

Isaac Yaw Obeng
West Africa Regional, Head of Research, (CUTS International, Accra)

Profile

Isaac is a trade and development professional, with several years of experience and practice in this area. He has led and contributed to many trade and development related research projects including "Assessing the Ghanaian Private Sector Readiness for the African Continental Free Trade Area(AfCFTA) Implementation," "Baseline Survey of Supply Chain Performance in Ghana," "Understanding Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) on Exports for cocoa, cashew nuts, and tuna products in Ghana" "Sanitary and Phytosanitary Requirements Applicable to the Mango sector in Ghana," "Keeping Pace with Trade I &II: "Barriers for MSMEs to export at regional and international levels," "Barriers for Women Exporters to Export at Regional and International Level," "Investment Facilitation for Sustainable Development," and "Social and Economic Impact Assessment at the Ghana - Burkina Faso border on the Tema Ouagadougou Corridor."

He holds a Master of Science degree in Economics and Institutions from the Philipps University of Marburg, Germany. and has taken several trade related courses and trainings including "Trade and Gender Linkages with Optional Module Dedicated to LDCs", "Making the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Work", "Structural Transformation and Industrial Policy," "Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) and Data Collection," "Considering Export Markets," "Adding Value to the Origin of Products Through Geographical Indications," "Setting up an Export Marketing Strategy," "Trade and Gender Linkages with Optional Module Dedicated to LDCs," "Training on The application and use of HS Tariff Codes and how eTrade Hubs supports this WCO instrument," "Meeting Standards in the Agri-food Sector," and E-Commerce for SMEs: An Introduction for Policymakers."

Isaac has consulted for some reputable organizations including the World Bank (WB), World Economic Forum (WEF), GIZ, Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation(GATF), Alliance for Product Quality in Africa, Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA), OXFAM Ghana, SNV Netherlands Development Organization, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden, BUSAC Fund-DANIDA/USAID/EU, ECOWAS, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden, National Insurance Commission (NIC), Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP) among others.

Having studied Economics and Institutions coupled with his years of experience, Isaac has background knowledge and expertise in Intellectual Property, Competition Policy & Law, Consumer Policy & Law, Non-tariff Measures, Investment Policy & Facilitation, Trade and Gender, Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Geographical Indications, Rules of Origin, Industrial Policy, Innovation Economics, Law & Economics Trade Related Aspects of

Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), Compulsory Licensing, Policy Research & Analysis, Project & Programme Management etc.

Position: West Africa Regional, Head of Research

Email: iyo@cuts.org

Date of Joining: February 06, 2017

Nationality: Ghanaian

Languages: • English -Fluent • German -Beginners • Akan -Mother tongue

Areas of Interest: International Trade and Development, Consumer Protection, Competition Policy and Law, Good Governance & Accountability

Key Skills: • Research Skills • Report writing • Communications Skills• Project and Programme Management • Stakeholder Engagement • Team Leadership and Development• Proposal Writing • Concept/Background Note Development• Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) • Data Collection and organization• Policy Formulation, Analysis and Implementation • Quantitative and Qualitative Skills

Qualification: Master of Science in Economics and Institutions, Philipps University of Marburg, Germany, Bachelor of Science in Economics (Honours Division), Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology, Certificate of Competence in Making the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Work, UNECA / IDEP, Certificate in Trade and Gender Linkages with Optional Module Dedicated to LDCs, UNCTAD e-learning Platform on Trade, Certificate in Meeting Standards in the Agri-food Sector, ITC SME Trade Academy, Certificate in Structural Transformation and Industrial Policy (UNCTAD Virtual Institute), Training in Non-Tariff Measures and Data Collection (UNCTAD Virtual Institute), Certificate in E-Commerce for SMEs: An Introduction for Policymakers, ITC SME Trade Academy, Certificate in Considering Export Markets, ITC SME Trade Academy, Certificate in Adding Value to the Origin of Products Through Geographical Indications, ITC SME Trade Academy, Certificate in Setting up an Export Marketing Strategy, ITC SME Trade Academy, Training on The application and use of HS Tariff Codes and how eTrade Hubs supports this WCO instrument, eTrade Hubs, Certificate in Project Cycle Management, Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER), Univ. of Ghana, Certificate in Executive Leadership in Monitoring and Evaluation (ISSER), & Training in Financial Management (BUSAC Fund).