CU HOSTS TWO NOBEL LAUREATES, OTHERS TO SOLVE AFRICA’S DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT: Chancellor Advocates Investment In Human Capital

COVENANT UNIVERSITY’S LEADERSHIP STYLE A ROLE MODEL FOR OTHERS

COVENANT UNIVERSITY RANKS BEST AMONG PRIVATE VARSITIES

NIGERIA’S EDUCATION SYSTEM IS AT THE MERCY OF POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

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CU Chancellor Advocates
INVESTMENT IN HUMAN CAPITAL
“Abundant Opportunity in the continent waiting to be tapped” -VC

Investment in human capital has been identified as the key to sustainable economy. This was disclosed by the Chancellor, Covenant University, Dr David Oyedepo, at the just concluded 1st Covenant University International Conference on African Development Issues (CU-ICADI).

The 2-day conference which held at the University campus between May 5 and 6, 2014, focused on “Rising Opportunities for Investors in Africa and the Prospect of an Economic Miracle”.

Dr Oyedepo acknowledged that every true change in a nation was made possible by its stakeholders who are not satisfied with the status-quo.

“Every true change of story in any nation is traceable to a renewed commitment and investment in knowledge. It’s so important for us in this part of the world to re-engineer our value system for knowledge.

“Responsibility is the price for greatness. It’s time for us in Africa to take real responsibility in dealing with our issues. Otherwise, we may find ourselves at a point for ever,” he warned.

Dr Oyedepo, who is also the Chairman of the Board of Regents of the University, stated that, “This is what Covenant University is all about. Packaging the changes we want to see in all our students so they can go and effect these changes accordingly”.

He enjoined the participants not to allow the conference end as a mere talk show. “Anybody can get information, but information utilization is what gives value to that information. You might know the right thing to do, until you do it, it doesn’t make any difference”, he advised.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Charles Ayo, noted that the major reason for the conference was the quest of the University to become one of the ten leading universities in the world in the next ten years, tagged “Vision 10:2022.”

Professor Ayo noted that it was important for the University to network with institutions and faculty members who are already in this status. This, he stated, prompted the University to organize the Conference where two Nobel Laureates in Economics, Professor Eric Maskin and Professor Thomas Sargent led other key resource persons to discuss the rising opportunities for investors in Africa and the prospect of an economic miracle.

“At Covenant University, we are mindful of the opportunities available on the Continent waiting to be tapped. In this respect, this conference is poised to further explore paths for sustainable economic growth and development of the Continent”, the Vice Chancellor explained.
CU HOSTS TWO NOBEL LAUREATES, OTHERS TO SOLVE AFRICA’S DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

In the words of the Chancellor and Chairman, Board of Regents of Covenant University, Dr David O. Oyedepo, “A University is a place where solutions to societal problems are found and value added to humanity. A University is not a monastery but a factory that produces values and drives research. The real value of a University is only established by the problems it solves.”

In line with this submission, Covenant University organized its 1st International Conferences on African Development Issues aimed at addressing key development concerns in Africa and how the continent can catch up with advanced economies. In order to realise the objectives, the University pooled together, Economic experts from within and outside the continent to chart paths for sustainable and inclusive African growth.

Among the experts were two Nobel Laureates, Professor Thomas J. Sergent, a Nobel Prize Winner in Economic Sciences, 2011 and currently a Professor of Economics at New York University; and Professor Eric S. Maskin, a Nobel Prize Winner in Economic Sciences, 2007 and currently the Adams University Professor at Harvard University. This feat has never been recorded in the history of higher education in Nigeria.

At the end of the two-day conference, the Nobel Laureates and other economic experts and technocrats, who commended Covenant University for hosting the conference, proffered far-reaching solutions to development challenges in Africa, as captured in this special focus.
Nobel Laureates Advocate for Adequate Training and Education as Keys to Addressing Imbalance in Global Markets

The current imbalance in the global market, as it affects emerging economies in Africa, can be reduced by raising the skill levels of the low-skilled workers of the budding economies through adequate education, so as to have international matching opportunities.

