



## Lilly-Tariah Emerges Dean Of Clinical Sciences

Following a successful election that held penultimate Thursday, Professor Opubo da Lilly-Tariah, has emerged as the new Dean, Faculty of Clinical Sciences. He takes over from Professor John Ikimalo, who was recently elected into membership of the Governing Council of the University, reports *Mercy Ademiji*.

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## Side Bar

The Faculty of Social Sciences commissioned a Car Park for staff and visitors to the Faculty last Wednesday. Details next week. *-Editor*



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As the new Governing Council settles down to the business of formulating policies that would transform the University, new Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council, Engineer Gesi Asamaoewi, has assured stakeholders of the commitment of members to provide the needed road-map to assist the administration in its efforts to develop the University.

Engineer Asamaoewi gave the assurance during Council's maiden interactive meeting with staff of the University at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, last Monday. The Pro-Chancellor, who said that Council

*By Obinna Nwodin*

would ensure that the job of the University Management would be facilitated through robust policy formulation, promised that his team would work assiduously to achieve the vision and core mandate of the University during the tenure of the current Council, as well as "ensure that there is no other University like the University of Port Harcourt in the country in terms of infrastructural and academic development".

Engineer Asamaoewi said that the mandate of the new Council as handed down by the Federal Ministry of Education, was to ensure prudent management of available finances, promotion of a conducive environment for



## We Are Committed To Staff Welfare, Institutional Dev ~Pro-Chancellor

teaching, learning and research, working towards elimination of vices such as examination malpractices, cultism and sexual harassment, amongst others.

The Council Chairman also pledged to address the welfare needs of staff and

students and afford them the opportunity of fair-hearing in disciplinary matters, establish sustainable town and gown relationship and encourage expansion of linkages with international organizations.

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# CGRP, Indorama, To Host Int'l Petrochem Confab August 28

## ...As Centre Signs MoU With American Varsity

By Othor Samuel

**P**reparations have reached advanced stages for the Second International Conference on refining and petrochemicals under the auspices of the Centre for Gas, Refining & Petrochemicals domiciled in the Institute of Petroleum Studies in collaboration with Indorama Eleme Petrochemicals, near Port Harcourt.

Director of the Centre, Professor Godwin Igwe, who made the disclosure in an interview with *UNIPOINT Weekly*, last Monday, said the two-day Conference, which would hold at the Presidential Hotel, Port Harcourt, between 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2013, has "Creating Wealth through Diversification, Transformation and Development of our Refineries and Petrochemical Industries", as its main theme. Professor Igwe, who doubles as the Executive Conference Chairman, further disclosed that the event, which would address issues affecting petrochemical industries through research and collaborations with industry players and professionals in the field, added that the sub-themes would include the following: "Need to Develop Non-fuel Downstream Petroleum Sector", "Opportunities and Challenges for Entrepreneurs on Sustainable Refinery and Petrochemical Products", "Funding Indigenous Research & Development (Idea Generation) in Developing Countries and "Economic Growth on the Back of

Petrochemicals Sector".

The Director, who recently returned from a tour of related institutions in the United States, outlined some of the benefits of the proposed Conference to include a better understanding of issues pertaining to the operational structure of the critical hydrocarbon industry and capacity-building amongst experts in the field, advising stakeholders to prepare to attend the event.

In a related development, the Centre has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University of Delaware, Newark, United States of America to establish linkages and create a foundation for mutual cooperation and collaboration in academic disciplines that are common to both universities.

"The scope of this agreement will include teaching, research, faculty and student exchange, and any other related specialization that are mutually determined to be appropriate by the cooperating institutions," part of the MoU read, stating that the initial partnership would last for three years before it would be renewed by both parties.



Prof Igwe,  
Director, CGRP

## STUDENT WORLD

## Theatre Gives Me Joy ~Edum, MA Student

Sunday Edum may not be a very popular face on stage, screen or in the media, but this MA student in the Department of Theatre Arts, has carved out a niche for himself as Stage Director, having directed high profile plays in the University Arts Theatre and elsewhere to the admiration of his teachers and audiences alike. Our Correspondent, HUMPHREY OGU spoke to him on his exploits on the stage.

