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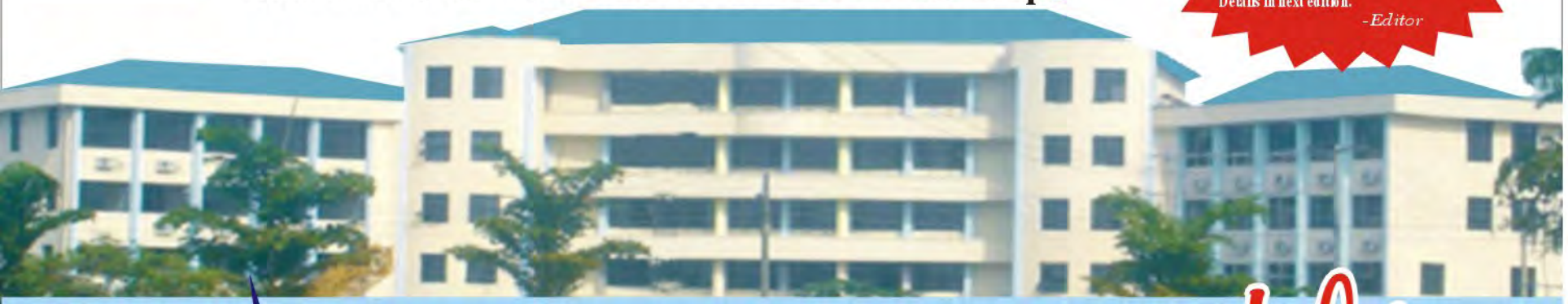
**Stop Press**

**Book Lunch**

*Footprints and Footnotes* by renowned Physician and Medical Educator, Emeritus Professor Oladipo Akinkugbe would be lunched tomorrow in UNIPORT. Details in next edition.

*-Editor*




# UNIPORT Weekly

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# UNIPORT Gets Intellectual Property Centre

***By Humphrey Ogu***

An Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Office (IPTTO), has been commissioned in the University of Port Harcourt. This welcome development followed establishment of the Centre by the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP) in the University last Thursday.

Speaking at the commissioning ceremony, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, expressed joy at the birth of the research-oriented Centre. "This is happening at the right time as the School of Graduate Studies has just established a *Creativity and Technology Journal* that would encourage researchers in the University to publish their findings" he disclosed, adding that, "We have also established a Centre for Research Management to coordinate all research activities and check duplication of efforts by scholars

***Cont'd on p.7***

# The Need To Share Experience

*The Registry was so worried in the recent past that it issued a strongly-worded circular, in which it advised all categories of staff to share experience with their colleagues on return from Conferences, Seminars and Workshops. This welcome call was apparently necessitated by an emergent trend in which staff who attend Conferences keep the knowledge acquired from such events to themselves.*

*The irony of the matter is that staff who are afforded an opportunity to attend Conferences, as well as those who sponsor themselves to such events, receive permission from the University to be absent from duty with full pay. There is, therefore, no justifiable reason for such privileged staff to hoard valuable information acquired from such Conferences.*

*This sordid scenario readily necessitates the need to return to the time-tested culture of academic mentoring that ironically produced some of those who are adept at hoarding knowledge from their younger colleagues. It is unconscionable and anti-intellectual for beneficiaries of training to refuse to share their valuable experience with other Faculty, Departmental and Unit members in the finest academic tradition.*

*From Socrates, Plato to Aristotle, down to the modern masters of knowledge- transmission, exchange of ideas and mentorship have been known to advance the frontiers of human understanding and improve the quality of life. Those who generate work-place enthusiasm and add value to the system are usually academics that are open-minded and ready to add to what they already know. No matter how much an individual may know, it does not hurt to tap from others who may know better with a different set of experience and learning background.*

*In this era of in-breeding necessitated by an acute lack of opportunity to travel abroad for training and conferences, experience-sharing could be relied upon to fill the yawning gap to a measurable extent, and should, therefore, be encouraged by those who should know better than others.*

*UNIPORT Weekly is pleased to note that the Registry is taking steps to work in concert with the Exchange and Linkage Programmes Unit (ELPU), to make experience-sharing compulsory for all categories of staff who benefit from Scholarship Awards, Fellowships, Conferences, Seminars and Workshops.*

*We wholeheartedly agree with the Registry that this laudable proposal should be entrenched in all future approvals for staff who may wish to attend Conferences. There is absolutely nothing wrong in encouraging Faculties to provide regular experience-sharing templates for their staff. Such cross-fertilization of ideas have a huge potential to add value to academic discourse that could be of immense benefit to younger Faculties and other cadres.*

*We commend the Registry for thinking up such a novel idea that promises to create an enabling environment in which knowledge is shared and applied with the possibility of contributing towards the overall development of the University. In the final analysis, research-led Universities are better prepared to expose students to life-long learning and discoveries that can solve some of man's existential problems in our new knowledge society.*

## Faculty of Science Committed to Quality Research -*Dean*

*Mercy Don-Baridam*

The Faculty of Science is committed to improving research culture and staff welfare. The new Dean, Professor Eronmosele Abumere, disclosed this in an interview with a *UNIPORT Weekly* Correspondent in his office last week, adding that a Committee would be set up to ensure that the Faculty becomes more academic and research-oriented under his watch.

