



Media Foundation for West Africa



WEST AFRICA MEDIA EXCELLENCE CONFERENCE & AWARDS (WAMECA) 2018

Impacting Lives through Media Excellence

Conference

12th October, 2018  **9:00** am

Awards Night

13th October, 2018  **6:30** pm

 **Swiss Spirit Alisa Hotel
Accra, Ghana**



Suleman Braimah
Executive Director
Media Foundation for West Africa

Welcome Address

Dear Esteemed Guests,
 Welcome to this year's edition of the West Africa Media Excellence Conference and Awards (WAMECA, 2018). We are grateful for your participation in this event, which seeks to deliberate on critical issues of media development in West Africa and to honour distinguished journalists from the region who are contributing positively to the region's development in diverse ways through excellence in journalism. The last two decades have witnessed a significant growth in the media industry in West Africa thanks to the transition to democratic governance and the ever increasing access to the internet. Thankfully governments no longer have the monopoly over media ownership and control. The growth in the media industry obviously presents a great opportunity for the consolidation of the nascent democracy in the region. Such vibrant, pluralistic media landscape is what is required for fostering good governance and for promoting the wellbeing of the citizenry. The growth in the media industry has, however, not been commensurate with the important requirement of quality journalism. Media standards have been on a free fall. The few, courageous and outstanding journalists who are committed to high journalistic standards are usually the targets of

The combined effects of poor standards, repression of media freedoms, weak economies and absence contextually-relevant media management data, have culminated in a serious challenge of sustainability for many media organisations in the region.

This explains why the MFWA working with its national, regional and international partners, is intensifying its work on promoting press freedom, deepening quality journalism and providing contextually-relevant research data on media sustainability to help improve the media landscape in the region.

This explains we have this annual conference to discuss the challenges, prospects and opportunities in the media industry in the region; and to also reward, celebrate and honour journalists who continue to demonstrate excellence in their works despite the numerous challenges they face.

It is our hope that through this annual conference and awards, we will be able to connect with key actors with the media sector, learn more about the media environment in the region and propose concrete ideas for transforming the media industry in the region.

Through the awards, we hope to continually motivate great journalists to do more and inspire other to want to commit to journalism excellence.

Your presence at this event is evidence of your support for the media and journalism excellence in West Africa. We are very grateful.

We are also exceedingly grateful to our esteemed supporters for this event, the Embassy of the United States in Ghana, MTN -Ghana, GCB Bank Ghana, Stanbic Bank Ghana.

We are equally grateful to all our media partners in the various countries in the region for their continuous support. Without your invaluable support this event would not have been possible.

To our distinguished judges for the awards, we are thankful. And to you, our distinguished guests, thank you for honouring our invitation. And finally, Congratulations to all finalists and award winners.

Thank you.



About Media Foundation for West Africa

The MFWA is a regional independent non-governmental organisation. It is the biggest and most influential media development and freedom of expression advocacy organisation in West Africa with national partner organisations in all countries in the region. The MFWA is also the Secretariat of the Continental Network of the most Prominent Free Expression and Media Development Organisations in Africa, known at the Africa Freedom of Expression Exchange (AFEX) Network.

In the last 20 years, the MFWA and its partners have actively promoted freedom of expression rights, media professionalism, and media-led advocacy for good governance across West Africa.

Below is our Mission and Vision, our Strategic Objectives and a brief note about our two programmes.

Our Mission

To promote and defend the right to freedom of expression of all persons particularly the media and human rights defenders in West Africa.

Our Vision

A West Africa in which all persons enjoy the right to freedom of expression without fear or threat by any actors.

Our Strategic Objectives

Noticeable improvement in respecting and protecting the right to freedom of expression by state and non-state actors in West Africa

The public's right to access information is guaranteed by regional and national laws and respected in practice

The media in West Africa are more independent and professional, and contribute to democracy and development in the respective countries in the region.

