

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION STUDIES

SCHOOL OF DEVELOPMENT AND OUTREACH

INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATIONAL PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION (IEPA)

REPORT ON IEPA HOMECOMING

DATE: 28TH & 29 AUGUST, 2017

**UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST**  
**INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATION PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION (IEPA)**  
**1<sup>ST</sup> IEPA ALUMNI HOMECOMING**

**BACKGROUND**

The Institute for Educational Planning and Administration (IEPA) was established in 1975 through UNESCO/UNDP collaboration. IEPA has the mandate to train experts and non-experts in the Ministries of Education (MoE) and other educational entities both public and private with relevant research based evidence for educational planning and administration policy development. The organising of a homecoming event was part of its 2013 – 2017 strategic plan.

As part of its activities for the 2016/2017 academic year, the alumni home coming event was included. A committee chaired by Dr. Baaba Aidoo and deputized by Dr. Boakye –Yiadom was responsible to organize this event. The 1<sup>st</sup> Institute of Educational Planning and Administration Alumni Homecoming was celebrated from 28<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 under the theme, ‘Improving Educational Administration in Ghana: The role of the IEPA graduate’. The two day programme started with a conference and ended with the launching of the Ghana Association of Educational Planners and Administrators (GHAEPA).

**DAY ONE**

A conference and a barbecue night were organized to mark the first day of the IEPA Alumni Homecoming celebration. These were held at the main auditorium and the ground floor of the College of Education Lecture Theatre (CELT) respectively.

**THE CONFERENCE**

The conference was well attended with participants from all over the country. Notable among them were

- The Vice Chancellor
- The Pro - Vice Chancellor (Chairman for the Conference)
- Past Directors of IEPA (All Five)
- Cape Coast Branch Director - National Investment Bank (Program Sponsor)
- Faculty members of IEPA
- Ms, Gifty Apanbi – Member of IEPA Governing Board

There were One hundred and Seventy-Eight (178) students and Sixty-Four (64) Alumni as at the start of the conference. Rev. Fr. Anthony B. Afrifa, an alumnus of the institute, gave the opening prayer for the Conference to commence.

The then Director of IEPA, Prof. (Mrs.) Rosemary Seiwah Bosu presented the history of the Institute and expressed her happiness that the institution has been able to finally create the platform necessary for IEPA and its alumni to make the needed national impact.

Prof. Bosu indicated that IEPA is the premier institute in the country whose mandate is to conduct research in educational issues to inform educational policy makers, train educational planners as well as administrators at all levels of the educational sector in Ghana.



**Prof. Bosu giving the purpose of the gathering**

On matters of academic collaboration, she stressed on the rapport the institute shares with both the Ministry of Education and Ghana Education Service, which facilitates the creation of tailor-made programmes to enhance staff competence. The purpose of gathering was therefore not only timely but critical in reaffirm the IEPA alumni on the role they play in improving educational administration in Ghana. All sponsors of the programme were duly acknowledged.

***Prof. Oduro, also the current Pro-Vice Chancellor*** of the University, accepted the role to chair and informed participants that as a former Director of IEPA, he shares in this vision and thus, honored to chair the programme.

In a brief address, Prof. Oduro congratulated IEPA on the successful organization of the homecoming and the students for showing their loyalty and support to the institute. He further encouraged management to use this platform as an opportunity in rebranding the institute of IEPA to carry out their mandate and churn out fully-fledged graduates with unique leadership qualities for organizational operations



**Prof. George K. T. Oduro**

The *Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Coast*, Prof. Joseph Ghartey Ampiah, gave the welcome address to duly open the maiden IEPA alumni homecoming. He stressed that educational administrators were the key to addressing the educational challenges facing Ghana. He advised past students of IEPA across the length and breadth of the country to register with the alumni association to enable them to contribute their quota and urged them to remember IEPA in all their endeavours.



**The Vice Chancellor**

He expressed grave concern at the way public administrators were made educational administrators at the expense of professionals with the requisite knowledge in educational administration. He bemoaned that, the progress and successes of the educational system is dependent on educational management and administrators, hence not just anyone should be appointed to occupy these roles. This, he highlighted, was the underlining reason why products of IEPA are badly needed to take up these responsibilities of school management and administration.

The ***Provost of the College of Education Studies***, Prof. Eric Magnus Wilmot, also expressed his happiness and support for the organization of the IEPA Alumni homecoming and used the platform to reinforce the essential role administrators' play in the success of every educational institution.



#### **Provost of the College of Education Studies**

Juxtaposing the performance of public schools and private schools, he demonstrated that the difference lies in management. The Provost encouraged IEPA to roll out a continuous professional development programme, for educational administrators and managers of schools to build their capacities in the profession since administration and supervision were the main bane of the poor standards of education in Ghana.

The ***Branch Manager of National Investment Bank*** was there with other bank officials to express their happiness and readiness to support the Institute and the University at large, in all ventures directed at nation building. Most of the programmes and projects the bank sponsors within the university and the region were highlighted and they encouraged all present to do business with them, since all proceeds go into developing the nation. He ended by reminding the audience that as the only bank that is solely owned by the state.

