

UniPort Weekly

Vol. 29, Edition 296 September 26 - October 3, 2016

For Information and Enlightenment

ISSN: 1522-2225

A Publication of the Information, Publications and Public Relations Unit, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria

Nkaginieme Calls For Paradigm Shift In Medical Education At Rebranded Coffee Hour Lecture

Professor of Paediatrics, Kanu Nkaginieme, literally stirred still waters last Tuesday, when he robustly advocated the need for a more proactive and result-oriented approach in the teaching of medicine to bring it in line with current realities in other parts of the world, reports *Obinna Nvodim*.

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Side Bar 425th SENATE MEETING

The 425th meeting of the Senate would hold this Wednesday, September 28, 2016 at the Senate Chambers, University Park.

Details Next Week

~Editor

EU Ambassador, Stakeholders End Interactive Session On Environmental Crisis

By Otokor Samuel

As the activities of man continue to rupture the ozone layer, leading to climate change and other environmental crises, several global networks and agencies have stepped up awareness campaigns on how to save the planet for future generations. This was the main objective of the visit of the Head of European Union Delegation to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Ambassador Michel Arrión and other environmental activists to the University of Port Harcourt on Thursday, September 15, 2016. The visit which was facilitated by the Centre for Disaster Risk Management and Development

Studies in concert with the Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Foundation and other development partners had, *Nowhere to Run: Nigeria's Climate and Environmental Crisis* as its theme.

Speaking to an audience made up of Management, staff, students and environmental campaigners at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, the EU diplomat

commended the students for turning up in large numbers for the event, stating that youths represented the most important audience for the heightened awareness campaign aimed at saving the environment.

"I would want to make some facts very clear. The first point is that climate change

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NIAS Inducts 520 Animal Scientists



PSN Re-Elects Chuemere As President



EEI Partners IPELP On Graduate Programme



NISLT Designates UniPort Zonal Training Centre



NIAS Inducts 520 Animal Scientists At Joint Confab In UniPort

...As Senator Kaka Bemoans Govt Policy On Agriculture

By Orikor Samuel

A total of 520 Animal Scientists from across the country, including five from the University of Port Harcourt, were admitted into membership of the Nigerian Institute of Animal Science (NIAS) at the 8th Induction Ceremony of the Institute which held alongside the 5th Joint Annual Meeting of the Animal Science Association of Nigeria (ASAN) at the Ebitimi Banglo Auditorium, University Park between Sunday, 18th and Thursday, 22nd September, 2016.

Given a breakdown of the figure, President of NIAS, Professor Israel Adu, disclosed that 364 of the new Animal Scientists were inducted as Graduate Animal Scientists, 24 as Associate Animal Scientists, 119 as Registered Animal Scientists, while 13 Registered Animal Scientists were inducted as Fellows of the College of Animal Scientists of Nigeria.

Firstwise Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Research and Development, Professor Beke Willie Abbey, was among the 13 RAS admitted into the Fellowship of NIAS. The new Fellows were adorned with academic robes at the colourful event and charged to mentor younger entrants into the profession and propagate the interest of the Institute.

Chief Judge of Rivers State, Justice Adama Iyayi-Lamikanra, represented by a Deputy Registrar in the High Court, Sir Chukwuma Mark, administered the

industry should be the watchword of every stakeholder in the business of animal agriculture. It is on this premise that I consider the theme of this year's conference: "Repositioning Animal Agriculture in a Dwindling Oil Economy" as one of the sure approaches to transforming the downtrodden States and national economy," the Governor said in his address.

Similarly, a Director in the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. John Taiwo, who stood in for the Minister of Agriculture, Chief Audu Ogbeh, expressed the commitment of the Federal Government to growing the agricultural sector.

"Necessary steps are being taken by the Federal Government as regards ending hunger in Nigeria. Several meetings are being held to ensure that the 2016 budget is fully implemented, especially as it concerns the sector. This budget will include soft loans to prospective farmers who may wish to further the course of agriculture. Nigerians look forward to a brighter future with agriculture and we are sure to get there," the Minister said.

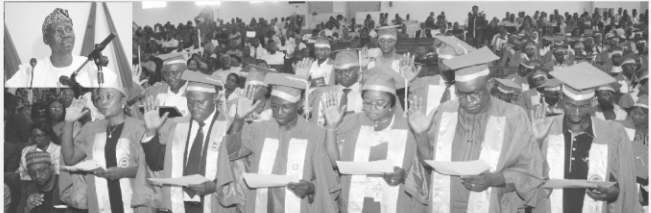
In his keynote address entitled: *Repositioning of Animal Agriculture in a Dwindling Oil Economy*, a Senator of the 7th National Assembly, Adegbeniga Kaka, lambasted Government at all levels for neglecting animal agriculture in preference for crops.

"Lip service has been paid by all tiers of Government to

embarking on an aggressive revitalisation of four key sectors, namely: agriculture, energy generation and supplies, education and resolution of the Niger Delta crisis.

In his goodwill message, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, who spoke through the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, recalled some of the steps taken by the University to advance the teaching of agriculture through the provision of a stable environment for quality research, charging participants to propagate the practical aspects of the sector, in addition to exposing the trainees to mechanised agricultural techniques.

