

**TAMALE ECCLESIASTICAL PROVINCIAL  
PARTNERSHIP (TEPPART)**

**ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE  
PARTNERSHIP OFFICE**

**SUBMITTED**

**TO**

**THE DIOCESE OF MUENSTER AND TEPPCON**

**COMPILED**

**BY**

**Mr. PETER YANG-BIO  
(TEPPART COORDINATOR)**

**2023**

## **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Tamale Ecclesiastical Province and the Diocese of Muenster Partnership started in 1982. The TEPPCON-Muenster Diocese Partnership in Ghana comprises 35 Partnership Parishes across the Tamale Province twined with parishes in the Muenster Diocese: six (6) in Tamale Archdiocese, five (5) in Navrongo/Bolgatanga Diocese, eight (8) in Wa Diocese, thirteen (13) in Damongo Diocese and three in Yendi Diocese. There is also a Partnership between St. Peter and Paul, St. Victors Major seminary on one hand, and KSHG/ the theological department of the University of Muenster, Germany. The Partnership office coordinates the partnership activities of the above parishes and institutions. The Office also has the responsibility of coordinating the TEPPCON-Muenster volunteer service scheme. Furthermore, the Provincial Partnership Office coordinates the TEPPCON-Muenster Diocese KAAD special Scholarship for the Province.

The Coordination of these activities were effectively carried out with positive results as enumerated in the report.

The Provincial Partnership Office was established in 2002 to coordinate the TEPPCON-Muenster Diocese Partnership activities and it has been the desire of TEPPCON and the Muenster Diocese to help sustain this great partnership, hence the appointment of a Provincial Partnership Coordinator to manage this Office. I am happy to be the current Coordinator after three others, who worked hard enough for the growth and sustainability of this great Partnership.

In the year 2023 the following activities were planned and carried out:

- The Provincial Partnership workshops
- Meeting with TEPPCON Executives
- The invitation to a partnership exchange visit in Muenster
- The arrival and visits to the Dioceses by the German Delegates during the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Climax of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Meeting with TEPPCON, TEPPIA, TEPPART, KAAD Scholars
- Visit to Barchabordo Catholic Clinic in the Diocese of Yendi
- Diocesan Partnership Meetings
- Parish Partnership visits.

## **2.0 OBJECTIVES**

The objective of this report is:

- To give a summary annual report of the activities carried out by the TEPPART Coordinator
- To outline the achievements/impact of the activities carried out
- To share the challenges and some recommendations within the period
- To suggest a plan as way forward for 2024 for advice by the TEPPCON Executives.

## **3.0 ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE PARTNERSHIP OFFICE IN 2023**

### **3.1 Provincial Partnership Annual Workshop**

#### **Invitation to Participants**

Invitations were sent to TEPPCON Executives, Diocesan Partnership Coordinators, Diocesan Partnership executives, across all five dioceses in the Tamale Ecclesiastical Province. A total of 36 participants attended the workshop.

The workshop aimed to:

- Address the challenges of the TEPPCON – Muenster partnership at the Diocese and Parish levels.
- Empower Reps of the various partnership committees with skills and knowledge to overcome the challenges and gaps in reporting on partnership activities.
- To inform participants about the challenges of the TEPPCON – Muenster partnership at the Diocese and Parish levels and directives that would come from the TEP Bishops to guide the formation of new committees.
- Share information on plans for the 40th-anniversary celebration of the TEPPCON – Muenster Partnership.

#### **Workshop Proceeding**

The workshop was in two parts. The first part comprised statements by the TEPPART Coordinator, the Executive Secretary of TEPPCON, the Provincial Partnership Chairman and the President of TEPPCON.

The second part was led by an assigned Facilitator who presented an overview of the TEPPCON Civic Education Programme. He proceeded with a workshop with the view to help address the challenges of the Partnership at the Diocesan and Parish Levels.

The challenges were categorized into:

- People
- Mission and Strategy
- Structure and System

After the presentation, participants were put in Diocesan Working Groups to discuss the issues within the partnership on people, mission and strategy, and structure and the system as well as propose solutions, and indicate those responsible for executing them.

#### **Workshop Methodology**

The workshop mainly used a participatory approach - adult learning principles. Questions were assigned to the groups to discuss and present to the bigger assembly. There were plenary discussions after the group work.

### **Group work**

The workshop facilitator provided an opportunity for the participants to have a discussion on a given topic and to share their results. The formation of the groups was done according to Dioceses. This session lasted for 40 minutes. At the end of the group discussion, the workshop participants presented their discussions, followed by questions and contributions.

### **Evaluation**

Participants were given the opportunity to evaluate the whole workshop in respect of content, participation, standard and how beneficial it was to them. The aim of the evaluation was to get their views to plan a way forward.

Overall, participants characterized the workshop as very useful and targeting the critical issues affecting the progress of the partnership. It further addressed the quality of reporting at the Diocesan/Parish level of partnership activities. They acknowledged increased awareness and skills gained for collaboration and implementation of ideas for enhancing good partnership relationships from the workshop.

However, participants also made suggestions on improving future workshops, especially regarding advanced notice of the time and the need to let the partners in Muenster know the new developments regarding the Partnership.

### **Lessons Learnt**

The following were the lessons learnt:

- Dormant Diocesan/Parish Partnership Committees affected the quality of the Partnership, including accountability and effectiveness of the Partnership.
- Inadequate information, education, and accountability in the management of the Partnership was a result of individuals or few people managing partnership issues in some Parishes.
- Weak Diocesan Partnership Committees resulted in less or no supervision of Parish partnership activities.
- The absence of a Diocesan Partnership Strategic Plan did not give a focus to the implementation of partnership activities.
- Some Partnership Parishes in Muenster tended to choose some individuals to communicate with, on partnership issues, taking away the common ownership of the Partnership.
- Inadequate reporting from Partnership Parishes to Diocesan Coordinators cut off the flow of information between Parishes and Dioceses.



**Partnership Workshop Participants**

Below is a cross-section of pictures of the Diocesan discussions



**Navrongo/Bolgatanga Diocese Group Work**



**Yendi Diocese Group Work**



**Tamale Archdiocese Diocese**

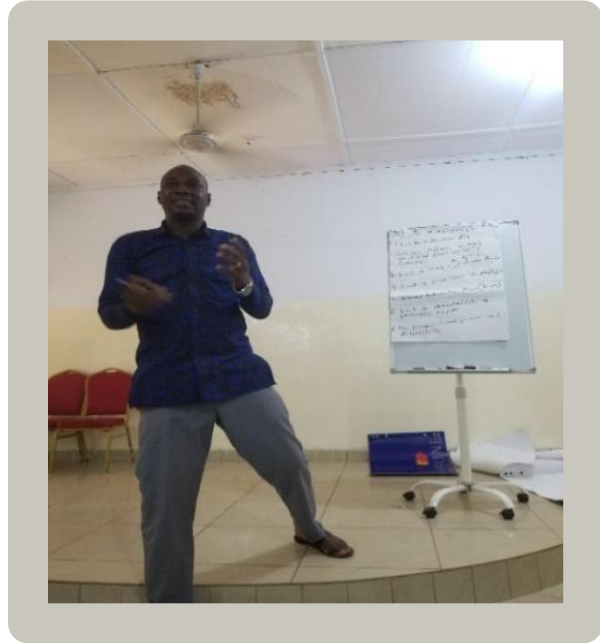


**Wa Diocese**



**Damongo Diocese**

### Group Presentations



### 3.2 Meeting with TEPPCON Executives

One of the responsibilities of the TEPPART Coordinator is to report regularly to the TEPPCON Executives. The Provincial Partnership Coordinator met the TEPPCON executives to give reports from the office. The meeting was also to have a preliminary discussion on preparations towards the Climax of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Partnership. This meeting was fruitful, and series of activities were outlined to share with the Dioceses to start their preparations towards the Climax.

