



Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University April 22-26, 2019

Vice-Chancellor Urges Faculty, Others to Embrace Innovation

The Vice-Chancellor, Covenant, Professor AAA. Atayero has urged faculty, staff and students of the University to be innovative by thinking of something new, implementing creative ideas, and coming up with new ideas/products that are valuable and impactful.

He made this submission at the recent workshop of the Covenant University Centre for Research, Innovation and Discovery (CUCRID) themed: 'Making Innovation Happen: Masterclass Series'.

Professor Atayero had while making his presentation titled, 'What Innovation Is', acknowledged that there were different definitions of innovation, with almost

everybody having his/her own definition. He, however, chose to leverage on the definitions of certain experts in the innovation landscape in order to arrive at a holistic definition.

Quoting Nick Skillicorn, the CEO and Founder of Improvides Innovation Consulting, the Vice-Chancellor said that, "Creativity is thinking of something new. Innovation is the implementation of something new", while Jeffrey Baumgartner, a keynote speaker and workshop facilitator specialising in creativity and innovation, defined innovation as, "The implementation of creative ideas in order to generate value, usually through increased revenues,



Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, making his presentation

reduced costs or both".

Also speaking at the workshop, Mr. Iortim Ogenetegha, a 2013 Covenant graduate who

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NIEEE Commends Covenant, Honours Professor Atayero

The National Chairman, Nigerian Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (NIEEE), Engr. John F. Adebayo, has in his quest to build a robust relationship between Covenant and the Institute, called on the University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, to encourage staff members in academic fields relating to NIEEE to show more interest and participate in their activities.

Engr. Adebayo made the call during a working visit of his Institute's national and state executives to Covenant on Thursday, April 4, 2019. He noted that having set up the Institute's Energy Sustainable Learning Academy to match up with that of the international body, the IEEE, they were eager to partner with Covenant towards bridging the massive gap between industry and academics, with a view to understanding how to run the academy on a virtual scale through VPN-secured networks only, and teleconference facilities.

According to him, the content for the academy would be coming from IEEE US

digital library, while they would need to engage academics with high competencies. He noted that the number one academia in Nigeria today, pertaining to communication engineering, was Professor Atayero because of his immense contribution to the profession. Engr. Adebayo stated that the goal of the new initiative was to ensure that what was experienced in classrooms was matched with industry experiences.

He commended the University Management for the high level of discipline and instructional guide instituted for the nurturing of future leaders. He described Covenant University as a foundational seed for the development of education in Africa. "I have visited some Shenghen countries within the space of three years, I have been to their classrooms, and I have seen malfeasance and indiscipline at another level, yet our people will leave Nigeria and take untold risk in the name of going to get better education abroad, when Covenant University is here," he lamented.

He called on Professor Atayero to recommend quality written research papers to flood the International Conference Exhibition on Power and Telecommunication coming up later this year. That, he said, was an avenue for ensuring that research work from the Covenant context gained wide reviews from regulatory agencies in the field of

British Council Grant for Covenant, Kwasu to Scale Up Hebron Startup Lab, Entrepreneurship Centre



Students working in the startup lab

The British Council has made available a £10,000 grant to scale up Covenant University's Hebron Startup Lab (HSL) and Kwara State University's Entrepreneurship Centre (EC) for the purpose of launching and developing Startup and Spin-off companies to solve problems, create wealth and generate employment opportunities.

Both Covenant's HSL and Kwasu's EC are working together with the Centre for African Entrepreneurship and Leadership (CAEL), University of Wolverhampton, with CAEL as the leader of the project.

The project activities include: Exchange visits for Covenant and her UK partners, the equipping of a work space for students to use as they develop their Startups, and it will culminate in an exhibition to showcase the outputs. ■

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President, IEEE, Presenting Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, with an award

Covenant, COREN Agree on Promoting Best Practices in Training Future Engineers



Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, with the visiting COREN Re-Accreditation team

The Team Lead of the Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN) Accreditation Team to Covenant University, Engr. Ezekiel Ojekunle, has urged tertiary institutions across the nation to embrace Outcome-Based Education (OBE) in a bid to ensure academically-sound engineering graduates express practical functionality on their jobs.