"I am pleased to announce that the Senate of this University approved the establishment of the Department of Animal Science in 2014, which demerged from the then Department of Animal Science and Fisheries. The separation has placed Animal Science as an important specialisation in this University, and I am pleased to know that the young Department is competing with older professional programmes in the University. The young Department of Animal Science is fast developing in the University to compete with other professional programmes established several years ago. Let me seize the opportunity to appeal to the Institute to assist the University as it strives to develop a more robust Department of Animal Science, particularly



A cross-section of the Inductees during the swearing in ceremony. Inset: Keynote Speaker, Senator Kaka

Oath of Allegiance on the new Inductees, while the President, Professor Adu, thereafter admitted the Inductees into the Institute, admonishing them to abide by the ethics of the profession.

"You are now certified as agents trained in the knowledge of providing adequate food and production of animals, taking into consideration food security that will cater for the needs of the nation. Believe in yourself; don't allow anyone to undermine you; live by our ethics as professionals, know your responsibilities by reading the NIAS Act and explore the powers and responsibilities therein. The nation is facing tough challenges at this point in time; seize the moment and explore opportunities in the profession so that we can collectively contribute to nation-building," the NIAS President advised the new Inductees.

In his speech, Governor Nyesom Wike, who was represented by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Barrister Onimim Jacks, expressed optimism that bringing the conference to Port Harcourt would attract significant improvements in the agricultural sector of the State and the rest of the country.

"It is a well-established fact that the major source of protein for most Nigerian households is from the animal source. This implies that the animal industry contributes immensely to the average households' nutritional needs, as well as holds the potential to transform the Nigerian economy. Therefore, improving and harnessing the potentials of the Nigerian animal

Agriculture over the last five decades as the last key of the bunch to open the door for economic prosperity and meaningful livelihood. It is very convenient to use agriculture as the weeping baby with despicable resource allocation of between 2-3%, consistently for many years, as our annual national budget to this critical sector. Even after the 2003 Maputo declaration that recommended a minimum of 10% for 5 years till 2008, the situation remained with paltry sums, barely enough to address the agricultural needs of farming communities in five Local Governments of the 774 LGAs in the country," Senator Kaka said, condemning what he described as policy somersaults resulting from selfish, parochial, sectional and political considerations by the ruling elite.

"Our animal agriculture has been brutally challenged by all manner of centrifugal and centripetal forces from both within and without the industry. The dwindling oil economy has only helped to bring to the fore these challenges," he lamented, pointing out that "With purposefully planned agricultural development, especially animal agriculture, the Medical Doctors will have reduced challenges from malnutrition, balanced diet will ensure resistance to most diseases, our gross domestic product will have continuous leap and positive growth, unemployment will be reduced to the barest minimum."

The keynote speaker tasked all stakeholders to rise to the challenges of saving the nation's economy by

when you are invited to assess our facilities for accreditation purposes. As a foremost research-intensive Entrepreneurial University, the University of Port Harcourt is highly committed to promoting agriscience through Animal Agriculture," the Vice-Chancellor said in his address.

The goodwill speech from the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE), was delivered by Dr. Ibrahim Rufai, while President of ASAN, Mr. Taiwo Adeye, also presented an address on behalf of the umbrella body which also held its 21st Annual General Meeting as part of the conference.

Additional report by Udochi Omeike

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Nkaginieme made the call while delivering the rebranded *Coffee Hour Lecture* of the Department of Curriculum Studies and Educational Technology, Faculty of Education which held at the Amatu Braide Theatre Hall.

The Guest Lecturer whose paper was entitled: *Paradoxes and the Nigerian Underdevelopment Mentality: The Need for Paradigm Shifts on the Wings of Change in the Medical Sector*, robustly argued that the Faculties of Education have not done enough for medical education mentoring in Nigeria, hence the need for a paradigm shift. Highlighting a number of factors which he described as pointers to national and institutional contradictions, the former Dean of the Faculty of Clinical Sciences in the College of Health Sciences, called on Faculties of Education in the country to rise up to the occasion and claim their statutory institutional role in the critical educational sector in general and mentorship of medical education in particular.

He also called on academic physicians to shake off complacency and the penchant to remain in their zone of convenience and embrace humility, responsibility and accountability or risk extinction in professional practice. He reasoned that in the globalised knowledge environment of today, educationists bore a serious responsibility to key into medical education in such a functional manner that would make them relevant in the scheme of things, rather than ringside spectators.

Professor Nkaginieme, who also noted that "some viable paradigm shifts have been touted to stimulate superior argument for collective professional advancement," also pointed out that "institutions with an eye on the quality of their finished products treat their entrants like golden eggs, as well as give mentorship and alumni relations topmost priority if they wish to survive."

He stated: "This is the reason why the Return on Investment (ROI) rankings hold sway in money-driven economies and the

Nkaginieme Calls For Paradigm Shift In Medical Education

University of Port Harcourt can become such an institution."

In his opening remarks, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, expressed delight at the resuscitation of the *Coffee Hour Lecture Series*, pointing out that the topic of the Lecture was apt, considering the colonial mentality of some scholars, which he said had resulted in lack of economic growth. "We are happy about the interdisciplinary lecture series designed to bring *Town and Gown* together to cross-fertilize ideas," congratulating the Acting Head of Department for bringing back the Lecture Series to serve as a template to solve societal problems.

