



Kalu Calls For Value Creation In Marketing Services

In the midst of increasing global competition in a market-driven economy, individuals, companies and business organizations have been advised to adopt new strategies for open innovation to create the much needed consumer value chain in a highly competitive business setting, reports Obinna Nwodin. *More on p3*

Side Bar

Prof Sunday Chinenye of the Department of Medicine delivers the 126th Inaugural Lecture this Thursday. Details next week ~Editor



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Expert Tasks Stakeholders On Urban Mobility Plan

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

An expert from the International Secretariat of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT) in the United Kingdom, Dr. David Maunder, has stressed the need for governments and other stakeholders to adopt urgent strategies that would sustain and improve the environment for the benefit of mankind.

Delivering the first Annual Lecture of the Centre for Logistics and Transport Studies (CELTRAS), which held at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park, last Tuesday, Dr. Maunder, who spoke on *Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning—The Use of SUMP and their Potential Application in Nigeria*, advocated the adoption of SUMPs as a way of enhancing the appearance and quality of the urban environment and supporting economic growth.

"Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning (SUMP) ensures that the transport system is accessible to all, improves the security and safety of its users, reduces pollution, greenhouse emissions and energy use, and improves efficiency and

cost-effectiveness of the transportation of people and goods," the Guest Lecturer disclosed, adding that the programme was designed to validate current approaches and allow transport and planning

authorities to complete the cycle. Submitting that the SUMP strategy should recognize externalities and their impact on the quality of human life, Dr. Maunder who noted that the concept encompasses a blend of solutions which included physical, operational and behavioural

More on p6



Imafidor, Nzeako Relive Research Exploits At Dept'l Seminar



Story on p3

Eleme Council Boss Assures V-C Of Support



Story on p4

Pol Admin Dept Commissions E-Library Facility



Story on p5

AIIESEC Interns Laud UniPort



Story on p6



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New ELPU Director Submits Interim Report To V-C

By Williams Wodi

Barely weeks after assuming office as new Director of the Exchange and Linkage Programmes Unit (ELPU), Professor Aho Akakuru, has already submitted an 'Interim Report' on the state of the Unit to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale.

The four-page report which dates back to the establishment of the ELPU in 2006, focused on such issues as the Unit's mandate, staff strength, functions, Memoranda of Understanding, fellowships, internship, affiliations, challenges and a recommendation section on what should be done to reposition the Unit.

Professor Akakuru recalled that the defunct University Advancement Centre (UAC), exercised oversight function of the Unit, which was later placed under the direct supervision of the Vice-Chancellor's Office for enhanced service delivery. To date, the Unit has signed a number of partnership protocols with high-profile institutions and research agencies in and outside the country aimed at enhancing the University's core mandate of research, teaching and public service.

According to the new Director, the Unit currently has a staff strength of seven, which assists him to forge viable linkages with national and international institutions and agencies. This is in addition to effectively coordinating existing exchange and linkage programmes in and outside the country.

Professor Akakuru disclosed that the ELPU has accommodated exchange students from all over the world on the platform of AIESEC, which is the world's largest student-run organization

that is present in 1,900 universities across 110 countries. "There are other student leadership-oriented groups such as ENACTUS and IMPACT and ELPU is in the process of re-confirming their status and would continue to encourage and identify with them accordingly," the Director said in the report made available to our Correspondent.

He called for urgent rehabilitation of the guest wing of the Unit to provide world-class accommodation and catering services to international students on exchange programme to the University. Professor Akakuru also reassured the University community and other stakeholders of the Unit's total commitment to all the national and international organizations with which it signed MoUs, expressing hope that the University would continue to benefit from such linkage programmes.

The Director appealed to the administration to secure the perimeter of the International Students' Centre to guarantee the safety of guests in the facility, provision of Internet and Multimedia facilities, establishment of an International Language Centre to serve scholars and students on exchange programme, including upgrade of the existing nine-room accommodation to a 20-room guest house through University/Private Partnership.

"The Exchange and Linkage Programmes Unit is well-placed to lift the University to greater heights and increase its global visibility through well thought-out programmes that would be beneficial to all the stakeholders," Professor Akakuru

assured the University community.

It would be recalled that Professor Akakuru took over from pioneer Director, Professor John Otaigbe, who gave the Unit an authentic identity after it was placed under the direct supervision of the Vice-Chancellor's Office.



