

Cookey Endows Chair On Malaria Studies

Barely two days after he chaired events that marked the Second Registry Day celebration in the University, 2nd Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sylvanus Cookey, has endowed a Chair to further teaching and research, as well as promote the pursuit of excellence in continuing education and consultancy services in the field of malaria and phytomedicine, reports *Otikor Samuel*.

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Side Bar

Representative of Congregation in the Governing Council, Mrs Dorcas Otto, took over chairmanship of Board of University Demonstration Primary School. Details next week -Editor



UniPort Weekly

Vol. 16, No. 7

November 11 - November 18, 2013

ISSN: 1796-1805

For Information and Enlightenment

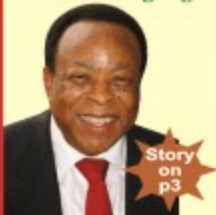
A Publication of the Information, Publications and Public Relations Unit, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria

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UniPort Gets World Bank Grant On Oilfield Chemicals

By Williams Wodi

Following the Desk Evaluation of two proposals it submitted to the World Bank, the University of Port Harcourt has won a grant that would enable it set up a Centre of Excellence in Oilfield Chemicals at the Institute of Petroleum Studies. The African Centre of Excellence (ACE) Project Steering Committee (PSC) met in Dakar, Senegal on 28th

October, 2013, following which the final selection and presentation of the outcome of the rigorous Desk Evaluation of universities and research institutes that applied for the highly competitive grants were made.

The grant, which was implemented under the auspices of the Association of African Universities (AAU), would be the highest outside intervention in funding available to the University. On the

whole, 53 Proposals were submitted for Desk Evaluation by universities in West and Central Africa.

The University of Port Harcourt entered two proposals pursuant to the establishment of two Centres of Excellence in Agriculture and Oilfield Chemicals. Of the lot, the Evaluators chose 15 tertiary institutions for the coveted grant worth millions of dollars. University of Port Harcourt was

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We Need Confab On Varsity Education, Says Nduka

In view of the 33 months lost as a result of industrial strike action between 1999 and 2013, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) in the University of Port Harcourt, Professor Ethelbert Nduka, has called for a one year moratorium to enable the country sort out the mess in its tertiary educational system. In a memorandum titled: "ASUU Strike Statistics," which he made available to a UniPort Weekly Correspondent, last Monday, Professor Nduka, who is a Mathematician, presented a strike table which showed that five months were lost in 1999, two months each between 2001 and 2002, while a whopping six months was lost to strike action in the universities in alone 2003.

The statistics also show that three days and one week each were lost between 2005 and 2006, while three months were lost to strike action in 2007. Correspondingly, one week was lost in 2008, while four months were lost in 2009—the year in which the contentious Agreement was signed between the Federal Government and the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) and the other Unions.

2010 swallowed five months and one whole week, 2011 took three months while 2013 has already taken four months and counting. All the strike actions resulted in closure of the universities and hurried resumption during which students are rushed in a bid to 'normalize' the academic calendar.

By Williams Wodi

"A one year shut down of Nigerian universities would enable policy-makers and all stakeholders to hold a National Conference to draw up a Road Map on a holistic sustainable development of university education in Nigeria," Nduka said, lamenting that incessant strike actions have made nonsense of quality education in the country.

"The picture of strike action as a 'Tea Party' has emerged due to the 'Open-and-Close' syndrome, in which universities open today and shut down tomorrow, without anybody sparing a thought as to what happens to the system in the short and long run.

"Other countries with functional educational systems are, regrettably, not going to wait for Nigeria to put its house in order before they move to the next phase of educational development. With a total of 33 months lost to strike action, we can estimate the man-hour lost and the attendant economic losses for the non-productive periods which government had to pay salaries to redundant staff in the system, the DV-C said.

Professor Nduka also appealed to the Federal and State Governments to take education very seriously through honest and transparent implementation of legitimate



Prof Nduka
DV-C (Admin)

agreements willfully signed with the Unions to avoid further disruption of the system that nations rely on to develop their manpower base and their overall economy.

