



Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University May 14-18, 2018

Covenant Gears Up for First Model United Nations (MUN) Session



Dr Oluseyi Soremekun from UNIC, 2nd L, Head, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Dr Oluyemi Fayomi, (3rd L) with other participants at the Programme

The Department of Political Science and International Relations, Covenant University, has organised a training workshop for members of the department in a bid to build their capacity towards the organisation of the maiden Covenant University Model United Nations (CU-MUN) session,

National Information Officer, United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), Lagos, Dr. Oluseyi Soremekun said that the idea behind having the workshop was to ensure that the CU-MUN conference emerges the best MUN event in recent history.

which comes up later this year in the University.

Addressing participants at the training workshop, held at the International Relations Studio of Covenant University, the

Dr. Soremekun said that the CU-MUN was expected to help other hosts of MUN move towards diplomatic procedures of debating issues and not parliamentary debate, with the focus being on attaining simple majority in forming a resolution and passing same down for implementation, as against the two-third majority that parliamentary resolutions always concentrates on.

The Guest Speaker noted that being acquainted with international positions and varying interests of the 193 member States of the United Nations was fundamental to having a robust and most engaging MUN session at Covenant. According to him, "You must get acquainted with international issues and diverse positional interests of member states, which is cardinal to executing a perfect model of the United Nations".

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Stakeholders Stress the Importance of E-Government to Elections and Development in Nigeria

Key players in the Nigerian Information and Communications Technology (ICT) industry have urged government and all agencies involved in the delivery of ICT services in the country to improve their effectiveness to ensure the integrity of future elections and the success of development programmes in the country.

The Director General of the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), Dr. Isa Ali Ibrahim Pantami, the Executive Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), Professor Umar Garba Danbatta, and the Executive Director (Business Development) Nigeria Inter-Bank Settlement Systems (NIBSS) Plc, Mr. Niyi Ajao, all guest speakers at the 5th Covenant University Conference on E-Governance in Nigeria (CUCEN), were unequivocal about the imperative

of the country leveraging on ICT infrastructure for mainstream development and governance.

Speaking at the conference with the theme, 'E-Government for National Democratic Consolidation and Transformation: Agenda Setting for the 2019 General Elections and Transparency in Governance', the NITDA Executive Vice-Chairman, represented by Mr. Lukman Lamid, said that at global level, ICT was changing political and democratic processes, enabling transparency and accountability in governance and the IT revolution was enabling new forms of democratic input and participatory governance, and e-Government was enabling a more honest dialogue with the governed.

While acknowledging that ICT has played a big role in the 2011 and 2015 democratic processes, he averred that more could be achieved if there were enabling institutional and political wills. NITDA, he said, was contributing to the success of electoral reforms by organising capacity-building trainings for women, creating enabling environment through regulation, ensuring cyber security awareness in all the geo-political

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Researchers Urged to Assist Entrepreneurs with Data on Mortality Rate of Businesses



CEO, Banlink Ltd., Mr. Israel A. Ovirih, delivering his Keynote Address

An entrepreneur, Dr. Israel Ovirih has encouraged researchers in universities to do present and future entrepreneurs a favour by providing pertinent statistics and information on the birth and death rate of businesses (Small and Medium Scale Enterprises, Startups and large corporations) over the past five years, especially since 2015 when the economy went into depression.

Dr. Ovirih gave this task while delivering his keynote address titled, 'Cultivating Entrepreneurial Capacities in Indigenous SMEs: The Inclusive Role of Technology', at the 2nd edition of the Covenant University International Conference on Entrepreneurship. He said that a study of survival rate within the first 2-3 years of these businesses would no doubt be instructive to

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Representative of the Director, NITDA, Dr. Ali Pantami, Mr Lukman Lamid, delivering his lecture

Covenant Faculty Women's Advance Celebrates Outgoing Harvard President



Members of the Faculty Women Advance (FWA) who participated in the Programme

It was encomiums galore on Tuesday, June 12, 2018 as the Faculty Women's Advance (FWA) at Covenant University held a special Roundtable Discussion in honour of the contributions of the outgoing 28th President of Harvard University, United States, Professor Catherine Drew Gilpin Faust.

The event, held at the African Leadership Development Centre (ALDC), Covenant University, focused on an x-ray of the achievements of Professor Faust, her distinguishing qualities, ideals, and the challenges faced on her path to greatness.

While making her remarks, Coordinator of the FWA, Professor Aize Obayan, pointed out that Covenant University had always followed Professor Faust's leadership journey, especially considering that she assumed office as the 1st Female President of Harvard University during her (Obayan's) tenure as Vice-Chancellor of Covenant University.

