



UniPort To Partner Embassy On French Language

A joint delegation from the French Embassy and Alliance Française met with the University Management on Monday, July 6, 2015, at the Governing Council Chambers to consolidate a subsisting partnership on the establishment of a Language Translation Centre in the University, reports *Ethel Timi-Johnson*. *More on p3*

Side Bar

Former V-C, Prof Ajiienka commissioned some projects and laid Science Building foundation at the CCE on Friday, July 3, 2015. Details next week ~Editor



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Inaugural Address

Lale Outlines New Vision For UniPort

By Obinna Nwodin

There was an atmosphere of eager anticipation last Monday, as the 8th Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, delivered his *Inaugural Address* to a packed Meeting of Congregation of the University of Port Harcourt that included three former Vice-Chancellors at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium.

Reading from a prepared text, the new Vice-Chancellor promised that his administration was determined to transform the University into a world-class Institution that would be known for quality research, teaching and public service.

Professor Lale assured Staff and Students of the University that he would achieve his vision by running a transparent, fair and firm administration that would place premium on due process and strict adherence to the proper way of doing things.

The Vice-Chancellor promised to search out excellent managers, talented faculty and students to help him achieve the new vision. He also pledged to explore all available opportunities for aggressive mobilization of funds to meet the needs of a 21st century learning environment.

The new Chief Executive stated that

he would build organizational citizenship amongst staff by adopting a bottom-top approach to policy formulation and

implementation, adding that he would work assiduously to turn the scale through re-training and

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UniPort, TMC Sign MoU On Mega Film Academy



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New V-C Begins Varsity-Wide Tour



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UniPort Researchers Partner Mexican Centre On Rice



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Senior Officers End Workshop



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PCN Inducts 33 UniPort-Trained Pharmacists

By Otikor Samuel

A total of 33 graduands trained by the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences were inducted into the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria (PCN) at the 4th Oath Taking/Induction Ceremony which took place on Friday, July 3, 2015 at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium. The new entrants into the profession received the Bachelor of Pharmacy degree (B.Pharm) from the University and operational licenses from PCN.

Performing the colourful Induction Ceremony, Registrar of the Council, Mr. Elijah Mohammed, who congratulated the new Pharmacists for successfully completing their studies, pointed out that their graduation was the first phase of continuous pharmacy training, expressing satisfaction that the graduands were trained in UniPort which was accredited by both the National Universities Commission (NUC) and the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria for that purpose.

"The training of pharmacists statutorily requires that upon graduation, they should undergo a mandatory one calendar year Internship training programme under the supervision of a recognized registered pharmacist (a Preceptor) in an accredited Internship training facility. This is the second phase of pharmacy training," he disclosed, advising them to embrace continuous professional education as part of their growth process.

The Registrar, who emphasized the need for the Inductees to get themselves acquainted with the code of professional ethics which prescribes professional and moral responsibilities to their patients, colleagues, employers and the general public, disclosed that the Council has institutionalized a programme known as Continuing Professional Development (CPD) to ensure continued relevance of Pharmacists in the health sector. He informed the new members of the Council that appropriate sanctions



The newly-inducted Pharmacists taking the Pharmacists' Oath

would be meted out on members who fail to carry out their professional responsibilities in the prescribed manner.

In his keynote address, foremost Professor of Pharmacy, Etienne Essien stressed the need for multi-disciplinary collaboration among the medical and allied medical disciplines to ensure quality productivity in the healthcare sector that is devoid of unnecessary professional compartmentalization and rivalries that are alien in other parts of the world.

Professor Essien, who argued that inter-disciplinary collaboration would provide avenues for practitioners to break new grounds in research for the overall well-being of the people, advised the Inductees to imbibe the academic culture of collaborating with their colleagues in allied disciplines to ensure effective service delivery to clients.

In his speech, the immediate past Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who presided over the Induction, praised both teaching and non-teaching staff of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences for the quality training given the new Pharmacists, pledging that authorities of the University would continue to support the programme.

Earlier in his address, Dean of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Professor Oleka Udeala, who recalled the various developmental stages in the Faculty from a proposal at the 240th Senate Meeting to the approval and appointment of the pioneer Dean,

commended the 5th Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, 6th and 7th Vice-Chancellors, Professors Don Baridam and Ajienka, as well as Professors Joseph Okoh, Osaretin Odiya, Mrs. Ebere Odu and Elizabeth Bob-Manuel, including himself, as founding members of the Faculty, for their great pioneering effort. They were presented with awards of excellence in recognition of their contributions to the establishment of the Pharmacy programme in the University.

In his goodwill message, Emeritus Professor Briggs advised the new Pharmacists to always be good ambassadors of the University. "As you leave the four walls of this University, you will be left with your conscience and so make good use of the knowledge you acquired in the University," the 5th Vice-Chancellor charged the graduands, praising the Dean, Professor Udeala for building a strong foundation for the Faculty.