According to him, the Faculty would appeal to the Administration for more buildings to cater for its growing accommodation needs, noting that the Laboratories would need better equipment and regular power supply to enable staff and students carry out quality research and fulfil the vision of the founding fathers.

The Dean who is a Professor of Physics, appealed for more support to ensure that the Faculty achieves its full potentials during his tenure, pointing out that as the largest Faculty in the University, it should now be split into four new Faculties; *Life, Chemical, Planetary, and Information/Mathematical Sciences* for proper coordination of activities and results.It would be recalled that the Faculty of Science which merged from three Schools, celebrated her 25th Anniversary early this year, with a well-attended Home-coming programme for distinguished Alumni who came from all over the country to relive their experiences as students in the defunct School system.

## Anikpo Chairs Strategic Plan Review C'ttee

Professor Mark Anikpo of the Department of Sociology has been appointed Chairman of the University's Strategic Plan Review Committee. The Strategic Plan Document was developed with funding assistance from the Macarthur Foundation of Chicago during the Administration of Professor Nimi D. Briggs.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph A. Ajienka, who announced the Committee, mandated it to carry out a comprehensive review of the Document which covers the period 2003-2013. The Committee is also directed to evaluate the level of implementation of the Plan and submit a Report within one month from the date of its inauguration. It is expected to fine-tune areas of the Document that may have been overtaken by prevailing realities, and others that may not have been properly implemented.

Other members of the Committee are: Professor Igho Joe (Director, University Advancement Centre), Professor Ndowa Lale (Dean, Faculty of Agriculture), Professor Adewale Dosunmu (Department of Petroleum Engineering), Professor P.C. Stanley, Department of Psychiatry), Professor Samuel Okiwelu (Consultant), Professor Mbuk Ebong (Consultant), Dr Regina Ogali (Faculty of Science), Dr Steve Okodudu (Faculty of Social Science), Dr Ngozi Iheanachor (Representing Faculty of Humanities), Dr S.A. Brown (Representing Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences); while Mrs Aniebiet Owo will serve as Secretary.

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# New IPS Director Sets Agenda

***Ethel Wopara***

Research aimed at tackling the challenges facing the Nigerian Oil and Gas industry tops the items on agenda of the newly-appointed Director of the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS), University of Port Harcourt, Professor Mike Onyekonwu.

Professor Onyekonwu who made the disclosure during an interview with a ***UNIPORT Weekly*** Correspondent, said that the main thrust of his administration would be to produce seasoned researchers, seek grants from companies to fund research, as well as develop new programmes and collaborations with similar organizations.

According to him, the Institute which is a joint partnership between Total E &P, IFP School, France, and the University of Port Harcourt, has so far turned out high-quality graduates with international certification that are competing favourably with their peers around the world.

Citing available programmes to include Petroleum Engineering and Project Management, Petroluem Geosciences, Environmental Studies, Petroleum Economics and Post-graduate Diploma, the Director said the Collaboration with IFP School has raised the Institute to International status.

Speaking on plans to sustain the Institute, Onyekonwu who doubles as a Professor of Petroleum and Gas, in the Department of Petroleum Engineering, said that in the nearest future, the private sector and government intervention agencies such as the Education Trust Fund (ETF) and Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF), would appreciate the excellent manpower and human capital development efforts of the Institute.

As a renowned oil and gas Consultant, the Director noted that IPS was the driving force behind efforts of the

*Professor Onyekonwu*

University of Port Harcourt to become an entrepreneurial University as well as one of the best in Africa.

Professor Onyekonwu who has won several awards, including one for his distinguished contribution to Reservoir Engineering, Description and Dynamics, disclosed that before the 1970s, oil production was hampered by lack of knowledgeable personnel, which according to him, was the core interest of the Institute.

