



NUC Fact-Finding Team Visits UniPort

The University of Port Harcourt received a National Universities Commission (NUC) Team, under the auspices of the Federal Government University-based Unions Agreements Implementation Monitoring Committee, at the Governing Council Chambers, penultimate Wednesday, reports **HUMPHREYOGU**.

More on pg 3

Side Bar

The Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS) commences weeklong activities to mark its 10th Anniversary/ Induction with a Football March this afternoon. Details next week -Editor



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UISS Dusts 2013 WAEC Result



Story on p3



Story on p4

V-C Hosts Underwater Experts

AIIESEC Launches Project Sunshine



Story on p5



Story on p6

UniPort Students Learn Oratorical Skills At Mock Debate



In furtherance of measures aimed at developing capacity and competence of staff and Graduate Students in surveying, mapping and engaging in exchange programmes through mutually-beneficial arrangements, the

By Otikor Samuel

University of Port Harcourt at the instance of the Institute of Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainable Development (INRES), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Office of the Surveyor-General of

UniPort, SGoF, Sign MoU On Capacity-Building

the Federation (OSGoF). Speaking at the signing ceremony, which took place at the Governing Council Chambers, inside the Senate Building, University Park, last Monday, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, represented by his deputy in charge

of Research and Development, Professor Bene Willie Abbey, expressed delight that necessary data and equipment to facilitate research would be made available by the Office of the Surveyor-General of the Federation through

Cont'd on p6



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Giving Back Privilege, Not A Right ~Iledare

On first encounter, you may be forgiven to believe that the new Director of the emergent Emerald Energy Institute, Professor Wunmi Iledare, is a fire-spitting Pentecostal Preacher on a mission to rescue the apostates. Look deeper and you come face-to-face with a consummate and thorough-bred scholar of global repute, who knows his grounds the way a professional Sniper defines his battle field. He spoke to our Editor, WILLIAMS WODI.

There must be a strong motivation for a world-class scholar like Professor Wunmi Iledare to agree to physically relocate from Louisiana State University in the United States of America to take up appointment in the University of Port Harcourt as substantive Director of the Emerald Energy Institute for Petroleum Economics, Policy and Strategy without second thought. Yes, there is indeed!

"Society needs me more in Nigeria than in America where I have spent a greater part of my productive years, building careers and developing capacity for others. Again, I have been part of the University of Port Harcourt in the past ten years taught the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS), where I thought courses right from the tenure of the incumbent Vice-Chancellor as pioneer Director in 1999. I believe I could add significant value to my own society based on what I have done elsewhere in the world," Professor Iledare said with a frozen smile on his face.

Pressed further, he comes straight: "I need Nigeria much more than I need the United States of America at this stage of my life. I was educated basically with Government support, so it is a great opportunity for me to serve my country in this capacity with a view to giving back something to the society that gave me so much in my formative years. Intellectual capacity development is what links one generation to another. It is my duty to function within the observed deficiencies to make the University of Port Harcourt and Emerald Energy Institute attractive brands to me and other stakeholders. So, giving back is a privilege, not a right."

The overriding importance of building a new well-equipped generation to take over from his generation, according to Iledare, is far more important than playing politics with education as is currently the case in Nigeria. "University Professors in countries such as Norway and United States are very contented with what they are paid as salary and other entitlements that enable them give of their very best to the system in a conducive learning environment. Intellectual development is key to national development and I hope the politicians who are currently fighting for positions realize this basic fact that is taken for granted elsewhere," the erudite scholar submitted, regretting that the era when University Dons were highly respected in Nigeria had long disappeared, only to be replaced by the rampaging political class.

"We are the bridge to the survival of the nation. Low intellectual capacity inevitably leads to low human resource utilization and capacity-building for national development," the Professor of Petroleum Engineering said with the magisterial opinion of an expert. Iledare acknowledged Dr Emmanuel Egbogah for making Emerald Energy Institute a reality through a huge investment in the finest tradition of public-spiritedness that he recommended to other privileged Nigerians, some of who stash away their billions in inaccessible foreign bank accounts. "I am also grateful to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajienka, for his consistency in searching out the best to be part of the University. I am also indebted to the Director of IPS, Professor Mike Onyekonwu and his dedicated staff for their exhibition of professionalism in a society that sacrificed merit on the altar of mediocrity," the Director disclosed, looking forward to an excellent working relationship with them.

