

## **Inaugural Speech by the Dean of the Advanced Clinical Training Center (ACTC) in Ghana**

In the Name of God,

Distinguished guests, esteemed colleagues, and honorable members of the audience, I extend my warm greetings. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the honorable Ambassador of Iran, Mr. Grami, the President of the University, Dr. Kamal Ezzat, and his esteemed Vice President, Mr. Taheri. I also wish to thank all the professors present today.

Today, we gather to discuss the development of the Islamic University. Following a brief introduction of myself, I will structure my address into five key parts:

1. The rationale behind the idea of development.
2. The capabilities of Iran University of Medical Sciences.
3. The actions taken thus far.
4. Our future objectives and anticipated developments.
5. How the Board of Directors and university colleagues can contribute to this project.

### **1. The Rationale Behind the Idea of Development**

The growth of nations is fundamentally linked to the growth of their people, which is primarily achieved through education. Therefore, the importance of knowledge and universities cannot be overstated. Countries with a greater number of universities are generally closer to achieving success and development.

Moreover, international communication plays a crucial role in the growth and development of nations, particularly in fostering university collaborations. We must establish connections with the global community, especially with countries that demonstrate advanced scientific development. By fostering relationships between universities across different nations, we can enhance our capabilities and accelerate growth. The sustainability of universities relies heavily on these international partnerships.

Additionally, among African nations, Ghana places significant emphasis on education and universities. It has become a focal point for knowledge seekers in West Africa. Ghana's political stability and openness further contribute to the reliability of partnerships. The rapid growth of its universities underscores the need for the Islamic University to enhance its pace of development.

## 2. Who Are We and What Are the Capabilities of Iran University of Medical Sciences?

This is an important question that I would like to address now with a short film presentation.

\*(Show film.)\*

## 3. What Steps Have Been Taken So Far for This Project?

As previously mentioned, high-level discussions between the governments of Iran and Ghana led to a commitment to pursue these initiatives through a memorandum of understanding (MoU). This MoU was signed with robust clauses, marking the beginning of our studies and actions.

A. An MoU was signed between three universities.

B. The necessary forms to obtain a license from GTEC were completed.

C. Government officials from Iran, including the President of the University and the President of GTEC, visited us. They also met with the Deputy Minister of Health in Iran and the President of the Islamic University. During these discussions, a commitment was made to provide ten full scholarships to the Government of Ghana if this branch is established.

D. Several meetings with GTEC in Ghana have been held and are ongoing.

E. Experts were sent to Ghana to conduct a comprehensive study on the educational health needs, focusing on Nursing and Midwifery as per GTEC's request.

#### 4. What Are We Looking For and What Exactly Is Going to Happen?

While Ghana adequately addresses basic health needs, there is a significant gap in specialized medical training. To address this, we have decided to focus on advanced training programs that are currently limited or unavailable in Ghana.

Our future goal is to establish an Advanced Medical Care Center (ACTC). To achieve this, we will take a step-by-step approach, beginning with nursing and midwifery programs, progressing from bachelor's to master's levels. We aim to secure permits for additional programs soon, with the ultimate vision of establishing a comprehensive medical school alongside these initiatives.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the honorable Ambassador of Iran in Ghana, Mr. Grami, for her continuous efforts and follow-ups regarding this project. Without her dedication, we would not have reached this stage. I also extend my thanks to my esteemed colleague, Mr. Mardani, Political Counselor at the Iranian Embassy, for his support.

#### 5. How Can the Board of Directors and Colleagues of the Islamic University Support This Project?

This is a crucial question. While you professors may not possess specialized medical expertise, your contributions are invaluable. You can play a significant role in fostering a culture of change and innovation within the university.

As we move forward, the university's environment will undergo substantial transformations. It is essential that we all prepare for these changes, as our students will experience many shifts in their academic journey. We must manage the cultural aspects of the university thoughtfully to ensure a smooth transition. You are encouraged to share information about these important developments wherever you are.

University staff should dedicate more time to these initiatives. It is vital to recognize that universities worldwide operate independently and generate their own budgets through various channels. The Islamic University must adopt a similar approach.

We need to enhance our budgeting and student recruitment efforts to provide more services without relying on external funding. Achieving financial independence is a key objective for us moving forward.

In conclusion, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for your attention. If you have any questions, I am here to answer them.