



Africa Research & Innovation Commercialisation Summit

› 2024

FULL REPORT ON THE MAIDEN EDITION OF THE AFRICA RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COMMERCIALISATION SUMMIT (ARICS 2024) ON THE THEME: “FROM LABS TO MARKETS: CREATING VIABLE AND INCLUSIVE VALUE CHAINS AND INNOVATION MARKETS FOR SUSTAINABLE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

ABOUT ARICS

Ecosystem players in the research, technology and innovation sector across Africa converged in Accra for a one-day Africa Research and Innovation Commercialisation Summit (ARICS 2024), a thought-leadership initiative of the research and innovation hub, Heritors Labs, its funding partners--RISA Fund, development agencies and strategic collaborators in academia, industry and public sectors.

The Summit discussed challenges and proffered workable solutions towards moving African innovations and research outcomes from the shelves and labs to the markets, both domestic and continental, as a means of growth, value creation and enhanced profitability for Africa's researchers and innovators as well as its private sector.

With speakers and panellists drawn from across Africa, the Summit was a melting pot of new ideas and knowledge sharing towards the broader goal of advancing research and innovation commercialisation, enabling the design of industry-centric products and services through partnerships and market linkages across the continent.



OBJECTIVES

MINDSET SHIFT



ARICS aimed to orient the Africa research and innovation ecosystem towards a culture of value creation and market-thinking by providing a dynamic platform to unravel the research and innovation economy and the power it wielded to transform the lives of people and the communities they lived in.

STRATEGIES, INSIGHTS AND TOOLS



The summit empowered researchers and innovators with practical tools, insights, and strategies to effectively navigate the research and innovation value chain.

BREAKING BARRIERS



ARICS is committed to bridging the gaps between research and market-ready products by advocating the enabling environment and critical support programmes required to eliminate barriers that impede researchers, innovators and industry.

INCLUSIVITY



ARICS is committed to creating inclusive value chains that reach rural economies and marginalised groups, boosting equitable opportunities for all.

POLICIES THAT RESONATE



The summit contributed to policy development, identifying challenges and solutions to create an enabling environment for research commercialisation.

HIGHLIGHTING THE INNOVATION TRUST CORRIDOR



The summit demonstrated the impacts, success and outcomes of the Innovation Trust Corridor and the Innovation Market Value Chain Map.

UK-GHANA SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (ST&I) STRATEGY



ARICS galvanized Stakeholders for UK-Ghana ST&I Strategy Success and Unveiled Its Potential Value.





WHAT WAS EXPECTED TO BE ACHIEVED FROM THE SUMMIT

- ▶ Deepen collaboration between researchers, industry players, and government entities by fostering stronger partnerships and cooperation among these stakeholders, to streamline the process of bringing innovations to market, thereby maximising their societal impact and economic value.
- ▶ Facilitate deliberations and co-creation efforts, and identify solutions to Africa's socio-economic challenges by addressing pressing issues, fostering a culture of cooperation and collective problem-solving.
- ▶ Enable researchers, innovators, and other stakeholders within the value chain by equipping them with practical tools and strategies for navigating the research and innovation ecosystem effectively by providing resources and support, to overcome barriers and seize opportunities for advancement in their respective fields.



REMARKS FROM PARTNERS AND KEY STAKEHOLDERS



Chief Executive Officer of Heritors Labs Ltd, Mr. Derrydean Dadzie, officially welcomed the various speakers, panellists and participants from across the continent to ARICS 2024, admitting that their huge presence signified shared dedication and aspirations to the core vision of propelling cross-border commercialization of African research and innovations.

To him, the continued dedication of ecosystem actors towards the advancement of research innovation in Africa was not just commendable, but also instrumental in shaping the future for the next generation.

He said the Summit provided the right platform for all ecosystem players to deliberate, co-create and heed the call for solutions to Africa's thorny socio-economic challenges whilst fostering opportunities for collaboration in the quest to move research from the labs to the market.

The overall mission of ARICS 2024, he said, was to endow researchers, innovators and other value chain actors with practical tools, insights and strategies and empower them to navigate the integral landscape of the research and innovation ecosystem.

Mr. Dadzie appreciated the continual support from the RISA Fund and its strategic developmental partners as well as the sustained cooperation from academia, industry and state institutions such as the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Association of Ghana Industries (AGI) and the Private Enterprises Federation.

HERITORS LABS



RISA Fund's Team Lead, Mr. Mark Lawler, emphasised in his speech that the Fund believed in the transformative power of science, technology and innovative services, hence its quest to invest in research ecosystem strengthening.

According to him, the RISA Fund remains committed to empowering local organisations across Africa to develop homegrown solutions to tackle the myriad of challenges facing the continent.

He expressed excitement about the work of the fund's local partner, Heritors Labs, in building networks with public and private institutions, enabling collaborations between diverse stakeholders in not only promoting research excellence, but also enhancing the value of products and services.

Also through the activities of the company, students, young researchers, innovators and entrepreneurs across Ghana have benefitted from various capacity building workshops, training and mentorship.



RISA FUND





President of the Private Enterprises Federation (PEF), Nana Osei Bonsu, remarked that the outcome of research is the bread and butter of industry and there's the need for every business to connect with researchers and applauded the works of Heritors Labs in building partnerships for research and innovation commercialization.

To PEF, collaborations are critical in getting the right outcomes from research just as funding, hence the need to build the right mix of researchers, funders and industrialists.

Nana Osei Bonsu mentioned the current three-tier pension regime and the decision of Guinness Ghana, a local brewer, to use sorghum in producing its beer, were some notable impact of collaborative research on social welfare and business sustainability.

