



IPTTO Grills Graduate Students On Anti-Plagiarism Techniques

The need for graduate students to conduct original academic research within the confines of acceptable global best practice formed the main thrust of an awareness workshop organized by the Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Office (IPTTO) at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, last Tuesday, reports *Otikor Samuel* (additional report by *Cyndy Herbert* and *Rukky Orlu-Makele: Interns*).

More on p3

Side Bar

Professor Augusta Eneh of the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health delivers the 128th Inaugural Lecture this Thursday. Details next week ~Editor



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NIAS Resource Verification

UniPort Promises Better Facilities For Teaching Animal Science

By Obinna Nwodin

Management of the University of Port Harcourt has reiterated the Institution's resolve to improve infrastructure and capacity that would empower its graduates to make meaningful contributions to national development.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, gave the assurance when he received a Professional Resource Verification Team from the Nigeria Institute of Animal Science (NIAS) in his office, on Thursday, November 26, 2015, promising that his administration was determined to provide improved facilities for the teaching of Animal Science in the University.

Professor Lale, who thanked the delegation for the visit and its frank assessment of the state of facilities in the Department of Animal Science and Fisheries, explained that the verification exercise would help the University improve the facilities on ground for enhanced learning and research. "All the issues raised by the delegation are genuine and doable things that we will take very

seriously to create an enabling environment for our students and lecturers. With adequate funding, we should be able to do all we can as soon as possible to ensure that we rectify the observed deficiencies for better learning," the Vice-

Chancellor told the delegation.

In his remark, Leader of the team, Professor Eustace Iyayi, stated that the Institute was established by Act No. 20 of 2007 as Amended in 2015, as the sole regulatory agency for the

More on p6



Story on p2

AWARD Fellow, Ends Mentorship Workshop

125 Patients Get Free Cataract Surgery



Story on p4

Lale Commends Obuama Community

Story on p5



PEN, NIMSA Mark World AIDS Day



Story on p7

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Between Development And Global Carbon Pollution

By Williams Wodi

There appears to be a renewed sense of urgency among world leaders to find answers to rising environmental pollution. Suddenly, the unprofitable argument in the scientific community about the reality of climate change appears to have come to an abrupt end in light of mounting scientific evidence that can no longer be ignored. For too long, some leading American scientists and their European cousins had insisted that climate change was a grand hoax promoted by those who were against harnessing the vast resources of the earth for the benefit of humanity. Eccentric right-wing Republican politicians in the US Congress championed unregulated exploitation of the world's resources for the benefit of big business.

Kyoto, Rio and Copenhagen Earth protocols were dead on arrival on account of scientific politics that was evidently promoted by casino capitalists in the West. Melting arctic ice shelves and unprecedented environmental degradation were simply dismissed as natural occurrences that would rectify themselves in line with the inexorable laws of nature. Dubiously-motivated scientists received huge backdoor payments from oil firms and logging companies to write dishonest and very patronising reports about the 'groundless fears' being expressed about climate change. Scientists who attempted to draw global attention to the need for urgent remedial measures to save the earth were drowned out by their dubiously motivated counterparts in the employment of those who place profit above people.

When Pope Francis gathered men and women of faith to warn against the indifference of political and business leaders about the impending danger to the environment, right-leaning politicians and dishonest academics rubbished the gathering as mere pulpit demagoguery that lacked scientific backing, but the Pontiff has recently reaffirmed that humanity was on the verge of collective environmental suicide if urgent action was not taken to tackle the problem on a global scale.

China which has acquired a dubious reputation as the sick child of the orient, found a creative answer to pollution by fitting its citizens with face masks to save them from a blanket of hazardous choking smog. China, America and India are huge countries with huge populations and huge capacities that are responsible for over 70 per cent of global greenhouse

emission. Despite the alarming levels of pollution in India, about three hundred million people still do not have access to energy in that impoverished Asian country.

Developing countries are in double dilemma about how to respond to the renewed interest by Western countries on proper environmental stewardship. As Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi puts it, "Developing countries must be allowed to grow and eradicate poverty the same way Europe has done in the last 150 years of the Industrial Revolution." It is obvious that Third World countries cannot survive on a "low carbon global economy" that is recommended by developed nations.

Efforts aimed at curbing carbon pollution are being hampered by unbridled Cold War-style politics and rapacious interest of big business. Third World countries are crying out for climate justice, while those responsible for unparalleled carbon pollution are still not totally convinced that they are responsible for this sad outcome.

Climate justice demands that those who grew their economies on carbon pollution and emission of greenhouse gases must take the lead in efforts aimed at remedying the situation before it finally gets out of hand. There is an urgent need to speedily move from talking to doing something to reverse the environmental pollution that has resulted in thousands, if not millions of deaths, especially in developing countries. The adverse effects of climate change are everywhere and those responsible for this sad turn of events would need to urgently move from talking about the problem to taking action that would mitigate the effects of climate change, including paying for it.

