

Search

KNUST Online News

Monday, February 7, 2005

[Jan 2005 News](#)

[Jan 2005 News](#) > [Dec 2004 News](#) > [IMAM YAHYA HENDI VISITS KNUST](#)

[Dec 2004 News](#)

[FUFU POUNDING MACHINE MADE IN KNUST LAUNCHED](#)
[Provosts for Colleges appointed](#)
[KNUST affirms potency of herbal mixture for management of AIDS](#)
[IMAM YAHYA HENDI VISITS KNUST](#)
[KNUST HALLS TO GET TELEPHONES IN ROOMS](#)
[A TWO-STOREY CLASSROOM FOR KNUST PRIMARY SCHOOL INAUGURATED](#)
[VC AND PRO VC INSPECTS ONGOING PROJECTS ON CAMPUS](#)
[THE UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES, DEGGENDORF TO ESTABLISH LINKS WITH KNUST](#)

IMAM YAHYA HENDI VISITS KNUST

Thursday, December 16, 2004.-Kumasi



Imam Yahya M.Hendi, Chaplain and Imam of Islamic Programme Campus Ministry, Georgetown University , Washington , DC USA has paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor [VC] of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology [KNUST], Professor Kwesi Andam at his office. He was accompanied by Mr. David Queen of the American Embassy in Ghana , Dr.S.Y. Peligah,Dr. Bukari Ali,Dr. Braimah Imoro all lecturers of the KNUST and with the VC to receive them were the Pro Vice - Chancellor, Professor K.K. Adarkwa and the chairman of the Public Lecture Committee of KNUST, Professor S.O. Assiamah.Imam Hendi who had visited three other countries in Africa;viz, Mali, Mauritania and Morocco before coming to Ghana later delivered a public lecture at the Great Hall of the University on the topic

"THE MUSLIM IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA",had a fruitful discussion with the VC on establishing of links with some foreign universities and also how to ensure peaceful co-existence of students with different religious and ethnic backgrounds. The Imam was of the view that Muslims and Christians who constitute the chunk of the student populace should eschew all forms of ethnocentrism and live together in a civilised manner devoid of violence.

**119 newly trained
doctors graduate**

- [Nov 2004 News](#)
- [Oct 2004 News](#)
- [Sept 2004 News](#)
- [Aug 2004 News](#)
- [July 2004 News](#)
- [June 2004 News](#)
- [May 2004 News](#)
- [Apr 2004 News](#)
- [Mar 2004 News](#)
- [Feb 2004 News](#)
- [Jan 2004 News](#)

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The VC on his part was full of praise for the Imam for raising such an important issue which he said will be given the priority and urgency it deserves. He described the Imam as a peace-loving person and called on other religious leaders to emulate his example. And on the public lecture the VC said this is the first time that the University is having a public lecture on Religion this year and it is programmed to give religious flavour to what the University has already had.

At the public lecture, the Imam quoting from both the Bible and the Quran, the holy books of Christians and Muslims respectively, emphasised, that both Christians and Muslims are seeking a common goal using different approaches. He, urged the various religious groups to come together to pursue academic exploits in order to serve humanity better. This, in his view, will be realised by changing the religious orientation of looking down upon other religions and seeing ones religion as the best. This kills initiative and stalls development and it make us keep marking time, he lamented, adding, I am an American but the Bible says man was created from dust and as such I am dust. No race, ethnic group or religious organisation should hold itself superior to the other for we should all work for survival and sustenance of humanity, he stressed. Continuing, Imam Hendi emphasised that, Jesus Christ has unconditional love for everybody not excluding sinners and that people should take cue from our Great Prophet Jesus. Asked whether Muslims have recognition for Jesus, he noted that, the Quran recorded more miracles of Jesus than the Bible, that is from his birth; and whereas most Protestant churches do not give prominence to Mary, the mother of Jesus, the Quran mentions Mary thirty-four [34] times as against seventeen [17] times by the Bible with the chapter nineteen[19] of the Quran named after Mary. Jesus is therefore a very important Prophet in Islam and he is not God.

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[TOP](#)

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