



Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University May 16-20, 2016

CU-ICADI: Dr Oyedepo Calls for Redefinition of Democracy



Dr. David O. Oyedepo

The Covenant University International Conference on African Development Issues (CU-ICADI) 2016 officially came to a close on Wednesday, May 11, 2016, with the Chancellor of the University, Dr. David

Oyedepo, calling for a redefinition of democracy

Dr. Oyedepo noted that the Western developed system of governance has not solved African challenges and called for a redefinition and a redesigned democracy to fit into African and Nigerian system of governance.

"We sold ourselves too cheaply and lost value in our own system. It doesn't have to be white to be right. This Western developed democracy won't deliver. We have to redefine and redesign democracy to make it fit into our own system. We should take the bull by the horn and be bold to develop the model that will work for us.

"Covenant University was

consciously determined to be indigenous in its conceptualisation, its operational strategies and we are where we are today because we decided to see our self as original and can develop a model that addresses our problems. So we develop character because at the root of corruption is character. If character is properly formed, it becomes so easy to look at what is not your own and despise it," he explained.

He decried lack of basic knowledge and continuity in leadership by successive governments, noting that there should be a prescribed minimum qualification for leadership position in the country. "If native intelligence can get result, why not intellectual intelligence," he queried.

Dr. Oyedepo, who is also the

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No Development in Africa without Positive Impact on Ordinary People

Africa would not be said to have developed if the indices of development do not reflect a positive change in the life of the ordinary people, a Professor of Global Human Rights and Peace Studies at McMaster University, Canada, Professor Bonny Ibhawoh, has said.

He made this assertion while discussing the speech of the Keynote Speaker, Professor Joy Ogwu, on the opening day of the 2016 Covenant University-International Conference on African Development Issues (CU-ICADI) held at the African Leadership

Development Centre on the university campus at Ota, Ogun State.

Ibhawoh, who highlighted the key points raised by Ogwu as Collective Responsibility, Sustainable Development, Continuity in Government, Corruption, Nexus between Security and Development and Inclusive Development, said "the fundamental definition of development is the objective improvement on the life of the ordinary people. Until the kind of growth we see in this country (and Africa) reflects the definition of development I think things will continue to remain the same".

Acknowledging that, by all measurable standards the Nigerian economy has grown in the past few years and even surpassed that of South Africa as the largest economy in Africa, Ibhawoh, who is also Associate Vice-President (Research) at McMaster University, emphasized on sustainable development.

The key question to ask, according to him, is how far does

2016 CU-ICADI: Experts Suggest Ways to Food Security, Healthy Living, Gender Equality

Solutions to the myriad of challenges plaguing development in African nations were not in short supply at the 2016 Covenant University's International Conference on African Development Issues; with some speakers proffering solutions to the problems of food security, healthy living and gender inequality.

Presentations on the aforementioned issues were sub-themed at the ICADI event, which had as its main theme, 'Driving Inclusive and Sustainable Development in Africa: Models, Methods and Policies.'

While making his presentation on 'Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security,' Professor Emmanuel Oladipo, Coordinator, GEF, National Project on Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security, defined the concept of food security as involving food availability, food access, utilization and stability. He described food security as the provision of safe, nutritious, and quantitatively and qualitatively adequate food, as well as access to it, by all people.

According to Oladipo, "Food exists

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Professor Bonny Ibhawoh

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2016 CU-ICADI: AYES Founder Urges Africa to Invest In Entrepreneurs



Mr. Summy Francis

The President and Founder of Africa's Young Entrepreneurs, South Africa, Mr. Summy Francis, has tasked governments across Africa to

invest in entrepreneurs as a company or a nation cannot make progress unless it focuses on its strength.

An entrepreneur is an individual who, rather than working as an employee, runs a small business and assumes all the risks and rewards of a given business venture, idea, or good or service offered for sale.

Speaking at the 2016 Covenant University-International Conference on African Development Issues, whose main theme was 'Driving Inclusive and Sustainable Development in Africa: Models, Methods and Policies', Francis, who was one of the speakers at the three-

day event, said "Developing Africa without entrepreneurs is like going to war without soldiers".

The AYES leader, whose lecture was entitled 'Using Entrepreneur Innovation as Catalyst in the Development of Africa', said Africa has better potentials than other continents, but the continent has been weighed down by many challenges.

"We have bigger strength that other continents do not have in spite of the bad governance, corruption and leadership challenge among others," he said. "However, entrepreneurs are national assets, you cannot use your weakness to overcome your strength but you can use your strength to overcome your weakness." ■

CU-ICADI: Dr Oyedepo Calls for Redefinition of Democracy *Contd. from Pg 1*

Chairman, Board of Regents of the University, expressed excitement about various intellectual contributions to the Conference, adding that, "We must solve these problems by ourselves because there is no United Nations' solution to these. What is United Nations doing in the case of Syria? Nigeria will not become extinct," he prayed.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Charles Ayo, earlier in his remarks called on the participants to begin to work the talk. "We have talked the whole talk and now we have to begin to work the talk," he stated.

The Vice-Chancellor also requested everyone to network, talk, work and brainstorm towards solving

the issues in Africa, particularly Nigeria, noting that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) had come and gone, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is what occupies the front burner now.

The 2016 CU-ICADI which had the theme, "Driving Inclusive and Sustainable Development in Africa: Model, Methods and Policies" was attended by over 400 participants from five countries including the United States of America, United Kingdom, Canada, South Africa and Nigeria. The event which was the third in the series also hosted nine universities and organisations from across the nation. ■

No Development in Africa without Positive Impact on Ordinary People

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development brings succour to the ordinary people. "Until we can answer that question in the affirmative, I think all this talk about inclusivity is a ruse, and this is buttressed by what the former President of Tanzania, Julius Nyerere, said, that the African poor cannot eat the GDP (Gross Domestic Product)," he said. ■

Research Offers Solutions to Africa's Challenges –CUCRID Director

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when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life."

He stated that due to lack of food security in Africa, there is a pervasive and corrosive problem and double-burden of malnutrition. As a result, the World Health Assembly in 2012 set six global nutrition targets for 2025: to reduce by 40 per cent the number of children under 5 who are stunted; to achieve a 50 per cent reduction in the rate of anemia in women of reproductive age; to achieve a 30 per cent reduction in the rate of infants born low birth

weight; to ensure that there is no increase in the rate of children who are overweight; to increase to at least 50 per cent, the rate of exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months; and to reduce and maintain childhood wasting to less than 5 per cent.

In her presentation, on 'Gender Parity and Sustainable Development in Africa,' Deaconess Doyinsola Ogunbiyi, the President/CEO, Reach Out Integrated, described gender parity as a concept which is first clarified by differentiating between sex and gender. "SEX, she said, "is the connotation of male and female while GENDER is basically the social role between male and female."

"We will recall the Convention on

the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women CEDAW, which was ratified by the government in 1985. The civil society organizations made efforts to domesticate CEDAW; while this was on going, the African Union adopted the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa in 2003," she stated.

Ogunbiyi also mentioned that the Federal Executive Council in 2006 approved the National Gender Policy (NGP); the instrument and the policy have now been woven into the Gender & Equal Opportunities Bill; while stating that the Maputo Protocol was home grown on the continent of Africa and is seen as the most progressive document on Women Rights.

Moreover, Ogunbiyi said, "Women account for half of the global labour supply and about 70% of global consumption demand. Greater gender equality in educational employment opportunities will foster faster, more inclusive growth not only because women are half of the world's population but also because they are more likely than men to invest in the human capital of their families." ■