

COVID-19 ALERT

The Coronavirus disease is real. Observe the preventive measures on campus by washing your hands regularly with soap under running water or use hand sanitiser. Wear facemask in public places. No facemask, no entry into UniPort.

WISEcrack

*"A clever person solves a problem.
A wise person avoids it."*

ALBERT EINSTEIN

Okodudu Tasks Policy Makers On COVID-19 Pandemic

By Sam Kpenu



DVC (Admin), Prof Ogali (centre) flanked by UPBS Director, Prof Okereke (right), Ag Dean, Mgt Science, Prof Ezirim, immediate past Director, UPBS, Prof Okey Onuchuku (left) and others

A three-day workshop on *Post-Covid-19 Nigerian Economy: Issues and Challenges* organised by the University of Port Harcourt Business School has ended with a call on policy makers, all over the world to come up with ways of containing the spread of the virus while limiting the economic fallout.

The Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu who made the call in a message at the opening of the workshop held at the luxurious building of the University of Port Harcourt Business School located at GRA Port Harcourt, said the pandemic has sent shockwaves through the global economy, noting that the people are worried about their lives and livelihoods.

"Many businesses are either closed or waiting for customers to return. Governments are stretching their spending capacity. As you are only too aware, we are in the midst of a crisis like no other. And the stability of financial systems is threatened," Okodudu said.

The Acting Vice Chancellor who was represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Regina Ogali, described the pandemic as a truly global crisis and opined that the COVID-19 virus does not stop at borders and called for a coordinated effort on the part of international organizations to come up with strategies to fight the virus. He

congratulated the effort of the School under the current leadership for organising such a life changing programme.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Director of University of Port Harcourt Business School (UPBS) Professor Emeka Okereke, said the focus of the workshop was aimed at exposing, equipping and acquainting students and other participants with issues, challenges and their resolution strategies which he said would cover some aspects of the students' programme in line with the nine credit units hours of UPBS curriculum.

"University of Port Harcourt Business School remains focused in empowering global leaders for emerging challenges through research and learning, community service and entrepreneurship. The three-day event is blessed with men and women of honour, endowed with knowledge, and are very ready to share and enrich students and participants with their academic-industry 'fruits' and 'juice' that will impact positively on participants' capacity," Okereke said.

In his keynote address, the immediate past Director of University of Port Harcourt Business School, Professor Okey Onuchuku, who spoke on *Post-Covid-19 and the Nigerian Economy: Issues and Challenges*, said the only way forward to stabilise the Nigerian economy and to ensure inclusive growth and reduce poverty is to shift the aggregate supply curve outward by stepping up production of goods and services in the country.

In a Lead Paper presentation on the *Nigerian Economy in Perspective* by Professor Herbert, the erudite scholar took a holistic direction on the Workshop theme by giving a panoramic view of the Nigerian Economy and providing policy direction as a means of managing the Post-COVID-19 Economic issues and challenges.

In another paper entitled: *Capital Market in Post-Covid-19 Nigerian Economy*, Professor Uche Uwaleke of Nasarawa State University and President Capital Market, exposed participants to the depth of Capital Market as investment vehicle and strategies for investors' safety in post-Covid-19 Nigerian Economy. Similarly, a paper on SMEs in a post-COVID-19 Nigerian Economy presented by an industry and academic giant, Steve Nwulu who doubles as Executive Director, Finance and Training Generic Capital Nigeria Limited and Chairman Education Committee CIBN, chronicled a holistic review of the economy and how the Pandemic has affected SMEs and financing gaps in Nigeria and proffered remedies to the nagging challenges.

Other papers presented at the event included: *Healthcare Delivery in Post-Covid-19 Nigerian Economy*; *Strategic Human Resources Management and Entrepreneurship Creativity and Innovations in Post-Covid-19 Nigerian Economy*.

TETFund, UniPort To Partner On R&D

By Humphrey Ogu



A group photograph of Principal Officers, Gov't officials and other stakeholders

Ways of tackling challenges associated with insecurity and the environment in Nigeria through research and development was the thrust of a meeting between the University and two committees set up by the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund). The meeting took place at the Vice Chancellor's Committee Room on Thursday, November 19, 2020.

