This project seeks to integrate other African students' publication into the academic publication slot on our website. This expands the availability of publications related to Africa at the doorsteps of our members.

- **Project Exhibition**

Organize a platform for members to exhibit their projects to possible investors, employers, institutions and organizations.

- **Female Academic Research Award**

This program seeks to increase academic research among the women in the Union. Awards will be given to given to these members.

- **Yaa Asantewaa Fund (YAF) Programs**

This existing program serves as a national grassroots financially independent body to improve the lives of women in the union. Activities will be organized to promote this program

- **Problem Solving Contest**

Members who sign up for this contest would be presented with problems, for them to design and present solutions. Winners will be awarded.

As mandated by the National Senate to approve the NEC's action plan, these plans were presented to the National Senate and after thorough deliberations it was accepted on 6th September, 2020.

Since there was no way we could achieve these plans without the support of the Chapter Executives, the NEC met all Chapter Executives on 13th September, 2020 and presented the action plan to them. Chapter Executives gave their submissions and the necessary reviews as suggested by Chapter Executives were done and the action plan became a working document for the union.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The Administration division is comprised of NEC and the under listed

NATIONAL SENATE

As the constitution recognizes the need for National Senate, the NEC formed the National Senate on 1st September, 2020 with the available Provincial Coordinators (PCs) from 12 provinces including: Anhui, Beijing, Jiangsu, Shanghai, Tianjin, Shaanxi, Zhejiang, Heilongjiang, Hubei, Shanxi, Jilin, and Fujian. The first Senate meeting was held on 6th September 2020. NEC presented the action plan and budget to the senate of which they were approved after deliberations.

ADHOC COMMITTEES

To ensure an all-inclusive administration, the following adhoc committees were setup by the NEC to assist the administration.

1. Project Committee
2. Media & Publicity Committee
3. Academic Committee
4. Shipping Committee

5. Sponsorship Committee

WELFARE COMMITTEE

As enshrined in the NUGS-CHINA CONSTITUTION, a welfare committee was formed on 26th September 2020, which sort to attend to the welfare needs of members. The committee comprised of representatives from the following provinces: Shanghai, Shanxi, Zhejiang, Jilin, Xiamen, Xian, Tianjin, Jiangsu, Anhui, Hubei and Beijing.

CHAPTERS

The 2020-2021 administration was run with hundred and seventy-one (171) Chapter executives from 35 Chapters including; Xi'an, Jinhua, Beijing, Changchun, Zhenjiang, Xuzhou, Xiamen, Changzhou, Wuhan, Nanjing, Qiqihar, Taiyuan, Tianjin, Weifang, Shanghai, Jingzhou, Yichang, Harbin, Chongqing, Jiujiang, Shiyan, Anhui, Hangzhou, Huzhou, Wuxi, Jinan, Lanzhou, Chengdu, Zhanjiang, Hainan, Sheyang, Yantai, Guanzhou, Nanchang, Zhenzhou

ADMINISTRATIVE YEAR REVIEW

SECOND EVACUATION OF GHANA STUDENTS

Our transition period was first met with the need for a second evacuation of our country mates back home. In collaboration with the Embassy of Ghana, Beijing China and the 2019/2020 NEC, we were able to conduct a successful 2nd evacuation for some stranded Ghanaian in China. These consisted of those who needed swift amnesty interventions and students that were suffering eviction from their various universities upon graduation. We were able to secure free flight ticket for about eighteen (18) students who were facing financial challenges in acquiring ticket to return home. On July 25, 2020, the second evacuation process saw about 274 Ghanaian students and expatriates evacuated from Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport with Emirate Airlines.

VISA EXTENSION FOR SOME STUDENTS

NEC engaged the Embassy to help members who for some peculiar reasons, couldn't join the evacuation plan but still intended to go home to extend their visas for some time as flights were unavailable. However, students who did not intend to go home and still intended to stay in China were advised to apply for Chinese Language Programs to enable them extend their visas. We encouraged members to take serious note of their visa dates to avoid visa overstay which may cause serious problems.

ELIMINATION OF "KUAIDI" COST ON PASSPORT RENEWAL

NEC successfully engaged the Embassy to cancel the express delivery cost in sending passport renewal documents physically to the Embassy at Beijing. The passport renewal documents were

sent to the embassy electronically via the email instead of "kuaidi", and this relieved members off some cost in the passport renewal process before the new regulation of appearing at the Embassy physically for passport renewal.

GHANA-CHINA ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL WEEK 2020

As part of the week-long celebration of the friendship between Ghana and China NUGS-China was invited to participate in the program dubbed Ghana-China Economic and Cultural Week which was geared towards celebrating the 60yrs anniversary of diplomatic ties between Ghana and China. At the program, the National President presented a speech on the title: "China-Ghana relation: The Journey So Far from The Students' Perspective". The President's speech delivered during the program touched on the following:

What Has Been Achieved?

Education: Scholarship for Ghanaian students

Economic gains

Healthcare

Maximizing the Ghana-China Relation

HALL PAGES CLEAN UP

To eliminate non-students from the hall pages, the NEC embarked on cleanup exercise on the hall pages to eliminate non-students from the hall pages and ensure accurate NUGS-China members are on the hall pages, reduce spam and allow members to have access to information.

NUGS-CHINA TOP TIPS

To inform NUGS-China members on the happenings in the union, a weekly top tips was introduced to inform members on National and chapter programs. Motivational messages, articles, poems, stories, quiz, riddles, etc were captured in the top tips to entertain members

NUGS-CHINA QUARTERLY REPORT

This took the form of updating members on the Union's activities quarterly. It comprised of informing members on the happenings in the union at the national level and that of chapter every quarter as well as informing them on the expected programs for the subsequent quarter.

NEW LETTERHEAD

As a letterhead is important as a brand, in that it represents the union and can impart a first impression. When we resumed office, we realized the letterhead the union was using did not have the original design to aid changes however several modifications needed to be done due to

technological changes. These prompt the NEC to design new letterhead. The national, chapter, NJC, and standing committees letterhead have been changed.

DEBT RELIEF POLICY

To relief members from all dues debt and help bring all members to the same level in dues payment, the NEC has introduced a debt relief policy where members are required to fulfill their 2020-2021 dues requirements (Chapter & National Dues) from 13th September, 2020 to 30th December 2020 in order to relief them of all previous dues debts owed in the past.

ONLINE VIGIL FOR THE LATE EMMANUEL OTENG, NUGS ORGANIZER 2015/2016

On 18th July, 2020, the NEC was served with a message by a student in Chengdu concerning the demise of our brother Emmanuel Oteng. He had joined the first evacuation, and the union was looking forward to him returning to continue his education after regaining full strength; however, he passed on 18th July, 2020.

