



# Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University April 1-5, 2019

## AfDB Launches Coding for Employment Centre in Covenant

The African Development Bank (AfDB) in collaboration with technology firms Facebook, Microsoft and the Rockefeller Foundation were in Covenant University to launch an arm of the youth empowerment programme, in her quest to train and develop Africa's youth skills to meet employer requirements.

The programme which was rolled out under the theme 'Coding for employment,' seeks to create 25 million jobs across Africa, to develop and launch Africa's next generation of digitally-enabled youth.

Aside Covenant, other Nigerian academic institutions that were beneficiaries of this initiative were Ahmadu Bello University, Gombe State University and the University of

Nigeria, Nsukka.

Speaking during the event, the Vice-Chancellor, Covenant, Professor AAA. Atayero, acknowledged the continuous encouragement and support of the Chairman, Board of Regents of the University, Dr. David O. Oyedepo. He also acknowledged the motherly support of the Vice-President, Education, Living Faith Church Worldwide, Pastor (Mrs.) Faith Oyedepo.

The Vice-Chancellor pointed out that the vision of Covenant was to raise a new generation of leaders in all spheres of human endeavour and as such, the University was delighted to be a part of the 'Coding for



Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, with other discussants

Employment' project, which fitted perfectly into the long-term vision of the institution.

In her opening remarks at the event, the representative of AfDB, Mrs. Uyoyo Edosio, stated that the initiative would provide the youth, especially undergraduates who would face the labour market after graduation, with opportunities and career options. She said that with a focus on capacity building, the programme

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## Moderation in eating habit, others helps to Guard Against Cancer

Being very moderate in our day-to-day lives, especially in eating and other things, offers the best opportunity to guard against the scourge of cancer.

This was the view of the Executive Director, St. Cyril Cancer Treatment Centre, Mrs. Moji Animashaun, the Guest Speaker at the Free Breast and Cervical Screening programme, recently held at the Covenant



Executive Director, St Cyril Cancer Treatment Centre, Mrs Moji Animashaun, making her presentation

University Health Centre to commemorate the 2019 International Women's Day.

She said that Nigeria was lagging behind other countries like the US in dealing with diseases such as cancer because, owing to those countries' efficiency, about 98% of the cancer scourge was being tackled headlong due to early detection and treatment campaigns. This, according to her, was in contrast to Nigeria's, where a lot of people were dying due to the inability of the government and the people to take advantage of the benefits of early examination so as to know how to tackle the problem.

Earlier, Mrs. Ronke Asaolu, the Chairman of Covenant University Community Development Impact Initiative (CU-CDII), the convener of the programme, eulogised the Covenant Management for sponsoring the programme. While acknowledging contributions by Management to the success of the event, she stressed that such support would always help in improving the welfare of the whole Covenant community.

## SciencesPo Lauds Covenant, Proposes Collaboration

The Head of Africa and Middle East Division, International Office of SciencesPo, Paris, France, Mr. Fabien Albouy, has commended the Management and Staff of Covenant for the great strides recorded within a short space of time.

He gave the commendation on Friday, March 22, 2019, when he paid a courtesy call to the University's Management, ahead of an interactive session with students of the Department of Political Science and International Relations. He stated that it was while in Doha, Qatar, for the Times Higher Education Emerging Economies Rankings, held earlier this year, that he came to understand that Covenant was in the league of elite universities in the world.

With over 400 active MoUs between SciencesPo and notable institutions around the world, Mr. Albouy said he was in Covenant to explore possible areas of collaborations between both institutions. According to him, "We don't just sign MoUs and shelf them; when we commit ourselves to an undertaking, we put them on our shoulders and run with it."

Mr. Albouy stated that both institutions should consider the evolvement of an

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## Entrepreneurship Day 2019: Experts Urge Covenant Students to Find their Niche

**K**eynote Speakers at the 2019 Entrepreneurship Day of Covenant have urged students of the University to strive to find their niche as a first step towards achieving their dream of being a successful entrepreneur.