As the organisers fold up the table cloths and dismantle the microphones at the Paris Summit, the big question remains: how would all the 195 odd nations that made beautiful speeches at the Summit sink their discordant tones to come on the same page on the vexing issue of environmental pollution? Or would the Paris talk shop turn out to be like the watermelon that is green on the outside and red on the inside? As is usual of them, the Americans are speaking from both sides of their mouth; while President Barack Obama made superficial pledges of providing the needed leadership on the issue, it was obvious that his speech did not promise any specific action for immediate remediation of the environment.

Winston Churchill was dead right when he observed



Amina Mohammed
Minister of Environment

that the Americans will ultimately do the right thing only after exhausting all other possibilities. Now that there is a general chorus of agreement that the climate has reached a "breaking point", world leaders have finally launched a desperate bid to stem rising temperatures. Perhaps, not surprisingly, America and China which are the greatest polluters are leading the charge against global warming. It is now obvious that dependence of the global economy on fossil fuel has wrecked havoc on an unimaginable scale and the Paris Summit must save the planet before it is too late.

There is need for global leaders to embrace other renewable energy sources to reduce greenhouse gases. Even the late efforts may not be enough to save the world average temperature from rising beyond touted two degree Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels.

These world who gathered in Paris are under pressure from close to one million protesters around the world, who have signed on to unrelenting climate activism, warning their leaders that there is "No Plan B" in the campaign to save the earth. We must fight to check hotter temperatures, deadlier storms, frequent draughts and rising sea levels.

AWARD Fellow, Adedokun Ends Mentorship Workshop

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Another recipient of the African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) Fellowship and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Crop and Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Dr. Olutayo Adedokun, has ended a Mushroom Bio-Enterprise Workshop as part of her role-modelling initiatives.

Speaking during the event which held at the Faculty of Agriculture Conference Room, Dr. Adedokun, who described the workshop as an experience-sharing platform, explained that it was basically aimed at creating awareness on the activities of AWARD in strengthening agricultural science practice.



Dr. Adedokun and Dr. Mercy Ogaraku, flanked by Rumuckini Small Holder Farmers during a training session at Rumuckini Village

"AWARD is a professional development programme that strengthens the research and leadership skills of African women in agricultural science, empowering them with requisite skills to make effective contributions to poverty alleviation and food security in sub-Saharan Africa," she stated, regretting the many constraints that militate against women in science in the sub-region. "The majority of those who produce, process, and market Africa's food chain are women, but only one in four agricultural researchers is female. Women in many African countries enrol to study agricultural science as students, but upon entering the workforce, they face discouraging dynamics that adversely affect their input that reduce their enthusiasm to make

meaningful contributions to the discipline," she said.

Adedokun, who was a recipient of the AWARD Advance Research Training in 2013 in Biosciences Eastern and Central Africa (BecA) and University of Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa, disclosed that the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that succeeded the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) would result in unbounded agricultural

innovations that would in turn reduce global poverty—especially in developing countries.

Adedokun, whose major research interest centres on Mushroom Technology, Campaign on Cultivation and Consumption of Mushroom, Bio/Mycology-remediation and Control of Diseases, Mushroom Science, Molecular Identification of Fungi and Mushroom and Value Addition, told our Correspondent that the AWARD Fellowship is expected to further strengthen her capacity to make meaningful contributions to the practice of agricultural in the country.

"The second out of the seventeen goals states thus: 'No hunger: End hunger, Achieve food security, Improve nutrition and Promote sustainable agriculture.' In Nigeria, millions of people are battling with hidden hunger, despite the fact that the country spent over N1trillion on food import alone in 2014. There must be collective effort to reduce this burden as we all strive to be part of the national drive to solve the food crises in Nigeria," she advised the participants, listing structured mentorship, goal setting, collaboration and networking, as some tangible benefits of the AWARD Fellowship.

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IPTTO Grills Graduate Students On Anti-Plagiarism

Cont'd from p1

Making a presentation entitled: *On the Anti-Plagiarism Practice in Research and Intellectual Property*, Acting Director of the IPTTO, Dr. Tobinson Briggs, who recalled that the Office got its mandate from the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP) pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding with the University in 2007, disclosed that the Office was fully committed to full implementation of its mandate.

"The Office is mandated to create awareness on opportunities that exist in original research; facilitate the process of rights acquisition and licensing of new inventions and discoveries made by staff and students of the University; and to interface with the School of Graduate Studies in the verification of the originality of Thesis and Dissertation," Dr. Briggs disclosed, noting that his office was poised to promote the commercialization of original research and facilitate the process of patenting products.

"To promote these objectives, the anti-plagiarism exercise was introduced to check and control cases of plagiarism among staff and students in the course of research and development activities to help protect the academic and intellectual integrity of our University,"

the Acting Director further disclosed, stating that the anti-plagiarism exercise would assist original authors to gain from their intellectual property, improve the quality of higher education, and promote University ranking.