### 3.3 The arrival and visits to the Dioceses by the German Delegation during the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Partnership

From February 13<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Partnership was successfully climaxed with a week-long activities at the provincial level. Ten (10) delegates, led by Bishop Felix Genn, Bishop of Muenster, honoured TEPPCON's invitation for the celebration. They took time to visit all the five Dioceses in the Province to interact with the Bishops, Diocesan Partnership Committees and other stakeholders.

The visit of Bishop Felix Genn and the high powered delegation was the 3rd great event of different Bishops of Muenster visiting the Province with a unique delegation, since the inception of the Partnership. The German Delegation led by the Bishop of Muenster, accompanied by four Priests and six lay people for the celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Partnership was indeed a significant milestone in the annals of the Partnership. All five (5) Dioceses are still cherishing the values shared by the Bishop with the Provincial stakeholders during the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The delegation included Bishop Felix Genn, Fr. Hans-Bernd Koppen, Maria Bubenitschek, Judith Wullhorst, Fr Jory Niemeier, Fr. Antonius Hamers, Dr. Stephen Kromenburg, Ulrich Hosting, Fr. Hans Micheal Hurter and Mrs. Christa Kortwinkel, from Muenster for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the Partnership.

#### **Arrival in Accra**

The German delegation was welcomed by the Bishop of Damongo, Most Rev Peter Paul Yelezuome Angkyier accompanied by the Executive Secretary of TEPPCON. They arrived around 9pm and lodged at the Good Shepherd Home in Accra. They took a 10 am flight from Accra to Tamale, arriving at about 11am.

#### **Arrival in Tamale**

They were warmly received at the Tamale Airport by the Archbishop of Tamale, Most Rev Philip Naameh and a big convey from the Tamale Archdiocese on behalf of the Province. A large delegation met the Bishop of Muenster and his delegation. A bouquet of flower was presented to the Bishop. From the arrival till departure of the delegation, there was good media coverage.





On arrival they were first taken to the Catholic Guest house in Tamale and later visited St. Mary vocational school to interact with the staffs and students, where Bishop Felix Gunn commissioned a solar lamp project for the school. The delegation later had a meeting with the Tamale Archdiocesan Partnership Committee where a cross-section of the five (5) Partnership Parishes in the Tamale Archdiocese presented reports on their various parish Partnership activities and projects. Bishop Felix Genn applauded the Parishes for their enthusiasm in the Partnership activities and encouraged them to continue with their good work. The Archdiocese organized a dinner in honor of the Bishop and his delegation.

### **Visits to other Dioceses**

The Diocese of Yendi, Navrongo/Bolgatanga, Wa and Damongo were equally visited by the German delegation to interact with the various Bishops, Partnership Committees, their stakeholders and used the opportunity to commission some projects. The TEPPART Coordinator and the Executive Secretary of TEPPCON accompanied the delegation on the Diocesan visits.

### **Diocese of Yendi**

The delegation first made a stop at the Sang Orphanage on the way to Yendi and had breakfast there. There was a delay resulting in the delegation missing the opportunity to pay a courtesy call on the Overlord of Dagbon, the Yaa Naah, who waited to meet them at 8am in order to catch a flight at 11am in Tamale. On arrival in Yendi, they met the Bishop of Yendi, Most Rev Matthew Yitiereh, his Vicar General and his delegation. A flower of bouquet was presented to the Bishop of Muenster. The Bishop of Muenster had a good interaction with them and later met with the

Bishop of Yendi and the Diocesan Partnership Committee. They had a good discussion on the partnership and progress made so far.

They had lunch and later went to visit Christ the King Parish, Gushergu, where they were led to the old ladies camp. The old ladies had been receiving support from their Partnership Parish in Germany and were very happy to receive the Bishop of Muenster and his delegation. The delegation gave them some souvenirs and returned to Yendi. The Diocese organized a dinner in honor of the Bishop and his delegation. It was a memorable evening.

### **Navrongo Bolgatanga Diocese**

The delegation arrived about 10:30am and met the Bishop, Most Rev Alfred Agyenta and his Diocesan team at the Cathedral. They were given a warm welcome. They entered to observe a minute silence and placed a flower at the grave of Most Rev Lucas Abadamloora. They were later led by the Bishop and his team to the Partnership tree planted at the Partnership at 35 years and to the new Cathedral under construction. They were taken for lunch in one of the hotels in Bolgatanga and returned to hold the Diocesan Partnership meeting. In the evening the delegation was given a special dinner during which they were also given gifts. Before, the delegation left for Wa the following morning, they visited the first missionary mission church in, when they first arrived in Navrongo, 1906 and later visited the Museum.

### **Diocese of Wa**

The delegation visited the Diocese of Wa from Navrongo and were met by the Diocesan Administrator and the Chancellor at the Bishop's secretariat. The feeling on their arrival was a mixed one, because of the death of the Bishop, Cardinal Richard Kuuia Baawobr M.Afr. The Bishop of Muenster signed the Book of condolence and had a welcome meeting addressed by the Diocesan Administrator Very Rev Edward Tengan. The Bishop of Muenster recalled the shock of the passing on of the late Bishop. After the welcome meeting the delegation was sent for lunch at the Catholic Guest House. Later, the team attended the Wa Diocesan Partnership meeting. Among other issues that were discussed were three Partnership Parishes that lost their partnership. The Bishop of Muenster asked each of them to write a report on how their Partnership was and how it started.

The Bishop and the delegation also visited the Kaleo Technical School and commissioned a training center. They returned and visited the Cathedral to pray and place flowers at grave of Cardinal Richard Kuuia Baawobr M.Afr. They later went to the Bishops house for dinner. It was equally a good dinner and social evening.

### **Diocese of Damongo**

From Wa, the delegation left the following day for the Diocese of Damongo and was met mid-way to Damongo. The Bishop Most Rev Peter Paul Yelezuome Angkyier, his Vicar General, Very Rev Fr. Martin Maosayir, who is also the Chairman of TEPPCON and an entourage received the

visitors on the way to usher them to the Diocese of Damongo. A bouquet of flower was presented to the Bishop of Muenster amiss singing by school children and other members of the Diocese. The delegation later went to the Mole game to have lunch after which they had a tour of the game reserve. They inspected a few partnership projects and later had a dinner. Gifts were given to the bishop and his delegation. It was equally a memorable evening.

### **Reflections of the German Delegation**

In all the Diocesan visits, major concerns raised across the Dioceses was the loss of Partnership by some Parishes in the Province. Bishop Felix Genn urged all the Parishes that lost their Partnership to send a write-up on their Partnership situation for them to find solutions to them. Partnership Parishes expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Muenster Bishop and his delegation for making time to visit their Dioceses and to listen to their concerns. They were presented with gifts from both sides. The Dioceses presented various kinds of gifts to Bishop Felix Genn and the entire delegates as their sign of happiness and welcome to the Tamale Province and the Muenster delegation did same.

