

Develop policies to leverage research — Nana Osei Bonsu

THE Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Private Enterprises Federation (PEF), Nana Osei Bonsu, has urged the government to develop a policy framework that will enable the usage of research findings to solve problems that are unique to the country.

That, he said, was because the country had a wealth of knowledge sitting on shelves in the form of research findings which offered critical solutions to various challenges stalling the country's socioeconomic development.

"The key enablers of the effective adoption of science and technology will be a strong policy of the government of the day because research is not cheap, let alone free", he said.

Event

Nana Bonsu said this yesterday at the 6th Industry-Academia Interaction Series Symposium organised by the University of Ghana (UG) Institute of Applied Science and Technology (IAST).

It was on the theme: "Science & Technology: Catalyst for Business Value Addition and Societal Development."

The event doubled as the closing ceremony of the 3rd Biennial Science and Development Conference by the UG College of Basic and Applied Sciences (CBAS) and brought together audiences from government, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), corporate organisations, industry and academia.

Solutions, funding

Nana Bonsu said the existence of such a policy framework would ensure that the equitable distribution and flow of resources to the sectors identified would subsequently help develop those areas.

Citing agriculture to buttress his point, he noted that research, which proposed viable solutions, including the creation of multiple value chains to reduce the importation of chicken into the country by at least 70 per cent, was conducted yet barely implemented, adding "but Ghana still imports about GHe300 to GHe400 million worth of chicken."

Nana Bonsu, therefore, called on both the government and private sector players to support the research

community and academia with adequate funds and resources to enable them to conduct impactful studies into various areas geared towards the country's economic development.

Collaboration

The CEO of the Ghana Chamber of Telecommunications, Dr Kenneth Ashigbey, called for increased collaboration between academia and industry.

"Academia must shed off its conservatism and become more market and industry-oriented while industry stops playing the waiting game, waiting to be invited to the table," he said.

Dr Ashigbey, therefore, urged industry players to institute boards that had the presence of the research community and advised universities to have industry players on their various advisory boards to create a seamless flow of information and resources.

The Director of IAST, Prof. David Dodoo-Arhin, noted that scientists and engineers alone could not address the numerous problems facing the country for which reason the collaboration of

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Nana Osei Bonsu (inset), Chief Executive Officer, Private Enterprises Federation, delivering the keynote address at the 6th Industry-Academia Interaction Series. Picture: MAXWELL OCLOO



industry, policy makers and society working together to develop and deploy innovative solutions that benefit all members of our community had become relevant.

“The potential for science and technology to drive economic growth and social progress is immense; and it is our responsibility to ensure that we

leverage these advances to benefit society as a whole,” he added.

In his closing remarks, the former Ag. Director of IAST, Prof. Sammy Sackey, who chaired the event, after commending the institute and the college for creating a platform for discourse, said he was saddened that the same issues were persisting over the

years and urged all stakeholders to act and not only talk.