PRIVATE ENTERPRISES FEDERATION (PEF)



Chief Executive Officer of the Association of Ghana Industries (AGI), Seth Twum-Akwaboah, stressed that the role of research in Ghana's industrial space cannot be overemphasised, and that, as off-takers of research outcomes and innovations, private sector businesses play a key part in advancing research commercialisation.

He admitted that industry needs researchers to come out with innovative products and services, and that demands enhanced collaborations between industry and research and innovation institutions towards developing products that have commercial value and tackle specific needs of the business community and society at large.

Also, given the capital-intensive nature of research, the government has a role to play in ensuring that researched innovations are moved from the labs and shelves to the markets, both domestic and international.

Mr. Akwaboah opined that research works and innovations that are left unused become redundant and discourages the growth of the ecosystem.

In concluding, he noted that several innovations have been unearthed through effective research and development that are begging for commercialization and further research, whilst tasking the research community to explore green



ASSOCIATION OF GHANA INDUSTRIES (AGI)





COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH (CSIR)



Deputy Director-General of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Prof. (Mrs.) Marian Quain, highlighted the core function of the Institute in leading research and innovation development in the country, and emphasised the pivotal role it plays for accelerated national socio-economic development.

CSIR is the sole state institution mandated to generate and apply innovative technologies as well as effectively explore science and technology for national development, especially in the critical areas of agriculture, industry, environment, public health and social sciences

Prof. Quain indicated that a vibrant innovation ecosystem requires systems that facilitate commercialization, such as enabling policies, institutional structures and intellectual property regimes as well as innovation incubation and technology transfer platforms that instigate growth.

She further noted that the CSIR will continue to identify and analyse institutional research outputs and commercial potential as well as ensure that such innovations are demand-driven, to be achieved in close partnership with the private sector.

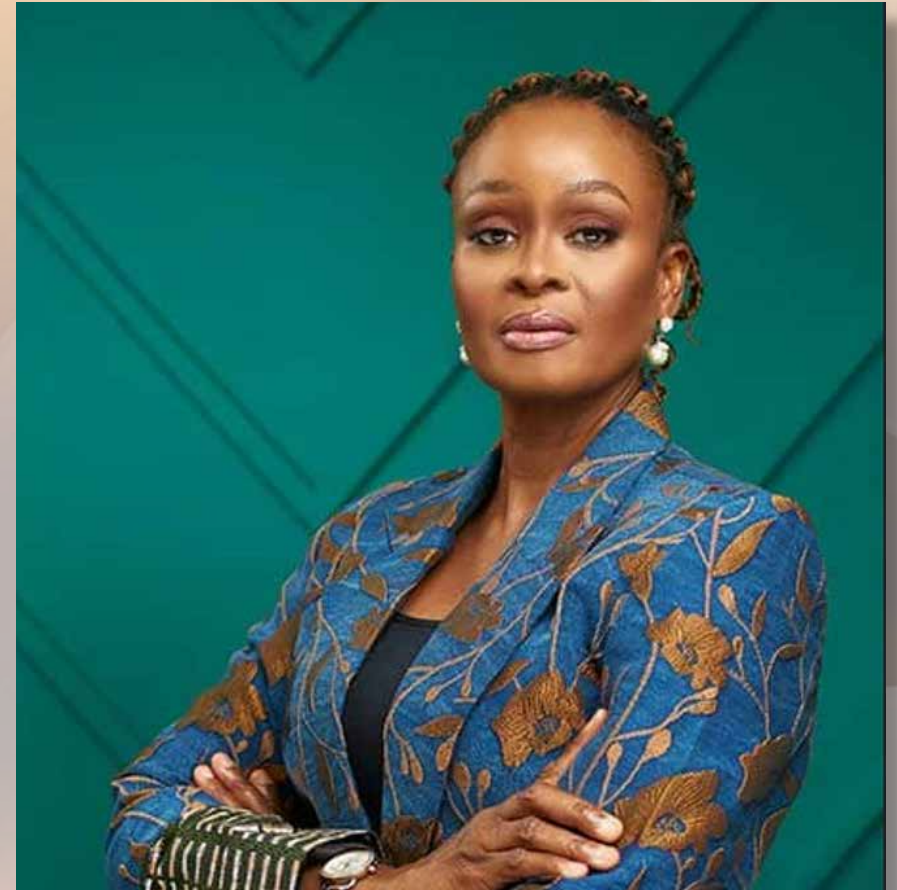
In line with the Institute's commercialization drive, the CSIR has launched a five-year strategic plan to stimulate synergies among CSIR institutions in the manner that will deepen the contribution of the state research institutions to national development. At the heart of this plan, she said, is the promotion of private sector-driven research and technological innovations.



In her brief remarks, Founder of the Design and Technology Institute (DTI), Ms. Constance Swaniker, shared her two-decades of experience as an entrepreneur and academician highlighting how a strong marriage between the two sectors would inspire innovation and commercialisation.

She affirmed that there's a huge gap between academia and the world of work, and that the conversation around marrying research to industry was long overdue and highly significant.

She was hopeful that deliberations from the Summit will help to bridge the gap and successfully transition young people to the world of work.



DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE (DTI)





MINISTRY OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

Minister for Public Enterprises, Mr. Joseph Cudjoe, stressed that public enterprises play a crucial role in moving research and innovation outcomes from the labs to markets given that Ghana's specified entities collectively constitute one-third of the economy.

In an era defined by rapid technological advancements and global competition, the role of public enterprises in fostering innovation and leading their transition to the marketplace has become more critical than ever, he added.

