

# DRUSSA Ministerial Symposia – Ghana

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## **Ministry of Education Policy Symposium – Monday & Tuesday, 23-24 February 2015 – “Higher Education and National Development: Challenges and Policy Options”**

The symposium brought together twenty-five key higher education university Vice-Chancellors and academics, policy makers involved in shaping both higher education policy, and those responsible for setting national research priorities and allocating public research funding to discuss Ghanaian higher education and the national development plan over two days. While the government is in the process of developing a comprehensive policy, there is currently no explicit policy for tertiary education in Ghana. The symposium specifically discussed why research is not being effectively used by policymakers and offered concrete recommendations for the tertiary education policy as a result.

### *Strengths*

- High quality topic presentations and discussion;
- Good representation from Ministry and HE policymaking stakeholders;
- Robust and informed responses to papers and lively discussion between participants;
- The two-day format allowed for more in-depth discussions, concrete recommendations, and participant networking ;
- Enthusiasm for follow-up activities;
- Higher Education policy is an ongoing issue rather than an already made policy decision;
- Prof Mahama Duwiejua, Executive Secretary of the National Council for Tertiary Education (NCTE) is an enthusiastic supporter.

### *Weaknesses*

- Minimal representation from Ghanaian HEIs;
- Limited gender representation in both the presenters and the audience;
- Access – most of the participants are based in Accra;
- No paper presentations from Ghanaian academics;
- Poor attendance on first day;
- Prof Mahama is about to step down and his successor is unknown;
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### *Opportunities*

- Capitalise on the set of recommendations coming out of the symposium by arranging a presentation of the recommendations with the ministry;
- While Prof Mahama is stepping down, there may be opportunities for further collaboration;
- Lessons learned from this symposium should be captured and used to inform future higher education symposia (this includes information to come from the pre- and post-questionnaires);

- To encourage participation from Ghanaian academics, women, and non-Accra participants, there could be a pot of money built into the symposium budget for small bursaries to help off-set costs;
- Commissioning a set of research to focus on the set of recommendations as a result of the policy symposium;
- There is no shortage of topics for additional HE symposia that could act as a continuation on themes from this symposium. Topics for further discussion as a result of this event include the rise of private universities in Ghana and the promotion of academics in Ghanaian higher education.

*Threats:*

- Continued poor quality and lack of access to higher education research for both academics and policy makers.

## Attendance Sheet for Day 1

**Theme: “Higher Education and National Development: Challenges and Policy Options”**

#	NAME	Gender	INSTITUTION/ADDRESS	DESIGNATION	E-MAIL	TELEPHONE
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## Attendance Sheet for Day 2

**Theme: “Higher Education and National Development: Challenges and Policy Options”**

N O	NAME	Gender	INSTITUTION/ADDRESSES	DESIGNATION	E-MAIL	TELEPHONE
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## POLICY SYMPOSIUM

**Theme: Higher Education and National Development: Challenges and Policy Options.**

**Venue: Mensvic Hotel, 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2015**

DAY 1 – Chairman: Rev. Prof. S. K. Agyepong (Former Vice Chancellor, UCC, Principal Methodist University of Ghana, Chairman of STEPRI Management Board).

Time	Activity	Responsible Person
08:30 – 9:00 am	Registration of Participants	All
9:00 – 09.30	General Introduction	Facilitator/Dr Richard Ampadu
09:30 – 10:30	Opening: Welcome Statement	Dr. George Owusu Essegbey (Director CSIR-STEPRI)
	Introduction of Chairman	Mrs. Justina Onumah (STEPRI)
	Statement by the CSIR	Dr. Victor Agyeman (DG, CSIR)
	Statement by the NDPC	Dr. Nii Moi Thompson, (DG, NDPC)
	Statement by ACU	ACU Representatives
	Special Guest Speaker	Prof Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang (Minister of Education)
	Chairman’s Remarks	Prof. S. K. Agyepong (Former Vice Chancellor of UCC)
	Group Photograph	All
10:30-10:45	Cocoa Break	All
10:45 -11:30	Overview of the Educational Sector in Ghana	Mr E.H. Cobbinah - Chief Director of Ministry of Education
11:30-12:15	Presentation: Challenges in Higher Education	By Prof Mahama Duwiejua, Executive Secretary (NCTE)
12:15-12:45	Questions and Answers	Facilitator /Dr Richard Ampadu (CSIR-STEPRI)
12:45-1:30pm	Lunch	
1:30 -2:30	Presentation: The Role of Higher Education in National Development	Dr. Nii Moi Thompson, Director General - National Development Planning Commission
2:30 -3:00	Questions and Answers	Facilitator /Dr Richard Ampadu (CSIR-STEPRI)
3:30	Day’s Summary	Dr. Wilhemina Quaye (CSIR-STEPRI)

Day 2- Chairman: Prof. V.P.Y Gadzekpo (University of Cape Coast)

Time	Activity	Responsible Person
08:30 – 8:30 am	Registration of Participants	All
08.30 – 09.30	Welcome Statement Overview of previous day	Dr. George Owusu Essegbey Dr (Mrs) Wilhelmina Quaye and Mrs. Justina Onumah
9:30-11:00	Syndicate Group Discussions on Challenges and Policy Options	Three syndicate groups
11:0 -11:15	Cocoa Break	All
11:15-11:35	Group Presentation (1)	Group leader
11:35-11:50	Comment & Suggestions	Facilitator
11:50-12:10	Group Presentation (2)	Group Leader
12:10 -12:25	Comment & Suggestions	Facilitator
12:25-12:45	Group Presentation (3)	Group leader
12:45 -1:00	Comment & Suggestions	Facilitator
1:00-1:45pm	Lunch	
1:45 -2:45	Synthesis of Strategic Actions on Policy Options	Prof. V.P.Y Gadzekpo (Dept. of Chemistry, UCC) and Dr. George Essegbey (Director – STEPRI)
2:45 – 3:00	Closing Remarks	Mr E.H. Cobbinah Chief Director of Ministry of Education Chairman - Prof. V.P.Y Gadzekpo (Dept. of Chemistry, UCC)
3:05	Departure	All