

**OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR**



**29<sup>TH</sup> FILM AND 33<sup>RD</sup> WALC CONFERENCE**

**ADDRESS BY:**

**PROFESSOR NANA ABA APPIAH AMFO  
VICE - CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

**MONDAY, OCT. 23, 2023  
CEDI CONFERENCE CENTRE  
UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**



The Executive Committee- International Federation for Modern  
Languages and Literatures (FILLM),  
The Executive Committee-West African Linguistic Society (WALS),  
The Provost (College of Humanities), Dean (School of Languages),  
Directors and Heads of Department,  
Faculty and Staff,  
Conference Participants,  
Students,  
The Media,  
Invited Guests,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

A very good morning and a warm welcome to the University of Ghana.  
I am excited to open this four-day conference which already promises  
to be exciting. This conference is particularly dear to me, and you will  
agree with me in a bit;

During my second term as Dean of School of Languages, the School,  
under my leadership submitted a bid which was accepted by the  
International Executives of International Federation for Modern

Languages in the year 2017. The School was subsequently given the mandate to host the 2023 FILLM conference in Ghana. We then decided, as a School, to merge our biennial School of Languages International Conference (SOLCON) with the FILLM Conference and host them as one big conference in 2023, because the next SOLCON was slated for 2023.

While planning the conference, the local organizing committee, chaired by Prof. Jemima Anderson and the President of FILLM, Professor Adams Bodomo, leveraged on their professional ties and collaborated with another esteemed organization and member association of FILLM; the West African Linguistic Society, (WALS). This gathering can therefore be nicknamed FILLM-WALS 2023. For all the scholars and students here, I can assure you that you have participated in a highly important conference worthy for your profession. As already mentioned, the International Federation for Modern Languages and Literatures (FILLM) and the West African Linguistic Society (WALS) have collaborated in organising this conference. It is important to note that University of Ghana is the

first institution in Africa to host the FILLM congress. This is indeed commendable, (and I think we deserve a round of applause).

Ladies and Gentleman, please permit me to share with you some brief information on the two associations present here. FILLM, the acronym for The International Federation for Modern Languages and Literatures, is the official international body which represents the study of language and literature as research-based scholarly disciplines in universities and higher education institutions globally. Originally established in 1928 in Oslo, FILLM is one of UNESCO's pyramid of international associations which represents international and cultural endeavor on a global basis.

The West African Linguistic Society (WALS), established in 1965, is an academic scholarly society working to promote research on West African languages and literatures. The association also provides a forum, such as the present, for scholars working on African languages to interact and exchange ideas. Their membership is drawn from scholars from all over the world., with an interest in African languages

It is indeed a pleasure to have both associations collaborating to give scholars from all over the world an opportunity to exchange knowledge. This is an opportunity I do not take for granted because it coincides with one of my objectives as Vice-Chancellor— to promote the development of programmes that enhance the dissemination of our research outputs. I am convinced beyond all doubt that this joint conference/congress will provide the avenue for more than just research output dissemination, but also, provide a platform for networking which will birth new collaborations while strengthening existing ones..

Let me also add that, this joint conference is significant because it is taking place during the 75th Anniversary celebration of University of Ghana. This, I believe, highlights the strides we have made as a higher education institution, in terms of research and collaborations.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the Executive bodies/Council of both institutions for considering the University of Ghana as the place to host this conference. I am also grateful to the Local Organizing Committee, led by Prof. Jemima Anderson, for their

excellent work. I am grateful to successive Deans of the School of Languages, for keeping this dream alive. A big 'Thank You' to participants who have travelled far and near to attend this conference. I specially invite everyone who is new to the university to take some time to tour our green campus. I promise, you will love what you see!

On this note, I officially declare the 29<sup>th</sup> FILLM and 33<sup>rd</sup> WALC conference duly open.

***Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo***

***Vice-Chancellor***

***October, 2023***