



FUTA NEWS

FUTA SPACE CLUB MARKS YURI'S NIGHT 2016

The Space Club, Federal University of Technology, Akure joined the rest of the world in celebrating Yuri's night to mark the space adventure of Yuri Gagarin the first man in space. As part of activities lined up to mark the annual event, the club organized a stage drama titled "Voyage to Mars" at the T. I. Francis Auditorium. Speaking at the event the Director, Centre for Space Research and Applications (CESRA), Professor Joseph Akinyede said from the 1960s to now, humanity has intensified efforts on interplanetary research having explored all the nine classical planets, comets, asteroids, the moons and the sun and even, interstellar space beyond the sun's stronger influence.

Going down memory lane, Professor Akinyede stated that on the 4th of October, 1957, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR), celebrated the success of the launch of the first artificial satellite (SPUTNIK) and three years later precisely 12th April, 1962, the global community received the news with ecstasy of the first human space flight undertaken by young cosmonaut called Yuri Gagarin. To prevent the use of the outer space for any military adventure the Director said that the United Nations established a Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) to regulate outer space activities and to ensure that space remains a domain for peaceful purposes.

According to Akinyede, the advent of space exploration and exploitation of space resources has given rise to the provision of platform for skills development knowledge acquisition, the creation of opportunities for new discoveries through the solar system, observations and exploration to deep space and the emergence of a new

era of space technology applications with invaluable benefits to the society. Declaring the event open the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebiyi Daramola who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, (Academics), Professor Tunde Arayela said FUTA is a specialized University of Technology that exposes its students to all the dimensions of tertiary education by equipping them to be versatile in the fields of science, art and technology. He commended the giant strides of the Director of CESRA in projecting the image of the University and his ingenuity in bringing intellectual expatriates to partner with the University resulting in fruitful collaborations.

Highlight of the event was the presentation of the Drama by the members of the Space Club. The drama portrayed the struggle of a scientist to solve the problems relating to space travel and how he overcame them. At the end of the event, an award was presented to the Director of CESRA, Professor Akinyede for promoting science and technology and for his contributions to space research and applications.