Engr. Ojekunle, who led a 7-man team, made the call during a pre-accreditation courtesy visit to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, on Monday, April 8, 2019. He stated that

structures were being put in place to begin the gradual shift to Outcome-Based Engineering education.

He posited that COREN was working hard to improve engineering education and training, adding that the accreditation exercise conducted by COREN, was for partnership and growth, not for witch-hunting. He, on behalf of the Council, appreciated Professor Atayero for supporting and hosting the Higher-Level In-Country Accreditation Teams from COREN, Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) and Board of Engineers Malaysia

(BEM) under the International Engineering Alliance in September 2018.

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, told the accreditation team that the Covenant brand was one synonymous with quality, which would not tolerate compromising standards in any form, because the mistake of an engineer in the profession could be catastrophic and as a result, the University was always working at improving existing standards.

Professor Atayero noted that the short-term vision of Covenant was partly the driving force behind the massive investment towards quality research materials so as to confer the competitive edge on researchers and students.

He assured the accreditation team that Covenant would continue to hold herself to the highest standards and best practices in the field of engineering, a commitment that had resulted in diverse external validations as seen in her being ranked among the top 501 of renowned engineering institutions of the world by the prestigious Times Higher Education World University Rankings. ■

NIEEE Commends Covenant, Honours Professor Atayero *Contd. from Pg 1*

communication and related engineering fields.

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero told the visiting team that its partnership request was already receiving appropriate attention from the College of Engineering industry partnership board that would be driving such engagement.

He posited that the intended

relationship between Covenant and NIEEE would go a long way in ensuring that students projects and thesis are continually tailored towards addressing industry and societal challenges.

Professor Atayero said that Covenant was ready to partner NIEEE in all aspects that request had been made. He counselled the leadership of the body to be mindful of the drastic changes emanating

from the 'Fourth Industrial Revolution' as it would be wrong to keep discussing about intending paradigm shift when in the real sense of happenings, they had already shifted, thus rendering prior knowledge obsolete.

At the end of the parley, the Ogun State Chapter of the Institute presented the Distinguished Communications Engineer's Award of Excellence to Professor Atayero in recognition of his selfless service to NIEEE Ogun State. ■

Vice-Chancellor Urges Faculty, Others to Embrace Innovation *Contd. from Pg 1*

made a presentation with the topic, 'Innovation and Design', said that innovation was a new idea, method or device synonymous to novelty, while design was an underlying scheme that governed functioning, developing or unfolding.

Ogenetegha, whose innovative product "GRIJ FRIJ" helps to preserve vaccines administered on people in remote areas, highlighted steps to innovative thinking as: identify the problem, understudy the status quo, identify the status quo loopholes, and fix each loophole. On what necessitated his innovation, he explained that 19.4 million infants had lacked access to vaccines, 52% of anemic patients died within 8 hours of not receiving blood, and 40% of maternal death in Africa were due to blood inaccessibility, all occasioned by the lack of cold chain storage.

Ogenetegha listed steps to be taken to achieving great designs as: create a problem statement, research solutions and

identify processes and procedures to achieve solution, build a team around this process and procedure, and implement solution.

While speaking on the topic, 'Innovation that Brings Income', the third facilitator at the workshop, Dr. Stephen Oluwatobi, said that, "Innovation that brings income puts Value Creation at its core as people pay for what they value". The money, he added, was in the value, and innovation had to be taken to the point it was valued from raw to refined.

On how to create, capture and deliver the value as well as generate revenue from it, Dr. Oluwatobi, who is the Deputy Director, Commercialisation, CUCRID, said that the innovator must determine his/her customer segment, value proposition, channels of delivering value to the customers, customer relationships, how to capture revenue streams, resources

needed to create, capture and deliver value, the most important activities necessary to execute the value proposition, and key partners amongst others.

Earlier in his welcome remarks, the Director, CUCRID, Professor Emeka Iweala, stated that the workshop was the first in the series, adding that its purpose was to educate faculty, staff and students on what innovation was all about. He noted that for advancement and recent developments especially in the technology industry, academics would have to focus not only on publications alone but innovating, inventing and on the long run making impact in the society.

The CUCRID Director, who appreciated the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Atayero, for leading by example by agreeing to be one of the facilitators at the workshop, said that the academic industry was now challenged, especially with demands from society, to make products and develop technologies that could impact society especially. ■