



Promoting Excellence in Knowledge
**GHANA ACADEMY
OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

GAAS NEWSLETTER

January - June 2022

The Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences (GAAS), the nation's premier learned society since its establishment on November 21, 1959, has a membership of 220 Fellows, comprising 194 males and 26 females. The Fellows are scholars and experts in various fields of study and endeavor including Law; Medicine; Natural and Applied Science and Technology; Engineering; Economics, Political Science and other Social Sciences; Higher Education Policy and Practice; Languages, Literature and Cultures; the Performing and Fine Arts among other Humanities disciplines. It is led by an elected council composed of the president, two vice-presidents (one each for the arts and sciences sections), the honorary secretary, the honorary treasurer, the immediate past-president and five other fellows. The work of the Academy is supported by a secretariat of full-time staff headed by an Executive Secretary. The Academy has two sections covering distinct fields of study in the Arts and Sciences. Each section concerns itself with the fundamental aspects of its field of study and with the pursuit, encouragement, and dissemination of knowledge in the core and related areas of focus. The Academy further conducts its work through its 8 chapters:

- a. *Education.*
- b. *Health and Sanitation.*
- c. *Political, Constitutional and Legal Affairs.*
- d. *Food and Agriculture.*
- e. *Language, Culture and the Arts.*
- f. *Science, Technology and Engineering.*
- g. *Social and Economic Affairs; and*
- h. *Natural Resources, and Energy and the Environment.*

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



INDUCTION OF 10 ADDITIONAL STAFF

2022 started with renewed energy as the Academy officially welcomed its newly recruited staff. The Academy's leadership organized an orientation program to officially welcome and introduce new employees. The Executive Secretary and Deputy Executive Secretary took turns to explain the Academy's goals, rules, policies, and procedures, as well as their responsibilities. The newly appointed officers are Clifford Tetteh, Communications Officer; Charles Ansre and Mispah Mamah, Research Officers; Samuel Ndur, Internal Audit; Godfred Tsike, Publications Assistant; Joseph Wilson, Accounting Assistant; Foster Sracoo, Security Officer, and Paul Akami, Driver.



AFRICA MUST CONSCIOUSLY PROMOTE THE STUDY OF ITS LANGUAGES

– Prof. Adams Bodomo, FGA

Prof. Adams Bodomo, a Fellow of the Academy and Professor at the Department of African Studies, University of Vienna, Austria, kickstarted the public events lined up for the first half of 2022 with his Inaugural lecture on Thursday, February 10, 2022. Speaking to the topic, he proposed a Cultural Institute to promote African Languages. The lecture, which was preceded by a delightful display of African music and dance, addressed questions such as how Africa can position itself linguistically to compete economically and culturally, as well as strategies for developing and implementing effective Pan-Africanist language policies to ensure Africa's global future. Prof. Bodomo proposed that the institute to be established should be named after African Icons, and should have the mandate of teaching African languages and cultures using a curriculum designed by an African body. The event was chaired by Prof. Kofi Opoku Nti, Vice President of the Arts Section.





J. B. DANQUAH LECTURE SERIES

Digitalization & the Future of the Ghana Legal System

The 55th in the series of the J. B. Danquah Memorial Lectures took place from 21 to 23 February 2022. The three-day event was on the theme “Digitalization and the Future of the Ghana Legal System.” The J. B. Danquah Memorial Lectures were instituted by the Academy in 1968, in memory of Dr. Joseph Boakye Danquah, a foundation member of the academy who died in prison in 1965, fighting for freedom in all its manifesta-

tions. On the first day, the speaker, Professor Richard Frimpong Oppong, FGA and Professor of Law at the California Western School of Law, San Diego, spoke on the topic “Access to Justice in our digital World.” He examined the access to justice deficit in Ghana. He argued for a broader conception of access to justice and the leveraging of digital technologies to create new pathways to justice in Ghana. He said, “Restricting the advertisement

of legal services prevents people from finding affordable legal help easily to address the issues they face”. Speaking on “Legal Education and Professional competence in our Digital World” on day 2 of the lectures, Prof. Oppong examined the skills, knowledge, and competencies that legal education institutions must provide for students to enable them to practice or work in a world that is increasingly marked by digitalization.

He observed that the time was opportune for a commissioned study into the future of legal education in Ghana.

