

# UniPort Weekly

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## RIVCASSON Charts Way For Post-Oil Era In Nigeria

The Rivers State Chapter of the Counselling Association of Nigeria (RIVCASSON) has ended its 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Chapter Conference in the University with a charge to Nigerians to begin to prepare for a post-oil economy. The Conference which held at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium from Wednesday June 8 to Friday June 10, 2016, reports Humphrey Ogu

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## Side Bar Valedictory Lecture

College of Health Sciences held a Public Lecture entitled: "The Biochemist and Malaria Vaccine Development" in honour of Professor Obiozor Ayalogu at the AEB Auditorium 1 on Friday, June 10, 2016.

Details next week.  
~Editor

## UniPort Resumes Academic Activities, As Senate Lifts Suspension Of Students' Union

Obinna Nwodin

After nine weeks of closure as a result of the violent protest by students on April 11, 2016, the Senate has approved the re-opening of the University for the 2015/2016 with effect from Sunday, June 19, 2016. The decision was taken at the 422<sup>nd</sup> Extraordinary Meeting of the highest academic decision-making body which held at the Senate Chambers last Friday. Senate also lifted the suspension slammed on the Students' Union and its affiliate bodies.

The decision to reopen the University followed Senate's deliberation on a position paper that spelt out the request by the students as a precondition for peace to return to the University. Senate also approved a presentation by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor

(Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, on the revised academic calendar of the 2015/2016 academic session.

Presenting the Revised Academic Calendar on the floor of Senate, Professor Fawehinmi proposed that the First Semester Examination should commence from Monday, June 20, 2016 and end on Saturday, July 23, 2016, while the First Semester break would commence on Monday, July 18, 2016 and end on Saturday, July 23, 2016. The Revised Academic Calendar further revealed that an Extraordinary Meeting of Senate to consider the First Semester Results for the 2015/2016 academic year would be held on Wednesday, August 17, 2016.

Senate also approved Management's proposal that students should arrive on Campus for the Second Semester on Sunday, July 24, 2016, while Monday, July 25, 2016 to Friday October 14, 2016, would mark the commencement of Lectures and Students' Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES). The Students' Union Week would hold as from Monday, October 10, 2016 to Saturday October 15, 2016. According to the revised Time-Table, Revision for the Second Semester Examination would commence on Monday, October 17, 2016 and end on Friday, October 21, 2016, while the Second Semester Examination would commence on Monday, October 24, 2016 and end on Saturday, November 12, 2016.

Presiding over the Senate Meeting, Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Anthony Ibe, announced that the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, was away to sort out some official issues at the Federal Ministry of Education in Abuja. He read out a review of the demands by the suspended

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# Reassessing Role Of Centres, Institutes

By Obinna Nwodin

In a bid to strengthen the activities of Centres and Institutes to meet the vision and mission for which they were established, the Centre for Research Management and Development (CEREMAD) convened a meeting of Directors of Centres and Institutes on Thursday, April 7, 2016. The meeting which held at the Senate Chambers, deliberated on appropriate modalities for enhanced productivity of the Centres and Institutes.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, who chaired the meeting on behalf of the administration, emphasised the need for a symbiotic relationship between the Centre Directors and CEREMAD for effective coordination of their activities and effective output.

Giving an overview of the meeting, Director of CEREMAD, Professor Alice Nwa, stated that it had become imperative to streamline the activities of the Centres and Institutes in order to achieve the desired objectives. This is important because as a research-driven Institution, the activities of these Centres are central to effective coordination of research and development activities in the University.

Briefing the 32<sup>nd</sup> Senate of the University on the meeting, Professor Fawehinmi, noted: "It is important to state that the Centres were established to promote academic excellence and research in specialised areas at the postgraduate level that would help address specific societal problems."

The meeting, which was attended by the various Directors and Acting Directors, identified issues such as lack of a central regulatory control on the academic, administrative and financial systems of the Centres and Institutes as



the building of partnerships and causing unnecessary delays in securing counterpart funding and grants to power research activities and scholarships. Another problem facing some of the Centres is lack of proper record on admission and graduation from the Centres and Institutes in the School of Graduate Studies for the issuance of Academic Transcripts to their graduates, amongst others.

After exhaustive deliberations and sharing of experience by participants at the meeting, it was resolved that CEREMAD should closely coordinate the activities of the various Institutes and Centres with a view to harmonising their activities. Furthermore, their administrative organisations should be properly strengthened to define the position of the Centres and Institutes; detailed Annual Reports should be forwarded by Directors to the Vice-Chancellor and other relevant stakeholders. The modalities for securing funding should be clearly spelt out in each Memorandum of Understanding and should be strictly adhered to, while funds should be disbursed

based on guidelines stipulated in the approved framework for income and expenditure in the Act establishing the University. There is also a need for disengaging Directors to write and transmit detailed *Memorandum of Understanding* to successors in office and copied to all relevant stakeholders to ensure seamless transition and continuity of activities.

If fully implemented as envisaged, these recommendations would help strengthen the activities of the Centres and Institutes such that they would not be nominal units in the University that contribute to increases in running cost. The vibrancy of these Centres would not only give the University a boost in terms of mobilising external research funding sources, but would also position the University a true Ivory Tower that would add value to the advancement of society through quality research and development aimed at solving problems and capitalising knowledge.

## STUDENT WORLD

**B**arizansi Joseph is a postgraduate student in the Department of Petroleum and Gas Engineering (Gas option), Faculty of Engineering, whose exciting research thrust seeks to Evaluate the Butane/Propane Composition Effect on the Thermal and Design Parameters of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Burners. There is great authority and precision in his voice as he tried to convince our Correspondent on the veracity of his research focus. "Nigeria ranks as the sixth country in the world with the highest natural gas reserves and we also have an abundance of Liquefied Petroleum Gas which is the by-product of crude oil or gas. It is a better fuel, because it is clean and environment-friendly," he stated, adding that the main thrust of the research was to evaluate and determine the effects of LPG compositions on the design and thermal properties of LPG Burners, using simulation and theoretical approach.

