



Ghana Alumni Newsletter 2017



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The Alumni Network structure is such that all volunteers who successfully complete their ICS placement are automatic members.

To drive our network forward, there is a **5-member Alumni Board** acting as the central decision making for International Service Alumni activities in Ghana.

Introduction

The International Service ICS Alumni is a Network of past volunteers of International Service who have successfully completed their International Citizen Service (ICS) placement from the past 5 years -In country volunteers (ICVs) who have worked with Project Partners in some selected communities within the Northern and Upper East regions of Ghana.

The vision of the Alumni is to create an engaged and skilled network of International Service ICS Alumni, who as young people, seek to become active citizens in their communities and inspire and contribute to global change. Our mission therefore is for our alumni to engage, empower and enrich their lives and the lives of others.

The Board is responsible for organizing events, running useful trainings and encouraging active citizenship amongst the members of the Alumni Network. To ensure the active engagement of members of the wider network across Ghana, enable past volunteers to undertake their ICS Action at Home and to support the work of the Board, a team of ten (10) dedicated return volunteers act as **Alumni Ambassadors** across the 10 regions of Ghana. There is also an ICS Alumni Coordinator, who serves as the liaison officer between International Service and the Alumni Network



The Board and Ambassadors

A 5-member Board (comprising former team leaders and volunteers) was selected by International Service through an open and competitive process to serve a one year term (April 2017-April 2018) and a 10-member Alumni Ambassadors to serve for 6months (June-December 2017).

The Board Members:

1. Mr. Abdulai Mohammed Hardi—Alumni Board Chair
2. Mr. Alhassan Abdul-Latif—Communications Lead
3. Ms. Nyaaba Love—Logistics Lead
4. Ms. Christabel Ortsin—Secretary
5. Mr. Mohammed Fuseini Haruna—Treasurer



Alumni Board Members on a familiarization field visit to the ICS Projects Partner Organizations. 31st May 2017.

Alumni Ambassadors

1. Cecil Agbenyegah Alvin (Volta, Greater Accra & Eastern Regions)
2. Kenneth Danso (Volta, Greater Accra & Eastern Regions)
3. Mohammed Abdul-Kailan (Northern Region)
4. Rashida Suhuyini (Northern Region)
5. Catherine Muonah (Upper West Region)
6. Musah Abdullah (Upper East Region)
7. Abraham Donkor (Ashanti & Brong-Ahafo Regions)
8. Salifu Abdul-Karim (Ashanti & Brong-Ahafo Regions)
9. Kweku Essilfie Ferguson (Western & Central Regions)
10. Samuel Gyau (Western & Central Regions)



Alumni Ambassadors after a Human Rights and Public Speaking Training. 17th June 2017



Alumni Celebration Day with Jo Baker, CEO of International Service, 9th March 2017

After painstaking periods of putting a framework and recruiting Alumni Board Members, the Alumni in Ghana finally got off the ground with a grand launch on 9th March, 2017 with fifty (50) past volunteers and the Chief Executive Officer of International Service, Jo Baker in attendance at the Tamale Sports Stadium. At the launch, past volunteers came out with interesting ideas on how to make the Voice for Rights initiative in Ghana better, their expectations of the Ghana ICS Alumni and activities which formed the basis of our annual activity plan for 2017-2018. The CEO, Staff of International Service, and alumni members present were very happy and upbeat about the alumni opportunities and prospects in Ghana and beyond.



Board Members with the project partner directors at Bolgatanga TradeAid Integrated Office RAINS office (Safe Choices Project), Tamale, capture of some artifacts from the SWOPA office Integrated Office (INCOMME project), Create Change office (ABC project), Tamale, NFED Tolon Sirigu respectively.



A cross section of participant from the alumni celebration day, 9th March 2017.

Alumni Board Visits to Project Partners

To officially introduce the Alumni Board to International Service ICS Partner organisations (current & past) in Northern and Upper East Regions, and to see how past volunteers can still provide support and be engaged to the organisations after placement, the Board undertook a familiarization visit from May 31st to 5th June 2017. this took us to TradeAid Integrated (Bolgatanga), SWOPA (Sirigu), Youth Alive (Navrongo), CBR (Sandema) all in the Upper East Region of Ghana, and RAINS, WOSAG, Yumba Special School, Create Change, Resource Centre for Persons with Disability (all in Tamale), NFED (Tolon & Kumbungu) all in the Northern Region. Over all, it was a great success, meeting past and current project partners to hear from them, introduce ourselves and share ideas. All partner organizations expressed interest in continuous engagement with the alumni network members but asked for us to come out with a clear guiding document/framework outlining how the board wants them to engage alumni, who and how the alumni can continue to work as active citizens in their communities.



