



Promoting Excellence in Knowledge

GHANA ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

ANNUAL LECTURE IN THE HUMANITIES 2022



TOPIC: THE PARAMETERS OF RIGHT TO INFORMATION AND ITS IMPACT ON GHANA

SPEAKER:

Justice Sir

DENNIS DOMINIC ADJEI, FGA

Justice of the Court of Appeal, Republic of Ghana



CHAIRPERSON:

Emerita Professor

ELIZABETH ARDAYFIO-SCHANDORE, FGA

Past Vice President, Arts Section, GAAS



DATE: THURSDAY MAY **5** 2022 | **TIME:** 5:30 PM

VENUE: GHANA ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES AUDITORIUM

#3 Research Crescent, Casely Hayford Road, Airport Residential Area, Accra

LIVE ON



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MEETING ID

891-7887-4000



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Arts and Sciences



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Emerita Professor Elizabeth Ardayfio-Schandorf is a Geographer, Environmental Advisor and a Development Consultant. She was the former Head of the Department of Geography and Resource Development. As a distinguished scholar, her academic contributions are recognized worldwide. She held an appointment as the West Africa Representative of the Commonwealth Geographical Bureau, a Member of the Gender Commission of the International Geographical Union, the Africa Representative of the prestigious Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) in Austria, and the first Fellow of the United Nations University International Leadership Academy, University of Jordan, Amman.

She was the first Ghanaian woman ever to be appointed as Emerita Professor in the whole country.

She is a member of the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO, a member of the Public Interest and Accountability Committee; and the Chairman of the Academic Board of the Ghana Sharks Olympiad.

She is a past Vice-President of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences (Arts Section), having also served as the Honorary Treasurer and Acting Finance Officer.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER
Justice Sir
DENNIS DOMINIC ADJEI, FGA

Justice of the Court of Appeal, Republic of Ghana

Justice Dennis Dominic Adjei attended Atwimaman Secondary School, Trabuom and Wenchi Secondary School. He then proceeded to the University of Ghana, Legon where he obtained his B.A in Law and Linguistics. He holds a Master of Judicial Studies (MJS) from Duke University School of Law, Durham, North Carolina, USA, Master of Laws (LLM) (Criminology and Criminal Justice) from University of London, UK, Executive Master of Public Administration (EMPA), GIMPA and Barrister at Law (BL), Ghana School of Law (1993).

Justice Dennis Dominic Adjei is a Justice of the Court of Appeal. He is also an active law teacher. He has made a prodigious contribution to the deepening and dissemination of law in several capacities- as an eminent jurist, an outstanding scholar and a dedicated law teacher.

Justice Dennis Dominic Adjei was elected by acclamation by the Member States of the International Criminal Court in December, 2021 as one of the Nine Member Advisory Committee on the Nomination of Judges for the International Criminal Court.

He was appointed as an Adjunct Associate Professor of Law at both Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology and University of Cape Coast in 2016. In February 2022, Justice Dennis Dominic Adjei was appointed a full professor of law (Adjunct) by the University Council of the University of Cape Coast. He is an (Adjunct) Senior Lecturer at the Ghana School of Law. He was the Director of the Judicial Training Institute (JTI) for five (5) years. Presently, he is the Acting Director of the JTI, Accra. He is former Dean, Faculty of Law, Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA).

He was the President of the Association of Magistrates and Judges in Ghana from 2012-2016. He was also the President of the Africa Judicial Network on Environmental Law from 2017 - 2021.

In April 2022, Justice Dennis Dominic Adjei was elected by the Inns of Court Fellowship selection Committee as Inns of Court Research Fellow for a Senior Benchers at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (IALS), University of London for 2022/2023 academic year. The fellowship is tenable for twelve (12) weeks in spring 2023 at IALS. Justice Dennis Dominic Adjei shall during the Fellowship research into – Right to Information, Protection for persons who seek Information and holding Public Officers Accountable to the citizenry.

He has six law textbooks being used by Law Faculties and Schools, Members of the Legal Profession, Bench within and outside the country. These are Constitutional Law of Ghana; Evolution, Theory and Practice; Criminal Procedure and Practice in Ghana; Land Law, Practice and Conveyancing in Ghana; Contemporary Criminal Law in Ghana, Modern Approach to the Law of Interpretation in Ghana and Alternative Dispute Resolution-A Ghanaian perspective.

On December 05, 2019, Justice Dennis Dominic Adjei was elected into Fellowship of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences.

THE PARAMETERS OF RIGHT TO INFORMATION AND ITS IMPACT ON GHANA

Government and Public officers are fiduciaries and are under a legal obligation to be transparent and accountable to the people of Ghana by making available accurate, authentic and credible information to them. The citizens of Ghana in whom sovereignty resides made the Constitution of Ghana, 1992 for themselves and ceded their powers to the Government to govern them within the limits laid down in it. Article 21(1)(f) of the Constitution of Ghana, 1992 guarantees the right to information as pertains in a democratic society as a fundamental human right.

