

# Students Urged to Explore Opportunities in Tourism Industry



Participants at the Department of Economics and Development Studies' Town and Gown Seminar

**N**otwithstanding the seeming lack of commitment on the part of government to develop tourist attractions in the country, experts have encouraged graduates to latch onto opportunities that abound in the Nigerian tourism industry rather than searching for the elusive white collar jobs.

Mr. Etim Akpan and Mrs. Adebimpe Lawal, Head Training and Destination Training Expert respectively at Liberty Tourism Limited, Lagos, gave the advice on Wednesday, March 22, 2017, at the third Town and Gown seminar of the Department of Economics and Social Development Studies, Covenant University.

The duo in different presentations on the topic, 'Unlocking the Economics of the Global Tourism Industry: Prospects and Opportunities for the Nigerian Graduate,' were unanimous in their submissions that vast exploration of the tourism industry by both the government and private individuals can help Nigeria come out of the current economic recession.

## "Garner Experience before Money," Expert Advised Budding Architects

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While showcasing his over 30 years' experience, Arc. Adebara enjoined the participants to join firms where they would be exposed to real training and work beyond the set rule. "As a leader in the building industry, you must be knowledgeable in structures, mechanical and electrical engineering. You must also have managerial ability to chair site meetings," he added.

The Head, Department of Architecture, Dr. Oluwole Alagbe, had earlier told the participants to gather as much knowledge from the presentation, stressing the fact that there is knowledge to pick-up when people are gathered. He also assured them that what they pick-up would last with them. ■

Mr. Akpan said at the gathering, comprised of students, members of faculty and staff of the Economics Department that tourism has more opportunities for Nigeria than oil, because oil is a fixed resource but one can keep recreating in tourism. He defined tourism as the business of industry providing information,

accommodation, transportation and other services to people for the purpose of leisure travel, hospitality and pleasure, with the components of the tourism industry being airports, standard hotels, functional airlines, tourist attractions, culture and the people and travel agencies.

While listing countries in Africa that are developing their tourism industries to include Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa and Egypt, Mr. Akpan said that there are

more opportunities in Nigeria as most of the opportunities are unexplored.

"We can open up Nigeria to tourism by having tourism villages in different parts of the country and invite foreigners to come and have unforgettable experience. We can build desert safari in Borno State, which has plenty of sand dunes," he averred.

On her part, Mrs. Lawal said that graduates in tourism can work independently and grow to employ people. She urged graduates to take a look around them wherever they may be in the country and identify things they can develop to attract tourists.

Prospects in the Nigerian travel industry, she said, are local travel arrangements for Nigerians and non-Nigerians living within Nigeria; local tours for Nigerians in the Diaspora; and tourism as a foreign exchange earner/economic booster. She noted that graduates can specialize in visa assistance and protocol service, hotel and tour arrangements, international tour arrangements among others. ■

## Expert Suggests Ideal Policies, Financial Discipline as Solutions to Rising Cost of Projects Delivery

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terms of environmental awareness by Quantity Surveyors; and Funding issues like the lack of regard for project funding plan.

"When funding is delayed in a volatile inflationary environment like in Nigeria, the value of funds eventually released is less than intended by the contract," he explained.

Other causes of rising cost of building projects delivery in the country, he said, are Scope Growth, where a client decides to tinker with the project design; Misappropriation and Misapplication of funds, which engender delayed completion of projects as well as poor quality work and

poor safety practices.

Highlighting the effects of rising cost of building projects delivery in Nigeria, Bldr. Oba mentioned macroeconomic factors like high cost of materials and services; dearth of building construction projects, leading to infrastructural deficit and decay; housing deficit, which today stands at between 16 and 17 million in the country; and massive unemployment.

Other effects, according to him, are not getting a comparative value for money invested, resultant poor judgment and design leading to rework, delayed completion due to lack of funds, additional funding requirement in the form of variation orders among others. ■

## CU, National Instruments Step Up Plan for Centre of Excellence

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Mrs. Mary Aboyade, thanked Mr. Sargsyan for the presentation and urged him to continue to discuss with the University's representatives as the institution is desirous of having the best of everything, in terms of facilities and equipment so as to maintain excellence in its mandate of teaching, research and community development.

The Dean, College of Engineering, Professor Christian Bolu, who represented the Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, at the meeting,

said that the University has a plan to set up two centres of excellence, where lots of things