



# Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University June 13-17, 2016

## CU Commissions Centre for e-Government, e-Business Research

The Chancellor of Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Dr. David Oyedepo, has officially commissioned the Covenant University Centre for e-Government and e-Business Research (CUCEER) sited on the institution's premises.

CUCEER, according to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Charles Ayo, who initiated the project, the Centre was established with a view to improving the quality of delivery on the part of governance, as well as improving the quality of wellbeing of the generality of the populace.

Dr. Oyedepo had in his speech at the commissioning ceremony, which followed the plenary session of the 2016 Covenant University Conference on e-Governance in Nigeria (CUCEN),

underlined the need for Nigeria to take responsibility as no nation will take responsibility for the other.

"We need to recover our bravery, celebrate our freedom, reclaim our right to bring solution to our problems," he said. "It is high brain that drives Information Technology (IT). IT can't determine what you want to get, you are the one to find solution, and then technology will process it."

While congratulating the Vice-Chancellor for initiating the IT Centre and driving it, the Chancellor emphasized that Nigeria and indeed Africa has the capacity to find solutions to its problems as "Covenant University has no foreign input in its funding or curriculum.



Dr. David Oyedepo

Covenant University products are products of originality. We either find our way out or sink on the way through".

Disclosing what influenced the decision to initiate the setting up of CUCEER,

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## CUCEN Participants Urge Govt. to Adopt e-Governance in Change Programme

The much desired change in the political and socio-economic fortunes of Nigeria would be a faith accompli if governments at all levels can adopt the e-Governance policy.

That was the unanimous submission of participants at the opening plenary session of the 2016 Covenant University Conference on e-Governance in Nigeria (CUCEN), with the theme, 'Information and Communication Technologies for Governance in Nigeria: Achievements, Challenges and Opportunities'.

The Chancellor of Covenant University, Dr. David Oyedepo, who set

the tone for discussion at the conference held at the African Leadership Development Centre on the premises of the university in Ota, Ogun State, said it has become imperative that governments in Nigeria utilize Information Communication Technology (ICT) in finding solutions to myriad of problems plaguing the nation, which remains seemingly intractable.

"We need the age of IT to move forward," said the Chancellor. "Yes I'm optimistic, but am in doubt that we are

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## Varsity Don Canvasses for Effective Research, as Tool for National Development

A Professor of Mycology/Mushroom Biology at the University of Benin, Edo State, Professor John Okhuoya, has enjoined faculty members of universities to focus largely on research as a sure path to innovation, leading to national development.

He made this call at Biotechnology Conference with the theme: 'Biotechnology: Effective Solutions for Innovation and Sustainable Development,' organised by the Biological Sciences Department of Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State.

According to Professor Okhuoya, who was the Keynote speaker; Nigeria being almost a mono economy, largely focused on crude oil export, needs to move into other areas of revenue generation, therefore, can harness and utilize biotechnological approaches to provide effective solutions to improve agriculture, industrial and sustainable development.

He emphasized the role of strategic research work in national development; pointing out that there is no innovation without diligent research work. He encouraged scholars to take advantage of different research fundings available in diverse platforms to expand their reach and

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Cross section of participants at the CUCEN Conference

## CU Commissions Centre for e-Government, e-Business Research *Contd. from Pg 1*

Professor Charles Ayo said universities are supposed to be at the forefront of socio political, economic and technological development of all nations.

“So, whatever issues we are facing as a nation today, could be seen to have arisen from the lack or dearth of quality contributions from the Ivory Tower. And so, Covenant University, since coming into existence, leadership is a component of what we are contributing and the Vision we are running with to be one of the top 10 universities in the world, we cannot continue to do what other universities are known of, which is a way of making our own contribution to the society at large.

“And that is why, taking a cue from the fact that as a continent there is overdependence on foreign solutions to our local problems, Covenant University says no,” said the Vice-Chancellor.

The objectives of the Research Centre, he said, includes engaging in research into all facets of e-government and e-business in theory or practice to provide policy recommendations for government in Nigeria and Sub-Saharan Africa; to serve as a clearing house for information on development and innovations in e-government and e-business; to serve as a think-tank for industry, academia, civil society and

government; and to provide a platform for the development and testing of new applications design, specifically for usage in e-government and e-business practices in Nigeria.

