



Half Year Report

January – June 2023

Frimpong-Manso Institute

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Table of Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 1.1 Background
- 2.0 Launching and Dedication of the Institute
- 2.1 Thematic Chairs Selection
- 2.2 Board induction and Strategic reflection
- 2.3 Stakeholders' Conversation Series
 - 2.3.1 Virtual Conversation/Seminar Series
 - 2.3.2 Generic Feedback from the Sessions
 - 2.3.3 Generic Lessons from the Sessions
 - 2.3.4 Outcome from the Sessions
- 2.4 Publications
- 3.0 The Way forward
- 3.1 Conclusion
- 3.2 Gallery

1.0 Introduction



This report is an overview of activities for the period of January through June, 2023 at Frimpong-Manso Institute (FMI). FMI is a newly established think tank

Institute seeking transformation through apolitical, faith-based, factual and ethical interventions.

The progress report will enumerate the story highlights of FMI, the current activities carried out as an Institute for the period under review. Thus, from its inception to the virtual stakeholders' engagements with targeted end users such as Policy makers, Clergy, Corporate leaders, Women groups, Youth, Students, Community groups etc. The report will also suggest activities for the second half of the year.

1.1 Background

Frimpong-Manso Institute is a Christian Resource Centre established to provide truth and apolitical versions of issues to shape mindsets amongst Christians, varying levels of society and the world at large.



Amid several and older institutions premised to help address the problems and challenges confronting us, the distinctive features of the newly established Frimpong-Manso Institute (FMI) are,

- Apolitical, independent, ethical, integrity driven, and true faith based.
- Revolving around shared vision, mission and goals and being generational (not individuals and persons).
- Positively challenging the status quo and presenting a paradigm shift not business as usual.
- Being problem solving inclined not ideas gyration using critical thinking tools.
- Building on foundations of truth, fairness creativity and innovative.
- Partner with akin credible and faith-based institutions on the African continent and globally to fast-track findings and solutions dissemination to transform persons, nations and the world.

Vision

To transform persons and nations with integrity, ethics and the message of Jesus Christ.

Mission

To positively re-shape mindsets, policies and values at all levels of human endeavours through research, advocacy, roundtable meetings, training, publications and prototype implementations of findings and solutions with proven faith-based professionals of expertise and experience.

Core Values (AFIIG)

- Apolitical
- Faith-based
- Integrity
- Independent
- Generational

Our **work approach** is through:

- Applied socio-economic research
- Round table meetings to disseminate findings
- Publications
- Retreats

- Training for target groups
- Pilot implementation of findings and solutions

The **Thematic Areas** the Institute is initially considering are:

1. Ministry and Theology
2. Governance, Leadership, Integrity and Management
3. Environment and Sustainability
4. Media, Security and Cyber Security
5. Women, Youth Empowerment and Gender
6. ICT and Cyber Security
7. Science, Technology and Health

Our **Services** will revolve around targeted end users such as:

- Politicians and Policy makers
- The Clergy
- Corporate and Business leaders
- Traditional rulers at all levels
- Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies
- Community opinion leaders and groups
- Women groups
- Youth and students
- Para-church institutions

2.0 Launching and Dedication of the Institute

The Institute was established on 14th November, 2022 against the background of some initial consultations with key stakeholders, acquisition of an office and recruitment of three (3) people as initial members of staff; an administrator, a front desk officer and day/night security who also doubles up as the caretaker. The official operations however, began at the beginning of January, 2023.

The funding of the Institute for smooth operations has been personally handled by the President, Rev. Prof. Paul Frimpong-Manso with some individual support and donation of office equipment such as flash drives, projector, video camera etc. To ensure sustainability of the Institute there must be a strategic means for raising funds through programmes, trainings, monthly donations etc.



On 7th January, 2023 the Frimpong-Manso Institute was officially launched. The launch was graced by the clergy, leaders/representatives of various organizations and para-church organizations, the media, policy makers, partners, family and friends of the Institute. Notable among them were; the General Superintendent of Assemblies of God, Ghana, Rev. Dr. Stephen Y.

