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**GERMAN GOVERNMENT AND  
FEDERAL STATES PROGRAMME**  
BUND-LÄNDER-PROGRAMM (BLP)



**Federal state – partner country**  
North Rhine-Westphalia – Ghana

**Title**  
Qualification / Upgrading  
of the Tamale Technical University in Ghana

**In cooperation with the GIZ programme**  
Sustainable Economic Development

**Financing arrangements**  
BMZ contribution € 176,149  
NRW contribution € 117,433

**Duration**  
01.04.2020 – 30.10.2022

**Responsible ministry**  
Ministry of Culture and Science  
of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia

This project helps to achieve the following  
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



Workshop at Tamale Technical University

## Increasing Business Orientation and Developing Teaching Capacities at Tamale Technical University

### Local situation

Ghana has experienced an economic upswing over the last few years, yet not all regions have profited equally. The north of the country is still characterised extensively by subsistence farming and work in the informal sector, and there is an imbalance between the content of courses at academic institutions and the actual needs of local businesses in terms of training and qualifications.

In 2015, the Ghanaian Government founded Tamale Technical University (TaTu), based on the German teaching model, as a means to counteract the lack of qualified workers in the country. The institution's transition from university to technical university is designed to improve the relevance and practice-based focus of the training provided.

*“Give study programmes meaning! That can only happen when course contents relate closely to employment opportunities and thereby help to secure families’ livelihoods. Networking between local universities and businesses is essential in this respect.”*

**Prof. Dr.-Ing. Ralf Holzhauser,**

Department of Mechanical Engineering and Facilities Management,  
Westphalian University of Applied Sciences



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Automotive Engineering Department, Tamale Technical University

## Cooperation arrangements

The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has played an active role in promoting employment and improving vocational education and training in Ghana since 2012, when the Ghana Skills Development Initiative was launched. This initiative is designed to improve education standards, which should lead to an increase in employment rates on the formal labour market.

North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) has cultivated its own partnership with Ghana over the last two decades. Within this context the Ministry of Culture and Science is supporting the development of universities of applied sciences, which is a new sector in Ghana. Universities in NRW have a versatile array of proven frameworks for cooperation with the private sector at their disposal. Incorporating the expertise of the Westphalian University of Applied Sciences makes it possible to share this know-how with Tamale Technical University.

## What we are doing – and how

Efforts to network with local business are being bolstered in partnership with the Westphalian University of Applied Sciences (WHS), thereby capitalising on the successes of the German Government and Federal States Pilot Programme (German: Bund-Länder-Programm; BLP). The Friends of the University group, which consists of alumni and representatives from the private sector, is engaged in order to boost the university’s visibility in a sustainable, long-term way and expand the institution’s network structure with the local business community. The project also focuses on providing advice on how to modernise study programmes in terms of

developing curricula, embracing digitalisation and adopting practice-based approaches. In addition to receiving continued advice on university organisation, TaTu employees are hosted by WHS in Gelsenkirchen to give them the opportunity to gain practical insight that can be used to analyse which approaches would be suitable for implementation in Tamale.

To support the students enrolled at TaTu in the transition from education to employment, measures will be taken at the university to bring students, teaching staff and representatives from the private sector together through training, research and networking events.

## Useful links

- Ghana Skills Development Initiative:  
<https://www.giz.de/de/downloads/giz2018-Ghana-Skills-Development.pdf>
- Ghana – NRW:  
Cooperation for Sustainable Development:  
<https://ghana-nrw.info/>
- GIZ programmes in Ghana:  
<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/324.html>
- More information on the programme:  
<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/91262.html>  
<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/34949.html>  
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