



ACCRA
TECHNICAL
UNIVERSITY

ATU Teller

Quarterly Newsletter

Vol. 007

Issue No. 004

OCT., - DEC., 24



ATU Debate Team
Excels in Uganda



ATU Faculty
Undergoes Design Thinking
Methodology Training

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ATU WINS BIG IN 2024



In a landscape where higher education is constantly evolving to meet global standards, Accra Technical University (ATU) has not only kept pace but surged ahead securing its place as a beacon of integrity, creativity, and excellence. The year 2024 will be remembered as a defining chapter in ATU's journey, marked by a cascade of national and international recognitions that reaffirm its commitment to shaping the future of technical and vocational education in Ghana and across Africa.

At the heart of this momentous year is ATU's impressive performance in the Times Higher Education (THE) 2024 Sub-Saharan Africa Rankings. Securing the position of the 4th best university in Ghana and the leading technical university in the country, ATU also emerged 43rd out of 129 universities in the region, a remarkable accomplishment for a technical institution. These numbers, however, tell only part of the story.

The 2024 rankings introduced a new dimension to evaluation: Ethical Leadership. In a shift that reflects the growing global demand for values-driven education, ATU distinguished itself with an exceptional score of 89.2%. This metric, which replaced Teaching Skills, shines a spotlight on the university's deep-rooted culture of professionalism, responsibility, and visionary leadership. Equally notable was the university's leap in Student Engagement, climbing from 71.1% to an outstanding 80.3%, a clear indicator of ATU's intentional efforts to place students at the center of its mission through enriched learning environments, entrepreneurial mentorship, and transformative extracurricular programs.

What sets ATU apart, however, is not only its place in rankings but its tangible impact. The university's leadership in sustainable development earned it an award for its innovative energy curriculum, designed to align with the United Nations Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs). This milestone demonstrates ATU's proactive approach to preparing students for careers that serve both industry and planet.

ATU's influence was also felt on the national stage. At the Ghana Technical Students Awards and Tech Fair 2024, it clinched the Best TVET Institution Award, affirming its role as a cornerstone in Ghana's technical education ecosystem. Yet the applause did not end there. In a moment of Pan-African pride, ATU was honoured as the Best Technical University in West Africa at the Africa Academia Conference and Awards held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, proof that its vision resonates far beyond its borders.



All these achievements, while significant, form part of a larger narrative. ATU is not just celebrating victories; it is building a legacy. Ehonoredach award, each ranking, and each milestone speaks to a deeper commitment—to uplift communities, to shape ethical leaders, and to drive innovation that responds to Africa's most pressing needs. Whether through its



pioneering research, such as vision-based AI systems and renewable energy prototypes, or its global partnerships with institutions in the UK, China, and South Korea, ATU is positioning itself as a global player with local impact.

As the university reflects on a year of accolades, it remains anchored in its mission: to deliver transformative technical and vocational education that contributes meaningfully to Ghana's development and Africa's Agenda 2063. ATU's story is not just one of success—it is one of significance.

For students seeking a future-focused education, for policymakers looking for institutional models of excellence, and for partners eager to invest in Africa's future, Accra Technical University stands as a compelling testament to what is possible when vision meets action.





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VOLUME 10 ISSUE 004

Times
Higher
Education

UNIVERSITY
RANKING 2024

ATU *Ranked*

1ST
TECHNICAL
UNIVERSITY
IN GHANA

4TH
BEST
UNIVERSITY
IN GHANA

18TH
IN WEST
AFRICA

43RD
IN SUB-SAHARAN
AFRICA UNIVERSITY
RANKINGS 2024





PROF. ACAKPOVI LEADS CONVERSATION ON EDUCA- TION REFORM IN AFRICA

Accra Technical University (ATU) once again proved its growing influence on the international stage when its Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Amevi Acakpovi, delivered a compelling keynote address at the prestigious Going Global Africa 2024 Conference. The event, hosted by the British Council from November 26 to 29, convened distinguished academics, policymakers, and innovators across the continent to explore the future of education in Africa and beyond.