He was a PhD student at the University of Electronic Science and Technology of China (UESTC), School of Management and Economics. He served as the National Organizer NUGS China for the 2015/2016 administration. The NEC, in memory of his soul organized an online vigil on 22nd August, 2020, to pay our last respect, pray for the departed soul and to sympathize with the entire family. On the 29th August, 2020, the family of Emmanuel Oteng organized his final funeral right in Takoradi. May His Soul Rest In Peace.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

CHAPTER VISITATION

To enhance membership drive which was one of the aims of the current administration as well as increasing community spirit and togetherness, the NEC visited all Chapters to interact with members, know their well-being and encourage them to be active with the union's activities. Plans were made to visit all chapters however, Zhenjiang, Qiqihar, Xiamen Chapter leaders could not organize their members to meet the NEC.

CHAPTER INAUGURATIONS

As part of our membership drive plan, one of the main objectives of this administration which was exhibited in our annual plan was the expansion of chapter base by inaugurating operational chapters.

The union has been able to inaugurate four (4) additional Chapters. On 14th August 2020, Huzhou and Wuxi Chapters were successfully inaugurated. Due to the problem of COVID-19 which made it impossible for members to converge at a place, the inauguration and swearing in was held on zoom meeting. Present at the inauguration were the members of the National Executive Council, members of the two newly formed chapters (Wuxi and Huzhou) and their

respective chapter executives. The inauguration and swearing in sessions was led by Hon. Derick Cudjoe. The new chapters were duly inaugurated after a careful assessment.

The Huzhou Chapter had about 52 members with 6 leaders including the President, Vice President, General Secretary, Organizer, Treasurer, and the women's commissioner while the Wuxi Chapter had about 13 members with 3 leaders consisting of the President, General Secretary and Treasurer.

On 8th February 2020, Guanzhou Chapter and Nanchang Chapter were also inaugurated. Also with the same circumstance of the COVID-19, the inauguration and swearing in was held online on zoom. Present at the inauguration were the members of the National Executive Council, members of the two newly formed chapters (Guangzhou and Nanchang) and their respective chapter executives. The inauguration and swearing in sessions were led by Hon. Derick Cudjoe. The new chapters were duly inaugurated after a careful assessment. The Guanzhou Chapter had about 75 members while Nanchang Chapter had about 52 members both with 6 leaders including the President, Vice President, General Secretary, Financial Controller, Organizer, and Women's commissioner.

LIST OF CHAPTERS AND PROVINCES

NO.	CHAPTER	PROVINCE		NO.	CHAPTER	PROVINCE
1.	Nanjing	Jiangsu		18.	Zhengzhou	Hunan
2.	Changzhou	Jiangsu		19.	Guanzhou	Guandong
3.	Xuzhou	Jiangsu		20.	Anhui	Hefei
4.	Zhenjiang	Jiangsu		21.	Chengdu	Sichuan
5.	Shenyang	Liaoning		22.	Lanzhou	Gansu
6.	Wuhan	Hubei		23.	Nanchang	Jiangxi
7.	Jingzhou	Hubei		24.	Jiujiang	Jiangxi
8.	Yichang	Hubei		25.	Zhangjiakou	Hebei
9.	Shiyan	Hubei		26.	Weifang	Shandong
10.	Xiamen	Fujian		27.	Jinan	Shandong
11.	Shanghai	Shanghai		28.	Yantai	Shandong
12.	Beijing	Beijing		29.	Xi'an	Shaanxi
13.	Tianjin	Tianjin		30.	Changchun	Jilin
14.	Hainan	Haikou		31.	Taiyuan	Shanxi
15.	Huzhou	Zhejiang		32.	Wuxi	Jiangsu
16.	Hangzhou	Zhejiang		33.	Qiqihar	Heilongjiang
17.	Jinhua	Zhejiang		34.	Harbin	Heilongjiang

OPERATIONAL CHAPTERS

Qingdao- Shandong Province

Chongqing-Sichuan Province

Changsha – Hunan Province (Formerly inaugurated but inactive)

Shijiazhuang – Hebei Province

Fuzhou –

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

PROGRAMS ON HALL PAGES

On 21st August, 2020 and 18th September, 2020, a program titled “Pamper us we deserve the best from you” was organized on Hall One (1) and Hall Three (3) Wechat Hall Pages respectively. It was a time for both ladies and gentlemen to spell out their expectations in a relationship. The host was Hon. Samuel Ofosu Donyina. The guest speakers for Hall one (1) were Hon. Bernard Bekoe Boamah, Hon. Collins Kyefondeme, Hon. Gloria Selorm Akpabla, Hon. Irene Korkor N. Agbenu, and Hon. Araba Mensah whiles Hall three (3) had Hon. Felix Gyawu Addo, Hon. Zuweratu Mohammed, Hon. Naphty Larsey, Hon. Gloria Boakye, and Hon. Gloria Selorm Akpabla as guest speakers.

CREATING OF LEGAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN CHINA FOR MEMBERS

As part of the unions mandate to seek the welfare of its members, the Union has made the necessary arrangements and collaborations with some schools in China, to offer legal jobs (especially teaching) to its distinguished members. The mission for this activity is to reduce drastically illegalities associated with employment and other related activities among members. One job was secured at Shenzhen where members were invited to apply.

NUGS-CHINA SHIPMENT

The Union in collaboration with the Ghana Mission instituted the NUGS-China shipment program. This program is conducted annually for Ghanaian graduates to use as a means of transporting their valuables from China back to Ghana. The 2019/2020 shipment was still in session when our administration began. As we noticed, some challenges were emanating from the process we tried our possible best to give all necessary support to the 2019/2020 shipping board. Several challenges emanated from the process which is not limited to; friction between the shipping agent and the shipping board, high demurrage cost on the two containers that were shipped. Extensive meeting was held between all stake holders in the shipping process to address the friction that emanated. Several letters of appeal for demurrage cost waiver were also sent to the shipping line to avoid complete seizure of our containers at the port.

POSTPONEMENT OF 2020/2021 SHIPPING

As a result of the several challenges encountered in the 2019/2020 shipping which rendered the union huge losses, the shipping committee for the 2020/2021 in consultation with NEC, Chapter

executives, and Senate concluded that 2020/2021 shipping be postponed based on the following reasons;

- The required period to carry out a successful shipping activity is questionable.
- Prior shipping constraints are still not resolved.
- Turn out from the survey conducted by the shipping committee indicated low priority.
- The shipping board may incur a cost given the number of respondents.
- Based on professional advice.

COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGED ITEMS

Members who reported damaged or lost items during the last shipment (2019/2020) were compensated with 50% cost price of their items. We encourage members to comply with measures set by the shipping committee to aid smooth shipping in subsequent years.

BAN ON GHICCO LOGISTICS COMPANY LTD

The previous shipping board (2019/2020) made a recommendation to blacklist GHICCO Logistics Company(the 2019/2020 shipping agent) from future NUGS-China shipment and also not to advertise the company to the general assembly of the union with reasons not limited to;

- The company had warehousing issues.
- The company had no financial strength to carry the demands of NUGS-China Shipment.
- The company had no organized working team to carry out shipment hence the safety of goods were not assured.
- The company is not faithful and trustworthy.
- The company deliberately delayed the necessary documents for the clearance of the shipping container which resulted in losses to the union.