Prof. Akakuru, ELPU Director

Stakeholders Brainstorm On Agribiz- Industry Linkages

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

As part of a 47-month Agribusiness Enhance Project collaboration between experts in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension and related agencies, a roundtable discussion on strengthening agribusiness-industry linkages was organized in the Faculty of Agriculture at the Faculty Board Room, University Park on Tuesday, September 29, 2015.

Dr. Olufemi Adesope, who is the Project Officer in the University, disclosed that the Agribusiness Enhance initiative was aimed at contributing to poverty reduction through agribusiness training, development of agro-innovation clusters, establishment of university-

industry linkages and an entrepreneurship fund scheme to drive the process.

"The idea is to inculcate the entrepreneurial mindset in graduates of Agricultural Science in the University. It also aims to empower young students in tertiary institutions to become leaders in Agribusiness. We are working on launching an Agribusiness enterprise scheme expected to empower students with soft loans to establish small-scale agribusinesses of their choice," Dr. Adesope said, adding that an integrated approach would complement the efforts of the University in boosting agribusiness.

In her address, Acting Director of the Centre for Entrepreneurial Studies, Dr. Edwinah Amah, stressed the need to consolidate government efforts to boost the economy through agriculture.

"Universities have a role to play in encouraging entrepreneurship to reduce unemployment and crime, while relevant stakeholders and government should fund mechanized farming to make it more appealing to the youths," she added, expressing hope that the workshop would bring agribusiness nearer to benefit all stakeholders.

Representative of Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Director of the Institute of Agricultural Research and Development (IARD), Dr. Babatunde Nuga, praised the initiative, recommending the establishment of a Business Incubation Centre in the University to drive the process. "This would cater for entrepreneurs and provide a platform to get their produce to the market," he pointed out, commending Dr. Adesope for nurturing the project.

The event which attracted staff, students of the Faculty of Agriculture and agribusiness owners from the private and public sectors, focused on how to conduct a Strength, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis, experience-sharing, interactive session and group work. Participants urged law-makers at the Federal and State levels to strengthen policy frameworks that would boost agribusiness in the country, recommending the establishment of farm field schools to combine academics with agriculture in a profitable manner.



6th from right (front row), Dr. Adesope, Dr. Amah and other participants at the event

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Cont'd from p1

Professor of Marketing, Sylvia Kalu, gave the advice while delivering the 4th Public Lecture Series of the Faculty of Management Sciences held at the Postgraduate Diploma Hall of the Faculty, last Tuesday.

Kalu, whose Lecture was entitled, *Value Chain and Attraction: A Vehicle for Sustainable Development*, described superior customer value creation and value operation as major drivers for sustainable development in a competitive business environment. According to him, "our tomorrow begins with value creation; profit will be alright for today's business, while value creation is both for today and tomorrow," adding that companies create value through networking, collaborations and partnerships, even with organizations that were viewed as adversaries in the past.

The former Dean of the Faculty of Management Sciences also advised companies to partner traditional and emerging players for innovation in sustainable value creation, which he said should be made a business activity for everybody, not just for

Kalu Calls For Value Creation

Marketers. He advised Marketers to make concerted efforts to integrate their value creation activities with individuals, customers, government and universities as a means of creating customer satisfaction.

The Lecturer, who described value creation as the core concept of Marketing, pointed out that value created must be of value to the individual to be meaningful. He said that the essence of Marketing was anchored on how to create value, stressing that an object was considered to be of value when it contributed to the satisfaction of human needs, especially in a globalised economic environment.

Highlighting the concept of sustainable development, the Lecturer stated that any good or service created by individuals must be impactful on future generations to be considered a priority, adding that value creation was driven by entrepreneurship and best operating principles.

In his remarks, Chairman of the event and Dean of the Faculty, Professor Emeka Okereke, who was

represented by the Associate Dean, Dr. Loveday Ibanichuka, said that the Public Lecture Series of the Faculty of Management Sciences provided staff and students an opportunity to learn from the experts, hoping that participants would benefit immensely from Professor Kalu's Lecture.

Earlier in his address, Chairman of the Faculty Academic and Research Committee, Professor Barisua Nwince, said that the Lecture was aimed at proving that beyond rhetoric in the classroom, there were other contemporary ideas that academics in the Faculty could share with the world, reminding the audience that everybody was involved in the business of Marketing in one form or another in the business of living.

In his remarks, Acting Head of the Department of Marketing, Dr. Chinedu Ogbuji, who commended those who made the Lecture possible, expressed hope that participants would have learnt how to add value to themselves in the process of engaging in marketing activities.