Addressing a packed audience, Professor Acakpovi spoke on the theme “Addressing the Skills Gap: Competencies Students Will Need in 2050.” With the tone of a futurist and the insight of a seasoned academic, he painted a picture of the workforce of tomorrow, one defined not just by artificial intelligence, quantum technology, and renewable energy, but by human creativity, empathy, and adaptability. He called on African institutions to reimagine education by

embedding critical values such as sustainability, global citizenship, and inclusivity into their curricula. His message was clear: technical excellence alone will no longer suffice in a world where social intelligence and lifelong learning are just as vital.

At the heart of his address was a candid reflection on the skills gap that threatens to widen as technological change accelerates. Professor Acakpovi urged institutions to go beyond



traditional models and adopt transformative strategies that would empower students to succeed in dynamic, unpredictable environments. He outlined practical interventions such as redesigning curricula to mirror real-world demands, strengthening technical and vocational education, promoting digital transformation across institutions, and forging global partnerships to enrich research and student exposure.

As he shared these insights, Professor Acakpovi presented ATU as a case study of what is possible when vision meets action. He cited the launch of 23 Bachelor of Technology and 11 Master of Technology programmes tailored to industry needs, noting how these offerings have helped bridge the gap between academic theory and industrial practice. He also highlighted ATU's pioneering research, including developments in artificial intelligence and renewable energy, as evidence of the university's commitment to solving real-world challenges through innovation.

In discussing the future of education, Professor Acakpovi also emphasized the value of international collaboration. He spotlighted ATU's growing global network, including partnerships with London South Bank University, Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology, and A-Tech Korea.





These alliances, he explained, are instrumental in enhancing research capacity, fostering knowledge exchange, and preparing students to operate confidently on a global scale.

The Acting Vice-Chancellor's address also reflected on ATU's recent recognitions, including its honour as the Best Technical University in West Africa for 2024 and its ranking as the fourth-best university in Ghana by the Times Higher Education Rankings in 2023. For Professor Acakpovi, these achievements are not just accolades but affirmations of ATU's steadfast commitment to

academic excellence, innovation, and societal relevance.

He concluded with a visionary appeal, stressing that the Fourth and Fifth Industrial Revolutions come not just with challenges, but also with vast opportunities. The success of graduates, he argued, will depend on their willingness to embrace change and commit to lifelong learning. ATU, he assured the audience, is poised to lead this transformation, equipping its students with the skills, mindset, and global outlook necessary to thrive in a rapidly evolving world.



FLEXILAB ROADSHOW SHOWCASES STUDENT INNOVATION IN AGRICULTURE

At the intersection of innovation, learning, and real-world impact, a group of forward-thinking students from Accra Technical University (ATU) recently stepped into the spotlight, not just as learners but as solution-driven collaborators. The occasion was the FlexiLab Junior Consultant Roadshow, a dynamic platform where academia and industry converged in a shared mission to tackle some of the most persistent challenges facing Ghana's agricultural sector.

Backed by the support of German Cooperation projects under the Special Initiative "Decent Work for a Just Transition" and coordinated locally through the Federation of German Wholesale, Foreign Trade and Services (BGA) and the AFOS Foundation, the initiative drew together an ecosystem of partnerships built on practical impact. For ATU, the event was yet another demonstration of its growing role in shaping not just graduates but job-ready innovators equipped to transform sectors.

The atmosphere at the event blended professionalism with possibility as students showcased digital tools they had developed in collaboration with real agricultural companies. Over a two-to-three-week period, these Junior Consultants worked directly with firms such as SPEG, SHEPAG, and ASPEG, gaining hands-on exposure to industry challenges and responding with tailor-made digital solutions. From mobile applications to user-friendly websites, the students applied classroom knowledge to craft systems capable of improving productivity, enhancing logistics, and streamlining information flow within agriculture, one of Ghana's most vital yet under-digitized sectors.