#### **The Main Speaker**

The ***special guest of the occasion*** was Hon. (Dr.) Augustine Tawiah - Member of Parliament (MP) for Bia West, an alumni of the Institute. He noted that there is the need for universities which are training educational administrators to adopt similar academic criteria to ensure that every administrator develops the same training skills so as to function optimally. He proposed the establishment of an Institute for Educational Leadership and Development by the University to groom educational administrators and managers and to equip them with the relevant leadership skills needed to effectively manage schools. Like the nursing, medical and legal professions, the new programme must be mandatory in acquiring licentiate status in order to practice professionally as an administrator. Hon. Tawiah, who is an old student of IEPA, recommended an institution for licensing educational administrators across the country.



**Hon. (Dr.) Augustine Tawiah**

**Presentation on Tracer Studies on IEPA past students, Educational policies and quality education.**

As part of the programme, the research team of IEPA led by Dr. Hope Nudzor did a presentation on a research being conducted by the Institute. The primary purpose of this nation-wide tracer study is to examine how IEPA graduate employees are placed and utilised by their employers. This is proposed with the view of ascertaining how efficient and effective they are at their respective places of work. The presenter noted that one thing that came out strongly was that the research was very relevant and other institutions were interested in doing the same thing.

**Citations to Past Directors:**

A very important part of the programme was the presentation of citations to all past Directors of IEPA in appreciation of their valuable services.



**Past Directors of IEPA captured in the front row**

After the closing remarks by the Pro-Vice Chancellor who chaired the occasion, the Conference ended at 1:52pm.

## **BARBECUE NIGHT**

The last event on the first day of the IEPA Alumni Homecoming was the barbecue night which was organized at the ground floor of the College of Education Lecture Theatre (CELT) at 6:50pm. Most of the registered participants and faculty members of the institute showed up for the programme.

## **DAY TWO**

### ***Student's expo and Photo exhibition***

The second day of the IEPA Alumni Homecoming celebration started at 11:00am with students' exposition and a photo exhibition. The photo exhibition was to show various projects, training programmes and research works done by the faculty and students of the Institute to the general public. A video on other activities of the Institute were also projected during the event.



### **The Exhibition Introduction of Chair**

The afternoon's lunch was chaired by Dr. Lucy Acheampong an alumnus and a queen mother. She spoke extensively about her time at IEPA and her experiences after the programme.



## **The Afternoon lunch Dr. Lucy Acheampong, Honorable Dr. Tawiah and Prof. Bosu**

### ***Launching of Association***

The highlight of the second day's programme was the launching of the Ghana Association of Educational Planners and Administrative (GHAEPA) by Prof. George K. T. Oduro, Pro –Vice Chancellor of University of Cape Coast. He noted that past students of IEPA coming together to form an association would help sustain the values and principles of their alma mater. In addition, he indicated that alumni have a key role to play in the sustenance of IEPA's legacy and, therefore, they should act as advocates in the rebranding of their alma mater

### ***Appointment of Executives***

After the launching of GHAEPA, members were asked to volunteer in the formation of the first group of executives to govern the association and advance the course of their alma mater



### **Newly Elected Executives**

By default, all IEPA alumni are members of the Ghana Association of Educational Planners and Administrators (GHAEPA). But Hon. Tawiah proposed that the association works to robe in graduates of educational leadership/administration programs at UEW; IDL, KNUST; CoDE, UCC; Valley View University and University of Ghana to strengthen the IEPA agenda which is to improve educational administration nationwide.

The names of alumni who volunteered to serve on the GHAEPA Executive Board and their positions are as follows:

- President: Dr. Mike Boakye-Yiadom.
- Vice President: Abigail N.T. Acquah.
- Secretary: Miriam Alice McCarthy.
- Financial Sec: Ophelia Affreh.
- Asst. Organizer: Lawrencia Koduah.
- Organizer: Dr. Dora Baaba Aidoo.
- Asst. Financial Sec: Ebenezer Kyei.

Additionally, there was a selection of regional reps whose core duty will be to organize and liaise between the main executive board and members in their region.

### ***Optional Speeches***

Several members of the association shared their experiences after school and the role the education received from IEPA played in their success. From the experiences shared, one could conclude that IEPA graduates work at all sectors of the economy and are making significant impact in their places of work. Some alumni had gone into private businesses and they were equally successful.

### ***Buffet and Pledges***

There was a buffet as part of refreshment package offered to participants, after which members were encouraged to make financial pledges to support the activities of the newly created association. The lunch and the launching ended at 4: 10pm

### **Lessons Learnt**

The major lessons learnt through this programme were:

- To organize home coming when the sandwich students were around.
- To pay outright once a band is contracted to avoid disappointment.
- To have a strong publicity agenda and work on it early

The total expenditure for the programme was **GH¢ 23,122.50**

The total income generated was **GH¢ 24,195.45** **Balance of GH¢1053.00**