A cross-section of dignitaries at the event

Imafidor, Nzeako Relive Research Exploits At Dept'l Seminar

By Otikor Samuel

Two high-flying researchers in the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Faculty of Science, Drs. Helen Imafidor and Sidney Nzeako, took turns to make presentations at the Departmental Seminar Series at the Board Room of Faculty of Science, last Monday.

The well-patronised Seminar Series attracted eminent scholars, including Emeritus Professor Samuel Okiwelu and Dean of the Faculty, Professor Nnenna Frank-Peterside, who both commended the presenters on their exploits on the global stage.

Speaking on the topic: *Aspects of Plant Nematology Identified Features - Series I*, Dr. Imafidor, who identified plant nematodes for easy diagnosis said: "It is critical that plant nematodes be identified in order to treat or control them. In so doing, the diagnostic features are of paramount importance. Intra-specific species or super species may exist, but these can be sorted out through proper diagnosis which could be morphological, biochemical, psychogenetic and molecular. Integrated approach for clarity of information is therefore advocated," she told her excited colleagues.

Imafidor, who was former Acting Head of the Department, stressed the need for multi-disciplinary research effort to surmount what she described as the enormous challenges resulting from inadequate equipment and facilities for quality research in a resource-constrained environment.

She elaborated on her collaboration with the University of California, University of Johannesburg, Agricultural Research Council, Pretoria, South Africa, Rivers State Songhai Farm and Niger Delta River Basin Authority on the research.

In his own presentation entitled: *Pathogenicity Meloidogyne javanica on four tomato cultivars: Roma VF, UC83B, DeRica and Gboko*, Dr. Nzeako, who is a recipient of the TETFund Conference Support and the ACP-Share Staff Mobility Scholarship concluded

that: "Infection of tomato crops by root knot nematode hampers growth of tomato and compromises fruit yield. It also stimulates apical competence which presents a false impression of a healthy crop."

In her remarks, a visibly enthused Head of Department, Professor Florence Nduka, disclosed that the Departmental Seminar Series provided the two Lecturers an opportunity to share their research works with their colleagues in the Department.

"In addition to providing opportunity to share knowledge of research embarked upon by our colleagues, the Seminar Series also opened doors for valuable collaborative research with researchers in the University and others working on related subject areas. It also offers opportunity to our graduate students to learn presentation techniques, preparatory

to their graduate seminar presentation which is compulsory for the grading and completion of their programmes," the Head of Department said.

She showered praises on the two presenters for acquitting themselves very well, describing attendance at the Seminar as impressive. "Their separate studies which centered on plant parasitic nematodes are important in proffering solutions to diseases that affect the growth and yield of plants. Imafidor for instance, has taken her research outside the shores of this country and she is making great impact on the global stage and drawing attention to the University," the HoD said, adding that the euphoria that greeted the presentations propelled two other academics in the Department to volunteer to make the next presentation.



R-L: Emeritus Prof Okiwelu, Dr. Imafidor, HoD, Prof Nduka and Dr. Nzeako

Eleme Council Boss Assures V-C Of Support

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Chairman of Caretaker Committee of Eleme Local Government Area of Rivers State, Honourable Philip Okparaji, has assured the

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale of his Council's readiness to give total support to his administration as it strives to lead the University to a new level of academic excellence and infrastructural development.

Speaking when he led a delegation from the Council to the University on Tuesday, September 29, 2015, Okparaji, who congratulated Professor Lale on his appointment as the eighth Vice-Chancellor of the University, described his elevation as an honour to the entire people of Eleme Ethnic Nationality. "We believe that you have the capacity and competence to place this University among the very best in Africa and beyond," he told the Vice-Chancellor, disclosing his Council's willingness to partner the administration in organizing training programmes for youths from the community as a way of creating employment opportunities and reducing criminality in the densely populated Local Government Area.

The Chairman, who commiserated with Professor Lale on the recent abduction of his son, Ejira, by criminal elements operating in the community, described the incident as very unfortunate and a calculated attempt to blackmail his government. "We are very happy that your dear son has been freed from captivity and that law enforcement agencies

have already made some arrests in connection with the dastardly act that has been roundly condemned in Eleme. You are our illustrious son and we promise that such an incident will not be allowed to happen on



V-C, Prof Lale (arrowed) flanked by DV-C (Admin), Prof Ibe, Univ. Librarian, Dr. Obiageli Nwodo, Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Aliezi (5th and 4th left) and Chairman, Eleme CTC, Hon. Okwaraji right and other Officers of UniPort and Eleme Council

our soil again," Okwaraji assured the Vice-Chancellor.

