



FUTA NEWS

FUTA HOSTS TAHMO SENSOR DESIGN COMPETITION 2014

Participants from different Universities in the ECOWAS sub-region recently gathered at the Federal University of Technology, Akure for the 2014 Trans-African Hydro-Meteorological Observatory (TAHMO) Sensor Design Competition. The event which held in the University's WASCAL's conference room was declared open by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebiji Daramola.

In his remark, Daramola noted that FUTA performed excellently well in the last competition held in Nairobi, Kenya and that further justified the University as the leader in the field of Technology in Nigeria and first among its equals. Daramola said "Ours is a young growing University making waves globally with a number of collaborations with world class University. Our University is sought for across the globe. This attests to the fact that we are doing well and we are not relenting. ."

One of the facilitator at the competition and Chairman, Delft Environment Initiative, Netherlands, Professor Nick Van de Giesen said the Trans-African Hydro-Meteorological Observatory (TAHMO) is focused on developing innovative ideas toward solving problems of weather and climate conditions in Sub-Saharan Africa. He noted that the objective of the competition was to design innovative sensors that can measure hydrological variable. Nick said "presently, the African observation network is very limited. With a station every 30 kilometres, some 20,000 in total, weather and climate can be better understood.

This is crucial, as three quarters of the population is dependent on agriculture and consequently on the weather. Armed with improved predictions, farmers can take well-informed decisions on when to sow and harvest. Administrators can use climate information to aid in the decision-making on investments in the water infrastructure. By applying innovative sensors and ICT, such stations will be relatively affordable. By placing the station at schools, they can be integrated in educational programme."

At a farewell cocktail for participants, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebiji Daramola represented by his Deputy, Development, Professor Tolulope Akinbogun said "Coming together from different world class institutions to socialize, brainstorm is always good. I know the product of this competition will enhance lives and add value to human endeavour. When you are competing, your senses are always at alert. I am sure you came up with fantastic competition. I hope our friends from the Netherlands had a nice time in Nigeria, especially in FUTA and WASCAL.

I know good things have happened here in WASCAL. In fact, when you are in WASCAL, you are not in Nigeria, but in Germany.” Chairman, FUTA/TAHMO Local Organizing Committee, Dr. Ahmed Balogun thanked Professor Nick Van de Giesen and his team for transforming an informal discussion had in Nairobi, after the competition last year to a great event. He said “I know this effort will benefit Africa and help solve some of our domestic challenges, especially in the area of climate change.”

Balogun thanked the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Daramola for being enthusiastic since he heard about the programme and the support demonstrated. He also thanked Director, WASCAL, Professor Jerome Omotosho for providing all the needed logistic to make the competition successful and appreciated the participants for their effort to make the competition successful.