

Board Member Candidate's e-flyer

First Name: **Nelly Adjoa**

Last Name: **Sakyi-Hagan**



Why do you want to become an ASAF Board member?

I have the experience, leadership skills, inter-personal skills, communication skills and resilience to be on the ASAF Board. I am a very vocal, duty conscious and results-oriented person. Currently, in my position as an ordinary member and Task Force Co-Speaker, I have projected ASAF onto the global stage in many ways, and I believe I can do more and better as a Board member. A few of my attributes are enumerated below:

- Joining ASAF in 2022, I have actively contributed to shaping its development, notably through the Internal Affairs Task Force.
- I played a major role in the creation and amendment of ASAF's statutes and Rules of Procedure (RoP) currently in use for elections and all other activities.
- In 2023, I organised a very successful ASAF Local Project on capacity-building in Ghana, projecting ASAF to the nation and the world at large.
- Together with the Ghana Co-Ambassador, we helped the current Board to have an impactful outreach event at the University of Education, Winneba, Ghana in July, 2024.
- Being a past Board member (2021-2023) and current Board member (2024-2026) of the International Network of Women Engineers and Scientists,

(INWES), I am competent and capable in managing similar Global Networks such as ASAF.

- Currently the Chair of the upcoming African Conference of Women in Science and Engineering (ACWES 2024) in Rwanda, I am leading efforts to support the African academe in STEM fields.
- I have a very pleasant personality and can easily adapt to any situation and interact with any group of people irrespective of religion, sex, ethnic and ideological background.

What is your vision for ASAF?

Having witnessed at first hand the transformative impact of educational mobility programmes and volunteerism on students and professionals, my vision for ASAF is to transform it into a dynamic, influential network that empowers African students and alumni.

This would include;

- facilitating and improving access to global opportunities,
- enabling intra and inter regional collaborations,
- strengthening volunteerism and community service across the continent,
- improving the visibility of ASAF, and increasing the participation of members in its activities

I envision ASAF as a powerful platform where educational mobility, capacity-building, and leadership development intersect to drive sustainable change in Africa's education, economic, and social sectors.

Additionally, I aim to strengthen ASAF's governance structure by continuing to refine its working documents, ensuring that they remain adaptable and effective as the Network expands.

Last, but not least, I envision collaborating with fellow Board members and the SP to develop more capacity-building initiatives to empower ASAF members to not only gain valuable skills but also contribute to their own institutions and communities.

What skills do you bring to the position and what contributions do you want to make?

I bring to the position the following skills:

1. **Leadership and Team Management Skills**

My experience as a Board member of the International Network of Women Engineers and Scientists (INWES) and Chair of various committees in my institution as well as globally have equipped me with strong leadership and team management skills. I have successfully led diverse, multi-national teams, and have a proven track record of great collaboration across regions and disciplines.

2. **Project Management and Capacity-Building Training Skills**

Having organised successful projects like the ASAF-Ghana Local Project, EU funded projects (Garagerasmus Foundation), American Chemical Society (ACS) Projects, and outreach initiatives in Ghana, I bring solid project management skills. I excel in coordinating complex activities, ensuring they are delivered on time and within budget, and creating lasting impact in educational and professional settings.

3. **Policy Development and Governance Skills**

My active involvement in the Internal Affairs Task Force, which resulted in the development and amendment of ASAF's statutes and Rules of Procedure (RoP), demonstrates my ability to contribute to policy development and organisational governance. I understand the importance of establishing a solid framework for decision-making, transparency, and accountability.

4. **Networking and Global Collaboration Skills**

With my extensive experience in international organisations like INWES, ACS,

Garagerasmus Foundation, and my leadership role in organising the African Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists (ACWES 2024), I have honed my skills in building partnerships and networks, and facilitating global collaborations. These connections can be used to the advantage of broadening ASAF's reach and impact.

5. **Mentorship and Advocacy Skills**

As a strong advocate for educational mobility and volunteerism, and with my background in STEM educational research, I bring strong mentoring skills, having guided many students and professionals through academic and career development. I am passionate about empowering others and helping them realise their potential, which aligns with ASAF's mission.

My Contribution will include but not limited to the following:

- **Teamwork and Open Communication**

Structured and regular communication channels would be established through engagement meetings, task forces reports and Board reports for members at all levels to interact, share ideas and stay updated on ASAF activities. These would ensure transparency, team spirit, and collective decision-making.

- **Enhanced Engagement and Capacity-Building Programmes**

Provide more training and development programmes tailored to the specific needs of members, with a focus on scholarship, grantsmanship, leadership, innovation and project management. I want to ensure that ASAF members have the requisite knowledge, skills and tools to take advantage of global opportunities and contribute meaningfully to their institutions and communities.

- **Strengthen Global Partnerships**

I will focus on building stronger ties with international organisations, universities and world bodies to bring more scholarships, exchange programmes, and professional opportunities to ASAF members. These partnerships will help bridge the gap between Africa and global educational and professional networks.

- **Create a Mentoring Network**

I aim to develop a structured mentoring network that will bring students, young professionals and experienced members together through mentorship, knowledge sharing and joint projects.

Why should you be elected as an ASAF Board member?

I should be elected as a Board member because ASAF will benefit from a dynamic leader who is not only deeply committed to its mission and vision, but also brings years of rich experience, expertise, commitment, resilience, great skills and tenacity to help it grow beyond its current achievements. Further, I am eager to contribute to building a stronger and more impactful ASAF that continues to empower students and alumni across the African continent and beyond.