Based on the above and further consultation with Senate, GHICCO-Logistics Company was banned from partaking in NUGS-China shipment and also any form of advertisement on NUGS-China platforms. Members were cautioned to be careful with their dealings with this company.

MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS

With so much effort to continue the successes of the immediate-past administration, the current administration continued the mentorship program which was organized in collaboration with the Ghana missions, Beijing.

The program was created to bring academicians and professionals together to share their knowledge and skills with a goal of assisting in the promotion of expert knowledge expertise that is tailored to academic and professional development.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM FOR CHAPTER EXECUTIVES

On 15th August, 2020, a leadership training program was organized for all chapter executives to equip them with general leadership skills that will enhance works in their current portfolios and also prepare them for future leadership positions. The program was in four sessions; General leadership seminar facilitated by Dr. Jim Phillips (Lecturer, Northeastern State University & Brigham Young University Hawaii), knowing NUGS-China constitution facilitated by Hon. Derrick Anquanah Cudjoe (NJC Chair), Balancing leadership roles with academics facilitated by Hon. Benjamin Ohene Kwapong Baffoe, NUGS President 2017/2018, and Break room session for the various portfolios. At the end of the program, participants were equipped with

- Knowledge of qualities of a good leader
- How to manage a team, time management
- How to lead by example
- Strategies to mobilize resources to help the union
- The need for commitment as leaders.

At the end of the program, E-certificate were given to participants

PATHWAY TO LECTURING IN GHANAIAN UNIVERSITIES

A mentorship program was organized with Dr. Robert Apkalu (Lecturer, Valley View University) on tip of becoming a lecturer in Ghana. At the end of the program, members were informed on the;

- Requirement of becoming a lecturer in Ghana
- Selection Process involved
- Continual appointment in the various universities
- Compensation
- Workload
- Retirement

Participants were admonished to pay close attention to their publications before and during their appointment with the university as faculty members by the guest speaker..

MAJOR PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

64TH INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION

Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, the union was able to hold a four-day 64th Independence celebration where the union was honored to host Hon. Kojo Oppong Nkrumah (Minister of Information) as the guest speaker who spoke briefly about Ghana beyond aid; the

role of students in the diaspora. In his speech, he outlined five (5) pillars of the President's vision of Ghana beyond aid. These pillars were;

1. Empowering state institutions to carry out their functions without hindrance
2. Developing a resilient economy capable of withstanding any shock
3. Social inclusiveness for citizens at all levels
4. Wealthy nation with high per capita income
5. Sustainable Ghana with special focus on the environment

He also highlighted three key roles that Ghanaian students in the diaspora can play to ensure the realization of the President's dream of a Ghana beyond Aid;

1. Bring back knowledge and skills acquired overseas
2. Be opportunity connectors, home and abroad
3. Open up global access to market, home and abroad.

DEDICATED MEMBERS AWARD

As part of the 64th Independence celebration, the union acknowledged some dedicated members who always availed themselves for the service and the progress of the union. Each chapter presented two (2) members who were awarded with certificate and NGS-China T-Shirt. Below are the NUGS-China dedicated members for the 2020/2021 academic year. This is the first of its kind.

LANZHOU	Setor Kwami Fudjoe
	Amoah Stephen Kusi
TIANJIN	Amaglo Yawa Akpene
	Darko Nana Ama Anokyewaa
ZHENZHOU	William Marfo
	James Kumankuma-Sarpong
CHENGDU	Fiasam Linda Delali
	Nanor Ebenezer
JINGZHOU	Hanson Boakye
	Tulasi Amo
TAIYUAN	Saalidong Benjamin Mugtari
	Adu Sarfo Philip
JINHUA	Yeboah Martha Asamoah
	Kpodji Emmanuelle Kwasi
HUZHOU	Joshua Mensah

	Emmanuel Asiedu
BEIJING	Princess Amoah Effum
	Stephen Frank Love
HAINAN	Kingsford Kyeremanteng
GUANZHOU	Okae James
	Armah Adolph Nii Armah
SHIYAN	Lucy Adzoa Agbomson
	Agbesi Elsie Kafui Afi
CHANGZHOU	Sackey Samson Hansen
	Abubakar Aishatus
NANJING	Cornelia Asiedu
	Ebenezer Amponsah
HANGZHOU	Agyei Philip Wiafe
	Linda Korkor Nartey
YICHANG	Emmanuel Donkor
	Sidsaya Grace Adwoa
WUHAN	Raymond Akuh
	Afua Adomaa Boakye-Boateng

DEBATE COMPETITION

As part of the activities to celebrate Ghana's 64th independence anniversary, the union organized two debate competitions. The first competition was organized between chapters of NUGS China on the 27th February 2021 on the topic "Ghana Beyond Aid is a Myth". Two chapters (Yichang Chapter and Hangzhou Chapter) participated in the final debate. At the end of the debate, Hangzhou Chapter emerged winner of the competition. Having emerged as the winners of the inter-chapter competition, Hangzhou Chapter represented NUGS China in a Pan African Debate. The Pan African Debate was organized among six selected African countries on the 7th March 2021 on the topic "With the African Union championing Africa Beyond Aid in the Context of SDG's, some believe that Africa may not be able to achieve Agenda 2063". The six countries were put into three groups and countries debated for or against the motion. Ghana emerged as the country with the highest score in all the three groups.

SKILL UP MASTERCLASS PROGRAM

NUGS-China SkillUp is an educative program that offers academic training and certification to members via an online or on-site medium of courses instruction. The program covers a broad range of subject areas including Computer Science and Engineering, Software Engineering, Chemistry & Materials Science, Social Sciences, Earth Sciences & Geography, Physics, Mathematics, Business & Management, Economics & Finance, Natural Resources & Conservation, Civil Engineering, Agriculture & Agric Operations, Information & Communication Engineering etc.

The SkillUp program for 2021 covered the following topics:

Advanced Data Analysis with R programming,

Revit and Autocad 2020

WeChat Mini program Development,

Python Web Scraping

Data visualization with Tableau

Each class came with a fully developed curriculum designed to cover the subject over duration specified by the instructor. Curriculum was designed to provide “real world” examples and practical approach of the course concepts. At the end of these programs, members who participated have acquired new practical skills in their areas of studies. Also, it provided an opportunity for student instructors to exhibit their skills. At the end of the program, instructors were awarded with plaques in appreciation of their effort.

For more info visit: <https://www.nugschina.org/nugs-china-lab/>

ADVANCED DATA ANALYSIS WITH R PROGRAMMING

This was a 4-day program which aimed at giving a brief introduction to Advanced Data Analysis in R software. In the first session, participants were given a brief introduction to the R environment and its IDEs (R base, R studio and Jupyter notebook). Vector and matrix arithmetics, setting of working directories and data importation of different formats into R (CSV, Text files, Excel, SPSS, STATA and SAS) were also demonstrated, amongst other tasks. The second session focused on Loops with or without conditions, and general use of apply functions (lapply, sapply, tapply, apply, mapply, parLapply). They learnt creation of own functions and different types of data visualisations in R during the third session/day. Finally, a good introduction to inferential tests (both parametric and non-parametric tests) and model fitting (time series, regression, etc.) in R were demonstrated with some practical and assignment tasks. For video recordings of the 4-day event and other important pre-recorded lessons on Advanced data analysis in R, kindly visit the instructor’s YouTube channel called Clement Twumasi Educative Channel.