Presenting her valedictory speech, the Best Graduating Student, Miss Vivian Imeh, expressed satisfaction with the quality of training they received while on the programme. She stated that "although we leave as a class, we go into the world as unique individuals, equipped to make independent decisions, choices and judgments." Theodora Abidde, Chisom Osiwe, Jennifer Okoli and Chimdi Emenike also received awards for emerging best students in various subjects.

At Last, UniPort, TMC Sign MoU On Mega Film Academy

By Mercy Adeniji and Otikor Samuel

As the University-Industry partnership continues to wax stronger on all fronts, authorities of the University and TMC Udemba Group have finally signed a much-anticipated Memorandum of Understanding to build a world-class film academy in the Institution. Speaking at the signing ceremony held at the Vice-Chancellor's Committee Room on Thursday, July 9, 2015, former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka commended the Chief Executive Officer of TMC, Chief Uzoma Udemba, who was accompanied by a Senior Manager of the organisation, Mr. Kalada Wilson, for choosing the University to site the project, disclosing that the Udemba Group has been partnering the University on the eagerly-awaited initiative for two years.

"We are glad that this media outfit plans to build a film academy where people would be trained and we believe that with your partnership with India-based

Whistling Woods International, you will succeed in the lofty idea of establishing a thriving film academy of international repute in this University," Professor Ajienka said, promising that his successor would support the project.

The former Vice-Chancellor expressed satisfaction with the Udemba Group for endowing two Professorial Chairs in the University, one in Engineering called the Udemba Group Chair for Engineering Science and Technology and the other in Film Studies called the Udemba Group Chair for Film, Television and Media Studies. He thanked the Group for the growing institutional partnership with the University, stating that "we hope other business associates would emulate and collaborate with the University in like manner."

In his speech, President/Chief Executive Officer of Trend City TV, operators of Trend Television Satellite Services, Chief Udemba recalled that from the first day the partnership began, it has been encouraging and "we believe that this Memorandum

of Understanding would continue to bring us together as we join forces to realize the film project in this University. The University is the best place to sustain the economy, because we think that the biggest wealth is under our feet, whereas the biggest wealth is in our heads and this would be the beginning of that engagement that would enable us begin to harvest talents for development.

"We also pray and hope that this would be a template that others can replicate in Nigerian and African universities, so that businesses can begin to tap into the abundant resources available in our universities," Chief Udemba said, adding that "the group also signed a lease agreement for a piece of land that would enable us build a physical centre that would house our chairs." He expressed optimism that construction work would commence at the site before the end of the year.

Others present at the signing were the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe, Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim, Head of Department, Theatre and Film Studies, Professor Femi Shaka, Mr. Adiola Onyedibia, Mr. Fred Orubima, Mr. Chinedum Aniemeka, Legal Officer, Mr. Eric Abonemi; including Mrs. Glory Gbada and Ibidimo Atemie both of the Legal Unit.



Immediate past V-C, Prof. Ajienka (4th left) flanked by Registrar, Mrs. Nnodim, Chief Udemba, Mr. Kalada (right), Mr. Onyedibia, HoD, Theatre and Film Studies, Prof. Shaka and Legal Officer, Mr. Abonemi (left) and others after the signing

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UniPort To Partner Embassy On French Language Dev

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The French delegation which was led by the Attaché for Co-operation in Education and Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of France in Nigeria, Daniel Rignault, also included the Director, *Alliance Française*, Port Harcourt, Helene Geneau-Okutue and Director of Studies of *Alliance Française*, Housson Michel.

Welcoming the delegation, former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajiienka, recalled that the University had cultivated a strong relationship with France through its Embassy in Nigeria. He commended the subsisting collaboration between the University and France in the energy sector through a partnership between the Institute of Petroleum Studies and the IFP School, Paris. "We have over 10 years of relationship with France based on the exemplary IPS-IFP partnership, in addition to a dynamic Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures that is well-grounded in the teaching of the French language in the University of Port Harcourt."

He also disclosed that the University was designated a High Performance Centre for Sports for athletes from Africa and beyond. "Some of the sports men and women who come to the Centre are from Francophone-speaking countries. This means that we need to develop a very strong French language component in this University for effective cross-cultural communication at the Centre. We will depend



V-C, Prof Lale (5th left) flanked by Geneau-Okutue, Director of Studies, Michel, 7th V-C, Prof Ajiienka, Registrar, Mrs. Nnodim, DV-C (Acad), Prof Igbo Joe (right) and other senior officers of the University and the French delegation

on the French Embassy and *Alliance Française* to assist us run the international sports centre that also caters for the interest of French-speaking West African countries that almost surround Nigeria," Professor Ajiienka told the delegation.

Stressing the need for a Language Translation Centre here, the former Vice-Chancellor called for more collaboration between the University and the French Embassy in Nigeria. "We have a lot to benefit from each other in the key areas of language, sports and engineering, including the strengthening of the French language programme in our thriving Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures," Professor Ajiienka remarked, promising Management's commitment to sustaining the excellent institutional relationship between the University and the French people through the Embassy.

