



# Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University June 12-16, 2017

## ICTs, Panacea to National Challenges



President/Chairman of Council, Computer Professionals (Registration Council) of Nigeria, Professor Vincent Asor, delivering his Keynote Address

The use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in the public sector and how they affect the service delivery of government was brought to fore on Thursday, as stakeholders in government, industry and academia, converged at an International Conference on E-governance in Nigeria, which took place at Covenant University, Ota.

Guest Speakers and the participants alike agreed at the conference which was the fourth edition, with the theme: "Government and Public

Service Delivery in Nigeria: The Role of Information and Communication Technologies," that ICTs function as one of the stimuli for corporate growth in all aspects of government.

The Keynote Speaker, Professor Vincent Asor, submitted that ICTs aid socio-economic development by enabling the citizens directly communicate to the government through mobile communication and Internet service in order to voice out and suggest developmental project needs of the people at a local level within a state.

Information and Communication Technologies, he said, help create new and better service delivery by increasing the coordination of public sector procedures and management.

"The efficiency of ICTs can reduce errors and improve consistency of outcomes of governmental projects through automating standard tasks. It also reduce costs and many layers of organisational processes by streamlining operating procedures, through e-application and reduction in time spent on repetitive tasks," he explained.

Professor Asor, who is also the President and Chairman of Council, Computer

Professionals (Registration Council) of Nigeria, CPN, argued that the absolute goal of the e-governance regime is to ensure that it provides an expanded range of public service to citizens in a systematic and cost effective manner.

The Speaker, Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Onofiok Luke, dwelt on three areas vis-à-vis, participatory governance, unhindered access to information, and breaking bureaucratic bottleneck, in which, ICTs role must be immediately exploited in order to fully key Nigeria into democratic governance and help the full delivery of the dividends of democracy.

"It is my conviction that if the people can insist on the full integration of ICTs in government, to the point that our citizens can fully participate in the leadership process, have unhindered access to information, and reduce bureaucracy, we would have won the fight

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## Quanser Seeks Collaboration with Covenant in Grooming Quality Engineers

Quanser, a firm specialized in the deployment of transformational laboratories for the global academic community, has indicated its interest in partnering with Covenant University with a view to developing system-level software for the University for efficient teaching and learning.

The Chief Executive Officer, Quanser, Professor Paul Gilbert, who made this proposal to the Covenant Management on Friday, June 2, 2017, averred that the University's Vision of being one of the top 10 universities in the world by the year 2022 is a daunting task but his organization was ready to assist to make it happen.

Making a presentation titled, 'Preparing the Engineering Leaders of Tomorrow', Professor Gilbert, who was accompanied by the Business Development Manager, National Instruments, USA, Mr. Valeri Sargsyan, said that Quanser's desire was to help uplift Covenant University's teaching standards as Nigeria needs engineers with multidiscipline to come together to achieve great things.

His company, he stated, understands students and wants to ensure each student has the same experience. Quanser brings modern technology and actuated understanding Professor Gilbert added. Explaining the relationship between Quanser and National Instruments, he said that his organization works with National Instruments because the

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## NUC Accreditation Team Commends Covenant on Programmes

The National Universities Commission (NUC) Accreditation Team on a visit to Covenant University for the accreditation of two programmes – Management and Information System and Policy and Strategic Studies – has expressed satisfaction with provisions made by the University for the running of both programmes.

The NUC accreditation team, made up of two different panels featuring Professor Adesina Sodiya as leader of the Management Information System panel and Professor H.D Dlakwa, leading the Policy and Strategic Studies panel, made its impression known on Friday, June 2, 2017, when a summary report of the accreditation exercise was presented to the Covenant Management.

While giving his remarks on the Policy and Strategic Studies programme, Professor Dlakwa, who said that members of his panel were glad to be exposed to the beautiful facilities at Covenant University, added that the generality of their impression was good.

He stated further that his panel received full cooperation from members of the university's Department of Political Science and International Relations. "We are quite satisfied with most of

what we saw with respect to Policy and Strategic Studies," he said.

In his brief report on Management Information System, Professor Sodiya expressed appreciation to Covenant University for the support given to the NUC team, adding that the team was not surprised at the kind of organization noticed at the University.

"As directed by the NUC, we have assessed and evaluated the programme and generally, we've seen the kind of standard we expect from a good university," Professor Sodiya submitted, while also advising the University to make further improvement in some areas.

The Head, Department of Computer and Information Sciences, Dr. Olufunke Oladipupo

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CU Management with NUC Accreditation Teams to Management Information Systems and Policy and Strategic Studies programmes

# Carnegie Fellow Donates Books to Covenant University



Visiting Carnegie Scholar from the Department of Management & Marketing, Arkansas Tech University, Dr Efosa Idemudia, speaking on the purpose of his visit to CU

**A** Carnegie African Diaspora Fellow, Dr. Efosa Idemudia, has donated a set of books on data science to Covenant University.

Presenting the books to the Management of Covenant University on Thursday, June 1, 2017, Dr. Idemudia, an associate professor in the Department of Management and Marketing, Arkansas Tech University, USA, said that his decision to donate the books to Covenant University was influenced by his desire to see Nigerian youths develop on how to solve problems.

