

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to the University of Ghana, the Premier University of Ghana, and specifically, to this year's Kwame Nkrumah Cultural and Intellectual festival. I am particularly grateful for your dedication and commitment to this festival and the progress of the African continent. Akwaaba !!!

The University of Ghana's Institute of African Studies has been at the forefront in the nurturing of new intellectual cadre that will drive the agenda of transforming Africa. In 2010, the Institute, led by Professor Kofi Anyidoho anchored and launched a biennial Kwame Nkrumah Pan-African Intellectual and Cultural festival as a major event on the University calendar. The festival ^{is} ~~was~~ organized under the auspices of the Kwame Nkrumah Chair in African Studies, in honor of Dr. Nkrumah's dedication to vigorous and liberating Africa-centered intellectual and cultural activity. Africans in all parts of the world and Ghana in particular, have greatly benefited as a result of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah's comprehensive vision of a transformative agenda founded on strong intellectual foundations.

As we all know, the vision and ideals of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, especially, for the liberation of Africans through education and great intellectual discourse, will forever remain with us, as translated copiously into a well treasured legacy for the continent, several years after his demise.

The Kwame Nkrumah Pan-African Intellectual and Cultural festival is one of the many efforts to re-ignite the ideas of Kwame Nkrumah with respect to the unification of Africa. The ideas communicated by Kwame Nkrumah at the founding conference of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) continue to find resonance among a new generation who are seeking to understand the changed international situation. In 2013, the African Union launched agenda 2063 where there was a rededication to the vision of “an integral, prosperous and peaceful Africa driven by its own resources and representing a dynamic force in the international arena”.

The Institute of African Studies is seeking to join the conscious and deliberate efforts of the AU in realizing Agenda 2063.

The theme of the 2017 Kwame Nkrumah Intellectual and Cultural Festival therefore is Global Africa 2063: Education for Re-construction and Transformation; *The key ideas, I am sure will undoubtedly relate to the transformation of Education to meet the needs of the Reconstruction of Global Africa.*

The concept of Global Africa is used in this festival to denote the linkages between the people of Africa and the dispersed Africans in all parts of the world. University of Ghana is pleased to be joined by many distinguished scholars/thinkers, students and activists from all over the world to celebrate this cultural and intellectual festival. We are pleased to have a very large contingent of scholars from the Caribbean and

South America. The Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies is particularly welcome.

There are many similarities between the University of West Indies and University of Ghana. Both were conceived as part of the decolonization products and both got their start in 1948 with a relation to the University of London. There are many distinguished Caribbean Scholars who were part of the process on both sides of the Atlantic.

It is worthwhile stressing that, the people of Ghana benefitted from the scholarship of Professor W. Arthur Lewis who worked as an adviser to the government of Ghana in 1957 and 1958. It was noteworthy that he left Ghana to become the first black Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies in 1959.

Kwame Nkrumah, himself had very strong relationships with other Caribbean scholars and Pan Activists such as George Padmore and C. L. R James.

With Education at the center of the theme for the conference, I deem it a very great opportunity to hail the honors, work and scholarship of a great intellectual and educationist, in the person of Emeritus Professor J.H Nketia. Professor Nketia is one of the most senior members of this University, and has been with us for generations, twice visiting Jamaica in 1976 and 1977.

He developed very close relationships with Dr. Neville Dawes who worked in the English Department of the University of Ghana, 1960-1970. Dawes returned to Jamaica and was the Director of the Institute of Jamaica. He was one of the leading lights of CARIFESTA, another cultural festival in the Caribbean

Another notable scholar who worked within this transnational tradition was Justice Vincent Cyril Richard Arthur Charles Crabbe who taught at the Law School of the University of the West Indies. These examples of transnational and Pan African service have been an inspiration to younger scholars and there are hundreds of others who have carried forth this tradition.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me recall that, the theme for this year's festival reflects the foundations of Kwame Nkrumah's intellectual and cultural ideologies of a united Africa. This gathering seeks to examine and critically investigate the role of African centered education and knowledge production for shaping the development agenda, especially in the production of knowledge, leading to the building of a strong knowledge economy for Africa. The conference will use the African Union 'Global Africa 2063 agenda' as the foundation for recuperating and popularizing Pan-African ideas and ideals.

I wish you very fruitful deliberations and hope at the end of the festival, we would have set the tone for the building of a self-sustained, independent Africa that hopes

to thrive based on education, to produce a first-class knowledge economy that is accorded world-wide respect and recognition. I am looking forward to the festival igniting the great ideas of Kwame Nkrumah to ensure a rededication to the vision of “an integral, prosperous and peaceful Africa driven by its own resources and representing a dynamic force in the international arena”.

Thank you