FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Launch of Co-Financing for Technical and Vocational Training by EU and Germany

ACCRA, Ghana. 23 May, 2017: The European Union and Germany join their efforts in supporting skills development for youth in Ghana. The co-financing agreement between the European Union (EU) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH has been signed at a ceremony at the Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (COTVET). Implemented by German GIZ in cooperation with COTVET, the Ghana Skills Development Initiative seeks to improve the quality of the traditional apprenticeship system in the informal sector.

The third phase of the Initiative started in April 2016. The total amount of the Ghana Skills Development Initiative III is EUR 10.769 Mio., of which the EU contribution is EUR 7 Mio. The German Contribution is part of a wider Programme for Sustainable Economic Development (PSED), financed so far with EUR 11.1 Mio. by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The ceremony was attended by H. E Christoph Retzlaff, the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Ghana, H.E. William Hanna, the Ambassador of the European Union to Ghana, Dr. Fred Asamoah, the Executive Director of COTVET, Alan Walsch, the Country Director of GIZ, and other GSDI partners.

The project supports the introduction of competency based training which is industry-led and demand driven. It is an outcomes based model that is collaborative in its delivery and anchored on occupational standards. It combines both workplace-based training in the informal sector and school-based training modules at selected TVET training providers. “The strengths of the German approach were adapted to the Ghanaian context” stated the German Ambassador during his speech, while adding “We appreciate that the EU Delegation decided to co-finance the Ghana Skills Development Initiative.”

The Executive Director of COTVET highlighted that German Development Cooperation has been providing support to the TVET sector over the last five years. Since 2012, a total of 16 training providers and 10 trade associations cooperated in the implementation of the cooperative apprenticeship training for 232 apprentices and 232 master crafts persons in 3 regions and in 5 trade areas in Ghana. In March 2016, 188 apprentices (81%) were certified on the National TVET Qualifications Framework and successfully achieved their assessment and received a nationally recognized National Proficiency I certificate. The National TVET Qualifications Framework is the standardized structure for the award of certificates in the TVET sector. “We are working together to ensure the successful roll-out of the developed approach with the Ghana TVET Voucher Programme funded by the German development Bank, KfW, to reach thousands of master craftspersons and apprentices of the informal sector. This will lead to skills upgrade for our youth and subsequently enhance their livelihoods” the Executive Director stated.

The Ghana Skills Development Initiative III will now expand to 3 additional trade areas and 2 agricultural value chains. It will also reach out to 3 additional regions – amongst them the Ashanti Region. The new financial support from the EU will contribute to this upscaling.

“Today is the beginning of a new partnership between Ghana and the European Union in the area of skills development. Working together we are investing in youth.” said the EU Ambassador.
NOTES TO EDITORS

About Ghana Skills Development Initiative

GSDI is a project commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in cooperation with the Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (COTVET) and other public and private sector stakeholders. GSDI III started in April 2016 and is co-funded by the European Union.

GSDI seeks to improve the quality of the traditional apprenticeship system in the informal sector to enhance skills and qualifications. The project supports the introduction of competency based training (CBT) standards and a collaborative training model. It combines workplace-based training and courses at selected TVET training providers.

So far, GSDI has been working in five trade areas (electronics, garment, welding, cosmetology, and auto mechanics) and three regions (Greater Accra, Volta, and Northern). GSDI III will expand to 3 additional trade areas, 3 additional regions, and 2 agricultural value chains.

About GIZ

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is a global service provider in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development with around 16,400 employees. GIZ has over 50 years of experience in a wide variety of areas, including economic development and employment, energy and the environment, and peace and security. Our business volume exceeds two billion euros. As a public-benefit federal enterprise, GIZ supports the German Government – in particular the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) – and public and private sector clients in around 130 countries in achieving their objectives in international cooperation. With this aim, GIZ works together with its partners to develop effective solutions that offer people better prospects and sustainably improve their living conditions.

Currently, GIZ promotes sustainable development in Ghana via 56 programmes and projects. Our activities cover currently three priority areas: Agriculture, Governance and Sustainable Economic Development. Additionally, our portfolio extends to other areas such as peace and security, renewable energy and climate and environment. Another focus of GIZ’s work is linking business interests with development-policy goals. Most of the programmes and projects we support in Ghana have successfully brought together national and international private companies, the public sector, and civil society groups to collaborate on development initiatives.

About German Cooperation

Germany has been an important and reliable partner for Ghana since its independence in 1957. Development Cooperation between Ghana and Germany has a long and trustful tradition. Since its start in 1963 Germany has contributed more than 1.5 billion Euro to Ghana’s development. For the current period of three years, German development
cooperation amounts to 123 Mio EUR. German-Ghanaian Development Cooperation works in three sectors: Good Governance, Agriculture and Sustainable Economic Development. German-Ghanaian Technical Cooperation projects are implemented by GIZ, whilst projects of Financial Cooperation are implemented by the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW-German Development Bank). Germany also contributes approx. 21% to the EU budget.

About the EU

The European Union is the world's biggest development aid donor. Through the external cooperation, the EU is working around the world in order to reduce poverty, to ensure sustainable economic, social and environmental development and to promote democracy, the rule of law, good governance and the respect of human rights. In Ghana, under the framework of the Cotonou Agreement, for the period of 2016 to 2020, the European Union is supporting development programmes in three focal areas, Governance, Agriculture and Employment and Social Protection. The ‘Ghana Employment and Social Protection Programme’ (GESP); with a budget of EUR 31.6 million is contributing to inclusive growth in Ghana by strengthening social protection and employment systems in the country. It aims at enhancing social protection services notably for vulnerable population groups and at generating decent employment opportunities, with a particular attention to the youth. GSDI III is the component of the programme that covers technical and vocational education and training opportunities for the informal sector and in agricultural value chains.

About COTVET

The Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (COTVET) is the body that coordinates and oversees TVET and Skills development across the formal and informal sector. The Council works across over ten Ministries and is the advisor to the Government on TVET and skills development matters. COTVET is focused on promoting a system that produces a globally competitive workforce through quality-oriented and demand-driven learning for national development and also raise the income generating capacities of people, especially women and low income groups through the provision of quality-oriented, industry-focused and competency-based training programmes and complementary service from August 2006 when COTVET was established by an Act of Parliament (Act 718).

It has together with stakeholders, rationalized and harmonized qualifications and certification on the TVET landscape through the establishment of a National TVET Qualifications Framework which is backed by the Legislative Instrument (L.I) 2195. COTVET has also developed several policies that adds to ensuring Quality Assurance in the delivery of TVET and skills development in the sector. Among these Policies are the Work Place Experience Learning Policy and the Recognition of Prior Learning Policy.

For further press information please contact Ms Anna Nordmann, Corporate Communication Unit GIZ Ghana – anna.nordmann@giz.de or 024 5570325