

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



**OPENING REMARKS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR AT THE ARISE-SD SCIENTIFIC
CONFERENCE**

ADDRESS BY:

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 2025

Cedi Conference Centre

University of Ghana

Prof. Liza Korsten, President of the African Academy of Sciences;

Dr. Peggy Oti-Boateng, Executive Director, African Academy of Sciences,

Dr. Laurent Bochereau, Minister-Counsellor for Science, Technology, and Innovation (EU delegation to the AU);

Prof. Gordon Awandare, Pro Vice-Chancellor (ASA);

Prof. Felix Ankomah Asante, Pro Vice-Chancellor (RID);

Provosts, Dean, Directors & Heads of Department;

Partners in Science and Innovation;

Distinguished Guests;

Colleagues;

The Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good afternoon.

It is with great pride and immense pleasure that I welcome you all to the University of Ghana and to the opening of the ARISE-SD Scientific Conference. We are honoured to host this landmark event at the University of Ghana in line with our commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and global collaboration.

The theme of this convening - ***“Unpacking the Pact for the Future: Imperatives for Advancing Scientific Cooperation with Africa”***— is not only timely but deeply aligned with our university’s aspirations. The African Research Initiative for Scientific Excellence and Sustainable Development (ARISE-SD), in partnership with the African Academy of Sciences, the African Union, and the European Union, is a shining example of what can be achieved when we invest in African talent, foster cross-border collaboration, and prioritize inclusive sustainable development.

At the University of Ghana, our vision is to achieve global impact through innovative research, teaching, and learning, employing a technology-driven and people-centered approach. Our mission is to create an enabling environment that makes the University

increasingly relevant to national and global development through cutting-edge research, high-quality teaching, and impactful service.

This vision and mission are supported by a 5-year (2024–2029)

Strategic Plan focusing on five Strategic Priorities:

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

The ARISE-SD initiative aligns strongly with our second strategic priority—*Impactful Research*—as well as our *commitment to Engagement and Partnerships*. These pillars guide our efforts to foster interdisciplinary research, strengthen innovation ecosystems, and build partnerships that transcend borders.

Our Research Strategy, led by Prof. Felix Asante, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research, Innovation and Development, emphasizes innovation, knowledge transfer, and capacity building. It is designed to position the University as a hub for research that addresses Africa’s most

pressing challenges—from *climate resilience and food security to digital transformation and public health.*

We are proud to be home to several distinguished fellows of the African Academy of Sciences (AAS), including:

- *Emerita Prof. Isabella Akyinbah Quakyi*, President of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences, a trailblazer in biomedical science and public health
- *Mrs Mary Chinery-Hesse*, Chancellor of the University of Ghana
- *Prof. Andrew Anthony Adjei*, a renowned immunologist and professor of Immunology at the Department of Pathology, University of Ghana Medical School.
- *Prof. David Dodoo-Arhin*, Director of Research and Innovation, newly elected AAS Fellow, recognized for his work in materials science
- *Prof. George Enyimah Armah*, newly elected AAS Fellow, renowned for his groundbreaking work in rotavirus research and vaccine development.

I am especially proud that one of our own, Dr. Edem Mahu, serves as an ARISE Fellow and continues to contribute meaningfully to the advancement of ocean science, sustainability and Africa's blue economy. In addition, the University of Ghana is proud to have Fellows in the African Postdoctoral Training Initiative (APTI) such as:

- *Dr. Rita Afriyie Boateng*, NMIMR, UG
- *Dr. Henrietta Mensah-Brown*, WACCBIP, UG
- *Dr. Irene Owusu Donkor*, NMIMR, UG
- *Dr. Nana Ama Amissah*, NMIMR, UG

As we begin this important conference, let us be reminded that the challenges we face (*climate change, health inequities, food insecurity, and digital divides*) are complex and interconnected. They demand not only scientific excellence but also bold partnerships, visionary leadership, and a shared sense of responsibility. I encourage all participants to engage deeply, collaborate boldly, and envision impactful solutions that will shape the next decade of Africa's scientific journey and development.

On behalf of the University of Ghana, I extend our warmest welcome and gratitude to the African Academy of Sciences, the ARISE-SD programme, and all our partners.

I wish you all a productive and inspiring conference.

Thank you, and once again, welcome to the University of Ghana.

Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo

Vice Chancellor, University of Ghana

July 2, 2025