Leadership and Entrepreneurship Training (ICS ICV Alumni Grant Offer)

Forty-four (44) past volunteers from all parts of Ghana participated in the two (2)-days (14th & 15th July, 2017) training on Leadership and Entrepreneurship at the Northern Regional Centre for Persons with Disability in Tamale facilitated by two young leaders, (one is a technology entrepreneur and the other a gender advocate) as our resource persons. The knowledge level and employment prospects of participants has increased, most of them were inspired to start and sustain their own start-ups and have been networked to life-long mentors for the alumni. The Alumni Board after the launch of the network in Ghana looked through the suggestions of the wider network and put in an application for the ICV Grant in the name of the Board Chair, Abdulai Mohammed Hardi. This application was approved by the Contract Management Unit (CMU) of VSO to do a training for the alumni members.



Mr. Peter Awin, Resource Trainer interacting with a participant, Rashida Suhuyini at the Leadership and Entrepreneurship training, 14th to 15th July 2017, Tamale



Mr. Awin advancing in his leadership and entrepreneurship session with the past ICS volunteers. 15th July 2017



Some participants at the end of the training on "leadership and entrepreneurship" at the Tamale Resource Centre for Persons with Disability, 15th July 2017.



A past volunteer Naeem Yelkumo Yussif sharing his personal view on leadership. 14th July 2017



Two alumni ambassadors (Abraham and Cecil) in an interactive Public Speaking session. 17th June 2017.

Alumni Ambassadors Training on Human Rights and Public Speaking.

On Saturday, 17th June, 2017, 8 out of the 10 Alumni Ambassadors went through training to fully equip them as ambassadors. The Training was run by The Ghana ICS Logistics & Alumni Coordinator (Godfrey Chanase), the immediate UK ICS Alumni Coordinator (Corin Heney) and 2 board members (Alhassan Abdul Latif and Abdulai Mohammed Hardi). Apart from being an opportunity to meet, and engage with other past volunteers, Ambassadors were training on Public Speaking, Human Rights, Communication and on their roles as International Service ICS Alumni Ambassador



Alumni Ambassadors in an Interactive session on public speaking. 17th June 2017.



Human Rights Approach to development session, alumni ambassadors and International Service staff. 17th June 2017



Two alumni (Kenneth and Nana Ferguson) ambassadors delivering a "Five minutes free speech" presentation, International Service Ambassadors Training, 17th June 2017



Alumni contribution towards in country volunteer Assessments & Return Volunteer Events

The Alumni Board and Ambassadors have been actively engaged in Return Volunteer events since its constitution and also in the selection of In-Country Volunteers during assessment days and Preplacement training days.



International Service Volunteer recruitment assessors after a brief meeting with Madam Jo Baker and the Country Director, Mr. Rene S. Dah



Alumni Board Chair, Mr. Abdulai Mohammed Hardi presenting an ICS Action At Home Certificate to Fulera Zakaria, an immediate past volunteer, 20th July, 2017.



A social entrepreneur, Mr. Amin Yahaya, delivering a presentation on "career paths and opportunities for young people in Ghana" at the ICS Return Volunteer Event, at the Tamale sport Stadium, 20th July 2017



Former Programme Officer, presenting an ICS postplacement certificate to Mary Amiziah, after completing her action at home successfully, 20th July 2017



Staff Digest

Send off event for Coral Fleming, April 5th, 2017



Coral Fleming was a Project Officer with International Service who played an immense contribution in putting together the Alumni Network Framework and recruitment of the Board and Ambassador members. It was therefore sad to see her leave back to the UK. The Board through Latif (Alumni Board Communications Lead), at a short ceremony attended by staff of International Service, assessors and the alumni, conveyed our heartfelt gratitude to her for making it possible to kick start the alumni in Ghana. It was an emotional night with so many good will messages and wishes for Coral as she embarked on her next adventure in life.

Additionally, we are most grateful for the invaluable efforts, contribution and support for the Ghana Alumni, from the staff and especially, Mr. Rene.S. Dah, Country Director of International Service



Mr. Rene Dah addressing the alumni during the Leadership and Entrepreneurship ICV Alumni Grant, 14th July 2017

Achievements & Challenges

Since March 2017 these have been our successes and Challenges

- ✦ Alumni successfully launched and taken full shape
- ✦ 10Alumni Ambassadors trained
- ✦ ICS ICV Alumni Grant approved to train 44 alumni members on Leadership and Entrepreneurship.
- ✦ Active alumni membership base on social media, Facebook and WhatsApp.
- ✦ At least (5) alumni members got jobs as result of the opportunities posted on our social media accounts.
- ✦ Unable to carry out some activities so far, notably the World Blood Donor Day
- ✦ Some Alumni are unavailable due to personal /professional engagements.

WHAT NEXT?

- ✦ The Voice for Rights Initiative
- ✦ ICS National Youth Engagement Project (ICS NYEN Pilot Ghana.)
- ✦ Active Citizen Week.
- ✦ International Peace Day.
- ✦ International day for Persons with Disability, (PWD).
- ✦ Volunteerism with International Service Ghana 2017 to 2018 (In ICV recruitment Assessments, Preplacement Training, Return Volunteer events and other alumni engagements.)



Contact us/Get involved:

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