Obayan, currently the Director ALDC, noted that the day Professor Faust was inaugurated as the President of Harvard, Covenant University celebrated. She explained that Covenant stayed in solidarity with Professor Faust's administration and had sent a congratulatory letter to Faust to acknowledge her achievement.

The FWA Coordinator described Faust as one who was seen as a rebel, because she always stood for what she

believed and took steps to actualise them. According to her, "She is a woman who did not look at challenges, but rather took on every challenge as a vital part of her victories."

Also, she mentioned that Professor Faust is a woman who never wanted to be known as a woman President of Harvard, rather, wanted to be known as the President of Harvard. "Though she never lost sight of being a woman, she never saw it as an advantage or a disadvantage, because it takes the same kind of assessment to become a professor. We do not have different requirements for different genders," Professor Obayan added.

Some of the distinguishing qualities and outstanding habits of Professor Faust as pointed out by panellists at the FWA event, were passion, vision, voracious reading habit, good gender balance mindset, focus, dedication and realistic goal setting.

Other members of the discussion panel included the Assistant Coordinator, FWA, Dr. Tayo George, Professor Marvel Akinyemi, Professor Olubanke Ogunlana, Professor Grace Olaseinde, Dr. Sheila Bishop, and Dr. Felicia Olokoyo among others. ■

Stakeholders Stress the Importance of E-Government to Elections and Development in Nigeria *Contd. from Pg 1*

zones, promoting local content as regards electoral equipment, and

advising the Independent National Electoral Commission, the National

Assembly, and the citizens. ■

Covenant Gears Up for First Model United Nations (MUN) Session *Contd. from Pg 1*

Dr. Soremekun averred that since the first MUN, shortly after the resolution of the Second World War and the creation of the United Nations, the world body had continued to partner with institutions and organisations in driving the MUN project towards ensuring that it grows in visibility at the same pace with the United Nations operations around the world.

He stated that the MUN project, being an extra-curricular activity that entails roleplaying delegates by students, thrives on creating a multicultural environment in the shape of the United Nations, to discuss issues and proffer solutions to bogging world issues.

Undergraduate, graduate students, faculty of PSIR Department, and other participants were taken through the UN General Assembly components of decision-making. These include the debate process, negotiation, taking action and implementation, and reporting phases of reaching a resolution. In addition, participants were exposed to the various steps and checklist that must be ticked towards a successful MUN conference.

Dr. Soremekun informed the University that the United Nations Secretary General, António Guterres, has thrown his weight behind the CU-

MUN, and has promised to send his goodwill message to participants of the extra-curricular activity.

The Head, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Dr. Oluyemi Fayomi, appreciated Dr. Soremekun and the UNIC office in Nigeria for the support given to the PSIR Department and its students over the years, and hoped that the envisaged successful take off of CU-MUN will go a long way in strengthening that relationship in the years to come.

Also at the training workshop were Dr. Felix Chidozie, Mrs. Nchekwube Excellence-Oluye, Miss Rosemary Popoola and other faculty from the Department. ■

Researchers Urged to Assist Entrepreneurs with Data on Mortality Rate of Businesses *Contd. from Pg 1*

entrepreneurs, policymakers, and investors alike.

The keynote speaker, who is the Chairman, Banklink Africa Group, described entrepreneurs as problem-solvers. He said it was assumed that, with the increasing unemployment rate and depressing economy, entrepreneurs have the magic wand to save the world. "However, our inability to properly partner and collaborate with all stakeholders to build a formidable and healthy entrepreneurial ecosystem like the one in Silicon Valley has radically slowed down our advancement," he

added.

Dr. Ovirih stated that universities and the researchers are in the position to propagate and establish an ecosystem that will engender growth and foster national development. The entrenchment of the ecosystem, he added, would enable the deployment of resources required in all of its ramifications to help prepare, nurture, grow, sustain and scale entrepreneurial enterprises/ventures on a sustainable level.

The keynote speaker posited that the ecosystem and the universities can

help entrepreneurs in many ways, such as visioning; access to macro-economic indices and markets dynamics, both at the domestic and foreign markets; access to finance, from debt financing to business angels financing, mezzanine and credit guarantee amongst others; technology and infrastructure support including patent system; supply of entrepreneurial spirit; the cultivation of strong entrepreneurial culture that frowns not at failures but encourages continuous business-creation and ownership in the face of adversities and challenges; and solid institutional and regulatory framework. ■