This was the conclusion of Professor Eric Maskin at the 1st Covenant University International Conference on African Development Issues (CU-ICADI 2014), with the theme 'Rising Opportunities for Investors in Africa and the Prospect of an Economic Miracle.'

Speaking on the subject "Why Haven't Global Markets Reduced Inequality," Professor Maskin said the challenges currently besieging emerging economies have simply highlighted the failure of the theory of comparative advantage when put side by side with the globalization campaign for trade opportunities.

He noted that before globalization low level-skilled workers were matched with high level-skilled workers which enhanced their productivity and development of competency, but the reverse has been the case after globalization which has left homogenously matched low level-skilled workers to suffer a sharp fall in wages; by contrast high level skilled worker wages rise, thereby making inequality in emerging countries worse.

The 2007 Nobel Prize Winner in Economic Sciences said, globalization in theory should have delivered prosperity and reduced the gulf between developed and emerging economies of the world, and the 'haves and have not' since the turn of the century, but the expectations of the emerging economies from globalization have not delivered totally; rather in the face of global free trade policy of the World Trade Organization, inequality has increased.

Professor Maskin noted that the comparative advantage theory was not enough to address the issue of inequality that currently pervades developing economies of the world.

The Professor of Economics opined that this situation will remain because of the higher skill workmanship developed economies have at their disposal, while developing and emerging economies will continue to be disadvantaged with regard to trade and employment imbalance due to their lower skill level workmanship.

This he said is due to output, which most times, will depend on the skill level of the people occupying various positions. The comparison here, he noted, has to do with the ratio of high skill to...
low skill workers, which is higher in the wealthier economies. This in itself confers on the wealthy countries a comparative advantage in producing goods requiring a high proportion of high skill workers, while emerging economies have a comparative advantage in producing goods where skill does not really matter.

Professor Maskin noted that globalization has affected the skill level of developing countries in the sense that the little know-how used in producing technical equipment, though in the inefficient state, has been whittled down. That is, low skilled workers in emerging economies are hurt by the activities of developed economies, which slow down the growth of emerging economies in their quest for technological advancement.

In addition, he said the challenge of reducing inequality is one that has been put forward as a means of promoting egalitarianism, eradicating poverty, and engendering political stability in developing and emerging economies.

Professor Maskin blamed the internationalization of production for the significant part it has contributed to the inequality problem facing emerging countries. This he said has made transference of knowhow from developed to developing economies cumbersome, but making the absorption of the averagely skilled workmanship from developing countries into their economies easy, creating more gaps in the emerging economies.

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**SPECIAL FOCUS ON ICADI**

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**ROBUST PANEL DISCUSSION AT ICADI**

Economic Experts Identify Path To African Growth

Economic experts within and outside Africa have identified provision of infrastructure, education, industrialization, diversification of the economy and foreign investment as opposed to portfolio investment among others, as factors necessary for sustainable and inclusive African growth. The experts from various sectors of the economy formed the panel of discussants at the just concluded 1st Covenant University International Conference on African Development Issues (CU-ICADI). Their position was the outcome of the robust discussion of a paper presented by the Keynote Speakers, Professor Eric Maskin and Professor Thomas J. Sargent.

**Dr. Sarah Alade**

In her submission, the then Acting Governor, Central Bank of Nigeria, Dr Sarah Alade, said though the nation and the Continent seemed to have done the right things economically, “But we have not been able to have that kind of inclusive growth to create the kind of continent of our dream”.

Dr. Alade decried the high rate of unemployment compared to other places and disappointing standard of living in terms of welfare for the people.

“The engine of growth must be the private sector but we never seem to have anybody in the driver's seat because a lot of what government should be doing are not done”, Dr Alade explained.
SPECIAL FOCUS ON ICADI

He suggested that to remedy the current imbalance, skill levels and capacity of the different categories of workers must be improved upon through adequate investment by third parties like domestic governments, international agencies, foreign aids and private foundation for the workers education. Moreover, he posited that it is important to allow low-skilled workers share in the benefits of seeking improved opportunities, through investing in their training as well, knowing that education raises workers productivity which would in turn attract higher wages.