Responding, Mr. Rignault, who commended the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures for the quality of its academic programmes and experienced teaching staff, praised the University for

the collaborative initiative. Reiterating the Embassy's willingness to work with the University in concert with *Alliance Française* to promote the French Language, Rignault disclosed plans to provide more training opportunities for staff of the Department and also for the development of modules that would facilitate the study of the French language at the proposed Centre. "This is a win-win situation for the language and future generations as the programme would facilitate training of industry personnel for French-owned companies in Nigeria such as Total E&P," he stated.

In her address, Acting Head of Department, Dr. Eugenia Mbanefo, described the development of the modules as a welcome move that would professionalize teaching and learning of French in the University. She also lauded the collaboration as a project that would contribute to the numerous achievements already recorded by the Department in the teaching of the French language in the University of Port Harcourt.

Just minutes after delivering his *Inaugural Address* to the Congregation of the University at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium last Monday, 8th Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale commenced an unscheduled familiarization tour of the various offices in the Senate Building at the University Park, where he met surprised staff in their offices.

The new Vice-Chancellor commenced the tour with a one-on-one interaction with staff at all levels with a view to hearing from and acquainting them with the direction of his new administration.

Areas visited included the offices of the two Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Professors Anthony Ibe and Igbo Joe, where he solicited their support for his emergent administration. Professor Lale also called on the Registry and Bursary Departments, where he interfaced with the Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim and Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Aliezi.

He also called at the Department of Physical Planning and Development (DPPD), Council Division, Academic Affairs, Internal Audit and the Information, Publications

New V-C Begins Varsity-Wide Tour

By Williams Wodi
and Otikor Samuel

and Public Relations Unit, respectively. The tour had earlier taken the new helmsman to the Clinical, NDDC, TETFund, Nursing and Nelson Mandela Hostels at the University Park.

The familiarization tour continued on Tuesday with visits to the Faculty of Education, College of Engineering, General Studies Unit and Students Industrial Work Experience Scheme, Student Affairs Department, Printing Press and some hostels in Choba Park. He also visited the Faculties of Management Sciences, Social Sciences and Agriculture on Wednesday and Thursday, respectively.

Speaking during his visit to the hostels where he interfaced with some students and Dean of the Student

Affairs Department, Professor Andrew Efemini, the Vice-Chancellor directed the Works and Services Department to submit a detailed proposal for comprehensive maintenance work on the hostels.

Professor Lale, who frowned at illegal allocation of land and spaces to vendors on Campus, directed Professor Efemini to investigate such cases and make the allocation documents available within 72 hours.

At Choba Park, the Vice-Chancellor told staff of the Faculties of Education and College of Engineering to support his administration to reposition the University for enhanced service delivery, assuring younger academics and non-teaching staff that he would stand by them to ensure they are not victimized by senior colleagues, just as he advised them to obey the hierarchy in the system.

"I want my tenure to witness structured growth and increased visibility for the University. Our students should be able to receive a well-rounded education that would place them in good stead to create jobs for themselves and others on graduation. I want things to be done differently under my watch and I would need your individual and collective support to achieve the vision of my administration. The principles of leadership are basically the same all over the world. People are willing to follow an honest, transparent and accountable leadership. We must operate by the books to ensure that things are done properly in this University henceforth. Part of the reason for this tour is that leaders become better when they listen to honest advice from their subordinates, so, I am willing to listen to everybody as much as possible," the Vice-Chancellor told his hosts.

Pledging to be prudent with scarce resources, Lale promised to set attainable goals and put himself in front of the drive for results, also disclosed plans to urgently build public toilets at Choba and University Parks to meet the needs of staff, students and visitors to the University who may wish to ease themselves while here.

Acknowledging the high expectations of his administration by staff and students, Professor Lale called for cooperation to enable him meet such expectations, even as he called for team spirit in the attainment of organizational goals.



V-C, Prof Lale (centre) flanked on the right by the Bursar, Mr. Aliezi, Dean, Student Affairs, Prof Efemini, Mr Franklin Nwaoma and Director of DPPD, Collins Amietubodie (left)

UniPort Researchers Partner Mexican Centre On Rice Breeding Techniques

By Humphrey Ogu

Efforts aimed at strengthening the collaboration between a team of researchers in the Department of Crop and Soil Science and Mexico-based Generation Challenge Programme (GCP) on rice breeding, has received a major boost with recent visit by Dr. Manilal William of the Integrated Breeding Platform in Mexico. The visit, which took place on Thursday, June 11, 2015, was aimed at assessing the progress so far recorded in

the research partnership, with a view to tackling challenges faced in the implementation of the programme.

Briefing *UniPort Weekly* on the visit, Lead Scientist for GCP in UniPort, Dr. Andrew Efisue, who noted that the group was involved in the enhancement of plant breeding all over the world, said that West Africa in particular, had benefitted a lot from the evolving programme.