### **Arrival back to Tamale**

The German delegation returned to Tamale to participate in the climax of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations. The Bishop of Muenster, Most Rev. Felix Genn, was the Guest of honour for the Climax event.

## **3.4 Climax of the Partnership 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

### **Opening ceremony**

The Archbishop of Tamale, Most Rev. Philip Naameh called on the participants during the climax to observe a minute's silence for the departed souls of the founding members of the TEPPCON – Muenster Partnership both in Ghana and Germany. He mentioned the Servant of God - the late Peter Cardinal Porekuu Dery, the late Bishop of Navrongo/Bolgatanga Diocese, Most Rev. Lucas Abadamloora, late Bishop Gregory Kpiebaya, Most Rev. Reinhard Lettmann, Most Rev. Friedrich Osterman, Very Rev. Fr. Hagan and all those who sacrificed to make this Partnership a reality, whether dead or alive.

Most Rev. Philip Naameh took participants through how the Partnership came into being. According to him, he was in Muenster Diocese as a student when the Bishop of Muenster wrote a letter to the three (3) Bishops in Northern Ghana which included Tamale, Wa and Navrongo/Bolgatanga, requesting a Partnership with them. As a result, a committee was constituted to work towards the Partnership and he Bishop Philip Naameh was part of the committee that was constituted in the Muenster Diocese.

He added that, the coming of Bishop Felix Genn and his delegation consolidated the history of the Partnership and the Tamale Ecclesiastical Province was excited that they accepted to visit the Province. He added that the Province had been looking forward to the visit and expressed excitement for the celebration of 40 years of the Partnership. He further added that the membership of the delegation is a learning process, particularly the presence of the head of the Pastoral Council of Muenster Diocese who happens to be a woman. He asked the Tamale Province to take lessons from this. He mentioned that, if he decided to appoint a woman as head of the Pastoral Council, it might not be easy for him as people would oppose it because she is a woman; for that reason, he asked the Province to learn from the German example.

He spoke about the future of the TEPPCON -Muenster Partnership and indicated that the Province was expecting a greater intensification of the partnership. There were currently 35 twinning parishes and more were likely to be added on. He also advocated for the need to have women in the



Muenster Diocese to twin with women, youth, and laity in Ghana since there are more youth organizations in the Muenster Diocese. He further advocated for the study of Theology and Philosophy for both young men and women in the Province. This, according to him, would make them well grounded in the church to be able to

hold high offices just like the example of the Muenster Diocese.

In his conclusion, he welcomed all the Bishops from the Province and their delegations. He thanked them for the roles they played in keeping the Partnership moving forward. He encouraged the partners to have faith in the Partnership and charged them to find ways to strengthen it. He expressed his gratitude to the Northern Regional Minister for his continuous support and presence whenever he is invited for an occasion.

**TEPPCON – Muenster Diocese Partnership Successes, Challenges, and the Way Forward – the Perspective of the Diocese of Muenster (by Bishop Felix Genn)**



In his speech on the above topic, Bishop Felix Genn indicated that the Partnership between TEPPCON – Muenster was an initiative of committed lay people of the Muenster Diocese which has now existed for 40 years with over 35 twined parishes. He expressed gratitude for the decades of a trusted relationship that has grown more and more through mutual visits, exchanges and friendships. He added that for the past four years, young volunteers from the

Muenster Diocese had dedicated themselves to working in schools and social projects in the Navrongo-Bolgatanga Diocese. This, he called an intercultural exchange in action hence expressed his gratitude for the rich experiences. He said there had been so many deep encounters that so many people in the Diocese of Münster and beyond have experienced and continue to experience today as a great gift. Bishop Felix said Partnerships are formed by carefully approaching and attentively listening to each other. This gives rise to the attitude of "taking in the voice of the other". He paid gratitude to Sr Elisabeth Biela, Missionary Sister of Our Lady of Africa, who worked in the Tamale Archdiocese for many years for her role in laying the foundation for the mutual respect which led to a sincere encounter and authentic dialogue. He added that even after 40 years of Partnership between the Tamale Ecclesiastical Province and the Diocese of Münster, the Partnership is still faced with challenges hence the need for constant reorientation.

On the opportunities of world-church partnerships, Bishop Felix said parishes in the Diocese of Münster often experience "their" world-church Partnership as light-hearted and dynamic, personal, and intensive, open and future-oriented. They see a young, lively church which offers much more Partnership. He added that, Partnerships require not only personal commitment, but also a high level of competence and volunteerism. He said building and shaping Partnerships require constant exchanges between all participants here and there, as well as between generations and of course the willingness to get to know and recognize each other's culture and way of life.

On the social co-responsibility, Bishop Felix Genn said as Christians, we share a responsibility for making the world a fairer place. That individual world church Partnerships also stand in this context and must therefore not remain limited to a bilateral relationship. He added that the direct encounter with people from poorer countries is a concern that calls for a critical examination of one's own habits of life.

In his conclusion on Synodality, Bishop Felix Genn said Partnership and Ecclesial synodality are based on a common attitude: namely, to be on the way together at eye level, and to desire and enable the active participation of all who are baptized and confirmed. The Diocese of Münster, on the basis of the Catholic Church's teaching of the common priesthood of all the baptized and confirmed and the principle of participation that is derived from this, promotes the discovery and appreciation of the charisma given by God to all and is committed to the change from a task orientation to a gift orientation in pastoral care.

He said, what is decisive for him is the basic spiritual attitude from which the partnership work is nourished. He eluded this to the Baobab tree that he sees in many places on his tours. "It has a strong, solid trunk, but many branches. It is a symbol of the church as God's family, with the diversity of charisma and talents, but with our deep unity as sisters and brothers in faith and our rootedness in Christ."

**Activity Highlights and Progress of TEPPIA and the way forward by Dr. Charles Abugri, the Ex. Director of TEPPIA.**



Dr. Charles Abugri, the Executive Director Tamale Ecclesiastical Province Partnership in Action (TEPPIA), briefed participants about the work of TEPPIA. He said it is a non – governmental organization and registered by law. The TEP Bishops are the trustees of the organization with the Bishop of Damongo, Most Rev. Peter Paul Angkeyier as the Board Chairman.

Dr. Charles justified why TEPPIA was established. According to him, it was established to add value to what

the Dioceses are already doing to mobilize resources for the development of the Province and not to duplicate or compete. Its purpose is to harness the advantages that a Provincial framework offers and contribute to strengthening the Diocesan efforts.

He added that TEPPIA brings to this mission a wealth of the church's distinctive and impressive array of assets and resources (spiritual, human, financial and material), and its presence in virtually every community across Northern Ghana that can be harnessed to develop programmes and projects that are sustainable and impactful. He further added that TEPPIA will be a vehicle for the prophetic mission of the church in the Tamale Ecclesiastical Province in the pursuit of justice, protection of the poor and marginalized and stewardship of the natural environment.

He said, TEPPIA is working with CEPTA in waste management and are also in partnership with CRS and other partners.