Mr. Cudjoe emphasised that private enterprises serve as the catalyst for innovation, which is the key driver of economic growth and competitiveness as it spurs productivity and the provision of quality services, aside its added ability to shape markets and influence the adoption of new technologies.

They could also play the much-needed function of driving innovation and accelerating its transition of novel ideas from the confines of laboratories to the broader marketplace.

Also, by leveraging public procurement, he advised that public demand can be strategically targeted to stimulate innovation by influencing the market for specific new products, technologies and services. Through well designed public procurement initiatives, public enterprises can create the conducive environment for commercial uptake of research outcomes, thereby fostering a culture of continuous advancements in market-led innovation.

Partnerships between public enterprises, the private sector and academia will collate resources, knowledge and expertise to tackle complex challenges whilst serving as fertile grounds for the development of cutting-edge innovative products and services.

The minister expressed optimism that the establishment of the UK-Africa Innovation Trust Corridor to foster innovation co-creation, sharing and trade between African Commonwealth countries and the UK will catalyze the research and innovation value chain for economic growth.



Speaking on behalf of the Chief Director (MESTI) , Mr. Patrick Nomo, Mr. Cephas Adjei Mensah, Director of Research, Statistics, and Information Management at the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation (MESTI), emphasised the critical importance of realising the full potential of science, technology, and innovation.

Mr. Cephas Adjei Mensah, was of the view that realising the full potential of science, technology and innovation require the transition of research and innovation outcome to markets, that's how to create viable and innovative value chains for sustainable socio-economic development.

As the mother ministry for advancing technology and innovation, MESTI remains committed to STI development as seen in its review of the National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, which aims at fostering comprehensive advancement of scientific and technological capabilities among the critical mass of researchers and innovators.

He however acknowledged gaps in funding and knowledge sharing and scalability barriers as key obstacles impeding the promotion and research and development in Ghana.

Also, moving research outcomes and innovations from the labs to markets will allow Africa to leverage its STI to spur economic and industrial growth.

Mr. Adjei Mensah said the ministry has embraced ARICS 2024 and looked forward to insightful outcomes from constructive deliberations and sharing of ideas amongst players in the research and innovation ecosystem.



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (MESTI)





OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Senior Advisor to the Vice President, Prof. Kwaku Appiah-Adu, in his speech that espoused government's ongoing interventions and actions in Ghana's research and innovation ecosystem, he affirmed that innovation is fueled by science, research and technology; and thrives best when facilitated by a strong ecosystem and empirical enabling conditions.

He was emphatic that strong innovation growth systems create the enabling environment for innovators to develop and scale up to solve critical challenges.

He further disclosed that the government was pursuing a range of policies and coordinated initiatives that place science, technology and innovation at the centre of driving socio-economic development in line with Agenda 2030 Agenda adopted at the United Nation Sustainable Development Summit in 2015, which positions STI as key drivers of sustainable development.

Harnessing STI has cross-cutting innovations in almost every sector of the economy, including health, agriculture, education and sanitation.

As part of efforts to accelerate innovation, the government has prioritised a sustained development programme aimed at promoting prosperity and equal opportunities and providing a conducive environment for private sector growth, and job creation, he added.

Prof. Appiah-Adu indicated that the National Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (NEIP) is a government initiative to create a business-friendly, innovation and entrepreneurial environment for partnerships for tech-led businesses.

Digital economy is rapidly changing international trade, perfecting business practices and introducing new business intermediaries and for that, the government envisions Ghana as a leading economy powered by digital innovations.

At the core of Ghana's quest to strengthen its economic resilience, he noted, was the renewed emphasis on innovation across sectors to tackle the teeming rate of unemployment that is stifling the good future of the youth.



On his part, Mr. Richard Sandall, Development Director for the British High Commission in Ghana, indicated that the Summit was an outcome of the British government's engagements to strengthen Ghana's research and innovation ecosystem and to demonstrate how the UK collaborates with local strategic stakeholders to encourage evidence-based policies for the innovation ecosystem. He stressed that markets do not happen by magic, but a collection of actions working together; and the summit will make actors in the market such as innovators, investors and business people more visible and attractive to investments.

Mr. Sandall elaborated on the UK-Ghana Innovation Trust Corridor, which is an important concept between UK and Ghana to further deliver on existing science and technology strategy, and would serve as the a platform for innovators and researchers across the two countries to collaborate through innovation conveniently.

Currently, the ecosystem activities seem fragmented, risky and uncertain because both innovators and businesses do not access the needed cross-border information to inform decision-making.

According to Mr. Sandall, there are currently over 300 different partnerships between UK and Ghana in science, technology and innovation, covering the fields of agricultural science to vaccine development and collaborations that were mutually beneficial. The UK-Ghana Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy therefore seeks to identify those collaborations, keep track of activities within the innovation system and how their benefits could be maximised.



**BRITISH HIGH
COMMISSION**



REPORT ON FORMATION OF A TRUST CORRIDOR FOR INNOVATION EXCHANGE AND TRADE ACROSS AFRICA LAUNCHED



A new report to guide the formation and implementation of the proposed UK-Ghana Innovation Trust Corridor (ITC) to facilitate the transparent, secure and demonstrable exchange of research and innovation outputs between the United Kingdom and its African Commonwealth nations has been launched in Accra.

The report titled: “Research-based evidence to support the formation of the proposed UK-Ghana Innovation Trust Corridor (ITC)”, was unveiled during the summit.

The UK-Africa Innovation Trust Corridor establishes the infrastructure and protocols for innovation co-creation, innovation trade, protecting intellectual property rights, knowledge transfer and shared operational standards.

