



Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University FEBRUARY 29-March 4, 2016

Investment in Education Spurs Development - Chancellor



Dr. David Oyedepo congratulating the Inaugural lecturer Prof. Israel Dunmade after the lecture

The Chancellor of Covenant University, Dr. David Oyedepo, has described education as the crux of development in any nation. He made this statement while speaking at the fifth inaugural lecture of the University which took place on February 19, 2016, with the theme, 'Sustainable Engineering: A Vital Approach to Innovative Product Development and Community Capacity Building.'

While making his remark, the Chancellor emphasised that the responsibility for development in a progressive society lies with both the

citizens and the government, but people have to be developed before they can develop their environment.

He expressed concern over the non-commitment of the Nigerian society to the development of their environment; stating that Nigerians believe the government has to be

solely responsible for national development. "True development is the awareness of the citizens to the need to change their situation, and development can never be a product of political ideology. We are the major source of our problems in this nation and each one of us has a role to play in bringing about a change. The job is everybody's job and I pray that in no distant future, everybody would be singing a new song," he stated.

The Chancellor pointed out the need for the government to sit up and review their developmental

processes, while the citizens should begin to exhibit a stakeholder's mentality and collaborate with the government in order to see desired results. He stressed that Rome was not built in a day, but the work started one day, therefore, it should begin by creating the platform for the required change.

Speaking on the role of universities in the change process of any nation, the Chancellor stated that the university system is built to enhance the capacity of man to generate solutions, and that a lecture like this is one of the channels for expanding the zeal and zest of people to commit to development. He also stressed on the need to apply spirituality to educational pursuits and research, explaining that the first two leading universities in the world took off on the platform of spirituality.

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Charles Ayo, welcomed the participants and stated that the day's lecture was very significant to the development of every nation, seeing that sustainable engineering is crucial to sustainable development. According to the Vice-

Contd. on Pg 2

Covenant University Holds College Week

The Covenant University's College Week activities for 2015/2016 Academic Session were heralded with special hymn rendition by faculty and staff of the four colleges of the University during the Chapel service of Tuesday, March 1, 2016.

The faculty and staff of the Colleges of Science and Technology, Engineering, Leadership and Development Studies, as well as Business and Social Sciences, rendered a special hymn, "Christ the Solid Rock" to appreciate God and usher in the week-long event. The Chancellor, Dr. David Oyedepo and members of the University management team, faculty, staff and students were in attendance.

The Chancellor in his message, titled, "Flowing in the Secret of Success," said that engaging the secret of scripture is the gateway to outstanding success or accomplishment. He noted that success is

a choice, and encouraged everyone to engage the principles of success in order to be successful.

The College of Leadership and Development Studies has 'Torch' as its theme while College of Business and Social Sciences has 'Spark' as its theme. College of Engineering and College of Science and Technology have 'Synergy' as their theme.

The events of the first day were rounded off with Praise Night where songs of praise were rendered to appreciate God. While welcoming guests to the event, the Chairperson of the College Week Ceremony Committee, Miss Sarah Oyedepo, remarked that the praise night was organised to thank God for taking the University to greater heights since the last edition.

Quoting from 2Chronicles 20: 17-

22, Miss Oyedepo explained that, "We decided to organise Praise Night in place of Variety Night in order to show appreciation to God for numerous lifting the University had enjoyed by His grace. For instance, the University had only two colleges during the last edition but this time, we have four."

The Night also featured a Guest Artiste, Mr. Ola Samuel, from Faith Tabernacle, Canaan Land, Ota. Prayers were also said for the University and for divine protection all through the Week. Other events include special renditions from the Covenant University Contemporary Choir and individual students.

The Covenant University College Week is an annual event that features seminars, talent and creative skills exhibition, sports competition and community development activities.

Covenant University, German Agency to Provide Skills on Renewable Energy

Covenant University and German Agency for International Cooperation will soon commence hands-on training and skill acquisition in Renewable Energy for school leavers, artisans, technicians and engineers in order to provide alternative energy to Nigerians.