In his submission, Professor Sergent, a Nobel Prize winner in Economic Sciences in 2011 and currently a Professor of Economics at New York University noted that government, through expert advice, should put plans in place for economic growth.

The Nobel Laureate in his paper titled “Bound Together: Two Competing Visions” submitted that despite the opposing ideas of planning and unfettered market, the two are bound together and are inseparable. Professor Sergent also argued that resources (people, land, water, air) should be combined to produce goods which are to be distributed among different people, “From each according to his ability, to each according to his need”.

ROBUST PANEL DISCUSSION AT ICADI

Professor Kenneth Adeyemi

The Deputy Dean, School of Business, Covenant University, Professor Kenneth Adeyemi, corroborated the position of the Acting Governor of CBN. He noted that, though the Continent was said to be growing at a fast rate, this has not translated into the much expected economic rebirth.

“The Continent still exhibits high unemployment, high dependence on commodity export and very little value addition. What we need in Africa, taking Nigeria as an example, is for government to play its part by providing the necessary basic infrastructure”, he argued.

The way forward, according to Professor Adeyemi, is that the Continent must avoid what he called “growth without development, or jobless growth” saying “there is no point growing and having a lot of jobless youths”.

Dr Jonathan Aremu

Dr. Jonathan Aremu of the ECOWAS Common Investment Market, in his paper titled “Transforming Africa towards Sustainable and Inclusive Growth”, submitted that agriculture must be developed beyond crude implements.

“To pursue sustainable growth, we have to modernize agriculture beyond the use of crude implements because this is what engages majority of the populace”. He

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ROBUST PANEL DISCUSSION AT ICADI

also called for an improved investment climate within the African economic environment.

Dr Bright Okogu

In his own contribution, the Director General, Budget Office, Nigeria, Dr. Bright Okogu, explained that education and job creation are necessary conditions for inclusive growth. “Growth is not inclusive enough because when you don't have jobs, there is no point being told that you have 510 billion GDP. That in itself amounts to one hundred percent nothing.

“It is not that jobs are not being created, they are not being created fast enough. 1.6 million jobs were created last year whereas we have 1.8 million new entrants into the Nigerian labour force annually. This means we are adding more into the pool of unemployment”, he explained.

Dr Okogu advised that various levels of the economy, private or public, and individuals should join hands with the government in order to achieve a more inclusive growth for everyone.

Professor John Ifediora

Another member of the panel of discussants and a Professor of Economics at the London School of Economics, Professor Jonathan Leape, speaking on “Ideas for Growth”, explained that there are no recipes for fast growth, there are only ingredients, one of which was an unprecedented opportunity to bring research into policy to promote growth.

Professor Leape enumerated four key factors that would drive growth and development in Africa to include the effectiveness of the state, the driver of productivity, functioning cities, and energy (power supply).

Dr. Kalu Idika Kalu

One-time minister of finance in Nigeria, Dr. Kalu Idika Kalu, said the bane of inequality in Africa is traceable to her consumption habits. According to him, Africa's inability to engage skillfully in the production of things that change from time to time while it chooses to consume a lot of those things that she cannot produce would continue to foist an undue
advantage on developed economies.

Dr. Kalu posited that Africa is not a mono-culture economy as many would want to make it look, the failure of Africa's leadership to develop other elements that would have helped expand her export basket is what has brought it to a position of standstill.

The former minister, who also provided oversight functions for ministries of National Planning and Transport as minister, asserted that the fiscal policies of many African nations have impacted their economies negatively. According to him, “If policies are well packaged, it could help cushion the effects of deferential flows arising from different skill levels and income by reason of globalization.”

Furthermore, he noted that the theory of comparative advantage is not wrong in itself, but strong development of vested interest by governments of developed economies, has not allowed the equalizing effect of globalization to take place, due to their usage of domestic policies through congress and parliament to make sure that measures are in place to negate some of the benefits that should accrue to nations involved in normal flow of deferential trade and prices.

