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New York University Africa House and CTED
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NYU CTED RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FORUM IN KUMAWU
CTED Mobile Apps, Technology, and Community Engagement Drive Economic Development

KUMAWU, ASHANTI REGION, GHANA, 21 December 2016 – In the rural community of Kumawu in the Ashanti Region, path-breaking mobile phone technologies were developed to help smallholder rural farmers revolutionize the way they trade and open up new markets.

Led by Professor Yaw Nyarko, amongst distinguished VIPs and community leaders, the Center for Technology and Economic Development (CTED) presented mobile apps, Android phones, and drone technologies for economic development during the 2nd Annual Ghana Rural Economic Development Forum.

In addition to community leaders, CTED welcomed the leadership of the International Growth Centre (IGC) Ghana, the Ghana Commodities Exchange, and NYU Accra, and more than 200 public and private sector participants to discuss how technology-driven solutions can significantly impact economic development.

The CTED Tech Lab, co-facilitated by partners from Ghana’s Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA), featured presentations on: mapping, transport tracking (LiveTracker), and commodities trading (MarketPlace).

Professor Yaw Nyarko, Director of NYU CTED and Africa House, said, “The foremost way in which economic development can be enhanced is through technology. By utilizing mobile apps, sophisticated image recognition processing, and big data, CTED can gain insights to market trends, agricultural yields, flow of goods, and much more. This data has the potential to inform community leaders and members for long-term planning and maximum socio-economic impact.”

Through community engagement programs, CTED presented a series of activities that were launched in 2016. Principally, the Kumawuman Educational Fund was established by CTED to provide funding to bright students in the community. During the CTED Forum, seven students were awarded the first class of scholarships. Second, the Kumawuman Development Investment Trust was created to provide financial planning and income-generating opportunities to the community. Now in its second year of operation, the Kumawuman Palace Museum, founded by CTED and the Traditional Council, showcased an exhibition featuring traditional artifacts contributed from community members, documentary films, a chieftaincy administration guide, and cultural heritage programs.

Prior to the forum, CTED provided the third class of scholarships to outstanding students at Tweneboa Kodua Senior High School (TKSHS). Twenty CTED TKSHS scholarships were awarded during the program.

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About NYU Center for Technology and Economic Development (CTED)
CTED is a research center at New York University (NYU) that focuses on the development of innovative and cutting edge technologies that can significantly impact economic development with a specific focus on problems faced in under-developed areas around the world. CTED is headquartered in Abu Dhabi with branches in New York, Accra, and Kumawu in the Ashanti Region of Ghana. CTED houses several research projects that aim to tackle a wide range of developmental problems across five areas including food and water, healthcare, financial access, energy, and education. To learn more, please visit: www.ctedkumawu.org.

About NYU Africa House
New York University (NYU) Africa House is an interdisciplinary institute devoted to the study of contemporary Africa, focusing on economic, political, and social issues on the continent and programs in the Arts. Part of Africa House’s core mission is to advance the understanding of the links between Africa and the rest of the world, through the social, historical, economic and other lenses. To learn more, please visit: www.nyuafricahouse.org.