

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



INAUGURAL LECTURE OF PROFESSOR KWASI APPEANING ADDO

THEME:

“THE CONTINUOUS STRUGGLE FOR SPACE – COASTAL EROSION IN GHANA”

ADDRESS BY:

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

**THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2022
GREAT HALL, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

Pro Vice-Chancellors,

Registrar,

Provosts,

Deans and Directors,

Our Distinguished Lecturer, Professor Kwasi Appeaning Addo,

Faculty, Staff and Members of Convocation,

Past and Present Senior Officers of the University, Alumni

and Students,

Family and Friends of the Lecturer, Invited

Guests,

Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

Esteemed Traditional Rulers,

Eminent Clergy,

The Press,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen present in the Great Hall and those
joining us across our various media platform:

Good evening.

I have the pleasure of chairing yet another inaugural lecture, which is the second in the series of inaugural lectures scheduled for this academic year.

This lecture sets the tone for the celebration of an outstanding faculty member of this prestigious University who has made tremendous contributions to the field of coastal geomorphology and is considered as one of the world's leading experts on that subject.

Inaugural lectures, held upon the attainment of the highest academic rank, provide the platform to engage the community and the general public on the outcomes of research work conducted by scholars over the period of their academic career. For today's lecture, we are privileged to have Professor Kwasi Appeaning Addo, who is credited with several impactful and widely cited scholarly works, to deliver the lecture.

Congratulations Professor Kwasi Appeaning Addo for your contributions to this field of study and work. The University community is proud of you and your accomplishments, and this lecture is held in recognition of your resilience, dedication, and immense contribution to academia.

The Department of Marine Science and Fisheries of the School of Biological Sciences, College of Basic and Applied Sciences has produced another Professor, and this is a feather in the cap of the Department and the College as well. Congratulations!

This evening's lecture by Professor Kwasi Appeaning Addo will focus on the theme, '*The Continuous Struggle for Space - Coastal Erosion in Ghana*'.

Reading through the abstract of the lecture, my attention was drawn to a rather disturbing revelation which indicates that landmark features such as the Christianborg Castle, Independence Square and Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum located in Accra will be eroded between 50 and 150 years' time with 2002 as the baseline year.

Our nation Ghana has been blessed with coastlines and its rich resources and minerals deposits, however, exploitation and extraction; infrastructural developments; destruction of coastal vegetation; construction of dams on major rivers for hydropower generation and irrigation; dredging of waterways for shipping and commerce; beach

sand mining; and the construction of ports and coastal defense structures have opened up the coast to coastal hazards.

This lecture seeks to discuss the coastal processes in the coastal zone that result in coastal erosion, and how the continuous struggle for space between anthropogenic activities and shoreline evolution has exacerbated coastal erosion problems in Ghana.

I am optimistic that this lecture will serve as a wake-up call, to propel policy makers and enforcers to institute measures that will help us to manage the coastal erosion that has displaced households, destroyed livelihoods, and caused huge damage to lives and properties.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, with this introductory remarks, permit me to present to you our distinguished lecturer, Professor Kwasi Appeaning Addo, who will give us further details from his expert viewpoint.

PROFILE

Professor Kwasi Appeaning Addo is a Professor in Coastal Processes in the Department of Marine and Fisheries Sciences, University of Ghana.

He comes from Akyem Begoro in the Fanteakwa North District of the Eastern Region, Ghana. His parents, the Late Mr. Samuel Yaw Addo and Mrs. Mercy Gyamfuah Addo are both from Begoro. He is the third of five siblings with two elder brothers and two younger sisters.

Professor Kwasi Appeaning Addo had both his basic education and secondary education in Koforidua. Following his secondary school education at Koforidua Secondary Technical School (SECTECH), he obtained a BSc and MPhil in Geomatic Engineering from KNUST.

It was during his Masters' studies that he developed a research interest in coastal processes and its impact on coastal zone management and planning. In 2004, he was awarded a GETFUND Scholarship to pursue his PhD studies in coastal processes at the School of Civil and Geosciences, the University of Newcastle upon Tyne in the United Kingdom. Professor

Appealing Addo had certificate training in the Exclusive Economic Zone Management and Operational Course in 2012 and in Maritime Boundary Delimitation and UNCLOS Article 76

(CARIS LOTS) in 2013. He also had training in teaching in higher institutions at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne in 2005.

