



# FUTA NEWS

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## How to Save the Environment

### --Surveyor- General of the Federation

To reduce and manage properly the adverse consequences of environmental hazards, the Federal Government should provide adequate funds for mapping and collaborate with international organizations and friendly nations for assistance. The concerned States should also take proper measures to address the issue. The Surveyor-General of the Federation, a Professor of Surveying and Geoinformatics, Professor Peter Chigozie Nwilo stated this when he delivered the 7th Annual Lecture of the School of Environmental Technology of the Federal University of Technology, Akure recently. Professor Nwilo who spoke on the topic Environmental and Management Issues in Nigerian Coastal and Inland Waters also called for a review of existing laws, rules and regulations concerning coastal and inland waters to meet best practices all over the world.

Speaking from the social and economic perspective and the future of the coastal areas the don said "The coastal areas and coastal resources support key economic and subsistence activities. These resources permit the development of agriculture, fisheries, forestry, mining, oil and gas extraction and marine transport. Many of the world's most productive agricultural lands are located in river deltas and coastal places. In future, the dependence on coastal resources is likely to remain strong in the condition of urbanization and economic diversification because industrial development often entails the processing of agricultural, fishery and forestry products. These diversified economic activities are often also dependent on coastal resources". However, to attain the economic and social benefits, he urged the federal government

to empower the National Inland Waterway Authority [NIWA] to be able to carry out its statutory functions and called for the enforcement of all extant coastal and inland water related laws. He also called for a development of functional Geographic Information Systems [GIS] to contain all information necessary to prepare and execute plans and policies.

On the role of higher institutions in managing environmental issues, the don called on institutions of higher learning domiciled in states with prevalent environmental issues to establish Centres of Excellence to attract both internal and external funding that will address various environmental issues which include erosion, flooding, climate change, oil spillage and the likes. "The society looks up to the University to give solution to the teeming challenges. As a University of Technology and the best in the country, you have all it takes intellectually to help solve and reduce environmental challenges facing our nation. You cannot do it all alone, but with good collaboration and synergy with other agencies, it is possible," he concluded.

In his opening address, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebisi Daramola said the lecture was a veritable avenue for participants to learn more on Environmental Management Issues, especially in Nigeria's Coastal and Inland Waters. He added that FUTA attaches immense significance to surveying as a profession and as a field of knowledge through which the University can make tremendous societal impact. This, according to him, made the University to establish academic programmes in Remote Sensing and Geo-Informatics in the School of Earth and Mineral Sciences; and Surveying and Geo-Information Systems in the School of Environmental Technology. He also called for synergy and collaboration between FUTA and the office of the Surveyor-General of the Federation [OSGOF].

Dean, School of Environmental Technology, Professor Julius Olujimi in a welcome address said annual lecture series in the University have become a strong instrument for academics, policy makers, consultants, researchers and administrators to share their expertise and knowledge with the academic community on topics of public interest. He said the choice of the Guest Speaker was because he is a globally recognized scholar and an administrator par excellence. He commended the effort of

Professor Daramola for leading FUTA well and making her the nation's pride among all Universities.

At the lecture, a book of readings titled "Infrastructure, Economic Development and Built Environment" was reviewed by Professor Olatunde Arayela, the Director, Academic Planning Unit of the University.

Dignitaries at the lecture included Principal Officers of FUTA, the President, Surveyor Registration Council of Nigeria (SURCON), Surveyor G. A. Agunbiade [fnis], Rector, Federal School of Surveying, Oyo, Surveyor M. B. Abubakar, Staff and Students of FUTA, Officials of the ministry of environment within and around Ondo State.