Professor Olu Ajakaiye

President, Nigerian Economic Society, Professor Olu Ajakaiye decried the consistent failures of policy formulators in the continent to take into account the various components of their individual societies by doing what is necessary to ensure that the welfare of the private and public sectors in that economy is enhanced.

Professor Ajakaiye challenged states not to be limited by any theoretical construct in doing what would enhance the welfare of the various components of the society. He solicited for agents of the state to start serving the people instead of serving the interest of external forces that keep pulling back the growth-prospect of African economies.

He averred that the likes of Nigeria, Malawi and others who seem to be generating economic growth as against development, are occupying the primary producers' cadre in the production sequence, and as such are leaving the intermediate and secondary production activities to the developed economies.

The renowned economist charged African economies to seek partnership, not aid, with developed economies, if they must correct the current imbalance in global economy. He suggested a shared growth model that would determine what aspect investors could invest in their different economies.

Professor Ajakaiye said by this model, Africa would have also tacitly reversed and equalized certain aspects of the current economic imbalance in play by reason of globalization and the free trade the developed economies are canvassing. The CU-ICADI is expected to be an annual event where experts will converge to chart a way for Africa’s development.
Reputable economists, industrialists and academics from around the world who gathered at the just concluded Covenant University 1st International Conference on African Development Issues (CU-ICADI) have commended the University for taking a bold stand towards helping Africa come out of the woods.

One of those who lauded Covenant University was the 2007 Nobel Prize winner in Economic Sciences, Professor Eric Maskin. According to him, the University’s commitment towards understanding the importance of international issues and the creation of a platform for the conference on African development shows how serious and committed the University is to the major problems of our time.

Professor Maskin said he was very impressed with the quality of panelists and the thoughts brought to bear on issues. This he said was remarkable and speaks of standard and quality in the group the University wants to associate with.

Professor Thomas Sargent, the 2011 Nobel Prize Winner in Economic Sciences and proponent of ‘rational expectations model and freshwater economics movement’ said he was impressed with Covenant University, as most of what his professional colleagues told him back in the United States actually turned out to be true and even better.

Professor Sargent said with what he saw in Covenant University there was no doubt that the University has a definite focus to execute its plan to actually be involved in shaping world issues as it pertains to the African continent.

The Acting Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Dr. Sarah Alade, said she was impressed by the level of involvement of the students and
quality of human resources available in the University, which could be identified by how organized the staff and students are. According to her, “From what I have heard, one will easily agree that we can be proud of the quality of the products of this institution anytime.”

Dr. Alade appreciated the picturesqueness of the landscape, neatness of the environment and the nice structures that have been put in place to engender learning. An industrialist, Mr. Oladipo Bankole said Covenant University has invited the right kind of people considering the topic discussed and they have done justice to the issues. “If we are able to pick the main issues that are discussed here and work on them, we shall obtain very positive results and for this reason, I am proud of what the University has done.”

On his impression of the institution, Mr. Bankole said, “I went to the University of Ibadan and later proceeded to University of London. This is a completely new experience for me in Nigeria's education system and when you are told it is just 12 years old, it is completely out of this world. To know that our people have done this, that it is an initiative of a Nigerian, it makes it even more outstanding. I am extremely proud of what has been achieved here.”

Professor Ade Oyejide of the University of Ibadan said this was his first visit to the University and he was impressed and has challenged the Chancellor, Dr. David Oyedepo to help tell the audience how a private institution like Covenant University manages to do things that Nigeria as a country does not seem to be able to do.

In addition, the Professor Emeritus of Economics said “The whole purpose of what Covenant University has done is identifying examples of things that have worked in the process of developing a country and finding ways to scale it up to the national level and if possible to the continental level, so that things that are learnt at the micro level can become instruments of macro initiatives. That is the only way the continent can make it and the Chancellor and the University Management should be commended for this drive.”

On his part, the President, Nigerian Economic Society, Professor Olu Ajakaiye, stated that Covenant University is a good example of how private initiatives can actually lead to development. According to him, “This is a University that is

We at NUC do hope that the success of Covenant University will be a motivation to other Nigerian universities privately-owned, but with the view of a world standard and I believe it would get there by God's grace.”

The Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission, Professor Julius Okojie, represented by the Director Inspection and Monitoring, Dr. Noel Saliu, said
the Commission was bold enough to affirm the quality and standards of academic work in the University.

According to him, “The excellent performance of the University's first class graduates among their peers from other institutions at the 2013 and 2014 editions of the Presidential Special Scholarship Scheme for Innovation and Development (PRESSID) is an indication of

Jonathan Leape of the London School of Economics, Professor Olu Ajakaiye of Nigerian Economic Society, Dr. Sarah Alade, Acting Governor, Central Bank of Nigeria, Professor Ade Oyejide, University of Ibadan, Professor John Ifediora of the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, USA, Dr. Jonathan Aremu of the ECOWAS Common Investment Market.

Others are the former Group Managing Director/CEO of Access Bank, Mr. Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede, former

Minister of Finance, Dr. Kalu Idika Kalu, Deputy Dean, School of Business, Covenant University, Ota, Professor Kenneth Adeyemi, Director General, Budget Office, Dr. Bright Okogu and the Group Managing Director/CEO designate of Skye Bank, Mr. Timothy Oguntayo, represented by Mr. Tajudeen Ahmed among others.
CHANCELLOR ADVISES STAFF ON DEDICATION TO "VISION ONE OF TEN IN TEN"

Faculty and senior non-Teaching staff of Covenant University have been advised to be major players in the realization of the vision of becoming one of the ten world class universities within the next ten years, christened "Vision One of Ten in Ten".

The Chancellor of the University, Dr. David Oyedepo, gave the advise while speaking on "Self Motivation: Gateway to a World of Exploits" at the closing session of a 2-day Executive Advance for 2013/2014 academic session, earlier in the year at the University campus.

The theme of the Executive Advance was "Capacity Building and Utilization for Enhanced Productivity".

Dr. Oyedepo noted that self-motivation was key to a world of distinction and only those who would rather die than fail truly excel in life.

Citing examples of self-motivated people like Michael Faraday, Benjamin Franklin and Kim Woo-jung, CEO of Daewoo, Dr. Oyedepo emphasized the need for hard work as a requirement for any outstanding accomplishments in life.

He said, "Dedication converts possibility to reality. No matter what you do, dedicate yourself to it and to the benefits of the society."

"Creativity increases with hard work. The harder you work by day, the more realistic your dream at night. Let your work become your hobby, then you are on your way to the top."

The Chancellor also stressed the need to be solution providers in order to be relevant in life. According to him, "You must go beyond identifying problems but also proffering solutions. Do not pursue after entitlement but pursue after accomplishment, entitlement then comes naturally. When you carry what they need, they will look for you".

Dr. Oyedepo enjoined the participants to take responsibility for the actualization of the set goal. "Please, don't just believe in One of Ten in Ten, but believe to be a major player in it. You cannot get out of life more than what you put into it. Hard work pays, dedication is priceless, discipline is an asset. Please wake up and take responsibility".

Also speaking at the event, the Pro-Chancellor, Pastor Abraham Ojeme, expressed the need for commitment to the vision for its actualization.

According to him, "There is really nothing impossible for us if we commit ourselves enough to it. Whatever the mind can imagine strongly enough, the brain will instruct the body to align with the belief".

Pastor Ojeme expressed optimism that the University would soon celebrate the fulfillment of the vision if everyone accepts the responsibility to believe, accept and run with the mandate.

Earlier in his welcome remarks and overview of the event, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Charles Ayo, noted that the University would take advantage of the e-learning facilities in place to reach out to more prospective students, noting that the University had applied to the National Universities Commission to begin Distance Learning and Part-time Programmes.

Various papers were presented at the event. These include "Institutional Accreditation: Signposts for One of Ten in Ten" by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Charles Ayo and "Effective Internal and External Communication" by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Taiwo Abiyoiye.

