



RESEARCH AND GRANT INSTITUTE OF GHANA

REPORT OF THE **MAIDEN NATIONAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION LECTURE SERIES**





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ABOUT THIS REPORT

This is a report of the maiden edition of the National Research and Innovation Lecture Series (NaRILS) instituted by the Research and Grant Institute of Ghana (ReGIG). The report is divided into three (3) sections.

The first section provides a succinct overview of ReGIG. This includes the goals and core activities of ReGIG.

The second section contains a summary of the organization of the NaRILS. Included in this section is the summary of the presentations of the various resources persons and invited guests.

The last section provides information on the Research Excellence Award presented to some selected institutions and organizations for their role in promoting research in Ghana and beyond.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dr. Samuel Adjorlolo
(Executive Director of ReGIG)

Because of the social and economic impacts of research on contemporary knowledge-economy, the United Nations, through the Sustainable Development Goal 9 (Target 9.5), has admonished countries to substantially increase the number of researchers and strive for innovative and quality research to promote sustainable industrialization.

This calls for a working and collaborative, bidirectional relationship between research generating institutions, government and industries/business community and the general public. This will ensure that government and businesses are guided by the findings generated by the research institutions while the problems identified by government and businesses drives the research questions of research institutions.

A platform for key stakeholders such as the universities, businesses and government institutions to engage in discourses pertaining to the generation, dissemination and utilization of research will greatly inure to the benefit to the country, in terms of contributing to the attainment of the SDGs.

The Research and Grant Institute of Ghana (ReGIG) instituted a National Research and Innovation Lecture Series (NaRILS) as a platform for stakeholders in the research arena to meet annually to discuss issues pertaining to the generation, dissemination and utilization of research to contribute to the socioeconomic development of country, as well as enhance global scientific discourse.

The maiden edition of the NaRILS organized at the University of Ghana was attended by 200 participants, comprising academics, business and industry players, students and the general public. On behalf of Board of Directors and Management Team of ReGIG, I extend my profound gratitude to the Chair of the program, the speakers, invited guests, participants and all those who contributed to the success of the maiden edition of the NaRILS.

We are delighted about the interest and enthusiasm demonstrated towards the maiden edition of the NaRILS. We remain optimistic that the NaRILS is a unique platform to chart the path for sustainable development through research and development.

ABOUT REGIG

REGIG (Research and Grant Institute of Ghana) is a non-governmental organization dedicated to promoting the generation, dissemination and utilization of quality and innovative research to facilitate the socioeconomic development of Ghana and to contribute to global scientific discourse. REGIG is committed to partnering with both national and international institutions and individuals to stimulate, facilitate, demand, and celebrate the highest standard of excellence in research in Ghana.

GOALS OF REGIG

The goals of REGIG include to:

- ▶ Reposition the universities and research institutions in Ghana as repositories of empirical knowledge through a competitive research grant
- ▶ Consolidate the growing relationship between research institutions, businesses and public/community to engineer socioeconomic growth and development through knowledge and technology transfer.
- ▶ Serve as a major advisory body to the government of Ghana, state and non-state institutions, development partners, and interested individuals on research, public policy and development.
- ▶ Celebrate excellence in research by recognizing and awarding researchers and research institutions generating and disseminating research in Ghana.
- ▶ Strengthen the research capacity and knowledge-base of the research community in Ghana through the provision of tailored training programs, seminars, workshops, and conferences.

VISION STATEMENT

To become a leading and world-class institute dedicated to promoting and supporting quality, innovative, and cutting-edge research in Ghana and beyond.

MISSION STATEMENT

To prioritize and elevate quality, innovative, and cutting-edge research as a strategic conduit for socioeconomic growth and forefront of academic advancement in Ghana and beyond.

