



Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University December. 5-9, 2016

Covenant University wins Best Use of Technology Award

Covenant University, the leading private university in Africa, has also emerged the winner of the Best Use of Technology Award among the private universities in Nigeria. The university received the award at the 2nd Nigeria Technology Awards on November 26, 2016, in Lagos.

The award ceremony, according to the organisers, Technology Avenue, a leading technology, multimedia, events and entertainment management company, was to recognise, celebrate and reward technology entrepreneurs, innovators, academicians, inventors and policy makers (government) in Nigeria.

Covenant University came out on top among other nominees in the education category which included American University of Nigeria, Babcock University, Igbinedion University and Pan-Atlantic University.

While receiving the award on behalf of



Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero (3rd right), displaying the Technology Award, flanked by Dr. Hope Orowode, Professor Samuel Wara, Dr. David Omole, Dr. Sheriff Folarin and Miss Temitope Mercy John.

the Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, the Director, Vice-Chancellor's office, Dr. David Omole, informed the audience that the University was glad to be recognised for its commitment to revolutionise the education system in Africa. "We have been in this business for the past 14 years and we are still waxen strong," he stated.

It would be recalled that the University among others was awarded the Centenary ICT Driven University of the Year in 2014, the Overall Best University in Nigeria and West Africa and number 15 in Africa on the Webometric Ranking (February 2015) as well as African Private University of the Year (2015), by African Leadership Magazine Group in March this year.

African Universities Should 'Look East' for Partners - Prof. AAA Atayero



Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor AAA. Atayero

The vice-chancellor of Covenant University tells THE that collaborations within the continent can be most useful for solving challenges African universities should look within the continent and to the East when seeking institutional partnerships, rather than relying solely on Western collaborations, according to the leader of a Nigerian university.

Aderemi Aaron-Anthony Atayero, vice-chancellor of Covenant University, said that the recent improvement of universities in countries such as China and Russia makes them appealing

partners, although he acknowledged that language can be a "barrier".

In an interview with Times Higher Education, ahead of the THE BRICS & Emerging Economies Universities Summit at the University of Johannesburg, Professor Atayero said that international partnerships with Western universities have been beneficial for African institutions "in terms of exposure and in terms of their level of research", but "it is high time we start looking to the East, too".

He added that he is also trying to "look inward" at other universities in Nigeria and across Africa that are "facing the same challenges" when seeking collaborations.

"We should collaborate more with sister universities across the continent and even within the country. The collaboration should look more inward," he said.

"There could be things you have resolved in your own university that are still problems to [a neighbouring institution]," he said.

Professor Atayero, who has led the private Christian university since July, said that Covenant subscribes to

Postgraduate School Prepare Students for Ground Breaking Research

In order to prepare its students for ground breaking research, the School of Postgraduate Studies of Covenant University has organised the second edition in the series of its seminars and workshops.

The event, which held on Thursday, December 1, 2016, at the main auditorium of the African Leadership Development Centre (ALDC) of the University featured inspiring presentations on grantmanship (how to write award winning grants); fellowships, scholarships and research supports; research tools for quality research delivery and engaging relevant statistical tools among others.

To set the ball rolling for the day, the Dean of the School, Professor Samuel Wara, noted that the aim of the programme was to prepare the students for a seamless postgraduate experience. "What we are doing right now is the necessary preparation to have steady progress in your studies. The high point is to graduate with flying colours," he stated.

He also explained the guidelines for Thesis/Dissertation writing and other requirements, including number of publications expected from them by the

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South African Varsity Proposes MoU with Covenant University

Barring any hitches, Covenant University and the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, might soon be collaborating on research and teaching related projects.

This much was revealed on Tuesday, November 29, 2016, when Professor Michael Daramola of the School of Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering, University of the Witwatersrand, paid a courtesy call on the Management of Covenant University at its campus in Ota, Ogun State.

Professor Daramola, who was visiting Covenant University for the second time, four months after presenting a lecture titled, 'Carbon Capture: Storage and Utilisation', at a university seminar, expressed his "profound gratitude" to management of the University for making it possible for him to return to the institution.

