

DAY 1



GAAS PUBLIC FORUM 2025

THEME

GALAMSEY REVISITED

02 - 04 JUNE 2025

5:30 PM DAILY

SPEAKERS



Mr. Erasmus Asare
Donkor



Dr. Kwadwo
Ansang Asante



Prof. Ellis
Owusu-Dabo



Prof. Yaw
Adu-Gyamfi, FGA



Dr. Ken Ashigbey



Dr. Albert
Kobina Mensah



Mr. Ace Anan
Ankamah, Esq. FGA



Prof. RoseEmma Mamea
Entsua-Mensah, FGA

CHAIRPERSONS



Emerita Prof.
Isabella Akyinbah
Quakyi, FGA,
President, GAAS



Prof. Alfred Apau
Oteng-Yeboah, FGA,
Vice President, Sciences
Section, GAAS



Emerita Prof.
Takyiwaa Manuh, FGA,
Vice President,
Arts Section, GAAS

VENUE: KWAME NKRUMAH AUDITORIUM, GAAS

#3 Research Crescent, Casely Hayford Road, Airport Residential Area, Accra

[📍 GA-018-1825 | 📞 030 293 7545] [🌐 www.gaas-gh.org]

LIVE ON



MEETING ID
852-8078-1481



Ghana Academy of
Arts and Sciences

GALAMSEY REVISITED

DAY 1: MONDAY JUNE 02, 2025

SUB-THEME:

**The Challenge of Galamsey for
Sustainable Development**

Topic A: Ecological and Environmental Damage

Speaker: *Erastus Asare Donkor, Journalist*

Topic B: The Social and Economic Damage

Speaker: *Dr. Ken Ashigbey, CEO, Ghana Chamber of
Telecommunications*

Chairperson: *Emerita Prof. Isabella A. Quakyi, FGA,
President, Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences*

- 5:30 PM

Welcome Address and Introduction of Chairperson

Prof. George Obeng Adjei, FGA, Honorary Secretary, GAAS

- **Chairperson's Remarks and Introduction of Speakers**

*Emerita Prof. Isabella A. Quakyi, FGA,
President, Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences*

- **Lecture Begins**

Topic A: Ecological and Environmental Damage

Speaker: *Erastus Asare Donkor, Journalist*

- **Topic B: The Social and Economic Damage**

Speaker: *Dr. Ken Ashigbey, CEO, Ghana Chamber of
Telecommunications*

- **Q & A**

- **Chairperson's Closing Remarks**

- **Honorary Secretary's Remarks**

- **Closing**

EMERITA PROF. ISABELLA AKYINBAH QUAKYI, FGA

PRESIDENT OF THE ACADEMY



Emerita Professor Isabella Akyinbah Quakyi, the President of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences, is a distinguished scholar in Immunology and Parasitology. Educated at Achimota Secondary School, holds degrees BSc (Hons), MSc and PhD from the UK, University of Surrey, Brunel, and the LSHTM, respectively from 1973 to 1980. She has dedicated four decades to teaching and research at esteemed institutions

worldwide, including, the National Institutes of Health and Georgetown University, both in USA, Queensland University and QIMR, Brisbane Australia, Chiang Mai University in Thailand and the University of Ghana (UG). Professor Isabella Quakyi's groundbreaking research, on malaria immunity and vaccine development, has earned international recognition, and led to the development of the first human malaria vaccine (RTS,S). She co-initiated and co-led the first NIH International Center of Infectious Diseases Research, fostering research capacity in University of Yaounde I, Cameroon. At UG, she established the Immunology Unit at NMIMR, the first female Director of the UG School of Public Health and the Foundation Dean, making her the first female Dean at the College of Health Science (CHS), UG, and contributing significantly to international research capacity and leadership development; widely published in reputable journals, has over 100 publications. Her research fellowships and collaborations span institutions worldwide, earned numerous awards and recognitions, including a former UNESCO Chair for Women in Science in the West Africa Region, A Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences, 2014 Laureate African Union Kwame Nkrumah Award for Women in Science, the 2019 Clara Southmayd Ludlow award by the ASTMH, Women's World Day 2021 recognized her as one of seven women in Science who have changed the world for the better. She continues biomedical research capacity building and Knowledge translation in Public Health.