The university has long held its place as a champion of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), but its FlexiLab programme introduces a bold contemporary dimension to that legacy. With digital literacy increasingly central to employability, the initiative equips students with cutting-edge skills, enabling them to thrive in both local and global markets.

Central to this effort is ATU's Centre for Entrepreneurship and Incubation Services (CEIS), a hub designed to translate student creativity into sustainable business ventures. Under this umbrella, the Junior Consultant programme goes beyond theory, embedding participants in a cycle of ideation, prototyping, and solution delivery. It is an approach that reflects the university's broader mission to empower students not only to seek jobs but to create them.

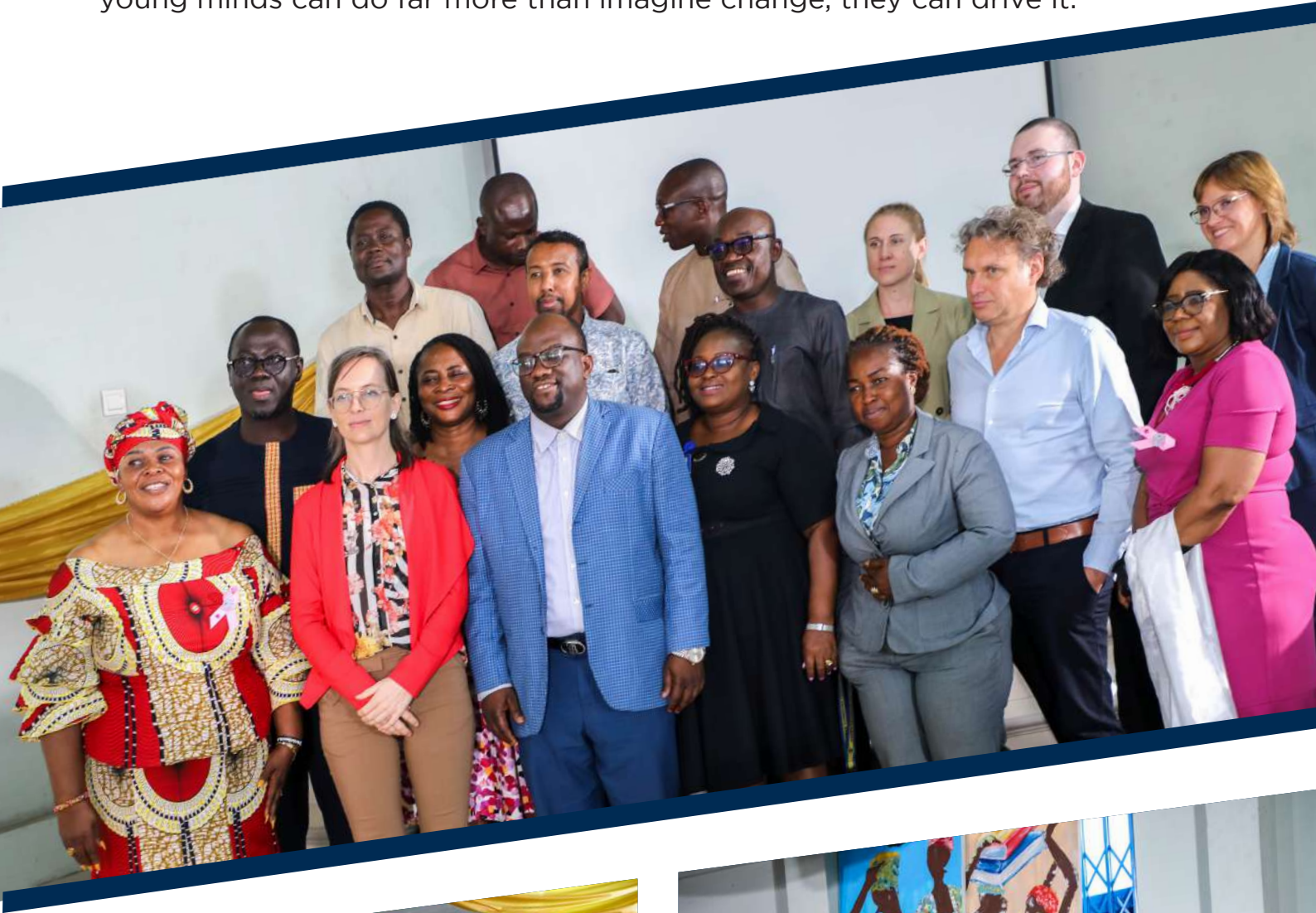


International partners present at the event also brought energy and encouragement to the programme. The launch of a new cohort focused specifically on advancing opportunities for young women signaled an expansion of the initiative's reach and relevance. With added emphasis on placement services and visibility in the global workforce, this next phase opens up further possibilities for students whose skills are increasingly in demand across borders.

The Roadshow concluded with a sense of achievement and forward motion. Participants left not just with applause but with the validation of having created something meaningful. For the stakeholders, collaborators, and especially the students, the event marked more than the end of a project. It was the beginning of a new way of thinking about learning, one that sees students as partners in development and education as a direct pathway to solving national challenges.



In every presentation and product, the spirit of innovation was unmistakable. ATU's FlexiLab Roadshow proved that with the right support and structure, young minds can do far more than imagine change, they can drive it.



ACCRA TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

LEADS CYBERSECURITY EDUCATION DRIVE

Students, academics, and industry professionals gathered on October 17, 2024, at the auditorium of Accra Technical University, for a much-needed conversation about the digital age's hidden dangers. The atmosphere was thick with anticipation as attendees came face-to-face with a pressing issue that affects everyone, cybersecurity.