Also speaking, Dean of the Faculty of Education, Professor Lawrence Igwe, who was represented by the Associate Dean, Dr. Clara Odele, commended the Department for rebranding the Lecture Series, urging other Departments in the Faculty to emulate the good

example. He said: "The *Coffee Hour Lecture Series* affords us a rare opportunity to share experience with eminent scholars from different professional backgrounds," promising the Faculty's support in continuing the series.

Earlier in her welcome address, Acting Head of the Department, Dr. Ahmed Mumin, said: "The initial concept of the *Coffee Hour Lecture Series* is to link the University, as well as different Departments and Faculties within the University together to provide a fertile ground for functional interdisciplinary interaction and application of knowledge to solve problems in the University in particular and the society in general."

The event which was attended by scholars from the Faculty, as well as other Faculties and Graduate students, featured a lively interactive session that further ventilated the issues raised by the Guest Speaker.



A cross-section of participants at the event. Inset: Guest Lecturer, Prof Nkaginieme

PSN Re-Elects Chuemere As President, Inducts Him Into Fellowship

By Williams Wodi

The University's robust leadership role in professional and learned organisations has again been recognised with the re-election of Professor Arthur Chuemere of the Department of Human Physiology as National President of the Physiological Society of Nigeria (PSN). He was also inducted into the Fellowship of the Society.

The re-election and induction of Professor Chuemere took place at the joint 7th International Congress of the African Association of Physiological Sciences and 36th

Annual Meeting of the Physiological Sciences which held in Lagos between September 5 and 8, 2016, under the Chairmanship of the President of the World Congress of the International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS), Professor Denis Noble.

The scientific conference and workshops with the theme: "Physiology and Biotechnology," according to Professor Chuemere, were designed to provide a veritable template for quality research in biomedical sciences and medical education for sustainable development in Nigeria and the rest of the African continent.

Briefing a *UniPort Weekly* Correspondent on the outcome

of the Congress that attracted participants from all parts of the world, Professor Chuemere disclosed that plans have reached advanced stages to establish three professional bodies to be known as the Physiological Council of Nigeria, the Nigeria Society of Biomedical Sciences, as well as the Biomedical Sciences Council of Nigeria, respectively, to cater for the professionalisation of Physiology and Biomedical Sciences in Nigeria.

"The Forum attracted leading experts in the study of the logic of life, emerging technologies, and ideas in the development and dissemination of research, learning, teaching and training of future Physiologists. The workshop and symposia focused on the incorporation of cutting-edge technology that would enable Physiologists to develop practical laboratory skills, while also allowing them to gain theoretical understanding of the specialisation," the President told our Correspondent.

Professor Chuemere further disclosed that the techniques and workshops provided valuable interactive arena among experts in the academia, hospital managers, the private sector and government agencies on emergent state-of-the-art equipment in use by Physiologists, stressing the need to establish a National Research Fund that would help the Society to revolutionise medical and technological practice in Nigerian universities.

"The 2017 Annual Scientific Meeting and World Congress of the International Union of Physiological Sciences will be hosted by the Kaduna State University, Nigeria and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, respectively, while the International Congress of the African Association of the Physiological Sciences is expected to hold in Khartoum, Sudan in 2020," the National President disclosed.

He regretted that African Physiologists did not convene a Congress since the Association was founded over 28 years ago, assuring all stakeholders that concerted efforts were being made to regenerate the body to offer the required robust leadership in the country and on the African continent that would take Physiological practice and education to the next level.

Promising to use his Presidency and Fellowship to transform the Department of Physiology into a centre of excellence, Professor Chuemere further added that the objective was to create more public awareness about the importance of Physiology in medical innovation and education in the University of Port Harcourt and beyond.



Prof Chuemere (right), receiving the Plaque from Prof Noble

Three months after commencing six projects executed by Acting Head of the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Dr. Baridila Isaac, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor Femi Shaka was invited back to the Department to unveil a refurbished hall named in memory of Nigeria's acclaimed Linguistics Matriarch and Mother of the Department, Professor Kay Williamson.

It would be recalled that Professor Williamson arrived Nigeria from the United Kingdom in the mid-1950s to study the unique linguistic features of the Niger Delta dialects in mostly inhospitable creeks and riverlets; a daunting task she dutifully combined with amazing philanthropy and mentorship of younger academics. Speaking before unveiling the *Kay Williamson PhD Lecture Hall* on the first floor of the Departmental building at the University Park, the Dean, once again, commended the Acting Head of Department for his innovations and developmental strides aimed at making the Department conducive for teaching, learning and research, calling on his colleagues in other Departments to copy the commendable trend.

In his speech, the Acting HOD, Dr. Isaac disclosed that the PhD Lecture Hall was refurbished to honour Professor Williamson for her remarkable pioneering work in Linguistics and contributions to the development of the Department.

"The Lecture Hall was refurbished in order to accord our doctoral candidates a special treatment that would enable them carry out high impact research in a conducive environment that befits their status. We intend to mount cable television and Internet facilities for them, in addition to tea-break which we provide for them on every lecture day as part of the respect due our PhD candidates."

