



Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University September 9-13, 2019

Vision 10:2022: Chancellor Urges Faculty to Embrace Spirituality Virtues



Chancellor, Dr Daavid Oyedepo, making his presentation

The Chancellor and Chairman, Board of Regents, Covenant, Dr. David O. Oyedepo, has urged faculty members of the University to embrace spiritual virtues as the only way to realise the vision of Covenant becoming one of the top 10 universities in the world by the year 2022. According to him,

"Whatever God can do, faith can make happen".

Dr. Oyedepo handed down this message on Tuesday, September 10, 2019, while declaring open the Faculty Executive Advance programme for the 2019/2020 Academic Session, holding at the African Leadership Development Centre in Covenant.

While making a presentation with the theme 'Foundation for the Attainment of Vision 10:2022', the Chancellor said that foundation was crucial to any building that would last as it was vital to anything one was committed to build. He stated that the platform of the implementation of Covenant's Vision and Mission was her core values, which were the principles that constituted the creed that defined Covenant as a University.

Spirituality, he stated, "is the core of our core values and the University recognises spirituality as an asset of inestimable value".

He added that spirituality guaranteed all-round profiting and the spiritual root of a number of world-class universities, such as Harvard, Princeton, Yale, and Columbia authenticated this claim. ■

Covenant Counsels Mycotoxins Conference Organisers on Access to Notable Outcomes



Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor Akan Williams, addressing members of MSN

The Management of Covenant University has advised organisers of the 13th Annual Conference of the Mycotoxicology Society of Nigeria (MSN) to ensure that notable outcomes and studies of conference papers be published in Scopus indexed outlets, as that would be a veritable avenue to apprise the academic world of the latest developments on issues about mycotoxins research in the country.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Covenant, Professor Akan Williams, representing the Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, gave the advice on Tuesday, September 3, 2019, during the courtesy visit of members of MSN and the conference's Local Organising Committee to the University Management.

Professor Williams noted with interest the robust representation of the Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON) at the conference, taking into account the recent Memorandum of Understanding signed by the University, with the intention of getting the University's faculty and staff trained in Management Systems and certified by the International Organisation for Standardisation.

Professor Atayero Seeks Greater Commitment to Vision 10:2022 at Faculty Advance



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

Covenant University has no doubt achieved remarkable feats in her drive towards becoming one of the top 10 universities in the world by the year 2022, however, all stakeholders in the project must redouble their efforts for the vision to come to fruition.

This was the crux of the presentation made on Tuesday, September 10, 2019, by the Vice-Chancellor, Covenant, Professor AAA. Atayero, to the university's faculty members on the opening day of the Faculty Executive Advance for the 2019/2020 Academic Session.

Professor Atayero, while making his presentation titled, 'Research Intensive

Approach for the Attainment of Vision 10:2022' said the University had at inception of his administration in 2016 realised that the quality and quantity of research activities must improve considerably for the institution to get into the world rankings. And to achieve this, his administration mapped out strategies and plans, which ultimately got Covenant into the Times Higher Education (THE) World Rankings of Universities.

Covenant, he stated, had gone ahead to record other milestones such as getting into the Subject Rankings, Emerging Economies Rankings, Impact Rankings, Young Universities Rankings, and also ranked in eight (8) different categories of the Sustainable Development Goals. Also highlighted were many awards and accolades, both nationally and internationally.

According to him, the impact of a strong focus on research was so profound that Covenant, which had just 452 publications in 2016 at the beginning of his administration, recorded 602 in 2017 and a whopping 1185 (96.84% rise from the preceding year) in 2018.

The Vice-Chancellor gave glory to God for the meteoric rise in Covenant's research profile, just as he commended researchers for their efforts. He, however, enjoined faculty and researchers alike not to rest on their oars for the University to get to her desired destination, which is the fulfillment of Vision 10:2022. ■

Eschew Academic Dishonesty, Registrar Exhorts Faculty, Staff

Covenant places very high premium on intellectual honesty and reputation, therefore, faculty and staff are to be committed and guided by a deep conviction of the worth and dignity of the advancement of knowledge, according to the University's Registrar, Dr. Oluwasegun Omidiora.

He said that faculty and staff were to devote their energies to developing and improving their scholarly competence as well as fostering conditions of free inquiry in the pursuit of truth, adding that the University condemned strongly any act of academic dishonesty.

