

For Information and Enlightenment

A Publication of the Information, Publications and Public Relations Unit, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria



# Nordic, Austrian Envoys, Pledge Support For UNIPORT Brain Gain Initiative

By Obinna Nwodim & Otikor Samuel

ore encomiums have been showered on the University for exploring collaborative opportunities from the Diaspora and industry experts to expose students in the various disciplines to world-class knowledge through its Brain Gain scheme and industry-academia partnership.

The Ambassadors of Finland, Norway and Austria, Mrs Riitta Korpivaara, Mr Rolf Ree and Mr Joachim Oppinger, who made the commendation in separate remarks during a familiarization visit to the University last Wednesday, said the outing which was their first official trip to Rivers State since their arrival in Nigeria, provided them ample opportunity to access information about the State and parts of the core Niger Delta outside their offices in Abuja.

Ambassador of Finland, Her Excellency, Mrs Korpiyaara, who said that the brain gain policy and industry partnership of the University were good strategies to enhance quality service delivery, disclosed that similar approaches aimed at exposing students to quality education were also obtainable in Finnish institutions of higher learning.

"We are interested in knowing about your exchange programmes, as well as the gender balance in academic enrolment in the University and perception of the role of women

Cont'd on p6





Experts
Advocate
Use of
DLMs
For
Teaching
Engineering



Obiechina Calls For Dental Units
At Varsity
Health
Centre



## Matters Arising From African Composers' Summit

The African Composers' Summit organized by the Department of Music in collaboration with the Centre for Black and African Arts and Civilization (CBAAC) in the University may have come and gone, but not everything has been heard about the epoch-making event that turned out to be a conference crème-de-la-crème of musicologists in Africa, writes HUMPHREY OGU

he Department of Music is one of the youngest in the University of Port Harcourt. Despite its age, the Department has continued to impress music-loving audiences, eliciting thunderous applause each time it puts up a public performance.

Spurred on by its thrilling performances, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, has expressed hope that the Department has the potential to re-launch the University as a Centre of Excellence in Entertainment just like the Department of Theatre Arts, whose products rule the popular Nigerian home video industry-Nollywood.

Dr Cosmas Mereku, a lecturer in the Department of Music, University Educatio

"The Vice-Chancellor is a very wonderful person. If we have five of such Vice-Chancellors in the Africa, our continent will improve very fast. I pray we Winneba, have more of such Vice-Chancellors. Ghana. Somebody like that in Ghana will make was one of h a lot of difference"

participants at the summit. What does he think of UNIPORT?

"Everything here is fantastic. The academic environment is very serene. I'm so impressed about the layout of the buildings. Even the notice boards in the Department say a lot; it shows a lot of things are going on," he observed, lauding the performance of UNIPORT Concert Chorus-the University Choir, comprising staff and students led by the Head of Department, Professor Onyee Nwankna.

"The Vice-Chancellor is a very wonderful person. If we have five of such Vice-Chancellors in the Africa, our continent will improve very fast. I pray we have more of such Vice-Chancellors. Somebody like that in Ghana will make a lot of difference, said Mereku, who is currently on Sabbatical Leave in the Department of Music, University of Cape Coast, Ghana. "I didn't know that this part of Nigeria is like South Africa. I have always remained in Lagos on my trips to Nigeria," he

Mereku, who described music as a practising subject, with all kinds of benefits to society and its practitioners, said graduates of music could go into entrepreneurship, teaching or performing arts, amongst others, adding that music has therapeutic effect on patients. Research has shown that

children perform better in mathematics while listening to music, disclosing that children, who studied music also perform better in the mathematical sciences than their counterparts

who did not.

On his part, former Head, Department of Music, Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Port Harcourt, Kummerdoh Nah-Kofie, who noted that music is part of life, regretted the infiltration of Western ideas into the African consciousness, saving: "You can see that we are imbibing more of Western idea in our dressing, in our speaking in our way of eating and in our attitude. It is as if the Blackman is losing his identity; we don't value our traditional systems anymore. And with technology coming in now it becomes easy for a kind of recolonization. The whites are pumping in all their jargon here."

Nah-Kofie, who blamed low enrolment in music

economic factors amongst others, pointed out that "music is seen as a communal property in the African context. When we see a performance at the playground, we don't say that a particular individual composed the music; it is owned by the society. W have our

programmes on parental influence and socio-

individual occupations; you could be a farmer or trader. Most people think that music is not something you need to go to the university to study. They want to be medical doctors, engineers etc." Mereku, Nah-Kofie and 92-year-old, Emeritus Professor Kwabena Nketia advised young people to take up careers in music if they have passion for it. The trio were also unanimous that there is a bright future for talented young Africans, who take the music education seriously.

