

Danish Institute Grants UniPort Hydraulic, Hydrologic Software Licences

The famous Danish Hydraulic Institute (DHI) has granted the Department of Geography and Environmental Management a one-year licence for its software—Mike Urban and Mike II for use in studies aimed at tackling flood challenges in the Nigeria environment, reports **Humphrey Ogu**.

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Side Bar

Industrial Trust Fund (ITF) held its 3rd Zonal meeting in UniPort last week
Details next week
-Editor

UniPort Weekly

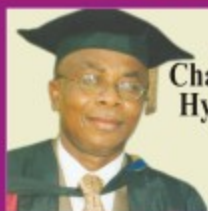
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The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, has called for prudence and priority rating in the management of public funds and assets as a confidence-building measure. Professor Ajienka gave the charge while declaring open a 3-day Workshop on *Effective and Efficient Reporting in the Public Sector: The Role of IPSAS*, organized by the University of Port Harcourt Business School (UPBS), last Wednesday.

Represented by the Director, College of Continuing Education (CCE), Professor

V-C Tasks Government Officials On Public Sector Accounting

By Obinna Nwodin

Steve Okodudu, the Vice-Chancellor who described the Workshop as timely, said: "We believe that the kind of wastages in our country would be reduced if we take key public officers through programmes of this nature that focus on frugal application and management of public resources and effective reporting for

proper accountability as a way of regaining public confidence in governance.

He commended the UPHBS for organizing the Workshop, which he said, would help train those charged with expenditure in the public sector on ways to achieving better

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Catherine, UniPort Geology Graduate, Wins Glo X Factor Prize

As a testimony of an all-round education received in the University of Port Harcourt, a graduate of Geology in the Faculty of Social Sciences, Obianuju Catherine Udeh, has emerged winner of the keenly contested Glo X Factor Prize, courtesy of telecommunication giant, Globacom Limited.

The 29-year-old native of Udi Town, Enugu State, was declared winner at the grand finale of the highly competitive show, said to be the biggest most glamorous singing reality TV show in Africa, held at Dream Studios in Lagos on Wednesday, 18th September, 2013. Known in the music industry as *DJ Switch*, Catherine, who is widely acknowledged as a

By Otikor Samuel

sensational rapper, beat two other finalists: Ethel Eshun and Vicky Gomoti in the last round to win the coveted N24 million cash prize and a recording contract with recording giant, Sony Music.

With the feat, the highly talented UniPort Alumna, who became Africa's debut X Factor winner in a show entered by eight contestants, enthused: "I don't know how it happened. I don't know 99 per cent of the people that voted for me. Now, my story has changed. My life has changed. I am grateful and thankful. Now, the main works begins. I am not going to relax." U-n-i-q-u-e U-n-i-Po-r-t!!!



Catherine, DJ Switch

Tackling Challenges In Hydrocarbon Industry

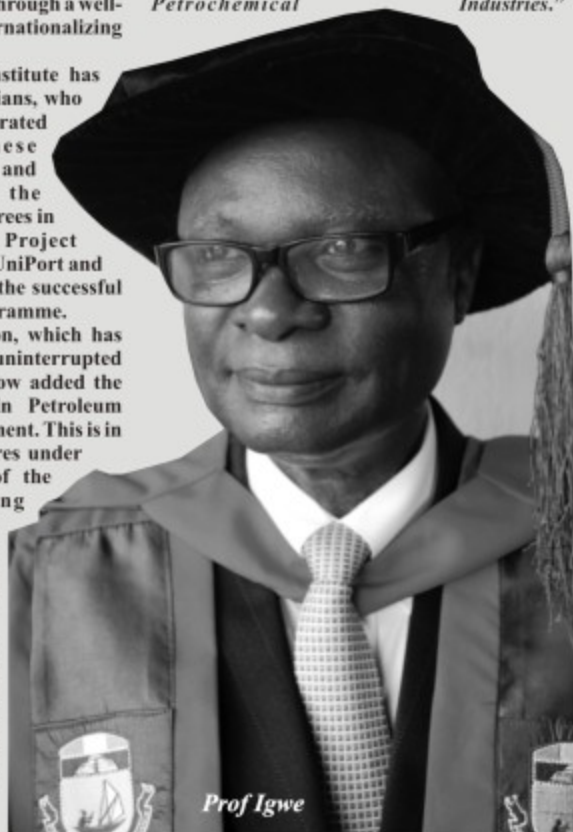
The University of Port Harcourt is increasingly partnering the Industry in tackling emergent challenges in the oil and gas sector, writes HUMPHREY OGU

The University of Port Harcourt has carved a niche for itself in the past decade or so as a model institution committed to academic excellence and solving some of the problems facing the critical oil and gas sector. In 2003, for instance, the University in collaboration with TOTAL and the world famous IFP School in Paris blazed the trail with the establishment of the famous Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS) with the sole objective of training industry-ready hands through a well-thought-out programme of internationalizing higher education at home.