Prof. Oppong ended the lectures on the third day by examining how digital technology challenges Ghana’s legal system’s regulatory function. He also threw light on consumer protection in the digital marketplace and new working methods organised through digital labor platforms such as Uber and Bolt. The topic

for day 3 was “Consumer Protection in the Digital Marketplace and work on Digital Labor Platforms.” This year’s lectures were simulcast from the GAAS auditorium across its social media networks. The lectures were also broadcast live on Starr 103.5fm.

The three-day event was chaired by the President of GAAS, Emeritus Prof. Samuel Sefa-Deh; the Vice President of the Sciences Section of the Acade-

my, Emerita Prof. Isabella A. Quakyi; and the Vice President of the Arts Section of the Academy, Prof. Kofi Opoku Nti respectively.

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PAIN, THE BANE OF MANKIND

Prof. Gladys Amponsah, FGA



Next to mount the podium to deliver her Inaugural Lecture was Prof. Gladys Amponsah, a fellow of the Academy and a Professor of Anesthesiology. The topic of her lecture, which took place on Thursday, 24 March, 2022, was “Pain, the Bane of Mankind.” The lecture examined the various definitions and classifications of pain, how patients react to it, and the right way to deal with pain as a patient and a health worker. Prof. Amponsah said, “Self-medication is dangerous, [and] abusing drugs to prevent body pain worsens the health condition of the patient.”

She expressed concern over the rate of prescription drug abuse which,

in her view, has reached an epidemic level and must be a subject of interest for all health workers. She noted that available research indicates that marijuana is the most abused drug in Ghana and that in recent years, tramadol is one of the drugs being abused amongst young adults. Prof. Amponsah also urged health workers to attend to patients who are in pain even when they do not have money to pay for healthcare. The lecture was chaired by Emerita Professor Isabella Akyinbah Quakyi, Vice President of the Sciences Section of the Academy.



COMMONWEALTH SCIENCE CONFERENCE

The Academy hosted a 3-day Commonwealth Science Conference (CSC) Meeting in sub-Saharan Africa. The meeting, funded by the Royal Society, UK, took place from March 14 – 16, 2022. It brought together very talented early-career research scientists from Africa and the UK to share their perspectives and experiences, as well as find ways of working together to deal with the research challenges affecting the region.

The object of the meeting was to equip participants with the tools and experience to propel their research findings into the heart of policy. Present at the opening ceremony were Emerita Prof. Isabella A. Quakyi, Acting President of Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences; Prof. Robin Grimes, Foreign Secretary of the Royal Society, UK; H. E. Ms. Harriet Thompson, the High Commissioner of UK to Ghana; and Dr. Eric Nkansah, Director, Tertiary Education, Ministry of Education, who represented the Ministry. Professor Sir Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) for England, the UK government’s Chief Medical Adviser and Head of the public health profession, initiated the discussions after the brief opening ceremony.

The meeting was divided into three streams, broadly defined as Energy, biodiversity, and Equitable access to health. Each stream had a programme of live talks followed by discussion sessions with speakers. There were also opportunities for plenary talks, panel discussions, poster sessions, and informal networking.

Some of the exciting presentations delivered included:

- *Future Technologies for Energy Transition;*
- *Conservation, Restoration, and Adaptation;*
- *Equitable Access to Health: A Systems-based Approach – Challenges and How to Leverage Access;*
- *Prioritizing Sustainability in Transition;*
- *Climate Change and Land-use Impacts on Biodiversity;*
- *The Future of Climate Change on Future Pandemics; and*
- *The Impact of Climate Change on Health.*

There were also two very instructive presentations on aspects of Communication:

- “Communicating Science Advice to Governments” by Sir Robin Grimes, Foreign Secretary, Royal Society, UK; and
- “Effective Science Communication” by Dr. Modestus Fosu, Senior Lecturer in Language and Communication Studies, Ghana Institute of Journalism, Accra.

The programme, which flowed directly from the 2021 virtual CSC, was developed by the meeting Co-chairs from across the UK and SSA, comprising Professor Cecil King’onde, Botswana International University of Science and Technology, Botswana; Dr. Rebekah Shirley, World Resources Institute, Kenya; Dr. Adrie Mukashema, Rwanda; Professor Daniela Schmidt, University of Bristol, United Kingdom; Dr. Kwaku Poku Asante, Kintampo Health Research Centre, Ghana; and Dr. Nathalie MacDermott, King’s College London, United Kingdom.