Dr Mereku

## STUDENT WORLD

## Studying Engineering Is My Dream Come True ~Nwaubochi

A Fourth Year Student of the Department of Chemical Engineering in the emergent College of Engineering, Gift Nwaubochi, shared his world as a student of Unique UNIPORT and how he longed to study Engineering here. He spoke with our Intern, JULIET NNAMDI.

hen Gift Nwaubochi completed his Secondary education, he was determined to realize his childhood dream of studying and practising Engineering. He didn't just stop at dreaming about his aspiration; he took some practical steps to actualize his ambition by making UNIPORT his first choice destination, "I have always been interested in studying Engineering", Nwaubochi told u Correspondent in a chart, adding that interest was his area of Petrochemic Engineering , but he had to choose the closest discipline to it in the University of o r t -Chemical Harcourt Engin eering.

Nwaubochi

him, there is no regret about his choice of UNIPORT to study Engineering.

Nwaubochi, further disclosed: "I always read in order not to over-load my brain during examinations, and I also browse the Internet for further reference materials," adding that he prefers using the Permanent Site (PS) Library to the Donald Ekong Library. This is because he had no patience to undergo the rigorous procedures involved in registering and using the Donald Ekong Library. "I do not belong to any social organization; I also dislike night-outs, except when I return late from Fellowship," he said in response to a question about his social life.

On his feeding habit, Nwaubochi said, "I will never intentionally wish to miss breakfast because it sustains me, as I mostly go with the 1-0-1 feeding system every day," stating that he has never lived in the University hostel and does not know how accommodation procedure is run on Campus.

Nwaubochi, who lives at Aluu Community and enjoys life in the traditional setting of his neighbourhood, says he decided to stay off-Campus because he loves his privacy. "I walk down to Choba Park for lectures sometimes, leveraging on the proximity of my residence to the Campus", Nwaubochi said.

"I am happy with the type of training we are

receiving in this University"; it gives me satisfaction that I can describe as a dream come true. I am really proud to be an Engineer-in-Training. Dr Lucky Uyigue is my favourite Lecturer and Mentor," he further disclosed, stating that the new online result innovation is appropriate for a University environment. He also advised that care should be taken in ensuring that all results are published in time, expressing worry about some results he is yet to see like some other students.

On his plan for life after graduation, he said, "I wish to study further in my discipline either in UNIPORT or outside the country." There you have the UNIPORT Engineer of the future.

#### EDITORIAL BOARD

Obinna Nwodim

Prof Joseph Ajienka - Publisher

Call: 08033093371



#### Cont'd from p1

Professor Patrick Bond of the School of Built Environment and Development Studies, Kwazulu Natal University, Durban, South Africa, made the submission while delivering a thought-provoking lecture at the resumed Faculty of Social Sciences Roundtable, held last Friday at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium.

Professor Bond, whose lecture was titled: "Climate Change and Politics of Climate Justice", noted the efficacy of non-violent approach for the protection of the environment adopted by the late Ken Saro-Wiwa and the Satyarah of late Indian Leader, Mahatma Gandhi in the struggle for the protection of the environment.

He said that the inability of the United Nations to deal with the problem is as a result of the lip-service being paid by world leaders to stem the damaging effects of climate change, pointing out that the situation is becoming more worrisome as the shift from petroleum to bio-mass is worsening climatic change due to increasing cases of deforestation, hunger and emergent diseases that threaten mankind.

The Lecturer also said that the application of bio-fuel, carbon capture and storage, geo-engineering, as well as the emergence of the BRICS countries, namely: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, are false solutions to the problem, adding that the issue of climatic change could be identified from a resource curse perspective, in which citizens of countries endowed with abundant resources such as oil and gas live under the poverty line.

Professor Bond blamed the inordinate romance between Western and African leaders to the detriment of the people as a major factor impeding the global fight to remedy the environment, adding that Western leaders use African tyrants to tame the people and rob them of their resources, while multinational corporations are allowed to devastate the environment in their mindless search for profit.

#### **Bond Lists Measures Against Climate** Change At Social Science Roundtable



Prof Bond flanked on the right by DV-C (Admin) Prof Nduka and left by Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Prof Alapiki and other Senior Academics and Principal Officers

He enumerated new measurement against GDP such as Carbon Footprint, Full Cost Accounting, Global Peace Index, and Index for Sustainable Economic Welfare, as major considerations in the fight against climate change. On climatic justice, the Lecturer suggested that the best strategy to adopt was to leave the oil in the soil, the coal in the hole, the tar sand in the land and the fracking shale gas under the grass.

In his address, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajjenka, who was represented by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, commended the Faculty for the bold initiative to return to the culture of intellectual vibrancy it was known for, hoping that the Roundtable would be sustained. He recalled that in the past, the Faculty used to be the cynosure of all attention where national and international issues were ventilated with aggressive intellectual vigour.