The University's 2024 Cyber Security Awareness Symposium arrived at a critical time. From hacked WhatsApp accounts and fraudulent mobile money transactions to large-scale data breaches, cyber threats are no longer distant possibilities, they are a daily reality for many Ghanaians. Against this backdrop, the symposium's theme, Empowering the Next Generation Cyber Defenders: Building a Resilient Digital Future, served as both a call to action and a blueprint for national preparedness.



It was a forum where the complex world of cybersecurity was broken down into relatable truths. Experts didn't just speak in technical codes, they spoke in ways that resonated with ordinary people. Through real-life accounts and lived experiences, the event revealed not only the financial and data losses linked to cyber-attacks but also the emotional toll that cyberattacks leave in their wake.



CYBERCRIME, DATA, AND A GROWING GAP

For Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Amevi Acakpovi, the digital revolution in Ghana brings both promise and peril. In his keynote, he urged the audience to see cybersecurity not just as a technical challenge but as a national concern that touches every citizen. He painted a sobering picture: phishing, ransomware, and malware attacks are now frequent disruptors, and institutions handling public data must wake up to the risks.

Professor Acakpovi emphasized the need to embed cybersecurity awareness across every discipline, not just computing. For him, safeguarding Ghana's digital infrastructure begins in classrooms, with accountants, marketers, engineers, and even artists understanding the basics of cyber hygiene. He also pointed to the limited enforcement of Ghana's Data Protection Act, calling for stronger accountability measures to protect citizens' information.





This sentiment was shared by Stephen Cudjoe-Seshie, who leads the National Computer Emergency Response Team at the Cyber Security Authority. Representing the Authority's Director General, Mr. Cudjoe-Seshie shared unsettling statistics: 36 percent of Ghanaians have experienced a data breach in one form or another. From online scams to cyberbullying, digital threats are no longer abstract, they are personal and widespread.

More alarming, however, is the talent gap. While demand for cybersecurity professionals continues to rise, the country faces a shortage of experts with skills in cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and threat detection. The CSA is working to address this through training, licensing, and partnerships with educational bodies like the Ghana Tertiary Education Commission to embed cybersecurity into national curricula.