"Also, you will recall that Professor Philomena Ejele recently resumed work after her Sabbatical Leave at Federal University, Otuoke, Bayelsa State. Her absence created a huge vacuum in our manpower base here and we are glad that she is back. We decided to put these two events together to honour the two great women, one of who set the Department on a right footing before her demise, while the other is still doing excellently well," Dr. Isaac said.



Prof Ejele (1st right) flanked by Prof. Ndimele, immediate past Ag. HOD, Dr. Onumajuru, sitting Ag. HOD, Dr. Isaac (right), Drs. Esther Oweleke, Nwachukwu (left) and other Lecturers of the Dept

LCS Dept Names Lecture Hall After Linguistics Prodigy Kay Williamson, Fetes Ejele

By Otiakor Samuel

Speaking as Chairman of the occasion, an academic progeny of late Professor Kay Williamson, Professor Ozo-mekuri Ndimele, commended the Acting Head of Department for the honour done the female academics, whose efforts contributed immensely to the growth of the Department.

Extolling Professor Ejele, Ndimele recalled that he met Professor Ejele about 28 years ago on a private visit to the University of Calabar and later in the University as a staff of the Department in 1989.

"She was not one of my teachers in this University, but she is like an informal teacher to me. I have been closely associated with her over the years and have learnt so much from her. She went on Sabbatical Leave when I was Dean of the Faculty and when she renewed her stay at Federal University Otuoke for four years, I protested seriously to the Vice-Chancellor because we seriously needed her quality services here. I am happy that we have her back," he said, describing Professor Ejele as a great mentor who related well with colleagues and students.

Responding, Professor Ejele, who was overwhelmed with joy for the reception which attracted a huge turnout of admirers, recounted some of her experiences at Otuoke and how she contributed in securing full

accreditation for five programmes as Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

"I am particularly grateful to Professor Ndimele for making time to be here despite his tight schedule. We knew each other way back. He was like a younger brother to me then. I didn't know that I was going to return because of some pressing needs I was addressing at Otuoke. One year went into two years and until the fourth year. The rule allowed for a maximum of five years, but I was under pressure there. The absence of Professor Shirley Yak-Hoole and the demise of Professor 'Nolue Emenajor compelled me to come back. I knew that my colleagues here seriously wanted me back and I am happy to be back," she said.

In their separate goodwill messages, staff and students extolled the mentorship qualities of Professor Ejele, expressing happiness that she finally rejoined them. Drs. Roselline Alorochi, Sanny Mbariz, Faustinus Nwachukwu and Chris Osonogor and students, amongst other younger academics, took turns to shower encomium on Professor Ejele, describing her as a great teacher, who discharged her duties with the fear of God and admirable sense of responsibility. They commended her for combining the demands of the academia with a stable home front that belied the widely-held misconception about most senior female academics.

Emerald Energy Institute Partners PEP On Graduate Programme

By Obinna Nwodin

Following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in September 2015, the authorities of the University of Port Harcourt and the Institute for Petroleum, Energy Law and Policy have commenced a joint Master of Science degree programme in Petroleum, Energy Economics, Management and Policy.

Presenting the new programme to the Vice-Chancellor during a courtesy visit on Thursday, September 15, 2016, Chief Executive Officer of the Institute, Dr. Timothy Okon, disclosed that the objective for entering

into the MoU was to offer students a multi-disciplinary approach required to take up positions in the oil and gas sector. He said that the partnership would also build the needed capacity that would enable graduates of the programme to meet global standards.

"Nigeria has attained intellectual maturity and professional competence that it now has the capacity to export human resources to other countries in dire need of what we can offer them, especially on the African continent," Dr. Okon said, at the MoU signing ceremony, adding that the Institute represented a bridge between the academia and the industry. He commended the Management of the University of Port

Harcourt and Emerald Energy Institute for approving the partnership, stating that the programme was envisioned to extend benefits to the Abuja populace without undermining the quality that had already been established in Port Harcourt.

Responding, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ike, who represented the Vice-Chancellor at the occasion, commended the initiative as a worthy venture, advising the partners to maintain and even surpass the high standards already established by the Emerald Energy Institute. "It is our hope that the new partnership would be of mutual benefit to both the University and the Abuja-based Institute and we want you to maintain the very high standards already set by the Emerald Energy Institute here," he stated, pledging continued support from Management of the University that would enable the partnership to attain even greater heights.

Earlier in his remarks, Director of the Emerald Energy Institute, Professor Wumi Ifeare, had told the gathering that the new partnership was approved by the National Universities Commission following a request made by the University through the EEL in 2015 to that effect, disclosing that a total of 25 candidates have already been admitted into the programme.

"I wish to reassure all the stakeholders that we will not compromise on the very high standards we have set in the programme here, even as we take it to Abuja. I also wish to express gratitude to all those who made various contributions towards ensuring that due process was followed in actualizing the partnership," Professor Ifeare said. Also present at the MoU signing ceremony was the President of the Abuja-based Institute, Mr. Niyi Daniels.