Wengam; the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission of Ghana, Mrs. Jean Mensa; the Chairman of the National Cathedral of Ghana, Apostle Prof. Opoku Onyinah; and the General Secretary of Ghana Pentecostal and Charismatic Council (GPCC), Apostle Immanuel Tettey.

The Chairman of the occasion, Mr. Eric Seddy Kutortse, the Executive Chairman of First Sky Group played a very instrumental role in supporting the Institute to secure the office and furnish it. He also pledged to support with staff cost for two (2) years. FMI is eternally grateful for this partnership.



Rev. Dr. Stephen Y. Wengam (left) and Mr. Eric Seddy Kutortse (right) respectively giving their speeches at the launch of FMI

In addition, Rev. Doug Edward Clay, the General Superintendent of



Assemblies of God, USA was the special guest of honour. He delivered the keynote address emphasizing on the power of oneness and God's Word to bring about transformation especially in raising the next generation of leaders. He also led in the dedication of the Frimpong-Manso Institute.



Keynote address & Dedication of FMI by Rev. Doug Edward Clay

Our cherished chairs of the Institute for the various thematic areas also made a brief presentation of what they desired to accomplish in their areas of expertise.



Brief addresses by some Chairs during the FMI launch

On the whole, the ceremony was a great success and to God be all the Glory!!!!

2.1 Thematic Chairs Selection

The selection of chairs and their fellows/associates for the various thematic areas was facilitated by Mr. Bernard Joe Appeah with Rev. Prof. Paul Frimpong-Manso supporting the process. These are experts with deep reservoir of real experience who have excelled significantly in their fields of

expertise/profession/ministry globally. The collaboration and partnership therefore, will support FMI in attaining its goals as well as help everyone to be better stewards of the resources God gives to us in serving humanity.

Several meetings were held to brainstorm and harness ideas in order to fulfil the vision and mission of the Institute with thematic chairs presenting their programmes for the year.

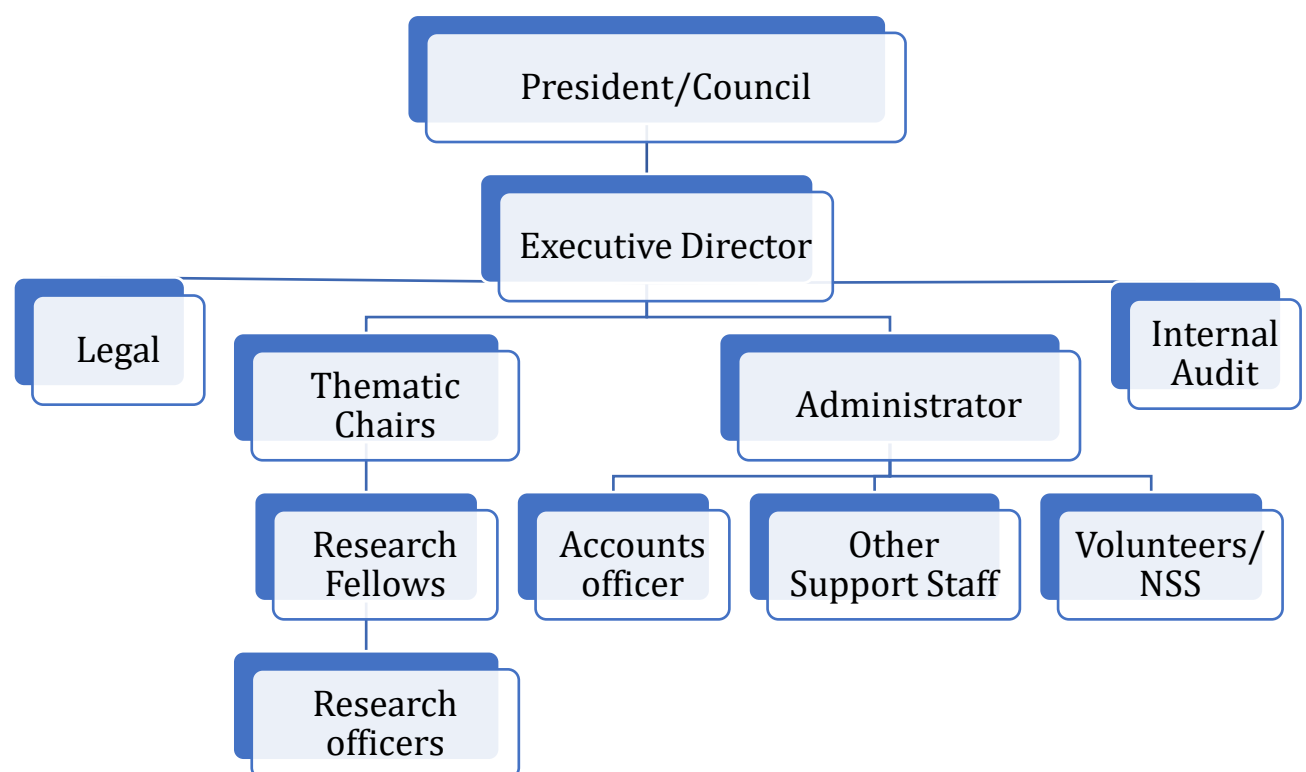
FMI CHAIRS		
NO.	NAME	THEMATIC AREA
1.	Dr. George Manful	Environment & Sustainability
2.	Mr. Bernard Joe Appeah	Governance, Leadership, Integrity & Management
3.	Dr. Prince Kludjeson	ICT & Cyber Security
4.	Dr. Kenneth Frimpong	Science, Technology & Health
5.	Rev. Dr. (COP) David Ampah-Bennin	Media, Security & Cyber Security
6.	Rev. Prof. Asamoah Gyadu	Ministry & Theology
7.	Rev. Mrs. Gladys Frimpong-Manso	Women, Youth empowerment & Gender

