



FUTA NEWS

EXPERTS ADVOCATE LOCAL AND GLOBAL ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

In view of the need to create awareness on the debilitating effect of Climate Change on national economies and how to mitigate its effect especially in the country, the Centre for Research and Development (CERAD), Federal University of Technology, Akure, has championed a development dialogue on Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and Carbon Emission Reduction. CERAD in collaboration with the New Nigerian Foundation, NNF SMEFUND, NOAZ and Partnerships Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIND) held the dialogue to raise interest for academic research and endowment in Climate Change mitigation/adaptation including climate smart agriculture, renewable energy and carbon emission as well as landscape resilience.

Speaking on the topic: Global vs Local Mitigation Initiatives on Climate Change, Director, Carbon Exchange, Lagos, Mr. Innocent Azih said there are many sources of carbon emission which include Industries, Buildings, Transportation and Agriculture, all of which have negative implications, such as flood, health discomforts, non-productivity in agriculture, economic sub-optimality and land degradation. Azih said the weakening value of financial assets, increased pressure on water resources and physical asset failure all attest to the adverse effects of climate on the Agriculture, oil and gas, manufacturing and transportation sectors of the economy.

To this effect Azih said mitigation of Climate Change will be achieved through measures and policies that involve identification of climate friendly products and technologies, climate

regulations, new policies in transportation and building construction and stable long term financing for new Green House Gas (GHG) technologies.

Speaking relatedly on research readiness for local action on Climate Change, Director Centre for Renewable Technologies (CRET) FUTA, Professor Olurinde Lafe stressed the need for concerted efforts to globally address climate change. He said local actions which include legislation, advocacy and adoption of a clean development mechanism will have great impact in mitigating the effects of Climate Change.

Professor Lafe said Nigeria has abundant Renewable Energy sources in the form of solar, wind, biomass, gas thermal, ocean waves and tides, adding that there are research opportunities for project development in Renewable Energy sources through the use of available energy conversion technologies and waste to energy opportunities. He said great opportunities abound in local action which according to him will solve employment problems and at the same time resolve the energy challenges facing the nation.

Professor Lafe outlined top research and development topics for local action which include: harnessing multiple Renewable Energy sources, distributed energy generation, micro grids high capacity energy storage, fuel cells and smart building architecture and engineering.

Earlier in his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebisi Daramola said the development dialogue has been designed to bridge the gap between theory and practical application of knowledge and ensuring that the society is positively impacted with research output from Universities and Research Institutes.

Professor Daramola said the theme: “Climate Change, Cross sector scaling of mitigation and Adaptation Initiatives in Nigeria” is part of the continued process of capacity building within Nigeria’s local economy in climate change mitigation, adaptation and finance as well as the structural resilience for the ecosystem, particularly in relation to projects in sustainable landscapes and cities, biodiversity presentation, renewable energy, energy efficiency, environmental screening and monitoring and value-chain development.

On his part, Managing Director, New Nigeria Foundation, Lagos, Professor Femi Ajibola said issues on Climate Change are relatively new therefore there is need to create public awareness. He said an alternative to oil is imminent giving the drop in oil prices globally. He said it is unbecoming for the country to import new energy solutions to the problems of the country so it is imperative to harness alternative resources now. Professor Ajibola commended FUTA for producing first class scholars, stating that her products in NNF are good ambassadors of the Institution.

Also speaking, Director CERAD, Professor Ayorinde Olufayo was optimistic that the dialogue will provide linkage to Global Climate Change and Renewable Energy and create technologies for ecosystem that will aid livelihood resilience for rural communities.