



# Newsletter

**Kumasi Technical University (KSTU)**

Centre of Excellence for Tertiary Level Training in Technical and Professional Human Resource with Entrepreneurial Skills.

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## KUMASI TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY MANUFACTURES FOOT-OPERATED HAND WASHING MACHINE

Page 2



**KUMASI TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY PRODUCES AND DISTRIBUTES HAND SANITIZERS AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS FOR FREE**

Page 4



**NEW VICE-CHANCELLOR**  
INDUCTED INTO OFFICE AT KUMASI TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (KSTU)

Story on Page 6

## KUMASI TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY MANUFACTURES FOOT-OPERATED HAND WASHING MACHINE

The COVID-19 pandemic has made people all over the world thinking including various organisations. Educational Institutions and various research centers are doing everything in their power to proffer solution and various strategies to curtail the spread of the COVID-19 so as to contain it. Kumasi Technical University (KsTU) on its part has been making frantic efforts in its quest to help deal with the situation. The latest invention of the University to help deal with COVID-19 is the development of a Foot-Operated Hand Washing Machine (FOHWAM).



Ing. Dr. Joseph Ribeiro explaining the functioning of the machine.

This is a kind of equipment that makes it possible for the user to step on two different paddles to access liquid soap and water discharged from two different points without necessarily using one's hand. The essence is to avoid the usual using of hand to touch a common point such as a tab to access water and a cork to access the liquid soap during hand washing. The user finally accesses a tissue from the equipment and steps on another paddle of an affixed dustbin to dispose of the used tissue.

It is the determination of KsTU to produce an initial number of ten (10) of the equipment to be distributed to some selected organisations, educational institutions as well as other public places for use. As an educational institution, KsTU will continue to conduct research towards dealing with the pandemic and other societal challenges through its various faculties such as Pharmaceutical Sciences, Engineering and Technology, Creative Arts and Technology among others. The latest invention was produced by a team of researchers from the Mechanical Engineering Department with an excellent support from the Faculty of Engineering and Technology under the deanship of Ing. Dr. Abena Obiri-Yeboah. A team of eight (8) members comprising designers and fabricators produced the equipment. The designers were Ing. Dr. Joseph F. X. Ribeiro (team leader), Mr. Fred Adzabe, Ing. Joseph Lewballah and Ing. Timothy Alhassan as lead experts. The fabricators were Messrs S. F. K. Ghansah, Benjamin Ghansah, Edana Anafo, Joseph Atambilla and Francis Mensah.



Some members of the project team that produced the machine.



## KUMASI TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY MANUFACTURES FOOT-OPERATED HAND WASHING MACHINE (FOHWAM)

The Head of Mechanical Engineering Department Dr. Prince Owusu-Ansah who coordinated the entire project was full of praise for the team and gave assurance that much of such inventions and innovations were on the way. Speaking to the media, the Vice-Chancellor of KsTU Ing. Prof. Osei-Wusu Achaw stated that as a technical university, the Institution's main focus is on teaching and research. Therefore, commercialisation of the product was not the Institution's objective. The objective was to create something that could produce in commercial quantities by industry. He therefore, appealed to industry players to come on board to mass produce the product.



The Vice-Chancellor using the FOHWAM.



The Vice-Chancellor interacting with the media. He is sandwiched between Ing. Dr. Obiri-Yeboah and Dr. Prince Owusu-Ansah.



## KUMASI TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY PRODUCES AND DISTRIBUTES HAND SANITIZERS AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS FOR FREE

For the past few months, the whole world has been saddled with a very dangerous virus known as the Corona Virus (COVID-19). This has indeed been an albatross around the neck of the entire human race because of its deadly nature. As a result of this, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared the outbreak of this virus a pandemic. Ghana as of today (26-04-2020) has recorded one thousand, five hundred and fifty (1,550) confirmed cases of COVID-19 with eleven (11) deaths. The President of Ghana Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo has been addressing the nation regularly to inform the citizenry on the various measures being put in place to contain the situation. Ghana Health Service has also been informing the citizenry with situational reports and giving them a very useful education to guide them.

Following an appeal by the President of Ghana to Pharmaceutical Companies and other entities that have the capacity to help in the production of hand sanitizers to improve upon the situation, Kumasi Technical University (KSTU) has as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) produced and distributed over one thousand bottles of hand sanitizers and educational materials to the members of the University community and people within its vicinity free of charge on Friday. Residents in areas like Asem, Asafo, Fanti New Town and Amakom benefitted from this exercise.