Dr VC (Admin), Prof Ike (seated centre) flanked by CEO of the Institute for Petroleum, Energy Law and Policy, Dr. Okon (3rd right), other Principal Officers of the University and the Institute

Yet another cheering news came the way of the University last Tuesday following the designation of the School of Science Laboratory Technology (SSLT) as a Coordinating Centre for Professional Membership Training Examinations by the Nigeria Institute for Science Laboratory Technology (NISLT) in the South-South and South-East Zones of the country.

This thrilling news was broken when the visiting NISLT delegation on assessment of laboratory facilities in the University, paid a courtesy visit on the Vice-Chancellor at the Committee Room to interact with Management on the modalities for appraising the SSLT programme. Leader of the delegation, Mr. Okunlede Abiola, disclosed that the University was chosen alongside the Universities of Ibadan, Jos and Maladuguri for the other zones, describing UniPort as a critical stakeholder in the activities of the Institute. He commended the authorities of the University for what he described as the quality training imparted to graduates of the SSLT programme, explaining that feedback so far received from the monitoring team of the Institute confirmed the professional competence of graduates of the University in practice.

"We wish to inform you that NISLT is very pleased with the quality of graduates produced by the University of Port Harcourt, and our hope is that you would strive to maintain and even surpass the high standards you have set for yourselves here. We have confirmation that your graduates are doing well in professional practice and this confirmation is based on the favourable reports on their performance received by our monitoring teams in the field," he stated.

In his response, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, who represented the Vice-Chancellor at

NISLT Designates UniPort Zonal Professional Membership Training Centre

By Obinna Nwodin

the occasion, described the visit as timely, expressing gratitude to the Institute's leadership for selecting the University as a coordinating Centre for its professional examinations. "This cheering development is indicative of the fact that the authorities of the University are very serious in what we are doing in terms of quality education for our students, and we wish to assure you that we will continue to support the NISLT programme here," Professor Ibe told the delegation.

Earlier in her speech, Dean of SSLT, Professor Grace Awi-Waadu, said that the selection of the School as a

Coordinating Centre for NISLT examinations meant that the School would henceforth prepare candidates who wish to register for the professional examinations to become members of the Institute without having to travel long distances to be part of the process.

Also speaking, Coordinator of the Physics Electronics/Production option in the School, Dr. Chukwuemeka Ehirim, expressed gratitude to the Management of the University for the support it had extended to the SSLT programme over the years, expressing hope that the School would continue to be a centre of excellence in laboratory science technology in the country.



Dr. C (Admin), Prof. Ibe (3' left), Leader of the NISLT delegation, Mr. Abiola flanked by Principal Officers of the University and other NISLT officials

V-C Praises Sikoki For Initiating Monthly Technical Seminar Series On Marine Pollution

By Otiok Samuel

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lule, has showered praises on the Director of the Centre for Marine Pollution Monitoring and Seafloor Safety (CMPMS), Professor Francis Sikoki, for positioning the Centre to improve regional capabilities in the use of nuclear techniques to assess contamination of marine environments on the African continent.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Itakem Fashehinmi, made the commendation when he represented the Vice-Chancellor at the maiden Monthly Technical Seminar held on Friday, September 16, 2016 at the new Auditorium of the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, University Park.

"The decision to start the seminar is apt because researchers all over the world are engaging in multidisciplinary research to solve problems in the society. I am delighted to hear that some high technology equipment have been acquired to enable the Centre intensify research in seafloor pollution, so the time is most auspicious in use the seminar series to share ideas that would attract other researchers to key into the important activities of the Centre."

"It is on that note that I want to thank Professor Sikoki and the Centre for initiating this important seminar series in the Department. I want to encourage you to sustain the seminar for the advancement of knowledge in and outside the University environment," Professor Fashehinmi charged the participants.

In his presentation entitled: "History, Objectives and Achievements of the IAEA Technical Cooperation Projects: RAI/7/008, 009, 012/014 and 015 in Nigeria," Professor Sikoki, who is also National Coordinator of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Technical Cooperation projects, said the seminar series would publicise the activities of the Centre amongst researchers and further engage stakeholders on multidisciplinary research approach. He called on researchers to key into the abundant opportunities that existed in the Centre to improve the quality of their work.

"Funding of the projects is provided by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) under its Technical Cooperation programme with the Federal Government of Nigeria. Its operation includes: research, marine pollution and seafloor safety monitoring, capacity development and information dissemination," the Director further disclosed.

With a mission to enhance human capacity for the development of nuclear energy techniques for the assessment of contamination in the marine environment, and "vision to serve as a centre of excellence for the training of highly capable scientists in the application of nuclear techniques for marine pollution assessment and to conduct research on the conservation and protection of the nation's living marine resources, the Director expressed satisfaction that no fewer than 36 scientists and technologists had so far benefitted from the capacity building programmes.

"The Centre has a dedicated laboratory at the Offrima Hall complex and also plans to establish another one at the Centre

for Nuclear Energy Studies. Specialized equipment include research boat, inverted microscope, alpha spectrometer, alpha spec PUMP, UV-Visible spectroscopy, mercury analyzer, water checker, sediment corer, etc. The Centre also has a field station at Kalamama in Bayelsa State." The Director said, adding that the Centre offers opportunities for collaborations with various stakeholders, including environmental regulatory agencies, research institutions, national oil corporations and development partners. He further disclosed that the Centre also had existing partnership agreements with the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), National Institute for Freshwater Fisheries Research (NIFRR) and the Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research (NIOMR).

