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PRESS RELEASE

ADONTEN SHS STUDENT WINS FAWE SCIENCE COMPETITION FOR AFRICAN GIRLS

The Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE), pioneering champion of education for African girls has just hosted its 2nd Science and Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) competition across 15 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. It was aimed at accelerating the development of creativity and innovation among girls and decisively increasing the number of female students engaged in STEM at school and eventually in the national and continental economy. The finals of this event culminated in a STEM Fair held in Nairobi, Kenya on the 14th and 15th of August 2014. The FAWE STEM Regional Fair, for girls, was initiated as a means to inspire young female innovators for Africa by Africans.

Organized at school and country levels by FAWE National Chapters from February 2014, FAWE Ghana Chapter was selected among 15 countries to organize STEM competition among 6 Senior High Schools. The schools involved were Aburi Girls, Adonten, Aburi Sec. Tech, Methodist Girls, Mamfe Diaspora Girls (Obodan) and St. Martin's, Nsawam Senior High School (SHS). Rigorously assessed by a team of experts led by Mrs. Georgina Quaisie, the two top projects were the preparation of a natural mosquito repellent by Abigail Mortey of Adonten SHS followed by a robotic experiment entitled the autonomous challenge mounted by Lily Doku and collaborators from Aburi Girls. Termed as nature's gift and named AdomFAWE, Ms. Abigail Mortey's Mosquito repellent made from sheabutter and a local plant was clinically tested against Anopheles

gambiae. The arm-in-cage experimental test was used to assess the protective efficacy of the repellent.

These young innovators together with Ms. Adeline Bedjabeng, science teacher and mentor from Adonten joined 28 other finalists and mentors to participate in the FAWE STEM Fair and Award Ceremony which were held in the context of the 9th FAWE General Assembly. Also present at the event were Professor Esi Sutherland-Addy and Honourable Professor Naana Jane Opoku Agyemang out-going and incoming members of the FAWE Regional Executive Committee respectively.

Out of the 30 projects presented from the 15 sub-Saharan African countries, a Ghanaian, Abigail Mortey's innovative, creative and well-documented project was adjudged the best. She received an award of mobile phone, a pen drive and a laptop. However, all the contestants received certificates of participation and tokens from sponsors INTEL and ASUS.

The remarkable thing about Abigail is that she is reading General Arts.

SGD

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