



Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University March 21-25, 2016

CU Don Gives Recipe for Harmony in Industrial Relations



Prof. Femi Adeyeye

Only strict adherence to rules, laws and labour policies in industrial relations by all stakeholders can guarantee harmony in employment relationships in Nigeria, a Professor of Industrial Relations and Human Resource Management at Covenant University has advocated.

Delivering his speech at the 6th Inaugural Lecture of Covenant University, with the topic, 'Bastardisation of the Templates of Industrial Relations Practice in Nigeria: All Actors in Employment Relationships are Accusative and Censurable', Professor Olufemi Adeyeye said lack of faithfulness to the templates of industrial relations by government, employers, workers and the society has proved detrimental to the

progress of the respective groups of stakeholders and Nigeria as a nation.

"Actors in industrial relations are expected to comply with the rules for employment relationships to endure and be free of bastardisation," said Professor Adeyeye. "But the industrial relations is bastardised when the actions and activities of the actors run foul of the rules guiding the relationships.

"Employers can behave unethically and without regard to the code of conduct of a particular enterprise as can the employees and the agencies of the state. In other words, every actor in employment relationships had been found guilty of non-compliance with the rules of the game at one time or another.

Citing the issue of justice and safety at work as an example, Professor Adeyeye said despite the Factories Acts enacted in 1958 and amended in 1987, an employee by name Alexandria Ossai was brutalized by her foreign employer for an offence that should routinely attract a query, in a case that

symbolizes the predicament of Nigerian workers in many foreign organisations operating in Nigeria.

To stem the tide of bastardisation, Professor Adeyeye said, "The Government, who is the major employer of labour, should be faithful to its statutory role of an impartial arbiter who should not meddle unnecessarily in the dispute resolution procedures and must demonstrate more sincerity in collective bargaining procedures.

The Inaugural Lecture, which had in attendance the Senate of Covenant University led by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Charles Ayo, including students and staff of the University, also attracted dignitaries from outside, such as a former Minister of External Affairs, Professor Bolaji Akinyemi and a former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Lagos Professor Oye Ibidapo-Obe among others.

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Creativity: Key factor for 21st Century Engineers - Expert

Explosion of new knowledge, environmental change, technological advancements among others have been identified as some of the notable factors that need the attention of Civil Engineers in the 21st Century. This was the submission of the Chief Executive Officer, Sparta Contractor Nigeria Limited, Dr. Atilade Oshoniyi.

Dr. Oshoniyi made this known in his presentation titled, "The Role of Civil Engineers in the 21st Century", at the Town and Gown Seminar organised by Covenant University's Department of Civil Engineering recently, where he was the guest speaker. According to him, high level of globalization, terrorism and transportation system are also key factors that need the attention of the 21st century Civil Engineers in order to bring about creative solution. "Only those engineers who address the challenges of the 21st Century will have an understanding of creativity and leadership."

He buttressed the role of Civil Engineers in the 21st Century, emphasizing that the role requires a vision mandate, formal education and a social behavioural construct. He added

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FRSC Ota Unit Commander Visits Covenant University, Seeks Collaboration

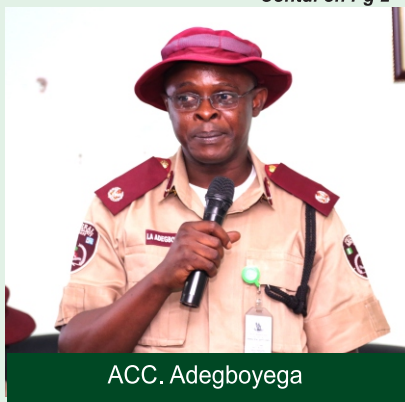
The Ota Unit Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Assistant Corps Commander Leye Adegboyega, on Tuesday, March 22, 2016, paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor and the management team of Covenant University to seek collaboration with the University.

ACC. Adegboyega in company of other senior officers of the Command, specifically requested partnership with the University in capacity building, establishment of Special Marshal unit on campus and community development.

