

FUTA: CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN GRAND STYLE

It is no longer strange to many people, both within and outside Nigeria, that the Federal University of Technology, Akure has continued to be celebrated as a Centre of Excellence.

Established some 30 years ago, the University, though with little beginning, now makes waves all over the world.

The editorial comments capture the recently held 23rd Convocation Ceremonies of the University.

Events marking the ceremonies lasted one week, all held with pomp and peagantry. The Excellence and Productivity Award Night was the best organized by the University so far. Apart from recognizing and rewarding hard-work, retired staff and students who had won laurels for the Institution were adequately recognized and rewarded.

Similarly, the Career Talk for Secondary School students was very well attended with over 30 Secondary Schools participating. It was an avenue to educate the students on the prospects of the various programmes run by the University. This was very well applauded by the participating students.

Then came the Commissioning of projects. Since the University was established 30 years ago, it had not witnessed the number of projects commissioned on Friday, 18th and Saturday, 19th November, 2011. On the first day, two large students Hostels, one male and one female, named after Professor Peter Adeniyi and Professor Jadesola Akande respectively were commissioned by the immediate past Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Governing Council of the University, Brigadier-General Raji Rasaki. Also Commissioned same day were the Chief R.F. Fasoranti road, Prof. T.A. Afolayan Wildlife Sanctuary, the School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology building annex, Prof. Julius Okojie Central Research Laboratory and a block of offices for academic staff.

On Saturday, the Senate building extension was commissioned by the visitor to

the University. Also commissioned same day was the sports complex. While the aforementioned projects were commissioned, it is interesting to note that efforts are in top gear to make some of the ongoing projects ready for commissioning by January, 2012. Such projects include, the Digital Resource University Centre that could sit 2,500 students at a time, the University Ultra Modern Multipurpose Hall, designed to sit 2,500 people at a time and the Ultra Modern Gate house, which when completed, will be the best around.

No wonder, therefore, stakeholders have been pouring encomiums on the University Management, ably led by Prof. Adebisi Balogun for doing a "good job". After being conferred with the Honorarty Doctorate Degrees of the University on Saturday, 19th November, 2011, Former Head of Interim National Government, Chief Earnest Shonekan and the Governor of Ondo State, Dr. Olusegun Mimiko described the Federal University of Technology, Akure as a "great Citadel of learning which has contributed in no small measure to the overall development of Nigeria".

Other Stakeholders including the graduating students described the management of the University as focused. In his own remarks, the Visitor to the University, President Goodluck Jonathan, represented by the Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission, Prof. Julius Okojie, described FUTA as a fast growing and very well focused University, adding that he was impressed with the performance of the University so far. He urged other Universities to take a cue from FUTA, noting that the Institution has excelled.

With all these projects and encomiums, what else shall we say, but to thank God for the leadership, as well as the followership of the University for doing very well.

FUTA Newsletter says KUDOS to the Prof. Adebisi Balogun led administration and congratulates the administration for these landmark achievements.