Click the link to find out more. <https://ukaitc.org/reports/>

It will also foster a robust regime for research and innovation commercialisation within and across nations in the commonwealth, with the United Kingdom being the initial anchor region.

In terms of benefits, the ITC enhances research quality and quantity, deepens entrepreneurship and revenue generation, improves social and environmental outcomes, enables trust-building for crucial and successful collaboration for access to new markets and strengthens bilateral relations.

The research-based evidence report identified gaps in skills and funding, bureaucracy, stakeholder misconceptions and infrastructure constraints as key challenges facing the innovation ecosystem across the African Commonwealth region.

It further established that opportunities exist for quality human resources and market education, and that the region prioritises innovation as the catalyst for long-term success, partnerships for knowledge sharing, and the adoption of market-centric approaches to meet consumer needs

Launching the report, the Senior Advisor to the Vice President, Prof. Kwaku Appiah-Adu, underscored the potency of evidence-based research in governance, academia and industry. He noted:

“Focusing on Africa, the research and innovation trust corridor will be a great platform for businesses, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, as we build on boosting intra-African trade, which is a major pillar of the AfCFTA. We hope that the findings of the work will go a long way to help build the Africa we want.”



Chief Executive Officer of Heritors Labs Limited and co-author of the report, Mr. Derrydean Dadzie, in his brief remarks at the report launch said:

“It’s very important to have a trusted platform for innovation engagement. This report establishes the viability of setting up a trusted corridor that pools innovators from different countries to promote innovation co-creation, trade and knowledge sharing.”

He elaborated that the proposed Innovation Trust Corridor will outline and supervise key measures that will alleviate pressing challenges and barriers stifling the advancement of research and innovation commercialisation in the African Commonwealth region.



On his part, the Director of Development at the British High Commission, Mr. Richard Sandall, disclosed that the ITC report was commissioned as part of the sustainable development goals evidence-based research to gain better understanding of the practical aspect of innovation commercialisation, identifying the challenges and opportunities. He said:

“The Innovation Trust Corridor is an important concept of the UK government and Ghana to further deliver on an existing science and technology strategy between the two countries. It will serve as the platform for innovators, researchers and investors across our two countries to collaborate through innovation more easily.”

Funded by the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), the UK-Ghana Innovation Trust Corridor will foster public-private partnerships to strengthen research and innovation commercialisation; provide deregulation and policy support to streamline processes for efficient commercialisation; and encourage collaborations between industry, academia and research community.





The report was co-authored by Mr. Derrydean Dadzie, Dr. Maame Yaakwaah Blay Adjei, Prof. Louis Asiedu, Dr. George Acheampong and Dr. Oluwasegun Adetunde.

Another report that was launched concurrently with the ITC was the Trajectory Discovery of Ghana's Innovation and Value Chain Map (IMVCM) which explored and maps Ghana's innovation market value chain.

The IMVCM is a tool that helps ecosystem actors to understand and improve the innovation landscape and market in Ghana, outlining the journey from research

to market through utilisation to disposal.

The report recommended the need for an effective coordination among supporting entities in ensuring the relevance and sustainability of research and innovation activities in Ghana. It also suggested that transforming research into marketable products would require addressing funding and resource constraints. The report was co-authored by Mr. Derrydean Dadzie, Dr. Gordon Adomdza, and Dr. Oluwasegun Adetunde



Plenary Session 1:

“More money solves problems; unlocking funding and investments to advance research and innovation economy in Africa”.

Moderator: Bernard Avle, General Manager, Citi TV/Citi Fm

Panellists: Professor Victor Murinde, University of London, SOAS, UK; Mr. Ben Gyan-Kesse, Executive Director, Kosmos Innovation Centre; Mr. James Arthur-Amoah, Business Coach, WIDU Africa; Mr. David Ofori, Director of Innovation, National Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (NEIP); Mr. Kwame Oppong, Head of Fintech and Innovation, Bank of Ghana; and Dr. Joyce Afriyie, Former Vice President, Bank of America.

Summary: This panel session discussed the various means of attracting funding and investments for research commercialization, identified key funding options and the forms in which they come. Panellists also discussed the need for the government to create a strong entrepreneurial ecosystem to absorb research and innovation outcomes for sustainable commercialization.

The panel cited national governments, charitable organisations/foundations, companies and goodwill donations from wealthy individuals as key sources of funding for research and innovation across Africa—these investments come in the form of grants, equity, and debt, either concessionary or non-concessionary. They also established that some major companies are blazing the trail with dedicated research and development units set up to lead their research and innovation programmes.





Key comments and recommendations:

- We need an ecosystem of funders, composed of all banking sector actors to adequately finance research and innovation commercialization, no single entity can provide the volume of capital for R&D.
- Africa's state actors must provide the enabling environment for courting risk-free investments into the research and innovation ecosystem, and their respective economies in general.
- Businesses exist to make money, save cost and grow their profit; their investments in research and innovation are tied to their line of interest. In the public sector, it has to do with institutions that share common interest in the potential research output or innovation.
- To attract funding, research institutions must identify and promote sellable innovations, highlighting strongly on their commercial viability.
- Public-private partnerships can pool funding for research and innovation commercialization because they are less risky, and supported by the required guarantees and assurances from the government or the state partner institution.
- Innovators must develop concepts that feed market demand; it should be collective action between research and industry that will generate tailored innovations that are fit for specific markets.
- Government must lead an agenda that Incentivises wealthy individuals to give to support research and innovation commercialization.
- Aside funding, there is the need to guide innovation startups up to the stage of exit so they don't fold up. This can be through market linkages and business-to-business experiences that can sustain the growth of startups in the innovation ecosystem.





