

**ADDRESS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROF. J.S.K. AYIM AT THE
OFFICIAL LAUNCHING OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE
GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF KNUST, PERFORMED AT I.R.N.R
AUDITORIUM ON THURSDAY MAY 17, 2001**

Members of the University Council
Pro Vice-Chancellor/Chairman, Golden Jubilee Planning Committee
Registrar
Members of the Academic Board
Members of the Golden Jubilee Planning Committee
Members of Convocation
Members of UTAG, GAUA, TEWU & FUSSAG
Members of SRC
Distinguished Alumni
Ladies and Gentlemen

In August 1943, the British Colonial Administration appointed on education Commission headed by Lord Justice Asquith to examine the prospects of establishing higher education institutions in British West Africa including the Gold Coast now Ghana. Following protests and agitations by the Chiefs and people of the Gold Coast led by erstwhile Aborigines Rights Protection Society and the Joint Provincial Houses of Chiefs against the humiliating idea of the citizens of the Gold Coast having to travel to Fourah Bay College in far away Sierra Leone to pursue higher education, the Asquith Commission in its report of May 3, 1945, recommended the establishment of a number of University Colleges in the Gold Coast and in Nigeria.

In June 1945, another Commission headed by the Rt. Hon. Walter Elliot, appointed to work out the modalities for the establishment of the University institutions confirmed that “there should now be set up a University College in Nigeria and a University College in the Gold Coast..... The University College to include the faculties of Art and Science and an institute of education”. The Elliot Commission’s report also endorsed the Asquith Commission’s recommendation for the establishment of an Inter-University Council to advice the Gold Coast Colonial Administration on matters pertaining to the development of University education in the Gold Coast.

During a visit to Otumfuo Opoku Ware II about five years ago, Sir Ivor Wilkes, a former Assistant Colonial Secretary who served as the Secretary to the Elliot Commission confirmed that the Chiefs and people of the Gold Coast, in their agitation, stressed that they did not only desire a University of their own but they were prepared to donate land and contribute financially towards the development of the University institutions.

According to Sir Ivor Wilkes, since the sitting of the University in the Gold Coast had become contentious, it was finally agreed among the chiefs to establish the first University, the University of Gold Coast now the University of Ghana in Accra with another one to be established in Kumasi later by a Government Ordinance dated August

11, 1948, the University College of the Gold Coast was established “for the purpose of providing for and promoting university education and research.

Subsequently, on October 6, 1951, another Government Ordinance gave birth to the Kumasi College of Technology, following the endowment of a seven square mile tract of land donated by Otumfuo Sir Osei-Agyemang Prempeh II, the then Asantehene, on behalf of the Golden Stool. Since the focus of the University College of the Gold Coast was on the liberal arts and the humanities, its main objective was to produce scholars and administrators to assist and take over the administration of the civil service in the run up to self-government.

As the name implied, the focus of the Kumasi College of Technology was to equip the young graduates with the scientific and technological development of the country to ensure economic independence. The first batch of students comprising about 200 teacher training students from Achimota, were transferred to Kumasi to open the University on January 22, 1952.

Soon after the attainment of political independence in 1957, the Kumasi College of Technology attained full autonomy and on August 22, 1961 became the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology through the passage of Act 80 of Parliament of the Republic of Ghana. However, after the overthrow of Nkrumah in 1966, the name was changed to the University of Science and Technology, Kumasi until 1998 when it was reverted to the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi.

Between 1952 and Wednesday, November 29, 1961 when the Kumasi College of Technology was officially inaugurated as a fully autonomous Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, the University’s programmes were regulated by the University of London and its initial programmes included teacher training, art, commerce and accountancy, engineering, pharmacy, agriculture, architecture, town planning and building.

It is worthy to note that it was the Teacher Training Department which was transferred to Winneba in January 1958 to form the Winneba Training College which later became the Advanced and Specialist Training Colleges and now the University College of Education, Winneba. The commerce Department was transferred to Achimota to form the nucleus of the present School of Administration of the University of Ghana.

Today, the University’s academic programmes range from engineering, architecture and building trades, planning, land economy, pharmacy, medical sciences, mining, agriculture, renewable natural resources, art, applied arts and social sciences etc. Since 1961, the University has produced over 26,476 graduates as at the 34th Congregation held in March 2001, excluding the others who graduated under the University of London.

