



Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University May 8-12 2017

CU Tops in Research Endeavours among World Universities

Covenant University's vision of being one of the top 10 universities in the world by the year 2022 has received a big boost, with the University ranked Number One (1) globally in some research endeavours and rated among the top 10 in others, based on the latest computations by Elsevier SciVal, the world acclaimed ready-to-use solution that offers easy access to the research performance of 8,500 research institutions and 220 countries worldwide.

This development called for deep appreciation to God, according to the Chancellor and the Visioner, Dr. David O. Oyedepo, who said that the University returned all the glory to God because anything marvelous belongs to Him.

Unfolding details of the achievement at a meeting between the Chancellor and

the University Management, Deans of Colleges, Directors and Heads of Departments, held on Friday, April 28, 2017, the Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor AAA. Atayero, said that through the financial support of the Board of Regents, the University had signed up with Elsevier SciVal, an initiative that has given the University the opportunity to monitor its achievements in terms of research, publications and citations.

The Vice-Chancellor stated that Covenant University was able to identify its areas of Distinctive Competencies and areas of Emerging Competencies courtesy of the SciVal software, which talks about competencies of universities in research endeavours.

Over 13 million publications for the

period 2011-2015 were extracted from the Scopus database, to form 168,092 clusters. SciVal subsequently identified 53 publication clusters in which Covenant University has a significant presence. The 53 publication clusters were grouped into 16 Competencies for Covenant University.

SciVal classified 4 of the 16 Competencies as Distinctive Competencies of Covenant University because they are significantly large fields, and the institution is leading these fields in terms of publications, highly cited publications, and/or innovation.

Indeed, Covenant University, looking at the data from 2011 to 2015 as calculated by Elsevier, was rated World Number One (1) in research endeavours such as (Wind Power, Wind and Turbine) and (Corrosion, Corrosion Inhibitors, Carbon Steel). World Number Two (2) in (Trade, Remittance, Effect) and (Housing;

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Covenant University Donates Borehole to Feru Village, Offers Free Health Services

It was a double celebration time for the indigenes and other residents of Feru Village, Iyesi, Ota in Ogun State on Saturday, April 29, 2017, when Covenant University commissioned a borehole it donated to the community and offered free health services to the people.

The people trooped out in their hundreds to receive the University officials and to witness the commissioning of the borehole, as well as to benefit from the free medical services organised to mark both the World Malaria Day and World Health Day.

While addressing the people just before the commissioning, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero,

represented by the immediate past Head, Department of Mathematics, Dr. Alfred Owoloko, noted that the University was just carrying out its social responsibility to impact its host community which is one of the three main reasons for the establishment of a university.

He urged the people to make good use of the project, noting that, "It is now your property, not Covenant University's. I urge you to take good care of it so that when we come here again in 10 years from now, it will still be functioning."

Earlier in his welcome address, the Chairman, Covenant University Community Development Impact Initiative Committee (CUCDIIC), the body through which the University impacts its host community, Dr. Michael Agarana, expressed delight that the project was completed within the time frame. He encouraged the people to develop a maintenance culture in order to enjoy the project for a long time.

Also in his remarks, the Chairman of Grace Land Estate Community Development

CU, CEMP Reaffirm Commitment to collaboration on Project Management Courses

Covenant University and an international capacity development and consulting firm, Canada Executive Management and Professional Centre (CEMP), have reaffirmed their commitment to a collaboration between the two organisations, which will see the University running Professional Management Courses (PMC) and its students enjoying research grants from international agencies.

Both organisations had in February 2017 signed a Memorandum of Understanding that entails the University starting Project Management courses in partnership with the Project Management Institute (PMI) in the United States.

Speaking during his maiden visit to the University on Thursday, May 4, 2017, the President, CEMP, Mr. Musediq Bamidele Abdul, who expressed excitement at meeting the Management of Covenant University, said he was happy that his organization and the University had made very good progress in their relationship.

While commending the Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero for his astute leadership role in the drive by the University to meet its target of being one of the top 10 universities in the world by the year 2022, Mr. Abdul said that Covenant University is the best in Nigeria today and competing favourably

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Representative of the the Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, Dr Alfred Owoloko, unveiling the new Bore Hole Commissioning the new Borehole project at Feru villagej

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CU Faculty Develops Rapid DNA Isolation Method



Dr Angela Eni

With a view to introducing DNA extraction laboratory practical in secondary schools across Africa, an Associate Professor of Virology in the Department of Biological Sciences, Covenant University, Dr. Angela Eni has in conjunction with one of her students, Miss Oluwaseunlafunmi Oke, developed a rapid and inexpensive DNA isolation kit for secondary schools, using locally available materials.

