



# Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University January 23-27, 2017

## Nigerian Army Seeks CU's Support for Establishment of Army University

The Nigerian Army has solicited the assistance of Covenant University for the establishment of a proposed Nigerian Army University of Science and Technology.

The leader of a delegation from the Nigerian Army Institute of Technology and Environment Studies, Maj. Gen Mathias Efeovbokhan (rtd), made the disclosure on Friday, January 20, 2017, during a courtesy visit to the Management of Covenant University at the University's campus in Ota, Ogun State.

Maj. Gen Efeovbokhan, who is Chairman of the committee set up by the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Lt. Gen Tukur Yusuf Buratai, to midwife the Army University, said that the decision to establish the Nigerian Army University of Science and Technology was informed by the needs assessment that was carried out by the

COAS. Lt. Gen Buratai, he said, found out that there were problems in the Nigerian Military but no place where you can get solutions.

"I want a university that would be a solution centre; a university that can provide credible and mathematical solutions not only for problems of the Nigerian Army, but also the problems of the Military and by extension that of the nation," the COAS was quoted as saying.

The COAS, according to Maj. Gen Efeovbokhan, holds Covenant University in very high regards due to its trailblazing antecedents and spiritual foundation, qualities that informed the decision to seek a collaborative engagement



CU Management with Members of the Nigerian Army Institute of Technology and Environment Studies Committee on the Establishment of Nigerian Army University of Science and Technology

between Covenant University and the proposed Army University, which would be sited in Biu, Borno State, and scheduled to take off later in the year.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor Shalom Chinedu, expressed delight that the Nigerian Army had found the University worthy of being a mentor and partner

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## Enactus Lauds CU for Accepting to Host Leadership Conference

Enactus, an international non-profit organisation with a special focus on developmental initiatives by undergraduate students using entrepreneurship, has expressed its appreciation to the Management of Covenant University for accepting to play host to the 2017 Annual Leadership Conference of Enactus.

Speaking during a courtesy visit to the CU Management on Monday, January 23, 2017, the Country Director, Enactus, Mr. Michael Ajayi, congratulated the Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, on the success so far achieved since his appointment as the fourth substantive Vice-Chancellor, just as he acknowledged the third-place finish recorded by the CU Team on its debut outing at the 2016 National Competition of Enactus.

Mr. Ajayi, who was accompanied on the visit by three other officials of Enactus, said that the forthcoming leadership conference

will be held in February 2017, will be a gathering of all Enactus teams from all over Nigeria. "It's where they learn about leadership and how to apply it in their different teams. They go back to their campuses and implement those things that they learned during the conference," he explained.

While expressing satisfaction with the quality of infrastructure and facilities on offer at Covenant University for hosting the leadership conference, the Country Director, Enactus, used the occasion to formally invite the Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, to address the conference.

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Atayero, said that Covenant University's decision to host the Enactus Leadership is a worthy investment and the University would do everything to make the conference a success.

The vision of Covenant University and the goal of Enactus, said the Vice-Chancellor, have a lot in common, particularly in the area of empowering people. He said that for instance, rather than producing graduates armed with only their certificates thereby joining the army of the unemployed, the University groom students to be employers of labour.

Professor Atayero thumbed

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## VC Pledges Support for Hult Prize Finalists

The Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor AAA. Atayero, has assured the University's representatives at the Regional Finals of the 8th Annual Hult Prize event of the full support of the Chancellor and Chairman, Board of Regents, Dr. David O. Oyedepo and the Management of the institution.

Three of the four Hult Prize Teams representing Covenant University at the 8th edition of the game-changing initiative had qualified for the Regional Finals.

The Vice-Chancellor gave the assurance on Friday, January 20, 2017 when the Hult Prize Teams, comprised of nine students of the University, paid him a courtesy visit. The teams were led by their mentors – the Director, Centre for Entrepreneurial Development Studies, Dr. Stephen Oluwatobi; and Director, African Centre for Leadership Development, Dr. Olumuyiwa Oludayo.

Speaking at the occasion, Dr. Oluwatobi, who briefed the management about the preparation activities of the teams, said that the management would have to support the teams in terms of logistics and other areas of need.

Professor Atayero expressed appreciation to God for the beautiful thing the Hult Prize finalists are doing for Covenant University. The meeting, he said, was necessary to know their level of preparedness and how the management can help to facilitate it.

The Vice-Chancellor and other members of management at the meeting, which included the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Shalom

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Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, and CU Management with the Country Director, Enactus, Mr. Michael Ajayi in a group photograph

## Expert Reveals Relevance of Geophysics in Food Production, Others

If Nigeria has to maintain her sovereignty as a nation, she must, among other things, lay emphasis on food security, an area which experts say geophysics has significant role to play through the determination of soil fertility suitable for any particular crop leading to high yield, food exportation and foreign exchange earnings.

The Guest Speaker, Professor Elijah Ayolabi, made the submission while presenting a paper titled, "Relevance of Geophysics in Present Economic Dispensation," on Tuesday, January 17, 2017, at a Special Seminar Presentation organised by the Department of Physics, Covenant University, Ota.