In his welcome remarks, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Henry Alapiki, said that the resumed Monthly Roundtable was in response to a challenge by the Vice-Chancellor to restore the once lively discourse sessions, which were used as an avenue for ventilating topical issues, describing it as a testimony that the University was in a position to proffer workable solutions to the myriad of problems that beset the society. He promised that the Faculty would return to the vibrancy it was known for in the golden days of Claude Ake, Ikenna Nzimiro, Julius Ihonvbere, William Ogionwo, Inyang Eteng, amongst others.

Earlier, Professor Bond had paid a courtesy visit on the Vice-Chancellor, where the authorities had expressed willingness to partner the University of Kwazulu Natal in areas of mutual interest.

# CGS Award Recipients Speak To UNIPORT Weekly

fort aimed at rewarding diligent staff as a way of appreciation and to motivate others to be more productive at the work place was brought to the fore when the College of Graduate Studies for the second time honoured four of its staff last month for their exceptional commitment towards the overall growth of the University.

The Provost, Professor Roseline Konya told our Correspondent that the recipients of Best Performing Staff award were evaluated based on certain criteria, including punctuality, regularity, commitment, capability, willingness and ability to carry out general office work not specifically allotted

The objective of the award is "to work as a form of appreciation of their efforts and shelves," Mr Samuel said. motivation to others," Professor Konya said, expressing hope that the reward for diligent staff would check lackadaisical attitude to work.

Staff, Mr Gonee Samuel, a Library Assistant in the Library Unit, who joined the services of the University in 2011, thanked the College for nominating him as the best staff for 2011/2012 session, stating that the award would stimulate him

identify those who are genuinely committed to their am also happy to see books well-arranged on the

Mrs Barikui Nwikobe is currently an Administrative Officer, whose services to the University started in May 2007. She is known for proper arrangement of In their responses, the Overall Best Performing documents in the Result/Board Unit and making them instantly available when needed. The Administrative Officer does not only take pleasure in proper record keeping, but also in using her personal vehicle for official duties without demanding compensation. On why she would not demand to do more. "It gives me joy coming early to carry out refund for fuel, Mrs Nwikobe said, "I do everything I set out to do with all my heart; it is my nature.'

Prior to their joining the College, Graduate Students usually complained of ill-treatment by some staff, who did not see them as students and candidates for higher degrees, but just like undergraduates. And so when Mr Festus Ezinwo, an Executive Officer in the Accounts Unit and Mr Anyanwu Kevin, an Administrative Assistant, were posted to the then School of Graduate Studies, they separately resolved to treat anybody they encountered with dignity, unmindful whether the person was a Graduate Student or visitor. Such qualities attracted them to students and stakeholders in the College, who recommended them for the awards.

"It was a surprise honour because I was observing my Annual Leave when information got to me that I was selected for the award. I am happy with the College for the recognition and grateful to God for granting me the enablement to serve. I will continue to offer my best to the College and University," Mr Ezinwo said.

"The Documentation Unit is like a Public Relations Unit because we attend to Graduate Students and visitors every now and then. One has to be friendly and treat every person with respect; it is part of my life and this award revealed that we are being closely monitored," Mr Kevin stated.



V-C, Prof Ajienka (middle) and the awardees. R-L: Mr Samuel, Mrs Nwikobe, Messrs Kevin and Ezinwo. Inset: Provost, CGS, Prof Konya

## Campus View

### NASS Holds Science Summit, Marks Anniversary

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

s part of activities that marked her 14<sup>th</sup>
Anniversary, the University of Port
Harcourt Branch of the Nigerian
Association of Science Students (NASS) held an
Open Science Summit tagged TEO-RISE 2013, last
Wednesday at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium,
University Park.

Speaking at the event, Provost, College of Applied and Natural Sciences, Professor Nnenna Frank-Peterside, who reminded the students that they were not in the University just to earn degrees, urged them to acquire functional skills that would enable them contribute to national development and self-improvement.

Describing the Summit as timely in view of the transformation from a Faculty of Science into a College with three Faculties, nine Departments and a School of Science Laboratory Technology (SSLT), Professor Frank-Peterside, noted that in line with the theme of the Summit: "The Emergence of Resourceful, Innovative Science Elites", students are usually exposed to core science training, irrespective of their areas of specialization in the College.

In their goodwill messages, Dean, Student Affairs Department, Professor Henry Bell-Gam, Director, Exchange and Linkages Programme Unit, Professor John Otaigbe, Professors Alphonsus Anusiem and Bosa Okoli, commended the students for hosting a Summit to exchange ideas on the role of science and technology in nation-building. Explaining that the boundaries of perfection and

n a bid to sensitize tertiary institutions in the

country on the new

Learning pedagogy in Engineering and other related disciplines based on Desktop Learning Modules, (DLMs) experts success are unlimited for science students, Professor Otaigbe said, "Because you have the intellectual capacity to benefit yourselves, I would advise you to embrace entrepreneurship in line with the vision of the University".

