

in this regard that the NIMD based in The Hague, Netherlands, has since 2003, provided The IEA with most of the support it requires.

Other partners include The European Union (EU), Danida, and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

CONCLUSION

The IEA is of the firm conviction that with the support of the relevant stakeholders and partners, its vision of growing consolidating and entrenching good governance, multiparty democracy and a free and fair market economy in Ghana, West Africa and the entire African continent will be ultimately realised.

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THE INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS THE IEA

A Public Policy Institute

Growing, Consolidating and Entrenching

- Good Governance
- Multi Party Democracy
- A Free and Fair Market Economy



**The IEA
Ghana**

INTRODUCTION

The Institute of Economic Affairs (The IEA) Ghana, is Ghana's premier public-policy think-tank. Founded in 1989 by Dr. Charles Mensa, a young Ghanaian economist at a time when the Country was governed by a military regime, when freedom of speech was a privilege rather than a right and when multiparty democracy seemed a mere illusion, The IEA Ghana, was set up to make a difference in Ghana, the West-African sub-region, and the entire African continent.

VISION

The IEA envisions an economically viable and democratic Ghana, West Africa and ultimately Africa in which the rule of law prevails, the institutions of democracy are protected and respected and the rights and freedoms of the citizens are enjoyed by them.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of The IEA is to promote good governance, democracy and a free and fair market economy. The IEA believes that the creation of an environment in which economic, social, political and legal institutions function openly and freely is the key to the attainment of sustainable economic growth and human development.

OBJECTIVES

- To serve as a Centre for policy analysis and public education
- To provide a platform for the exchange of ideas
- To promote research and publication on important economic, socio political and legal issues to enhance the understanding of public roles.
- To strengthen local capacity in Ghana by providing training to institutions of democracy

such as Parliament, the Judiciary, the media and civil society, to better equip them to perform their roles as watchdogs of society

- To monitor and provide in depth analysis of the progress toward democratic consolidation in Ghana, the West African sub-region and the entire African continent.
- To translate academic research on policy issues into available and readable information.

DOES THE IEA REALISE ITS AIMS?

YES! IT DOES

These are achieved through two main centres:

- i) The Governance Centre
- ii) The Economic Centre

THE GOVERNANCE CENTRE

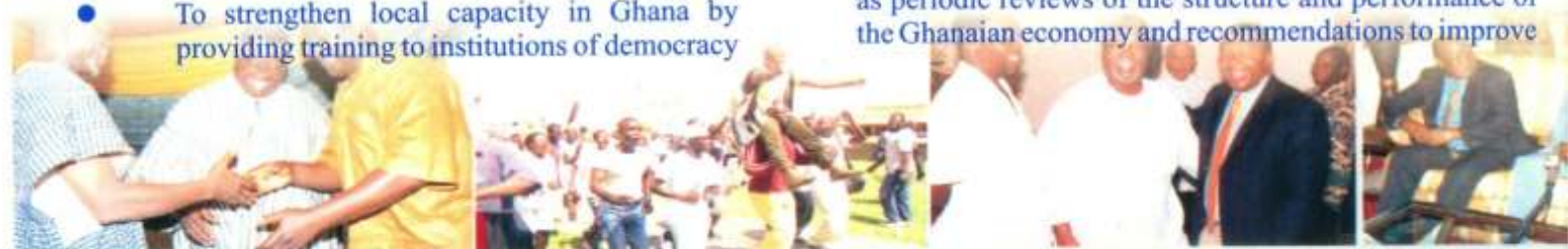
This primary mandate of this Centre is to act as a catalyst for continuous improvements in good governance, democracy and a transparent policy environment in Ghana. The Center discharges this mandate by focusing on

- i) Critical analysis, evaluation and proposal of Government policies,
- ii) Supporting District Assemblies to build and enhance the capacity of elected members,
- iii) Building the institutional capacities of West African and Ghanaian Political Parties.

Manned by some of Ghana's finest scholars, the cardinal principle underlying the execution of the Governance Center's mandate is strict independence of Government and any other Social and Economic interests. This strict pursuit of National interests and commitment to growth and development of democracy and good governance have led to its established reputation as the last word on public policy in Ghana.

THE ECONOMIC CENTRE

This Centre undertakes a variety of studies related to economic research and policy analysis on Ghana as well as periodic reviews of the structure and performance of the Ghanaian economy and recommendations to improve



their performance. The Economic Centre realizes that economic growth is inextricably linked with democratic research and good governance. It also conducts research into economic growth, the development of a computable general equilibrium model, analysis of import/export trade services.

ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE IEA

THE IEA/NIMD GHANA POLITICAL PARTIES PROGRAMME

The IEA having identified the Political Party as a key player in a multi party democracy has since 2003, collaborated with the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) to institute this Programme. Activities organized under the Programme for Ghanaian Political Parties include:

- Joint Political Party Symposia. This is a forum at which representatives of the various Ghanaian Political Parties present their Parties Position on a given theme. The first of its kind in Ghana, these Symposia have become a winner in entrenching democracy in the Country. Five of these symposia were held across Ghana in 2005.
- Bi-monthly meetings. Here, representatives of the various Political Parties discuss issues affecting the country.
- Television broadcasts. In the run up to election 2004, The IEA sponsored a number of television broadcast for representatives of the various Political Parties.

TOWN HALL MEETINGS

The IEA in 2004 organized eleven (11) Town Hall Meetings. These Meetings created a platform on which aspiring MPs presented their manifestos and were asked questions by the electorate. The success of this was phenomenal. Communities which could not participate in 2004, continue to scramble for the opportunity to be given them in Election 2008 to participate in these meetings.

PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

No one Political Party activity generated a furore, as did the Presidential Debate organized by The IEA in 2004. The debate saw the participation of three out of the four presidential candidates, articulately answering questions on issues pertinent to the growth of democracy and to the development of Ghana generally.

The debate succeeded in among other things, enhancing the image of Political Parties in the eyes of the electorate.

A real winner, the UNDP Country Representative described it *'as a healthy sign that Ghana's democracy had come of age'*.

THE WEST AFRICA REGIONAL PROGRAMME (WARP)

Another collaboration between The IEA and NIMD, the WARP is a programme designed to grow, establish and consolidate multi party democracy in West Africa by deepening dialogue between the various stakeholders in a Country's democracy.

Three types of programmes are organized under the WARP. These are:

- National Programmes
- Joint Programmes
- Bilateral Programmes. Bilateral meetings organized between Chairmen of Ghanaian Political Parties and their counterparts from Togo and la Cote d'Ivoire respectively were both resounding successes.

TRAINING WORKSHOPS

These are organised by The Institute to upgrade the skills of professionals in areas such as Project Monitoring and Evaluation as well as data analysis for future planning.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

The IEA holds a series of these at which policy issues are discussed by the relevant stakeholders Ministers of State, business leaders, eminent scholars, representatives of



donor agencies, royalty and other relevant stakeholders from both home and abroad have participated in these discussions which have, among other things, resulted in the replacement of sections of the Serious Fraud Office Bill, made a case for the repeal of the Criminal Libel Law and provided for the laying before Cabinet of the 'Whistle Blowers' Bill and the Right to Information Bill.

CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOPS

The IEA focuses on building the capacities of the various institutions of democratic governance such as the Legislature, the Executive and the Media. A prime example is the Speakers Breakfast Forum, which has now been adopted by Parliament itself.

POLICY FORA

Policy fora are organised to deliberate on the most topical issues of the day-in all spheres of national life- to sharpen the perspective of the citizenry and enrich the texture national debate.

WHO RUNS THE SHOW AT THE IEA?

Heading The IEA is its Board of Directors, with its Chairman Dr. Charles Mensa, presiding over its meetings. Other members of the Board are Professor Adzei Bekoe, Chairman of the Council of State, Mr. Akofio Sowah and Mr. George Thompson. Day- to- day activities are performed by the Administrator who reports directly to the ED.

The AT has oversight responsibility of four (4) units of operation.

● **ACCOUNTING UNIT**

Responsible for everything finance, the Head of Finance and his team ensure that all The IEA's finances are subject to the requisite accounting procedures.

● **PROGRAMMES UNIT**

The dynamic team here makes sure that all programmes

such as the Joint Political Party Symposia and Town Hall Meetings organized by The IEA are phenomenally successful.

● **LIBRARY UNIT**

The Institute has a dedicated Librarian who ensures that the well-stocked library is up-to-date.

● **PUBLICATIONS UNIT**

The talented team at the Publication Unit ensures that The IEA's publications are of the very highest standards.

PUBLICATIONS

The wealth of publications The IEA has to its credit, educates and informs the Ghanaian public.

These include:

- Bi-annual Economic Reviews
- The Governance Newsletter series
- The IEA Policy Analysis
- Legislative Alert, a monthly policy analysis newsletter
- The Annual State of Governance Report
- The IEA Monograph Series
- Occasional Papers
- Reports on Workshops, Conferences and Seminars

CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

The team of visiting Senior Fellows at The IEA boasts of some of the very finest intellectuals in the Country. Comprising legal luminaries such as Mr. B.J. Da Rocha, first ever National Chairman of the New Patriotic Party, Mr. D.F. Annan, former Speaker of Parliament and eminent scientists, such as Professor Adzei Bekoe, Chairman of the Council of State, these Senior Fellows ensure that The IEA's hallmark of influencing public policy is preserved.

PARTNERS

The IEA realizes that its aims can best be achieved with support from others who share their aims and ideals. It is

