



Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University May 22-26, 2017

Covenant, Alkem Sign MoU on Waste to Wealth Initiative

Covenant University and Alkem Nigeria Limited, a recycled Polyester Staple Fibre manufacturer, have sealed an agreement on a mutually beneficial Waste to Wealth initiative.

Explaining the development at the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two organisations on Thursday, May 11, 2017, the Chairman, Waste to Wealth Committee, Covenant University,

Professor Kolawole Ajanaku, said that since the establishment of a relationship with Alkem in late 2016, the company had helped to improve the process of the University's Waste to Wealth venture.

He stated that prior to the meeting with Alkem, there was stress in the University's Waste to Wealth operations but the intervention of Alkem, through the donation of an equipment, had made the venture more productive and increased revenue.

Covenant University looks forward to having Alkem on board and believes

Contd. on Pg 2



Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero (M) and Executive Director, Alkem Nigeria Limited, Mr. A. Ramalingam (R), signing the MoU

Covenant, QSM Sign MoU on collaboration

Covenant University and QSM, a training and consultancy firm, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on a mutually beneficial collaboration between the two organisations.

Speaking at the MoU signing ceremony, which took place on Tuesday, May 9, 2017, the Managing Director, QSM Training and Consulting Limited, Mrs. Chinyere Ikeora, said the collaboration with Covenant University will see her company training, empowering, enlightening and educating people.

QSM, she added, had been in operation for many years and been involved in training, consultancy, registration of companies and trademarks, and had done collaborations



Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero and the Managing Director, QSM Training and Consulting Limited, Mrs. Chinyere Ikeora, displaying the signed agreement

Scientific Society Gives Prominence to Covenant Faculty's Research Publication

A research publication by Professor Solomon Oranusi of the Department of Biological Sciences at Covenant University, has received a rave review by the American Chemical Society (ACS), a United States-based scientific society that supports scientific inquiry in the field of chemistry.

The publication originally titled, 'Bioconversion of *Tithonia diversifolia* (Mexican Sunflower) and Poultry Droppings for Energy Generation: Optimization, Mass and Energy Balances, and Economic Benefits', but dubbed "Turning chicken poop and weeds into biofuel" by the ACS, was one of the five research publications reviewed by the scientific society in its latest press release.

While acknowledging that one strategy for dealing with poultry poop is to turn it into biofuel, the ACS said that scientists (Professor Oranusi and colleagues) have now developed a way to do this by mixing the waste with another environmental scourge, an invasive weed that is affecting agriculture in Africa.

Chicken droppings, according to the report, can contain nutrients, hormones,

antibiotics and heavy metals and can wash into the soil and surface water. To deal with this problem, scientists have been working on ways to convert the waste into fuel. But alone, poultry droppings don't transform well into biogas, so it's mixed with plant materials such as switch grass.

"Solomon U. Oranusi, Samuel O. Dahunsi and colleagues wanted to see if they could combine the chicken waste with *Tithonia diversifolia* (Mexican sunflower), which was introduced to Africa as an ornamental plant decades ago and has become a major weed threatening agricultural production on the continent.

"The researchers developed a process to pre-treat chicken droppings, and then have anaerobic microbes digest the waste and Mexican sunflowers together. Eight kilograms of poultry waste and sunflowers produced more than 3 kg of biogas — more than enough fuel to drive the reaction and have some leftover for other uses such as powering a generator. Also, the researchers say that the residual solids from the process could be applied as fertilizer or soil conditioner," the ACS stated.

Contd. on Pg 2

Covenant University May Adopt EcoCampus Initiative

Covenant University has indicated its interest in EcoCampus, an Environmental Management System (EMS) and award scheme for the higher education sector.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, gave the hint following a presentation on the EcoCampus initiative on Monday, May 15, 2017, by representatives of Kherithdum Nigeria Limited.

The Chief Executive Officer, Kherithdum, Mr. Dika Odum, had in his presentation to the Covenant Management said that the EcoCampus scheme allows universities to be recognised for addressing key issues of environmental sustainability, including carbon reduction.