### TEPPCON – KAS Civic Education Project by Eric Kavaarpuo,



Mr. Eric Kavaarpuo who is also a core member of TEPPCON Executive and a KAAD scholar gave a brief on current activities of the Civic Education Programme that was re-designed in 2017 and has been implemented by TEPPCON and KAS, but unfortunately the outbreak of COVID -19 brought its implantation to a standstill. He explained to participants the difference between the Civic Education Programme which has been implemented by the GCBC and that of the Province. According to him, the distinction is that, the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference (GCBC) Civic Education Programme looks

at the broader community participation whiles the Province's Civic Education Programme is looking at Civic Education targeting identifiable groups, approaching it from a human rights base approach. Therefore, the Province's Civic Education Programme is not only building the capacity of citizens to demand accountability from local authorities but also building the capacity of the citizen bearing in mind that the local governance authorities do not have enough capacity. Hence the current civic education programme "Strengthening Citizen Participation in Local Governance in the Tamale Ecclesiastical Province" was designed based on a careful reflection over the development challenges of the Tamale Ecclesiastical Province – Northern Ghana. Local development – the physical, human, economic and social well-being of the people- cannot be achieved without active citizenship, therefore, the focus has been to mobilize the citizens (Youth and Women groups and PWDs) in 10 districts to co -create a platform to engage local government authorities.

He further added that the strategy is to work with state agencies whose responsibility is to carry out civic education but are not able to do so. He noted the project has been implemented in 10 districts in the five regions of Northern Ghana. These include Tamale Metro, East Gonja, North Gonja, West Gonja, Yendi Municipal, Saboba district, Kassena- Nankana Municipal, Builsa South,



Wa Municipal and Sisaala West District. These pilot districts were consciously selected to ensure a blend of urban/endowed and rural/less endowed districts to elicit varied experiences and learning from project intervention.

He highlighted some of the activities that have since been implemented such as the conduction of the base line survey, validation of the base line survey, launching of the project, trainer of trainee's workshop, among others.

### **Opening Address by the Northern Regional Minister, Hon. Shani Alhassan Shaibu**



In his opening address, the Hon Shani Alhassan Shaibu, first expressed his profound gratitude to the Catholic Church for inviting him for the programme. He applauded the success the partnership has brought about. He said, in every partnership, there are always prospects and challengers. He further added that, Partnership is about how skillful you are and how to make use of the benefit of the partnership. He therefore called on partners to reflect on the past performance and key challenges as well as the way forward to establish collective growth of the Tamale Ecclesiastical

Province and the Diocese of Muenster.

He said the government of Ghana appreciates the role the Catholic Church has played and continues to play in the socio-economic development of the country. The Catholic Church has demonstrated that it is a true friend and reliable partner of government in its effort of improving the standard of living of people through its programmes and projects in the areas of education, water, health and many more. Whilst highly commending the Catholic Church for their roles in changing the lives of people, he tasked the church to do more by bringing more interventions that will change the life of their congregations and the communities in which they are located, and future generations of the country. He further added that, it is time the church re -positions itself in partnering government to move the developmental agenda of the country forward for the

betterment of the people and generations yet unborn. According to him, anything short of that will erode all the gains made so far towards national development.

Hon. Shaibu said, his relationship with the Catholic Church has been very strong. He takes inspiration from his grandfather in (1963) who released several acres of land for the establishment of the Pastoral Center in the Yendi Diocese.

In his final remarks, he wished all partners a fruitful anniversary celebration.

#### **A Message from the Bishop of Navronga/Bolgatanga – Most Rev. Bishop Alfred Agyenta**



Most Rev. Bishop Agyenta expressed worry about the over dependency of partner Parishes in the Province on a partnership which is of mutual friendship and give and take. He bemoaned the emphasis on material gains in the partnership by some Parishes. He said there is the need for partners to know that partnerships are a two-way affair. According to him, during the visit of Bishop Felix and his delegation to his Dioceses, one important issue

that came up was the dependency in the partnership. The Bishop of Muenster's response to the phenomenon was that, they were also learning a lot under the partnership. He described the partnership as a great gift. He added that the church was growing and that there is the need to keep faith and abide by the social teachings of the Church.

### **A Message from the Bishop of Yendi Most Rev. Mathew Yitierih**



Bishop Yitierih, in his message, indicated that there is always reciprocity in every Partnership and urged the various partners to be mindful of the guidelines of the partnership. He enumerated the benefits of the partnerships in his Diocese and the province in general. He also said, once there are benefits, there are equally some challenges in the Partnership and asked all partners to solve these

challenges to enable the Partnership to continue to grow in prosperity.

### Remarks by the Chairman



The Chairman of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Climax was Sir Samuel Zan Akolgo. He expressed his profound thanks to all for participating and cooperating in the event. He emphasized the need for attitudinal change among Ghanaians more emphatically for citizens within regions of the North. This, in his view was the bane of most of the developmental challenges currently militating against efforts to bridge the north-south gap. He appealed to all to support new projects with the right attitude. He placed emphasis on the crucial role of the districts where the projects were being piloted. He enjoined staff of these districts to perform exceedingly well to

ensure the overall goal of the projects are achieved.

Mr. Zan Akologo in his closing remarks, said, he was much involved in the Partnership activities of the TEPPCON – Muenster Diocese when he was a Youth Coordinator and so he has much knowledge about its formation. He expressed his happiness seeing the display and exhibition of the various achievements of the Partnership outside the hall. Mr. Akolgo entreated all to be mindful of the social teachings of the Church in the Partnership. According to him, the social teachings of the Church offers moral principles and coherent values that are badly needed especially in the current economic challenges, violence, and lack of respect for life and dignity in our social lives.

On the theme of the celebration, Mr. Akologo said 40 years is long enough to celebrate. He however threw a challenge to the Partners to assess the dynamics of the Church after 40 years. He added that, we cannot celebrate 40 years of achievement without ignoring the challenges. He also tasked the Church to pay more attention to the youth by molding them to reach their full potential in life.

In his conclusion, he asked the various stakeholders in the Church to invest more in order to have a sustainable financial inflow for the Church. He thanked the founding fathers and the TEP Bishops for developing this great idea of the partnership for the Northern sector of Ghana.

## Expression of Gratitude



The Chairman of TEPPCON Very Rev. Fr. Martin Muosayir, on behalf of the Tamale Ecclesiastical province and the TEP Bishops and TEPPCON, expressed his profound thanks to everyone for taking time off their busy weekend schedule to participate in the historic climax of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of a fruitful partnership. He specifically thanked the Bishop of Muenster

and his delegation, the various TEP Bishops, the chairman, dignitaries, the Regional Minister, Media, CSOs, NGOs, and all the various twined parishes that came all the way to Tamale to grace the climax celebration.

The delegation had a banquet at the Neem Avenue Hotel, one of the most beautiful hotels in Tamale. The owner of the Hotel, Sir Cosmos Alhassan, a Catholic, offered the banquet in honor of the German delegation and the TEP Bishops. It was a great and a memorable banquet.

### **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary exhibitions**

It was interesting to find a beautiful display in exhibition, Diocese by Diocese of Partnership items of memory, pictures of experiences of both sides, exchange visits etc .These were admired before and after the programme.

### **Donation at the Tamale Regional Prisons**

The President of TEPPCON together with the TEP Bishops, a provincial delegation, together with the Bishop of Muenster and his delegation made a donation at the Tamale Regional Prisons in respect of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary after the banquet.

The items donated included yam, maiz, rice, gari etc.



### **Visit to the Seminaries in Tamale**

The German delegation visited St Vectors and St Augustine Major Seminaries to interact with the formators and the Seminarians. These were some of the most interesting meetings. Some projects at St Augustine's were later discussed with the project team of the German delegation.

### **Meeting with the TEP Bishops**

It was planned in 40th Anniversary programme the Bishops of the Tamale province meets with the Bishop of Muenster, Most Rev Felix and a few Reps of the delegation. This meeting was very fruitful. Their discussions centered on very important issues; on Partnership projects, sustainability and other concerns.

