

2014

# ANNUAL REPORT



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Africa ICT Right





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## 1.0 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Each year, we work to make a meaningful impact on the lives of the communities we work with. And we're glad to report that 2014 was no different. It was a year filled with new challenges, but also new opportunities, and new partnerships. As 2014 draws to a close, it is a real privilege for me as the Founder and Executive Director of this inspiring organisation to share some insights into the future with all our members, stakeholders and the wider public.

By the end of 2014, we have inaugurated a Resource center for our GTech in Tamale with support from Google Inc., We also recruited 532 students from 7 schools and 2 mentors for our GTech program. We trained 14 teachers during the year in review.

The GTech program was a success, seeing the teachers and students' developing their own interactive stories using Scratch was astonishing. The ultimate goal of the GTech program is to close the gender gap in the technology sectors as well as to turn girls from technology consumers into technology producers so seeing these girls program a computer was just amazing.

Finally, as the director of Africa ICT Right I would like to express words of thanks and appreciation to all our sponsors and strategic partners for their continued support, to the members of the Board of AIR for their active involvement in the governance of our organisation and also to the members of our staff who run the day to day activities of AIR in such a committed and professional manner.

Thank you.



**Daniel Kwaku Ganyoame**  
**Executive Director/ Founder**

## 2.0 INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Organizational Profile

Africa ICT Right (AIR) is an ICT-oriented non-profit organization established in 2007 with its Head Office in Accra in Ghana. It is registered as an NGO (under the Companies code 1963, Act 179) with the Registrar General's Department (Registration No. G.20,276) and also with the Department of Social Welfare (Registration No. DSW/3613).

We believe that Information technology is a powerful driver of economic and social progress, but there is great inequality in the distribution of these tools—some people are able to use them but most are not. The result is a severe “digital gap”:

We partner with schools, technology companies and community organisations to address this detriment through an integrated development programs that provide low-cost refurbished computers with relevant open source educational software, support and teacher training directed at schools and community centers especially in less privileged areas where the digital divide is at its greatest.

By staying at the cutting edge of technological and educational trends, AIR remain the leading supplier of integrated ICT solutions to the educational institutions in Ghana, empowering learners and staff with the most appropriate hardware, software, service and skills.

Currently, a 5-member Governing Council composed of dedicated corporate and community leaders who volunteer their time and resources, governs Africa ICT Right and decides its priorities. Africa ICT Right expects to take a leadership role through helping build a community that cares about its citizens by bringing together business, labour, the non-governmental organizations, and the government where appropriate. It is clear that regional or community needs can rarely be met by just one organization or institution. Africa ICT Right would therefore develop the organized capacity for people to care for one another; leveraging resources to get this accomplished. Through this approach, Africa ICT Right will act as a natural interface and a representative link between donors and communities. AIR will provide support for donors who are interested in making contributions to meet the education, development and other critical needs of Ghanaian communities.

## 2.2 Our Vision

Our vision is to build a computer literate society in Ghana and to inspire people to use ICT to make a positive difference in their communities.

## 2.3 Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide technology resources, training and technical support to less privileged schools, to empower youth to use information technology, and to establish Computer Technology Centers in underserved communities.

In our five-point strategic approach to ICT for development, we aim at:

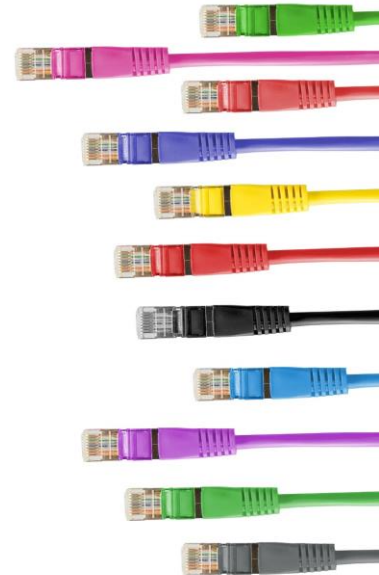
- Connectivity
- Access
- Education
- Content
- Research



## 2.4 Objectives

AIR's main and broad objectives are:

- To ensure that schools and communities have access to ICT labs.
- To provide low-power and low-cost computers.
- To provide ICT training for teachers and youth.
- To close the gender gap in the technology sectors.
- To identify critical national problems pertaining to education and technology.
- To work in close collaboration with schools, communities, institutions, governmental and private organizations to implement ICT awareness programs.