STUDENT WORLD

I Want To Boost Food Security In Nigeria ~Igoma

To many undergraduates, final year projects are merely works done in partial fulfilment of the requirements for earning the Bachelor's Degrees. To Elizabeth Igoma, a student in the Department of Soil and Crop Science, however, it is much more than that. How did she go about her research geared towards boosting food security in Nigeria? She spoke to HUMPHREYOGU on her research focus.

“One of the objectives of my research is to breed lines of rice that will perform well in the coastal regions of the Nigeria. I went into this research to ascertain what I can do to boost food security in



Miss Igoma

this part of the country,” Elizabeth Igoma explained, stating that her project topic is: “Screening for Salinity of *Oryza Sativa* L. Adaptable to Coastal Soils of Rivers State”. Quite a mouthful to the outsider!

“What I am doing in my project work is that I am comparing different soil samples to see the one that is conducive to my research focus. I am using the coastal and saline soils, which have a lot of salt for my study. Rice does well in saline soil, which is found in water-logged areas. But it does poorly in the upland region, because water doesn't accumulate there,” she said, listing pests, especially birds and soil composition as some of the challenges impeding rice production in parts of Rivers State. “Our soil is acidic; it contains a lot of ions. This is why most people don't go into rice farming in this part of the country,” Igoma pointed out.

“With the Federal Government's plans to stop rice importation into the country by 2015, I thought screening for rice that are easily adaptable to the soil here, would be very useful,” she observed, listing pests, non-availability of equipment for analysis, a situation, she said took her to a laboratory at Elenwo for the analysis. Igoma stressed the need to have the equipment available on Campus to ease rice-based research in the University.

“Other challenges I face include transportation and finance. I had to go to lagoon; I had to go to Ahoada to get saline soil, because we don't have saline soil around Choba. I had always thought that the soil in Choba was saline, until I took samples to the laboratory and discovered that the soil had low quantity of salt. Again, getting the soil in the saline areas was also not easy for me at all. I had to go to the River bank, to get soil that

would fill up 60 plastic buckets; I also filled 240 buckets with soil from the school farm, which I induced with salt. The rice did well in the salt-induced soil,” she explained, noting that metal bucket could not be used because of possible reaction with the ion content of saline soil.

Igoma, who revealed that her project is 70 per cent completed, disclosed that the long term goal of the research is to develop a new variety of rice, commending Dr Andrew Efisue for his thoroughness in the supervision of her work. Beyond her current project, Igoma had earlier developed a snailery after completing a Year Two Course, AGF-201.1—titled: “Farm Practice,” in the Faculty of Agriculture, a development that attracted accolades from the Course Lecturer, Dr Brilliant Agaviezor, while she also earned some income as a student and a budding entrepreneur.

Given her entrepreneurial inclination, Igoma is undoubtedly an exemplary student of an entrepreneurial university which Unique UniPort is metamorphosing into under the Professor Joseph Ajenka-led Administration.

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Cookey Endows Chair On Malaria Studies

Speaking before issuing a cheque to commence activities on the Chair at his residence in Port Harcourt, penultimate Thursday, Professor Cookey, disclosed that he accepted the proposal to endow the Chair in furtherance of his desire to continue to serve humanity, recalling some of the developmental strides of his administration as 2nd Vice-Chancellor of the University, despite inadequate funding occasioned by the introduction of Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) by the then Military Government.

"By April next year, I hope to gather my friends and

well-wishers to formally inaugurate the Chair during the World Malaria Day celebration. I feel I should do something to thank God for keeping me alive. I don't need to do it by cooking rice which will not last more than a day, but to endow this Chair to serve humanity through sustained research that would provide services to tackle malaria—a disease that infect and affect all of us," the former Vice-Chancellor promised.

Reacting to the Cookey's public-spiritedness, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajiienka, who acknowledged that the University had not done

much to appreciate him and others, who rendered selfless services at the foundation of the Institution, praised the former Vice-Chancellor for accepting to continue to support the University which he had committed himself to develop, disclosing his administration's plans to celebrate past Vice-Chancellors and Principal Officers, who had put in their best towards the growth of the University since its inception in 1975.

"I appreciate what you passed through in the course of laying a strong foundation for the growth of the University. The legacies you and others left in the up-building of the University are there for all of us to see; they cannot be easily forgotten," Professor Ajiienka assured his host, disclosing that the final copy of the Trust Deed on the new Chair would be speedily concluded for signing by the parties.

