



Legon Holds First Petroleum Summit

The Faculty of Engineering Sciences has organized a one-day Petroleum Summit under the theme "The Resource Development for Petroleum Industry - The Role of University of Ghana".

The summit brought together faculty and students from the Faculty of Engineering Sciences and other departments of the University. There were also Resource Persons from both the public and private sector, representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency as well as from some Ghanaian energy and oil industries.

The Summit sought to create a platform for the interaction of University with industry with respect to human resource development for the petroleum sector; to identify new opportunities for the Faculty in order to expand its programmes; to map out a strategy for the contribution of the University towards the emerging petroleum sector as well as seek a public-private partnership in resource mobilization, program development and establishment of petroleum related disciplines at the University.

In his introductory remarks, the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Sciences, Prof. Samuel Sefa-Dedeh noted that the Faculty recognises the role of public and private sector institutions in the energy sector as strategic partners in the development of need-based courses. He added that there was the need to create an environment of networking and consultation to allow the Faculty understand what happens within and outside of the University. Dean Sefa-Dedeh said that this was necessary in order to map out strategies that would ensure that the University was positioned in the right perspective. He called on industries to provide feedback to allow the University redress any necessary skills that may be lacking in its products.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. C.N.B. Tagoe in his welcome address, said the discovery of oil in commercial quantities in the country, is expected to serve as a catalyst to various developments in industry, business and academic circles. He noted that in Canada for example, the petroleum industry offers about half a million jobs. "The Ghanaian oil industry may in the initial stages not be able to aim so high. In the long term however, we need to train and develop our people, equipping them in the process with the requisite skills and attitudes, otherwise the industry might sooner or later be constrained to recruit from outside to our detriment. This is one of the reasons why this meeting is very important and should be taken very seriously", the Vice-Chancellor added.

Prof Tagoe was hopeful that at the end of the Summit, useful proposals would be made to further develop the goals of the Summit.

In a presentation on the topic "Manpower and other needs of the emerging petroleum sector: Our expectations from tertiary educational institutions", Mr. Michael N.A Ayeetey a Petroleum Geoscientist of the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation advocated a close interaction between academia



Prof. Sefa-Dedeh delivering his introductory remarks

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ISSER to Begin Work on Conference Facility



Prof. Aryeetey takes his turn in planting a commemorative tree

For the first time in the history of the University, a unit in the University is using its internally-generated funds to construct a facility. These were the remarks made by the Director of ISSER, Prof. Ernest Aryeetey at a sod-cutting ceremony to begin work on a GH¢1.1 million ultra-modern business centre, and 10 hotel rooms to accommodate guests.

The ISSER conference facility will have a large hall that will accommodate 250 people, two additional seminar rooms that can take up to 50 persons, a facility for simultaneous interpretation. The facility will also have a restaurant; provide 10 additional offices for researchers, a new modern library, and additional seminar space in the office area.

Prof. Aryeetey noted that the project would be especially beneficial for ISSER, and help reduce the huge cost of organizing and hosting many international conferences and meetings in hotels. He noted that ISSER spends close to US\$100,000 annually on accommodation since facilities on campus are inadequate. Prof. Aryeetey added that public servants have a number of institutional challenges and academics, logistical challenges in participating in academic conferences outside the university.

He paid tribute to some benefactors, namely, Barclays Bank Limited, and mentioned that the Institute had very credible assurances from the management of Stanbic Bank, who were eager to support the project.

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. C.N.B. Tagoe, who cut the sod, noted that the University now generates 40 per cent of its budget with a substantial amount coming from ISSER. In commending the Director and staff of ISSER for the laudable initiative, the Vice-Chancellor pledged the University's support for the project.

Prof. J. R.A. Aye, Dean of Faculty of Social Studies was especially proud of ISSER's initiative and added

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Kofi Annan at WACCI

The Chancellor of the University and immediate past Secretary-General of the United Nations, His Excellency Kofi Annan has visited the West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI) at the University of Ghana.

