



FUTA NEWS

FUTA SETS THE PACE IN REMOTE SENSING AND GEO-SCIENCE INFORMATION SYSTEM (RS & GIS), TRAINING

Acting Head, Department of Remote Sensing and Geo-Science Information System (RS & GIS), Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA), Dr. Biodun Anifowose has stressed that the training of students with state of the art equipment and cutting edge technology is a priority in the scheme of things in the department. He said “the basic priority is to train students and equip them with knowledge that will be applicable across Institutions, programmes and provide knowledge that can lead them to acquire higher degrees beyond the country”.

Anifowose who reiterated that FUTA is the only University in Nigeria training undergraduates in Remote Sensing and Geo-Science Information System described the Department as being well positioned, not only because of its full accreditation status bestowed by the National Universities Commission (NUC), but because of its well-equipped laboratory which he described as world class. He noted that aside from acquiring equipment through the Direct Teaching and Laboratory Course (DTLC) and the NEEDS Assessment fund the Department is looking forward to collaborating with the National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA), European Space Agency and Japanese Space Agency to acquire more relevant sophisticated equipment to attract users to provide solutions to prevailing Climatic Issues.

Anifowose disclosed that the Department which produced her first set of graduates in November, 2015 has recorded positive remarks from employers who have not only found the students trainable but have become trainers themselves in the industry. He said “our students on Industrial attachment at NASRDA and Cocoa

Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN) have turned out not only as trainees but as trainers themselves. Some of them have been able to establish training programmes in the Institutions they worked and have gotten good recommendation for employment in view of job openings after youth service”.

Describing the impact of the Department on the immediate community, the HOD noted that the Department is currently synergizing with other Departments in the University’s School of Earth and Mineral Sciences, (Applied Geology, Applied Geophysics, Meteorology, Marine Science Technology, Surveying and Geoinformatics) where RS & GIS belongs to gather data, interpret same and make available for ecological use as the need arises. He added that RS & GIS looks at Climate Change from a vantage position to manage resources in agriculture, urban development and other related fields. He therefore called on stakeholders to continue to assist in the provision of adequate resources to keep up the training of students who according to him enroll in the Department from all over the country.

Enumerating the laboratory equipment, Mr. Dauda Awoniran, a Technologist in the Department disclosed that the Department was one of the few in Nigeria with sophisticated equipment in RS & GIS. Awoniran who reiterated the need for a well-equipped laboratory highlighted the Spectrum Radio Metre as very important to RS & GIS because of its use in the collection and interpretation of data. He said “the Spectrum Radio Metre is used to collect data on plant species, rocks, soil and environmental features”. Others include the Mirror Stereoscope used for the interpretation of aerial photographs, the Personal Data Assistant (PDA) which combines GPS software and other facilities like phoning and photography, the Compass Clinometer, the Global Positioning System Device (GPS) and a modern Azero Scanner and Plotter for large paper maps.