President of the Association, Victor Olua, in his address, noted that in addition to hosting the Summit, the Association has successfully hosted a Freshers' Tournament and Orientation, launched Operation Keep Ofrima Clean, rehabilitated dilapidated toilet

facilities and purchased a public address system for use in MBA 1, amongst other projects.

The Summit which afforded the Association an opportunity to launch its Magazine, SCIENCIA, also featured the Professors Okoli and Anusiem Science and Business Plan Competitions, respectively.



A Cross-Section of students at the summit

## STEP-B Workshop

# **Experts Advocate Use of DLMs For Teaching Engineering**

from various universities converged at the University of Port Harcourt penultimate Tuesday, to deliberate on how to employ method to enhance effective learning and teaching in the educational sector.

Declaring open the workshop held at the TETfund Building, University Park and jointly organized by the World Bank/Federal Government of Nigeria Science and Technology Education Post-Basic (STEP-B) project in collaboration with the Centre for Nuclear Energy Studies, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Professor Samuel Ejezie, commended the organizers and Management of the University for hosting the event in the Institution.

By Mercy Adeniji

Professor Ejezie said the Workshop was very significant, describing it as a commendable marriage between Engineering and Education. "The University is the first in Nigeria to go entrepreneurial and in a bid to key into the entrepreneurial vision of the present administration, every Unit in Faculty University is devising means of empowering students and ensuring they are industry-ready and can fend for themselves on graduation", he said, appealing to participants to always inculcate the habit of learning, teaching and transferring knowledge to other people.

In a presentation titled: "New Learning Pedagogy in Engineering Education Using

Hands-On Desktop Learning Modules," Project Leader, Professor Adulkareem Ahmed, described the DLMs as an innovation in Engineering pedagogy with remarkable benefit to developing countries such as Nigeria as it addresses developmental problems which includes basic infrastructure and other needs in the learning environment.

The Team Leader, who is also a Lecturer in the Department of Chemical Engineering, Ahmadu Bello University, explained that the DLMs will aid Lecturers and Post graduate Students to receive training in new teaching paradigms and also in applying pedagogical assessment techniques, conducting research in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Professor Ahmed disclosed that the advantages of DLMs are enormous as the device is

portable, stimulates students' curiosity, easy to move from class to class compared to traditional laboratory equipment, cheap and versatile due to interchangeable cartridges that can be produced locally.

Dr Fatai Anafi of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, whose paper was titled: "Application of Desktop Learning Modules to Engineering Education", described it as miniaturized hands-on teaching and learning device that would enable students to interact, manipulate or observe scientific processes.

He disclosed that the importance of DLMs in Engineering education encourages the adoption of Cooperative Hands-on Active Problem-based Learning (CHAPL) approach which makes it relevant in the teaching and learning of Chemical, Mechanical Petroleum, Agricultural, Electrical/Electronics, Metallurgical/Materials, Civil, Water resources and other Engineering and Science courses.

Also in his presentation titled: "Teaching Pedagogy: Emerging Global Trends", Dr Raymond Bako, a Lecturer in the Department of Educational Technology and Curriculum Studies, who noted that the modern educational setting is gradually becoming infused with new pedagogical approaches to learning, expressed satisfaction that the pedagogy has gained overwhelming support of students as it increases their conceptual gains and practical knowledge of the equipment, recommending that the pedagogy be adopted by Faculties of Engineering in Nigerian Universities, Polytechnics and other allied disciplines as a major teaching pedagogy.

Director of the Centre for Nuclear Energy Studies, Professor Ayoade Kuye, said the essence of the Workshop was to look for alternative ways for students to learn. He also presented a paper titled: "Process Equipment Design Software" which dwelt on different softwares used for carrying out various tasks, which included ProSimPlus, AspenTech AspenONE Engineering Suite, ChemStations, ChemCAD, HTRI Xchanger Suite, Petro-SIM Refining, CAPED Software, while guidelines for using the design were also reviewed in his presentation.



Prof Ahmed delivering his Lecture, while Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Prof Ejezie looks on. Inset: Minaturized Desktop Learning Module

## Campus Metro

Chancellor. Professor Joseph Ajienka, has handed out Certificates to Technologists who underwent the ISO 9001:2008 QMS Implementation Course and Quality Assurance of Chemical Measurement training under the auspices of the Quality Assurance and Quality Control Unit of the Vice-Chancellor's Office, with a promise that the University would strive harder to attain global best practices for better service delivery.

Making the presentation at the Vice-Chancellor's Committee Room, Professor

Ajienka, who said that "We cannot make progress as a University, especially in research, if the Laboratory Technologists do not conform to global standard practices", expressed hope that the training would mark a turning point in the University's search for quality control and global benchmark.

