



## NAEC To Build IAEA Centre, Endow Chair In UniPort

Pursuant to its mandate of building a world-class Centre for the development and peaceful application of nuclear technology for national growth without compromising international protocols and best practices, the Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission (NAEC) has offered to build an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Centre in the University, reports Otiakor Samuel.

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## Side Bar

Prof Samuel Arakogbo of the Department of Geography and Environmental Management delivers the 127<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Lecture this Thursday. Details next week.  
-Editor



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## Nnodim Gives Valedictory Address At Registry Day Celebration

By Obinna Nwodin

**A**midst pomp and ceremony, the University community stood still last Tuesday as staff of the Registry Department gathered to mark the 4<sup>th</sup> Registry Day celebration at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park.

It was a day set aside by the Registry Department to highlight the importance of the Department in the attainment of the goals and objectives of the University. It was a befitting celebration which marked the last public outing of the 6<sup>th</sup> Registrar and initiator of the Registry Day celebration, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim, who used the opportunity to highlight the achievements made in the Registry Department during her five-year tenure.

Addressing the capacity-filled auditorium, Mrs. Nnodim, said that on assumption of duty in November 2010, she resolved to make an impact by introducing some innovations in the system, expressing delight that she was leaving a more vibrant and result-oriented Registry Department than she met it. The outgoing Registrar identified staff training and

capacity-building as major achievements during her tenure in office.

"During my tenure, we trained Artisans and other cadres through

the Staff Training and Development Unit (STADU). Principal Officers, Deans, Directors, Faculty Officers, Faculty Finance Officers and Library

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Alapiki Sets Agenda For UPHF



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Agric Faculty, NAOC Mark Farmers' Day



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Anaesthetists Mark Day With Rally



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Students Speak On Second Semester Exam



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## PG Programmes Scale High NUC Hurdle

By Williams Wodi

Cheering news came the way of the University of Port Harcourt last week as all the graduate programmes presented for accreditation by the Faculty of Management Sciences, scaled through the stringent criteria set out by the National Universities Commission (NUC).

Each of the programmes presented for accreditation through the School of Graduate Studies in October, 2014 scored way above the mandatory 70 per cent benchmark required to scale through the accreditation exercise.

A statement signed by the Deputy Executive Secretary of the NUC, Professor Chiedu Mafiana, read in part: "After due consideration of the exercise, the results of the Postgraduate degree accreditation exercise were approved for release," disclosing that all the Master of Business Administration programmes presented by the University received the minimum benchmark required for full accreditation status.

The results indicated that the Master of Business Administration (Management) scored 77.1 per cent, Master in Business Administration (Accounting) secured a princely 80.0 per cent, Master in Business Administration (Finance and Banking) got

77.1, while the Master of Business Administration (Marketing) scored 73.3 per cent to sweep the table clean.

Mafiana further explained that the current accreditation status for graduate programmes offered by the Faculty of Management Sciences would be valid for the next three years, following which it would be represented for review. The implication was that the University would have been compelled to discontinue admission into graduate programmes that were denied accreditation status.

According to the NUC Deputy Secretary, while students admitted into programmes that are denied accreditation will not be affected by the ban on new admissions into the affected Departments, certificates issued to students admitted into such programmes would no longer be recognized by the NUC until such a time when the observed deficiency would be rectified by the University.

Separate letters addressed to Deputy Vice-Chancellors and Deans of the Faculty of Management Sciences and School of Graduate Studies, and signed by the Acting Director of Academic Planning, Research and Control Unit, Dr. Peter Kpogole, a copy of which was made available to *UniPort Weekly*,

expressed satisfaction that the Management worked very hard to secure full accreditation status for all the programmes presented to the apex regulatory body of universities in Nigeria.

He further congratulated all schedule officers who contributed to the resounding success that was recorded during the accreditation exercise.



