

FOURTH MODULAR COURSE OF WOMEN IN POLITICS TRAINING (WIPT) PROGRAMME - 2010

Introduction

The Women in Politics Training (WIPT) Programme is an initiative of ABANTU for Development and Women in Broadcasting (WIB) with support from the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES). The three organisations are in a collaborative relationship under the framework of the Women's Manifesto for Ghana¹ initiative to deepen women's political participation in the country. The WIPT specifically seeks to strengthen the leadership capacity of women in all the political parties in Ghana. The political parties are: National Democratic Congress (NDC), New Patriotic Party (NPP) Convention People's Party (CPP), People's National Convention (PNC), Democratic Freedom Party (DFP) and Democratic People's Party (DPP). The programme is structured into seven modules. During the period of its organisation, participants go through a two-day training on selected topics over a weekend.

The WIPT was initiated in December 2005 and has been successfully implemented three consecutive times. The first was implemented during the period December 2005 - June 2006 while the second spanned the period November 2007 - May 2008. The third started in July 2009 and ended in March 2010. The fourth which is expected to be expanded into ten modules commenced in August 2010.

The opening session of the fourth modular course of the women in politics training was held on August 21, 2010. This was attended by women from the various political parties in the country who were nominated by their political party leaders and were successful in the selection interview developed by organisers to screen and select participants for the training. The opening session was also attended by the Directors of the partner organisations namely: Mrs. Daniella Kuzu of Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES), Dr. Rose Mensah-Kutin of ABANTU for Development and Ms Sarah Akrofi-Quarcoo of Women in Broadcasting (WIB).

Topics to be Covered

The following topics will be covered over the ten-month period of the fourth WIPT modular course:

- Leadership Skills
- Gender and Development
- Media Relations
- Negotiation Skills
- Presentation Skills
- Women and the Economy
- Fundamentals of Ghana's Democratic Systems

¹ The Women's Manifesto for Ghana is a non-partisan but political document that outlines national issues of concern to women and makes demands for addressing them.

- Lobbying and Campaigning
- Step-by-Step Processes of Law-Making
- Basic Social Research Skills

Profile of Participants and Expectations for the Training Programme

The sixteen (16) participants for the training programme were selected from an interview of twenty-five (25) nominees presented by the various political parties after a successful selection interview was conducted by the organisers. Below is a table of the list of nominees and their respective political parties:

POLITICAL PARTY	NOMINEE(S)
PNC	1. Fatimatu Hamza 2. Haijia Ramatu mohammed 3. Afsatu Shaibu 4. Mohammed Rashidatu Uthman 5. Esther Akuffo Apau
NDC	6. Mrs. Catherine Abrokwa Mante 7. Ganyo Patience Ama 8. Christina Ama Ranson 9. Sherifatu Saeed 10. Amoah Comfort Obaayaa 11. Ernestina Owusu Frimpong
DPP	12. Mensah Eunice Marinoni Agyeiwaah
NPP	13. Justina Owusu Banahene 14. Ivy Grace Dokuah 15. Adoma Felicia 16. Grace Braimah 17. Catherine Reckling 18. Koomson Mavis Hawa
CPP	19. Rebecca Agbogah 20. Harriet Anita Araba Abaidoo 21. Malwine Love Kabey 22. Shaibu Abibata 23. Gifty Agbenatoo 24. Patience Afua Mensah
DFP	25. Hellen Baka

List of nominees for the Fourth Modular Training Course for Women in Politics Training (WIPT)-2010

Below is a brief profile of successful participants for the fourth modular training course for women in politics:

1. Catherine Reckling (Kate)

Kate is the women's organiser of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) for the Agona Efigyaa Sekyere East Constituency and the Presiding Member for the Sekyere South district assembly. She is a retired teacher who is currently engaged in farming. She has worked as an assembly member for twelve years. She is determined to remain in active politics.

2. Christina Ama Ranson (Ama)

Ama is a fashion designer and the women's organiser of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) in the Fomena in the Adansi North Constituency. She is a strong advocate for women's rights in her constituency. She is therefore aspiring to contest the 2010 district assembly elections.

3. Rebecca Agbogah (Becky)

Becky worked with the University of Education, Winneba in the past. Currently, she works with Covenant Plus Travel and Tour Ghana Limited. Rebecca is an active member of the Convention Peoples' Party (CPP) Women's League. Her vision is to increase her knowledge about women and politics.

4. Gifty Agbenato

Gifty formerly worked with the National Commission on Culture (NCC). She is currently a fashion designer and a Women's Organiser of the Convention People's Party (CPP). She wants to build her capacity in political engagement and participation in decision making to enable her support the vulnerable in society.

5. Patience Afua Mensah

She is a professional teacher and the CPP Women's Organiser for Dome Kwabenya constituency in the Greater Accra region. Patience wishes to enhance her capacity in political engagement through her participation in the programme.

6. Mavis Hawa Koomson (Hawa)

Hawa heads of an Islamic School. She believes in the importance of knowledge acquisition and envisages that the training will enhance her leadership skills. She is the NPP Women's Organiser for Awutu Senya Constituency in the Central region and aspires to contest the parliamentary seat in the constituency during the 2012 general elections.