**E**dum may not be in the public glare like actors and actresses, whose faces theatre-goers are very familiar with. It took the popular rising Comper, Performing Artist and Lecturer in the Department of Theatre Arts, Edward Ito, to draw my attention to this versatile Artist. The introduction was done with palpable zest in a manner that was suggestive of a happy father introducing a talented son, who had made him proud. "This is a postgraduate student, who is about to make history with the production of Esian Irobi's *Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh*," Ito said with visible gusto and approval.

That rave introduction has earned me Edum's world. "I don't do anything Theatre Arts. It appreciate the condition better gives me joy,"

piqued my curiosity, excursion into couldn't have apart from makes me to human and also Edum.

whose research interest revolves around Dramatic Theory, Criticism and Directing, told *UNIPOINT Weekly* in an interview, last Tuesday.

Before now, according to available records in the Department, nobody could recall any graduate student, who had done practical production as part of an MA work. "This is the first practical directing work in the Department, and it is going to be a major contribution to theatre studies at the postgraduate level. Theatre is all about practice and all other things are subsumed in its practical application to the human condition in society. Often times, most of those who specialise in Directing only focused on analysis. That is why I chose to produce Irobi's interesting play, despite the cost implication," he explained, promising that theatre-goers would certainly enjoy the production under his directing skills.

Describing Irobi as one of best dramatists in Nigeria and one of his favourite Playwrights, apart from Ola Rotimi, the budding Director noted that Irobi is believed to have made a significant contribution to the Niger Delta struggle with his intriguing play: *Hangmen Also Die*, beside John Pepper Clark's *Wolf Revolt* set in the Niger Delta.

"I have recommended that practical aspects of the programme must be strengthened to achieve the aims and objectives of theatre studies in this University. I am also calling on the Board of College of Graduate Studies (CGS) to encourage film and play Directors, because it is very expensive to produce a play," Edum recommended, disclosing that he would be spending about N250,000 on publicity, set design and costume, respectively in the process of directing the play.

Edum, who is also a Graduate Assistant in the Department, where he teaches courses in Directing, said:

"As a staff, there is need for me to help lay a solid foundation in the area of practical production of plays. The reason people shy away from production is because of its cost implication. I can sit back and focus on analysis, but I decided to foray into Directing because I am very passionate about performance, which is the soul of theatre practice," citing Professor Emmanuel Ameh (his Supervisor), Professor Bell-Gam, Dr Innocent Ohiri and Friday Nwafor, as experts in Directing, who groomed and motivated him.

Edum has also been doing a lot off-stage work for a very long time. "I have directed several plays, including Julie Okoh's *Asaba*, as part of the monthly Senate Performances; the premier of Ben Ejiofor's *Risen from the Past*, which has now been published in book form. I also stage-managed Bell-Gam's *Dreams of Obio* and several Convocation plays, including *Marriage Coup* by Julie Umukoro at the last Convocation."

Edum's directing expertise is not confined to the University community, as he also plies his trade outside UNIPOINT. Hear him: "I have assisted as a Director and also stage-managed performances, including the premier of Femi Osofisan's *Love Under Laiding*, at the Garden City Literary Festival two years ago." This is in addition to directing the premier of Saviour Nathan Agoro's *The Remnant*, amongst others at Niger Delta University, Amassoma, Bayelsa State.

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# Lilly-Tariah Heads Clinical Sciences Faculty

*Cont'd from p1*

Speaking with *UNIPORT Weekly* after his election, a visibly-elated Professor Lilly-Tariah stated that his vision for the Faculty is growth and expansion in every direction. "First of all, it is sometimes easy to take for granted the kind of working atmosphere in which we find ourselves and we are privileged to work in. We need to work very hard to enhance harmony amongst ourselves so that we can be constructive and everybody's input can be added to increasing the effectiveness of the Faculty. The Faculty also needs to grow beyond this level and we need more Departments to achieve the needed expansion of our activities," the incoming Dean said. The newly-elected Dean lamented that discipline amongst students is an issue that requires urgent attention. "We need to maintain discipline and high standards, review our examination modules. These are challenges we face in the Faculty and we cannot ignore them, so we also need to itemise them so we are able to produce the best, the students we take here are some of the best in the country," he noted, regretting however that the Faculty has not been

able to produce students with distinction in the Clinical Sciences, for some time now. "We need to periodically look at our curriculum to identify areas we need to make input. My vision is that this University is old enough to compete with the best in Nigeria and beyond, and this is something we intend to focus on as we settle down", Professor Lilly-Tariah assured stakeholders.

