

UPSA

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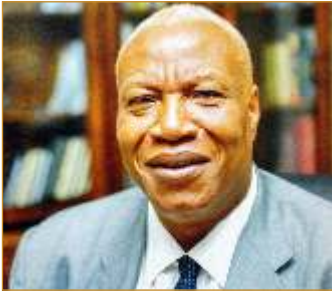
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In Pursuit of Excellence

From the Vice-Chancellor

UPSA's vision, "To be a world-class higher education provider in both academic and professional disciplines, nationally entrenched, regionally relevant and globally recognized," continues to propel us to push forth the boundaries of excellence.

Recently, the internationally renowned Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programmes (ACBSP) awarded UPSA accreditation for its rigorous academic programmes. This accreditation status is yet another endorsement of the University's strong academic credentials in our collective effort to become a world-class university. We applaud the tireless efforts and perseverance of all faculty and staff whose sacrifices made this possible.

We continue to focus on our core mandate by providing and promoting quality higher academic and professional education in business and other social science related disciplines. Currently, the University offers nine (9) graduate and six (6) undergraduate programmes, as well as a wide range of diploma and professional courses, in addition to evening and weekend schools and soon-to-be introduced distance learning programmes. A PhD programme in Leadership as well as programmes in Law and Actuarial Science will soon commence.

Progress

Together with Faculty and staff, we have made significant progress within the last two decades. We have provided diverse and cutting-edge academic programmes at the graduate and undergraduate levels. We take pride in our new and significantly improved learning environment, such as the Library and Research Commons with a seating capacity of 1,500 students, the new Lecture Block Complex which takes in 4,000 students, a six-storey hostel facility accommodating 1,246 students; new Faculty offices and the refurbished University Medical

Centre among others. Plans are advanced for the construction of an auditorium complex with a seating capacity of 3,000.

With a student population of almost 12,000, the university is currently one of the fastest growing public universities in Ghana.

In addition to UPSA's academic rigour and growing profile, the University has established four Centres of Excellence aimed at building capacities in leadership, research and governance. These are; the Centre for Public Accountability; the Drolor Centre for Strategic Leadership; the Otumfuo Centre for Traditional Leadership; and the Centre for Universal Health Coverage, in partnership with the National Health Insurance Authority.

Gratitude

My tenure as Vice-Chancellor ends by the close of the year 2016. Let me take this opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of past and present members of the University Council, faculty and staff; for their support, dedication and hard work towards the development of the University. I am also grateful to former Directors and Rectors of the institution for sowing the seed which has become a full grown tree and flourishing. The diverse contributions of the student body, the Alumni Association and all stakeholders, particularly the National Accreditation Board (NAB) and the National Council for Tertiary Education (NCTE) have laid a strong foundation for UPSA's phenomenal growth.

May UPSA's vision continue to inspire us all as we strive for excellence.

Thank you.

Prof Joshua Alabi

ACBSP GRANTS UPSA ACCREDITATION STATUS

OVERLAND PARK, Kansas, USA (May 3, 2016) — The Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) www.acbsp.org Undergraduate/Graduate Degree Board of Commissioners has awarded University of Professional Studies (UPSA) in Accra, Ghana, www.upsa.edu.gh, accreditation for its business programs.

Established in 1988, ACBSP is the only organization offering specialized business accreditation for all degree levels, from associate, bachelors, masters to doctoral degree programs. ACBSP accreditation certifies that the teaching and learning processes within the undergraduate and graduate business programs offered at University of Professional Studies, Accra meet the rigorous educational standards established by ACBSP.

Based on the criteria of the National Malcolm Baldrige Quality Award, ACBSP accreditation evaluates aspects of the institutional leadership, strategic planning processes, relationships with the community, quality of academic programs, faculty credentials and services, and educational support to determine whether or not the institution offers a rigorous educational experience and demonstrates continuous quality improvement.

“University of Professional Studies, Accra has shown their commitment to teaching excellence and to the process of quality improvement by participating in the accreditation process,” said ACBSP Chief Accreditation Officer Dr. Steve Parscale, who presented the Certificate of Accreditation at ACBSP Conference 2016 in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, June 19. “This accreditation is evidence that UPSA is committed to providing the highest quality business education for their students.”

About University of Professional Studies, Accra (UPSA)

The University of Professional Studies, Accra (UPSA) is a pre-eminent public institution that provides undergraduate, master's degree and diploma programmes and tuition for internationally recognized, acclaimed business professional



Visiting ACBSP team with the Vice-Chancellor and UPSA Officials

programmes. With over fifty (50) years of experience, the University has gained a reputation as the oldest professional accountancy and management tuition provider in Ghana with many of its graduates in key leadership positions in Ghana and elsewhere. The University currently has a student population of twelve thousand (12,000) and staff strength of about five hundred (500).

About ACBSP

ACBSP's mission is to promote continuous improvement and recognize excellence in the accreditation of business education programs around the world. ACBSP, www.acbsp.org, is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) as a specialized accreditation agency for business education. ACBSP currently has 1,215 member campuses, 235 of which are located outside of the U.S. Of those campuses, 951 have achieved accreditation and 167 are in candidacy for accreditation. Individual members on these campuses now exceed 13,000.