At the event with the theme: 'Nurturing Wealth Creators', the trio of Mrs. Adepeju Jaiyeoba, Barr. Ayotola Jagun and Prince Michael Osinaike were unanimous in their exhortations that the students should be able to determine what interested them the most, which was likely to be what they were passionate about.

Earlier in his remarks, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Covenant, Professor Akan Williams, representing the Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, said that entrepreneurial education was synonymous to the University as the institution was the flagship for the idea before it was taken to other institutions in the country by the

National Universities Commission.

While appreciating the facilitators from the external context and the Centre for Entrepreneurial Development Studies (CEDS) for organising the event, Professor Williams expressed confidence that the students would not only be leaving Covenant as graduates in their respective disciplines but as wealth creators.

The Director, CEDS, Dr. Felicia Olokoyo, had in her welcome speech, bemoaned what she described as the devastating increase in the rate of unemployment in Africa, with its ripple effect obvious in the state of the Nigerian economy and increase in crimes and violence. She stated that, "We need to obviously begin to tap into the entrepreneurial potential of our youth population to solve our societal problems and create more employment opportunities for national

development and growth."

Covenant University, she said, had since inception encouraged entrepreneurship development, which had always been a focal part of the drive to raise innovative and enterprise-driven leaders, who would in turn develop valuable solutions to the social problems in the nation's communities and in turn generate wealth.



Mrs. Adepeju Jaiyeoba, making her presentation at the EDS Day Programme



Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, welcoming Head, Africa and Middle East Affairs, International Office, SciencesPo, France, Fabian Albouy, to his office

executive education that would entail faculty and student exchange.

The Head, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Professor Sheriff Folarin, appreciated the University Management for

### SciencesPo Lauds Covenant, Proposes Collaboration *Contd. from Pg 1*

creating an academic and research-driven environment that has made Covenant to become a sought-after brand around the world.

He noted that what SciencesPo was doing, being a specialised institution, was already in practice at Covenant, but a collaboration would ensure that the two institutions get to their desired destinations in quick time. According to Professor Folarin, discussions had so far been positive, with greater promises of a

fruitful relationship.

The Director, International Office and Linkages of Covenant University, Dr. Ada Peters, said it gladdened her heart that engagements by the international office had started generating positive results and, in some cases, bearing fruits, as witnessed by the number of international scholars that had visited the University in recent time.

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, canvassed for opportunity to initiate joint research endeavours between Covenant and SciencesPo, especially in shared areas of interest. Professor Atayero averred that Covenant was noted for dynamism and as such was open to any form of positive collaboration that would be geared at solving problems.

While sharing the rich research base of the University, as captured in the Times Higher Education Data Points for universities ranking and engagement of international faculty of repute to bolster existing resources, the Vice-Chancellor emphasised the need to work with reputable institutions so as to see increased subscription for admission by international students.

"We are keen on getting our people to come and understudy your operations in Paris, to help us understand how things work from your perspectives," he added. ■

### AfDB Launches Coding for Employment Centre in Covenant *Contd. from Pg 1*

anticipated that 75 percent of the trainees would be linked with employment opportunities, while 25 percent would become entrepreneurs.

She stated that the partnership launched in February 2018, would see 130 Centres of Excellence established across the continent with the goal to upscale African talents with digital and coding skills, preparing them for the demand-driven digital world.

She explained that the Bank had identified leading academic institutions as designated Centres of Excellence in Nigeria, Kenya, Rwanda, Senegal and Cote d'Ivoire. These

countries were scheduled to run the pilot phase of the digital skills training programme.

Earlier in her opening remarks, the Director, International Office and Linkages, Dr. Ada Sonia Peter, appreciated the efforts of the AfDB and partners in bringing much needed hope and help to unemployed youths across Africa, especially to female youths. She also expressed her appreciation that Covenant was one of the institutions identified by the bank as a centre of excellence for the execution of the noble project. ■