

UNIPOINT Receives Best Managed Varsities Award



Out of 117 Universities in Nigeria, the University of Port Harcourt (UNIPOINT) and Federal University of Technology, Yola (FUTY), have been adjudged the overall best in terms of proper management, a quality that enabled them to make outstanding contributions to the advancement of education in the Country *report Humphrey Ogo & Oluise Samuel*
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Side Bar

Political Science Students held a Public Lecture delivered by Mr. Bobo Brown last week. Details next week.
-Editor



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For the fourth year running, the Garden City Literary Festival (GCLF) brought together writers and scholars from around the world to deliberate on the link between Literature and Politics in national development. This year, it only got bigger and better as the Dean of African Literature, Chinua Achebe, former Commonwealth Secretary, Chief Emeka

Anyaku, Civil Rights Activist, Rev Jesse Jackson, Governor of Rivers State, Rt Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi, and a host of other distinguished writers and scholars converged at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University of Port Harcourt, for the annual Literary harvest that has become part of the cultural calendar of Port Harcourt. In his highly combustible

Keynote Address titled: "Literature and Ethnicity: To What Degree is All Literature shaped by the Cultural Contexts of the Authors?" Achebe observed that "There is a great deal of work for the Nigerian writer--indeed all writers. If the society is healthy, the writer's job is limited--which is not the situation in Nigeria. On the other hand, if a society is ill the writer has a responsibility

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Alcohol Blamed For 2.5 Million Deaths Yearly, Says WHO

By William Wodi

The World Health Organization (WHO) has raised an alarm over what it described as unregulated consumption of alcohol, which has been implicated as one of the four risk factors for



Dr. Margaret Chan D-G, WHO

non-communicable diseases (NCDs), disclosing that it results in 2.5 million deaths each year.

The global health regulatory body disclosed in a report obtained by UNIPORT Weekly that world leaders at the United Nations (UN) held a high-profile meeting on NCDs in New York on September 19-20, 2011, aimed at addressing this emergent problem in a swift move to raise a new international agenda on the scourge that is wrecking many homes with serious implications for the health sector and the larger society.

According to WHO, NCDs such as heart attacks and strokes, cancers, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases account for over 63 per cent of deaths in the world today, revealing that every year, NCDs kill nine million people under 60. The world body described the socio-economic impact

as very staggering and damaging to the health of people who are hooked on alcohol.

Global leaders, who met at the UN last week, set a new international agenda on modalities aimed at containing NCDs. The meeting was only the second time in the history of the UN that the General Assembly met on a health-related issue (the last issue was Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus (HIV)/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). The aim is for countries to adopt a concise, action-oriented outcome document that will shape the global agendas for generations to come and save lives.

According to the WHO, the health, safety and socio-economic problems attributable to reckless alcohol consumption, can be effectively reduced, requiring actions on the levels, patterns and contexts of consumption patterns and the wider social determinants of health. WHO's aim is to reduce the health burden caused by the harmful use of alcohol and, thereby, save lives prevent injuries, diseases and improve the wellbeing of individuals, communities and society at large.

WHO, according to the report, is emphasizing the development, testing and evaluation of cost-effective interventions aimed at addressing harmful use of alcohol, as well as creating, compiling and disseminating scientific information on alcohol use and dependence; including related health and social consequences.

A comparison of the Niger Delta struggle in Nigeria and the American Civil Rights Movement last Thursday took centre stage at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park, as renowned African-American Civil Rights leader, Rev Jesse Jackson, held the ecstatic audience spell-bound with the black experience that culminated in freedom and emancipation in mainstream society. The Jackson's Keynote Address was a major part of events that marked the 4th Garden City Literary Festival that drew participants from around the world.

Speaking at the Forum which was aimed at drawing similarities between the Niger Delta struggle and the African-American slave experience, the International Civil Rights Campaigner and former US Presidential Candidate, Reverend Jesse Jackson, highlighted the failure of the United States of America Government to stop the evil practice of slavery for 264 years and oppression against African-American people which, he said, resulted in the quest for justice and freedom.

Citing peculiar reasons for agitation for freedom based on moral authority and non-violent weapons for freedom, Jackson said these

JESSE JACKSON, OTHERS, SPEAK HUMAN RIGHTS STRUGGLE

By Ethel Wopara

principles would compel humans the world over, including Africa and the Niger Delta to resist oppression and fight for equality and justice.

