

Local News



ATU to soon introduce BTech programmes in disruptive technologies

By John Elliot HAGAN, Accra

Following proposal approval from the National Council for Tertiary Education (NCTE), the Accra Technical University (ATU) will from next academic year introduce specific four-year BTech programmes, including emerging disruptive blockchain 3D, drone technology and emerging disruptive technologies.

Acting Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Edmund Ameko, who hinted this to *The Finder*, stated it was obvious that the business environment was changing at a fast pace and becoming more technical, hence the need to sensitise students through the training of these courses to ensure that Ghana, and Africa at large, was not left out on the technical evolution.

"We are putting all these technologies together in a curriculum for students, so by the time they leave school they would be ready for the job market. We don't want to teach students archaic things," he stressed.

He was of the view that the world is dynamic and old things are quickly fading away; given that, ATU must ensure students are able to compete in a competitive world.

The ATU has partnered The Hague University of Applied Sciences (THUAS) to champion the education of both students

and the public on blockchain technology and promote its usage in Ghana.

Blockchain is a technology of principled digital database of economic transactions with the tendency to be programmed towards recording virtually everything of value, with the aim to enhance database management.

Professor Ameko was speaking to *The Finder* on the sidelines at a seminar held yesterday to build capacity of ATU lecturers as part of efforts to sustain the training of students once the teaching of blockchain kicks off.

The seminar brought together experts in blockchain and multinational companies to leverage on the benefits of blockchain in terms of transparency, traceability, security, cost minimisation and data immutability.

It was further to sensitise the general public, businesses, government and key stakeholders on the immense benefits and application of blockchain.

Professor Ameko stated that it had become very relevant for the university to be more practical following the passage of the Technical University 2016 (Act 922).

He said it was important that the university churned out graduates who were fit for the industry, and that goal necessitated the need to enter into partnership and collaborate with relevant industry players to roll out the seminar to open up the minds of students to industrial happenings.



Dignitaries at the seminar

Professor Ameko said the ATU observed that the blockchain technology was becoming the engine of doing business in the country and, therefore, the need to empower young people to investigate its dynamics and become useful to industry.

"The blockchain is coming like how the internet came, and it is important to join the train to avoid any inconvenience it may cause by the blockchain technology in the future," he said.

The future of the collaboration with the THUAS, he said, would be the linking of The Hague University with the ATU to allow for exchange programmes to permit Ghanaians to learn with THUAS and vice versa.

Professor Theo Bosma, the Chief Internationalisation Officer at the THUAS, in his

address at the seminar, mentioned that it was time to create awareness among the citizenry, especially students and young people, because Europe, Asia and the Americas were far advanced in blockchain technology.

He said the blockchain was a technology that was changing lives and making things easier for families, businesses and individuals.

Professor Bosma said blockchain had come to make life easier in the areas of banking, transportation, shopping, communication, education and many other sectors.

He said as partnership with the ATU on this agenda, the lecturers of THUAS would every three months travel to Ghana for the purpose of training students and the public to better understand the new technology.

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