Responding, the Vice-Chancellor, who commended the Chairman and his team for the visit and pledge of support for his administration, stressed the need for all indigenes of Eleme to contribute meaningfully to the development of the community, which he described as a major hub of the Nigerian economy.

"It is my hope that your leadership would usher in accelerated development to Eleme community. I wish that you would do things differently by providing purposeful leadership to the people of Eleme. To achieve such a desirable feat, there must be a change of attitude and mentality away from the routine manner of doing things. No Chairman can develop Eleme while living in the city of Port Harcourt. It is very unfortunate that previous Chairmen of our Local Government Council had operated from

outside the community, and were consequently not able to properly articulate the pressing needs of the people," he lamented, urging the political class in the community to turn a new leaf.

Assuring the delegation that Management of the University would partner the Eleme community on skills acquisition and other areas of mutual interest, Professor Lale promised that the University would

admit qualified indigenes of the area who are willing to acquire knowledge. "The idea is to leave behind sustainable legacies that would impact positively on the people," the Vice-Chancellor remarked, soliciting more support from the Council to enable him succeed in office.

Also speaking on the visit, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, noted that the support accorded the Vice-Chancellor by his own people would enable him succeed in his mandate to transform the University to global standards.

The Caretaker Committee Chairman was accompanied on the visit by Martin Olaka, Secretary to the Council, Joel Obe, Bliss Saloka, Ngoba Godfrey, Supervisors for Health, Education and Works, respectively, Obari Okpa, Chief of Staff and Mr. Nkiken Nwafor.

Following a successful election held on Tuesday, September 29, 2015, at the School of Basic Studies, University Park, Mrs. Beauty Igwe has emerged as the new Chairman of the University of Port Harcourt Branch of the Non-Academic Staff Union of Universities (NASU).

She will run the affairs of the Union for the next four years. Mrs. Igwe is a staff of the School of Science Laboratory Technology (SSLT). She takes over the leadership of the Union from Mr. Benson Young, who ran the affairs of the Union for over 10 years.

Speaking to *UniPort Weekly* after the election, the new Chairperson expressed delight at her election, promising never to betray her colleagues who trusted her with the position. "I thank God for seeing us through the election process. It was not easy, but God made it possible for my Executive to emerge."

At Last, UniPort NASU Gets New EXCO

By Mercy Adeniji

Unveiling her electioneering manifesto, Mrs. Igwe said: "We want to re-shape NASU as a strong and vibrant Union and take it to greater heights. As a team, we promise UniPort NASU members that we would not fail in fighting for their collective welfare, which is the main reason for our election. We will represent them well and do everything humanly possible to table their needs before Management of the University."

"The task before us will not be easy, but we hope to carry every member along in the administration of NASU in such a way that nobody will feel alienated from the Union. At the end of our tenure, we want to walk tall on Campus as the Executive that returned our dear NASU to her days of glory as the

only grassroots Union in the University of Port Harcourt," Mrs. Igwe assured her members.

The new NASU boss, who is the first female to lead the UniPort branch, described the electoral process that brought her to power as free and fair. "We agreed to adopt the Option A4-open ballot format as against the Secret Ballot System that is prone to manipulation. I can say with certainty that the process was open, transparent and generally acceptable to our members. I want to use this opportunity to call on those who contested the position with me to feel very free to come around to make valuable contributions that would help us move our beloved NASU forward," she said.

On the current state of the Unions in UniPort, the new Chairperson expressed optimism that "in my

little corner and power, I would try my best to see that all the Unions on Campus come together as one body to work in love and one accord for the good of their members. We need to end sentiments and tribal tendencies so that we can work as one body to achieve our main objective of securing the welfare of workers," she added.

Other members of the new Executive are: Gospel Agharuoka (Branch Secretary), Nekabari Dornubari-Ikeh (Treasurer) and Chibuzor Ejiowhor, Joseph Nkuruturum, Robinson Chuku, Amaefule Fyeface and Nkechi Francis-Nwigoee as Branch Executives.



New Chairperson of NASU, Mrs. Igwe (4th right) and members of her EXCO

Efforts aimed at deepening academic activities amongst staff and students of the Department of Political and Administrative Studies received a major boost with the unveiling of an e-Library facility at the Departmental Office on Friday, October 2, 2015. Commissioning the facility, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Okey Onuchuku, who commended the Department for the initiative, said that the facility would not only benefit the Department, but the Faculty as a whole. He stressed the importance of mobilizing alumni of the Faculty to give back to the system after benefiting from it.