Our Programmes

Freedom of Expression

This programme focuses on the following:

- Media Law and policy reform.
- Freedom of Expression Rights Advocacy
- Advocacy for safety of journalists.
- Access to information advocacy.
- Internet and Digital Rights

Media and Good Governance

This programme focuses on the following:

- Promoting professional media and investigative journalism.
- Media advocacy for participatory and accountable governance.
- Media advocacy for inclusive implementation of the SDGs

About

West Africa Media Excellence Conference & Awards (WAMECA)



In the last 20 years, the Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) has led efforts to promote press freedom and provided capacity building to hundreds of media organisations and journalists across all countries in West Africa. Through its work, the MFWA has helped to position the media as key actors and supporters of democratic consolidation and national development in the sub-region.

With the emergence of new trends in freedom of expression and media development coupled with the constant advancement in technology, the media landscape in the sub-region continues to witness rapid changes with significant implications.

To help reflect on the developments within the media landscape on regular basis the MFWA convenes an annual event called the West Africa Media Excellence Conference and Awards (WAMECA), which features conference sessions and an awards for journalists in the region.

The conference brings together about 100 key personalities, organisations (local, regional and international), media practitioners, academia, activists and civil society organisations to reflect on the changing trends and challenges in the areas of free expression, media development and access to information, and to develop strategies for tackling these challenges.

The awards on the other hand is meant to reward and inspire media excellence in West Africa as well as honour West African journalists who have produced works that are impacting lives and societies positively.



Our Board Members



Edetaen Ojo
Board Chairman, Nigeria



Sophie Ly Sow
Board Member, Senegal



Soule Issiaka
Board Member, Benin



Kwasi Adu-Amankwah
Board Member, Ghana



Professor Kwame Kari Kari
Board Member, Ghana



Sulemana Braimah
Executive Director, Ghana



Ms Hilda Regina Melício Teófilo
Board Member, Cape Verde

Our National Partners



Benin

L'Observatoire de la Déontologie et de l'Ethique dans les Médias (ODEM)



Nigeria

International Press Centre (IPC)



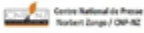
Liberia

Centre for Media Studies and Peace Building (CEMESP)



Guinea

L'Association Guinéenne des éditeurs de la Presse Indépendante (AGEPI)



Burkina Faso

Centre National de Presse Norbert Zongo/ CNP-NZ



Sierra Leone

Media Reform Coordinating Group-Sierra Leone



Mali

Maison de la Presse du Mali (MP)



Guinea Bissau

Sindicato de Jornalistas e Tecnicos de Comunicacao Social Guinea Bissau (SINJOTECS)



Cote d'Ivoire

L'Observatoire de la Liberté de la Presse, de l'Ethique et de la Déontologie (OLPED)



Senegal

La Convention des Jeunes Reporters du Senegal (CJRS)



Niger

Observatoire Nigérien Indépendant des Médias pour l'Ethique et de la Déontologie (ONIMED)



Mauritania

Regroupement de la Presse Mauritanienne (RPM)



The Gambia

Gambia Press Union (GPU)



Togo

l'Institut des Médias pour la Démocratie et les Droits de l'Homme (IM2DH)

Conference

Main Conference Speakers



Edetaen Ojo
Board Chairman, Nigeria



Paul Rothman
CIMA



Hawa Ba
OSIWA

AGENDA - Conference

TIME	ITEM
Friday, October 12, 2018	
	A) Opening Ceremony
8:30 - 9:30	Arrival and Registration of Participants
9:30- 9:45	Introductions Mr. Sulemana Braimah, Executive Director, MFWA
9:45- 10:00	Welcome Statement Mr. Edetaen Ojo , Board Chair of MFWA
10:00- 10:20	Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embassy of the United States, Ghana National Media Commission -NMC Ghana Journalists Association -GJA Paul Rothman - CIMA Hawa Ba - OSIWA
10:20- 10:45	Keynote Speech: Media and Democratic Governance in West Africa: Challenges, Prospects and Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBD
10:45 - 11:00	Official Opening of Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. Kojo Oppong Nkrumah, Minister for Information Designate, Ghana
11:00 - 11:30	Group Photograph / Snack Break
	B) Strategising for Media Development in West Africa
11:30 - 12:15pm	Presentation of Draft Report – Context, Challenges, Opportunities and Priorities for Media Development in West Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Gilbert Tietaah
12:15-13:30pm	Discussion of Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitator: Dr. Gilbert Tietaah
13:30 - 14:30	Lunch
14:30-16:00	Panel Discussion: Media Financing and Sustainability in West Africa
16:00pm	Closing/ Snack Break/ Departure

Awards

Venue for WAMECA 2018



**WEST AFRICA MEDIA EXCELLENCE CONFERENCE
& AWARDS 2018 (WAMECA)**



H.E. Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas



Dr Mohamed Ibn Chambas is a Ghanaian lawyer, diplomat, politician and academician who is currently both the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel, and head of UN Office in West Africa (UNOWAS).