The exercise which was spearheaded by the Public Relations Office of the University in conjunction with KSTU Health Directorate and the Pharmaceutical Department was meant to promote education on COVID-19. In addition



Some members of the sanitizer production team at the laboratory.



Dr. Samuel Osei-Djarbeng, leader of the team that manufactured KSTU's hand sanitizer.



## KUMASI TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY PRODUCES AND DISTRIBUTES HAND SANITIZERS AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS FOR FREE

to the distribution of hand sanitizers, educational materials like flyers and posters containing preventive tips on the pandemic were shared to sensitize the members of the community to show how the virus spreads and its deadly nature. The recipients of the hand sanitizers and the educational materials were very appreciative and full of praise for the University.

Speaking to the media during the exercise, the Vice-Chancellor of KsTU, Ing. Prof. Osei-Wusu Achaw emphasised that Technical Universities which have the expertise should be encouraged by the Government and the public-spirited individuals to produce hand sanitizers in large quantities so that every Ghanaian can afford to help deal with the pandemic.

KsTU has made very impressive moves in handling the COVID-19 within the University community. Educational materials have been printed and posted on various notice boards and vantage points at both Amakom and Adako Jachie campuses of the University. Also, the University has put in place KsTU COVID-19 Emergency Response Team (ERT) that is mandated to handle all issues related to the pandemic on the University campuses. Furthermore, KsTU COVID-19 workplace ethics have been developed to guide and regulate the activities of staff on campus. Finally, a webpage has been designed on the Institution's website where news related to how members of staff can stay safe from the virus could be accessed.



Vice-Chancellor (Ing. Prof. Osei-Wusu Achaw) interacting with the media during the launching of Kumasi Technical University's hand sanitizer.

## NEW VICE-CHANCELLOR INDUCTED INTO OFFICE AT KUMASI TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (KSTU)



Vice-Chancellor (in the middle) being inducted by Prof. K. Yankah (Minister of State in-charge of tertiary education) and Prof. Dr. Ben Baffoe-Bonnie (right).

An investiture has been organised to induct into office the newly appointed Vice-Chancellor Ing. Prof. Osei-Wusu Achaw at the Kumasi Technical University (KSTU). He thus, becomes the first substantive Vice-Chancellor of the University after its conversion from a polytechnic to technical university. The Chemical Engineer has had 24 years of continuous service of lecturing in the University.



Vice-Chancellor addressing the gathering at the Investiture.

In his address to the gathering during the investiture, the new Vice-Chancellor pledged to make KSTU a world class university to ensure that the churned out products will be comparable to those from any institution in the world.

In his welcome address, the Chairman of the Governing Council of KSTU Prof. Dr. Ben Baffoe-Bonnie advised the Vice-Chancellor to adopt an open door policy and strongly team up with all staff to deliver on their mandate as a technical university.



Chairman of the University Council addressing the gathering during the Investiture.

Ing. Prof. Osei-Wusu Achaw is a Professor of Chemical Engineering at KSTU. Between December, 2018 and May, 2019, he served as the Acting Vice-Chancellor of Cape Coast Technical University (CCTU). For six (6) years, Prof. Achaw was the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology of KSTU, having previously served for 14 years as the Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering of the University. He also served as the Director of the School of Graduate Studies, Research and Innovation (SGSRI) of KSTU. The year 2020 marks his 24th year of distinguished, committed and uninterrupted service to technical education in Ghana.

Ing. Prof. Osei-Wusu Achaw was born at Ankaase (Lake Side) in the Bosome-Freho District of the Ashanti region where he had his elementary education. He obtained his 'O' and 'A' Level certificates in Toase Secondary School and Sunyani Secondary School respectively. In 1987, he



## NEW VICE-CHANCELLOR INDUCTED INTO OFFICE AT KUMASI TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (KSTU)



A group picture of the new Vice-Chancellor and some Council members of KSTU.

completed a programme of study leading to the award of a BSc in Chemical Engineering from the Technical University of Budapest, Budapest, Hungary. In 1989, Prof. Osei-Wusu Achaw completed his MSc in Chemical Engineering from the same University. From 1990 to 1996, he studied and worked in the University of Akron, Akron, Ohio, USA and subsequently in Queens University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, variously as a Graduate Assistant and as a Teaching Assistant. In 2005, he completed a course of study leading to the award of a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Chemical Engineering from the Department of Chemical Engineering of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST).

