



# Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University February 20-24, 2017

## Covenant University Remains Best Private University

Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, maintains its pride of place as the overall Best Private University in Nigeria, courtesy of its position in the latest edition of Ranking Web of Universities, also known as Webometrics Ranking.

In the ranking, released on February 1, 2017, by the Cybermetrics Lab, Covenant University is 2nd in the list for Nigerian universities, the highest attained by any privately-owned university in the country. Also, the University occupies the 24th position in the league of African universities,

moving up from the previous ranking position of 25.

Similarly, enabling and encouraging interdisciplinary approaches to research has made Covenant University to maintain its the 1st position in Nigeria and occupy the 13th position in Africa in the recently released Ranking of Web of Repositories.

A look at the various parameters in the Webometrics Ranking shows that the University had massive leaps in terms of Web Presence, Impact, Openness and Excellence Rankings.



Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University,  
Professor AAA. Atayero,

The ranking validates the University's giant strides towards the fulfillment of Vision 10:2022, which is to get the University listed amongst the top ten universities in the world by the year 2022.

## DBI Seeks Collaboration with CU, Lauds ADAPTI Training Participants

The Digital Bridge Institute (DBI), facilitator of the just ended 2nd Advanced Digital Appreciation Programme for Tertiary Institution (ADAPTI) training at Covenant University, has expressed its desire to deepen its relationship with the University.

Following the success of the first edition of the ADAPTI training held in October 2016 at Covenant University, the DBI had this year returned for the 2nd edition, which held from 13-17 of February, and with participants drawn from among faculty members and staff of the University.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the training programme, the Administrator, DBI, Dr. Ikechukwu Adinde, who described his visit to Covenant University as special, said that he was "extremely impressed" by the facilities and world-class maintenance in the

institution.

And while giving kudos to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, for astute administration, Dr. Adinde said that the DBI was interested in partnering with CU in areas where the two organisations can collaborate, to deploy resources that can enable the enhancement of academics.

The DBI, he explained, was established in 2004 to fill the gap in manpower deficiency in the telecommunication industry, but the institute had since transformed to doing a lot in the entire Information Communication Technology (ICT) space, adding that the ADAPTI is a donor programme by the Nigerian Communication Commission (NCC).

"We empower and complement efforts of the universities in training their employees. Covenant University has

## Researcher Exposes Nutritional Values of Cassava Leaves

Contrary to the phobia for the wholesale consumption of cassava leaf due to its cyanide contents, a Nutritional Biochemist has exposed the nutritional values and commercialization benefits of the hitherto wasted products.

Dr. Adeola Bankole, a Nutritional Biochemist and Food Technologist at the Federal Institute of Industrial Research, Oshodi (FIRO), Lagos, gave the insight on Tuesday, February 14, 2017, while speaking on "Nutritional Insight into Cassava and its Commercialization Potentials," at the Town and Gown Seminar of the Department of Biological Sciences, Covenant University, Ota.

Bankole, who was the guest speaker at the seminar, noted that cassava leaf, which is a by-product of the root industry is largely wasted mainly for the 'cyanide scare' attached to it, but argued that there were numerous benefits from the nutritional attributes inherent in it.

"Cassava leaf is rich in protein (14-40% DM), mineral elements, vitamins B1, B2, C and carotenes. Nutritionally speaking, apart from the lower methionine, lysine and perhaps isoleucine content, the amino acid profile of cassava leaf protein compares favourably well with those of milk, cheese, soybeans, fish and egg," he explained.

He, therefore, allayed the fear expressed for the consumption of cassava leaf, adding that the cyanide-scare should cease to be issues with respect to cassava leaf



Vice-Chancellor, Profesor AAA. Atayero, Members of CU Management, ADAPTI Officers and CU Faculty and Staff undergoing the training programme

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## Online Convergence is the Future of Print Journalism - Experts

With the changing times in the print journalism profession and the prediction that journalists and editors' jobs are among the top six jobs facing extinction by 2030, it is imperative that upcoming print journalists develop new set of skills that will help them in the newspaper industry that is changing, with readers being the main change agents.