"It is important that after benefiting from the University, alumni should also come back to develop the system through generous giving since it has finally dawned on us that government alone is no longer in a position to meet our needs in the critical educational sector," Professor Onuchuku said at a brief commissioning ceremony, adding that it was through such a strategy that the University could develop into an attractive global brand. In his speech, a visibly elated Head of Department, Professor Nna Johnson, said that the facility which cost about N1,000, 000, was donated by Postgraduate Students of the Department. According to him, one of the Doctoral Candidates, Mr. Prince Igwe, provided six computer systems and accessories; furniture was provided by Postgraduate Diploma in International Affairs (PGDIA) and Master's Degree Students, while another Doctoral Candidate, Mr. Otonye Efebo, provided two air conditioners for the Library. He said that "the Library was also stocked with current books and journals in Political Science, while efforts are on to get some academics donate more books to the Library in order to boost the stock in relevant sub-disciplines in the Department."

Also speaking, Pro-Chancellor of the University of Uyo, Professor Kimse Okoko, praised the bold initiative of the Department in making e-resources available to researchers in the Department, pointing out that the importance of the Library in academic activities cannot be overemphasized. Okoko, who was a one-time Head of

Pol Admin Dept Commissions E-Library Facility

By Obinna Nwodin

The Department, stressed the importance of sensitizing students and Faculty members to appreciate the intrinsic benefits of reading and research in the new learning environment.

Earlier, one of the benefactors, Mr. Igwe, who was represented by Dr. Goodlife Igwe, said that the gesture was a way of contributing to the improvement of the system that impacted much on his life. "Having been privileged to pass through an institution like this, it becomes imperative that we should all contribute to the development of the institution that made us what we are

today. This will encourage our teachers to continue the good work of training more young people and preparing them for leadership positions," he stated.

In his remarks, former Head of Department, Professor Eme Ekeke, also stressed the importance of cultivating and encouraging good students to come back to contribute to the development of the system, advising Faculty members to make the Institution a home that others can look up to and identify with at all times.

The new e-Library facility consists of 10 units of computer systems and accessories, Internet facility, current books and journals on Political Science and related disciplines, as well as furniture and fittings.



A section of the e-library. Inset: Dean, Prof Onuchuku commissioning the facility

Akpokodje Tasks Geologists On Innovation At First Homecoming Ceremony

By Otiakor Samuel

It was all about sweet memories, warm embraces, backslapping and clinking of glasses when former students of the Department of Geology reunited at a well-appointed Alumni Homecoming event on Friday, October 2, 2015 at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on the invitation of their Department and the University Chapter of Nigeria Mining and Geosciences Society. The Alumni of the Department, who are now high-flying professionals in diverse walks of life, could not hide their excitement at the prospects of reuniting with their erstwhile colleagues and teachers to relive their days as students.

To set the right tone for the rare gathering, Director of the Institute of Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainability (INRES), Professor Eneke Akpokodje, delivered a thought-provoking Paper that stressed the need for Geologists to embrace emerging global trends aimed at widening their knowledge and capacity for

service delivery in line with the demands of a technology and innovation-driven 21st Century.

Professor Akpokodje, who gave the charge as keynote speaker at the event, urged his younger colleagues to be receptive to new ideas if they hoped to make a mark in the challenging geology profession. In the Paper entitled, *Diversification of the Economy: Role of Geologists*, the foremost Geology teacher charged younger practitioners to also explore opportunities in other sectors as a way of providing sustainable solutions to current global issues.

"Geologists have a pivotal role to play in this new dispensation. Superimposed on their long and critical role of developing natural geological resources thereby contributing to economic and political development of nations, is the ever increasing new role of applying their geological knowledge and skills to broad-ranging environmental and socio-economic issues. The geology profession has no other choice but to meet these emerging challenges if it is to continue to be relevant to the present and the broader societal needs in the future," the keynote

speaker observed.

Akpokodje, who warned that oil would soon fizzle out as a non-renewable resource, just as job opportunities were also on the decline, stressed the need for proper transformation of geologists to be valuable in the emergent post-oil world, adding that "Today and tomorrow's geologists need to be more independently and broadly-minded than those of yesterday. Entrepreneurship, optimism, self-motivation, flexibility, creativity, networking and ICT competence are becoming increasingly important. The desire, willingness and ability to communicate and sell an idea or a service to others are becoming increasingly necessary."