On Student-to-Lecturer relationship, the new Dean revealed that the "Faculty has put a mentorship template on ground to motivate students and younger academics to give of their best. We have to enforce and build on it so that students can feel free to interact and share their problems with Lecturers. The office of the Dean is open to the students; they should always feel free to air their views on issues of concern to them".

Professor Lilly-Tariah expressed gratitude to Faculty members for electing him, promising to explore available opportunities to reposition it for enhanced productivity. He pledged to continue from where his predecessor stopped; "I would like to build on what my predecessor has done and better it, because this is a continuous

process".

Also speaking, out-going Dean, Professor Ikimalo, commended the Lecturers for coming out en-mass to cast their votes, observing that the electioneering process is now done with love and co-operation. He thanked his colleagues for supporting him in the past two years. "The Faculty made progress during my tenure because I enjoyed the support of my senior and junior colleagues. I urge you all to give the same support to the incoming Dean to enable him succeed", he said, promising to give his best to support his successor to ensure that the Faculty grows to greater heights.

In his contribution, Acting Head, Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, Dr Edward Aliko, commended the Dean for a job well done, acknowledging that it is not easy to manage the Faculty. "Professor Ikimalo has done excellently well; he was not only able to administer the Faculty, he was also carried everybody along". He pledged the Faculty's loyalty to the new Dean as he strives to take it to another level.



*Incoming Dean, Prof Lilly-Tariah (arrowed) and staff of the Faculty after the election*

## Our Focus Is On N'Delta -Child Health Institute Director

The Institute of Maternal and Child Health in the College of Health Sciences, has restated its resolve to reduce infant mortality and maternal morbidity in the entire Niger Delta region as part of its core mandate. The Institute is also charged with the responsibility of promoting health issues covering under-five children and mothers, school health and adolescents.

Working with a team of dedicated Community Health Physicians, Paediatricians and Gynaecologists, the Director, Professor Nwadiutor Akani, said that the Institute is currently partnering the West African Health Organization (WAHO) on a Demonstration Project in Gokana

*By Ethel Timi-Johnson*

Local Government Area of Rivers State to determine how availability of well-equipped Health Care Centres and trained professionals could contribute to efforts aimed at reducing maternal and child mortality and morbidity in the Niger Delta.

Professor Akani, who emphasized that the project seeks to promote ante-natal care and immunization of children within the targeted age bracket, said that its overall goal is to encourage women to utilize available healthcare facilities to improve their overall health status. "It involves a lot of training and

regular meetings with various stakeholders in the project lifespan", she added, disclosing that the second part of the project is development of a maternal audit component that would highlight factors that contribute to maternal deaths in the region and making recommendations to relevant agencies on possible remedial measures.

"We are using Gokana as a pilot study of rural areas, but we would eventually spread out to other communities in the Niger Delta. It is also important to note that any intervention that does not take into cognisance the environmental and socio-cultural practices of the people cannot stop maternal deaths and infant mortality", the Director said. She noted that the Institute has successfully organized a stakeholders' meeting with the six Niger Delta States with a view to promoting an effective school health programme in the area.

On partnerships, the Director disclosed that the Institute of Maternal and Child Health is currently collaborating with a German University on iodine deficiency screening of newborn babies, while partnering the Rivers State Primary Health Care Management Board on its Home-Based Care Project. "We are planning a Roundtable Meeting with the Paediatric Association of Nigeria (PAN), aimed at encouraging parents to present their children with disorders for screening as a means of reintegrating such children into the mainstream of society.

Professor Akani, who explained that much awareness has been created on safe motherhood in the country, said that the practice of not sustaining the campaign has resulted in recurring cases of preventable deaths. Listing poverty, patronage of faith-based organizations and Traditional Birth Attendants (TBA), as some of the factors responsible for preventable deaths recorded in the area, the Director stressed that the problem could be addressed through availability of good health facilities, patronage of the right medical personnel and cultivating a healthy lifestyle amongst the populace.



*Director, Prof Akani (middle in front row) and other staff of the Institute*

**V**ice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, has appealed to Contractors handling various projects in the University to show understanding over the continued delay in the agreed payment schedule for completed jobs. The continued delay in payment of their bills he explained was due to the precarious financial situation in which the University currently finds itself.

The position of the University on the plight of the Contractors was contained in a speech delivered by the Vice-Chancellor at an interactive session with representatives of the Contractors, who were in the University last Monday to seek explanations as to why their individual bills were yet to be settled long after they had kept to their own part of the bargain through timely completion of projects assigned to them.

