



PETROLEUM COMMISSION, GHANA
Regulating, Managing & Coordinating Upstream Petroleum Activities



AOGC – Changing the Narrative for International Certifications for Ghana’s Welding & other technician roles

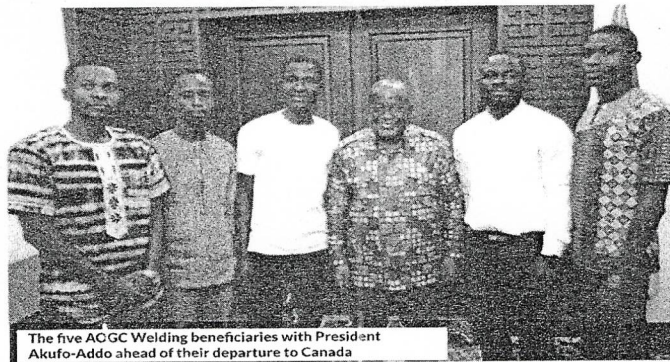
On assumption of office, the President, H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo; recognising the deficit (s) in qualified Ghanaian technicians for available job roles in the upstream oil and gas sector, decisively introduced the Accelerated Oil & Gas Capacity Building Programme (AOGC).

Consequently, President Akufo-Addo launched the AOGC on the 7th Day of November, 2017. Serving as a policy implementation support programme, the AOGC forms part of Government’s strategic agenda to localise most of the expatriate roles for Ghanaians to be able to work in the sector.

The AOGC programme is being implemented under the following four thematic areas;

1. **Technical, Vocational & Apprenticeship Development**
2. **Capacity Development of Educational Institutions**
3. **Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SME) Capacity Building**
4. **Public Institutional Development and Sector Management**

Following the launch of the AOGC, the Ministry of Energy tasked the Petroleum Commission to oversee and manage the Programme. The Commission subsequently developed an implementation strategy for the Programme.



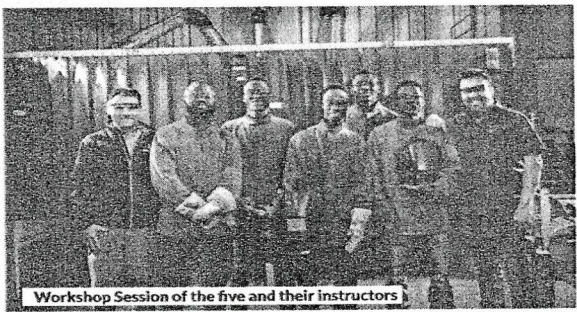
The five AOGC Welding beneficiaries with President Akufo-Addo ahead of their departure to Canada

The five have after a successful completion of their courses returned home. Apart from certifications in Advanced Welding issued to them by NAIT, they are also certified as Level 1 Welding Instructors of the Canadian Welding Bureau (CWB). CWB is the regulator of welding in Canada. As part of the strategy to train more Ghanaians to meet the international standards of the welding vocation, the five have been engaged by the Petroleum Commission and assigned to specific institutions, namely KIMTECH, Takoradi Technical Institute (TTI), TTU, and the Kumasi Technical Institute (KTI), to assist in the teaching and training of welders. It is expected that after the training period, selected students from these institutions who excelled would be given scholarships to sit for

This is on the back of a coordinated effort by the Petroleum Commission involving the Ghana Institution of Engineering (GHIE), Council for Technical & Vocational Education Training (COTVET) and other major stakeholders. These include the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission, Sunyani Technical University, Kumasi Technical University, University of Mines and Technology, Regional Maritime University, Accra Technical University, Koforidua Technical University, Cape Coast Technical University, Dr Emmanuel Afranie Gyasi, Kumasi Technical Institute, Takoradi Technical Institute and Kikam Technical Institute.

As part of these efforts, the Commission is developing a Ghana specific, yet internationally recognised certification and accreditation system which will help streamline the processes of training, certification and accreditation of Ghanaian individuals and facilities using International benchmarks and standards.