Earlier, Chairman of the occasion, Dr. Reginald Mbah, who is the only first class product from the Department, showered praises on guests for making it to the maiden Alumni Homecoming of graduates of geology in the Department, stating that the event was aimed at providing a platform for interaction between them and students of the Department to foster a cordial relationship in teaching and learning. He also expressed gratitude to the Department for partnering the University Chapter of the Nigeria Mining and Geosciences Society (NMGs) in organizing the well-attended event, charging the Alumni to contribute towards the growth of the Department and the University.

In his address, Head of the Department, Professor Godwin Udom, who expressed delight that the Alumni were able to respond to the call of their *Alma Mater*, said: "This ceremony would provide you an opportunity to compare what obtains in the Department now with what you experienced during your time as students of this Department. Whatever your opinion may be, I wish to submit that we have as a Department kept faith with the vision of our University which is to be ranked amongst the best in Africa, renowned for its teaching, research, innovation and knowledge transfer. Today, the Department can boast of eight professors and a good number of Senior Lecturers, who are making waves in their different specializations in terms of teaching, research, and consultancy services."

Other goodwill messages came from President of the UniPort Chapter of NMGs, Ikechi Ekeke, Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee, Singer Marvellous and pioneer President of the Students' Union, Dr. Napoleon Wessy. A major highlight of the event was an interactive session with the Alumni, who took turns to recount their experiences during their days as students of the University.



A cross-section of Alumni and Geology students at the Homecoming. Inset: Keynote Speaker, Prof Akpokodje

Expert Tasks Stakeholders On Urban Mobility

Cont'd from p1

approaches, pointed out the need for individuals to adopt the *Rethinking Travel—5Rs* of Rethink, Reduce, Remode, Retime and Reroute. "The SUMP's development process includes technical and engagement training, pilot development, political involvement, resource implications and team effort," he added.

Representative of the Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe, commended the Centre for organizing the Lecture, which drew attention to the use of SUMP's in a country like Nigeria, where unregulated environmental practices contributed immensely to chaotic transportation systems and rising hazards in society.

"The University is proud of the progress so far

recorded by the Centre within its short lifespan and would continue to support it as it desires to give leadership in improved planning, coordination and efficient management of logistics and transport activities in both public and private sectors of the economy through the training of qualified professionals for the sector," the Deputy Vice-Chancellor remarked.

In his address, Centre Director, Professor Osi Akpogheme, described the Lecture as timely, owing to the remarkable growth in rural-urban migration which has resulted in alarming population density and mobility crises in urban areas, especially in developing countries of the world. "It is my belief that this Lecture would help the Centre achieve its mission of providing adequate knowledge and practical skills for understanding and solving logistics and transportation problems in Nigeria," he stated.

Earlier, Dr. Mauger, who is also the International Professional Development Committee Representative and Head of the Accreditation Team, accompanied by Chairman of the Professional Development Committee in Nigeria, Dr. Adebambo Somuyiwa, National Executive Director CILT, Mr. Paul Ndibe, Chairman of the Port Harcourt Branch of CILT, Francis Mberekpe and Training Officer, Mr. Edet Okon, had earlier paid a courtesy visit on the Acting Vice-Chancellor. Mauger also briefed the administration on the proposed accreditation of academic programmes at the Centre which has been licensed to provide training for the professional body.



Participants at the event

AIESEC Interns Laud UniPort, Nigeria

By Mercy Adeniji

Some AIESEC Interns from the Republic of Benin have described their stay in the University of Port Harcourt as very exciting, following the successful completion of their six-week volunteer programme called *Global Community Development (GCD)* in concert with AIESEC Port Harcourt. The group also showered praises on Nigeria as a country with great leadership potentials on the African continent, promising to come back again to experience the country.

Speaking in an exit interview with *UniPort Weekly* on Wednesday, September 30, 2015, AIESEC team leader, Mr. Emmanuel N'dah-Sekou, a student of the *National Economic Applied and de Management*, Cotonou, Porto Novo, who was accompanied by other Interns, stated that the whole essence of the trip was to broaden their contact with people and cultures from other lands, expressing joy that the objective was fully met.

"After six-weeks in Port Harcourt, my colleagues and I are very happy and excited about our memorable trip to Nigeria. We discovered this country and also learnt so many new things from this exciting environment and we were also able to improve our English vocabulary from an English-speaking country. Not only were we warmly received by our local AIESEC hosts, we also enjoyed the warm hospitality of the authorities of the University of Port Harcourt.