To be known as "Sylvanus J. S. Cookey Professor of Malaria Studies," the Chair which would be occupied by Professor Omotayo Ebong as pioneer Occupant, would have a Management Committee that would include the Vice-Chancellor or his nominee; Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Development); Director, Centre for Research Management; a nominee of Professor Cookey and Dean of the host Faculty, while the Chair Occupant would serve as Secretary.

"The Chair Occupant shall hold office for a term of four years in the first instance and shall be eligible for re-appointment for subsequent terms of three years at the discretion of the Management Committee. Other members of the Management Committee shall hold office for a term of three years and shall be eligible for re-appointment at the discretion of the appointing/nominating body," the Deed read in part.



R-L: V-C, Prof Ajiienka, proposed Chair Occupant, Prof Ebong, 2nd V-C, Prof Cookey and Director, CREM, Prof Akaranta

SPE Int'l Confers Award On Egbogah

The already overcrowded cap of Dr Emmanuel Egbogah has been adorned with yet another golden feather in far away New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. The prestigious award was this time from the Society of Petroleum Engineering International (SPEI), which bestowed its highest honour and award on the foremost Petroleum Engineer, Teacher, Technocrat and Elder Statesman, Dr Egbogah, who was a Special Adviser to the President on Petroleum Matters.

Dr Egbogah's outstanding contributions to SPE and the Petroleum industry qualified him for the merit award that was conferred on him at the President's Luncheon/SPE Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition held on Tuesday, 1st October, 2013 at New Orleans.

The former Adviser on Petroleum Matters was cited for rendering distinguished service to country and humanity, following a glittering career in the oil sector as a worthy pioneer, operator, investor, teacher of teachers and philanthropist. Egbogah was credited with serving in diverse managerial and advisory capacities at home and abroad—especially between 2007 and 2011.

The author and coauthor of 94 technical papers and two books, Egbogah received the SPE Distinguished Membership in 1995, the SPE Asia Pacific Regional Service Award in 1998 and the Millennium Award in 1999 from the SPE Nigerian Council.

In recognition of his distinguished Service to his fatherland, the Federal Government of Nigeria conferred Dr Egbogah with the National Honour of Officer of the Order of the Niger (OON) in 2006, including several other awards by diverse organizations in recognition of his excellent public

By Williams Wodi

service career. A member of several professional and learned societies, Dr Egbogah is currently SPE Director for the Africa region.

His numerous philanthropic gestures include sizable endowments in the Universities of Ibadan and Port Harcourt, including scholarships at the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka. Dr Egbogah is the sole sponsor of the Emerald Energy Institute for Petroleum Economics, Policy and Strategic Studies at the University of Port Harcourt. He was amongst 33 distinguished persons so honoured this year, while 18 others were conferred with the Distinguished Membership of SPE.

Reacting to the award, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajiienka, who congratulated Dr Egbogah for what he described as a landmark achievement, recalled that the foremost Petroleum Engineer was recently appointed an African Ambassador mediating on the oil dispute between Sudan and South Sudan.

"I wish to particularly thank Dr Egbogah for adopting UniPort as a great friend and benefactor. He has become a world citizen and we wish this great Nigeria and African Statesman well in his future endeavours," Professor Ajiienka said. He used the opportunity to announce that the next

Expert-in-Residence would be distinguished Stanford Scholar, Professor Amos Nur, adding that

the feat was made possible through the contacts of Dr Egbogah. He expressed gratitude to Dr Egbogah for his sustained interest in the development of the University.



Dr Egbogah

Ojukwu Enriches African Literary Criticism With New Book

By Humphrey Ogu

A Senior Lecturer in the Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, Dr Chinyelu Ojukwu, has edited a well-researched anthology of essays, titled: *"Critical Issues in African Literature: Twenty-First Century and Beyond"*, thereby contributing to the growing corpus of African literary criticism at a time of seeming drought in the subject area.

The 14-chapter book, divided into five parts, covers theory, poetry, drama, fiction, gender studies and oral traditions, with contributions from such notable literary critics as Professors Charles Nnolim, Chinyere Nwahunanya, Chioma Okpara, Chidi Maduka, J.O.J. Nwachukwu-Agbada, Chidi Ikonne, Akachi Ezeigbo and Molar Ogundipe, who wrote the preface.