The Executive, Legislature, Judiciary and the other organs of State were created by the Constitution either directly or indirectly to make them accountable to the people of Ghana who made the Constitution of Ghana, 1992 and to promote their welfare. A person who holds a public office or whose private organisation or establishment receives public resources to perform public functions is recognised as a fiduciary and must be transparent and accountable in the discharge of that person's mandate, and in particular to provide for authentic and credible general information to be accessed by the citizenry as is necessary in a democratic society.

The Government is also required to make available to the people general information on governance as permitted by law. The Constitution of Ghana, 1992 requires the Government, public officers and private institutions that receive public resources to perform public functions to disclose accurate and authentic information from their offices unless it is exempted by law. Furthermore, persons who require public documents to be produced and tendered in court are permitted under article 135 of the Constitution of Ghana, 1992 except where their disclosure or production of their contents will be prejudicial to the security of the State or injurious to public interest. To ensure that public officers do not arbitrarily refuse to produce any official document to be used or tendered in court, the Constitution of Ghana, 1992, has given the Supreme Court exclusive original jurisdiction to determine same.

The Right to Information Act, 2019 (Act 989) was subsequently enacted pursuant to article 21(1)(f) of the Constitution to enforce the constitutional rights of the persons to access information from public institutions, private institutions and organisations that receive public resources to perform public functions to make information which is accurate and authentic available to the people and the grounds upon which information may not be disclosed. The Right to Information Act, 2019 (Act 989) further provides for the procedure to obtain information not exempted by law and a right to the High Court subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Supreme Court under article 135 of the Constitution to determine whether an information should be disclosed or not within the limits of the law.

The Right to Information Act, 2019 (Act 989) has established the Right to Information Commission to promote, protect, monitor and enforce the right to information under the Constitution of Ghana, 1992.

The lecturer will discuss the right to information as a fundamental human rights provision and argue that the several exemptions made by the Right to Information Act, 2019 (Act 989) serve as impediments to the right of persons to access information from Government and officers who perform their functions as fiduciaries to the citizenry. The lecturer shall also compare the Right to Information Act, 2019 (Act 898) to other best practices in other jurisdictions. The lecturer shall further discuss the role of journalists to obtain access to information from the Executive, Parliament and the Courts without any impediment for the benefit of Ghanaians.

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

- 5:30 PM
Welcome Address and Introduction of Chairman
Prof. Helen Yitah, FGA,
Honorary Secretary, GAAS
- Chairman's Remarks and Introduction of Speaker
Emerita Professor Elizabeth Ardayfio-Schandorf, FGA
Past Vice President, Arts Section, GAAS
- Lecture Begins
- Chairman's Closing Remarks
- Honorary Secretary's Remarks
- Refreshments

ANNUAL LECTURES

The Academy instituted the Annual Lectures in the Sciences and Humanities in 1993, with a view to creating a platform where Fellows could take turns in addressing topical issues in the humanities and the sciences.

Annual Lectures delivered in the Sciences and the Arts from 2003 are as follows:

SCIENCES

- 2003 Water: A Crisis in Development; **Letitia E. Obeng.**
- 2005 The Landscape industry in Sustainable Environmental Management; **J.C. Norman.**
- 2006 Avian Influenza Symposium, GAAS and College of Physicians and Surgeons Collaboration.
- 2007 Who is a Sickle Cell Person; **S. K. Addae.**
- 2008 Managing the Impact of Climate Change on Food Security: Some Post-Production Options for Ghana; **S. Sefa-Dedeh.**
- 2009 Technology for Development in Resource-Poor Countries, **W. S. Albassan.**
- 2010 The Threat of Counterfeit and Substandard Drugs to Healthcare Delivery in Developing Countries; **I. Addae-Mensah.**
- 2012 Clay; Its Benefits to Mankind; **V. P. Y. Gadzekpo.**
- 2013 Naturally Occurring Radioactivity in Our Homes; **Aba Bentil Andam.**
- 2015 Galamsey: Effects on Soil Productivity; **Y. Abenkorah, and E. Owusu-Bennoah.**
- 2017 Stress and Rest: Pharmacodynamic Modulation for Sustainable Human Health; **Arthur C. Sackeyfio .**
- 2018 Plants and Human Development; **G.K.S. Aflakpui**
- 2019 Is Ghana on the Brink of Ecological Suicide? **Rose E. M. Entsua-Mensah**
- 2020 Biodiversity Conservation, Genetic Resources, Gene Sequencing and the Nagoya Protocol: Challenges, Dilemmas And Opportunities; **Alfred A. Oteng-Yeboah**
- 2021 Self And Non-self: The Marvel Of The Human Immune System; **Isabella A. Quakyi**

