

**COMMISSIONING OF THE CENTRE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND
SUSTAINABILITY STUDIES (C₃SS) BUILDING, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

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Address by

Prof. Yaa Ntiamao-Baidu,

(Coordinator, Africa Climate Change Adaptation Initiative)

The Centre for Climate Change and Sustainability Studies building that we are commissioning today demonstrates the importance that the University of Ghana places on developing human resources and expertise in climate change and sustainable development issues. In 2011, the University of Ghana won a competitive grant of roughly US\$1.6 M from the Open Society Foundations (OSF) to implement a project, titled, “Building Capacity to meet the Climate Change Challenge (B4C)”. This project had two key deliverables:

- i) Development and delivery of a post-graduate programme on Climate Change and Sustainable Development (CCSD), to enhance the pool of expertise in climate change in Ghana and Africa as a whole;
- ii) Establishment of a centre of excellence for global environmental change research at UG that will further enhance UG’s capability to contribute effectively to Ghana’s ability to adapt to climate change.

The CCSD MSc and MPhil programmes were developed, approved and rolled out in January 2013, and to date, nearly 100 graduates have benefited from the training offered by the programme.

In 2013 the University of Ghana adopted Climate Change Adaptation as one of its four priority thematic areas for concerted research effort, thus further confirming its commitment to climate change and sustainability research. As a result of this show of commitment and the expressed needs of the CCSD students, OSF provided further funding for the construction of the building we are commissioning today. The building has nine offices for a Director, secretarial staff and faculty, a data resource unit, as well as two large lecture

halls and a seminar room for students. The data resource unit will house climate change and other relevant environmental data for both students of UG and the general Ghanaian public, and is anticipated that the Centre will become the first point of call for people looking for information on global environmental change issues.

These facilities, no doubt, will help UG to strengthen its programmes and deliver the much needed training and research capacity as well as consolidate its position as a centre of excellence for global environmental change research. With such facilities, UG will be in a better position to contribute to capacity development to improve the Ghanaian and African voices in global climate change and sustainability dialogues.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the faculty who were involved in the implementation of the B4C project, in particular, Dr. Kwadwo Owusu, the first Coordinator of the CCSD programme and Dr. Albert Ahenkan, the current CCSD Coordinator.