Briefing the Acting Vice Chancellor on their mission, Leader of the TETFund Committee on Environment and Bioresources, Professor Eka Braide noted that "TETFund plans to start a National Research and Development Foundation, using the Triple-Helix model. When established, the foundation will focus on research for development, not just for promotion as has been the case in the past." She listed agriculture, health, Information and Communication Technology, as some of the areas the outcome of research would be harnessed to solve

problems.

Disclosing that the teams had earlier visited the Rivers State Government House, Ministry of Environment, Rivers State University, amongst other strategic institutions, Professor Braide identified gas flaring, waste management, destruction of mangrove forests and soot as some of the environmental issues in the state.

On his part, Leader of the TETFund Committee on Defence and Security, Professor Oluwole Familoni, noted that his committee was in UniPort to interact with stakeholders on research activities that would tackle security challenges. He said the purpose was to

bring researchers, industry experts and government together to achieve a common goal.

"The problem with defence is that if you have to buy something, you will be at the mercy of the seller. Each country should be able to make weapons with which to defend themselves against external aggression. The purpose of this is to bring experts together to carry out research and send the outcome of the research to industry for the production of hardware," he said, adding that the Executive Secretary of TETFund was very passionate about the research for development programme.

Responding, Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu, who described the visiting teams as his co-labourers in the vineyard of academics, said: "the nation is at the crossroads, and the time has come for us to harvest intellectual reasoning for the betterment of our nation. Every development effort should aim at indigenisation, for no nation can develop another nation. What we are facing in the country today is the effect of many years of neglect and destruction of the environment."

Professor Okodudu informed the TETFund team that UniPort has been practising the Triple-Helix model for over eight years with the establishment of the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS), Centre for Occupational Health, Safety and Environment (COHSE) African Centres of Excellence and so on.

"We now talk of Quadruple Helix. We have done a number of research in this University. Not so long, I chaired an NUC-sponsored committee on Nigeria's Prosperity 2050," he added.

Also speaking, Co-ordinator, World Bank Centres—African Centre of Excellence in Oilfield Chemical Research and Public Health and Toxicological Research, Professor Onyewuchi Akaranta, lauded Professors Braide and Familoni, noting that African Centre of Excellence in Oilfield Chemical Research had been carrying out research on the impact of oil exploration and production activities in the Niger Delta.

Uniport Shines At Global Competition

By Humphrey Ogu

Three University of Port Harcourt students from the Department of Electrical/Electronic Engineering, Anthony Ugheoke, Tejiri Ukasanya and Isaac Eghagha made the University and the country proud at a Global ICT competition organised by Huawei.

A report signed by the Acting Director, Centre for Information and Telecommunication (CITE), Dr Bourdillon Omijeh, and made available to *UniPort News*, said that the Closing and Award Ceremony of the 2019/2020 Huawei Global ICT competition held on November 14, 2020 at Huawei Base, Songshan Lake, Dongguan

China with Huawei Head Office Abuja, as a sub-venue because of the excellent performance of the Nigerian students. Omijeh, who represented the Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu, at the event said that "Team Nigeria emerged as one of the overall winners, beating other countries to win the Grand Prize in Network and Cloud Technologies." He noted that "the students were thrilled to emerge winners after 10 months of consistent hardwork, from a competition which comprises national preliminary contest, semi-final and a global final to crown it all."

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Acting VC Inaugurates UPWA Int'l Secondary School

By Sam Kpenu

Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu has praised the University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA) for kicking off the secondary school component of the Gladys Cookey Resource Centre under its current leadership.

Professor Okodudu gave the commendation at the official inauguration of the newly established International Secondary School which took off on October 5, 2020 at the University Park. He described the initiative as sustainable legacies that would impact positively on the young minds even after the tenure of the current leadership of the Association.

"What we are witnessing here is an excellent partnership between the University Management and UPWA as well as other stakeholders and I can assure you there is no limit to what we can all accomplish towards advancing the public good. I am happy to note that UPWA had done a very commendable job by opening the secondary school component of the International Daycare, Nursery and Primary schools," Professor Okodudu said.