"What we saw far surpassed all the negative stories we were told about coming to Nigeria. As we prepared to depart on this trip, our parents and friends warned us against coming to Nigeria, but when you join AIESEC, you develop the spirit of adventure and risk-taking. We wish to place it on record that all the negative stories about Nigeria are a creation of the Western and partly the Nigerian media. We met people that were friendly, genuine and ready to help us at every turn to achieve the aim of our trip to this wonderful country. Port Harcourt was particularly special in the variety of experience the bustling oil

city offered us as we went about our activities here," the Intern told our Correspondent.

Mr. N'dah-Sekou recalled that during their stay in Port Harcourt, the group worked with the David Bassey Ikpeke Orphanage Home on *Project Sunshine* in collaboration with AIESEC Port Harcourt to impact the lives of the inmates of the Home. "We also helped to develop the skills of the children through Arts, Languages and Information Technology. While in Nigeria, we learnt that not everybody is Boko Haram and also that all the negative impressions created about this country were totally false.

"I am glad that we were able to fulfill our main target, because we joined AIESEC UniPort in the last Career Fair and also took our project to the orphanage home. All these activities changed us and made us have a new understanding of what life is all about, especially in a typical city environment where people care less

for others," the team leader said, expressing his desire to return to Nigeria again and again.

Mr. N'dah-Sekou expressed gratitude to Management of the University, members of AIESEC UniPort, Sheriff, Deputies Security Guards, the Public Relations Unit and the Exchange and Linkage Programmes Unit (ELPU) for providing the visitors an enabling environment to explore their skills while the trip lasted. "We appreciate the safety we enjoyed in the University Campus, because we had a chance to wake up early in the morning to engage in our joggings. We were able to visit the University Stadium and also taste some Nigeria foods such as Moi-Moi, Eba, Egusi, Okra and Afang Soup, respectively.

Mr. N'dah-Sekou was accompanied by Yasmine Hounsouin and Gloria Allogba, including new arrivals, Elfried Suzel and Christian Ogoagbe, who would be in the country for six weeks to continue from where their departing colleagues stopped on *Project Sunshine*.



4th from left Dep. Registrar (IPPR), Williams Wodi, Team Leader, N'dah-Sekou (2nd right) and other Interns

GUIDE POST

INRES Opens Int'l Confab On Deltas Wednesday

By Otiakor Samuel

It is now set for the opening of an International Conference on Deltas and River Systems in Africa under the auspices of the Institute of Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainability (INRES). Director of the Institute, Professor Eneke Akpokodje, in a statement obtained by this publication, said the three-day Conference which begins this Wednesday, has *Deltas in Africa: Practical Steps from Vulnerability to Sustainability* as its theme. Professor Akpokodje, who further disclosed that former Group Managing Director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), King Edmund Daokoru and Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs will co-chair the opening ceremony, said that Governor Nyesom Wike is expected to grace the historic event as Special Guest of Honour. Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Power, Dr. Godknows Igali and Vice-Chancellors of the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Niger Delta University and Federal University, Otuoke, are also expected to grace the occasion as guests, while Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt, Professor Ndowa

Lale, will be Chief Host. The statement added that Dr. Bradford Brown from the United States is expected to present the keynote address on *Future of African Deltas and River Systems*.



Prof Akpokodje

RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Professor E.O. Ayalogu, Department of Medical Biochemistry, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective June 1, 2015 to January 18, 2016.

Mr. Samuel Foby, Dean's Office, Faculty of Management Sciences, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective September 9, 2015 to September 8, 2016.

END OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Professor Oleka Udeala, Department of Pharmaceutics and Pharmaceutical Technology, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, ends *Contract Appointment* on January 31, 2016.

Professor B.E. Okoli, Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology, Faculty of Science, ends *Contract Appointment* on January 31, 2016.

STUDY LEAVE

Dr. Obiageli Ohiaogu, Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted a one-year *Study Leave with Pay* to enable her participate in a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the North-West University, South Africa, effective September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016.

Dr. Julius Ingweye, Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, granted a one-year *Study Leave with Pay* to enable him pursue a Professional Master of Science degree in Agricultural Production Chain Management-Livestock Chain at the Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences, Velp, The Netherlands, effective September 23, 2015 to October 10, 2016.