"There is currently no possibility of sinking low as a result of institutional support from our benefactor and the University, including other stakeholders that we are currently cultivating. We are casting about to widen our support base from such institutions as the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), the electricity and banking sectors to sustain our services in the long run. Right from the outset, I recognized that funding is a serious problem we must tackle if we are to build the kind of institutional capacity that we desire, Iledare disclosed, revealing that, when fully functional, the Institute would have such arms as Research and



Prof Iledare
Director, Emerald Energy Institute

Development, Policy Analysis, Information and Energy Services Divisions, amongst others. He disclosed that the curriculum has been designed to run on four modules spanning 15 hours per week to adequately impart knowledge to students.

"I have a clear vision for Emerald Energy Institute

I need Nigeria much more than I need the United States of America at this stage of my life. I was educated basically with Government support, so it is a great opportunity for me to serve my country in this capacity with a view to giving back something to the society that gave me so much in my formative years.

beyond preparing students for the award of degrees alone. I have revamped the programme in such a practical way that it would be attractive for Professors from all over the world to come here to teach and go back. We are introducing a flexible Doctoral degree programme that would appeal to mature and focused students with verifiable industry experience. We are focusing on energy, power, petroleum, energy economics, policy and management," he said, adding that emphasis is currently on the Master's degrees programme that would focus on specialized courses in Energy and Petroleum Economics.

Professor Iledare said that effort is currently being concentrated on marketing the programmes to oil and gas firms in Nigeria and abroad to internationalize the Institute. "We have spoken to relevant agencies in Ghana, Mozambique and Sierra Leone to train their staff, including the NNPC and Ministry of Petroleum Resources. We also hope to extend our services to some major oil firms through seminars, workshops and short courses aimed at generating additional revenue to run the Institute," the Director said.

Disclosing that the Institute was hoping to model its activities along the Brazil Institute of Petroleum and Gas Management/Biofuel, Professor Iledare said that he would not expect impossibilities, personal relationships or character flaws to impede his vision to make the Institute a truly Centre of Excellence in the Gulf of Guinea and beyond. He promised to be firm and fair and not to compromise standards in the line of duty to preserve his hard-earned professional reputation.

Classes will begin in the first week of January, 2014 with

about 25 students, he disclosed, stressing that his main concern is how to position graduates of the Institute in a very competitive market that looks out for only the very best. "The criteria for the MSc programme are well stated and we are looking for fully-employed students, who can add real value to their work after being exposed to the Institute. Emphasis is on excellence and experience," Iledare said, disclosing that the IPS approach has been modified to allow the students enough time to digest what is taught them.

The challenge, according to him, is that running graduate programmes require unimpeded access to electricity, availability of the Internet and befitting accommodation, regretting that Nigerian universities appear to emphasize physical structures at the expense of the intellect, pointing out that a university is not about buildings alone.

On the secret of his intellectual inelasticity, Professor Iledare pointed to God, a good foundational background and a supportive family as the sources of his strength in the academia, adding that the Petroleum Industry he chose also offered abundant resources that drive the economy, including his career.

"I am tolerated in America, celebrated in Nigeria. I am grateful to the Society of Petroleum Engineers that initially invited me back to deliver series of lectures in 1998, which paved the way for me to navigate my way around in this country," he pointed out, adding that he believes in what he says on any platform. "Ability to express myself is a gift from God and my own capacity to learn from even my students and colleagues. I am also confident in my abilities and the knowledge I give out. A Professor must be able to profess his ideas with conviction and excellence of thought. There is no second-guessing yourself because you have a wide reference poll to rely on. I should be able to persuade people to believe me because it comes straight from my heart," Iledare said.

He advised Nigerians in the Diaspora, who may be preparing to return home, to first identify a professional platform in the country through which they can render services that would benefit society and give them the needed exposure. Such Diaspora experts need to sow seeds in the lives of people to become relevant in their transitional period.

Giving thanks to God and repeatedly quoting from the Holy Bible means that

Professor Iledare must be a rabidly religious person then? "Oh no! I am a convicted Christian. Christianity is not the same thing as religiosity. I am not a denominational person, even though I grew up in a denominational setting. I like the traditional churches, but it is not my duty to condemn or judge anybody who chooses a particular mode of worship, belief system or even says he or she hears from God. That is entirely their personal business with God, who sees all our hearts, the Professor submitted with some measure of self-effacement.

Listening to Professor Wunmi Iledare, you may be persuaded to sell your mother and believe it is the right thing to do! He is a silent intellectual bomb waiting to explode at the Emerald Energy Institute and the University of Port Harcourt. Let I forget: he warned the Reporter to include his "Thank you" to this copy. Prof, your wish is granted Sir! I am out!