Dr Chambas rose to international prominence when he was made procurator for ECOWAS, acting as the central mediator between the parties of the First Liberian Civil War of the 1990s, and later the Ivorian Civil War in the early 2000s. His direct involvement expedited negotiations, leading to dialogue and ultimate ending of the civil wars

Deputy Foreign Secretary

He first entered government in 1987 as the Deputy Foreign Secretary of Ghana, leading Ghana's delegation to the UN General Assembly, ministerial meetings of the OAU and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Non-Aligned Movement, and the Commonwealth on many occasions.

As Deputy Minister of Education in charge of the

tertiary sector between April 1997 and December 2000, Dr. Chambas brought groundbreaking reforms to education financing by introducing the Ghana Education Trust Fund which was aimed at ensuring sustainable source of funding for the quality education.

ECOWAS and UN

In 2001, he was elected to the post of Executive Secretary of ECOWAS, a post he occupied with dignity and distinction from 2002 to 2006.

After a distinguished service at ECOWAS, Dr. Chambas was on December 20, 2012, appointed as Joint Special Representative for Darfur and Head of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) by the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and African Union Commission Chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma.

On 12 September 2014, he was appointed Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA).

Meet Our Judges



Samba Dialimpa Badji

Mr. Samba Dialimpa Badji is a Senegalese media professional of great repute, having worked with several local and international media organisations in his brilliant career. Samba Badji was a Senior Producer for the French Service of the BBC from March 2010 – Nov 2014.

He was the Media and Communications Manager for West and Central Africa Regional Office of Save The Children, international organisation that promotes children's rights and provides relief for children in developing countries, from December 2014 – November 2015. He has also worked

for Radio France International. As a freelance media specialist, he has conducted several training programmes for journalists across the world.

Currently Samba Badji is the Deputy Editor of the French version of the fact-checking platform, Africa Check and a lecturer at the Ecole Superieure de Journalisme des métiers de l'internet et de la Communication (Ejicom)



Mr. Lanre Idowu

Mr. Lanre Idowu is an accomplished and highly respected Nigerian journalist, editor, author, publisher, media owner and trainer. He is well known in Nigeria for his passion and commitment to quality journalism. He serves as a Trustee of the Diamond Awards for Media Excellence and the Nigerian Guild of Editors. In 2011, he was the recipient of the Lifetime Award for Media Excellence in Nigeria by the Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Journalism (WSCIJ).

Mr. Idowu is currently the CEO of Diamond Publications Ltd and editor-in-chief of Media Review, a publication that reviews the performance of the Nigerian Media. He has worked with various leading Nigerian newspapers such as the Daily Times, The Guardian and The Democrat. He worked with Thisweek magazine from 1986 to 1989 as an associate editor and deputy editor. He describes himself as an incurable optimist in the capacity of the media to serve as a tool for development.



Elizabeth Ohene

Elizabeth Ohene is a Ghanaian writer, broadcaster and politician. She is a veteran journalist. She worked with the Graphic Communications Group between 1967 and 1982 as a reporter, staff writer, columnist, lead writer, acting editor and editor of the Daily Graphic and Mirror. She later worked with the BBC for several years as a presenter, a producer of Radio programmes, Senior producer on World Service, editor of the Focus on Africa programme and deputy editor in the African Service for English daily programmes.

