



# **PROFILE**

# **2020**

**Ghana Publishers Association Secretariat**  
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# THE GHANA PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

## ABOUT US

The Ghana Publishers Association (GPA) is a non-profit making, trade association of book publishers in Ghana. It is a registered company limited by guarantee and without share capital. The Association is the only collective voice of book publishers in Ghana which serves as a rallying point for all book publishers in the country and provides a forum where publishers come together to deliberate on various issues affecting the industry at large. The Association promotes policies for the growth and development of the knowledge sector for national development.

The mission of the Association is to bring together book publishers; organize training, book fairs and advocacy programmes for the benefit of members and the country as a whole. The name of the Association was *Ghana Book Publishers Association* until Friday 8th November, 2019 when the constitution and the name was amended to *The Ghana Publishers Association*.

## OBJECTIVES

The GPA seeks to achieve the objectives which include but not limited to:

- To unite publishers in Ghana for the promotion of the publishing industry in Ghana and to activate the book industry in the national interest.
- To organize training schemes and refresher courses for its members to improve or encourage the technical and educational upliftment of members and their staff, and to initiate or encourage research into the problems of the book publishing industry.
- To promote reading and literacy for the benefit to members and the country as a whole.

## BRIEF HISTORY

The Ghana Publishers Association formally came into being on **10<sup>th</sup> March, 1976** by being registered to operate by the registrar-General's Department. The original executives and the founding publishing houses were: Mr. Courage Kwami Segbawu (Sedco Publishing Ltd), Mr. N. Adzakey (Ghana Universities Press), Mr. Abdul Brown (Ghana Publishing Corporation), Mr. Kwesi Sam-Woode (Afram Publications (Gh) Ltd.), Mr. Benibengor Blay (Benibengor Book Agency), and Mr. Mark Botsio (Ringway Press). Mr. Courage Kwami Segbawu, the founder of Sedco Publishing Ltd, was made the first President of the Association.

<b>Founding Members</b>	<b>Original Executives</b>	<b>Designation</b>
Sedco Publishing Ltd.	Mr. Courage Kwami Segbawu	President
Ghana Universities Press	Mr. N. Adzakey	
Ghana Publishing Corporation	Mr. Abdul Brown	
Afram Publications (Ghana) Ltd.	Mr. Kwesi Sam-Woode	
Benibengor Book Agency	Mr. Benibengor Blay	
Ringway Press	Mr. Mark Botsio	

Table 1: The original Executives formed in 1976

The beginning of the Ghana Publishers Association (GBPA) dates back to 1973, when the membership was mainly of local representatives of overseas, mostly British publishing multinationals. However, when well organised indigenous publishing houses began to emerge, the status of the overseas publishers' representatives as publishers became unclear and this led to a certain amount of misunderstanding and loss of interest in the Association.

In 1976, there was a policy in Acheampong's regime, that all foreign publishing and printing houses must be headed by Ghanaians. Consequently, some of the foreign publishing firms were converted into local publishing firms. As a result of this, the Association had a challenge with organised membership. For this reason, the Ghana Book Development Council (GBDC) researched into the background of the Association and made recommendations on how it could be reorganised on a sound footing. This was in the first half of 1977. On 10th April, 1978 a new constitution of GBPA was accepted and officers and members of the Association's Executive Council elected.

The name of the Association was changed from *Ghana Publishers Association* to *Ghana Book Publishers Association* when a new constitution was adopted by the members in 1978. The Ghana Publishers Association since its inception has had a number of Presidents supported by other council members to make decisions for implementation by the Secretariat.