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Cont'd from p1

Briefing the authorities on their mission, leader of the four-man delegation, Mr Henry Anaziah, said they were in the University to find out if the University had a functional Research and Development Unit and ascertain how the Earned Allowance made available by the Federal Government was disbursed, among other funding-related and budget implementation issues.

Responding, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajiinka, gave a breakdown of the disbursement of the Earned Allowance, among teaching and non-teaching staff spread across their various Unions. He also addressed the other issues raised by the NUC team to the satisfaction of team members.

"For the Earned Allowance, we set up an Implementation Committee with representatives from all the concerned stakeholders," the Vice-Chancellor said through the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, adding that

NUC Fact-Finding Team Visits UniPort

representatives of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) were absent due to the ongoing strike.

"It might interest you to know that we have in this University, a Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Research and Development. We also have a Centre of Research Management, headed by a Director. So, the University places a premium on research and development," he stated.

Also present at the meeting were the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe;

Director of Personnel Affairs, Mr. Roland Wabali, who represented the Registrar, the Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Aliezi, the Director, University Data Centre, Mr Aribite Princewill; Director, College of Continuing Education (CCE), Professor Steve Okodudu. The Bursar provided the NUC team with statistics to confirm the figures earlier reeled out by the Vice-Chancellor.

Other members of the visiting team included: Mr Chuku Ezeobia, Mrs. Antonia Bawa and Mrs. Chinyere Ozo of National Planning Commission.



DV-C (Admin), Prof Nduka (arrowed) flanked on the right by Team Leader, Mr Anaziah and on the left by DV-C (Acad) Prof Joe, other team members and Senior Officers of the University

UISS Dusts 2013 WAEC Result With 100% Score

The top flight academic performance of students of the famous University of Port Harcourt International Secondary School (UISS) has, once again, been confirmed by the super brains from the School, who took no prisoners in the 2013 West African Examination Council Result that was recently released by the examining body.

81 students, who entered for the Senior School Certificate Examination (SSCE) conducted by WAEC, made the School proud with a 100 per cent pass rate to the delight of all stakeholders. The spectacular result is too good to be believed in a country with a parlous educational system that is generally perceived to be on a downward spiral. Making a credible choice of Secondary School for their wards has become a living nightmare for many parents under the circumstance. But UISS has changed all that with consistent excellent results year after year to the approval of parents and authorities of the University of Port Harcourt.

Out of the 81 candidates presented by the UISS authorities for this year's WASSC Examination, the

By Williams Wodi

result reads like a fairytale of sorts from a fictional universe—too good to be true! For instance, two students had Credit Pass in all the nine subjects on offer; not to be completely outdone, 56 others had Credit Pass in eight subjects, while another 20 students scored Credit Pass in seven subjects.

The milestone result also shows that two Candidates got Credit Pass in six subjects, leaving only one Candidate with Credit Pass in five subjects. The entire candidates jumped and passed the unwelcome category of four Credits and below to prove, once again, that they are dependable super brains from a well-administered School, where teachers and students show enthusiasm, dedication and teacher-scholar commitment to true scholarship in a conducive learning environment provided by the authorities.

The commendable performance shows that no results were withheld as a result of examination malpractice; none was also cancelled, neither were there candidates with incomplete results as has

become the fad at that level of education these days.

In a letter to Director of the College of Continuing Education, Professor Steve Okodudu, a visibly elated Principal of UISS, Mr. Ejima Okechukwu, described the dream result as "very heart-warming, encouraging and commendable. I wholeheartedly express my profound gratitude to Management of CCE for its support in that resulted in this laudable achievement."

Reacting to the excellent result for 2013, the Director, Professor Okodudu, expressed delight at the performance of the students in this year's SSCE, advising the staff and students to redouble efforts with a view to positioning the School at the pinnacle of Secondary education in Rivers State and the South-South to justify the superlative performance. "We must show the world that this great feat is not a flash in the pan or an accidental discharge. The Management must continue along this proven path of success to convince more parents to send their children and wards to UISS," the delighted Director said, pledging more support for the School to enable it continue to bring honour and glory to the University, he said.

He promised that Management of CCE and authorities of the University would continue to place emphasis on quality education and staff welfare, assuring them that the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajiinka, was very delighted at the superlative performance of the UISS students. He expressed hope that they would sustain the trend in future examinations to justify their top rating as a first choice destination for Post-Primary Education in Rivers State and beyond.