The Vice-Chancellor, who expressed a clear understanding of the Contractors' plight, assured them that Management was making very frantic efforts aimed at ensuring that they did not continue to suffer on account of the services they rendered the Institution.

Professor Ajienka made the appeal while addressing the group under the aegis of Association of UNIPORT Contractors (AUC), at the Ebbitini Banigo Auditorium, University Park. The Vice-Chancellor said: "Let me assure you that authorities of the University are aware of what you are currently passing through as a result of our inability to meet our financial obligations to you in respect of contracts that were properly awarded and completed by various Contractors on Campus. Some of you may have taken up bank loans to finance such projects in the University. We will continue to appeal to you to regard what we are going through as a collective sacrifice in the process of building a University of our dreams. We are not relaxing, as genuine efforts are being made to defray the outstanding debts to your members".

The Vice-Chancellor, who later facilitated a meeting between representatives of the aggrieved Contractors and the new Pro-Chancellor, Council members under the Chairmanship of Engineer Asamoah, promised that Management of the University was making frantic efforts to reduce its debt burden to the barest minimum to enable the Contractors continue to partner the Institution in its bid to attain accelerated development. He commended the Contractors for their patience and maturity on the issue, pointing out that "there is no way

## V-C Appeals To Contractors On Outstanding Debts



A cross section of Contractors during the meeting. Inset: V-C, Prof Ajienka

we can justify the delay in the payment of your bills for so long", appealing to them to continue to understand the situation of the University while frantic efforts are made to ensure that the necessary payments are made to those concerned.

In his response to the issues raised by the Contractors, the Pro-Chancellor reassured them of the resolve of the Governing Council to encourage the administration to set aside some funds to offset such debts on a monthly basis, advising them against actions that may jeopardise their excellent relationship with the University.

Earlier in his address, spokesman of the Contractors, Mr Collins Amadi, said that the group was in the

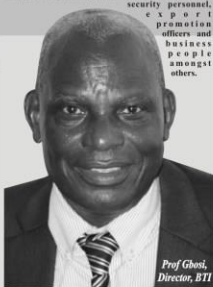
University to draw the attention of the authorities to the predicament of its members, pointing out that "the jobs we completed have since been put to use without payment being made to us as contained in the contractual agreement. We took loans from various banks with high interest rate to execute such jobs and we also have other family and personal obligations to meet". He said that as Contractors, the situation has not only affected them, but also their dependants, appealing to the authorities to do all that is within their powers to reduce their sufferings through prompt payment of the outstanding bills to his members to enable them settle their debts and get on with their businesses.

## ECOWAS Promises Full Support To BTI, As Lectures Commence

**T**he Bamanga Tukur Institute for International Trade and Development (BTI) commenced full academic programme on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2013, with a pioneering set of 15 students in the Master of Science degree programme in International Trade and Development.

Making the disclosure to *UNIPORT Weekly* penultimate Thursday, Director of the Institute, Professor Augustus Gbosi, said the students are drawn from diverse backgrounds, including captains of industry, bankers,

security personnel, export promotion officers and business people amongst others.



Prof Gbosi, Director, BTI

By Otokor Samuel

Resource Persons, according to the Director, are selected from knowledgeable experts from the academic, industry players and practitioners with international trade organisations, such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The Director further disclosed that the Institute of Global Business, University of Michigan, USA, has indicated interest to partner the Institute, stating that plans are underway to formalize the partnership with a view to reaping the benefits of the collaboration.

The programme which aims at internationalisation of higher education at home, adopts the modular and small-class discussion arrangement in teaching and research, with flexible hours for students, thereby, arousing their student enthusiasm and curiosity in a

conducive learning environment.

Meanwhile, the Director in charge of Trade at the ECOWAS Secretariat, Dr Gbenga Obidoye, has commended the University for initiating the programme, which he hoped would boost trade and development issues in the area. Dr Obidoye made the commendation during a visit to the Director, Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QAQC), Professor Tony Arize, after reviewing the brochure of the Institute, assuring authorities of the University that ECOWAS would fully partner the Institute to enable it achieve the objectives for which it was set up.