ANNUAL LECTURE IN THE HUMANITIES, 2022

*The Parameters of Right to Information and Its Impact on Ghana
– Justice Professor Adjei, FGA*

Justice Professor Sir Dennis Dominic Adjei, Justice of the Court of Appeal and Fellow of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences, delivered this year’s Annual Lecture in the Humanities on 05 May 2022, on the topic “The Parameters of Right to Information and its Impact on Ghana”. He described the fees paid to access information as “unreasonable,” arguing that information should not be sold by public institutions to persons who require it for educational or other purposes.

He said the Right to Information Act, 2019 (Act 989) was enacted under Article 21(1)(f) of the Constitution to enforce the constitutional rights of persons to access accurate and authentic information from public and private institutions and organizations that receive public resources to perform public functions. He also outlined the grounds upon which information may not be disclosed.

He added that for citizens to take part in the democratic process, information must be made available to them, and a public officer cannot

refuse the request to provide information unless that information is barred by law. Justice Professor Sir Adjei said "The Government is also required to make available to the people general information on governance as permitted by law. Emerita Prof. Elizabeth Ardayfio-Schandorf, FGA, former Vice President of the Academy's Arts Section, chaired the event [Click here to read more...](#)



EPHRAIM AMU MEMORIAL LECTURE

The Performing Arts are Relevant to National Development
—Most Rev. Dr. Peter K. Sarpong, FGA

On Thursday, May 19 2022, the Most Rev. Dr. Peter K. Sarpong delivered the Academy's Ephraim Amu Memorial Lecture on the theme "The Performing Arts, Morality, and Ghanaian Identity." He emphasized the importance of different types of music in Ghana, what morality means in Ghana, how music is used to convey various messages, the instruments used, and the role Ephraim Amu played in developing music and the performing arts.

Prof. Kofi Opoku Nti, Vice President of the Academy's Arts Section, presided over the lecture, which was attended by fellows of the Academy and students from Accra Academy, Accra Technical Training School, Presec Legon, St. Paul's Catholic Seminary, National Cathedral Seminary, and Don Bosco Institute. It featured traditional music performed by the Archbishop's Musico-cultural Liturgical Troupe based at St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica, Kumasi Archdiocese.



DR. THOMAS TAGOE, GH-SCIENTIFIC PRESENTS PAINTING TO THE ACADEMY

On Monday 9th December 2019, the Museum of Science and Technology in Accra hosted a historic art and science exhibition to showcase various works of art created by notable Ghanaian scientists from some national institutions since independence. The phase 1 exhibition, themed, “Evolution of Science”, was launched on the evening of 9th December. Present were special invited guests from both government and academia.

An exciting program of events that followed the launch included panel discussions, art and science activity workshops in schools across the country, talks and roundtable conversations with returnee scientists and innovators. Additionally, an online 3D exhibition was hosted to accommodate persons who could not access the in-person exhibition.

Kwabena Agyare Yeboah curated the exhibition, which featured works by Albert Nii Nortey Dowuona, Allyne Mamattah, Chineyenwa Okoro Onu, Derrek Abeble Pinto, Edward Ayikoe (ELi), Elisabeth Efua Sutherland, Henneh Kyere Kwaku, Hunke K. Courage, Kobby Blay and Lawrinda Agbenowosi (Yogendra Ahimi).

The painting by Lawrinda Agbenowosi is the artist’s illustrative perception of Prof. Allotey’s theory of formalism. The painting was presented to the Academy by Dr. Thomas Tagoe, Gh - Scientific in February 2022.



The Public Interest & Accountability Committee (PIAC) Engages with GAAS

On May 24, 2022, the Public Interest and Accountability Committee (PIAC), led by its chairman, Prof. Kwame Adom Frimpong, held a meeting with Fellows of the Academy to discuss its 2021 annual report and 10-year evaluation study report on Ghana's petroleum revenue management and utilization. PIAC is made up of 13 separate constituent groups, including the Academy of Arts and Sciences. The Academy’s representative on the committee is Emerita Professor Elizabeth Ardayfio-Schandorf.

The meeting's goal was to create a platform for PIAC to educate GAAS about its activities, examine collaborative opportunities between PIAC and GAAS, and ensure that the Committee continues to access the vast potential of its nominating institutions. It communicates with its constituent entities on a regular basis to keep them informed about its operations and the administration and use of Ghana's petroleum income, as well as to solicit comments for improvement



GAAS PUBLIC FORUM, 2022

The Academy held its Annual Public Forum from 6 - 8 June 2022. The 3-day forum, organized in collaboration with the UMB Bank, was on the theme “African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA): Challenges and Prospects”.