Dr. Omidiora gave the exhortation during his presentation titled, 'Prescriptions on Academic Integrity' at the University's Faculty Executive Advance for the 2019/2020 Academic Session.

While highlighting forms of academic dishonesty as plagiarism, collusion, embellishment of data, and fabrication of date, the Registrar explained that plagiarism occurred when a faculty or staff misrepresented his/her own work, the work, written or otherwise, by any other person or group of persons or any institution, while collusion occurred when, unless with official approval (e.g. in the case of group projects), two or more students consciously collaborated in the presentation and production of work which was ultimately submitted by each in an identical or substantially similar form.

He stated that embellishment of data occurred when a small amount of data was enhanced or exaggerated in order to emphasize data which had been obtained by legitimate means, while fabrication of data occurred when a faculty/staff created and presented an extensive amount or significant piece of data in order to conceal a paucity of legitimate data.



Registrar, Dr. Oluwasegun Omidiora, making his presentation

The Registrar noted that in furtherance of her avowed commitment to academic integrity, Covenant subscribed to 'Turnitin' software, through which faculty and staff subjected all term papers, projects, dissertations and theses for similarity check and/or plagiarism before submission.

Also while reeling out what he dubbed, 'Covenant Culture Denominated Integrity', Dr. Omidiora, who described examination as a hallowed exercise, said it should be accorded all the seriousness it deserves, just as Area of Concentration (AOC) must be done for all the students at the same time. He urged faculty to stick to their Marking Guide as much as they could, desist from using students to grade their peers, should not make students to feel victimized, should be fair to all concerned, should release results after approval by the Senate, and must be accessible enough to get feedback from their students.

He warned that the consequences could be dire for faculty and staff found perpetrating any form of academic dishonesty.

Covenant Counsels Mycotoxins Conference Organisers on Access to Notable Outcomes

Contd. from Pg 1

He said that the recent signing of the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) by the Federal Government of Nigeria had yet to deliver the necessary benefits, as exporters were not able to export due to issues bothering on micro-toxins in the country's produce. "It is apt that we have a conference of this nature and get to the root of this," he added.

Earlier on, the President, Mycotoxicology Society of Nigeria, Dr. Bosede F. Oluwabamiwo, thanked the Management of

Covenant for the cooperation and assistance the society had enjoyed since the inauguration of the conference LOC. She expressed optimism about the overall planning and possible outcomes, noting that with the level of preparedness and positive responses from interested participants, the various sessions would be most rewarding and solution-driven. strides being taken by Covenant in her efforts at becoming one of the top 10 universities in the world in a few years' time. ■

request that you grant us permission to use your facilities for the event," Professor Duna added.

While making a welcome remark at the event, the Registrar, Dr. Segun Omidiora, expressed his pleasure at the prospect of improving the level of interaction between organisations via sports activities. He stated that Covenant University welcomes any activity that would add value to the University.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Akan Williams, in his comments, commended the efforts of the Institute at improving the quality and degree of sports activities in the country. He encouraged NBRRI to continue to put in more efforts in that area as it was part of the developmental paths to health and national progress.

The Vice Chancellor, Professor AAA. Ateyero, while giving his remarks, welcomed the NBRRI team and pointed out that the University was very open to sporting events as sport had a lot to add to the overall benefits of an academic environment.

Government Parastatal Seeks Covenant's Support for Sports Fiesta

The Nigerian Building and Road Research Institute (NBRRI) has approached Covenant for the use of the University's sports facilities towards the successful hosting of the 2019 Research Institutes Games Association of Nigeria RIGAN.

The Acting Director General/Chief Executive Officer of NBRRI, Professor Samson Duna, formally made the request on Tuesday, September 3, 2019, when he led officials of his Institute and members of the 16th RIGAN Local Organising Committee to pay a courtesy visit to the Covenant Management.

While speaking at the meeting, Professor Duna expressed delight that NBRRI members were finally able to meet with the Covenant Management especially at a time the University was ranked as the best in West Africa.

He described the REGAN Games as a sporting event where thousands of athletes

from over 35 Federal research institutes from different Ministries came together to compete for honours among themselves. He stated that NBRRI had already gone very far in its plans ahead of the sports fiesta, billed to hold from December 13-14, 2019. "We are here to



Covenant Management with visiting NBRRI officials