The elated Acting Vice Chancellor remarked that those who found themselves in positions of trust should endeavour to add value to it, saying it would be better to leave it the way one met it than destroy it. Professor Okodudu pledged

Management continued support to the President and Executives of UPWA.

Earlier in her welcome address, UPWA President and wife of the Acting Vice Chancellor, Dr Ezinneke Okodudu had expressed profound gratitude to the parent-teacher association (PTA) and other stakeholders for the unalloyed support and encouragement her Executive Committee has received since the inception of the current

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Registry Ends 9th Celebration



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Stakeholders Call For Evidence Use



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Uniport Gets Treatment Centre



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ODEL To Commence Prog



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December, 2020

CCGS, Others Commemorate Int'l Day For Elimination Of Violence Against Women

By Letom Nnen

The Centre for Conflict and Gender Studies (CCGS) partnered the Rivers State Ministry of Women Affairs and the international community in commemorating this year's international day for the elimination of violence against women and girls. Speaking on the importance of the Day, which is marked on November 25 every year, Acting Director of CCGS, Dr Heoma Nsirim-Worlu identified violence by intimate partners as one of the most common forms of violence against women. The Acting Director also decried a situation whereby many women do not seek help or report their predicament due to fear of losing their partners or been stigmatised. Describing violence against women as a violation of human rights of women, the Acting Director called for the enactment of relevant legislation on violence against women and girls to curb the menace.

"As the Centre joins the International Community in commemorating the day, we recommend behavioural change for partners. I believe this will reduce the risk of violence against women and girls. Another thing that will reduce this form of violence is the education of citizens with the enactment of relevant legislation and Act on violence against women and girls," she stated.

The CCGS Acting Director further added that respect, love and tolerance for one another would help in preventing violence.



Acting Director, CCGS, Dr Nsirim - Worlu (seated center) and staff of the Centre

The Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu said his administration would continue to partner organisations that are committed to youth development and empowerment.

Professor Okodudu who spoke when University of Port Harcourt Alumni Association, Rivers State Chapter visited him at the Governing Council Chamber of the University, called for the support of the Association.

Acting VC Reassures Alumni Assoc Of Mgt's Cooperation

By Sam Kpenu

He said that the Association has critical role in the development of the University, noting their willingness to contribute to the support of the Association.



Ag VC, Prof Okodudu (centre), flanked by Principal Officers and Alumni Assoc EXCO

Registry Dept Needs Overhaul For Efficiency ~ Swanta

By Otikor Samuel

Immediate past Registrar of the University of Abuja, Mrs Rifkatu Swanta, has called for total overhaul of the Registry Department of Nigeria's universities to enable it perform optimally. Mrs Swanta made the call while presenting the Lecture entitled: *Sustaining the University Registry for Efficient Service Delivery amidst the Current Challenge/Realities at the 9th Registry Day Celebration*. The event which held at the Emerald Energy Institute Auditorium on Thursday, November 12, 2020, had "The University Registry and Efficient Service Delivery" as its theme.

She called for right skilled manpower to drive the vision of the Registry Department in line with the emerging trends in university administration. "Sustaining the University Registry for effective and efficient service delivery amidst the current challenges, calls for fundamental and drastic changes in the structural and operational mechanisms of the department. It requires total overhaul of all the administrative and operational apparatus of the department," Mrs Swanta said.

"Adequate software packages should be deployed to enhance the performance of various roles. The Registry must embrace the ICT revolution as a positive tool, while the University Management should provide adequately for the realization of these goals. Training and retraining of the Registry personnel should be one of the priorities of the University Management especially, in this era of digitization," she stated,

emphasising also attitudinal reorientation of staff of the Registry to deliver quality services.

In his goodwill message, the Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu, stressed the need for efficiency in all units of the University to ensure its growth.

"There is no doubt that efficiency in service delivery in this University is rapidly dwindling. I do not need to emphasise that the Registry has the traditional responsibility to critically analyse the causes of the palpable lackluster and laissez-faire attitude pervading the workforce with a view to finding sustainable solution(s). Efficient service delivery is the oil that lubricates the wheel of successful establishments," the Acting Vice Chancellor said.