DROLOR SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME LAUNCHED



The Chancellor of the University of Professional Studies, Accra, His Royal Majesty Drolor Bosso Adamtey I, has launched the Drolor Scholarship Scheme with a seed money of Ten thousand U.S. Dollars (\$10,000).

Speaking at the launch, Drolor Bosso Adamtey said he had realized that every country that extends opportunities to its citizens through education, sets a generation up for greatness and he, as a son of the Shai Traditional Area, has the responsibility of making the lives of his people better through education. "I do believe that the time has come when we will not always look out for the 'American dream,' but we can also create dreams within Ghana that when you talk about Ghana, our own people will also say, they want a piece of the Ghanaian dream and it all starts with education." He said.

The Chancellor encouraged other benevolent people from the Shai Traditional area to join him

change the lives of the youth of the area, and to contribute to the betterment of Ghana.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Joshua Alabi in his welcome address, tasked the board members to do a very good job when the time comes for the award of scholarship.

A representative of His Excellency, Ami Mehl, the Ambassador of Israel, also said the Ambassador supports the Chancellor's initiative. He said Israel is seeking partnership with the University of Professional Studies to establish among other things, a high tech accelerator/incubator to equip students with the tools to turn their ideas into innovative startups.

The initial beneficiaries of the scholarship scheme will come from students from the Shai Traditional Area.

Faculty of MGT Honours Three



Dr Afutu-Kotey (R)



Prof Goski Alabi (R) receiving her award and on the V-C's behalf



The Faculty of Management has presented awards to three deserving staff members of the University namely, Prof. Joshua Alabi, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Goski Alabi, Dean, Centre for International Education and Collaboration (CIEC) and Dr. Robert Lawrence Afutu-Kotey, Lecturer at the Faculty of Management. The three received the awards during the 2nd International Conference on Business Management and Entrepreneurship Development (ICBMED) held at UPSA recently.

Prof. Joshua Alabi received the Legacy Award in recognition of his sterling achievements and inspirational leadership in transforming the former Institute of Professional Studies into a world-class university. Excerpts of the citation accompanying his award read:

Many stirred at the ambitions, many waited to the revelations, many doubted the initiatives, many were clothed in the thick colours of impossibility and some were drenched in morbid fear of failure. Your exemplary life, leadership competence, and firmness have led the way to our broad day light. Your actions inspire many to dream more, do more and become vibrant in the lives of people. You have been a yardstick of quality and perseverance. Your tangible and intangible legacies shall linger for years. We celebrate you.

The award for meritorious service to the University and society went to Prof. Goski Alabi. Excerpts of the citation accompanying her award states: "Your support for many research-related activities is evident as we unlock your case of academic accolades and ponder over your goal to practice the behavior you want others to follow. While many

pride themselves of known pathways, you have over the years been an encouragement to go to where there is no path."

Dr. Robert Lawrence Afutu-Kotey received an award for being the 2016 most promising scholar of the University. Part of his citation stated:

"Your unalloyed service and self-sacrificing spirit in teaching, serving on committees, and support of research-related activities in your Department and the University is particularly noteworthy. With your humble spirit and love for scholarship, we were not astounded when you were adjudged the "Best Qualitative Researcher" among your cohorts during your doctoral graduation."

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abednego Feehi Okoe Amartei congratulated the recipients of the awards and acknowledged the University's efforts at maintaining high standards. He urged the staff to excel in their endeavours and also to work hard towards achieving awards in future.

Prof. Goski Alabi expressed gratitude on behalf of the recipients for the honour done them.

"The true worth of a man is not to be found in man himself, but in the colours and textures that come alive in others."

-Albert Schweitzer

GOLDMAN SACHS SELECTS UPSA STUDENTS FOR INTERSHIPS IN LONDON



Global investment banking firm Goldman Sachs has for the second year selected two students of the University of Professional Studies, Accra (UPSA) to join its Spring Internship Programme in London. The two-week career enrichment program gives participants an insight into Goldman Sachs' business operations and exposes them to a wide range of career opportunities within the financial services industry. The UPSA duo, are part of a total group of sixteen selected out of over 500 applicants from 20 universities in Ghana and Nigeria.

The students, David Selorm Atsu, a final year BSc. Marketing major and Princess Edith Geraldo, a final year BSc. Banking and Finance major will join the Operations and Global Investment Research divisions respectively in London.

"I am extremely excited about this internship. The firm selects the best and I am thrilled to have such an empowering opportunity to explore the world of investment banking on a global scale", said David Selorm Atsu. "My selection is an attestation that UPSA is a force to reckon with as a business education provider in Africa", he added.

The two students will be flown to London to participate in a series of learning activities that will include presentations to Goldman Sachs' leadership, conferences, team assignments and other opportunities to foster their professional growth.

"For me this is a great learning opportunity. I am grateful to SEO Africa for the intense interviews, trainings and support", said Princess Edith Geraldo. Sponsors for Educational Opportunity (SEO) Africa, runs the marketing, recruitment and training for Goldman Sachs in Ghana and Africa.