Prof Julius Oloje, NUC Scribe

Recently, the University of Port Harcourt hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference of Rivers and Deltas in Africa with the theme: *Deltas in Africa: Practical Steps from Vulnerability to Sustainability*. The 3-day event which attracted scholars from various African countries, America and Europe, was organised by a consortium of universities in the Niger Delta region. They are: the University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Niger Delta University, as well as the Federal University, Otuoke in Bayelsa State. It was anchored by the Institute of Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainability (INRES), University of Port Harcourt.

A communique issued at the end of the Conference stated that it was an African regional contribution to a 10-year Global Delta Sustainability Initiative. The objectives of the Conference were to establish a

## Revisiting Int'l Confab On Africa's Deltas

By Obinna Nwodin

by a former Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, Professor Oluadapo Adedokun, while the Keynote Address was delivered by a former Director General of the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Dr Bradford Brown.

A major highlight of the Conference was the formation of a network on Rivers and Deltas in Africa called African Rivers and Deltas Network (ARDNet) to provide a platform for exchange of ideas, experiences, joint research and collaborations in the sustainable development and integrated management of Rivers and Deltas in Africa with operational headquarters in

researchers, private sector, government, policy makers, communities and non-governmental organizations and maintain Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

The communique also made recommendation on the need for experts to make input into the principles and practices of government programmes and policies; adopt holistic and integrated Waste Resources Strategies on Global Climate Change Mitigation, adaptation and Flood Risk Management; sustain the result of the UNESCO Cross-Cutting Projects in partnership with African countries to revitalize actions identified for sustainability; institute capacity-building platforms for researchers and

other sector practitioners in the sustainable management of African Rivers and Deltas, and also institute capacity empowerment platforms in this regard.

With the stature of this Conference and the University as its headquarters, the Institution would be in a prime position to play a leading role toward the advancing not only the Niger Delta, but Deltas and Rivers in Africa.



Stakeholders in a group photograph after the opening ceremony

network of interaction of Rivers and Deltas sustainability issues in Africa, exchange ideas and experiences on climate change and sustainable development agenda for Rivers and Deltas in Africa, and advice on policy issues that assist in the development of Deltas and Rivers in Africa.

The Conference attracted over 350 experts from African countries, United States of America and Europe in various disciplines and sectors of Rivers and Deltas sustainability, who participated in the proceedings. Seven commissioned Lead Papers on the major River Systems and Deltas of the continent were presented during plenary sessions, while 58 other presentations on the five sub-themes were made at parallel sessions. The opening ceremony was chaired

the University of Port Harcourt.

After a 3-day cross-fertilization of ideas, the Conference made far-reaching recommendations aimed at advancing the prospects of Deltas and Rivers in Africa. The Conference recommended the support and funding of the activities of the African Rivers and Deltas Network (ARDNet), including the organization of conferences on African Rivers and Deltas; promote policies and programmes of integrated management and sustainable development of African Rivers and Deltas; encourage joint research and publications on African Rivers and Deltas sustainability, cutting across various disciplines and sectors and disseminate the result through the electronic media, journals, round-tables, etc; promote dialogue between

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## NAEC To Build IAEA Centre, Endow Chair

Similarly, the NAEC has promised to endow a Professorial Chair in the university along with enhancing research in nuclear technology and sustaining the Centre for Nuclear Energy Studies (CNES).

Making the disclosure while delivering a Public Lecture on the topic: *Partnership Building amongst National Institutions for Sustainable Nuclear Technology Development in Nigeria*, at the Ethelmi Banjo Auditorium, last Wednesday, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission, Dr. Franklin Osaigbo, clarified misconceptions about the activities of the Commission, following heated debate on the floor of the Senate of the University over a proposal to commence the doctoral degree programme by the Centre for Nuclear Energy Studies. He allayed the myths and fears concerning safety issues and possible abuse of nuclear substances in the course of teaching, learning, research and practical sessions.

"The Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission (NAEC) which was created by Act 48 of 1976 and reactivated in 2006, is a national focal institution for atomic energy development in the country. We have seven national nuclear energy research centres which are involved in manpower training, research and capacity building," Dr. Osaigbo told the gathering, listing them as Centre for Energy Research and Development (CERD), Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Centre for Energy Research and Training (CERT), Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nuclear Technology Centre (NTC), Sheda, Abaja, and Centre for Nuclear Energy Studies (CNES), University of Port Harcourt.

