



FUTA NEWS

ACADEMIC RESEARCH MUST GET TO THE 'MARKET PLACE

The academia has been called upon to bridge the gap between research and industrialization. This was the crux of the 3rd Annual conference of the School of Sciences, Federal University of Technology, Akure which held at the CCE Hilltop auditorium with the theme: Academia Industry Partnership Key to Technological Developments in Nigeria.

Delivering a lecture titled “Academia – Industry Partnership the Indispensable Recipe for Nigeria’s Economic Development’, Engineer Segun Oni a former governor of Ekiti State, who was represented by Barrister Ademola Adegroye said that the near-zero linkage of the academic with the industry in Nigeria largely explains the pitiable status of youth unemployment and economic instability, besides the widely acclaimed problem of corruption. He noted that although the ability of the Nigerian scientists to compete in the international arena could not be doubted, the translation of such individual capacity as a tool for national development has been a great challenge.

Engineer Oni decried the emphasis on status enhancement by researchers and that industrial development is often not the objective of any published work in Nigerian journals and Nigerian authors. He said for industrialization to take place quality research works must get to the end users.

He therefore advocated a more practical relationship between the academia, industry and government so that the government will formulate policies that can finance research and development in Nigeria. He said advanced countries like Brazil, China and the United States owe their rapid economic growth to the effort of scientists.

Speaking in the same vein, Senator Ajayi Boroffice represented by Dr. Felix Ali stressed the need to bridge the gap between academia and industries for the purpose of economic development. The Senator who spoke on the topic: Application of information and Science and Technology stated that Space Technology is a major driver for economic growth. He said that Satellite Communication was beneficial to industrialization as it advances manufacturing which in turn allows for diversification thereby contributing immensely to the

economic growth of the nation. Senator Boroffice also urged the academia to address the challenges of national development through adequate use of research and space applications.

Declaring the conference open, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebisi Daramola commended the School of Sciences for its positive impact in the development of science and technology, noting that the conference will tackle issues relevant to the existence and wellbeing of the nation. Professor Daramola lamented the absence of linkage between research and policy development stating that it was one of the greatest challenge facing the nation. The Vice-Chancellor gave the assurance that FUTA has taken up, as an obligation, the challenge of bridging the gap through its various research centres and laboratories.

Earlier in a welcome address, the Dean, School of Sciences, Professor (Mrs) Ibiyinka Fuwape said the conference was in line with the vision and mission of the University, highlighting that the School of Sciences has consistently been passionate about issues and programme concerning the nation's development.

Fuwape stressed that scientific research and breakthrough can only be meaningful if the larger society will be positively transformed from its rather low level of development.

The Dean described the keynote and plenary speakers as giants in the academia with rich experience in the society outside the confines of the academia, particularly in the political and industrial sectors.

Delivering the School's 8th Annual Lecture, Professor Ifeanyi Solomon Williams, a Senior Fellow of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Kuru, Jos said scientists must stand out as professionals and contribute to the sustainable and equitable development of Nigeria, adding that capacity building, institutional reform and public education are strategies required to strengthen the science – policy interface in developing countries like Nigeria.

On the way forward Professor William urged University leaders and scientists to engage the media and the general public in understanding science and technology with the aim of boosting the public understanding of crucial national issues.

He further added that scientists must build their capacity to responding to current national political agendas, build credibility and consider the potential applications and implications of research across sectors of the economy.

The Don urged the academia to engage policy makers to promote tertiary education, especially in science and technology, adding that University of Technologies were established to address the gap in technology and must broaden their areas of specialization by developing a curriculum that encompasses a capacity building initiative for sustainable development that will last overtime.

The high point of the occasion was the presentation of awards to notable distinguished personalities. The awardees are the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebisi Daramola who a Plaque of Excellence for his landmark achievements, Professor (Mrs.) Olusola Odeyemi, pioneer Vice-Chancellor, Chrisland University, Owode, Ogun State, and also of the department of Biology, School of Sciences, FUTA and the guest lecturer Dr. Ifeanyi, Solomon Williams.