

2004 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF
THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GHANA

14TH – 18TH July, 2004

**THEME: TRADITION AND MODERNITY IN GHANAIAN
URBANIZATION.**

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Council of the Historical Society of Ghana announces that the 2004 Annual Conference of the Society will be held at the University of Ghana, Legon, from 14th to 18th July, 2004, under the theme:

Tradition and Modernity in Ghanaian urbanization.

Proposals for papers are invited soonest and in any case not later than **31st of March, 2004.**

Final version of papers must be submitted — on diskette and/or by e-mail attachment (e-mail address: asafo@ghana.com or kbaku@chieftaincy.org) — **by 15 June, 2004.**

Comment:

The concept of urbanization should not be interpreted according to strict sociological terminology, but in a broad sense — to mean historical processes involved in the formation and further development of urban places and urban spaces of social interaction. Thus pre-colonial towns (or proto-towns) would be as relevant as modern towns and cities. Further we hold that urbanization is a process that accentuates conflict or interplay between traditional and modern ‘worlds’, and thus we would like conference papers to address this particular problematique.

Papers and presentations within this broad framework, which we believe would allow for a wide range of possible topics, are most welcome. In the following we have listed a few suggestions. This list, however, should not be considered exhaustive:

- β The ‘Land issue’ in conflicts between traditional and modern authorities of urban centres.
- β Traditional and modern perceptions of land ownership in urban areas.
- β Commercialisation of land in urban centres: undermining traditional practices?
- β Urban politics: a modern and/or traditional affair?
- β The ‘modern’ urban elite: co-opting or challenging tradition?
- β Traditional authority and the challenge of modernity in urban centres.
- β ‘Urban bias’ in national politics: a ‘modernity bias’ equation?
- β The urban ‘melting pot’ of traditional and modern political cultures.
- β Urban spaces as arenas of tradition-modernity interaction.
- β The ‘mix’ of tradition and modernity in urban life-styles.
- β Historical trajectories: European influences in 17th and 18th century modernization of coastal urban communities.
- β Historical trajectories: British colonialism and urban development. Modernization at the expense of tradition?
- β Immigrant communities in traditional and modern urban settings.
- β Social stratification and urbanity: the ‘poor’ and the ‘wealthy’ on the tradition-modernity continuum.
- β Urban populations: transcending traditional world-views?
- β Religious change and continuity in modern cities.
- β ‘Urban villages’: a product of rapid change?
- β Overseas emigration and repatriation: an agency of ‘westernisation’ in urban development?
- β Globalisation and tradition in Ghanaian cities.

In keeping with the tradition of the Society all papers adjudged publishable will be published in the 2004 edition of *Transactions of the Historical Society of Ghana*.

Dated this 14th day of December, 2004.

Dr. Kofi Baku
Honorary Secretary