



Covenant University Newsflash

A Weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University June 8-12, 2015



Vice-Chancellor, Professor Charles Ayo (3rd Right) with the Council Member of NITAD

Vice-Chancellor Advocates Necessity-based Education for National Development

The Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor Charles Ayo, has proposed an educational system that is based on needs or that is necessity focused, which according to him, would address the socio-political and economic woes of the nation.

“For education to be impactful, meaningful and translate to nation building, it must be based on the needs of the country. This drives industrialisation and self-sufficiency in all sectors of the economy.”

Professor Ayo made the suggestion on Thursday, June 4, 2015, while delivering a paper titled, “Education in the National Development Plan: Challenges and the Way Forward”, at the annual Leaders' Forum of the Nigerian Institute of Training and Development in Lagos.

The Vice-Chancellor, who was the Guest Speaker at the event, stressed that the need-based education would bring food, health, infrastructure and industrialisation, among others. “Giving the right education is the antidote for all the vices we have in the society,” he added.

Taking a look at the various educational reforms the country had adopted in the past, Professor Ayo argued that the reforms were not the challenge but lack of proper implementation.

He said, “Nigeria had witnessed a number of reforms cutting across the various tiers of education without success. Yet, school at various levels are expected to develop future leaders that will harness the human and material resources of the nation for national development.

“Thus, the gap in our quest to develop Nigeria to an appreciable standard with self-sufficiency in agriculture, medicine, technology, etc, is a pointer to the fact that the current educational system has not resulted in nation building.”

mandate to contribute to national development by paying attention to the challenges in the society; however, the major problem that the nation is faced with today, according to him, arose because of the disconnect between the educational system and developmental issues.

He affirmed that a developed nation is one in which there is very reduced level of poverty; there is adequate provision of food, shelter and clothing for the populace; there is functional public facilities; there is appreciable level of industrialisation with home-grown technologies; functional industries; very reduced level of unemployment; adequate security of lives and property as well as high level of literacy and education with adequate access, among others.

Professor Ayo, strongly recommended the Israeli example of quality education with entrepreneurial spirit and the United States' Land Granted Model, which Covenant University, according to him, has adopted towards nation building.

“The Covenant University Model was based on the needs of the nation. It was established to solve the challenges related to employability and leadership. We have employed US (Land-granted) and Israeli (Entrepreneurship) approaches. We have acquired over 50, 000 acres of

land, we are in partnership with the Songhai Centre and our Palm Trees are already yielding fruits; processing will commence next year.” He told the audience.

“We do not need rocket science to put Nigeria back on track. All that is necessary now is to capitalise on the raw materials that are available in the country, and produce skilled manpower to convert them to the desired products for national development,” he advised.

CU Visits Industrial Centre, Discusses Possible COLLABORATION



CU and IDC Officials in a group Photograph

In a bid to further expand its scope and collaborate with other like-minded institutions, the Committee for Covenant University Centre for Entrepreneurial Development Studies (CEDS) on Tuesday, June 9, 2015 visited the Industrial Development Centre (IDC), Lagos.

On hand to receive the Committee members led by the Chairperson, Dr. Chinonye Love Moses were the State Coordinator of the Centre, Mrs. Chinyere Nwoke and her team.

Dr. Chinonye Moses stated that the purpose of the visit was to get acquainted with the activities at the IDC, which is a unit of Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), as well as discover possible areas where both institutions can collaborate.

Dr. Moses, who is also the Director of Covenant University's CEDS, expressed the willingness of the

cont. on pg 2

cont. from pg 1

University to be involved in the capacity building of staff and other entrepreneurs at the IDC.

She explained that the University pioneered and introduced Entrepreneurial Studies into the universities curriculum and had trained individuals as well as personnel from other higher institutions.

Therefore, on behalf of the Covenant University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Charles Ayo, she extended an invitation to the Centre to be part of the forthcoming University/Industry Partnership Luncheon.

In her remarks, the State Coordinator of

the IDS, Mrs. Chinyere Nwoke, explained that the activities of the Centre include training as well as establishing and mentoring young entrepreneurs in any field across the nation. She added that they also assist the entrepreneurs to register their products with regulatory agencies.