"This research seeks to determine the relationship between LPG composition and the burner nozzle size and port area at different LPG bottle pressures, flame temperature and heating power at different LPG bottle pressures, as well as examines the effects on the nozzle size, port area, flame temperature and heating power by varying the flow rate at different LPG compositions," he explained, disclosing that a chart was also developed to help professionals who design gas burners to determine the accurate nozzle size, LPG compositions and pressure ranges that would enable them achieve the needed specific flame temperature and heat output for a particular purpose, be it domestic or industrial.

"From the chart, we tried to cover different ranges of LPG composition at different pressures and flow rates. Before now, LPG Burners were usually designed for a specific heat output, depending on the required heat level needed for the burners. Such burners were usually produced for domestic cooking, grill frying, fish drying or for industrial metallurgical processes (metal melting)," Joseph admitted, adding that the chart had been developed to account for several LPG composition behaviour at various LPG bottle pressure

## Joseph Rethinks LPG Composition Of Gas Burner Design

In this incisive research, Barizansi Joseph evaluates the effects of Butane/Propane composition on the design parameters of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Burners. He shared his interesting findings with Correspondent, ETHEL TIMI-JOHNSON.



and various heat energy required to help cover the various heat demand, ranging from domestic to higher industrial needs.

"This is the first time a chart/graph is developed for LPG burners for different LPG compositions for the determination of both thermal and design parameters for pressure, ranging from 5 bar to 36 bar (at interval of 5 bar) and flow rate of 0.001kg/s to 0.004kg/s," Joseph explained.

Describing LPG as the most convenient and cleanest fuel for domestic use, the researcher pointed out that

although the LPG stove burner industry was about 36 years old, it was mainly concentrated in the small-scale sector. "LPG is an exceptional energy source due to its origin, relative advantages and applications and has been labelled as the ideal fuel for modern living. With global availability, environmental benefits, natural by-product origin, transportation flexibility and diverse applications, this gas plays a pivotal role in the transition towards a more secure, sustainable and competitive energy model," Joseph said.

Advocating the development of LPG burners for heating and other purposes, Joseph canvassed more use of LPG for domestic and industrial uses, because of its environmental-friendly nature and effective heating ability, when compared to other fuel sources. "Factors such as limited fossil fuel resources, energy conservation and environmental issues would greatly influence and increase the demand for LPG in the nearest future," he remarked.

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# RIVCASSO Charts Way For Post-Oil Era In Nigeria

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had the theme: *Life after Oil: The Role of Guidance and Counselling*.

Declaring the Conference open, representative of the Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alice Nte noted that the theme of the Conference was very apt, adding that it came at a time the nation was solely dependent on dwindling oil revenue for running the national economy. "With the current economic challenges resulting in a free fall in oil prices, I am pleased to note that this Conference will evaluate and update participants with the necessary knowledge on how to diversify our economy for sustainable development," Professor Nte stated.

In his opening remarks, Chairman of the Occasion and Chief of Staff to the Rivers State Governor, Mr. Eneke Woke, who was represented by Dr. Chuko Osuji, commended the RIVCASSO for focusing attention on preparing the country for an era when oil will no longer be the mainstay of the Nigerian economy, adding that "In view of the dwindling price of oil in the international market, the renewed militant attacks on pipelines in the Niger Delta and in recognition of oil as a finite resource, the Conference is timely and relevant for Rivers State and Nigeria. Let me promise that we will continue to support the Association to enable it initiate programmes that would promote its activities and also benefit the larger society."

Delivering the keynote address, Rivers State Commissioner of Education, Professor Kanyi Ekeke, described the role of a Counsellor as a very challenging and onerous one. "The Counsellor is a teacher, a role model, a parent, a mentor and a confidant. Counsellors must expand their horizon of operation that is appropriate to the demands of the times, in addition to



Representative of the Acting Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Alice Nte, surrounded by members of the participants after the opening ceremony.

what their capacity can carry," the Commissioner told the Conference participants.

The Commissioner, who was represented by the Director of Guidance and Counselling in the Ministry, Mrs. Jay Joseph, observed that "Lack of vocational counselling through occupational information has led to the production of graduates without entrepreneurial knowledge and skills for effective running of businesses. Vocational Counsellors should stress the importance of self-employment, the nature of occupations and job requirements, as this will help the students after their graduation to apply the knowledge they have acquired in varying contexts."

The first Lead paper entitled, *Life After Oil: The Role of Guidance and Counselling*, was presented by the Acting Vice-Chancellor of Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Professor Joseph Kianze, who was

represented by Professor Livinus Oghondah, while the second Lead paper entitled: *Counselling for Youth To Reflect over Life after Crude Oil in Nigeria*, was delivered by Dr. Pat Nwanom of Alvan Ikoku College of Education, Owerri. Both papers addressed the role of Guidance and Counselling in preparing Nigerians for life after oil.

Earlier in her welcome address, Chairperson of RIVCASSO, Dr. Chineke Ugwu, said: "People never thought that one day our oil will stop flowing or no longer be in serious demand, or surrounded by pockets of challenges as we are witnessing today. We all know that oil price has drastically gone down, coupled with increasing crisis and vandalism of oil pipelines in oil-producing regions—especially in the Niger Delta. This untenable situation has resulted in a serious economic downturn for our country," expressing hope that the Conference would address the numerous challenges that would enable the country to survive in a post-oil era.

# Gains of UniPort Parents' Forum

By Obinna Nwodin

The establishment of the University of Port Harcourt Parents Forum (UPHPF) by the present administration was a bold move to get parents fully involved in the education of their children in the University. Most parents previously restricted themselves to paying the necessary charges and thereafter abandoning their children and wards to the University authorities to train. Their next interaction with their children was only during holidays and other occasional encounters. Most parents hardly asked questions beyond how their children were doing academically. The inauguration of the Parents' Forum changed all that: hereafter approach to the serious business of the future of these students.

