



FUTA BULLETIN

... a weekly publication of the Corporate Communication & Protocol Unit FUTA

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VC CHARGES STUDENT LEADERS TO BE POSITIVE STAKEHOLDERS

The Vice-Chancellor, Federal University of Technology, Akure, Professor Joseph Fuwape has charged the newly sworn in leaders of the Students Union to be positive stakeholders of the University. Professor Fuwape gave the charge while receiving the Executives who paid the University Management a courtesy visit.

He said leadership is about influence and creating a positive impact with a view to transforming the lives of the followers. He admonished the leaders to have focus and ensure adequate planning in order to achieve success in their tenure.



He said "if you don't have a plan, you will be distracted. The image you want to project must guide your actions and even inactions. Get a proper plan that will work and the University

Management will work with you to actualize your dreams". Professor Fuwape advised them to steer clear of vices that will truncate their administration and the university calendar. His words "beware of the pride of the position and do not be misguided by detractors. Listen to positive voices and strive to promote peace on campus".

The Vice-Chancellor urged them to lead with positive influence and to reflect on the positive things they can do for the system while using their connections to attract good will to the campus. Professor Fuwape assured them of Management's continued support at all times and enjoined them to conduct themselves with the utmost decorum as befitting their status so as to graduate in good time with the rest of their mates.

In his response the Students Union President, Comrade Oluwanifemi Ibrahim commended the Vice-Chancellor for the support the Students Union has received from the University Management. He said the aim of the visit was to acquaint themselves with the University Management and to get counsel on how to run the affairs of the Students Union. He said "we are here to receive your advice as the stability of the Union depends on leaning on the shoulders of elders."

The President outlined the agenda of his Executives for the academic year and assured the Management that they will spread their tentacles to every parastatal that will bring progress to the institution.

On his part, the Dean, Students Affairs, Professor Gbenga Onibi assured the Vice-Chancellor that the University will enjoy peace under the leadership of the new Executives. He was optimistic of a relationship that will be of mutual benefit to the University Management and the students alike. The Dean also commended the Deputy Director, Corporate Communications and Protocol, Mr. Adegbenro Adebajo and his team for projecting the image of the University and showcasing the achievements of students.

The Student Union Executives led by its President, Mr. Oluwanifemi Ibrahim was received by the University Management.

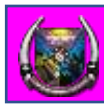
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AKEREDOLU COMMISSIONS AKURE TECH-HUB IN FUTA

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.



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

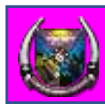
ICT sector, thereby providing the platform for expanding learning, teaching and idea innovation". He stated that technology is constantly reinforcing regional trends in business, investment, opportunities and modernization, which in turn accelerates globalization.

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 Assistant 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.



FUTA STUDENTS DEVELOP ELECTRICITY NOTIFICATION APP

Two students of the Federal University of Technology, Akure have developed a software application that can notify users about electricity availability in location covered by the app. The application tagged UpNepa Nigeria enables one to know when and where electricity is available. Salaudeen Taslim, a 500 level student of Remote Sensing and Geoscience Information System and Salaudeen Abdulrahman, a 300 level student of Computer Engineering said the idea to develop the app was borne out of interest and personal development. They said the inspiration to develop the app emanated from alleviating the suffering and frustration been experienced by students who always look around the campus for power supply for academic purpose and to charge their devices.

On its workability, Taslim said “the application, UpNepa Nigeria, which notifies one of where electricity is available at a particular time not minding the distance and the source of power is a tested application in use by students of the Federal University of Technology, Akure who always aggressively look for electricity for academic and allied services. With this discovery, they easily locate where electricity is available using the app. This has relieved them of the burden of scampering for power supply which is hardly available. This has also reduced the stress they go through moving around at odd hours and taking unnecessary risks.” According to him, quite a number of FUTA students have confirmed the efficiency and dependability of the application.



Speaking further, Taslim said the idea of UpNepa Nigeria started in January, 2017 after which it went viral among students. Thereafter, the trio of the immediate past Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebisi Daramola, the then Dean, Students' Affairs, Professor Kayode Aleso and Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship [CENT], Dr. Ayo Ajayi invited them to

encourage them. This eventually metamorphosed into what became the Most Innovative Start up application.

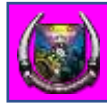
Similarly, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Joseph Fuwape and Dean, Students' Affairs, Professor Gbenga Onibi have given their total support to the success of the discovery. They described the Salaudeens as the pride of FUTA who have the capability to alleviate the suffering being experienced by the masses in the power sector.