PYTHON WEB SCRAPING

This course taught how to extract information from web pages with Python codes. The beginners session was about the basic types, variables, object and method, loops and dictionaries of python. The Session 2 was on Python Web Scraping essentials. During this session, participants learnt about Examining modern browsers for data extraction (– Web page inspection, HTML & CSS Basics) and BeautifulSoup – A Python library for Web Scraping. The Session 3 featured a guided web scraping project where participant when taken through a complete web scrapping

project example and an assignment of Scrapping projects. The final session was a Project Display of how the acquired skill could be utilized.

DATA VISUALIZATION

The Data Visualization with Tableau class introduced students to the Tableau software and the functions it performs. Students could use Tableau to develop types of data charts (pie charts, bar graphs, scatter plots, histograms) and integrate them on an interactive dashboard at the end of the course.

REVIT AND AUTOCAD

It was a 6-day training program aimed at giving a brief introduction to Revit and Autocad. In the first session, participants had a brief introduction to the AutoCAD interface and how it can be used inter-changeably with Revit. They also had a brief introduction of Revit. The second lesson was to give a detailed exploration of the 2D and 3D tools in AutoCAD. The third lesson was focused on the Revit interface and how to develop a simple plan or layout detailing based on the drawings given in Autocad (a sample drawing was provided to all students).

In the fourth lesson they continued to understand more features of Revit 2020 and how to beautify their 3D model and achieve the needed detailing for their work. The instructor also touched on creating a project portfolio with Revit and perfecting it with AutoCAD. In the fifth lesson participants went ahead to learn how to use section tools to check for correct elevation of buildings, amongst many others. The final lesson was a review of all that they had done and also introduced how work can be exported out of Revit into Autocad or other formats and platforms. They also touched on places where students were having difficulty in understanding and finally progress was evaluated. The instructor gave a task to participants to do their best to improve on their own and whenever they faced difficulties they could reach out. Many study aid videos, books and methods were also shared throughout the course of study.

TUNNEL LIGHT PROJECT AND BUSINESS EXHIBITION

Tunnel Light is the first ever exhibition program on Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Business Operation organized by this administration. Tunnel Light is designed for students to showcase their breakthrough to the outside world and also to bring together individuals with diverse studies and business operations to promote individual and team work creativity as a force for socio-economic development.

To see a "tunnel light"; that is a sign of a long-awaited indication that a period of hardship or adversity is nearing an end. We know how challenging it is also to get a project/business idea out in order to attract support from the community. We also know the demand for talents on innovative products. As a response to the challenge and the demands in the market that are not only limited to having knowledge, but also more about how impeccably one can present that knowledge, Tunnel Light proposes a need to help students to experiment with their knowledge

and provide them with a larger platform to showcase their talents and innovations to a broader audience. Tunnel Light sought to promote members' projects to a successful end and help attract further funding and support through increased awareness

Participants had the opportunity to showcase their projects to possible investors and employers, who were present during the exhibition programs. The program also created a link between students studying in the diaspora and industries around. The program was held online, in collaboration with the Embassy of Ghana, Beijing, and in partnership with the Ghana Investment Promotion Center (GIPC), Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTI), The DotConnector, African Diaspora In China Network (ADiC Net), Teranga Valley and WicreSoft saw nine (9) businesses and projects exhibited.

The tunnel light project/business exhibition is an initiative with the purpose to provide platform to members of NUGS-China to showcase their creativity and hard work they have put in past years within their stay abroad. The exhibition was held in two sessions (4:00pm-6:00pm tunnel light session 1, 7:00pm-9:00pm tunnel light session2). The first session begun with a speech by the representative from the Ministry of Trade and Industry in the person of Mr. Abubarkari Ibrahim, Act. Director in-charge of Industrial Parks (MoTI) who spoke on the theme “ Industrial parks Development and Strategic Anchor, The Role of The Youth.

This was followed by a lecture from Madam Marina Bansah, Head of Diaspora Unit, Ghana Investment Promotion Center (GIPC) who also spoke on the theme “ Harnessing Investment Opportunities Available For the Diaspora Community.

The under listed projects/businesses were presented by Tunnel Light participants:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • TAPDOM | - OLIVIA ADDO- BANKAS |
| • GLOBAL PORT GHANA | - MR ASIEDU EMMANUEL |
| • BAOBAB NATURAL DRINK | - MISS AZIKU MILLICENT |
| • ETERNAL BUSINESS ECOSYSTEM | - MR OSAE FRANCIS AKOTUAH |
| • GLORY GLOBAL (ADVANCITY) | - DR ALIMEY FRED JOHN |
| • PIBOZ | - MR RWEYONGEZA PROSPER NYAKALE |
| • ECO AMET SOLUTIONS | - MR DAVID EWUSI-MENSAH |
| • WANTANA STUDIOS | - ERASTUS MAK-MENSAH |
| • FINANCIAL MARKETS TRADING | - MR KPAMI GIDEON MAWUTOR ADZEODA |

The exhibition featured the under listed special guests

- Mr Yaw Nyinako - Able Group Of Companies
- Jimmy Keese - American Entrepreneur
- Yixuan Heather Li - The Dotconnector
- Justin Way - Service Century Culture Development Co Ltd

- Iulian Mitrea - Wicresoft Shanghai

GMDCE EXAMINATION PREP CLASS

The GMDCE Prep Class is a program organized by NUGS-China in collaboration with some volunteered medical doctors in Ghana to prepare our medical students with some tips and knowledge needed to successfully go through the MDCG Examination. This project is the first of its kind to be organized,

The MDCG Examination is a requirement for granting certificate to foreign trained doctors, by the Medical and Dental Council, Ghana (MDCG). Foreign trained doctors are therefore required to satisfy the MDCG that they have the professional skills, knowledge and abilities necessary for medical and dental practice in Ghana by passing the Council's Examination. Section 20(3) of NRCD 91 (1972) enjoins the MDCG "to direct any persons to undergo such examinations as it deems necessary prior to registration under this degree"

The GMDCE prep class is free of charge and therefore we encouraged members to sign up and take advantage of this. The prep class was scheduled to run from February to August 2021. However due to conflicting time schedules with our medical students' regular school classes, the prep class was suspended but will be resumed when schools are on vacation.

AFBA 2021

AFBA 2021 is the 2nd International academic and research conference that provides a forum for researchers across various disciplines to present and discuss the latest research findings, ideas, and emerging technologies and applications, business models, policies, and regulatory frameworks in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, Information and Communication (STEMIC). Others are Economics, Management, Social Sciences, Education, and others.