Also at the event, a Panel of discussants and budding Writers comprising, Kaine Agary (Yellow Yellow), Henry Ajaegbo (Dead Man Walking) and Chinaka Garricks (Tomorrow Died Yesterday) moderated by ace Presenter and former CNN weather woman, Femi Oke, focused on Literature and the Niger Delta struggle.

While Garrick opposed militancy as a form of social struggle, arguing that key players in the Niger Delta struggle lacked moral authority.

Agary argued that people have the moral rights to agitate for improved living conditions, provided there are sufficient resources to meet their needs, while

Ajaegbo affirmed his belief in the Niger Delta struggle as a means to better governance. The event which also featured

poetry recitation by the Head, Department of English Studies, University of Lagos, Professor Karen King-Aribisala, was followed by in-depth analysis of Rev Jackson's paper titled, Niger Delta: Lessons from the American Civil Rights Movement by the Head, Department of English Studies, UNIPORT, Professor Oyemachi Udumakwu. The event also had in attendance former Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Chief Emeka Ayaku, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka and other principal officers of the University and Festival Director, Koko Kalango.



Femi Oke, Garrick, Agary and Ajaegbo. (Inset, Jesse Jackson)

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40 Mercenaries In ICTC Net At PUTME

...As Director Dispels Rumour Of Upgrading Scores

By Otikor Samuel

No fewer than 40 mercenaries who fraudulently impersonated genuine candidates at the just-concluded Post-University Tertiary Matriculation Examination (post-UTME) Screening Exercise organized for applicants seeking admissions into the University of Port Harcourt penultimate week, were nabbed and handed over to security agents, while over 100 results have been voided as some of the impostors on perceiving danger of being caught escaped from the examination halls.

Director, Information and Communication Technology Centre (ICTC), Professor Elijah Iyagba, who made this disclosure to UNIPORT Weekly last Tuesday, stated that some of the mercenaries uploaded their photographs for the Screening Exercise which were different from the ones made available by the actual candidates on the website of the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB), regretting that some of the culprits, most of who were students from higher institutions confessed to having received between N10,000 to N17,000 to perpetrate the evil act.

Professor Iyagba, who listed cost-effectiveness and instant computation of results as part of the benefits of the Computer-Based Test (CBT) conducted for

about 35,000 candidates, disclosed that the University of Port Harcourt spent a meagre N8 million for the exercise which would have gulped N54 million if it were outsourced to firms just like some other Universities, adding that the 100 per cent use of local content for the successful exercise was another milestone.

The Director further disclosed that Enefon Dan and Anthony Ekemezie, who applied for Mechanical Engineering and Petroleum Engineering, respectively, made the highest scores of 360 each, stating that the Centre has instantly collated all the results and transmitted same to the various Departments and Faculties preparatory to consideration of candidates for admission.

According to the Director, the Practice Test earlier put up online for candidates were accessed by only



Prof Iyagba, Director ICTC

about 10,000 of them, which was a contributing factor to poor use of the computer by some of them who were unable to even move the mouse.

Professor Iyagba urged authorities of the University to take full advantage of the results of the exercise which were generated automatically to immediately process their admissions to emulate the Institute of Science Laboratory Technology (ISLT), which processed its admissions list within two days after the CBT, warning candidates to be wary of impostors, who parade themselves as staff of the Centre to defraud them.

"We have received information that some unscrupulous persons, who parade themselves as ICTC staff are going about collecting money from unsuspecting candidates, who sat for the recent post-UTME exercise with false promises of upgrading their scores and/or changing their photographs," the Director revealed, cautioning that no such change or alteration would be possible as results have already been submitted to the appropriate authorities. He advised candidates and parents who encounter such unscrupulous elements to report them to the University or security agencies. Meanwhile, some of the candidates who responded to questions posed by our Correspondent scored the

University above average for making a good outing in applying computers for the post-UTME, advising however, that the University should strive towards optimal functionality of the computer systems in subsequent examinations.