In his own message, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajiinka, congratulated the students and teachers of UISS for their excellent performance in this year's SSCE examination, assuring them that the University would continue to support the School to enable it shine at future examinations. The Vice-Chancellor urged the students to study harder to convince the world that they merited the 100 per cent result that is being applauded by all stakeholders, assuring them that his administration would stand by them as the strive sustain the high standards for UniPort is widely acknowledged.



Prof Ajiinka, V-C

Prof Okodudu

As a fall-out of the just-concluded Africa Regional Meeting on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage held in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, an expert from the Underwater Archaeology

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Research Centre, Sekuk University, Turkey, Dr Hakan Onit, has proposed collaboration between his Centre and the Institute of Niger Delta Studies (INDS), UniPort.

Dr Onit, who made the proposal last Wednesday during a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor was accompanied on the visit by Mr Siaka Fadera of the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Banjul, The Gambia, Jonathan Sharfman of the African Centre for Heritage Activities, and Research Officer, Ghana Museums and Monuments Board, Mr Prince Lawerh.

Onit, who is also Coordinator of the UNESCO Underwater Archaeology UNITWIN Network, noted that developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two universities would hopefully lead to the establishment of a Research Centre on Underwater Archaeology in the University of Port Harcourt.

V-C Hosts Africa Underwater Heritage Experts



Dr Onit (Academic), Prof Joe, Dr Onit, Director, Institute of Niger Delta Studies, Prof Derefaka (2nd, 3rd and 4th right) and other guests

"In future, the Centre could commence postgraduate programmes and exchange programmes between staff and students of both institutions on the subject-matter," he said.

Director of INDS, Professor Abi Derefaka, who briefed the Vice-Chancellor on the outcome of the meeting sponsored by UNESCO and the Nigerian Ministry of Tourism, Culture and National Orientation, revealed the decision of the Nigerian Government to establish an Underwater Cultural Heritage Centre in Yenagoa, aimed at safeguarding

the country's abundant Underwater Heritage through training of experts in line with the provisions of the UNESCO Convention of 2001.

Representative of the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igho Joe, who lauded the idea of signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Turkish University on the proposed Centre on Underwater Archaeology, listed the many benefits of the Centre to the University, including its potential to facilitate capacity-building and boosting research activities.

UniPort Team Shines At National Exhibition

By Mercy Adeniji

In a bid to fully explore opportunities in Research and Development, a team from the University which attended the National Education Innovation Exhibition (NEIE) again came 2nd at the exhibition.

Dean, Graduate School of Natural, Applied and Medical Sciences (GSNAMS), Professor Gregory Awiri, broke the cheering news to *UniPort Weekly* in

his office, last Tuesday, stating that the exhibition was held between 11th and 12th November, 2013 at the old Parade Ground, Garki, Abuja.

"The exhibition was organized by the Federal Ministry of Education in collaboration with three other ministries namely: Communication Technology, Science and Technology and Industries, including Trade and Investment. The well-patronized Exhibition, featured Federal Universities, Educational Parastatals, agencies of sister Ministries,

Schools in the Federal Capital Territory, Federal Unity Colleges, Colleges of Education, Polytechnics and Monotechnics; the Private sector and Inventors," Professor Awiri, revealed, adding that the UniPort Research Team stand during the event, drew more people from diverse walks of life whose observations and comment were very heart-warming.

Professor Awiri noted that in the University category, University of Jos (UNIJOS) came first, University of Port Harcourt (UniPort) came second, while Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria took third positions. He expressed gratitude to Management of the University for giving the Team all the support that enabled it conduct research and organize conferences preparatory for the Exhibition.

"The Exhibition equipped us as we prepare for the Third University of Port Harcourt Research Fair and Conference coming up next year, as well as the Sixth National Universities Research and Development Fair (NURESDEF), Professor Awiri disclosed, appealing to all researchers in the University to come up with innovations that are entrepreneurial in line with the mission of the University.

Meanwhile, Professor Awiri has been appointed a Member, Scientific Committee of the Fourth African Regional Congress of International Radiation Protection Association to be held in Rabat-Morocco from 13th September to 17th September, 2014.



Prof Awiri (centre) and other researchers at the Exhibition in Abuja, FCT

Olatunji Leads Agric Experts To Uyo Confab

Acting Head, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, Dr Samuel Olatunji, has led two other staff of the Department: Drs Olufemi Adesope and Clara Ifeanyi-Obi to a Conference organized by the Nigerian Rural Sociological Association (NRSA) in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.

