



FUTA NEWS

FUTA CAMPUS A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT TO BEHOLD --LANDSCAPE HORTICULTURISTS PRESIDENT

The Federal University of Technology, Akure has been described as one of the most beautiful and inviting campuses in the country because of its architectural design and landscape. Alhaji Fatai Amodu President Nigeria Institute of Landscape Horticulturists (NILH) made the commendation while on a courtesy visit to the Vice-Chancellor Professor Adebisi Gregory Daramola during the Institute's 2015 Annual General Meeting and Conference which held at the University. He expressed gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor and the University for accepting to host the institute. Amodu said the NILH is a Professional Body formed by a group of trained and practicing Landscape Horticulturists across the country, which was founded in 1989 with the aim of promoting, encouraging, enhancing and improving professional standards of members in the Art, Science and Practice of Landscape design among other things. He called on the Management to extend a close hand of partnership, stressing that the Institute is open to all who work or have involvements in horticulture or in related aspects.

Responding, the Vice-Chancellor gave kudos to the Head of the University's Parks and Gardens Unit, Alhaji Alli Ahmed who is also the National Treasurer of NILH for displaying expertise in the beautification of the campus. He said "FUTA is lucky to have such responsible and dutiful staff", adding that Alli is a good ambassador of the Institute. Professor Daramola expressed sincere support for the Institute on behalf of the University and pledged to work in collaboration with it to maintain the aesthetic value of the University and the Nation as a whole.

Speaking on the Theme of this Year's Conference of the Institute "Weeds and Greening" Professor M.A.K Smith of the Department of Crop, Soil and Pest management noted that Weeds are typical "greening" plant species, particularly with respect to their natural aggressive growth habits, very prolific reproductive capacities, and persistence characteristics that ensure continuous survival, even under adverse environment. Adding that the establishment of urban greening through the rich and colorful trees, shrubs, flowers together with a series of greenery which are rationally distributed and sophisticatedly displayed, can create a fresh, beautiful, comfortable and elegant environment to improve the urban living conditions and enhance the quality of our lives. He said "Greening add aesthetic quality and human dimension to the urban design for creation of a more pleasant cityscape which can be used to delineate vistas to form interesting view corridors. Increases the permeability of space to maintain a balance of void and mass for visual contrast in the concrete cityscape" Speaking on Horticulture, Gardening and good maintenance of a beautiful Lawn, professor Smith said gardening is a part of horticulture, which deals with the practice of growing of ornamental plants which can be specialized gardening (only one plant type) mixed plantings, adding that residential gardening, non-residential gardening, Indoor gardening, native Plant gardening, Water Gardening are part of the different types of gardening. While Lawn is an area of soil-covered with grasses or (rarely) other durable plants such as clover which are maintained at a short height with a lawnmower and

He said maintaining a good garden and lawn could be tasking considering the interference of Weeds which could sometimes be difficult to control, but better prevented. Some of the preventive measures according to him are Proper selection of lawn area, Healthy lawn soils, adequate supply and proper timing of fertilizer application, Proper and adequate watering, regular mowing-including adequate aeration as healthy lawns compete better with undesirable weeds.

He encouraged the participant to embrace the preventive measure of controlling weed in the garden or lawn as controlling them may be difficult or hamper the growth of the desirable plants.

At the end of the conference Award of excellence was given to the Vice Chancellor of the federal university of Technology Akure Professor Adebisi Daramola, the Executive Governor of Ondo State Dr. Olusegun Mimiko, and the Chief Medical Director of the University of Benin Teaching Hospital Professor Michael Ibadin, and Brigadier Jidah of the Uniben Teaching Hospital Golf Club.

The Executive governor of Ondo State Dr Olusegun Mimiko who was represented by the Director Environment, Ondo State Ministry of Environment Akure Mrs. Bola Akinyanmi thank the institute on behalf of the Awardees, appreciating the various aesthetic work the institute is doing in the state