<b>Years in Office</b>	<b>Name of GPA Presidents</b>	<b>No. of Years</b>
1976 – 1980	Mr. Courage Kwami Segbawu	4
1980 – 1986	Mr. Emmanuel Charles Tetteh	6
1987 – 1991	Mr. Eric Ofei	4
1992 – 1998	Mr. Richard Crabbe	6

1998 – 2002	Mr. Courage Kwami Segbawu	4
2003 – 2005	Ms. Akoss Ofori-Mensah	2
2005 – 2009	Mr. Elliot Agyare	4
2009 – 2014	Mr. Asare Konadu Yamoah	4
2014 – 2016	Dr. Samuel Osafo Acquah	2
2016 – 2019	Mr. Elliot Agyare	4
2020 to date	Mr. Asare Konadu Yamoah	


Table 2: List of Presidents since inception to date

For all these years, the GPA was spineless but in 1991 the Canadian Organization for Development through Education (CODE) came to the aid with massive and timely institutional support, which enabled the association to offer something in return for the dues members had paid and had become weary of paying. The first time the Association had a massive support. Currently, the Association has well-organised member-publishers with capacity to publish educational and trade books. The Association has undergone a lot of developmental stages in terms of membership, programmes (achievements) and professionalism and now Ghana is said to be one of the African countries with robust publishing industries.

## CURRENT LEADERSHIP

The following Executives/ Council members were sworn into office on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 to lead the Association for the next three years:

**Below are the profiles of the Council Members of the Ghana Publishers Association:**

NAME	PROFILE
	<p>Asare Konadu Yamoah is currently the Managing Publisher of Adaex Educational Publications Ltd, a family business with over 48 years. Having been apprenticed to the father, an international author and publisher from 1987 to 1995. Asare assumed full managerial control of the company in 1997 after a comprehensive restructuring including name change (from Anowuo to Adaex).</p> <p>With this experience, Asare has driven the publishing profile of the company to a level that has given Adaex an international presence. Asare has a lot of</p>

<p><b>Mr. Asare Konadu Yamoah (President)</b></p>	<p>international exposure in the field of publishing which include his participation in a number of international book fairs (Frankfurt, London, New Delhi, Nigeria, South Africa, etc.) as well as workshops organized at these fairs and other locations.</p> <p>In 2009, Asare was elected the President of the Ghana Book Publishers association, served two terms. He has also held a number of positions – Board member of Ghana Book Development Council and Ghana Book Trust. He is currently serving as a Board member of CopyGhana (the reprographic rights society of Ghana) and the African Publishers Network (APNET).</p> <p>Apart from Publishing, Asare is also an author with seven (7) children readers which have been translated into some local languages in Africa- Kiswahili, Asante Twi, Nzema, etc.</p> <p>He is currently the President of Ghana Publishers Association.</p>
<div data-bbox="196 785 516 1117" data-label="Image"> </div> <p><b>Edward Yaw Udzu (Vice President)</b></p>	



**Dorcas Gyamfuah Gyabeng**  
**(Hon. Secretary)**

Dorcas Gyamfuah Gyabeng is a trained professional publisher from the Department of Publishing Studies, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology where she obtained a Bachelor’s Degree in Publishing Studies (BA Publishing). She later obtained a Post Graduate Diploma in Education from the University of Education, Winneba.

She had her National Service with the University of Cape Coast Printing Press as Publishing Assistant and Proofreader. She has since worked with Afram Publications (Ghana) Limited and is currently the Assistant Editor.

Due to her interest and passion for publishing, she is now serving as the Honorary Secretary of Ghana Publishers Association.



**Mr. Kwabena Agyepong**  
**(Hon. Treasurer)**

Kwabena Agyepong holds a degree in Publishing Studies with a major in Book Design from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. He has been in the publishing field since 1995.

During the early years of his profession he worked with Africa Christian Press as the Production Manager where he set up and managed an entirely new production department and saw to the publication of several titles.

He joined Unimax Ltd in 2000 where he managed several projects including, the publication of a series of Ghanaian Languages course in nine different languages. He became the Publishing Manager and undertook the publication and successful tendering of many titles under the Unimax Macmillan imprint in 2005 and 2008, 2009 and 2010.


He attends Editorial Conferences in the the UK during London Book Fairs and is a member of various Networks of Publishing and Editing Professions.

Between 2011 and 2015, he was the Honourary Treasurer for the Ghana Book Publishers Association, a position he is currently holding again in 2020.




From June 2011 to April 2018 he was the General Manager/Publishing Manager of Winmat Publishers Ltd. Under his leadership Winmat won Ministry of Education contracts in Ghana and Liberia to supply books to the Schools in 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2015.