SEO Africa's affiliate organizations in the US and in the UK have been working with Goldman Sachs for 36 years, and since 2014, SEO Africa has been working to enhance the Bank's recruitment and training efforts in Ghana and Nigeria.

Goldman Sachs is a global investment banking firm that offers diverse financial services to a wide client base. Candidates who apply to the firm are evaluated on the core measures of leadership, analytical thinking, teamwork, commercial focus, achievement and the ability to make an impact and excel.

6th ISTEAMS CONFERENCE HELD



6th from L-R: Prof. Okoe Amartey, Pro-VC; Prof. Abdul Ganiyu, V-C Illorin University & Dr. Mrs. Vivian Amoako, Director of Admin. and some organisers of the Conference

The 6th International Science, Technology, Education, Arts, Agriculture, Management and the Social Sciences (iSTEAMS) multidisciplinary cross-border Conference has been held at the University of Professional Studies, Accra (UPSA).

The Conference brought together scholars, practitioners and researchers from various countries to interact and share knowledge.

In his welcome address, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abednego Okoe Feehi Amartey, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, said the iSTEAMS Conference would promote intellectual and human capital development, technology transfer, research, cross-border collaborations among academics, practitioners and researchers. "UPSA is proud to be associated with the objectives and programmes of iSTEAMS", he said.

Prof. Edward Santiago-Blas from Colorado State University, USA, presented a paper on the topic, "Employment Skills: A Global Perspective." He spoke about the importance of technology and how new trends in technology can make work more productive and effective.

He stated that Africa has a lot of opportunities for growth and modern technology services would

enhance advancement and growth in Africa. He explained that with the advent of technological devices and methods many people are now working from their homes.

Prof. Musa Ahmed, Director of Computer Services and Information Technology at Illorin University in Nigeria, said Information Technology (IT) has revolutionized tertiary education in Nigeria and other West African Countries.

"IT has made student-teacher relationship good because these days with its help, there is the exchange of knowledge and ideas and it has also made teaching less cumbersome," he said.

The Conference was crowned with a presentation of awards of excellence to some deserving personalities for their contribution in promoting quality higher education. The recipients were Prof. Joshua Alabi, Vice-Chancellor of UPSA, Prof. Abdul Ganiyu, Vice-Chancellor of Ilorin University, Nigeria, Prof. Clement K. Dzidonu, President, Accra Institute of Technology, Prof. Goski Alabi, Dean, Centre for International Education and collaboration, UPSA, Prof. Edward Santiago-Blas from Colorado State University, USA and Dr. Hilda Vember, of Cape Peninsula University, South Africa.





Work Begins on 3000-Capacity UPSA Auditorium

A sod-cutting ceremony has been held to mark the commencement of a GH¢77m auditorium project at UPSA.

The ceremony was jointly performed by Prof. Joshua Alabi, Vice Chancellor of UPSA; Mr. Duan Dezhl, Chairman of Top International Engineering Ghana Limited; and Mr. Kwabena Appiah Gyimah, Group Head, Business Banking of Access Bank.

The ultra-modern auditorium will be due for completion in 30 months. Top International Engineering Ghana Limited, a Chinese Construction firm is undertaking the project, and it is being funded by Access Bank.

According to Mr. David Tetteh of Phase II Consultants who are the project managers, the

auditorium will have a seating capacity of 3,000. It will also have a two-level underground car park, conference facilities and offices for seminars and training programmes as well as a students' centre.

Prof. Alabi said the commemorative event marked the construction of another massive development project at UPSA. He indicated that the auditorium would be beneficial to both the academic community and the general public. Prof. Alabi also urged the contractor to expedite work on the project to ensure its timely completion.

Responding to the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Dezhl assured that the project would be handed over on time.

"Today, UPSA is not just a brand ... it has become a competitive institution of choice. To this end, we have been able to position UPSA as a unique business education and research institution that blends scholarship with professionalism; a University of excellence in Africa and beyond"

- Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Joshua Alabi

OCTL Builds Capacity of Chiefs

The Otumfuo Centre for Traditional Leadership (OCTL) is a Centre of academic excellence whose primary aim is to train and build the capacity of traditional rulers and staff of the regional and national houses of chiefs. The Centre stands as a facility for the total study and examination of the role of chieftaincy as an instrument of social cohesion and stability in turbulent times. The Centre has organised a number of capacity building workshops for traditional rulers on various topics such as:

- Land Administration
- Strategic Management
- Documentation and Records Management
- Conflict Management
- Chiefs as Partners of Development
- Chieftaincy and Social Cohesion and Solidarity
- The Administration of the Chieftaincy Institution in the Modern Ghanaian State
- Financial Management
- The Laws of Chieftaincy (Customary Laws) as Tools of Reforms and National Integration
- Chieftaincy and Democracy
- Women in Traditional Leadership
- Sources of Authority and Jurisdiction of Chiefs



Alhaji M. N. D. Jawula (Left) Consulting Director, OCTL addressing the participants



Delegations Visit Centre for Public Accountability



The Centre for Public Accountability (CPA) was established with the primary objective to study, research, develop recommendations, and advocate for reforms to promote accountability and transparency in public sector management.