Obidoye, who is an *Alumnus* of UNIPORT, readily accepted to teach two professional courses, which include *Regional Corporation and Economic Integration and Trade Negotiations* in the Institute. It would be recalled that the ECOWAS Director of Trade completed his Doctoral Dissertation in the Department of Economics on International Trade under the supervision of Professor Gbosi.

## STOP PRESS VERIFICATION OF STAFF DUE RETIREMENT

**A**s part of the implementation process of issuing the Federal Government Bond Public Servants, the National Pensions Commission has scheduled a verification and enrolment exercise for staff that are due to retire between January 2015 to December 2015 at the Ebbitini Banigo Auditorium, from 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> June 2013. Affected staff are to report with the following documents.

- \*Original and photocopy of letter of first appointment
- \*Original and photocopy of birth certificate or age declaration
- \*Original and photocopy of letter of last promotion or payslip indicating grade level and step as at 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2013.
- \*Letter of retirement from the University signifying retirement age
- \*Authenticated past record of service
- \*Current payslip indicating grade level and step
- \*Evidence of registration with a Pension Fund Administrator, indicating Personal Identification Number (PIN)

Those affected should note that only employees, who are verified and enrolled, would be issued the Federal Government Retirement Bond.

Contact: Pensions and Welfare Officer

As part of its contributions to the development of higher education in the country, the newly-established Centre for Higher Education Studies (CHES), says it has concluded plans to host its maiden International Conference from 29<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> August at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park.

Acting Director of the Centre, Dr Chimezie Uche, while briefing *UNI-PORT Weekly* on the proposed Conference, last Monday, noted that the Conference would address policies and practices of higher education in Africa.

"It is also expected to intensify communication between researchers and policy-makers. It would also provide a forum to discuss the policy implications of higher education, knowledge production, development and dissemination," she stressed, pointing out that the gathering would also address the challenges facing higher education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Disclosing that the Conference which is expected to attract industry experts, the academia and students, would proffer solution to the challenges of higher education in Nigeria, Dr Uche said that the highlight of the proposed landmark event would be the induction of graduates of the Centre into the teaching profession by the Teachers' Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN).

"A Professor of Higher Education, Teboho Moja of New York University, USA, is expected to deliver the Keynote Address, while Professors Charles Oghodo of the University of Uyo, Hycinth Dike and Tony Arinze of the University of Port Harcourt, would be Lead Paper Presenters at the event", she added, disclosing further that the Centre would use the opportunity of the coming Conference to mark its first anniversary and

## CHES To Convene Higher Education Confab August 29

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

inaugurate an Alumni Association for pioneer graduates.

It would be recalled that the Centre which was carved out of the Institute of Education, is charged with the responsibility of carrying out studies and research, especially on higher education, evaluating developmental issues and challenges in the universities and other higher institutions, including mono-techniques, poly techniques and allied institutions and engaging in capacity-building programmes for teachers and researchers, including postgraduate programmes in education.



Dr Uche, Ag Director, CHES

## Experts Advocate Regular Milk Consumption At World Milk Day

By Mercy Adeniji

As Nigerians joined the rest of the world to mark *World Milk Day* (WMD), last Saturday, with the theme: "Do more with Milk", experts have recommended regular consumption of milk as a source of energy and good health.

Speaking on the importance of milk to the body, last Tuesday, a Professor of Nutritional Toxicology and Environmental Biochemistry, Joyce Akaninwor, disclosed that "Milk is a near perfect food source of energy loaded with essential nutrients. Milk is said to be an elixir of life that cures everything from weak bones to insomnia", Professor Akaninwor said, recommending that people should consume the product on a regular basis as a good source of nutrients.

that is rich in protein and calcium.

Professor Akaninwor, who is also Acting Dean, School of Science Laboratory Technology (SSLT), recommended that "adults should go for defatted milk. There are some adults, who just take milk and there are others, who take milk due to one illness or the other". She warned, however, that excess food intake could lead to toxicity and poor health, which could give rise to nutrition-related diseases.

Also speaking, the Acting Head, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Biological Science in the College of Natural and Applied Sciences, Dr Phillip Okerentugba, corroborated Professor Akaninwor's position, advising that people should consume milk on a regular basis to aid growth, strong bones and teeth. "Milk is of great value to the body. It is essential for the younger ones, because it has a lot of protein, vitamins, calcium and minerals that aid growth. Breast milk is the best, but artificial milk can also be a good substitute for the body," he

noted.

