

ATU Issues Resolution on Industry-Academia Collaboration

Participants at a day's seminar organised by the Accra Technical University in collaboration with the Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Programme (CADFP) have considered the resolution of the gaps between industry and academia, a necessary step to enhance learning outcomes and build the capacity of lecturers and industry players.

The seminar which was held on 11th August 2021, at the university's auditorium was on the theme "Research Collaboration and Technology Transfer between Academia and Industry"

A communique – separately addressing industry and academia concerns – issued at the end of the seminar separately, said in part "Curriculum review process should necessarily involve industry inputs; collaborating with industry in reviewing and designing of curriculum is necessary. This was buttressed by a PowerPoint presentation delivered by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor of ATU, Professor Amevi Acakpovi on the linkages, challenges and future direction between academia and industry.

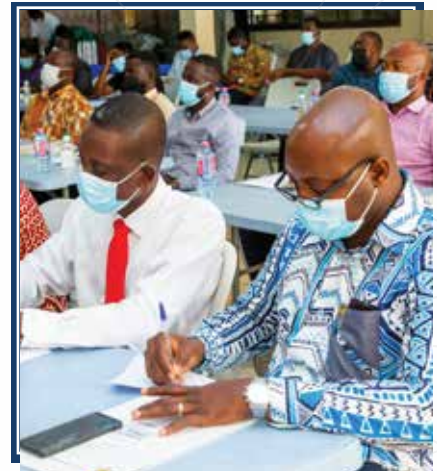
The seminar brought together a number of Ghanaian stakeholders, including prominent experts, policymakers, industry gurus, top hierarchy of some state security agencies marshals, Academic Deans and Heads of Departments.

The event aimed at discussing how institutions of higher learning can collaborate with industry in a scientific, objective and dispassionate manner in the context of highly intellectual and fact-based exercise with credible experts and influential decision-makers

Accra Technical University being the apparent host, the discussions focused on efforts being made by the university in its bid to maximize collaboration with industry.

The communique added, "policy on selecting and approving student project should ensure that selected projects are tailored to industrial applications and possibly involve industry players in the selection process." Professor Robert Baffour, a Carnegie African Diaspora Fellow (University of Georgia) who is well-versed in capstone project supervision entreated Academic Deans to be actively involved in guiding final year students in selecting topics of industrial relevance; especially in a technical university such as ATU. He bemoaned Ghana's

low level of technological advancement which he blamed largely on outmoded curricula. He was however hopeful that the outcome of the seminar will shore up the little steps towards the goal.



The event is one of several seminars under the auspices of the CADFP. The CADFP is a scholar fellowship programme for educational projects at African higher education institutions.

Find below the full resolution:

Resolutions of The Meeting With Industries

UNIVERSITY

1. Curriculum review process should necessarily involve industry inputs; Collaborating with industry in reviewing and designing of curriculum is necessary, Training approaches should be more practical and reflect the real need of the industry.
2. Industrial players taking up part-time or full-time lectureship.
3. Constitute industry and academia advisory board.
4. Policy on industrial attachment for lectures should be developed and implemented.
5. Policy on selecting and approving student project should ensure that selected project are tailored to industrial applications and possibly involve industry players in the selection process.
6. Guest lecturers from Industry should be continually engaged in the teaching and knowledge sharing.
7. Lecturers' exposure through conferences, workshops and seminars in the area of their specialty should be encouraged.
8. Yearly exhibition of project works is highly recommended.
9. Tracer Study: tracing and evaluating students' progress and performance after completion.
10. Publication in TUs should be the applied research type not the traditional ones. Patenting should be encouraged; papers should address industry and societal problems. Not just papers for promotion.

INDUSTRY

1. Industry presence and support of academia should be deepened, collaborating with industry to provide students with learning tools such as laptops, internet access.
2. Industry should suggest, formulate and transfer real problems in the industry to be solved in academia.
3. Funding from the industry to support academia in many ways is fundamental for success. Funding should support the following:
 - Workshop and seminars
 - Student project that are highly successful
 - Support training of staff and artisans
 - Relevant research works undertaken by both facilities and students.
4. Collaborate to develop short training and relevant programmes to industry .
5. Donate equipment and support with the establishment of centres.





ATU to get new Lecture Theatre Complex

The Vice-Chancellor of Accra Technical University, Professor Samuel Nii Odai, has cut the sod for work on a new five-storey theatre complex and eight boreholes and water farms to meet the University's infrastructural needs.

Performing the sod-cutting ceremony on Friday, 15th August 2021, in the presence of some Management members, staff, and students, the Vice-Chancellor noted the completion of the lecture theatre would help resolve the challenge of high student numbers while reducing the stress on existing lecture halls. He further implored the contractor and consultant to fulfill their end of the bargain by ensuring that the project does not stall and meet the highest standards.

The contractor, Anointed Pillars Associate Limited, assured the Vice-Chancellor and the gathering of working expeditiously to meet the 18-month deadline set for the new edifice. "We promise to do a quality job and also work within time," a representative assured.

The University agreed with Anointed Pillars Associates Limited on Friday, 2nd July 2021, to construct a five-storey auditorium complex on the Kinbu campus. In a separate event on the same day, the Vice-Chancellor cut the sod to mechanise eight boreholes and construct water farms. This is to resolve the perennial water challenge the University faces.





Newly-Appointed Staff Undergo Orientation



Management of Accra Technical University held a two-day orientation programme for 104 newly-appointed staff ranging from Lecturers, Assistant Lecturers, Technicians, and other administrative staff at the main University auditorium on 2nd and 3rd August 2021.

The Registrar, delivering the purpose of the gathering, stated that the event gives the employee accurate information, a reliable guide, and direction as they charter a new path. She believed that it would serve as a confident booster for new members to adapt faster to their new environment and contribute meaningfully to the growth of the University.

The Vice-Chancellor embraced the enthusiasm of the newly-appointed staff and encouraged them to work assiduously to achieve positive results for the growth of the University. "Working diligently, good delivery, loyalty and commitment to integrating into the employer's vision, being a good ambassador of the organisation, team work, independent work and going the extra mile are character traits the employer expects from its employees," he said.

The Vice-Chancellor ended with a quote from Mother Theresa, a Nobel Prize winner; "it is not how much we do, but how much we put into doing it".

The extensive programme consisted of presentations from top University officials on essential areas such as leadership, governance, finances, client care, health, core duties, career development, promotions, welfare, library services, and university best practices.

The programme enabled newly-appointed staff to familiarise themselves with the modalities that underpin their newly-assumed positions, as well as the expectations the University have of them.

