



## FIRST QUARTER REPORT MARCH 2015

African Women Advocacy Project (AWAP) was incorporated in Ghana in January 2015 from the registrar general with registration number ET004812015 under the Companies Act, 1963 (Act 179) as an External company. Effort is currently ongoing to get it registered by Social welfare to be officially recognized by Government of Ghana as a Non-Profit organization.

One of the board members by name Connie Chow paid a visit to Ghana. During the visit, meetings were held with the teachers to find out how best we could structure the Girls' Science Club project to ensure its sustainability. The team also met with the key stakeholders from Science Education Unit of Ghana Education Service and Ga West District Education office. These government agencies were pleased with the project and assured us of their support.

Other organizations such as Airtel-Ghana, Cocoa cola Foundation, North American Women Association, US State Department of Ghana, College for Ama (CofA) and Unilever Foundation were also met to discuss ways of partnering with them to promote Girls' Science project. Positive outcomes were received from all the institutions.

A visit was paid to Ashesi University, where the project gained some traction, thus making some ladies volunteer to serve as mentors and supporters of the project. There is also one lady from University of Ghana, who is an active volunteer.

After two years of hiatus, Girls' Science Club was kick-started under the aegis of AWAP. As part of kick starting the project, teachers were trained in some of the topics of the curriculum. Equipment and materials were acquired and presented to all the various schools involved. In the first week of February, the project was restarted and AWAP's team was there to make observation and comment.

Currently, the project is undertaken in six schools namely:

- Pokuase Methodist School I
- Pokuase Methodist School II
- St. Sylvanus Roman Catholic School
- Pokuase MA
- Nii Otto Kwame School
- Pokuase AME Zion School

Each club consists of 15 girls who are handled by 2-3 teachers. There are 3 clubs in Pokuase Methodist I, 3 clubs in Pokuase Methodist II and 1 club each in the rest of the schools. In total, the project in Pokuase is made up of 10 clubs, consisting of 150 girls and handled by 21 teachers (2 per club, apart from AME Zion, which is conducted by 3 teachers).

Club activities are usually organized once a week and most schools do it on Fridays. Prior to club day, teachers plan the topic they will teach and how they will go about it. On club days, topics are introduced with experiment done by the girls. Girls are encouraged to make observations and write report after club activities. Active participation is encouraged and girls seem to be doing that, as they are very enthusiastic about club activities.

Apart from the schools in Pokuase, there is a school in Accra- Cantonments by name Rangoon Junior High School. They have adopted the structure of Girls' Science Club and running the project in their school by themselves. A team from AWAP visited the school a couple of times and on one occasion, donated some equipment and materials.

In the first of week of February, AWAP applied for grant from North American Women Association (NAWA) and as part of the application process, NAWA paid a site visit to Pokuase Methodist School in early March. According to the NAWA team, they were impressed with the enthusiasm of the girls and commitment from the school.

As the school term comes to an end, plans are currently been made to do a field trip with the girls during the holiday. A committee has therefore been set up to ensure the successful planning of the event. The committee comprises of representative from each of the schools.

### **Summary of Achievements of AWAP in the First Quarter of 2015**

- Registration of the organization by registrar general
- Training of teachers by Connie
- Acquisition and presentation of materials and equipment to the various schools
- Kick-start of the Girls' Science Club activities
- The ability to talk teachers to eliminate stipend and snack allowance to ensure the sustainability of the project
- Collaboration with Science Education Unit of Ghana Education Service and Ga West District Education office to ensure the success of the project
- Volunteer recruitment

### **Challenges so far:**

- Difficulty in getting all teachers together for meeting
- Lack of office space and equipment
- Inadequate funds to run the program
- Lack of supporting staff

In conclusion, the progress of the project is impressive. In fact, since the restart of Girls' Science Club, the girls and teachers of the various schools are highly committed and enthusiastic about the project. The girls actively participate during club activities and are confident in their class interaction. Furthermore, AWAP has been able to gain the support and partnership of key stakeholders in the education sector of Ghana.