He is currently the Managing Director of Education Logistics (Gh) Ltd (a company that produces TLMs) and Eyedears Indesign, a design and print outfit (that provides consultancy and publishing services - editorial, design, illustration and print buying).

	<p>Kwabena has helped with the publication of a variety of titles for Sub-Saharan Publishers, Allgoodbooks Limited and Readwide Limited.</p> <p>He was the lead book designer for the EQUAL project that produced course books for Ghanaian children from pre-school to primary 3 in 2008.</p> <p>In 2017 and 2018, he was a leading member of the committee that developed the Ghana Book Standards for the Ghana Book Development Council. In 2019, he joined a team of three to develop the Textbook Assessment and Approval Process currently being used by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NaCCA).</p> <p>Internationally he provides consultancy and design services for Canadian Organization for Development through Education (CODE) where he has designed many books for Sierra Leone and Liberia markets. Under this same CODE project he trained designers, publishers and writers in Liberia.</p>
 <p><b>Mr. Emmanuel Nyarko</b> (Non-Exec. Member)</p>	<p>Emmanuel Nyarko is the CEO of Town &amp; Country Books Services, Accra</p> <p>He is a teacher (Cert “A”) by profession, and taught for fourteen years in four public schools across the country and two private schools in various subjects including Science, Mathematics, English, Twi, Home Economics and Cultural Studies.</p> <p>He is the Board Chairman for Pentecost Co-operative Mutual Support &amp; Social Services (PENCO). Mr. Nyarko owns a bachelor’s degree with accounting option. He is a staunch publisher of educational textbooks with fifty titles to his credit.</p>
 <p><b>Mr. Fred Awuku Labi</b> (Non-Exec. Member)</p>	<p>Fred Awuku Labi is a Ghanaian Information Technology professional who has lived and worked internationally in various countries including UK, Spain, Germany, France, Lebanon, USA, Nigeria and Ghana, defining IT strategies, managing IT projects, delivering engineers training and managing Digital publishing systems. He holds a first degree in Electrical Engineering, A Master’s degree in Computer Science from Cranfield Institute of Technology, UK, and a Master’s degree in Data Communication from Brunel University, UK. Mr. Labi is a seasoned publisher and the CEO and proprietor of the Digibooks Ghana Ltd, a digital publishing Print On Demand (POD) company in Tema. H has published over 80 substantial books and journals since the company’s establishment in 2006.</p>

	<p>He is a Non-Executive Council Member of the Ghana Publishers Association since 2018 as well as a member of The Rotary International. He has interest in charity work to improve the community we live in. His hobbies are reading, football, dancing and travelling. His professional ambition is to build Digibooks Ghana Ltd to be an international company with shared rights to various publications and improve sales on internet, social media and other normal avenues.</p>
<p><b>Mr. Berifi Apenteng</b></p>	<p>Mr. Berifi Apenteng, Council Member, is a Director of Edkap Publishing based in Accra. He has been with the Company since 2007 and has a wealth of experience in the mass media and publishing industries.</p> <p>Mr Apenteng was Managing Director of Graphic Communication Group and Director General of the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation, GBC.</p> <p>He was General Manager of TV3 Network. He trained as a Journalist and a Lawyer and worked in the media for many years and has a wealth of experience in the management, media and publishing.</p>
 <p><b>Mr. Kingsley Mate-Kole</b> <b>(Non-Exec. Member)</b></p>	<p>Mr. Kingsley K. Mate-Kole is a graduate from the Methodist University College, Ghana with an MBA in Marketing Management. He holds a certificate in Project Management from GIMPA, a BSc. Social Sciences (Tourism) from the University of Cape Coast and a Diploma in Accounting. He has also attended an array of courses in Marketing and Premium Customer Care at GIMPA.</p> <p>Mr. Mate-Kale’s career spans a period of over 22 years where he had long stints with Ghana Airways Limited, Ministry of Tourism, Supra Telecom, Donewell Insurance, Donewell Life Company Limited and Graphic Packaging Limited. 15 of these years have been in managerial positions during which he rose through the various ranks of a Marketing Officer to Marketing Manager. He is currently the Marketing Manager for G-Pak Limited, the main subsidiary of Graphic Communications Group Limited and has been working in the book industry for the past 10 years.</p>