Ten years down the line, the Institute has trained hundreds of young Nigerians, who have been certified as globally-rated Petroleum Engineers. These exceptionally skilled young men and women are conferred with the prestigious Master of Science Degrees in Petroleum Engineering and Project Development jointly awarded by UniPort and the IFP School, Paris, France on the successful completion of the demanding programme. IPS is a graduate level institution, which has come of age in its ten years of uninterrupted operation. For instance, it has now added the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Petroleum Engineering and Project Development. This is in addition to other emergent Centres under the ever expanding umbrella of the Institute devoted to training manpower in various aspects of the petroleum industry. The Centre for Gas, Refining and Petrochemicals (CGRP) is one of the units under the Institute.

Just last August, stakeholders in the oil and gas sector converged at the Hotel Presidential, Port Harcourt to proffer solutions to the perennial problems of the sector, despite the availability of huge gas reserves in the Niger Delta region of the country. The event, which drew

participants from the industry, academia and government parastatals, including representatives of the Honourable Ministers of Petroleum Resources and Science and Technology, was organised by CGRP in collaboration with Indorama Eleme Petrochemicals Limited (IEPL) with the appropriate theme: "Creating Wealth through Diversification, Transformation, and Development of our Refineries and Petrochemical Industries."



Prof Igwe

There was a palpable sense of eager anticipation in the expansive auditorium, as participants and other stakeholders showered praises on the Centre for organising the talk shop in a critical sector of the nation's economy.

Again, stakeholders in the sector reconvened at the same venue last Month. This time, it was a well-patronized Roundtable on Petroleum Exploration, Development and Production, organized by the O. B. Lulu-Briggs Professorial Chair of Petroleum Geosciences in the University of Port Harcourt. Like the earlier conference under the auspices of the CGRP, the Roundtable also drew participants from the crème de la crème of the petroleum industry and the academia.

The University is also concerned with the safety of workers in the oil and gas industry. To this end, the Centre for Occupational Health, Safety and Environment (COHSE), under IPS is committed to training manpower for the sector. The Emerald Energy Institute (EEI), Centre for Petroleum Geosciences (CPG), Offshore Technology Institute (OTI) and Institute of Engineering Technology Innovation and Management (METI) are emergent centres of excellence under the "big, strong and reliable" template of the famous IPS that opened its doors to 20 pioneer students exactly 10 years ago. It is expected that with the massive expansion work currently going on at the main complex of IPS and the newly-completed Emerald Energy Institute, stakeholders are in to witness the rise and rise of the famous Institute which clocks 10 memorable years next month.

These efforts are in addition to the conventional programmes offered in the Departments of Petroleum, Gas and Chemical Engineering. They are clear examples of University-Industry partnership that is not only commendable, but worthy of being replicated in other tertiary institutions. Long live IPS at 10!

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Briefing UniPort

Weekly last Monday, a Lecturer in the Department, Dr Clinton Ezekwe, explained that "Mike Urban and Mike II are dependable software for modelling urban storm water drainage that take into account the natural urban hydrology and the storm water drainage network in urban areas."

Ezekwe, who facilitated the linkage between the University and the DHI, disclosed that he came in contact with the Institut

e during his postgraduate studies, explaining that "Mike II software can simulate the hydraulic, as well as the morphology of the river system in real time. And we are trying to use it to model the features and power of the major rivers in Rivers State, over a 30-35-year period."

Disclosing that the *Mike Urban* is currently being used to tackle urban flooding problems in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Ezekwe urged students, who want to do similar research in Port Harcourt or elsewhere to avail themselves of the opportunity to use the software, which he said: "cannot be used on a commercial research, because it was categorised as a student licence."

"Apart from helping the students to do what other students and professionals are doing overseas, the software would also afford them

Danish Institute Grants UniPort Hydraulic, Hydrologic Software Licences

more training and experience that would make them more marketable when they graduate from the University of Port Harcourt," he said, adding that the software would also be available and useful to students in the Departments of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Geology and other environmental sciences that have to do with hydraulic, hydrology, storm water management, including watershed management.