Ms. Ohene also reported for the BBC from various parts of Africa and was BBC's resident correspondent in South Africa from 1993 to 1994 during the transition from apartheid to independence. She conducted several training programmes for journalists for the BBC in South Africa, Nigeria, Liberia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia. For a number of years, she served on the jury of CNN Africa Journalist of the Year Competition. Ms Ohene has written two books - THINKING ALLOWED, and STAND UP AND BE COUNTED



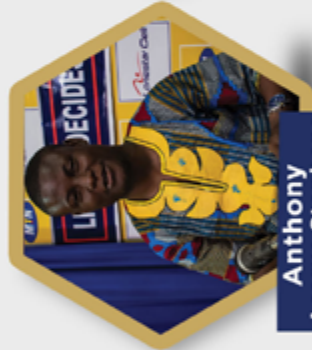
2018 AWARDS FINALISTS



**Nabaloum
Abdel Aziz**
Burkina Faso



**Kemi
Busari**
Nigeria



**Anthony
Acarus Stephens**
Liberia



**Justice
Baldoo**
Ghana



**Anthony
Akaeze**
Nigeria



**Sawadogo
Afsetou**
Burkina Faso



**Manasseh
Azure Awuni**
Ghana



**Oladeinde
Olawoyin**
Nigeria



**Ridwan Karim
Dini-Osman**
Ghana



**Odimegwu
Onwumere**
Nigeria



**Daryl
Kwawu**
Ghana



**Adam
Alqali**
Nigeria



**Richard
Kwadwo Nyarko**
Ghana



**Mame
Diomma Dramé**
Senegal



**Victor
Ekwealor**
Nigeria



**Kingbewe
Yao Hervé**
Benin



**Seth
Kwame Boateng**
Ghana



**Bayo
Olupohunda**
Nigeria

Messages from Our Sponsors



MTN Ghana is proud to be associated with the first West Africa Media Excellence Conference and Awards, an initiative that recognizes outstanding achievements in journalism and dedicated service to the profession across the West African Sub-Region. At MTN Ghana, we are always in search of ways to acknowledge and encourage people who work tirelessly to make our lives brighter in their various fields of work.

We are having this award ceremony at a time when technology is changing the way we interact with our people. Every facet of our lives and every sector has been affected by this technological revolution. The journalism industry is now very different from what it was a decade ago. More journalists than ever before are working across multiple platforms because of the digitization of the media landscape. Online platforms and social media have also encouraged citizen journalism, thus creating a flux and making the industry more complex than it was before. What is news to you is what gets to you first because of the unprecedented speed of the internet

In an era such as this, where the options are endless journalists must commit to abiding by the tenets of ethical and professional journalism. It is imperative to recognize and reward journalists who deploy outstanding investigative, enterprising and feature reporting skills to tell stories, while maintaining ethical and professional MTN Ghana associates itself with this awards ceremony.

In acknowledgment of the role professional and credible journalism plays in the development of human societies, we would like to commend the Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) for initiating this awards ceremony. We thank you for giving MTN Ghana the opportunity to be part of this event and we wish you many more successes in the coming years. While we acknowledge the role journalists play, we also recognize the peculiar challenges of reporting the stories of Sub-Saharan Africa. These challenges must not deter us, but must rather spur us to do more in telling the compelling African story.

To the winners, we say congratulations to you all. Your dedication and commitment to professional journalistic standards have earned you this recognition. To those who did not win, the impact of your work nonetheless continues to be felt in the hearts and minds of your readers, listeners, and viewers, and will surely be publicly acknowledged one day.

Until we meet again at the next awards ceremony, to celebrate yet another crop of deserving journalists, enjoy the rest of the evening.



Stanbic Bank

It is no coincidence that social cohesion, economic development and personal fulfilment tend to be buoyant in countries with the highest levels of media excellence and professional standards. Recognising and applauding quality journalism is definitely the path to take to influence and shape the practice in West Africa. To this end, Stanbic Bank Ghana is grateful for the invitation to be part of your laudable initiative that can substantially uplift the nature of the media narratives and work.

Africa is our Home, we drive her growth, and we do this by promoting excellence just as Dr. Kwegyir Aggrey noted that 'only the best is good enough for Africa'.

We recognise that our communities would not have been the same without your efforts as journalists to probe and demand accountability in sectors of the society.

As a bank, we must say that your continuous good reportage of the economy and the financial sector has attracted a lot of investors into our country, and of course we have also not failed in our efforts to hold in high esteem the confidence you have vested in us. It is for reasons such as these that we continue to associate with the WAMEC-CA awards. We believe that the more we appreciate your good works, the more we help to create excellent works. We promote excellence in Africa because Africa is our home and we drive her growth.