On the first day, the opening address was delivered by Ms. Beatrice Chaytor, Head of Trade in Services Division at AfCFTA. Professor Charles Godfred Ackah, Associate Professor, ISSER, University of Ghana, spoke on the topic: ‘Promoting Structural Transformation through Intra Africa Trade’ while Mr. David Ofose-Dorte, Senior Partner at AB & David Africa, focused on the topic: ‘The African Continental Free Trade Area: Implications for Private Sector Development’.

Day two of the event was on the subtheme: “Political Economy of African Trade.” Prof. Ernest Kofi Abotsi, Dean of the UPSA Law School, focused on the Political and Legal Environments for the AfCFTA. The last lecture of the day dealt with the Human Rights Implications of AfCFTA. It was delivered by Prof. Kwadwo Appiagyei-Atua Associate Professor, University of Ghana School of Law.

Day three began with an address by the CEO of UMB Bank, Nana Dwemoh Benneh. Professor Ebo Turkson, Associate Professor, Economics Department, University of Ghana, spoke on the topic “Harnessing Infrastructure to Boost Intra-Africa Trade: Challenges and Opportunities.” and the last lecture, delivered by Dr. Ernest Addison, Governor of the Bank of Ghana, was on “Boosting the AfCFTA: The Role of Payment and Settlement Systems.”

Day 3 also featured a panel discussion with John Apea, CEO of Etranzact, Professor Ebo Turkson, University of Ghana; Nana Dwemoh Benneh, CEO, UMB and Mr. Philip Abredu-Otoo, Head of Research, Bank of Ghana.

The event generated very lively debate among the numerous attendees.

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ESTABLISH MORE ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTRES

- Prof Aaron Lante Lawson, GEA

Professor Aaron Lante Lawson, FGA, a Professor of Anatomy at the University of Ghana Medical School (UGMS), has called for the establishment of academic medical centres (AMCs) in all medical training institutions to help deepen medical training, research and service delivery in the country.

He made this call when he delivered his Inaugural lecture on 30 June 2022. The lecture was on the topic: “Establishment of Academic Medical Centres in Ghana”. He traced the historical development of AMCs globally, the attempt by Ghana to create an itinerary for AMCs and the challenges encountered.

He said AMCs were assets that provided an environment for evolution in medical education, research and service delivery, and that the alignment of health care, education and research would ensure the translation of research outcomes into clinical care for the benefit of the country.

Prof. Lawson noted that there were large salary disparities between faculty in the universities and their counterparts in the teaching hospitals, leading to the perennial reluctance of well-qualified personnel to join the universities. He went further to say “several factors have accounted for why the AMC concept has not been fully embraced and operationalised with success in our country”.

Among the audience were students from Accra Academy, Ghanata SHS and Health Concern Ghana. The lecture was chaired by the Vice President of the Sciences Section of the Academy, Emerita Prof. Isabella Akyinbah Quakyi, FGA.

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GAAS REPRESENTATION ON MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE

Professor Grace Ofori-Sarpong, a Fellow of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences (GAAS), Professor of Minerals Engineering and Dean of the School of Postgraduate Studies at Paa Grant University of Mines and Technology, Tarkwa, was among 5 distinguished personalities nominated to serve on a Ministerial Committee of Inquiry set up by the Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Samuel A. Jinapor, MP. The Committee was tasked to undertake a general review of the health and safety regime in the mining industry; review the existing laws and safety standards; inquire into any matter relating to health and safety in the mining sector and make recommendations to the Government for legislative, policy and other reforms. The Committee was inaugurated in the Minister's conference room on Monday 07 February 2022.

Professor Grace Ofori-Sarpong was nominated by the President of the Academy, Emeritus Prof. Samuel Sefa-Dedeh, at the invitation of the Ministry, to represent the Academy on the committee. The committee was chaired by Professor Richmond Amankwah, Minerals Engineer and Vice-Chancellor of the Paa Grant University of Mines and Technology, Tarkwa.

The establishment of the committee was occasioned by the unexpected explosion at Appiatse in the Western Region which claimed 13 lives and destroyed many properties.

