



## YOUTH CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION & TREE PLANTING EXERCISE ON OCTOBER 2, 2010 @ ASHALADJA COMMUNITY

Theme: Youth of Ashaladja Community against Climate Change

**\*Chibez Sunday Ezekiel**

**Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND)**

**Accra – Ghana**

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**\* Chibez Sunday Ezekiel is the Founder and Executive Coordinator of Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND) in Accra, Ghana; He is also a Certified Youth Master Trainer on Climate Change by the World Bank Institute (WBI). Funding for this program has been made available by British Council, Ghana.**

**Submitted to:**



**Submitted by:**



**Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND)**



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### I. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

I wish to thank Nii Akwaanor III (Chief of Ashaladja Community) and Nii Adams Akwaanor (Head of Akwaanor Family) and their Elders for their warm reception and immense support to making this program a success. May the Good Lord bless them in all their endeavours



**Nii Akwaanor III and Nii Adams Addy**



**Chibeze, Nii Awaanor III and some Elders**

I also want to express my deep gratitude to the following institutions:

<b>World Bank Institute (WBI), Washington-USA</b>	For providing resource persons (Todor Arsovski, Habiba Gitay and Iremomiwa Olatunji)
<b>British Council, Ghana</b>	For supporting us with a grant of US\$500
<b>Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Ghana</b>	For providing technical support including pictures of climate change in Ghana
<b>Ministry of Environment, Science &amp; Technology (MEST)</b>	For providing technical support and providing tree seedlings for Ashaladja community
<b>Global Environment Facility, Ghana</b>	For providing technical support
<b>National Youth Council, Ghana</b>	For providing technical support and advice through Mr. Prince Derek-Adjei, Deputy National Coordinator for Programmes & Organizations.
<b>National Youth Stakeholders Forum, Ghana</b>	Represented by Mr. Emmanuel Ansah-Amprofi (African Youth Network/Stages Multimedia), Mr. Samuel Kingsford Seglah (Youth Bridge Foundation)
<b>Rev. Dr. Prince Augustine Kudolo (CEO of Lord J Medical Centre) Ghana</b>	For supplying alkaline bottled drinking water
<b>SYND Board of Governors:</b> <b>Min. Albert Rockson III</b> <b>Min. Alan Okomeng-Mensah</b> <b>Justice Sophia-Akuffo</b> <b>Mr. David Vanderpuye-Orgle</b> <b>Mrs. Laila Boafo-Foleson</b>	For their advice, directives and support



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Undeniably, I am indebted to my great SYND team for their selfless sacrifice, commitment and enthusiasm to ensuring the success of the program.

They are as follows:

- \*Miss Edna Afi Aflakpui – National Coordinator
- \*Mr. Ibrahim Coker – Programs/Projects Coordinator (who slept overnight in the community to ensure all logistics are in place)
- \*Miss Gloria Obeng-Mensah – Public Relations Coordinator
- \*Miss Vanessa Ruth Agbenyoh – Finance & Administrative Coordinator
- \*Miss Yvonne Addison – Volunteer (Krobo Girls Senior High School)
- \*Miss Ursula Boachie-Yiadom – Volunteer (Krobo Girls High School)
- \*Mrs. Esther Addison – Volunteer (Dzatsui Women Association)
- \*Miss Lilian Yeng – Volunteer (Tapuma Community)



**SYND Team**

Above all, my deepest thanksgiving goes to the Almighty God for the strength, grace and life He has bestowed on me. To Him I give all praise, worship and adoration.





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### II. INTRODUCTION

The World Bank as part of its action against climate change empowered young people across the globe from 11<sup>th</sup> March to 20<sup>th</sup> May 2009 involving eight (8) countries from Africa, seven (7) from Europe and Central Asia, seven (7) from Latin America and the Caribbean, and two (2) from Middle East and North Africa. Participants gained knowledge of the Earth's climate system, the role of greenhouse gases, projections of future climate change occurrence and its effects on environment & societies, an overview of responses needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and how to mitigate & adapt to the changed climate. Participants were also introduced to: responses for the climate change related problems, both on policy and personal level, international negotiations, cost of acting and not taking action on climate change.