CPA has received a number of delegations from public service institutions and civil society groups to learn about the Centre's activities and programmes

in the areas of policy-oriented research, knowledge sharing and capacity building, as well as consultancy services. The visits include delegations of members of Parliament from the Gambia, Sierra Leone, Cote d'Ivoire, and Zambia as well as civil society groups from East Timor and Cambodia. The delegates were taken through lectures on accountability, good governance, and Ghana's public financial management system.

UPSA PARTICIPATES IN OPEN GOVT PARTNERSHIP



Dr. Kan-Dapaah (extreme left) with conference panelists

UPSA was represented at the Africa Regional meeting of the Open Government Partnership held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 4-6 May 2016 by the Consulting Director of the University's Centre for Public Accountability, Hon. Dr. Albert Kan-Dapaah. The theme of the conference was Open Government for Sustainable Development in Africa.

The Open Government Partnership is a multilateral initiative that aims to secure concrete commitments from governments to promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption and harness new technologies to strengthen governance.

Ghana confirmed its impressive status as a beacon for democracy when it joined the Partnership in September 2011. The first Action Plan of Ghana covered the period 2013-2014 and has since been replaced by the second Action Plan 2015-2017.

Under the second Action Plan, the Government of Ghana has committed itself to work towards achieving agreed objectives and commitments in the broad areas of:

- Transparency in Governance
- Citizen's Participation in Governance
- Accountability, and
- Technology & Innovation

Among the participants were leading personalities from around the globe including, Ms. Ayanda Dlodlo, South Africa's Deputy Minister for Public Service Administration. Also in attendance was Mr. Mo Ibrahim, the renowned businessman, philanthropist and leading advocate for Good Governance in Africa.

Over 500 high-level participants from Civil Society organization, business, academia, multilateral organizations and government attended the two day conference at the century city conference Centre in Cape Town.

Dr. Albert Kan-Dapaah who was a panelist at one of the sessions hailed the Open Government Partnership and advocated for an independent monitoring of the implementation of the Action Plans by Civil Society.



Dr. Kan-Dapaah with Mr. Mo Ibrahim (middle)

SOGS organizes Workshop on Corporate Governance & Strategic Leadership

The School of Graduate Studies (SOGS) in collaboration with Maddison Pine of UK held a two-day workshop on the theme, “Corporate Governance & Strategic Leadership in Turbulent Times.” The workshop brought together Business Executives, Chief Accountants, Internal Auditors, Bankers, Corporate Lawyers, and other senior public servants and executives.

Prof. Mrs. Goski Alabi, Dean Centre for International Education & Collaboration; Dr. Albert Puni, Dean, SOGS; and Dr. Olu Ajayi, Maddison Pine UK, were the key facilitators. In attendance was the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Joshua Alabi. He spoke on the topic: “Transformational Leadership in Action.”

Some of the topics covered during the workshop

included:

The Board & Organisational Performance In Turbulent Times:

- The Value-Creating Board
- Risk and the Board
- Strategy and the Board
- Managing Crisis & Reputational Risks

Strategic Leadership

- Leading for a change.
- Looking into the future & identifying opportunities
- Creating & delivering value through strategic leadership
- Building the needed social capital to make a difference
- Listening, learning & changing in order to improve



UPSA 7th GRADUATION



The Chancellor, HRM Drolor Bosso Adamtey I delivering the Welcome Address



The Vic-Chancellor's Address to the Congregation



Valedictory Address by Mr. Fawaz Abdul Rahman

IN PICTURES



Mr. Mike Nyinaku, the Guest of honour and Prof. Goski Alabi



Prof. Anthony Ahiawodzi, former Pro-Vice Chancellor



The Registrar, Dr. Seidu Mohammed Mustapha leading the Recession



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BUSINESSS MANAGEMENT AND ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT HELD



The 2nd International Conference on Business Management and Entrepreneurial Development (ICBMED) has been held at the University of Professional Studies, Accra (UPSA). The two-day Conference began from the 21st to 22nd April 2016.

Speaking on the theme, “Remaining Competitive Amidst Rising Cost of Operations: The dilemma of SMEs,” the Managing Consultant of Feniks Limited, Mrs. Pearl Esua Mensah advised SMEs to overcome the bottlenecks associated with the rising cost of doing business. “This could be done by reducing cost of operations and by taking measures to understand the factors of pricing which would be more economical and beneficial.”

She said the global financial crisis that happened a few years ago was as a result of challenging economic times, not just in Ghana but in Africa and

the world at large. The high operating costs in Ghana is as a result of various factors including energy, high interest rates, high rent charges, and the depreciation of the cedi, she added.

The Pro-Vice Chancellor, Prof. Abednego Okoe Feehi Amartey, who represented the Vice-Chancellor, welcomed participants to the conference. He said the conference was an important step in bridging the gap between research, successful business and entrepreneurial development which is critical at a time of rising unemployment among graduates.

