



Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University August 14-18, 2017

Quality of Education Determines the Development of Any Nation – Dr. Oyedepo



Chancellor, Covenant University, Dr David O. Oyedepo, declaring the 3rd AEDC Summit open

The Chancellor of Covenant University, Dr. David O. Oyedepo, has stated that the quality of education determines the level of development of any nation.

He made this assertion on Monday, July 24, 2017, when he received delegates to the 3rd African Engineering Deans Council Summit (AEDC) hosted by Covenant University.

Explaining the inter-connectivity between education and development, the Chancellor posited that wherever education goes, there goes civilization, while he professed his love for Africa and expressed his desire to be alive to see a brand new Africa emerge.

Dr. Oyedepo, who noted that home-grown solutions are the most enduring ones, stated that every bit of construction in Covenant University and the Living Faith Church grounds were done via in-house construction, including the Faith Tabernacle and the roads.

“There is nothing wrong with learning from everywhere, but that should not keep us from developing our indigenous ideas. Here in Covenant University, we take time to teach our students how to make the most out of life; learning to live and to lead,” he asserted.

In his opening remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor AAA. Atayero, said it was a general understanding that the engineering profession is a very important profession without which there can be no development, which was why Covenant University had decided to play host to the conference.

According to the Vice-Chancellor, “The reason for this conference is very simple; it is to see that the engineering profession brings to bear indigenous ideas for sustainable development. One of the issues to address in this conference also, is to find how to bridge the gap between the academia and the industry”.

The Secretary General of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors, Professor Michael Faborode, in his comments, appreciated Covenant University's initiative to host the summit, which he hoped would mark a turnaround in the fortunes of engineering in Africa. The essence, according to the former Vice-Chancellor of the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, was how to bridge the gap between universities and the industry, and

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2017 AEDC Summit: Vice Chancellor Tasks Participants on Game-Changing Action Plan



Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, delivering his Keynote Address

The Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Engr. (Professor) AAA. Atayero, has urged the African Engineering Deans Council (AEDC) to come up with an action plan that would not only change how things are done in engineering, but in all spheres of human development.

Professor Atayero, who gave the task on Monday, July 24, 2017, when the Executives of the AEDC and other stakeholders in the field of engineering from within and outside Nigeria paid him a courtesy visit, said the University's request was that the AEDC must harness the wealth of experience of stakeholders for the benefit of the whole continent.

The Vice-Chancellor said that Covenant University, as a very young institution, considered it a privilege to have played host to the recently held 3rd AEDC summit.

Prominent on the visiting entourage, led by the Dean, College of Engineering,

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Engineering Competencies Crucial to Overcoming Socio-Economic Development Challenges – Ex-President Obasanjo

Nigeria's former President, Engr. (Chief) Olusegun Obasanjo, has identified engineering competencies in design and analytical thinking as a panacea to Africa's socio-economic development challenges.

He made this assertion at the 3rd African Engineering Deans Council (AEDC) Summit, which held from July 24 - 26, 2017, at Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State.

Delivering the Keynote Address at the summit with the theme, 'Engineering for Socio-Economic Development of Africa', Engr. Obasanjo pointed out that in many parts of Africa, young engineers have not been trained for specific roles in the industry, adding that they have to be thought how to convert the technical knowledge acquired into useful artifacts needed in the industry.

He said that young engineers should also learn how to transform manufactured products into viable business ventures, as there is need for Africa to have more engineer entrepreneurs rather than engineer job seekers.

According to him, the engineering curriculum of the 20th century was no longer sufficient to address the engineering challenges of the 21st century. He lamented that the society

was experiencing serious deficits due to lack of the will to come together and seek ways of working out solutions to the problems without any political undertones.

The former Chairman of the African Union (AU) argued that the interest of the African continent should be put at heart to take the continent from backwardness, stressing that engineering development is good for Africa because it would save the continent from

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Former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo (GCFR), delivering his Keynote Address

Professional Group Urges African Engineers to find Solutions to Developmental Challenges

African engineers must be fully involved in the processes aimed at tackling developmental problems in Africa if the continent must catch up with the developed world, President of the African Engineering Deans Council (AEDC), Engr. (Professor) Moses Obiazi has declared.

Speaking at a press conference held on Monday, July 24, 2017, to herald the 3rd African Engineering Deans Council Summit, Engr. Obiazi said that Africa needs well-educated citizens with skills entrenched in the Sciences, as well as Technology and Innovation to attain a high standard of living.

The summit with the theme, 'Engineering for Socio-Economic Development of Africa', was scheduled to hold from July 24-26, 2017 and hosted by Covenant University.

According to the council president, apart from science, technology and innovation, others like, sanitation, access to shelter, water, energy, ICT and modern agriculture must be addressed in order to achieve increased productivity.