The aim of the Forum was basically to create a symbiotic relationship between Parents and Management of the University in such a manner that parents get to know what their children are doing at school and to also serve as an avenue for them to make valuable contributions to the development of the University. The Forum effectively removed students as the only intermediaries between their parents and the University.

In September, 2015, the maiden meeting of parents and guardians was convened by Management of the University at the Ebitimi Baniga Auditorium. Management could not have asked for more, as attendance went right up to the rafters! The meeting which was attended by parents from across the country was no doubt a huge success. It marked the beginning of the University of Port Harcourt Parents Forum with an Interim Executive Committee headed by a distinguished Educational Consultant, Dr. Tony Chuko as Chairman. It was expected that the establishment of the Forum would add value to the objectives and vision of the administration as it casts about to usher in accelerated development to the University.

UPHPF was designed to stand parents on the same template with Management of the University in running the affairs of the University. Since its inception, the Forum has regularly interfaced with the authorities on the welfare of students, as well as driving various advocacy programmes aimed at lifting the University to greater heights.



A cross-section participants at a meeting of UniPort Parents' Forum.

Inset: Dr. Chuko

Shortly after it was inaugurated, the Executive Committee met on Friday, September 25, 2015 and barely nine months after, there is irrefutable evidence to prove that the Forum has recorded measurable achievements that have added inestimable value to the overall administration of the University. While all previous meetings of the body were convened by Management of the University, it was very significant that the latest meeting was the very first to be solely convened by the Interim Executive of the Forum.

Briefing Congress on the activities of the Executive so far on Friday, May 25, 2016, Chairman of the Interim Executive, Dr. Tony Chuko outlined a number of activities that were initiated and successfully carried out by the UPHPF leadership. "To actualise the objectives for which the Forum was established, the Executive decided to initiate the UPHPF-Community Relations Forum; liaise with the University authorities to ensure that students' hostels were cleaned regularly; appealed to the authorities to device ways of ensuring that only approved charges are collected from students during registration and at any other given period," Dr. Chuko told the gathering.

The Chairman also unfurled plans to levy an agreed sum to serve as formal registration of members into the Forum, as well as the formation of eight sub-Committees that would handle various efforts aimed at actualising the objectives of the Forum. The Chairman announced the Committees to include: Constitution Drafting

Committee; Projects Committee; Academic Committee; Welfare, Security and Community Relations Committee; Legal Ethics and Privileges Committee; Information, Protocol and Complaints Committee; Research, Statistics and Documentation, as well as Finance Committee. Since its establishment, the Forum has made commendable efforts in playing an advocacy role targeted at maintaining peace and stability in the University. For instance, it intervened in the disputes between Management and students, which averted a planned disruption of examinations on Monday, October 12, 2015. Dr. Chuko, however, regretted that all concerted efforts made by the Forum to avert the violent protest of April 11, 2016 proved abortive, adding that the Executive was deeply pained by the way events had unfolded in the University since then.

It is in this light that the bold initiative of the administration to set up the Forum must be highly commended by all discerning stakeholders in the affairs of the University. This is the first administration to set up a fully functional Parents' Forum in over forty years of the existence of the University of Port Harcourt. There is no doubt that an all-inclusive platform of critical stakeholders such as parents in a potent weapon towards attaining the needed stability and accelerated development of the University. We hope that the Parents' Forum would grow from strength to strength in the years ahead.

# I Will Take Fisheries Dept To Next Level ~Olopade

By Mercy Ademiji

In an effort aimed at sustaining quality service delivery, new Acting Head of the Department of Fisheries in the Faculty of Agriculture, Dr. Olasundé Olopade, has promised to consolidate on the gains of the last two years with a view to moving the Department to greater heights.

Dr. Olopade, who spoke in an interview with a Correspondent of *UniPort Weekly* in his office on Wednesday, June 8, 2016, disclosed that the Department was recently de-merged from the defunct Department of Animal Science and Fisheries. "As a new Department, we are working very hard to consolidate on the valuable experience we garnered under the previous arrangement in the last two years and we are determined to move in the right direction to justify the reason for securing autonomy from the former Department of Animal Science and Fisheries," the new Acting Head said.

On his vision for the Department, he said: "My main focus would be to improve the internship programme of the Department, because it is the backbone of Agriculture that would afford our students an opportunity to fully participate in vocational training. We are already working hard to float our postgraduate students, hopefully, by the end of this year. This development would widen our capacity for research and attract more students to the Department."



"Our accreditation is also around the corner and we have just concluded resource verification of our programme. The resource verification team visited us recently and we are very optimistic that we would play host to the accreditation team sometime this year. We are preparing our records and working hard on our farm to enable us succeed when the team finally arrives."

With assistance from staff and students, I hope to take the Department to the next level and by God's grace and the support of the University Management, we also hope to secure full accreditation. Fisheries is a very capital-intensive programme to run and we hope to secure the necessary support that would enable the emergent Department to succeed," the new Acting Head told our Correspondent.

Dr. Olopade, who was one-time Chairman of the Department's Accreditation Committee, disclosed that "the proposed postgraduate programme is very important to us and we currently have five Senior Lecturers on ground and may likely have about three Professors in the Department any time from now. We are also looking at recruiting more academic staff to help strengthen the Department."

The new Acting Head of Department, who took over from Dr. Amis Francis, praised her for leaving giant footprints on the sands of time that would be built upon. "She started very well as the pioneer Acting Head of Department and she tried her very best and nothing would make me happy than to know that we are ready and able to take the Department to the next level from where she left it."

"My appeal to my colleagues and students is that they should give me their maximum cooperation, because I can achieve nothing without support from them, including the non-teaching staff," Dr. Olopade noted.