# *SONTA* Honours Bell-Gam

**Head of Department of Music, Professor Henry Bell-Gam, has been conferred with the *Society of Nigeria Theatre Artists (SONTA) Life Time Achievement Award* in recognition of his immense contributions to the development of Theatre practice in Nigeria and beyond.**

**The former Acting Head of the Department of Creative Arts and former Associate Dean, Faculty of Humanities, said that the Award was in appreciation of his excellent contributions to Theatre practice, research and knowledge.**

**He added that such a gesture would serve as motivation to younger Lecturers and students in Theatre Arts to excel in their career lines. Professor Bell-Gam is famous for his play *Orukoro* which he performed in Sheffield, England where he made the University proud.**

# UISS Graduates Students

***Mercy Don-Baridam***

*Professor Tammunoprieye Agiobenebo*
*CCE Director*

Graduands of the University of Port Harcourt International Secondary School (UISS), have been advised to remain worthy ambassadors of their *Alma Mata* as they step into the realities of the larger Society. The School is a subsidiary of the College of Continuing Education (CCE).

Speaking at the Graduation Ceremony, Principal of the School, Mrs. Eunice Nwankwo, said that Management was committed to the provision of functional education to students in a conducive environment as future leaders of the country.

She noted that the Graduands have been trained over the years in character and learning, stressing that they were fully equipped with the basic foundation to launch into their chosen careers and endeavours.

CCE Director, Professor Tammunoprieye Agiobenebo, who urged the students to imbibe the "spirit of excellence", noted that it was their time to make the School proud as properly-trained Alumni. "Success achieved is a call to greater success, as there is no end to success", he advised the graduating Class.

Also present at the event were the Vice-Principals (Administration) and (Academic), Mr. Ejima Okechukwu and Mrs. Ngozi Eneachala.

# We Are Eating Gradually Unto Death -*Prof Ayalogu*

"The quantity and quality of food we eat determine how the body handles itself, and so what we eat becomes part of us. The food we consume make up what sustains our lives, growth, and the life-processes, and if they are not removed from our system, they can be very dangerous to health and when the human body cannot deal with them, it results to illness or death."

These were the damning submissions of renowned Biochemist, Professor Obiozor Ayalogu, while fielding questions on the ***UNIPORT Weekly*** **Hot Seat** last Tuesday. Ayalogu who was the immediate past Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) of the University of Port Harcourt, stressed the importance of moderation in our food consumption, "because we ultimately become what we eat, and whatever we eat contains some amount of chemicals that are harmful to the body". Professor Ayalogu disclosed that "there is an interaction between natural constituents of food that the body uses for its normal function and other components which the body does not require", stressing that "what we eat can be categorized into natural constituents of food that the body requires to maintain its life processes, some substances that occur naturally that the body does not require because of their toxic properties and additives/contaminants which get associated with food at the stage of processing, storing and eating".

*Prof Ayalogu*

According to him, we ingest a large intake of consumables daily, which means that the body must develop appropriate mechanisms to eliminate substances that are not native to it, adding that "whatever enters the body has a consequence for good or bad, if the body does not find a way to remove it.

He explained that Biochemists want to know the reaction of the components in the body and how it deals with toxic elements associated with food at the cellular level, pointing out that "the internal environment reacts to what it receives from the external. Our bodies must metabolize and eliminate toxic elements from the system".

When asked to explain how to avoid such toxic elements from accessing the body, Professor Ayalogu advised that humans must eat the type of food that suits their bodies, noting that not all foods are healthy for consumption. Said he, "We should go for foods that suit our body, because what is good for one person may not necessarily be good for another. We should, therefore, go for balanced diets and other food supplements that conform with our body system to prevent reactions that may lead to ailment or death".

Professor Ayalogu advocated foods that enhance the immune system, disclosing that some food supplements are meant to support life, especially in older persons. The eminent Scientist noted that "anti-oxidants in food supplements help to scavenge free radicals that cause aging/decay or death in animals and plants, but have contra-indications (side effects)", he warned, pointing out that "fresh fruits are better than all the food supplements that are promoted by companies and marketing agents that are profit-driven". He submitted that animal and plant life have survived so far because of their inherent capacity to successfully deal with what they consume.

According to the famous Biochemist, a glass of Beer, for instance, contains water, alcohol, flavouring agents, sugar, amongst other ingredients, while the Cake we use for celebrations contains baking powder, flour and colorants which the body does not need", advising that everything should be taken in moderation since we must eat to stay alive. The Nutritional Biochemist disclosed that "smoked fish and the *suya* that we relish have inherent residues that could cause cancer in humans," pointing out that "when we fleet, fumigate our homes or wear clothes with residue of soap lather that contains chemicals, we run the risk of inhaling these chemical elements into our bodies with some consequences in the long run".

Fielding questions on our interactions with the external environment, Professor Ayalogu disclosed that "crude oil and other chemicals associated with its exploration and exploitation contaminate the soil and water, while heavy metals that occur in water are also dangerous to the environment from which man derives what he consumes", regretting that humans eat and retain these contaminated animal and plant species in their bodies, especially in the absence of stringent environmental regulation on the activities of oil companies that pollute their operational locations with impunity.