"What we are trying to do is to see how we can expose our students to the best training available in their chosen fields. But you can't do that without exposing them to modern software. Research on flood has gone beyond storytelling. *Mike Urban* software has the capacity to simulate a real-life flood situation. What we do now is to use digital elevation model of the area. We have to find out the capacity of the drainage, in the laboratory, following which we can decide which way to channel the water, because we understand the causes and flood flashpoints," he said.

The Hydrology and Water Resources expert, who noted that acquiring the software would have cost the University a lot of money, said: "but DHI has graciously granted us these licences for one year. At expiration of one year,

we would try to see if we could have an extension, but if we don't get an extension, it then means that the University would have to pay a lot of money to get the licences."

In view of the high cost of the software, Ezekwe stressed the need for the University to go into partnership with DHI and become their anchor point in Africa. "If the University partners DHI, UniPort will become a training ground and we may also help market the software. That way, our staff and students would benefit not just from the present software, but also from others available at the Institute. The University would also make money and name from the partnership, while representing the DHI and training other people for the company," he said.

The Hydrologist, who noted that such collaboration is in line with the University's entrepreneurial vision, and Industry-Academia initiatives, said: "It will be proper for the University to establish a relationship to be an outpost for DHI in Africa. Our students and staff would benefit. It would not only generate funds, but could also help the image of the University. Imagine a situation in which everybody from educational institutions and consultancy companies in the whole of Africa have to come to UniPort to train on how to use the important software."

"DHI has up to 12 types of software that capture every aspect of the hydraulic features of the coastal environment and the University of Port Harcourt is strategically located in the Niger Delta Area, where a lot of stories about hydraulic and hydrology have been told. Now, we need to move from the era of storytelling to the era of modelling to create a real-life scenario," he said.

Dr Ezekwe

BTI Announces Sale of Forms

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Bamanga Tukur Institute for International Trade and Development has announced sale of Application forms for the 2013/2014 professional Master of Science Degree in International Trade and Development. The programme is collaboration between the Institute and the *African Business Round Table*.

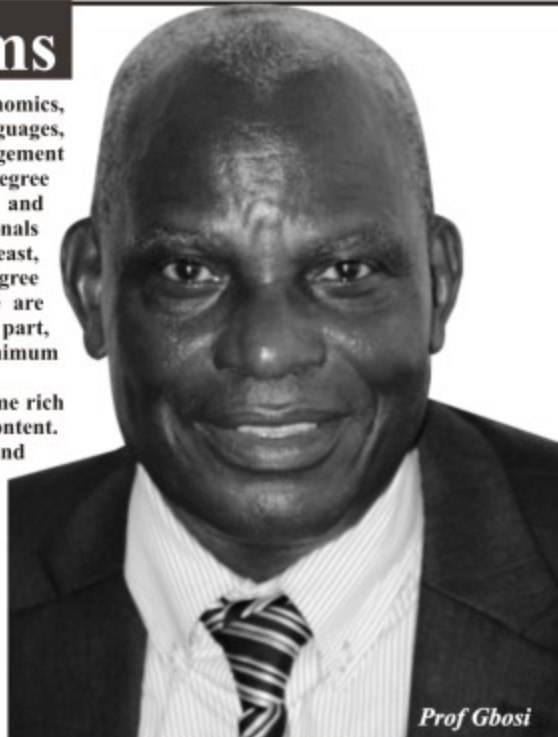
A Letter made available to UniPort Weekly through the Institute's Director, Professor Augustus Gbosi, indicated that the programme is aimed at providing graduates with the requisite knowledge and tools necessary in formulating and implementing international trade issues and development policies.

"These skills are needed in many establishments, including Trade and Investment industries, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the United Nations, World Trade Organization (WTO) and other international development agencies. Available Career opportunities include training of Trade Policy Makers, Trade Negotiators, Trade Statisticians/Analysts and Trade Lawyers," the Director said.

"The programme is open to applicants, who

possess a good Bachelor's Degree in Economics, Political Science, Finance, Foreign Languages, Accounting, History, Marketing, Management or related fields or have earned a Law degree from recognized institutions. Customs and Immigration Officers or other professionals in Trade and related industry with, at least, five years working experience with degree other than the ones mentioned above are eligible to apply", the letter read in part, adding that the programme is for a minimum period of 18 months.

"Participants would pursue a programme rich in practical, technical and theoretical content. The programme has flexible schedules and modules for working students. This approach would help to minimize the impact on students' work schedules", the letters stated. Interested Applicants are advised to log on to www.uniport.edu.ng and follow the instructions. Completed application forms, academic transcripts, two reference letters and other relevant documents should reach the Director not later than 29th November, 2013.