Professor Appeaning Addo began his career as a Geomatic Engineer in 1994 at the RUDAN Engineering Limited, a private consultancy firm in Accra. In 1999, he joined the Accra Polytechnic (now Accra Technical University) as a lecturer in the Department of Building and Civil Engineering. While lecturing at the Accra Technical University, he took up a part-time lectureship in Physical Oceanography and Coastal Geomorphology in the Department of Oceanography and Fisheries (now Department of Marine and Fisheries Sciences) in the then Faculty of Science, School of Biological Sciences, College of Basic and Applied Sciences, University of Ghana, in 2008. He was appointed full-time faculty member in 2010 to teach Physical Oceanography at the graduate level, as well as Coastal Engineering and Coastal Geomorphology at the undergraduate level. Through hard work and the Grace of God, Professor Kwasi Appeaning Addo was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2013, Associate Professor in 2015, and Professor in 2020.

Professor Kwasi Appeaning Addo has served as a member of several bodies including the Ghana Institution of Engineers, Ghana Institution of Surveyors, Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry Society, Society of

Wetlands Scientists, American Geophysical Union, Union for African Population Studies, and Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction.

Professor Appeaning Addo's research focus has been on nearshore coastal processes, shoreline dynamics and coastal erosion complex interactions; shorelines and river systems linkages; new approaches (drone and video) in coastal systems monitoring; sea-level rise and subsidence interrelationships; nature-based solution; integrated and sustainable green ports concepts; and in recent times sargassum pathways.

Professor Appeaning Addo's research work in coastal erosion dynamics in Ghana and West Africa has gained global recognition and impacted significantly on coastal erosion management. It has received several citations, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). He is the 8th most cited researcher in coastal erosion studies globally and has granted interviews on his research work on high-profile media platforms such as the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Aljazeera, Deutsche Welle (DW), Le Monde Afrique and the Ghana News Agency (GNA). He was also featured in a scientific documentary on climate change, which was shown during the plenary

session at the 2015 Paris Climate Conference (COP21). He has to his credit 94 journal publications including Nature Climate Change, book chapters and books. He has presented the results of his research work in several conferences, seminars, and workshops globally as a keynote speaker, presenter or discussant. He has also consulted for several organizations (local and international) on coastal erosion-related issues.

Professor Appeaning Addo has attracted significant grants from various funding agencies to the University of Ghana to support his research work, as has been listed in the brochure.

Professor Appeaning Addo has extensive experience in teaching, theses supervision and examination here at the University of Ghana and many other universities worldwide. He was a Visiting Scholar to the University of Southampton in 2016. He has examined 45 graduate students' theses (PhD, MPhil, and MSc) in Ghana, South Africa, Ivory Coast, Benin, and France since 2010. He has also contributed to theses supervision at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Professor Kwasi Appeaning Addo has been a member of 32 graduate supervisory committees in the University of Ghana, the University of

Abomey-Calavi in Cotonou-Benin, the University of Bordeaux in France, the Technical University of Delft in the Netherlands, and UNESCO-IHE in the Netherlands since 2008. Professor Appeaning Addo is an External Assessor for promotion for a number of Universities and Oceanography and Coastal Management Program Assessor for the National Accreditation Board.

Professor Appeaning Addo has served as a member of statutory boards and ad-hoc committees in the University of Ghana since 2010. He has also served in several capacities at both national and international levels.

He also serves as an Associate member of UNESCO Land Subsidence International Initiative (LaSII) and member of the following bodies: the Expert Group of the High-Level Panel for Sustainable Ocean Economy involving 14 Heads of State; the International Pool of Marine Experts, United Nations (UN) Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea; and the Scientific Committee of the World Bank WACA project in Ghana.

Professor Appeaning Addo is married to Dr. (Mrs.) Irene Appeaning Addo, a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana and a Professional Architect and they are blessed

with three children – Kwabena Appeaning Addo, Amma Gyamfuah Appeaning Addo, and Adwoa Agyapomaa Appeaning Addo.

Professor Appeaning Addo's full profile can be found in the brochure and I encourage all to make time to read it.

I envisaged a very insightful and intriguing lecture.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I present to you Professor Kwasi Appeaning Addo.

Enjoy the lecture.

Thank you.