### **Climax Mass at the Our Lady of Annunciation Cathedral**

This mass was in the programme as the official closing Mass for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Mass was presided by Most Rev Felix Genn, the Bishop of the Diocese of Muenster and celebrated by the Archbishop, the three other Bishops and the Wa Diocesan administrator. There were so many priests from the five Dioceses and representatives of religious men and women. The lay faithful from the five Dioceses (Reps) and many from the Archdiocese of Tamale filled the Cathedral with others sitting under canopies outside.

### **Special Banquet at Nim Avenue Hotel.**

The above hotel is one of the unique hotels in Tamale. The owner of the hotel Sir Cosmas Alhansan knighted by the pope in 2023, offered a banquet in honor of the Bishop of Muenster and his delegation, in support of the Bishops of the Tamale Province. About 100 people from the TEP Dioceses with more participants from the Tamale Archdiocese (Priests, religious men and women and the lay faithful) were hosted by Sir Cosmas and the family. It was a great banquet indeed.

### **Provincial Dinner**

The Tamale Ecclesiastical Province Pastoral Conference (TEPPCON), organized a dinner in honour of the German delegation and the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The TEP Bishops were present as well as delegates from the various Dioceses and other dignitaries. About 120 were invited to the Climax dinner. It was heartwarming and a great experience, when the President of TEPPCON, Most Rev Philip Naameh gave his farewell address. The Bishop of Muenster, Most Rev Felix Genn, speaking in response to the Archbishop's farewell message and on behalf of his delegation, expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Archbishop, the TEP Bishops and the lay people for the warm welcome and the farewell message. He felt it was a great experience to be in the Province personally to know and to interact with the Bishops and members of the Church in the Province. To him and his delegation, the memories of the visit and faces known will be long in their hearts and minds. The Province presented gifts and certificates of honor to deserving members of the Muenster Diocesan Partnership Committee and Bishops and Priests who promoted the Partnership within the 40 years. The Bishop of Muenster and his delegation also presented some gifts to the bishops and TEPPCON.

### **Visit to the Servant of God Museum.**

Most Rev Felix Genn and his delegation also visited the Museum of the Servant of God, Peter Cardinal Porekuu Dery. It was one of the unique places the delegation visited. The Priest in charge of the Museum, very Rev Sabastian Zaato, assisted them in the tour, educating them on Cardinal Dery simple bed and life, cassocks, liberal and the lots of pictures of people across, Africa, Germany, Europe and America. His hobby was love for people and this is demonstrated in the Museum.

### **Planting of the Partnership Tree.**

On the last day of the Visit of the delegation, Most Felix Genn assisted by the President of TEPPCON, Most Rev Philip Naameh planted a memorial tree in honor of the partnership at 40years at the Museum of the grandfather of the TEPPCON-Muenster Diocese Partnership, the Servant of God, and Cardinal Peter Porekuu Dery. Present, were two Bishops ; Most Rev Peter

Paul Yelezuome Angkyier Bishop Damongo and Most Rev Matthew Yitireh, Bishop of Yendi, , TEPPCON Executives, TEPPART Coordinator and others.

### **Courtesy call on the Chief Executive of the Tamale Metropolitan Assembly**

Most Rev Felix Genn and the delegation together with the President of TEPPCON Most Rev Philip Naameh, Most Rev Peter Paul Yelezuome Angkyier Bishop Damongo and Most Rev Matthew Yitireh, Bishop of Yendi, paid a courtesy call on the Tamale Metro Chief Executive.

The discussion centered on an extension of the partnership to Muenster-Tamale intercity Partnership initiated by Muenster of which one or two visits were made earlier. The high powered delegation were accorded the desired attention and due protocol, at the Metropolitan Assembly. They presented a smock to Bishop Felix Genn.

### **UDS Students/Chaplain Meets the German Project Team**

An earlier meeting on the programme for the delegation to visit the University For Development Studies ( UDS) was not possible because of unforeseen delays at the seminaries. However, the TEPPCON Executives arranged a meeting for the UDS Catholic Chaplaincy to meet the project team. The students together with a Priest representative of the Chaplain appreciated the opportunity and had a full discussion on their church project. They were asked to present the project to the Archbishop for a covering letter before it is sent to them.

### **Special meeting with TEPPCON**

The TEPPCON Executives, the TEPPIA Ex. Director, the TEPPART Coordinator and the German Project team of the delegation held a meeting to discuss into detail the activities of TEPPCON, TEPPIA and the TEPPART offices. The Rector of St Augustine's Major Seminary, Very Rev. Jerome Damkyang was invited by the Chairman of TEPPCON to present a project proposal he could not present to the delegation when they visited the seminary, because of time limitation. The Rector did and was asked to send it to the Archbishop for a covering letter for consideration. After that he left and the above meeting began. It was at the above meeting that TEPPCON and TEPPIA activities and mandate were explained as well as that of TEPPART. The project team took keen interest in the various development ideas that were brought out for discussion. The need for project vehicles for both TEPPART and TEPPIA were discussed. On their question whether the TEPPART old pick up could be sold to balance for the new pick up, the Executive Secretary of TEPPCON, appealed that, TEPPCON will equally need the old Pick up for its work. This was understood. Many questions were asked and good responses given. It was a very fruitful meeting and a good outcome and response expected from Germany.



### **Visit to the Archbishop Secretariat/First Church in Tamale**

After the departure of Bishop Genn and part of the delegation to Germany, the project team still continued with official meetings and visits for three days. They visited the Archbishop's secretariat and were introduced to the Archbishop's Secretary and one or two staff because the rest were on break. They later visited the first Church in the Archdiocese of Tamale, started by the white Fathers and said prayers

### **Visit to St Charles minor Seminary**

The visit to St Charles by Bishop Genn and his delegation was necessary for them to meet and interact with the Head Master, Staff and students of the only minor Seminary of the Archdiocese of Tamale.. This was not possible with the Bishop and the whole delegation because their days were up for their return to Germany. However, the project team together with the TEPPART Coordinator and the TEPPCON Executive Secretary visited St Charles. The Head master and a few teaching staff took the team to some of dormitories and classrooms that were burnt during the period of the St Charles series of burning disasters in 2021/2022. The project team asked the headmaster to prioritize one or two projects and send to the Archbishop for a covering letter before submission. In all the project discussions they indicated the projects would be discussed and feedback given as to the way forward of each, since they could not take a final decision or give assurances. **See the detailed reports on the visit and climax of TEPPART @ 40 in the Office.**

### **3.5 Quarterly report meetings with TEPPCON Executives and TEPPART**

Reports were presented to the TEPPCON Executives by the Provincial Partnership Coordinator on the activities of the Partnership Office. Updates of the KAAD Scholarship were presented and reports for the first, second and third quarters of the year 2023 were to be presented later to the Committee. On the KAAD Scholarship reports, applications were vetted and submitted to Bonn for final selection. The Provincial Partnership Coordinator also presented to the TEPPCON Executives, the next partnership activities to be carried out after the Climax of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### **3.6 Half-Year Reports to TEPPCON and TEP-Bishops**

The Provincial Partnership Coordinator Mr. Peter Yang-bio presented a summary half year report to the TEP-Bishops in Bolgatanga. Highlights of the reports included updates on KAAD scholars in the Tamale Province, withdrawal of the German Volunteer Services in the Upper East Region by the German Foreign Minister for security reasons, the 2023 students' exchange visit to Muenster as well as the next activities for the rest of 2023.