"While I urge you to consciously develop and allow intrinsic motivation to drive your interest, rest assured that the Management will not relent in its responsibility to take workers' welfare seriously. Under my watch, no worker in this University will be denied any lawful right. We have already commenced doing so," Professor Okodudu added. Earlier, Chairman of the occasion, Professor Joseph Ajenka, said the Registry anthem captured the essence of the celebration. The 7th Vice Chancellor recalled that at the time the Registry Day was introduced nine years ago, there were waves of innovation taking place in the University.

"Nine years has come of age. The core



A group photograph of guests after the Registry Day celebration

values as captured in the Registry Anthem is of essence. The Registry must be professionalized," the Chairman said.

In her address, Registrar, Dr Dorcas Otto, stated that this year's Registry Day was transmitted through zoom due to the challenge posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. She commended staff of the Department for their support towards the smooth running of the University. Similarly, Chairperson of the 9th Registry Day Planning Committee, Mrs Elizabeth Ndiokho showered encomiums on guests and staff who participated through the online platform. Goodwill messages were delivered by the Rivers State Commissioner for Commerce and Industry, Mrs Ifeyinwa Nwankpa and Registrars of sister institutions. Highlights of the celebration included

development of the institution, even in the support for academic initiatives of the University.

The Acting Vice Chancellor stated that government resources are over-stretched, adding that government alone could not provide for all the universities without the support of the industry and development partners, including those of the alumni.

He expressed satisfaction at the accelerated growth recorded in the University as a key player in the development of country. "We have succeeded in producing high-calibre human resources as exemplified by the many high-profile positions that our graduates now hold locally and internationally, in public and private Institutions. UniPort has played its part in the production of human resources for the socio-economic development of our country," the Acting Vice Chancellor added.

Speaking earlier, the President of the University of Port Harcourt Alumni Association, Rivers Chapter, Mr Sam Woka had congratulated Professor Okodudu on his appointment as the Acting VC, praising the Federal Government for appointing for the first time, an Alumnus of the University to the exalted office of a Vice Chancellor.

Mr Woka urged the Acting VC to use the opportunity to build bridges of hope and work towards restoring the Institution to the part of greatness.

presentation of awards to retiring staff of the Registry and special rendition by Dr Precious Omoku. The retired staff were: Dr Francesca Okiti, Messrs Okochukwu Oti, Igeyi Jonathan, Tbelema Nimengoka and Dr Kate Onyige.

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December, 2020

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GUIDE POST

READERSHIP PROMOTION

Dr Uzoma Nwogu, Department of Educational Management, Faculty of Education, promoted to the rank of *Reader*, effective October 1, 2017.

Dr Chikwe Agbakwura, Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education, promoted to the rank of *Reader*, effective October 1, 2017.

Dr John Dike, Department of Curriculum Studies and Educational Technology, Faculty of Education, promoted to the rank of *Reader*, effective October 1, 2017.

Dr Innocent Uwah, Department of Theatre and Film Studies, Faculty of Humanities, promoted to the rank of *Reader*, effective October 1, 2017.

Dr Peter Alawa, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities, promoted to the rank of *Reader*, effective October 1, 2018.

APPOINTMENT

Professor Chinedu Ezirim, Department of Finance and Banking, Faculty of Management Sciences, appointed *Acting Dean of the Faculty*. The appointment lasts until resumption of academic activities.

Professor Andrew Obafemi, Centre for Disaster Risk Management and Development Studies, reappointed *Director*, effective October 19, 2020 to October 18, 2022.

Dr John Ughebor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, appointed *Acting Director*, Centre for Occupational Health, safety and Environment. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect, will terminate on November 10, 2022.

Dr Daniel Utibe, Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Faculty of Science, appointed *Assistant Director, Community Service Unit*. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect, will terminate on October 25, 2022.

Dr Ejikeme Ogwoha, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, appointed *Assistant Director, Centre for Occupational Health, Safety and Environment*. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect, will terminate on October 25, 2022.

Dr John Ichenwo, Department of Petroleum Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, appointed *Coordinator, Industrial Chemistry/Petroleum Technology (SSLT)*. The one-year appointment which takes immediate effect, will terminate on October 25, 2021.

