

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



**SPEECH BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR AT THE 5TH SCHOOL OF
LANGUAGES CONFERENCE 2025**

ADDRESS BY:

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**MAISON FRANÇAISE
SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES
UNIVERSITY OF GHANA, LEGON.**

Good morning, fellow linguists, distinguished scholars, students, invited guests, ladies, and gentlemen.

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to Ghana's premier university – the University of Ghana – and to the 5th School of Languages Conference (SOLCON V). We are delighted to host you for this important academic gathering, which celebrates scholarship, creativity, and collaboration in the study of language, literature, and communication.

This conference is particularly dear to me because it was established during my tenure as Dean of the School of Languages eleven years ago as a platform to bring together scholars and students of Linguistics, Literature, and Languages from across Ghana and beyond. Over the years, SOLCON has evolved into a vibrant intellectual space where ideas converge, collaborations are born, and innovative research is shared. Through these conferences, we continue to reaffirm the centrality of language to knowledge production, identity, and social progress.

At SOLCON, scholars present various research that broadens perspectives, deepens understanding, and contributes meaningfully to our societies. As I glanced through this year's rich programme, I was struck by the depth and diversity of the papers and panels—covering themes that resonate strongly with the challenges and opportunities of our time. I have no doubt that SOLCON 2025 will be equally, if not more, fruitful and inspiring than previous editions.

This year's theme, ***“Language, Digital Humanities and Climate Change: Rethinking Communication, Education, and Advocacy in the Digital Age,”*** could not be more timely or relevant. We are living in an era where the effects of climate change are being felt in every sphere of life—affecting not only our environment but also our economies, health, and livelihoods. The national and global conscience has indeed been awakened to the need for urgent and coordinated action. However, amid these challenges, we need to ask ourselves a few questions:

- What role do we, as language experts, have to play?

- How can we, through the tools of language, communication, and education, contribute to shaping the mindset and behavioral change needed to protect our planet?

Language, as we know, is more than a vehicle of expression; it is a repository of worldviews, values, and ecological wisdom. Many of our indigenous knowledge systems reflect an acute awareness of the interconnectedness between humans and the natural world. They remind us that the health of our environment is inseparable from the survival and continuity of humanity itself.

Some of the papers to be presented at this conference will explore precisely these relationships—showing how linguistic and cultural knowledge can inform environmental advocacy, sustainable education, and responsible communication.

We are also privileged to have as our keynote speaker Professor Adams Bodomo, whose pioneering research explores the fascinating link between biodiversity and language. His work invites us to see linguistic diversity not just as a cultural treasure, but as an ecological one—an insight with profound implications for Africa and the world at large. We eagerly look forward to learning from his research and to the stimulating discussions that will

follow. As we embark on three days of presentations, dialogue, and reflection, I encourage each of you to engage deeply, network widely, and seek new collaborations that can extend the impact of our work beyond academia.

Before I conclude, let me express my sincere appreciation to the Dean of the School of Languages, the organising committee, and all those who have worked tirelessly to make this conference possible. Your dedication to fostering academic excellence and cross-disciplinary dialogue continues to enrich our university and the broader intellectual community. To all presenters and participants, I wish you insightful sessions, meaningful exchanges, and a pleasant stay here at the University of Ghana.

Thank you, and I wish us all a successful conference.

Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo

Vice-Chancellor

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