University of Ghana

Centre for Gender Studies and Advocacy

Established in 2005 and launched in 2006, the centre’s key role is to ensure that gender issues become legitimate business of the university. This role includes academic, policy and service functions over 7 core areas: Academic Planning and Curriculum development; Research & Documentation; The provision of a resource centre; The provision of a Sexual Abuse counseling centre; Policy planning; Developing mentoring programmes particularly for junior female faculty and students; Outreach and extension work within the university as well as the wider society.

At a social, cultural and political level CEGENSA hopes to establish itself in the University community as a forum for discussions about, and advocacy around gender issues through diverse media such as films, symposia and book discussions.

Regional Training Centre for Archivists

Since 1974, the University has hosted the Centre within the Department of Library and Archival Studies. It offers a sub-degree Diploma course in Archives Administration for anglophone countries in Africa as well as a Graduate programme in Archival Studies. In 2000-2001 academic year, a Bachelor’s degree programme in Library, Archives and Information Studies was added to its range of academic programmes. The Department of Library and Archival Studies has assumed a new name: The Department of Information Studies, a move aimed at bringing the name of the department to fall in line with the new focus of its work.

Language Centre

The Language Centre was founded in 1970 as a Centre for research in language use in Ghana, having the status of a department in the Faculty of Arts. For the first ten years of its existence, it was supported by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation, which funded the building it occupies. The focus of the Centre is on research and teaching related to the improvement of performance in the languages used in Ghana as vectors of education, culture and community interaction – English, the official language, and various Ghanaian languages. Besides running courses in Language and Study Skills for students of the university, the Centre provides opportunities for people from countries where English is not the language of instruction to improve their English language skills.

Centre for Tropical Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics

The Centre for Tropical Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics was established in the University of Ghana Medical School in 1982 with a grant from the UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special
Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR). The grant was to increase research and training capabilities in Clinical Pharmacology, especially pharmacokinetics of antimalarial, antischistosomal and antifilarial drugs. The grant period was from 1982-1986. The Centre has the status of a department in the Medical School. The principal activities of the Centre are directed towards achieving the institutional objectives of the University of Ghana Medical School.

**Legon Centre for International Affairs (LECIA)**

The Legon Centre for International Affairs, LECIA, was established by the University of Ghana in December, 1989. Its central purposes are:

i. The inter-disciplinary postgraduate academic training for qualified applicants and Foreign service personnel;

ii. The organisation of seminars, workshops, and short courses on specified subjects of current international interest;

iii. Research and publication in the areas of International Affairs, International Law and Practice.

The Centre runs a 12-month course in International Affairs leading to the award of an MA degree in accordance with the existing University of Ghana Regulations.

**About the Centre for Migration Studies**

The Centre for Migration Studies was formally established in October 2006 at the University of Ghana to undertake research, teaching, training, capacity building, policy assessment, development and dissemination in the area of migration. The Centre is located in the Faculty of Social Studies. Its key objectives include to:

- Co-ordinate past and current research activities on migration by Faculties, Department, Institutes and Centres.

- Undertake research activities on migration related issues from a multi-disciplinary approach.

- Promote migration studies at the graduate level through a multi-disciplinary approach.

- Advise on, and inform the formulation of a national policy on migration through the provision of relevant data on migration and related issues.

- Collaborate with relevant institutions, departments and agencies working on migration and related issues.

- Build capacity through short-term training programmes in specific areas.

Its mission is to serve as a leading centre for the study of contemporary and future migration dynamics within and outside Ghana through a strategic and integrated approach.
West Africa Center for Crop Improvement

Partnership with Cornell University, West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI) has been established at the University of Ghana to train plant breeders with expertise to improve the indigenous crops that feed the people of the West African sub-region. The WACCI plant breeding training programme will produce skilled, knowledgeable and properly resourced breeders to breed locally important crops to meet local needs and preferences.

Volta Basin Research Project

The Volta basin refers to the approximately 400,000 sq. km drained by River Volta and its tributaries in the West African countries, Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Togo, Benin, and Ghana where the basin makes up about 70 percent of the mainland. The Volta Basin Research Project (VBRP) was established by the University of Ghana in 1963 to carry out, through a multi-disciplinary methodology, research into the positive and negative changes within the volta basin, following the damming of river Volta at Akosombo and, subsequently, downstream at Akuse, and the consequent creation of artificial lakes behind the dams. As with many major river basin development projects, it was deemed imperative to conduct pre-impoundment studies on what would be lost irretrievably after the damming, scientifically monitor and appraise continuously the expected multi-faceted social and economic impacts, and formulate measures against the many adverse effects that such a major environmental disruption was bound to cause nationally and internationally. The five major areas identified for research were fisheries agriculture, hydrobiology, public health, socio-economic development, and archaeology which, essentially, became passe, after the completion of the creation of the lakes, the first of which is among the largest in the world. Traditionally research work is vested in full-time Research Fellows who, also, partly teach in the Departments to which they, together with their Technicians, are attached. Through this arrangement, the VBRP has generated substantial scientific information about the volta basin, and contributed significantly towards its socio-economic development by discovering solutions for problems associated with the damming.

