

**OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR**



**CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS AT THE 7TH INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH  
CONFERENCE OF THE COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES**

**ADDRESS BY:**

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

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2025**

**CEDI CONFERENCE CENTRE**

- *Distinguished Keynote Speaker,*
- *Pro Vice-Chancellors,*
- *Provosts, Deans, Directors, Heads of Department,*
- *Esteemed Scholars and Practitioners,*
- *Development Partners,*
- *Colleague Members of Faculty and Staff*
- *Students and Friends of the College of Humanities*
- *The Media*
- *Ladies and Gentlemen*

It is a great pleasure to welcome both those present here at the Cedi Conference Centre and those joining us virtually from around the world, to the 7<sup>th</sup> International Research Conference of the College of Humanities, held under the theme: ***“Bridging Inequalities in a Changing World: Advancing Inclusive Growth, Resilience, and Sustainable Natural Resource Management.”***

As someone who has previously chaired the Planning Committee of this very conference, I am particularly pleased to witness its continued evolution as a pivotal platform for rigorous academic discourse, cross-sector dialogue, and global collaboration. I commend the College of Humanities for its dedication to sustaining this important tradition.

The theme for this year's conference speaks to some of the most urgent concerns of our time: the persistence of inequality, the fragility of natural and social systems, and the need for inclusive, resilient approaches to development in a rapidly changing world.

The University of Ghana, as a globally engaged institution, is committed to contributing to these conversations through impactful research, a transformative student experience, strategic partnerships, and the promotion of inclusivity and sustainable resource mobilization. This conference reflects those priorities in action.

I am especially encouraged by the space this platform creates for diverse voices, including academics, policymakers, practitioners,

and early-career researchers from across the Global South and North. It is through such inclusive engagement that we generate knowledge that is not only globally relevant but also locally grounded.

I am also pleased that this year's conference was preceded by a well-organised pre-conference workshop, featuring sessions on Grant Proposal Writing for faculty and Research Methodology for our graduate students. These workshops reflect our shared commitment to building research capacity, strengthening proposal competitiveness, and nurturing the next generation of scholars within the University of Ghana.

Equally significant is the Provost's Publication Awards and the College Awards Ceremony to be held tomorrow, which affirms our collective commitment to recognising and celebrating the contributions of faculty and staff to the University's mission.

Let me extend special appreciation to Oxfam International, whose continued partnership has deepened the reach and impact of this conference. Your collaboration exemplifies the power of bridging

academia and civil society in the pursuit of just and sustainable futures.

Distinguished participants, the quality of engagement and scholarship we will witness over the next few days reaffirms the University of Ghana's standing as a leader in transformative research and academic dialogue. This is further evidenced by our recent recognition in the prestigious QS World University Rankings where the University maintained its position as the best-ranked University in Ghana and the West African sub-region. Also in the inaugural Times Higher Education Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2025, the University emerged as the top-ranked university in Ghana, the second-best in the West African sub-region, and 187th globally.

This significant achievement speaks to the collective efforts of our faculty, students, and partners, and reinforces our resolve to lead with purpose, relevance, and excellence.

I am confident that this convening will spark enduring collaborations, challenge entrenched assumptions, and shape research agendas that matter on the continent and globally.

With these brief remarks, I have the honour to formally declare the 7<sup>th</sup> International Research Conference of the College of Humanities officially open.

Thank you, and I wish you all a productive and inspiring conference.

**Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo**

**Vice-Chancellor**

**August 13, 2025**