



FUTA NEWS

No Economy can grow without adequate energy -----Former Energy Commission DG

It has been observed that no economy in the world can grow unless there is adequate supply of energy for domestic and industrial use. Immediate past Director General, Energy Commission of Nigeria (ECN), Professor Abubakar Sani Sambo made this observation while delivering a paper at the Second Annual Lecture of the School of Management Technology, (SMAT), Federal University of Technology, Akure recently.

The title of the lecture which dwelt extensively on seeking alternative source for energy development using local materials is "The Role of Renewable Energy for Economic Development in Nigeria." Sambo who acknowledged the fact that energy is essential for socio-economic development of any nation which include manufacturing, commercial, transportation, education, health, agriculture and domestic sectors of the economy said there is a need for a drastic step to be taken to step up energy supply in Nigeria to make her an industrial giant. He therefore called for a review and updating of the National Energy Policy (NEP) and National Energy Masterplan (NEM).

Lamenting the energy situation in Nigeria, Sambo called for proper energy planning because all sectors of the economy need energy to progress. According to him, countries with good energy plan and supply grow steadily. "Nigeria is endowed with fossil, nuclear and renewable energy sources. Fossil fuels are substances of biological origin formed over millions of years in the earth's crust. They include crude oil, natural gas, tar sands and coal. Renewable energy which include solar, wind, hydro, biomass, geothermal, tidal energies also abounds in Nigeria. If properly exploited for optimum use in an environmentally friendly manner with the active participation of the private sector for sustainable national development, the country will be better and our economy will improve" Sambo said. Some of the challenges facing the operation of Renewable Energy according to Sambo are inadequate legal instrument for Renewable Energy development, inadequate incentives for the sub-sector, inconsistent government policy, among others. To surmount these challenges, he called for sound measures to strengthen the industrial and manpower needs of Renewable Energy technologies. Sambo also said "With adequate legal instrument, adoption of appropriate technology and human skills, the available energy resources can be transformed to provide sustainable energy supply for economic and infrastructural development in Nigeria."

Professor Sambo commended FUTA for having an Energy Centre and urged other institutions to following suit. "FUTA is solar compliant with solar street light and solar- powered water supply. This is a

good and commendable start point. But you can improve on it. I am really delighted when I went round and discovered your input. Please keep it up as a University of Technology. Also try to take good advantage of your collaboration with Global Biofuels to improve energy supply in the country. You can initiate more and you will soon become a positive reference point in terms of Renewable Energy development”.

In his address, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebisi Daramola, who was represented by his Deputy, Academic, Professor Adedayo Fasakin, said no economy can grow without adequately harnessing its energy potentials. According to Daramola, Renewable Energy is a major energy source and if well explored, it could proffer a lasting solution to the country’s persistent energy challenge. Speaking on FUTA’s effort in Energy development, Daramola said “Here in FUTA we are poised to make significant contributions towards solving our energy problems as a nation, specifically through exploitable research and manpower development in the area of Renewable Energy. To move forward we have productive symbiotic corporate relationship with Global Biofuels Limited and have also established a Centre for Renewable technology in the University”.

Daramola further confirmed FUTA’s capability in human and material resources to lead a revolution in Renewable Energy. According to him “All we need in some empowerment from Mr. President as our Visitor and the Father of the nation. This will galvanize Mr. President Transformation agenda and launch our nation into the country of knowledge-driven economics of the world.” Addressing the gathering, Dean, School of Management Technology, (SMAT), Professor Okoko said “Energy Management falls within the purview of Project Management Technology (PMT), a department in SMAT. It deals with the proactive and systematic coordination of the procurement, conversion, conservation, distribution, maintaining and use of energy building of organization. It is the quest for solution to the managerial problems confronting our nation, especially on power and energy issues that drew us to invite an intellectual on energy issue. Professor Sambo, the Director General of Energy Commission of Nigeria by delivering this lecture has quenched our thirst for solution to challenges facing our energy sector.’