

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



16TH LINGUISTICS ASSOCIATION OF GHANA CONFERENCE 2024

ADDRESS BY:

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

WED. AUG. 21, 2024

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA

*Dean of the School of Languages, University of Ghana and President
of LAG*

Chair and Members of the Conference Organizing Committee

Conference speakers, Chairs and Moderators

Faculty, Staff and Students

Colleague Linguists

Conference Participants

Invited Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning,

It is with particular joy and pride that I welcome you to the beautiful, green campus of the premier university in Ghana – the University of Ghana. It is always a special feeling to be among people who share your interests and passion. As a member of the Linguistics Association of Ghana and a former President of the Association, I am pleased to see that the seeds that were planted by those who came before us and watered by my colleagues, and I are in full bloom and are still being carefully tended to by the younger generation. This is the 16th edition of the LAG conference,

and I know that with your dedication and commitment to the study of language and literature, there will be many more editions of this conference to come.

Among the audience, I see old and familiar faces as well as young and not-so-familiar ones. Here at the University of Ghana, and especially at the School of Languages, we pride ourselves in mentoring young academics to grow in their chosen fields. Conferences such as these give students and young researchers an opportunity to see first-hand the important work that is being done in the area of language research. It is hoped that this will fuel their passion as researchers and motivate them to search answers to burning questions in the area of language, especially as it pertains to Ghanaian language and culture.

Our annual LAG conference is also an opportunity to bring the intimate community of Ghanaian linguists together to fraternize. It also serves as a platform to share our research work with fellow linguists from the sub-region and beyond and more importantly develop strong research partnerships.

Today, we are especially honored to host this conference with colleagues from the International Lexical-Functional Grammar

Association. To all non-Legonites and non-Ghanaians I say a warm “Akwaaba”. We know you will be treated to the famous Ghanaian hospitality, and we hope that you will have an enjoyable and productive time here at the University of Ghana.

I find the theme for this year’s conference “***Interfaces between Language, Literature and Science***” apt, considering the era in which we are, the 21st century. Science and technology keep pushing the frontiers of knowledge, opening up newer and more exciting possibilities for what humans can achieve – good and bad. Language remains an indispensable tool for communicating ideas and for fostering relationships. At the same time, we cannot forget the beauty and power of literature to powerfully convey the thoughts, experiences, hopes and dreams that so often spark innovation.

We are privileged to have three eminent keynote speakers who will show the interconnectedness of these three disciplines as well as how it can be harnessed. The theme also harmonizes well with the University of Ghana’s vision which seeks to achieve global impact through innovative research, teaching and learning using technology and a people-centred approach. I believe I speak for most people when I say that we are waiting eagerly to hear from

our distinguished speakers on this important topic and to interact with them further.

So without taking up too much of your time, I would like to thank the organizers for putting this conference together and for extending an invitation to me, although I know this is my home and I am always welcome. I wish all the speakers and presenters the very best as they showcase their hard work, and I pray that we all have a very pleasant time here at UG.

Thank you.

Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo

Vice-Chancellor

21st August 2024