]According to Professor Ayalogu, whose research interest also covers Toxicology and Biochemical Pharmacology, continuous exposure to these harmful chemical elements could cause impotence, malformation in unborn babies and destroy vegetation, adding that "borehole water that is located in a polluted environment could be dangerous to human health".

He said that there is an interface of all life-forms, pointing out that what one species gives out is taken in by another to complement the life-cycle. "We all struggle to maintain biodiversity of life-forms as a means of preserving a pristine environment", Professor Ayalogu disclosed, adding that when our body sizes increase, then there is a corresponding increase in bio-accumulation (toxin retention).

The former Acting University Librarian blamed declining interest amongst students in the study of Basic Natural Science on poor quality of teaching in Secondary Schools, lack of proper orientation about the contribution of scientific breakthroughs to national development and inadequate Laboratory equipment, including epileptic electricity supply for quality research. Regretting that Government is not investing enough money in the study of Basic Natural Science, Ayalogu observed that the prevailing environment favours Applied Science, which he dismissed as a misplaced priority by policy-makers on Education.

He described mathematics as the driving force of Science, urging Government to equip Schools with adequate Laboratories to enable students embrace practice in place of *imagination* in the teaching of Science subjects. He warned that until more money is invested in the purchase of suitable Laboratory equipment and space to drive quality research, the study of Science will continue to experience a downward spiral, stressing that "what we have now are end-of-spectrum equipment; we want in-between equipment to drive the study of Basic Natural Science".

As regards mentoring of younger academics, Professor Ayalogu advised them to be willing to learn, stressing that scholars and students who wish to be mentored must operate on the same frequency with their potential mentors to benefit from their knowledge pool. The Scientist frowned at what he described as the penchant of some younger academics to chase after money at the expense of engaging in quality research, urging them to seek available research grants that would advance their career.

Professor Ayalogu who graduated with a First Class (*Honours*) Degree in Biochemistry in 1972 and a Doctoral Degree in 1978 from the University of Ibadan has received several Fellowships, including one that enabled him to investigate the intriguing interface of nutritional modification in the metabolism of foreign compounds.

***Interview by Mercy Don-Baridam, Humphrey Ogu, Chinyere Chris-Ikegwuru, Ethel Wopara and Williams Wodi.***

# Guests Task Educational Researchers On Standards

**PROFESSOR E.B. AWOTUA-EFEBO**
*Dean of Education*

*By Chris Chris-Ikegwuru*

Professor Igho Joe of the Faculty of Education has outlined the importance of quality research in Education and their implications for the total development of students and teachers in a new knowledge society. Speaking at a Conference organized by the Nigerian Association of Educational Researchers and Evaluators at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, Professor Joe noted that education could be used to tackle social, political, economic and cultural challenges facing Nigeria, calling on educators to devise acceptable benchmarks to initiate and manage research work and the changing environment for knowledge delivery.

Professor Joe, who spoke as Chairman of the Conference, expressed hope that the programme would provide a platform to evaluate the success or otherwise of the much-talked about educational reform in Nigeria, pointing out that the larger society expected leadership from Educationists in this respect.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who was Special Guest of Honour at the event, thanked the Association for granting the University of Port Harcourt the hosting rights, observing that the theme of the Conference was timely as Nigeria worked towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Vision 2020-20.

The Vice-Chancellor disclosed that 50 per cent of the PhD graduates in the last Convocation of the University were from the Faculty of Education, adding that the figure was enough to motivate the Faculty to engage in extensive research and training to guarantee quality education in the country.

The Key-note Speaker, Emeritus Professor Obioha Uwana of **Evan Enwerem University**, Owerri, described human capital development as deliberate policy and action directed at upgrading knowledge and skills of students and their teachers.

He recalled that the Colonial, Military and Civilian eras recorded some major reforms in the country's educational development, calling for proper consolidation and policy continuity to achieve excellence in the sector, which he described as very crucial to national development.

He noted that it was in 1973 that the newly-formulated National Policy on Education succeeded in evolving a home-grown philosophy, policy and curriculum in the sector, declaring: "Our solemn task is to ensure that both educational reforms and Human Capital Development are properly aligned and made compliant, one to another".

In his contribution, the Dean Faculty of Education, Professor Ebi Awotua-Efebo, called on the Association to brainstorm on the numerous national challenges facing the Educational Sector, promising that the University of Port Harcourt would support the activities of the Association.

# Prof Wodi Delivers Public Lecture Today

*Ethel Wopara*

Professor Ben Wodi of the State University of New York, Cortland, United States of America, will deliver a Public Lecture this afternoon, at the Senate Chambers, University Park.

The Lecture entitled: *"Carbon Footprints, Climate Change and Public Health in sub-Saharan Africa"*, is expected to dwell extensively on issues of climate change and their effects on Public Health, especially among people in sub-Saharan Africa.