## 2.5 Our Main Programmes

Our major program areas include:

### CONNECTIVITY

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- ICT Centers for schools and communities
- Libraries

### ACCESS

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- To supply computers to schools and communities
- To set up computer recycling centers

### EDUCATION

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- ICT training for youth and teachers
- ICT Awareness & Sensitization
- ICT clubs in schools

### CONTENT

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- ICT training content (on CDs and Website based )
- Content training for youth and teachers

### RESEARCH

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- ICT research (mobile phone technology, e-governance, solar energy, telecentres, mobile van, e-agriculture, telemedicine, e-banking etc.)



### **3.0 COMMITTEES**

Africa ICT Right's Committees established by the Governing Council consist entirely of volunteers. Each committee is chaired by a member of the Governing Council who presents recommendations of his/her committee to the Governing Council for approval.

#### **3.1 Fund Raising Committee**

- Plans and implements a yearly campaign and action plans for obtaining donor funds.

#### **3.2 Programmes Committee**

- Identifies potential projects based on eligibility criteria.
- Organize workshops and seminars for selected staff and governing council members to further enhance their capability.
- Tracks progress and results of funded programs to ensure targets and objectives are met.

#### **3.3 Disbursement Committee**

- Works hand-in-hand with the Programmes Committee. This committee:
- Develops eligibility criteria for target programmes.
- Disburse funds for approved programmes / projects.
- Monitor programme implementation and accountability.

#### **3.4 Public Relations Committee**

- Serves as the public relations outfit of the organization. The Public Relation Committee:
- Develops communication materials like booklets, brochures, print and electronic advertising etc.
- Builds a relationship between Africa ICT Right and the Ghanaian community through the media.



## 4.0 ACTIVITIES DURING THE YEAR

The following targets were accomplished in the year:

### February 2014      A4AI NATIONAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS FORUM

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The Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI) brings together prominent players from the private sector, public sector, and civil society to provide a unified voice and coordinated focus in addressing the shared goal of open, affordable access to the Internet in the developing world. The Alliance aims to increase the affordability of both mobile and fixed-line Internet access dramatically, with a focus on achieving the UN Broadband Commission Broadband Target of entry-level broadband services priced at less than 5% of average monthly income.

In order to achieve this vision, A4AI organized its 1st Ghana Multi-stakeholder Forum, which took place on 11 February 2014 in Accra, Ghana and was among the first of its kind globally. Its primary objective was to establish a Ghanaian multi-stakeholder coalition that will contribute towards the government policy to bring about affordable Internet access to all Ghanaians.

Africa ICT Right was elected as a member of the Ghana National Coalition team which aimed to work to overcome challenges talked above as well as develop an Action Plan focused on four priority areas.



The Forum also brought personalities like the Honourable Minister of Communication, Edward OmaneBoamah, Sonia Jorge, Executive Director, Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI), Mr. KwakuOfosu---Adarkwa, the Chief Director of the Ministry of Communications (MOC), Mr. Kofi Attor, the Administrator, Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communications (GIFEC), Mr. PaarockVanPercy, Director General, National Communications Authority (NCA), Prof. Clement Dzidonu, President of

Accra Institute of Technology (AIT), Mr. KwakuAddoSakyi---Addo, Chief Executive Officer, Telecoms Chamber; Ms. Estelle Akofio---Sowah, Ghana Country Manager, Google; and Mr. Ernest Brown, President of Ghana Internet Service Providers Association (GISPA).

**April 2014**

**WOMEN IN TECH NIGHTS OUT**

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On the 16<sup>th</sup> of April, Africa ICT Right (AIR) was invited by the Women In Tech Nights Out team to share its GTech program with its tech women at the iSpaces's offices in Osu.

Women in Technology Nights out is an informal networking group that focused on education and enhancing women's careers by sharing experiences and lessons learned in members' career development. It encourages mentoring and provides excellent networking opportunities. The Group meets every month and its members include business women at all stages in their careers within their organisations.



The event also brought other speakers like TheaSokolowski, who works as a Business Teaching Fellow at MEST (Meltwater Entrepreneurial School of Technology) and Brett Calhoun, who is the Head of Territories

& Acquisition at Tigo. These speakers took time to do a presentation on basics and best practices of pitch, writing a business plan, ideal length and tips for creating attractive presentations.