"In South Africa, I told my colleagues that it's a nice place, we need to collaborate because I see potential in Covenant University. I told my Head of School that Covenant University is a very vibrant university that we should work with," Professor Daramola said.

He revealed that he had sent a document on what partnering with his university entails and he was at Covenant University to consolidate on a possible Memorandum of Understanding, where



Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor Shalom Chinedu, presenting some CU souvenirs to Professor Samuel Daramola

both universities can exchange students and staff and for CU to consolidate on her Vision of being one of the top 10 universities in the world.

The Head, Chemical Engineering Department, Dr. Vincent Efevbokhan, in his comments, said it was a great opportunity to have Professor Daramola back at Covenant University. He described the visiting scholar as an astute researcher with many awards to his credit internationally. "He's somebody through whom we can collaborate and our department has a lot to benefit from him," said Dr. Efevbokhan.

In his remarks, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Shalom Chinedu,

who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, said Covenant University was always glad to see Nigerians home and abroad initiating the kind of partnership being proposed by Professor Daramola. The current management, he stated, gave a clear direction to where the University was heading when it came on board.

Explaining the ReCITE (Research, Citation, Innovation and Teaching) agenda of the administration, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor said that there would be no vision of being 1 of 10 in 10 without a strong research base, and the that University would go to any length to achieve the goal already set.

"One area that will help us to fulfill this vision is through collaboration with institutions moving in the same direction with us. We, as a university, are interested in fostering a relationship that will last. We look forward to the establishment of collaboration and make sure it yields something concrete," said Professor Chinedu.

Also at the meeting were the Registrar, Pastor Olamide Olusegun; Professors, James Omoleye and Ambrose Anozie; other faculty members of the Chemical Engineering Department; and Deputy Director, Media and Corporate Affairs, Mr. Emmanuel Igban.

Postgraduate School Prepare Students for Ground Breaking Research

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university as well as the outlets where they are to be published.

In her presentation, titled, "Grantmanship," the Team Leader, West African Virus Epidemiology (WAVE) for roots and tuber crops, Dr. Angela Eni, shared her over 18 years' experience in research and writing award winning grants. She explained to the students, the various types of grants, including research projects grants, small research grants, exploratory/developmental grants, and adding that over 100 billion dollars is made available annually as grants globally.

While explaining some tips for successful proposal development, Dr. Eni enjoined the students to always collaborate with researchers from various fields based on funding agency's requirements. "Be novel, include appropriate background and preliminary data as required and obey the three C's – concise, clear and complete," she added.

Other facilitators at the workshop included the Sub-Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies, Dr. Humphrey Adebayo, who spoke on, "Fellowships, Scholarships and Research Supports"; Head, Department of Languages and General Studies, Professor Innocent

Chiluwa, he talked about writing an acceptable proposal for Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship.

The Head of Department, Mathematics, Dr. Timothy Anake, delivered a paper titled, "An Invitation to MATLAB"; Dr. A Adejumo, also of Mathematics Department discussed, "Engaging Statistical Tools for Postgraduate Research: Using SPSS for Data Analysis" while Miss Temitope John of School of Postgraduate Studies taught her colleagues how to enhance their presentation skills with Prezi.



Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies, Professor Samuel Wara, making his Presentation at the Seminar

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"glocalisation – that is, solving local problems but in such a way as to bring in global relevance".

When asked whether African universities should compete on world terms or devise their own measures of excellence attuned to local needs, he said that in 2012 Covenant launched a mission to become one of the world's top universities by 2022.

"I'm actually benchmarking Covenant University with Caltech," he said. The California Institute of Technology was number one in the THE World University Rankings between 2011-12 and 2015-16.

However, Professor Atayero recognised that some African universities would be more likely to compete with institutions within the continent and recommended that any future ranking of African universities should not be seen as "watered-down metrics" from the world league tables to fit the region.

•Culled from THE