



FUTA NEWS

IGBEKELE AJIBEFUN, FUTA ALUMNUS, BECOMES ADEKUNLE AJASIN UNIVERSITY'S NEW VICE-CHANCELLOR

Professor Igbekele Ajibefun, an alumnus of the Federal University of Technology, Akure, FUTA has been appointed the new Vice-Chancellor of the Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko, AAUA Ondo State following the ratification by Ondo State Governor, Dr. Olusegun Mimiko. Ajibefun, who succeeds Professor Olufemi Mimiko whose tenure ended on Sunday, 4th January, 2015 was before the new appointment the Rector, Rufus Giwa Polytechnic, Owo.

Ajibefun, studied Farm Management and Extension in FUTA and graduated with First Class in 1990. He proceeded to the University of Ibadan for his Master of Science Degree in Agricultural Economics and graduated in 1992. Ajibefun's yearn for academic pursuit saw him bagging his Ph.D in Agricultural Economics in 1999 at the Federal University of Technology Akure.

He started his working career as an Assistant Lecturer at the Federal University of Technology, Akure and rose through the ranks to become an Associate Professor in October, 2006.

Aside his teaching at the Federal University of Technology, Akure, Ajibefun has held many high ranking positions in other Institutions outside Nigeria. They are: Japan Foundation Research Fellow at the Department of Agricultural and Forestry Economics, Kyoto University, Japan (1995); World Bank/NUC Visiting Research Scholar, Department of Econometrics, School of Economics, University of New England, Armidale, Australia (1996), Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape and Land Use Research, Muncheberg, Germany (2004 and 2008).

Ajibefun is also a Consultant to a number of national and international organizations, some of which are: The United States Agency for International Development (USAID); the World Bank; International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA); the African Economic Research Consortium, CIRAD, (France); International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA); The African Union Challenge Project, Niger Republic, The Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Ondo State Government.

Professor Ajibefun is a member of various national and international professional associations. They are: International Association of University Presidents (IAUP); Commonwealth Association of Polytechnics in Africa; European Society for Soil

Conservation (ESSC); International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE); African Economic Research Consortium (AERC); Asian Society of Agricultural Economists (ASAE) and the Nigerian Participatory Rural Appraisal Network (NIPRANET).

His administrative acumen and leadership qualities won him several awards. Some of them are: Best Rector in South West; Best Innovative and Student-Friendly Rector/Icon of Nation-Building; Most Outstanding Rector of the year 2013 and the Most Responsive Rector of 2013 all by students' body – National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) and the National Association of Ondo State Students (NAOSS).

It is also on record that Professor Ajibefun transformed the Rufus Giwa Polytechnic, Owo as the Rector. Ajibefun, a renowned scholar has to his credit over 40 Articles published in high ranking journals within and outside Nigeria. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebisi Daramola, has formally congratulated the new Vice Chancellor of AAUA describing him as a round peg in a round hole. "There is no doubt that the appointment is well merited, given your very sound academic background not only as a first class product of FUTA, but also as a productive and eminently resourceful scholar. We are also not in doubt that with the transformational impact and visionary leadership you have fostered on Rufus Giwa Polytechnic, Owo in the last four years, AAUA will rise to be a leading University in Nigeria and Africa under your leadership", Professor Daramola wrote in the letter of congratulation he personally signed

Born over 50 years ago, Ajibefun is married with children.