Participants at the Conference were drawn from universities in Africa and Europe as well as representatives from Ghanaian industries, staff and students of the University.

UN INFORMATION CENTRE, KOREAN EMBASSY DONATE TO UPSA LIBRARY

The Reference Librarian from the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), Accra, Ms. Evelyn Sarpong has paid a working visit to the New UPSA Library & Research Commons.

The visit enabled her to assess the use of the United Nations (UN) materials supplied to the University since the launch of the UN Books on Wheels Project in October 2014, and to present more publications to the University.

Ms. Sarpong inspected the UN Corner established in the Library, and reviewed UN-related publications on display. She promised to send more electronic academic reference links to the Library to aid research.

Separately, the Deputy Head of Mission at the South Korean Embassy, Ms. Lisa Han has presented 30 computers on behalf of the Embassy to UPSA to support academic work.

The UPSA Librarian, Mr. Elijah Akuamoah Mensah received the donations on behalf of the University. He expressed his gratitude to UNIC and the South Korean Embassy for their kind gesture.

Mr. Mensah said the computers donated by the Embassy would assist the academic community, particularly students and researchers in their academic work. He also appealed to UNIC to furnish the UN section of the Library with computers to enhance teaching and research.



Pilot Study Report on Perceptions on National Interest Issues in Ghana



Dr. Samuel Batchison Ofei
Director, Drolor Center for Strategic Leadership

Introduction and Justification

Ghana has achieved some amount of sustained economic growth for over four decades now and continues to make efforts to transform its economy structurally. Notwithstanding the strides made over the years, many national issues continue to crop up which seek to hinder developmental policies put in place hence erasing gains made over the years. Furthermore, from the experiences of other nations, where key interest areas/issues were identified for sustainable development, such countries have immensely improved upon the standards of living of their people. Accordingly, it is clear that national development calls for certain key growth and development polls. These factors always have the most multiplier effects as well as the most oscillating (forward and backward) linkages with many other sectors. Since the beginning of Ghana's Fourth Republic in 1992, various governments have chartered their own directions based on their party manifestoes and /or to satisfy campaign promises.

Evidence has shown that, some of these policies implemented have not provided the best results, benefited majority of the citizens or led to the neglect of hitherto better alternatives provided or initiated by previous governments. One key cause of these challenges is the lack of greater consensus among the majority of stakeholders. From practice,

it is better to engage the participation of citizens on the issues that affect them most, which means that they (citizens/stakeholders) are the most appropriate to indicate what is best for them based on their socio-economic persuasions.

This collaborative study by the Drolor Centre for Strategic Leadership and the Research Centre of UPSA seeks to fill the gap in the Ghanaian context by examining what citizens perceive to be key national interest issues through research, in order to develop the strategic directions and to lobby for the general acceptance and implementation.

The Research Details

Given the nature of the national interest issues and the need to obtain broad based consensus, it is appropriate to undertake this research in two ways: principally through a pilot study and then subsequently on a larger scale. The pilot study is to help scan through the preliminary views of citizens on the key issues, test the validity of the instrument and obtain other information that will help improve the main survey. The result of the first part is presented in the sections below:

Methodology

This pilot study sought to undertake an exploratory survey to ascertain the key national issues which are of interest to citizens so as to enable researchers focus on the specific and identifiable challenges to be dealt with as a nation. This survey was undertaken on students of the University of Professional Studies, Accra (UPSA). In all, there were two-hundred and forty four (244) respondents involved in the survey. A self-developed instrument was used, which contained open ended questions for the main issues. Since the respondents are literate, the questionnaire was completed by the respondents themselves. The report is organized with the respondents profile first, followed by the main issues raised by the respondents in the survey.

Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

The results from the survey showed that there were more male respondents (67%) than females. In addition, representations of students from all the undergraduate and graduate programmes were involved in the survey. About 53% of the respondents were from the MBA Accounting and Finance group which is the flagship programme at the School of Graduate Studies of UPSA. The respondents from the undergraduate programmes were evenly spread over the four programmes.

With respect to the sector of employment, while 30% of the respondents were employed in the public sector, 29% were from the private sector. Other areas of employment represented include, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) or Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) as well as those working in international organizations. A few of the respondents were also self-employed. About 28% of the respondents were full-time students and as such the sector of employment could not apply to them. Moreover, majority of the respondents were in the middle level management class (48%), while 14% of the respondents fell in the lower level management cohort. Besides, about 7% of them were in the top level of management (strategic decision-making stage).