Prof Gbosi

Google Sensitizes UniPort Students On Apps

By Mercy Adeniji

In a bid to reduce the yawning digital divide and be in tune with global trends, search engine giants, Google, mounted a well-patronized sensitization workshop for students of the University, last Friday, aimed at familiarizing them with new software applications that are taken for granted in other parts of the world.

Exchanging views with UniPort Weekly last Friday, Google Student Ambassador, Kemkanma Otiti, who is a 400-Level Student of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering, disclosed that Google was ready to support students and Lecturers with available apps to facilitate their functions with ease and with speed.

He noted that the benefit of Google apps to the University of Port Harcourt was to assist mobile phone users to be able to access some of the company's products such as Gmail, Google plus, Google map and many more.

"We are only directed to give students these Google apps for now, as it would help them a lot. If you are carrying a smart phone, you do not need to go about with your Laptops just to search for a question online; rather, you can do your search at your convenience with your phone anytime, anywhere", Mr. Otiti disclosed.

He listed the advantages of using Google products to

include a storage off-line of about 15 gigabyte, sending of free SMS, adding that Google ensures that all your

information is secured as the security of your account is not compromised. He revealed that Google selected UniPort because the Institution is into partnership with the company, adding the company had already established its presence in the University.

The Google Ambassador said that "due to the strike, we invited student to participate in the programme by posting invitations on the University website and other social media such as Google plus, Twitter and Facebook. Kemkanma said that for more enquires on the apps, users should log onto the website: googleambassador@uniport.edu.ng.

"We also considered our Lecturers, but due to the on-going ASUU strike, we were not able to get them in their offices. But that notwithstanding, due to the rapid changes in programme as people are now going offline to online, we have an upcoming event for them in October which would benefit them and students.

He explained that Google wants to introduce its Google Drive software to Lecturers in the University. "In Google drive, several things are attached to it such as spreadsheet and Google document which would enable both parties to access their project work or other documents that would be of assistance to student and Lecturer.

Otiti disclosed that a mapping contest would be part of the event slated for October, stating that the essence of the contest is to add new developments on Campus on the map to assist visitors know the location they are visiting.



Google Ambassador, Otiti (arrowed) and participants after the exercise

As a build up to the Second Registry Day Celebration, the Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim, has scheduled an emergency meeting with all Registry staff in the Executive Cadre tomorrow.

The proposed meeting would afford the Registrar an opportunity to brief the category of staff on the forthcoming Registry Day Celebration scheduled for Friday, 29th October, 2013 at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium,

REGISTRY DAY

Registrar Meets Executive Cadre Tomorrow

By Williams Wodi

University Park.

A statement by Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Mr. Ejikeme Ichendu, disclosed that the event would be preceded by an Interdenominational Church Service at

Chapel of The Annunciation, Catholic Chaplaincy at 10.00am on Sunday, 27th October, 2013. The Chairman further disclosed that he and other members of the Organizing Committee would also attend the meeting, which he said was mandatory for all staff in the Executive Cadre of the Registry Department. Time is 11.00am.

Former Registrar of the University of Lagos, Mr. Shodimu Oluwa-Rotimi has accepted to deliver the Keynote Address titled, "The 21st Century Registry in an Emergent Economy: Challenges and Prospects," under the distinguished Chairmanship of Chairman of Rivers State Electoral Commission (RSIEC) and former Vice-Chancellor of the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Professor Augustine Ahiauzu.



Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim (3rd from right) posed with Deputy Registrars in a group photograph

Financial transactions in the University received a major boost last Wednesday, following the cheering news that one of Nigeria's banking giants, Diamond Bank Plc, has concluded plans to build a new branch along Dan Etete Avenue at the University Park.

One of the fastest growing commercial banks under the dynamic leadership of a distinguished Alumnus, Dr. Alex Otti, Diamond Bank is fast spreading its vast wings across the length and breadth of Nigeria and beyond.

The cheering news of the proposed branch at the University is part of Mazi Otti's operational strategy to bring efficient and efficient banking services to the doorsteps of staff and students of the Institution and its neighbourhood.

Regional Manager in charge of the Enugu Zone of Diamond Bank, Mr Gozie Okoye, who dropped the hint when he undertook an inspection visit of the proposed building site, said that the financial giant plans to change the way banking transaction is done on Campus, assuring prospective customers of effective operation within a specified timeframe in line with the reputation of the bank.

"Our dynamic Managing Director, Dr. Otti is a distinguished Alumnus of the University of Port Harcourt, who is very passionate about the development of his beloved *Alma Mater* from where he graduated with a First Class Degree in Economics in 1988. Having made a serious impact in the banking sector, he felt that extending the trade mark quality financial services of Diamond Bank Plc to the University Community would stimulate business transactions on Campus and its environs. Dr. Otti considers Unique UniPort as a home and is determined to do everything possible to advance its course," Gozie said, promising that the architectural design would further beautify the University's impressive skyline.

