

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



MAIDEN SOSCHI CLIMATHON 2024

ADDRESS BY:

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

THUR. AUG. 22, 2024

**R.S. AMEGASHI AUDITORIUM
UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

Provost of the College of Education,

Director, Regional Institute for Population Studies

*Principal Investigator, Standards for Official Statistics on Climate and
Health Interactions (SOSCHI) Project*

Representatives from (SOSCHI)

Deans, Directors and Heads of Department

College Secretary for the College of Education

Faculty, Staff and Students

Invited Guests

Ladies and gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to be part of the celebration of the climax of the maiden edition of SOSCHI Climathon 2024 on the theme: **“Climate Change-Health Visual Analytics (CCHVA)”**. This event has brought together brilliant minds to address the critical issues at the intersection of climate change and health. It is gratifying to note that students of the University of Ghana are receiving training to contribute to addressing the SDGs holistically as they are connected. The SOSCHI Climathon 2024 focuses directly on SDG 3 “Good health

and well-being” and SDG 13 “*Climate Action*” which involves taking urgent actions to combat climate change and its impacts.

I take this opportunity to commend the organisers of this event - the College of Education and the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS), for their collaboration with the Standards for Official Statistics on Climate and Health Interactions (SOSCHI). Together, they have made this event a platform for innovation, collaboration, and skills development, providing a unique opportunity for mentorship and team building, especially for tertiary students.

Over the past three days, participants have demonstrated an inspiring commitment to using secondary data from online repositories to generate innovative ideas for monitoring progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This programme reinforces the University’s commitment to remaining relevant to national and global development. As Vice-Chancellor, it also synchronizes with my aspiration to train students

who are critical thinkers, technologically adept, humane, culturally sensitive and ready to provide leadership for the country and the continent. Through your efforts, the University is contributing towards the achievement of the SDGs which are global efforts aimed at ending poverty, protecting the planet and ensuring peace and prosperity for all.

I congratulate all the teams for their hard work and tenacity, which have prepared them adequately and are now ready to present their innovative Climathon solutions. I also commend their respective mentors for their guidance and support throughout the period.

I understand that the main purpose of the SOSCHI Climathon 2024 is to highlight the impact of climate change on health, which aligns perfectly with strategic priorities 1 and 2 of the University of Ghana's new Strategic Plan.

- Strategic Priority 1 focuses on *Transformative Student Experience*. The University is committed to providing a transformative student experience through student-centered, technology-driven, and interdisciplinary learning. This will

prepare our students with the skills and competencies they need to thrive in an increasingly complex global society.

- Strategic Priority 2 also relates to *Impactful Research*. The University of Ghana prioritises interdisciplinary and collaborative research that addresses the most pressing issues of our time. We are also committed to attracting and supporting elite researchers who push the boundaries of knowledge and come out with innovations to create a better world for us all.

In conclusion, I would like to commend all of you students who have taken time to participate in this competition. I look forward to seeing groundbreaking and competitive ideas and may the best team emerge victorious. To the organizers of the SOSCHI Climathon 2024, thank you once again for putting this programme together. Let us continue to work together to create a better world.

Thank you.

Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo

Vice-Chancellor

August 22, 2024