Others are Centre for Nuclear Energy Research Training (CNERT), University of Maiduguri, Centre for Nuclear Energy Studies and Training (CNST), Federal University of Technology, Owerri and FGN-IAEA Marine Contamination Coastal Monitoring Centre (MCCFMC), Kolaona.

The NAEC Chairman, further disclosed that the Commission was mandated to construct and maintain nuclear installations for purposes of generating electricity; to produce, use and dispose of atomic energy



Dr-V-C (Admin) Prof Ibe (arrowed) flanked by Prof Omosayo Ebohog, Guest Lecturer, Dr. Osaigbo (left) and others

and carry out research in matters connected with peaceful uses of atomic energy.

The Commission's chairman said that it is also mandated to "manufacture or otherwise produce, buy, acquire, treat, store, transport, and dispose of any radioactive substances," stating that "the primary goal of NAEC is to serve as the focal-point and specialized vehicle of government to develop the technical machinery to effectively explore, exploit and harness atomic energy for peaceful applications for sustainable national development."

He also explained that meeting the objectives of training a specialized crop of scientists, engineers and technologists with fundamental knowledge, discipline and practical expertise to create a sustainable pool of human capital for safe and secure operation of Nuclear Power Programme (NPP) has been an herculean task which requires several multi-faceted facilities and participating institutions to achieve.

The Chief Executive, who disclosed that the Commission would install state-of-the-art equipment for the Nuclear Science and Engineering Laboratory and Nuclear Thermal Hydraulics Laboratory constructed by the Commission in the University of Port Harcourt, promised to build an International Atomic Energy Agency Centre, and also endow a Professorial Chair to carry out research and ensure sustainability of the partnership and provide a Graduate Researchers' Hostel.

In his welcome address, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, who represented the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, praised Dr. Osaigbo, who he described as a worthy

Alumnus of the University, urging other Alumnus to emulate his good example. He further showered encomium on Dr. Osaigbo for supporting his *Alum Mater* through numerous developmental interventions.

Commending the Director-General for delivering a thought-provoking lecture that dispelled the myths and fears surrounding research in nuclear technology in the University, Professor Ibe urged the NAEC boss to continue his support for the Centre to enable it sustain the good work it was already doing in the peaceful application of nuclear technology.

"I am very pleased that your lecture has largely dispelled the fears which members of Senate expressed when Director of the Centre, Professor Ayodeke Kiye made a presentation for the commencement of the Doctor of Philosophy degree programme in Nuclear Energy Studies. Some of the things we were not quite sure of, particularly in respect of the safety and security of personnel and the University community, have been addressed by your presentation. We hope that you will continue to give us more support to sustain the Centre in the University," Professor Ibe pleaded with the Director-General, expressing gratitude to five past Deans of the Faculty of Engineering and the current one for showing solidarity with Dr. Osaigbo, who once lectured in the Faculty.

Director of the Centre, Professor Kiye, also showered gratitude on Dr. Osaigbo and his team for their continued support for the Centre, promising to do his best to justify the huge resources invested in the Centre by the Commission. The Chairman and his team had earlier paid a courtesy visit on Management at the Vice-Chancellor's Committee Room in the Senate building.

## Alapiki Sets Agenda As New UPHF Director

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

**A**s the new Executive Director of the University of Port Harcourt Foundation (UPHF), Professor Henry Alapiki has big plans to take the mandate of the Foundation to new heights. He hopes to accomplish

his vision by working in strategic partnership with alumni at the state, national and international levels, including other stakeholders to build the University in line with the vision of the founding fathers.

Making the disclosure during an interview with a *UniPort Weekly* Correspondent last Monday, Professor Alapiki also disclosed that he would work on renewing existing partnerships with international donor agencies such as MacArthur, Ford and Carnegie Foundations, UNESCO, UNIDO, ECOWAS institutions and relevant United Nations agencies.

