



**Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)
Johns Hopkins University
African Studies Program**

50 Years of Ghana's Independence: Politics, Society, and Development

**November 2, 2007
Johns Hopkins University, SAIS
Kenney Auditorium
1740 Massachusetts Ave NW
Washington, DC 20036**

Ghana's independence in March 1957 was a bellwether for Africa, ushering in the era of decolonization and the continent's emergence on the world stage. In the years after independence, hope contended with realism as Ghana experienced different political arrangements, economic policies and ideological paths. During the past five decades, Ghana has reflected many challenges typical of the region. Aspirations for democracy were often stifled by episodes of military rule, expectations for development were offset by economic decline, and the goals of national unity contended with ethnic rivalry. While the early decades were marked by state weakness and authoritarianism, Ghana has steadily achieved growing stability, democracy, and economic improvement over the past twenty years. This conference will review Ghana's post-colonial experience, the dimensions of political and economic change, and expectations for the country's future. An exceptional group of analysts and practitioners have been gathered for this conference.

AGENDA

Friday, November 2: Johns Hopkins/SAIS

- 8:30 – 9:00:** Sign-In and Coffee
- 9:00 – 9:15:** **Introductory Remarks,**
His Excellency Kwame Bawuah-Edusei, Ambassador to Ghana
Welcome,
Peter Lewis, Johns Hopkins, SAIS
- 9:15 – 10:45:** **Panel I: Ghana’s Political Evolution 1957-2007**
Peter Lewis, Moderator
Cyril Daddieh (Miami University of Ohio): Regime and
Governance Alternations: An End to Ghana’s Musical Chairs?
Kwasi Prempeh (Seton Hall Law School): Constitutional
Evolution and the Rule of Law
Anna Bossman (CHRAJ, Ghana): Democracy and Governance
- 10:45 – 11:00:** Coffee
- 11:00 – 12:30:** **Panel II: Economy and Civil Society**
Ben Fred-Mensah, Moderator
Jon Kraus (SUNY): Social Movements and Democratization
Gwendolyn Mikell (Georgetown University): Gender and Civic
Activism
- 12:30 – 1:15:** Lunch
- 1:15-1:30:** Closing Remarks

Please RSVP to Shawnetta Jackson at the African Studies Program by email at smjackson@jhu.edu or by telephone at 202-663-5676. If you e-mail please put “RSVP November 2” in the subject line.