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MINISTER OF EDUCATION MEETS HEADS OF AGENCIES UNDER THE MINISTRY

The Ministry of Education, led by the Minister, held its first-quarter coordinating meeting with heads of the various Agencies as part of its effort to streamline its planned activities for 2022 and promote synergy and coordination between agencies.

The Academy was represented at the two-day meeting by Mr. Samuel Boakye, Executive Secretary, Mr. Clifford Kwei Tetteh, Communications Officer, and Mrs. Sabina Otoo, Human Resources Officer. The Minister expressed the hope that the discussions at the meeting would motivate the Agencies to meet their goals for the year, to ensure continuous improvement in teaching and learning outcomes in the country.





INAUGURATION OF GAAS AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Director General of the Internal Audit Agency, Dr Eric Oduro Osae, inaugurated the 5-member Audit Committee of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences yesterday, 27 April 2022. This is in line with provisions under the Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921).

In his address, Dr. Osae charged the committee to work together with Management and all stakeholders of the Academy as partners towards the efficient management of public funds. The chairman, Mr Simeon Tawiah, Internal Audit Agency, assured the governing Council of the Academy that the committee is prepared to execute their mandate according to the code of the profession and asked the Academy to give them the necessary support to perform their job effectively.

The Acting President of the Academy, Emerita Professor Isabella Akyinbah Quakyi, said the Academy would cooperate with the committee and provide all the support needed for their work. Other members of the committee are Prof. Alfred Oteng Yeboah, FGA, Prof. Joshua Abor, FGA, Mr. Michael Amoah Addo and Mr. Solomon Quartey.

Also present at the ceremony were the Deputy Executive Secretary, Mr. Francis Prince Ankrah; Mrs Mavis Nann, Internal Auditor; Mr. Samuel Ndur, Internal Auditor; and Mr. Clifford Tetteh, Communications Officer.

GAAS COUNCIL PAYS COURTESY CALL ON MINISTER OF EDUCATION

The Council of the Academy of Arts and Sciences, along with management and personnel, paid a courtesy call on the Minister of Education on Monday, April 5, 2022. Emerita Prof. Isabella Akyinbah Quakyi, Ag. President of the Academy; Professor Kofi Nti, Vice President of the Arts Section; Prof. Helen Yitah, Honorary Secretary; Prof. Lade Worsunu, Honorary Treasurer; Emeritus Prof. Henry Nii-Adziri Wellington, a fellow of the Academy; and Prof. Aba Andam, a former President of the Academy were among those in attendance. Also present from the GAAS Secretariat were: Mr. Samuel Boakye, Executive Secretary; Mr. Francis Ankrah, Deputy Executive Secretary; Mr. Clifford Tetteh, Communications Officer; Mrs. Patience Amedofu, Accountant; Ms. Sabina Otoo, Human Resource Officer; and Mr. Charles Ansre, Research Officer. The meeting was intended to explore ways to collaborate with the ministry, inform the Minister about the work of the Academy and seek the support and enhanced participation of the Ministry.

In his remarks, the Deputy Minister of Education, Hon. Rev. Ntim Fordjour, who stood in for the minister, commended the Academy team for taking the time to meet him and for GAAS commitment to Education and National Development in general. He expressed interest in the COCOBOD project and the establishment of scientific centers because they are in accordance with the Ministry's vision for this year.

He assured the Academy of the Ministry's support and promised to convey the message to the Honorable Minister of Education, Dr. Yaw Osei Adutwum.



AFRICAN AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATION (AATF) PAYS COURTESY CALL ON GAAS

On Thursday, April 21, 2022, the Academy's Acting President, Emerita Prof. Isabella Akyinbah Quakyi, received a delegation from the African Agriculture Technology Foundation (AATF) based in Abuja.

The team visited the Academy to brief them on what the AATF does and to seek GAAS' collaboration and support in ensuring that science-based approaches are adopted in agricultural decision making, particularly in the subregion.

Other members of GAAS present were Prof. Benjamin Kwadjo Ahunu, Fellow of the Academy and Vice Chairman of the Food and Agriculture Chapter, and Mr. Clifford Tetteh, Communications Officer. The AATF delegation was made up of Dr. Canisius Kanangire, Executive Director, AATF, Dr. Francis Kusi, Ag. Director, CSIR-SARI and Dr. Francis Onyekachi, Lead Product Stewardship, AATF.