In his speech, Director, Quality Assurance and Quality



echnologists Receive ISO Certificates

#### By Obinna Nwodim

Control (QAQC) Unit, Professor Tony Arinze, said that the initiative was a drive towards ultimate ISO Certification of the University, pointing out that once the University gained the Certification, it would be in a proper position to collaborate with other international organizations to achieve its core mandate. He disclosed that a total of 20 Technologists took part in the training.

remarks, the Training Consultant, Mr. Anthony Mumini. who thanked authorities of the University for the opportunity, said that the drive towards ISO Certification is in line with prevailing international best practices, pointing out that it was important that the Institution took the bold initiative among all the universities in Nigeria. He said that he was passionate to ensure that the University becomes the first to attain ISO Certification in Nigeria.

Mr Mumini, who congratulated the participants, said that it was a unique opportunity and an honour for them to participate in the training.

Speaking on behalf of the participants, Mr Philip Sana, who expressed gratitude to the authorities, promised that the beneficiaries would utilize the knowledge gained from the training for the development of the University.

# IEPL Donates Equipment To UPTH

Indorama-Eleme Petrochemicals Limited (IEPL) has donated medical equipment to the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH) as part of efforts aimed at improving healthcare delivery in the hospital.

Head of Corporate Communications and Special Assistant to the Managing Director, Mr Jossy Nkwocha, who spoke during the donation, last Thursday, said that the gesture was in line with the company's corporate By Ethel Timi-Johnson

social responsibility to help under-privileged persons in society. Nkwocha, who explained that the company had been engaged in developmental efforts in its host community, said the move was targeted at alleviating the sufferings of the people.

Head of Medical Services of Indorama, Dr Solomon Wai, who pointed out that the assistive devices were donated to



3rd from right, Dr Wai, Mr Nkwocha, Prof Ojule, Mrs Amaomu-Jumbo, Wodi and other Staff of IEPL and UPTH

Hospital was the right contact as it provides excellent and affordable healthcare to residents of the State and the Niger Delta region. "People, who cannot afford these devices, can access what is available in the hospital. It would be of use in their recovery process, as well as open a new world of possibilities for them", he added, disclosing plans for other intervention projects by the Company that would be of benefit to the people of the State and Niger Delta region.

Lauding IEPL for the institutional partnership and donation to the Hospital, Chief Medical Director of UPTH, Professor Auron Ojule, urged the company to either domicile its healthcare projects in the hospital or expand existing facilities to cater for patients. "Thank you for donating to us as a lot of people here need these facilities and occupational therapy to live normal lives again", he said, adding that the Hospital had the requisite manpower to manage the specialized treatment Centres proposed by the Company.

In their separate speeches, Deputy Registrar, Information, Publications and Public Relations Unit, Williams Wodi, UPTH Director of Administration, Mrs Boma Amaomu-Jumbo and Deputy Chairman, Medical Advisory Committee, Dr Franklin Akpa, commended IEPL for the donation, which they described as a show of love and care for the less-privileged in the society. They urged the company to seek more mutually-beneficial collaboration with the Hospital to improve healthcare delivery in the country.

The items include 35 wheel chairs, 15 pairs of adult

The items include 35 wheel chairs, 15 pairs of adult underarm crutches, 15 pairs of adult underarm crutches, 8 adjustable walking stick tripods, 8 adjustable walking sticks, 8 walkers, and 20 pairs of form arm crutches.

s a way of facilitating access to books in various disciplines, the Donald Ekong Library again hosted the University Community, vendors and visitors at the 2<sup>nd</sup> University of Port Harcourt Book Fair held penultimate week at the Foyer of the expansive Library complex.

Declaring open the Book Exhibition, former Vice-Chancellor, University of Uyo (UNIUYO), Professor Akaueren Essien, who represented the Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission (NUC), Professor Julius Okojie, commended Management of the University for reawakening the reading culture which had plummeted in recent times, urging staff and students to make good use of the Book Fair to enrich their personal libraries.

Commending Management of the University for immortalizing its first Vice-Chancellor, Professor Donald Ekong by naming the gigantic Library after him, Professor Essien noted that the hard copy books are still very useful to readers even with the emergence of Virtual Library and Social Media.

In his speech, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who described the Library as a nucleus of functional academic activities, said hard copy books provide users the advantage of feeling the materials. Professor Ajienka commended the incumbent and former Vice-Chancellors of the University of Uyo,

## Donald Ekong Library Hosts Second Book Fair

By Otikor Samuel

Professors Comfort Ekpo and Essien, for participating in the Book Fair, charging the University Librarian, Dr Obiageli Nwodo and other staff of the Library to maintain facilities at the Library to make it the hub of academic activities in the University.