Prof. Osei-Wusu Achaw joined the Kumasi Technical University (then Kumasi Polytechnic) in 1996 as the founding lecturer of the Department of Chemical Engineering. Between 1997 and 2008, he served as the Head of the Department. From 2002 to 2008, he was the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology. In the period 2011 to 2013, he held the position of the Director of SGSRI. In 2008, he was promoted to the Senior

Lecturer rank (the first in the Institution to be so promoted since its establishment as a tertiary institution) and was promoted to Associate Professor in April, 2014.

He is a professional engineer, an accomplished academic, researcher and administrator with both local and international experience. Between 2014 and 2018, he served as the Ashanti Regional Chairman of the Ghana Institution of Engineering (GhIE) and a member of the Governing Council of the Institution. His entrepreneurial prowess is unblemished. He is the Sole Proprietor of OWACH Process Solution a consultancy firm engaged in trouble-shooting and providing engineering solutions to chemical processing industries.

Prof. Osei-Wusu Achaw has served on almost all the key Standing Committees of KSTU including the Executive Committee, Academic Board, the Development Committee, the Research and Conferences Committee, the Appointments and Promotions Committee, and the Scholarship and Staff Development Committee. As the Acting Vice-Chancellor of CCTU, Prof. Osei-Wusu Achaw served on the Governing Council of the Institution and on almost all its sub-committees as well as chairing the Academic Board of that Institution.

As an academic, Ing. Prof. Osei-Wusu Achaw has researched extensively and published close to forty (40) peer reviewed and non-peer reviewed articles. He has also supervised close to 50 Higher National Diploma (HND), BTech and PhD thesis. He has served as the external examiner of graduate examinations in a number of Institutions. He chaired the development of HND, BTech, MTech and DTech curricula in Chemical Engineering at KSTU. His commitment to the cause of KSTU goes beyond academic issues.

## NEW VICE-CHANCELLOR INDUCTED INTO OFFICE AT KUMASI TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (KSTU)

Prof. Osei-Wusu Achaw helped to generate income for the University both directly and indirectly. Directly, he single-handedly wrote proposals that brought close to \$500,000.00 (five hundred thousand dollars) to the University. Indirectly, he has contributed a lot more to the University. For instance, as the Campus Coordinator of the Teaching and Learning Innovation Fund (TALIF), he was instrumental in facilitating proposals that fetched close to \$1,500,000.00 (One million and five hundred thousand US dollars) to the University.

As the Chairman of GhIE in the Ashanti region, he championed Engineering education in the Region. Among the key contributions in that direction are the fact that in 2016, he led a team of engineers to raise close to Gh¢ 100,000.00 (One hundred thousand Ghana cedis) to organise workshops to encourage young girls to take up Engineering as a career choice. Also, in the year 2017, he led a similar team to raise Gh¢210,000.00 (Two hundred and ten thousand Ghana cedis) to organise an engineering project competition for the youth. Importantly, he was instrumental in setting up a branch office of the Institution in Kumasi in Ashanti region, the only region outside Accra

where the Institution has an office. He has further contributed to community and national development.

He is currently the Ankobeahene of Kokofu-Penanko. In that capacity, the quinquagenarian has contributed immensely to the development of the community, key among which is being the Chairman of the biennial Opemsuo Festival of that community -an international festival that draws visitors from all over the world to Kokofu and Ghana. He has also chaired, for six (6) years running, the annual Easter Meet-Me-There programme committee at Ankaase (Lake Side) to organise Easter festivities for holiday makers. Ing. Prof. Osei-Wusu Achaw is a member of the Advisory Board of the Kokofu General Hospital. He previously served on the Board of Governors of Toase Senior High School and presently, he is the Chairman of the Board of Governors of Oppon Memorial Senior High School in Kokofu, Ashanti region. Ing. Prof. Osei-Wusu Achaw is happily married to Mrs. Afia Serwaa Anima Owusu Achaw and they are blessed with three children, namely: Afia Ntiriwaa Owusu Achaw, Kwame Osei Owusu Achaw, and Kwaku Owusu Achaw.

