



FUTA NEWS

BRITISH VARSITIES, FUTA HOLD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HUMAN HABITAT IN AKURE

Participants from various Nigerian and foreign Universities converged on Akure to tackle issues relating to the sustainability and development of human habitat at a five day International Conference jointly organized by the Federal University of Technology, Akure, [FUTA] London South Bank University [LSBU] and the De-Montfort University [DMU]. The Conference with the theme: 21st Century Human Habitat: Issues, Sustainability and Development was aimed at proffering solutions to lingering economic, social and environmental challenges bedeviling the world with special focus on developing countries. Delivering the key note address, Professor Olurinde Lafe, Director, Centre for Renewable Energy Technology [CRET], Federal University of Technology, Akure said, for Nigeria to overcome power instability, she has to source for energy in multiple ways and adopt community energy storage. Diagnosing the Nigerian power situation, Professor Lafe, a Renewable Energy expert blamed it on an overtly centralized system, an unwieldy network, paucity of energy sources, antiquated architecture of power lines and lack of effective storage. He said the country has the potential to generate energy in hundreds of thousands of megawatts if she effectively utilizes available resources, especially in the area of mass refuse generated by the populace. According to him, there is massive opportunity in waste-to-energy, saying Nigeria's 245 million tons annual waste production can yield 160 Twh (or 160 Billion kwh) of electricity per annum. To implement this, the don recommended multiplicity of energy sources, community energy storage, capacity development of local work force and persistent maintenance among others. He further urged government, higher institution of learning, the local communities and stakeholders to rise to the challenge of local power generation. Lafe emphasized

the need to appropriate the use of alternative Renewable Energy sources through the use of Biomass, Biofuels, Hydro, Geothermal, Ocean waves and Tidal Current. The Don called on FUTA, as the nation's leading University of Technology to have its own smart grid plant so as to generate its own energy which will also serve as a reference point to other higher Institutions of learning. He said the benefit accruable from the above is that power will be generated close to where it is needed, which will eventually eliminate a single-point-of-failure and generate jobs to millions of Nigerians. Chairman, International Organizing Committee [IOC] and Dean, School of the Built Environment and Architecture at London South Bank University, England, Professor Charles Egbu said the theme of the Conference is apt considering the time that we are in. He said the Conference deals with issues of sustainability in its entirety as it embraces all facets of human endeavor. He also commended the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebisi Daramola and the Local Organising Committee for their effort in ensuring a successful hosting. Commending Professor Adebisi Daramola for his doggedness in ensuring the success of the Conference, Professor Obas Ebohon of De Montfort University, Leicester, United Kingdom said "I appreciate your Vice-Chancellor for making this Conference possible. His attitude encouraged me because out of fifteen Vice-Chancellors contacted, he is the only one who responded favourably. He virtually put me on my toes".

In an opening address, the Chief Host, Professor Daramola, said the Conference is an event that has further brought Nigerian and International Professionals, academia and policy makers together to deliberate and resolve issues that concern humanity and the environment. Speaking on the University's unique selling point, Daramola said "FUTA gives prominence to training in technology and applied science to meet up with the rapid technologies and industrial development of Nigeria."

Chair, Local Organising Committee [LOC] and FUTA Deputy Vice-Chancellor [Academic], Professor Olatunde Arayela said the Conference has further internationalized the University and placed her on frontal pedestal for development and interaction with world class Universities.

In a remark, the Area Manager, South and West Africa, Lafarge, Mr. Peter Hoddinot, represented by Head of

Affordable Building, Lafarge Africa Plc., Ms. Jumoke Adegunle said the issue of sustainability is a challenge to developing nations. According to her, Lafarge's objective is for Nigerians to be able to afford houses. This is only achievable if the economy improves. This has made Lafarge to launch programmes for mass housing units at lowest cost possible.

Dean of FUTA's School of Environmental Technology, Professor Julius Olujimi described the conference as timely and critical to the generation of ideas that would have significant impact and improvement on sustainability of human habitation and the environment.