This was followed by a call for application to the next stage of the programme that is, **Youth Master Trainers on Climate Change** as part of "Capacity Development of Youth on Climate Change". The goal of the program was to empower youth from developing countries to be agents of change by implementing youth focused climate change capacity development activities within their countries or communities.

Three (3) young Ghanaians were successfully selected by the World Bank and British Council after a very competitive global selection process for the next stage of this program in the persons of:

- 1 **SABUTEY VICTUS KWABLA** – Programs Manager, Inter Collegiate Development Think Tank Ghana (iDettghana)
- 2 **CHIBEZE SUNDAY EZEKIEL** – Founder & Executive Coordinator, Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND) and
- 3 **ISAAC AMPOMAH** – Concern Ghana



Todor, Victus, Habiba, Isaac & Chibeze

We joined other young people from Nigeria, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Sudan, Kenya, and Cameron in **Abuja, Nigeria**

**from 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> of November, 2009 for the Youth Master Trainers on Climate Change Capacity Building Workshop.**

The workshop was characterized by intense knowledge-sharing sessions professionally facilitated Habiba Gitay, Todor Arsovski and Iretomiwa Olatunji (Youth & Climate Change Practice – World Bank Institute, Washington).

Having been certified as Youth Master Trainers on Climate Change, every participant of the workshop held in Abuja, Nigeria was expected to receive a small grant of US\$500 from the British Council in our respective countries. This grant was intended to launch us (Youth Master Trainers on Climate Change) into the next phase of the program, that is, each trainer is required to identify a community of his/her choice and educate the youth of the selected community on climate



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change. We therefore acted as Young Ambassadors with the mandate to train and educate our colleague young people in our respective communities on climate change.

Chibez Sunday Ezekiel received his small grant (thanks to British Council) identified a community and then organized a community durbar with the support and collaboration of Nii Akwaanor III (Chief of Ashaladja Community) and Nii Adams Addy (Head of Akwaanor Family).

This report therefore captures my team's work at Ashaladja Community.

### III. ABOUT ASHALADJA COMMUNITY

Ashaladja Community is located at the Ga South District of the Greater Accra region in Ghana. It is about 1hour 30 minutes drive from Accra Central (the capital city) and is believed to be inhabited by approximately 7,000 people with Ga been their predominant language. It is situated at a vantage section which connects or leads to the Central, Eastern and Western regions of Ghana thereby providing an opportunity for traders and merchants to engage in various business or commercial activities across the regions.

It has a serene environment with virtually no productive activity. Ashaladja though it visibly shows signs of poverty like other deprived communities also radiates efforts of hope for growth and development. Ashaladja Community is under the able leadership of Nii AKwaanor III (Chief of Ashaladja) and his Elders.



*Some selected pictures of Ashaladja Community*



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Ashaladja community is faced with a host of challenges which is increasingly affecting its inhabitants. Some of the very eminent challenges include lack of adequate drinking water; insufficient school facilities; poor toilet systems; massive unemployment; no health care, market, police station post & community centre facilities as well as improper waste management practices.

Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND) in response to these challenges has therefore launched a campaign dubbed “Save Ashaladja Community Project” on our website – [www.strategicyouthnetwork.org](http://www.strategicyouthnetwork.org)

#### IV. YOUTH CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

The community durbar commenced at 12:30pm with an opening prayer from a Christian member of the community.

##### KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

The key note address was delivered by Mrs. Esther Addison of Nsawam Dzatsui Women Association and also a volunteer with Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND).

In her presentation, she began by thanking the Chief and Elders of the community for devoting their time and strong interest in the whole campaign.

She commented on the subject of climate change with a brief explanation on why it's happening and the current effects we are experiencing such as sicknesses, poor farm produce, drought and why their river (main source of water) overflows intermittently.