Table 1.1. Members of FMI Chairs for the various thematic areas

2.2 Board induction and Strategic reflection

The current board members are chairs of the various thematic areas acting in the interim till an official board member are inducted for FMI. The first meeting for a Strategic Session was organized in March, 2023 with the aim

of developing a three (3) years medium-term strategic plan and the operational structure for FMI. The strategy was to clearly streamline the tasks to be accomplished, relook at the vision, draw a road map that all can follow and work differently.



FMI Structure

2.3 Stakeholders' Conversation Series

As part of rolling out activities for the Institute, the chairs for the various thematic areas were to organize a stakeholders' conversation on zoom every other month beginning from April, 2023. These stakeholders' conversation or seminar series were virtual because;

- it was an opportunity to showcase the vision and mission of the Institute.
- the goal was to reach a larger audience by engaging with Pastors, Church leaders at all levels, Church members, Policy makers, Women, Entrepreneurs, Youth, Students etc.
- the conversations dealt with issues of national interest in order to find collective solutions.
- the main purpose for these virtual seminars were to create awareness, sensitize the public and afterwards create an avenue for addressing the issues through roundtable meetings, trainings, publications and others.

2.3.1 Virtual Conversation/Seminar Series

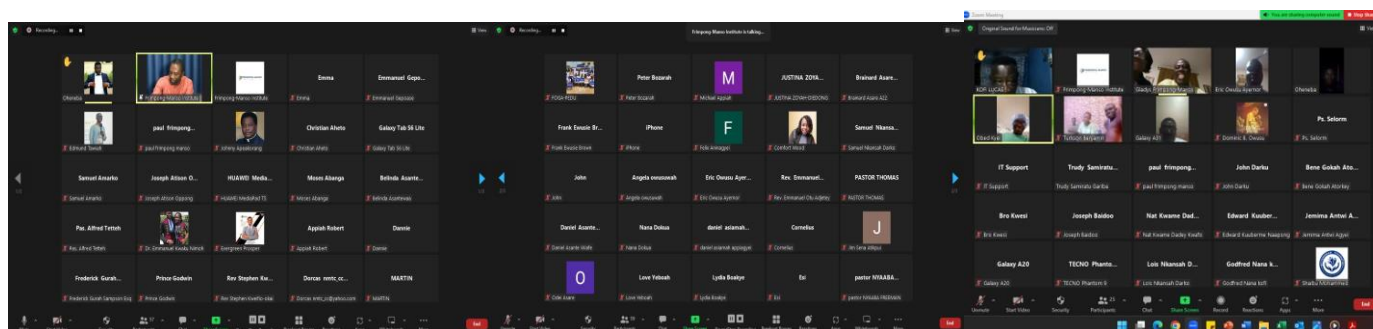
The Virtual Seminar Series so far have looked at the following topics:

1. **Technological Innovation:** The seminar was in collaboration with Celltel Network Limited, and Mr. Frank Davids, head of operations/compliance of the organization gave the presentation. He was assisted by Dr. Prince Kludjeson, the Executive Chairman of CELLTEL Network Limited and Chair for the FMI ICT and Cyber Security thematic area. The virtual session looked at how to equip Pastors and Church leaders on the use of current technological innovations to advance their various church ministry work in consideration with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The session emphasized on the increasing technological advancement and innovations that institutions especially the churches must incorporate into their work in order to be efficient. Thus, transforming communities and reshaping lives through appropriate technology.

Functions of some connectivity devices such as the Smart learning tools, Celltel smart desk phone, KQ lecture capture system, Solar back-up internet solutions among others were demonstrated and explained. The participant responses were positive especially those from the rural parts of Ghana who appealed for assistance. On the whole the impact was impressive been the first virtual session.

No. of Participants expected	No. of Participants attended	Average % attendance	Profile of the Participants
70	55	78%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pastors - Church leaders - Leaders of para-church Organizations - Women group leaders - FMI Chairs - Youth etc.



Screenshot pictures of Stakeholders' Conversation Series on Zoom

2. **Emotional Intelligence:** This was the second session in the series addressing the importance of being emotionally intelligent in our interpersonal relationships and daily interactions. Mr. James Kwesi Addison was the resource person. He is Ghana's first internationally qualified Emotional Intelligence Master Coach and founder of Addison International Centre for Emotionally Intelligence (AICEI).

The session highlighted on one's ability to manage his or her emotions so that those emotions are expressed appropriately and effectively. The following were some of the key areas discussed:

- The five (5) components of Emotional Intelligence namely; Self-awareness, Self-management, Internal or intrinsic motivation, Empathy and Social skills
- Why emotional intelligence?
- The types and characteristics of emotions
- Who is an emotionally intelligent person?
- The tools/methods of managing emotions etc.

The feedback from participants was positively charged that the session was repeated to allow for more interactions. Unfortunately, only four (4) participants from the Northern part of Ghana signed up for the Applied Training Course in Emotional Intelligence. However, some participants recommended that the topic should be taught at our work places and during Wednesdays Teaching Services in our churches.

No. of Participants Expected	No. of Participants attended	Average % attendance	Profile of the Participants
150	133	88%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pastors - Church leaders - Leaders of para-church Organizations - Women group leaders - Youth - Entrepreneurs - FMI Chairs etc.

3. **Illegal small-scale gold mining operations in Ghana: implications for**

Christians and Christian leaders: This seminar was a clarion call for the church and all concerned citizens to join the fight against the Galamsey menace in Ghana, considering the alarming destruction rate of our vegetation and water bodies.

The main focus of the seminar was to engage with all stakeholders; government, church leaders, policy makers, chiefs, young people, various state institutions, to mention but a few; and provide an overview of the deleterious environmental and socio-economic consequences of Galamsey operations in the country. The convener was Dr. George Manful, a seasoned environmentalist and climate change expert with national and international experience of over forty (40) years as well as the Chair for FMI Environment and Sustainability thematic area.