In her goodwill message, the Vice-Chancellor of UNIUYO, Professor Ekpo, said the visit to University of Port Harcourt also afforded her an opportunity to gain more knowledge of the quality service delivery of the Professor Ajienka-led administration to enable her replicate some in her Institution. Earlier, the University Librarian, Dr Obiageli, stated that the 2" Book Fair was aimed at bringing books closer to the University Community, commending the vendors and publishers, who came from all over the country to

participate in the event. University Librarians from University of Uyo and neighbouring Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Professor Felicia Etim and Dr Blessing Ahiauzu, also attended the Book Fair, which attracted large patronage from staff, students and visitors.



R-L: Former UNIUYO V-C, Prof Essien, V-Cs UNIPORT and UNIUYO, Profs Ajienka and Ekpo and Univ Librarian, Dr Nwodo. Inset: Book Vendors displaying their wares

## **Envoys, Pledge Support For UNIPORT Brain Gain Initia**

Cont'd from p1

in the University of Port Harcourt work environment", she disclosed, expressing willingness of the visiting envoys to partner the University in delivering quality education to students and provide an enabling environment for researchers. Mrs Korpivaara, who further disclosed that the diplomats embarked on the four-day trip to acquaint themselves with the developmental needs of the people, said the Finnish Embassy is interested in promoting education and trade for the growth of the Niger Delta region, observing that the University of Port Harcourt accommodates more students compared to the biggest tertiary institution in Finland, Helsinki University of Technology, which she said has a student population



The Envoys, Senior University Staff and Students during the visit

Norwegian Ambassador, Mr Ree, who also expressed satisfaction with what he met on ground,

### **Cooperative Society Launches Bus, Secures More Loans For Members**

By Otikor Samuel

n 18-seater air-conditioned commercial bus has been purchased by the Unique UNIPORT Choba Cooperative Investment & Credit Society Limited as part of the drive to generate more revenue to cater for the welfare of its members. The

Cooperative also bought six separate plots of land at Aluu and Omagwa for farming purposes.

Secretary of the Cooperative, Mr Abel Ejiowhor, in a statement made available to UNIPORT Weekly after its first General Meeting held on 7th March, 2013, disclosed that the bus would be available for hire by interested members of the University at moderate rates, stating that the newlyacquired property would add value to the asset base of the Cooperative.

Mr Ejiowhor further stated that the Cooperative Society has commenced disbursement of a recent Two Billion Naira secured from the Management of Ecobank Plc for its members, revealing that the Society

s the Faculty of Dentistry joined the rest of the world to mark World Oral Health Day with Free Oral Health screening, last Wednesday, immediate past Dean, Faculty of Dentistry, Professor

Ambrose Obiechina has called for establishment of Dental Units at the O.B. Lulu Briggs Health Centre to cater for the dental health needs of staff and students.

Objecting, who made the call in a chat with UNIPORT

Weekly at the Dental Centre, University of Port

Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), venue of the

screening exercise, said: when established, such units

would enable staff and students to receive treatment at

appropriate price, without having to subject themselves

to the hassles of going to the Teaching Hospital, adding

that "the University has the manpower to handle such

units. All it requires," Obiechina submitted "is to

V-C, Prof Ajienka being attended to by Sar Dental Therapist, Nelly Tubobereni

provide the space for such units."

makes monthly repayment of about N65 Million to the Bank as part of efforts aimed at keeping to the terms of servicing the loan facility.

The statement regretted the demise of six members of Cooperative, including Dr Joshua Agalume, Dr Pius Utang, Prof Josiah Atemie, Mrs Helen Ledor, Mr Ijah Festus and Mr Barikuma Kpaakpaa.



President, Dr Hycent Ajie and Secretary, Mr Ejiowhor

said that he was particularly impressed with the University's giant strides in Petroleum and Gas, History and Niger Delta Studies, as well as the Film industry, while the Austrian Ambassador, Mr Oppinger, indicated interest in partnering the University in the medical sciences.

Earlier in his address, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who gave a brief profile of the University, disclosed that current emphasis was focused on graduate research as part of efforts of a deliberate effort by the current administration to capitalize knowledge. He recalled the Institution's leading role in Sports, Petroleum Engineering and Geo-sciences, as well as Medical Sciences and Music. Professor Ajienka reminded the august visitors that the first African Miss World, Agbani Darego was a student of the University when she contested and won the Pageant. He also reeled out a long list of distinguished academics, who won laurels in and outside the country since its inception.

The Ambassadors, who first interacted with Principal and Senior Officers of the University, later met with student leaders on issues ranging from mentorship, gender balance, student politics, appraisal of performance of Lecturers and sundry academic activities.

Also on the entourage were the Deputy Head of Mission, Mr Lauri Voionmaa, Mr Atte Laitinen and Heikki Valisuo of the Embassy of Finland.