Erastus Asare Donkor

Investigative Environmental Journalist | Documentary
Filmmaker | Broadcast Journalist



Erastus Asare Donkor is an award-winning investigative and environmental journalist, documentary filmmaker, and seasoned broadcast professional with over fifteen years of experience covering Ghana's most pressing social and environmental issues.

Renowned for his fearless reporting, Erastus has been at the forefront of exposing illegal gold mining activities—popularly known as *galamsey*—and their devastating impact on Ghana's forests, rivers, and communities. Since 2014, his work has spotlighted environmental degradation and sparked national conversations on sustainability, policy enforcement, and accountability.

His groundbreaking exposé in 2021 led to the withdrawal of military protection for illegal miners in the Apamprama Forest Reserve in the Ashanti Region. He has reported extensively on similar destruction in forest reserves including Taabosere, Upper Wassa, Tano Nimri, and Tano Anwia. He played a pivotal role in the high-profile case involving “*galamsey queen*” Aisha Huang, whose arrest and prosecution followed his investigative coverage.

Erastus' impactful coverage of the Ejura disturbances led to a presidential committee of inquiry, after his reports revealed the circumstances surrounding the killing of two civilians by security forces. His acclaimed documentaries—“*Destruction for Gold*” and “*Poisoned for Gold*”—have won him national and international recognition. Notable awards include:

- Journalist of the Year (27th GJA Awards, 2022 – P.A.V. Ansah Prize)
- CIMG President's Special Award (2022)
- EMY Africa Communicator of the Year (2023)
- Environmental Sustainability Personality of the Year (KNUST, 2023)

- Best Reporter on Illegal Mining (GJA Awards, 2022)
- Best Mining Reporter (Ghana Mining Industry Awards, 2023)
- WAMECA 2023 Finalist
- Finalist, Covering Climate Now Journalism Awards (USA)

Beyond environmental issues, Erastus has a deep passion for protecting vulnerable children. His investigations have led to the rescue of five children from severe domestic abuse and the conviction of three perpetrators, as documented in his emotional film “Tortured Innocence.”

Erastus holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and an MA in Communications (Christian Service University College, University of Cape Coast affiliation). He also holds diplomas in newspaper reporting and broadcast journalism from the Institute of Commercial Management (UK). He has received professional training from international media institutions including the BBC, DW, and Voice of America, with specialization in environmental journalism, mining, and nature crimes.

He currently serves as Assistant News Editor at Multimedia Group Limited (Luv FM & Nhyira FM) in Kumasi.

Ing. Dr. Kenneth Ashigbey,
(FGhIE FloD, PMP, Cert IoD, MPM, FGIM, FCE)

CEO, Ghana Chamber of
Telecommunications



Ing. Dr Kenneth Ashigbey is a key figure in the fight against galamsey, serving as the Convenor of both the Ghana Coalition Against Galamsey and the Media Coalition Against Galamsey.

He holds a doctorate in Business Administration from SMC University, an MBA from Leicester University (UK), and a BSc in Electrical/Electronic Engineering from UST. He recently graduated with an MA in IT Law. More than just a professional, Kenneth Ashigbey is an ardent advocate for media rights. His dedication to this cause is evident in his actions and initiatives.

Ing. Dr. Kenneth Ashigbey's influence extends beyond his professional roles. He is a firm believer in the potential of Africans, especially the youth, and believes it is his charge to contribute to building the next generation of Africa's transgenerational and transformational

DAY 2: TUESDAY JUNE 03, 2025

SUB-THEME:
COST OF REPAIR

Topic A: Bioremediation, Rehabilitation, Monitoring, and Coordination.

Speakers: Dr. Kwadwo Ansong Asante, CSIR-Water Research Institute, and Dr. Albert Kobina Mensah, CSIR-Soil Research Institute.

Topic B: Health Cost: Human and Ecological Assessment

Speaker: Prof. Ellis Owusu-Dabo, Immediate Past Pro-Vice Chancellor of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi.

