



FUTA NEWS

FUTA Gets High Performance Computing System as UNDP, FG Step up Initiative on Climate Change

A High Performance Computing, HPC, System designed to monitor Climate Change data, analysis and information management in Nigeria has been installed at the Federal University of Technology, Akure. The equipment, one of the best of its kind in Africa, donated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the Federal Ministry of Environment (FME), is located at the University's West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL).

To ensure immediate utilization of the HPC, a training workshop on the use of the system was organized at the Centre with experts from the UNDP as trainers. Declaring the workshop open on Tuesday July 1, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebisi Daramola said the HPC system will be useful for the study of Climate Change data, analysis and modeling to create climate information for decision and policy making and forecast. He urged the Scientists, Researchers and Engineers drawn from across the country who were selected for the training to use the knowledge gained for the benefit of Nigeria and Africa in the area of climate change. He said though the journey to the establishment of WASCAL (a Climate Change initiative sponsored by the German Ministry of Education and Research) was not smooth, he is happy that the effort eventually succeeded and is yielding positive dividend for Africa today. Daramola said the issue of Climate Change has become a global phenomenon requiring urgent attention because of its likely devastating effect and therefore called on the participants at the workshop to go from the workshop with skills that will proffer solution to the effect of global warming being experienced worldwide.

The Honourable Minister of Environment, Mrs. Laurentia Mallam, who was represented by the Director, Department of Climate Change, Dr. S.A. Adejuwon, said the current effort is a build up to a project to combat Climate Change, executed by the Department of Climate Change and sponsored by the government of Japan in 2012.

The minister said "Compared to other continents, Africa lacks elaborate comprehensive and real time Climate data that will enable her make appropriate decisions, predictions and preparations towards the looming negative impacts of Climate Change. A State of the art High Performance Computing (HPC) system is now acquired and installed in the Department of Climate Change at the UNFCCC National Focal Point as well as in the West Africa Science Service Centre and Adaptive Land-Use (WASCAL), Federal University of Technology, Akure with two international consultants engaged by UNDP to train on the workshop titled "Establishing and use of e-infrastructure for Climate Change Data and Information Management System in Nigeria".

Mrs. Mallam added that the objective of the training was to enhance capacity of the designated government focal point as well as other Climate Change experts in Climate Change information management for decision making process towards policy formulation and implementation. She also said the training will expose staff of the Department of Climate Change in the ministry and those at FUTA, the nodal Centre, to data server administration and use of the infrastructure for Climate Change and related studies.

Welcoming participants, Director WASCAL, Professor Jerome Omotosho said the training workshop would enhance intellectual and skill abilities of participants. Mr. Oladipo Osibo of the UNDP Office Abuja in a goodwill message said Climate Change has become a developmental issue worldwide that needs urgent solution. He said there was an urgent need to nip its adverse effect in the bud so as to build and leave a better environment for the coming generation.