Reliving experience at the Conference to *UniPort Weekly*, Dr Adesope recalled that the theme: "Perspectives on Changing Rural Social Organizations, Structures and Institutions and Implications for Agricultural Development Strategies in sub-Saharan Africa", tackled one of the critical challenges mitigating against commercial agriculture, particularly among rural farmers.

"The highlight of the conference was an interactive

By Otikor Samuel

session with rural women, who bared their minds on the challenges they faced in accessing credit for agricultural purposes. The women were advised to form Cooperatives groups to enable them access credit for agricultural purposes. It was noted that as a social group alone it would not be possible for them to access credit facilities to invest in agricultural ventures," Dr Adesope added. Adesope, who is a Consultant in Agro-Rural Livelihood & ICT in Agriculture, further disclosed that in addition to issues of accessing credit facilities, the Workshop also enlightened participants on the various ways in which an author could either fall prey or overcome the menace of plagiarism. He described his experience as exciting and fulfilling.



Acting HOD, Dr Olatunji and Dr Adesope

Ways of salvaging Nigeria's parlous educational system from total collapse was the main thrust of a lecture presented by the Acting Director of Academic Planning Unit, Dr Peter Kpolovie, at the maiden Education Summit organized by the Nigerian Army Education Corps at the Government House Auditorium, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.

Kpolovie, who was one of the Guest Speakers at the Summit, which had "Education Sector Development in Nigeria: Tackling Contemporary Challenges" as its theme, delivered a thought-provoking lecture titled, "Quality Assurance in the Nigerian Educational System: Matters Arising", in which he stressed the importance of programme evaluation to assure and control quality in the system. "Programme evaluation should be embraced by all, particularly the government and be accorded highly backed political will as an integral part of modern administrative procedure," he said.

"Evaluation should regularly be designed, conducted, funded, and directed towards maximization of optimum policy formulation, practice and implementation in the educational sector to ensure quality for the common good of all stakeholders. Evaluation of any programme should be based on a most suitable evaluation model and appropriate evaluation research design for maximum utility," he stated.

According to him, evaluation is concerned with desirability of a programme's objectives on the basis of needs analysis; effectiveness and efficacy of unit-by-unit implementation of the combined resources and ascertain results of the entire programme during and after due implementation and best ways of optimizing the products and services of the such a programme.

Kpolovie, who is of the Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, UniPort, noted that "Universities function as the magnetic determinant of industrial, commercial and human capital growth that demand heavy fiscal investment that has distinguished every developed nation," regretting that the average Percentage of Total Annual Budgetary Allocation to Education (PTABAE) has been as low as 5.72 since Independence.

He identified poor funding, absence of evaluation



Dr Kpolovie receiving an award from the NAEC Commandant

Kpolovie Lists Panacea For Quality Education In Nigeria

By Humphrey Ogu

models and designs, dilapidated learning and living environment, total disregard for intelligence testing, instability of academic calendar, poor selection of students and staff, adoption of dead curriculum, inadequacy of productive lecturers and lack of employment opportunities, as some of the evidences of

lack of quality control and quality assurance in the country's floundering system.

Kpolovie, who also advocated curriculum reform to address current societal challenges in line with the emergent information and technology era, lamented that Nigeria spends over N1.5 trillion on students studying abroad, while willfully allowing the quality of the nation's education system continue to nosedive.

AIESEC Launches Project Sunshine

By Mercy Adeniji

In continuation of its community development projects, the Association Internationale des Étudiants des Sciences Économiques et Commerciales (AIESEC), has launched a new project tagged: *Project Sunshine*, aimed at putting smiles on the faces of orphans and vulnerable children in the society.

Vice-President, Talent and Organizational Development of AIESEC, Henry Umunnakwe, who disclosed this development to *UniPort Weekly*, last Tuesday, when he led a two-man delegation to the

IPPR Newsroom, said the official commencement of the project was done at the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) premises, Port Harcourt, penultimate Saturday.

Mr Umunnakwe said: "Project Sunshine was inaugurated on 16th November, 2013. The aim of the project is to equip orphans and vulnerable children with the requisite skills and knowledge they need to become better citizens", revealing that the inaugural meeting was well-attended by the stakeholders and other participants.

