



FUTA NEWS

CROSS FERTILIZATION OF IDEAS, CREATIVITY, INNOVATION CAN ENHANCE DEVELOPMENT – OGUNNAIKE

A Nigerian Professor of Chemical Engineering and Dean, College of Engineering, University of Delaware, United States of America, Professor Babatunde Ogunnaike has said that a nation's development can only be enhanced through cross fertilization of ideas, creativity and innovation.

He made this statement while delivering a Special Lecture titled "Engineering Education, Research and Development in a Modern University" at the Federal University of Technology, Akure. The lecture was organized by the University's Centre for Renewable Energy Technology, (CRET).

Ogunnaike who came up with the slogan "Let's go change the world together" said for a meaningful change to take place through the effort of engineers, there must be a cross fertilization of ideas. He called on engineers to be more creative, urging them to move away from traditional ideas, rules, patterns and relationships and create meaningful new ideas, forms, methods and interpretations that are globally compliant and acceptable.

Dwelling on innovation, he said entrepreneurship should be the in-thing in the society, especially the academia. He defined entrepreneurship as the process, capacity, ability and willingness to identify, develop, organize and manage any enterprise, especially a business venture, typically with considerable initiative and risk. Ogunnaike further opined that entrepreneurship is essential to a nation's ability to succeed and remain competitive in today's market place.

He enjoined engineers to collaborate with themselves to proffer solution to the nation's challenges. "The challenge of bad road, epileptic power supply, lack of potable water and others are surmountable if our engineers collaborate by cross fertilizing ideas. They must be creative. Policy makers can also give people the chance to enable them solve the nation's problems" he said.

Ogunnaike further said “As engineers, you have the intellectual gift given by God. You are a select few, blessed by God to solve societal problems. Strive to impact the society with your knowledge. A University as a training Centre is like candle light meant to lit the society and improve it”.

In his address the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebiyi Daramola said the aim of the well delivered lecture was to expose staff and students of the University to how the College of Engineering of the University of Delaware, USA, a College renowned for soaring on research expenditures exceeding 52million dollars, and for its strategic partnerships with industry, government and academic institutions, has been able to procure funding to support its impressive research and development programmes.

Corroborating Ogunnaike, Daramola said “one of the greatest foundations of any research community is collaboration and cross fertilization of ideas. That is why here in FUTA we love to share from the developmental experiences of globally recognized Institutions which have existed much longer than ours and are blazing the trail by sustaining healthy academic growth, developing great minds and building phenomenal infrastructure that produced the excellent learning environment they now enjoy”.

Daramola commended the contributions of the Centre for Renewable Technology (CRET) under the leadership of the Director, Professor Olurinde Lafe towards the intellectual development of FUTA and for charting a new course in renewable energy research and development.