



FUTA NEWS

FUTA ADVANCEMENT CENTRE HOLDS FIRST ANNUAL LECTURE

The Federal University of Technology, Akure, FUTA, Advancement Centre recently held her maiden lecture at the CCE Hilltop Auditorium of the University. The lecture which attracted people from the academic and financial sectors of the economy centered on funding the educational sector, particularly University.

The lecture titled “**The Concept of Advancement in Universities, Past, Present and Future**” was delivered by Mrs. Ronke Ajibola, the Executive Director, Advancement Centre, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. Mrs. Ajibola said the dominant concern of an advancement centre ‘is to help Institutions to achieve their strategic visions through financial support’.

According to her, the task of financing a University is enormous and cannot be left to the government alone. “Even, in the Western World, famous Universities always have stupendous amounts of funds available to them through philanthropic giving which have propelled them to the top of the educational ladder and made them the most sought after Universities in term of admission, research and innovations”.

The guest lecturer said a University should build, maintain and sustain her relationship with all her stakeholders because friend-raising comes before fund-raising. In view of this, she encouraged the Universities to build good and cordial relationships with current students who will eventually become alumni as “such relationships are lifelong and would always make them remember and want to give back to the Institution when they get to higher positions in life”.

Mrs. Ajibola also dwelt on the issue of ethical practice in fund-raising. On this, she warned institutions to be careful in raising fund from just any source because identifying with fraudulent people or organizations may tarnish the image and reputation of an Institution. She also emphasized the need to exercise patience in fund-raising. She said “The first thing when inviting an alumnus who has not been to the Institution in the last 20 years is not to ask for money, but get the person involved with the Institution again. Eventually, he or she may ask for areas where he or she can be of assistance. This will bring lasting relationship and reputation to both sides”.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebisi Daramola, who spoke through the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Development), Professor Tolulope Akinbogun, restated his determination to take FUTA to the market place so that the Institution would emerge as one of the top five Universities in Africa. This, according to him, informed why the Advancement Centre was repositioned and upgraded in line with global best practices to deliver effectively on its mandate.

The Director of the University Advancement Centre, Dr Mrs. Funke Oyebade, saluted the tenacity of purpose of the Professor Daramola-led Management in ensuring the



success of the event. She also lauded the Management for the constant support extended to the centre and its activities.

At the event, which was attended by drivers of Advancement Centers from Universities across Nigeria and Ghana, the Chairman of FUTA Advancement Board, Mr. Segun Aina alongside the Group Managing Director of First Bank Plc., Mr. Stephen Olabisi Onasanya were honoured for their contributions to the development of the Institution.