He expressed optimism that: "Once we close the doors of 'copy and paste research', we automatically open the doors of critical thinking and imagination, which will give birth to innovations and inventions that will usher in patents and spin-offs that would benefit researchers and society."

Similarly, Visiting Scholar to the University, Professor Sunny Iyuke, has called on researchers to avail themselves of the Intellectual and Property Technology Transfer Office to patent their discoveries to enable them benefit from their intellectual property.

In his lecture entitled: *The New Paradigm of Patenting and Publishing Product*, Iyuke, who lectures at University of The Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, recalled his research experiences in the South African system, which he said was supportive of researchers who wish to patent their products. He

bemoaned what he described as poor attitude to patenting research products and inadequate laboratories to support research activities in the country.

"The condition of laboratories here is poor compared to the ones we have in South Africa and other developed countries. There is an increase in effort aimed at patenting intellectual property in Africa. The way to go now is not just to publish for promotion or perish; it is patent and publish, because you need to commercialize your wealth of knowledge," Iyuke advised, stressing the need to publish in reputable international journals to gain wider acceptability and visibility for the University.

In her opening speech, Chairman of the Centre for Research Management and Development (CEREMAD), Professor Alice Nte, who represented the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, expressed the resolve of the administration to add value to research work through a proper mentoring process that would benefit all stakeholders.

"Times have changed when academics engage in research only for purposes of promotion; we are shifting away from the culture of publish or perish to a new era of harnessing research findings for the benefit of society. We are now more committed to adding value to our research work, so we will continue to strictly monitor research activities to ensure that they conform with extant copyright laws," the V-C's representative said.

Others who presented goodwill messages at the event were pioneer Director of IPTTO, Professor Samuel Ibojide, who praised his successor, Dr. Briggs and other staff of the Office for committing themselves to the vision of the Office even after his departure. In her own contribution, Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, Professor Regina Ogali, reiterated the commitment of the School to collaborate with the IPTTO to ensure that graduate students engage in quality research, rather than copying already completed works from other sources to earn their degrees.

Head of the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Professor Florence Ndaka, who served as *Rapporteur*, advised younger researchers to be patient to ensure originality of their works, warning that the embarrassment that follows plagiarism was better avoided through painstaking intellectual inquiry. The awareness workshop also featured a lively interactive session between graduate students and the resource persons.



Participants at the Seminar

About 50 successful candidates took part in a joint orientation programme organized for the newly admitted students into the Master of Science degree programme of the Centre for Occupational Health, Safety and Environment and the Centre for Gas, Refining and Petrochemicals which held at the ETF Gas Engineering Building on Monday, November 23, 2015.

Speaking at the event, Dean of the School of Graduate Studies (SGS), Professor Regina Ogali, who was represented by the Associate Dean, Professor Samuel Arokoyu, congratulated the new students on their admission, advising them to imbibe the virtues of hard work as the only means of wading through the programme. She advised them against such anti-intellectual practices as plagiarism, examination malpractices and truancy, urging them to sit up to be able to complete their prescribed course of study at the stipulated timeframe.

Professor Ogali reminded that the authorities had zero tolerance for such activities that had the capacity to soil the image of the Institution, warning that students who infringed upon the terms of their admission would be visited with the full weight of extant rules.

The Dean charged the new intakes to be open-minded and receptive to new ideas, also urging them to exhibit team spirit and avoid cutting corners in their dealings.

In her speech, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Professor Maureen Etebu, described the orientation exercise as

COHSE, CGRP End Orientation For New Intakes

By Obinna Nwodin

an important programme in the University, stressing that it was targeted at motivating the new students into bracing up to what was expected of them throughout the programme. According to her, the orientation was organized to guide the students through the dos and don'ts of the programmes, advising them to reciprocate the gesture by showing total commitment to their studies and refusing to cut cheap compromises. Professor Etebu, who also told the new intakes that the University prided itself as a centre of excellence in engineering studies, commended the students for choosing the University of Port Harcourt, which she described as the right place to grow professionally and academically.

In their separate speeches, Director of the Offshore Technology Institute (OTI), Professor John Okoli, Director of the Centre for Information Technology and Engineering (CITE), Professor Monima Briggs and Acting Director of the Centre for Petroleum Geosciences

(CPG), Dr. Francis Beka, advised the students to make the best use of the opportunities provided for them by the University to successfully complete their programmes.

Earlier in his welcome speech, new Director of the Centre for Occupational Health, Safety and Environment, Professor Tambari Leton, advised the students to always remember why they were in the University, stating that those who dared to make serious impact were those who fully embraced hard work and commitment to acquire new knowledge through continuous enquiry.

Also speaking, Acting Director of the Centre for Gas, Refining and Petrochemicals, (CGRP), Dr. Koyejo Oduola, who thanked the authorities of the University for the support given to the Centre, pledged his resolve to give the incoming students the highest quality of training that would enable them stand out in their professional practice on graduation.