It is important for African scholars to conduct and present reliable research as it is essential to the future development of the African continent. Additionally, the AFRICA WE WANT captioned under African Union (AU) Agenda 2063 can only be achieved if we all Africans put their shoulders to the wheel in making it a reality. Hence, the purpose of the conference was to present and discuss current research for policy-making, industrial development, field advancement and practices in Africa.

The 2nd International conference featured Professor Yaw Afari Ankomah (former Dean and a Professor of Planning and Leadership in Education at the Institute of Educational Administration and Planning-IEPA of University of Cape Coast, Ghana) as the conference chair and keynote speaker. He spoke on the topic: "THE AFRICAN PLIGHT, UNDERSTANDING THE ROOT AND CHARTING A COLLECTIVE SOLUTION"

Dr. Stephen Quartey, Nottingham University UK was featured as a session chair who presented on the topic: “HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF DEVELOPMENT AND DECLINE IN GHANA (1890-1992)

Dr. Samuel Koranteng-Pipim (Speaker, Africa Must Think & Director of Eagles Online) delivered his presentation on the topic: “AFRICA BEYOND AID: THE ROLE OF AFRICAN STUDENTS IN THE DIASPORA”

The Conference was graced by representatives from several African countries and the Diaspora such as Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Canada, France and the United Kingdom.

At the end of the conference, participants

- Acquired expert knowledge from scholars and experts
- Developed the necessary skills for a certain profession
- Understood current STEMIC and SDG advancements in many fields.
- Developed a relationship for future opportunities.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS (AEA 2021)

The 2nd Academic Excellence Award was organized in a grand style with the aim of recognizing and rewarding members who have been diligent in their studies in relation to coursework and research work. An AWARDS NIGHT was organized on 11th July 2021. This was the first of its kind since the union was formed. The award was grouped into three main categories (Bachelors', Masters, and PhD) and Special category (Most cited paper, Young Male & Female Promising Researchers, Female Researchers). In addition, a special category (Personality Award) was created for members who contribute in diverse ways to promote the agenda of the union. The Personality award was open for nomination by all members of the union. Finally, the effort of a member who had been consistent in promoting the activities of the union on social media platforms was also recognized. To crown the winners and also to celebrate our graduating students, award night was held and winners received various prizes. Among the items received by various awardees were: Tablet, Plaque, Customize water bottle, Rice cooker, oven, Customize T-shirt, and certificates. We also had the opportunity to congratulate our graduating students for 2021 academic year.

NUGS-CHINA RADIO

NUGS-China has been able to develop an online radio to host educative and social programs to help convey information, entertain, and educate people across the globe. The radio delivers talk shows such as NUGS-China and You, Anadwo Y3 d3, Sunday church road, Dj (ing), etc. NUGS-China radio can be accessed on NUGS-China mobile app.

DEPARTURE AND ARRIVAL POLICY

One of the most crucial ingredients to building a formidable Union is to instill a sense of belonging among its members. Having a sense of belonging influences the level of involvement and attachment an individual has to a community or group. It also provides an avenue for one to see value in coming together as a Union and to cope with challenges. The National Executive Committee in seeking to increase the sense of belonging within members introduces this policy. This policy aims to give benefits to our members who will be leaving or arriving in China. The policy will give discounted airport transportation cost to members who will be leaving China or arriving in China. Members who provide their flight itinerary will be catered for once they meet the requirements. We, as NEC members have noted the need to have a well-documented policy that will ensure continued growth in the sense of belonging in members and also guide the implementation of this policy. The policy has been approved and currently available for members to benefit. Members are entreated to visit the website and read the full details of the policy.

WEBSITE AND DIGITAL SERVICE IMPROVEMENT

SELLERS VERIFICATION

To have a comprehensive information about members who advertise their products and services on the WeChat hall pages, a new section in the NUGS-China portal has been created for members' verification. All members who wish to advertise their products or goods are entreated (all sellers) to visit the website and apply for verification. This will help reduce fraud and provide members with enhancing services from these advertisers/entrepreneurs.

ARTICLE PUBLICATION

A new section on the website has been created for members who have articles, stories, and motivational messages to share. Some articles have been published and can be accessed through this link <https://www.nugschina.org/articles/>

ACADEMIC RESOURCE SHARING

A new section has also been created on the website where members can share any academic resource link for others to also have access to. This is to help make academic resources easily available to members <https://www.nugschina.org/academic-resources/>

E-CERTIFICATE VERIFICATION

Certificates are more than just a badge of honor. They give members more reason to be committed to the purpose of this union. The union has always been issuing only hard copy certificates to honorable members for their enormous contribution. However some members do not see the importance as they feel these certificates could be easily forged by any one. We have

introduced the E-Certificate for members/persons who participate in projects, activities, and seminars etc that are organized by NUGS-China. This new feature allows certificates issued by NUGS- China to be verified by anyone on our website provided they have the certificate number. This will increase the credibility of certificates that we issue out to our members. Currently some members have already received some E-certificates from our first Leadership Training Program 2020. These members can share their certificates via link or even on social media such facebook, twitter, linkedIn etc. Our members will henceforth be confident to include these certificates to their portfolios for prospective opportunities in their career

LIVE CHAT

Having an online presence to serve our visitors is serving as a backbone to our union, playing a crucial role in building a sustainable member base and allowing the union to flourish. In this digital age, live chat is an integral part that provides a platform to communicate with visitors in real-time. A live chat has been created on the website which has greatly increased the satisfactory level of our website visitors.

SPOTLIGHT

The spotlight icon was introduced to feature some prominent members on the website during the week. The rational was to showcase members to outsiders who visit the website and social media handles (ie. creating opportunities for the member or spotlight icon). The Union also stands a chance of expanding its presence and awareness to a lot of people (through sharing)

NEWS HEADLINES

For students in China to be informed on current happenings in Ghana, the union furnishes members with News Headlines from the various news outlets in Ghana in a video ad.

TECH TIPS

We believe that in a tech-evolving world, awareness of basic in-demand tech knowledge is essential for anyone wanting to strive well in the corporate or academic world. For this reason the Technical team introduced the monthly TECH TIPS. This featured each month with sharing of important tech tips on our Wechat platforms and social media pages. This was to educate members on some tech terms they may have heard but not paid attention to and also to emphasis on the importance of basic tech knowledge in the corporate world. These tips were shared in the form of posters and videos.

ENHANCEMENT OF NUGS-CHINA WECHAT ACADEMIC GROUPS

The NUGS-China Academic Wechat groups which were established by the 2019/2020 academic year to promote information sharing, conversation, and discussion among members have been enhanced. Active group administrators who ensure to post regular academic notices, as well as ensuring that the group achieve its purpose by encouraging members to share knowledge, content tips, etc has been one of the targets of this administration as well as the creation of other

academic wechat groups. We have greatly observed good page administration by the various group leaders during this 2020/2021 academic year.

NUGS-CHINA MOBILE APP APPLICATION

A user-friendly mobile application has been developed by the union to serve as a platform and community where social networking and interaction would be enhanced. This would help in the proper dissemination of information to members in the union in a relatively faster and more convenient way. It can be accessed by downloading it from App store and play store.