 <p><b>Christian Owusu Botchway</b> (Non-Exec. Member)</p>	<p>Mr. Christian Owusu Botchway is a publisher and currently the Chief Executive Officer of Hyirenn Publishing which was established in 2002.</p> <p>Mr. Botchway holds B.A (Hons) Publishing Studies from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), MBA (Management), BSU, Belarus.</p> <p>He is a Specialist in Educational Materials, Microsoft Office, Adobe PaceMaker, Photoshop, CorelDraw, Illustrator and Bloom software.</p>
 <p><b>Ms. Pamela Woode</b> (Ex officio member)</p>	<p>Pamela Aba Woode is an author and a publisher by profession with over 20 years wealth of expertise in publishing. She holds an MBA in Marketing from the University of Ghana, Legon and obtained her 1st degree in Publishing Studies at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST). She is currently a non-executive member of the Board of Directors of Sam-Woode Ltd (SWL) and an ex-officio member of the Ghana Publishers Association (GPA). Pamela is the chief consultant for IAM management consultancy and offers services relating to Publishing, Marketing and Management.</p>
 <p><b>Mr. Reuben Agbelengor Glover</b> (Co opted Member)</p>	<p>Mr. Reuben Agbelengor Glover is a Senior Lecturer, Barrister-at-Law, a Solicitor and an advocate of the supreme court of Ghana, Intellectual property law teacher, Human rights advocate, an accomplished illustrator, graphic designer, a creative concept development consultant, creative arts and cultural policy analyst with three decades practical experience in the creative art industry and academia. He is also credited with scholarly journal articles, art exhibitions and design concepts both home and abroad.</p>

## MEMBERSHIP

Currently, the Ghana Publishers Association has 120 registered publishers in Ghana. The table provides the trend of membership increment.

Year	Number of Member-Publishers
1976	6
1984	23
1994	40
2002	46
2003	50
2004	55
2006	65
2012	87
2016	107
2017	112
2020	120

**Below is the list of Corporate members of the Association:**

No.	Publisher	No.	Publisher
1.	Aabok Publications Company Ltd	61	His Grace Publications
2.	Abba-Elohim Ventures	62	Hyirenn Publishing
3.	Abbiw Books	63	Icon Publishing Limited
4.	Academic Publications (GH) Limited	64	Innova Publishing House Limited
5.	Accra Technical University Printing Press	65	Institute for Scientific & Technological Information (INSTI) Science Academic Publishing Div., CSIR
6.	Adaex Educational Publications Ltd	66	Isaac Books & Stationery Services
7.	Adonai Publications Ltd	67	Kwadwoan Publishing Ltd

8.	Adwinsa Publications (Gh) Ltd	68	Literamed Publications Ghana Ltd
9.	Adzawutor Enterprise	69	Malok's Ventures
10.	Afram Publications (Ghana) Limited	70	Masterman Publications Limited
11.	Africa Christian Press	71	Mayan Books Centre
12.	Africana First Publishers (Gh) Ltd	72	Methodist Book Depot Limited
13.	Ahenpa Publishers Ltd	73	Minerva Books & Stationery Supplies Ltd
14.	Alliance Anstep Ltd.	74	MJP Books Limited
15.	Aki-Ola Publications Co. Ltd	75	Mountype Publishing
16.	Allgoodbooks Limited	76	NNF Esquire Ltd
17.	Approachers (Gh) Ltd	77	Novelty Publishing Services
18.	ARCA – Academic Ltd	78	Nubuke Foundation
19.	Ark Publications Limited	79	Osu Library Fund
20.	Asempa Publishers (Christian Council of Ghana)	80	Pages and Stationery Limited
21.	Ask Africa Books & Co Ltd	81	Papertalk Books
22.	Auxano Impressions	82	Pearl Publications Ltd
23.	Bayuti Enterprise	83	Perfect Plus Ltd
24.	Beginners Publishers	84	Prowriting Ltd
25.	Best Brian Publication Ltd	85	Readwide Publishers
26.	Bestas Press	86	Red Oak Limited
27.	Bible Society of Ghana	87	Reimmer Book Services Ltd.
28.	Black Mask Limited	88	Richkiss
29.	Bright Future Publications	89	Royal Gold Publishers Ltd
30.	Buck Press Limited	90	Sage Literary House Limited