Other contributors to the well-packaged book published by the University of Port Harcourt Press include: Ciarunji Chesaina, Blessing Diala-Ogamba, Joseph Muleka from Kenya, as well as younger scholars of Nigerian extraction, such as Oyeh Otu, Margaret Nutsukpo and Emma Ngwoke. Explaining her motivation for publishing the anthology of essays, Ojukwu, who edited the work, said: "When I sent out Call for Papers, what I had in mind was to capture African Literature in the 20th and 21st centuries and beyond. That explains the title of the book. The book is all encompassing as it covers different aspects of African Literature."

The one-time Acting Head of Department noted that publishing is one of the major challenges facing African Literature today, expressing delight that "young people are writing some robust fiction in the

hallowed tradition laid by the founding fathers of African Literature; even when there is a lot of room for improvement. That is why we have people like Chimamanda Adichie, who enjoyed excellent publishing and distribution services. Her works are receiving rave reviews around the world. But some other young writers don't have such opportunities of getting their works published by reputable publishing houses.

"Apart from publication and distribution, another challenge facing younger writers has to do with the economy. A hungry man doesn't enjoy poetry. Similarly, you can't do research when you're hungry or unhappy. You need an enabling environment to explore your potentials as an author or thinker. This is why only few persons responded to my call for papers. Only the already established scholars responded; the younger ones are busy working to meet their domestic needs. Hunger impairs creativity. It is only when people are able to feed themselves and provide their daily needs that they can create quality works of the imagination," she said.

"Again, we don't have the kind of libraries we had in the past, where one could decide to bury oneself in the world of books. That is no longer the case today as people are essentially preoccupied with economic survival instinct in a utilitarian setting that measures success through the prism of material acquisition," Ojukwu added.

The Editor, who is also a playwright and actress with a screenplay, *Memories and*

Visions and a number of television plays to her credit, including a one-time NTA series: "The Sunny Side of Life", created by Patrick Itoyeogh in the 1980s, described establishment of the Institute of Arts and Culture by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka as a "fantastic step in the right direction." She also praised the Port Harcourt Book Festival, describing it as an avenue to reawaken the reading culture in the country.



Dr Ojukwu

There are strong indications that the four-month-old strike action embarked upon by members of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) may be called off this week, if everything goes as expected by the negotiating teams on both sides of the divide.

Hope rose on the resolution of the protracted strike, following a 13-hour marathon meeting between President Goodluck Jonathan and the Executive of ASUU at the Presidential Villa last Tuesday.

The Union Executive, led by its National President, Dr Nasir Fagge, emerged from the protracted meeting in what Aso Rock watchers described as a cheerful mood, which indicated that the talks may have gone very well to the satisfaction of both parties that now appear willing to draw the curtain on the

Hope Rises On End To ASUU Strike

By Williams Wodi

strike action that has dealt a major blow to higher education in the country.

Emerging from the meeting that also included Vice-President, Namadi Sambo, Finance Minister and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Supervising Minister of Education, Chief Nyesom Wike, Minister of Labour and Productivity, Chief Emeka Wogu, Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Anyim Pius Anyim, the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) and Trade Union Congress (TUC), amongst others, Fagge told

anxiously-waiting journalists that the ASUU delegation would table the terms of what was agreed upon before its branches nation-wide, before a final decision can be reached to end the strike, which has paralyzed academic activities in Federal and State government-owned universities nation-wide.

Fagge led a delegation, comprising Professors Biodun Ogundeyi, Victor Osodeke, Suleiman Abdul, Dr Victor Igbum and Mr Michael Odunmoraye to the parley that tasked the negotiating skills of both Mr. President's team and the Union leaders.

Very reliable sources at the meeting ground assured prying journalists that it was only a matter of time before students would be called back to their classrooms and laboratories. It was further gathered that the Federal Government would commit N1.1 trillion to the tertiary education in the next five years, which would work out at N210 billion annually to tackle the rot in the higher educational system—beginning from 2014.

"We now have a message from Mr. President to our members," the ASUU President said, pointing out that the secretly-guarded message would be delivered to members, to enable them take a decision on the contentious strike that has kept students at home for so long. Similarly, Labour Minister, Wogu, assured all stakeholders that Government and the public had great expectations on a speedy end to the strike action, urging Nigerians to be patient with the Union leadership as it consults with its members.

