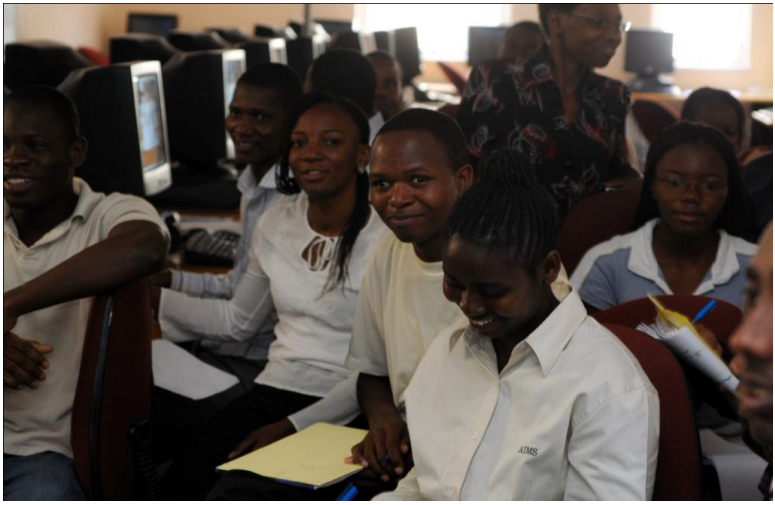
African Institute for Mathematical Sciences

Overview

AIMS-Ghana is a new centre in the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) network, a group of centres delivering excellence in teaching, research and education in mathematical sciences. This centre is being launched as part of the AIMS Next Einstein Initiative, a coordinated programme to launch 15 AIMS centres across the continent, an ambitious plan which has won support from the Governments of Ghana, Senegal and Canada, international companies such as Google and recently won the Project 10^100 competition, selected as one of 5 winners out of 150000 entries.



Academic Programme

AIMS-Ghana will offer a 1 year taught Masters programme with a broad focus on mathematical sciences. Courses will be taught by visiting lecturers in 3-week blocks, with top lecturers being recruited from Ghana, Africa and the rest of the world. AIMS courses emphasize independent thinking and problem-solving in a highly interactive environment. Students benefit from constant support and feedback from a team of tutors who work with the students through the programme. A key AIMS innovation is the 24-hour learning environment, with students benefitting from constant access to lecturers, tutors and academic infrastructure such as computing labs, libraries and feedback. The 10-month course has 7 months of taught courses and finishes with a 3 month research phase, where students work under the supervision of local academics to produce an essay on a topic of their interest.

The Institute

The institute will be located in the historically significant region of Saltpond; besides being an area of outstanding natural beauty, the Saltpond region is the location of Elmina Castle, the earliest European building in sub-Saharan Africa and a notorious centre for the Atlantic slave trade, as well as being the seat of the African Independence movement. AIMS-Ghana will be a powerful, positive symbol of Africa's future development. The buildings are being purposely-designed to offer an excellent academic environment in an attractive building which will merge local and international inspirations whilst being highly cost-effective.

Students

AIMS-Ghana will follow the AIMS model and feature a pan-African student body, with students expected from all corners of the continent. AIMS actively promotes women in mathematics and it is targeted that at least 33% of students will be female. Full bursaries are provided to all students, ensuring that access to funds is not a barrier to admission to AIMS, and students can focus fully on their studies.

Governance and Partners

AIMS-Ghana will be governed by a council, made up of representatives from Ghanaian and international partner universities, as well as other internationally prominent academics. The current council is composed of:

- F. Allotey (Founder)
- F. Benyah (University of the Western Cape, South Africa)
- P. Dorey (Durham University, UK)
- Karl-Erik Eriksson (University of Karlstad, Sweden)
- B.K. Gordor (University of Cape Coast, Ghana)
- M. McIntyre (University of Ghana, Ghana)
- S.Y. Mensah (University of Cape Coast, Ghana)
- S.K. Mtingwa (Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA)
- L. Persson (Lulea University of Technology, Sweden)
- B. Schroers (Heriot-Watt University, UK)
- I.K. Dontwi (Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology (KNUST), Ghana)

International Advisory Committee

Sir Michael Atiyah, Fields Medallist, Abel Prize Winner

Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell, Herschel Medallist and former IoP President

Ludwig Fadeev, Dirac Medallist, Shaw Prize Winner

Lars-Erik Persson, Former President of the Swedish Mathematical Society

Trustees

AIMS-Ghana's trustees are:

Prof. Samuel Adjepong – Former Vice Chancellor, University of Cape Coast; President, Methodist University College of Ghana

Prof. Francis Allotey – President of the African Physical Society, Director of the Institute for Mathematical Sciences

Prof. Edward Ayensu – Chairman of Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, President of the Pan-African Union for Science and Technology

Dr. Andrew A. Davis – Cardiologist, Founder President of the Saltpond Redevelopment Institute

Prof. S.J. Gates – Director, Centre for String and Particle Theory, University of Maryland. Member of the President's Council of Scientific Advisors

Prof. Neil Turok – Director of the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics, Chair of the AIMS-NEI Board, Founder of AIMS

Timeline to Opening

The institute is being planned to open for the 2012-13 academic year. Construction of the purpose-built facility will commence in April 2012.

Contact

For more information, please contact:

Prof. Francis Allotey
fkallotey@gmail.com

Prof. Patrick Dorey
p.e.dorey@nexteinstein.org

Dr. Bernd Schroers
berndschroers@nexteinstein.org