31.	Bureau of Ghana Languages	91	Sam-Woode Ltd
32.	Calculus Publications	92	Sankofa Magazine Ghana Limited
33.	Cee Dordor Publishing and General Merchants Ltd	93	Sankofa Publishing Co. Ltd.
34.	Children's Ministry International	94	Sedco Publishing Limited
35.	Cosmos Educational Press Ghana Ltd	95	SEDESEL
36.	CRA Limited	96	Silvaline Press
37.	Crossover Publications	97	Sky Publications
38.	Damas Educational Services	98	SOSFAC (GH) Limited
39.	Department of Publishing Studies	99	Step Publishers
40.	Edkap Publishing	100	Studio Brian Communications
41.	EPP Books Services Limited	101	Sub-Saharan Publishers Ltd.
42.	Ernest Publications Ltd	102	Third World Network-Africa
43.	Excellence Publication & Stationery Supply	103	Top Facts Publishing (Gh) Ltd
44.	FG Press Ltd	104	Royal Gold Publishers Ltd
45.	First Books and Perfumery	105	Town & Country Books Services
46.	Flagbearers Publishers	106	Type Company Limited
47.	Flozzies Company Limited	107	Uni-Jay Limited
48.	Garnet Martmag Ventures	108	University of Cape Coast Press
49.	Ga-Morh Publishers	109	Vestel Publications
50.	GAVOSS Education Plc Ltd	110	Waterville Publishing Company
51.	Ghana Institute of Linguistics, Literacy & Bible Translation	111	Winmat Publishers Limited
52.	Ghana Publishing Company Limited	112	Woeli Publishing Services
53.	Ghana Universities Press*	113	Yetran Ghana Limited
54.	GN-Printing Press Ltd	114	York Press Ltd

55.	Graphic Communications Group, Publishing Department (G-PAK)	115	Zanti Limited
56.	Digibooks Ghana Ltd		
57.	Hams Book Services		
58.	Hasford Publishers Ltd		
59.	Herma Publications		
60.	High Calling Publishing		
61.	Highpoint Publications		