The one-day event featured an interactive session between the new students and the Management of the Centres.



Some Officials of the University and participants after the orientation exercise

125 Patients Get Free Cataract Surgery At UPTH

By Humphrey Ogu

Success came the way of no fewer than 125 patients who took advantage of the free cataract surgery mounted by the Eye Clinic in collaboration with Surgical Eye Expedition (SEE), a United States-based organisation. The free cataract surgery took place at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital between Monday, November 23 and Friday, November 27, 2015.

Briefing *UniPort Weekly* on the outcome of the programme last Tuesday, a Consultant Oculoplastic Surgeon in the Hospital, Dr. Sydney Ejimadu, disclosed that the free cataract surgery, which began in 2013, is an annual collaborative outreach programme between the Eye Clinic and the US-based organisation.

Ejimadu, who disclosed that the 2015 edition of the programme commenced on Monday, November 23, further explained that the Surgeons operated on 25 patients on each of the five days scheduled for the procedure, adding that 125 cases were handled at the end of the programme on Friday, November 27, 2015.

"We carry out free cataract surgery in conjunction with a US-based organisation, Surgical Eye Expeditions (SEE) every year. This is the third year of the free cataract surgery and the response was overwhelming. So many patients who could not afford to pay for the surgery, which costs as much as N150,000 outside the Teaching Hospital, had the rare opportunity of being attended to free of charge during the outreach and you could feel the joy on their faces and how

grateful they were," he explained, adding that the patients were screened in advance before the surgery commenced.

Also speaking, Dr. Inder Singal of SEE, who corroborated Dr. Ejimadu's position, observed that "besides cataracts, which is the number one cause of blindness, diabetes is the leading cause of blindness in people between the ages of 25 and 65. It is, therefore, very crucial for diabetics to have their eyes examined on a regular basis for early

warning signs. The bottom line is to control blood sugar and blood pressure at the same time for early detection of signs of blindness."

Singal also disclosed that in addition to the free cataract surgeries, he handled diabetes-related eye cases with the aid of laser machines, adding that the sad thing about the ailment was that most people afflicted with the condition do not realise that they are getting blind until it is too late. He stressed the importance of regular checkups for early detection of emergent diseases that could be treated early enough to forestall future complications.



Cataract Surgery in progress

Acting Registrar Pledges Continued Support For S'Affairs Dept

By Mercy Adeniji

(additional report by Interns:

Chiemeka Adindu and Cyndy Herbert)

More than one month after her appointment as Acting Registrar of the University, Mrs. Bridget Nzimiro continues to receive encomiums from members of staff and other well-wishers on her appointment to the exalted position. The latest of such accolades came from the Acting Dean and other staff of the Student Affairs Department from where Mrs. Nzimiro was seconded to her new position.

Speaking during a courtesy visit on her on Friday, November 26, 2015,

Acting Dean of the Student Affairs Department, Dr. Otu Ekpenyong, heartily felicitated with Mrs. Nzimiro on her elevation as Acting Registrar of the University, describing her appointment as a clear

recognition of Mrs. Nzimiro's experience and capacity to add value to the University administration. Dr. Ekpenyong stated that "with your meritorious appointment, we strongly believe that our requests would be expeditiously granted by the administration. In this University, you must learn how to continue pushing your request until it is granted; but when you have the right person at the right place, you are permitted the liberty of bypassing bureaucracy and going straight to get what you want, and it is our hope that we would have a smooth ride because one of our own is on the saddle here for the foreseeable future. On behalf of the Department, we say congratulations on your well-deserved elevation to the position of Acting Registrar of the University of Port Harcourt."

Also speaking, Mrs. Carol Nwakanma, who is currently acting on behalf of Mrs. Nzimiro, said: "We are here on behalf of the entire Student

Affairs Department to congratulate you on your well-deserved elevation to the exalted position of Acting Registrar. It is a God-given elevation, because your appointment as Acting Registrar is not by your own making; God picked you from amongst us and placed you there and we are glad at this development. Everybody in this University knows your capacity to deliver quality service and we expect nothing less in your new position."

In her response, Mrs. Nzimiro, who was visibly touched by the kind sentiments expressed by the Acting Dean and Mrs. Nwakanma, commended staff of the Student Affairs Department for coming to felicitate with her on her appointment, urging them to keep up the good work and always remain committed to their difficult duty schedules.

Recalling her journey so far, Mrs. Nzimiro said: "When I was contacted to terminate my annual leave in America, I had no alternative than to obey the call of duty and return home to take on the challenge. My decision was predicated on the passion I have for the continued growth of the University. God knows how to select people. This is not a victory for me alone, but it is to all of us; nothing is impossible with God. I know God is using me to touch people, so I urge you to continue the good work we are doing together at the Student Affairs Department before I was appointed to this position," she told them, promising not to abandon the Department.