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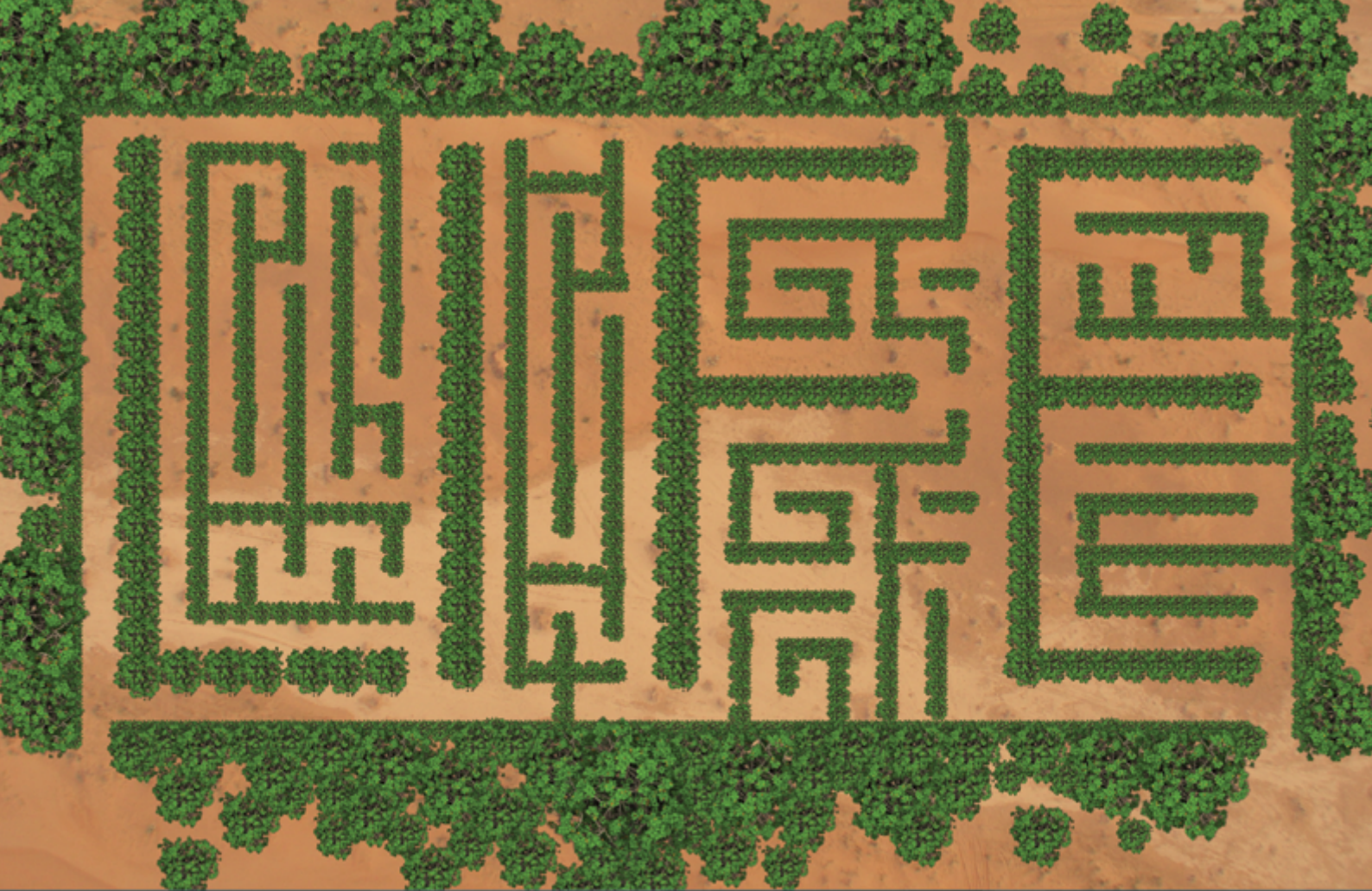
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Stanbic Bank Moving Forward™

We thank the Media Foundation for West Africa for giving us this opportunity to be part of this year's edition and we look forward to many more years of partnership.



