



# FUTA NEWS

## **OLOIDI CALLS FOR PROFESSIONALISM IN TEXTILE ARTS AS TEXSON HOLDS MAIDEN CONFERENCE**

A Professor of Fine Arts of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka has stressed the need for professionalism in the textile industry in order to regain its lost glory. Professor Emeritus Ola Oloidi stated this while delivering the keynote address at the maiden edition of the Textile Society of Nigeria (TEXSON) Annual Conference hosted by the Department of Industrial Design, Federal University of Technology, Akure. Professor Oloidi said that if the textile industry will be revolutionized, concerted efforts must be made to impart practical based knowledge rather than theories to students of the textile arts in order for them to improve on their creative and academic abilities.

He said in Nigeria, textile designs are pursued as an industrial product or craft instead of an art which according to him is as a result of systemic intellectualism which in itself is faulty. He added that many graduates of textile arts have not been mentored enough to recognise the power of their professional mandate. Citing the importance of fabrics to life, the Don stated that without textiles, there will be an absence of human dignity without which man will be the in direct competition with animals. He said textile products either from organic or synthetic fibres have been the only physical creation that has given pride, beauty and privacy to the human personality. He added that without fabrics or textile, there won't be any society as textile per- mates every segment of society such as education, religion, sports, military, loyalty, fashion, health, unions and social organism. According to him textile is the main definition of social identity. The key note address speaker said in order to promote professionalism in the textile

industry, textile artists must be taught the humanistic importance of their career and its connection to national development. He said students must be taught to create not just design but also self-sufficiency after graduation. He said the culture of over dependence on teachers and the internet must be discouraged. Oloidi called for exhibition among students in order to enable them hone skills. He said that the textile industry has great chances of revitalization with the infusion of professionalism. Earlier in his opening remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Fuwape represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, (Academics), Professor Tunde Arayela said that the textile industry over time has revolutionized the Nigeria economy and its dearth has not augured well for national development.

He said FUTA as a specialized Institution of Technology will contribute its quota through the department of Industrial Design to ensure that the textile industry is revived in Nigeria. Also speaking the Chairman, Local Organizing Committee (LOC) and Vice-Chancellor, Ondo State University of Science and Technology (OSUSTECH), Professor Sunday Ogunduyile said Industrial design was created to blend creativity with professionalism so as to produce fabrics that could meet international standards. He said many factors are responsible for the decline in textile arts part of which was the admission requirements that admitted students without background in drawing and arts. To this end he called for an overhaul of the curriculum and admission criteria to enable qualified candidates gain admission. On his part the Dean, School of Environmental Technology (SET), Professor Isah Kashim was optimistic that the conference will advance the state of knowledge in the area of Textile Design and Technology, thereby enhancing the effort towards bringing back the lost glory of Textile Industries in Nigeria.