Students Relive Experience At GCLF

By Mercy Don-Baridam & Otikor Samuel

With many students attending the Garden City Literary Festival (GCLF) for the first time, the fourth in the series partly hosted in the University last week, the generality of students who participated in the Festival have lauded the initiative, describing it as a thrilling experience that would not only fill their knowledge gaps, but would also assist in reawakening the reading culture, as well as change some of their negative perception of the world.

Speaking with UNIPORT Weekly Correspondents, some students relived their experiences at the GCLF. Harrison Blossom, a Second Year Student of the Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, was

overwhelmed by the core philosophy behind the initiation of the Festival which is to revive the gradual disappearance of academic culture among some students. The sophomore commended the Rivers State Government and the Festival Director, who is also the Founder of Rainbow Book Club, Koko Kalango for the initiative, advising her fellow students to avail themselves of the opportunity to enrich their frame of reference. For Njugo Nonso, the fourth in the series has offered her an opportunity to expand her perception of Nigerian languages, thereby, providing room for a better appreciation of indigenous languages which are gradually going into extinction.

"The experience was a great one; I learnt a lot right from the first day; the interface between Literature and Politics and how writers can influence the society positively, as well as the gains of reading widely as a student were part of the areas I so much benefitted from," said Peter Akus, a student of the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies. Another student, Lawrence Stanley of the Department of Geography and Environmental Management, who described his experience as great, observed that he was so much fascinated by the oratory and elocutionary powers of the speakers, recalling that the Festival exposed him to a better appreciation of a wider academic horizon.



Blossom Harrison



Lawrence Stanley



Nonso Njugo



Peter Akus

Udumukwu Proposes Interdisciplinary Journal

...As English Studies Collaborates with Pol Science At GCLF

By Humphrey Ogu & Mercy Don-Bandam

Following a successful interface between the Department of English Studies in the Faculty of Humanities and Department Political and Administrative Studies in the Faculty of Social Sciences, the Head, Department of English Studies, Professor Onyemaechi Udumukwu, has proposed an Interdisciplinary Journal by both Departments to explore common grounds in their fields of specialization.

Professor Udumukwu, who made the recommendation at an Open Forum tagged: Literature and Politics, as part of pre-event activities for the just-concluded Garden City Literary Festival (GCLF) last Monday, stressed the need to continue the existing collaboration between the two Departments, stating that "We want to begin by floating a Journal that would cut across the two disciplines, English and Political Science."

Welcoming guests to the Forum, Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee, Obar Gomba of Department of English Studies, described the Forum as the first canon of the celebration, promising a very grand festival.

Establishing a relationship between literature and politics, a discussant from the Department of English Studies, Omah

Ngokwe, who defined Literature as "the creative use of language to mirror society, in order to teach and entertain," added that



Prof. Udumukwu

politics does not exist in a vacuum, as it is an integral part of society. According to him, politics provides the raw material for writers in their search for a better society.

In his contribution, Ene Igbifé of the Department of English Studies, who observed that folk tales, proverbs, among others fall under literature, noted that George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, for instance,

ridicules communism, as a political system, adding that Chinua Achebe's *A Man of the People* and *Anthilla of the Savannah*, are examples of literary works that fight against bad governance through creative use of language by an immensely imaginative author.

Other discussants at the Forum included Oychi Obi, who moderated the session and Ezeokolam Ibekwe, both of the Department of English Studies.

Discussants from the Department of Political and Administrative Studies included Emmanuel Wonah, Nelson Okene, and Daniel Ndom, all of who agreed that politics touches every aspect of life, while literature as an imaginative recreation of recreation of social realism has unlimited powers to chart a new direction for political activities.

Professor Nkem Okoh, who described the event as a glorious harvest, wondered why the University system has not been able to tackle problems besetting the society, saying that there is need to go back to the grassroots for universities to remain relevant to needs of the larger society.

Other Scholars who made contributions at the Forum included Dr Daniel Ogum, Dr Barine Ngaage, Dr Margaret Nutsukpo and Tony Onu of Department of English Studies. Dr Nna Johnson, represented the Head, Department of Political and Administrative Studies at the Forum. Highlight of the event was presentation of a political drama by students of English Studies.

International television presenter, Femi Oke and Author of the fictional prose: *Tomorrow Died Yesterday*, Barrister Chimeka Garrick, have described emerging Literature on the Niger Delta struggle as fictional works mirroring the real life challenges facing the common people.