UniPort Weekly learnt that the discussion centred on the contentious 2009 Agreement between the Union and the Federal Government represented by a high-powered negotiating team led by Deacon Gameliel Onosode.



President Jonathan



Dr Fagge



New Chairman, UDSS Board of Governors, Prof Ikimalo (3rd left), immediate past Chairman, Prof Otaigbe, Principal, Mr Anele and other Board Members

Senate Representative in the new Governing Council of the University, Professor John Ikimalo, has assumed duty as

Ikimalo Chairs UDSS Board

...Parents To Donate 40KVA Plant

commendation for my little contributions to the development of the School. Please give the same support to the new Chairman, who is equally experienced in

Chairman, Board of Governors of the University Demonstration Secondary School (UDSS). He took over from Professor John Otaigbe of the Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, who served as a Member of the last Governing Council.

Speaking at a formal hand-over ceremony which preceded the inauguration of the 90th Board Meeting of the School held at the Library Building, penultimate Wednesday, the new Board Chairman, praised Professor Otaigbe for transforming the School within a year, stating that "within a short period of time, Professor Otaigbe has done very well as Chairman of the Board. We have to consolidate on his achievements to make UDSS a model Secondary School in Rivers State and beyond."

Professor Ikimalo, who disclosed plans to partner the Faculty of Education to advance learning in the School, expressed hope that the Faculty would make more input to the School through regular training and re-training of staff for enhanced productivity. "We want to reinforce a strong partnership with the Faculty of Education so that UDSS would serve as a laboratory or theatre for the Faculty, just as the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH) is strongly affiliated to the University," he explained.

The new Board Chairman pledged to expand the Computer Laboratory and increase the number of

By Otikor Samuel

computers which his predecessor purchased through his sitting allowances, stressing the importance of computer literacy in the new world of information and communication technology that would enable students meet the demands of most institutions which now adopt Computer-Based Test (CBT) in their examinations.

"We would put measures in place to achieve 100 per cent pass rate all the time. It would be recalled that we made 99.5% pass in the Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) and 100% pass in the Senior School Certificate Examination. We also made 100% pass in Mathematics, English Language, Christian Religious Studies and Government. Unfortunately, we did not make much of those successes in the sciences possibly, due to lack of laboratories and so we will strengthen capacity of staff and students in the sciences for greater performance," Professor Ikimalo said, commending the students for their discipline and sanitary consciousness.

Reacting to the encomiums showered on him, the immediate past Chairman, Professor Otaigbe, who expressed gratitude for the fraternal relationship he enjoyed with staff, students and parents, described his experience as warm, cordial and productive, stating that even though he initially met some challenges arising from disunity among some staff, his administration succeeded in nipping the ugly trend in the bud.

"I am humbled and moved by your show of

administration and has the necessary contacts to take the School to greater heights," he added.

Also speaking, the Principal, Mr Ogechi Anele, thanked the immediate past Chairman for his support towards the growth of the School. He welcomed the new Chairman, assuring him of total support of staff, students and parents as he settles down to work. Goodwill messages were presented by staff, students and the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), represented by Mr Fidelis Weleria; Heads Boy and Girl, Elema Godspower and Radiance Onu, and Mr Jones Ayuwu, respectively.

Meanwhile, parents of boarding students have set the necessary machinery in motion to provide a 40KVA power generating plant to serve as an alternative source of electricity for the School. Rising from a meeting attended by over 400 of them at the Multipurpose Hall of the School, penultimate Sunday, the parents agreed to contribute N5,000.00 each to purchase the equipment before the next session.

The parents, who graciously accepted to purchase the plant estimated at N2.5 million, commenced the contribution with over 40 of them paying instantly. The Principal, Mr Anele thanked them for their continued patronage, promising that the School would equally continue to render optimal services to ensure it lays a strong foundation for the students to stand on as they prepare to further their education.

Fora Amadi, UniPort Business School: I think the Registry Department is worth celebrating. The day provided an opportunity for self-appraisal that enabled us to evaluate our performance on the job. It also provided a time to chart the way forward for the University. I look forward to more successful celebrations.