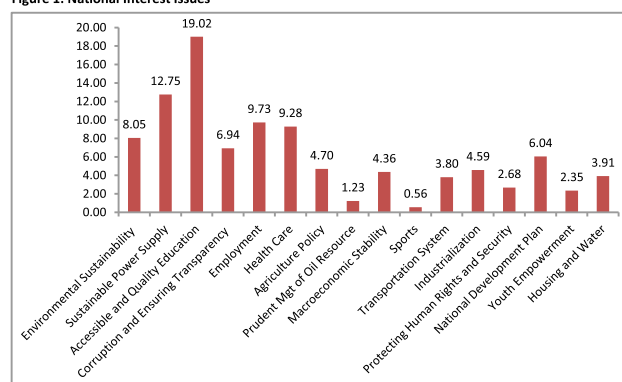
Issues of National Interest

This section presents the main issues of national interest raised by the respondents. It must be emphasized that each student was allowed to pick five (5) key issues of national interest. Due to the open-ended nature of the study instrument, responses were categorized into the main issues that were mostly identified while the rest which were in isolation were classified as others. Figure 1 presents the actual responses without “others.” It presents the key issues identified by the students as the main concerns that the nation should address. According to the respondents, the most important national issue of interest is having access to quality education. This may not be surprising since all the respondents involved in this study are students and as such may be biased towards education. In all, 19% of the respondents ranked education as a major national interest issue which needed to be addressed. This was followed by the provision of sustainable power supply to the nation which was ranked with almost 13% rating. This also reflects current happenings in the country where

the entire country has been plunged into unreliable power supply for the past three years. The situation has deteriorated in recent times and it is no wonder that most of the respondents are calling for a sustainable national development plan for power. Most of the respondents who raised this point, called for the country to look for alternative sources of power such as investing heavily in solar power.

The next national interest issue raised was the design of a national policy on employment and job creation. These responses were against the background that about 40% of the students were undergraduate students who were not part of the labour force and were yet to enter the labour market and as such would want a comprehensive

Figure 1: National Interest Issues



Source: Survey Data (2015)

review of the labour market as well as a credible employment policy that provides avenues and detailed information. Recently, an employment policy was launched by the President, H.E John Mahama which would go a long way to help address this concern. Health and environmental sustainability are the next respective national issue concerns raised. Provision of accessible and quality health care coupled with proper environmental management is a major concern worth attending to. It must be emphasized that environmental sustainability takes into consideration the issues of environmental degradation, sanitation and waste management. These two issues are perceived to be widespread concerns to Ghanaians in recent times. Whilst “galamsey” and illegal logging activities have been on the increase, filth and dirt have engulfed all the major cities and towns leading to diseases including the menacing plague of cholera in Ghana. To address the latter, the government has instituted a national sanitation day to help clean the cities and environs.

Corruption which has been the bane of development also features as it ranked next on the above issues followed by the provision of a national development plan for all political parties that come to power to consider. Other issues raised which have been shown in Figure 1 included having an agriculture policy, promotion of industrialization and stabilizing the Ghanaian economy. The other minor national interest issues raised have all been shown in Figure 1.

Some issues received minimal attention by the respondents. These include: sports and governance elements such as protecting Human Rights and Security, and Youth Empowerment. It may be that, although sports often receive government attention, its low ranking is an indication that, respondents perceived that it does not manifestly contribute to the livelihood of many people. Very few people are benefiting from sports, given that concentration is placed mainly on soccer. Furthermore, there seems to be minimal emphasis on issues such as human rights and security by respondents. This creates the impression that government is often successful in addressing such issues.

The oil resources seem not to be an important issue. This may be due to the fact that it has not solved or indicated any real contribution to the funding requirements of Ghana or help to solve the energy needs. The hype about the benefits of the oil-find seems to have subsided as people have come to the realisation that the oil-find may not be contributing to the national development agenda as expected.

The ensuing box, Box 1 comprises the list of issues ranked by respondents in descending order of importance, i.e., from the most important to the least according to this pilot study of 244 respondents.

Observations and Recommendations for the Actual Survey

Based on the analyses of the pilot data, the following recommendations would be appropriate to ensure improved quality research on the identification of Ghana's national interest or development agenda:

- Although the respondents were all students for the pilot study, the revelation of education as the most important issue is informative. Thus, in the full survey, effort should be made to include

different or broad categories of citizens or stakeholders. This will ensure that possible biases are avoided as there is the possibility of the background of the respondents influencing the interests they present.

- In order to be clear on what aspects of issues are significant, in the full survey, respondents should be made and allowed to provide elaborate responses on the specific issues of importance to them.
- As a follow up, the research could consider a third stage of the survey where top priority areas so identified through the full survey are re-examined. This will help indicate specific areas/aspects of the issues that must be given attention.
- The indication of power supply as the second most important issue reflects the current electric power challenge. In order to incorporate long term planning into the consensus, respondents in the full survey should be made aware that, their presentation of priority issues should be born out of those that will have long lasting impact when addressed.
- While the main questions in the pilot survey were open-ended (apart from the demographic characteristics), some aspects of the full survey should be quantitative. This is because the broad spectrum of citizens to be considered and the large number of respondents will make full open-ended questions too difficult to analyse

Conclusion

The lack of acceptable national interest agenda or national development agenda is a concern for Ghana's development. Any effort to address this challenge would go a long way to setting the agenda for a seminal and intellectual discourse on the subject. The collaboration between the Drolor Centre for Strategic Leadership and the Research Centre of the UPSA is to facilitate the discourse through research where the study results would be deliberated on for consensus at a colloquium or forum. This is in line with the University's mandate (Act 850) of teaching and research for national development. It is hoped that, this effort will lead to consensus on national priority issues, development of a harmonized national development plan as a roadmap for all political parties to follow and improve socio-economic life of every Ghanaian.