Plenary Session 2:

“The role of cross-border innovation trust corridors in delivering viable export markets for research and innovation outcomes in Africa”.

Moderator: Mr. Kwaku Nhyira-Addo, Broadcaster and Host, Asaase Radio

Panellists: Prof. Waithaka Iraki, University of Nairobi, Kenya; Mr. Kofi Dadzie, Board Member, MTN and Tech Policy Advisor; Priscilla Chimwele, Executive Director, Wala Energies; and Mr. Teddy Kaberuka, Policy Analyst, M4Progress Limited.

Summary: This session promotes cross-border trade in products and innovations on the back of robust continental trust corridors that serve as the catalyst for advanced commercialization of innovation and research outcomes across African markets, with emphasis on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Panellists exposed the challenges to cross-border bilateral trade among Africans, assessed the role of regional governments and business communities and extensively touched on diversity and inclusivity as well as future trends in cross-border innovations.





Key comments and recommendations:

- Trust is a major issue stifling cross-border collaborations amongst researchers and most research institutions prefer to keep their discoveries and innovations to themselves.
- Due to the inability to share innovations across borders, African countries try to innovate on their own, a situation that does not promote growth in research and innovation commercialization.
- Digital economy is trending, but the data economy is an emerging area that needs active focus because reliable data exchanges across borders give market amplification to innovations and research commercialization across markets. Also, safe mobile cross-border data sharing will attract innovators and investments to the ecosystem.
- The AfCFTA is a ready platform for trade; it is time for Africans to think Africa and regional governments to promote favourable regulations that will open up borders to goods, services and skill sets that can be traded across the region.
- Businesses and researchers must think continentally, their products and innovations must be built for the regional market as it will rake in more revenue to innovators and enable them to attract cross-border investments.
- Cultural differences are empirical but time has come for Africans to identify similarities to assist in cross-border collaborations for research and innovation commercialization. This helps to address the common problem of social and economic disparities across borders.
- If we are able to push data cross-border, it will open up the continent to numerous opportunities towards commercialising research and innovations, especially in the IT sub-sector.
- Trust must start at home, so it becomes easier to transition across borders.
- Panellists called for deliberate demand on African research and innovation institutions to advance commercialization across the continent.





Plenary Session 3:

“Bridging the gap; from academia to industry through research and innovation development”.

Moderator: Nana Oye Ankrah, Broadcast Journalist and Host, Asaase Radio

Panellists: Mr. Ebo Anamuah-Mensah, Chief Technical Officer of IT Consortium; Ms. Ida Mannoh, Vice President, Marketing, Kofa Ghana; Dr. Daniel Anim-Prempeh, Chief Economist, Policy Initiative for Economic Development; Ms. Sophia Kudjordji, Chief of Corporate Communications, Josping Group of Companies; and Prof. Marian Nkansah, Department of Chemistry, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology.

Summary: This session deliberated on the age-long problem of industry-academia mismatch and ways to bridge that gap. The panel consisted of persons in academia, economic policy and advocacy and entrepreneurship as well as innovators. They discussed some identifiable drawbacks, proffered workable policy actions and shared some success stories from practical industry-acadWwemia collaborations.





Key comments and recommendations:

- Issues with funding and the visible lack of trust between industry and academia do not foster cooperation for commercialization of innovations.
- Academics and business need more platforms for cross-pollination of ideas that will ensure fit-for-purpose and commercially viable innovations.
- Universities must be intentional about student internships to enable garner the skillset that will boost employability because most fresh graduates do not fit in organizations.
- There must be a deliberate policy that directs academia to develop students who are fit for industry; and that policy must be backed by the requisite funding to push its implementation.
- Universities must have a blend of academics and industrialists in every faculty; the researchers develop the innovations for the industrialists to take them up for commercialization.
- Industry must take its problems to academia, and researchers must voice out their innovations. Two-way traffic of information sharing between academia and industry will enable the latter to identify viable innovations for commercialization, especially new research works on climate innovations and technologies.
- Considering the rapidly changing business environment, academia must involve industry right from curriculum development to solicit the right ideas that can help them churn out students with ready skillsets to work in the private sector.





Plenary Session 4:

“Empowering African women researchers for sustainable development”.

Moderator: Mrs. Ohemaa Adjei-Andoh, STEAMFest Ghana

Panellists: Maureen Ochako, Programmes Manager, Viktoria Ventures; Ms. Alexis Amankwanor, Co-Founder, REPR Health; Ms. Agnes Tsuma, Innovation and Research Technical Lead, RISA Fund; and Dr. Grace Nelson, Working Group Member, FIPWiSE.

Summary: This all-female panel discussed practical ways of growing the participation of women and girls in the research and innovation sector. They identified the various challenges facing women researchers across Africa and the role of mentorship in grooming the next generation of female researchers and innovators.

Issues of abuse, notably sexual harassment that impede the advancement of women innovators in their chosen profession were also strongly conferred.





Key comments and recommendations:

- Build a pool of mentors who will groom the next generation of mentors and innovators.
- Male researchers and innovators must create inclusive spaces for women whereby they could open up about their challenges and concerns and not feel victimized.
- Women must stop second-guessing their capabilities and thoughts; they must move from doubters to go-getters.
- The need to track policies on gender and inclusion in the research ecosystem to ascertain the level of progress, the needed improvements and adjustments.
- Research and innovation should be introduced to girls at an early stage. Institutional support will be critical in this regard.
- Successful women innovators and researchers must share their success stories to inspire young girls who may want to take up professions in research and innovation commercialization.