Tackling on Ashaladja's ecology specifically, she advised the youth to plant trees, water and protect them to grow. She also encouraged them to clean their water body surroundings.

Since Mrs. Addison provides skills training opportunities to the less privileged and unemployed women in society as a source of livelihood, she invited all young unemployed women who are interested to be giving such training. Identifiable groups formed were:

- a. Batik Tye & Die
- b. Soap and Powder Processing
- c. Pomade
- d. Hair dressing
- e. Fashion design or sewing of clothes







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## Presentation:

Chibeze Sunday Ezekiel who was the main speaker for the program took the youth of Ashaladja through the subject of climate change with the aid of power-point presentation as a guide. He spoke in the Ga language so as to identify with the people as well as communicate in a language that they can understand.



Chibeze's Presentation outline:

### 1. What does Climate Change mean – summary

Changes in composition of the atmosphere - increased greenhouse gases and aerosols – in the last few decades

Causes – mostly because of human activities resulting in:

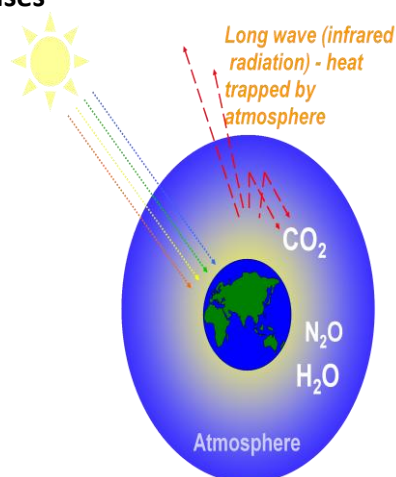
- \*Warmer surface temperature – land, ocean
- \*Changing precipitation patterns – spatially and temporally
- \*Reduced Arctic sea-ice, retreating glaciers, melting ice sheets
- \*Higher sea levels – higher storm surges; increased cyclones/ hurricanes in the Atlantic
- \*More frequent extreme weather events - heat waves, floods, droughts



### 2. Contributions from different sectors to greenhouse gases

**Agriculture and forestry:  
20% emissions**

**Energy production and use:  
80% emissions**



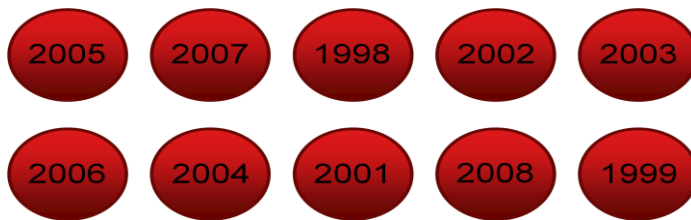




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### 3. The Ten Hottest Years on Record



### 4. Some effects of Climate Change



### 5. So what can we (Ashaladja youth) do?

#### A. Adaptation!

"It is adjustment in ecological, social, or economic systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli and their effects or impacts" [IPCC 2001]

*\*Scenario used to explain the concept of adaptation is that, if one travels to Europe during winter for instance, one cannot wear familiar cloths in Ghana. The person must wear a new set of clothes to be able to survive in that weather. The person cannot change the weather so must adjust to it. Climate Change has come therefore we need to adjust to it.*

#### B. Mitigation

It is minimizing emissions of greenhouse gases and move towards a low-carbon economy.



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### **6. 10 Easy Things WE Can Do TODAY against Climate Change**

1. Reduce use of disposables by using your own cups
2. Turn off electronic equipment and lights when not in use
3. Strive for no-waste meeting
4. Plant at least a tree
5. Bike, walk or use public transport.
6. Reduce paper use
7. Use of improved stoves that produces low levels of carbon dioxide
8. Change the use of conventional bulbs to energy saving bulbs
9. Don't burn rubbish and/or lorry tires openly
10. Encourage your friends to conserve the environment

### **Questions & Answers Session:**



**Q. How can we plant trees when we don't have a vast land for that purpose?**

**Ans –** Chibeze responded that planting of trees can be done anyway. It can be done in our homes, along the streets, and school parks.