"We are here to collaborate with our stakeholder within the command. The Ota Unit Command has been involved in ensuring road safety in and around the University campus during its major functions like the convocation ceremony and church programmes," he explained. He sought the University's

partnership for his command to build the capacity of the University's drivers, establish a unit of the command's Special Corps Marshal on campus as well as use the University's radio station-Hebron 95.9 FM for public enlightenment programme to educate and give road safety tips to road users

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ACC. Adegboyega

Brace Up for Future Technology Demands, Expert Charges Mechanical Engineering Students

An automobile manufacturing expert has said students of Mechanical Engineering at Covenant University, and Nigerian engineers in general, would have to elevate their creative ingenuity beyond the ordinary so as not to be left behind by the fast pace of technological development.

Mr. Gitesh Yahnick, the Chief Operating Officer of Dana Motors Limited, manufacturers of Kia Motors in Nigeria, who gave the charge at the 5th Town and Gown seminar of the Department of Mechanical Engineering held on Thursday at the department, lauded the students for coming up with inventions but emphasized that they must think out of the box.

"Producing automobile in our country (Nigeria) entails many things. I see many student projects, we are trying to re-invent the wheel," said Yahnick. "Please change the thinking, we don't need toy cars, think out of the box. Think of what can make your country to take a leap ahead.

"If you want to catch up with the world, you have to run fast," he said, adding that, "for many years one company in India has been producing air gasket for Mercedes and send it to Germany."

Kia Motors, it was disclosed, currently employs fresh graduates from

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that a 21st Century engineer must have good evaluation skill, good general knowledge of the field, communication skills, teamwork, leadership and professionalism skills. In his words, "For any engineer to play vital role in this Century, an individual must have formal education in the field; have a social construct that is characterised by different behavioral patterns."

He concluded his presentation by urging students of the department to be knowledgeable in all fields of Civil Engineering and always think outside the box to create a lasting impression in the engineering field. ■

different institutions in Nigeria, including Covenant University, to give them the chance of practicalising the knowledge gained in the classroom.

"After setting up an assembly plant, we resolve to employ only educated engineers; it is a policy in our



Group photograph of participants with Mr. Gitesh Yahnick from Dana Motors

company. Many of your products are now working with us at our assembly plant, but we are considering a partnership between our company and educational institutions," said Yahnick.

Apparently, in a bid to authenticate the creative ingenuity of CU's Mechanical Engineering students, the department made a brief presentation of a mock chassis sports car, designed after some 500 Level students had participated in a Formula Sports Competition in the United States, where they qualified for the Class 2

event.

The department made an appeal to Kia Motors for sponsorship to enable the completion of the project. Specifically, a request was made for fiberglass, technical knowledge and material design.

Yahnick, who applauded the initiative by describing it as "a nice creation", however, suggested an improvement to it. "The engine has to have more power; it has to be quick enough. Suspension design and aerodynamics are very important, and you have to make it in Nigeria with whatever materials are available for easy replacement of the parts."

Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Dr. Oluseyi Ajayi, who expressed gratitude to Mr. Yahnick for his thought-provoking lecture, said the department "looks forward to signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Kia so that the relationship will get better. ■

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The Education Secretary of the Living Faith Church Worldwide, Professor Bridget Sokan, who stood in for the CU Chancellor Dr. David Oyedepo at the event, congratulated Professor Adeyeye for his "brilliant erudition", saying that "it will make employers responsible to the demands of laws and live up to their responsibilities". ■

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within Ota community.

ACC. Adegboyega who assumed duty at the Command about seven months ago, used the occasion to inform the University management on the activities of the Corps nationwide, which include the introduction of the speed limiting device, safe-to-load initiative for Tankers and standardisation of driving schools for effective issuance of drivers' license.

All these, according to him, was geared towards ensuring safety on the highways and noted that the Corps is doing what he called 'advisory enforcement' of the speed limiting device.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Charles Ayo, in his remarks noted that the University has always been a friend

of the FRSC and in good working relationship with the Ota Unit Command. "You already have a partnership in place and there is room for collaborations in other areas," he added.

He noted that the University would be delighted to contribute to the technological development of the nation and assist the FRSC to develop the local brand of the speed limiting device. He also agreed to the training of the University's drivers to ensure that they are not law breakers.

The Vice-Chancellor also called on other universities across the nation to contribute meaningfully to the development of the nation, even as he assured the Commander and his team of Covenant University's willingness and readiness to work with the Command to make Nigeria and Ogun State in particular a place worthy to live. ■