Dr Okerentugba disclosed that the *World Milk Day*, which first held in 2001 had since become an annual ritual, in which over 30 countries participate to draw attention to the significance of milk to total wellbeing.

On the negative effects of milk, Dr Okerentugba pointed out that some persons with problems of indigestion could experience difficulty in breaking down milk, recommending that such persons should go for fermented milk products such as yoghurt. He advocated that in Nigeria, there is a need to improve the diet with milk products such as, soya milk, goat milk among others.

In her contribution, a medical practitioner at the O.R. Lulu-Briggs Health Centre, Dr Oluobunmi Onyagbodor, categorised milk into plant and animal products. "In plant milk, we have rice, almond and tiger nut milk, while animal milk include cow and goat. In some other parts of the world, you could have Camel milk. Plant milk is easier to digest than animal milk, she said."

Dr Onyagbodor disclosed that animal milk could cause intolerance, bloating, rumbling of the tummy, excess gas and diarrhoea, advising those in that category to consume milk in moderation. She said that there are other options to milk such as vegetables that are rich in vitamins, minerals and fiber with low fat and calories.



Prof Akaninwor



Dr Okerentugba

Dr Onyagbodor

### STOP PRESS

COMMENCEMENT OF SECOND SEMESTER

The date for commencement of lectures for the Second Semester of the current session was indicated as 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2013 instead of 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2013.

Please note that lectures for the Second Semester for all students will begin on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2013. This seeks to correct an error on the approved academic calendar as circulated by the Academic Office. Contact: Director, Academic Affairs.



Pro-Chancellor, Engr Asamaorwei (7th from left) flanked by Rep of Education Minister, Mrs Brown (left), Mrs Bezinwa, V-C, Prof Ajienka and Registrar/Secretary to Council, Mrs Nnodin (right), other Council members and Principal Officers

Cont'd from p1

amongst others. He said that the Council would strive to accomplish its mandate with the support of all staff and students, adding that he was looking forward to full cooperation of the University Community to enable Council fulfill its vision mandate in line with the Federal Government's transformation agenda. "With your sincere co-operation, we shall achieve all the goals we have set for ourselves in the tenure of the current Governing Council", he told the gathering. Earlier in his address, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who described the new Council as "the Council of our dream", said that Management was pleased with the commitment so far shown by the Pro-Chancellor right from the first contact with him and other members of the new Council. "This Council is the Council of our dream. When Governing Councils were to be reconstituted by the Federal Government, our utmost concern was to have a Council that is genuinely interested and committed to the advancement of the University", adding that the incoming Council has shown that it is

## We Are Committed To Staff Welfare, Institutional Dev ~Pro-Chancellor

interested in the development of the University.

In their separate reactions to the Pro-Chancellor's address, Provost, College of Graduate Studies (CGS), Professor Roseline Kenya, Director, Centre for Conflict Studies (CENTECs), Professor Mark Anikpo, Director, Centre for Marine Pollution, Professor Francis Sikoki and Director, Personnel Affairs, Mr Roland Wabali, welcomed the Pro-Chancellor and members of the new Council, assuring them of the willingness of staff and students to co-operate and work in concert with them to achieve the vision of the founding fathers of the University.

In her speech, the Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodin, who described the appointment of members of the new Council as the finger of God at work, said that the University was looking forward to robust

contributions from them as part of efforts aimed at uplifting the University to greater heights.

Members of the new Council were later taken on a facility tour of both the University and Delta Parks, after which they had an Inaugural Meeting during which the Vice-Chancellor briefed them on the state of the University.

The Inaugural Meeting of the new Council had in attendance both external and internal members. Other external members are: Barrister Joyce Bederick-Borine, Alhaji Muhammad Olygbe, Barrister Okechukwu Ajunwa, Mrs Olanisileayo Brown, Dr Nelson Olaniji and King Ananias Turner, who replaces Dr Alex Otti as the representative of Convocation on the reconstituted Governing Council.

## Environment, Food Wastage & Human Health

As a way of sensitising people on the need to make the environment safe and healthy for human habitation, June 5 every year is set aside by the United Nations to mark *World Environment Day*, (WED). The theme for this year's celebrations is *Think. Eat. Save.*

"Think, Eat, Save, is an anti-food waste and food loss campaign that encourages you to reduce your food print. According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), every year 1.3 billion tonnes of food is wasted. This is equivalent to the same amount produced in the whole of sub-Saharan Africa. At the same time, 1 in every 7 people in the world goes to bed hungry and more than 20,000 children under the age of 5 die daily from hunger", says a statement by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to mark this year's celebration.

