



Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University January 29-February 2, 2018

UNESCO Seeks Collaboration with Covenant on Futures Literacy Initiatives



Dr Riel Miller, from the UNESCO Futures Literacy Team, introducing other members and speaking on the purpose of his team's visit to Covenant

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), has expressed its willingness to collaborate with Covenant University on the propagation of UNESCO's innovative Futures Literacy initiatives.

Speaking during a courtesy visit to the Management of Covenant on Tuesday, January 23, 2018, the Leader of the UNESCO team, Dr. Riel Miller, said they were glad to be at Covenant. He expressed gratitude to UNESCO and Covenant

University for making the visit possible.

Explaining the Futures Literacy concept, Dr. Miller said the way the future enters into people's thinking is changing, because it is the image that they have invented about what might happen that shapes their choices in the present. "The only thing is that, most people don't think about why or how they use the future, they just do it," he added.

Everyone, according to him, knows that the future is important, hence people worry about things like the future of climate change, etc. He stressed that people hope for a peaceful and inclusive tomorrow, a better education and healthcare, because it promises to help create the conditions for well-being in the future.

Dr. Miller noted that the only problem is that few people stop to think about what is the future and how to best use it for a specific task. "UNESCO calls knowing how to use the future 'Futures Literacy,'" he said.

In his remarks, the Vice Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, welcomed the team and expressed his excitement at the impending partnership. He pointed out that Futures Literacy is a very innovative idea and

corroborates the vision of the University to achieve a world-class status in a very short time.

Stating that Futures Literacy is a concept Covenant University would love to tap into, the Vice-Chancellor averred that the idea could be closely linked to the disruptive approach employed by the University in her quest for early fulfilment of the vision.

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Covenant Faculty Wins EESC-A Scholar Position in University of Toronto



Covenant University's Director of Quality and Academic Standards, Professor David Olukanni

A faculty in the Department of Civil Engineering, Covenant University, Professor David O. Olukanni, has won a Scholar Position at the University of Toronto, Canada, under the project tagged 'Engineering Education for Sustainable Cities in Africa (EESC-A)'.

Professor Olukanni, the Director of Quality and Academic Standards at Covenant, is one of the four highly qualified and enthusiastic scholars selected among numerous applications from strong African Universities. The others are from South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia.

In the letter of award dated 10th January, 2018, and addressed to Professor Olukanni, the Project Director, EESC-A, Professor Murray R. Metcalfe, said that the scholar position comes with the responsibilities of engaging with EESC

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Consultant Charges Budding Engineers to be Professional in their Undertakings

Students, who aspire to be Electrical Engineering Consultants should adhere strictly to the rules of the profession and desist from compromising on quality and specification if a stop must be put to the chaos in the area of electricity distribution in Nigeria.

This charge was handed down on

Thursday, January 25, 2018, by a Chartered Engineer, Engr. Thomas Modey, who was Guest Speaker at the Town and Gown seminar of the Department of Electrical and Information Engineering, Covenant University, where he delivered a lecture on the topic titled,

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Members of EIE Department with the Guest Speaker at their own and Gown Seminar, Engr. Thomas Modey,

Covenant Remains 2nd on Webometrics Ranking

Nigeria's best private higher education institution, Covenant University, has maintained her No. 2 position among Nigerian universities in the latest edition of Web Ranking of Universities, also known as Webometrics Ranking.

Though the nation's premier university, the University of Ibadan, held on to the No. 1 position, Covenant beat a legion of first generation Nigerian institutions to emerge 2nd. Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife; the University of Nigeria Nsukka; and the University of Lagos, were ranked 3rd, 4th and 5th respectively.

Covenant, oscillating between the 1st and 2nd in the last few years, is the only private university in the top 20 of

the January 2018 rankings dominated by public-owned institutions. The other private university to be ranked after Covenant was the Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti, which occupied the 21st position.

Since 2004, and every six months, an independent, objective, free, and open scientific exercise is performed by Cybermetrics Lab - Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) – to provide reliable, multidimensional, updated and useful information about the performance of universities from all over the world, based on their web presence and impact.

The Web Ranking or Webometrics is released every January and July. ■

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Also, the Director, International Office and Linkages, Dr. Ada Sonia Peter, in her remarks, said that the team from UNESCO has a goal to set up a research team in Sub-Saharan Africa, as they already have one in Morocco. She explained that the organisation was proposing Covenant University to be that hub, where the research can take place. The initiative, Dr. Peter added, will position Covenant University as a key player in the propagation of these ideas in Africa. ■

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A scholars elsewhere in Africa as well as the team in Canada, in program building; supporting the team on educational content creation activities; building a strong network of researchers and institutions in Africa to advance teaching and practice of sustainable engineering.

The scholar will be working to seed an EESC-A like project and create a centre of excellence in selected host institution with links to other institutions in Africa, and to support EESC-A's efforts to better understand and monitor the engineering education landscape in Africa. Also, the scholar will devise programme initiatives to enhance it and travel regionally within Africa to advance project objectives among others.

As part of his goals participating in the project, Professor Olukanni aims to make contributions that will develop resilience to the impacts of climate and other environmental challenges in major urban and regional cities in Africa. These include the built environment, environmental protection, waste management, water resources management, energy efficiency and security, social equity, and economic viability among others.

Professor Olukanni, with keen interest in engineering education and sustainability issues, is the Head of the Urban Environmental Issues and National Development Cluster at Covenant University. ■

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'Design Consideration and Material Specification for Electrical Power Distribution Network in Nigeria'.

Engr. Modey, a consultant in the area of power supply, said upcoming engineers have the responsibility of correcting the mistakes made by the older generation of engineers, who allowed the compromisation of electricity plans for specific areas, for instance, overstressing the transformers installed in a low cost housing areas through the use of powerful electrical gadgets and machineries, which were not meant for the areas.

The former Commissioner for Public Utilities in Cross River State urged all engineers to ensure that there is a well-arranged masterplan for every project in the country.

Delving into the topic proper, Engr. Modey said power distribution is a process of getting power to all places so specified and captured, but the concept and implementation of electric power distribution will vary from country to country, and could also vary within the same country.

Electric power, he said, is generated from stations such as gas turbines, thermal power stations, hydro power stations, renewable sources among others, adding that generated power can be taken over very long distances where it is needed in villages, cities, and industries.

"The generated voltage is stepped up in a transformer switch yard, usually located on the premises of a power station. Transmitted voltage then gets to the load centre, which may be factories, cities or towns," he explained.

Highlighting the tasks to implement in order to get power to consumers, the guest speaker said an electrical engineering consultant require basic information from other professionals. Also, he said, workable engineering designs must be prepared, materials must be selected, and the description of installation and work execution up to handover and commissioning given.

Engr. Modey said the quality of materials used in standard distribution network, like power transformers, aluminium conductors and cables, lightning arrestors, gang isolators among others, must not be compromised. He also sensitised the students to the inherent dangers in working on electricity installations.

In his remarks at the occasion, the Head, Department of Electrical and Information Engineering, Dr. Victor Matthews, described Engr. Modey's presentation as fantastic. He expressed hope that the students had learnt vital lessons from the lecture, which they will find useful in future. ■