Excerpts from the paper indicate that the highest regional burden of climate change is likely to be borne by sub-Saharan Africans, due to endemic conditions such as malnutrition, water shortages, infectious diseases and other socio-economic conditions that compromise the quality of life in the region.

Highlights of the Lecture include recommendation of an Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that would ensure drastic reduction in Green House Gas (GHG) emissions among industrialized nations in order to mitigate global warming and its devastating effects on humans.

*Professor Ben Wodi*

Professor Wodi who doubles as the Coordinator of International Field Experience Programmes in Public Health, holds a Bachelors Degree in Biology and Chemistry from Wisconsin-Superior University, Masters Degree in Environmental Health from East Tennessee State University and PhD from the University of Oklahoma, all in the United States of America, is also a Visiting Professor to the University of Port Harcourt.

A seasoned academic, listed in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers and Educators*, as well as *Who's Who Among America's Professionals and Executives*, Professor Wodi is a regular Consultant on HIV/AIDS Epidemiology to reputable *Health Journals* and Agencies. He has published and made extensive presentations in the area of communicable disease epidemiology. Wodi's most recent publications centre on the epidemiology of HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa.

# Director Advises Team UNIPORT On Sports

*Mercy Don-Baridam*

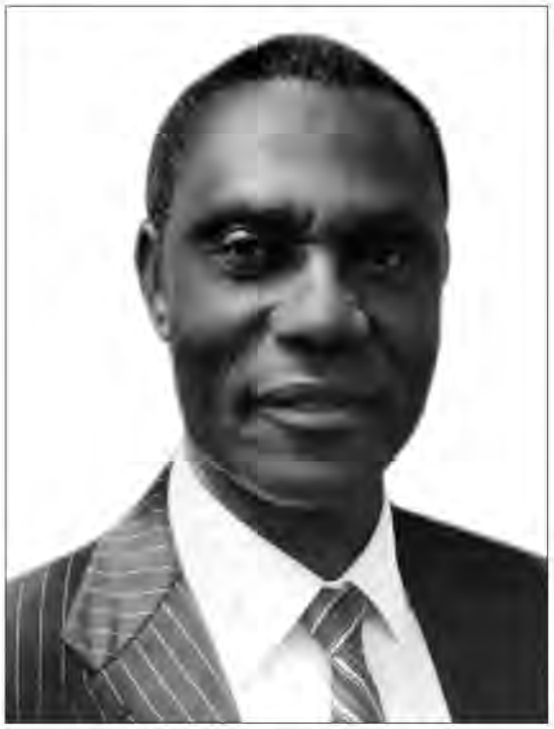
As three-time champions of the Nigerian Universities Games Association (NUGA) and two-time winners of the West African Universities Games (WAUG), athletes representing the University of Port Harcourt have been advised to work harder to remain tops, as others are working hard to dethrone Team UNIPORT in future competitions.

Renowned Sports Administrator and talent hunter, Dr. Ken Anugweje, who gave the advice while exchanging views with a *UNIPORT Weekly* Correspondent in his office, noted that envious competitors are working relentlessly to undermine the rising sporting profile of the University.

Dr. Anugweje who is the University's Director of Sports and President of NUGA, noted that in recognition of her excellent sporting facilities, the Rivers State Government, in collaboration with the National Sports Commission, has chosen the University as one of the venues for the forth-coming National Sports Festival tagged: *Garden City Games* scheduled for November, 2010.

The Director disclosed that as a member of the Committee for the Games, he was aware of plans by the State Government to rebuild infrastructure in the University, as well as road networks leading to the Institution to enhance accessibility to participants and visitors.

Dr. Anugweje who doubles as the Director of Health Services and member of the Presidential Committee on Sports, called on the new Administration led by Professor Joseph Ajienka to continue to promote sports in the University.



**PROF JOSEPH AJIENKA**
*Chairman U&C Board*

# V-C Reassures SSANU On Staff Welfare

*By Ethel Wopara And Humphrey Ogu*

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt, Professor Joseph Ajienka, has reaffirmed his commitment to improve staff welfare and working conditions, adding that hardworking staff would enjoy perks that are commensurate with their productivity.

Professor Ajienka, who made this disclosure while receiving a delegation of the University of Port Harcourt branch of Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU), agreed with the Union that maximum productivity amongst staff depended on better welfare packages and a conducive operational environment.

He noted that regular meetings between Unions and Management was crucial to the success of the new administration, encouraging members of the Association to remain focused and work in concert with their counterparts in the University to enhance industrial harmony and productivity.

Listing issues affecting members of the Association to include a home ownership scheme, review of career structure, staff development amongst others, the Chairman of SSANU, Mr. Abel Ejiowhor appealed to the administration to address issues militating against staff productivity. "A grumbling staff is an unproductive worker" he said, assuring the new Vice-Chancellor of total support at all times.