The Centre, established in June 2007 as a semi-autonomous Centre in the University of Ghana has funding from the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)

His Excellency Kofi Annan paid this visit in his capacity as Chairman of the Board of AGRA to meet the Director and faculty of WACCI and also to familiarize himself with their operations.

Giving an overview of WACCI's operations, the Director of WACCI, Professor Eric Danquah mentioned that a total of forty PhD students arriving in

cohorts of eight would be trained at the Centre over five academic years to develop superior varieties of African crops.

Professor Danquah said the first cohort of eight students selected from Ghana, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger are focusing on West Africa food crops including maize, rice, sorghum, millet, cassava, sweet potato, cowpea, groundnut, tomato and pepper.

The programme consists of two years of academic study at the University of Ghana and three years of field research at the student's research station in his/her home country during which a student's performance is closely monitored by the faculty of WACCI as well as the student's research station.

His Excellency Kofi Annan who was accompanied by his wife Nane, lauded the efforts of the WACCI faculty and staff

at the Centre. He noted that the Centre would complement the efforts of AGRA in helping millions of small-scale farmers and their families lift themselves out of poverty and hunger.

As part of his three-day field visits, Mr. Kofi Annan also met Ghanaian farmers being supported under the Millennium Development Authority, to gain an insight into their activities and to discuss their needs, as well as with officials of the Millennium Development Authority to discuss the seed and fertilizer law, as well as explore areas of collaboration with the Crop Research Institute (CRI) in Kumasi.

AGRA was established with support from the Rockefeller as well as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundations to develop practical solutions to significantly boost farm productivity and incomes for the poor while safeguarding the environment.

Sponsorship Packages for UG Students

Five students of the University have benefited from a \$500 sponsorship package from the All Nations Education (ANE).

Presenting the package at a short ceremony on the Legon campus, the President of the group, Joshua W. Daneshforooz said the students were chosen to participate in the ANE programme because of their demonstrated success in the classroom and their willingness to use their education to help their family, community and the world. Mr. Daneshforooz mentioned that the annual sponsorship package, which would cover the entire course periods of the beneficiaries, would be given to them at the beginning of both the fall and spring semesters. He added that in order to maintain this financial award, the beneficiaries would be required to meet with their ANE mentors at least four times per semester, engage in community

service at World Vision Area Development Programs at least once per academic year, as well as mentor and tutor pre-tertiary school students before they enter college.

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kwesi Yankah, who received the donation on behalf of the University, thanked the group for their thoughtfulness. He lauded the mentorship and community service promoted by the programme. "I think community service should be systemized in the university and I look forward to seeing the holistic development of the programme" he added. He also urged other publicly-spirited individuals and organizations to emulate this example.

The Students' Financial Aid office will monitor and administer the scholarship.

The Head of the Students Financial Aid Office, Mrs. Kokui Adu was also present at the ceremony.

Chinese Embassy Donates Books to Department of Modern Languages

The teaching of Chinese has begun at the Department of Modern Languages, under a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the University and the Chinese Embassy. To promote the study of the language, the Chinese Embassy in Ghana has donated a quantity of books to the Department of Modern Languages.

The Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy, Mr. Wang Lushan, said that his government was pleased to donate the books to facilitate the study of Chinese. He added that Chinese was one of the official languages of the United Nations, and bringing the language closer to the Ghanaian student and the general public would provide added career opportunities. He gave assurance of the Embassy's readiness to give further assistance to the Department.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. C.N.B. Tagoe who received the books, thanked the Chinese Embassy for its generosity. He commended the Chinese Government for offering a concessionary loan of US\$8.2 million to the University to expand and upgrade its ICT infrastructure through provision of a fibre-optic backbone and servers, as well as personal computers and lecture room projectors.



The Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kwesi Yankah, receiving the donation from Mr. Daneshforooz

Faculty of Law
Organizes Training
in Basic Law

The Faculty of Law has organized a two-week maiden Basic Law Training Programme in the Kwabena Nketia Conference Hall on the Legon campus. The Training Programme was preceded by a short Opening Ceremony.

In his welcome address, the Ag. Dean of the Faculty of Law, Prof. E.K. Quashigah said the Faculty of Law, in consonance with its Strategic Plan to transplant academic and legal excellence into relevant basic knowledge for the benefit of the ordinary person, designed the programme to allow the participants acquire some basic knowledge of the essential aspects of law, that would be required for daily use. He said the programme would introduce participants to the Constitution of the Republic and the canons for its interpretation, and expose them to the law of civil obligations as well as the criminal code and procedures. He hoped participants would do their best to derive the expected benefits from the programme and put the knowledge gained into practice.

In his opening remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. C.N.B. Tagoe commended the Faculty of Law for conceiving and mounting the programme which he observed, was necessary in all aspects of the life of the average Ghanaian citizen. He noted that it was important that the average educated citizen in a modern democratic dispensation such as Ghana, had a good, sound working knowledge and understanding of the law. This, he noted, was due to the pervasive and ubiquitous nature of law and because of its regulatory role. "Though the training programme will not turn you into lawyers, I believe by the end of the two weeks, you will be equipped with the basic knowledge and understanding of the constitutional and legal system of the country" he added.

In brief remarks to participants, the Ag. Director of the Academic Affairs Directorate, Mr. Enoch Amartey who spoke on behalf of the Registrar, Mr. A.T. Konu, described the training programme as an innovation. "This year marks the watershed of the 50th Anniversary of Law and what an opportune time to introduce such an innovative programme," he noted. Mr. Amartey believed the objectives of the programme had been met fully with targets exceeded and called for all hands to be put on deck to ensure the sustainability and improvement of the programme.

The training programme also addressed issues relating to matrimonial wills, administrative law, contract /commercial law, alternative dispute resolution and labour law.

Facilitators of this programme were Prof. E.K. Quashigah, Dr. K. Appiagyei-Atua, Dr. Raymond Atuguba, Mrs. Christine Dowuona-Hammond, Mr. Samuel Manteaw, Mr. Kissi Agyebeng, Dr. Nii Armah Josiah-Aryeh, and Mr. Abdul Bassit Abdul Aziz.

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Chinese Embassy Donates

Prof. Tagoe noted the growing relationship between China and Ghana, mentioning in particular, the recent loan agreement the Government of Ghana had entered into with the Chinese Government. The Vice-Chancellor, who also spoke on the establishment of the School of Pharmacy at the University of Ghana, invited the Chinese Embassy to explore possible linkages between the School and other Chinese universities for mutual benefit. The Acting Dean of the School of Pharmacy, Prof. A. C. Sackeyfio also called for collaboration in the area of further education for locally trained pharmacists.

The Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Prof. E. K. Osam, expressed gratitude to the Chinese Embassy, and hoped that a degree programme in Chinese Language

would commence in the next academic year. He called for further assistance in the provision of larger lecture halls and language laboratories to facilitate the course.

Present at the ceremony were the Administrative Officer of the Chinese Embassy, Mr. Tan Peng and the Head of the Department of Modern Languages, Prof. A. H. Asaah. Also present were Dr. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo and Dr. Joana Boampong, from the Department of Linguistics and Spanish Unit respectively, who are members of the Basic Chinese Implementation Committee.

Already, two Chinese Language teachers, Mr. Li Liang and Mr. Zou Xiong Dong, have been recruited under this programme.

Ghana Biomed 2008
Ends in Accra

The First Ghana Biomedical Convention, dubbed Ghana Biomed 2008, has taken place in Accra. Organised under the auspices of the University of Ghana, the Convention was the first of its kind to be held in the West African sub-region.

