

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



WORKSHOP ON RESPONSIVE ENGAGEMENT & ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

ADDRESS BY:

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VICE - CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

MON. MARCH. 4, 2024

**GREAT HALL
UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

Officials from the University of Edinburgh

Representatives from the African Academy of Sciences

Delegates and Participants from the following Institutions:

- University of Leiden
- University of the Witwatersrand
- Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa
- University of Zimbabwe (TIBA)
- School of Public Health, Makerere University, Uganda
- London School of Economics
- Africa Research Universities Alliance (ARUA)
- Royal Society of Edinburgh
- Africa Institute of Mathematical Sciences (AIMS)
- Council for the Development of Social Sciences Research in Africa (CODESRIA)
- Social Science Research Council's African Peacebuilding Network and Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa program
- International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)

Colleagues from the University of Ghana

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen

A pleasant morning to you all.

On behalf of Management of the University of Ghana, I welcome you all warmly to the hill of higher education in Ghana for this all-important workshop on Responsive Engagement and Academic Leadership.

This workshop as I understand builds on a visit by the Principal of University of Edinburgh last year, with the aim of strengthening the University's academic partnership with Africa. The University of Edinburgh-Africa Commitment focuses strongly on supporting Africa's youth, exploring innovative educational opportunities for students in both Edinburgh and Africa, and the production of high-quality research and knowledge exchange.

This 2-day event has brought together academics, pan-African institutions, and policy leaders across Africa with the aim of promoting co-creation and co-learning that transcend conventional disciplinary divides. Scanning through the programme outline, I find very interesting topics to be discussed during the various sessions. These include:

- Charting Transformative Research Collaborations
- Evolving Transdisciplinary Domains for Collaboration
- Decolonisation and African Agency
- Doctoral Training and Early Career Development and
- Research Funding

From all indications, this workshop sets out not to be one of the usual "talkshops" as there are concrete and deliberate strategies to be explored even on the face of the programme outline in making the desired impact and to see the needed change in academic partnership.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is evident that as a result of globalization, organizations, irrespective of geographical location, are forging stronger ties to accelerate their common interests. Similarly, institutions of higher learning are leveraging on their unique expertise through collaborations to respond to global challenges. Academic linkages and strategic alliances are therefore central to attaining the core mandate of institutions of higher learning.

Such partnerships:

- Enable researchers to harness unique strengths and competencies to conduct multidisciplinary research.
- Positions institutions to attract significant funding from donor agencies and states.
- Provides an excellent opportunity for cross-cultural learning.
- Offers a range of opportunities for faculty development through fellowships; and
- Facilitates access to a pool of resources, networks, and support systems.

As Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana, my overarching plan is to create the enabling research environment, provide structures necessary for the successful conduct of pertinent research, foster collaborative research networks, and maintain global relevance in various fields of study all in bid to make the research agenda of the University thrive.

In line with exploring academic partnerships, I chaired a high-level Joint Leadership Discussion a few weeks back to explore pathways to deepen existing mutual ties between Cornell University and the University of Ghana on the topic “*The Future of Collaboration: Global Higher Education and Making a Difference at Home and in the World*”.

The University of Ghana is happy to host the Responsive Engagement and Academic Leadership Workshop as you brainstorm on strategies to scale up research collaborations across the African Continent. I am hopeful that the diverse background of delegates will certainly enrich the the discussion to achieve the aims of this workshop.

Before I take my seat permit me to say these few remarks as it is Ghana Month. Ghana marks its 67th independence anniversary. While here, you will experience a display of our rich cultural heritage, traditional performances, food, costumes, language, and everything that makes us unique as a people.

You may be familiar with “Akwaaba” but in the spirit of cultural diversity in Ghana Month, let me introduce you to one more way of welcoming you from the Gas in Greater Accra Region of Ghana – “*Miihere ny3 atuu*”.

I wish you thought-provoking, stimulating, and fruitful sessions that will spur the much-needed transformation in higher education, fostering stronger partnerships and charting transformative research collaborations.

Do make the time to explore our beautiful campus, its breathtaking landscape fauna and flora, sunrise and sunset which is simply nature at its best.

Thank you.

Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo

Vice-Chancellor

(March 4, 2024)