The statistics showed that about 85% of the estimated one million people involved in illegal small-scale mining operate without license. Although, the sector contributes significantly to foreign exchange earnings, the activities of artisanal gold mining have resulted in air pollution, water pollution, land degradation, deforestation, emitting of enormous quantities of gold mercury, climate change, ozone depletion and many other environmental crises.

ANTHROPOCENTRISM + HUMAN GREED = ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

Unfortunately, a lot of the youth including children are massively venturing into illegal small-scale mining in all our mining communities namely Tarkwa, Ahafo, Konongo, Bibiani etc.

Participants were challenged to be stewards of God's creation by ensuring



that they responsibly protect the environment as their singular duty. This is because Christian environmental stewardship (“Creation Care”) cannot honestly declare that they love Jesus while at the same time destroy His creation, which He declared to be good and exists to glorify Him.

The impact of the seminar brought about a lot of education, awareness and commitment of participants to care for the environment. For this reason, the session was repeated with positive feedback of extending the session to the rural communities as well as collaboration with organizations with similar focus.

No. of Participants Expected	No. of Participants attended	Average % attendance	Profile of the Participants
120	55	46%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pastors - Church leaders - Leaders of para-church Organizations - Policy markers - Women group leaders - Youth - Fellows of the Environmental & Sustainability Thematic Area etc.

4. **A conversation towards a holistic youth empowerment: examining the existing gaps and prescription of measures for remediation:** Ghana's youthful age which is between 15 and 35 affirms the 10 year (2022 -2032) National Youth Policy framework when it comes to youth involvement. The seminar examined the gap (i.e., infrastructure and support system) between the path for a holistic youth empowerment, vis-avi the prevailing realities which keeps widening by exploring a comprehensive approach in order to harness the potential of young people. Mr. Frank Paa-Kumi FMI Youth Engagement Advisor and Founder of PALI-Christian Academy of

Development Leadership was the resource person. Rev. Mrs. Gladys Frimpong-Manso, FMI Chair of Women, Youth Empowerment and Gender supported during the session.

He urged stakeholders and policy makers to prioritise the concept of self-leadership among the youth and pay attention to the social re-orientation of citizens on nation building and development. The key nuggets of the session were:

- The creation of avenues that would promote moral and ethical construct among the youth.



- Focusing not only on education or employment, but also parents and stakeholders providing the youth with requisite moral upbringing for a holistic youth empowerment.
- A paradigm shift in the means of selecting and equipping youth leaders and pastors.
- Provision of mentorship and guidance for the youth especially in this era of moral depravity and excessive liberalism.

- Complete overhaul of all levels and interfaces of the formal education structure etc.

The positive responses suggested that youth engagement must be more intentional starting with the Assemblies of God Youth Ministry.

No. of Participants Expected	No. of Participants attended	Average % attendance	Profile of the Participants
150	80	53%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pastors - Youth pastors - Church leaders - Leaders of para-church Organizations - Policy markers - Churches - Youth - Youth groups - Corporate leaders - FMI Chairs etc.

2.3.2 Generic Feedback from the Sessions

The general feedback for the sessions were:

- Participants found the seminars very educative and informative.
- Some participants recommended that the topics should be taught at our churches and even the seminary.
- Appreciation to resource persons for such insightful sessions.
- Suggestion for engagement through trainings and pilot implementation of some of the ideas shared. For example, the session on technological innovation.

2.3.3 Generic Lessons from the Sessions

The things for consideration during the next sessions are:

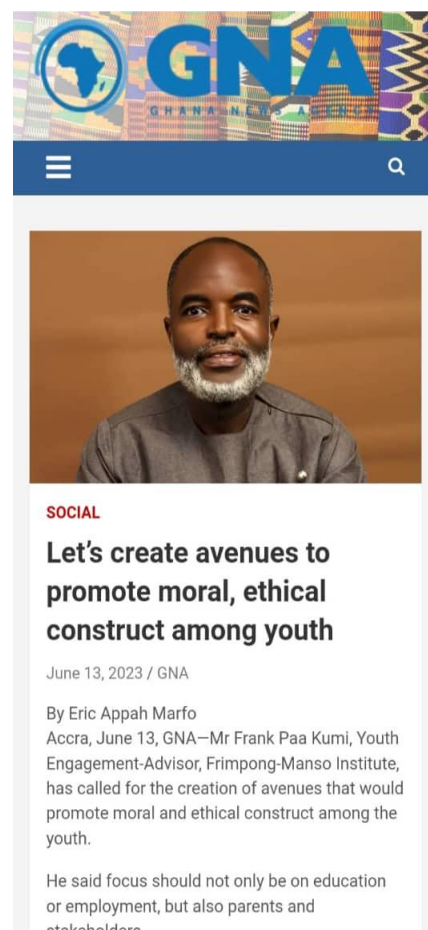
- More publicity
- Pre-session contacts with key Stakeholders who have a wider reach and can recommend people for training sessions
- Finding creative ways to get more participants to fill out the evaluation form online

2.3.4 Outcome from the Sessions

In all, there has been six (6) editions of these Virtual Seminar Series with the ones organized having massive public response and patronage of 323 attendees in total. And the average attendance for the sessions was 54 participants. The outcome from the sessions so far are follows:

- Collaboration with CELLTEL Network Limited and Addison International Centre for Emotionally Intelligence (AICEI) by signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in response to participants interested in their services.
- Participants interested in enrolling for an Applied Training Course in Emotional Intelligence.
- Partnership with Ghana Pentecostal and Charismatic Council (GPCC) to train church leaders across the regions in Ghana on variety of church management issues or topics.

- A publication was issued on Tuesday 13th June, 2023 in Daily Graphic during the Green Ghana Day campaign to sensitize the public on the urgent need to care and protect our environment.
- Again, to broaden the scope of education on the seminar for holistic youth empowerment a statement was issued and published in the Ghana News Agency (GNA) on Tuesday 13th June, 2023.



2.4 Publications

During the Fathers' Day Celebration on 18th June, 2023, FMI issued a



publication to celebrate all fathers. The Institute admonished fathers to use God's Word and wisdom as the only best way to raise

children who will positively contribute in building future generations and leaders. They will lead and live by values of love, peace and compassion abstaining from materialism, corruption and negative attitudes to make our

world today and tomorrow a better place to live. Children were also urged to sincerely forgive their fathers for whatever was done in the past and start anew peaceful and lovely relationship with them. This was published in the Daily Graphic on Monday 19th June, 2023. Also, there were some interviews with the FMI President, Rev. Prof. Paul Frimpong-Manso on national issues that was aired on TV and radio.

3.0 The Way forward

The Institute seeks to undertake the following activities during the second half of the year i.e.; July to December, 2023:

ACTION PLAN: JULY – DECEMBER 2023

Activities	Responsibility	Timeline
- Continuation of Stakeholders' Conversation Series	FMI Thematic Areas: - Ministry & Theology - Media, Security & Cyber Security - Science, Technology & Health	July – September
- Partner with akin credible and faith-based institutions to create incredible leverage for attaining the vision of FMI	All FMI Chairs	July - December
- Completion of FMI three (3) years medium-term strategic plan	FMI Management team	August - September
- Develop a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in order to build strategic partnerships/alliances/networks	FMI Management team	August

- Organize a Mini-Press Conference/Round table meeting with Chairs of the various thematic area on topics of national interest	Media, Security & Cyber Security thematic area	September
- Conduct two (2) applied research-based talks for targeted end users	FMI Thematic areas: - Ministry & Theology - Environment & Sustainability	September - October
- Organize two (2) applied training sessions	FMI Thematic areas: - Women, Youth Empowerment & Gender - Governance, Leadership, Integrity & Management	September -December

3.1 Conclusion

The vision of transforming persons and nations with integrity, ethics and the message of Jesus Christ proposes a common approach to all stakeholders in facilitating FMI activities and interventions thus, contributing our quota to the development of Ghana.

3.2 Gallery



