

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY DR. GEORGE O. ESSEGBEY, DIRECTOR OF THE  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE (STEPRI) AT  
THE DILIC CONFERENCE – INNOVATION AND AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT**

**3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER 2014, STEPRI AUDITORIUM**

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I welcome you all most sincerely to the STEPRI Auditorium. Especially to our distinguished guests from Oxford University and UNU-MERIT in UK and The Netherlands respectively, we say Akwaaba and have a happy working session at the Conference and Workshop.

The CSIR-STEPRI is delighted to be hosting this event focusing on the theme of Innovation and African Development specifically because of STEPRI's role and mandate. The theme is an important one for our country in particular given the present socio-economic challenges.

We conduct research across sectors of the economy to guide policy formulation and implementation in Science, Technology and Innovation. In doing this we have enjoyed tremendous support from several international organizations.

Currently, we are engaged in a number of projects. For example:

- Development Research Uptake in Sub Saharan Africa (DRUSSA) in collaboration with the Association of Commonwealth Universities and sponsored by the DFID, UK;
- Hosting the Pan African Competitiveness Forum – Ghana Chapter;
- Hosting the CSIR-COTVET Project sponsored by the World Bank;

- The Rainwater Harvesting Project in collaboration with the Water Research Institute of CSIR and SINTEF of Norway sponsored by the Nordic Development Fund.

On the DILIC Project (the Diffusion of Innovation in Low Income Countries Project), we are working with the Technology and Management for Development Centre of the University of Oxford of which Prof. Xiaolan Fu is the very able Director. It has been an extremely rewarding experience professionally in our collaboration and we are most grateful to our collaborators. The findings of the research which we will present very soon, will attest to the very effectiveness of the collaboration. And so we can only look forward to future collaboration in other areas.

I hope that as you participate in the Conference you will enable us chart new trajectories for innovation studies in Africa, such as will enable our countries to lift themselves from poverty and deprivation to prosperity and competitiveness. In our world today, innovation is everything. So the question of how to enhance innovation in our economy and society will never go away. Let us begin to answer this question correctly.

I wish you the very best in your participation.