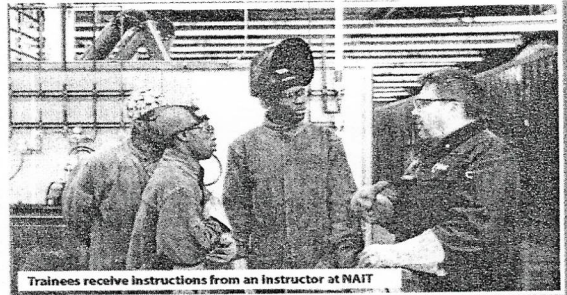
Additionally, in line with the implementation strategy for the AOGC, the Commission has signed an agreement with the Takoradi Technical University to train



Workshop Session of the five and their instructors

CWB certifications at the Regional Maritime University, Nungua.

The Commission, through the AOGC, has also sponsored the training of four (4) Naval ratings in Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) at the CWB accredited facility at the Regional Maritime University, Nungua.



Trainees receive instructions from an instructor at NAIT

Per the strategy, the Petroleum Commission, among others, identified the lack of international certifications for majority of Ghanaian welders as a barrier to the hiring of Ghanaian welders to work in the upstream sector.

Through an engagement with the leadership of Baker Hughes, an international service company in Ghana’s upstream oil and gas sector, the Petroleum Commission secured funding of US\$250,000.00 for the training and certification of five (5) young Ghanaian welders in Stainless Steel/Advanced Welding. With this initial commitment, the Commission conducted a national exercise leading to the selection of the five (5) young men to train at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT), Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. NAIT is a world-class and sought-after technical education institution in North America.

The beneficiaries, James Bewiekah and Michael Atobrah were selected from the Kikam Technical Institute (KIMTECH); Bright Oduro and Joseph Ghunney from the Takoradi Technical University (TTU) and, Abdul Rahman Dayankrah, a B.A (Hons) Public Relations graduate from the Islamic University College, who decided after graduation to apprentice as a welder in 2018 at the Suame Magazine, Kumasi.

The Commission, again, under the AOGC, has supplied drilling simulator screens to the drilling laboratory at TTI to enhance the training of drilling technicians.

The Commission, as part of the AOGC Programme has also concluded processes leading to the selection of nine (9) instructors from identified technical institutions to be trained in Pipefitting/Plumbing, Millwrights (Mechanical Maintenance Technicians) and Advanced Welding at NAIT. The selected instructors will upon their return be able to train and certify Ghanaian technicians in the various trade areas of their study at the soon to be established accredited training and testing facility (the world-class welding and pipefitting centre) at the Takoradi Technical University. For the first time, Ghana will be able to train Pipefitters to international standards.

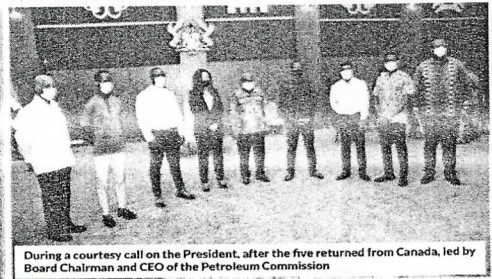
Further to this, the Petroleum Commission has incorporated the Ghana Institution of Welding to be affiliated to the International Institute of Welding.

and certify one hundred (100) Ghanaians to City & Guilds Level 3 Standard as Mechanical technicians, Instrumentation technicians, Production Processes technicians and Electrical technicians.

The Petroleum Commission is committed to ensuring that Ghanaians are equipped with skills which will not only be beneficial to the oil and gas industry but other industries in the quest to building an industrialised economy.



CEO of the Petroleum Commission, Egbert Falbille Jrn., in a chat with Instructors of the trainees at NAIT



During a courtesy call on the President, after the five returned from Canada, led by Board Chairman and CEO of the Petroleum Commission