

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



BANGA-4: IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY & PARTNERS COMMITMENT

ADDRESS BY:

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

FRI. APRIL 25, 2024

CONFERENCE ROOM, CBCR, UG

Vice Chancellor, University of Sierra Leone, Prof. Randolph Aiah Lebbie

Vice Chancellor, University of Env't & Sustainable Dev't, Prof Nyarko-Sampson

Vice Chancellor, C. K. Tedam University, Prof. Albert Luguterah

Vice Chancellor, University of the Gambia, represented by the Registrar, Dr Tarro

Deans, Graduate Schools of all Partner Institutions, Prof. Ronnie Frazer-Williams (USL); Dr. Felicia Annin (UESD); Prof. Melvin-Guy Adonadaga (CKT); Prof. Raphael Kolade Ayeni (UTG); Prof Dorcas Osei- Safo (Representing Dean)[UG]

-Coordinators of Partner Institutions, Dr. Ettie Audrey Edwina Johnson (USL); Dr. Samuel Joseph Acquah (UESD); Prof. Baba Seidu (CKT); Dr. Banna Sawenah (UtG).

Doctoral School Coordinator, Dr Collins Agyemang, UG

Oversight Dean, Legon Leadership Academy, Prof. Gordon Adika (UG)

Growth Strategist for University of Ghana Journals, Prof. Joseph Yaro (UG)

BANGA –Africa 4 Project Director, Prof Jemima Akosua Asabea Anderson, UG &

Finally, one of the finest of everything you can think of, an initiator a leader, a mentor, a creator, a mother and a great scientist,

Emerita Prof Yaa Ntiamoa-Baidu. She has been the Director of the past phases of the Carnegie Projects and is currently an indispensable consultant and advisor to this current project.

I bring you special greetings from the management and staff of the University of Ghana, Legon on this momentous and joyous occasion. I want to say a special Akwaaba to our dear partners from Sierra Leone and The Gambia to Ghana. Please ensure you enjoy “Ghana Jollof”, our enviable lead in that cooking competition. Let me start my introductory remarks by providing a brief history of UG and expanding it to why we are all here.

Brief History of UG

- 1948 University College of the Gold Coast affiliated to the University of London
- 1957 University College of Ghana after independence
- 1961 Autonomous university

* Currently with a total student population of about 69,592. Since 2014, UG is decentralised and managed in Colleges. Currently, we have 4 colleges, namely; College of Health Sciences, College of Basic And Applied Sciences, College of Humanities and College of

Education. Each of these colleges is led by a Provost. We have other strategic units and institutes that support Graduate programmes and national development, e.g. School of Graduate Studies, Pan-African Doctoral Academy, ISSER, RIPS, and the three World Bank Centres of Excellence. We have two Pro Vice Chancellors, One in charge of Academic and Student Affairs and the other Research, Innovation and Development.

For the first time in UG's history, we have our three principal officers being females; The Chancellor, Mrs. Mary Chinery-Hesse; Chairperson, University Council, Justice Sophia A.B. Akuffo (rtd); and myself, the first female Vice-Chancellor since the University's establishment.

Since 2014, it has been our vision of UG to become a world-class research-intensive University over the next decade. We have been aggressively working on this aspiration with 9 key priorities of which Research, Teaching and Learning, Gender and diversity; External stakeholders (public engagement, cross-cultural exchange) are cardinal. As part of UG's progressive drive, we are on course to launch a new strategic plan which hinges strongly on

Impactful Research as well as **Engagement and Partnerships**.

One of the best ways of enhancing research capacity is the need to strengthen south-south collaboration and work together within the African sub-regions.

Research Development Capacity, Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY), and BANGA Projects

UG has been working with CCNY for the past 14 years through the Next Generation of Academics in Africa; Building a New Generation of Academics in Africa Phases 1, 2, & 3. These past projects supported faculty development and enhanced capacity of doctoral researchers and early career academics. In 2010, UG had less than 50% of faculty who had terminal degrees (including those on post-retirement contracts). With a strong implementation strategy, UG Management through Emerita Prof Yaa Ntiamoah-Baidu and the team has successfully supported this developmental agenda. As of 2023, UG is arguably the leading institution in Africa with 84.9% of faculty with terminal degrees. While this may appear to be progress, there is the need to look at the bigger picture of working with other institutions in Ghana and West Africa which were at

where UG was in in 2010. To address Africa's developmental needs, there is a need to collaborate as academic institutions to strengthen doctoral training as well as early career training. Through the 3 World Bank centres of excellence and the BANGA-Africa Pan-African Doctoral Academy, UG has successfully supported over 7000 doctoral researchers and early career scholars across 25 countries in Africa. Leveraging on the lessons and experiences from the management of these projects, we saw an opportunity to partner with other progressive institutions and that influenced the conceptualization and proposition for the BANGA-Africa Phase 4.

BANGA-Africa Project 4

The current BANGA-Africa Project will support a targeted number of identified scholars who are likely to end up as faculty to start and finish their doctoral training. It is hoped that we will collaborate to learn, strengthen research and innovation development of each other and cross-breed on research benchmarks worthy of emulation in our respective institutions. This meeting certainly will help all of us to appreciate the rudiments of Carnegie-sponsored projects, requirements and

commitment from partner institutions, corporate governance structures and systems necessary to run such projects as well as relevant commitments from all parties. We have the opportunity to tap the experiences of each other and strengthen ties among us. Let us work together to ensure the successful implementation of this project.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the UG facilitators and organizers of this maiden meeting. Thank you dear Vice-Chancellors and your supporting team for honouring our invitation. We look forward to a successful meeting.

Thank you.

Professor Nana Aba Appiah Amfo

Vice-Chancellor

Banga Phase 4 Project

April 25, 2024