He explained that "UniPort has been benefitting since 2011 when the collaboration in rice breeding

commenced. We nominated one of our scientists from the Department of Crop and Soil Science, Dr. Joseph Orluchukwu to proceed on a training programme on rice breeding. They sponsored him for three years in different countries where he learnt breeding techniques and some of the software that can enhance our programme here. The working visit to the University by the group was to ascertain what we have done so far in rice production," Dr. Efisue told our Correspondent.

Efisue, who is a Plant Breeder with special emphasis on Rice, said: "We have released a new variety of rice in Port Harcourt and Dr. William came to assess the variety and ascertain problems associated with the breeding process that needed to be addressed. He also wanted to find out how we are using the platform and Breeding Analysis Software that was donated by GCP."

He disclosed that "Dr. William was also at Ibadan, where he visited the Institute of African Research and Training (IAR and T) and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)," adding that "the visit will enable students benefit more from the software which can be used in data analysis. After we have perfected it, we will make it available to students for data analysis at all levels, especially at the Postgraduate level."

Explaining his mission in the University, William said: "I came from the Breeding Management System of Integrated Breeding Platform, an organisation supported by the Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation. The objective of the project is to develop a set of tools that would assist small-scale breeding project companies and university breeding groups to streamline the pipeline by providing data base for available research effort."

"We have been collaborating with members of this group since 2011 and we invited them to our training on how to use a particular software in different countries such as Spain and The Netherlands, amongst other countries. We want to be sure that they know how to make effective use of the system. The people here have been well trained and my role is to evaluate what they have done in the breeding programme and identify problems that we can help them solve," he added.



R-L: Drs Efisue, William and Orluchukwu

Research Times Higher Education Ranks UniPort Best In Nigeria

By Williams Wodi

Judging by the quality of its research and how often papers published by academics are referred to or cited by other academics around the world, the University of Port Harcourt has been rated the best in Nigeria and sixth in Africa!

Using the same parameters, the University also ranks amongst the best 300 higher institution in the world. The ranking was announced by the renowned United Kingdom-based Times Higher Education World University Rankings. The Times Higher Education published the latest ranking on its website at https://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/sites/default/files/styles/panopoly_image_original/public/top-15africa-universities-by-research-influence-090715-large.jpg.

To arrive at the ranking, Times Higher Education created a top 15 table for Africa's academics ahead of the inaugural *THE* African Summit slated for 30-31 July, 2015 at the University of Johannesburg, where the full league table containing the top 30 top universities in the region will be revealed.

A build-up to the top rating of the University of Port Harcourt was the February 2015 Webometric Ranking which showed that the University gained a massive +32 points amongst nine major Nigerian universities during the period under review. While each of the other institutions recorded declines in their league ranking, only the University of Port Harcourt made consistent gains during the period.

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings show that South African universities continue to dominate the league ranking of African higher institutions. For instance, the University of Cape Town placed first on the table, while University of The Witwatersrand came second. Apart from Makerere University in Uganda, Stellenbosch University and University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa dominated the top five places on the continent.

The ranking was formulated using Elsevier's Scopus database to highlight some of the continent's top performers in terms of how often papers are referred to and cited by other academics across the globe. The Inaugural Summit will hold the maiden public

consultation on proposals for full Times Higher Education (*THE*) Africa University Rankings to be based on the foundations of flagship *THE* World University Rankings based on the continent's specific challenges.

THE ranking editor, Phil Baty, disclosed that "This is an experimental and preliminary ranking based solely on research, and only on one aspect of research—how many times research papers are cited by other academics. When we develop a full Africa University Ranking, we expect to add more indicators, examining

things like a university's economic contribution, its civic engagement and, of course, its teaching."

It would be recalled that the top 15 snapshot was calculated using the ratio of the citations received by an institution's publication and output between 2009 and 2013, including the total citations that would be expected based on the average of the subject field. To be included on the table, an institution must have published a minimum of 500 research papers in the five-year period assessed with, at least, 50 papers per year.



Prof. Bale, V-C



Prof. Julius Okojie, NUC Scribe

Senior Officers End Performance Evaluation W'kshop

By Otikor Samuel

Barely eleven days after Governing Council of the University held a performance evaluation retreat for members of the Council and Management at the Intercontinental Hotel, Victoria Island, Lagos, Management of the University has domesticated the training programmes for Senior Officers in the Registry, Bursary and Library Departments.

The training, which took place at the Old IPS Park in Delta Park of the University between Tuesday, 30th June and Thursday, 2nd July, was declared open by the Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim, who urged the participants to take the training seriously to enable them effectively key into the implementation process of the second strategic plan of the University.

The Registrar expressed optimism that the three-day programme would provide in-depth knowledge and an additional impetus towards efficiency in service delivery in University administration, emphasizing the need for regular training to keep staff abreast with new trends in managerial skills for effective service delivery.