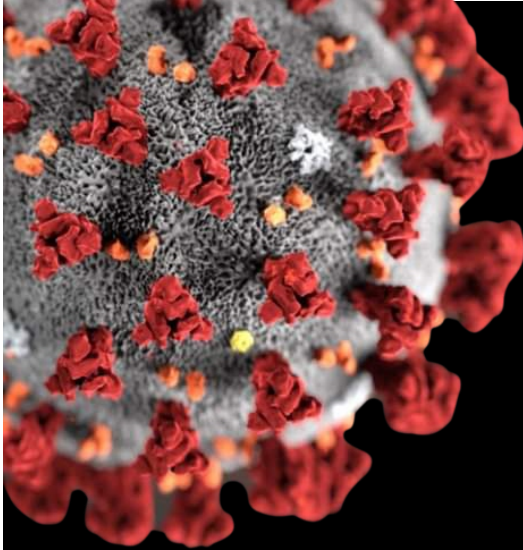


A group picture of the newly inducted Vice-Chancellor and a section of the staff including Prof. K. Yankah.



# KUMASI TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (KsTU) COVID-19 WORK PLACE ETHICS

*Kumasi Technical University Health Directorate*



## CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC

### **KsTU's Priorities**

KsTU is committed to keeping employees and students safe during these times that difficult decisions have to be made.

On 11th March, 2020, the World Health Organisation declared COVID-19 as a pandemic. The president of Ghana gave directives on Sunday 15th March, 2020 that all educational institutions should close down for four weeks. By this directive, KsTU seeks to find ways to comply by encouraging all faculty, staff, and students to stay at home, except 'skeletal staff' who may remain at work, just to keep the University running. The essence is to minimise contacts to the lowest level.

KsTU recognises its obligation to take affirmative steps to address concerns of employees and protect the workforce from contracting and spreading the virus. The Institution wishes to encourage staff and students to employ the 'common-sense' approach in addressing issues concerning the novel coronavirus outbreak in the workplace and home. KsTU recommends the following common-sense list to help staff, students and others to remain safe:

### **1. KsTU recommends social distancing**

The World Health Organisation recommends that in order to reduce spread of the corona virus, social distancing is essential. Workers and their dependants who develop symptoms of acute respiratory illness and/or have fever (body temperature of 37.8°C or above) should stay away from work and seek medical help immediately. Employees may then notify their supervisors. Sick leave policies have been made more flexible and employees will be informed in due course. For example, staff are not required to provide medical excuse duty to the University when sick during this period. There is flexible arrangement permissible for the skeletal staff at work to stay home to take care of their sick children or other sick family members.

### **2. Separation of sick staff from 'healthy ones'**

Staff who appear sick with cough, shortness of breath on arrival to work or during the day should be separated from other employees. Such people should cover their noses and mouths with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and report to the clinic for assessment immediately.

## KUMASI TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (KSTU) COVID-19 WORK PLACE ETHICS

Kumasi Technical University Health Directorate

### 3. Ventilation

Employees are encouraged to move and work in more open and well-ventilated areas. This ensures that there is less likelihood of circulation of *contaminated* air in the work area.

### 4. Observation of respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene

Posters have already been distributed at the work place and its environs to encourage good hand hygiene. Employees are entreated to clean their hands often with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol or wash their hands with soap under running water for at least 20 seconds. Veronica buckets are to be provided at vantage points for this purpose.

The Pharmaceutical Sciences Department of KSTU has started preparing 70% alcohol-based hand sanitizers to be distributed among staff of the University and people around the main University campus. It is hoped that adequate supplies can be maintained.

One should always cover the nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, or use the flexed-elbow to cover the nose or mouth when tissues are not readily available. Also, employees must discard used tissue in the various waste disposal receptacles provided.

### 5. Routine environmental cleaning

Employees are encouraged to clean frequently touched surfaces in the workplace such as workstations, doorknobs, etc. using antiseptics. Keyboards, remote controls and desks must also be regularly cleaned or sanitized before and after each use.

### 6. Travel advise

Both local and international travels are discouraged especially when one is travelling by public transport. Local movement in taxis, 'trotros', buses, Uber /Bolt etc. should be done with care in order to minimise physical contact.

Non-essential travels, meetings, etc should be reduced or discouraged. The University Community is encouraged to maintain contact without any physical contact. In that regard, meetings can be held on platforms; web-seminars, web-conferences and other virtual platforms can be adopted without the physical presence of members.