Gloria Chinda, College of Health Sciences:

It feels good to celebrate the Second Registry Day in the history of the University. I wish to commend the efforts of the Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim, for initiating the idea of a Registry Day celebration, which provided a platform for staff of the Department to appraise our personal and collective efforts and also to deliberate on the way forward for our University. Let me also commend the Planning Committee for putting up a wonderful event.

Staff Speak On Registry Day Celebration

Following last Tuesday's Second Registry Day celebration in the University, UniPort Weekly Correspondent, ETHEL TIMI-JOHNSON, spoke to some staff of the Department on the significance of the event.

Fidelis Ike-Jahka, Academic Planning Unit:

It was an excellent celebration with useful lessons learnt that could enhance one's performance and efficiency on the job. It was an exciting gathering of non-teaching staff of the University. Interestingly though, it also throws a challenge at us as staff to brace up to meet the demands of our job.

Leyra Nnutam, Bamanga Tukur Institute for International Trade and Development:

Today's celebration was a huge success. This second Registry Day celebration was better planned than the first one, thanks to the Planning Committee for a job well done. I am looking forward to an even bigger and better celebration next year, all things been equal.



Ike-Jahka

Mrs Chinda

Mrs Amadi

Mr Nnutam

UniPort Gets World Bank Grant



L-R: DV-C (R&D), Prof Bene Willie Abbey, Director, CREM, Prof Onyewuchi Akaranta, Provost, College of Engineering, Prof Dulu Appah and Director, IPS, Prof Mike Onyekonwu

Cont'd from p1

awarded the grant in the category of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

A statement signed by the Coordinator of Communications and Information Technology Department of AAU, Abigail Nyamson, disclosed that seven universities in Nigeria were lucky recipients of the coveted awards to pursue researches in health, agriculture, science and engineering. The successful Nigerian universities are: Redeemers University, Mowe, Ogun State for health, African University of Science and Technology, Abuja for STEM; Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Ogun State for Agriculture; University of Jos, Plateau State for health; University of Benin, Edo State for health and University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State for STEM.

A further breakdown of the figures shows that universities in Ghana got three grants, while Benin Republic, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Senegal and Togo got one grant each. It would be

recalled that the ACE Project Coordinator, Professor Jonathan Mba led a high-powered delegation comprising the Managing Director of Botho University, Botswana, Professor Sheela Raja Ram, President European Universities Association (EUA), Professor Maria Helena Nazare and Professor of Mathematics at the University of Michigan, USA., Nkem Khumbah to assess the preparedness of the University to mount the programme on Friday, 18th October, 2013.

A visibly delighted Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, expressed gratitude to the Project Steering Committee and the AAU for extending the grant to the University, promising that the purpose for which it was made would be realized to attract further grants to the University.

Said he, "I am very enthused to receive news of such an important grant to this University for which we remain eternally grateful to the Almighty for his abundant grace in seeing our proposal through. This grant confirms us as an African Centre of Excellence in Oilfield

Chemical Studies and the IPS as an African Centre of Excellence in Petroleum Studies. It is a very fitting development as we prepare to celebrate the Institute at ten years of uninterrupted academic activities.

"We dedicate this grant to TOTALE&P Limited for the company's novel innovative thinking in higher education in Nigeria. I also wish to dedicate it to our 5th Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs for his foresight, wisdom and resilience in establishing the IPS in 2003.

"I wish to thank all the line officers, who worked very hard to make the grant possible against serious competition from other institutions. This monumental achievement calls for gratitude to the Almighty and celebration," the Vice-Chancellor said. He specially thanked the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Development) Professor Bene Willie Abbey and the Director of the Centre of Research Management, Professor Onyewuchi Akaranta and the Faculties of Engineering and Agriculture for working hard to make the grant possible.



Profs Jonathan Mba, Nkem Khumbah, Maria Nazare, V-C, Prof Ajenka and Prof Raja Ram

GUIDE POST

APPOINTMENT

Professor Omowumi Iledare, Emerald Energy Institute, appointed **Director of the Institute**. The appointment which is for a period of four years terminates 30th October, 2017.

SABBATICAL LEAVE

Dr Prince Mmom, Department of Geography and Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences, proceeded on a one-year **Sabbatical Leave**, effective 1st November, 2013 to 31st October, 2014.