ARICS EXHIBITORS



IOT NETWORK HUB - AFRICA



TECHMART ENGINEERING CONSULT



MPOWER SOLAR SOLUTIONS GHANA LIMITED



UPCYCLE IT GHANA



OBAA ESSENTIALS



SHUTTLE TRACK



FOOD RESEARCH INSTITUTE



OIL PALM RESEARCH INSTITUTE



CROP RESEARCH INSTITUTE



CSIR-INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

ARICS EXHIBITORS



CSIR PGRRI



LBH LC



**WILD LAVENDER
GHANA**



FEATHERYCARE



ORDABL



STIRHUB



**ACCRA TECHNICAL
UNIVERSITY**



SESI TECHNOLOGIES



STEMAIDE AFRICA



KOFA GHANA



ARICS EXHIBITORS



**IMPACT INVESTING
GHANA**

ISPACE

ISPACE



UGBS HUB



STEMAIDE AFRICA



Click link to view more pictures <https://aricsummit.com/2024-gallery/>



CLOSING REMARKS

The Summit was officially closed by international development expert, Oluwasegun Adetunde, from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). He applauded the organisers, sponsors as well as the various speakers, stakeholders and participants for contributing to the success of the Summit.



CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

200 EXPECTED ATTENDANCES

20 **311** **287** **24**

PARTNERS

ATTENDANCES

PLENARY ATTENDEES

EXHIBITORS



THE NEXT STEPS

› **Facilitate Funding and Investment Channels:**

Based on the discussions in Plenary Session 1, there's a clear need to establish an ecosystem of funders involving banking sector actors to finance research and innovation commercialisation adequately. Stakeholders should collaborate to develop platforms that connect innovators with potential funders, including public-private partnerships and initiatives like the National Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (NEIP).

› **Promote Cross-Border Collaboration:**

Following insights from Plenary Session 2, efforts should focus on promoting trust and collaboration among researchers across borders. Establishing robust continental trust corridors, such as the UK-Ghana Innovation Trust Corridor, can facilitate the exchange of ideas, data, and innovations between African countries. Advocacy for favorable regulations under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) should also be prioritised.

› **Bridge Academia-Industry Gap:**

Plenary Session 3 highlighted the need to bridge the gap between academia and industry for effective research and innovation commercialisation. Initiatives should include creating more platforms for cross-pollination of ideas, encouraging industry involvement in curriculum development, and providing funding support for industry-relevant research within academic institutions.

› **Empower Women in Research and Innovation:**

As discussed in Plenary Session 4, empowering women researchers is crucial for sustainable development. Mentorship programmes, inclusive spaces, and policy support should be established to promote gender equality in the research and innovation ecosystem. Successful women innovators and researchers should actively share their experiences to inspire the next generation.



➤ **Implement Policy Recommendations:**

Various policy recommendations emerged from the summit discussions, such as incentivising wealthy individuals to support research and innovation, promoting demand-driven innovation, and tracking gender and inclusion policies in the research ecosystem. Relevant stakeholders, including governments and regulatory bodies, should consider implementing these recommendations to foster a conducive environment for research and innovation commercialisation.

Action

- **Engage Stakeholders for Policy Formulation:**

Collaborate with diverse stakeholders to develop policies that incentivise private investment in research and innovation, ensuring alignment with sectoral needs and priorities.

- **Establish Incentive Mechanisms:**

Design and implement financial incentives and tax benefits to encourage private individuals and corporations to invest in research and innovation, fostering a conducive environment for innovation-driven growth.

- **Integrate Gender and Inclusion Policies:**

Embed gender-sensitive and inclusive policies into national research strategies, promoting equal access to funding and opportunities for all innovators.

- **Monitor and Evaluate Implementation:**

Develop robust monitoring frameworks to track policy effectiveness, identify gaps, and optimise research and innovation initiatives for sustainable impact.

➤ **Follow-Up Collaborative Initiatives:**

Organisers, sponsors, speakers, and participants should follow up on collaborative initiatives proposed during the summit. This could include establishing working groups or task forces to address specific challenges identified and monitor progress on key action points.

Action

- **Establish Working Groups:**

Form dedicated working groups comprising relevant stakeholders to focus on specific initiatives or challenges identified during the summit discussions.

- **Define Actionable Goals:**

Set clear and actionable goals for each collaborative initiative, outlining specific tasks, timelines, and responsibilities for achieving desired outcomes.

- **Monitor Progress Regularly:**

Implement a structured monitoring mechanism to track the progress of collaborative initiatives, ensuring accountability and timely resolution of challenges.

- **Facilitate Knowledge Sharing:**

Foster ongoing knowledge sharing and communication among participants involved in collaborative initiatives, leveraging digital platforms and regular meetings to exchange insights and best practices.



➤ **Continued Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building:**

Continued knowledge sharing through workshops, seminars, and capacitybuilding programmes is essential for sustaining momentum and fostering continuous improvement in research and innovation commercialisation. Stakeholders should leverage existing networks and platforms to facilitate ongoing learning and exchange of best practices.

Action

- **Organize Regular Workshops and Seminars:**

Plan and conduct regular workshops and seminars focused on research commercialization and innovation, addressing emerging trends, challenges, and best practices in the field.

- **Offer Targeted Capacity Building Programmes:**

Develop and deliver targeted capacity-building programmes tailored to the needs of researchers, innovators, and industry professionals, enhancing skills and competencies relevant to innovation commercialization.