Dr Hilary Obong, Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, appointed *Coordinator, Physics Electronics/Production Technology (SSLT)*, effective October 25, 2020 to October 24, 2021.

Dr Stephen Omeodu, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Science, appointed *Coordinator, Biochemistry/Chemistry Technology Programme (SSLT)*. The one-year appointment which takes immediate effect, will terminate on November 9, 2021.

Dr Goodness Orluwene, Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education, appointed *Acting Head of Department*, effective November 13, 2020 to November 12, 2022.

Dr Henry Ozuru, Department of Marketing, Faculty of Management Sciences, appointed *Acting Head of Department*, effective October 27, 2020 to October 26, 2022.

Dr C. C. Ehere, Department of Accounting, Faculty of Management Sciences, appointed *Acting Head of Department*, effective November 19, 2020 to November 18, 2022.

Alumni Make More Donations To UDSS

By Otikor Samuel

It was now harvest time for the University Demonstration Secondary School (UDSS) as Class '91, has joined other public-spirited individuals and groups to donate a set of 32 desks to the School. The donation came barely a month after Class '88 provided a set of 50 desks to the School.

In her speech before handing over the items to the Management of the School on Friday, October 30, 2020, representative of the Class, Mrs Elizabeth Odum, stated their commitment to the growth of the school which had impacted positively on them.

"It gladdens my heart to see that you are overjoyed with this little token. UDSS is still my school and it will be a thing of joy to see our school progress. We will continue to do the little we can as our contribution to the growth of the School," Mrs Odum said, advising the Management of the School to ensure that students make good use of the item.

Responding, the Principal, Mr Fidelis Weleria commended the Class for the donation. He conveyed



Principal, Mr Weleria (arrowed), representative of Class '91, Mrs Odum (3rd right) and others

the gratitude of Management of the School to other members of the Class for the donation which he described as very timely. "My administration has been benefiting immensely from former students and that assists to make my work very easy. The donation is a very big relief to us. In March this year before we

shut down, we had applied for additional 300 desks. Before we resumed, we got 50 desks from Class '88 and now from your Class. Kindly convey our appreciation to other members of your Class," the Principal said. He pledged to ensure that the items were used judiciously.

ODEL To Commence Programmes Soon

By Letom Nnen



Director, RETRIDOL, Prof Patrick (3rd left), Ag Director, ODeL, Dr Baridam (right), ODeL Specialist, Dr Amini, Technical Officer, Mr Philips (back) and others

If everything works as planned, the University of Port Harcourt Centre for Open, Distance and e-Learning (ODEL), would commence academic activities soon.

Commending the Acting Director of the Centre, Dr Barilee Baridam, a delegation from the Regional Training and Research Institute for Distance and Open Learning (RETRIDOL), Abuja, expressed satisfaction with his efforts in ensuring the successful take off of programmes in the nearest future.

Speaking during a facility visit to the Centre located at the heart of Port Harcourt, a member of the delegation and an ODeL specialist, Clifford Amini informed the Acting Director, Dr Baridam that the team was on ground to assess areas of partnership to ensure a successful commencement of programmes. "The reason why we are here is to check what you have on ground and areas in which you are lacking and see where we can partner and render assistance that would

enable you secure approval from the National Universities Commission (NUC).

We would recommend that this whole facility be solely used by ODeL. A functional Counseling Centre should be put in place with a professional Guidance Counselor while a memorandum of understanding should be signed with an Information and Communication Technology Centre (ICTC) equipped with a minimum number of 500 computers as recommended by NUC for computer-based test examination amongst others," Amini said.

In his response, Dr Baridam commended the team for visiting the Centre. He assured them that the recommendations would be giving prompt attention to ensure successful commencement of programmes. The Acting Director further disclosed that the Centre would commence programmes in Economics when approved as its curriculum has been fully developed. Other members of the RETRIDOL team included the Director, Professor Eya Patrick, and the Technical Officer, Mr Oluwaseun Philips.