# Modular Refineries Can Address Nigeria's Job Needs ~Igwe

Professor Godwin Igwe is the NLNG Chair of Gas Processing Engineering and pioneer Director of the Centre for Gas, Refining and Petrochemicals (CGRP), Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS), University of Port Harcourt. He believes in the capacity of modular refineries to tackle Nigeria's petroleum and unemployment challenges. Correspondent, HUMPHREY OGU reports:

By Humphrey Ogu

Against the backdrop of Nigeria's perennial fuel scarcity and rising unemployment burden, Professor Godwin Igwe of the Department of Chemical Engineering, has reiterated his advocacy for modular refineries as a way of finding a lasting solution to the twin challenges. "To provide jobs for our best and brightest Engineers, we must stop Nigeria from becoming a dumping ground for all sorts of imported off-specification petroleum products," he warned.

"The issue of fuel scarcity, Petroleum Industry Bill, and illegal refineries have been lingering because of paralysis from analysis. Like the parable of the donkey that starved to death, the donkey was placed at an equal distance between a carrot on his left, and a carrot on his right. Since he was equally distant from both, he couldn't make up his mind on which one to choose. As a result of his inability to decide, he was stuck in the middle, and eventually starved to death. It is a metaphor for life and for our governments. People suffer from 'paralysis from analysis', constantly over-analysing and unable to take a firm decision and stick with it. As a result, they miss a lot of opportunities, and figuratively starve themselves to death as the opportunities disappear. This is typical of our observations of the policies of modular refinery in Nigeria" Professor Godwin Igwe lamented.

Observing that Nigeria currently imports over 60 million litres of petrol every day, Igwe said: "The cost of importing fuel in 30 days is probably enough to build 10-15 modular crude oil refineries and the current free fall of crude oil price can be turned into gold for Nigeria by building modular refineries in most states in Nigeria," pointing out that added benefits and values would include production of a combined volume of over 1,000,000 litres of petrol per day, diesel, aviation kerosene, naphtha, and other petrochemical products, creation of over one million jobs for Nigerian youths, rejuvenation of the economy and a chance to export excess fuel produced by modular refineries and earn forex from fuel export.

"Oil communities can be transformed into the oil capitals of Nigeria and Africa by forming Oil Community Cooperatives and making them key

stakeholders as joint venture partners in the ownership and operation of these modular refineries," he explained, adding that the Federal and State Governments should create an enabling environment for all, including foreign, local investors, and the oil-rich community cooperatives.

"To provide employment, we have to turn the 'illegal refineries' into 'legal refineries'. For this to happen, we need to design a strategy and policy to set up an energy bank to provide financing, and still crude oil to them at subsidised price. If you legalise, then you stop bunkering because it becomes unprofitable for their sponsors," Igwe said, calling on government to prioritise and test the idea of modular refineries; set up a Refining and Petrochemicals Authority as a local point, and let illegal refineries become "legal artisanal refineries" by training their operators.

On how modular refineries could help in solving Nigeria's unemployment problems, Igwe said: "To reduce unemployment for our training unemployed graduates, the right environment must be created by Government and the private sector to capitalise on the downstream products from our oil and gas industries. I will suggest competitive employment generation between the 36 States. The Federation Accounts Allocation shared monthly between Federal, States and Local Governments, plus the additional 13 per cent oil revenue paid out as derivation fund to oil-producing States, must be specifically tied to verifiable number of jobs generated by each beneficiary State. Knowing that a goal without a plan will remain just a wish, the Federal Government, news media, and labour organisations, must monitor and publish monthly reports of the performance of each State. Understanding the labour market and the process by which workers and jobs come together is critical to devising effective labour and monetary policies. This is a question of effective leadership."

"Governments in developed countries succeed or fail, win or lose elections on the basis of the state of the economy and number of jobs generated for their citizens. It is time to hold our elected and appointed officials accountable to produce results, instead of lobbying for big titles and making long various rhetorical speeches. This is time for action and it is still a question of effective



leadership," he noted, adding that modular refineries would contribute to research and development in the downstream sector and contribute to human capital development in the oil and gas sector.

"Modular refinery is the basis for developing all commercial technologies. It can save wide varieties of fuel-formulation challenges, enable collection of experts with different capabilities-Process Engineering, Chemistry, Mechanical and enhance development and profitability to NNPC refinery operations, and training critical manpower for the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB). Products from modular refineries could be sold to the 36 States of Nigeria. Expertise gained will improve training and impart knowledge to our talented student groups," Igwe explained.

With the passage of Local Content Law, modular refineries will enhance institutional capability, gain full insight, and fill the gap in training indigenous capacity in process and equipment design, fabrication, installation, and operation of gas, refining, and petrochemical plants," Igwe said, adding that the "owner of modular refinery" will utilize two principal readily available crude oil (38 billion proven oil reserves) and natural gas, leading to more job creation as a means of poverty alleviation, with savings in foreign exchange in line with the Federal Government's Vision 20-2020.

# Agric Faculty Ends Proposal Writing Workshop

By Mercy Adeniji

**D**ean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Professor Ehene Erenda, has promised that his tenure would witness an increase in staff development as a means of ensuring quality service delivery. Declaring on a two-day workshop held at the Department of Animal Science Laboratory located at Choba Park on Tuesday, May 31 and Wednesday, June 1, 2016, respectively, Professor Erenda commended the Research and Training Committee for keying into his vision of taking the Faculty to greater heights.

"On assumption of office, I promised to increase the capacity of academic staff to embark on quality research and I am very happy to know that the Research and Training Committee has taken up the challenge to mount this important workshop. I hope that this trend would be a regular feature in the Faculty and we will support the Committee to achieve its mandate," the Dean said. The Chairman, Dr. Olufemi Adesope, disclosed that the Research and Training Committee of the Faculty of Agriculture organized the workshop on Proposal Writing in line with the vision of the Dean to equip staff in writing viable proposals that would attract research grants to the Faculty. "This workshop is in line with the Dean's campaign promises aimed at strengthening the capacity of staff to give of their best to the Faculty. Four resource persons presented papers at the event, namely: Director of the Centre for Research Management and Development (CEREMAD), Professors Alice Nte, Oyeewuchi Akaranta, Des. Ekechi Ekele and myself. Each Head of Department was asked to nominate six Academic Staff to attend and at the end of the workshop, participants were divided into 4 groups to come up with different topic in their teams.