**Q. How can we obtain the seedlings for such exercise?**

**Ans –** Chibeze notified the youth that SYND has arranged with the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology (MEST) to provide about 30 seedlings for the community. We will also collaborate with other institutions such as Forestry Commission for more seedlings so the community can embark on a massive afforestation drive.





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Q. How can I learn an employable skill when I have no means to finance it or for start-ups?

Ans – Mrs. Addison indicated that she will use her own resources to help them start-up. We will seek for assistance from benevolent individuals and/or organizations. Moreover, sales of products will generate money that can be ploughed back into the business

Q. How can the electrical appliances we use at home (such as TVs, Radio, Light system etc) affect the Akosombo dam which is very far away thus telling us to switch them off when not in use?

Ans – Chibeze stated that the Akosombo Dam is currently our main source of power generation in Ghana which requires the use of energy for its operation. He reiterated a point in his earlier presentation that energy consumption contributes to over 80% of greenhouse gases emissions. Moreover, the use of solar energy has been adopted as an alternative source of energy in the quest to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG).

Q. How can those of us who have already planted trees benefit?

Ans – Chibeze informed them that, SYND will alert the key institutions championing the need for forest reserve or afforestation especially in the recent concept of “Carbon Stocks”, “Carbon Finance” arising from REDD+ (Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation).

### V. SYMBOLIC TREE PLANTING EXERCISE BY NII AKWAANOR (CHIEF OF ASHALADJA COMMUNITY)







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Nii Akwaanor III (Chief of Ashaladja Community) who spoke through one of his elders pledge his support to this worthy cause and that his community is open for such initiatives, programs and/or exercise. The chief has called for the rescue of his community from the adverse effects of climate change.



### VI. CHALLENGES

1. The program commenced at 12:30pm instead of 11am as expected mainly due to power outage necessitating us to hire a generator for the occasion.
2. We also lack recording facilities such as video camera for such events though we resorted to the use of snapshots of videos with a digital camera.
3. Flyers or posters could not be produced for the community to serve as reminders due to inadequate funds.

### VII. RECOMMENDATIONS/OPPORTUNITIES

Owing to the success of this event, we propose that Donors/Partners such as your institution support SYND with finances and logistics to:

1. Continue this program at Ashaladja which boasts of a river (main source of water) and some land facilities that requires afforestation exercises.
2. Extend this program to other communities throughout the country in partnership with youth-based Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) through the involvement of young people.
3. Organize "Training-of-Trainees" workshop for young people in their respective communities.
4. Engage key stakeholders in dialogues, policy formulations, planning and implementation of programs, workshops, symposiums etc geared towards achieving Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals, that is, Enhancing Environmental Sustainability





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### **VIII. IMPLEMENTING AGENCY**

#### **STRATEGIC YOUTH NETWORK FOR DEVELOPMENT (SYND) - CORPORATE PROFILE**

Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND) is a registered youth-based civil society organization in Ghana which focuses primarily on the development and empowerment of the youth in the world through a strong network system.

##### **Vision**

To be recognized nationally and internationally as a model youth network leader in youth development & empowerment as a vehicle for securing the future of the youth

##### **Mission statement**

SYND is committed to contributing to policy development, dialogues and programs in ensuring employment opportunities or job creation, good health status, and environmental sustainability among the youth.

##### **Thematic Areas Of Work-**

###### **1. Youth and Employment:**

This sector focuses, as the name implies, on youth employment issues. We partner with institutions to provide employable skills to young people as well as engaging key stakeholders on Youth Employment activities such as the National Youth Employment Program (NYEP) encompassing Youth in Agric-Business; Youth in Commerce; Youth in ICT and Youth in Manufacturing.

###### **2. Youth and Health:**

This sector is responsible for the identification and promotion of good health initiatives in collaboration with key stakeholders to dealing with diseases such as Malaria, Tuberculosis, HIV-AIDS, Cholera, Fibroid, and Cancer. This is to help ensure that longevity of life is achieved essential for sustainable development. World events or activities are also marked and celebrated with the respective agencies, groups or organizations.