Covenant University, the Vice-Chancellor revealed, had commenced research in this area for too long a time and has an application ready in the area of e-Democracy. “With our e-democracy platform, we are able to engage individuals you have voted for by having this system run in selected local governments.”

The result of a research carried out by the Centre using e-Opinion Poll, Professor Ayo asserted, shows that government can fulfill its responsibilities to the people by interacting with them before taking major  
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## CUCEN Participants Urge Govt. to Adopt e-Governance in Change Programme *Contd. from Pg 1*

moving forward. There are certain questions you asked at governmental level but there are no answers.

“The truth is that knowledge will always lead the way forward. The more current any institution, the more progress. It's a common fact that education drives civilization; no nation can be greater than the level of information at its disposal.”

In his welcome address, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Charles Ayo, said Covenant University, as an institution that has deployed ICT into every facet of its operations and widely acclaimed as the best ICT-driven University in Nigeria and West Africa, the school has developed indigenous systems that can be utilized by government to conserve foreign exchange.

“ICT has the potential to reduce

bureaucracy that attends administration of government in a cost effective manner. Therefore e-governance is the foundation that this present administration must lay if the much desired change is to occur.

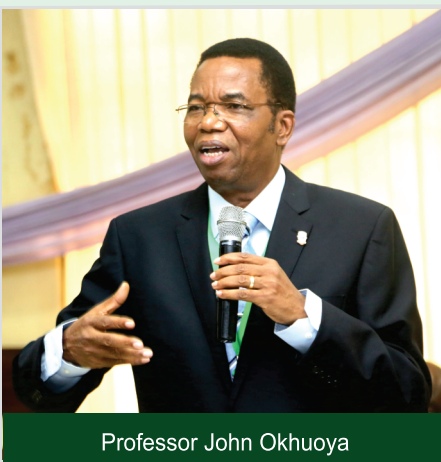
“We have developed solutions that are begging for adoption. Some of these products include e-Democracy, e-Polling System, e-Voting system, e-Petition system and an indigenous Card Reader, just to mention a few,” said Professor Ayo.

The Special Guest of Honour, Honourable Minister of Communications, Barr. Adebayo Shittu, who was unavoidably absent but represented by the Director of ICT in the establishment, Mr. Tope Fasedemi, acknowledged the critical role of

information technology in the facilitation of a seamless and transparent process of governance and assured that the communications ministry would partner with Covenant University in the institution's quest of enhancing development in the country.

The minister said that his ministry is not oblivious of the importance ICT plays in running government in the modern world, while revealing that in conformity with the trend, the Nigerian government had initiated various projects aimed at accomplishing the goal of e-Governance.

“The ministry has initiated a number of projects for the adoption of e-government with focus on the various sectors of the economy. The ministry embarked on an elaborate project for the development of an e-government Master plan for the federal budget; setting up an advisory group chaired by the minister himself, support units on different thematic topics and a joint consultative team made of several technical  
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Professor John Okhuoya

make innovative impact in their environment and the society at large.

Quoting the United Nations Bulletin of 1992, Okhuoya defined Biotechnology as, “any technological application that uses biological systems to make or modify

## Varsity Don Canvasses for Effective Research, as Tool for National Development *Contd. from Pg 1*

a particular product for specific use.”

In his remarks at the event, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Charles Ayo, who declared the conference open on behalf of the Chancellor, Dr. David Oyedepo, expressed his excitement at the progress of the conference, its outcome, and the role it would play in bringing the University closer to her goal for the year, which is, Innovation, Product Development, and Nation Building. He stated that the conference could not have come at a better time than this.

Welcoming the guest speakers and participants, he encouraged them to

build on the outcomes of the conference for both personal development and nation building, and appreciated the efforts of the department in packaging an outstanding conference.

The Head of Department, Biological Sciences, Professor Adesola Ajayi expressed her pleasure in having the opportunity to play a part in the planning and hosting of the conference. “We all know the importance of interactions, net-working and communication, not only for Biotechnology, but for the progress of any scientific discipline. It is also an integral part of research findings,” she stated. ■