

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



**REMARKS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA AT THE UG
ADVANCE 2025 CONFERENCE: A CONVENING OF UG ALUMNI IN INDUSTRY**

ADDRESS BY:

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

THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025

WAGMC Auditorium

University of Ghana

PROTOCOL – ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Prof. Justice Bawole, Dean, University of Ghana Business School
- Prof. Kwasi Dartey-Baah, Director, Institutional Advancement Directorate
- Kimathi Kuenyehia, Kimathi & Partners
- Ben Owusu-Ansah, Manager, Project Finance, GNPC
- Esther Gadagbui Ba-Taa-Banah, Sector Head, Multilaterals & Institutions, Zenith Bank
- Faculty and staff of the University of Ghana
- Our distinguished alumni in industry
- Members of the media
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good afternoon.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you back to your alma mater for the maiden edition of the UG Advance Conference. This initiative was designed to create value for both our alumni and the organisations they serve, while also strengthening the University's bond with its alumni network. I deeply appreciate your presence and your active participation in today's event.

I understand that you've had an enriching experience throughout the day, and I would like to commend the Institutional Advancement Directorate, led by Professor Kwasi Dartey-Baah, for organizing this event so thoughtfully and effectively to advance our shared goals.

Ladies and gentlemen, as Ghana's premier university, the University of Ghana remains firmly committed to playing a leading role in higher education. Our new Strategic Plan (2024–2029) is anchored on five strategic pillars:

1. Transformative Student Experience
2. Impactful Research
3. Commitment to Faculty and Staff
4. Engagement and Partnerships
5. Sustainable Resource Mobilisation and Stewardship

We are proud of the progress made across these priority areas. Let me highlight just a few.

We have fully embraced digital transformation to enhance teaching and learning. Initiatives such as the Classroom Modernisation Agenda, the One-Student-One-Laptop project, and the provision of hotspot comfort zones have revolutionised the academic

experience. These achievements have been made possible with the generous support of corporate partners, some of whom are represented here today. To all who answered our call, I say a heartfelt thank you.

We are also excited about our new partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which is aimed at equipping young Ghanaians with digital skills and fostering innovation through the establishment of the University Innovation Pod (UniPod). Hosted at UG's Digital Youth Hub, UniPod will provide tools, training, and a supportive ecosystem to connect academia, industry, and government—catalyzing digital transformation. I encourage you all to come on board and support this agenda.

Since its establishment in 2017, the Institutional Advancement Directorate (InAD) has played a pivotal role in enhancing the University's visibility, strengthening alumni engagement, and driving resource mobilisation. It has spearheaded several strategic initiatives, including the completion of ten key Institutional Impact Milestones under the World Bank ACE Impact Project. These include the refurbishment of lecture rooms with modern

pedagogical technology and achieving nearly 100% broadband and Wi-Fi coverage on both Legon and Korle-Bu campuses.

On alumni engagement, InAD has successfully established associations in 14 strategic regions across the globe—including Ghana, the USA, Canada, the UK, Ireland, and several West African countries—based on data-driven insights. I'm informed that efforts are underway to reach even more countries.

As part of its infrastructure development drive, InAD facilitated a major engagement with Zenith Bank Ghana Ltd, which has pledged to build an ICT Centre at UG. Further discussions are ongoing with organisations such as GNPC, MTN, Fidelity Bank, and the American Chamber of Commerce in Ghana on mutually beneficial projects.

InAD also leads fundraising efforts in support of key units within the University, such as the Human Resource and Organisational Development Directorate (HRODD), the Student Financial Aid Office (SFAO), and the Academic Affairs Directorate (AAD). I applaud the Directorate for its outstanding work, which directly enhances the University's teaching, research, and innovation capacity. *Ayekoo!*

Before I conclude, allow me to highlight the Legon Leadership Academy (LLA), a flagship programme approved by the University Council in September 2023. The LLA is designed to develop leadership capacity in both public and private sectors, and I wholeheartedly recommend it for your continuing professional development.

I commend you all for taking time to participate in this important event. Throughout today's sessions—from the keynote on governance and operational excellence to the interactive breakout discussions—we have witnessed the power of strategic leadership in action.

UG Advance 2025 is more than just a conference. It is a reflection of the University's broader strategic vision. It aligns closely with our institutional priorities and our commitment to lifelong learning. This platform provides alumni with practical, relevant, and immediately applicable opportunities for continuous professional development, reinforcing our role as a long-term partner in your personal and professional growth.

To conclude, UG Advance 2025 serves as a bridge between the University's academic mission and the practical realities of the world beyond our campus.

On behalf of University Management, I reaffirm our commitment to you, our alumni. We are here to support your leadership journey, to partner with your organisations, and to co-create solutions that deliver sustainable impact.

The Institutional Advancement Directorate will continue to lead alumni engagement efforts, but we cannot do it alone. We need your ideas, your involvement, and your investment—of time, talent, and resources.

Join us as we continue to build a University that remains relevant to national and global development, through cutting-edge research and quality education.

As always, I urge you to proceed in truth and integrity, and to continue making our nation proud.

Thank you.

Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo
Vice-Chancellor, University of Ghana

June 12, 2025