The UNEP submits that given the enormous imbalance in lifestyles and the resultant devastating effects on the environment, this year's theme

By Humphrey Ogu

encourages us to think, eat and save food for those who are not fortunate enough to have the food we take for granted. This year's theme is designed to make us more aware of the environmental impact of the food choices we make and empowers us to make informed decisions.

"This year's campaign rallies you to take action from your home and then witness the power of collective decisions you and others have made to reduce food waste, save money, minimise the environmental impact of food production and force food production processes to become more efficient. If food is wasted, it means that all the resources and inputs used in the production of all the foods are also lost," says the UNEP statement.

Speaking on the health implications of food wastage on the environment and human health in a telephone interview, Dr Kingsley Douglas of the Department

of Preventive and Social Medicine, College of Health Sciences, says that

"food naturally serves as a good breeding ground for microbes, pests and rodents. Therefore, cutting down on wastage of food reduces the breeding ground for these pests which invariably reduces the likelihood of disease outbreaks."

Dr Douglas, who is a Consultant Public Health Physician at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), adds that "there is also the issue of reduction of carbon emission and global warming, which could be controlled by cutting down food wastage".

Corroborating the position of Dr Douglas, the Acting Head, Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Dr Helen Imafidior, notes that "Improper disposal of waste food has adverse effects on human health and the environment. In the course of degradation, excess carbon is released to the atmosphere with debilitating effects on human health. An aggregation of such gases as carbon monoxide can be carcinogenic," she warned, advising the University community to ensure that waste food is kept away from places where foods are prepared and consumed.

In a chat with *UNIPORT Weekly*, Acting Director, CEBAS, Mr Okezie Ochuha, assured the University community of his Unit's commitment to keeping the Campus clean and green, adding that efforts are on to sensitive food vendors on the need to reduce food wastage and prevent practices that could endanger the health of staff and students.

Experts and relevant bodies may have advised as on how to minimise food wastage, but it would take the effort of each of us to keep the environment clean, healthy and also save cost. So, let us all *Think, Eat, Save*. That is basically what sustainable development is about. We must protect the environment and conserve resources for the coming generation, because the earth and its finite resources do not belong to us alone.



Dr Douglas

Dr Imafidior

Mr Ochuha

# GUIDEPOST

## PROMOTION

*Dr Fabian Obikado*, Department of Linguistics & Communication Studies, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective October 1, 2012.

## STUDY LEAVE

*Mrs Ifeoma Oforam*, Health Services Department, granted a twenty-month *Study Leave With Pay* to pursue a Master of Science degree programme in Public Health, effective 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2013 to 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2014.

*Mr Victor Sunday*, Department of Geography, Faculty of Social Sciences, granted a three-month extended *Study Leave With Pay* to pursue a Master of Science degree in Geoinformation Science and Land Administration at the International Centre for Training in Aerospace Survey (RECTAS), Ile-Ife, Osun State, effective 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2013 to 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2013.

## PENSIONABLE APPOINTMENT

*Mrs Priscilla Wariboko*, Department of Religious & Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, offered *Pensionable Appointment* as Lecturer II, effective on assumption of duty.

## CHANGE OF NAME

**MR SAMUEL OBINDAH-MEKWA**. Former Mr Osu Samuel Obinda of the Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education, now wishes to be known, called and addressed as Mr SAMUEL OBINDAH-MEKWA. All documents bearing his former name remain valid.

## HIGHER DEGREE

*Dr Edgar Osoeghae*, Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Physical Sciences and Information Technology has successfully completed his PhD Degree in Computer Science.

## STOP PRESS

### BIOMETRIC STUDENT ID CARD

Following the successful introduction of a web portal to register students for the Biometric Access Control Identity Card scheme, the University Community particularly, fresh students, who are yet to obtain the new Biometric ID Card, are advised to promptly complete their Access Control registration online to enable them obtain the Biometric Identity Card within the stipulated timeline.

The website address <http://www.uniportaccesscontrol.com/login.php> provides immediate feedback to users after completion of registration all processes for collection of the new Biometric Identity Card. Those who fail to comply with the process would have themselves to blame at the expiration of the stated deadline.

