



FUTA HOSTS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY, LAUNCHES ‘GREY’ PROJECT

The International women’s day is a United Nation’s sanctioned day to celebrate globally, the economic, political and social achievements of women, while reminding them to be vigilant and tenacious to achieve further sustainable change.

The Honourable Minister of Communication Technology, Mrs. Omobola Johnson made this known in her address commemorating the International women’s day at the Federal University of Technology, Akure.

She said that President Goodluck Jonathan had raised the bar and set the pace for others to follow by demonstrating major commitment to female representation in the country. She recalled that thirty-five percent of cabinet positions are held by women with key transformation portfolios, unprecedented in the history of Nigeria.

Mrs. Johnson noted that the Ministry of Communication Technology is particularly focused on encouraging women to engage in ICT careers as well as using ICT to improve the lives of women and empowering them, impressing on them to embrace information and communication technology wholeheartedly.

She encouraged the University’s Centre for Gender Issues in Science and Technology (CEGIST) to conduct empirical research on the under-representation of Nigerian women and girls in the field of technology and proffer solutions that can be jointly implemented.

The Ondo State Head of Service, Chief (Mrs) Stella Kosemani Kolawole, in her lecture titled “The Gender Agenda: Gaining Momentum”, reiterated the need for women to be empowered in different areas of endeavour, including business and politics.

The Head of Service who noted that International women’s day has been observed since the early 1900s, enjoined women to be completely dedicated in order to continue to remain relevant in the society.

She further urged women not to see the International women’s day celebration as just an annual event, but to put into practice whatever lessons they had learnt from the lectures and comments of stakeholders.

In his speech, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebisi Daramola commended the transformation agenda of the President, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan and the Ondo State Governor, Dr. Olusegun Mimimo at the national and state levels respectively.

Professor Daramola congratulated the Centre for Entrepreneurship and Gender Issues in Science and Technology (CEGIST) and the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing



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World (OWSD) for putting together an initiative for a successful International women's day celebration in the University.

He described the importance of the day as one that could never be underestimated in view of the fact that women constitute 49.1% of the Nigerian Population as at the 2006 National head count, though the current figure is put at over 50%.

He stated therefore that with the significant percentage, there is every reason why attention should be paid to empowering women and giving them equal opportunities in different endeavours so as to realize their full potentials in nation building and development.

Professor Daramola appreciated the women who had played central roles in the society, pointing that women are exploring challenging fields in business, academics, sports, health, military and politics, with many of them as Heads of Government, Captains of Industry, High ranking professionals, Ministers of God, among others, and above all, home builders and mothers.

In her remarks, the Acting Director of CEGIST, Dr. (Mrs) Mojisola Edema noted that this year's International women's day was remarkable, particularly because of the newly launched project tagged, "Gender Responsive Education for You" "GREY", aimed at addressing issues responsible for delays and drop-offs along the academic career path of female students.

Female permanent secretaries in Ondo State who constitute about 26% of the total number of appointees in the state civil service were honoured with Role Model Awards at the event.