Professor Sikoki said that some of the research activities of the Centre concentrated on the reconstruction of pollution history of the coastal waters of the country. "The pollution history of the coastal waters of Nigeria directly reflects anthropogenic perturbations at various periods during the last 80 years or thereabout. Based on sediment accumulation and sedimentation rates from 1942 to the present, we were able to identify five peaks of environmental perturbations in 1972, 1978, 1987, 2005 and 2009. A significant feature of these disturbances is that the environment was able to return to its pre-disturbance state and in fact in 2004, it even attained its pristine condition," he said, pointing out that the results of the non-radioactive pollutants indicated that the coastal zones had considerable amounts of heavy metals, nutrients, organochlorides and hydrocarbons in the water, sediment and biota.

He disclosed that the establishment of the RAF projects was a significant development in efforts aimed at adopting an integrated approach to strengthening the country's marine environment monitoring programmes with the objective of

providing the basic information needed for protecting the human and ecosystem health.

Earlier in his address, an Associate Researcher in the Centre, Dr. Kingsley Patrick-Iwuanyanwu, stated that the results from research activities in the Centre provided a comprehensive source of marine pollution stocks in the country which could be used for the formulation of policies and verifying compliance with local and international environmental regulations, laws and treaties.

Another presentation on the Centre's activities was made by Dr. Bolaji Babatunde.



Dr. C (Academic), Prof. Fashehinmi (arrowed) flanked by immediate past HoD, AEB, Prof. Florence Ndaka (right), Dean, School of Graduate Studies, Prof. Regina Ogali, Centre Director, Prof. Sikoki (F and T' left) and other staff

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is real—we have scientific evidence to prove it; so don't be deceived by those who still claim that it is not real. Another fact to note is that climate change is unique in the sense that it is a global phenomenon that impacts on all; whether developed or developing countries. We are at the beginning of global warming, so what we can do is to mitigate the effects, but climate change is unavoidable. It is uniquely irreversible. The only thing we can do is to deploy the right technology to mitigate its effects," the Diplomat recommended.

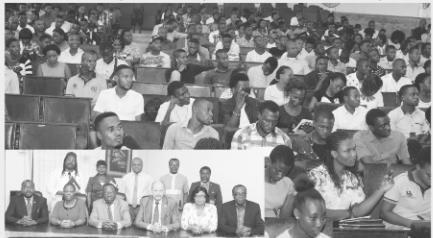
Mr. Arrión, who disclosed that the European Union was fully committed to efforts aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change on member states, revealed that a total of 189 countries had joined forces and resources to tackle the global environmental crises and would soon sign and ratify an agreement aimed at implementing and monitoring measures aimed at cushioning the adverse effects of global warming and its impact on humans.

Some of the steps designed to mitigate the effects of global warming, according to him, would include "proactive steps to stop gas flaring, resort to solar power and other better means of energy generation, use of mass transit and stoppage of motorcycles, cars and taxis which generate more carbon monoxide that degrade the environment, use of smart forms of agriculture, fertilizer application and reforestation," the Ambassador told the audience, promising that the EU would play its own part to ensure success.

In his welcome address, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, commended the Head of the European Union Delegation to Nigeria and ECOWAS for personally coming to the University to sensitize the community on the dangers which climate change portended to future generations.

"We are here for one purpose—to create awareness about climate change. If we don't leave this fragile planet better than we met it, we should, at least, not degrade the environment for future generations

EU Ambassador, Stakeholders End Interactive Session On Environmental Crisis



A cross-section of the participants. Inset: DV-C (Admin), Prof. Ibe, EU Ambassador, Mr. Arrión (4th and 3rd right), some Principal, Senior Officers of the University and members of civil society

coming after us. To stress how important this event is, the Ambassador came here ahead of the climate change week, which I consider a pleasant coincidence. As we listen to the environmental campaigners gathered here today, let us think of how to make positive change to preserve our little corners of the environment for the next generations" the Deputy Vice-Chancellor charged the audience.

Foremost environmental activist, Naimmo Bassey of the Health of Mother Earth Foundation introduced the frightening one hour film footage on the looming environmental crisis entitled: *Nowhere to Run*:

Nigeria's Climate and Environmental Crisis.

Other activists, who spoke at the event which later dissolved into a technical session included the Director of Public Policy Initiative at the *Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Foundation*, Amara Nwankpa, Inemo Samiama and Christiana Idasefiema of the *Stakeholder Democracy Network*, including human rights lawyer and former President of the Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People, Ledum Mitee. The team had earlier paid a courtesy visit to Management of the University at the Vice-Chancellor's Committee Room.

NYSC Ends Briefing For Prospective UniPort Corps Members

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Officials of the National Youth Service Corps in Rivers State, led by the Head of Deployment and Relocation, Mrs. Blessing Ariolu, last Tuesday, organized a one-day briefing for prospective Corps Members waiting to be deployed in the 2016 Batch "B" service year, including Final Year Students of the University.