The Vice-President expressed gratitude to the Centre for Malaria Research and *Phytomedicine* for

providing 100 mosquito nets to the orphanage homes to enable them tackle the malaria scourge and other illnesses associated with mosquito bites. He further disclosed that the next target after the launch would be to visit the orphanages to inculcate in the children some basic skills such as cake, bead-making, leadership, health training and use of computer that would be of use to them in future.

Delivering a Keynote Address, Chief Board of Experts, who is also a Paediatrician, Professor Nwadiuto Akani charged the children to make maximum use of the opportunities presented to them at the event, to prepare them to train the younger ones, urging them to be disciplined and God-fearing in all they do. She called on AIESEC

members to teach the children long-lasting skills that would be remembered all through their lifetime.

In her own presentation, the Head of *Keeping It Real Foundation*, Mrs. Bitebo Gogo, encouraged the children to always believe in themselves and not let their current status discourage them. She advised them to see ability in their disability to help them become better people in the society.

Also present at the event were representatives from David Bassey Ikpeke Foundation led by Mrs. Mary Ikpeke, Life Time Orphanage and Saviour's Orphanage Home, led by Apostle Anthony Isaac.



AIESEC members with staff and kids of some Orphanages

UniPort, SGoF, Sign MoU On Capacity-Building

Cont'd from p1

the emergent collaborative arrangement.

Professor Ajenka, who praised INRES for doing excellently well barely two years of its establishment, also thanked the Surveyor-General of the Federation, Professor Peter Nwilo for the partnership, assuring him that Management would provide necessary logistics to ensure full implementation of the MoU in the University. In his speech, Surveyor-General of the Federation, Professor Nwilo, who disclosed his passion to embark on research capable of solving societal problems and contributing to knowledge, further revealed that the Memorandum of Understanding was the first his office was signing with any University, assuring UniPort of the commitment of his office towards the full implementation of his own side of the partnership.

"We have basic infrastructure for the Institute to benefit and we will bring our experience to bear in this collaboration," Professor Nwilo promised, praising Professor Chidi Ibe for his role in facilitating the partnership.

Director, INRES, Professor Enuvie Akpokodje, thanked the University Management for its support to the Institute and the Office of the Surveyor-General of the Federation for the partnership, promising that the Institute under his leadership would continue to collaborate with relevant agencies to build capacity of its staff and students through applied research and high profile collaborations.

Areas of co-operation contained in the MoU which would last for five years in the first instance, included but not limited to joint development of research grant proposals and execution of research projects, participation of OSGoF staff in the teaching of graduate degree programmes as Adjunct/Part-Time Lecturers, lectures, seminar

series, professional short courses and conferences, as well as exchange of staff and students on capacity-building programmes, publications, reports and other academic and technical information.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajenka, represented by Professor Bene Willie Abbey and the Surveyor-General, Professor Nwilo signed the Memorandum of Understanding in the presence of Director of the Institute, Professor Akpokodje and Zonal Director, OSGoF, Port Harcourt Territory, Mr Adesoji Alade, who represented the Director of Research, Planning and Documentation, OSGoF. Goodwill messages were presented by NUC Scholar, Professor Ibe; Dr Bradford Brown, who later presented the 2013 INRES Distinguished Lecture and Executive Director, Rivers State Sustainable Development Agency (RSSDA), Mr Noble Pepple. Highlight of the MoU was presented by Mrs Selina Inko-Tariah on behalf of the Legal Unit of the University.



Surveyor-General of the Federation, Prof Nwilo, DV-C (R&D), Prof Willie Abbey, Dr Brown (6th, 5th and 4th right), other dignitaries and Senior Officers of the University after signing the MoU

UniPort Students Sharpen Oratorical Skills At Mock Debate Sessions

As a follow up to the excellent outing of the University's Debate Team at the recently-concluded All Nigerian Universities Debating Championship, the University Management, has organized a one-week intensive debate training session for the Team ahead of the Pan-African Universities Debating Championship (PAUDC) slated to hold later this month at the University of Calabar, Cross Rivers State.

A Consultant from the Debate and Advocacy Network, Calabar, Mr Franklin Ubi, who disclosed that the training session was put together to prepare the Team for the PAUDC competition holding from 24th November to 8th December, 2013, at the University of Calabar, said that the event would focus on the British Parliamentary system of debating which enhances one's ability to think and respond to issues spontaneously, disclosing that the topic was usually announced 15 minutes to the actual time of debate.