The Executive Director of AIR, Mr. Daniel KeakuGanyoame, took his chance to talk about GTech program and its activities in Tamale and its outreach program to recruit tech women as Mentor for the GTech program.

**May 2014**

**INAUGURATION OF GTECH RESOURCE CENTER**

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After the launch of the GTech clubs in five schools within Tamale in July last year, we saw from our evaluation report that most of the clubs were not functionally well due to various challenges like access to computer lab, power outages, computer breakdowns, lack of supervision, etc and these challenges made it very difficult for the clubs to be conducted as planned.



Therefore, we secured a grant from Google Inc., to enable us set up a resource center for the GTech program in Tamale which was situated in Wurishei a suburb of Tamale in the Northern Region of Ghana and was inaugurated on the 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2014.

The center is furnished with 30 computers with internet access and an LCD projector.

The beneficiary schools are DarulHadis JHS, Wurishei Community Al-Bahadal JHS, ChogguYapalsi M/A JHS, Bagabaga Dem. JHS "A", Ridge "A" JHS, Bagabaga Dem. JHS "B" and Ridge "B" JHS.

Speaking at the official launch of the Center, the Executive Director of Africa ICT Right, Mr. Daniel KwakuGanyoame, revealed that the two strategic objectives of the project were to close the gender gap in the technology sectors as well as to turn girls from technology consumers into technology producers; enabling them to create their own interactive stories, games, music and animation for the world wide web.

The representatives from the beneficiary schools and opinion leaders of the community who received the facilities on behalf of the beneficiaries were enthusiastic and expressed great joy upon receiving the facilities.

They were grateful to AIR and particularly to Google Inc., for the gesture extended to them and pledged to use the facilities for the intended purpose and also keep it well maintained.

## **May 2014                      TRAINING FOR TEACHERS IN TAMALE**

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As part of the GTech program, we held a two training programs for 14 teachers from the beneficiary's schools on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of May, 2014. The teachers were taken through the 16 weeks lesson plan for the program.



It was a training to introduce the teachers to the Scratch program; a great tool which introduces children to computer science, it is very easy, and helps children to create their own games, animations and interactive stories. As well as how they can deliver basic coding skills using scratch programming language to the young girls under the program.

It was a successful event, seeing the teachers developing their own interactive stories using Scratch at end of the two day session.

**May 2014**

**PROGRAM MANAGER OF 'CLOSE THE GAP' VISIT TO GHANA**

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Close the Gap is an international non-profit organisation that aims to bridge the digital divide by offering high-quality, pre-owned computers donated by large and middle-sized corporations or public organizations to Educational, Medical, Entrepreneurial and Social projects in developing and emerging countries.

Africa ICT Right has developed partnership with Close the Gap as the local service partner in Ghana. As part of the partnership formation, the Program Manager of Close the Gap, MrYannisDerbali visited Ghana for a 3-day field trip. He visited our office on the 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 to see at first hand the work we do at AIR.



On the 30<sup>th</sup> of May, 2014 he visited our GTech Resource center in Tamale to familiarize himself with our GTech program. He also visited Dahinsheli and Jisonayili M /A JHS, two of the schools participating in the GTech program.

**July 2014**

**LAKE ERIE PRESBYTERY TEAM VISIT TO GHANA**

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A team from the Lake Erie Presbytery in the USA visited Ghana on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July, 2014 to attend the Ghana Mission Network meeting in Ho in the Volta Region of Ghana.



The delegation led by Donna Cammarata, included Rev. Dave Edmunds, Rev. Chuck, Mr. Doug Ebert, Mr. Tim Olsen just to mention a few.

The Lake Erie Presbytery in partnership with the Upper Northern Presbytery of EPC, Ghana was supporting the EP church with 50 computers for its Youth Resource center in Tamale.

The delegation got to know about our organisation from Computer Reach, our partner in the USA and so as part of their visit, they took the opportunity to familiarize themselves with our operation here in Ghana by meeting our team on the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2014.



July 2014

## AIR DONATE INTERNET ROUTERS TO 4 SCHOOLS

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As part of our mission in equipping schools and communities with information technology equipment, Africa ICT Right with support from Google Ghana donated ten (10) wireless internet routers to 4 schools under its Girls In Tech program in Tamale. This is to help these schools easily access the internet for teaching and learning purposes.

The beneficiary schools are KanvilliTawfikiya JHS, Jisonayili M/A JHS, Dahinsheli JHS and Kanvilli R/C JHS.