# World Oral Health Day

# **Objectina Calls For Dental Units At Varsity Health Centre**

By Humphrey Ogu

exercise helped to create awareness among the people and enable them to know their dental health status. "Oral health is a very vital component of the general health of any individual. In actual fact, most illnesses manifest in the mouth. So a good oral examination can give the Doctor an indication of the general health of an individual," Obiechina pointed out.

Reacting to the exercise, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who described it as a welcome



ty service, which is something that should be encouraged," he stated, adding that when Doctors engage in Outreach programmes they share their experience in a way that is beneficial to the community and their profession."

Also speaking, Dean, Faculty of Dentistry, Professor Chukwudi Onyeaso, said the Faculty decided to use the 2013 World Oral Health Day with the theme: "Healthy Teeth for a Healthy Life", to create awareness on dental diseases and the need for their prevention, noting that the screening was open to all, especially members of the University and neighbouring communities.

In his contribution, Chairman Oral Health Awareness Committee and Co-ordinator, Preventive Dentistry, Dr Braimoh Bashiru, expressed satisfaction with the level of response by patients. Meanwhile, some beneficiaries of the screening, including the Chief Security Officer, UPTH, Mr Money Atakala and Mr Ibinabo, Oba have lauded the Faculty for creating awareness and providing free screening serviceS on oral health to patients.

In another development, Professor Onyeaso, has been elected into the Board of the Faculty of Dental Surgery of the West African College of Surgeons at the justconcluded 53" Annual Scientific Conference of the College held at EcoBank International Conference Centre Lome, Togo. The Conference, which took place between 10° and 16° March, 2013, was attended by Fellows of the College from participating West African



## **GUIDEPOST**

#### RENEWAL OF APPOINTMENT

Dr Christopher Elonu Hekerem, Department of Preventive Dentistry, Faculty Dentistry, granted Renewal of Contract Appointment, effective 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2013 to 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2014.

Dr D. A. Okoh, Department of Haematology and Blood Transfusion, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, granted Renewal of Contract Appointment, effective January, 2013 to December 31, 2013.

#### STUDY LEAVE WITH PAY

Mr Ebieto Celestine Ebieto, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, granted a three-year Study Leave with Pay to pursue a Doctorate Degree programme, at the University of Benin, Benin City, effective February 1, 2013 to January 2, 2015.

Mr Barikpoar Ebenezar, Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Management, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted a three-year Study Leave with Pay to pursue a Doctorate Degree programme at the Birmingham City University, United Kingdom, effective December, 2012 to November, 2015. Mrs Udeh Ngozi Uzor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, granted a three-year Study Leave with Pay to pursue a Doctorate Degree programme at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, effective June 2013 to May, 2015.

Miss Winnie Ajiduah, Department of Physics, Faculty of Physical Science and Information Technology, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, granted a three-and-half-year Study Leave with Pay to pursue a Doctorate Degree programme at the Harriot-Watt University, effective November 1, 2013 to May 1, 2017.

#### REVIEW OF STATUS

Dr A.T.O Awopeju, Department of Medical Microbiology, Faculty of Basic Medical Science, College of Health Sciences, granted Review of Status from Lecturer II to Lecturer I, effective May 2012.

Obiemeata Emmanuel Oriakpono, Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Faculty of Biological Science, granted Review of Status from Assistant Lecturer to Lecturer II, effective January, 2013

Mrs Esther Daibi Sample, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, granted Review of Status from Assistant Lecturer to Lecturer II, effective November 1, 2010.

Dr Kaladada I Kurubo, Department of Haematology and Blood Transfusion, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, upgraded from Lecturer II to Lecturer I, effective May 31, 2013.

#### STOP PRESS

#### INSTITUTE OF NIGER DELTA STUDIES HOLDS WORKSHOP WEDNESDAY

The Institute of Niger Delta Studies in collaboration with the Professor Bassey Andah Foundation marks the 2<sup>nd</sup> Niger Delta History Week with a Workshop on the topic "Entrepreneurship Development in the Niger Delta." The Workshop will also feature the 14th Professor Bassey Andah Lecture titled: "Entrepreneurship Development: The Key to Economic Growth and Freedom," to be delivered by the Lagos State Project Coordinator of Central Bank of Nigeria, Entrepreneurship Development Centre, Dr Olumide Ajayi at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Wednesday, 28th March, 2013. Time is 10:00am.

# NMCN To Induct Pioneer Nurses April 4

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

fter what appeared to be an interminable waiting period, the Department of Nursing Science in the Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, has finally fixed Thursday, 4th April, 2013 for the Induction of successful Candidates into the humanitarian profession by the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria (NMCN).

The cheering news is coming on the heels of a 97 per cent success rate recorded by the super brains at the Final Qualifying Examination for General Nurses conducted by the NMCN held last November. A statement by the Acting Head of Department, Dr Grace Robinson-Bassey, indicated that those eligible to participate in the landmark Induction are the pioneer and second batch students.

