



# Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University December 18-22, 2017

## Covenant Wins Nigeria Media Award for Employment, Job Creation



Former Dean, College of Business & Social Sciences (CBSS), Professor Isaiah Olurinola, receiving the Award on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, Covenant Univer

Covenant University has been awarded the '2017 Nigeria Media Award for Employment and Job Creation' by Gidijobs, an online employment solution for job seekers and employers, for the enterprising and well rounded academic curriculum that has

distinguished graduates of Covenant from others.

Delivering a lecture titled, 'Are we ready for Future Work? The Nigerian University Perspective', at the 2017 Gidijobs Summit, the Vice Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor AAA. Atayero, represented by the former Dean, College of Business and Social Sciences, Professor Isaiah Olurinola, noted that labour, being a major asset, was faced with lots of factors that impinged on job creation, thus causing contraction and moving over a million people, on an annual basis, into the unemployed group (<http://bit.ly/atvc one>).

Professor Atayero stated that the consequence of the digital revolution and technological advancement will continue to impact negatively on job growth. According to him, "While Artificial Intelligence and ICT advancement will keep eroding old jobs, it will at the same time create new ones, though with a higher dimension of skills levels".

He stated that the decline of jobs, due to rapid advancement in technology, has contributed phenomenally to

improvement in productivity, leading to a reduction in the proportion of the wage bill in total value added.

He noted that there are both optimistic and pessimistic views with respect to the relevance of the University System in preparing graduates for future works. However, he was of the view that AI can only cut the jobs, replace them with another form of jobs, and not eliminate human resource in the workplace.

Professor Atayero highlighted some of the strategies that universities can put in place to get their graduates ready for future work. These, according to him, include curriculum review to meet the current realities of the labour market; establishing industrial linkages; community engagement where they are located, to stay relevant; concentration on skills that are not easily automated in every programme offered by universities; and developing a hybrid of On line and

On Campus programmes.

He espoused to the audience Covenant's unique cultures that have over the years helped her graduates to emerge workplace ready with an entrepreneurial

*Contd. on Pg 2*

## Covenant Reassures ICAN on Hitch-Free Academic Conference

The Vice Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor AAA. Atayero, has reassured the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) that the University will facilitate the successful hosting of the 4th Academic Conference of the institute, scheduled to hold from April 18 20, 2018.

He bolstered the confidence of ICAN on Monday, December 11, 2017, when members of the Work Group for the conference paid a courtesy visit to Management of Covenant.

Stating the purpose of the visit, Deputy Chairman of the ICAN Work Group, Dr. Sola Ajibolade, representing the Chairman, Professor Kabiru Dandago, said the team was at Covenant to introduce members of the group and also, to present ICAN's specific demands towards having an accomplished conference. She said the institute was delighted that Covenant had accepted to host the event.

In the demands by ICAN, presented on behalf of the institute by the immediate past Dean, College of Business and Social Sciences, Professor Francis Iyoha, the Vice Chancellor was requested to give a keynote

*Contd. on Pg 2*

## Covenant to Support Biotechnology Society on Annual Conference

Covenant University has declared her support for the 2018 Annual Conference of the Biotechnology Society of Nigeria (BSN).

The Vice Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, made the declaration on Thursday, November 30, 2017, when the President, BSN, Professor Benjamin Ubi, paid him a courtesy visit along with members of the Local Organising Committee (LOC) for the conference, comprised mainly of faculty in Covenant's Department of Biological Sciences.

Covenant was the popular choice for the hosting right, which was contested by the Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta (FUNAAB) and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), by a wide margin during a recent meeting of the BSN in Minna, Niger State.

Professor Ubi, who described the Biology laboratory at Covenant as the best in Nigeria, said it was a general consensus that the University should play host to next year's conference so as to boost the

visibility of the BSN. He said the BSN envisaged a historic conference, with Covenant helping to elevate it to a very high pedestal.

The BSN conference, according to him, would bring to Covenant more than 300 scientists from within and outside Nigeria, including some participants intending to exhibit their products.

While applauding the great works being done by the Vice Chancellor, Management,

*Contd. on Pg 2*



Vice Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, Presenting some University Souvenirs to President, Biotechnology Society of Nigeria, BSN, Professor Benjamin Ubi

# Banking and Finance Programme Delights NUC Accreditation Team



Covenant University Management with NUC's Reaccreditation Team to Banking and Finance Programme

An Accreditation Team from the National Universities Commission (NUC) has expressed its delight at the provisions made by Covenant University for her Banking and Finance Programme.

Presenting the interim report of the peer review exercise to the Management of Covenant on Saturday, December 2, 2017, leader of the team, Professor Park Idisi, said it was delightful to observe that the programme was well equipped for re accreditation.