The Acting Registrar expressed gratitude to Dr. Ekpenyong, and her successor, Mrs. Nwakanma for their support, appealing to the Dean to extend her appreciation to every member of staff of the Department.

Others who were present at the visit included the Associate Dean, Dr. Adedamola Onyiaso and Senior Assistant Registrar, Mr. Chinedu Onyige.



Ag. Registrar, Mrs. Nzimiro (arrowed), flanked to her left by Ag. Dean, Student Affairs, Dr. Ekpenyong and other staff of the Department during the courtesy visit

CCGS To Commence PG Programme In Conflict Studies

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Plans have been concluded for the commencement of a Postgraduate programme in the newly-merged Centre for Conflict and Gender Studies (CCGS), which emerged out of two defunct Centres. New Acting Director of the Centre, Dr. Fidelis Allen, made the disclosure to commence the Master of Science Degree programme in Peace and Conflict Studies as a direct response to the increasing conflict burden in Nigeria and beyond.

Dr. Allen, who spoke during an interview with a *UniPort Weekly* Correspondent on Thursday, November 26, 2015, noted that other Postgraduate programmes in Gender and Women Development Studies would run concurrently with the Peace and Conflict Studies domiciled in the defunct Centres that were merged under the new Centre for Conflict and Gender Studies. He explained that the new Centre emerged from the defunct Patience Jonathan Centre for Women and Gender Development Studies (PJC-WGDS) and the Centre for Conflict and Ethnic Studies (CENTECS) for better coordination and operational efficiency.

"The previous programmes run by the defunct Centre would continue to run concurrently under the new dispensation. We are strengthening our capacity to become a Centre of Excellence in Peace, Conflict and Gender Studies in Africa and beyond in terms of research and transformational academic practice, capacity-building and teaching. We hope to get more involved in

the transformation of society with a view to influencing peace, conflict and gender issues for accelerated national development," the Acting Director said.

Revealing plans for more collaborations with relevant agencies and other stakeholders, Dr. Allen pointed out that the Centre in partnership with the Faculty of Social Sciences is currently driving a proposal with the Rivers State Conflict Management Alliance and the Nigerian Stability and Reconciliation Programme. "The idea is to create a platform for collaborative management of conflicts in Rivers State and the rest of the country. The Centre is providing intellectual and academic guide for effective management and analysis of conflict in affected areas," he stated, calling for support from public-spirited individuals and groups to achieve the aims for which the Centre was restructured by the new administration.

Emphasising that part of efforts aimed at strengthening the capacity of the new Centre to deliver on its mandate evolved from the bi-monthly Conflict Dialogue, Dr. Allen added that the outcome of the initiative has resulted in the development of sustained Policy Briefs. "We are finalising proposals for collaboration with the British Council and other like-minded agencies for effective delivery on our mandate. We hope to widen collaboration with another organization known as FOSTER, and we are also working on more partnership programmes that would enhance the activities of the Centre. Our aim is to make the Centre the very best in Africa," Dr. Allen told our Correspondent.



Dr. Allen

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, has expressed gratitude to the Obuama community in Degema Local Government Area for its kind gesture of donating a building that currently accommodates students of the Department of Nursing Science on their rural posting which is a crucial aspect of their training programme in the University.

Professor Lale made the commendation when he received a delegation of the Obuama Council of Chiefs in his office on Thursday, November 26, 2015. He assured the Chiefs and good people of Obuama of the University's support in their quest for quality primary healthcare delivery in the community and its environs.

Professor Lale, stated that with such kind gesture by the

Lale Commends Obuama Community For Hosting UniPort Nursing Students

By Obinna Nwodin

community, "the University needed to show support and appreciation for what you have done; not many communities can do what you have done. Again, your favourable disposition to the initiative is a testimony of the enlightenment of your people that made possible for

your people to appreciate the importance of such a strategic facility in the area." The Vice-Chancellor reaffirmed the promise of his predecessor to engage some youths of the community in the Centre once it becomes fully operational to give the community a sense of joint ownership of the facility.

Earlier in his address, leader of the delegation, Chief Gillis-Harry Pakribo Ibis, who congratulated Professor Lale on his assumption of duty as Vice-Chancellor appealed, to him to fulfil the promise made by his predecessor to properly engage some community youths in maintaining the facility.

"We decided to collaborate with the University of Port Harcourt on this important project because we want our people to have easy access to quality rural healthcare facility that would respond to ailments that afflict our people. We also want to reassure you that we will do everything possible to safeguard the facilities at all times to enable us enjoy the benefits of having your trainee nurses in our community," Chief Ibis told the Vice-Chancellor.