BEYOND THE FIREWALL: A HUMAN APPROACH

One of the most engaging parts of the symposium came during the panel discussion, where speakers shifted the conversation from firewalls and algorithms to people and feelings.

George Babafemi, fintech consultant and board member of eTranzact Ghana Limited, reminded the audience that cyberattacks do not only affect systems, they affect lives. Victims of cybercrime often grapple with fear, anxiety, and the distress of seeing their digital identities violated. He called for nationwide sensitisation efforts that make data protection a personal responsibility, not just a corporate one.



Dr. Edward Ansong, a Senior Lecturer at the University of Ghana's Department of Computer Science, challenged prevailing assumptions about the field. Cybersecurity, he argued, should not be siloed as a "tech career." Its relevance cuts across professions and lifestyles, and therefore, so should its education. Students studying law, business, or hospitality should be as aware of cyber risks as those in IT.

That call for inclusivity was reinforced by ATU's Director of ICT, Dr. Sylvester Hatsu. He advocated for the university to introduce short courses and professional certificates in cybersecurity that are open to students outside the traditional science and technology streams.

A COLLECTIVE MANDATE

The event was more than a showcase of problems. It was a roadmap toward solutions, backed by collaboration and shared responsibility. Sponsored by eTranzact Ghana Limited, Digital Arena, Tellingent (GH) Systems, and Improtech Systems, the symposium also reflected how partnerships between academia, government, and private industry can create real impact.







CELEBRATING THE SEASON AND SERVICE: ATU'S YEAR-END GATHERING

The festive season came alive at Accra Technical University (ATU) as the institution brought the year to a close with its annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, held on the evening of Thursday, December 18, 2024. This much-anticipated event, staged in the university's was a moment of unity, reflection, and appreciation that gathered students, staff, alumni, retirees, and institutional stakeholders into one joyful community.

Bathed in the gentle glow of Christmas lights and enlivened by the harmonies of the university choir, the forecourt was transformed into a space of both reverence and rejoicing. The programme followed the cherished format of nine scripture readings, each carefully selected to tell the story of Christmas. These readings, delivered by members of the university's leadership, invited guests, and valued partners, were woven with stirring musical performances that gave the occasion a rich spiritual and cultural texture.



Beyond the music and readings, the carols service doubled as an occasion to honour the people behind the university's growing success. The highlight of the evening came with the recognition of staff whose dedication and long-standing service have been instrumental to ATU's progress. Staff members who had served for 15 years and more were celebrated with long-service awards, tokens of appreciation for years of commitment and professional excellence. The university also paid special tribute to retirees, whose enduring contributions over the decades were acknowledged in a deeply moving segment of the programme.

In what can only be described as a triumphant year, ATU had every reason to celebrate. The university's accomplishments in 2024 were impressive, both nationally and beyond. Ranked as the fourth-best university in Ghana and the highest among technical universities, ATU further secured a strong position in the wider academic landscape as the 43rd best institution in Sub-Saharan Africa. It also received regional recognition from the African Academic Conference as the leading technical university in West Africa. These accolades, earned through collective dedication and vision, served as a powerful backdrop to the evening's celebrations.

The event, however, was not all formality. As the official programme drew to a close, the night took on a more relaxed and festive atmosphere. Attendees enjoyed a time of informal interaction, rekindling old friendships and forging new ones. With food, music, and dance, the courtyard buzzed with the warmth of togetherness that only the holiday season can inspire. For many, it was not only a moment to celebrate a year of accomplishments but also a time to reconnect, with colleagues, with the institution, and with the spirit of the season.