Employees who return from areas where COVID-19 is wide-spread should self-isolate and monitor themselves for symptoms for 14 days. This involves taking the body temperature twice a day. Mild coughs or even low-grade fevers (i.e. a temperature of 37.3°C or more) should be reported to the nearest healthcare facility.

### 7. Emergency Response Team

The University has an emergency response team that keeps updating the Community on all necessary information on COVID-19. The team is in the process of getting a hotline that employees can call for information on the disease. In the interim, staff can obtain relevant information on COVID-19 from the University Clinic or the University Health Directorate.





## END OF YEAR STAFF AWARDS

An end of year get-together and staff awards event was held at Kumasi Technical University in December last year to reward members of staff who have distinguished themselves in their line of duty. The occasion was also meant to bring the entire staff together to socialize at the end of the year. During the event, various categories of awards were given to individuals from departmental to the faculty levels. Again, people who retired in 2019 as well as those who had rendered long service to the University between 15 and 20 years in the University were also awarded. The categories for the awards were Best Worker-Teaching; Best Worker-Non-Teaching; Best Worker-Senior Staff; Best Worker-Junior Staff; Best Worker-Technicians as well as Long Service awards for 15 and 20 years continuous service in the University.



In his address to the staff who had gathered at the occasion, the Vice-Chancellor of Kumasi Technical University, Ing Prof. Osei-Wusu Achaw emphasised the need for members of staff to occasionally gather, relax and talk to one another. He said, "When we assemble together as a community on occasions like this, it provides us with an opportunity once in a year, to lay down our tools of trade and engage each other in a more relaxed manner, reflect over the past year's activities and look ahead to the years to come. It provides us with an opportunity to reflect on our activities in the past and to draw lessons for the future."



He went further to say that it gives Management the opportunity to commend staff for their hard work which has elevated Kumasi Technical University among the community of universities. According to him, the University's standing among Technical Universities in Ghana is second to none. He expressed optimism that within his four year-tenure or so, the staff would stand with him in pursuing the vision of making Kumasi Technical University a world-class University. He finally encouraged those who did not receive any award not to be despaired but continue to work hard and that perhaps, theirs may come in the future.



Staff were treated to good music and good meals and they were full of merriment. Awardees received citations and cash awards. In all, Dr. Omari Siaw was adjudged the Overall Best Worker in the Institution in the year 2019.

## KUMASI TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (KSTU) SIGNS PERFORMANCE CONTRACT WITH STAFF

The determination of the newly appointed Vice-Chancellor of Kumasi Technical University (KSTU) Ing. Prof. Osei-Wusu Achaw to make the University a world-class one is gradually but consistently taking shape. The determination was given a further boost when a three-day Management Retreat was held at Anita Hotel in Ejisu which culminated into signing of Performance Contract with the various divisional leadership of staff within the University.

The Contract is in line with Government's quest to ensure that public institutions give quantifiable performance results and improved productivity. At the said Retreat, the Deans, Directors, Heads of Department, Unit and Section thoroughly went through and discussed the vision of the Vice-Chancellor. The essence of the entire exercise was to give better understanding and clarity to the vision of the new leader so that it can be owned by the entire University Community so as to contribute immensely to its achievement.

At the end of the three-day exercise which was facilitated by Mr. Rockson K. Dogbegah who is the President of the Institute of Directors (Ghana), contracts were signed between the Deans, Directors, Heads of Department, Unit and Section on one side, and the top leadership of the University on the other. During the programme, various presentations as well as questions and answers sessions held.

The Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the contracts were developed by all the parties after critically going through the vision. It is expected that in the next five years, the

University would have changed substantially in every aspect and will be seen as one of the world-class universities that are in line with the global trends. This is also in sync with the strategic plan of the University.

### The Vision and the Strategic Pillars

The University has set for itself a vision of becoming a world-class technical university devoted to Science, Technology and Entrepreneurship education. This is being pursued vigorously with the spirit of teamwork and commitment on the part of all staff to turn things around at KSTU. The ultimate aim, is to make KSTU **the best technical university** in Ghana and among the best in the world in the training of tertiary level technical and professional human resource with entrepreneurial skills through the educational, industrial and social research achievements, and professional services of the faculty, staff and students.

The vision is anchored on three strategic thrusts. These are:

- i. Strengthening governance units and structures for effective and efficient service delivery;
- ii. Instituting targeted programmes to deal with festering challenges and also,
- ii. Positioning the Institution to deal with emerging national and global issues.

