

PROFILE OF DR ANARFI ASAMOA-BAAH

Dr Anarfi Asamoah-Baah is the Deputy Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), and is based in Geneva, Switzerland.

Dr Asamoah-Baah attended Prempeh College, Kumasi and the University of Ghana Medical School. After working at St Patrick's Hospital, Offinso, and the Diocesan Health Secretariat of the Catholic Church, he proceeded to England, Scotland and the USA, where he acquired post-graduate degrees in public health, health planning, health economics and health policy.

After a short stint as lecturer at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Dr Asamoah-Baah returned to Ghana in 1990 to head the Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Division of the Ministry of Health.

In 1997 he was appointed as Director of Medical Services, Ghana, which at that time was the highest technical position in the Ministry of Health.

In 1998, Dr Asamoah-Baah left Ghana to join WHO as Senior Policy Advisor to the Director-General. Since then he has held the following positions at WHO:

Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Governing Bodies. Responsibilities included managing the Secretariat of the World Health Assembly and the Executive Board, strengthening donor and partner relationships, resource mobilization, and coordinating WHO's country work.

Assistant Director-General for Health Technology and Pharmaceuticals. Responsibilities covered WHO's work on immunization, including polio, medicines, blood transfusion, diagnostics and laboratory technology, transplantation and essential surgical care.

Assistant Director-General of Communicable Diseases. Dr Asamoah-Baah was responsible for WHO's work on disease outbreaks, the revision and subsequent adoption of the International Health Regulations (2005), strengthening of epidemic alert and response, and the neglected tropical infectious diseases. He was also Coordinator of the WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases.

Assistant Director-General of the HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria programme. Leading WHO's work on the three pandemics, and guiding partnerships on strategy formulation to achieve universal access to high quality health care and treatment.

In 2007, Dr Asamoah-Baah was appointed as Deputy Director-General (second in command) of the World Health Organization.