DNA, according to Dr. Eni, is a molecule that carries the hereditary material of organisms. "Generally, it is housed within the nucleus in the cell of cellular organisms or eukaryotic organisms. For prokaryotic organisms like bacteria, that do not have a membrane-bound nucleus, the DNA is housed within the cell membrane," she added.

Extraordinary advances in the DNA era of science, she averred, has opened a

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Association, Prince Nathaniel Falola, appreciated the University for its good gesture towards the community. He seized the opportunity to request for good roads, equipping their primary health centre and powering the electricity transformer donated by the Living Faith Church Worldwide (LFCWW), the proprietor base of the University.

While appreciating Covenant University for taking care of one of the major challenges in the community, the Baale of Feru Village, Chief Morufu Agbalabe, also used the occasion to request for school infrastructure, noting the importance of education to a people.

The Covenant University Medical Officials later carried out free medical services ranging from malaria testing, eye testing and high blood pressure examination. They were also given free medications and eye glasses. ■

unique window of opportunity that has empowered humans to proffer solutions to the myriad of agricultural, medical and environmental challenges that we face and also, applications of recombinant DNA technology has resulted in the production of better yielding plants with resistance to pests, new vaccines and enzymes to prevent diseases as well as bacteria capable of cleaning up oil spills.

Stating the motive behind the research, Dr. Eni, who is the Team Leader, of the Covenant University Hub of the West African Virus Epidemiology (WAVE) for root and tuber crops, said she observed that both her undergraduate and postgraduate students struggle with molecular biology concepts and techniques mainly because these were not introduced to the students on time

and appropriately. This, she said, has been a reoccurring challenge over the years, hence one of the solution would be to bring DNA or the molecular biology studies home to young people in a practical way that they would understand and early enough to capture their interest.

"My personal goal is to equip students. When students come to me in the university, either as undergraduate or postgraduate students, I need students who have the basic background and possibly are already keen on molecular biology, because they know these things are possible, having been appropriately introduced in secondary school. This in my view is one of the ways to developing the critically needed indigenous manpower required to proffer the indigenous African solutions to our several challenges," Dr. Eni stated. ■

CU, CEMP Reaffirm Commitment to collaboration on Project Management Courses *Contd. from Pg 1*



CU Management with Officials of CEMP

with first generation universities. "With the collaboration we are having now, it's another first for Covenant University," he added.

CEMP's plan, he revealed, was for Master's Degree students of Covenant University to submit their theses and apply to benefit from research grants that were available this year, but it was rather late. He, however, expressed hope that, next year, students of the University will be the first in West Africa to benefit from such grants.

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor,

Covenant University, Professor AAA. Atayero, said the University desires that, on graduation, students are equipped with different certifications. Arrangement, he added, would be put in place to make sure that the MoU signed with CEMP kicks off in the next academic session.

The CEMP President, Mr. Abdul, was accompanied on the visit by the Vice-President, International Engagement, CEMP, Dr. Yomi Oyekoya; Head, International Business Research, Dr. Babajimi Hammond; Head, Administration, Mr. Badmus Adebayo; and Legal Adviser, Ms. Bunmi Ogunye. ■

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Twelve other areas of emerging competencies were identified. These achievements, said the Vice-Chancellor, had enabled the University to identify 16 areas of competence to invest in, research wise, adding that it was time to synergise to go forward with strong thrust.

In his remarks, the Chancellor and Chairman Board of Regents, Covenant University, Dr. David O. Oyedepo, said that the University must celebrate God as "this is too much for our age as a University".

"Celebration of Vision 10:2022 has already started with the results in the

ranking. We are closer than ever imagined to the Vision," he added.

While observing that many prominent universities were not in the top bracket of the ratings, the Chancellor said that Covenant University had jumped levels and attributed it to the engagement of the system.

He urged the Management of the University and faculty to keep engaging as the Prophetic word was already working. "I spoke a prophetic word: God said this is a new generation Harvard for waves of innovation and creativity".

And while congratulating the Management and the faculty on the achievement, he also implored them not to rest on their oars. ■