CU Alumnus, Mrs Laju Iren, making her presentation at the Department of Mass Communication's Town and Gown Seminar

The Guest Speaker, Mrs. Laju Iren, stated this at the Town and Gown seminar of the Department of Mass Communication, Covenant University, on Friday, February 10, 2017, while making a presentation titled "Print: Set Skills for a Set Industry." According to her, the new media landscape is a major factor, being the place where the readers are gathered in search of news.

Citing available statistics, Mrs. Iren, who is a journalist with the Vanguard Media Ltd, said between the year 2000 and 2015, advertising revenue has fallen from \$60 billion to \$20 billion, wiping out the gains of the previous 50 years, and the lost money from hard copy advertising revenue can be traced to digital advertising on the social media.

She noted that this drop in revenue has made it imperative that journalism practice of the future would require experienced individuals with not just conventional journalism skills, but a good understanding of the social media environment.

Mrs. Iren, who is a graduate of the Department of Mass Communication, Covenant University, posited that newspapers that would survive these threats must be ready to compete with bloggers and vloggers on the social media environments. She averred that newspapers must be ready to stay online and converge. "Newspaper organizations, especially those with an online presence do not just see themselves as newspapers but as full scale media organizations, responsible for audio and video news as well," she added.

The Guest Speaker noted that experts have generally agreed that media convergence has transformed the conventional journalist from a lone wolf into a multimedia team player. This means that today's journalist must come to terms with convergence as the name of the game, and the internet being the playing field.

She attributed the online convergence to the speed and immediacy factors, direct access to information sources, cost effectiveness, improved competition and professionalism, wider reach, immediate feedback and interaction mechanisms it avails consumers of news. However, she noted that the online convergence allows room for laziness and reduced professionalism, lack of regulation, technical difficulties, information overload and at times, inaccuracies.

Earlier on, the Head, Department of Mass Communication, Dr. Lanre Amodu, represented by Dr. Olusola Oyero, said it is important that academics take advantage of the special learning system, for the purpose of improving future professional delivery.

"The presenter of today's Town and Gown, being a product of the Department will provide a unique experience for participants and motivate others to seek a career path in journalism," he enthused. ■

## Researcher Exposes Nutritional Values of Cassava Leaves

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consumption as advances have been made to remediate the issue to a good extent. This, he said, have allowed consumers to benefit from the nutritional attributes in cassava leaf.

The guest speaker explained further that cassava leaf is an interesting material with respect to its apparent food value, both for man and his domesticated animals because of its high protein content and impressive amino acids profile, its good dietary fiber and fat content.

Bankole argued that since Nigeria is the largest grower of cassava in the world, with production quantity of 54 million tons

and 27% of the total world production, it could be rightly said to be the largest producer of cassava leaves in the world. This, he said, portends great commercialization benefits for the country, which include the establishment of an industry with abundant raw materials and exportation of well processed and packaged cassava leaf products to our West-African neighbours.

He charged the participants that great entrepreneurship potentials await whoever dares to engage in the cassava leaf production business. Adding that, they would however need a lot of enthusiasm and conviction about what they want to do as well as a financial discipline among other requirements for successful entrepreneurship.

The Head, Department of Biological Sciences, Professor Adesola Ajayi, had earlier noted that the presentation would highlight some important facts needed in their research and what to do to boost the economy. ■

## DBI Seeks Collaboration with CU, Lauds ADAPTI Training Participants

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taken advantage of this and I'm happy participants have found the programme useful," Dr. Adinde enthused.

While revealing that participants at the 2nd ADAPTI training had done very well, Dr. Adindu went on to confer on them the alumni status of the Digital Bridge Institute.

In his closing remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor AAA. Atayero, commended the facilitators and participants. He said that, "Covenant University teaches people on how to engage in self-development, so that they can make sound decisions in their work station, which is exactly what the DBI is doing".

The Vice-Chancellor said that the ADAPTI initiative by the DBI was economical, just as he declared that the University's doors are open to experts with unique educative programmes. "Being an educator, I'm always at where knowledge is being passed," he said.

The five-day ADAPTI training held at the College of Science and Technology Computer Laboratory

featured lessons in two categories: the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) and Microsoft Word. Certificates were presented to participants at the end of the programme.

Also at the closing ceremony were the Director, Vice-Chancellor's Office, Dr. David Omole; and Director, Centre for Lifelong Learning, Dr. Adedayo Odukoya. ■