ESTABLISHMENT OF COLLABORATION WITH GHANA INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERING (GHIE)

The union has been able to collaborate with the Ghana Institution of Engineering (GhIE) to help prepare, train, educate, mentor, and register our engineering members studying in the diaspora in an effort to be abreast with national rules, regulations, and ethics governing the engineering practices in Ghana.

The institution has accepted application forms for over 50 engineering students who currently are in the process of being registered to the GhIE. In fulfilling that, an introductory webinar was organized on 17th June, 2021 by the union in collaboration with the Ghana Institution of Engineering (GhIE) for our engineering students. Through the webinar, the GHIE has promised to set up a chapter for students in China under the union.

WOMEN' S COMMISSION

WOMEN' S QUIZ COMPETITION

The NUGS-China Women's Quiz competition-2020/2021 was organized by the NUGS-China women's commission in episodes and grand finale were held on zoom. The competition was between four/three great chapters with two or one representatives. Contesting chapters were:

EPISODE	CHAPTER
1	Jinhua
	Harbin
	Chengdu
	Anhui
2	Nanjing
	Wuhan
	Changchun Chapter
	Guangzhou Chapter
3	Zhenjiang Chapter:
	Xi'an Chapter:

Finale	Nanchang Chapter:
	Shiyan Chapter:
	Zhenjiang
	Xi'an
	Changchun

The contests were thrilling, informative and educative. Nevertheless, the contest got tougher between the remaining three Chapters per episodes as the contestants' head on massively towards winning. At the end, Xi'an Chapter emerged overall first winner, Chengdu Chapter emerged second, and Changchun Chapter emerged third of the NUGS-China Women's Quiz competition-2020/2021, a trophy, plaques, medals were rewards presented to participants at the grand finale

VIRTUAL WOMEN'S ACADEMIC AND LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE.

An academic and leadership conference was organized by the Women's commission themed: "REIMAGINED 'SUBTLE BEAUTY', RAISING GIANT LEADERS IN THE 21ST CENTURY", with the Agenda "WOMEN INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION". The key areas which were addressed at the conference include:

- Giant business initiatives/starting small – scale business.
- The importance of higher learning as foundational base for leadership and career opportunities in academia and the corporate world
- Drawing the relevance of specific academic programs and their usefulness to the Ghanaian economy.
- Linking academic programs into world time solutions.
- Overcoming challenges in pursuit of one's educational career.
- Raising Giant Leaders, Choose to Challenge. -
- What is the importance of higher learning as foundational base for leadership and career opportunities in digital and the corporate world
- Embracing digital tools and their usefulness to adapt in the digital eruption of Ghanaian economy. Linking academic programs into world time solutions.
- What it will take to become giant leaders for the next generation.
- Key learnings from speakers' career journey and how to thrive in the future of work.

H.E Ambassador Edward Boateng (Immediate past Ghana's Ambassador to China/Businessman) was the special guest during the program. Other speakers include:

1. Prof. JANE NAANA OPOKU-AGYEMANG - Former Minister of Education, Politician
2. OHENEYERE GIFTY ANTI - Journalist, Host of the Standpoint
3. MADAM PATRICIA OBO-NAI - CEO Vodafone Ghana

NUGS-CHINA WOMENS FOUNDATION (WCF)

NUGS-China Women's Foundation (W.C.F) formerly known as Yaa Asantewaa Fund (YAF) project which was initiated by the previous administrations has been inaugurated. The project seeks to improve the lives of women and girls. The NUGS-China Women's Commission Foundation intends to leave an indelible mark in the lives of many young women in the Ghanaian society, to strive for greater height in every sphere. The Vision of the Foundation is to bring women together for the common goal of breaking through educational and economic barriers.

The Mission of the Foundation: Advancing equity for women through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. The foundation has two main areas under focus with sub projections.

General health of women:

1. Sex education
2. Family planning
3. Basic health (Considering, Gyne Check-Up, Antenatal and Post-Natal Checks, Routine STI and Treatment, Preventive Education, Cancer, Fibroid, Among Others).

Gender development and advocacy:

1. Vocational training
2. Leadership training
3. Research programs.

SURVEY ON ABUSE AMONG GHANAIAN STUDENTS IN CHINA

Over the past years, the women's commission has had reports on diverse faces of abuse meted out on female students who have come to study in China. To ascertain severity and adverse implications of abuse on Ghanaian students, be it male or female. This necessitated the commission to undertake a survey to acquire reliable data, facts that influenced better analyses, conclusion, and measures to curb such atrocities. The survey was disseminated on the 10th July, 2021 at 12:00pm, and ended the next day 11th July, 2021 at 8:00pm Beijing time. This survey was conducted strictly to be filled by the members of NUGs-China only.

VIRTUAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS AND MENTAL HEALTH

A virtual breast cancer awareness and mental health awareness panel discussion was held, to encourage women and men to prioritize and pay more attention to their breast and mental health. This event was moderated by MISS IRENE KORKOR NYENGOR AGBENU. And the speakers were: Dr. Albert Sedohia (specialist) - Psychiatrist/Entrepreneur-KorleBu Teaching Hospital

Double Diamond Associate at Max International, Dr. Diana Abobi-Kanbigs-Korlebu Hospital, Dr. Ransford Hoyah-Quarshie- Medical Director-Dormah East District Hospital, Mrs Valerie McCarthy Vroom-Senior Community health nurse.

ONGOING PROJECTS

MAGAZINE PRODUCTION (2ND EDITION)

As the union seeks the academic, social and general welfare of Ghanaian students in China with the support of the Ghana Embassy, we embark on several programs and activities to educate students in China and make livelihood better. One way to showcase our programs and activities is to publish them in a magazine. Through various writings and features, the information is circulated around the world. This initiative was made by the 2021/2020 administration and we deemed it necessary to continue by producing the 2nd edition of the NUGS-China magazine. The magazine will serve as an information hub that promotes the activities of the Embassy and NUGS-China. The magazine will serve as a useful tool that offers holistic information about the Embassy of Ghana, China and NUGS-China and to be a preeminent resource to disseminate information and update on recent developmental projects. Through this magazine production, we stand a chance of getting increased presence to a greater number of people.

ESTABLISHMENT OF COLLABORATION WITH GHANA BAR ASSOCIATION (GBA)

As the union seeks to encourage and promote the welfare of our members, we initiated a collaboration process with the Ghana Bar Association to help prepare, train, educate, mentor, and register our law members studying in the diaspora in an effort to be abreast with national rules, regulations, and ethics governing the law practices in Ghana. We recommend the new administration to do a follow up.

ACADEMIC AND CAREER COUNSELING

An electronic database was intended to be built for academic and career counselors to give 24/7 advisory services to students. This particular activity is in progress and we hope to get the list of academic and career counselors. Unfortunately, we were unable to achieve this activity, we therefore recommend to the next administration to take it up.

DATABASE FOR ACADEMIC WORKSHOPS

The academic committee intended to develop a database that captures all impending academic workshops in various fields. This database aimed to provide links to webinar/seminars globally and academic seminars within China and was intended to be released on a monthly basis to inform members interested. Due to time constraints, this objective was not achieved. We recommend next administration to take it up.

