

**WELCOME REMARKS BY NOBLE KUMAWU, HOST COUNTRY ORGANISING  
COMMITTEE [HCOC] CHAIRPERSON**

**AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 23<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL WORLD CONFERENCE OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION [IODA]**

**VENUE:  
THE KOFI ANNAN INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING TRAINING CENTRE,  
[KAIPTC] ACCRA, GHANA**

**DATE:  
27<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2008**

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*Hon. Papa Owusu Ankomah, Minister of Trade, Industry Private Sector Development and President's Special Initiative, Rev. Prof. Emmanuel Addo-Obeng, The Vice Chancellor, University of Cape Coast, Dr. Ulla Nagel, the President of the International Organisation Development Association, Fellow Members of the Host Country Organising Committee, Distinguished Guests, Faculty & Senior Members of the University of Cape Coast, Fellow Colleagues from the Organisation Capacity Improvement Consultants [OCIC] and Associate Consultants, members of IODA, Our friends from the Media, Ladies and Gentlemen*

On behalf of the Ghana Host Country Organising Committee and on my own behalf, I welcome all of you to this conference. Today as we gather here in Accra, we look back and thank the Executive Committee of IODA for the opportunity given to Ghana to bring such a wonderful event and gathering of Organisation Development Professionals, academics and OD and other students to our shores.

In 2005, when I offered Ghana, on behalf of the respective Managements of the UCC and the OCIC, as one of the interested countries to host the 23<sup>rd</sup> IODA Conference, although the objectives were just about taking shape in themselves, the YES response I received from the then Executive Committee [EC] evoked enormous energy, joy albeit, tinted with some degree of anxiety, and trepidation, in me.

My anxiety grew in its enormity after participating in the 2006 IODA Conference in Holland and experiencing how they organized it. The worse was yet to happen. My stress level shot-up after experiencing the Sun Peaks, British Columbia, Canada's 22<sup>nd</sup> IODA Conference, which could be described as one of the best conferences IODA has ever organised.

As we became more and more settled with regular meetings, concepts developed, idea components created and recreated, the above undulating anxiety curves started failing to have any serious impact on the resolve of the members of the Ghana Host Country Organising Committee (HCOC) and myself to ensure that we DON'T LET OUR DEAR IODA MEMBERS DOWN. In our own way, we took the invitation to host as a great honour and we are indeed pleased with the very good turn out that you, our delegates, have shown by your presence at this conference.

This 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual World Conference of IODA is a manifestation that together we can develop a formidable force that would help shape the development of our respective countries.

As stated earlier, through Netherlands in 2006, Canada in 2007 to Ghana 2008, the Host Country Organising Committee has worked assiduously to make you, our delegates, feel as homely as possible. We welcome you ALL, our delegates to Ghana.

This conference marks the maiden conference of Dr. Ulla Nagel as President of IODA. Madam President, I welcome you, the Executive Committee and the entire membership of IODA, I welcome you to Ghana!

OCIC International, a private OD Consulting firm based in Ghana and headquartered in the United Kingdom has been proud of its collaboration with the University of Cape Coast through which over 300 students have undertaken post graduate diploma and masters' courses in Organisation Development. Mr. Vice Chancellor, you deserve a huge 'Thanks' for your personal commitment to the pursuit of academic excellence and the pursuit of new spheres of learning in keeping with the demands of our ever-changing world.

When OCIC and the University of Cape Coast embarked on the OD training journey in January 2003, there must have been many doubting people simply because, it is very difficult to convince bystanders about the prospective benefits of an idea, when the idea is nurtured as a vision. Perseverance and endurance of purpose however sets the tone for prospective success that eventually becomes visible. It is for this reason that I am particularly privileged to be a part of this memorable occasion.

Your Excellency, this gathering of Organisation Development (O.D.) experts and practitioners here in Ghana at this time is therefore a great booster to the efforts of the University of Cape Coast's collaboration with OCIC International as it provides our faculty and students an avenue to share knowledge and experiences with practicing and experienced OD professionals from all over the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this conference, under the theme "Growing Together in Partnership" is timely because OCIC and the Host Country Organising Committee are also deeply committed to nurturing partnerships as a means of giving more meaning to our mandate. To this end, we have a number of exchange programmes to facilitate knowledge & experience sharing as well as human resource capacity building. We are committed to ensuring that we create and sustain healthy and vibrant relationships with our partners. We deeply recognize the benefits of the opportunity of working with IODA in the coming years to continue to build credible institutionalized accredited OD programmes to higher levels.

Let me also take this opportunity to invite those of our students who are participating in this conference to let this be a true learning experience for you as you explore with the experts, various subjects of interest to the OD world. I trust that you will also serve as great ambassadors of our programme and be ready to share your knowledge with your colleagues.

Your Excellency, Ladies & Gentlemen, finally I trust that you will all thoroughly enjoy your experiences at this 23<sup>rd</sup> IODA Conference, the first ever held here in this country. To our international guests, I wish you all a pleasant stay in Ghana.

Thank you and God Bless us all.