Earlier, SSANU's National Vice-President East, Mr. Samuel Owhondah, had pledged the support of his members to the new administration, assuring the Vice-Chancellor that the Association would "work towards the realization of our dreams for the University".

# NUC Tightens Accreditation Criteria

***By Our Correspondent (With Agency Report)***

The National Universities Commissions (NUC) has planned to raise the Accreditation standards for Nigerian Universities so as to ensure that they are made more functional and efficient. The Chairman, Institutional Accreditation Committee of NUC, Professor Peter Okebukola, said this in Abuja at the body's Mock Institutional Accreditation Co-ordination Meeting.

Professor Okebukola who was addressing NUC Officials, Pro-chancellors and Vice-chancellors of Universities, said the goal was to boost quality and improve standards in Universities through regular and stringent institutional accreditation procedures. The former Executive Secretary of NUC stressed that if an Institution scored less than 40 percent in the accreditation exercise, such a University would be promptly denied Accreditation status.

Professor Okebukola said that such an Institution was good for nothing, warning that it would be shut until remediation measures were applied to all the deficient areas. NUC, he disclosed, would decide the time-span within which the Institution could be allowed to remedy the observed deficiency or be closed down permanently.

He further said that the process would be made more holistic, rigorous, and thorough in order to ensure that standards are maintained, stressing that attention would henceforth focus on not just academic programmes, but also on the structures and learning environment of each University.

He cited Chile and Russia as countries, where Universities had been closed down for failing institutional accreditation, stressing that it was better to have ten quality Universities with the capacity to admit many students than 500 Universities with poor quality and reputation.

He disclosed that the pilot programme for the accreditation would commence this August, while the main component would be implemented in November and December based on the revised instruments.

**Professor Ruqayyatu Ahmed Rufa'i, OON**
*Honourable Minister of Education*

# UNIPORT Shows Strong Presence At Slavery Parley

*Ethel Wopara*

Seasoned Resource Persons have been drawn from the University of Port Harcourt to participate in the International Colloquium on Slavery and Slave Trade, scheduled to hold from 22nd to 26th August, 2010 in Osun State.

Professor Abi Derefaka, Chairman, Planning Committee of the National Colloquium, Dr. Mfon Ekpootu, Member of the Planning Committee, Dr. Atai Max Okorobia, all of the Department of History and Diplomatic Studies, are expected to make presentations, while Professor Willy Okowa of the Department of Economics and Emeritus Professor E.J. Alagoa, would be *Distinguished Participants* at the Forum which is expected to attract scholars from all over the world.

**Professor B.J.O. Efiuvwevwere**
*DVC (Academic)*

Excerpts from the Concept Paper indicates that the Colloquium would advance the frontiers of knowledge on slavery as a social and economic institution in agrarian African Societies, open up new areas of scholarship on Slavery and Slave Trade, expand the body of literature through substantial contributions to the historiography of Slave Trade, as well as open up new avenues for research on the contentious issue that resulted in shipping millions of Africans across the Atlantic as human capital.

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# Commissioning of IPTTO Centre

*Cont'd from p.1*

in the University".

The Vice-Chancellor observed that the University was awash with "a pool of talented scholars and students who are capable of producing patentable materials that could be a veritable source of revenue", disclosing that some students of the University had recently developed a Computer-based game software that could be patented and marketed with huge revenue potentials.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Coordinator of the IPTTO in the University, Professor Samuel Ibodje, had said that "the commissioning of the new Centre marks the beginning of a new chapter in our intellectual property enterprise", observing that research efforts in the past were aimed at earning points for promotion among scholars. Professor Ibodje said that the Federal Government now wished to move beyond the era of research-for-promotion "to the stage of getting promotion, while at the same time, creating wealth and new opportunities for industries and employment for research products".

In his opening remarks, Head of Department of Technology Acquisition and Research of NOTAP, Engineer Joseph Nwosa, disclosed that his organization had so far established 28 IPTTO Centres in public and private institutions in Nigeria, noting that the one in UNIPORT had a huge potential to perform better than others. Nwosa who read the speech of the Director-General of NOTAP, disclosed that Covenant University was the only benefitting private university in the Country, expressing delight that the Institution had patented three products that were already being marketed in less than a year.

*Group photograph of V-C (Arrowed) and other guests at the ceremony*

He said "Port Harcourt is the only town in which two universities are beneficiaries of IPTTO Centres", explaining that the development was "because of the intensive economic activities in the Oil and Gas sectors in the City which are the mainstay of the nation's economy".