V-C Prof Lale (middle), flanked to his left by Chief Ibis and to his right by DV-C, (Admin), Prof Anthony Ibe and others

Mgt Fetes 30th Convocation C'ttee Members

By Rukky Orlu-Makele, Cyndy Herbert (Interns) and Otiakor Samuel

It was celebrations time on Tuesday, November 24, 2014 as Chairman of the 30th Convocation Committee, Professor Igbo Joe, hosted members to a mini-reception for successfully organizing the combined 30th Convocation Ceremony of the University, last June. The reception featured a buffet and other side attractions that thrilled guests who converged at the NIM Lounge, Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park.

In his opening remarks, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, commended the Committee Chairman and members for a job well done, stating that whenever one does a serious job well, one deserves to be shown gratitude as a mark of appreciation. He expressed happiness with members of the Committee for their enthusiasm that resulted in the successful organisation of the Convocation, urging staff to continue to show total commitment in the performance of their duty schedules to the University.

"Today is not a speech-making day, as we are here to dine and wine. We should always remember that Management would appreciate every good work rendered by staff towards the uplift of the University," the Vice-Chancellor told the Committee members.

Speaking earlier, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and Chairman of the Convocation Committee, Professor Igbo Joe, showered praises on members of the Committee for delivering on the onerous task of organising a befitting combined Convocation Ceremony that drew commendations from guests and the University community. "I urge everyone in the Committee to put in more effort to help the University record a better outing at the next Convocation Ceremony," Professor Joe said, promising that their laudable effort would always be remembered by Management of the University.

Professor Joe said that the last Convocation Ceremony recorded the largest number of graduands, explaining that the graduating students were over 13,000 spread across all the Faculties and Colleges in the University.

In his own remarks, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, expressed gratitude to the 15-member Committee, hoping that they would deploy their valuable experience in other duty schedules aimed at moving the University to greater heights. He commended the Committee members for their hard work towards making the 30th Convocation a huge success, adding: "The University expects every staff to put in their best effort to deliver quality service that would bring honour to the Institution at future public outings."



University staff and others at the luncheon

UniPort Reassures NIAS Of Improved Facilities

Cont'd from p1

practice of Animal Science in Nigeria, stressing that the team evaluated the state of learning and research facilities in the Department. "The team interacted with staff and students, as well as evaluated available infrastructure to identify gaps that would enable the Department to improve the quality of service

delivery on offer.

We were able to evaluate the academic content, admission requirements, staff mix, standard of test and examination, staff development programmes, amongst others," he said, appealing to the authorities to address the gaps observed by the team in order to enhance the quality of academic work in the Department. He also stressed the need to improve on

funding in order to beef up facilities on ground, adding that "we can produce better graduates only when we create a better learning environment that would empower your students to give of their very best."

Also speaking, representative of the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Dr. Amiyé Francis, who commended the team for its detailed evaluation of available facilities on ground, expressed hope that the exercise would put the Department on a proper footing for quality service delivery and stakeholder engagement. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, had earlier received the delegation on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor during a courtesy call before it commenced its assignment.



V-C, Prof Lale (sitting 4th from left), Team Leader, Prof Iyayi (to his right), officials of the University and other members of the Team

Following the official commissioning of the Choba SEEFOR FADAMA Cold Room at the Choba Park last Tuesday, the University community now has a one-stop shop to meet its frozen food needs at affordable prices. The new facility which is an initiative of the Choba SEEFOR FADAMA Community Association Cold Room Project, is strategically located near the Security Gate, along Cotonou Street inside the Choba Park.

Performing the commissioning ceremony, Director of Special Duties, Professor Matthew Wegwu, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, expressed gratitude to the State Employment and Expenditure For Result (SEEFOR) and FADAMA III for supporting the realisation of the initiative. "If things work out as expected, we believe that the University and the host communities will patronize goods from this Cold Room to sustain its viability and profitability in the long run. I wish to assure all stakeholders in this project that by this time next year, it would be a positive story that we would all be proud to be associated with."

Professor Wegwu assured the sponsors that the University would do everything possible to ensure that the project would be sustained to deliver on its promises. "This laudable initiative will be jealously guarded to benefit its target audience at all times. We are aware of the increase in cancer cases and some of those cases could be traced to imported frozen food with preservatives that cause harm to the body, but the frozen food that would be sold here would be bred in Nigeria and certified fit for human consumption. To give the community a sense of ownership, we have employed an indigene of this area to run the place and we are glad that this project would continue to add value to the University and its host communities," the Vice-Chancellor's representative said at the commissioning ceremony.

Also speaking, Rivers State Project Coordinator of FADAMA III Development Project, Mr. Kingsley Amadi, disclosed that the State and Federal Governments under the SEEFOR FADAMA Project, decided to assist farmers in the rural areas with grants to empower them to produce more food. "The whole essence of this project is to increase food

Choba SEEFOR FADAMA Cold Room Opens For Business

By Mercy Adeniji
(with additional reports by Interns:
Chiemeka Adindu and Marvellous Abel)

production, increase the wellbeing of the people and create more employment opportunities for our people. The Cold Room is expected to emphasize value addition that would encourage our people to make more money and that is why we are supporting the SEEFOR FADAMA Community Association. The project is jointly assisted by the World Bank and the European Union, the Federal, State and Local Governments," he explained.