Speaking during the elaborate briefing session which held at the Convocation Arena, University Park, Mrs. Ariolu, disclosed that the NYSC commenced a computerized mobilization process in

2014 to facilitate deployment of Corps Members, directing the students to register online at the official website of the NYSC at: www.nysc.org.ng, with the sum of three thousand naira only.

"The website contains relevant information that would enable you register for the service year in addition to granting you access to your *Call-Up Letters* and the time-table of activities for the year," she told them, further disclosing that the online registration exercise would commence on October 17, 2016.

Advising all potential Corps Members who do not register for the current service year to report

immediately to the Student Affairs Officer in the Student Affairs Department of the University for the revalidation of their status, the Head of Deployment and Relocation, noted that posting concession would be granted only to married female Corps Members and persons with life threatening ailments.

"The programme will commence with a regimented orientation course and it is expected that you take part in all activities in the Camp and be reminded that there are by-laws governing all serving Corps Members and you would be adequately sanctioned if you fall short of any of these extant laws," she warned them, adding that Corpsers who graduated as Medical Doctors, Pharmacists' and Veterinary Doctors, must have professional certification and completion of Housemanship and Internship programmes as mandatory requirements for registration and mobilization for service.

In her address, the Student Affairs Officer and Deputy Registrar in the Department, Dr. Mite Ngeh, stated that registration for prospective Corps Members would not be done by proxy, restating the importance of the exercise to government and all participants.

"It is important that you take the exercise very seriously, because the NYSC was designed by government to bring about national unity and self-reliance. We will help you sort out all problems that may arise in the process of mobilisation and we expect full cooperation from all potential Corps Members," Dr Ngeh told the students. The NYSC Corps Mobilisation Officer for Rivers State, Mr. Francis Abi, was also in attendance.



A cross-section of students at the briefing. Inset: NYSC Official, Mrs. Ariolu

GUIDE POST

RESUMPTION FROM STUDY LEAVE

Dr. Akai Eteng, Department of Electronics and Computer Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, resumes duty from Study Leave, effective August 23, 2016.

CONVERSION OF APPOINTMENT

Mr. Edwin Oguegbulu, Department of Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted Pensionable Appointment, effective August 29, 2016.

STOP PRESSES

MID-SEMESTER COURSE EVALUATION

This is to notify all academic staff of the University that the Quality Assurance and Quality Control Unit (QAQC), shall embark on a Mid-Semester Course Evaluation exercise as from Wednesday, September 21, 2016. During the period, structured course evaluation questionnaires shall be administered to students. The aim of the exercise is to determine the quality of teaching and learning that has taken place and the extent of coverage of course content in each course within the first half of the Second Semester.

In a related development, the Provost, Deans and HoDs have been requested to submit their lecture Time-Tables and Course Allocation Forms for the 2015/2016 Second Semester lectures for postgraduate students to the Quality Assurance and Quality Control Unit.

They are also requested to ensure that separate Time-Tables and Course Allocation Forms are submitted for Full-Time and Part-Time programmes for Departments offering both modes of study. Those affected are to clearly indicate the mode of study on the Time-Tables and Course Allocation Forms.

FINAL DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT OF SURCHARGE

To ensure that students don't turn around to complain that they were not given enough time, the Management of the University, has again, issued a new deadline for payment of the agreed surcharge arising from the damages they inflicted on private and public property on April 11, 2016. The new deadline also applies to completion of Undertaking of Good Conduct Form and Course Registration as follows:

Tuesday, September 27, 2016, Payment of School Charges.

Tuesday, September 27, 2016, Payment of Surcharge of N5,000.00 (five thousand naira only per student).

Tuesday, October 4, 2016: Completion of Undertaking of Good Conduct Form.

Tuesday, October 4, 2016, Course Registration.

Please note that there would be no more extension of time for students who fail to comply with this final deadline, while the names of students who are duly registered would be displayed in the respective Departments and on the University's Website on Tuesday, October 18, 2016.

AEB Seminar

The Department of Animal and Environmental Biology (AEB) in the Faculty of Science, has scheduled its next Monthly Seminar Series for Tuesday, September 27, 2016. A statement by the Acting Head of Department, Dr. Aline Noutcha, disclosed that Drs. Daniel Uibe and Aroloye Numbers, would be Lead Presenters at the event. Dr. Uibe's lecture is entitled: *Advancing Ocean Science and Management in Nigeria: Advocacy for a Blue Economy to improve current Economic Quagmire*, while Dr. Numbers would deliver a paper entitled: *Ongoing Ecological War between Mangroves and Nipa Palms in the Niger Delta: A Case of Survival of the Fittest*. The Seminar would hold at the AEB Seminar Room at the Ground Floor of the Departmental Building. Time is 10:00 am. The University community and interested members of the public are invited to attend.

Commonwealth Games Nigeria To Train Students On Entrepreneurship Programme Oct 20

By Otokor Samuel

Arrangements have reached advanced stages for the mounting of a robust entrepreneurship training programme for students of the University of Port Harcourt under the auspices of the Commonwealth Games Nigeria. The anticipated training session would form part of the community projects undertaken by a student of the University and Administrator under the Commonwealth Games Federation-University Internship Programme, Mr. Francis Labi.