The good news is that the vision and the new ways of doing things in the University have caught up well with all and sundry which have rekindled positive attitude to work and yearning for results among the staff in Kumasi Technical University.



Some members of the Planning Committee with the Vice-Chancellor (7th from left) and the Facilitator (8th from left).



Participants after the retreat.



## AGENDA FOR CHANGE-KSTU DEVELOPS A STRATEGIC PLAN

As part of its elaborate plan to always be the leading Technical University in the country and also continue to be in contention globally, Kumasi Technical University (KSTU) has constituted a seven-member committee to develop a strategic plan. The five-year plan which replaces the previous one is to help direct the affairs of the University so as to catapult it to become a world-class university.

The Committee is made up of renowned academics with Dr. Emmanuel Newman of National Council for Tertiary Education (NCTE) as the Chairman. The other members are Dr. George Afrane, Prof. Gabriel Dwomour, Mr. Isaac Owusu Ansah, Mr. Michael Kumi and Dr. (Mrs.) Adwoa Benewaa Brefo Manu with Mr. Osei-Wusu Bempah as member-secretary.

The Vice-Chancellor of Kumasi Technical University Ing. Prof. Osei-Wusu Achaw in constituting the Committee, charged the members to work extra hard to ensure that the document is completed in time. He encouraged

the Committee to further ensure that the strategic plan can be owned by the University Community. He again urged them to make sure that all stakeholders are consulted for results-oriented plan.

The Vice-Chancellor stated that "in essence, I want the strategic plan to be participatory, workable and understandable by the entire University Community as well as the public. Other Key Officers of the University who were present included Engr. Prof. Mike A. Acheampong (Pro. Vice-Chancellor), Mr. Ebenezer Kofi Boakye (Registrar), Mr. James Osei-Brobbey (Acting Director of Finance) and Mr. Divine Komla-Sekyere (Director of Works) among others.

In their acceptance speech, Dr. Emmanuel Newman who is Research and Planning Consultant expressed the Committee's eagerness and willingness to do a diligent work for the University.



The Strategic Plan Committee with Senior Management .

## KUMASI TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY HOLDS 15TH CONGREGATION



A section of the graduands during the Congregation.

The 15th Congregation of Kumasi Technical University (KsTU) was held on Saturday at the New Great Hall of the University with 2,653 people graduating. This comprised students who completed various programmes of study in the 2018/2019 academic year. Out of the 2,653 graduands, 890 were females while 1,775 of them were males. The graduands received certificates in Bachelor of Technology (BTech), Higher National Diploma (HND), Professional and other Diplomas.

Addressing the gathering, the newly appointed and first substantive Vice-Chancellor of KsTU Ing. Prof. Osei-Wusu Achaw reiterated the importance of the Ceremony. He said, it is always an occasion that offers unique opportunity to take stock of the Institution's activities during the year and exchange ideas with stakeholders in government, industry and commerce as well as the public in general. He said, graduands are presented during the occasion and it is also a time to tell the world about the many opportunities existing in KsTU for self-advancement.

The Vice-Chancellor emphasised that KsTU has already upgraded 28 of its HND programmes to Bachelor of Technology level and that, it was seeking clearance from NCTE to run these programmes next academic year. In the words of the Vice-Chancellor, he emphasised that "the upgrading of our programmes is a natural growth

course of the University. However, it is also an effort to increase our programmes offer in anticipation of increased enrolment as a result of the Government's Free SHS programme. I am again glad to announce that currently, in the year under review, the University started running 5 MTech programmes in Water and Environmental Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Health Statistics, Environmental Statistics, and Financial Statistics".

He informed the gathering that additionally, the University has initiated measures to develop its niche area of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Therefore, in view of that the University is developing a 3-year road map to build infrastructure and expertise in the niche area.

Ing. Prof. Osei-Wusu Achaw made a passionate appeal to the government to facilitate the clearance processes to enable KsTU recruit more staff to fill the existing vacancies in the University so as to effectively deliver on its mandate. He finally advised the graduating students to always remember that a lot of resources, both human and financial have been committed into their training. Therefore, they should go out there and commit themselves to hard, dedicated and honest work to justify the huge investments made towards their training.



The Vice-Chancellor Ing. Prof. Osei-Wusu Achaw (2nd from left). With him are Engr. Prof. Mike A. Acheamong the Pro VC (1st from left), Council Chair Prof. Dr. Ben Baffoe-Bonnie (3rd from left), Prof. Nana Mensah Bonsu the Asakyirihene (4th from left) and Baffour Asare Owusu Amankwatia VI the Bantamahene (5th from left).