Speaking earlier, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Dr. Olufemi Adesope, recalled that the Special Projects Unit and the Faculty had organised a four-day training workshop for 200 participants from the host communities on food security and sustainability on Agro-Empowerment of Women and Youths of the University, in keeping with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

He also disclosed that participants were encouraged to organise themselves into Economic Interest Groups under the FADAMA User Group (FUGs), with each group consisting of a minimum of 10 members. "Today, the 10

Cooperatives have fully accessed their grants from the SEEFOR FADAMA, completed their first production cycle, sold off the produce and are currently in their second production cycle," adding that the Cold Room project was centralised at Choba Park because of the availability of land, electricity and security of the facility.

In her contribution, Christiancia Igbe, who represented the Project Coordinator, Mr. Precious Amos, commended the University and the immediate host community for backing the commissioning of the project, stating that the main objective of the SEEFOR FADAMA project was to create opportunity for youths to have access to social and economic services.

Also speaking, Coordinator of the Choba SEEFOR FADAMA Community Association, and a Lecturer in the Department of Agriculture and Extension, Mrs. Chinelo Ugwuja, expressed gratitude to SEEFOR FADAMA and the Rivers State Project Coordinator and his team for their concerted effort in bringing the project to fruition.



Director (Special Projects), Prof Wegwu (arrowed) flanked by other officials of the University and FADAMA project after the commissioning

GUIDE POST

APPOINTMENT

Dr. Ehimen Odum, Department of Chemical Pathology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, appointed *Acting Head of Department*. The two-year appointment which takes effect from November 24, 2015, terminates on November 23, 2017.

Dr. Collins Wizer, Department of Geography and Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences, appointed *Assistant Director, Quality Assurance and Quality Control/SERVICOM and Feedback Focal Officer*. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect terminates on November 25, 2017.

RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Professor Vincent Okore, Department of Pharmaceutical Microbiology, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted *Renewal of Adjunct Appointment*, as Professor, effective August 22, 2015 to August 21, 2016.

Dr. Amadi Ahiamadu, Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective August 3, 2015 to August 2, 2016.

Mr. Adiele Onyedibia, Department of Theatre and Film Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted *one-year Renewal of Contract Appointment*, as Television Producer, effective October 3, 2015 to October 2, 2016.

Mr. Rueben Onyeije Beke, Bursary Department, granted *a one-year Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective March 26, 2016 to March 25, 2017.

STUDY LEAVE

Mr. Humphrey Benneth, Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, granted *a two-year Study Leave with Pay* to enable him pursue a Master's degree programme in Animal Science at the University of Benin, Benin City, and effective April 2014 to March, 2016.

REVIEW OF STATUS

Dr. Samson Okoro, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Science, granted *Review of Status from Assistant Lecturer to Lecturer II*, effective June 2, 2015.

Stop Press

Enenajor Exhibits Works Today

Professor of Graphic Design, Marshall Enenajor, will from today, December 7, exhibit some of his products including straw art, glass tints, prints and graffiti frameworks at the National Gallery of Art, University Park. Titled, *Art Expo: The Thinkers' Thoughts...Fine Jagajaga*, the exhibition which has "Recreating a New Art Culture" as sub-theme, will be organised under the auspices of the Institute of Niger Delta Studies and National Gallery of Art. The exhibition is expected to end on Saturday, December 12, 2015.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT WEATHER OBSERVATORY FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 06 – SATURDAY DECEMBER 12, 2015.

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (am) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 06 DEC, 2015	36.0 24.0	41	NE	-	6:27 18:19	More sun than clouds expected.
MONDAY, 07 DEC, 2015	36.0 21.0	27	N	-	6:28 18:19	Hazy day forecasted
TUESDAY, 08 DEC, 2015	36.0 22.0	30	NE	-	6:28 18:19	Morning clouds expected
WEDNESDAY, 09 DEC, 2015	35.0 24.0	60	NE	-	6:29 18:20	More sun than clouds anticipated
THURSDAY, 10 DEC, 2015	35.0 24.0	60	NE	-	6:29 18:20	More sun than clouds forecasted
FRIDAY, 11 DEC, 2015	36.0 24.0	58	NE	-	6:29 18:21	Sunny day anticipated
SATURDAY, 12 DEC, 2015	36.0 24.0	53	NE	-	6:30 18:21	More sun than clouds forecasted

Dr. Gladys Emenike
Acting HoD

Dr. Prince Mmom
AG. Director, (CDRMS)

PEN, NIMSA Mark World AIDS Day With Awareness Rally

By Humphrey Ogu

The Peer Education Network (PEN) of the University of Port Harcourt Youth-Friendly Centre and the Standing Committee on Reproduction and AIDS (SCORA) of the Nigerian Medical Students Association joined the rest of the world to mark this year's World AIDS Day, last Tuesday.