Dr Ekpenyong Otu, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, proceeded on a one-year **Sabbatical Leave** to SPDC, effective 1st November, 2013 to 31st October, 2014.

RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Professor B.E. Okoli, Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology, Faculty of Biological Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, granted a one-year **Renewal of Contract Appointment**, effective 1st February 2014 to 31st January, 2015.

STUDY LEAVE

Mrs Blessing Odogwu, Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology, Faculty of Biological Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, preceded on a three-year **Study Leave with Pay** to enable her pursue a Doctoral degree at Makerere University, Uganda, effective October 2013 to October 2016.

Dr O. P. Jackreece, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, proceeded on a five-month **Study Leave with Pay** at the University of North Texas (UNT), Denton, United States of America, effective January to May 2014.

FORMALIZATION OF APPOINTMENT

Professor Edith Elenwo, Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology, Faculty of Biological Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, granted a one-year **Formalization of Appointment** in the Department of Wildlife and Forestry, Faculty of Agriculture as Adjunct Professor.

STOP PRESS

Iledare Sits On Egbogah Chair

Director, Emerald Energy Institute, Professor Omowumi Iledare, has been appointed as the **Chirota and Emmanuel Egbogah Distinguished Professor of Petroleum Economics, Policy and Strategy**. The Distinguished Professorship would facilitate research and development in Petroleum Economics, Policy and Strategy. The Chair Occupant would liaise with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Development) for immediate take-off of activities.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT OBSERVATORY

FORECAST FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER, 10 - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER, 16, 2013

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI (°C)	LO	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (MM)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (AM) (PM)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 10 NOV, 2013	33.0	24.0	65	NE	9.4	6:18 6:13	Thunderstorm expected late in the day. Day expected to be mostly cloudy and hot.
MONDAY, 11 NOV, 2013	33.0	24.0	66	NE	4.1	6:19 6:13	Widely scattered thunderstorm expected. Partly sunny and hot day predicted.
TUESDAY, 12 NOV, 2013	33.0	24.0	68	NE	16.4	6:19 6:13	Strong thunderstorm expected. Day predicted to be partly cloudy and hot.
WEDNESDAY, 13 NOV, 2013	32.0	24.0	74	E	8.1	6:19 6:13	Thunderstorm expected early in the day. Mostly cloudy and warm day forecasted.
THURSDAY, 14 NOV, 2013	32.0	23.0	73	NE	4.9	6:19 6:14	Widely scattered thunderstorm expected. Mostly cloudy and warm day predicted.
FRIDAY, 15 NOV, 2013	32.0	23.0	73	N	8.5	6:19 6:14	Thunderstorm expected. More clouds than sun expected. Day forecasted being warm.
SATURDAY, 16 NOV, 2013	33.0	23.0	73	NE	4.7	6:20 6:14	Widely scattered thunderstorm expected with occurrences of broken clouds. Day expected being warm.

SANDRA NWABUFO
OFFICER IN CHARGE

PROF SAMUEL AROKOYU
DIRECTOR, (CDRMS)

Visiting Registrars Commend UniPort Registry Day Initiative

By Mercy Adeniji

In a bid to reposition the Registry Department towards effective service delivery, the Registry Department organised the second edition of the Registry Day with the theme: *The 21st Century Registry in an Emergent Economy: Challenges and Prospects*, held at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, penultimate Tuesday.

Presenting her address, Registrar of the University, Mrs Matilda Nnodim recalled that during the last maiden address to the Registry staff, she outlined some areas which she felt were relevant in the quest for repositioning the Department, which included re-awakening the UniPort Branch of the Association of Nigerian University Professional Administrators (ANUPA) and empowering the staff Development Unit for aggressive training programmes, revealing that progress was ongoing in that respect.

Mrs Nnodim, who stressed the need for Registry staff to make themselves relevant in the system irrespective of their ranks, appealed to staff to always display professionalism in the way they approach their job schedules. "We must be able to develop standards and take pride in the quality of our work. The University is becoming dynamic in its ways of thinking, planning and implementation of ideas. We must reposition ourselves to fit into the new way of doing things", she appealed.