Registrar, Mrs Nnodim (arrowed), flanked by Resource person, Dr. Ogunkola and the trainees

Speaking on the sideline of the training, Resource Person, Dr. Segun Ogunkola of the New Infotech Consultants (NITECH), who also facilitated the Lagos retreat disclosed the theme of the training as "Advancing Institutional Growth, Change and Development." He stated that the training for the senior officers was important as they are crucial to the implementation process of the policies of the University.

"The most important thing is that those who will implement the policies are the Bursary, Registry and Library staff amongst other Units, so we need to really make them to be in the picture for them to be part of the

entire implementation process. If they don't understand what is going on at the top, it will be very difficult for them to be part of the progress we are looking forward to and that is why the institutional advancement growth and change management that we are working to attain will be of help to them as they drive the internal processes that would enable us attain the financial, academic and research goals of the University," Dr. Ogunkola said, adding that the overall target of the training was to make UniPort a truly 21st century University for the benefit of all stakeholders.

CIB, UniPort Inaugurate New Board



2nd in front row, Mr. Alphonsus, Prof Ezirim, Dr. Ifionu, Prof Okereke and other staff of the Faculty

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Sequel to several consultative meetings between the Faculty of Management Sciences and the Executive of the Chartered Institute of Bankers (CIB), a six-member Board has been inaugurated to manage the ACIB/B.Sc Linkage programme jointly run by University of Port Harcourt and the Institute.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, which held on Thursday, June 4 at the Faculty Library, representative of the Vice-Chancellor and Dean of the Graduate School

of Management, Business and Trade in the College of Graduate Studies, Professor Chinedu Ezirim, commended the collaboration between the two institutions, expressing hope that the newly-inaugurated Board would improve the linkage programme in terms of quality service delivery to the growing clientele of the University.

Disclosing that inauguration of the Board was part of the agreement contained in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the University and the Institute, Professor Ezirim noted that the

membership profile of the programme has improved tremendously with a current enrolment figure of more than 200 students.

"This is a high level Board comprising of high profile academics and industry players. It is believed that their recommendations would lift the standard of the programme and place us in a better position to deliver quality service to our clients," he stated.

In their separate responses, the South-South Zonal Director of the Institute, Chiemenem Alphonsus and Co-ordinator of the ACIB programme in UniPort, Dr. Ebele Ifionu, observed that the new Board would facilitate interaction between the Institute and the University, adding that "the key assignment of the Board is to liaise between the two institutions with a view to strengthening the collaboration in a mutually beneficial manner."

In his address, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Emeka Okereke, thanked the Institute for sustaining the programme, pledging that the Faculty would continue to support the partnership which he described as very helpful to the students. He commended the Institute for identifying with the University, promising to sustain the success story already recorded by the ACIB programme, including an increase in student membership.

Members of the newly-inaugurated Board include the Group Head, Membership Services/Finance and Corporate Services, Segun Shonubi, Group Head, Capacity Building and Certification/Learning and Development, Akin Morakinyo and Zonal Head South, Mr. Alphonsus, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Okereke, Acting Head of Department of Finance and Banking, Dr. Ikechukwu Nnamdi and Co-ordinator of the ACIB programme in UniPort, Dr. Ifionu.

Principal Commends UISS Student

By Mercy Adeniji

The Principal of University of Port Harcourt International Secondary School, Mr. Ejima Okechukwu, has commended the impressive performance of a student of the school, Mr. Ifeanyichukwu Amaechi, who took second position in the 2015 edition of the Einstein Science Challenge Season 3 Competition for Secondary Schools in Rivers State.

A statement made available to *UniPort Weekly* by the Principal of the school which is managed by the College of Continuing Education (CCE), disclosed that the competition was organised by the GRA Rotary District 9140 of the Rotary Club

of Port Harcourt in partnership with the Rivers State Sustainable Development Agency (RSSDA), Genesis Group and Africorps at the Holy Rosary Secondary School, Port Harcourt. A total of 600 science students from different Secondary Schools in Rivers State participated in the competition that lasted for seven months.

"Amaechi Ifeanyichukwu has painstakingly committed himself to hard work in academics and this laudable achievement is the apparent result. By this tremendous achievement, Mr. Amaechi stands a chance of being awarded automatic scholarship to study in a foreign university recommended by RSSDA," the Principal's letter stated in part.



Mr. Okechukwu

Lale Outlines New Vision

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intensive in-house training programmes, seminars, conferences and workshops, etc.

Addressing ecstatic staff that filled the auditorium to the rafters, Professor Lale disclosed plans to table a working paper before Senate on the possible reversion of the academic structure to *status quo ante*, arguing that the collegiate system as presently operated was more expensive and resulted in needless bureaucracy. He also announced plans to merge some existing Centres and Institutes with overlapping mandates, as well as rationalize others with a view to reconnecting them with their mother departments for effective service delivery.