- **Utilise Existing Networks and Platforms:**

Leverage established networks, such as industry associations, research institutions, and innovation hubs, to facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration among stakeholders.

- **Promote Continuous Improvement:**

Encourage a culture of continuous improvement by collecting feedback from participants, evaluating program effectiveness, and adapting content to address evolving needs and priorities in research and innovation commercialisation.

➤ **Protocol Design for the UK-Africa Innovation Trust Corridor (UKAITC):**

Initiate stakeholder consultations to define essential components of protocols, draft, review, and refine protocols based on feedback, conduct legal review, pilot implementation, finalise protocols, and disseminate documentation for widespread adoption, aiming to fortify the UK-Africa Innovation Trust Corridor for transparent, secure, and verifiable exchanges of research and innovation outputs, fostering sustainable socio-economic development across the continent

Action

- **Stakeholder Consultations:**

Engage diverse stakeholders, including government representatives, research institutions, industry partners, and legal experts, to define key components and objectives of the protocol design.

- **Drafting and Review Process:**

Develop initial protocol drafts and subject them to rigorous review and refinement based on stakeholder feedback and legal considerations.

- **Pilot Implementation:**

Conduct pilot testing of the protocols to assess feasibility, identify potential challenges, and refine the operational framework before full-scale implementation.

- **Dissemination and Adoption:**

Finalise the protocols and disseminate comprehensive documentation to stakeholders for widespread adoption, ensuring understanding and commitment to transparent and secure exchanges of research and innovation outputs.



➤ Facilitate Funding and Investment Channels:

Based on the discussions in Plenary Session 1, there's a clear need to establish an ecosystem of funders involving banking sector actors to finance research and innovation commercialisation adequately. Stakeholders should collaborate to develop platforms that connect innovators with potential funders, including public-private partnerships and initiatives like the National Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (NEIP).

Action

- **Establish Funding Platforms:**

Collaborate to develop online platforms or networks that connect innovators and researchers with potential funders, including banks, venture capitalists, and government funding agencies.

- **Promote Public-Private Partnerships:**

Foster partnerships between public and private sectors to co-fund research and innovation projects, leveraging complementary resources and expertise.

- **Leverage Existing Initiatives:**

Build upon existing programmes like the National Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (NEIP), and Impact Investing Ghana to provide targeted funding and support to aspiring entrepreneurs and innovators

- **Enhance Banking Sector Engagement:**

Engage banking sector actors through specialised funding schemes, incentives, and capacity-building programmes to increase their participation in financing research and innovation commercialisation.

➤ Promote Cross-Border Collaboration:

Following insights from Plenary Session 2, efforts should focus on promoting trust and collaboration among researchers across borders. Establishing robust continental trust corridors, such as the UK-Ghana Innovation Trust Corridor, can facilitate the exchange of ideas, data, and innovations between African countries. Advocacy for favorable regulations under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) should also be prioritised.

Action

- **Establish Continental Trust Corridors:**

Collaborate with regional stakeholders to establish trust corridors that promote secure and transparent exchanges of research and innovation outputs across African countries

- **Facilitate Knowledge Exchange:**

Develop platforms and initiatives, including the UK-Ghana Innovation Trust Corridor, to facilitate the exchange of ideas, data, and innovations between researchers and innovators across borders.

- **Advocate for Regulatory Support:**

Advocate for favorable regulations and policies under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) that support cross-border collaboration in research and innovation, reducing trade barriers and promoting regional integration.

- **Promote Collaboration Networks:**

Encourage the formation of collaborative networks and partnerships among research institutions, industry players, and policymakers to foster trust and cooperation for cross-border research and innovation initiatives.



➤ **Bridge Academia-Industry Gap:**

Plenary Session 3 highlighted the need to bridge the gap between academia and industry for effective research and innovation commercialisation. Initiatives should include creating more platforms for cross-pollination of ideas, encouraging industry involvement in curriculum development, and providing funding support for industry-relevant research within academic institutions.

Action

- **Create Cross-Pollination Platforms:**

Establish forums, workshops, and collaborative projects that facilitate the exchange of ideas and knowledge between academia and industry professionals, fostering mutual understanding and innovation.

- **Encourage Industry Involvement in Curriculum Development:**

Engage industry experts in curriculum development processes to ensure academic programmes align with industry needs and prepare students for real-world challenges.

- **Provide Funding for Industry-Relevant Research:**

Allocate funding and grants to academic institutions for conducting research projects that address industry-specific challenges and contribute to innovation commercialization.

- **Facilitate Internships and Industry Partnerships:**

Promote internship programmes and industry partnerships that provide students and researchers with hands-on experience and exposure to industry practices, enhancing employability and fostering collaboration.

➤ **Empower Women in Research and Innovation:**

As discussed in Plenary Session 4, empowering women researchers is crucial for sustainable development. Mentorship programmes, inclusive spaces, and policy support should be established to promote gender equality in the research and innovation ecosystem. Successful women innovators and researchers should actively share their experiences to inspire the next generation.

Action

- **Establish Mentorship Programmes:**

Create structured mentorship programmes that pair experienced women researchers with aspiring individuals, providing guidance, support, and networking opportunities.

- **Promote Inclusive Spaces:**

Foster inclusive environments within research institutions and innovation ecosystems where women feel valued, respected, and encouraged to contribute their ideas and expertise.

- **Advocate for Policy Support:**

Advocate for policies and initiatives that promote gender equality and support women's participation and leadership in research and innovation, addressing barriers and biases.

- **Encourage Knowledge Sharing:**

Encourage successful women innovators and researchers to share their stories, challenges, and successes to inspire and empower the next generation of female researchers and innovators.