Also Speaking, the Principal Technology Officer of NOTAP, Smart Tuedo, said that the newly-commissioned Centre should not be seen as an extension of NOTAP, pointing out that it should rather be seen as "a veritable tool for research and commercialization of research results in the University, quite independent of the national office".

Also speaking, Provost, College of Health Sciences, Professor Blessing Didia, expressed hope that the University of Port Harcourt IPTTO would justify the purpose for which it was established by overtaking similar Centres in and outside the country, appealing to NOTAP to continue funding to sustain its activities.

# Library Promises Electronic Learning

***Chinyere Chris-Ikegwuru***

A new Electronic Learning Programme (ELP) would take-off in the University of Port Harcourt Library by the end of September, 2010.

The University Librarian, Mr. Joseph Aina, gave the assurance last Tuesday, in a chat with a *UNIPORT Weekly* Correspondent in his office.

***MR. J. O. AINA***
*University Librarian*

According to him, the Library had acquired a Bandwidth from the National Communications Commission (NCC), and an Internet Access facility from the Information and Communication Technology Centre (ICTC) of the University, in addition to the procurement of 20 Computers that would facilitate the *e*-learning programme.

He noted that an increase in budgetary allocation and funding made possible by the Governing Council of the University would enable the Library Department stock up International *Journals* as is obtainable in other reputable Libraries around the world.

Commending the efforts of MacArthur Foundation of Chicago's Joint Donation Project Initiative (JDPI), Aina disclosed that the Foundation was responsible for the training of Library staff on Automation software.

The Automation process, he stressed, would make it possible for Library users to scan their cards and bar code of materials, as well as check out books through Automated Checkout Stations (ACS).

The benefits, the Librarian continued, include a change of status from traditional to Integrated Library System which promotes and accelerates access to comprehensive and current information on a global scale.

He pointed out that with support from the Education Trust Fund (ETF), University of Port Harcourt Alumni Association, Bayelsa State Chapter of the Association and the Institute of Petroleum Studies, the Library has been furnished with reading chairs, tables, *Journals* and books to better serve the growing needs of staff and students, including visiting researchers.

# Students Get Praise Centre

*By Ethel Wopara*

Following the unregulated used of classrooms and other open spaces for religious activities by various student groups on Campus, concerned Christian Staff of the University of Port Harcourt, under the umbrella of Monday Prayer Group (MPG), have commenced the building of a Students' Praise Centre in the University.

*V-C Prof J. A. Ajienka laying the Foundation-Stone of the Centre*

Leader of the Group and immediate past Director of Exchange and Linkage Programmes Unit, Professor Onyewuchi Akaranta, made this known during the Foundation-Laying Ceremony of the Centre last Friday.

According to him, attempts to stop genuine religious activities on Campus would encourage students involvement in such nocturnal activities as cultism, prostitution and drug abuse, amongst others, hence the move to set-up a Centre to serve the needs of Fellowship groups in the University, noting that the Centre which would consist of eight mini halls, was estimated to cost 33 million Naira on completion. Professor Akaranta urged all stakeholders to work in concert with his Group to ensure speedy completion of the project within one year.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who laid the Foundation-Stone for the Centre, congratulated the Group for the initiative, advising Christians to be exemplary in their conduct at all times.

He reaffirmed his commitment to move the University to greater heights, noting that efforts of other concerned individuals and groups to do same would be appreciated by the new administration. The Vice-Chancellor thanked the Monday Prayer Group for initiating the Praise Centre, observing that the prayers of various religious denominations had impacted positively on the affairs of the University.

In his own remarks, the Centre Project Coordinator and Head of Mathematics Department, Professor Gregory Avwiri, said the setting up of a befitting place of worship for student religious groups marked the fulfilment of a long-time dream. "This development would contribute significantly to raising the moral tone of the University," he added.

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## NEXT WEEK:

- Prof O. M. Ndimele on Hot Seat
- Faculty of Humanities Students' Debate

# CEBAS Director Calls For Environmental Stewardship

***By Williams Wodi***

Acting Director of Campus Environmental Beautification and Sanitation Unit in the Office of the ViceChancellor (CEBAS), Dr. Prince Mmom, has appealed to staff, students and visitors to practise Environmental Stewardship as a means of guaranteeing a clean environment and health of members of the University Community.

Dr. Mmom, who noted that "we are all watchdogs on the environment", urged everybody to be passionate about conservation of the environment, regretting that the current efforts of his Unit are concentrated on waste relocation, rather than waste management which he described as the practice in other parts of the world. This, according to Dr. Mmom, would include "waste recovery, recycling and reuse with a huge revenue potential for the University", disclosing that "gases derivable from waste could be used to provide electricity for the University Community", amongst other uses.

