



Mary Owusu

Executive Director, Smart Sustainable Cities and Historical Heritage Secretariat, Ghana

Dr Mary Owusu is the Executive Director of the Smart Sustainable Cities and Historical Heritage Secretariat, Ghana (SSCHH). As the head of this maiden organisation since October 2021, she oversees the U4SSC implementation for the city of Kyebi, Ghana. She is instrumental in laying the cornerstone for the Secretariat's blueprint for designing and developing peri-urban areas into smart sustainable cities in Ghana. The Secretariat's model which was co-created with the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana, uses a Venn diagram structure that recognises three stakeholder organisations for SSC realisation: the Traditional Council, the Municipal Authority, and a knowledge institution. The Secretariat's role is thus to build a community of trust, transparency and collaboration with its stakeholder and partner organisations.

Dr Owusu has lived and worked in Canada, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, and Ghana. In the last five years, she has worked as Outbound Mobility Coordinator at Dalhousie University, where she coordinated the implementation of the university's Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) agenda within target diploma programs at the Faculty of Agriculture and a first of its kind Mobility and Access Pathway opportunity for Indigenous and African Nova Scotian students as well as students requiring greater accommodations or accessibility. She also worked as a researcher with the Delmore "Buddy" Daye Learning Institute, and the Africville Museum, Halifax, Canada.

Dr Owusu has extensive experience in higher education. Her research covers topics in the fields of agriculture and local environment related knowledge, pedagogy, and transnational intellectual and development histories. She holds a BA (honours) and an MPhil in History from the University of Cape Coast, Ghana, as well as a PhD in History from Dalhousie University, Canada. She is a 2019 Barbara Harlow Award recipient, 2014 Izaak Walton Killam Fellow, 2011 Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence Fellow, and a 2007 Cadbury Fellow. She currently teaches African History at Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada. In her time off, Mary enjoys home makeover projects and lifestyle coaching, and has a growing interest in curling.