Showing a parcel of land for the proposed project to

Diamond Bank Berths In UniPort



Prof Ajienka

Dr Otti

By Williams Wodi

the bank's representative, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, praised Dr. Otti for proposing the bank's branch to his beloved *Alma Mater*, promising that Management of the University would give full support to Diamond bank as it berths on Campus. He called on public-spirited individuals and corporate institutions to identify with the University to ensure its accelerated development. It would be recalled that Dr. Otti was a long-serving member of the Governing Council of the University, where he represented Convocation. During his glorious tenure as the first Alumnus to represent

Convocation on the Governing Council, the Managing Director attracted the Faculty of Social Sciences building and mounted cooling systems at the University Theatre (*The Crab*), amongst other assistance packages to UniPort.

The Vice-Chancellor was accompanied to the site inspection by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, the Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Aliezi and Director of the Physical Planning and Development Unit, Mr. Collins Amietuboside.

A Review Of Education In 53 Years

Happy Independence Anniversary to my compatriots in arrears! Tuesday's Independence Day celebration was significant as it marked the 53rd year of the Nation's sovereignty from colonial rule in 1960. 53 years

and still



Nyesom Wike
Ag Minister of Education

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

counting; can Nigeria's educational sector be measured with a performance index that could rate it as good, better or best or are we still battling with a system that is less than average and incomparable to what is obtainable in other developed nations of the world. Ours is a system riddled with uncountable problems that appear to defy conventional solution, ranging from lack of infrastructure at the primary and secondary levels across the country, to poorly-equipped laboratories, libraries and classrooms in universities and other institutions of higher learning. It is also a system that is battling with teachers that lack enthusiasm for what they are paid to do, who most times produce what is now known as *unemployable* graduates.

Nigeria's educational sector at 53 could be likened to a suckling infant that is very much dependent on its mother for survival. Rather than being considered as a full-grown adult at 53 with resounding achievements, we have an educational sector that is struggling to survive with the unresolved strike action embarked upon by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) and the apparent lack of will to resolve it by the Federal Government as the most recent manifestation of such challenge. This follows the failure of Government to fully implement the 2009 Agreement, which is binding on both parties and is backed with

a Memorandum of Understanding.

Very recently too, the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) followed suit following unpaid salaries for the months of August and September. For non-teaching staff, who carried out their legitimate work in anticipation of a just wage. After all, a labourer is worth his wage as the holy Book says.

Examination malpractice have become the order of the day especially for public examinations such as the West Africa School Certificate Examination (WAEC), National Examination Council (NECO) and the Joint Admissions Matriculation Examination (JAMB) with the latest innovation being a jail term for culprits, who are supposed to be children less than 18 years of age. Even the Almighty Post-Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (Post-UTME) is not corruption-free. The corruption that has eaten so deep into the fabric of our dear country did not spare the educational sector. It is no longer a secret that some universities are money merchants that sell degrees to the highest bidders. Lecturers and teachers are not spared as some are more than ready to sell grades to interested buyers.

As we celebrate the Nation at 53, let it provide an avenue for stock-taking. Let it also provide a time for stakeholders to do a critical review of the sector that is most crucial to the over all development of the country, especially as the country desires to be enlisted among the top 20 industrialized nations of the world by the year 2020. Happy Independence Anniversary all the same!

V-C Tasks Government Officials On Public Sector Accounting



Director of CCE and UPBS, Prof Okodudu and Dr. Ofurum and other dignitaries and participants at the Workshop

Cont'd from p1

reporting of their activities. He said that the programmes of the School are modular, flexible and made to deliver on one of its core mandates, which is dissemination of specialized knowledge that can solve some of the problems of society. In a Keynote Address, Accountant-General of the Federation, Mr. Jonah Otunla, said that the Workshop was one of the processes of developing managerial competence, transparency, integrity and accountability," noting that the "University of Port Harcourt Business School has made this Workshop a reality, which is aimed at making the

participants more effective in public sector reporting in all spheres of governance."

Mr Otunla, who was represented by the Director, Treasury, Rivers State, Mr Dagogo Abere, stated that "the principle of accountability entails that people entrusted with the collective wealth of others will be called upon to give account of what they have done with the common wealth, in order to ascertain whether they have achieved the collective objective of the people they serve, especially in a democracy".