REGISTRATION OF THE UNION

To ensure the registration of NUGS-China as one of our core mandate, the NEC set up a special committee on October 22, 2020. The sole mandate of this Committee was solely to get the Union registered as an organization because the Union needs to be registered to pave way for more significant opportunities. The Committee was tasked to make every effort to complete this task because it will be a significant achievement for the Union. The NEC promised to assist in whichever way possible to help get this done. The Committee was also reminded to communicate any necessary info that requires the embassy's assistance whenever this team requested it. The proposed date for this work to be completed was December 30, 2020. The committee headed by Mr. Felix Gyawu Addo (National President, 2019/2020) met and concluded that the Union could be registered as an NGO or non-profit making business. Beijing was selected as the place in which the Union would be registered. Enquiries were made on the requirement to register an NGO in China at the Registrar General's office in Beijing, by Mr. Edumadze Johnson (NUGS-Beijing President 2020/2021). According to the office, several documents needed were;

- ☐ A letter from NUGS-Ghana stating that NUGS-China is affiliated to them
- ☐ A copy of the registration of NUGS Ghana
- ☐ A copy of their financial report for at least six months and also confirming that they have been in existence for more than two years.

This letter was supposed to be sent to the China Embassy in Ghana for translation. In addition, the union had to provide the constitution of NUGS China and a report showing activities, programs, and pictures and providing a legal representative of the Union.

According to the above information, official letter was sent to NUGS-Ghana to get these documents. Subsequently, this was done. However, after several attempts, these documents have still not been provided by NUGS-Ghana. The Committee head and the National President continued to have extensive informal conversations with the executive body of NUGS-Ghana as a follow up to the letter. Among the reasons included difficulty finding their registration documents and too many activities on their table, so they would need time to get the financial report from their bankers. Since November 2020, the Committee and the NEC tried several options to try and get the documents, but to no avail. However, the new president of NUGS-Ghana promised to look into the issue and help us to get the needed documents. This lacuna has been the main challenge of the Committee; hence the process has not been completed. Attempts to contact the Ghana Embassy in Beijing to help with other options yielded no results.

In conclusion, we recommend that the next administration should pursue this issue with all the seriousness it deserves. The Committee members were all motivated and committed to ensuring that this task is completed; however, certain circumstances were outside of their control. Getting

NUGS-China registered would go a long way to help in securing more opportunities and sponsorship within and outside China

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Collins Sey- National President
- Bernard Okwampah- National Vice President
- Felix Gyawu Addo- Nanjing Chapter
- Ebenezer Nickson Neequaye- Nanjing Chapter
- Robert Nana Appiah- Chengdu Chapter
- Collins Kyefondeme- Beijing Chapter
- Dr. Bismark Addai- Chengdu Chapter
- Musa Frimpong (Duapa Africa)

NOSE MASK ISSUE

The union received about Twelve Thousand (12,000RMB) from members which was used to purchase the nose masks for donation in Ghana during the previous administration (2019/2020).

The masks were delivered to Mr. Jestyl Eseinam Arku, NUGS-Tianjin President (2019/2020) in Ghana to donate on behalf of the union. However, five months after confirming receipt of the items the donation had not been done.

All effort to reach Mr. Arku proved futile. He declined all effort to get in touch with him even through close contacts. Mr. Arku also failed to account to the union the whereabouts of the nose masks he had received.

NEC issued a communique on the issue surrounding the nose mask. After the communique by NEC on 21st December, 2020, Mr. Arku responded to NEC in a separate letter, seeking for time to return the items. Mr. Arku in his letter indicated that he had already acquired about 2000 pieces of nose mask which he intended to use as initial replacement and subsequently returning the rest by end of January, 2021. He further indicated that he has already placed an order for the remaining nose masks which he would replace by the end of January, 2021.

The NEC had further deliberations with the Chapter Executives on the issue and finally presented all suggestions to Senate. Mr. Arku was invited to the senate meeting and he confirmed although he had placed an order for the nose mask, he had only made a sum of 1800.00 GHC as financial commitment to the supplier.

Senate upon further deliberations, concluded he pays the 12,066.57 RMB minus the 1,800.00 GHC incurred as commitment, within the next six (6) weeks with starting date 29th December 2020.

Mr. Jestyl Arku wrote to the Senate pleading to rather return the masks instead of paying the amount of money decided by the Senate. The Senate met to discuss this and it was decided that he returns the masks within the given timeline. Senate concluded that upon return of the nose mask, they will be donated to 3 schools in Nungua as soon as they are received. A three-member committee was formed to oversee this arrangement. These individuals were Mr. Collins Sey (NUGS National President) Ms. Belinda Faamaa Obeng (Jiangsu PC and Senate Secretary) and Mr. Collins Kyefondeme (Beijing PC). However, he failed to deliver the items.

The Senate wrote to the NJC's for advice on what to do with regards to the nose mask. After series of deliberation by the NJC, the NJC finally recommended that we give him another timelines to deliver the mask and if he fails, we proceed to reporting to the police.

The Senate wrote to Hon. Jestyl and gave him time to return the mask before end of July. Honorable Jestyl wrote to the Senate requesting for more time to raise the money to get back the Union its mask. Senate requested he makes payment by the end of July else the Union would proceed with getting him arrested. We will plead the new administration to follow up by the end of July, 2021.

INTEGRATION OF ASSOCIATION OF GHANAIAAN SCHOLARS IN HONG KONG (AGS-HK) INTO NUGS-CHINA

There is pending issue on finding ways to integrate the student body in Hong Kong into NUGS-China. This issue has been pending as far back as 2017. However, the issue has not been fully addressed. The issue resurfaced when AGS-HK wanted to be part of GUGS. Attention was drawn to the fact that only one country could be considered as part of GUGS since the policy of GUGS is one country, one student body. Hong Kong was considered to be under China and therefore they were referred to resolve the pending issue of integration into China. A meeting was scheduled between the GUGS, NUGS-China and AGS-HK to further discussing. At the meeting it was revealed that there has been formal communication with respect to this integration and therefore we needed to get them to form a committee to further discuss the issue. Finally it was concluded that a Seven-Member Joint Committee be formed consisting; past committee members (one members each), current executives (one members each), a member each from both Unions and a member from GUGS to see to the integration process. Mr. Collins Sey, Mr. Benjamin Ohene Kwapong Baffoe and Mr. Samuel Leumas Otoo formed the team representing NUGS-China.

On 9th July, 2021, a meeting was held to deliberate on the issue by the seven member committee formed. After series of deliberations it was concluded that NUGS-China and AGS-HK come out with possible ways to make the integration successful for next meeting deliberation. We encourage the incoming administration to follow up and join in this process as recommended during the formation of the committee.