Chairperson: Emerita Prof. Takyiwaa Manuh, FGA;
Vice President, Arts

DAY 3: WEDNESDAY 04 JUNE, 2025

SUB-THEME:
PROFFERING SOLUTIONS

Topic A: Overhaul of National Institutions Regulating Mining: Role of Local Institutions Including Chiefs

Speaker: Mr. Ace Ankomah, Esq, FGA

Topic B: The Way Forward

Speakers: Prof. RoseEmma Mamaa Entsua-Mensah, FGA and Prof. Yaw Adu-Gyamfi, FGA

Chairman: Prof. Alfred A. Oteng-Yeboah, FGA,
Vice-President, Sciences

GAAS PUBLIC FORUM

1993	Making Democracy Work in the 4th Republic
1996	Problems and Prospects of Democratic Governance in Africa
1997	The Economy of Ghana from 1983 – 1996
1998	Vision 2020 and the Long-term Economic Growth of the Economy
1999	Six years of Constitutional Rule in Ghana: Assessment and Prospects
2000	National Interest and Elections in Africa
2001	Consensus Building: A Tool for Effective Democratic Governance in Africa
2002	Corruption and Development in Africa
2003	The Judiciary in the Fourth Republic
2004	The Economy, Productivity and Income Levels in Ghana
2005	Reconciling the Nation
2006	Addressing Poverty in National Development
2007	Evolution of Constitutionalism in Independent Ghana
2008	Ensuring Democratic Participation in Africa
2009	Constitutional Review in Ghana
2010	Governance in Ghana: Challenges to Administrative Justice, Anti-Corruption and Access to Justice
2011	Elections and the Democratic Challenges in Africa
2012	Energy and Ghana's Development
2013	Accountability in Governance
2014	Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)
2015	Waste Management
2016	Migration and Development
2018	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and National Development
2019	Non-Communicable Diseases
2020	(Programme not held due to COVID-19)*
2021	Vaccines
2022	African Continental Free Trade Area: Challenges and Prospects
2023	The Impact of Modern Technology and Artificial Intelligence on Education Delivery
2024	National Elections In Ghana: Issues and Prospects

The Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences is Ghana's Premier Learned Society. It was founded in November 1959 by Government Instrument of Incorporation. Its aim is to bring together the highest level of intellectuals, experts and professionals in the country to constitute a 'Think Tank' in the Arts and Sciences to enable it advise government and other relevant bodies on issues of importance to national development.

Mission

The mission of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences is to encourage the creation, acquisition, dissemination and utilization of knowledge for national development through the promotion of learning.

Objectives

The Academy's objectives partly reviewed over the years are to:

- Promote the study, extension and dissemination of knowledge of Arts and Sciences.
- Establish and maintain proper standards of endeavour in all fields of the Arts and Sciences.
- Recognize outstanding contributions to the advancement of the Arts and Sciences in Ghana.
- Contribute actively to the development of Ghana and Africa generally by examining and addressing critical issues of development.
- Do such things as are conducive or incidental to the attainment of all or any of the foregoing objectives.

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PRESIDENTS

GHANA ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

[1959 - 2026]



Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip, FGA
1959 - 1961



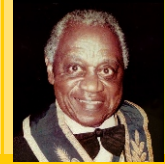
Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, FGA
1961 - 1966



Mr. Justice N.A. Offens, FGA
1969 - 1972



Prof. E.A. Boateng, FGA
1973 - 1976



Prof. C.O. Essom, FGA
1977 - 1980



Prof. F.G.T. Torto, FGA
1981 - 1982



Most Rev. Prof. K.A. Dickson, FGA
1983 - 1986



Dr. E. Evans-Anom, FGA
1987 - 1990



Rev. Prof. C.G. Baeta, FGA
1991 - 1992



Prof. D.A. Bekoe, FGA
1993 - 1996



Prof. J.H. Kwabena Nketia, FGA
1997 - 1998



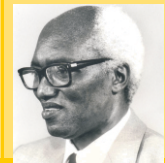
Prof. Prof. T. Sai, FGA
1999 - 2002



Nana Dr. S.K.B. Asante, FGA
2003 - 2006



Dr. Letitia E. Obeng, FGA
2007 - 2008



Prof. Reginald Fraser Amoo, FGA
2009 - 2010



Prof. F.K.A. Allotey, FGA
2011 - 2014



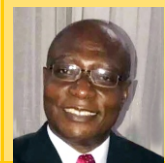
Prof. Akiagba Sawyer, FGA
2015 - 2016



Prof. Aba Bentil Andam, FGA
2017 - 2018



Justice Prof. Henrietta J.A.N.
Mensa-Bonsu, FGA (2019 - 2020)



Emeritus Prof.
Samuel Sefa-Dedeh, FGA
2021 - 2022



Prof. Kofi Opare Nii, FGA
2023 - 2024



Emerita Prof.
Isabella Akyiah Quakyi, FGA
2025 - 2026

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ENQUIRIES

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