## CEREMONIAL CHAIR DONATED TO KSTU



The Vice-Chancellor (in blue suit) shaking hands with Dr. Peter Kessels Dadzie during the brief ceremony. Accompanying them are (from left) Prof. Gabriel Dwomoh, Mr. Ebenezer Kofi Boakye, Prof. Francis Mainoo Sarpong and Dr. Bernard Effah (at the extreme right).

A ceremonial chair has been crafted and donated to Kumasi Technical University (KSTU) by two members of staff from the Department of Interior Design and Materials Technology. The two lecturers who undertook this act of benevolence are Mr. Paul Inkum who is currently pursuing his PhD and Dr. Peter Kessels Dadzie, a Senior Lecturer.

The Chair was meticulously carved with various embossments of carefully selected traditional and Adinkra symbols. Presenting the Chair to the University, Dr. Kessels Dadzie took time to explain the rationale behind the various Adinkra symbols on it. The Chair which was designed in the colours of the University has round gears at the top with a flame of fire

in the middle of the gears. It has the symbol of “Nea ɔnnim no sua a ɔhunu” which literally means he who does not know can be perfect if he learns. On top of that very symbol is a book signifying that learning has no end.

The end of the arm-rest of the Chair also has the “Adinkrahene” symbol indicating that power and authority of the Institution rest in the hands of the Vice-Chancellor. There is also a symbol of “Nkɔnsɔnkɔnsɔn” (chain) which is an indication of the spirit of togetherness that is crucial to the success of every leader. At the seat sides of the Chair are the symbol of “Mframa de huu pɛ adeɛ a ɔnya” which signifies the need to be patient and tolerant at all times. The sides of the backrest of the Chair is the “Nkyinkyim” symbol showing versatility and ability to initiate new ideas to turn things around for the better.

The Vice-Chancellor was full of praise for the two lecturers for their spirit of giving to the University and said the gesture was worthy of emulation. He was also fascinated by the design of the Chair and the associated Adinkra symbols and what they stand for. He emphasised that no human being can pretend to be an epitome of knowledge and therefore, encouraged all present to approach him when they conceive any progressive idea.



The Vice-Chancellor and other members of staff during the presentation.

## KUMASI TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (KSTU) TO TRAIN ARTISANS UNDER SPECIAL PROGRAMME BY COTVET



Dr. Julius Bokloe (middle) the coordinator of the Voucher Project explaining matters during the programme launch. Seated with him are (from left) Dr. Charles Obeng-Sarpong, Mr. Divine Comla Sekyere, Dr. Timothy Crentsil and Dr. Obeng Nyarko.

Kumasi Technical University (KSTU) has been accredited to train and sharpen the skills of artisans who might be masters already or under apprenticeship. This will eventually formalise the operations of these artisans under the programme dubbed Ghana TVET Voucher Project (GTVP), Phase II. This project is being implemented by Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (COTVET).

Under the programme, KSTU is to offer this training to participants for six months in each of the four areas. The various areas of the training are Garment, Automotive, Consumer Electronic as well as Welding and Fabrication. This training is being offered for free. It only requires interested participants to register with their mother associations for them to get enrolled with KSTU.

The Ghana TVET Voucher Project (GTVP), Phase II is a project being funded by the Government of the Republic of Ghana and the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) via the KfW Development Bank of German with a Ghanaian-German Financial Cooperation funding of 10 million Euros.

The ultimate aim of the programme is to achieve sustainable and inclusive economic growth based on a competitive private sector. It is actually to “Improve the access of apprentices, master crafts persons and entrepreneurs from informal and formally registered micro and small enterprises to technical and vocational further training which meets defined quality criteria”.

Speaking to the participants at the launch of the programme, the Vice-Chancellor of KSTU Ing. Prof. Osei-Wusu Achaw emphasised the point that a very good opportunity has been availed to artisans whose operations fall within the areas of the training and therefore, they should make maximum use of that opportunity. He said it is costly to get one trained. However, this kind of training was free of charge and so he encouraged the participants to tell other master artisans and apprentices to get enrolled through their associations. Already, over 120 artisans have enrolled and the programme has begun in earnest.



A cross section of participants during the launch of the programme.