



FUTA NEWS

ITOCA MAKES FUTA TRAINING HUB

The Information and Outreach Centre for Africa (ITOCA), a capacity building organization aimed at enhancing information on Communication Technology based in South Africa has made the Federal University of Technology, Akure a training hub for South West region. The training which is on The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library (TEEAL) and Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture (AGORA) is the first of its type in the region. It is a train-the trainer programme with the aim of equipping the first set with the nitty gritty of Research and on how to access relevant resources. The first set will in turn train others so that the knowledge can extend widely. According to the Host and University Librarian, Dr. Femi Oguntuase, the University Library through its e-library resources acquired the TEEAL and AGORA database in 2011 and later competed and succeeded in 2014 for the regional training centre which qualified her for the leading and training centre in the region.

“FUTA is now a nodal centre, which is a training centre for the region that is why we can host this training. We have the resources in our School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology (SAAT), School of Engineering and Engineering Technology (SEET) and School of Environmental Technology (SET). This training is about the updated version of the resources in those schools and it is internet driven. This will enable everyone within the University environment to access them”.

He told participants to take the training serious as first beneficiaries and also reaffirmed FUTA as a trailblazing Institution with outstanding collaborations with high ranking global Universities. Oguntuase also urged participants to ensure they affect the society with whatever knowledge acquired, emphasizing impacting students who are leaders of tomorrow. Addressing the gathering, one of the lead trainer and ITOCA Training and Outreach Officer for Nigeria, Mrs. Olayinka Fatoki encouraged participants to be committed to the training because it will make them globally accessible and acceptable. She said as pioneer trainees, they must ensure that they get the full package of the training so that they can pass the baton to others as in a relay race. Fatoki commended FUTA management for the support given the University Library to host the programme saying “it’s been a wonderful experience working with FUTA. You have a working team here. This is possible because of harmonization of minds and resources. It is also based on trust. The University Librarian, Dr. Oguntuase and the Local Organizing Committee have been wonderful. You also have a beautiful environment. As a first timer, my experience has been pleasant. This experience will linger for long.”

Declaring the workshop open, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebisi Daramola represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, (Development), Professor Tolulope Akinbogun said participants should take full advantage of the training because of its innovativeness. “As train-the-trainers you should know that this is not the destination, but the process to the destination. Please be alert and vigilant so as to grasp the message of the training. It is expected that you will from here pass the message to others. I implore you to get the best and pass it to others.” He also thanked the organizers of the 3-day workshop for choosing FUTA, a fast emerging University as the venue for the workshop. Dr. Olabode Alabi of the Department of Agricultural Economics, Babcock University, Ilishan-Remo Ogun State co-facilitated the training. Principal Officers and other senior

staff of the University attended the programme with participants drawn from Universities across the country.