"I don't think it is fair that experienced academics who should be providing effective leadership and mentorship to younger colleagues in the various Departments now prefer to fan themselves out to Centres and Institutions that appear to guarantee them better honoraria. In doing so, they have inadvertently left their teaching responsibilities to less-experienced younger colleagues, some of who use the opportunity to engage in unethical practices that are detrimental to students and undermine the system. Under my watch, this practice will not be allowed to continue," the new Vice-Chancellor told Congregation.

Professor Lale, who was a pioneer Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, also disclosed that his administration would "pursue every possibility for raising funds and dedicating a substantial part of such funds to provide critically-needed office accommodation, staff residential quarters on Campus and hostel accommodation," adding that "if we are able to obtain favourable contractual terms from private developers, a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) plan would be put in place to complement the direct effort of the University in order to achieve these critical goals."

Speaking on his administration's efforts at resource mobilization, the new helmsman stated that management of funds from government and private resources, consolidating all sources into a centralized accounting system, intensification of the efforts of the University of Port Harcourt Foundation, development of innovative ways of collecting statutory and non-statutory charges, contract resource mobilization, as

well as cost-reduction strategies, would be the focal point of his emergent fiscal policy.

Lale, who identified a number of unsavoury factors that led to a decline in student subscription into the University, assured stakeholders of the readiness of his administration to tackle them headlong. He also disclosed that in a bid to improve the quality of entrants into the University, "we will seek a mandate from Senate to introduce the Direct Entry option as much as possible in all programmes."

To deal with unethical practices under his watch, Professor Lale stated that "the current punishment prescribed in the *Statement of Academic Policy* is outmoded and needs to be strengthened to conform to present day realities," adding that "cases of plagiarism and unwholesome practices would be stemmed through strict implementation of extant laws without minding whose ox is gored in the process."

Professor Lale, who regretted the re-emergence of cult-related activities in the University, expressed confidence in the ability of the Security Department and



New V-C, Prof Lale addressing the Congregation last Monday

AVU To Launch ODeL Centre July 27

By Humphrey Ogu

Kenya-based African Virtual University (AVU), will from Monday, July 27 to July 29, 2015, launch its Open, Distance and e-Learning (ODEL) platform at the University of Port Harcourt Business School, located at Chinua Wotlu Street, GRA Phase II, Port Harcourt. The final commissioning of the Centre is the result of commitment to the programme by authorities of the University under the just-ended tenure of Professor Joseph Ajenka.

Briefing *UniPort Weekly* on the event, newly-appointed Acting Director of the Centre, Dr. Baribor Vikoo, noted that Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure available at the Centre were donated by AVU and funded by the African

Development Bank to improve online learning on the continent, disclosing that AVU also donated modules that would cover courses in science education, physics, biology, chemistry and mathematics.

Highlighting the benefits of the emergent partnership, Vikoo observed that ODeL programmes increase access to learning by making education more accessible and affordable through the deployment of state-of-the-art ICT facilities. "The beauty of online learning is that students can access materials from the Internet

anytime, anywhere and at their own convenience. The process eliminates the constraints of face-to-face student-teacher interaction and the hassles associated with transportation to and from distant lecture venues," he explained.

"ODEL adapts the blended mode of teaching, which is not 100 per cent online, but a mixed mode of instruction in which students are made to have limited face-to-face interaction with lecturers. Most examinations would be Computer-Based Tests and Assessments. Apart from this limited student-lecturer contact hours, most of the programme would be done online in conformity with global best practice," the Acting Director explained.

On the general perception in some quarters that Open and Distance Learning programmes are inferior to their conventional counterparts, Vikoo rejected the perception, noting that "entrance into the programme is through the same admission requirements and the students are taught by the same set of lecturers, who also develop the course materials."

He added that those who say that ODeL programmes are of inferior quality when compared to the regular programmes say so out of ignorance as they do not know the true operational structure of the programmes.

It would be recalled that the ODeL was established in UniPort in 2013 with Professor Hyacinth Dike as pioneer Director, who laid a solid foundation for the smooth take-off of the programme. Vikoo, who was Assistant Director, took over as Acting Director in May, 2015, following the retirement of Professor Dike.



Dr. Vikoo

GUIDE POST

My Tenure Was Successful ~ Dr Tse

PROFESSORIAL PROMOTION

Dr. Kenneth Anugweje, Health Services Department, promoted to the rank of *Professor of Sports Science and Director, University Sports Institute*, effective April 9, 2015.

APPOINTMENT

Professor Edward Alikor, Department of Pediatrics and Health, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, appointed *Director, Centre for Medical Research and Training (CENMERT)*, effective June 18, 2015 to June 19, 2017.

Dr. Kennedy Wariso, Department of Medical Microbiology and Parasitology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, re-appointed *Acting Head of Department*, effective May 26, 2015 to May 29, 2017.

Dr. O.T Alagbe-Briggs, Department of Anesthesiology, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, appointed *Acting Head of Department*, effective June 18, 2015 to June 19, 2017.

Dr. Olufemi Omitola, Department of Oral Pathology and Biology, Faculty of Dentistry, re-appointed *Acting Head of Department*, effective August 14, 2014 to August 15, 2016.