The Director said that "plastics and polythene consisted over 35 per cent of waste generated on Campus", pointing out that they are recyclable for other uses." He disclosed that a firm from Lagos had previously demonstrated its plastic recycling technology, with 80 per cent local content", hoping that the proposal would be implemented in the University to assist his Unit in the battle against refuse.

With a staff strength of 415, Dr. Mmom noted that more hands were needed to address the needs of new buildings in the University, stressing that the process of waste management should be mechanized to add maximum value to the system.

While expressing dissatisfaction with the current state of sanitation on Campus, the Director listed some challenges that needed to be overcome to attain a cleaner environment. Dr. Mmom appealed for more mechanized equipment to facilitate refuse evaluation, stressing that better remuneration was needed to boost the morale of staff and reduce absenteeism.

The Director called for better office space to enhance the productivity of staff of CEBAS, adding that personal sacrifice had so far been responsible for what was achieved by the Unit.

On the suggestion for contracting out refuse disposal on Campus, Dr. Mmom welcomed the idea, but said that "the University still needs to employ people from the host community as part of its corporate social responsibility, especially against the background of non-payment of compensation on their lands acquired by the Federal Government".

He called on the authorities to hand over operational supervision of the University's Cleaners to CEBAS for effective monitoring and productivity; adding that "a close examination would reveal that buildings that are not properly cleaned are those under the control of internal University Staff who currently play by their own rules".

Dr. Mmom disclosed plans to liaise with the Students Union Executive and other stakeholders to mount enlightenment programmes on Campus cleanliness, adding that "the battle against refuse has to be fought on all fronts the same way soldiers engage their enemies".

The Director called for "proper dump-sites and engineered landfill for waste disposal in place of the current practice of waste relocation that does not solve the problem in the university".

It would be recalled that CEBAS was set-up in 2004 to ensure a clean environment that is free from litter, enhance campus aesthetics, regular maintenance of lawns, create parks and gardens, general Campus beautification, and ornamental plants, amongst others.

Dr. Prince Mmom

Dr. Mmom alerted the authorities of the existence of a ten-year old slum called "Suya/Bole Village" by the new Presidential Hostel, recommending its immediate demotion in line with the master plan of the University.

He said that a proper shopping mall would infuse some order in business operations on Campus, stressing that students needed services provided by business operators, who should be properly located.

# Students' Union President Lauds Mgt On Seminar

***Humphrey Ogu***

President of the University of Port Harcourt Students' Union, Mr Tonye Tom-George, has commended the authorities of the University for organizing a Seminar for Union Leaders penultimate week.

TomGeorge made the commendation in a chat with a *UNIPORT Weekly* Correspondent last Tuesday. "The Seminar has fostered unity among students. It has also reminded us that our primary aim of being in the University is to study and graduate within the stipulated time line for each course, adding that every other activity is secondary.

Mr TomGeorge expressed gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka and Senate, for lifting the ban on Students' Unionism in the University, appealing to the authorities to issue a Letter confirming the reinstatement of the Executive following the pronouncement, to reciprocate an earlier Apology Letter written by the students.

He also pleaded with Management to make the Union's funds available to facilitate effective running of its affairs. The one-time National Union of Rivers State Students' Public Relations Officer, called on the University authorities to come to the aid of students in Dan Etete, Goodluck Jonathan and Delta Park hostels, which he said needed urgent renovation.

According to him, there is also a compelling need to install street lights at the University Park to boost security and prevent crime which he said thrives in the dark. Mr Tom-George who is also the President of the South-South Students' Union Executive Presidential Forum, called on his fellow students to eschew violence, crime and take their studies seriously, urging them not to take laws into their hands, no matter the provocation.

"Whatever we do, we must accept that dialogue remains the best approach for crises resolution, adding that so far, dialogue has yielded results".

***Tonye Tom-George***
***Students' Union President***

# Registry Advises Staff On Experience-Sharing

*MR. M. N. ONYIGE*
*Registrar*

***Obinna Nwodim***

The Registrar, Mr. Messiah Onyige, has tasked staff on the importance of sharing knowledge acquired from Conferences, Seminars and Workshops with their colleagues. A statement signed on his behalf by the Deputy Registrar (Establishments), Mrs. Joyce Tamuno, said that such a move would ensure proper dissemination of current information and research findings in Departments and Faculties.

The statement advised "staff who are afforded an opportunity to be sponsored to Conferences, to share their experiences with colleagues on return", disclosing that the Exchange and Linkage Programmes Unit (ELPU), would work in concert with the Registry to make experience-sharing compulsory for all categories of staff that benefit from awards or conferences outside the University.

Urging Faculties, Departments and Units to provide regular templates for experience-sharing by staff, the Registry promised an enabling environment for the application of knowledge that would contribute to the development of the University.

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*Editor: WILLIAMS WODI - 08033093371 E-mail: wodikaz@yahoo.com*
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