

**OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR**



**CHAIRPERSON'S OPENING REMARKS TO BE DELIVERED BY THE VICE-  
CHANCELLOR AT THE CLIMAX OF THE DAY OF SCIENTIFIC RENAISSANCE OF  
AFRICA CELEBRATION**

**ADDRESS BY:**

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

**TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 2026  
CEDIS CONFERENCE CENTRE  
UNIVERSITY OF GHANA, LEGON**

Distinguished guest speaker (*Mr. Balla Moussa Sidibé*),  
Hon. Samuel Abdulai Jinapor, Member of Parliament for  
Damongo  
Pro Vice-Chancellors,  
Provosts,  
Deans and Directors,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Esteemed Colleagues,  
Students  
Friends of the media  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to the University of Ghana as we climax our 2026 celebration of the Day of Scientific Renaissance of Africa. And it is with great honour that I accept to chair this afternoon's function.

Universities are often judged by the students they graduate. And rightly so. But history frequently remembers universities for something else: the knowledge they create and the solutions they

offer society. It is through research that universities move beyond explaining the world to transforming it.

That is why today matters.

The Day of Scientific Renaissance of Africa was established by the then Organisation of African Unity in 1987 to reaffirm Africa's commitment to science, technology and innovation as essential drivers of the continent's development. It reminds us that Africa has never been merely a consumer of knowledge. Long before modern universities emerged, this continent was generating, preserving and applying knowledge through its great centres of learning, its scholars and its rich indigenous knowledge systems.

Four years ago, the University of Ghana decided that this important continental observance should become more than a date on our calendar. We institutionalised it as an annual University-wide celebration because we believe research should not remain confined to our laboratories, libraries or journals. It should become part of our institutional culture and our engagement with society. Since then, the Day of Scientific Renaissance of Africa has evolved into one of our flagship interdisciplinary platforms, bringing together the sciences,

engineering, the social sciences, the humanities and the arts around issues that matter to Ghana, Africa and the world.

The themes we have explored over the years tell their own story. We began by confronting plastic waste. We reflected on technology and humanism. We addressed the challenge of illegal mining. Last year, we focused on climate sustainability. This year's theme, "**Equitable Development: Research, Collaborate, Empower,**" represents the next logical step. It reminds us that no single discipline, institution or country can solve today's complex challenges alone. The future belongs to collaboration, partnership and the responsible application of knowledge.

This philosophy is deeply embedded in the University's Strategic Plan and our Research Strategy. We are committed to impactful, interdisciplinary research that addresses society's most pressing challenges. Our Research Strategy emphasises knowledge democratisation, open science, strong partnerships and research that is both globally excellent and locally relevant. In other words, we aspire not simply to produce more research, but to produce research that changes lives.

Recent events have once again reminded us why this matters. Yesterday's heavy rains and the flooding experienced in parts of Accra underscore the reality that climate resilience, urban planning, environmental governance and public policy cannot be pursued in isolation. They require the collective efforts of scientists, engineers, economists, social scientists, health professionals, policy-makers and communities themselves. Research provides the evidence upon which resilient societies are built.

I am therefore encouraged that Ghana's research ecosystem is receiving increasing national attention. The operationalisation of the Ghana National Research Fund marks an important step towards strengthening research as a strategic national investment. We hope this commitment will continue, because every nation that has successfully transformed itself has done so by investing consistently in knowledge creation and innovation.

Today's celebration is made even more special because it coincides with another significant milestone in the University's journey. This year, we celebrate fifteen years of organised research management at the University of Ghana.

What began as the Office of Research, Innovation and Development has grown into today's Research and Innovation Directorate. Over the past fifteen years, RID has played a pivotal role in transforming our research ecosystem. It has strengthened research governance, expanded grant support, enhanced ethics administration, fostered innovation and industry engagement, and deepened international partnerships. Many of the research successes we celebrate today have been made possible not only by the brilliance of our researchers but also by the quiet, often unseen institutional work of creating systems that enable research excellence to flourish.

I wish to commend all those who have contributed to this remarkable journey—past and present Pro Vice-Chancellors responsible for Research, Directors and staff of ORID and RID, members of our research community and our many collaborators across the world. This anniversary is a celebration of collective vision, institutional commitment and sustained excellence.

We are also delighted to unveil the 2025 University of Ghana Research Report. This publication goes beyond a compilation of grants, publications and statistics. It is a testament to the

growing impact of our research on public policy, industry, healthcare, agriculture, education, environmental sustainability and national development. It tells the story of a university increasingly recognised not only for academic excellence but also for societal impact.

This afternoon, we are privileged to host the Vice-Chancellor's Occasional Lecture, to be delivered by Mr. Balla Moussa Sidibé of the International Union for Conservation of Nature. His lecture, "**Africa at a Crossroads: Can Nature-Based Solutions Deliver?**", speaks directly to the central question of our time: how do we develop while protecting the very ecosystems upon which our future depends? I look forward to the rich discussions that will follow.

As we engage this afternoon, I encourage all of us to think beyond today's presentations. Let us ask ourselves how we can build stronger partnerships across disciplines, institutions and sectors. Let us challenge ourselves to ensure that our research reaches beyond academic journals into our classrooms, our communities, our industries and our policies.

The future of Africa will not be built by natural resources alone. It will be built by ideas. By evidence. By innovation. By collaboration. And by universities that refuse to be satisfied with generating knowledge, but insist on putting knowledge to work for society. That, to me, is the true meaning of a scientific renaissance.

May today's conversations inspire new partnerships, new discoveries and new solutions for Ghana, for Africa and for generations yet to come.

It is now my singular honour to declare the 2026 Day of Scientific Renaissance of Africa Climax Event officially open. Let's enjoy, let's learn and let's act.

Thank you.

**Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo**  
**Vice-Chancellor**  
**Climax of 2026 DSRA Celebrations**  
**June 30, 2026**