## ENACTUS Moves To Improve Fish Smoking Technique In Choba

By Humphrey Ogu

As part of efforts aimed at safeguarding the environment and preserve the health of market women, who deal on smoked fish as a source of income, the University of Port Harcourt Chapter of ENACTUS, an international student organisation, formerly known as Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE), has launched an awareness campaign against the dangerous



Miss Eyo, Team Leader of ENACTUS

practice in Choba community known as "Project Smoke It."

Team Leader of ENACTUS in the University, Setatsi Eyo, who dropped the hint in a chat with *UNIPOST Weekly*, last Tuesday, explained that the project is aimed at drawing the attention of the women to the dangers inherent in smoking fish, disclosing that plans are afoot to extend the campaign to neighbouring communities.

"Research has proven that smoke has negative impact on the environment, one of them being ozone layer depletion. Smoking of fish also endangers the lives of those involved in the practice, as it causes finger burns, nasal irritation, itching of the eyes and other respiratory complications," Eyo said, pointing out that drying fish or meat in drums previously used for storing petroleum products could also predispose the women and consumers to the risk of contracting cancer.

The Team Leader, who is a Final Year Student in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, said that membership of ENACTUS is drawn from diverse disciplines, a situation she said provided the organisation with the requisite expertise to handle targeted projects. "Apart from the skills of our members, we also conduct research online to access current information from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and other relevant institutions to boost our capacity to handle various tasks.

"The project is run in collaboration with the Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIND), which is providing technical support to the current campaign. As part of the project, we hope to provide the women with *Chorkor Ovens*, as a better alternative to the traditional method of smoking fish in our communities. The *Chorkor Oven*, which was originally developed in Ghana, is now produced locally," Eyo said.

According to her, the oven, which is made from clay and laced with cement, is fixed to the ground, adding that it conserves heat and traps smoke, and it is therefore, a safer alternative as it does not pose health risks to users. On the reason for changing the organisation's name to ENACTUS, which stands for Entrepreneurs In Action, Us, Eyo explained that the body has expanded under the new name to accommodate alumni and businessmen, who no longer fit into the student category as was the case under SIFE.

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (mm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 30 JUNE, 2013	32.0 24.0	48	NE	2.8	6:09 6:40	Isolated thunderstorm expected. Day anticipated being cloudy and hot.
MONDAY, 01 JUNE, 2013	32.0 24.0	49	NE	6.8	6:20 6:43	Thunderstorm expected late in the day. More clouds than sun predicted. Day expected to be warm.
TUESDAY 02 JUNE, 2013	31.0 24.0	55	NE	6.5	6:20 6:44	Thunderstorm anticipated. Breaks of sun expected later in the day. Warm day forecasted. Possibility of rainfall is high.
WEDNESDAY 03 JUNE, 2013	30.0 24.0	46	NE	10.3	6:20 6:44	Thunderstorm expected. Day predicted being mostly cloudy and warm.
THURSDAY 03 JUNE, 2013	30.0 24.0	45	NE	7.5	6:20 6:44	A few thunderstorm expected. Day anticipated being mostly cloudy and warm.
FRIDAY 14 JUNE, 2013	30.0 24.0	54	NE	5.8	6:20 6:44	Thunderstorm expected early in the day. Mostly cloudy and warm day forecasted.
SATURDAY 15 JUNE, 2013	30.0 23.0	47	NE	6.3	6:20 6:44	Isolated thunderstorm anticipated. Partly sunny and warm day is expected.

### Research And Teaching Farm Workers Workshop

**T**he Department of Crop and Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, held a two-day Workshop from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2013 for Farm Workers. Highlights of the Workshop aimed at enhancing productivity in the teaching and research farm was captured by our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU** in the pictures below.



HOD, Prof Ekanem Wokoma (standing) giving her Address



Junior Staff Officer, Mrs Elizabeth Ndokko presenting her Paper



A participant making a point at the interactive session



L-R: Workshop facilitators, Dr Joseph Orbachukwu, Mrs Ndokko, Prof Wokoma, Chief Farm Officer, Mr Toluwani Lawan flanked by participants and staff of the Department



Dr Joseph Orbachukwu illustrating during a practical session



A student working on her research plot



Dr Odemsi Odemsi leading one of the practical sessions



Facilitators and participants during a field session



Some participants watching a practical demonstration



A Farm worker Zorhai Nkama, spraying insecticide on crops



Facilitators and participants after the field session



A view of the Research Farm



Another view of the Farm