Most of these graduates are now gainfully employed in various scientific and technological professions and contributing their quota to the development of their nations,

world peace and economies. Today, Ghana is proud that their illustrious son, Dr. Kofi Annan, the Secretary-General of the United Nations can be counted among the proud alumni of KNUST. Today, Ghana is proud that the Vice President, His Excellency Alhaji Aliu Mahama, the Foreign Minister, Hon. Hackman Owusu-Agyeman, the Minister of Finance, Hon. Yaw Osafo-Marfo, the Minister of Transport and Communications, Hon. Owusu-Agyapong are all proud alumni of KNUST.

Indeed, the fact that Hon. P. V. Obeng, Hon. J. H. Owusu-Acheampong, Hon. Kwame Saarah-Mensah, Hon. Donald Adabere, Hon. Seidu Iddi and other proud alumni of KNUST also found themselves in other past Governments of this country exemplifies the indispensable roles which KNUST alumni are playing in the life of this nation.

Today, industries like Volta River Authority, the Electricity Corporation of Ghana, the Volta Aluminium Company Ltd., the Ghana Water Company Ltd., the petroleum and energy sectors, the mining sector, the manufacturing sector, the pharmaceutical industries, the chemical industries, the agricultural, timber, forestry and wild life industries, the district assemblies and economic planning and development sectors, the land and property management sectors are all paying glowing tributes to the exemplary roles being played by KNUST graduates or alumni throughout the country. It is therefore fitting that having come of age, KNUST should feel proud enough to celebrate its achievements.

The Theme for the celebrations is **KNUST – ITS IMPACT AND CHALLENGES FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

On this occasion we would like to pay tribute to the founding fathers of this nation whose agitations, sweat and toil have contributed to the 50 years of excellence in science and technology education, and we would like to invite all Ghanaians to share with us in the joy of this occasion. We would also like to thank the Asantehene and the Golden Stool and all the Chiefs of the adjoining villages who endowed the University with the land. I would also like to pay tribute to all former Principals, Vice-Chancellors and the Chairmen and members of the University Councils under whose leadership the University has attained these enviable heights during the past 50 years. I would also like to pay tribute to all staff and students past and present, for their contributions to the work of the University. Finally, I would also like to thank all our benefactors including our Government, donor nations, individuals, corporate organisations and the entire nation for their goodwill and support over the years.

To commemorate the occasion, a preparatory Committee headed by Prof. Kwabena Boakye Yiadom was formed by Prof. A. K. Tuah, the former Acting Vice-Chancellor about two years ago and their proposals led to a nationwide tour to mobilize the alumni in support of the celebrations.

At the Millennium Alumni Congress held on the Campus in September last year the KNUST Alumni Association decided to build a 1,000-room Jubilee Hostel as its monument for the Jubilee. The objectives are threefold namely:

- i) to provide a lasting monument for the 50th Anniversary Celebrations
- ii) to help the University solve the accommodation problems for students of this University who have had to travel from all corners for this country to pursue degrees in unique professions at KNUST
- iii) to generate income through the rental of the hostel accommodation to enable the alumni support other programmes of the University.

As part of the programme of activities for the Jubilee celebrations there is going to be a formal launching ceremony of the Alumni Jubilee Hostel at the M-Plaza Hotel Accra on Thursday, May 24, 2001, at 6:00pm. The launching ceremony is expected to commence the fundraising campaign in support of the project.

As I speak now the Alumni in America are also preparing to hold their Annual Convention next week and high on their agenda will be to raise funds to help support the project.

Apart from the Jubilee Hostel, a number of activities have been planned by the Golden Jubilee Planning Committee headed by the Pro. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. E. Y. Safo with people like Mr. P. V. Obeng, Mr. Ato Ampiah, Mr. Nii Ayi-Bonte, Mr. Kwame Saarah-Mensah, Princess Eva Monica Boateng, Mr. James Idun-Ogde, Prof. K. Boakye-Yiadom, Mr. S. O. Larbi, representatives of Council, the Academic Board, the Students Representative Council, UTAG, GAUA, TEWU and FUSSAG, have drawn up a comprehensive programme of activities for the jubilee.