The proposition was reached at a meeting between an official of the Agency, Mr. Felix Nitz and the University's management team, led by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Charles Ayo, on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at the University campus. Professor Ayo decried lack of skills required among Nigerians to produce, install and maintain alternative energy, noting that what is not working in

Nigeria is working in other places. "When the concept of renewable energy started, many Nigerians rushed into it but it did not work due to inadequate knowledge and lack of maintenance culture. Ironically, what did not work in Nigeria, is working somewhere else."

The Agency representative had said that so many research and academic knowledge had gone into renewable energy but there was lack of capacity to develop and install the components due to insufficient practical training. "We have therefore developed short courses to empower people in the practical training and earn a livelihood from their profession."

The Vice-Chancellor therefore

expressed the interest of the University to partner with the Agency to provide adequate training in the area of alternative power supply to Nigerians. "We believe in this scheme and will work together to improve the lot of Nigerians, particularly in the area of alternative power supply," he said.

While presenting an overview of an earlier discussion with the Agency, the Head of Department, Electrical and Information Engineering (EIE), Dr. Francis Idachaba, noted that the proposed partnership would provide training for school leavers, artisans, technicians and engineers. "What we want to do is to set-up skill acquisition programme under the Life-Long Learning Programme for people to do more of hands-on training," he explained.

Investment in Education Spurs Development - Chancellor *Contd. from Pg 1*

Chancellor, many technical advances are brought about through engineering. "Engineering activities are significant contributors to economic development as well as the standard of living and well-being of any society; they also have significant impact on our cultural development and environment," he said.

During his presentation, the lecturer of the day, Professor Israel Dumade, described engineering as the application of scientific and mathematical principles for practical purposes such as the design, manufacture, and operation of products and processes, while accounting for constraints invoked by economics, the environment and other sociological factors.

Quoting a statement by Rosen (2012), he said, "Engineering uses resources to drive the world's economic activity, in virtually all economic sectors, e.g., industry, transportation, residential, commercial, agriculture, communication, etc. Also, resources used in engineering, whether fuels, minerals or water, are obtained from the environment, and wastes from engineering processes (production, transport, storage, utilization) are

typically released to the environment."

He observed that our environment serves as a source for resources needed by engineering for improved standards of living. It also serves as a sink for our wastes, which is the burial place for our emissions. He stated, however, that: "...as our population increases, more and more resources are needed from our environment for food, clothing, housing, transportation, and other necessities of life. But there is a limit to the productive capacity of the earth. Many of the resources we draw from the environment to meet the aforementioned needs are not renewable and the rate at which we harvest some of the resources is too fast to regenerate. Similarly, our engineering activities in the process of meeting the aforementioned housing, energy, transportation and other needs release enormous amount of wastes and emissions to the environment. The rate of release has been so high that it has surpassed the earth's absorptive capacity."

Consequently, he said, "these voracious resource exploitation and enormous waste releases are causing

resource depletion, loss of biodiversity, deforestation, desertification, global warming, ozone layer depletion, eutrophication, birth deformities, and various types of diseases. Definitely, something has to be done to arrest the negative trend."

Professor Dumade enumerated some of the measures to arrest the negative trend as a change from the current engineering way of doing things to the sustainable engineering approach. He defined sustainable engineering as an interdisciplinary/multifaceted approach to adaptive integration of supply side and consumer side of an engineered system over its lifecycle stages by utilizing various methods in a technically sound, socio-economically sensible and environmentally friendly manner.

"Sustainable engineering is adaptive in that it is a "visioning" concept that gives every stakeholder the opportunity to share ideas and think outside the box in arriving at an appropriate solution to an engineering problem that satisfies the majority's interests in the project. It encourages the consideration of the complete product and process lifecycle during the design effort. The intent is to minimize environmental impacts across the entire lifecycle while simultaneously