Earlier in his welcome address, Acting Director of the School, Dr Clifford Ofurum, who described UPBS as a place where leaders are

equipped to tackle emerging challenges, assured the organizers that participants would derive the best from the Workshop to enrich their experience in Public Sector Accounting. He expressed gratitude to authorities of the University for the support given the School over the years, despite the challenges they faced.

The Workshop, which was mounted in conjunction with Akintola Williams Deloitte, had Professors Wilson Herbert, Benjamin Osisioma, and A.A. Okwoli of Veritas University, Abuja, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka and University of Jos, respectively; and Oduware Uwadiae and Paul Masvangom, both of Deloitte, as Resource Persons.

Need For Regular Curriculum Review

Following the raging debate over the quality of education in Nigerian today, policymakers and other stakeholders in the education sector have stressed the need for regular curriculum review to enable the sector attain global benchmark that everybody desires.

Experts in the sector gave the charge, while exchanging views with *UniPort Weekly*, penultimate Wednesday, advocating that the curriculum of schools be reviewed, at least, every five years to integrate new thinking and accommodate emerging global trends.

On her part, a Lecturer and specialist in Curriculum Studies, Professor Grace Offorma, noted that since Nigeria is part of the globalization train, there is need for the country to work hard, so that it is not left behind in the emergent knowledge economy that requires specialized skills. Professor Offorma lamented that so many things are wrong with Nigeria's current school curriculum, explaining that most curricula that are being implemented are obsolete and need to be reviewed.

"When we talk about curriculum, it is not just about developing the curriculum; rather we should look at total delivery of knowledge and skills and it is well-equipped teachers, who render such services. You do not just develop the curriculum without adequately training teachers to deliver knowledge to students", she said, adding that teachers need to be fully integrated into changing learning environment to make them understand the concept, method, approaches and techniques of the teaching profession.

By Mercy Adeniji

Professor Offorma, who is an Ex-officio member of the Curriculum Organisation of Nigeria (CON) and a Lecturer at the University of Nigeria Nsukka, disclosed that when teachers are properly integrated into the scheme of things, "we are creating awareness and people will now know what to do at each turn, because globally, people are worried about changes, which also includes climate change".

The Curriculum Specialist appealed to Government at all levels to support curriculum development and implementation in Nigeria, regretting that "the problem facing the educational sector today is that we have lofty ideas and policies, but Government is not supporting proper implementation and such lofty blueprints. She also called on teachers to be professional and avoid unethical practices that put shame on the teaching profession, stressing that teachers are meant to be hardworking, honest, dedicated and committed to their duties.

In his contribution, Vice-President of CON, Professor Sunday Agwu,

corroborated the view that the school curriculum needs to be periodically reviewed, while teachers need to be regularly trained on emerging global trends to be able to fit into the 21st century classroom.

"Curriculum is a dynamic thing; so it must be constantly revisited to make it relevant to an ever changing learning environment. As society evolves, we should be in a position to address emergent issues. Government should be able to accommodate issues arising from curriculum change, as new equipment and methodologies need to be put in place for effective results", he said.



Profs Offorma and Agwu

GUIDE POST

Briefs From Other Varsities

APPOINTMENT

Professor Aduabobo Hart, Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Faculty of Biological Sciences, Colleges of Natural and Applied Sciences, granted a one-year *Part-Time Appointment as Adjunct Professor* in the Department of Animal Science and Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, effective on assumption of duty.

RENEWAL OF APPOINTMENT

Professor M.A. Bamikole, Department of Animal Science and Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, granted a four-month *Renewal of Appointment as Adjunct Professor*, effective 1st October, 2013 to 31st January, 2014.

REVIEW OF STATUS

Dr Boma Athanasius, Department of Anatomical Pathology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, promoted *Lecturer 1*, effective 2nd May, 2013.

STUDY LEAVE WITH PAY

Mr Kiale Nyiayaana, Department of History and Diplomatic Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted an 18-month *Study Leave with pay* to enable him utilize a fellowship award through the African Leadership Centre's Peace and Security Fellowship programme for African Scholars at King's College, London, effective September, 2013 to February, 2015.

Dr Eze Okubuiro, Department of Anaesthesiology, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, Colleges of Health Sciences, granted a one-year *Study Leave with pay* to enable him undertake a Master of Science degree programme in Pain Management at the University of Leicester, United Kingdom, effective 10th September, 2013 to 9th September, 2014.

REVIEW OF STATUS

Mr Diepiriye Okujagu, Department of Physics, Faculty of Physical Sciences and Information Technology, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, promoted *Assistant Lecturer*, effective 27th July, 2011.