### **3.7 The invitation to a Partnership exchange visit in Muenster**

Saints Peter and Paul Parish University Students, Saint Victor Major Seminary and the Catholic Students in the University Parish in Muenster (KSHG) and the Theology Department have been in Partnership for some time now. Exchange visits have been part of their activities. However, in

2023, in cooperation with the Muenster University for Applied Sciences, invited 22 students and 3 leaders to a Partnership exchange visit from 24<sup>th</sup> May to 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023. This invitation was a result of the long-term Partnership relationship between Saints Peter and Paul Parish, St. Victor Major Seminary and the aforementioned German institutions. The journey was very successful and the students gained a lot of experiences. An evaluation of the trip was done and the report compiled to guide future plans.

### **Preliminary Preparation, and orientation.**

A preliminary meeting was held with all the students and their leaders to ensure that they secure all documentations ahead of time. Bookings appointments with subsequent visa interviews were all successfully executed with the assistance of TEPPCON. The meeting also aimed to give orientation. Key personalities with enough experience about German trips and the travel environment were invited to share their knowledge, experiences and give pieces of advice to the delegation: They included: Prof Martin Adokiya, Rev. Fr. Wilfred Agana, Dr. Emmanuel Dassah, Fr. Charles Boris, Dr. Yakong Vida and Dame Agnes Gandaa.

### **Arrival in Muenster.**

In Muenster the students had a three-week (21 days) programme of activities. They visited various places including Bishop Felix Genn in his house, where they had lunch together and a face to face interaction on how to strengthen the Partnership between the Tamale Ecclesiastical Province and the Diocese of Muenster. Bishop Felix Genn was very happy and assured the students of his full support to the Partnership.

### **Meeting with Volunteer Service team**

Also, in a meeting with the Volunteer Service group in the Diocese of Muenster, the team was told that the Foreign Minister of Germany had ordered the withdrawal of all volunteers who were in the Upper East Region of Ghana to be transferred to Oti region because of insecurity in the region. In response to this decision, the Government of Germany was assured that the region was not as insecure as indicated and the option available was to transfer them to any of the Dioceses within the Tamale Province instead of the Oti region. They finally agreed to continue with the Volunteer Services within the Tamale Province in January 2024.

It was observed that the Theology Department which was to be part of the focus in the students' exchange programme, was not involved in the 2023 exchange visit. There was rather more attention directed at activities with the University of Applied Sciences. This was not so good and was to be discussed at the TEP Bishops, Bishop Genn and the Diocese of Muenster level. The team returned safely to Ghana after a very successful programme in Germany.



**The Ghanaian University students preparing to display a cultural dance**

### **3.7 Visit to Barchabordo Catholic Clinic in the Diocese of Yendi**

During the visit in Germany, the Provincial Partnership Coordinator and other leaders visited other places. They visited the Partnership Parish of St. Peter and Paul Parish (St. Maria Parish in Rhine) and met with Mrs. Monica Fischer, one of the active pioneers of the Partnership. In a discussion on progress of the Partnership, Mrs. Monica Fischer requested the Provincial Partnership Coordinator, Mr. Peter Yang-bio and the other leaders (Fr. Philemon Nangkureh and Dr. Vida Yakong) to visit the Barchabordo Clinic and make a report for her to share with Hope for Ghana.

On July 26<sup>th</sup> 2023 the Provincial Partnership Coordinator Mr. Peter Yang-Bio, visited the clinic with the Executive Secretary of TEPPCON, Dame Agnes Gandaa, and the development Coordinator of the Diocese of Yendi, Rev. Fr. Joseph Sunkpe. Dr Vida and Fr Philimond were

engaged and could not go with them. The three met with the Officer-in-charge of the Clinic, staff and some community members for an in-depth discussion on the clinic. A report was later sent to Mad Monica and the Diocese of Yendi. **See report in the office.**

Below is a photo-shoot after the meeting with the staffs and community members.



### **3.8 Partnership Meetings held at the Diocesan level**

As part of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities, all partnership Parishes were to reconstitute new Committees according to the directives by the TEP-Bishops, sign by the Archbishop of Tamale and president of TEPPCON, Most Rev. Philip Naameh. The visits were to confirm the existence of the new committees and to give orientation.

#### **Meeting in the Diocese of Wa -Jirapa**

In WA diocese, the meeting was held successfully during which a mini silence was observe for the late Bishop of Wa, Cardinal Richard Baawuob and the Diocesan Administrator, very Rev Fr.

Edward Tengan. There were sadness and concerns about the great loss of their late Bishop which brought some challenges to the pastoral agenda of the Diocese. However, the meeting was actively participated with proactive and objective contributions. In all about 27 people participated in the meeting. It was reported that some Partnership parishes were yet to constitute their new committees. So the orientation was postponed but education on the partnership and the expectations of the provincial Partnership office and TEPPCON was done.

### **Expectation of the people in the Diocese of Wa**

Below were the expectations shared by participants before the meeting.

- To know the roles of the Parish Partnership Committee Members;
- To hear more about the revival of Partnership Parishes that lost their Partnership;
- To ensure that all Partnership Parishes reconstitute their new committees according to the directives;
- To have a clarification on who to write to about partnership issues in Germany- St. Joseph Parish, Jirapa;
- To have an understanding on the formation of the Partnership Committees.



**Participants after the Partnership meeting in the Wa Diocese**

### **Meeting in Diocese of Navrongo/Bolgatanga**

In the Diocese of Navrongo/Bolgatanga, the meeting was equally successful with about thirty-one people participating. The Diocesan Partnership Coordinator welcomed the participants to the meeting and indicated that Navrongo/Bolgatanga Diocese had four (4) active Partnership Parishes: Seven Sorrows-Navrongo/Bolgatanga, Martyres of Uganda-Sirigu, St. Anne Parish-Bongo, St. Pauls Parish-Walewale, and Sacred Heart Parish Bolgatanga, the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) Parish, which lost its Partnership. The TEPPART Coordinator led the discussion with an introductory speech on his office and activities he had carried out and the next steps.

Dame Agnes Gandaa, Executive Secretary of TEPPCON educated the participants on TEPPCON and the origin of the Partnership, the initiatives of the Germans and some development projects the partnership had secure over the years. She also explained the theme of the Partnership: Mission, Justice, Peace and Development and the 2023 TEPPCON Conference which was to come of in November 2023, with the theme: **The Crises of Education in Ghana, the Role of Government and other stakeholders**. She emphasized the need to plan a partnership day for each Partnership Parish to celebrate and use the day to raise funds to support the education of a needy child or children and to pray for our partners in Germany who make a lot of sacrifices for us.



### **Expectation of the people in the Dioceses of Navrongo/Bolgatanga**

Below are the expectations shared by of the participants:

- To know more about TEPPCON-Muenster Diocese Partnership;
- To know more about the roles of the Partnership Committees;
- To understand better the work of the Partnership;
- To learn more about partnership reporting/format.

At the end of the meeting, they testified that their expectations were met.

### **Meeting in the Diocese of Yendi**

At the meeting in the Diocese of Yendi, the Vicar-General of Yendi acted as the Diocesan Partnership Coordinator and welcomed participants to the meeting.