The duo who spoke while exchanging views with a *UNIPORT Weekly Correspondent* last Thursday during a Forum organized by the Garden City Literary Festival at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park, emphasized the use of Literature as a tool for social enlightenment and means of advocacy for improved condition of living for the people of the oil-rich region.

Oke, who acknowledged her efforts on researching the Niger Delta struggle, expressed dissatisfaction at the poor living condition of the people despite abundance of natural resources in the region. "People here should live like their counterparts in developed nations of the world where they have access to basic infrastructure like roads, quality health care systems and good standard

Femi Oke, Garrick, Weigh-In On Niger Delta Literature At GCLF

By Ethel Wopara

of education", she added.

In his own contribution, Garrick regretted the use of violence in the struggle, stressing that though literature has a restricted audience as it appeals only to educated persons, it could be employed as a means of exposing the plight of the ordinary people, who according to him are denied access to quality life by greedy leaders who he said lack the moral authority to challenge the multinational corporations that bring so much misery to the ordinary citizens.

The duo commended the Rainbow Book Club, facilitators of the 4th Garden City Literary Festival and the Rivers State Government for efforts aimed at improving literacy level in the region through the Arts.



Kaine Agary and Garrick Chimeka



Femi Oke of National Public Radio, NY

Mgt Suspends Night Activities On Campus, Raises Security Alert Level ...Receives SSANU Commendation

By Humphrey Ogu

In a direct response to the credible, but unverified threat from the Islamic fundamentalist sect Boko Haram to bomb some university Campuses, Management of University of Port Harcourt has issued an immediate blanket suspension on all activities that take place beyond 6:00pm in the University till further notice, advising staff and students to comply with the precautionary directives in the news item.

The new directive followed an urgent review of the security threat posed by letters circulating in some universities purporting to have originated from Boko Haram to bomb selected Federal Institutions in the country, as part of its campaign against Western education which it decries as evil.

Other measures approved by Management following an emergency security meeting, include closure of the Dan Ebin main entrance park at 7:00pm each day, parking of vehicles away from all buildings, as well as unauthorised bus-stops by commercial vehicles (buses, minibuses) and parking of vehicles at only designated car parks. Also, all staff and students have been directed to always wear their official Identity Cards as a precaution to prevent access to offices, classrooms and hostels, to avoid embarrassment, while visitors are

advised to present themselves to security personnel for proper Identification before proceeding to offices to avoid embarrassment.

Members of the University Community have also been charged to be security conscious by reporting any suspicious object or movement of unknown persons to relevant authorities of the Institution or security agencies for prompt action.

This directive which came on the heels of recent reports of bomb explosion in parts of the Country and ongoing security threat on University Campuses, was contained in a memorandum issued by the office of the Registrar, signed by Deputy Registrar (Operations), Joyce Tamuno and distributed to staff and students last Wednesday.

"The serious need for security consciousness by all cannot be overemphasised. To this end, all staff of the University are required to wear their ID Cards at all times for easy identification. In addition, cars are to be parked in designated areas as directed by security personnel," the memorandum read.

Meanwhile, the local branch of the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU), has commended Management on new security measures put in place to protect staff and students. This was conveyed in a Letter signed by Chairman of the Branch, Ekwonkar Abel and addressed to the Vice-Chancellor and made available to UNIPORT News.

"As a time when those who claim to hate Western Education are threatening to attack universities... it is only proper for others to take precaution. We commend your efforts. It is our hope that this effort is sustained and not limited to the Senate Building area alone," the Letter stated, calling on "Management to organise fire drills, educate staff and students on how to react in emergencies, especially in the high rise buildings and student hostels."

"We therefore suggest that the Fire Service Unit should be commended urgently to perform this long overdue exercise of public call drill before it becomes too late," Ekwonkar stated.



Prof. Joseph Ajorika, V.C. UNIPORT

Graduate Students Get New Exco

By Otiakor Samuel

A new Executive Council has been constituted to run the affairs of the Graduate Students' Union for the next one year. The Council which was inaugurated at the School of Graduate Studies last Wednesday has Balogun Isaac as President.