###### **3. Youth in Environmental Sustainability:**

This sector is responsible for actively engaging youth in contributing to the need for environmental sustainability. Climate change, global warming, greenhouse effect, unfavorable weather patterns, possibility of famine, abuse of natural resources, poor sanitation etc are key issues that are addressed.





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### **\* Research**

We conduct some research activities both qualitative and quantitative to support our work organization.

### **Objectives**

- To contribute in achieving national development agenda through good governance
- To actively involve youth in poverty reduction and wealth creation opportunities through diverse employment initiatives
- To advocate and ensure youth participation in enhancing environmental sustainability through pragmatic initiatives
- To promote good health through preventive measures
- To build and manage research activities focusing on youth
- To engage the youth immensely in activities leading to the achievement of the MDGs

### **Values**

- Honesty
- Integrity
- Diversity
- Excellence
- Creativity

### **Our approach**

We address the subject of youth development by taking into consideration two important aspects – extrinsic and intrinsic factors.

Intrinsic factors suggest that we deal directly with youth as individuals through various outreach programs or initiatives. We enable youth to discover and develop their talents through several stages which are based on key leadership principles.

Extrinsic factors deals with the environment in which the youth find themselves. We provide opportunity for the youth to contribute meaningfully in decision-making processes and government policies that directly or indirectly affect them. We conduct research in various aspects concerning youth for the attention of development partners, donors, civil society organizations and governments, which are critical for global development.

### **Management Profile**

SYND is governed by a Board of Governors made up of individuals with different knowledge, skills, and experiences helpful for youth development. The Board conducts strategic planning and work plan development for the organization. The Executive and Country Representatives of SYND prioritize and execute work plan activities within the available resources. They constitute individuals with specialized expertise to carry out organizational projects and activities. When



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necessary and appropriate, voluntary workers contribute to the organizations short and long-term initiatives.

### Structure

SYND is run by a management team made up of Board of Governors and an Executive Council.

#### The Governing Board:

- Mr. Albert Rockson III (Chairman); Administrative Director, I.C.G.C
- Mr. Alan Okomeng-Mensah; Director, Ecobuild Consult Ltd
- Madam Laila Boafo-Foleson; International Affairs Head, Central University College
- Mr. David Vanderpule-Orgle; Director, Vanderpule-Orgle Estates Ltd
- Justice Sophia Akuffo; Supreme Court, Ghana

#### The Executive Council constitutes:

- Chibeze Sunday Ezekiel (Executive Coordinator)
- Edna Annie Afi Aflakpui (National Coordinator)
- Vanessa Ruth Agbenyoh (Finance & Administrative Coordinator)
- Gloria Obeng-Mensah (Public Relations Coordinator)
- Ibrahim Coker (Programs/Projects Coordinator)

\* Volunteers (regardless of their background, education, age, location, nationality etc) are periodically recruited to work with the organization.

## IX. CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE

### Ashaladja Community Campaign Expenditure - Income and Expenditure Account

	Debit (US\$)	Credit (US\$)
<b>Income:</b>		
Small Grant (British Council, Ghana)		500
Total financial contribution from friends		95
Total		<b>595</b>
<b>Less Expenditure:</b>		
Transportation	81.60	
Refreshments (water, drinks and pastry)	112.57	
Communication (stationary, call cards, internet)	83.33	
Banner	27.78	
Hiring of Canopies and Chairs	40.50	
Hiring of sounds/PA system	55.97	
Video documentary including translation	41.56	
Hiring of generator and cost of fueling it	38.19	
Printing and distribution of report documents to partners	111.11	(592.61)
Surplus		<b>2.39</b>

**NB: US\$1 = GHC 1.44 (Ghana cedis equivalence)**

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION – [WWW.STRATEGICYOUTHNETWORK.ORG](http://WWW.STRATEGICYOUTHNETWORK.ORG)