Under the theme, "Opportunities and Challenges of New Technologies in Biomedicine", the three-day Convention brought together Ghanaian biomedical scientists living home and abroad to present ongoing research and share experiences, and serve as a forum to identify and discuss national priorities in order to maximize the benefits of the worldwide biomedical revolution within the Ghanaian context.

The Provost of the College of Health Sciences of the University of Ghana, Prof. Aaron N. L. Lawson, who gave the Welcome Address on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, said the objectives of the Convention were in tandem with the mission of the College of Health Sciences, which seeks to "produce highly qualified and competent health professionals and medical scientists to provide curative services to meet the health needs of the nation and the global community..."

The Senior Investigator and Global Group Leader of Novartis Institute for Biomedical Research in the USA, Dr. Peter Atadja, who delivered the Keynote Address, elucidated challenges in the drug discovery process, such as high cost and high failure rate.

Dr. Atadja said natural product drugs, used for 87% of all human diseases, offered great opportunities for Ghana, because of her rich biodiversity and history of traditional medicine, as well as availability of institutes such as the Centre for Research into Plant Medicine at Mampong.

Dr. Atadja also spoke on challenges for Biomedical Science in Ghana. He mentioned inadequate support structures such as reagents, equipment and computing capabilities, lack of funding for basic research, low levels of remuneration and recognition for scientists, as well as poor scientific intellectual property regimes.

Making recommendations to address these challenges, Dr. Atadja called on government to come up with a "brave science policy", with Parliament also legislating on permanent funding for scientific research. He suggested that 1% of GDP be earmarked for such purposes. He also called for stronger lobbying of policy makers by associations of scientists.

The Chairperson of the Local Organizing Committee for GhanaBiomed 2008 and Senior Lecturer of the Faculty of Engineering Sciences, Dr. Elsie E. Kaufmann, hoped that the forum would enable Ghanaian biomedical scientists to come together to gain the necessary synergies to make their work more meaningful.

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and industry. He mentioned that academic courses must be influenced by and reflect changes undergone by industry.

Presentations were also made by Mr. Eason Asamoah, the Director of Training and Development of the Ghana Oil Company Limited and Mr. Wilson Kodzo Tamakloe of the Environmental Protection Agency. Other presentations on programme

development and establishment of petroleum related disciplines in the University were made by Dr. Richard J. Bani, the Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Sciences, Prof. Edward Kofi Quashigah, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Law, Mr. Stephen Takyi-Asiedu, the Acting Dean of the University of Ghana Business School, and Prof. Daniel Kwadwo Asiedu, the Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Science.

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that the Faculty was fully committed to lend its support to the project.

There were other remarks from Mr. M.C.D. Torkornoo, Deputy Managing Director, Operations and Administration, Amal Bank, and the Project Consultant Mr. Kitoe.

In her closing remarks, the Dean, School of Research and Graduate Studies, Prof. Yaa Ntiamoah-Baidu said the facility, while serving a useful purpose, would be an important addition to the income-generating facilities on campus. She urged other Schools and Departments to take a cue from ISSER's initiative.

Matriculation 2008 Held

The University of Ghana has recorded an increase in admissions in the 2008/09 academic year at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. The 11,700 candidates admitted this year to pursue various undergraduate programmes represents an 80% increase over the 2007/08 figure of 6,500.

However of the number admitted, 6,272 enrolled, as compared to the 4,500 who enrolled in the last academic year.

At the post-graduate level, there has been a 29.1% increase of 1,023 students compared to the enrolment figure of 792 in the 2007/08 academic year.

In the 2008/9 Academic Year, 153 students coming from schools categorized by the Ghana Education Service as Less Endowed, were exempt from payment of Academic Facility User Fees. This is in line with the University's policy of affirmative action with respect to vulnerable groups.

Also in this academic year, in addition to the existing 200 foreign students, 435 students of various nationalities have been registered under exchange agreements with partner institutions in Europe, the United States of America, Canada, and Asia.

