

**OPENING REMARKS of the CHAIRMAN
(Prof E. Owusu-Bennoah, Director-General, CSIR-Ghana)
AT THE
FIRST NATIONAL WORKSHOP
ON ASSESSING
TAXONOMIC NEEDS IN GHANA
1-4 August 2006, ACCRA and ABURI**

The Deputy Director-General (Environment & Health)
Distinguished Scientists
Ladies and Gentlemen

I am pleased to accept to chair this opening ceremony of Assessing Taxonomic Needs of Ghana. On behalf of Council for Scientific and Industrial Research I wish to welcome you all to this very important workshop.

Taxonomy is the study of the general principles of scientific classification of plants and animals according to their presumed natural relationships. In Ghana the number of scientists trained in this area, with taxonomic skills, is very low. In fact this constitutes a taxonomic impediment to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Lack of taxonomic skills and facilities make it extremely difficult to carry out effective assessment of diversity and an understanding of what animals, plants and micro-organisms live in any environment. However, before the appropriate taxonomic resources can be made available, it is necessary to identify just what problems and gaps they are needed to meet. To do this therefore a Taxonomic Needs Assessment is necessary.

CSIR is extremely happy to be associated with this project and we look forward to working effectively with our counterparts from the United Kingdom.

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, I believe we have assembled here a very important theme as far as taxonomic needs of Ghana are concerned. Let us commit ourselves to making sure that our participation is worthwhile.

Thank you.