



Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University May 9-13, 2016

Obasanjo, Ogwu Advocate Good Leadership, Consistent Policies for Nigerian, African Development

African leaders must shed the garb of wastage and corruption and strive to be committed to and sustain policies with positive impact, if countries on the continent are to achieve economic, infrastructural and social prosperity like the developed nations of the world.

That sums up the recommendations espoused by the Special Guest of Honour and former President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, and Nigeria's former Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Professor Joy Ogwu in their lectures on the opening day of the third Covenant University-International Conference on African Development Issues (CU-

ICADI).

The Chancellor of Covenant University, Dr. David Oyedepo, who declared open the 2016 ICADI being held at the African Leadership Development Centre on the University's premises, had shortly before commencement of the lectures set the tone for the event, acknowledging that Africa is plagued by a myriad of challenges, but posited that, "there are unlimited possibilities for Africa if we are committed".

Three Nobel Laureates had



Chief Olusegun Obasanjo

Prof. Joy Ogwu

graced the two previous editions of ICADI, but according to the Chancellor, "I felt strongly about bringing more Nobel Laureates, but no one can feel it the way you feel it. This

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2016 CU-ICADI: Participants Laud Oyedepo's Leadership Model

Not a few participants at the 2016 Covenant University's International Conference on African Development Issues were lavished in their praises and hearty in their approbation of the University's Chancellor, Dr. David Oyedepo, whose leadership giant strides they recommend as a model for African leaders.

Prominent among those who extolled the virtues of the Chancellor was former President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, who was Guest of Honour on the opening day of the 2016 ICADI.

While lauding Oyedepo for the progress that Covenant University has made in a short space of time, Obasanjo described the school as "the most African responsive university".

"Oyedepo performed miracle going by what CU has been in a short space of time," said Obasanjo, who urged the Chancellor to reproduce same feat with Landmark University.

The retired General used the occasion to congratulate Dr. Oyedepo on the 35th anniversary of the Liberation Mandate, which he described as "near miraculous".

Also, the Keynote Speaker for the conference, Professor Joy Ogwu, who is Nigeria's former Permanent Representative to the United Nations, thanked Dr. Oyedepo and Covenant

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Research Offers Solutions to Africa's Challenges -CUCRID Director

Embarking on deliberate and sustained researches would help to find solutions to Africa's and nay man's challenges, the Director, Covenant University Centre for Research, Innovation and Discovery (CUCRID), Professor Samuel Wara, has said.

He made this assertion on the sideline of the 2016 Covenant University-International Conference on African Development Issues (CU-ICADI) where products of researches initiated by the institution were exhibited.

Some of the exhibited products include a CU PV Solar Charging Kiosk (Green Energy Products), CU Retrofitted Green House Luminaires (Energy Efficient Conservation Projects), soaps made from waste cooking oil, tomato fruits with pectinase from *Aspergillus Niger* and Hebron edible oil and poultry feeds.

Researches, he said, are done to find real time solutions to man's challenges, as doing research that will end up with tangible products that can deal with many of the issues that are confronting humanity,

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Cross section of participants at CU-ICADI

Covenant University, Forte Oil Mull Partnership



Mr. Nduka Okoisor

Covenant University and a leading indigenous oil company, Forte Oil, are discussing the possibility of a partnership, the company's Head of Talent Management, Nduka Okoisor

has revealed.

Okoisor, one of the speakers at the 2016 Covenant University-International Conference on African Development Issues (CU-ICADI), made the disclosure while presenting his paper, 'Method and Concept for Enabling Human Development Capital in Africa'.

"We are trying to get Forte Oil to partner with Covenant University," he said. "We will be signing an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding), but there's no date yet. It's still work in progress."

Okoisor, who said he did not believe there are no jobs in Africa, would rather attribute the problem to

the lack of skill set and competence.

Using the employment demands and conditions of his company as an example, Okoisor wondered why Africa is underdeveloped when it has a population of 1.2 billion.

"Human capital is the skill and knowledge a person has. Then how do you add value to yourself and the nation? The schools, as a method of developing human capital, should improve the curriculum by liaising with the private sector on calibre of graduates needed.

Industrial knowledge input, Okoisor said, reduces learning curve and saves money. "We help in funding projects in universities and we build capacity of our staff in your university because you have the structure and equipment," he said ■

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informed our decision to invite Africans themselves to do justice to the issue".

Highlighting the significance of ICADI, the Vice-Chancellor of Covenant University, Professor Charles Ayo, described it as one of the strategic platforms targeted towards the actualization of Vision 10:2022 of the university, which is to get the university listed among the Top 10 universities in the world by 2022.

Obasanjo, whose lecture was titled, 'What is right with Africa', dismissed the notion that Africa is bad in its entirety as he traced some major milestones in the development of mankind to Africa, just as he attributed the dip in fortunes to pioneer indigenous leaders of the continent.

He said: "Africa became the first

exporter of humanity to other parts of the world. Agriculture started here in Africa, we got it right. Technology started here in Africa, we got it right. It is on record that when the white man first came to Benin City, he described the road as wide and straight, nothing like it in Europe. That's right about Africa.

Professor Joy Ogwu, who was the Keynote Speaker, attributed Obasanjo's exposition to experience, continuity, skills and talents but pointed out that Africans share a collective responsibility to fashion out an indigenous and compelling response or solutions to the problems of development.

Delivering her lecture on the theme of ICADI 2016, titled 'Driving

Inclusive and Sustainable Development in Africa: Models, Methods and Policies', Ogwu identified the challenges facing Africa as global economic recession, lack of continuity, corruption and high level of instability.

"A large number of countries on the continent continue to be affected by global economic crises, due to prolonged recession in many of the advanced economies. The low demand and continued fluctuations in the demand for commodities, especially those commodities emanating from Africa, the collapse of petroleum prices has affected our survival as a nation. A certain reaction is the renewed interest in forging integration among African countries. ■

Research Offers Solutions to Africa's Challenges –CUCRID Director

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namely energy, security and health among others.

Explaining the purpose of the exhibition, Professor Wara said, "It's to see how research can serve as a solution to the myriad of challenges that are holding Africa down and not allowing us to develop.

"Take for instance, there is nothing that does not need power to be driven, and power is very scarce. As a matter of fact we are a continent that is energy poor, and it's very critical in a country like Nigeria where you have not more than 200 Watts available to an

individual and the world standard is a thousand Watts. So we are very poor."

Number two, we are trying to look at simple solutions through technology to deal with these issues, he added.

Covenant University, Wara revealed, has come to understand that there are a lot of solutions nature is holding to many of man's challenges. "So, it's time to go back to nature, the time to derive all that's embedded in nature for man's own comfort," said the professor of electrical engineering. ■

2016 CU-ICADI: Participants Laud Oyedepo's Leadership Model

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University for providing the platform to discuss not only Nigeria's survival alone but for Africa's survival. "Oyedepo is not only a thinker, a philosopher, he is a doer, that is what is so beautiful in this institution," said Ogwu. "This institution represents...when you are looking for models of development.

"I believe this institution has set a near-perfect order for development, not only for private institutions but also in the process of governance.

"We are gathered here courtesy of CU to help in envisioning a strategic planning, to help in shaping the future not only for ourselves but for succeeding generations." ■