CORE ACTIVITIES

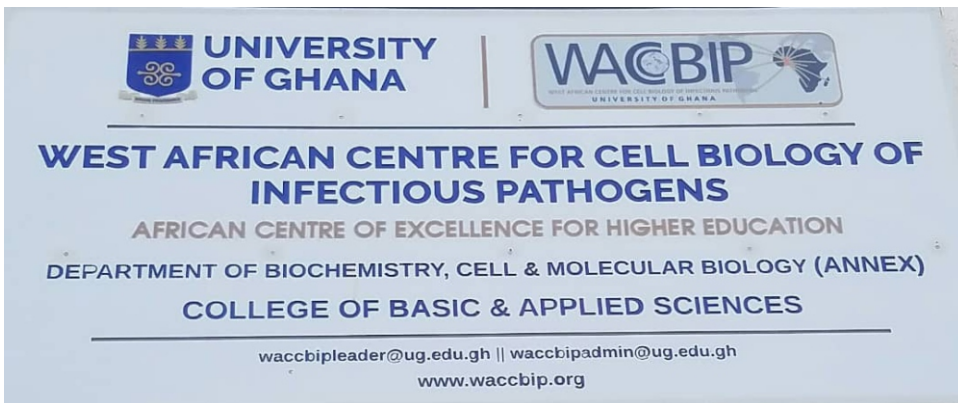
The core activities of REGIG are grouped into four main Departments:

- ▶ Department of Grants and Scholarships:
This Department fund competitive research projects.
- ▶ Department of Knowledge and Technology Transfer: This Department bridges the gap between the research community, business and public, thereby promoting research uptake.
- ▶ Department of Research and Academic Awards: This Department celebrates research excellence via research and academic awards
- ▶ Department of Research, Public Policy & Advocacy:
This Department provides research training, capacity building, public policy research and Advocacy.

NATIONAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION LECTURE SERIES

ReGIG instituted a National Research and Innovation Lecture Series (NaRILS) to create a platform to bring together key stakeholders in the research arena, including students, researchers, private sector, government, NGOs, CSOs and development partners to advance discourses relating to the generation, dissemination and utilization of research to promote sustainable development.

The NaRILS also provides a unique opportunity to recognize and celebrate institutions and individuals contributing to the generation, dissemination and utilization of research in Ghana and beyond.



The maiden edition of the NaRILS was held at the West African Center for Cell Biology and Infectious Pathogens (WACCBIP), University of Ghana on 30th April 2019. The theme for the NaRILS was Revitalizing Academia, Government and Private Sector Research Partnership for the Sustainable Development Goals.

The program was chaired by Dr. Esther Offei-Aboagye (Local Governance Expert and the Board Chair of STAR-GHANA Foundation).

In her opening remark, Dr. Offei-Aboagye lauded the initiative, noting that it is timely in view of recent emphasis on nurturing and consolidating Government, academia and private sector partnership, the so-called Triple Helix.



She further noted that while collaborating between the aforementioned stakeholders is critical and indispensable to socioeconomic growth and development, the next phase of the dialogue should be centered on how the stakeholders can actually engaged each other. She was emphatic that the lecture series instituted by ReGIG will contribute significantly to championing and chartering this quintessential phase of government, academia and private sector partnership.



The Executive Director of ReGIG, Dr. Samuel Adjorlolo stated that formation of ReGIG was timely and important given that research outputs from Ghana and other parts of Africa is notably small, relative to other countries. To support the above, Dr. Adjorlolo presented a report on the research output in Ghana for the past 21 years (i.e., 1996 to 2016).

He stated, out of the 44, 702, 535 publications recorded globally for the 21-year period, less than 2% were produced from Africa.

A continental analysis revealed that Ghana occupied the 9th position with 13,851 publications. South Africa (213,998 publications) emerged as the largest contributor to the research output recorded in Africa, followed by Egypt (157, 835 publications), Tunisia (67,698 publications), The Executive Director of ReGIG, Dr. Samuel Adjorlolo stated that formation of ReGIG was timely and important given that research outputs from Ghana and other parts of Africa is notably small, relative to other countries. To support the above, Dr. Adjorlolo presented a report on the research output in Ghana for the past 21 years (i.e., 1996 to 2016).

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He further stated that the number of publications from Ghanaian researchers hovers around 200s per year from 1996 to 2006, 700s per year from 2007 to 2011, and 1,500 per year from 2012 to 2016.

Discipline-specific analysis similarly revealed that a significant proportion of the research outputs were in the social sciences, arts, and humanities, compared with STEM (i.e., Science, technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).

In his closing remark, Dr. Adjorlolo averred that there is certainly the need to increase the quantity and quality of research conducted in Ghana. However, going forward, there is the pressing need for a well-defined and meaningful working relationship between research generating institutions, policy makers, business community and the third sector (NGOs and CSOs). A bidirectional partnership between the above stakeholders will certainly innure to the benefits of Ghana in the areas of evidence-based policies and programs. The NaRILS is therefore a timely initiative in Ghana.