Presenting a paper entitled: *Ethics and Related Issues*", Dr. Adesope, defined plagiarism as an act or instance of using or closely imitating the language and thoughts of another author without authorization and the representation of that author's work as one's own, by not crediting him or her, listing Che, Control-C, Find-Replace, Remix, Recycle, Hybrid, Mash Up, 404 Error, Aggregator and Re-tweet, as some types of plagiarism.



Prof Ehene Erenda (seated) and other participants after the workshop

Adesope, who doubles as Assistant Director of CEREMAD stressed the need for researchers to cite the sources of all information used in a research work, acknowledge material cited, provide readers with information, learn different ways of citing a research work and use original checkers to improve their grammatical output.

Other papers presented by Dr. Adesope at the workshop included: *Basics of Writing Fundable Research Proposal*, *Remote Collaboration for Research*.

In his paper, pioneer Director of the defunct Centre for Research Management, Professor Oyeewuchi Akaranta, who spoke on: *Where to Start From? Identifying Research Problems and Research Objectives*, disclosed that identifying a research problem was the first and most important step in the research cycle, adding that "a broad area is selected and then a broad topic is delimited or narrowed down to a specific one sentence statement of problem. Research problem may emanate from several sources such as personal or practical experiences, critical appraisal of literature, previous research, brainstorming sessions, social issues, folklores and exposure to field

situations," among others.

Highlighting the criteria for selecting a good research problem, Professor Akaranta stressed the need for a problem to have significance to a particular area of study if it is to serve any purpose. "The research problem should be new and unique in itself; it should be feasible, must be based on current problem and the needs of a profession and it must also be interesting and solvable," he pointed out. Other papers presented by Professor Akaranta were: *Developing your Budget: Effective Research Network/Collaboration for Research and Fund Sources*, respectively.

Yet other papers presented included: *Redesign/Creating Justification, Evaluating/Reviewing a Funding Opportunity/Care Study and Managing the Research Grant* by Professor Nte and *Selecting Appropriate Experimental Designs, Preparation and Submission of Checklist, Project Management and Evaluation* by Des. Ekechi and Adesope. Highlight of the workshop was a lively interactive session and Award of Certificates to the workshop participants.

# Akpokodie Bows Out Gracefully As Pioneer NRES Director

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

**I**mmediate past Director of the Institute of Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainable Development (INRES), Professor Enusie Akpokodie, has attributed the success story recorded by the Institute during his tenure to the manner in which he built and sustained strategic partnerships with relevant local and international agencies, including the team spirit that existed amongst his colleagues.

Making the disclosure during an interview with a *UniPort Weekly* Correspondent last Wednesday, Professor Akpokodie noted that the strategic partnerships he forged formed part of efforts assigned to make the Institute a Centre of Excellence in multi and interdisciplinary studies in natural resources, environmental management and sustainability in Nigeria, Africa and beyond.

"As at May 2016, we had established 17 partnerships backed up with Memoranda of Understanding (MOU), including the University of Guelphburg and a draft MOU from the University of The Gambia which seeks to assist in the development of a new programme in Environmental Studies," he stated, adding that the inauguration of a Governing Board for the Institute also paved way for other laudable achievements that were recorded during his tenure.

The partnership with the Department of Technical Cooperation in Africa (DCTA), opened up sponsorship opportunities for eight students from other African countries. The second phase of the sponsorship would cater for 10 students from other African countries and two from Nigeria," Professor Akpokodie disclosed, expressing hope that the new leadership of the Institute would attract students from outside the African continent.

Commending the National Space Research and



Development Agency (NSRDA), for the partnership that enabled the Institute to use its facilities for the training of INRES students, Professor Akpokodie noted that the Institute needed a state-of-the-art Global Information System (GIS) and Satellite Imagery Laboratories to enhance teaching of GIS courses.

He ran a multidisciplinary programme that enables Lecturers, who are specialists in their subject areas to participate in the teaching of courses. With this arrangement, we were able to set up the Niger Delta Global Change Consortium (NDGCC), which brings together universities in the Niger Delta region onto a platform for joint research, project execution and other academic activities. This Consortium successfully

organized the first International Conference on Deltas and Rivers in Africa here in the University of Port Harcourt. The vision is to jointly address the environmental and socio-economic issues of the Niger Delta," the immediate past Director explained, pointing out that the fulfilment of the Conference was the establishment of the African Rivers and Deltas Network with headquarters in the University of Port Harcourt.

Expressing gratitude to the University Management for the facility that currently accommodates the Institute, Professor Akpokodie restated the need for a dedicated building for the Institute. "We thank the University for the opportunity to grow the Institute in its present state. We have been able to establish strategic partnerships that would enhance research and graduate training. We hope to improve on the programme in terms of delivery to be able to attract more students to the programme," he said, commending the immediate past Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka and the National Universities Commission Scholar in Diaspora, Professor Chidi Ibe for their valuable support and contributions towards the advancement of the Institute. It would be recalled that so far, a total of 54 students have graduated from the Institute. "I am very satisfied with the quality leadership I gave to the Institute and the partnerships we were able to forge with reputable bodies. Having served for two consecutive tenures in office, I feel that the Institute is now on a very strong footing to discharge its statutory responsibilities to all the stakeholders. My successor, Professor Ben Ndakwui, was my assistant and I am certain that he has the capacity to administer the Institute and continue to run high quality programmes in line with global best practice. I shall, of course, continue to teach courses in the Institute and assist in whatever capacity my services may be required by either my successor or University Management," Professor Akpokodie said.

# UniPort Resumes Academic Activities

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Students' Union leadership, pointing out that it was the responsibility of Senate to consider and make some compromises on the proposal by the students with a view to restoring normal academic activities to the University.

"The students had softened their initial hard line position for resumption of academic activities and it is our collective duty to ensure that the University is reopened. We have lost too much time already and Management had thoroughly reviewed the position of the students and decided

to table the matter before Senate for further consideration and possible approval." Professor Ike told the members, calling for impartial deliberation on the issues raised by the students in their letter.