A breakdown of the figure shows that a total of 13 Candidates were successful in the First Batch, while 25 were successful amongst the Second Batch. Only two Candidates were referred, while eight Candidates passed with Credit in the professional examination.

Dr Robinson Bassey further disclosed that a total of 38 successful Nursing students would be inducted by the Council, disclosing that the Chairperson of the Nigerian Chapter of the West African College of Nursing, Dr Chika Ugochukwu, is expected to deliver the Keynote Address at the event scheduled for Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium at 10:00am.



#### STOP PRESS

#### BOOKS DONATION

The Family of late Professor Nkparom Ejituwu has donated his personal library stock to the University. A letter signed on behalf of the Ejituwu Family by Professor John Enemugwem and made available to UNIPORT Weekly, indicated that the books which were donated to the Department of History & Diplomatic Studies, included 800 volumes of late Professor Ejituwu's books, research projects, theses and dissertations. Ejituwu taught and retired from the Department before his demise.

#### MGT WARNS ON MISUSE OF ADJUNCT STAFF

Provosts, Deans and Heads of Department have been advised to desist from using Adjunct/Part-Time Lecturers to perform the functions of statutory boards and Committees in the Colleges and Faculties. The disapproval was contained in a Memo signed by the Director, Personnel Affairs on behalf of the Registrar, which stated that "for the avoidance of doubt, Part-Time/Adjunct Lecturers as their designation implies, are part-time staff. They are therefore, not members of Senate, College, or Departmental Board or Committees. Their use by Provosts, Deans and Heads of Department to perform the functions of statutory Boards and Committees is, therefore, illegal."

The Memo stressed the need for Provosts, Deans and Heads of Department to discontinue the practice.

## DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT OBSERVATORY

FORECAST FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, MARCH, 24 - SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2013

SUNDAY, 24 MAR, 2013	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)		HUMIDITY	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (MM)	SUNSET AND SUNRISE (AM) (PM)		SUMMARY
	34.0	26.0	65	NE	12.5	6:34	6:42	Strong thunderstorm expected. Day anticipated to be partly sunny and hot. Possibility of rainfall is 95%.
MONDAY. 25 MAR, 2013	35.0	26.0	57	NE.	23	6:34	6:42	Thunderstorm expected late in the day. Partly sunny and hot day predicted.
TUESDAY 26 MAR, 2013	35.0	25.0	59	NE		6:34	6:42	More clouds than sun. Hot day expected.
WEDNESDAY 27 MAR,2013	33.0	26.0	57	N	2.4	6:33	6:41	Thunderstorm espected late in the day. Partly sunny and warm day anticipated.
THURSDAY 28 MAR, 2013	33.0	26.0	52	NE	•	6:33	6:32	Partly sunny and warm day predicted.
FRIDAY 29 MAR, 2013	33.0	25.0	57	NE	2.7	6:52	6:41	Thunderstorm expected late. Partly sunny and warm day predicted.
SATURDAY 30 MAR, 2013	32.0	25.0	56	NE	11.8	6:32	6:41	Thunderstorm expected. More clouds than sun. Warm day anticipated. Chance of rainfall is very high.

VREMUDIA WEKPE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE

PROF SAMUEL AROKOYU DIRECTOR, (CDRMDS)



## **WISE**crack

it's in the right direction

WINSTON CHURCHILL

## Good Governance Tour

s part of the Good Governance Tour to Rivers State, Minister of Information, Labaran Maku and his team also visited the University to inspect projects and interact with Management and Students. Pictures of the visit are shown as captured by our Cameraman, HEADMANALU



'-C, Prof Joseph Ajienka (right) welcoming Mr Labaran Maku to the University



DV-C (R&D), Prof Bene Willie-Abbey welcoming Mr Maku



L-R: V-C, Prof Ajienka, Minister of Information, Mr Maku and Governor Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi of R/S



Mr Maku in a handshake with Director, Quality Assurance and Quality Control Unit, Prof Tony Arinze



R/S Commissioner of Information, Mrs Ibim Seminitari in a warm embrace with D V-C (R&D) Prof Willie-Abbey Health, Dr Sampson Parker, D V-C (R&D), Prof Willie-Abbey and others listen



V-C, Prof Ajienka, addressing Mr Maku, while R/S Commissioner of



Mr Maku responding to the V-C's speech



Mr Maku addressing students at the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS



An Instructor from IFP School, France briefing the Minister



One of the students narrating their wonderful experience in the Institute, while Mr Maku listens



Site of the CBN Centre for Excellence building under construction inspected by the Team



A cross-section of IPS students in the classroom when the Team arrived



Director, Personnel Affairs, Mr Roland Wabali, Bursar, Mr Vitalis Aliezi and V-C, Prof Ajienka