

## **Welcome Remark by Mr Daniel Obuobi, President, Internet Society, Ghana Chapter**

Mr. Chairman (the Pro-Vice Chancellor, UCC),  
Honorable Deputy Minister of Communication  
Fellow Colleagues and participants,  
Distinguished Friends, ladies and gentlemen

On behalf of the University of Cape Coast and the organizing committee of ISOC Ghana, I welcome all of you to the inauguration of the Ghana Network Operators Group (GhNOG)

Internet Technology workshops started in 1993 and was held in eight countries within the period 1993-2000. The cost of travel and participation was however too expensive for developing countries. To reduced the travel cost and participation and at the same time increase capacity building on the continent AfNOG was born while ISOC continued to facilitate and provide support. For the same reason, the idea of taking EO home was mooted. This challenge was accepted by ISOCgh executive during AfNOG 2008 workshop/conference in Morocco. The idea received very strong support from ISOC and before AfNOG 2009; everything was set for Ghana to localized AfNOG EO track. University of Cape Coast opted to facilitate the process by hosting the first ever AfNOG EO localization workshop/Conference.

The first dramatic event of the week was the domestication of the AfNOG E0 track (Unix Systems Administration). The workshop started on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July and ended on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> July. Participants were drawn from government, education, industry and Non-governmental organisation. The workshop was very successful and today, we are here to witness the birth of GhNOG to complete our work.

The baby we are about to outdoor, GhNOG (the network operators' group) is a forum for the exchange of technical information to ensure the stability of the Internet Services in Ghana. The main goal is to share experience of technical challenges in setting up, building and running IP networks in Ghana and furthermore to build a community.

I expect to see a vibrant GhNOG working closely with ISOC Ghana to organize **technical workshops, Conferences and annual meeting** at various venues around the country to build capacity at all levels. Such meetings must provide advanced training for operators as well as focused technical tutorials on networking and related services. We need your support to do that.

I would like to particularly acknowledge and thank, AfNOG, Network Startup Resource Centre, ISOC, University of Cape Coast and the ISOC Ghana for their energy and commitment to the success of this event. What we see the whole of this week is a tribute to their efforts.

Thank you very much and I wish you all the best.