At the Accra City Campus, however, there was a decrease in the enrolment rate. Newly admitted students were 1,479, representing a 17.8% decrease from the 1,800 which enrolled in the last academic year.



Mr. J.M. Budu, administering the Matriculation Oath

These revelations were made in the address of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. C. N. B. Tagoe, at the matriculation ceremony at Legon for newly admitted students of the University.

Prof. Tagoe also mentioned that the Distance Education Programme which

started in the last academic year "was thriving and attracting more applicants". He however regretted that the University still had to "turn down the applications of many otherwise qualified applicants, due to constraints on our facilities and staff".

The Vice-Chancellor used the occasion to announce the institution of three new scholarships in the University; the Educational Pathways International of the USA award of five full scholarships, which is to be increased to 10 scholarships from next year, to be awarded to students from Less Endowed Schools. Others are the USA-based scholarships, to be awarded to five students annually, and the Tertiary Education Scholarship Trust of Oxford, UK, to be awarded to 100 students each year. Prof. Tagoe advised students to maintain self-discipline and avoid infringing on the regulations of the University.

While congratulating the matriculants, the Chairman of Council, Mr. Anthony Oteng-Gyasi, reminded them of their duties and obligations as junior members of the University, and stressed on their observance of rules and regulations of the University.

Mr. Oteng-Gyasi also cautioned students to be wary of illegal electoral activities, and eschew violence and unlawful demonstrations. "Do not become pawns in anybody's political game", he advised.

Speaking on "Expectations of University Life", a BSc Administration student, Ms. Monica Kukah, on behalf of matriculants expressed gratitude to University authorities for ensuring that all freshmen were accommodated on campus. She also touched on the improved registration processes, which enabled them to settle down quickly for academic work.

She however appealed to government and other stakeholders for bigger lecture halls with teaching and learning aids and well-stocked libraries. She also appealed to her colleagues to keep the campus neat by making use of litter bins.

The significance of matriculation lies in newly-admitted students swearing an oath and signing an undertaking to abide by the rules and regulations of the university, obey university authorities and live up to academic demands. This was administered by the Ag. Registrar, Mr. J. M Budu, after which Ms Kukah signed the Matricula on behalf of her fellow matriculants.

Hall Tutors and other Senior Members Receive Training in Counselling

The Counselling and Placement Centre has organized a workshop for Hall Tutors and other Senior Members of the University.

In his welcome address, the Acting Director of the Counselling and Placement Centre, Mr. John Gordon Egyir-Croffet said the purpose of the maiden workshop was to help participants understand the concept of counselling and equip them with requisite counselling skills that would enhance their pastoral function of helping students. He added that the training would also help to increase participants' awareness of the importance of leaving a legacy with students as well as motivate them to be agents of transformation within the university community. He urged participants to be creative in their counseling.

Mr. Egyir-Croffet suggested to the halls to identify about 10 to 20 mentors, who would be supervised by the Counselling and Placement Centre to help, especially the freshmen/women at the beginning of their course.

Addressing the participants, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kwesi Yankah described the workshop as crucial and challenged participants to be proactive in their pastoral duties. He stressed the need for participants to be conversant with University Statutes as well as regulations governing Junior Members. This, he said, would ensure a better discharge of their duties, in order to help the students in all areas. He encouraged tutors to liaise with the Student Financial Aid Office for support for needy but brilliant students.

Speaking on the topic "Ethics in Counselling", a lecturer in the Department of Psychology, Mr. C.B. Wiafe-Akenten cautioned participants to respect the rights and dignity of clients and to refer cases to appropriate professionals and institutions should the need arise, so as to avoid embarrassment and discomfort.

Some of the topics treated during the workshop included "Characteristics of a Good Counselor", "Practicum in Counseling Skills" and "Moving from Counseling to Mentoring."

Other resource persons included Ms. Sarah Addo, a Clinical Psychologist at the Counseling and Placement Centre.