In lifting the suspension on Student's Union activities and its affiliate bodies, Senate decided to further scrutinize the operational structure of the Union at a later date to streamline its activities in line with its enabling instrument. This followed observations by some members of Senate that the leadership of successive Students' Union had incrementally veered away from their statutory mandate of learning the rudiments of governance at that level.

Senate also accepted the two installmental

payments of charges as requested by the students with effect from the 2016/2017 session. On the contentious policy of "No Registration, No Examination", Senate also accepted the deferment of the policy to the Second Semester of the 2015/2016 academic session to enable all students proceed with their First Semester Examinations; while also accepting that "Peculiar Charges" in the various Faculties be looked into by the Management to ensure that students were not exploited.

Other concessions made by Senate were the

Management's previous proposal that they do so from their homes. Senate also agreed in principle to take into account a plea by the students for Management to be "considerate" in levying them for the damages they caused on University and private property during their protest of April 11, 2016.

Professor Ike also informed Senate that the Governing Council had set up a five-member Panel to investigate the finances of the University, informing it that two members of Senate were to be nominated to serve on the

Panel. Senate subsequently took nominations and appointed Professors Abdulrazzak Kilani of the Department of Religious and Cultural Studies and Barisua Nwince of the Department of Finance and Banking to serve on the Council Panel.

It would be recalled that at an Emergency Meeting held on Monday, April 11 2016 in the aftermath of the protest, Senate had directed the immediate closure of the University for an initial period of one month and summary suspension of the Students' Union. The violent protest was the students' response to Management's implementation of the "No Registration, No Examination" policy as directed by Senate of the University.



Senate in session.

proposal by the students to immortalize the Late Peter Ofurum with a property belonging to the Students' Union on Campus. Senate also approved the request for deferment for affected First Year students, who failed to meet all the stipulated conditions for their admission into the University. The apex academic policy-making body agreed that students with bona fide accommodation on Campus be allowed to write their First Semester Examinations from the hostels, as against

recalled that at an Emergency Meeting held on Monday, April 11 2016 in the aftermath of the protest, Senate had directed the immediate closure of the University for an initial period of one month and summary suspension of the Students' Union. The violent protest was the students' response to Management's implementation of the "No Registration, No Examination" policy as directed by Senate of the University.

## Gladys Cookey Daycare Centre Holds Maiden Open Day

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The Gladys Cookey Daycare Centre held its maiden Open Day activities last Thursday to provide an interactive forum between parents, pupils, staff and Management as part of efforts aimed at improving the standard of the school in line with the Montessori approach to learning.

Briefing UniPort Weekly on the new development, Head Mistress, Mrs. Veronica Ogbogbo, said the Open Day was initiated by Management to provide parents a rare opportunity to evaluate the quality of training provided by the school, as well as enable the parents to have a first-hand exposure of the classroom environment and recreational activities of their children.

"On a normal school day, parents are not allowed

into our classrooms; they simply drop off their children and pick them up after school. They do not have the opportunity to access the classroom conditions in which their children learn, neither do they see for themselves the learning processes that take place here. On this Open Day, parents and guardians are afforded an opportunity to watch the teachers and participate in other school activities such as playing with the children and feeding them," she noted.

UniPort Weekly Correspondent sampled the opinion of some parents who participated in the maiden Open Day activities of the school. Mrs. Blessing Onojajo-Brown: "From what I saw, they are doing very well and I have seen that the teachers are dedicated to their duties. The children are also performing excellently, while the school

environment is neat." Mrs. Charely Zezanne: "From the little observation that I have made here, they are doing very well. The teachers know the pupils by name and care about them beyond just teaching them. I have also learnt some new things myself as a parent. It was great fun." Asah Nicholas: "There is need to improve on the quality of services we are getting here. Most parents are financially handicapped. It should not be about increment of fees all the time, but quality services delivery by Management of the school." Mrs. Esther Shaka, Board Member of the School and Treasurer of the University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA): "I am also a parent and my children school here too. The Open Day was put together to enable parents interact with the school as part of the Montessori approach we have adopted. On this Open Day, parents are allowed to access the performance of their children and interact with the teachers. It is part of the innovations introduced by the new UPWA Executive to place the school on a level where it can compete favourably with its peers in other places.



Pupils of Gladys Cookey Daycare and their teachers.

### Our Error

On page 5 of Vol. 27, Edition 279 of UniPort Weekly dated May 30- June 6, 2016, Professor Eugene Onyeike, was erroneously referred to as Professor "Ebenzer" Onyeike. Also, Professor Onyeike, who is Chairman of the Senate Appeals Committee on Certificate Verification, presented the 16<sup>th</sup> Report of the Committee and NOT the 6<sup>th</sup> Report as we published in the same report. We regret the mix up. -EDITOR

# NIN REGISTRATION

**A**s part of efforts aimed at ensuring orderliness in the on-going National Identification Number Registration (NIN), the Management of the University has drawn up a schedule for staff to complete the exercise. A statement signed on behalf of the Registrar by the Director of Personnel Affairs, Dr. Dakuwa Charles-Granville, directed all staff to endeavour to register online at [www.ninportal.gov.ng](http://www.ninportal.gov.ng). The statement further directed staff to print out the document and present same at the registration venue to facilitate the process, advising all staff to strictly adhere to the schedule as nobody would be attended to on the days scheduled for other Departments and Unit. The schedule is as follows:

S/No	Faculty/Department/Unit	Date
1	Fac. of Agriculture (Dean's Office, Dept. of Crop & Soil Science)	6 <sup>th</sup> June, 2016
2	Fac. of Agriculture (Dept. of Agric. Toxic & Extension, Dept. of Animal Science)	7 <sup>th</sup> June, 2016
3	Fac. of Agriculture (Dept. of Fisheries, University Agric. Farm)	8 <sup>th</sup> June, 2016
4	Fac. of Agriculture (Institute of Agric. Research & Dev., Dept. of Forestry & Wildlife Mgt.)	9 <sup>th</sup> June, 2016
5	Bursary Department (Bursar's Office, Systems, Treasury, Payroll, Revenue Bureau)	10 <sup>th</sup> June, 2016
6	Bursary Department (Budget, Pension, Store, General Accounts)	13 <sup>th</sup> June, 2016
7	Press/Office, Fac. of Basic Med. Sciences (Anatomical Pathology, Chemical Pathology)	14 <sup>th</sup> June, 2016
8	Fac. of Basic Med. Sciences (Dean's Office, Medical Biochemistry, Physiology, Med. Microbiology & Parasitology)	15 <sup>th</sup> June, 2016
9	Fac. of Basic Med. Sciences (Human Anatomy, Histology & Blood Transfusion)	16 <sup>th</sup> June, 2016
10	Fac. of Basic Med. Sciences (Paediatrics & Child Health, Pharmacology)	17 <sup>th</sup> June, 2016
11	Fac. of Basic Med. Sciences (Medical Biochemistry, Medical Microbiology, Physiology)	20 <sup>th</sup> June, 2016
12	Faculty of Clinical Sciences (Dean's Office, Anesthesiology, Medicine, Mental Health)	21 <sup>st</sup> June, 2016
13	Faculty of Clinical Sciences (Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Paediatric & Social Medicine, Radiology)	22 <sup>nd</sup> June, 2016
14	Faculty of Clinical Sciences (Surgery)	23 <sup>rd</sup> June, 2016
15	Faculty of Law, Fac. of Veterinary (Dean's Office, Child Health, Health, Opt & Ophthalmology, Oral Pathology & Oral Biology, Veterinary Dentistry, Veterinary Radiology)	24 <sup>th</sup> June, 2016
16	Fac. of Humanities (Dean's Office, History & Diplomatic Studies)	25 <sup>th</sup> June, 2016
17	Fac. of Humanities (English Studies, Foreign Languages & Literature)	27 <sup>th</sup> June, 2016
18	Fac. of Humanities (Linguistics & Comms. Studies)	28 <sup>th</sup> June, 2016
19	Fac. of Humanities (Religion & Cultural Studies, Fine Arts & Design)	29 <sup>th</sup> June, 2016
20	Fac. of Humanities (Philosophy, Music)	30 <sup>th</sup> June, 2016
21	Fac. of Humanities (Theatre & Film Studies)	1 <sup>st</sup> July, 2016
22	Fac. of Education (Human Kinetics & Health Education, Educational Foundations & Counseling, Nonmedia Education, Library & Information Science)	4 <sup>th</sup> July, 2016
23	Fac. of Education (Human Kinetics & Health Education, Educational Foundations & Counseling, Nonmedia Education, Library & Information Science)	5 <sup>th</sup> July, 2016
24	Fac. of Education (Curriculum Studies & Educational Technology)	6 <sup>th</sup> July, 2016
25	Fac. of Education (Institute of Education, Edu. Psychology, Guidance & Counseling, Nonmedia Education, Library & Information Science)	7 <sup>th</sup> July, 2016
26	Fac. of Engineering (Educational Mgt. & Planning, Post N.E. Unit)	8 <sup>th</sup> July, 2016
27	Fac. of Engineering (Dean's Office, Mechanical Engineering)	9 <sup>th</sup> July, 2016
28	Fac. of Engineering (Petroleum Engineering, Gas Engineering)	10 <sup>th</sup> July, 2016
29	Fac. of Engineering (Civil Engineering, Instn. of Design & Engineering, Technology, Environmental Engineering)	12 <sup>th</sup> July, 2016
30	Fac. of Engineering (Mechanical Engineering, Science & Technology Workshop, Post N.E. Unit)	13 <sup>th</sup> July, 2016
31	Library Department (Library, Librarian's Office, Readers Service Unit)	15 <sup>th</sup> July, 2016
32	Library Department (Information Unit, Technical Unit)	18 <sup>th</sup> July, 2016
33	Vice-Chancellor's Office	19 <sup>th</sup> July, 2016
34	Office of the Vice-Chancellor's General House (2) Proc. Chancellor's Lodge	20 <sup>th</sup> July, 2016
35	Office of the DVC (Academic) (2) Office of the DVC (Academic), (3) Internal Audit Unit, (4) IPFR Unit, (5) Legal Unit	21 <sup>st</sup> July, 2016
36	Security Unit, (2) Physical Planning & Development Unit	22 <sup>nd</sup> July, 2016
37	University of the Sacred Theology, (2) Institute of Theology Studies, (3) Information Studies	25 <sup>th</sup> July, 2016
38	School of Graduate Studies	26 <sup>th</sup> July, 2016
39	Health Services Department	27 <sup>th</sup> July, 2016