"We are already making contacts and initiating discussions with some international agencies such as the Caring For Others Incorporated based in the United States and going by my preliminary assessment, the prospects to support the University in major areas of need are high," he disclosed, adding that success would require long-term planning and support from everybody to achieve.

"The idea is to raise funds through capital campaigns and an endowment fund that would enable Management to execute some strategic projects in the University in line with the vision and mission of the founding fathers with focus on achieving excellence in teaching, research, creativity, scholarship, entrepreneurship and innovation," the immediate past Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences added, revealing that a template that would facilitate the desired results has already been developed by the Foundation under his watch.

"The highpoints of the roadmap is creating a new work culture and ethics designed to improve staff and students relationship, because every individual is a potential contact point that would be instrumental as a stakeholder to support the advancement of the University. So, it is important that we treat our students in such a manner that they would graduate with pleasant institutional memories that would motivate them to come back to give to their beloved *Alum Mater*," Professor Alapiki said, disclosing plans by the Foundation to develop an advancement software that would help to enhance donor database and improve on tracking the entire advancement processes and activities of the Foundations.

"This software would also serve as a resource base for preserving the institutional memory of UniPort advancement activities and history," the Executive Director submitted, stressing that part of his vision also includes mounting Faculty visits and sensitization programmes, alumni networking events and an Annual Giving programme.

"With the support of a crop of well-trained Development Officers that are already on ground, and with support from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale and the University Community, I am confident that the Foundation would record greater success within a measurable timeframe," Professor Alapiki remarked, stressing the need for staff and students to maintain good public image of the University through high-profile alumni and public-spirited individuals and groups that would contribute to the development of the Institution in the next 40 years.



Prof Alapiki

## Appah Relives Experience As Provost

By Otiokor Samuel

**F**ormer Provost of the defunct College of Engineering, Professor Dada Appah, has described the support he enjoyed from Management and colleagues as wonderful, hoping that the same would be extended to his successor as part of

the move to make the Faculty a first choice destination for Engineering studies. Professor Appah was the immediate past and only Provost of the defunct College of Engineering before it reverted to its former Faculty status.

Speaking in an interview with UniPort Weekly in his office, last Monday, Appah, who attributed his achievements as Provost to his dynamic vision and collective support he received from staff, students and industry partners, recalled that prior to his assumption of duty, he observed strained working relationship among staff which he promptly addressed to ensure smooth-running of the College.

Appah, who is also Occupant of the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF) Chair in Gas Engineering, stated that: "I stood election, won and was appointed Provost of the College on April 4, 2013 for a four year tenure. In August 2015, the University Senate abrogated the Collegiate System and we reverted to the former Faculty structure. I consequently wrote to the Vice-Chancellor to step aside as Provost. On September 28, 2015, an election was conducted to fill the vacancy for the Dranship of the Faculty, which was won by Professor Ogochiel Ekebi of the Department of Mechanical Engineering."

Listing some of his achievements, Professor Appah said: "The College was more peaceful under my watch and we spoke with one voice at Senate Meetings and other public functions. The love and support I received were heartwarming. The Department of Mechatronic Engineering was established in 2013 and students were admitted in 2014; Gas Engineering was demerged from Petroleum Engineering, Environmental Engineering from Civil Engineering and Electronic and Computer Engineering from Electrical/Electronics Engineering." He added that the College had several consultative meetings with strategic stakeholders such as the Ministry of Petroleum Resources, Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF) and professional bodies such as the Nigerian Society of

Engineers (NSE), Nigerian Society of Chemical Engineers (NSCE), Society of Petroleum Engineering (SPE), Nigerian Mining and Geosciences Society (NMGGS) and even student bodies, amongst other organizations that contributed to the success of his tenure.

The former Provost disclosed that under his watch, the defunct College consolidated on existing collaborations aimed at internationalizing linkage and exchange programmes between the then College and foreign institutions, pointing out that the Engineering discipline attracted some goodwill donations from the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), Baker Hughes, as well as Friends and Alumni.