**Individual Members are as follows:**

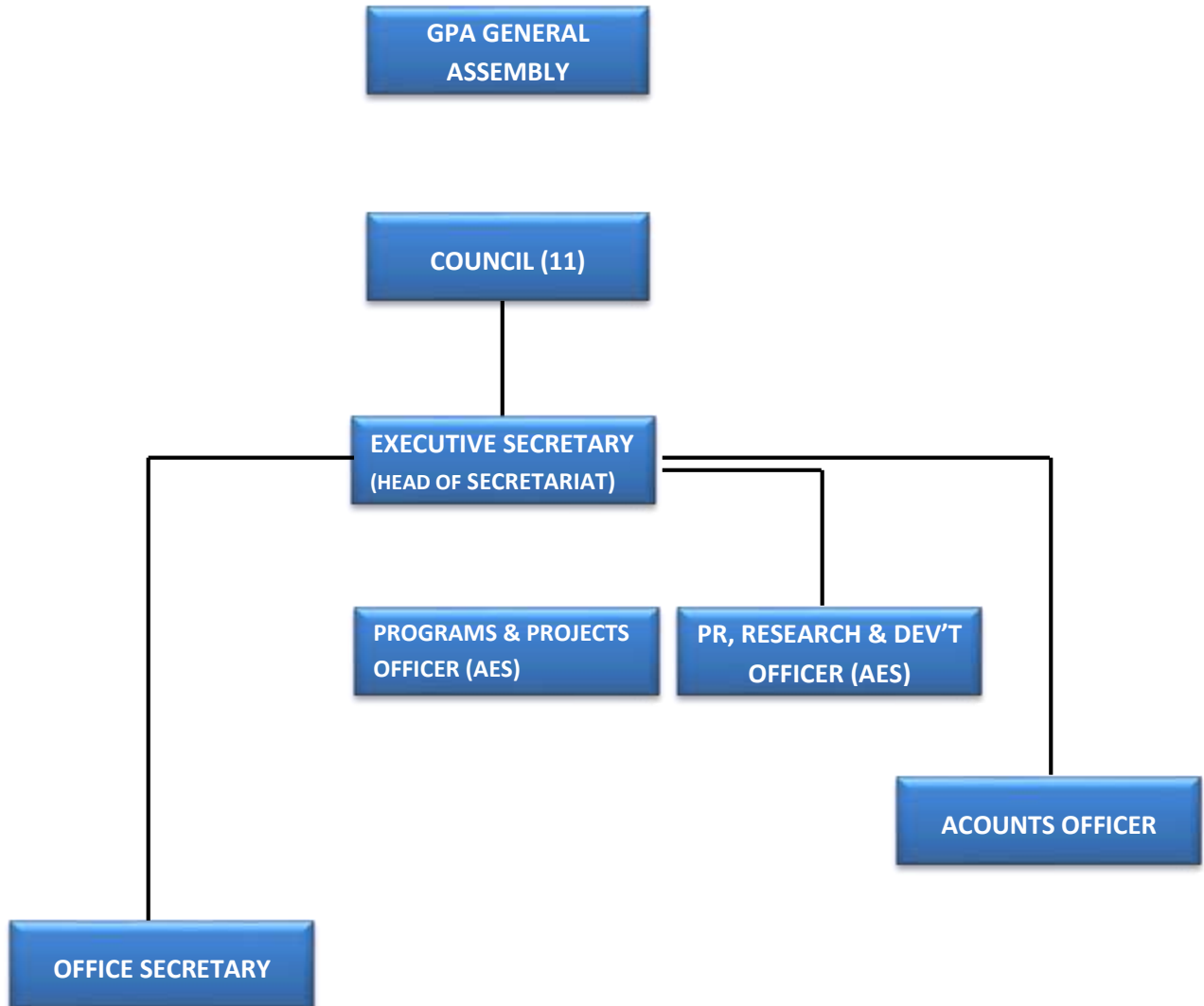
- 116. Agatha Akonor-Mills (Mrs) – Revise and Publish
- 117. Anumnyam
- 118. Kwabena Agyepong – Education Logistics Ghana Limited
- 119. Harriet Tagoe – Afram Publications Ghana Ltd
- 120. Michael Aketewah – Milaket Enterprise

The Ghana Publishers Association is also a member of the following organisations:

- African Publishers Network (APNET)
- International Publishers Network (IPA)
- Ghana Culture Forum (GCF)
- Association of Ghana Industries (AGI)

## ORGANOGRAM

This is the organizational structure of the Association.



## GPA ACHIEVEMENTS/ CONTRIBUTIONS

### 1. **Development of National Education through Books**

Book publishing as a profession has contributed massively to the advancement of education and literacy in terms of quantity and quality of books to meet the needs of readers, students and the general public. Indigenous publishers have contributed immensely by changing the over-dependence on foreigners for books as in the case up to the 1970s. Publishers publish books which serve as the foundation for schools;

develop and sustain culture and empower effective and efficient human resource for national development. Book publishing in local languages has had gradual increment; however, good policies from government can advance the state of books in local languages as well as other books in general. The Association has worked with government on book procurement and has partnered with a number of organisations including Non-Formal Education Division (NFED) to buy books in the local languages from publishers as well as books procured by Ghana Book Trust, Ghana Book Development Council and Ghana Library Authority.

## 2. **Advocacy**

### ○ **Privatization of textbook publishing**

Advocacy programmes for the Ministry of Education (MoE) to ensure that local publishers get the production of textbooks (1981 – 1986).

### ○ **Importation of paper at a discount**

GPA made a strong advocacy and the Ministry of Education allowed Ghana Revenue Authority to import paper at a discount for members of the Association. Unfortunately, it fizzled out only after a year (1987 – 1991).

## 3. **Organization of regional book fairs in Ghana**

In partnership with the Canadian Organization for Development through Education (CODE) in 1995 – 1996, six (6) regional book fairs were organized including Hohoe (8-11th Nov., 1995); Cape Coast (29th Nov., - 2nd Dec., 1995); Prestea, and Obuasi. Nine (9) seminars were also organised as part of the fairs. This also provided platforms to promote books and reading. Ghana Publishers Association and Ghana Book Development Council have jointly organized regional book fairs over the years. The recent ones were held in Kumasi (25th to 27th May, 2017 at the Kumasi Cultural Centre) and Sunyani (14th to 19th May 2019 at the Ebenezer Presby Church).