FRESH IMSU STUDENTS GET STATE SCHOLARSHIP

All indigenous First Year Students of the Imo State University (IMSU), Owerri, have been asked to go to their various communities and collect their cheques of N100,000, being the State Government's free tuition grant to them under the free tertiary education programme of Governor Rochas Okorocha. Vice-Chancellor of IMSU and former National President of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), Professor Ukachukwu Uwazie, who gave the directive to students, disclosed that the grant is open only to students of

Imo State origin who chose IMSU as their first or second choice university.

AAU DENIES RELOCATION OF MEDICAL SCHOOL

Authorities of Ambrose Alli University (AAU), Ekpoma, have denied reports of plans to relocate the College of Medicine of the Institution. A statement issued by

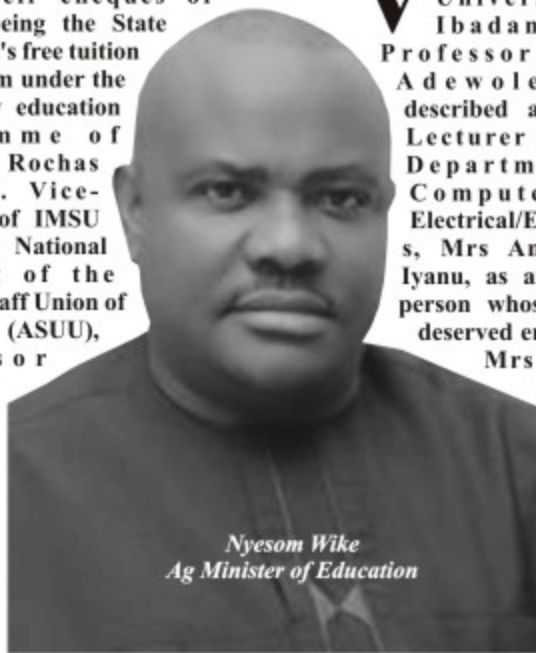
allegation of the planned movement of the College as strange to the Governing Council, Senate and Management of the University.

UI V-C PRAISES EX-LECTURER FOR HONESTY

Vice-Chancellor, University of Ibadan (UI), Professor Isaac Adewole, has described a former Lecturer in the Department of Computer and Electrical/Electronic s, Mrs AnuOlowa Iyanu, as an honest person whose action deserved emulation.

Mrs Iyanu, who taught in the Institution between 1995 and 1999, has promised

ed to return the sum of N487, 901.91k mistakenly paid into her account by the University. She was as good as her words.



Nyesom Wike
Ag Minister of Education

STOP PRESS

PH BOOK FESTIVAL 2013

The Port Harcourt Book Festival (PHBF) formerly known as Garden City Literary Festival announces this year's festival to be jointly hosted by the University between 21st and 26th October, 2013. A Letter dated 5th July, 2013, addressed to the Vice-Chancellor and signed by the Festival Director, Mrs Koko Kalango, disclosed that the University would host the Opening Ceremony, where the Department of English Studies and a troupe from the Institute of Arts and Culture would coordinate an academic symposium and stage performances, amongst other events.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT OBSERVATORY

FORECAST FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER, 6 - SATURDAY OCTOBER 12, 2013

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI (°C)	LO	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (AM) (PM)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 06 Oct, 2013	31.0	24.0	84	N	28.8	6:20 6:25	Strong thunderstorm expected. Mostly cloudy and warm day expected.
MONDAY, 07 Oct, 2013	32.0	24.0	85	N	16.3	6:20 6:24	Heavy rain predicted. Mostly cloudy and warm day forecasted.
TUESDAY, 08 Oct, 2013	30.0	23.0	77	NE	-	6:19 6:24	Strong thunderstorm expected. Mostly cloudy and warm day forecasted.
WEDNESDAY, 09 Oct, 2013	30.0	23.0	77	NE	3.0	6:19 6:23	A few rain showers anticipated. Mostly cloudy and warm day predicted.
THURSDAY, 10 Oct, 2013	30.0	23.0	71	NE	4.5	6:18 6:20	Widely Scattered thunderstorm expected. Mostly cloudy and warm day predicted.
FRIDAY, 11 Oct, 2013	29.0	23.0	63	N	10.6	6:18 6:20	Thunderstorm expected. Mostly cloudy and warm day forecasted.
SATURDAY, 12 Oct, 2013	30.0	23.0	64	NE	9.5	6:18 6:19	A few thunderstorms expected. Day predicted being mostly cloudy and warm.