SABBATICAL LEAVE

Professor Omotayo Ebong, Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, granted a one-year *Sabbatical Leave* to the University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, effective July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.

Immediate past Vice-Chancellor, **Professor Joseph Ajienka**, Department of Petroleum Engineering, College of Engineering, granted a one-year *Sabbatical Leave* to the University of Abuja, effective July 13, 2015 to July 12, 2016.

REGULARIZATION OF APPOINTMENT

Miss Oluwatoyin Adeoti, Department of Biochemistry/Chemistry Technology, School of Science Laboratory Technology, granted *Regularization of Appointment*, effective January 15, 2014.

Mr. Ifeanyi Uchegbulam, Department of Physics/Production Technology, School of Science Laboratory Technology, granted *Regularization of Appointment*, effective January 15, 2014.

Miss Pereware Adowei, Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, Faculty of Chemical Science, granted *Regularization of Appointment*, effective January 23, 2014.

CONVERSION

Mr. Joshua Isirima, Department of Biomedical Technology, School of Science Laboratory Technology (SSLT), elevated from *Principal Technologist* to *Lecturer II*, effective May 21, 2015.

By Mercy Adeniji

Heading the Department of Geology with a galaxy of accomplished Professors and other senior academics must be a lesson in patience, willingness to listen and ability to be a dependable team player. Dr. Akaha Tse is the immediate past Acting Head of the Department of Geology in the Faculty of Physical Science and Information Technology, College of Health Sciences. He had the onerous responsibility of presiding over the Department in the past two years that tasked his capacity to cope with the stress of managing staff and students, including other stakeholders in the affairs of the Department.

When he sat down to share his experience with a Correspondent of *UniPort Weekly*, the accomplished Geologist understandably expressed relief that he finally completed his tour of duty on a high note. Dr. Tse described his two-year tenure which came to an end in March, 2015, as a successful one.

Exchanging views with our Correspondent on how he was able to record the numerous achievements on his watch on Wednesday, June 24, 2015, the immediate past Acting Head recalled that he assumed office with the stated objective of taking the Department to a greater height, saying that he took over from Professor Godwin Udom, to whom he ironically returned headship of the Department as his successor. "When I first assumed duty in 2010, there were 21 academic staff; however eight additional staff joined the Department during my tenure and I am handing back the office to Professor Udom, following his appointment as HoD for the second time," he noted.

On his achievements as the immediate past Acting HoD, Dr. Tse disclosed that "following the list of equipment handed over to me on assumption of office; it is gratifying to note that we were able to acquire additional laboratory and field equipment to fortify what we already have in the Department. They included two teaching and research microscopes for Petrology and Biostratigraphy which were purchased from the proceeds of the first phase of a Chevron Project as directed by the Project Management Committee. Also, during the 2014 accreditation exercise, additional equipment were purchased and in a bid to ease communication with the students, a web page uniportgeologistgroup@yahoo.com was created under my watch to give the Department a corporate identity and also facilitate communication with