S/No	Faculty/Department/Unit	Date
40	Registry Department (Registry Office, Establishments, Housing Unit, SSOI Office, Junior Staff Office)	28 <sup>th</sup> July, 2016
41	Registry Department (Personal Office/Auditors), Exams Affairs, Pension & Relief Office	29 <sup>th</sup> July, 2016
42	Registry Department (Academic Office, Exams & Records Unit, Exams Unit)	1 <sup>st</sup> August, 2016
43	Registry Department (Admissions Office, Staff Training Unit)	2 <sup>nd</sup> August, 2016
44	Faculty of Management Sciences (Dean's Office, Accounting)	3 <sup>rd</sup> August, 2016
45	Faculty of Management Sciences (Management, Hospitality Mgt. & Tourism, Management, Marketing, Finance & Banking, Hospitality Mgt. & Tourism)	4 <sup>th</sup> August, 2016
46	Faculty of Management Sciences (Marketing, Finance & Banking)	5 <sup>th</sup> August, 2016
47	School of General Studies, Basic Studies Unit, R.T.C.	8 <sup>th</sup> August, 2016
48	Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences (Dean's Office, Clinical Pharmacy & Med.)	9 <sup>th</sup> August, 2016
49	Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences (Pharmaceutical & Med. Chemistry, Pharmacokinetics & Pharm. Technology, Pharmacognosy & Phytotherapy)	10 <sup>th</sup> August, 2016
50	Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences (Pharm. Microbiology & Biotechnology, Experimental Pharmacy & Toxicology)	11 <sup>th</sup> August, 2016
51	Student Affairs	12 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> Aug.
52	Warden & Services Department	17 <sup>th</sup> Aug., 2016
53	University Demonstration Primary School (UDPS)	22 <sup>nd</sup> August, 2016
54	Fac. of Social Sciences (Dean's Office, Geography & Env. Management)	23 <sup>rd</sup> August, 2016
55	Fac. of Social Sciences (Political & Admin. Studies, Economics)	24 <sup>th</sup> August, 2016
56	Fac. of Social Sciences (Sociology, Centre for Ethnic & Conflict Studies, Centre for Logistics & Transport Studies)	25 <sup>th</sup> August, 2016
57	Fac. of Science (Dean's Office, Computer Science)	30 <sup>th</sup> August, 2016
58	Fac. of Science (Animal & Env. Biology)	29 <sup>th</sup> August, 2016
59	Fac. of Science (Biochemistry)	30 <sup>th</sup> August, 2016
60	Fac. of Science (Microbiology)	31 <sup>st</sup> August, 2016
61	Fac. of Science (Plant Science & Biotechnology)	1 <sup>st</sup> Sept., 2016
62	Fac. of Science (Physics)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept., 2016
63	Fac. of Science (Mathematics & Statistics) (2) School of Science Lab. Tech.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept., 2016
64	Fac. of Science (Zoology)	6 <sup>th</sup> Sept., 2016
65	Fac. of Science (Pure & Ind. Chemistry)	7 <sup>th</sup> Sept., 2016
66	College of Continuing Education (CCE)	8 <sup>th</sup> Sept., 2016
67	Faculty of Law (2) Academic Planning Unit, (3) Procurement Unit	9 <sup>th</sup> Sept., 2016
68	Information & Comm. Technology Centre (ICTC) (2) Basic Studies Unit	12 <sup>th</sup> Sept., 2016
69	Campus Environment Beautification & Sanitation (CEBAS) (2) Fire Service	13 <sup>th</sup> Sept., 2016
70	Energy Services Unit (2) Centre for Petroleum Sciences (CPS), Centre for Research & Dev. (4) Internal Energy Institute, (5) Centre for Marine Research, (6) Institute of Arts & Culture	14 <sup>th</sup> Sept., 2016
71	Sports Complex (2) Sports Institute (3) Centre for Research Management (4) Central Instrumentation Laboratory (5) Central Community Service (6) NWES (7) University Museum	15 <sup>th</sup> Sept., 2016
72	National Centre for Marine Pollution (2) Environmental Centre (3) Institute of Super Delta Studies (4) Outreach Local Affiliates (5) Intellectual Property & Technology Transfer (6) Professional Ethics Committee (PEC) (7) Exchange & Linkage Programme (8) CODEC	16 <sup>th</sup> Sept., 2016
73	University Technology Park (2) Uniport Press Limited (3) Centre for Disaster Risk Management & Dev. (4) Banagras Taka Institute (5) Centre for Child Dev. & Communication (6) Centre for Information & Communication (7) Centre for Occupational Health & Safety (8) Centre for Gender Studies (9) Centre for Natural Resources Res.	19 <sup>th</sup> Sept., 2016
74	All other Centres & Institutes not mentioned above	20 <sup>th</sup> Sept., 2016

## STOP PRESS ANNUAL BIRTHDAY CHECK

**A**cting Director of the Health Services Department, Dr. Chinwe Ezirim, has requested Chairmen of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU), National Association of Academic Technologists (NAAT) and Non-Academic Staff Union (NASU), to furnish the Department with information about their members to facilitate the annual birthday checks of staff.

A statement dated June 2, 2016, signed by the Director and made available to UniPort Weekly, stated that the information required included: Name of staff, date of birth (year of birth is optional), phone numbers and e-mail addresses, adding that softcopies of the information should be sent to: [rhoda.alasa@gmail.com](mailto:rhoda.alasa@gmail.com) and [healthservices@uniport.edu.ng](mailto:healthservices@uniport.edu.ng).

## NPSA CONFERENCE

**T**he 30<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the National Political Science Association (NPSA) will hold at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium from Monday, June 27 to Tuesday, June 28, 2016. The theme of the Conference is *Elections, Security Challenges and African Development*.

Contact: Local Organising Committee: 88075111856.

## NAEAP 3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL CHAPTER CONFERENCE

The University of Port Harcourt Chapter of the Nigerian Association for Educational Administration and Planning, held its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium from Tuesday, May 3, to Friday, May 5, 2016, with Management of Safety and Health for Service Delivery: the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Imperative as its theme. Our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU**, captured highlights of the Conference.



Vice-Chancellor's Representative, Prof. Alice Nte, welcoming the Keynote Speaker, Prof. Godwin Akpa, to the University



Prof. Nte declaring the conference open on behalf of the V-C, Prof. Ndewu Lale



Dean, Faculty of Education, Prof. Lawrence Igwe, making a speech



Ag. Head, Department of Educational Management, Dr. Nath Abraham, making a remark



Chairman, Local Organising Committee, Dr. Gospel Kpee, welcoming guests



Prof. Akpa delivering the Keynote Speech



Prof. Mon Nwadiani delivering a Lead Paper



Dr. Kingsley Douglas delivering a Lead Paper on behalf of the Provost, College of Health Sciences, Prof. Christie Mazi



One of the Lead Paper presenters, Prof. Obianuju Oka



Mrs. Mercy Nzokarum delivering a Lead Paper



A cross-sections of the participants

L-R: Dr. Douglas, Prof. Oka, Igwe, Sam Nwideduh, Akpa and Nte, and Prof. Nwadiani