



National Communications Authority

- Press Release

NCA ORGANISES WORKSHOP ON TV WHITE SPACE

The National Communications Authority (NCA) has organised a public consultation workshop on the usage of Television White Space (TVWS) Spectrum Regulatory Framework on the 16th of August 2016 at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Accra. The workshop served as a platform for the NCA, service providers, consumers and other stakeholders to discuss the contents of the Draft Regulatory Framework.

Director General of the NCA, Mr. William Tevie, during his welcome address said that as we become more reliant on the Internet for communication, information, health services, and business relations, it has become necessary that internet connectivity and penetration be accessible nationwide. It was in this vein that the NCA like other regulators, is exploring the possibility of using TVWS to create and give more access for data services, mindful of the fact that connectivity is key to development.



Image 1 - Mr. William Tevie, Director General of the NCA addressing participants at the workshop.

One of the presenters, Mr Peter Djakwah of the Engineering Division explained to the audience how TVWS can connect to homes and devices from remote locations by offering a broadband signal capable of handling multiple devices as well as transferring large amounts of data across long distances. He further stated that the TVWS is intended to extend Internet coverage at cheaper prices to rural areas.



Image 2 – A Participant sharing his comments on the Regulatory Framework.



Image 1 - Mr. Peter Djakwah presenting on the Overview of TVWS technology in Ghana.



Image 2 - Mr. Charles Acheampong taking participants through the TVWS Regulatory Framework.

Although some stakeholders expressed their concerns over the TVWS with regards to existing infrastructural investments made in the country, Mr Henry Kanor, Director of the Engineering Division assured them that the technology was an opportunity to extend Internet coverage at affordable prices to Ghanaians and would greatly help the concept of universal access.

The Television White Space is a term used to describe unused broadcasting frequencies in the wireless spectrum. This space which is usually left to avoid interferences and for buffering purposes can be used to deliver widespread broadband internet. Ghana is currently a part of five countries in Africa that have undertaken trials in the technology for data network deployment and the use of TVWS would offer an opportunity to use the spectrum to meet consumer demands.



Image 3 - A participant asking a question on TVWS.



Image 4 - Mr. Henry Kanor Director, Engineering Division addressing the concerns of Stakeholders at the workshop.



Image 5 - Mrs. Martey, Deputy Director Engineering giving the closing remarks.

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Editor's Note

About NCA

The National Communications Authority, (NCA), was established by an Act of Parliament, Act 524 in December 1996, which has been repealed and replaced by the National Communications Authority Act, 2008 (Act 769). The Authority is the statutory body mandated to license and to regulate electronic communication activities and services in the country.