

GHANA AT A GLANCE

The Republic of Ghana is centrally located in West Africa and has a total land area of 238, 537 square kilometres. Ghana is rumoured to be the friendliest country in sub-Saharan Africa. It is bordered by French-speaking countries, on the east by the Republic of Togo, on the north and northwest by Burkina Faso, and on the West by Cote d'Ivoire. The gulf of Guinea lies to the south and stretches across the 560 kilometres of the country's coastline.

Ghana is a lowland country, except for a range of hills that lie on the eastern border and Mt. Afadjato, the highest point of about 884 metres above sea level, which is to the west of the Volta River. Ghana has a long stretch of sandy coastline backed by a coastal plain that is crossed by several rivers and streams. The climate of Ghana is tropical, but temperatures and rainfall vary by distance from the coast and elevation. The average annual temperature is about 26°C (79°F). There are two distinct rainy seasons, April to June and September to November. In the north, however, the rainy season begins in March and last until September. The harmattan, a dry desert wind, blows from the northeast between December and March, lowering the humidity and creating very warm days and cool nights in the north. In the south, the effects of the harmattan are felt mainly in January.

Ghana gained its independence from British rule on 6 March 1957, and on 1 July became a sovereign state in the British Commonwealth of Nations. The administrative and political capital of the country is Accra with a population of over 2 million. Ghana is divided into 10 administrative regions and 138 districts. Ghana is a constitution democracy and currently operates a multi-party democratic presidential system of government following the promulgation of the 1992 fourth republic constitution of Ghan



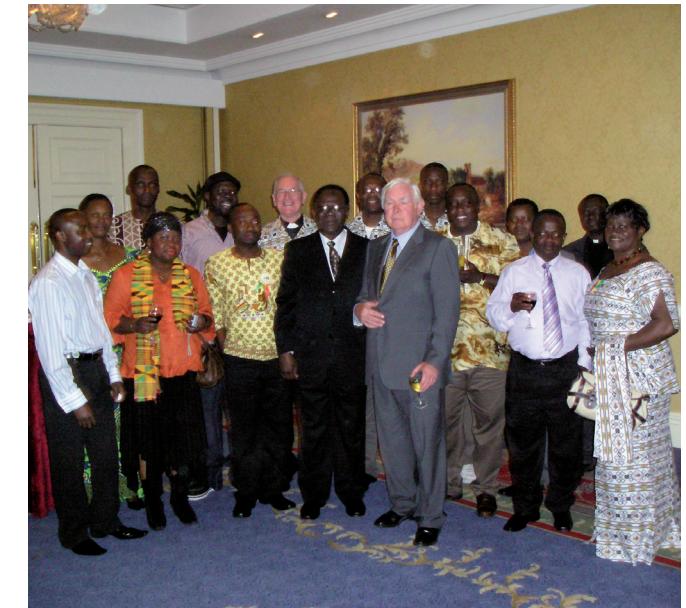
WAYS YOU CAN HELP GIFA

- *To provide GIFA with the opportunity to visit schools.*
- *Offer your time to participate in GIFA activities.*
- *Contact GIFA about Ghana and Ireland relationship.*
- *Provide funds to GIFA for their work.*
- *Spread the news about GIFA.*



Ghana & Ireland Friendship Association

Unity, Stability and Progress



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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Ghana & Ireland Friendship Association (GIFA) was formed in Limerick on 6th March 2005 and was registered in May 2005 with the Revenue Commissioners. The association is a non-profit making organisation and has no political or religious affiliations. Membership of the Association is open to all Ghanaians, Ghanaians with dual nationality or Irish Nationals and other nationals living in the Republic of Ireland, who agree with the aims and objectives of the association. As a relatively and recently established association, GIFA primary focus is integration of Ghanaians into the Irish society. The association is visiting local schools and also participating in all community fairs programmes within counties Clare and Limerick. The objective is to enhance a better understanding of the diversity of cultural in contemporary Ireland. As part of our work the association is actively involved in the community in ways that positively enhance and strengthen cultural differences. This is done through our outreach programmes to schools as the way of reaching out to the locals especially the future generation of Ireland. Ghana and Ireland has a lot in common as both countries are noted for being friendly. History tells us that, friendship between Ghana and Ireland dates back to the early 20th century, through the work of early missionaries especially within the Roman Catholic Church with particular emphasis on the development of mission schools and hospitals in Ghana. The work of the ESB rural electrification project in Ghana through the World Bank funding also brought a closer cooperation between the two countries. Various exchange programmes now exist between schools in Ghana and Ireland. The recent discovery of oil in Ghana by Tullow Oil, an Irish based company firm is another testimony of contemporary bi-lateral relation between Ghana and Ireland. GIFA is seeking to build on the existing links of the two countries and keen to establish new partnership programmes between the two counties.

OUR VISION

Our Vision is to break multicultural barriers through arts and culture.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of GIFA is to strengthen the relationships between Irish National and Ghanaians by reaching out to the locals to promote the full integration of Ghanaians into the Irish society for the socio-economic development.

OUR GUIDING VALUES

GIFA's guiding values are as follows:

- Respect for different cultural.
- Respect for the right of the individual.
- Serving our communities.

Key aims and objectives:

- To preserve and promote Ghanaian culture and traditions in Ireland by organising exhibitions, lectures, seminars and public events, etc.
- A national mouth piece for all Ghanaians living in the Republic.
- To promote educational and cultural cooperation between schools and institutions of higher learning in Ghana and Ireland.
- To foster intercultural cohesion through dialogue.
- To improve our knowledge and understanding of the Irish culture.
- To promote racial tolerance, integrate Ghanaians into the Irish Society.
- To promote intercultural communication between the Irish and the Ghanaians.
- To provide moral, financial and material support to its members in times of crisis.

The Work of GIFA

There are several aspects to our work:

- Reaching out to locals through the medium of culture.
- Promoting educational and cultural cooperation between schools, colleges and institutions of higher learning in Ghana and Ireland.
- Networking with other NGO's in Ghana and Ireland.
- Promoting the transfer of information technology to Ghanaian schools.
- Attending Community Fairs.
- Teaching Traditional Games, such as: Ampe and Oware games of logic and arithmetic.
- Performing Traditional drumming, highlife music and dance.
- Exhibiting Ghanaian artefacts, crafts and traditional outfits etc.
- Storytelling and drama.
- Serving our communities and also providing financial and material support to its members in times of crisis.