According to him, the philosophy and objective of the programme are stated, articulated, and meet the NUC requirements; the curriculum meets the minimum requirement of the NUC BMAS; all the students meet the minimum admission requirements; academic regulations are well publicised; while quality examination questions and marking scheme exist.

Also, he said the external examiner system exists and the external examiners are qualified; there are quality lecturers to produce the required manpower; availability of good staff development programmes; adequate, well furnished and maintained classrooms; conducive learning environment; well stocked library featuring books, journals and other resources; and adequate funding.

Professor Idisi thanked Covenant for the very warm hospitality accorded members of his team, and wished the University success in her vision of becoming one of the top 10

universities in the world in a few years time.

In his comments, the Registrar, Dr. Olumuyiwa Oludayo, thanked the team for the feedback, stating that what it has done was to show Covenant how she can intensify her efforts toward the actualization of her vision; while the Dean, College of Business and Social Sciences, Professor Philip Alege, appreciated the comments and inputs made by the NUC representatives, and wished them a safe journey back to their respective destinations.

The Vice Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, in his remarks, appreciated members of the NUC team for their candid and honest report. He said Covenant's vision was not trying to be the best in Nigeria, West Africa or Africa, but in the world, adding that peer review exercise keeps the University further on her toes as she does not celebrate mediocrity.

Professor Atayero expressed deep appreciation to the Executive Secretary, NUC, Professor Abubakar Adamu Rasheed, for the caliber of assessors sent to Covenant. Ikwang, who is the Programme Adviser on Niger Delta, Office of the National Security Adviser, in the Presidency, corroborated Col. Suleiman, noting that the reason why people take up arms is not poverty or unemployment but injustice. He explained that terrorism is premeditated violence perpetrated against non-combatant target by sub-national group or clandestine agents. ■

Dr. Ikwang suggested various strategies to arrest terrorism in the country, which include de-radicalisation of radicals, strategic communication to counter the terrorists narratives as well as counter radicalisation, which premised on the concept that, "To stop burning fire, you take the unburned firewood away. When the burning firewood burns out, the fire goes down."

He advised the participants to always challenge anything contrary to the facts because, "If they are not challenged, the society will be radicalised and when it is radicalised, it will become violent." ■

## Covenant Wins Nigeria Media Award for Employment, Job Creation

Contd. on Pg 2

mindset, which has always given them an edge over their contemporaries from other institutions of learning in the this part of the world.

This will be the second employability related award that Covenant University will be carting home in 2017. It will be recalled that Stutern, a Lagos based startup and an online platform that carries out studies on employment in Nigeria and Nigerian universities, had in its 2016 edition of 'The Nigerian Graduate Report' publication ranked Covenant University Number One in the list of Nigerian universities (both private and public) with the Most Employable Graduates. ■

## Covenant to Support Biotechnology Society on Annual Conference

Contd. on Pg 2

faculty and staff of Covenant, Professor Ubi expressed belief in the ability of the institution to actualise her vision of becoming one of the top 10 universities in the world in a few years time.

Earlier in his comments, Professor Louis Egwari, who is Chairman of the LOC, said hosting the forthcoming conference would be an avenue to take the already productive relationship between Covenant and the BSN to a new level.

In his remarks, the Vice Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, said Covenant was proud to associate with the BSN and thanked God for the hosting right given to the University. He promised the institution's maximal support for the conference, and urged organisers to ensure that opportunities offered by hosting such a conference are fully utilised.

Professor Atayero expressed optimism that the LOC will deliver a successful conference considering the caliber of people in the committee. ■

## Covenant Reassures ICAN on Hitch-Free Academic Conference

Contd. on Pg 2

address at the conference, and play host to the President of ICAN. The institute also requested for the use of facilities at the African Leadership Development Centre and the Centre for Entrepreneurial Development Studies, among other facilities and equipment of Covenant, during the conference.

In his comments, the Registrar, Dr. Olumuyiwa Oludayo, said he was certain that delegates to the conference would find facilities at Covenant very satisfying. He, however, urged the ICAN Work Group to present a formal documentation of their requests to the University.

The Vice Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, in his remarks, said Covenant is very proud that ICAN had found her worthy of hosting the institute's 4th Academic Conference. He said the Management of

Covenant had approved the request to host because the institution, in her efforts at becoming one of top 10 universities in the world, was very keen on leveraging on collaboration with organisations with similar interest.

Professor Atayero proposed that the conference, which would be attracting about 500 delegates, should not be seen as a mere academic exercise, but a platform to explore the immense opportunities it offers. ■



Covenant University Management with ICAN Working Group Officials