Other papers were, "E-Learning Imperatives for Capacity Building" by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor A. A. A. Atayero, "Driving Administrative Quality for Vision 10: 2022" by the Registrar, Dr. Olumuyiwa Oludayo and "Capacity Building and Academic Leadership" by Distinguished Professor Ekundayo Adeyemi.

The Covenant University's Executive Advance is an annual capacity building programme for the University Faculty and senior non-teaching staff to situate the expectation of the leadership for the academic session.
NIgeria’s education system is at the mercy of policy implementation

The problem of Nigeria’s education system is not in the policies, but the wrong conceptualisation of the process of implementing such policies. This was the assertion made by the Vice-Chancellor of Covenant University, Professor Charles Korede Ayo, at the opening session of the Capacity Building Programme on Entrepreneurial Education, organized by the University in partnership with the National Board for Technical Education.

In his remarks at the opening session of the 3-day programme for Rectors, Provosts and Heads of Institutions, Professor Ayo recounted the glorious days of polytechnic education in the country, where graduates of polytechnics were regarded as stars in their chosen fields of endeavour, due to the quality of educational investment in them.

He posited that with the blueprint for entrepreneurial studies developed by Covenant University, if strictly adhered to, there was no way the issue of unemployment in the nation would not become a thing of the past, but the question of right implementation must be tackled.

According to him, “Covenant University would at the completion of her Entrepreneurial Development Centre building, create a Business Incubation Centre, where budding business ideas would be nurtured into fruition. This would help our graduates come out into the society business minded individuals ready to dominate in their fields.”

He concluded by charging participants at the capacity building programme to brainstorm and work towards seeing what level of impact could be brought to bear in addressing the challenges of unemployment in Nigeria.

Speaking on the essence of hosting the programme, the Director, Covenant University Centre for Entrepreneurial Development Studies (CUCEDS), Dr. Chinonye Moses said there was the need for participating institutions to be adequately equipped to influence changes in the Entrepreneurship Education landscape, design patterns for attracting funds to run Entrepreneurial Development Centre, and engage in collaborative efforts geared at knowledge and resource sharing, research, among others.

Dr. Moses noted that Covenant University’s entrepreneurship programme has played a multifaceted role in the evolution of Entrepreneurial Development Studies in the Nigerian educational system. She said that the programme is given a multidisciplinary approach in the academic curricula of Covenant University.

According to her, “Entrepreneurship is embedded in our University system, inculcated in our academic facilities, embodied in our community of practice and engrained in all our faculty and staff. Aside inculcation of entrepreneurial spirit to our students, we have over the years extended our services to the external context in the area of capacity building, consultancy, advisory services, mentoring, networking and linkages.”

In his remarks, the Executive Secretary National Board for Technical Education (NBTE), Dr. Masu’udu Kazaure, represented by former Executive Secretary of the Board, Dr. M.S. Abubakar, commended the Management of Covenant University for being of immense support in the driving of Entrepreneurial Studies curriculum in Nigeria.

He informed participants about the review of the accreditation instrument of entrepreneurship Curriculum, Entrepreneurship Development Centre (EDC) and practical work on EDC activities. Dr. Abubakar stated that the new assessment parameters are targeted at helping the young ones access opportunities in Agric and Health Care Entrepreneurship.

He noted that with over 60% of the nation’s youth either unemployed or under-employed, tackling the acute shortage of technical and vocational skills in the country is the only way to remedy the situation and save the next generation from experiencing youth restiveness.

The programme attracted over 15 institutions of higher learning, policy makers in the education sector and members of Management of Covenant University, former Director of Programmes, NBTE, Mr. Joseph Aboi, Coordinator of Entrepreneurship Education and Programmes, NBTE, Mallam Abudu Kofarmata among other participants.

Prof. Charles Ayo, Vice-Chancellor

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Covenant University’s leadership and Management successes have continued to attract under study by various educational and governmental institutions both within and outside the country.

This academic session alone, not less than 16 of such courtesy visits have been made to the University all with the same purpose, “To observe and learn.” One of such courtesy visits was made by a 13-man delegation from the University of Johannesburg, led by its Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ihron Rensburg.

