



FUTA NEWS

LABORATORY IS THE FOUNDATION OF TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT -DON

Nigerian technologists have been urged to take the laboratory profession with utmost seriousness in order to advance technological development in the country. Delivering the main theme lecture with the title "The Laboratory: Foundation for National Science, Technology and Innovation System" at the 30th annual national conference/scientific workshop of the Nigerian Institute of Science Laboratory Technology (NISLT) at the Federal University of Technology, Akure, Professor Samuel Adejuyigbe, a Professor of Computer Aided Engineering at the Federal University, Oye-Ekiti described the Laboratory as the foundation of national development. He called for the development of science laboratory foundation to aid steady development in the area of research and innovation.

Adejuyigbe called on industrialists, educationists and policy makers to take a second look at technological fabrications in tertiary educational Institutions and look at the possibility of commercializing them and their end products rather than allowing them to waste away. In his words, "laboratory and laboratory scientists and technologists are basic tools for national development and its attendant effects are catalysts for national development and innovation".

Describing the role of technologists in the realization of innovation and national development, Professor Adejuyigbe noted that technologists are solution seekers, seeking solution to complex technical problems with available science or engineering knowledge hitherto acquired, both theoretical and practical. He disclosed that they are silent community developers who engage in research and fabrication.

He, however, decried the lack of acknowledgment of fabrications by researchers, leading to the death of ideas and designs on the pages of pieces of papers, adding that only a few researches are translated to practical use for societal

benefit.

He highlighted agricultural mechanization, iron and steel industry, small scale industries, health equipment and accessories, defence and national security equipment and artillery, printing industry for educational books and the automotive industry among others as areas where technology and innovativeness remain the way to go but regretted that the nation had not paid attention to them.

He urged government at all levels to jointly confront the challenges facing the profession and evaluate the level of training, productivity enhancement and how those involved in the profession can help develop indigenous technology instead of waiting for technology transfer.

Declaring the conference/workshop open, the Honourable Minister for Science and Technology, Dr. Abdu Bulama who was represented by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Mrs Winifred Oyo-Ita enjoined the Institute to strengthen its capacity to meet increasing demands. She noted that the theme of the conference was topical and relevant to the transformation agenda of the current administration. She commended the Institute for service rendered to the nation and assured its members of continuous support of the Ministry to achieve its full mandate.

Also speaking, the Vice-Chancellor, Federal University of Technology, Akure, Professor Adebisi Daramola noted that NISLT has made tremendous contributions to national development through complementary efforts in the production of science and technical manpower for the country. He reiterated that the Institute was charged with the responsibility of advancing science laboratory technology in the country, stressing that no science and technology-based Institution like FUTA could succeed without technologists.

He, however, challenged the Institute to increase its synergy and cooperation between technologists and administrators of tertiary educational Institutions to bridge the existing gap in order to fast track the development of science and technology in the nation. He expressed hope that the conference would birth a new dawn in the nation's technological sector and congratulated the Institute for what he termed exemplary conduct and professionalism.

Earlier, Dr. Adamu Samaila, the President/Chairman, NISLT Council analysed the critical role of the council as a link between science and technology. He noted that the role of laboratory and its practitioners cannot be overlooked in

driving technology in the national economy. Samaila who described the conference as an annual gathering of professionals making impact on national development maintained that laboratories deserved attention to derive desired technological results.

At the Conference Professor Nurudeen Adedipe, the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman Governing Council, Fountain University, Oshogbo, Professor Ogbuagu and Professor John Okhuoya were presented with fellowship awards in appreciation of their contributions to the growth of the profession and national development.