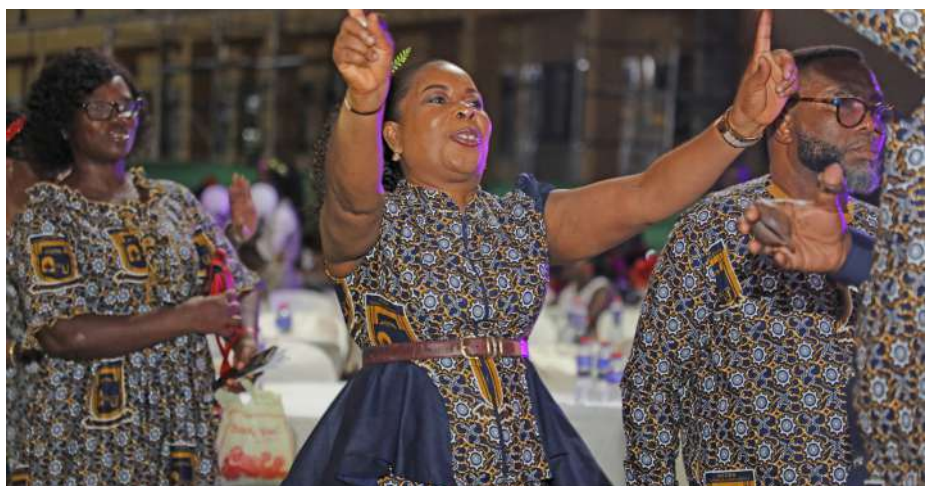














ATU Debate Team Excels in Uganda

*O*n December 2024, Kampala, Uganda, played host to the Pan-African Universities Debate Championship (PAUDC), a melting pot of intellect, culture, and youth-driven advocacy.

Representing Ghana with distinction, the Debate and Public Speaking Club of ATU secured multiple awards and set remarkable records that show the University's growing influence in the realm of intellectual and advocacy-based competitions. Out of the five students who participated, four received individual awards, reflecting the team's high-level preparation and performance throughout the championship.

ATU's achievements included clinching first and second place in Public Speaking Adjudication across Africa, and a third-place finish in the Best Public Speaker category. The University also emerged as the Best Public Speaking Judge in Africa, and notably, all top three public speaking judges on the continent were from ATU, a first in the history of the competition.

The team further distinguished itself by becoming the only university to reach the Public Speaking finals for the second consecutive year at PAUDC. Additionally, it set a record for the highest number of appearances by a Ghanaian team in top-room debate sessions.

These accomplishments not only mark a significant milestone for ATU but also highlight the expanding role of technical universities in shaping Africa's discourse on leadership, governance, and innovation. The performance in Uganda affirms ATU's commitment to nurturing well-rounded students with the confidence and critical thinking skills required for continental and global engagement.

The Pan-African Universities Debate Championship is the continent's foremost debate platform, bringing together students from across Africa to engage in rigorous dialogue and competition on pressing issues. The 2024 edition, hosted in Uganda, provided a vibrant space for academic exchange against a backdrop of the country's rich cultural heritage.

ATU's performance in the championship reflects not only the team's dedication but also the university's investment in co-curricular activities that empower students beyond the classroom.









ABS Supports ATU Students with \$12,000 in Scholarships

December 2, 2024, marked a defining moment in the history of Accra Technical University as 68 deserving students were named recipients of a \$12,000 scholarship package generously awarded by the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS). The award ceremony, hosted at the university's Lodge, transcended a mere formality; it stood as a powerful reminder of the remarkable outcomes that emerge when academic dedication is met with corporate support.

In a time when the cost of education remains a defining barrier for many bright minds, ABS's intervention came as a lifeline. Students pursuing programmes in Mechanical Engineering, Computer Science, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, and Building Technology, all disciplines central to national development, were carefully selected based on merit and financial need. For many, this recognition wasn't simply about easing tuition burdens; it was validation of their silent struggles, sleepless nights, and steadfast resolve to succeed against all odds.

The scholarship recipients represent a cross-section of ATU's most promising talents, young people with the skills to design, build, program, and innovate, but whose potential might otherwise have been dimmed by financial uncertainty. For them, ABS's gesture is more than monetary; it is transformational.