Insight + Experience = Solutions

Life is a maze.

But if you can find a partner whose expertise you can rely on through life's oftentimes daunting challenges, one with the insight to understand your needs, then you are assured of solutions that will help you navigate this intricate pathway...

Life could then be amazing.

That partner is GCB Bank Ltd.



Agenda - Awards

TIME	ITEM
6:30pm - 7:30pm	Music & Arrival of Guests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wulomei Band
7:30 - 7:40pm	Welcome and Introduction of Dignitaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sulemana Braimah - ED, MFWA
7:40 - 8:00pm	Acknowledgements and Remarks by Event Supporters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MTN-Ghana, Stanbic Bank Ghana, Embassy of the United States, Ghana GCB Bank Limited
8:00- 8:10pm	Musical Interlude
8:10 - 8:30pm	Remarks by Guest of Honour <p>Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas - Special Representative of the UN Secretary General and Head of UN office for West Africa and the Sahel</p>
8:30 - 9:00pm	Musical Interlude
9:00 - 9:10pm	Remarks by WAMECA Judge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Samba Dialimpa Badji Ms. Elizabeth Ohene
9:10 - 10:30pm	Presentations - West Africa Media Excellence Awards
10:30 - 10:45pm	Vote of Thanks <p>MFWA</p>
10:45pm	Music/Closing/Departure

MCs: Abigail Larbi Odei & Nathan Kwao

WAMECA 2017 IN PICTURES

AWARDS



Set Up for WAMECA 2017 Awards Night



Ms. Elizabeth Ohene, WAMECA 2017 Judge



Ms. Sophie Ly-Sow, Director, Nexus Groupe, Senegal, WAMECA 2017 judge



Mr. Senyo Hosi, CEO, CBOD



Mr. Kafui Dey (left) and Ms. Selikem Acolatse Apaloo (right)
MCs for WAMECA 2017



Mr. Sulemana Braimah, E.D, MFWA, in an interview with Joy News



Dr. Rose Mensah - Kutin, E.D,
ABANTU for Development



A cross section of Guests



Mr. Louis Kuupen, Assistant Country
Director UNDP Ghana, making a statement



The Lipstic band in action



Mr. Seth Kwame Boateng (R), WAMECA 2017 Human Rights Reporting Winner receiving his plaque from Prof. Kwame Karikari



Fousseini Saibou(R) Winner for Health Reporting receiving his plaque from Hon. Perry Okudzeto, Deputy Information Minister, Ghana



Ms. Sheila Williams (R) Winner for ECOWAS and Regional Integration Reporting receiving her Plaque



Mr. Jesusegun Alagbe (R) Winner for Anti-Corruption Reporting receiving his plaque from Ms. Myra Brown, Regional Public Engagement Specialist, US Embassy Ghana



Mr. Femi Asu (R) Winner for Oil & Gas Reporting receiving his Certificate from Ms. Akua Twumasi, External Communications Advisor, Tullow Oil Ghana



Mr. Mannaseh Azure Awuni(R) Winner for Investigative Reporting receiving his plaque from Dr. Eugene Owusu, the President's Special Advisor on the SDGs in Ghana



Mr. Seth Kwame Boateng (right) Winner, Human Rights Reporting & Overall best Journalist WAMECA 2017 receiving his award from Hon. Demba Ali Jawo of The Gambia



Staff of MFWA

West Africa Media Excellence Awards 2017



WAMECA 2017 WINNERS



Alagbe Jesusegun
Punch Nigeria Limited
Anti-Corruption Reporting



Fousseni Saibou
Radio Canal Fm, Togo
Health Reporting



Sheila Williams
Business Day Newspaper, Ghana
ECOWAS & Regional
Integration Reporting



Manasseh Azure Awuni
Multimedia Group Limited, Ghana
Investigative Reporting



Femi Asu
Punch Nigeria Limited
Oil & Gas Reporting



Seth Kwame Boateng
Multimedia Group Limited, Ghana
Human Rights Reporting
& Overall Best Journalist



Impacting Lives Through Media Excellence

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Nigeria



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Liberia



Ghana



Ghana



Togo



Togo



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