



# Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University May 23-27, 2016

## Covenant University, Kortext partner on first digital learning solution in Nigeria

Covenant University, Ota, Nigeria, has become the first university in West Africa to adopt a university-wide digital learning platform and e-textbook scheme to help improve course results and give students equal learning opportunities. Kortext, one of the world's leading digital textbook providers, has worked closely with Covenant University, the British Council for Nigeria, the UKTI (UK Trade and Investment) and global publishers including Pearson and McGraw Hill, to be able to roll out the scheme which will provide pre-loaded textbook content on computing devices to all of Covenant's 8,000 students.



Professor Charles K. Ayo and MD, Kortext Ltd, Mr. Andrejs Alferovs, displaying the signed agreement between both organisations

The platform will give students access to course materials on any device, such as tablets, laptops and mobile phones, meaning carrying heavy textbooks around campus and halls of residence will be a thing of the past. The tools installed on the Kortext platform will also allow students to collect extra resources, link to articles, as well as add notes and highlight text on the e-textbooks.

The Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor Charles Ayo, noted that Covenant University has blazed the trail in many areas and the Digital book is another addition. He added that when fully in use, it would promote reading culture among the students and enhance productivity in the University system.

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## Covenant University Entrepreneurial Development Centre Trains Nigerian Armed Forces

The Covenant University Centre for Entrepreneurial Development Studies (CUCEDS) has organised a train the trainer workshop for Instructors and other senior officers from the Nigerian Armed Forces Resettlement Centre Headquarters, Lagos.

The motive behind the one-week empowerment training which held between May 9 and 13, 2016 on the University campus, was to empower retirement bound individuals in the

Nigerian Armed Forces to become economically self-sufficient and wealth creators after their years of service.

The Director, CUCEDS, Dr. Omotayo Adegbuyi, explained that the Centre extended its capacity building services beyond training the University's students.

In his words, "The motive behind the training was to empower individuals who are planning to retire soon, advising them to retire and rehire. Considering Nigeria's economic challenges, individuals need to be independent and have entrepreneurship skills to be job creators and not job seekers".

Some of the participants expressed satisfaction after the intensive training. Mrs. Inema Elisha, who specialized in Tie and Dye Batik said the training was

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## Biological Sciences Department Builds Capacity for Lab Use

The Department of Biological Sciences at Covenant University has staged a Molecular Biology training workshop aimed at educating Postgraduate students on how to put the laboratory to use as their project work approaches and to upgrade the knowledge of laboratory technologists.

Speaking at the event, held recently at the Biological Sciences Laboratory, the Head of Department, Professor Adeshola Ajayi, appreciated the efforts of the department's training committee as well as other members of faculty towards the success of the event.

She urged the participants to maximise the opportunity offered by the exercise so as to increase productivity in the Department and drive increase in Internally Generated Revenue (IGR). This, according to her, is because the University has invested so much in providing world-class laboratory equipment and therefore

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Director CEDS, Dr. Omotayo Adegbuyi with members of Nigerian Armed Forces during their training workshop

## Civil Engineering Students Showcase Projects

In line with the University's Vision for this academic year: "Innovation, Product Development and Nation Building," the Department of Civil Engineering, recently held her maiden edition of Poster Presentation/Competition at the lounge of the Civil Engineering building. The aim was to showcase the projects undertaken by the final year students of the Department.

During the poster session, faculty, staff and students from all levels of Civil Engineering (100 to 500 Levels) as well as other departments in the College of Engineering were present. Attendees were able to walk around and look for projects they found

interesting.

Brief presentation was on each poster by the respective students. The judges based their judgments/award decisions on the discussions, contents, presentations and impressions about the quality of research work on the poster presentations.

Explaining the purpose of the competition, Head of the Civil Engineering Department, Dr. David O. Olukanni, said that the Department is the first at Covenant University to come up with this novel idea that gives students the platform and encourages them to showcase what they (final year students) have

been working on since the beginning of the academic session.

Dr. Olukanni, added that many top ranked universities in the world participate in symposiums like this to showcase what the students are doing and the Department of Civil Engineering is taking the lead in this direction, in furtherance of the efforts of Covenant University towards being ranked among the top 10 in the world.

According to Dr. Olukanni, "The Department looks forward to a greater experience in the next academic session, which will also include the postgraduate students."

The students, who emerged the winner, first runner-up, and second runner-up, were rewarded with cash prizes. Every other participant in the poster session was presented with a certificate of participation at the end of the session.

Present at the event were members of faculty and staff of the College of Engineering.

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"To me, this is a cheap way of getting text books and with the Device; it will promote reading culture among the students. This will also enhance productivity and improve the lot of Covenant University and other universities which may want to join us. This is a dream come true," he said.

Andy Alferovs, Managing Director of Kortext, said: "By giving students access to textbooks digitally as part of their course materials means that it tackles the biggest barrier to learning -

accessibility. By being the first in Western Africa to adopt a digital learning platform and e-textbook scheme, Covenant University is leading the way to widening accessibility in higher education.

"We're thrilled to be working with Covenant with the aim to encourage participation with students and course materials. Following the signing, we'll be working with staff and lecturers to train and advise them on the best ways to embed e-books into teaching."

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a revelation to her in different ways, making her to have understanding on the technical expertise of the vocation.

"I am very happy I participated in this training because it has made me to have the knowledge of Tie and Dye Batik. It has also exposed me to different innovations I can create through the vocation that will bring about continuity in my entrepreneurial pursuit," she said.

Also, Mr. Fashola Fakoya who learnt Drink Production and Pet Blowing expressed happiness of being a participant and heaped praise on the Centre as well as the University. Mr. Fakoya, also expressed his desire to

make his ward attend Covenant University to also learn more on entrepreneurship.

Furthermore, the Director of the Centre, Dr. Adegbuyi, urged participants to extend the acquired knowledge to loved ones and retain discipline when starting their individual businesses for maximum output and growth.

Seventeen participants from the Nigerian Armed Forces participated in the different vocations, which include Drink Production and Pet Blowing; Perfumery; Enhancement, Skin Care and Health Management; Tie & Dye/Batik, and Disinfectant, Dettol, Deodorant as well as

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needs to get requisite value.

Professor Ajayi stated that the Department plans to have the training run as a routine exercise in order to increase the number of capable technicians manning the Biology labs. She also stressed the importance of having all the technical staff equipped with relevant proficiency in using the lab even in the absence of the more senior colleagues, so as to reduce gaps in productivity. In addition, she emphasised the need for the students to be well instructed on the use of the complicated equipment in order to minimise damages.

Ajayi stated that the event was part of the preparation for the Department's Summer Workshop coming up in June, featuring an instructor from the University of Wisconsin, United States.

Also present at the event were members of the Department of Biological Sciences and some members of the College of Science and Technology.