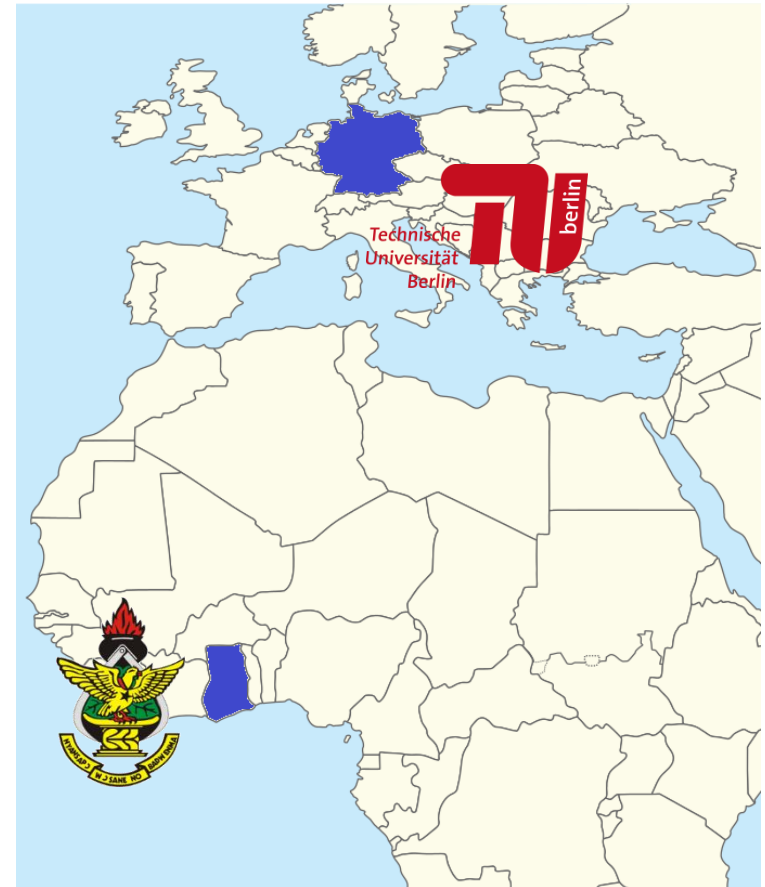


# Capacity building in health systems research and management in Ghana

Wilm Quentin (TUB) and Peter Agyei-Baffour (KNUST)



# Management and Organisation of Health in Ghana

- Ghana is divided into ten administrative regions with 260 districts.
  - Within these divisions health services are organized, managed and delivered at five levels, namely:
    - community
    - sub-district
    - district
    - Regional
    - national.
  - Services provided at community, sub-district, and district levels constitute Primary Health Care (PHC) and are delivered in the context of a district health system.
-

# Management and Organisation of Health in Ghana

- The regional and district health services have management teams, which oversee managerial and technical aspects of health delivery in all health facilities and their catchment populations throughout the country.
  - Activities at the regions and districts are coordinated and supported at the national level by the Ghana Health Service (GHS)
  - The Ministry of Health (MOH) is responsible for overall policy and programmes direction.
-

# Health Reforms in Ghana

- Due to economic decline of the Ghanaian economy in the late 1970s, the IMF/World Bank and other partners mandated all sectors to reorganize themselves to improve efficiency under the then Economic Recovery Programme(ERP) and Structural Adjustment Programme in the 1980s
  - In pursuance to this, the health service reform started in 1988 till present day, to reverse the deteriorating services caused by the downward trend of performance of the health sector,
    - also fed into Ghana's future growth and development as framed in the document 'Ghana Vision 2020'.
  - MOH developed Medium Term Health Strategies (MTHS)
    - to increase access to services and also improve quality and efficiency of services provided.
    - to structurally reorganize its organizational structure
-

# Renewed mandates of the MoH, Ghana

- Formulate health policy.
  - Provide framework and set standards for food, drugs and the delivery of health care in the country.
  - Provide strategic direction for health delivery services.
  - Monitor and evaluate the health service delivery by all agencies
  - Develop policies for the practice of Traditional and Alternate Medicine in the country.
  - Source, develop and allocate resources from Government of Ghana, Health Insurance and international community.
-

# Some Challenges in the health sector

- Weak sub-district structures
  - Inadequate sector collaboration
  - Weak Health Information System
  - Shortage and maldistribution of Human Resources for Health
  - Health Financing and Financial Arrangements
    - GoG/NHIA/Partners/Internally Generated Fund
  - Weak Infrastructure and Equipment
    - Lot of uncompleted projects
    - Overcrowding
    - Accommodation for staff
    - Working tools
    - Diagnostics
  - Limited capacity of stakeholders in health systems research and management.
    - No institution specifically responsible
    - No dedicated training program for health systems research and management
-

# Mandate of Department of Health Policy Management and Economics

- The Department of Health Policy, Management and Economics (HPME), KNUST, has been working with the Ministry of Health and its agencies over two-and-a-half decades under the then Department of Community Health in the School of Medical Sciences
  - In 2014, HPME under the SPH, was established as a department to work to improve health policy and systems research towards the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
    - to teach and research into health policy and systems research
    - to train human resources for health in health policy, management & economics
    - to contribute to addressing the widening gap between increasing demand for health services and scarce resources available
    - to support health services monitoring and evaluation of their impact on improving health status and in achieving greater equity
    - to network with local and international communities to train, research and implement evidence-based health policies to achieve the UHC targets
-