Notable Alumni

Mike Nyinaku



Mr. Michael Nyinaku founded BEIGE Capital, in 2008, after a successful career as a Professional Accountant for 10 years.

Mike is a member of the Association of Certified Chartered Accountants (ACCA) and an Alumnus of this institution.

As Chief Executive Officer, Mike has nurtured the growth of BEIGE Capital from its inception to its current status as the leading Savings and Loans Company in Ghana. As Director of Finance (between 2001 – 2008) for OICI-GH – a US based NGO; Mike had responsibility for providing financial planning, management, capacity building and technical advice on multiple community development programs in Ghana and across West Africa. Prior to this he trained as a Finance and Audit specialist with Deloitte & Touché.

Throughout his career Mike has demonstrated continuous leadership in business excellence, technical skills and project execution. An award winning entrepreneur, highly regarded as one of Ghana's emerging business leaders, he features prominently in many speaking engagements aimed at promoting thought leadership, youth and business development.

Besides the many honours conferred on his businesses, Mike's growing significance and influence as an individual in corporate Ghana has been noticed and recognized on many platforms.

- In February 2014, he was mentioned by the President of Ghana in his State of the Nation address as amongst the key business leaders driving employment and development in Ghana
- In the same month he was named amongst the 100 most influential persons in Ghana
- In 2012, Male Youth Personality of the year @ the National Youth Awards
- In 2012, Gold Award for financial excellence @ the National Youth Awards
- In 2012, Best Young entrepreneur @ the Annual Ghana Entrepreneurship Awards
- In 2012 & 2011, Young Professional Role Model in Finance & Tourism @ the YPYC Annual Awards

UPSA PARTICIPATES IN THE GHANA-NETHERLANDS NEW BUSINESS CHALLENGE



Twenty students from Ghana participated in the 2015 edition of the Ghana-Netherlands New Business Challenge. Piloted in 2014, the programme is an initiative of the Dutch government in a bid to move Ghana from aid to trade. Subsequently, other organizations such as the Ghana Netherlands Business and Culture Council (GNBCC), Crosswise Works, Sustainable Motion were also involved in the initiative. The Ghana-Netherlands business Challenge brings together students from both countries to work in partnership in solving real business cases and in developing implementable business solutions.

2015 Programme

The 2015 programme of the Business Challenge took off with five Dutch companies participating. Their names as well as their business cases were:

- VLISCO: To offer a customized plan for ready-to-wears.
- SUSTEQ: To create a marketing plan to penetrate the Ghanaian market with the Water Business Box.
- SPAANS BABCOCK: To provide innovative ways as to converting waste to energy to feed into the national grid.
- WITEVEEN+BOS: To provide constant energy supply to clients in Ghana.
- STADLER RENEWABLE ENERGY: To create innovative ways of encouraging Ghanaians to go for solar power stations rather than diesel.

SELECTION

A total of 40 students; 20 Ghanaians and 20 Dutch students were selected.

The first selection was done at various universities based on students' minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0; good character and enthusiasm. The next selection process was done simultaneously in both countries. Students from universities in Ghana applied to be part of the programme. During the kick-off event which was held in Accra, candidates were informed about the nature and objective of the program. A cross-cultural orientation session was organised for participants.

Soon afterwards, a representative of each company spoke about their business case and what they expected from us. We then broke out into pairs and were handed our various business cases to work on within two hours. Each group did a five-minute presentation to the company representative. Four students were selected from each group in order to get the final twenty. The chosen ones had to wait anxiously for three days before receiving information on the selection.

Fourteen students from UPSA and six students from Central University were finally chosen.

EXPECTATIONS

The expectations of UPSA students involved in the program included learning new things, coming up with implementable ideas, learning firsthand about a different country, its people and culture, networking, and making new friendships. Beyond this, we were expected to return and share our experiences, and to encourage others who would participate in future

programmes.

THE JOURNEY

As part of the Business Challenge Programme, 20 Ghanaian students participated in a nine-day study trip to the Netherlands. Soon after we arrived, we headed into the city of Zaanse Schans. We saw lots of windmills for different purposes. The scenery was as beautiful as the city; clean, orderly and tidy (no littering). Both residential and business areas were well-planned. Traffic regulations were strictly enforced. The Next business day marked our formal face-to-face meeting with our Dutch teammates. Dubbed the first encounter, it was full of fun activities such as engaging in the scavenger hunt. As part of the hunt, we had to find a made-in-Ghana product, do something very creative and eat one of their delicacies -- uncooked herring! Not all of us had the courage to eat fresh raw fish!

The days following our first encounter involved learning communication skills and how to work as a team, visiting companies, making presentations and spending some time sightseeing. Four team coaches were contracted to guide us during the entire process. We played games such as the Colombian Hypnosis (using one's hand and moving whilst the other party follows with the focus on the leader's hand) and Marshmallows (constructing the highest structure with one marshmallow and eight spaghetti sticks) to help us understand what it meant to be a leader and a follower, and how to maintain a delicate balance between relationships and results. The official opening ceremony took place at the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) which was attended by the Deputy Ghanaian Ambassador and other Dutch officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and RVO.