Dr. Samuel Adjorlolo; Executive Director of ReGIGThree distinguished personalities from academia, government and industry delivered speeches on the aforementioned theme. There were Professor Justice Nyigmah Bawole (Dean of University of Ghana Business School and Board Member of REGIG), Nana Osei-Bonsu (CEO of Private Enterprise Federation) and Dr. Felix Addo-Yobo (National Coordinator for SDG, National Development Planning Commission).

According to Professor Justice Bawole, the issue of partnership between government, industry, and academia should no longer be a subject of deliberation. That is, it is a necessity in the contemporary knowledge economy. He noted that, there has been a conflict among three peculiar scopes of partnership: the need to partner, what to partner on, and how to partner.

The pressing need for partnership calls for immediate resolution of the above conflict. This he stated should commence with the initiative of bringing together stakeholders from academia, industry and government.

Therefore, it is important that we do not underestimate someone who initiating this partnership since this will make the various sectors work in isolation that will definitely not correspond to maximizing national productivity.

The major challenge confronting academia is the limited resources provided by the government.

The problem will be compounded should government stop granting the universities subventions to cover their administrative costs, as hinted. Running the universities as profit making entities may significantly compromise quality education and research output.

In a relatded development, Professor Bawole indicated that industries are currently complaining about the low standard of graduates from the various universities. This he noted could be attributed to research and research-related issues besetting the universities.



Professor Justice Nyigmah Bawole
University of Ghana Business School;
Board Member of ReGIG

In the nutshell, there is a need for industry, government and academia to come together to develop collaborative roles in the interest of national development.

The CEO of Private Enterprise Federation, Nana Osei-Bonsu, also called for a stronger collaboration between academia and industries or business community in Ghana. According to him, the secret to industrialization is research and development.

He further stated that the solutions to most of the problems affecting the growth of industries and businesses in Ghana can be found in research.



Nana Osei-Bonsu;
CEO of Private Enterprise Federation

The lack of structured collaboration between academia and industries is a major threat to the country's industrialization desire that must be addressed.

Nana Osei-Bonsu also charged the universities and other research generating institutions to investigate problems that are relevant to industries and businesses.



Dr. Felix Addo-Yobo;
National Coordinator for SDG, National
Development Planning Commission

Dr. Felix Addo-Yobo, National Coordinator for SDGs at National Development Planning Commission, also reiterated the overarching importance of research in the attainment of the SDGs in Ghana.

According to him, every facet of the SDGs calls for research, including developing suitable monitoring and evaluation framework to monitor progress on the SDGs.

The research community, he noted, has instrumental role in supporting the government of Ghana, development partners, private sector and other

interested parties to ensure the realization of the aspiration of "leaving no one behind" by 2030, as envisioned by the United Nations.

He also maintained that the new era calls for a better working relationship between academia, government, policy makers and others. This collaborative relationship, he noted, will ensure that efforts are not duplicated but rather complement each other.



A section of participants at the event



Presentation by
Dr. Samuel Adjorlolo,
Executive Director of ReGIG

Some invited guests and other participants also shared their thoughts on the theme. Among them are Mr. Ibrahim Tanko (Program Director and Acting CEO of STAR-GHANA Foundation), Mrs. Monica Amponsah (Program Director, Grameen Foundation), Professor Gordon Awandare (Director of West African Center for Cell Biology and Infectious Pathogens, University of Ghana) and Dr. Seth Oheneme Dapaah (Vice President of Millenium Promise).

In his presentation, Mr. Ibrahim Tanko, Program Director and Acting CEO of STAR-GHANA Foundation, stated that the research fraternity has basically and primarily been driven by outside donors.

In view of this, areas in need of research have not been granted the requisite attention. There is the need for research that addresses the fundamental questions confronting the country with competitive research grant. This can basically be achieved with government funding research.

He further stated that for research as a discipline to be made attractive, several action points are needed, including;

- Awareness creation on the importance of research especially those with strategic business ideas.
- Existence of local research funding scheme to support investigations into pertinent areas that outside donors will be consider important.



