



FUTA NEWS

INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION KEY TO DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIAN CERAMIC INDUSTRY- CeRAN

The Ceramic Researchers Association of Nigeria [CeRAN] recently ended its annual conference at the Federal University of Technology, Akure with a resolution to put interdisciplinary collaboration as a vehicle for the development of the Nigerian Ceramic Industry and nation building on the front burner. The Guest Speaker, Professor Abdullai Umar, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic at the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi and participants lent their voice to collaboration by the association with other institutions and professionals in other areas of specialization as a way to remain globally relevant.

Professor Abubakar Umar who spoke on the topic, Advancing the Practice of Ceramics in Nigeria in the face of Advances in Science and Technology: We Sink or We Swim said "For us to advance ceramics into all human endeavours so as to remain globally relevant, we need collaboration. As an association and professionals we need to collaborate with others so that when the need arises, we will not be left out. We should not remain at the rudiment, but take a leap from where we are to get to the peak. To achieve this, interdisciplinary collaboration is very important".

Going down the memory lane and speaking on the continuous relevance of ceramics Umar said "Over seventy years have passed since the beginning of ceramics practice. Civilizations, governments, royalty, common people, science and technology have

found a place for ceramics. The industrial revolution brought even more techniques and products. This made ceramics relevant till date. We should not allow ceramics to die because there will always be room to advance ceramics”.

In his address, National President of CeRAN and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Development, FUTA, Professor Tolulope Akinbogun said because of the relevance of Ceramics to all human endeavours, there is the need to expand the curricula of ceramics at the Nigerian Universities to cater for all aspects of ceramic applications, including the sciences and engineering dimensions.

“Ceramics touches almost every aspect of human lives. It is found in the field of sciences, engineering and arts with its application in modern time too numerous to mention. Because of its importance, as professionals, we need to collaborate interdepartmentally. This will be a melting point where we can share ideas to develop positively” he added.

Declaring the conference open, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebisi Daramola called for strategic partnership and synergy between CeRAN and allied professional associations and institutions such as FUTA because ceramics development requires articulate and highly resourceful experts to drive it. On job creation potentials of ceramics, Daramola said “Turning earthly materials into wealth, which ceramics is, is one area which we are yet to fully explore and maximize. Our teeming unemployed youths can make great fortunes by using ceramic materials to make artistic objects and tableware, as well as making industrial and technical products from such natural earthly endowments”.

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Earlier at a courtesy call on the University Management, the National President, CeRAN, Professor Akinbogun and his team eulogized Professor Daramola for the tremendous development in FUTA over the years and urged him to keep the flag flying.

The Vice-Chancellor also challenged them to strive to revive the moribund Ikon Ceramic Industry in Ondo State. He said "Your association has a responsibility to deliver the ceramic industry. Other associations are keying into the Federal Government's Transformation Agenda, yours also should, so as to move our country forward". Participants at the conference cut across higher Institutions in Nigeria and stakeholders in the ceramic industry.