Democratic decentralization, local governance and sustainable development: Ghana’s experiences in three decades (1988-2018)

Date: April 1-2, 2019
Venue: Institute for Distance Learning Conference Centre, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, (KNUST) Kumasi, Ghana

Programme

Day 1, Monday 1 April 2019

8.00 – 8:45 Arrival and Registration of Participants and Guests

9:00 – 9:50 OPENING SESSION

Welcome address

Introductions and Opening Remarks

Brief message from the Nordic Africa Institute

Brief messages from Distinguished Guests

First Keynote speech Prof. Imoro Braimah, Provost, CoHSS, KNUST, Kumasi

Second Keynote speech, Dr. Nana Ato Arthur, Head of Local Government Service, Accra

9:50 – 10:15 Coffee/tea break

10:15 – 11:30 PANEL 1

Panel Chair: Prof. Daniel Buor, Fmr. VC, VVU-Accra

- **From Deconcentration to Devolution: Tracking the Historical Trajectories of Democratic Decentralization in Ghana**
  - Prince Osei-Wusu Adjei, Senior Researcher, Nordic Africa Institute, Sweden.

- **Historical Perspectives of Local Governance and Community Development in Ghana: Past, Present and Future (1988-2018)**
  - Samuel Adu-Gyamfi, Senior Lecturer, KNUST, Ghana.

- **Role of Coordinating Directorate in the Delivery of Accountable and Responsive Local Governance and Sustainable Development in Ghana: Present Experiences and Future Expectations**
  - Evelyn Ataa Ahenkan, Deputy Coordinating Director, Kintampo South District.

- **Decoding the Paradox of Decentralization with Centralized Characteristics in Democratic Ghana**
  - Nene-Lomotey Kuditchar, Senior Lecturer, University of Ghana.

11.30 – 11.40 Short break
11:40 – 13:15

**PANEL 2**

*Decentralization, Poverty Reduction and Service Delivery*

Chair: Prof. Imoro Braimah, Provost, CoHSS-KNUST

Rethinking Waste as a Resource for Sustainable Local Development: Challenges and Opportunities for Local Authorities

Martin Oteng-Ababio, Asso. Prof. and Head of Geography and Resource Development, University of Ghana.

Sub-national structures, poverty reduction and rural development in Ghana: Impact, challenges and recommendations

David Forkuor, Lecturer, KNUST, Ghana.

Decentralisation in Ghana’s Education and Health Sector: Reflections of the Past and Seeking for Future Direction

Gordon Abekah-Nkrumah, Senior Lecturer, University of Ghana Business School.

Public Expectations in Local Governance: Unit Committees under Ghana’s Decentralised System

Gabriel Botchwey, Senior Lecturer, University of Education, Winneba.

Health Sector Decentralisation and Delivery of Responsive Healthcare in Ghana- Experiences and Lessons from Selected Districts

Baba Salifu, Tutor, Al-Faruq College of Education, Wenchi.

13:15 – 14:00

Lunch break

14:00 – 15:30

**PANEL 3**

*Decentralized Planning, Participatory Democracy, Gender and Sustainable Development*

Chair: Prof. Martin Oteng-Ababio, University of Ghana

Health Sector Decentralization and Responsive Service Delivery in Ghana: The Case of Household Health Seeking Behaviours and Quality of School-based Healthcare Delivery

Emmanuel E. Asmah, Senior Lecturer and Dean, School of Economics-University of Cape Coast.

Gendering Local Democracy: Revisiting Women’s Political Representation in Ghana

Diana Höjlund Madsen, Senior Gender Researcher, Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala.

Decentralized Planning for Sustainable Local Governance and Development in Ghana

Winfred Nelson, Deputy Director, Plan Coordinating Division-National Development Planning Commission, Accra.

Sub-district Structures and Local Governance in Ghana: Examining the Role of Unit Committees in promoting Political Participation

Richard Serbeh, Research Fellow, Rural Research and Advocacy Group, Ghana.

Gender Representation, Local Governance and Sustainable Development: Analysis of Ghana’s Past, Present Experiences and Future Expectations

Joycelyn Adii, Regional Director, Dept. of Gender, Brong-Ahafo Region, Ghana.

Day two, Tuesday 2 April 2019

8:00 – 8:45

Arrival and Registration of Participants

8:45 – 10:15

**PANEL 4**

*Fiscal Decentralization, Electoral Reforms and Democratic Governance*

Chair: Prof. Victor Adetula, Head of Research, Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala.

Decentralization and resource capacity for sustainable sanitation and waste management in Ghana: Past experiences, present situation and future expectations

Simon Mariwah, Asso. Professor and Director of Oil and Gas Programme, University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast.
Party Capture of the Assembly: Electoral Processes and stability in partisan alignment at the grassroots
George Bob-Milliar, Senior Lecturer and Head, Department of History and Political Studies, KNUST, Kumasi.

Towards the Election of MMDCEs: A Case for Local Government Reforms in Ghana
Richard Abankwa Agyepong, Lecturer, Centre for African Studies, University of Education, Winneba.

Decentralized reforms and local government financial capacities: Understating financial and human resource capacities of sub-national structures in Ghana
Andani Yakubu, Budget Analyst-Sene West District, Ghana.

Local Government and Domestic Revenue Mobilisation: The Case of East Gonja District Assembly in the Northern Region
Francis Nangbeviel Sanyare, Lecturer and Quality Assurance Officer-University for Development Studies, Tamale.

10:15 – 10:30 Coffee/tea break

10:30 - 12:15 PANEL 5 Decentralization, Non-State Actors and Sustainable Development
Chair: Prof. Osei Kofi Akuoku, Director, Centre for Culture and African Studies, KNUST.

Chronological Critique of Biodiversity Conservation: Its Implications for Sustainable Ecotourism Development in Ghana
Gabriel Eshun, Director, Centre for Tourism Research, Ghana.

NGOs as Partners for Sustainable Local Development: Strategies, Impacts, Challenges and Recommendations:
Ernestina Armah, Lecturer, Christian Service University College, Kumasi.

Local Government reforms and Sustainable Development in Ghana: Lessons for Nigeria
Oluwatobi Adeyemi, Senior Lecturer, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria/ Adekeye Joseph Adeshola, Lecturer, University of Abuja, Nigeria.

Decentralising for Democratic Polycentric Local Government System In Ghana: Examining the Challenges for Sustainable Development
John Gasu, Senior Lecturer, University for Development Studies, Wa Campus, Ghana.

Institutionalisation of Political Vigilantism in Ghana’s Democratic Governance: Conflict, Violence and Peacebuilding
Justice Richard Kwabena Owusu Kyei, lecturer, Dept. of Sociology and Social Work, KNUST, Ghana.

The Politics of Democratic Decentralization in Ghana: Any Hope for the Poorest in Poverty Reduction Process
Olufemi Adenitan, Executive Director, Green House Resource Center, Ibadan, Nigeria.

12:15 – 13:00 Open discussion and Closing session.
13:00 – 14:00 Lunch break and departure