Elaborating on plans for the forthcoming programme to our Correspondent shortly after a meeting with Director of the Sports Institute, Professor Ken Angweje on Friday, September 17, 2016, Mr. Labi said the training session would commence with an opening ceremony billed for the Ebini Banigo Auditorium on Thursday, October 20. He further disclosed that the different training sessions would take place at the International Students' Centre and would be concluded on Saturday, October 22, 2016.

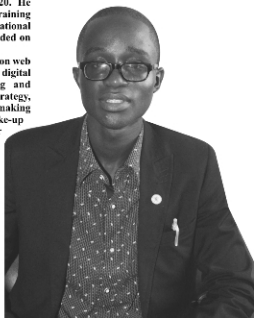
"Participating students will be trained on web and graphic design, social media and digital marketing, cinematography (filming and photography), business development strategy, debt analysis and management, bead-making and craft, professional decoration, make-up and catering," Mr. Labi further disclosed, stating that the training would be completely free of charge for all participants.

According to the arrangement, four Resource Persons would speak on Youths and Sports, Information and Communication Technology, Excellent Leadership and Entertainment Skills at the opening ceremony before participants would dissolve into the formal training session.

Labi, who had worked on two earlier projects, including website design for the Commonwealth Games Nigeria and Water Support Project at Ikata Community in Ahoda/East Local

Government Area, said the proposed training programme would be part of the four projects he conceived to be funded by the Commonwealth Games organisation.

"Basically, I want to empower my fellow students through the opportunity made available to me by the Commonwealth Games. In this era when ideas rule the world, the best way to go is to embrace entrepreneurship, and I want students to become financially-independent and not wait for any white-collar job on graduation. I believe that the proposed training session would help in reducing unemployment in this part of the country," he said, calling on organisations and individuals who may wish to exhibit their products at the event to contact him on 08034654492 or send electronic mail to: francis.labi@nigeriancg.org, call or send WhatsApp message to 08164606182 for seat reservation.



Mr. Labi

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
WEATHER OBSERVATORY
WEATHER FORECAST FOR PORT HARCOURT AND SURROUNDING AREAS
FOR SUNDAY SEPTEMBER, 25 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 01, 2016.

DATE	TEMPERATURE (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (HH:MM)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY 25 SEPT 2016	30.0 24.0	78	W	8.6	6:22 6:36	Thunder storms and mostly cloudy day expected. High chance of rainfall.
MONDAY 26 SEPT 2016	28.0 23.0	85	SSW	5.2	6:22 6:36	Isolated thunder storms and mostly cloudy day expected.
TUESDAY 27 SEPT 2016	32.0 23.0	67	SSW	10	6:22 6:36	A few thunder storms expected accompanied by a mostly cloudy day.
WEDNESDAY 28 SEPT 2016	30.0 23.0	77	SW	3.6	6:21 6:29	Thunder storms expected with the day with a mostly cloudy disposition.
THURSDAY 29 SEPT 2016	30.0 23.0	61	SW	7.3	6:21 6:28	Mostly cloudy predicted with minimal chance of rain.
FRIDAY 30 SEPT 2016	30.0 22.0	78	SW	8.6	6:21 6:28	A few thunder storms and mostly cloudy day expected.
SATURDAY 01 OCTOBER 2016	30.0 22.0	56	SW	12.6	6:21 6:27	A few thunder storms and mostly cloudy day expected.

DR. YE WELI

AG. HO

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY & ENV. MGT.

DR. PRINCE C. MMOM

AG. OBSERVATION

STATION

Faculty Of Humanities Pays Condolence Visit To Elechi Amadi's Family

The Faculty of Humanities paid a condolence visit on the family of the late Literary Icon and Writer-In-Residence, Dr. Elechi Amadi, on Friday, July 15, 2016 with dance, music, readings and drama performances. Our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU**, captured pictorial highlight of the performances as shown below:



Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Prof Femi Shaka (left), leading the delegation with Dr. Ben Ejorfor and Friday Nwafor



Procession in progress



Elechi Amadi's eldest son, Carl, welcoming Head, Department of Music, Professor Onye Nwanjika



Williams Wodi reading from the tribute he wrote in honour of Dr. Amadi



Nollywood star and lecturer, Dept of Theatre and Film Studies, Dr Sam Dede reading from the tribute



Lecturer, Dept of Theatre and Film Studies, Dr Onundah Ihunwo, also reading from the tribute



L-R: Prof Shaka, Dr Dede, Ag HoD, Theatre and Film Studies, Dr John Yescibo and Prof Nwanjika



Scene from Elechi Amadi's Eburne



Dance drama in progress



Performance by UniPort Concert Chorus



R-L: Prof Shaka, Williams Wodi and Carl Elechi-Amadi, son of the late literary icon



A group photograph after the performances

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L-R: Prof Shaka, Dr Dede, Ag HoD, Theatre and Film Studies, Dr John Yesebo and Prof Nwankpa



A scene from Elechi Amadi's Isiburn



Dance drama in progress



Performance by UniPort Concert Chorus



R-L: Prof Shaka, Williams Wodi and Carl Elechi-Amadi, son of the late literary icon



A group photograph after the performances