Mr. Odum, an alumnus of Covenant University, explained that the scheme offers

a flexible phased approach to implementing an environmental management system for the higher education sector, with participants gaining recognition at each stage of the process through a series of awards from bronze through silver, gold and platinum.

The platinum award, he added, conforms to the requirements of the international environmental management standard ISO 14001.

Highlighting the benefits of EcoCampus, Mr. Odum said that it provides a flexible approach to implementing an environmental management system; training workshops to help implement the scheme and additional workshops in specific areas of environmental management; networks to discuss best practice and exchange ideas; and software applications to assist with operation of the management system (e.g. a full document control system with pre-written templates) among others.

EcoCampus, he revealed, had been operating in the United Kingdom for 11 years, with over 60 schools passing through the scheme and a larger percentage (42%) of the schools on the scheme had obtained Platinum award.

The Project Manager, Kherithdum Nigeria Limited, Professor Sam Adefila, said that the EcoCampus scheme, which could be applied to other areas, would be very useful to Covenant University.

The Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor AAA. Atayero, in his remarks, thanked Mr. Odum for bringing the EcoCampus initiative on board under

the mentorship of Professor Adefila.

Covenant University, said the Vice-Chancellor, started the green campus initiative with the waste to wealth project, and what Kherithdum Limited presented could be used to augment what the University already has, to give it global recognition.

While calling for further discussion on the proposal, he said that it was an idea whose time has come. ■

Covenant, Alkem Sign MoU on Waste to Wealth Initiative

Contd. from Pg 1

strongly that the relationship will take both organisations higher, the professor of Industrial Chemistry added.

The Chief Operating Officer, Alkem Nigeria Limited, Mr. A. Ramalingam, who came for the MoU signing ceremony along with the company's General Manager, Mr. A.V Suthar, said that Alkem was happy to be associated with Covenant University.

He revealed that Alkem, established in the 1980s as a backward integration to the nation's textile weaving and spinning industry, was dependent on import until the early 2000 when it decided to look inwards. "Now, 100 percent of our raw materials is locally sourced and recycled and by doing this, we have created wealth for more than 15,000 hitherto unemployed through Waste to Wealth," he said.

Mr. Ramalingam said that Alkem was happy that Covenant University will take the initiative outside the University and promote micro economy among social groups around the University community.

Following the signing of the MoU, the Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor AAA. Atayero, expressed appreciation to Alkem Nigeria Limited for the kind gesture of donating an equipment to the University, which he described as evidence of a relationship that will go a long way.

While urging Alkem to make Covenant University the institution of first consideration should the company decide to set up a Plant, the Vice-Chancellor said that it was imperative to move the relationship forward taking into consideration the University's core areas of Research, Teaching and Community Development. ■



CU alumnus and CEO, Kherithdum Ltd, Mr Dika Odum, making his presentation on EcoCampus

Covenant, QSM Sign MoU on collaboration

Contd. from Pg 1

with different organisations.

Giving an insight into the relationship between the University and QSM, Professor Louis Egwari of the Department of Biological Sciences, who revealed he has had a personal relationship with the company for 15 years, said that the consulting firm had helped to register trademarks for beverage drinks from pawpaw fruits produced by Covenant University. Faculty, staff and students, he stated, had also attended trainings organized by QSM.

The MoU, according to the Professor of Microbiology, entails the University and QSM forging a more solid relationship by partnering together to run trainings, introduction of processes leading to the accreditation of laboratories and running of analysis among others.

Following the signing of the MoU and exchange of documents between the leaderships of Covenant University and QSM, the Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor AAA. Atayero, gave glory to God that the relationship of 15 years had finally crystallised into a Memorandum of Understanding.

While acknowledging that the MoU features the University's three core areas, which are Research, Teaching and Community Development, the Vice-Chancellor expressed hope that greater things will come from the collaboration.

Also on the entourage of the Managing Director, QSM, Mrs. Chinyere Ikeora, were the Logistic Officer, Mr. James Oyeyipo and the Administrative and Finance Officer, Mrs. Francisca B. Effiok. ■