Among the highlights of the programmes of activities are:

1. Re-writing of the University's History
2. Production of a video documentary film for adaptation on television
3. Faculty Weeks/Open Days/Hall Week Celebrations
4. Institution of the following public lectures
 - Inter-Faculty Lectures
 - Alumni Lectures (to be spread to the Regions)
 - Inaugural Professorial Lectures
 - R. P. Baffour Memorial Lectures
5. Election and Investiture of a Chancellor
6. Award of Honours to Distinguished Personalities for their contributions to the University
7. Award of Honorary Degrees to Distinguished Ghanaians
8. Workers Festival/Durbar and presentation of long service meritorious and distinguished service awards to deserving workers.
9. Grand Durbar of Chiefs comprising alumni chiefs, chiefs of neighbouring villages etc. to be presided over by the Asantehene
10. Jubilee Congregation for March 2002
11. Special Jubilee Congregations for Special Awards
12. Alumni Jubilee Congress
13. Grand Jubilee Dinner/Dance
14. Renaming of Buildings/Campus Roads

15. Unveiling of busts of Vice-Chancellors and Distinguished personalities
 16. Launching of Souvenirs

I appeal to the Government, the Alumni, the students, donor nations, our sister Universities, individuals and corporate organisations, the media and all those people of goodwill both at home and abroad especially those who have benefited or expect to benefit either directly or indirectly from the services of this University to come and join us in the celebration of KNUST's impact and challenges for National Development.

Thank you.

PROF. J. S. K. AYIM
 VICE-CHANCELLOR

STAFF CHANGES

VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT

NAME	STATUS	DEPARTMENT	EFFECTIVE DATE
Dr. Steve Sobotie	Lecturer	Econs. & Ind. Mgt.	29/2/2001
Mr. Essie Kuffour	Headman	Animal Science	1/7/2001

VACATION OF POST

NAME	STATUS	DEPARTMENT	EFFECTIVE DATE
Mr. Idris Donkor	Watchman	Univ. J.S.S.	24/4/2000
Mr. Augustine A. Gawu	Campus Gd. III	Security Services	4/3/2001
Mr. F. Owusu Ansah	Watchman	Security Services	6/5/2001
Mr. R. Owusu-Sekyere	Snr. Typist	Elec/Elect Eng.	17/11/2001

RESIGNATIONS

NAME	STATUS	DEPARTMENT	EFFECTIVE DATE
Mr. Mahmud B. Yinbane	Snr. Labourer	Biological Sciences	1/6/2001
Mr. Mohammed Issah	Life Guard Grade II	Maintenance (Swimming Pool)	1/5/2001
Mr. Solomon Kussase	Watchman	Security Services	1/5/2001
Mr. Kwame Piesare	Jnr. Library Asst. Gd. III	Library	20/4/2001
Margaret P. Sarfo	Temp. Snr. Admin. Asst.	Library	14/5/2001

RETIREMENT

NAME	STATUS	DEPARTMENT	EFFECTIVE DATE
Mr. J. K. Sam	Chief Tech.	Photocopy Unit	1/10/2001

TERMINATION OF APPOINTMENT

NAME	STATUS	DEPARTMENT	EFFECTIVE DATE
Mr. Emmanuel Afrifa	Watchman	Security Service	1/4/2001

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE UNIVERSITY

Following verification and cross checking of results presented for admission, the University with immediate effect have withdrawn the under mentioned student for presenting false examination results.

NAME	DEPARTMENT
Osei Tutu Gyamfuaa (Miss)	Book Industry

CHANGE OF NAME

Mr. Michael Ahenkorah-Pessah, Assistant Librarian, University Library, has changed his name to **Mr. Michael Ahenkorah-Marfo.**

Miss Irene Owusu-Acheampong, Clerk Grade I, Department of Optometry and Visual Science, has changed her name to **Mrs. Irene Owusu-Acheampong Ampong.**

Miss Christine Akyeampong, Assistant Internal Auditor, has changed her name to **Mrs. Christian Adwoa Akyeampong Baning.**

Ms. Margaret Afi Atepor, Registrar's Department, has changed her name to **Mrs. Margaret Afi Dzisi.**