

# AFIIA 2017



**WELCOME REMARKS BY  
MR. RANSFORD AGYEI,  
ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL, INTERNAL AUDIT AGENCY, GHANA  
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF AFIIA 2017  
THE 4<sup>TH</sup> AFRICAN FEDERATION OF INSTITUTES OF INTERNAL AUDITORS  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
Wed, May 17, 2017 @ Accra International Conference Centre**

*The Rt. Hon. Speaker of Parliament,  
Hon. Ministers of State,  
Hon. Members of Parliament  
Members of the High Table  
Fellow Participants  
Distinguished Guests  
Ladies and Gentlemen:*

I deem it a great opportunity and honour to make some opening remarks at this historic and great 2017 AFIIA Conference, being held in Accra, Ghana. As the Acting Director-General of the Internal Audit Agency, I take this opportunity to also welcome you to Accra, and extend the greetings of the management and staff of the Agency to you at this Conference.

I am delighted to be associated with this Conference because of the strong relationship that the Internal Audit Agency has with the Institute of Internal Auditors Ghana (the Host of this Conference), AFIIA, and IIA Global. The Agency has collaborated with the Institute in so many areas to promote the Internal Audit Profession in Ghana. Mr. Chairman, permit me to mention the following:

- a) Joint cooperation in the area of building the capacity of the Internal Auditors through training and on-site support programmes.
- b) We have also collaborated in running our Annual Internal Audit Fora which this year will be 11<sup>th</sup> Forum.
- c) The development of our audit manuals, guidelines and templates has involved the Institute of Internal Auditors.
- d) The certification of our internal auditors has strongly involved the Institute, and
- e) The formation and operationalisation of Audit Committees in the public sector have also involved the Institute.

Mr. Chairman, it is therefore no surprise that when the IIA started the design and preparation of this Conference, the Agency could not isolate itself from the Agenda. We have played, in our own small way, some roles to support the 2017 AFIIA Conference.

Mr. Chairman with the theme for this Conference: **“Insight to Foresight; The imperative for Internal Audit and Governance”**, I would like to associate with IIA Ghana in the choice of the theme by also highlighting the role of the Agency as an

oversight body of the internal auditing activities in the public sector of Ghana such as:

- a) The building of the capacity of the internal auditors, - through training and development of practice guides and manual.
- b) Facilitating the quality assurance and improvement programme of the internal audit unit in both external and internal review.
- c) Performing follow-up activities to ensure that the implementation of audit recommendations.
- d) Facilitating risk management activities in the public service by building the capacity of risk teams, ensuring the development of risk policies and frameworks, opening of risks registers, risk assessment and responding to risks.

Mr. Chairman, the Agency has contributed to the improvement of the internal audit profession in the public services through these activities.

I cannot end without bringing out some of the challenges that the Agency faces in moving the Internal Audit profession to the level that it deserves.

- The uncompetitive nature of compensation of the internal auditors compared with their counterparts in other professional classes.
- The lack of commitment on the part of some managements in supporting the activities of the internal auditors, and
- Non-implementation of the internal auditors' recommendations

Mr. Chairman, despite all these challenges, today, the Internal Auditors in public service of Ghana can open their chests out and widely to state that they have made contribution to:

- a) Enhance the plans and budget of their organizations by ensuring that accurate and timely data are provided.
- b) Contribute to sound control systems impacting on the prevention and detection of fraudulent practices that had saved huge sum of monies for the Government.
- c) Improve the corporate governance system of the Public Service.
- d) Increase confidence in government spending and help in generating revenue.

When I look back at where the IA profession was when the Agency was created about 11 years ago in 2005, I would say we have played our part in the national development.

The success of our story cannot be written without mentioning our local and affiliated professional institutes, therefore the agency is very proud to be associated with this conference

Mr. Chairman, I thank you.