Mrs. Nwoke was glad that the University started the EDS programme in higher education in the country and noted that entrepreneurship is what the country needs to grow like the developed nations. She advised that the government should provide

enabling environment in order to produce quality products that would compete with others around the world.

The State Coordinator also expressed the desire of the Centre to collaborate with the University in any area. She then conducted the members of the Committee round the facility at the Centre.

Other members of the Committee on the visit were Dr. Omotayo Adegbuyi, Dr. Mosunmola Akinbode, Dr. Akintunde Ajagbe, Mr. Edwin Agbaike, Mr. Fred Peter, Mr. Ayo Ajayi and Mrs. Segilola Adesina.

CU Hosts Prostate Cancer Transatlantic Research Consortium (CAPTC)



The Research Team

Covenant University played host to a retreat organized by Prostate Cancer Transatlantic Research Consortium (CAPTC) on research dissemination, in Canaan Land, Ota, Ogun State. The retreat began on Wednesday, June 3, 2015, and ran through Friday, June 5, 2015.

The retreat, which was initiated and organized by Professor Folakemi Odedina of the University of Florida, USA and coordinated by Dr. Emeka Iweala of the Department of Biological Sciences, Covenant University, had a specific goal to train researchers who are interested in prostate cancer. Not only that, it was geared towards training them on strategies for research dissemination, scientific publications and development of pilot research projects for grants.

There were a total of Nine (9) participants in attendance, comprising Urologists, Nutritionists, Biomedical and Public Health Scientists, all with interest in prostate cancer research. It also involved training sessions on research dissemination, grantsmanship, scientific publications, survey instruments and data processing and analysis by Professor Odedina.

Participants' made presentations on pilot research projects, scientific studies and publications. It also involved development of pilot research proposals by participants and an award of grants worth \$1,000 each to three

Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB). The team members are to collaborate on all the selected pilot projects and tour of laboratory facilities at the Department of Biological Science of Covenant University. There was a proposal to host a specialized molecular biology workshop and translational research on cancer by Covenant University in 2015. This will be in collaboration with international organizations including the US National Cancer Institute (NCI), African Organization for Research and Training in Cancer (AORTIC), Prostate Cancer Transatlantic Research Consortium (CAPTC) and the University of Florida, USA.

Dr. E.E.J Iweala of the Department of Biological Sciences will present the proposal to the US NCI during his proposed visit to NCI in July, 2015 for the summer curriculum programme. There would be a model development for effective grant administration at Covenant University and other participating institutions, as well as an establishment of a standard functional IRB at all the participating institutions. Moreover, a proposal was developed, to set up a National Cancer Foundation to support prostate cancer research in Nigeria and to foster increased Institutional collaboration on Prostate Cancer Research, starting with Covenant University, FMC Abeokuta, and FUNAAB.

selected pilot research proposals by Professor Folakemi Odedina. Two of the selected pilot projects were awarded to Covenant University researchers from Department of Biological Sciences, while the third one was awarded to a researcher from the Federal University of

The team later paid a courtesy visit to the Management of the Institution at the Senate Building of the University.

Speaking during the visit, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Charles Ayo, stated, "What a joy to have your group come here for this very impactful retreat. In the words of our Chancellor, 'Success is not about the amount of wealth amassed, but contributions you have made to mankind.' The University is committed to raising a new generation of leaders in the Life Sciences by driving excellence in teaching, research and community development.

"I am glad to know you had an eventful retreat. Covenant University has laboratories that are constantly furnished with modern scientific equipment and apparatuses for regular students' experiments, research and specialized laboratory services. Hence, we turnout well-trained graduates with in-depth theoretical knowledge and practical skills in their fields of study, providing the nation with dedicated and competent manpower as envisaged by Vision 2020."

In her remarks, the organizer of the conference, Professor Folakemi Odedina requested the Management's support to carry out effective research. She stated that doing effective research necessitates having pre-award and post-award support, which can only come administratively.

She stated, "I also want to suggest that CU would need to establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Federal Medical Centre and the Federal University of Agriculture to focus on Cancer Biomedical Research and Transmissional Research. Among the three institutions, we have the right expertise and that means we have the right modelling in Ogun State."

The participating institutions for the retreat include the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta; Federal Medical Center, Abeokuta, Covenant University, Ota and University of Florida, USA.