Mr. Frank Bazany, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Faculty of Science, granted a two-year *Study Leave with Pay* to enable him complete a Doctoral programme in Industrial Mathematics and Applied Statistics at the Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki, effective August 3, 2015 to August 2, 2017.

Mr. Wobidi Echebiri, Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Science, granted a one-year *Study Leave with Pay* to enable him pursue a Master of Science degree programme in Management and Information Systems at the University of Manchester, United Kingdom, effective 1st September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016.

REDEPLOYMENT

Mr. Collins Amietubodie, Director, Physical Planning and Development Unit, Office of the Vice-Chancellor, redeployed as *Director, Equipment Maintenance Unit*, effective October 19, 2015.

RESIGNATION

Mrs. Patience Akani, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Science, resigned from the services of the University, effective November 11, 2015.

STOP PRESS

HESN Holds National Confab Tuesday

The History of Education Society of Nigeria (HESN) has announced its 12th Annual National Conference scheduled to hold in the University on Tuesday, October 13, 2015. A statement jointly signed by the Chairman and Secretary of the Local Organising Committee, Professor Anyamebo Okorosaye-Orubite and Dr. Yusuf Abdulrahman, disclosed that the body which is an affiliate of the International Standing Conference for the History of Education (ISCHE), is inviting the University community and other interested stakeholders to the Conference, which would discuss Nigeria's educational system in a historical perspective. The Conference which starts at 10.00am will take place at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park.

SGS DOCTORAL SEMINAR

The School of Graduate Studies (SGS) has announced the 84th edition of the Doctoral Seminar presentation holding next Thursday, October 22, 2015 at the Seminar Room of the School. Time is 10:00am. Departments and Faculties are advised to convey the information to affected Candidates. Contact: Graduate Studies Officer, Dr. Agatha Ataga.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT

WEATHER OBSERVATORY

FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11 – SATURDAY OCTOBER 17, 2015.

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (mm) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 11 OCT, 2015	30.0 24.0	83	NE	2.3	6:18 18:20	Light rain expected late in the day. Mostly cloudy day forecasted.
MONDAY, 12 OCT, 2015	32.0 25.0	76	NE	6.6	6:18 18:19	Thunder expected late in the day. Mostly cloudy day expected.
TUESDAY, 13 OCT, 2015	31.0 25.0	76	NE	5.4	6:18 18:19	Isolated thunder storm expected. Break of sun expected late in the day.
WEDNESDAY, 14 OCT, 2015	31.0 23.0	78	NE	11.6	6:17 18:19	Thunder storms expected. Mostly Cloudy day anticipated.
THURSDAY, 15 OCT, 2015	31.0 23.0	79	NE	9.6	6:17 18:19	A few thunder storms expected. Mostly cloudy day forecasted.
FRIDAY, 16 OCT, 2015	31.0 23.0	79	NE	4.8	6:17 18:18	Widely scattered thunder storm expected. Mostly cloudy day anticipated.
SATURDAY, 17 OCT, 2015	32.0 23.0	79	NE	10.3	6:17 18:18	Thunder storms expected. Mostly cloudy day forecasted.

Dr. Gladys Emenike
Acting HoD

Dr. Prince Mmom
AG. Director, (CDRMS)

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Disaster Risk Management Workshop

The Centre for Disaster Risk Management and Development Studies (CDRMDS) organised a one-day sensitization workshop to evolve rapid response measures to natural and man-made disasters in South-South Nigeria, on Tuesday, September 15, 2015. Our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU**, was on ground to capture the event as displayed below:



Participants registering for the workshop



Acting Centre Director, Dr. Prince Mnum, welcoming participants



Director, CDRMDS, Prof Alice Nte, representing the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Ndowa Lale, as Chairman



Keynote Speaker, Prof Ezemoye Lawrence of the University of Benin delivering the Keynote Address



South-South Coordinator of NEMA, Mr. Benjamin Ogebe, delivering a goodwill message on behalf of NEMA D-G, Muhammad Sani Sidi



Member of the University Governing Council, Prof Owunari Georgewill, also delivering a goodwill message



Representative of the Rivers State Director of National Orientation Agency, Mr. Oliver Wolugbom speaking



One-time Dean, School of Graduate Studies, Prof Winston Bell-Gam delivering his paper



Prof Temi Olojunosisa of Osun State University making a presentation



Former Director of the Centre, Prof Samuel Arokoyu, speaking



Officials of FRSC, St John's Ambulances and others at the event



NEMA officials also in attendance



A group photograph of some officials of the University and dignitaries at the event