

REPORT ON THE NANO-POGO OUTREACH PROGRAM IN GHANA

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The outreach program was finally scheduled for 12th August 2015. The participants included a youth group of Action Chapel International, some interested individuals and some Level 300 students of the Department of Marine and Fisheries Sciences, University of Ghana. The audience were 62 in number for the seminar and only twenty (20) of them were interested in the beach clean-up. This was as a result of the fact that there were other activities scheduled for the same day. There was a one-hour slot for the seminar. They were aged between 19 and 28 years. The seminar was held in the Francis kofi Drah Conference Room on University of Ghana campus. The participants were shuttled from the church premises to the University of Ghana and to the James town beach (the most polluted beach in Ghana) for the clean-up exercise. Refreshment was served and souvenirs (pens, notepads and bookmarks) were shared after the seminar.

The seminar topic was, “Importance and Conservation of the Marine Environment”; in which they were briefed on the various divisions of the marine environment and its importance, problems associated with the marine and coastal environment in Ghana, and the preventive measures to tackle the environmental issues.

A Naval Officer was invited to give a 5-minute talk on the role of the Ghana Navy in protecting the Ghanaian coast.

The audience was very responsive and had lots of questions to ask after the seminar.

The beach clean-up lasted for two hours and the dominant litter identified was mainly plastics. Plastic litter is a big menace in Ghana. The litter was identified and sorted out and later burnt. The beach clean-up was meant to create the awareness of the devastating effect of littering our environment.