Exchanging views with *UniPort Weekly*, shortly after the event, Mrs Daba Odumabo, Registrar, Rivers State University of Science and Technology (RSUST), commended the Registrar of the University of Port Harcourt, Mrs Nnodim and the Registry staff for starting and sustaining the event.

"We learn everyday; I have come to witness this and I think this would be introduced in my University. Even though, we have workshops and seminars, we have not actually tagged any as a Registry day, but from what we have seen here, I think we would take a cue".

Mrs Odumabo, who praised the Registry Department of the University of Port Harcourt, said, "I think this is a good development. I congratulate all of you. My advice to Registry staff is for them to be dedicated and rise up to their responsibilities and be proud of the work they are doing".

Registrar, Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Mr Ikem Adiele, said, "We have learnt a lot from the Lecture and what we have seen here. We are going to put into practice a number of things we have learnt and seen here. I commend Registry Department of the University of Port Harcourt; they have really gone far. As for my University, we do not have a Registry Day, but from what we have seen here today, we would take a cue and see how we can build capacity in our own institution".

In her contribution, Registrar, College of Arts and Science, Mrs Georgina Benwoke, who also congratulated the Registry Department, described the event as a unique occasion, pointing out that "as the name Unique Uniport is, so is the occasion we witnessed".

"The Registry Day is an event which brings the Registry staff together to give them a sense of belonging and direction. I think the day is a highlight of activities here in the University. The College, where I come from, Registry Day is one thing my staff and the entire College look up to every year. We are looking forward to the fourth to fifth celebration. Every year, we bring guest speakers to lecture us on issues that centre on administration. It has always been an exciting moment for them, both psychologically and otherwise", she said.

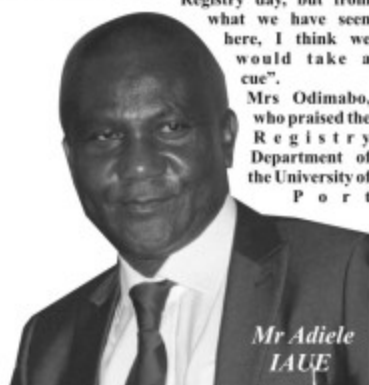
Mrs Benwoke disclosed that this year's Registry Day in her College would hold between the second and the third week of November, 2013, promising that the Day would be very educative and rewarding for members of staff and the general public. She congratulated the Registry staff of UniPort for their efforts, appealing to them not to relent.

"Keep the flag flying and ensure that seniority is maintained. Ensure that communication flows from top to bottom, because the only way up is down. You must humble yourselves to be able to get to the top," she advised.

Harcourt, said, "I think this is a good development. I congratulate all of you. My advice to Registry staff is for them to be dedicated and rise up to their responsibilities and be proud of the work they are doing".



Mrs Odumabo
RSUST



Mr Adiele
IAUE



Mrs Benwoke
RIVCAS

UPWA Unveils Multipurpose Hall Project

As part of efforts aimed at expanding activities at the Gladys Cooke International Daycare and Nursery Schools, the University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA), laid the foundation stone of a two-storey Multipurpose Hall with provision for office spaces, primary school, auditorium and a computer centre, amongst other facilities. Pictures below as captured by **HEADMAN ALU** show highlights of the event.



V-C, Prof Joseph Ajenka, accompanied by Director of Works, Jubril Inede, welcomed by UPWA President, Mrs Mercy Ajenka



DV-C (Research and Development), Prof Bene Willie-Abbey, Chairman, Board of Governors of University Demonstration Primary School, Dr Ofonime Ndioho and Mr Inede



Mrs Ajenka giving a speech on the proposed building



V-C, Prof Ajenka unveiling the project prototype



Prototype of the proposed multipurpose hall



UPWA President, Mrs Ajenka and other officials lead the V-C to the project site



Mr Inede, DV-C (Administration), Prof Ethelbert Nduka, Dr Ndioho and University Bursar, Mr Vitalis Aliezi



Project Contractor, Mr Hyacinth Mmecha of Hytech Global explaining a point to the V-C, Professor Ajenka



V-C, Prof Ajenka laying the foundation for the project



V-C, Prof Ajenka (middle) flanked by UPWA Executive



UPWA President, Mrs Ajenka (middle) with other EXCO members



Senior officers of the University, Prof and Mrs Ajenka, UPWA EXCO in a group photograph