



# Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University July 13-17, 2015

## The Vice-Chancellor Lectures Participants on Afroscholar at CUTWET



Professor Charles Ayo delivering his lecture

The Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor Charles Ayo has urged African universities to come together to enhance collaboration so as to bring about great improvement to the level of African university education and gain its place among

the world-class universities.

The Vice-Chancellor stated this at the 1st Covenant University Training and Workshop on Education Technology (CUTWET), while making his presentation on the topic “Re-Inventing High Education

learning experience with social media platforms (Afroscholar)”.

Professor Ayo spoke on the attribute peculiar to world reputable universities. According to him, world-class universities are academic institutions committed to

creating and disseminating knowledge in a range of disciplines, delivering elite education at all fields which will serve national needs, and furthering the international public good. He added that world-class universities are known to be solution providers, knowledge creators and nation builders.

He also took time to outline what the host, Covenant University, stands for: its Mission, Vision, core values and most importantly, the steps being taken towards the fulfillment of the target Vision 10:2022 (1 of 10 in 10). He also spoke on the launching of telemedicine which was done during convocation, e-health system, and the Afroscholar, which is in progress. All these, he said, are some innovative programmes run in Covenant University to contribute to the development of the

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## Biotechnology: An Instrument of Change

The need for the application of Biotechnology as an instrument of change for improved living was stressed at the 5th International Biotechnology Conference Exhibition and Workshop (IBECW), tagged “Food, Health and Environment-Behaviour and Practices for improved Living”, organized by the Department of Biological Sciences at the Centre for Learning Resources, Covenant University.

The Guest Speaker, Professor Louis Ezeogu, in his presentation titled “Biotechnology in the Food Industry-Exciting Prospects for Nigeria and Africa” said that there are exciting opportunities in biotechnology when practiced by a country.

“The exciting opportunities when practicing biotechnology in a country help to create more jobs because labour is cheap. Also, this process helps to develop a nation

technologically, especially in the area of producing food items on a larger scale, thereby eliminating malnutrition,” he stated.

The Guest Speaker added that Nigeria has refused to adapt to new innovations, leading to lack in improved living. To recover our food industry, we need to start practicing biotechnology. In his words, “One of our challenges as a country is that we have refused to adapt to new changes like the biotechnology. It is an area we need to invest in as regard the 21st century innovation”

In his opening remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, represented by the Head of Department, Computer and Information Sciences, Dr. Ayodele Adebisi, stated that the theme for the conference was an important one, as it relate to all aspects of human endeavour. He also urged all the participants to be actively involved to produce a



Professor Louis Ezeogu during his presentation at the conference.

positive outcome that would improve standard of living.

In his words, “Looking at the focus of this year's conference, 'Food and Health and Environment' it is important to humans, because without food, no one can survive; and health as we normally say is wealth”.

Giving the vote of thanks, the Acting

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## The Vice-Chancellor Lectures Participants on Afroscholar at CUTWET Contd. from Pg 1

education system in Nigeria and Africa.

Speaking on the essence of the Afroscholar, the Vice-Chancellor explained it would afford individuals from any part of the world to gather any information needed. He added that "Work is in progress towards having a one stop shop for African scholars and researchers such that anytime there is a down time within the academic community, we have a site where there are lecture materials from Nigerian universities and African universities as a whole, where individuals can log on to and access these materials free". This will further help institutions that embark on strike so that even by the time they resume, the students would not have lost anything.

"We are simply talking about a social media innovation platform for academic, students, industrial experts, as well as employers to share resources, learn across borders, connect socially and collaborate on impact focused projects", he said.

Using the words of the Chancellor, Dr. David Oyedepo that "Higher institutions in Africa must begin to solve the problems of Africa", Professor Ayo said it was not surprising what had been witnessed recently among Nigeria and several African nations that were largely dependent on foreign solutions for local problem. That, he said, had to come to an end.

He noted that there is need to have scholars without borders; those that are not restricted to what their respective institutions offer, rather, whatever is available elsewhere. According to him, this has been discussed at different fora at international conferences to see how other Africans, friends of Africans and Africans in the diaspora can begin to see how to make their contributions.

Professor Ayo informed the participants that in order to attain the feats of other world-class universities, currently, there are plans to have a central learning hub

for all scholars in Africa. He also stressed that looking at the list of world-class universities, it is not surprising that most African universities are not able to compete on the international platform. This, he said, is a pointer to the quality of education being offered, a reflection of the happenings in the continent and also a sign of over dependence on foreign aid. "Therefore, the objective is to contribute to learning and development in Africa by enabling mutual sharing of resources and collaborations. It will also facilitate project based learning, to be supported by stakeholders in education", he reiterated.

## Biotechnology: An Instrument of Change

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Head of Department, Biological Sciences, Dr. Conrad Omonhinmin, said the objective of the 3-day conference, was to start a change in human life because Africa had been termed a "a dark" continent, where we prefer to adopt than to create.

## "Let the lessons learnt in the class become your lifestyle," Professor Obayan tells CLDS graduands

**G**raduands of the Certificate in Leadership Development Studies have been urged to make practical and effective use of all that they have learnt during the programme. This advice was given by the Dean, College of Leadership Development Studies, Professor Aize Obayan, ably represented by Dr. David Igbokwe during the Wrap-up Session of the Certificate in Leadership Development Studies Programme on Friday, July 17, 2015. She said "Lessons learnt in the class must be what define you; they must become your lifestyle. We are certainly not of them that give up, we keep moving".

Also speaking at the event, a lecturer in the Department of Psychology, Dr. Ademola Odukoya said Leadership is influencing people to succeed in life. He, therefore, implored the graduands to exercise some influence, be eager to learn and depend on God. This, he said, would make them good leaders.

In an interactive session, one of the



graduands of the Certificate in Leadership Development Studies Programme, a staff of Faith Academy, Gowon Estate, Lagos State, Mr. Ishola Ayoade, said "Leadership is the essence of life for every child of God who is ready to take the lead".

Another graduand, Mr. Kolade, also said that leaders should avoid bemoaning circumstances, but they should proffer solutions to challenges. "Leadership is not just about influencing people but about making positive influence on people," he said.

Some of the participants at the programme also made their contributions and promised to demonstrate all that they have learnt

wherever they find themselves. A graduate of Biochemistry, Covenant University, Miss. Ubong Abasi, said the programme was so amazing and interesting. She promised to add value and make impact anywhere she finds herself.

According to a graduate of Management Information Science, Tunde Ajisape, it is imperative that everyone exercises that muscle of greatness in them because that is one way to be celebrated in the future.

Also speaking on his experience at the programme, Hamed Habib Ayoyinka, who is a graduate of Industrial Mathematics said, "I have been blessed. I am a complete man and I have made new friends".