

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



**INAUGURAL SYMPOSIUM OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR
PHILOSOPHY AND HUMAN SCIENCES (CIPSH-UG)**

ADDRESS BY:

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

THURS. JAN. 30, 2025

**AMONOO CENTRE
UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

- *CIPSH Chair, Professor Adams Bodomo,*
- *President of CIPSH, Professor Luiz Oosterbeek,*
- *General Secretary of FILLM, Professor Constantine Yuke,*
- *UNESCO Representative in Ghana,*
- *Dean of the School of Languages, Prof. Josephine Dzahene-Quarshie,*
- *Other Deans, Directors and Heads of Department,*
- *Faculty members and Staff,*
- *Students,*
- *Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Good morning.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all warmly to the University of Ghana for the inaugural symposium of the International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences - UG Chair on Linguistics and Biodiversity.

Today marks an important milestone on the calendar of the School of Languages as we celebrate the launch of this five-year Research Chair on a pioneering project dedicated to uncovering the relationship between biodiversity and linguistic diversity.

This project focuses on the conservation of languages and the documentation of biodiversity, in African languages, and aims to enhance the understanding of the interconnection between different cultures and environments by bridging the gap between language and biodiversity research.

It is a fact that, the interconnection between different cultures and environments is important, and understanding these can indeed help bridge the gap between linguistics and biodiversity research through the exchange of knowledge, traditions, and practices related to the environment. This can in turn result in the adoption of sustainable practices and a greater appreciation for biodiversity.

Many indigenous African cultures possess deep ecological knowledge such as conservation techniques which has been passed on to generations that can be valuable for biodiversity preservation. The interactions between different cultures for instance often promote eco-tourism and this can lead to increased awareness and efforts to protect these environments. Indeed, one could also talk about issues such as linguistic diversity and ecological awareness where preserving linguistic diversity can help maintain ecological knowledge and promote environmental stewardship.

I expect that the project will foster a deeper understanding and leverage the impacts of cultural and environmental interconnections to develop holistic approaches that contribute to the consolidation of linguistic and bio-diversity research as a niche.

The multidisciplinary nature of this project aligns perfectly with the University's second strategic priority, '*Impactful Research*' with the key objective to attract, nurture, and retain diverse and globally competitive research talent to elevate our research capabilities. This initiative will also play a crucial role in increasing research funding, promoting multi-disciplinary research to address complex societal challenges, and supporting innovation and knowledge transfer for impact.

Today's symposium, themed "***Linguistic and Cultural Notions for Promoting Biodiversity in Africa,***" is the perfect platform to kickstart this ambitious project. The exciting program line up featuring insightful presentations and discussions will undoubtedly inspire and inform our collective efforts to work towards impactful research within this specialized area of Linguistics and Biodiversity.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the CIPSH Chair Professor Bodomo, the President of CIPSH, Professor Luiz Oosterbeek, the General Secretary of FILLM, Professor Constantine Yuke, the Dean

of the School of Languages and her team, the Project Team and indeed everyone who has contributed to the realization of this project, and particularly to this event. I would also like to appreciate the dedicated faculty, enthusiastic students, and all supportive partners.

Once again, I welcome you, Prof. Bodomo and your team and wish you a wonderful stay at University of Ghana and a successful project. I believe that the project will greatly impact the research output of the School of Languages and ultimately the University. I urge you all faculty members and graduate students to identify research areas and interests that align with the focus of the Project and seek to be roped in. Thank you all for joining this inaugural Symposium. I encourage you to participate fully and take away valuable insights that have the potential to impact your individual as well as collaborative research goals.

Thank you all for gracing this important symposium with your presence

Thank you.

Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo

Vice-Chancellor/President of FILLM

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