On manpower development, he said that the University has since April 2013, granted short-term leave to staff to take up fellowships and specialized study at the Institute of Petroleum Studies run by the University in collaboration with the IOP School, Paris, France and sponsored by the NNPC/TOTAL E&P Nigeria Limited Joint Venture.

"Out of the twenty-nine academic staff engaged by the College on temporary status in November 2014, twenty-five have their appointments regularized to retirement age," he disclosed further, adding that his administration sponsored some non-teaching and laboratory staff to conferences and workshops to broaden their knowledge to continue to deliver quality services towards the overall growth of the College during his tenure.

"I feel very humbled to have been trusted as pioneer Provost, with extremely important responsibilities. I have given the best of myself with the slogan: *Let's do a good job. It is a drive to improve lives and skills. The philosophy is hinged on hard work, honesty and generosity. The Faculty was engrossed in the task of keeping faith with the vision. We have a mixture of both experienced and promising young lecturers. We contended with the challenges of office space and modern equipment to conduct cutting-edge research in the Faculty. The best is yet to come and it is my hope that the new Dean would take the Faculty to greater heights," he concluded.*



Prof Appah

## Agric Faculty, NAOC Mark Farmers' Day In Style

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

**I**t was a carnival of sorts as farmers and agro-business dealers from the South-South and South-Eastern parts of the country converged on the Nigerian Agip Oil Company Limited (NAOC) to celebrate the 2015 Farmers' Day.

Agricultural Initiative—the Green River Project (GRP), an annual Farmers' Day event which held on October 6, 2015, at the Plant Propagation Centre, Obile in Abiodun West Local Government Area of Rivers State, afforded real farmers an opportunity to interact on a common platform and exchange ideas on current methods of improving their yield and reaching the right markets. The Faculty of Agriculture, which was only one of two tertiary institutions that graced the occasion, participated actively in the celebration with a well-received exhibition that attracted commendations from participants.

In his opening remarks, Vice-Chairman and Managing Director of the multinational oil giant, Mr. Massimo Insulla, disclosed that the well-attended event provided a networking platform for stakeholders in the agricultural sector to recognize and celebrate the achievements of high-performing farmers and cooperative societies within the four operational states of the NAOC in the South-South and South-Eastern parts of the country.

"Seeing the huge success recorded by the initiative in improving the lives of farmers and their families, it is our desire to use the event to create more awareness about the enormous potentials of the sector, especially in the areas of youth engagement and women empowerment," Mr. Insulla stated, adding that this year's celebration was aligned to 'EXPO Milano 2015' held in Milan,

Italy with participants drawn from over 140 countries.

"The vision is that GRP would be a pivot for the development of the agricultural sector in Nigeria, serving as a platform for knowledge-sharing for farmers, the academia, public extension services and agro-allied industry where new agricultural techniques, ideas and products are exchanged and plenty of opportunities created," he remarked, commending other developmental partners, research institutions and Non-governmental Organizations for their continued support for the Green River Project initiative.

Presenting the keynote address on *The Future of Agriculture in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt, Professor Ndawa Lale, who submitted that for the 21<sup>st</sup> century agricultural advancement calls for paradigm shift in policies and implementation in the Asia-Pacific and sub-Saharan Africa regions, described the

GRP initiative as a veritable platform for interaction among stakeholders to achieve food security, economic development and sustainable management of natural resources for the benefit of all stakeholders.

"This is the time for high-level partnership between NAOC and UniPort as the only Nigerian University that belongs to and actively participates in the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM). The University of Port Harcourt has an installed capacity to boost the productivity of GRP farmers and provide technical support for the agricultural transformation of the country," the Vice-Chancellor assured the Management of NAOC and farmers, calling for concerted efforts to achieve the goals of fully modernizing agricultural practice in Nigeria away from subsistence farming to benefit farmers and those engaged in agro-business.



Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Prof Ekanem Wokoma at the Faculty Exhibition Stand