7. Harriet Anita Araba Abaidoo

Harriet has training in catering and has the unfulfilled dream of being an actress. She is currently a fashion designer and a Deputy National Women's Organiser of the CPP. She is also the Constituency Treasurer of her party. She has a passionate interest in politics because she believes that it broadens one's worldview and provides a platform for contributing to national policies.

8. Justina Owusu-Banahene (Awo)

With a passion for politics since childhood, Awo is an NPP Women's Organiser in the Brong Ahafo region. She has a degree in Education from the University of Cape Coast and teaches in the Brong Ahafo region. She is a strong advocate on issues related to women's health and other social issues.

9. Grace Braimah

Grace is the NPP Women's Organiser for Wa East Constituency in the Upper West region. Though she did not win in the 2006 district assembly elections, she determined to sharpen her political skills and capacity through the training to enable her to win in the next elections.

10. Helen Baka

Helen entered active politics in 2008. She is currently mobilising and campaigning towards the 2010 district assembly elections. She is an active member of the Democratic Freedom Party (DFP) Women's League.

11. Patience Ganyo

Patience is a teacher for the deaf. She also has a passion for politics and issues of concern to women. She expects that the training will enhance her capacity to mentor young women to develop interest in politics.

12. Ivy Grace Dokuah (Ivy)

She works with the National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO) and is an NPP Women's Organiser for Komenda-Edina-Eguafo-Abbreem in the Central region. Ivy is aspiring to contest the 2010 district assembly elections and wishes to be a Member of Parliament in future. She expects to develop her knowledge and skills in gender and development through her participation in the training.

13. Malwine Love Karbey (Love)

Love has a certificate in Secretaryship from the City Business College (CIBUSCO) and has worked as an office clerk in the CPP head office since 1980. She is also the party's Women's Organiser for the Hohoe North constituency in the Volta region.

14. Catherine Abrokwa-Mantey (Kate)

As a constituency Women's Organiser, Kate believes that politics is essential for ideological development and helps women to broaden their scope in relation to societal issues. She expects that her participation in the training will enhance her capacity to train women on their fundamental human rights.

15. Eunice Marinoni Agyeiwaah Mensah (Eunice)

Eunice is a teacher and a women's organiser for the Democratic People's Party (DPP) in the Agona Swedru district. She wishes to enhance her capacity to intensify her advocacy work for women.

16. Ernestina Owusu-Frimpong (Tina)

Ernestina is a trained secretary who currently manages a school and a tour company in Elmina, Central region. She obtained the position of the regional Women's Organiser for the NDC party through her achievement in community work. Her vision is to be in an influential decision-making position where she can mentor or coach women to realise that they are achievers.



Figure 1: Participants of the Fourth Modular Training Course for Women In Politics Training (WIPT 2010)

Enjoyment of Freedoms

Participants elected their own leaders and assigned responsibilities to them. Below are details of names and the expected responsibilities of elected course representatives:

Course Representatives and Responsibilities

1. Course Prefect: Catherine Reckling
Assistant : Christina Ama Ranson

Responsibilities:

- Manage the class
- Liaison between course facilitators, resource persons and participants
- Be a role model
- Accountable to participants regarding course content (shared responsibility)
- Delegate responsibilities
- Maintain good inter-relationship/rapport with everybody
- Brief participants on course content when absent from a particular module

2. Time Keeper: Catherine Abrokwah-Mante
Assistant : Helen Baka

Responsibilities:

- Extra punctual and leadership by example
- Keep FES informed about reminders to trainings
- Call meetings/participants to order

3. Inter-Party Facilitator: Patience Afua Mensah
Assistant : Eunice Marinoni Agyeiwaah Mensah

Responsibilities:

- Collate contacts of all participants including facilitators/coordinators
- Encourage and maintain excellent networking among participants
- Liaison between coordinators and participants
- Develop and initiate dynamic networking styles

They also discussed and agreed on a number of ground rules to ensure the successful running of the Modular Course. The following are the agreed ground rules:

Ground Rules

- No interruptions during discussions: do not talk when someone is talking
- Respect one another; tolerate each other's views and opinions
- Cell phones should be on silence
- No chewing of gum/food in the training
- Mix up: with members of other political parties
- Full participation
- Use civil language; No bad/foul language
- Respect point of order
- Contributions should be relevant to the discussion
- Punctuality - respect for time
- No meetings within meeting
- No distractions (chairs, papers)
- Confidentiality within this space
- Whatever is discussed at meetings should remain within
- Properly ask permission to be absent whenever necessary

Conclusion

The introduction session of the Fourth Modular Course of the Women in Politics Training programme (WIPT) served to build a sense of community among the participants regardless of their political affiliation. Participants agreed to comply with the terms of conditions for participation in the programme. It is therefore hoped that during the ten-month period of the training, participants' interest in politics as well as their effectiveness in their political parties will be enhanced.



Figure 2: Participants of WIPT 2010

Participants of WIPT 2010 adopted the following as their slogan:

WOMEN: BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE!!!!