It is an invitation to pursue their goals with fewer limitations and greater purpose.

Presenting the awards on behalf of ABS, Iain Nuttall, Area Operations Manager for Africa, expressed the organization's belief in the power of investing in young talent. He spoke with quiet conviction about the importance of shaping future professionals not only with knowledge, but with the right opportunities to thrive. His presence at the event shows ABS's long-standing commitment to technical excellence and global partnerships, particularly in regions where such investments can alter individual and institutional trajectories.

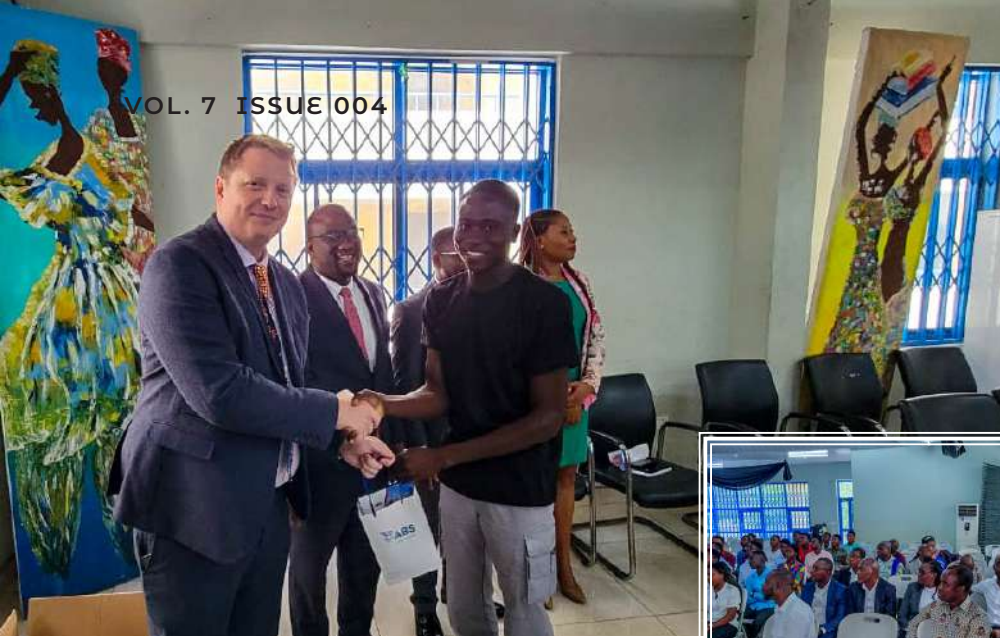
The Acting Vice-Chancellor of ATU was equally emphatic in his appreciation. Thanking ABS for identifying the university as a worthy partner, he praised the alignment between ATU's vision of industry-focused training and ABS's broader mission to



drive safety, innovation, and leadership in the technical fields. He noted that the scholarships would not only ease financial pressure but also motivate students to raise their academic standards, knowing that their efforts are seen and supported by global industry leaders.

Indeed, this moment represents more than corporate social responsibility; it marks a deepening relationship between academia and industry. In selecting ATU, ABS has acknowledged the university's stature as Ghana's foremost technical institution, renowned for producing graduates who are not just employable, but impactful. For ATU, this collaboration adds a new chapter to its legacy of equipping students with relevant, practical skills for a rapidly changing world.

As a global leader in marine and offshore classification services since 1862, ABS continues to leave an indelible mark through education-focused initiatives such as this. The organisation's commitment to fostering technical talent aligns with Ghana's development priorities and the university's mission to empower students with both competence and character.







Charting a New Course: ATU Equips Lecturers for Graduate-Level Excellence

In a move that signals both ambition and readiness, Accra Technical University (ATU) has taken a bold step toward redefining postgraduate education. With an unprecedented number of graduate programmes rolled out in the 2024/2025 academic year, the university embarked on a strategic mission to prepare its faculty for the demands of advanced teaching and research.