SANDRA NWABUFO
OFFICER IN CHARGE

PROF SAMUEL AROKOYU
DIRECTOR, (CDRMS)

NUC LEADS Scholar Advises FG On Higher Education

By Obinna Nwodin



Dr Nwokolo

National Universities Commission (NUC), Linkage with Experts and Academics in the Diaspora Scheme (LEADS) Scholar to the University of Port Harcourt, Dr Emma Nwokolo, has advised the Federal Government to do more in order to save the educational system from total collapse.

Dr Nwokolo, who gave the advice in an interview with *UniPort Weekly*, last Wednesday, said that it was imperative for Government at all levels to take a hard look at what ASUU is agitating for with a view to addressing the problems bedevilling the educational sector once and for all.

"The Federal Government can do a lot more than what it claims to have already done in the critical educational sector. It should be able to provide reasonable funding to upgrade the nation's 129 universities that neither attracts foreign students nor scholars at the moment. We cannot afford to run universities that are no better than secondary schools in this age of globalization," he said, warning that the ugly trend portends grave danger signals to the country's quest to become one of the 20 largest economies by the year 2020.

In his opinion, the protracted agitation by the Academic Staff Union of Universities for an enabling environment for teachers and students is in order, bemoaning the decline in the quality of education in Nigeria over the years.

"We need to understand what ASUU is struggling for and support it to reposition the comatose educational system if we hope to make accelerated progress in this country. I graduated from the University of Ibadan in 1972. Looking back between what we had then and now, there is no basis for comparison," he lamented.

On his impression of academics in the

University, the former Chief of Staff, District of Colombia in the United States commended UniPort for striving towards academic excellence and community service. "The University ranks quite high compared to many other universities in Nigeria. I am quite impressed with the programmes and courses being developed here. The students I see here are well equipped to go into the industry with confidence on graduation. Indeed, I am impressed with the Professor Joseph Ajiinka-led administration's determination to make the University one of the best in Nigeria. I think the University is moving in the right direction."

Speaking on manpower development in Nigeria, Dr Nwokolo, who was also Deputy Commissioner of Health in the City of Baltimore, United States, acknowledged that there was still a lot to be done in the area of capacity-building and infrastructural development to make the University truly unique.

"We are still deficient in many areas. I believe that a lot of our politicians and

bureaucrats need specialized training in public sector administration. Managers need additional training in business administration in order to develop core skills they can adapt to modern-day realities in business, and that is why we are offering the regular and modular Masters degree in Business Administration programmes," he stated, adding that "so far, I have noticed that the students are willing to learn, recognizing that education is a life-long learning process that yields long-term results to both the individual and society".

Dr Nwokolo said that he was seconded to the University of Port Harcourt Business School to help develop programmes in Healthcare Management. "I teach Healthcare Management at both the Diploma and Master of Business Administration levels. Given my experience in the field, I also teach Human Resources and Strategic Management, Corporate Strategies, Leadership and Ethics," he disclosed.

He commended the wonderful efforts being made by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajiinka, and members of his Management team, particularly the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, (Research and Development), Professor Bene Willie Abbey for ensuring that he settled down to do what he was sent to do in the University, and also acknowledging that he had exciting experience with both staff and students of the University during his tour of duty.

CPG Student Gets PTDF Scholarship

By Otikor Samuel

A Student of the Centre for Petroleum Geosciences (CPG), Mr Ome Rex, was among three students of the University, who received the in-country Scholarship of the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF) to pursue the Master of Science degree programmes in the Institute of Petroleum Studies, University of Port Harcourt.

A Letter dated 22nd July, 2013 and signed by Executive Secretary of PTDF, Dr Oluwole Oluweye and obtained by *UniPort Weekly*, disclosed that the award covers payment for all educational expenses by the recipient, including tuition and upkeep, adding that a laptop computer set was also presented to the student.

Dr Oluweye, who stated that the award became effect from the date of commencement of the programme, which would last for 18 months,

urged the beneficiary to make good use of the opportunity to enable him become a useful member of society. He warned him against identifying himself with any activity that could breach peace in and outside Campus as a precondition for retaining the

scholarship.

"You should not be involved in any cult activity or any other conduct capable of disrupting or breaching the peace of your institution or contravening any of the rules

and regulations of the University. You should not be involved in any examination malpractice or misconduct," the Fund warned.

In an interview with our Correspondent, the beneficiary, Mr Rex, expressed gratitude to God and the Fund for the intervention, saying that the scheme would contribute towards human development in the oil and gas sector of the country. Rex, who is a graduate of Petroleum Engineering from University of Benin, promised to fully utilize the opportunity to positively impact the hydrocarbon industry through the knowledge he hopes to gain from the highly competitive programme.



Director, CPG, Prof Etu-Efeto, handing over the Award letter to Mr Rex