To lay credence to the discovery, recently at an event in FUTA to kick start Tech-Hub, a tripartite project between Ondo State Government, FUTA and a Non-Governmental Organisation [NGO], her Excellency, the wife of Ondo State Governor, adjudicators of the pre-launch competition awarded the Salaudeen's discovery the Most Innovative Start-up and encouraged them not to relent in improving on it but strive to take it to the next level. Mrs. Betty Anyanwu-Akeredolu, founder of Breast Cancer Association of Nigeria [BRECAN], who was present at the occasion described the app as another testimony to the innovativeness of Nigerian youths.

Taslim said that plans are on to generate revenue from the traffic on the mobile app as it is being improved upon periodically for optional performance. He added that the app is already getting positive attention from other higher institutions in Nigeria.

Taslim and Abdulrahman thanked the University Management (past and present) for the encouragement received on the project and promise to always be good ambassadors of the Institution. He said UpNepa Nigeria can be verified via www.upnepa.ng.

Not relenting in their effort, they have also designed an app that enables student event organisers to sell tickets on campus. Still at its pilot stage, they are not relenting in perfecting its workability.



STUDENTS URGED TO THINK OUT OF THE BOX AT CODET COMPETITION

Students studying Engineering courses in institutions of higher learning have been urged to think out of the box to enhance efforts at industrialization of the country. The Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA), Professor Joseph Fuwape and the Dean, School of Engineering and Engineering Technology (SEET), Professor Aremu Akintunde of the same institution made the call while addressing contestants at this year Committee of Dean of Engineering and Technology of Nigeria Universities south west zone (CODET). The Vice-Chancellor represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, (Development), Professor Phillip Oguntunde said there is need for engineers and would-be engineers to imbibe and key into the current world project and research in their chosen careers. He said at intellectual meetings and competitions of this nature, the main goal among others is to refresh minds of participants and ensure that they do not lose focus of their methodologies and commitment to make the difference in their respective areas of specialization. He said "as engineers, you are not only expected to generate ideas for the development of the society but also expected to form these ideas into usable knowledge which will serve as springboard for industrialization". Professor Fuwape said the competition is aimed at achieving visions and great purposes of ensuring cross fertilization of ideas and ground breaking technological development. He further said staff and students should key into the forum for re-evaluation of priorities and for intensive intellectual engagement for the good of the country.



On his part the Dean, School of Engineering and Engineering Technology, Professor Aremu Akintunde urged the students not to relent on their oars and ensure that as engineering students they should always think out of the box. He said the competition is all about exhibition of inventions from the students' participating and the best selected invention will

represent their school at the national level. Professor Aremu said local content, presentation, creativity, innovation, functional ability; appearance of presenter, amongst others would be used as yard stick to select winners. Delivering a talk earlier, Engineer Professor Christopher Akinbile of the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Engineering said current world project and research trend need to be embraced to break new grounds.

Professor Akinbile described Engineering as a branch of science that is concerned with design, building and construction. He said by virtue of these new trends there is a paradigm shift from doing things in the usual old ways to newer methods. He said there are new knowledge acquisitions now, through in-depth analysis, saying there is a movement from theoretical movement to practical movement. Professor Akinbile said inventions such as drones are underutilized. He said materials such as polyviral chloride (PVC) are gradually replacing the usual building materials like ceiling and slates, wastes are being reduced, recycled and importantly reused (3R's) winds, solar and waste power are gradually replacing hydro to generate power, robots are replacing skilled labour in factories and soldiers on the battle ground.

The trio of Professors Fuwape, Akintunde and Akinbile commended the effort of the students for the various inventions and the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) for putting together a successful competition.

A team of four including Ojo Joseph with Matric number 13/3822, Aderinwale A. A. Matric number 13/3777, Adesida A.D. Matric number 14/7855 and Alayande A. A. Matric number 13/3788 all from the Department of Electrical Electronics Engineering came first from the group category while Salaudeen A. with matric number 15/2462 also from (EEE) came 1st in the single category. Amongst the participating Universities are Ekiti State University, Ado Ekiti, Elizade University, Ilara Mokin, Osun State University, Osogbo, Federal University Oye, Ekiti and the host, Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA).

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MANAGEMENT HOLDS PEDAGOGY TRAINING FOR ACADEMIC STAFF

A one-day pedagogy training for academic staff of the Federal University of Technology, Akure was held with experts emphasizing the need for quality assurance, coaching and mentoring and creating effective staff and students' relationship. Declaring the training open, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Fuwape said the importance of the pedagogical component in the professional development of University teaching staff is key to the re-positioning of University's academic workforce for effective and efficient service delivery in line with world best practices.