Dr. Idemudia told the Covenant Management, led by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Shalom Chinedu, representing the Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, that three years ago, when he was conducting a research about universities in Nigeria, he was impressed about the ranking of Covenant University and amazed at how beautiful the campus is. The University, he

## NUC Accreditation Team Commends Covenant on Programmes

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and her Department of Political Science and International Relations counterpart, Dr. Oluyemi Fayomi, in their separate comments, were unanimous in their appreciation of the exercise carried out by the NUC accreditation team, which they described as thorough and good.

In his remarks, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Shalom Chinedu, who represented the Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor AAA. Atayero, said that when it comes to the quality of programmes run by the University, it was always willing to subject them to scrutiny.

While thanking the NUC accreditation team for the thorough job done, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor averred that the biggest room in the world is the room for improvement and Covenant University will always strive to offer the best.

Other representatives of Covenant at the meeting included the Acting Registrar, Mrs. Mary Aboyade; Director, Financial Services, Pastor Bayo Oladehinbo; Acting Director, Centre for Learning Resources, Mrs. Promise Ilo; Dean, College of Science and Technology, Professor Nicholas Omoregbe; and Dean, College of Leadership Development Studies, Professor Charles Ogbulogo.

Also present were the Director, Academic Planning Unit, Dr. Olawande Daramola; Director, Quality Assurance, Dr. Edwin Agwu;

acknowledged, is developing future leaders in Nigeria.

Speaking further, the professor of business data analytics said that application of big data would solve complex problems in Nigeria, because keeping records has brought development to some countries. "When we start keeping records, we'll be able to make better decisions to improve our lives," he stated.

Most of the books donated, according to the Carnegie Fellow, are based on data science and they are for the teaching of students to make better decisions.

The Dean, College of Science and Technology, Professor Nicholas Omoregbe, who led Dr. Idemudia to the meeting, said that the Carnegie Fellow had mid last year established contact with the University indicating his desire to visit as a Carnegie Scholar and when he eventually visited, he was engaged in research, teaching and other service-oriented initiatives.

Dr. Idemudia, on his current visit, according to Professor Omoregbe, will be teaching faculty, staff and students ICT-related courses and also visit some secondary schools to motivate students.

Both the Acting Registrar, Mrs. Mary Aboyade and the Director, Financial Services, Pastor Bayo Oladehinbo, acknowledged that Nigeria is faced with the challenge of managing big data and hoped that Dr. Idemudia will help ameliorate the problem.

In his remarks, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Shalom Chinedu, on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, appreciated Dr. Idemudia for what he has brought to the University at a time all hands are on deck to

and a host of faculty members from both the Political Science and International Relations, and the Computer and Information Sciences Departments.

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latter has industry standards and modern technology.

The Dean, College of Engineering, Professor Christian Bolu, in his comments, suggested that Covenant should collaborate with Quanser on the products for the teaching of engineering students, and the enlightenment of all the Engineering faculty that would be using the software. Also, Professor updated the gathering with information on the collaboration between Covenant and National Instruments on the procurement of laboratory equipment, saying that it had reached an advanced stage and only for the two sides to take a final decision.

In his remarks, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Shalom Chinedu, who represented the Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor AAA. Atayero, at the

make the Vision of being one of the top 10 universities in the world by the year 2022 a reality.

While agreeing that starting from the grassroots will go a long way to solving the problem of big data in Nigeria, Professor Chinedu thanked Dr. Idemudia for choosing Covenant University and wished him a great time in the University.

## ICTs, Panacea to National Challenges

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against corruption without lifting a finger," he explained.

Hon. Luke, who was represented by a member of the House and Chairman, Committee on Education, Hon. Samuel Ufuo, noted that until citizens act in unison to demand for more ICT-driven governance among others, the benefits of ICTs in modern day governance would continue to elude all.

The Chancellor, Covenant University, Dr. David Oyedepo, represented by the Education Secretary of the Living Faith Church Worldwide (the proprietor base of University), Professor Bridget Sokan, who declared the conference open, commended the modest achievement of the implementation of some e-government initiatives such as e-tax, e-procurement, e-payment and e-remittance in some states.

He expressed hope that the engagements during the conference would help to identify ICT-based, viable, and actionable pathways that would curb the impediments to good public service delivery, and impactful governance in Nigeria.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor AAA. Atayero, in his remarks, noted that Covenant University has vibrant research clusters in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, Computer and Information Sciences and Electrical and Information Engineering that have implemented usable models and solutions that could foster improved e-governance in Nigeria



Chief Executive Officer, Quanser, Mr Paul Gilbert, making his presentation to CU Management

meeting, thanked Professor Gilbert for the presentation. He said that things had changed enormously but the school environment still appeared to be dragging, but time has come to use the right technology.

Also at the event were the Acting Registrar, Mrs. Mary Aboyade; Director, Financial Services, Pastor Bayo Oladehinbo; Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies, Professor Samuel Wara; Head, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Dr. Oluseyi Ajayi; two members of faculty, Dr. Dr. Francis Idachaba and Dr. Anthony Adoghe, and a representative of the Forensic Unit, Dr. Joshua Alabi.