Listing "Overview of Debate," "Research and Use of Evidence in Debate," "Introduction to British Parliamentary Debate Format" and "Persuasive

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Speaking," as some key topics that were highlighted during the training session, Ubi, who is also the West African Recruitment and Training Officer for the Pan-African Universities Debating Council (PAUDC), noted that there would also be mock debate sessions for the students to sharpen their performance skills in time for the big moment.

"The exercise would enable the participating students to develop critical thinking ability, tolerance and respect for multi or differing issues. It would also help them deal with the issue of public speaking with skills and confidence in oral and logical presentation," he pointed out, adding that the PAUDC is an annual tournament hosted across Africa.

Leader and Coordinator of the UniPort Debate Team, Professor Iheanachor Akakuru, who emphasized that the Trainer is one of the best brains the country has produced in debating, said that the team would benefit greatly from his experience in elements and components of debate. "Taking Second

position at the last debate was an eye-opener for us and we intend to leave nothing to chance this time around as we prepare to face the big one at the continental level. Although School is not in session, the students have decided to make the sacrifice to uplift the name of their beloved *Alma Mater* for which they deserve commendation, Akakuru said.

Speaking during one of the mock sessions last Thursday at the Governing Council Chambers, University Park, Deputy Vice-Chancellors (Administration) and his counterpart in Research and Development, Professors Ethelbert Nduka and Bene Willie Abbey commended the initiative of reviving the dying debating culture among students.

"We urge you to improve your performance in preparation for the forthcoming competition," they advised the team members, promising that the authorities would do everything possible to create a conducive environment for the students to excel at the continental level with a view to bringing honour to the University.

Responding on behalf of the debaters, Joseph Inyama of the Department of History and Diplomatic Studies thanked Management of the University for providing a training programme that assisted them sharpen their debating skills in readiness for the real event. "We promise to justify the confidence reposed in us by coming back with a resounding victory at the continental competition," he promised.



DV-C (Admin), Prof Nduka (middle in front row) Facilitator, Mr Ubi, DV-C (R&D), Prof Bene Willie Abbey (3rd right) some University Staff and student-members of the Debating team

GUIDE POST

BRIEFS FROM OTHER VARSITIES

APPOINTMENT

Professor Matthew Wegwu, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Chemical Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, appointed *Member, Sports Complex Management Committee*. The appointment which takes immediate effect lasts till further notice.

RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Dr S.G. Kaegon, Department of Animal Science & Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective 27th January, 2014 to 26th January, 2015.

TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT

Dr Tamuno-opu Obadiah, Department of Preventive & Social Medicine, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, offered *Temporary Appointment* as Senior Lecturer, effective on assumption of duty.

SABBATICAL LEAVE

Professor Ambrose Obiechina, Department of Maxillofacial Surgery, Faculty of Dentistry, College of Health Sciences, proceeded on a 12-month *Sabbatical Leave* to Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State, and effective 4th October, 2013 to 3rd October, 2014.

Professor Gideon Abu, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Biological Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, proceeded on a 12-month *Sabbatical Leave* to Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Rumuolumeni, Rivers State, effective 2nd September, 2013 to 1st September, 2014.

Professor Boma Oruwari, granted a one-year *Sabbatical Appointment* in the Department of Animal Science & Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, effective on assumption of duty.

CHANGE OF NAME

MRS CHINEDU KELECHI IYKE OPARA.

Former Miss Chinedu Kelechi Ukwuije, now wishes to be known, called and addressed as Mrs Chinedu Kelechi Iyke Opara. All documents bearing her former name remain valid.

RSUST SELLS SHORT COURSE FORMS

The Rivers State University of Science and Technology (RSUST), Nkpolu-Oroworukwo, Port Harcourt, has commenced sale of forms for admission into a Professional Diploma and Certificate programmes in Customary Law and Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) in Legislative Studies at the Faculty of Law. Interested applicants should log on to the University Website at www.ust.edu.ng before Friday, 20th December, 2013.