The auditorium buzzed with quiet anticipation on November 11, 2024, as lecturers gathered for an intensive orientation, one designed not just to inform, but to inspire. At the heart of the programme was a shared understanding, that graduate education must go beyond conventional teaching to foster innovation, critical inquiry, and intellectual depth.

Leading the charge was the university's Acting Vice-Chancellor, whose message set a decisive tone. He painted a vision of transformation anchored in quality and accountability. Lecturers were reminded that graduate-level instruction comes

with a new set of expectations, ones that demand not only attendance and participation but also strong commitment to academic rigour.

Rather than relying on familiar undergraduate methods, faculty members were challenged to elevate their approach. The emphasis was clear, deeper engagement, richer content, and a pedagogical style that cultivates independent thought. The university's aspiration is not just to teach but to shape thinkers who can navigate and influence a fast-evolving world.

A pivotal part of the orientation came through an interactive session led by a distinguished academic and former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Mines and Technology (UMaT), Tarkwa, Professor J.S.Y. Kuma. With a firm grasp of both the art and science of graduate instruction, he unpacked the layers of



effective postgraduate teaching. The discussion moved beyond technique to values, highlighting the importance of humility, empathy, and ethical engagement in lecturer-student interactions.

Graduate education, he explained, is the engine room of research and innovation. It thrives when lecturers themselves are actively contributing to knowledge creation. Faculty members were urged to see themselves not only as educators but as catalysts for breakthroughs, armed with content that is current, context-driven, and rich in depth.



Attention was drawn to the critical elements that distinguish impactful postgraduate teaching: structured preparation, clarity of delivery, and an unwavering focus on quality. The call was not merely to teach, but to mentor, to inspire students to ask better questions and seek bold solutions.

As the 2024/2025 academic year begins, Accra Technical University is ready to embrace its next chapter, one that promises to produce graduates who will contribute to the world's most pressing challenges. With graduate programmes now in full swing.







ATU Faculty Undergoes Design Thinking Methodology Training

Accra Technical University, in partnership with Design Thinking Ghana Hub, has organised a specialised training programme on Design Thinking methodology under the Africa Health Research and Innovation Project (AHRIP), a project executed by Accra Technical University, with funding from the RISA Fund through the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office.

Aimed at bridging the gap between research and development in the health sector by using design thinking to address real-world challenges, the event brought together lecturers from various faculties on 5th and 6th November 2024 at the University Auditorium. The two-day training featured participatory activities focused on adopting the design thinking approach as a tool for innovative solutions to societal problems.

The Chairperson of the event and AHRIP Principal Investigator, Professor Alice Constance Mensah, welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of applying design thinking principles to create meaningful, sustainable change in research and innovation, regardless of the field of study. She highlighted the need for a multi-disciplinary approach to tackling some of the most pressing issues facing the African health sector today.



Throughout the event, facilitators from Design Thinking Hub, Dr. Gordon Adomdza, and Mr. Eugene Eluerkeh engaged participants in interactive discussions and collaborative exercises that explored the various stages of the design thinking process—from empathy and problem definition to ideation. Attendees were encouraged to adopt a human-centred mindset, putting the community's needs at the centre of their innovation efforts.

In smaller groups, participants worked on various issues bothering their immediate surroundings, applying design thinking tools to identify key pain points and develop user-centred solutions. These group activities encouraged cross-disciplinary collaboration and allowed attendees to experience firsthand the power of design thinking in solving societal issues.

At the end of each session, groups presented their proposed solutions to the larger audience. These presentations were met with constructive feedback from fellow participants and facilitators, further refining the ideas and encouraging continuous improvement.

In her closing remarks, Professor Mensah thanked participants for their active involvement in the two-day programme and encouraged them to exhibit the same commitment in the online sessions yet to take place. She encouraged all attendees to take the insights and strategies learnt during the training to their respective departments and continue exploring how design thinking can drive impactful change in their teaching methodologies.





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