"To realise this, our African engineers must be fully involved; Africa must solve Africa's problems. Currently, we do not have a specific policy framework to encourage and mobilise African engineers to collaborate in solving Africa's infrastructure and developmental challenges," he said.

Engr. Obiazi revealed that the AEDC was poised to work with the African Union (AU) to foster collaboration and synergy in developing the technologies and skill manpower required to tackle Africa's multiple infrastructural and developmental challenges. "This will raise the



President, AEDC, Engr. (Professor) Adagbonyin Moses Obiazi, speaking to members of the press

bar of growth and advancement for the continent," he opined.

In his remarks, the Chairman, Global Engineering Deans Council, Professor Peter Kilpatrick, said that Nigeria may not advance economically if it fails to encourage her graduates to be innovative. He said that if the only thing Nigerian engineers did after graduating was to work for companies or migrate to other countries, Nigeria would never solve its economic challenges.

"This is because, in addition to working for other companies or leaving the country, they need to innovate and help create new companies and ideas at home in Nigeria.

That is how the whole world is advancing economically and that is what Nigeria really needs to do," he said.

He added that a very important ingredient in preparing universities and other

engineering students is to teach them how to be innovative and create new companies, because that is where the jobs will come from.

Also speaking at the event, the President, Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN), Engr. Kashim Ali, said that the council was working hard to bridge the gap between the academia and the industry. He said that this would help in improving skills among undergraduates of universities.

According to him, there is the need for government to also encourage indigenous industries in order to encourage economic growth. He bemoaned the rate of building collapse incidents in the country, saying that the development was becoming embarrassing to the council.

"Oftentimes, when these buildings fall, they blame it on the engineers, but you find that no structural engineer is involved in the construction of such buildings. The actual reason behind these collapses are quackery and quacks, who claim to be engineers," he said. ■

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foster solidarity of purpose in order to help humanity to advance.

In his comments, the President, Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN), Engr. Kashim Ali, who revealed it was his first time in Covenant University, thanked the Chancellor for his input in education. "You may not really appreciate the impact of this University; but for us in COREN, it has encouraged us to go out to the world and tell them that we have universities in Nigeria. In a few years time, a lot of things would have happened in Nigeria and it would, because of the courage of people like you who have set the pace," said the COREN president. ■

(CVC), Professor Michael Faborode; and President, Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), Dr. Udemba Jacobs among others.

Earlier, while stating the purpose of the visit, the LOC Chairman for the 3rd AEDC Summit, Professor Bolu, said that it was to apprise the Vice-Chancellor of the agenda of the summit. These, said Professor Bolu, included how the African Union can tap into the involvement of African engineers in the development of Africa; how students can be trained and made useful to the industry; and to develop a framework to make the endeavor a sustainable one.

According to Professor Bolu, the AEDC Summit, with the theme, 'Engineering for Socio-Economic Development of Africa', featured all Deans of Colleges of Engineering from five regions of Africa under the aegis of the AEDC, including representatives of the Global Engineering Deans Council, COREN, MAN and the Committee of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities. ■

Engineering Competencies Crucial to Overcoming Socio-Economic Development Challenges – Ex-President Obasanjo

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suffering the drawback of political issues.

He stated: "If Science, Mathematics, Engineering and Technology are instruments of development and progress for others, and ours cannot be different, our cooperation and collaboration should have come earlier no matter what we are doing at national levels. If Africa is the cradle of humanity and engineering from the Stone Age has provided the ingredients of progress and development in human civilization, why then did Africa slide back? Whatever may be our answers to this pertinent question, we should only note them to guide our present and our future and not hold us back or hold us down."

The former president, who called for more interaction between industries and universities to promote innovation and facilitate absorption of graduates by industries, said that such a relationship had become a subject of great interest to even policy makers. "It will engender improvement and innovation in the industry and help to ensure relevance in academic training and research," he said.

He, however, hailed African countries for embracing technology as a driver of

development, noting that telecommunications in particular had improved quality of life across sub-Saharan Africa. He charged the AEDC to see how technology could be further harnessed to improve the standard of living in Africa. ■

2017 AEDC Summit: Vice Chancellor Tasks Participants on Game-Changing Action Plan

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Covenant University and Chairman, Local Organising Committee (LOC) for the 3rd AEDC Summit, Professor Christian Bolu, were Alpha Momodou Bomo Beny, a Cabinet Minister who represented the African Union (AU) Chairman, President Alpha Conde of Guinea; Ambassador of Guinea to Nigeria, Mr. Gaoussou Toure; Chairman, Global Engineering Deans Council, Professor Peter Kilpatrick; President, African Engineering Deans Council (AEDC), Engr. (Professor) Adagbonyin Obiazi; President, Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN), Engr. Kashim Ali; Secretary-General, Committee of Vice-Chancellors