



# FUTA NEWS

## **AKEREDOLU COMMISSIONS AKURE TECH-HUB IN FUTA**

The Ondo State Governor, Arakunrin Rotimi Akeredolu has described Information and Communication Technology, ICT as the language of the present age that government at all levels must tap into to empower the youths and be part of the global phenomenon that is changing the way we live and do business. The Governor stated this while officially commissioning the Akure Tech-hub, an Information Communication Technology (ICT) centre domiciled in the Federal University of Technology, Akure, FUTA. The hub, a tripartite collaboration between the Ondo State Government, the Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA) and Tech-up, a Non-Government Organization(NGO), is set up to create an avenue for the promotion of technological innovation and for the exchange of ideas for business start-up and expansion for youths.

Governor Akeredolu expressed his delight at the commencement of operation of the hub describing it as another milestone in his administration's effort in improving the lives of the citizens of the State and all aspects of government through innovation and information technology. He said many Information Technology (IT) giants who are making impact globally started from such technological hubs. He praised the management of FUTA for contributing to the technological development of Nigeria through its training of young men and women in ICT and related fields. He said "One of the cardinal points of our transformational agenda is to make Ondo State a technology and innovation destination of choice for Nigeria, Africa and the World. This is what gave birth to the hub. This is an international hub". He said there are many geniuses that can be nurtured to fully develop their potential and expressed optimism that all users of the hub will utilize its facilities to create innovative ideas and products that will further make

FUTA and Ondo State ICT destination centre in Nigeria. On his part FUTA Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Fuwape said “This Tech-hub initiative is a great collaboration. This is unique as it brings together the public, private and education sector to work for the development of the youth in the critical ICT sector, thereby providing the platform for expanding learning, teaching and idea innovation “He stated that Technology is constantly reinforcing regional trends in business, investment, opportunities and modernization, which in turn accelerates globalization.

The Vice-Chancellor commended the efforts of the Ondo state Government particularly the passion of the Governor for education and technology and also Tech-up organization for its expertise. He said FUTA on its part will not fall short in providing conducive conditions for learning and research to thrive. Also speaking the Senior Special Adviser on ICT, Mr. Olumbo Akinkugbe said the present administration is putting all machineries in place to move the State forward technologically and make it an innovation destination of choice. Mr. Akinkugbe said Akure Tech-hub will serve as a hub for researchers, innovators and scientists to meet and collaborate on ideas that can solve societal problems in turn creating social enterprise. He said Ondo state is harnessing the vast ICT potentials in the State to transform the lives of its citizens.

The sponsor of the Tech-hub building, Chief Rotimi Ibidapo said it was an honour to be part of such a remarkable history. He said the hub will accelerate development and lead to achieving millennium development goals. Chief Ibidapo said government cannot sponsor education alone and called on all stakeholders to be involved in moulding the youths who are the future of the nation. He urged the University to do more in the area of ground breaking research so that students will be exposed to global best practices in learning and research. Co-founder Akure Tech-hub and co-collaboration, Mr. Joel Ogunsola appreciated the Governor for creating an enabling environment for ICT development in Ondo State. He was positive that in the next few years Ondo will become the ICT capital of Nigeria.