The Diocese of Yendi which has three active Partnership Parishes were all represented: Our Lady of Lourdes-Yendi Cathedral, Christ the King Parish, Gushegu and St. Joseph Parish, Bimbilla.

Expectations of participants in the Diocese of Yendi included:

- To know more about the dos and the donts in the Partnership;
- To learn how to do things in common among the Partnership Parishes;
- To know who qualifies to go to Germany;

- To know the roles of the Partnership Committee Members;
- To understand more on how to reconstitute the new committee members in the Partnership;
- To put the Partnership Committees in a good shape in the various Partnership Parishes;
- To know the relationship between PROMIC and the Partnership.



**Picture after the meeting**

### **3.9 Orientation of Parish Partnership Committees.**

As part of the 2023 activity plan, there was a visit to all Partnership Parishes in the Province to educate and provide orientation for newly reconstituted Partnership Parish Committee members. The Diocese of Yendi was the first Diocese to be visited to meet all Partnership Committee members in their various Parishes, followed by the Diocese of Damongo. In the Tamale Archdiocese, two (2) out of the three (3) Partnership Parishes were ready with their reconstituted Committee members according to the guidelines and were given orientation. In the Diocese of Wa, all Partnership Parishes had reconstituted and were orientated. One Parish in the Navrongo/Bolgatanga Diocese was not ready with their new members. There are plans to get back



to do orientation for those Parishes that could not beat the deadline with the reconstituting of their committees.

In all the Partnership Parishes visited, the Provincial Partnership Coordinator in his education and orientation entreated all Partnership Committee members to abide by the following:

**Communication:** All Partnership Parishes were asked going forward, to send reports and other important communications to their partners and copy the Bishops, the Vicars General, Diocesan Partnership Coordinator, and Provincial Partnership Coordinator. He explained that with this, all the stakeholders in the Partnership will be aware of important communication going out and the ongoing activities in the Partnership and will be in a good position to respond to questions at any point in time.

**Reports:** The Provincial Partnership Coordinator, reminded the Partnership Parishes to send mid-year and end of year reports to their individual partners every year and have the stakeholders in the Partnership in copy. He said sending reports will show a sign of responsibility, transparency and accountability in the Partnership work.

**Emails:** All Partnership Parishes were entreated to create emails that bear the name of their Parish. He said this will enable them to own all communications and information sent to and from their partners and other stakeholders. This initiative was necessary because it has been realized that individual emails are used in communicating Partnership issues and in most situations Partnership Parishes lose vital information when such individuals are being transferred from the Parish.

**Account/signatories:** All Partnership Parishes were educated to open Bank Accounts. The Parish Priest and the Curate shall be main signatories to the account and the Chairperson and financial Secretary signatories will be alternate signatories, where anyone of them can sign with one of the main signatories. The Curate serves as a principal in the absence of the Parish Priest.

**Exchange visit:** The Provincial Partnership Coordinator asked all Partnership Parishes to copy all the stakeholders in the Partnership whenever their partners are to visit them as well as when they are also invited to Germany. He said previously, some of these visits were done without the knowledge of the Diocesan authorities, which is not the right thing to do.

**KAAD scholarship:** Members were educated on the TEPPCON -Muenster Diocese Special scholarship which is administered to only loyal and committed Catholic young men and women. The Provincial Partnership Coordinator outlined some of the requirements for the scholarship and entreated qualified Catholics to apply.

### **The History, Role, and Functions of the Partnership Parish Committee Members**

The Executive Secretary of TEPPCON, Dame Agnes Gandaa took all newly reconstituted Partnership Parish Committee members through the history of the Partnership, and also explained

the theme of the Partnership which is **Misson, Justics, Peace and Development** with Bible references.

The Executive Secretary in her orientation outlined some of the roles and functions of the Parish Partnership Committees. She said it is their duty among others, to ensure transparency and accountability in the Partnership work in their various Parishes, plan and celebrate partnership day, to educate Parishioners on the theme of the partnership, the efforts partners are making and to ensure rules and the constitution or directives are followed. The Executive Secretary ended her orientation by entreating Partnership Parishes to compile the history of their various Partnership Parishes as well as celebrate an annual Partnership day.

### **3.10 Meeting with TEPPCON, TEPPART, TEPPIA AND KAAD scholars**

The Chairman of TEPPCON, Very Rev. Fr Martin Muosayir welcomed all participants. He thanked especially the KAAD Scholars for making time to be part of that important meeting. He said it offers the opportunity for participants to know each other and create a network of relationship in their various Dioceses. He said it was also intended to help link them to their respective Bishops who wish to have them contribute to church development in their Dioceses. The workshop was the first of its kind.

The Executive Director of TEPPIA, Dr Charles Abugre was the lead facilitator of the workshop, and shared his joy of being part of the workshop, adding that the main purpose of the workshop was to assess the contributions and challenges of the KAAD Scholars and the expectations of KAAD scholars and that of the Church.

The KAAD Scholars Northern Chapter Coordinator, Mr. Joseph Soale also expressed his excitement about the workshop and indicated that he and his executives have just been elected as new executives to run the affairs of the KAAD Scholars Northern Chapter. He added that the Chapter currently had a membership of 30 across the Province.

He indicated that a major challenge of the Chapter was the inability of members to attend their Annual Chapter Conference. He said most of them pay more attention to the National Conference than the Chapter Conference because the Northern Chapter has limited power in executing activities at the local level.

### **Expectations of KAAD scholars**

This was facilitated by the Executive Secretary of TEPPCON. The Scholars shared their expectations as follows:

- To network and have more connections;
- To know the relationship between KAAD Scholars and the church and how they can give back to the church;
- To know how the KAAD scholar's expertise is useful to the church;
- To know the expectations of the Church of KAAD scholars;
- To understand the role of the TEPPCON offices/institution/organs;

- To have a clear direction for Partnership between KAAD scholars and the Church.

The Scholars indicated that they were ready to give out their best to the Church as and when the need be. They said they have skills in research, proposal writing, monitoring, and reporting as well as planning and material evaluation. They indicated the following as areas they could provide services to the Church:

- Group projects E.G medical outreach;
- Participation in partnership projects by joining partnership committees;
- Involving scholars in developing Diocesan Development Strategy;
- Organize virtual/physical seminars to guide prospective applicants on how to go through the KAAD application process;
- Create a network of Catholic Scholars.

#### **Action points**

- The Leadership of KAAD scholars should develop a strong database for all scholars;
- The Partnership Office should track all scholars starting from the beginning of the scholarship;
- Appointment of officers to positions within the Church, indicating general scholars and provincial scholars from the various dioceses in the province, should be based on competency Northern chapter scholars should strengthen their relationship with members;
- Scholars should discuss the issue of creating a Bank Account at the chapter level;
- Church leadership should engage with Muenster to increase scholarship funding support;
- Leadership should push for a Provincial representative at the interview panel at KNUST for Provincial applicants.

#### **3.11 Meeting with representatives of KAAD Department, Bonn**

Mad. Miriam Robmerkel, Prof. Uwe Huager and Ms. Anja Chrtanowska, representatives of KAAD from Bonn paid a courtesy call on the Archbishop of Tamale, Most Rev. Philip Naameh. In his absence they were received and welcomed by the Vicar General of the Tamale Archdiocese, Very Rev Fr. Hillary Pogbeyir together with the Executive Secretary of TEPPCON, Dame Agnes Gandaa and the Provincial Partnership Coordinator, Mr.Peter Yang-bio in the Office of the Vicar General.