## 4. **Organisation of Ghana International Book Fairs**

The Ghana International Book Fair (GIBF) was instituted in the mid-1990s to revive the book industry in Ghana. The Trade Fair Authority was therefore charged with the responsibility of initiating an international book fair in Ghana. The first one was held in November 6 – 12, 1996. Subsequent book fairs were held every two years. At the launch of the 2002 GIBF, Prof. Christopher Ekumfi-Ameyaw, the then Minister of Education, asked the Ghana Publishers Association (GPA), and other stakeholders in the industry to take over the organization of subsequent book fairs.

Hence some stakeholder organisations came together and Ghana International Book Fair Trust (GIBOFT) was duly formed and registered. Currently, the following stakeholder organisations form the planning committee with Ghana Publishers Association as the lead organiser:

- Ghana Publishers Association
- Ghana Association of Writers
- Ghana Book Development Council
- Ghana Library Association
- Ghana Printers and Paper Converters Association
- Ghana Library Authority
- Copyright Office
- National Council for Tertiary Education (NCTE)
- CopyGhana

The GIBF brings together both local and international book players to exhibit books and to showcase various innovations created in the industry over the period as well as the general public to celebrate books and to participate in reading programmes, literacy games and other educative competitions; various workshops and other training programmes are also organized during the fair.

#### **5. Facilitation of CopyGhana Levy to copyright owners**

As a result of the serious concerns expressed by the stakeholders in the Book industry about the mass photocopying of literary works, members of the Ghana Publishers Association, Ghana Association of Writers and the Copyright Office formed a Planning Committee and started making efforts from 1999 to initiate the Collective Administration of literary rights in Ghana.

To further address the issue of literary rights in Ghana, the Writers and Publishers in collaboration with the Copyright Office of Ghana, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organization's (IFRRO) and Kopinor (Norway) made the collection of levies for rights owners successful.

#### **6. GPA's Library**

Books were provided by the Book Aid International which could be borrowed in GPA's library at a refundable fee. One could hold any book borrowed for 10 working days. The library was successful with the space support by the GBDC. This used to be GPA's project to promote reading and literacy.

#### **7. Development of Textbook Development and Distribution Policy**

Contributions made at the MoE sponsored May 1998 Conference on Textbook Policy shaped the first draft of this document, which was published in October 1999. The members of the Textbook



Working Group of the MoE worked assiduously during 2000 on its review and revision. The revised document was then debated and amended during detailed consultations in April 2001 with the MoE, the Ghanaian book trade (comprising representatives of the trade associations of publishers, booksellers, printers, authors, designers and illustrators, librarians etc) and Development Partners.

The Textbook Development and Distribution Policy (TDDP) seeks to ensure the development, selection and provision of good quality textbooks, teacher's guides and supplementary reading books that will promote effective teaching and learning in schools. Unfortunately, it lacks legal backing and it is unenforceable. GPA intends to advocate for the GBDC, MoE and government to consider engaging stakeholders to shape and promulgate national book and reading policy into law to sanitize the industry.

#### **8. National Reading Competition**

The National Reading Competition organized by the Association enhanced national interest on reading. It was supported by Ghana Book Trust and the Ministry of Education.

Ghana Book Trust was buying books from publishers of the Association and distributing to deprived schools. Their promotion of literacy is progressive and should be continued.

#### **PROGRAMMES**

- Training programmes – workshops, seminars, conferences, symposia
- Advocacy programmes – to encourage the establishment of good policies, rectify unfavourable government policies and other issues confronting the Association and publishers in Ghana.
- Organise Regional and International book fairs in Ghana
- Networking and represent members on international book fairs
- Information sharing and development of publications which include Ghana Book News (GBPA Newsletter), Membership Directory, research reports and website.
- Enhancing Copyright protection and Anti-piracy measures
- Organise Publishers' Meetings to discuss book publishing and industry issues.