The Headmistress of Dahinsheli JHS, Madam EmildaDelaara who received the equipments on behalf of her school was enthusiastic and expressed her great joy upon receiving the equipment and pledged to use the internet routers for the intended purpose.



## July 2014 'INFORM GHANA' ORGANIZED A WORKSHOP AT GTECH RESOURCE CENTER

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On the 25<sup>th</sup> July, Journalists in the Tamale Metropolis, under-went a day training workshop at the GTech Resource center in Tamale on the use of social media to enhance the effectiveness of their work.



The workshop was organized by Inform Ghana which is a blogging Ghana project that focuses on health, education and governance, in partnership with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), to engage in these areas to help get information to the general public through media partners.

The workshop brought together over 28 Journalists operating in the Northern part of Ghana. They were taught how to use Google Apps and Social Media tools to reach their targeted audience. Present at this training was Mr Jerome Kuseh, the Content Manager of Inform Ghana.

**July 2014****STEPRI DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP**

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The Science and Technology Policy Research Institute (STEPRI) is one of the thirteen (13) research institutes of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). STEPRI provides research support to the formulation and implementation of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) policy to stimulate socio-economic development.

STEPRI in collaborating with the Information School of Washington, Seattle, USA conducted a follow-up activity to the Global Impact Study on Public Access to ICT Project. The follow-up involves a small study which aims at contributing to policy making process to support the development of public access to ICT (notably internet and broadband services) in the country.

STEPRI invited Africa ICT Right to attend a dissemination workshop organized on the 30<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at the Auditorium of STEPRI. The workshop was organized to share the findings and also solicit inputs from public access providers like Africa ICT Right.



Africa ICT Right took the opportunity to share its work in terms of provision of ICT lab for underserved communities as well as provided input into the finding on how to grow public access which invariably contributes to the socio-economic development of the country.

**October 2014****REFRESHER TRAINING PROGRAM FOR TEACHERS IN TAMALE**

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We organized a day refresher and evaluating session for teachers from the participating schools under the G-Tech program on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October, 2014. The aim of this session was for us to assess the progress of the implementation of the lesson plan, the successes and challenges of the program and the introduction of a new training manual, as well as highlight upcoming events within the G-Tech program.

This training session was attended by 14 teachers from the beneficiary's schools. At the end of the session, we saw that the GTech program in Tamale has chalked tremendous success.

## **November 2014      A4AI – GHANA COALITION AND EXPERT MEETING**

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Since the 1st A4AI Ghana Multi-stakeholder Forum in February 2014, the Ghanaian stakeholders have formed an A4AI – Ghana working groups which have been working to produce policy and regulatory outputs related to each of the four issues identified. These Working Groups are lead by four of Ghana's key ICT stakeholders (A4AI Champions) and are comprised of stakeholders from government, the private sector, civil society, and the academia.

A two day A4AI – Ghana Coalition and Expert Meeting was held at the Kofi Annan ICT Centre of Excellent on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of November, 2014. The first day meeting was named A4AI – Ghana Coalition Meeting and it was open to all stakeholders interested in increasing broadband access and its affordability in Ghana. It gave each of the four A4AI – Ghana working groups the opportunity to present their work plans, provide participants with an update on progress, create synergies with other working groups and refine the work plans if necessary.



The second day workshop was named A4AI – Ghana Expert Workshop which was designed to complement and enhance the work of the A4AI – Ghana Coalition as a whole, focusing mainly on work done by two of its working groups.

On day one, first half of the workshop was focused on research and data collection while the other half focused on infrastructure sharing and open access.

Africa ICT Right was represented by the Executive Director, Mr. Daniel KwakuGanyoame and the Program Manager, Mrs. AwoSikaQuarshie-Awusah.

This workshop brought facilitators like Professor Clement Dzionu, Chairman, National ICT4AD Policy and Planning Development Committee, Ivan Vallejo Vall, Market Analyst, ICT Data and Statistics Division (IDS), ITU, Mr. KwakuOfori---Adarkwa, Ghana National Coordinator (A4AI); Mr. MichukiMwangi, Regional Development Manager for Africa, Internet Society (ISOC); Mr. OsonduNwokoro, Director Regulatory Affairs, Airtel Nigeria,

Ms. Estelle Akofio---Sowah, Ghana Country Manager, Google and Mr. Jose Marino Garcia, Telecommunication Policy Advisor, Ministry of Industry, Energy and Tourism in Spain.