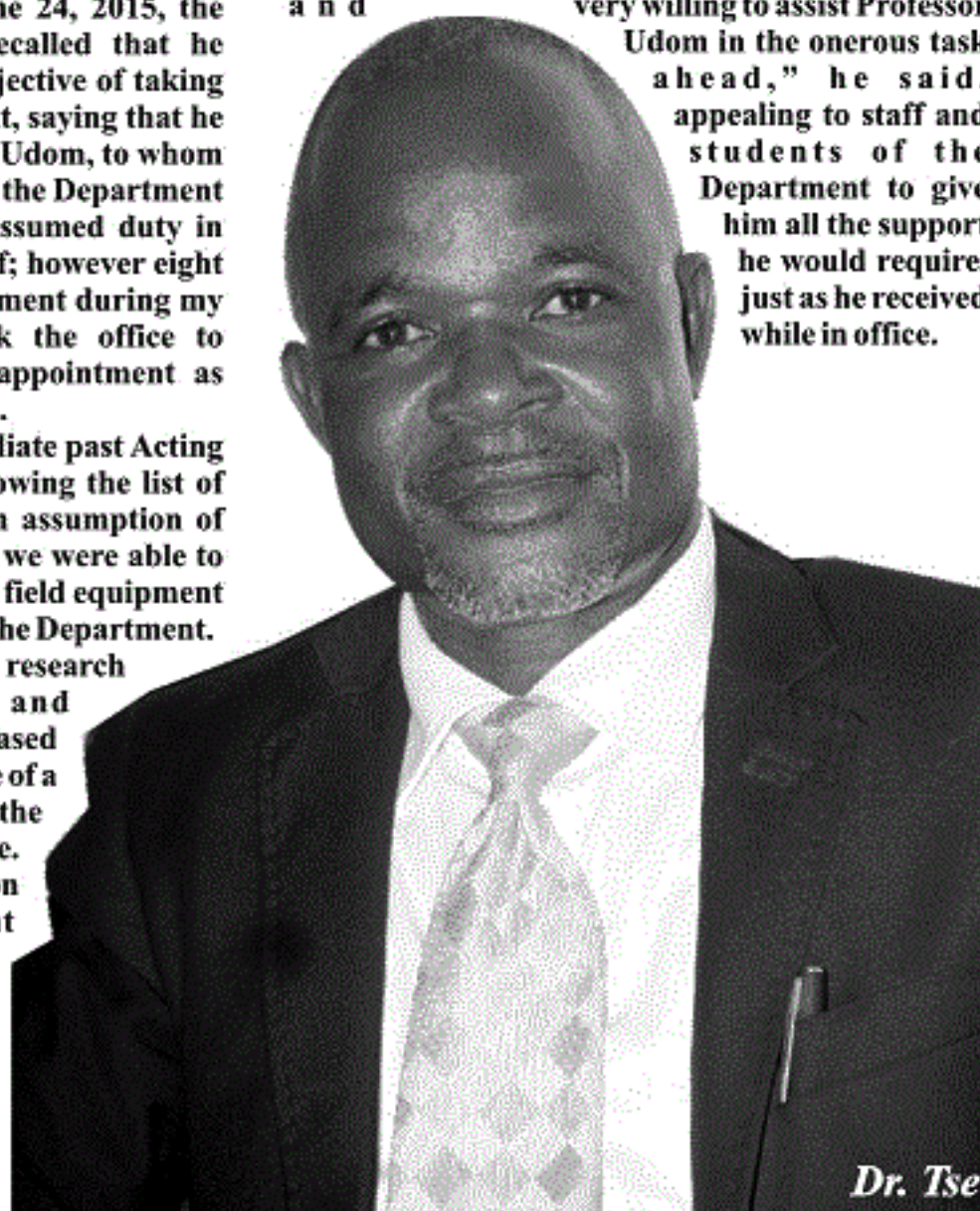
our numerous stakeholders, especially our growing alumni.

Dr. Tse added that "Exxon Mobil, through **Ehimade (Nigeria) Limited** donated a Workstation to the Department, consisting of five computers, a plotter and UPS, while some staff were trained in the use of the equipment and software. Others attended courses in hardware management, and we also received a donation of a 30KVA electricity generating plant to power the Workstations. The Department also received large volumes of books, journals and periodicals to aid research during my tenure."

The former Acting Head of Department revealed that there are some pending matters that were yet to be addressed, appealing to his successor to treat them and continue to take the Department to higher heights. He expressed willingness to always work hand-in-hand with his successor to achieve the collective goal of repositioning the Department as one of the very best in the country.

"While I extend assurances of my highest regards and confidence in my successor to take the Department to a higher pedestal, I will be available a n d

very willing to assist Professor Udom in the onerous task ahead," he said, appealing to staff and students of the Department to give him all the support he would require, just as he received while in office.



Dr. Tse

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT
WEATHER OBSERVATORY

FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, JULY 19 – SATURDAY JULY 25, 2015.

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (am) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 19 JULY, 2015	28.0 25.0	83	NE	4.6	6:27 18:49	Isolated Thunderstorm expected. Break of sun expected late in the day.
MONDAY, 20 JULY, 2015	29.0 24.0	75	NE	7.9	6:27 18:49	Thunderstorm expected. More cloud than sun forecasted
TUESDAY, 21 JULY, 2015	31.0 24.0	75	NE	16.3	6:28 18:49	Strong thunderstorm expected. Mostly cloudy day anticipated.
WEDNESDAY 22 JULY, 2015	29.0 23.0	80	NE	13.1	6:28 18:49	Thunderstorm expected. Cloudy day forecasted
THURSDAY, 23 JULY, 2015	30.0 23.0	73	NE	-	6:28 18:49	More cloud than sun expected.
FRIDAY, 24 JULY, 2015	30.0 23.0	77	N	4.5	6:28 18:49	Thunderstorm expected early in the day. Mostly cloudy day forecasted
SATURDAY, 25 JULY, 2015	30.0 23.0	78	NE	13.4	6:28 18:49	Thunderstorm expected. More clouds than sun forecasted.

Dr. Gladys Emenike
Acting HoD

Dr. Prince Mmom
AG. Director, (CDRMDS)

Shiva To Deliver
Rights Livelihood
Lecture Wednesday

The 2015 Rights Livelihood Public Lecture holds on Wednesday, July 23 at the International Students' Centre, University Park. The Lecture will be delivered by globally renowned environmentalist, Dr. Vandana Shiva, who is author of over 20 books.

The Indian-born activist and scholar is expected to speak on the thought-provoking topic: "Soil, Not Oil". The event will coincide with the United Nations Day of the Soil which is usually observed on July 23 each year.

First Day In Office



*Prof Ndowa Lale's first day in office
as 8th Vice-Chancellor of UniPort
on Monday, July 13, 2015*

Pix: Headman Alu