

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY EDITION 2025

2024 RECAP

- Orientation Program: A Warm Welcome to Our New Students
- Scientific Workshop: Advancing Water Solutions in a Changing Climate
- UNICEF Explores Deeper Collaboration with RWESCK
- Ghana Tertiary Education Commission (GTEC) and Association of African Universities Visit to RWESCK
- RWESCK Innovation Challenge: Empowering Creative Solutions
- RWESCK Innovation Workshop: Fostering Creativity for Real-World Solutions
- AgroparishTech Visit: Strengthening Collaborative Ties
- ACE@10 Anniversary Conference: A Decade of advancing post-Graduate Education in Excellence in Africa
- Fostering International Collaboration: WE-Africa Visits RWESCK

Orientation Program: A Warm Welcome to Our New Students



On 12th January 2024, RWESCK officially welcomed its new cohort of students to the KNUST campus during a well-structured orientation program. The event served as a platform to introduce freshmen from diverse backgrounds to life at RWESCK and the broader university community.

Distinguished personnel from the university, alongside key industry players, were present to offer words of encouragement and share insights on academic excellence and professional growth. As part of the orientation, the students were taken on guided tours to key facilities. This holistic introduction aimed to equip the new students with essential resources for a successful academic journey at RWESCK.

The orientation not only marked the beginning of their academic experience but also set the tone for a collaborative and supportive learning environment.

Scientific Workshop: Advancing Water Solutions in a Changing Climate



In the face of accelerating climate change, the need for sustainable water and sanitation services has become more urgent than ever. As 2023 edges towards being the hottest year on record, communities around the world continue to grapple with the effects of climate instability, including rising sea levels, erratic rainfall patterns, droughts, and floods. These challenges are further compounded in regions of Africa and Asia, where rapid urbanization, population growth, and limited resources create significant barriers to expanding safe water and sanitation services.

RWESCK played a key role in facilitating critical conversations on these pressing issues through the 5th Scientific Workshop organized by the 'Water for All' Chair. Held for the first time in Africa, this edition focused on addressing the complex relationship between climate change and the delivery of sustainable urban water and sanitation services. The workshop provided a collaborative platform for urban water utility managers, researchers, and policymakers to explore innovative strategies for climate-resilient water management.

Participants examined how climate change not only amplifies slow-moving threats, such as rising sea levels, but also increases the likelihood of extreme weather events, which can disrupt services, displace populations, and contribute to socio-political tensions. Discussions centered on rethinking how urban water utilities are designed and managed to withstand these evolving challenges while remaining committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The insights gained from this workshop continue to inform RWESCK's research focus, emphasizing proactive approaches and partnerships to ensure sustainable water access despite an uncertain global climate future.

UNICEF Explores Deeper Collaboration with RWESCK



On April 19th, a delegation from UNICEF visited RWESCK to engage in discussions on strengthening collaboration in water, sanitation, and related research areas. The visit provided an opportunity for both institutions to explore how RWESCK's expertise in water resources management and innovation could align with UNICEF's global initiatives.

Key discussions revolved around enhancing proof-of-concept support for research innovations, strengthening partnerships with international innovation hubs, and identifying ways to translate research findings into practical solutions. The importance of multidisciplinary collaboration was also emphasized, particularly in linking water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) with maternal and public health efforts.

The discussions highlighted the need for strategic partnerships, advisory roles, and resource mobilization to ensure impactful research and capacity development. Moving forward, both parties expressed interest in formalizing collaboration through structured plans that would drive research, advisory services, and capacity-building initiatives.

Ghana Tertiary Education Commission (GTEC) and Association of African Universities Visit to RWESCK



In June 2024, the Ghana Tertiary Education Commission (GTEC) and Association of African Universities (AAU) visited RWESCK to assess the Center's progress under the ongoing project. The visit provided an opportunity for RWESCK to present updates on key areas such as student enrollment, capacity building, industry-academic partnerships, international accreditation, and sustainability plans.

The Center Leader highlighted RWESCK's steady growth in student enrollment, breaking down admissions by gender, regionalization, and program type (MSc, PhD, and short courses). The presentation also covered the Center's performance against enrollment targets, verification status, and achievements in research publications, internships, and external funding.

Additionally, RWESCK showcased its commitment to the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) through various activities aligned with sustainability goals. Success stories and impactful initiatives were shared, emphasizing the Center's role in advancing water and environmental sustainability in the region.

The visit concluded with discussions on challenges faced and mitigation strategies, reinforcing RWESCK's dedication to continuous improvement and excellence.