Delivering a keynote lecture entitled: *Preventing HIV: The Scare and Safety in HIV Era*, at the celebration which had "Counting to Zero: Aid to those with AIDS," the immediate past Provost of the College of Health Science, Professor Chris Akani, described Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

"When infected people own up, your child will not get married to people who are infected without knowing their HIV status; when people who are aware decide to marry out of love, we don't stop them because they make an informed choice. When you stigmatise and discriminate against people living with the virus, they hide and still go about spreading the disease. It is society that suffers the dire consequences in the final analysis," he explained.

"We are particularly concerned about mother-to-child transmission of the virus. About 90 per cent of the infection in young children under-10 years of age must have been inherited from their infected mothers, who during pregnancy, childbirth or



Prof Akani (arrowed), Nwachukwu (2nd right) Ikeanyi (1st right) Mrs. Ofurum (centre) and others

as an infection known as the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) which is the underlying cause of AIDS. People living with full blown AIDS suffer unusual life-threatening infections or rare forms of cancer."

He noted that despite the myths being peddled by uninformed people that only gays, lesbians, prostitutes and sinners get infected by HIV, regular people in society were equally at risk, adding that HIV could spread only in certain body fluids, such as blood, semen, pre-seminal fluids, rectal fluids in persons infected with the virus.

"Commemoration of World AIDS Day reminds us of our responsibilities as a nation, state, community and individuals on how to look after infected persons and also how to protect those that are yet to be infected. Reducing HIV infection to zero means that everyone must join hands and put our efforts together to ensure that no new infections are recorded," Akani said, urging youths to take full responsibility for their lifestyle.

breast-feeding, including the traditional birthmark. If we have total behaviour change among young people, we will probably attain zero point or stagnant infection rates," the Gynaecologist observed.

In a lecture entitled: *HIV/AIDS: Getting to Zero*, Dr. Chinonso Ekwueme of the Department of Internal Medicine, University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital, who represented Dr. Rosemary Ogu of the same Department, stated that Rivers State has the highest HIV prevalence in Nigeria, stressing the importance of understanding the ABCD of HIV prevention. She pointed out that A stands for Abstinence, B for Be faithful (mutual fidelity), C for use of Condom and D for Drug in managing the infection, adding that "Though the use of condom greatly reduces transmission of HIV, it does not completely protect people from contracting the deadly virus."

On her part, Administrative Officer of the Youth-Friendly Centre, Mrs. Ifeoma Ofurum, stressed the need for people to avail themselves of voluntary HIV Counselling and Testing (HCT) as often as possible to ascertain their status, explaining that "voluntary HCT is undergone when an individual decides to go through HIV/AIDS counselling so that he/she can make informed decision about whether to be tested for HIV or not. It is an important aspect of HIV prevention and treatment."

Ofurum noted that "HCT can be assessed at any healthcare facility. For the University community, the services can be assessed free of charge at the O.B. Lulu-Briggs Health Centre. Students can also access this service at the Youth-Friendly Centre."

Also speaking, NIMSA National Director in charge of Projects and Training, Boris Nwachukwu and Local Organising Secretary of World AIDS Day Celebration, Uchenna Ikeanyi, said the celebration was necessary to sensitise the University community on how to check the scourge, disclosing that as part of the celebration, students of Olobo Premier College were enlightened on the HIV scourge. The event featured lectures, medical outreach to UDSS, Free HIV tests and sensitisation rally within and around the Campus.

OTI Orientation Exercise

The Offshore Technology Institute (OTI) held an Orientation exercise for its 3rd Batch of Master of Science degree students at the Seminar Room, ETF Gas Engineering Building on Tuesday, November 17, 2015. Our Cameraman, **MITCHELL EKIYOR-EBI** captured highlights of the event as shown below:



Representative of the V-C and Director of CEREMAD, Prof Alice Nte declaring the event open



Director of the Institute, Prof John Okoli welcoming guests



Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Prof Maureen Etebu advising the new students



General Manager, FMC, Michael Hunt, making a presentation



L-R: Head, Capacity Building, DeltaAfrik, Afolabi Davidson, Ag Director, CGRP, Dr. Koyejo Oduola, Ag. Director, CPG, Dr. Francis Beka, President, Global Maritime West Africa Ltd, Ross Agazuma, Profs Nte, Etebu and Okoli, Talent Attraction and Dev Manager, FMC Tech, Anders Sjolokken and Human Resources Manager, Irovestor Engineering, Alfred Obeten



Technical Manager, Jimi Fayemi (right) Engr. Denni Fibresima of SPDC (standing) and Technical Training Co-ordinator, Gabriel Ugboro



Sjolokken of FMC Technologies addressing the students



Group photograph of UniPort staff and industry partners



Assistant Director, OTI, Dr. Chinweuba Ossia



UniPort staff, industry partners and OTI students