

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



**COMMISSIONING OF THE UG-TOYOTA GHANA SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
TRAINING CENTRE**

ADDRESS BY:

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

**THURSDAY, OCT. 26, 2023
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING TRAINING CENTRE
UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**



- The Honourable Minister for Education and our Special Guest of Honour, Dr. Yaw Osei Adutwum;
- Honourable Minister for Trade and Industry, Mr. K.T. Hammond;
- Chairperson of the University of Ghana Council, Her Ladyship, Justice Sophia Akuffo (Rtd.);
- The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Embassy of Japan, His Excellency Hisanobu Mochizuki;
- Honorable Member of Parliament for Ayawaso West Wuogon, Ms. Lydia Seyram Alhassan;
- Managing Director of Toyota Ghana Company Limited;
- Members of the University Council;
- Municipal Chief Executive of La Nkwantanang-Madina Municipality, Mrs. Jennifer Dede Adjabeng;
- Members of the College of Basic & Applied Sciences Advisory Board;
- Nananom, Niime, Naamei;
- Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
- Pro Vice-Chancellors;
- Madam Registrar;

- Provosts, Deans, Directors and Heads of Department;
- Former Vice Chancellors, Former Provosts and former Deans;
- Faculty, Staff and Students;
- The Media;
- Invited Guests;
- Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all warmly to the commissioning of the University of Ghana - Toyota Ghana School of Engineering Training Centre. Today, we witness the realization of a vision which began in 2016 when our university and Toyota Ghana Company Limited came together to explore a partnership that would enhance experiential learning and reinforce industrial attachment as a key component of our training to equip students with practical experience and make them job ready.

Two days ago, the University launched its Internship Policy, Strategy and Implementation Framework which indicates our resolve as a university poised to deliver world-class tuition, to consolidate industrial attachment programmes organized by all units of the University. Thus, there could not have been an ideal

opportunity than this, more so in our 75th anniversary year, to outdoor this momentous edifice which will exponentially transform the face of learning, especially programmes related to Engineering Sciences.

This state-of-the-art facility, a Multipurpose Workshop, Body & Paint Facility, and Delivery Centre valued at One Million United States Dollars (US\$1,000,000.00) represents one of the major investments we have received from industry. This significant investment by Toyota Ghana Company Limited will undoubtedly play a pivotal role in shaping the future of engineering education not only at the University of Ghana but throughout the country and beyond. The collaboration between the University of Ghana and Toyota Ghana Company Limited epitomizes the power of public-private partnerships in advancing education and promoting national development.

Your Excellencies, Honourable Ministers, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, it is gratifying to note that in addition to this impressive facility, Toyota Ghana Company Limited has pledged to provide engineering equipment worth Two Million United States Dollars

(US\$2,000,000) over a ten-year period, demonstrating their unwavering commitment to the sustainability of this project. This equipment will empower our students and faculty to conduct cutting-edge research and develop skills necessary to excel in the field of engineering sciences and related subject areas.

Ladies and gentlemen, I still have some more good news to deliver. I am happy to announce that Toyota Ghana Company Limited has generously established a scholarship scheme worth Hundred Thousand United States Dollars (\$100,000) annually for ten years, to support needy but brilliant engineering students. This initiative will not only transform lives but also open doors of opportunity for many brilliant young people who may otherwise have terminated their tertiary education due to financial difficulties.

The provision of a 30-seater Coaster bus to shuttle our students from the University's main campus to the Training Center is the icing on the cake which exemplifies the thoughtfulness of Toyota Ghana Limited in ensuring that distance does not become a hinderance to accessing this facility.

On our part, the University of Ghana has provided 6 acres of land for this project, further underscoring our commitment to nurturing an environment where knowledge thrives. This land is not merely a physical space, but a symbolic representation of the fertile ground on which our shared vision will take root, grow, and flourish.

Your Excellencies, Honourable Ministers, ladies and gentlemen, the University of Ghana has always been committed to the pursuit of knowledge, advancement of society, and national development. This project supports my vision to *create a culture that promotes research, teaching and learning, administrative processes and extension activities driven by technology and anchored in humanism*. It also aligns with my second key strategic objective of developing technology-driven and robust processes in research management, teaching and learning, and all other institutional processes. Furthermore, it is consistent with the University's strategic priority of continuously engaging with our internal and external stakeholders. Through partnerships such as these, the University is able to train students who are critical thinkers,

technologically adept, humane, culturally sensitive, and ready to provide leadership for the country and the continent.

The commissioning of this Training Centre could not have come at a better time, as plans are far advanced for our School of Engineering Sciences to introduce a Mechanical Engineering programme. The University of Ghana-Toyota Ghana School of Engineering Sciences Training Centre will enhance our capacity to provide crucial support for hands-on training for our Engineering students, based on a curriculum co-developed by both parties, which includes training in automobile-related software. The practical sessions will contribute to bridge the gap between academic knowledge and real-world application, giving our students a competitive advantage in the job market.

As we commission the UG-Toyota Ghana School of Engineering Sciences Training Centre today, we also inaugurate a new chapter in the history of education in Ghana. I am confident that this state-of-the-art facility will be a hub of innovation, learning, and transformative experiences for our students. It is my hope that this partnership serves as a model for future collaborations between

academia and industry, a shining example of how we can work together to nurture the next generation of transformational leaders and problem solvers. Our dear students, I urge you to embrace the opportunities this Training Centre offers. Seize the moment to upscale and sharpen your skills through the application of your knowledge to become the most sought-after engineers and industry leaders our nation has to offer.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I cannot possibly take my seat without extending our heartfelt gratitude to all who have made this day possible. Please join me to give a resounding round of applause to the Management of Toyota Ghana Company Limited for making this dream a reality. I would also like to commend the Provost of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences who at the time of signing the MoU for this partnership was Dean of the School of Engineering Science for his commitment toward the actualization of this project. Let us move forward with a shared commitment to excellence and a vision of a brighter future for our beloved country. Together, we can achieve great things and contribute to the growth and development of our great nation.

In conclusion, I would like to indicate that the value of a 21st century university is in the worth of the knowledge it produces, the training it offers and its perceived relevance to its external publics. The University of Ghana will therefore work relentlessly to build partnerships such as these which will not only accrue mutual benefits for both parties but promote national development.

Thank you, and may our shared journey be one of success, growth, and boundless possibilities.

Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo

Vice-Chancellor

26th October 2023