Mr. Ibrahim Tanko;
Program Director and Acting CEO
of STAR-GHANA Foundation

The Program Director of Grameen Foundation, Mrs. Monica Amponsah, also added her voice for deeper collaboration between academia, industry, government and the third sector.

She stated that, although NGOs and CSOs do generate research, the robustness of the methodological design is certainly not comparable to designs from research-oriented institutions like universities and research institutes. Partnership between the institutions will therefore ensure evidence is readily available to support critical and sensitive decision making, she added.



Mrs. Monica Amponsah;
Program Director, Grameen Foundation

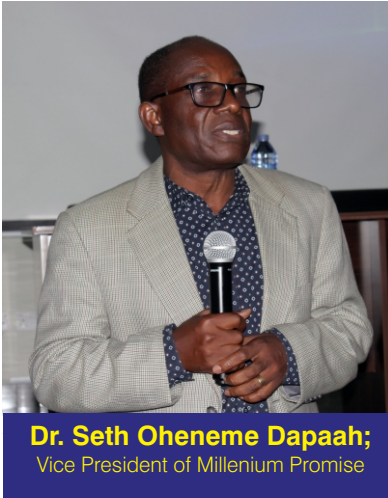
According to Professor Professor Gordon Awandare; Director of West African Center for Cell Biology and Infectious Pathogens, University of Ghana, the political system in Ghana is yet to fully appreciate the importance of research and development.

For this reason, it is not a good idea to rely on the political system for research support currently. Instead, researchers should develop the habit of competing for research grant from the international scene by building a strong research network.

On a personal note, Professor Awandare stated that his Department was once the least regarded Department in the University of Ghana but with the collaboration with colleagues, they have been able to turn the phase of the Department, making it one of the most funded in the university.



Professor Gordon Awandare;
(Director of West African Center for Cell
Biology and Infectious Pathogens,
University of Ghana)



Dr. Seth Oheneme Dapaah, the Vice President of Millenium Promise Incorporated- Ghana, in a brief comment charged government and other policy makers to appreciate the importance of research evidence in their decision making process. He added that social interventions designed to benefit the poor and other vulnerable populations should be based on “what works”.

Failure to consider research evidence could create a situation where scarce resources are utilized on programs that cannot stand the test of time. The need for evidence-based programs is underpinned by the increasingly complex nature of human behavior, he added.

The participants interacted with the invited guests and speakers with respect to government, academia and industry partnership.



Ms. Adiza



Mr. Paul Kwame Adjorlolo

NATIONAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION EXCELLENCE AWARD

The National Research and Innovation Excellence Award was instituted as part of the lecture series to recognize and celebrate individuals and institutions contributing significantly to the generation, dissemination and utilization of research in Ghana and beyond. The maiden edition of the National Research and Innovation Excellence Award was presented to some notable institutions in Ghana.

STAR-Ghana Foundation was awarded for “Funding Strategic Research Projects and Supporting the Dissemination and Utilization of Research Findings in National Discourse and Policy Planning. The Award was received by Mr. Ibrahim Tanko, the Program Director and Acting CEO of the Foundation.



GHOne TV received National Research and Innovation Award for supporting research into tramadol and substance misuse in Ghana.



Millennium Promise, an international NGO with office in Ghana, was honored for “Partnering with the Research Community and Mobilizing Cutting-edge Science and Technology to Accelerate the Attainment of the SDGs in Ghana and Beyond.” The Award was received by Dr. Seth Dapaah, the Vice President of Millennium Promise.



PHOTO GALLERY



From left: Mr. Obed Asamoah Kissi;
Head of Programs, M&E and
Dr. Samuel Adjorlolo; Executive Director,
ReGIG



Reverend Alexander Attiogbe;
Assistant Lecturer, University of Ghana



Dr. Johnny Andoh;
Moderator of lecture series



Professor Justice Nyigmah Bawole
addressing the participants



Dr. Esther Offei-Aboagye (Left) and Dr. Johnny Arthur-Andoh



Dr. Mary Ani-Amponsah and
a section of participants.



Nana Osei-Bonsu,
CEO of Private Enterprise Federation



Dr. Esther Offei-Aboagye (Left)
and Professor Justice Bawole



Mr. Charles Ampong and
Dr. Gwendolyn Mensah



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