



FUTA NEWS

WORLD OCEAN'S DAY: HUMAN ACTIVITIES CAN ENDANGER THE OCEAN

A Professor of Fisheries and Aquaculture Technology at the Federal University of Technology, Akure, Professor Oluayo Bello-Olusoji has called for maintenance of a sustainable marine environment. He said this at the 2016 World Ocean's Day recently held at the Theodore Idibiye Auditorium of the University. The event with the theme: Healthy Ocean, Healthy People was aimed towards informing people on the danger incurred by negative human activities carried out on the ocean and the importance of cleanliness to their health and wellness.

Olusoji, who said the ocean has been pushed beyond the limits that the marine environment can sustain, described the major threats against the ocean as over exploitation of marine resources and pollution. He said that over fishing which occurs as a result of the immense contribution of sea foods for feeding and medicinal purpose, can cause damage to the ecosystems on which marine life depends and that it has been predicted that if the pace of fishing continues, all fishes will collapse by 2048.

Speaking on pollution, he noted that human health depends on the ocean as it is a basic element that makes all life on earth possible and any harm on the ocean would definitely affect human existence. He said that oil spills, climate change, ocean dumping like plastics and land pollutants that leach their way into the ocean leads to acidification, mercury contamination and de-oxygenation which is deadly to marine inhabitants. "For centuries people have regarded the oceans as an inexhaustible supply of food, a useful transport route and a convenient dumping ground—simply too vast to be affected by anything we do, but human activity, particularly over the decades, has finally pushed oceans to their limit. The ocean provides the oxygen to lives

and the crops, the ocean feeds the world with its bounty and it is a source of raw materials vital for medical and other uses. The ocean has become a major source of breakthrough for medicines to the benefit of human health, if it became unable to perform the host of essential functions we all count on, the planet would become uninhabitable” he said.

Concluding, Olusoji said that the ocean has massive economic value making it necessary to maintain a sustainable marine environment. According to him Fisheries is one of the most widely recognized economic contributors due to many services it provides. He urged that people should do their part in keeping the ocean clean and safe from harm.

Moruf Adegbile, a 500 level student of Marine Science and Technology (MST) who spoke on the Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and their effects on ocean’s health, said that POPs when consumed through contaminated sea foods can disrupt the endocrine, reproductive, nervous and immune systems and that they are also capable of causing behavioural problems cancer, diabetes and thyroid problem.

Also, Kuyoro Esther a final year Fisheries and Aquaculture Technology (FAT) student who spoke on the topic Ocean Environment and Resources, said that ocean covers 70% of the earth’s surface. She described every part of the ocean as beautiful saying “ocean with so much beautiful creature need a healthy environment for survival”. She called on all to contribute to the healthiness of the ocean by engaging in activities that will prevent ocean pollution.

In a welcome address, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebisi Daramola fnaae represented by Chairman, Committee of Deans, Professor Olarenwaju Michael Alatise said that the ocean is the heart of the planet earth and its pollution would definitely pollute the whole world. He said since the ocean is of immense benefits to the existence of the world, it calls for celebration and for the world to take proper care of it.

As the event, pupils of Anchorite Day Care and Primary School, Akure presented a mini drama emphasizing the importance of a clean environment to healthy living. The Drama warned against defecating on water ways, indiscriminate dumping of refuse and also reemphasized the importance of proper care of water, especially from the source.

In an address, Director of fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Ondo State, Mr. Ademola Olawale corroborated the Drama of the pupils of Anchorite Day Care and Primary School, saying it is a timely reflection of what is happening around the coastal areas of the State where his ministry constantly visits. He said the experience is the same in other parts of the country where people show less care for water. He called on all citizens to give adequate and proper attention to taking care of water because water is life. He called on the organizers of the annual events to invite technocrats and critical stakeholders like industrialists in coastal areas to subsequent annual World Ocean's Day.