INAUGURAL LECTURE

Professor Komla Tsey

(Organised by The Vice Chancellor's office, in conjunction with The Faculty of Arts, Education and Social Sciences and The Cairns Institute, James Cook University)

Date: Wednesday, 17 April 2013
Venue: Pacific International Hotel (43 The Esplanade CAIRNS)
Time: 5.30pm - 6.30pm, followed by drinks and nibbles
Registration: http://alumni.jcu.edu.au/Tsey
Cost: Free
Universities engaging communities in research: implications for building healthy, sustainable communities

The purpose of this lecture is to share with you stories about engaging communities in research. This is important in my work at James Cook University because it is central to promoting healthy, sustainable communities in the tropics and is also one of the three pillars of universities - teaching, research and engagement. But what does engaging communities actually mean? Who is the community? What are the costs and benefits of community engagement? How can universities capture both the tangible and the less tangible benefits of engagement? In this lecture, I will draw on 30 years’ experience in community development and related empowerment and wellbeing promotion research across rural Ghana, Indigenous Australia and Papua New Guinea. My aim is to illustrate some of the challenges and opportunities involved in engaging communities in research, and some of the outcomes. In particular, I will explore the roles of narrative or story-sharing as powerful tools in engaging communities in research. The implications of this experience for building healthy, sustainable communities will be discussed.

About the Presenter:

Komla Tsey is Tropical Leader and Research Professor of Education for Social Sustainability at The Cairns Institute, James Cook University, Australia. He is also Program Leader for the Lowitja Institute’s Research Program 2: Healthy Communities and Settings. Komla was born in Ghana and studied at the University of Ghana and the University of Glasgow in Scotland. Komla now lives in Australia, researching and learning about Aboriginal development, education, health and wellbeing. He continues to undertake long-term development research in his native rural Ghana. Komla has authored numerous articles on development and related topics, which have been published in journals including the Social Science and Medicine, Community Development Journal, Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health, British Medical Council Public Health, Australian Journal of Primary Health, Health and Social Care in the Community, and Global Health Promotion. He is the author of Re-thinking Development in Africa, published by Langaa Publishing (Mankon, Cameroon) in 2011, and From Head-loading to the Iron Horse (Langaa, 2013), which examines British railway building in colonial Ghana and the origins of tropical development.

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