



FUTA NEWS

EXPERTS HARP ON THE NEED TO PRESERVE OCEAN AND MARINE HABITAT

The urgent need to apply integrated approach to protect and preserve the ocean for the benefit of mankind has again been stressed. This was the fulcrum of the key note address by Professor Asiwaju Bello, Head, Department of Marine Sciences and Technology, Federal University of Technology, Akure, FUTA, during the world ocean day celebration at the University's Theodore Idibiye Francis Auditorium on Monday, June 8, 2015.

Speaking on the topic 'Geosciences and Coastal Zones Management', Professor Bello who described the ocean as exciting because of its beauty, richness and complexity explained that it covers $\frac{3}{4}$ of the earth surface and was hitherto seen as both an inexhaustible resource and a bottom less sink for wastes. He explained that the recent world population, pollution and other environmental threats require conscious observation of the workings of the ocean and its prevailing effects on mankind.

While analyzing its large and complex ecosystem, Bello pointed out the human impact on the ocean in relation to dumping of litters, fishing, exploitation of minerals, oil spillage and the influence of green houses, adding that oceans are linked to climate, human lives and future survival.

Speaking further, on the impact of human degradation and exploitation of the ocean in conjunction with increasing pressure from rapid population growth on the coastal environment, he highlighted the need for the preservation of the environmental quality of the ocean for future generations by remedying its past harmful activities. The Don therefore advocated an integrated coastal zone management and enjoined practitioners of scientific related disciplines to reclaim the ocean in a concerted effort, noting that issues like climate change and sea level rise have become the focus of major national and international contemporary studies.

In a related presentation, Professor Olabode Adebayo, of the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture Technology, who spoke on the topic 'Opportunities and Limitation of Aquaculture in Addressing Over

Fishing' decried the over exploitation of the ocean and called for its Protection and Preservation, noting that it is key to the nation's economy.

Making a case for Aquaculture in relation to ocean preservation, Adebayo stated that it was critical in rebuilding marine life to full and biologically sustainable productivity. He described aquaculture as a lasting solution to the current state of over fishing and a necessary and sustainable goal in counter balancing the adverse effects of ocean degradation. He emphasized that all lives on earth are connected to the ocean and keeping the ocean healthy is a task for all stressing that the effects of exploiting the ocean were reversible if strong and immediate action was taken with the adoption of the practice of aquaculture.

In his remarks, the event's Chair and Director, Academic Planning, FUTA, Professor Oyedapo Fagbenro called on stakeholders to keep the habitat clean and inculcate the habit of preservation of the environment in future generations. He advocated the need to preserve the ocean as according to him, it is the greatest provider of vast resources to mankind.

Earlier in a goodwill message, Dean, School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology, FUTA, Professor Shadrack Akindele applauded the organizers for a well-planned event. He said the aim of the celebration was to awaken the human consciousness on the need to preserve the ocean.

At the event Pupils who participated in the online competition for the world ocean day were presented certificates with Master Fadamiro Bamikole, an eleven year old pupil of FUTA Staff Primary School winning the star prize of 50 Euros.