

## **INCORPORATION OF FOUNDATION**

Ghatronic Foundation International was registered with the Registrar-General's Department Accra-Ghana on 26th January 2018. The founding members of the association are John Kwasi Afriyie (Kumasi, Ghana) and Charles Owusu Marfo (Accra, Ghana), as well as Ulrike Beck and Wolfgang Theilacker-Beck (Stuttgart, Germany). The founding members have known each other for more than 20 years. They met in Germany where Charles and John studied. After their graduation in 1998 Charles, John, Ulrike and Wolfgang collaborated on projects in Ghana. After several discussions, the four friends decided to establish a Non-Governmental Organization. A seminar school was to be set up with the concept of modern digital-technical, future-orientated, competence-based training for multipliers in the vehicle sector.

## **ACTIVITIES OF GHATRONIC FROM 2018 TO 2025**

First, a search was conducted for mechanics who would be available as trainers. The first two, Evans and Abraham, were initially trained intensively with the help of West African Vehicle Academy Ltd (WAVA). This was followed by online seminars conducted by Björn Schleifer from Würth Online World GmbH (WOW!). Abraham worked as workshop manager at the Accra Technical Training Centre (ATTC) vocational school, while Evans had already been teaching students practical skills in the workshops at Kumasi Technical University (KSTU) and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) for some time. After everything had been prepared for the first seminars in March 2020, the seminars scheduled for March 14, 2020, had to be cancelled, due to the coronavirus pandemic. The workshop and training room in Accra and accommodation for external experts had been prepared. During the enforced break, we continued to work on the training material and PowerPoint presentations for the seminars, accompanied by further training seminars for Evans and Abraham.

In March 2022, the first Basic Course took place at the ATTC, followed by the first Advanced Course in April 2022. Those trained were mechanics, vocational school graduates, and vocational schoolteachers.

Günther Mistele, a senior expert from Senior Expert Service in Bonn (SES), was also part of the team that did the training. Björn Schleifer from WOW! supported the team with an online seminar on a large screen. WOW! donated six Snoopers to the team to improve vehicle diagnostics. The Snoopers record vehicle data or transfer data to the vehicle via Bluetooth, and so the Snoopers are connected to a laptop with diagnostic software.

In April 2022, the first seminars took place in Kumasi, and a seminar container was set up in the first workshop. The team then supported German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), Bonn and KNUST in planning a seminar project at Suame, Kumasi. Six new trainers were trained in 2022.

In 2023, Ghatronic's collaboration with KNUST was intensified. Two trainers from Ghatronic were hired to train around 200 mechanics at the Technology Transfer Centre (TTC) of KNUST in the Suame district of Kumasi.

In 2024, the training courses continued at the TTC. WOW! donated 16 Snoopers and an AC service unit to Ghatronic. This allowed Ghatronic to service and repair air conditioning systems as well. The Ghatronic team took part in the Engineering Day and Women's Day celebrations in Kumasi, and a concept for the technical training of female mechanics was developed. A new board was elected.

The training courses continued again at the TTC in 2025. Björn Schleifer from WOW! conducted an online seminar, primarily on performing updates and setting up the AC service device. At the end of 2025, planning began for a seminar in Tamale for around 200 mechanics. Funding opportunities are being sought for such new projects, such as larger-scale training courses with many participants.

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