According to Professor Fuwape the absence of the pedagogical development of University teachers is often responsible for the maintenance of old methods of teaching, which may not have the desired impact on the transfer of knowledge. Speaking on quality of teaching, Fuwape said "in recent years, the quality of University teaching has come under focus and the need to improve teaching skills and pedagogical thinking is now acknowledged to be essential. Thus the vision to be a world class University of Technology can only be achieved with world class and dynamic scholars".

Presenting a paper on the topic: Understanding, Evaluation and Consideration of Internal Quality Assessment Mechanisms: Adequate Feedback, the Director, Quality Assurance and SERVICOM Unit of the University of Lagos, Professor L. O. Chukwu said quality assurance system in the University requires maintaining a system that collects structured information about the quality of core activities of teaching and learning, research and community service using monitoring instruments. He emphasized the need to monitor lectures, examinations, research performance, students' progress (drop out and pass rates) and monitoring of feedback from labour market and alumni of the University. Professor Chukwu stressed the need for periodic review or evaluation of the quality or core activities of programmes and degrees, research activities and community services using evaluation instruments to attain world standard.

On 21st century quality assurance in the University system, Chukwu called for development of Key Performance Indicators (KPI) for assessing departments, faculties and staff output. He also recommended setting up machinery that will enhance

employment of right calibre of staff and developing policy for work ethics and good service. In his paper titled Coaching and Mentoring: Tools for Human Development, the Director of Quality and Academic Standards, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Professor David Olukanmi said coaching and mentoring are critical to the development and sustenance of the University System. He said to achieve sustainable continuity without compromising standard it is expedient for effective coaching and mentoring to be established.. Olukanmi said coaching also focuses on concrete issues such as managing more effectively, speaking more articulately and learning how to think strategically. He challenged teachers to be good coaches and mentors to their students by inspiring them to discover and rediscover themselves, to believe in themselves and do more.

Speaking on when coaching is required, he said coaching is necessary to develop employees in specific competencies using performance management tools and involving the immediate head; when an organization has a number of talented employees who are not meeting expectations; when an organization is introducing a new system or program and when a leader or executive needs assistance in acquiring a new skill as an additional responsibility. He said lecturers as coaches are expected to be very sensitive to the individuals (students) and their needs and not to put up "I know it all" attitude.



Professor Gbenga Onibi, Dean of Students' at FUTA who titled his paper Challenges and Expectations of Creating Effective Staff and Students Relationship said staff must understand their professional and ethical responsibilities when dealing with students. They are expected and trusted to teach, guide and supervise. Onibi said positive relationship gives University staff the unique opportunity to support students' academic and social development whereby academic performance will improve. The don also said positive relationship between staff and students will enhance trust and confidence, culminating in peaceful campus living that will benefit all stakeholders.

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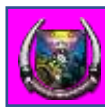
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“NANOTECHNOLOGY CAN DRIVE NIGERIA'S INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION”

... EXPERT AT SOS 6th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

An expert in nanomaterials, nanotechnology, thin films and nanostructured materials and nanomaterials synthesis has stated that nanotechnology is an emerging technology that can drive industrial revolution in Nigeria and the sub region. Professor Adeniyi Fasasi stated this while delivering the keynote address at the 6th Annual Conference of the School of Sciences, Federal University of Technology, Akure with the theme: Nano science and Technology Research: A Veritable Tool for National Development.

Professor Fasasi who is the Director, Centre for Energy Research and Development, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, said nanotechnology is the ability to create many new materials and devices with a vast range of applications in Nano medicine, Nano electronics, biomaterials/ nanostructured materials, energy production and consumer products. He said many fields of endeavour contribute to Nano science and technology including molecular physics, chemistry, computer science, microbiology, electrical engineering, plant science, pharmacy and material science biology, chemical engineering, biochemistry, mechanical engineering animal science and dentistry. Citing Iran's nanotechnology initiatives, he said countries are now using nanotechnology to solve national problems such as setting up factories for producing magnetic nanoparticles for cancer detection and treatment, producing silver Nano particles for anti-microbial activities thus reducing treatment costs from 2,000 dollars per vial to less than 10 dollars. Professor Fasasi disclosed that the total number of facilities for research in three Universities in Western Cape in South Africa, namely, University of Cape Town, University of Western Cape and Stellen Bosch University are more than all the facilities found in Nigeria.



The don explained further that some of the methods of synthesising nanomaterial are simple but facilities, chemicals and disposables are unavailable. He therefore recommended that Chemistry Departments of institutions of higher learning should be tasked to start producing some of the necessary chemicals needed for Nano-research and other applications. He said students of electrical and electronic engineering, physics and mechanical engineering departments should be given equipment production oriented research topics for producing research and if possible characterisation equipment.