Stating reasons for the visit, Professor Rensburg commended the Management of Covenant University for the smart and intellectual components of her programmes. He noted that Covenant University’s brand inspired the desire for collaboration.

According to him, “University of Johannesburg is a product of a merger, we are a young university and we are encouraged by the progress that Covenant University has made. We are encouraged by your deep commitment, your doggedness and in fact your emergence out of a deep belief system.”

Professor Rensburg, who also chairs’ Southern African Regional Universities Association, said they were at Covenant University to hear and learn, directly from the source, what moves, inspires, and drives its ambition.

He stated further that University of Johannesburg was visiting Covenant University to explore, dialogue and learn how both Universities can grow, taking into account their young status.

He stated that University of Johannesburg also has something that could be of use to Covenant University in her vision of becoming 1 of 10 in 10. According to him, “We have not come to take, but also to give back, as this is what would make the relationship mutual.”

In the same vein, a 12-man top administrative officers team of the University of Lagos were in Covenant University earlier this session, on a study tour of the University's Registry and Financial Services.

According to the team leader who is also a Principal Assistant Registrar, PAR (Admissions Office), Mr. A. A. Oluwummi, the purpose of their visit was to observe and learn the private model practices of admissions, record keeping, examination, information dissemination, budget planning, and expenditure control in order for his team to improve on their efficiency. He added that, “We believe Covenant University is doing well and by the time we leave here, we would have learnt from you and you also would have learnt from us”.

Also, the Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation visited Covenant University, based on her leadership antecedents among universities in the country, to understudy her management system and seamless succession policy.

A three-man fact-finding team, headed by the Deputy Director, Leadership and Management Succession Planning Department of the Office, Mr. Danjuma Elabi, was received by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Charles Korede Ayo and the Management team in his conference room.

Mr. Elabi stated that the Office of the Head of Civil Service of the
Federation (OHCSF) was recently restructured to make it compact for effective service delivery. This, according to him, led to the establishment of his department which was to ensure leadership succession planning.

He said that the mission of his team was information sourcing and data gathering. "Being a new department, we are going round to gather information and learn from experience. Your university was picked by the Head of Civil Service himself to represent all the private universities because of your antecedents and the fact that you have cut a niche for yourself", he explained.

He requested for information on the university's leadership and management style, adding that they would want to learn how succession is done in an academic environment.

At one of these courtesy visits, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Charles Ayo, explained that Covenant University considered herself a leadership varsity founded to revolutionize the higher education context in the continent with the vision to raise a new generation of leaders.

The Vice-Chancellor stated that leadership was the challenge of the nation and Africa in general. He added that no nation can develop in an environment devoid of transparency, integrity and responsibility; these values are embedded in the University's Core Values.

The University, according to the Vice-Chancellor, strongly upholds her Core Values and frowns on any form of disregard for them, a development which has helped to entrench leadership traits in her products. This has also distinguished her graduates and endeared them to the hearts of employers.

Professor Ayo informed the team that the leadership qualities in the university's Alumni have seen some of them occupying Management positions including that of Registrar, Dean and Directors in the university within the eleven years of her existence.

The Vice-Chancellor promised that the university would continue to contribute her part in training leaders for the continent through her African Leadership Development Centre. He enjoined them to collaborate with the Centre to have their senior officers trained in the art of leadership.

No doubt, Covenant University leadership style is a model for others to emulate.

Covenant University Ranks Best Among Private Varsities

Covenant University was ranked first among the Private Universities in Nigeria in the January edition of the World Webometric Ranking of universities across the world.

According to the report, the University also ranked number 10 Best University in the country.

Declaring the cheery news to the faculty, staff and students of the University at the Tuesday Chapel Service of February 18, 2014, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Charles Ayo, assured that the University would continue to maintain her leading position.

"Between now and when the July 2014 edition will be out, holding on to the testimony of David, 'Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them', it shall be nothing short of first position for the University", he promised.

Covenant University is currently running with the vision of becoming one of the 10 leading universities in the world by the year 2022, tagged "Vision 10:2022, One of Ten in Ten".