ARTS

- 2004 Language, the Mass Media and Democracy in Ghana; **K. Yankah.**
- 2005 Parliamentary Vetting and our Constitutional Democracy; **G. K. Acquah.**
- 2007 Military Technology, the Nkrumah Government and Ghana Armed Forces; **S. K. Addae.**
- 2008 The African Family in Crisis: the Case of Ghana; **G. K. Nukunya.**
- 2009 Signposts to Healthy Politics in Ghana; **J.R. A. Aye.**

- 2010 Language, Africa, and the Art of being Human; **M. E. Kropp-Dakubu.**
- 2012 Peaceful Electoral Environment and Elections: The Role of Stakeholders; **E. Asante.**
- 2013 The Constitutional Phrase 'We the People' and the Politics of Inclusion; **K. Gyekye.**
- 2016 Scholarly Publishing in Africa and the Role of the Open Access Initiative (OAD); **A. A. Alemna**
- 2017 Of Demolished University Gates in a Fourth Republic: Is Academic Freedom under Siege; **K. Yankah**
- 2018 Migration, Farmer-herder Conflicts And Insecurity In Ghana: Unravelling The Recent Violent Incidents In The Afram Plains; **Prof. Steve Tonah**
- 2021 Divinity And Epidemiology: Religion And Public Health In The History of Pandemics In Africa (1918-2020); **J. Kwabena Asamoah-Gyadu**

THE ACADEMY

The Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences is Ghana's Premier Learned Society. It was founded in November 1959 by Government Instrument of Incorporation. Its aim is to bring together the highest level of intellectuals, experts, professionals in the country to constitute a 'Think Tank' in the Arts and Sciences to enable it advise government and other relevant bodies on issues of importance to national development.

Mission:

The mission of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences is to encourage the creation, acquisition, dissemination and utilisation of knowledge for national development through the promotion of learning.

Objectives:

The Academy's objectives are to:

- Promote the study, extension, and dissemination of knowledge of the Arts and Sciences;
- Promote the establishment and maintenance of proper standards of endeavour in all fields of the arts and sciences;
- Recognize outstanding contributions to the advancement of the arts and sciences in Republic of Ghana;
- Contribute actively to the advancement of Ghana and Africa in particular and the world in general by examining and addressing issues of development; and
- Do any other things that are conducive or incidental to the attainment of all or any of the foregoing objects.

NOTES

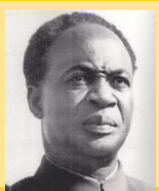
NOTES

PRESIDENTS

GHANA ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
[1959 - 2022]



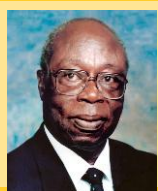
Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip, FGA
1959 - 1961



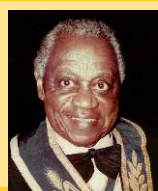
Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, FGA
1961 - 1966



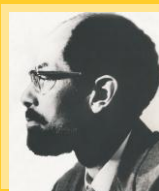
Mr. Justice N.A. Otienu, FGA
1969 - 1972



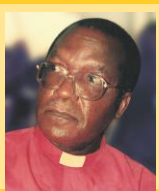
Prof. E.A. Borteng, FGA
1973 - 1976



Prof. C.O. Essom, FGA
1977 - 1980



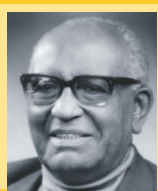
Prof. K.O.T. Torto, FGA
1981 - 1982



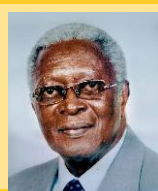
Most Rev. Prof. K.A. Dickson, FGA
1983 - 1986



Dr. E. Evans-Akum, FGA
1987 - 1990



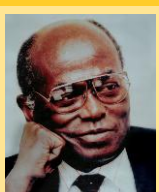
Rev. Prof. C.O. Baeta, FGA
1991 - 1992



Prof. D.A. Bekoe, FGA
1993 - 1996



Prof. J.H. Kwabena Nketia, FGA
1997 - 1998



Prof. Fred T. Sai, FGA
1999 - 2002



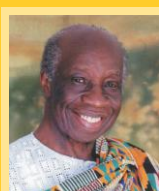
Nana Dr. S.K.B. Asante, FGA
2003 - 2006



Dr. Letitia E. Obeng, FGA
2007 - 2008



Prof. Reginald Fraser Amoo, FGA
2009 - 2010



Prof. F.K.A. Allotey, FGA
2011 - 2014



Prof. Akkappa Sawyer, FGA
2015 - 2016



Prof. Abo Benli Andam, FGA
2017 - 2018



Prof. Henrietta J. A. N. Mensa-Bonsu, FGA
2019 - 2020



Emeritus Prof. Samuel Seta-Dedeh, FGA
2021 - 2022

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