The speaker pointed out that thus far four major areas relevant to the country's needs are targeted namely: Nano medicine for disease and treatment, Nano-energy (solar cells and light emitting diodes Nano biology in agriculture for production of drought resistant seeds food preservation and genomics), Nano porous materials (production of Nano-porous filters for water purification and bio-oxidants).

Professor Fasasi said as versatile as it may be nanotechnology raises many of the same issues as any new technologies including concerns about the toxicity, environmental impact and its potential impact on global economics. He therefore called on government, research institutes and universities of higher learning to look into advancing nanotechnology for the benefits of the society with the view of minimizing any adverse effects it may possibly have on human existence.

In his remarks the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Fuwape said the theme of the conference is apt, and a pointer to the direction the country should follow as science and technology must be applied for natural development. He said the application and implementation of research products is what should be applied to aid development of any kind, be it economic, educational, physical or medical as these sectors can only grow when adequate and relevant research is

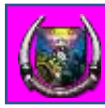
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undertaken. Professor Fuwape said nanotechnology, a fairly Nano scientific procedure will revolutionize many areas in medicine, agriculture, power and the economy as a whole. He said if the potentials of Nano science and nanotechnology are fully explored it could form a spring board for natural development.

The Dean, School of Sciences, Professor Kolade Koriko said the theme of the Conference was carefully chosen to address passionate issues concerning the nation's development, especially the wider use of technology research works emanating from tertiary institutions.

ADULTERATED SEEDS BANE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY

.... D. G. NASC

The Director General of the National Agricultural Seeds Council (NASC), Dr Philip Ojo has disclosed that adulterated or substandard seeds have become rampant in the agricultural subsector and this trend is affecting national agricultural productivity.

The Director General gave the disclosure while delivering the keynote address at the 4th Annual Conference of the Association of Seed Scientists of Nigeria (ASSN) at the Federal University of Technology, Akure with the theme: Enhancing Nigeria's Agricultural Potentials through quality seed.

Dr. Ojo who was represented by Mr. Michael Adeseko, Regional Head, South West Zone, NASC said fake or adulterated seeds do not possess the requisite quality responsible for evident vigour and vitality for sustaining the plant from germinating through all the developmental stages till its maturity thus it does not give the optimum output as expected of such crops when every factor of good agricultural practises have been employed.

Ojo said quality seeds are seemingly the cheapest agricultural input but the most critical to productivity because they carry the genetic potentials of the crop, contributing about 60% to their productivity index, enhancing the efficiency of other agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, agrochemicals, irrigation and capital. He added that planting of poor seeds is a recipe of failure irrespective of the quantity of other inputs employed during the farming process.

Dr. Ojo highlighted that the reasons for rampant seed adulteration to include; the profit potential of selling fake seeds, difficulty in identifying poor quality seeds by small holder farmers, poor package integrity across distribution chain which gives seed vendors' easy access to acquire packaging materials and limited packaging integrity among others.

The Director General said NASC in the pursuit of its mandate of ensuring the availability and enforcement of the use of marketing of good quality seeds has established the Seed Inspectorate Department which is charged with the sensitization, surveillance and enforcement of compliance to the seed laws among stakeholders. He said the agency has also stepped up stakeholder education with regular conduct of advocacy visits and adopted the community seed policing approach. Dr. Ojo said achieving food security in Nigeria requires a significant improvement in the nation's agricultural productivity which in turn is greatly dependent on the ability of the nation's seed sector to provide high quality seeds of improved and adapted crop varieties for the farmers.

In a welcome address, President, Association of Seed Scientists of Nigeria, Professor Dupe Akintobi said seed is the source of life and the pivot of successful agriculture as seed determines the bench mark or upper limit of the effectiveness of other agricultural inputs hence it plays a vital role in enhancing agriculture anywhere in the world. Professor Akintobi said in Nigeria, agriculture can grow and develop to feed the teeming population and to generate revenue by the use of good quality seeds as quality seeds result in quality crops when other factors are in place.

The Vice-Chancellor, Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA), Professor Joseph Fuwape who was the Chairman of the occasion said the quality of seeds and seedlings for self-sufficiency in food production in Nigeria cannot be over emphasised. He said it is the main input that determines the quality and yield of harvest at the end of the farming season. He said that there is a nexus between quality of seeds, food security and increase in agricultural production. Professor Fuwape called on the ASSN to network with International Seed Associations for latest ideas in the field of seed development and hybridization to keep abreast with the contemporary advancement in the seed production sector.