



# Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University July 17-21 2017

## Covenant University Enactus Team Emerges Second Best Nationwide



CU Management with the Award Winning Enactus Team

The Covenant University Enactus Team has emerged second place winner among the 24 higher institutions that competed at the Enactus Nigeria National Competition, which took place between July 4 and 6, 2017, in Lagos.

The 35-man Covenant University's

Enactus Team came tops at the group stage and the semi-finals level where they won a stunning upset over the 7 times back-to-back winner of the competition, Kaduna Polytechnic, Kaduna to qualify for the finals, where they emerged second best.

Speaking on behalf of the Team, the

trio of Synka Jyte-Davis (Lead Presenter), Asekomhe Kenefel (Project Manager) and Olabinjo Segun, attributed their feet to the intensive engagement in social enterprise and the success of their projects, the Eco-bag and 'Tunse' Platform.

Synka (Lead Presenter) explained that the Eco-bag is a temperature retention bag that helps maintains the temperature of food or any other substance in the bag for 72 hours while 'Tunse' is a native Yourba word for 'fix it' or 'repair it'. "It is an online on-demand platform that connects blue-collar workers and artisans to customers of closest proximity who desire their services.

Kenefel (Project Manager) stated that the Team with some implementation partners was able to train widows to produce the Eco-bag, provided access to capital to start production and connect them to potential markets. The results, according to him, was a reduction in

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## Covenant, Merck Group to Explore Collaboration

Covenant University and Merck Group, a leading science and technology company in healthcare, life science and performance materials, have resolved to explore the feasibility of both organisations teaming up on mutually beneficial endeavours.

The resolution was reached on Tuesday, July 4, 2017, when representatives of Merck Group paid a courtesy visit to the Management of Covenant University.

Mr. Matthias Getrost, Head of Africa, Merck Group, who led the three-man team from the company, said that Merck has the desire to be part of Covenant University's Vision of becoming one of the top 10 universities in the world by the year

2022. His company, he added, was trying to make bold footprints in Sub-Saharan Africa, part of which is seeking partnership with universities.

Mr. Getrost went on to make a presentation on the profile of Merck Group and its services, which features Healthcare, Life Science and Performance Materials, and the commitment of 1.7 billion Euros into research and development. The company, he added, is involved in different activities across Africa in the areas of Malaria/HIV, Educational Development, Diabetes and Cancer, and Partnership with Seeding Laboratories among others.

Shedding more light on the purpose of the visit, the Head of Research, Merck Group, Mr. Kingsley Udoakpan, who affirmed Merck's long research collaboration with universities, added that the company is strong in different research areas, just as he acknowledged that Covenant University has the infrastructure and brain power. He suggested that both organisations should start something refreshingly new together. "We can bring your university in contact with our researchers," he said.

On his part, the Director, Covenant University Centre for Research, Innovation and Discovery



Head of Africa, Merck Group, Mr Matthias Gerost, speaking on the reason for his team's visit to Covenant

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## Covenant, Tshwane Varsity Sign MoU on Sustainable Energy Solutions

Covenant University and Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), Pretoria, South Africa, have strengthened their existing relationship with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The MoU, signed on Monday, July 3, 2017, between the Management of Covenant University and representatives of TUT, will see the latter's Centre for Energy and Electric Power (CEEP) working in concert with researchers in Covenant's Departments of Mechanical Engineering and Electrical and Information Engineering in finding solutions to energy challenges.

Speaking at the MoU signing ceremony, Leader of the Tshwane University delegation, Professor Patricia Popoola, who expressed excitement that her university was going into a formal agreement with Covenant University, said that TUT had hitherto had a fruitful relationship with Covenant in the area of research publications. The latest development, she added, is a step forward for both institutions.

Her colleague, Dr. Olawale Popoola, while making a brief presentation on CEEP, which he heads, revealed that the centre is into giving solutions. The main emphasis, he explained, is looking into diminishing energy reserves in Africa, then examine things that can bring about sustainable energy.

CEEP, he said, looks at issues like

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## Covenant Students Hone Programming Skills

Students of Computer & Information Sciences programmes at Covenant University, have distinguished themselves at a six-week training on 'Programming', organized by the Department of Computer and Information Sciences.

Tagged "Programming School", the training focused on teaching the 100 and 200 Levels students how to programme, using computer programming languages like Java and Python of their choice.

In the last week of the training, students were distributed into different groups, with all the groups making presentations on the project works assigned to them. The winning group, the first runner-up and the second runner-up, all were rewarded with cash prizes.