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## November 2014      GA-EAST REGISTERED NGO'S MEETING HELD AT ABOKOBI

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The Department of Social Welfare under the Ga-East Municipal Assembly held a day consultative meeting for all NGO's operating in the Ga-East Municipal Assembly on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at Abokobi, the district capital of the Ga-East District.

In attendance was the M.C.E, Hon. John KwaoSackey, the District Education Director of Ghana Education Service, the Director for Social Welfare Department, the District Planning Coordinator among other dignitaries.

Africa ICT Right was represented by the Executive Director, Mr. Daniel KwakuGanyoame and the Communication Officer, Mr. McDaniel Duafah.

The meeting lasted for almost three (3) hours and raised so many issues confronting the operating of NGO's in the Ga East District such as:

- The need for NGO's to be transparency in their operations
- The need for NGO's to honor invitations from the District Assembly
- The need for NGO's to present their annual report on time
- The need for NGO's to collaborate with the District Assembly on project identification and implementation.
- The need for NGO's to collaborate among themselves
- The plan of the Assembly to form an association among the NGO's operating in the District

The meeting also provided the opportunity for the NGO's present to network.

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## December 2014      HOUR OF CODE

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The GTech program also participated in this year's "Hour of Code" week, by organizing a two days free introductory to computer programming for students of all ages on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2014 at its Resource center in Tamale.







The two day event saw over 120 students from DarulHadis JHS, ChogguYapalsi M/A JHS and Bagabaga Junior High Schools to our center to participate. The students were given an hour to code a Christmas card, animate their names and also program a simple game called Pong. All the participated students were presented with certificates from Code.org.

## **December 2014 VOLUNTEERS RECRUITED**

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During the year in review, the organization recruited seven (7) volunteers to assist in its operations. They are;

1. PradeepRaju as Operations Manager
2. AwoSikaQuarshie-Awusah as Program Manager
3. Stefany Ruiz as Writer
4. Sabrina Pinto as eLearning Content Developer
5. Charlie Merrill as Video Editor
6. Paige Mason and Fredrick Neo as member of the eLearning Content team



## 5.0 THE WAY FORWARD

The year 2014 was eventful as well as highly rewarding. For the next year, we plan to expand our programs to other underserved communities in Ghana as well as expand our program areas.

AIR has many plans for the future- some of them growing out of our current projects, and some new initiatives. We intend to continue looking for funds like organizational and core activities funding to enable us hire full team so as to be able to sustain the work which we have begun, as well as expand it.

After our internal evaluation meeting, we have decided to do some restructuring of our organisation to enable us to meet the challenges ahead. We intend to obtain some feedback from our current volunteers about our operations and then use those feedbacks to do some restructuring which will enable us to position ourselves for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

From our brainstorming session, one of the important points which emerged was the need for some sound research on the status of women in technology as well as high schools in Ghana with access to ICT infrastructure. The lack of such research handicaps AIR's work as it becomes more difficult to justify the need for work that AIR wants to do. Hard facts and figures to illustrate the current situation of high schools in Ghana with access to ICT infrastructure as well as percentage of women pursuing career in technology in Ghana will go a long way towards helping us push our work ahead. We plan to put in proposals to generate funds for this activity, and also explore the possibility of partnering with research organizations to pursue this research.

As always, AIR's team is full of ideas and enthusiasm about doing many things. We are constantly in the process of prioritizing our activities and finding methods of completing them to our satisfaction. The team at AIR looks forward to another exciting and fulfilling year.



## **6.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

A word of thanks to the individuals and organizations who successfully contributed their support, time and experiences in helping Africa ICT Right in its activities since its incorporation in 2007.

### ***Individuals***

Mr. Ronan Caffrey, World Computer Exchange

### ***Governing Council***

Mr. Emmanuel MensahAppiah- *Chairman*

Mr. Emmanuel OwusuOware- *Vice Chair*

Mr. Charles Nornoo - *Member*

Mr. Michael AdumattaNyantakyie - *Member*

Mr. Daniel KwakuGanyoame, *Executive Director, Africa ICT Right-Member*

**Donors and Partners**

AIR is proud to have developed partnerships and membership affiliations with the following organizations:



國際十字路會



United Way Ghana



Ghana Information Network for Knowledge Sharing

