



20 March 2023

Announcing our new routes and Venue Sponsor

Akwaaba dear AIMers, veterans and would-be participants as well. We bade you “ciao for now” about three years ago believing that if we followed the rules and protocols prescribed by public health authorities, we would embrace again within a year, maybe two at the most.

Well, a few false [re]starts later, conditions look promising, current global and local economic woes notwithstanding.

*Ayikoo*¹ to all of us for weathering the difficulties and uncertainties that dogged us over the last few years and that, unfortunately, continue to shadow us in the form of the increased cost of living and diminished financial resources. We have needed the endurance and perseverance of a marathon runner to go the distance and nurture the hope that keeps us planning and training even when no events are in sight. It has been bittersweet to keep in touch with the many of you who informed us of your training efforts even when we gave you the disappointing answer to your perennial question, “Will the event come on this year?”

Well, we look forward to cheering you across the festive AIM finish line once again this October, and we have made some changes to the event that we believe most of you will applaud. Beginning with the siting of the start line for all distance categories: the full and half marathons will now start at the popular [Laboma Beach](#), site of the first successful edition of the [Afro Nation](#) festival.



Scenes from Afro Nation 2019

Two major reasons to celebrate this change are that the venue is centrally located and easily accessible by public transport, so no more pre-dawn shuttles to take full marathoners all the way to Dawhenya. The other is that the famed Laboma Beach Resort has stepped up to be our new venue sponsor!

The 10KM start line is a few hundred yards from the full and half start lines, and the 5KM start line is in Teshie-Nungua. The updated route, giving

the starting line GPS coordinates is posted on our website, [AIMGhana.com](#) under Event Info / [Course Information](#).

The new full marathon route takes us through the key Accra communities of Teshie, Nungua, Sakumono, and Ghana’s major harbor city, Tema, which is of course part of the Greater Accra Region. The half marathon route is similar, except that it heads back west at a point on the Accra-Tema Beach Road, while full marathoners turn east for a considerable distance before heading back west. With the harbor expansion works that have been ongoing for the last few years, all AIMers will get more and better glimpses of our scenic ocean views.

We are especially excited about our collaboration with the Laboma team, whose director is an avid



Scout leader who leads hiking trips to as far away as Kumasi—yes, Accra to Kumasi—a distance that would challenge many marathoners! These are the sort of people who understand what drives active lifestyle seekers such as AIMers, and we will work towards a mutually-beneficial relationship that will endure.

Tune in again soon for the next article featuring our new finish line venue and the numerous activities we are planning for your delight before, during, and after your exertions.

Events such as the AIM depend on responsible and experienced volunteers who are interested in serving community and youth development as well as other worthy causes. If you are interested in supporting such events as a volunteer, kindly complete the [volunteer application form](#) and/or forward it to others who share your interest.

Thank you for your patience during the hiatus; we are working to ensure that you feel the results were worth the wait.

¹ an Akan greeting signaling acknowledgement of the recipient’s hard work or effort