MEDIA COVERAGE

16 news WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2024

Research and innovation commercialisation summit held

By Elizabeth Heath



A summit to discuss research and innovation commercialisation was held in Accra on Wednesday. The event, titled 'Research and Innovation Commercialisation Summit (ARICS 2024)', was held at the Labadi Beach Hotel. It was co-organised by the UK-Africa Innovation Trust Corridor (ITC) and the UK-Africa Innovation Commercialisation System (ICSS). The summit was attended by Prof. Kwaku Appiah-Adu, Senior Advisor to the Vice President of Ghana, and other senior officials. The summit focused on the challenges and opportunities of commercialising research and innovation in Africa. Prof. Appiah-Adu, in his opening remarks, stressed the need for a robust regulatory framework to support research and innovation commercialisation. He noted that the ITC and ICSS were established to facilitate the exchange of research and innovation between the UK and Africa. The summit also featured a panel discussion on the role of research and innovation in driving economic growth in Africa. The panelists discussed the need for a focus on research and innovation that addresses the needs of the African continent. The summit concluded with a call for continued collaboration between the UK and Africa to support research and innovation commercialisation.

Daily Graphic, Thursday, March 7, 2024

'Africa must harness research, innovation to unlock economic potential'

By Elizabeth Heath



Africa must harness research and innovation to unlock its economic potential, Prof. Kwaku Appiah-Adu, Senior Advisor to the Vice President of Ghana, said at a summit on Wednesday. He stressed the need for a robust regulatory framework to support research and innovation commercialisation. Prof. Appiah-Adu, in his opening remarks, stressed the need for a robust regulatory framework to support research and innovation commercialisation. He noted that the ITC and ICSS were established to facilitate the exchange of research and innovation between the UK and Africa. The summit also featured a panel discussion on the role of research and innovation in driving economic growth in Africa. The panelists discussed the need for a focus on research and innovation that addresses the needs of the African continent. The summit concluded with a call for continued collaboration between the UK and Africa to support research and innovation commercialisation.

business | NEWS

Report on the formation of a Trust Corridor (TC) for innovation exchange and trade across Africa launched

A new report to guide the formation and implementation of the proposed UK-Africa Innovation Trust Corridor (ITC) to facilitate the transparent, secure, and demonstrable exchange of research and innovation amongst business, academia, and industry across Africa, was launched in Accra on Wednesday. The report, titled 'Research-based evidence to support the formation of the proposed UK-Africa Innovation Trust Corridor (ITC)', was presented at the summit. It was co-authored by Prof. Kwaku Appiah-Adu, Senior Advisor to the Vice President of Ghana, and other senior officials. The report outlines the challenges and opportunities of forming a trust corridor for innovation exchange and trade across Africa. It also provides a roadmap for the formation and implementation of the ITC. Prof. Appiah-Adu, in his opening remarks, stressed the need for a robust regulatory framework to support research and innovation commercialisation. He noted that the ITC and ICSS were established to facilitate the exchange of research and innovation between the UK and Africa. The summit also featured a panel discussion on the role of research and innovation in driving economic growth in Africa. The panelists discussed the need for a focus on research and innovation that addresses the needs of the African continent. The summit concluded with a call for continued collaboration between the UK and Africa to support research and innovation commercialisation.

Investment Times | TRADE | Thursday, March 07, 2024

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2024

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vows to
bring
positive
disruption
to telco
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**KGL Executive
Chairman
honoured**

**Report to facilitate innovation
exchange and trade between
UK-Africa launched**

**February
inflation
seen rising** See page 3

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B&FT WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2024 news 5

Editorial

Cedi showing signs of appreciation against trading partners

Report to facilitate innovation exchange and trade between UK-Africa launched

The report, titled 'Facilitating Innovation Exchange and Trade between the United Kingdom and Africa', is a joint effort by the UK-Africa Business Council (UKABC) and the African Business Council (ABC). It aims to identify opportunities for trade and investment between the two continents, focusing on sectors such as technology, agriculture, and infrastructure.

The report is a significant milestone in the UK-Africa trade relationship, as it provides a comprehensive overview of the current state of trade and investment between the two continents. It also identifies key areas for future growth and provides practical advice for businesses looking to expand their operations across the Atlantic.

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PLANING COMMITTEE

The summit was made successful by an 8 member stakeholder planning committee composed of representatives from:

Government - Ministry of Environment Science Technology and Innovation (MESTI), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

Private Sector - Private Enterprises Federation

RISA Partners - Impact Investing Ghana, UGBS Innovation Hub [UGBS Nest], Ispace Foundation, Accra Technical University

MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

INSTITUTION	REPRESENTATIVE(S)	DESIGNATION
CSIR	Dr.Stephen Bekoe	Senior Research Scientist
	Benedicta Nkrumah-Boateng	Head of Corporate Affairs
MESTI	Nashiru Salifu	Deputy Director of Science Technology and Innovation
Private Entereprise Federations	Wisdom Adongo	Senior Project Project Officer
Impact Investing Ghana	Julius Lamptey	Senior Research & Policy Officer
UGBS Nest	Sylvia Nyarko	Programmes Lead
Ispace Foundation	Peace Fafa Pomaney	Representative
Accra Technical University	Dr.Archibald Danquah-Amoah	University Lecturer
ARICS Organisation Team	Derrydean Dadzie	Team Lead
	Emmanuel Prince Amartey	Communications Officer
	Joel Ofori-Teiko	Project Manager
	Stephanie Dawsonn-Andoh	Project Manager
	Cindy Nortey	Project Manager

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