CHALLENGES OF THE UNION AND PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

1. Post Covid-19 Challenges

The COVID-19 pandemic which has presented unprecedented human and humanitarian challenges has forced the adoption of new ways of doing things. The union has not recorded any death due to Covid-19. However, the challenge is with our colleagues who need to make use of scientific lab resources and are still not able to return to China to proceed with their studies smoothly. With the deepened Ghana-China relation, we believe this could be leveraged on to find possible ways of helping our students return. We look forward to seeing the return of our colleagues whose studies are on hold due to this pandemic.

2. Accreditation of Medical Schools in China by The Medical and Dental Council (MDC) Ghana.

China continues to produce medical students for Ghana through the various top notch medical institutions here in China. These medical students help to increase quality of healthcare service in Ghana with respect to supply of labour at the various health sectors in Ghana. Nevertheless there are issues about accreditation of some medical institution by the Medical and Dental Council, Ghana. The MDC sent representatives to a few medical schools in China with the promise of returning to assess the remaining schools. Following the first visit, eight (8) medical schools are listed on the MDC's website as the only accredited schools in China. This affects many students since many schools with Ghanaian students are not recognized as accredited schools by the MDC.

The MDC can schedule another visit (if needed) or find a way to access the remaining schools as promised so the current list can be updated. The updated list can then be made available so that incoming medical students would know which medical schools they could apply to. The GMDC having a good relationship with the medical schools in China can also give room for academic and cultural exchange programs. Such good relationships can also serve as a double-edged sword to keep the medical schools accountable and assure the GMDC that students are well trained. To help in this regard, the Union has accumulated a list of schools with Ghanaian students currently not on the accredited school list, which can help in this pursuit.

3. Medical and Dental Council (MDC) Examination

With regards to the issue of medical students failing licensure exam as reported by the MDC, the union in collaboration with some volunteered doctors in Ghana has organized classes for final year medical students in China to prepare them for the exam. Though the classes are ongoing, we hope to receive some financial support that will help sustain these classes since it requires resources to keep it running.

Another thing that can be initiated is internship opportunities for medical students. The MDC and the Embassy can help establish relationships with hospitals in China and Ghana where medical students would do their volunteer/internship to hone their skills during vacations.

4. Support For Partial Or No Scholarship Students

Although a lot has been put in place to attract more international students, there are still bits of challenges. Scholarship acquisition remains a challenge for some Ghanaian students who are currently enrolled in a partial or no scholarship program which sometimes leads to abandonment of the program. A huge number of students face school fees issues while studying in China. It is important to note that a greater percentage of our members are self-financing students. Some face major challenges when their source of funding (mostly parents) no longer becomes reliable. Unfortunately, some of our students fall into the hands of loan sharks or engage in teaching (mostly English), which is illegal for student visa holders. Some students are arrested in the process and repatriated. Others also abandon their academic programs and returning home. Creating or increasing scholarship opportunities for students studying in China can help alleviate some of these issues. Also scholarship awards could be given to some students who are already enrolled students and are on partial or no scholarship program and have challenges. This can help reduce the challenges. Some students who are on partial or no scholarship also seek loan relief to support their education.

5. Health Bills and Welfare Needs

No one plans to get sick or hurt, but we all need medical care at some point. The union receives request for financial support for members to help defer some medical costs. Unfortunately significant health problems received by union are not supported by the health insurance that protects our members from the unexpected, high medical costs.

It will be very good if some form of insurance policy could be secured to cater for Ghanaian students whose health insurance cannot support cases with high medical cost. Also, if support could be given to the union to secure more funds to support the welfare of students in China. As it stands, the student burden on the Union is enormous, and some of the genuine needs that arise need extra hands to deal with. Having additional funding for students' welfare can help the Union better take care of some students in need.

6. Disaster Recovery Fund

Following Wuhan's official lockdown and several other cities in the Hubei Province of China on 16th January, 2020 during the previous administration, the former Ambassador HE. Edward Boateng gave out some personal cash donation to support some needs of our students. This benevolent initiative is highly commendable.

Nevertheless we believe a disaster fund can be set up to help in times of emergencies. Covid-19 has shown that this is very necessary so that the Ghanaians can have something to fall on in such situations.

7. Industrial Link For Students Abroad

Some student find it difficult returning home on completion of their studies. Some attribute this reason to the fact that, there is no opportunity for them to exhibit their skills and knowledge in the industry at home. The industrial link between students studying in China and the industries in Ghana can help students exhibit their projects and skills and also make it easier for them to fit into the country on successful graduation quickly.

8. Arrival Pickup and Support for Freshmen

NUGS China has difficulty in knowing the number of new students coming to China. This makes it difficult for airport pickup, giving room to dubious people contacting students to bring them and dupe them. If we know students that are coming, we can reach out to them to let them know what to expect and prepare for their trip. A partnership could be secured between Ghana Mission-Beijing and the Chinese Embassy-Accra to get this information. The Union has flyers that can be left at the Chinese Embassy in Ghana to also create awareness.

9. Cost of Passport Renewal

The cost of renewing passports in China still remains a problem to our members. The entire student populace continues to express displeasure in the cost and process of renewing passport.

We believe that a complete adoption of online Passport renewal will speed up the process and reduce the passport fees drastically as compared to the current online application procedure and physical presence requirement at the Embassy.

10. Project Opportunity Linkage

Help the union secure some projects (to be carried out in Ghana) that students in China can handle and in return get some funds for the union and the students involved in the project as well.

ADMINISTRATIVE CHALLENGES

- ❖ Low participation from members in the union's activities.
- ❖ Failure on the part of some Chapter Secretaries to encourage members to update their information on the portal. This made it difficult for the union to have accurate data of members.
- ❖ Registration of the union has been a major challenge.

- ❖ Failure on some part of Chapter leaders to deliver notices from National to their members. This hindered a proper flow of information from national to members.
- ❖ COVID-19 pandemic posed a challenge on most plans especially physical meeting programs

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ As recommended by the 2019/2020 administration, we also recommend organization of physical congress to be once every 3 years. Two years virtual and another year in physical to save the union from spending too much on congress.
- ❖ Also, we recommend as proposed by 2019/2020 administration, the Union should develop a long term (3 to 5-year) strategic plan that will give a roadmap to solve some of the Unions most pressing needs.
- ❖ The union should develop a mechanism to help students with money exchange for members to be able to receive remittance for their fees with lower charges.
- ❖ The union must establish solid contact with agencies that can sponsor the union financially.

FINANCE BREAKTHROUGH

The implementation of the database system which allows dues entry and financial accountability has enhanced dues collection and monitoring. In as much as our administration was characterized by low membership data (greater percentage in Ghana) as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, our policies made great impact in helping us achieve the highest National dues payment in the history of the union. A whooping 62,225 RMB of National dues have been recorded.

We wish the incoming administration well and we say;

IT IS DOABLE!

LONG LIVE NUGS-CHINA!

LONG LIVE GHANA!

GOD BLESS OUR HOMELAND GHANA!

**NATIONAL
EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

NEC



COLLINS SEY



OKWAMPAH BERNARD



ARBOH FRANCISCA



NANA ADWOA ANOKYE EFFAH



**AGBENU IRENE KORKOR
NYENGOR**



ENNIN VENDISH KWEKU

2020/2021