Miss Moyo Ale, a 200 Level Computer Science student, whose group won the first prize, attributed the success

of her group to teamwork and thanked God and her lecturers for the opportunity. In her words, "Teamwork among the group members made us come first because everybody had a role to play. It was all about playing your part".

Also speaking about his programming experience, a 200 Level student of Management and Information Science (MIS), Mr. Pelumi Fasina, said that, "It was a wonderful experience. I enjoyed the classes, I learned how I can improve myself especially during the holiday".

In her remarks following the conclusion of the training, the Head, Department of Computer and Information Sciences, Dr. Olufunke Oladipupo, said that she was highly impressed by the students' performance and their commitment to learning



The Head, Department of Computer and Information Science, Dr. (Mrs) Olufunke Oladipupo, presenting the Overall Best Student, Miss Moyo Ale, her Prize

programming. The programming school, she added, offered the students a platform to perform better at programming.

Now in its second year, the training on programming was necessitated by the desire to sharpen the competence of students in the Computer and Information Sciences Department, as programming skills are becoming more important and turning into the core competency for all kinds of 21st Century workers. ■

## Covenant, Tshwane Varsity Sign MoU on Sustainable Energy Solutions *Contd. from Pg 1*

balancing and supply, value chain, and young entrepreneurs. According to him, CEEP is interested in innovating and implementing sustainable energy solution and resource, and using University staff and students as outlet to carry out research and contract work.

Dr. Popoola added that CEEP's initiative provides additional income for partnering universities and the centre is interested in conducting cutting edge research. "We hope Covenant University will come with us and together, we can provide solutions," he emphasized.

Giving an insight into the genesis of the MoU, the Head, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Covenant

University, Dr. Oluseyi Ajayi, said that faculty members of both universities had previously worked together on research projects, but earlier in 2017, he made a proposal to Professor Patricia Popoola on the feasibility of having a College to College collaboration because great researchers abound at Covenant University. He said that a discussion was also held on having faculty exchange.

Following the signing of the MoU, the Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor AAA. Atayero, in his remarks, described it as a wonderful thing because, according to him, it was a lesson on how MoUs should be done. He said that the relationship between the



L-R, Dr Olawale Popoola and Professor Patricia Popoola both from Tshwane University, Pretoria, South Africa; Vice Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor AAA. Atayero and his Deputy

two universities had already yielded fruits before its formalization.

While assuring the delegation from TUT that the relationship has the full backing of the Covenant management, the Vice-Chancellor urged faculty members involved to take the relationship to the next level. ■

## Covenant University Enactus Team Emerges Second Best Nationwide *Contd. from Pg 1*

the cost of doing business, economic empowerment of 30 widows and increase profits to grow their business, sitting one Mrs Egbadun, a cold drink seller as a successful beneficiary.

On 'Tunse', Olabinjo explained that the Team partnered with various artisan groups and associations to register artisans, which they named T-workers and got customers to book them using the platform. This, he said, led to the registration of over 350 artisans on the platform and connection between them and their customers. He mentioned the success story of Joshua, a 19 year old beneficiary who through the platform got many job opportunities and was able to sponsor his education.

The Team noted that their motivation was the fact that they were able to impact lives through their projects where widows

in particular were able to take care of their families.

On his part, the Director, Covenant University Centre for Entrepreneurial Development Studies (CUCEDS), Dr. Steven Oluwatobi, revealed that the project has taught the students how to succeed. "What they have learnt was a practical knowledge which they can't get from any textbook," he said.

He expressed appreciation to the University's management and the implementation partners including CEDS, Punch Newspaper, Co-creation Hub Nigeria, African Hub, Prestige Travels and Hebron FM among others for their tremendous supports at various levels of the competition.

Dr. Oluwatobi also expressed belief that the Team would come first in the next edition of the competition. ■

## Covenant, Merck Group to Explore Collaboration

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(CUCRID), Professor Olawole Obembe, said that the University has partnered with private organisations at different levels and the coming of Merck Group was a welcome development. The level of engagement between both organisations, he stated, would be direct and since Merck has a representative in Nigeria, it's a win-win situation.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Shalom Chinedu, representing the Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor AAA. Atayero, in his remarks, said that the proposal by Merck Group was a welcome development especially in the areas of chemical supply and training. He said that the University looks forward to partnering with Merck, particularly noting that the University has many active research clusters that can benefit from the partnership.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor urged Merck Group to come up with a good proposal with a view to making the proposed collaboration a reality. ■