# Current status of Health Policy Systems & Research In Ghana - Justifications for PAGEL Programme

- Health policy and Systems Research is evolving
  - Knowledge about HPSR is high but HPSR is being run as part of broader mandates of training institutions
  - Weak and fragile capacity of HPSR
  - Potentials for formal training or strengthening of HPSR
  - No platform for health systems stakeholders to dialogue, transfer of knowledge from research to policy and practice
  - Sharp dichotomy between researchers and implementers of research findings
  - Health system challenges: financing, capacity, quality, information systems
-



# DAAD PAGEL programme



## DAAD PAGEL programme

- Partnerships for the Health Sector in Developing Countries
- Target group: German partner with a partner in a developing country
- Aims include to support:
  - Improvement of university education, teaching, research, and further training,
  - Building networks of alumni to support life-long learning and strengthen links to Germany
- Project application in Summer 2016 → Endowment agreement (€420 000) signed in February 2017

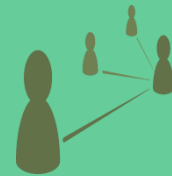
## Project Aims



### Scientific Training

Establish a Master's programme in Health Systems Research and Management at KNUST

- Strengthen health systems research and management capacity in Ghana
- Strengthen capacity in development cooperation at TU Berlin





### Networking

Create networks in Ghana and between Ghana and Germany

- One network of researchers, students, alumni, and policy-makers in Ghana
- One network of alumni of German MPH programs
- Link researchers at TUB and KNUST

# Project activities: overview

		2017		2018		2019		2020		
		Jan-June	July-Dec	Jan-June	July-Dec	Jan-June	July-Dec	Jan-June	July-Dec	
	<b>Workshops</b>	Kick-off & Curriculum Development 1	Curriculum Development 2	Teaching Material Adjustment 1		Teaching Material Adjustment 2	Review, Evaluation and Adjustment		Final Evaluation and Curriculum Review	
	<b>Short Courses</b>			Health Systems Research and Management	Good Scientific Practice					
	<b>Teaching</b>				Cohort 1: TUB teaching		Cohort 2: Co-teaching TUB/KNUST		Cohort 3: KNUST teaching	
					Block I	Block II	Block I	Block II	Block I	
<b>Project Work, Thesis</b>						Cohort 1: Excursion, Project Work, Thesis		Cohort 2: Excursion, Project Work		
	<b>Health Policy Dialogues</b>		I Ghana Health Policy Dialogue		II Ghana Health Policy Dialogue		III Ghana Health Policy Dialogue		IV Ghana Health Policy Dialogue	
	<b>KNUST Staff Consultation</b>			Stakeholder Consultations						



## Six Workshops

- Alternating in Berlin and Kumasi (5 to 10 days)
- 2017: Curriculum development
  - Structure of MSc programme
  - Selecting modules
- 2018 and early 2019: Teaching material adjustment
  - Adjusting modules currently taught by MiG to Ghana
  - Collaborative process: twinning
- Late 2019 and 2020: Review and evaluation



## Short courses

- Two short courses taught in Berlin
  - End 2017: Managing and Researching Health Care Systems
  - Mid 2018: Good scientific practice
- Two aims:
  - Capacity building of selected project staff at KNUST to teach health systems research
  - Networking with German PhD students interested to work in Africa





## Teaching in MSc programme

- Starts in autumn 2018
- MSc program will combine
  - existing modules from KNUST and
  - existing modules taught at MiG/TUB → adjusted to Ghana
- First cohort: MiG modules are taught primarily by MiG staff
- Second cohort: Modules are taught jointly by MiG and KNUST staff
- Third cohort: KNUST staff teaches modules originally developed at MiG



## Project work, excursion, thesis



- Starts in second year of first cohort (end 2019)
- Students will make an excursion to relevant institutions in Accra (Ministry of Health, parliament, National Health Service, etc.)
- Two selected students from Ghana get the opportunity to do internships/project work at MiG
  - Supervision of thesis by MiG staff
  - Develop joint research interests





# Health Policy Dialogues



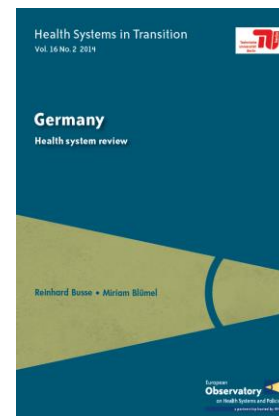
- Introducing a new annual event in Ghana
- First dialogue in Sep/Oct 2017
- Aims:
  - Facilitate knowledge translation from research to practice
  - Link health systems researchers and policy-makers
  - Build networks between researchers, policy-makers – and alumni of German universities



## KNUST staff consultations



- Start in 2018
- KNUST staff will be supported to engage in consultations with policy-makers and researchers in Ghana
- Aim:
  - Networking: to enable knowledge translation
  - Research: gather information to develop a health systems profile for Ghana





## Outlook and Opportunities

- Expanding joint activities in teaching?
- Further projects of TUB with developing countries?
- Collaborative research projects of MiG and KNUST?
- Links with other institutions in Berlin?

# Vielen Dank für ihre Aufmerksamkeit!



## Haben Sie noch Fragen?

<http://mig.tu-berlin.de/>

[wilm.quentin@tu-berlin.de](mailto:wilm.quentin@tu-berlin.de)

[daniel.opoku@tu-berlin.de](mailto:daniel.opoku@tu-berlin.de)