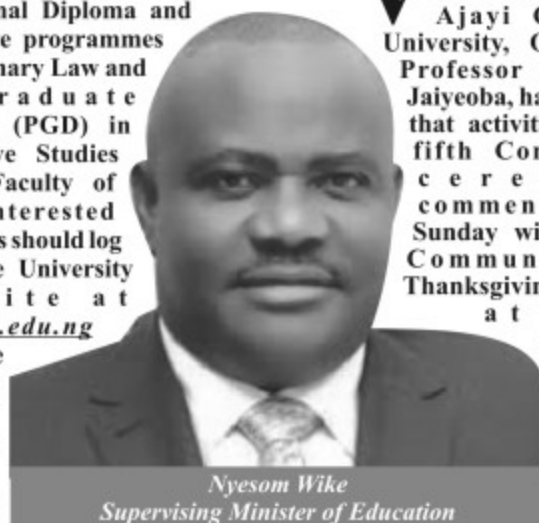
ASUU DENIES ENDING STRIKE IN ESUT

Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), Enugu State University of Science and Technology Chapter, has insisted that its nationwide strike continues, describing as untrue rumour of a purported resumption of academic activities on Campus. Chairman of ASUU ESUT, Professor Agu G. Agu,

disclosed this to reporters last Monday.

AJAYI CROWTHER VARSITY TO HOLD CONVOCATION FRIDAY

Vice-Chancellor, Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo State, Professor Kolawole Jaiyeoba, has disclosed that activities for the fifth Convocation ceremony commenced last Sunday with a Holy Communion and Thanksgiving Service at the University Chapel.



Nyesom Wike
Supervising Minister of Education

A Convocation Lecture with the topic: *"The Nigerian University System and the Challenge of Graduate Employability"* to be delivered by former Vice-Chancellor, University of Ibadan, Professor Olufemi Bamiro would hold this Wednesday, while the main ceremony for the award of Honorary, First Degrees and presentation of Prizes would take place on Friday at the Convocation Arena.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT OBSERVATORY

FORECAST FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER, 24 - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER, 30, 2013

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (am) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 24 NOV, 2013	33.0 24.0	69	E	12.0	6:22 18:15	Thunderstorm expected. Mostly cloudy and hot day forecasted.
MONDAY, 25 NOV, 2013	32.0 24.0	69	NE	9.5	6:23 18:15	Thunderstorm expected. More cloud than sun predicted. Day expected to be hot.
TUESDAY, 26 NOV, 2013	33.0 23.0	70	N	-	6:23 18:16	More cloud than sun expected. Day predicted being mostly warm.
WEDNESDAY 27 NOV, 2013	33.0 24.0	70	NE	-	6:23 18:16	More sun than clouds expected. Warm day predicted.
THURSDAY, 28 NOV, 2013	33.0 23.0	68	NE	-	6:24 18:16	More sun than cloud expected. Day is expected to be warm.
FRIDAY, 29 NOV, 2013	33.0 23.0	72	NE	-	6:24 18:16	More cloud than sun expected. Day is predicted being mostly warm.
SATURDAY, 30 NOV, 2013	33.0 23.0	73	NE	-	6:25 6:17	More cloud than sun forecasted. Day is expected to be warm.

SANDRA NWABUFO
OFFICER IN CHARGE

PROF SAMUEL AROKOYU
DIRECTOR, (CDRMDs)

2nd Registry Day

The second in the series of annual Registry Day celebration of the University took place on Tuesday, 29th October, 2013 at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park. It attracted dignitaries from within and outside the University. Pictures captured by HEADMAN ALU show highlights of the colourful event.



2nd V-C, Prof Sylvanus Cooley, accompanied by Guest Speaker, Mr Olarotimi Shodimu, 5th V-C, Emeritus Prof Nimi Briggs and Mrs Caroline Nnabuo



Prof Cooley exchanging pleasantries with DV-C (Admin), Prof Ethelbert Nduka, while Registrar Mrs Matilda Nnodim watch on



Prof Cooley and Emeritus Prof Briggs in a tête-à-tête, while Prof Nduka looks on



Representative of the V-C, Prof Joseph Ajenka, DV-C (Admin), Prof Nduka addressing the gathering



Guest Speaker, Mr Olarotimi Shodimu



Registrar, Mrs Nnodim, delivering her address



Mr Shodimu, handing over a copy of the Lecture to the DV-C (Admin), Prof Nduka



Director, Council Affairs, Dr Dakoru Charles-Granville, handing over a souvenir to Prof Cooley



UPWA President, Mrs Mercy Ajenka, presenting a souvenir to Emeritus Prof Briggs



A cross-section of Registry Staff



L-R Guest Speaker Mr Shodimu, Principal Officers, Prof Cooley, Mrs Nnodim and Registrar, RSUST, Mrs Daba Odumabo, cutting the Registry Day Cake



L-R Emeritus Prof Briggs, Director, Student Affairs, Mrs Bridget Nzimiro, DV-C (Admin), Prof Nduka, Mr Shodimu, Mrs Nnodim and Prof Cooley