Other members are Isichei Ruth, who emerged the Vice President, Otau Paul elected Secretary-General, Obarasi Jacob won the position of Treasurer and Wagu Ndubuisi, Director of Sports, while Nwachukwu Chikadibia is now Director of Business &

Social Welfare. The ceremony also featured inauguration of the Legislative arm of the Union elected from each of the Faculties. Those inaugurated are Emelike Uche (Basic Health Science); Dan Effiong (Education); Humphrey Okoro (Engineering); Eje Emmanuel (Humanities), Senate President; Fabon Ghara (Social Sciences), Ekelebor S. Abiya (Science), Chief Whip; Onoriose Diana (Science), Deputy Senate President.

Speaking at the inauguration, Dean, School of Graduate

Studies, Professor Roseline Konye, urged the elected officers to render selfless service to the Union, as well as the School for the overall advancement of the University, reminding them to also take their studies seriously as that is their primary purpose in the University.

Professor Konye further advised them to shun all forms of societal vices as they will not speak well of Graduate Students, promising to cooperate with them to ensure a mutual relationship between students and Management of the University.

In his remarks, the new President, Mr Balogun, who took over from Andrew Egunoma promised to pursue matters affecting the students logically with a view to maintaining a cordial relationship, requesting that an office for the Union be established within the SGS for easy access by Students on matters that them.



Dean Prof. Konye and new Exco

Breaking News: Garden City Choral Festival Rescheduled For December 1

By Otiakor Samuel

barely three days from the initial commencement date of the maiden edition of the Garden City Choral Festival (GCCF) this Wednesday as planned by the University of Port Harcourt with support from both the Rivers and Bayelsa States Governments, the event has been rescheduled for 1st December, 2011.

Chairman, GCCF Committee, Professor Onyee Nwankpa, who broke the news to UNIPORT Weekly, after a stakeholders' meeting at the Senate Building, University Park last Friday, said the Festival would now hold from Thursday, 1st to Saturday, 3rd December, 2011 with every arrangement such as the rally, command performance, folk music renditions and Grand Finale expected to hold as earlier scheduled.

"There are emerging unforeseen circumstances that we cannot circumvent, so the Festival has been put off to December, which in fact, is a truly choral season," Professor Nwankpa, who is also Head, Department of Music, said, stating that the Opening Ceremony slated for the Convocation Arena would now hold on December 1, while the two other events billed for the Civic Centre and Presidential Hotel, Port Harcourt are now rescheduled for Friday, December 2, and the Grand Finale for Saturday, December 3rd, 2011, respectively, assuring all stakeholders that the Festival is going to be unprecedented in the history of the region when it finally kicks off.

The GCCF, with the theme: Restoring Hope through Choral Music: The Odyssey of Ikoli Harcourt Whyte, according to Professor Nwankpa, would also celebrate the Arts through recognition and documentation of the works of other indigenous choral music composers and performers from the Niger Delta.



Prof. Onyee Nwankpa,

Achebe, Jackson, Amaechi, Mobilize Writers Against Social Ills

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to point it out even if it produces headaches in the halls of power.

The renowned writer, whose address was read by his son, Dr Chidi Achebe, stated that, "The role of the writer in a society such as ours beset with many pathologies—ethnic bigotry, political ineptitude, corruption, and cult of mediocrity—is not an easy or rigid one. Nigerian writers can choose to turn away from the reality of Nigeria's intimidating complexity or conquer its mystery by battling with it. I hope we all choose the latter."

An obviously frustrated Achebe lamented the nation's many woes, blaming the Civil War for creating a clique of military and political adventurers that destroyed Nigeria. This path to perdition, according to the crusade Scholar, was facilitated by the destruction of the academia, regretting that Professors have been purchased by politicians for peanuts, instigating an anti-intellectual movement that has decimated the University system.

Regretting that the immense resources of the country was being frittered away by an insensitive ruling class that serves only their own pocket at the expense of the masses, Achebe implicated ethnicity as a weapon of choice by visionless leaders, who had nothing to offer their people. "So let us stop all this nonsense about religion, about tribe and so on. Let us organize Nigeria and make it a working entity so that it can fulfil its mission in the world", he advised.

