

# **INNOVATION AND AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE**

**CSIR-STEPRI AUDITORIUM, 3<sup>RD</sup> - 5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2014**

***CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS BY DR. A. B. SALIFU THE DIRECTOR GENERAL  
OF COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH (CSIR)***

The Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation Honourable Akwasi Opong-Fosu, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen: Given the theme of the conference – Innovation and Africa Development – I feel greatly honored to chair this opening ceremony.

Before I get on to the heart of my remarks, let me acknowledge our distinguished guests from the UK and The Netherlands. Prof. Xiaolan Fu is a distinguished scholar of international repute and she is here in her capacity as the Director of Technology and Management Centre for Development (TMCD) of the University of Oxford, UK. Prof. Pierre Mohnen is also a distinguished scholar of the United Nations University (UNU-MERIT) in Maastricht in the Netherlands. Their presence here signifies the emphasis we place on high quality international collaboration. It signifies also the seriousness with which the CSIR is addressing the challenge of finding solutions to our development problems through research of all types – the technical scientific research and socio-economic research.

Indeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century the key driver of development is knowledge. Knowledge has is now at the heart of economic growth. And it is all linked to capacity to use science and technology and to innovate. All countries everywhere have to create new knowledge and new ideas that are then represented in products, processes and organizations. The need to innovate is growing stronger as innovation comes closer to being the only means to survive and prosper in highly competitive

and globalized economies. So in my view, this conference is very important for Ghana and Africa.

The theme of the conference connects with the establishment of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). It dates back to the erstwhile National Research Council (NRC), which was established by government in August 1958 to organize and coordinate scientific research in Ghana. The mission of the CSIR is to become the force for accelerated social and economic development of Ghana through the development and application of Science and Technology for public and private wealth creation. Currently, the Council has thirteen (13) institutes and among these institutes is The Science and Technology Policy Research Institute (STEPRI) which provide research support for the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes related to Science, Technology and Innovation (STI). The kinds of research and programmes carried out at STEPRI are very crucial for national development.

I look forward to the deliberations at today's conference. I believe participants would not only gain good knowledge of the linkage STI and Development especially as it relates to Africa, but also a great opportunity to share experiences the pertinent issues.

To our guests from abroad, I hope you will all find your stay here both rewarding and enjoyable.

To the distinguished guests from Ghana who have taken time off from their normal schedule to attend this morning's conference, may I say a big thank you for your support.

I warmly welcome all of you to this great event.

Thank you.