#### **Concerns of the Delegation**

They expressed concern about the increasing numbers of unemployed KAAD Scholars in the Province and how the church could help in that dimension. They also wanted to know how the KAAD application process is done in the Province and if there is the need for improvement.

The Provincial Partnership Coordinator explained that the requirements are sent to the Dioceses and announcements made in the various Catholic Parishes across the Province for qualified Catholics to apply. Applications are sorted and vetted by the TEPPART Coordinator and the TEPPCON Executives before they are sent to Bonn for final selection. A suggestion was made for a possible creation of KAAD Scholarship interview center in the Tamale Province for Applicants from the Province. An introduction of a PhD scholarship for students to study in-country was another proposal. They indicated that due to the time period some PhD students take to complete in Ghana, PhD studies here become frustrating for most of them and it also affects rules of the scholarship. Such frustrated students are unable to complete their programmes of study as expected or within the expected timeframe, and that affects the funding as well. They asked a lot of keen question relating to the partnership and the scholarship scheme. The meeting ended successfully.



**In picture-shoot; Mad. Miriam Robmerkel second right to the Vicar General of Tamale Archdiocese Very Rev Fr. Hillary Pogbeyir, Prof. Uwe Huager fourth left to the Executive Secretary of TEPPCON, Dame Agnes Gandaa, and Ms. Anja Chrtanowska second right after the Provincial Partnership Coordinator Mr. Peter Yang-bio.**

### 3.12 KAAD Applicants submitted to Bonn for final selection -2023

NAME	OCCUPATION	DEGREE OBTAINED	GRADE OBTAINED	INTENDED DEGREE	DIOCESE	CONTACTS
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Mark Tanye	Development Officer	Master's Degree in local Government Administration and Organization	Upper Class	PhD in Development Studies	Tamale Archdiocese	0245176898
Eunice.A. Abaah	Laboratory Technician	Bachelor of Science Biochemistry	Second class Upper Division	Master of Philosophy in Biochemistry	Tamale Archdiocese	0541853112
Oswell Kaningen	Teacher	Bachelor of Education	Second class Upper Division	Master of Philosophy in English	Wa Diocese	0248317769
Augustine Dangbie Dordah	Forestry Commission Officer	Bachelor of Arts Integrated Community Development	Second class Upper Division	MPhil in Development Studies	Damongo Diocese	0542744138
Charles Bruno Tengzag	National Service	BSc Real Estate	First class	Master's in Real Estate	Tamale Archdiocese	0540702181
Arafat Bright Bello	National Service	BSc Actuarial Science	Second Class Upper Division	Master's in data science	Tamale Archdiocese	0549003055
Jacob Alebigi Aboko	Teacher	Bachelor of Arts in Economics	Second Class Upper Division	MPhil in Economics	Navrongo/Bol gatangta Diocese	0547172209

### 3.13 ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

#### Fuel and vehicle maintenance

These included Road-worthiness, insurance, and other car parts including car tyres, which were bought to ensure smooth and efficient movement to project areas within the Province. Servicing and maintenance work were done on a quarterly basis to ensure proper maintenance of the vehicle.

#### Maintenance and Repairs of Office Equipment

Office Door locks, ceiling fans and servicing of office printer, scanner and photocopier were either procured or repaired for effective running of the office.

#### Utilities

Water telephone and electricity bills for the office were all paid for to ensure continuous flow of water and lighting in the office. Water lines which were initially blocked were reconnected for free flow of water in the office. New office phone was also bought to facilitate communication in the office.

### **Salary and Other Costs**

Salary of the Provincial Partnership Coordinator was paid with SSNIT contributions. Other expenses included: bank charges, payment of rent and allowance for the office cleaner.

### **TEPPCON-TEPPART Accounts Audit**

The 2021 and 2022 TEPPCON-TEPPART accounts were audited by Abu and Associates: Chartered Accountants and Management Consultants located in Tamale. Financial reports and statements of accounts were completed and submitted to TEPPCON.

### **4.0 Invitation to the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the St. Peter Canisius Parish-Busunu**

An invitation was extended to the Provincial Partnership Coordinator to join the above parish in the Diocese of Damongo, for their 25th Anniversary of Partnership. Among other things, the TEPPART Coordinator on behalf of TEPPCON, the Partnership Office and the Diocese of Muenster congratulated the Parish for maintaining a good relationship with their partners and the sustainability of the Partnership for twenty-five (25) years. He also expressed gratitude to the Partnership Parish in Germany for all their support in various ways to the Parish and their efforts to join the Parish for the 25<sup>th</sup> celebration.

### **5.0 Challenges**

- Delay in getting reports from Dioceses;
- Partnership Parishes not submitting reports either to their Diocesan Coordinators in time,
- Difficulty in getting the German Partnership Parishes to communicate through the Partnership office to help give good and effective coordination as done in the passed.

### **6.0 Gratitude**

The TEPPART office would wish to express sincere gratitude to the TEP-Bishops, TEPPCON Executives and the Diocese of Muenster for the financial support. TEPPART is particularly grateful for the sustained interest of the Diocese of Muenster in the Partnership Development, sustainability and growth.

I also wish to thank the TEPPCON Executives for their keen supervision, guidance as well as their assistance in the work of the TEPPART Coordinator in a very inspiring manner. The Diocesan Partnership Coordinators have been good in supporting the Partnership activities across the Province and I am very grateful to them.

In a special way, I wish to thank the Diocese of Muenster for buying the Provincial Partnership Office a brand-new Nissan Navara pick up for the Partnership work and having in also the TEPPA new project pick up. All in the name of our great friendship and Partnership. We are particularly grateful to the Diocese of Muenster and the TEP Bishops for the approval of the 2023 budget for the office which enabled the TEPPART Office to carry out the above activities.

## **7.0 CONCLUSION**

There is no doubt that the TEPPCON-Muenster Diocese Partnership which is 40 years now has brought so much support and Development to the Parishes, Dioceses and the Tamale Province, in areas of health, education, Pastoral and Social Development. This is deeply appreciated by the Bishops, Partnership Parishes and the people of the Province. The visit of Bishop Genn and his delegation for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the Partnership was a great and memorable event in the province. A donation of 10,000Euro to each TEP Diocese by the Diocese of Muenster was very inspiring. Equally important is the KAAD scholarship contribution the Diocese of Muenster has made and is making to enable students from the Province, do both In Country and Out Country programmes-Masters or PhD or both.

The KAAD scholars are working at various institutions and organizations and contributing to development and growth of the country are as well the pride of the Partnership. This also marks new progress and a new way forward in the Vision and Mission of great Partnership. The discussion on the restoration of the partnership with the faculty of Theology in the University of Muenster is of great importance and of great interest to us.

TEPPART-TEPPCON is also looking forward to receiving positive responses from the Diocese of Muenster on the following new project ideas; the Volunteer exchange Service scheme for young people, the Safe Water back Project and the Agric/Solar project. Many Parishes here not twinned are also longing to have them twinned with Parishes in Muenster or Parishes in other Dioceses in Germany if possible. It is our prayer and hope that the faith relationship/Partnership between TEPPCON and the Diocese of Muenster will grow from strength to strength, especially after 40 years of Partnership, possibly bringing about many other prospects.

Compiled by:  
Peter Yang- Bio  
(TEPPART Coordinator)

Reviewed by:  
Dame Agnes A. Gandaa  
(Executive Secretary of TEPPCON)