Legon Seismological Observatory

The Ghana Geological Survey Department has installed seismological equipment in the University's Department of Geology as part of a Telemetric Seismograph Network. The main station at Legon is served by a number of smaller stations located in the south-eastern part of Ghana (Tema, Shai Hills, Akosombo, Koforidua, Kukurantumi, Weija and Winneba) which transmit signals by radio waves. The network monitors seismic activities in the country.
Agricultural Research Centres

There are three Agricultural Research Centres at Legon (about 12 kilometres outside the main campus), Kpong on the Accra plains (about 90 kilometres north-east of Legon), and Kade in the Forest Zone, in the Eastern Region (approximately 175 kilometres from Legon), under the supervision of the Faculty of Agriculture. Apart from research, the centres provide technical and practical experience for students of agriculture and extension and training facilities for farmers and other interested persons.

- **Legon Agricultural Research Centre:** The Centre at Legon (established in 1953) covers an area of about 740 hectares. Its main research activities are in animal breeding, animal nutrition, veterinary medicine, pasture improvement and the development of dairy cattle by crossbreeding.
- **Kpong Agricultural Research Centre:** The Kpong Centre (established in 1954) covers an area of about 420 hectares. It conducts research mainly into rice, sugar cane, cowpea, soya bean, sorghum and beef cattle. The Station also conducts research on mechanized irrigation agriculture on black soils (vertisols) of the Accra Plains.
- **Kade Agricultural Research Centre:** The Centre at Kade (established in 1957) covers an area of 99.3 hectares. It is mainly concerned with research into production of forest zone crops such as citrus, plantain, cocoyam, oil palm and rubber, with a special interest in agronomy of perennial crop plants.

Remote Sensing Applications Unit

The Remote Sensing Applications Unit was established in 1993 as a self-accounting Unit in the Department of Geography and Resource Development with a mandate to provide Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) services and to assist research in land and water resources appraisal and monitoring, including rural and urban land use patterns and trends. It will also support the teaching programmes of the environmental and resource based departments, namely geography and resource development, geology, botany, agriculture and physics. The establishment of the Unit became necessary because of the establishment of a remote sensing applications laboratory and an ecological laboratory in the Department of Geography and Resource Development. The Laboratories were inaugurated on March 22, 1994. The establishment of the laboratories was made possible through the generous assistance of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Danish Government through the Institute of Geography under a linkage arrangement between the Universities of Ghana and Copenhagen (Denmark). The Ecological laboratory is equipped with modern facilities to undertake a large range of analysis including plant materials, soil conditions, water and sediments. The combination of a remote sensing laboratory and an ecological laboratory provides ideal facilities for multi-disciplinary approaches to resource and environmental problems which are bound to have far reaching implications not only for the quality and relevance of teaching and research in the University but also for the quest for the sustainable development of the resources of Ghana.
Ecology Laboratory Centre

The Ecology Laboratory at the University of Ghana, Legon was initiated in 1993 through DANIDA financial ENRECA – project. During the first project period, 1993–95, the Ecology Laboratory was equipped with instruments for conducting chemical and physical analysis on soil, water and plant samples. The second project period, 1997–9 was intended to support teaching and interdisciplinary research programmes on nutrient cycling, ecology and biodiversity. This is reflected in the composition of membership of the Centre’s Advisory Board and Technical Committee, to represent a wide range of Departments. The Centre is aimed, among others, at supporting interdisciplinary research activities, to facilitate necessary field research for researchers and PhD students; to encourage exchange of scientists and technicians between Ghana and Denmark; to conduct training courses on topics of interest to activities of Ecology Laboratory Centre and to organize seminars and workshops. The Ecology Laboratory Centre is located in the building housing the Ecology Laboratory at the Department of Geography and Resource Development.

Centre for Social Policy Studies

The establishment of the CSPS in December, 1997 has been initiated primarily to develop and improve social welfare services in Ghana. It is intended to fill a need for social welfare policy research in Ghana. The challenge is to provide a forum that can play a co-ordinating role for the establishment of social development network and at the same time to involve the general public in the process of social welfare policy development. The Centre, which is sponsored by UNICEF, aims at creating greater awareness on social welfare policy issues in Ghana and promoting participatory development of policies and social service programmes of action. In this respect, the Centre focuses on interdisciplinary projects that emerge from its own programmes as well as those of cognate departments, agencies, organisations and institutions. Specifically, policy areas to be covered through the Centre’s programmes and activities are: the development of the child; poverty, nutrition and household dynamics; family welfare; health; gender issues; ageing; community participation/community welfare; labour issues; environmental issues; population and development. Because of its coordinating role, the Centre serves as a Documentation and Information centre on social welfare policy for students, researchers, policy makers and professionals in the social service field. The centre has a specialised library of reference materials not available elsewhere on campus and produces a Social Policy handbook which covers a wide range of policy issues, carrying both information and programme experiences.