The visits to various companies gave us the opportunity to see the organizations and to understand the weight of our business cases. It also enabled us to come up with ideas for the business case solutions. A number of business professionals also visited to share their expertise with us. The teams eventually drew up action plans regarding the second leg of the programme in Ghana. The action plan was then formally presented to the coaches and organizers.

The eighth and final day of our visit was full of fun. We visited the city of Amsterdam and took a boat trip, attended church service at the Trinity Presbyterian Church and later spend some time exploring the city. We were each given an amount of money to have

dinner with our teammates. It was hard to say good-bye after meeting and working together for seven days.

We began implementing our action plan as soon as we landed in Accra. Our Dutch teammates arrived soon afterwards for a ten-day visit as part of the concluding phase of the study programme. Together, we undertook some research, visited the selected companies in Ghana, worked together as a team, and came up with final business solutions. These were presented to the Judges in Microsoft PowerPoint format. The criteria for the final selection included creativity, relevance and sustainability. Each team had seven minutes to present their solutions to the judges using PowerPoint and five minutes of question time. The teams also provided exhibits where their business solutions were boldly displayed.

The announcement of the winning team followed by a party, was held at the residence of the Dutch Ambassador to Ghana, HE Hans Docter. Some senior government officials including Hon Rashid Pelpuo, Minister for Public Private Partnership, attended the closing ceremony.

Shouts of joy and jubilation greeted the announcement of the winning team – Vlisco Team 2. Thus, the two-month vigorous work had finally come to an end. We had a great evening of fun and interactions. The team traveled to Cape Coast, the next day, and visited places of interest such as the Castles in Cape Coast and Elmina and then relaxed at the beach before heading back to Accra, thoroughly exhausted.

(Culled from Report presented by UPSA students)



First Newsroom Competition Held

The Department of Public Relations Management under the Faculty of Information Technology and Communication Studies hosted the first-ever intellectual discourse and simulated writing, reporting and presentation proceedings of journalism and integrated marketing communication for communication faculties and universities in Ghana. The competition, an initiative of Cheetah Communication Limited in collaboration with the Ghana Journalist Association

(GJA), Advertising Association of Ghana (AAG) and the Institute of Public Relations Ghana (IPR), sought to attract the finest talents for the communication and media industry in Ghana by providing a platform for students pursuing communication related programmes to participate, interact, network and learn from one another. Two key students, supported by six (6) others were groomed by a team of lecturers from the Department. The UPSA team placed second out of five universities.



*Hon. Felix Ofosu Kwakye,
Deputy Minister of Communication*



UPSAs participating students



*Dr. Kweku Rockson, Consulting HOD (Right)
and a special guest*



UPSA Profile

The University of Professional Studies, Accra (UPSA) is an autonomous public institution whose legal status derives from the University of Professional Studies, Act 2012 (Act 850).

ESTABLISHMENT

Founded in 1965 as a private institution, became full-fledged university in 2008 and was renamed in 2012.

ACCREDITATION

Fully accredited by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programmes (ACBSP)

STUDENT POPULATION: 12,000

VISION

To be a world-class higher education provider in both academic and professional disciplines, nationally entrenched, regionally relevant and globally recognized.

MISSION

We strive to provide and promote quality higher academic and professional education in business and other social sciences related disciplines by leveraging a structured mix of Scholarship with Professionalism in Ghana and beyond.

Tagline: Scholarship with Professionalism

Faculties: Accounting & Finance; Management; Information Technology & Communication Studies.

Schools: Graduate Studies; Weekend; Evening and Distance Learning School.

Institute: Institute of Professional Studies

Centres of Excellence: Public Accountability; Strategic Leadership; Traditional Leadership and Universal Health Coverage.

New Facilities: 1246-capacity multi-purpose hostel; state-of-the-art lecture halls and ultra-modern library complex.

Currently, the University's academic portfolio includes professional, tertiary diploma, undergraduate and master's degree programmes tailored towards industry and commerce.



These are:

Undergraduate Programmes:

1. BSc Accounting
2. BSc Information Technology
3. BSc Marketing
4. BSc Banking and Finance
5. BA Business Administration
6. BA Public Relations Management

Diploma Programmes:

1. Diploma in Public Relations Management
2. Diploma in Accounting
3. Diploma in Information Technology
4. Diploma in Marketing
5. Diploma in Management

Graduate Programmes

1. MPhil, Leadership
2. MSc, Leadership
3. MBA, Auditing
4. MBA, Accounting and Finance
5. MBA, Corporate Governance
6. MBA, Marketing
7. MBA, Petroleum Accounting and Finance
8. MBA, Total Quality Management
9. MBA, Internal Auditing

Professional Programmes

- Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM)
- Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)
- Institute of Chartered Accountants, Ghana (ICAG)
- Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA)
- Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (ICSA)
- Chartered Institute of Bankers (CIB)

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