Welcoming guests to the Festival, Chief Anyanwu, who chaired the opening ceremony described UNIPORT as "a university which in a relatively short time of its existence has distinguished itself among Nigerian universities," commending Governor Amaechi for supporting the Festival Director, Koko Kalango, in organizing a highly successful event.

The former Commonwealth Secretary-General added that "it is refreshing and commendable to know that one of the Governors in the Country in the person of Amaechi is inspiring and supporting literary development. According to the retired diplomat, though education is the gateway to the development of any nation, such development would remain far from being achieved if it lacks a good literary culture,

adding that politics needs literature because the two reinforce each other for good policy.

"Practitioners of Literature and practitioners of politics live in different habitats; but if politics is to produce a non-dysfunctional world, politics needs literature because the two reinforce each other. Good politics creates the infrastructure and environment in which literature flourishes," he said, adding that GCLF reminded him of the Edinburgh Literary Festival which is a leading cultural event in the UK.

Also speaking, Governor Amaechi, who disclosed that he deliberately chose the theme of the Festival: Literature and Politics, recalled that as an undergraduate in the University of Port Harcourt, he was not privileged to meet writers, urging students and budding writers to take full advantage of the opportunity provided by the Festival to interact with the array of established authors that attended the Festival to learn the craft of creative writing and serious intellectual inquiry.

Governor Amaechi said that literature provides a voice to those who feel that their voices and concerns have been excluded from mainstream society, adding that "this year's festival offers a forum where writers, public figures, scholars and other citizens can meet and discuss the nature and implications of the relationship between literature and politics. My hope is that at the end of the festival, we will come away with deeper insights and a renewed sense of the vital link between literature and politics, urging writers to reflect reality which would enable them identify problems of the society and proffer solutions.

In his remark, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, informed the gathering that the University has established an Arts Village to celebrate creativity, promising that "this University would continue to stand by Koko Kalango in her effort to institutionalize the

Festival and make the Garden City a place where art is celebrated. This University is now a centre of Arts and Culture."

In her goodwill message, Festival Director, Koko Kalango, expressed appreciation to everyone who contributed towards the success of the programme, especially, the Governor Amaechi, Rev Jackson, Chinua Achebe and his son Dr Chidi, Chief Anyanwu, the Vice-Chancellor, whom she noted is an Engineer with a passion for literature, as well as other facilitators of the workshops.

Also contributing, Rev Jesse Jackson, who charged the audience with what could be described as an Audience-participatory speech, identified literacy as the key to liberation. He recalled that when he was campaigning for the Presidency of the United States back in 1984, President Barack Obama, who was then a student, told him that it was possible to have a Black man in the White House as President.

Major highlight of the event was a discussion on Literature with the immediate past Head of Department of English Studies, Professor Niam Okoh, as Moderator, while renowned critic, Professors Chidi Maduka, who made a case for literature in Nigerian languages and notable Feminist critic, Professors Molara Ogundipe and Femi Osofisan, including famous journalist and poet, Lindsay Barrett.

It would be recalled that Nobel Laureate, Professor Wole Soyinka, and his French counterpart, Jean-Marie Gustave Le Clezio, were among distinguished guests that graced the third edition of the Festival.



J-M Okoh, Udo Makhele, Kwoyale, VC Prof Ajienka, Rev Jesse Jackson, Kalango, Chief Anyanwu and Femi Oso



Dr. Ngozi Odu, fnim

Ngozi Odu Gets NIM Fellowship

A Lecturer in the Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Science, Dr. Ngozi Odu, has been conferred with the Fellowship of the Nigerian Institute of Management (NIM). Dr. Odu, a former Commissioner of Education in Rivers State, was cited for her excellent managerial acumen and her immense contributions to the progress and sustenance of the Institute.

She had served in diverse capacities both at the state, national and international levels as part of her vision to better the human condition. Dr. Odu is a 2000 recipient of the World Health

Organization's Fellowship for distinguished service to the health sector in and outside Nigeria, and also received the Pathfinder International Award for her total commitment to improving the lives of underprivileged and underserved citizens.

Dr. Ngozi Odu is also a Member of the Institute of Food Science and Technology and the Institute of Biology, both in the United Kingdom; including membership of the Nigerian Institute of Public Administrators, Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology and the Nigerian Society of Environmental Science.