Professor Ayolabi, who is also the Vice-Chancellor of Mountain Top University, highlighted the relevance of geophysics to the environment, road construction, transport, agriculture, search for hydrocarbon and solid minerals, water resources, housing, power generation, terrorism and security as well as anti-corruption fight among others.

"The economic impacts of geophysics

technologies as well as latest success rates have not been adequately utilized for our economic development. In order to improve the economic relevance of geophysics, we must start engaging the capabilities of geophysics in our national development as well as economic evolution," he explained.

The guest speaker noted that in the quest by the government to diversify the economy from oil base, geophysics would be relevant in locating the site for solid minerals in the sub-surface for exploration. "There is no state in this country that does not have a particular solid mineral. If well managed, each state would be able to stand on its own economically," he added.

On the relevance of geophysics to Housing, Professor Ayolabi argued that the spate of building collapse in the country could have been reduced if the sub-surface was taken into consideration. He noted that emphases were often laid on sub-standard building materials when structures collapse, but with geophysics, cavity on the sub-surface could be



Vice-Chancellor, Mountain Top University, Professor Elijah Ayolabi, delivering his lecture

detected before structures are erected on the land.

Professor Ayolabi emphasised that if geophysics technologies were well utilized, it would provide job opportunities and avenue for training upcoming geophysicists in the country.

The Head, Department of Physics, Dr. Mojisola Usikalu, had earlier in her welcome remarks enjoined the participants to be in good disposition to gain maximally from Professor Ayolabi's wealth of experience.

Professor Elijah Ayolabi also paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor AAA. Atayero, in his office where they had discussions before the seminar. ■

### VC Pledges Support for Hult Prize Finalists *Contd. from Pg 1*

Chinedu; Registrar, Mrs. Mary Aboyade; and Director, Financial Services, Pastor Bayo Oladehinbo, took turns to pray for the success of the students.

One of the three Covenant University teams that qualified for the regional finals include the Olalekan Olowo-led Project Team RMS (Refugee Management Systems), which is an online management system for proper identification, registration, management and classification of refugees. The essence is to gather data of refugees with respect to their skills and capacities in order to create employment opportunities for them. The team will be competing with

others in London, UK, centre of the regional finals.

The second team led by Deborah Elabor is Project Team Feed-Well, which focuses on eliminating malnutrition from among the children of refugees by producing affordable cereal from wheat. It will be competing with other teams at the Shanghai, China centre.

Timothy Mutfwang leads the third team, Project Beauty Cycle, which aims at empowering refugee women in the area of fashion and lifestyle and creating market opportunities for them. The team will head

to Dubai, UAE, where it will compete with other regional finalists. ■

having the capacity to contribute to the success of the project.

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor AAA. Atayero, thanked the Nigerian Army Institute of Technology and Environment Studies for giving the University the opportunity to share with others what God has been using the University to do. He emphasised that Covenant University was birthed by vision and attributed the success story of the University to the compelling nature of the vision.

He urged the Nigerian Army to be ready to pursue with vigour the philosophy behind the establishment of the proposed university to make a success of it. "In our humble role as mentor we'll do everything to help you in your endeavour. If your vision is compelling enough, you will go for it with tenacity. I see us working together as partners, collaborating on problems being faced by the Military," he said.

While impressing it on the visiting delegation that the partnership has the full support of the Covenant University Chancellor, Dr. David O. Oyedepo, Professor Atayero said the way to take the partnership forward is through further discussions.

Also on the entourage of Maj. Gen Efevbokhan were Maj. Gen C.O Ojo, Brig. Gen L.F Abdullahi, Col. A.O Amaechi, Professor Usman A. Molid and Mr. Kalli A. Kori.

Representatives of Covenant University at the meeting also included the Registrar, Mrs. Mary Aboyade; Director, Financial Services, Pastor Bayo Oladehinbo; Director, Vice-Chancellor's Office, Dr. David Omole; and Deputy Director, Media and Corporate Affairs, Mr. Emmanuel Igban. ■

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up organisers of the conference for planning to address issues bordering on Sustainable Development Goals, adding that the Covenant University and Enactus partnership is a strong one that must be taken to the next level.

Also at the meeting were the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Shalom Chinedu; Registrar, Mrs. Mary Aboyade; Director, Financial Services, Pastor Bayo Oladehinbo; Director, Centre for Entrepreneurial Development Studies, Dr. Stephen Oluwatobi; Director, Vice-Chancellor's Office, Dr. David Omole; and an Advisor to the CU Enactus Team, Dr. Omotayo Adegbuyi among others. ■

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in national development. He said that the task of establishing the Army University would be accomplished through hard work. Also, he suggested that one of the areas both Covenant University and the Army University can collaborate is resource development or training as CU, today, gives training to staff of other organisations.

In his comments, the Director, Academic Planning Unit, Covenant University, Dr. Olawande Daramola, described the Nigerian Army University of Science and Technology initiative as a laudable objective, adding that it was a symbol of forward thinking by the government. Covenant University, he said, feels honoured that it was recognized as