RWESCK Innovation Challenge: Empowering Creative Solutions



In the lead-up to the RWESCK Innovation Workshop, the Centre organized the RWESCK WASH Innovation Challenge, aimed at stimulating innovation through collaborative efforts. This initiative invited highly motivated groups to develop and present innovative solutions addressing pressing issues in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). After a rigorous selection process, the top four teams were awarded funding to further develop and implement their projects. This challenge not only showcased the ingenuity and dedication of participants but also reinforced RWESCK's commitment to fostering practical solutions for sustainable development. The success of the Innovation Challenge set a dynamic tone for the subsequent workshop, highlighting the Centre's role in bridging the gap between innovative ideas and real-world applications.

RWESCK Innovation Workshop: Fostering Creativity for Real-World Solutions



The RWESCK Innovation Workshop was a dynamic platform designed to inspire creative problem-solving and equip participants with the tools to address pressing challenges in the water and sanitation sectors. This interactive event brought together students, researchers, and industry professionals for hands-on training in design thinking, collaboration, and solution development.

Through expert-led sessions and group activities, participants explored innovative approaches to tackle sustainability challenges, focusing on practical, scalable solutions. The workshop also served as a launchpad for groundbreaking ideas, encouraging participants to think outside the box while staying aligned with global development goals.

This commitment to nurturing innovation reflects RWESCK's mission to empower future leaders who can drive positive change within their communities and beyond. The energy and creativity displayed during the workshop highlighted the power of collaboration and knowledge-sharing in shaping a more sustainable future.

ACE@10 Anniversary Conference: A Decade of advancing post-Graduate Education in Excellence in Africa



From November 5th to 7th, 2024, the African Centres of Excellence (ACE) Project commemorated its 10th Anniversary during the inaugural National Tertiary Education Conference (NTEC) 2024, held at the Cedi Conference Centre of the University of Ghana. The event, themed “Transforming Tertiary Education in Ghana: Dialogue, Policy, and Practice,” convened key stakeholders, including regulatory bodies, leaders of tertiary education institutions, policymakers, researchers, and industry experts.

A highlight of the conference was a presentation by Professor Richard Buamah, Director of the Regional Water and Environmental Sanitation Centre Kumasi (RWESCK). He shared insights into RWESCK’s impactful journey, showcasing significant strides in water and environmental sanitation research and education. His presentation underscored RWESCK’s contributions to sustainable development and its pivotal role in addressing critical water challenges in the region.

The ACE@10 celebration not only reflected on a decade of achievements but also set the stage for future collaborations aimed at enhancing the quality and impact of tertiary education in Africa. The event served as a vital platform for dialogue and partnership, paving the way for innovative solutions and strategic policies to meet the evolving needs of students and the nation.

AgroparishTech Visit: Strengthening Collaborative Ties



RWESCK was honored to host a delegation from AgroparishTech during their visit to the KNUST campus, which included a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor and the RWESCK Director. This visit reaffirmed the longstanding relationship between RWESCK and AgroparishTech, as both institutions continue to explore collaborative efforts in the fields of water sustainability and agricultural innovation.

While the details of the discussions remain private, the visit reflected a shared commitment to exploring potential partnerships that drive impactful solutions for sustainable development. RWESCK values such engagements, as they open doors for research collaboration, capacity building, and technology-driven approaches to address critical challenges in water and agriculture across the region.

This visit further strengthens RWESCK's network of strategic partnerships, emphasizing the importance of cross-sector collaboration in achieving long-term sustainability goals.

Fostering International Collaboration: WE-Africa Visits RWESCK



On December 18, 2024, the Regional Water and Environmental Sanitation Centre Kumasi (RWESCK) welcomed a delegation from WE-Africa as part of efforts to strengthen international collaboration and knowledge exchange in water and environmental sanitation. The visit, which began at 2:00 p.m., was a significant step toward building partnerships that address critical challenges in the sector.

The delegation was warmly received by the RWESCK Lab Manager, Mr. Mandela Toku, who introduced them to the Centre's mission and vision. Following the welcome ceremony, the visitors were taken on an extensive tour of RWESCK's state-of-the-art laboratories.

Key highlights of the tour included:

- Water Quality Lab: Demonstrations of advanced water testing techniques and cutting-edge equipment.
- Environmental Lab: Insights into the application of XRD and SEM equipment for research and analysis.

The visit concluded with valuable networking sessions, fostering connections between RWESCK and WE-Africa. This exchange of ideas and best practices laid the groundwork for potential future collaborations aimed at improving water quality and environmental health in the region.

RWESCK expresses its gratitude to WE-Africa for their visit and looks forward to fruitful collaborations that will drive innovative solutions in water and sanitation.

Newsletter

JULY-AUGUST EDITION 2023

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



THE WORLD BANK



**ASSOCIATION OF
AFRICAN
UNIVERSITIES**



**MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND
ECONOMIC PLANNING
GHANA**



National Council for Tertiary Education