Acting VC Inaugurates Secondary School

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Prof Okodudu (arrowed) flanked by the UPWA President, Dr Okodudu and others

“What we are witnessing here is an excellent partnership between the University Management and UPWA as well as other stakeholders and I can assure you there is no limit to what we can all accomplish towards advancing the public good. I am happy to note that UPWA had done a very commendable job by opening the secondary school component of the International Daycare, Nursery and Primary schools,” Professor Okodudu said.

The elated Acting Vice Chancellor remarked that those who found themselves in positions of trust should endeavour to add value to it, saying it would be better to leave it the way one met it than destroy it. Professor Okodudu pledged Management continued support to the President and Executives of UPWA. Earlier in her welcome address, UPWA President and wife of the Acting Vice Chancellor, Dr Ezinneka Okodudu had

expressed profound gratitude to the parent-teacher association (PTA) and other stakeholders for the unalloyed support and encouragement her executives has received since the inception of the current administration.

Dr Okodudu said the decision to add a Secondary School to the existing and thriving Nursery and Primary Units of the Resource Centre was not just an over-night thought of an individual but it was rather a result of pressure from concerned parents and guardians whose children and wards were already pupils in the International Daycare, Nursery and Primary School.

“The parents and guardians saw the need for continuity of the excellent academic culture. Besides, the School Management saw the need to follow the Government new UBE system that terminates at Junior Secondary School or what is known as Basic 9 for proper certification. It is more convenient for parents to drop off their children and wards in one composite school environment at the same time, rather than having to drop them in different places”.

The UPWA President used the occasion to appeal to the Management of the University and public-spirited individuals in the areas of well-equipped laboratories for students' practical sessions, sports equipment, library furniture, school bus and computer sets.

The occasion had in attendance Principal Officers of the University, as well as dignitaries from all walks of life, including Directors of Centres and Institutes, Dean of Faculties, senior academics and administrators, amongst others.

ASUU Cooperative Holds AGM, Extends Mgt C'ttee Tenure To Jan 28

By Otikor Samuel



AVC, Prof Okodudu (seated 3rd right), Prof Monanu (on mic) and others during the AGM

Tenure of the Management Committee of the Unique Choba Amiable Cooperative Investment and Credit Society Ltd, has been extended to January 28, 2021, with a charge by members of the Cooperative to the Committee to correct all errors observed in the financial report. The extension of tenure was part of the major decisions reached at the Annual General Meeting of the Cooperative held at the ASUU Congress Auditorium in Delta Park on Thursday, December 3, 2020.

The extension followed an observation which was upheld through a voice vote by members that the financial report was riddled with errors, some of which were attributed to the printer's devil.

Earlier, in his keynote address, the Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu, showered praises on members for contributing to the growth of the Cooperative. “We are doing well, so far. Some of the Cooperatives that started

alongside with us are struggling to survive, while others have gone extinct. So, I want to thank members of the Management Committee and all members for the commitment towards the growth of the Cooperative,” Professor Okodudu said.

On the complaint that the managers of the Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS) owed the Cooperative over N30 million for non-remittance of the deductions from members on the platform, the Acting Vice Chancellor, promised that Management of the University would continue to interface with IPPIS to ensure that the funds are released to the Cooperative.

In her speech, the Director of Cooperative Societies in Rivers State, Mrs Elizabeth Chidi-Wike, expressed delight with the sustenance of the Unique Cooperative. She pointed out that records made available to her showed that the ASUU Cooperative was doing well.

Earlier, President of the Cooperative, Professor Michael Monanu, stated that the ASUU Cooperative which was incorporated in 2006 and took off in 2007, had grown from an initial membership strength of 141 to 788 as at December 2019. He announced that 15 persons withdrew their membership, five passed on and 13 others resigned and retired from the services of the University.

“Currently, we have investments with Fund Managers, FutureView Financial Services Limited. We also have healthy account balances in our accounts with reasonable amount in our fixed deposit at First Bank Plc in addition to several Money Market Portfolio with reputable financial management firms. The 11 plots of land we have at Ogbogoro, Obio-Akpor LGA is appreciating in value,” the President disclosed among other investments.

Professor Monanu stated that the Cooperative has hosted a page on the web in an effort aimed at computerising its records.

Uniport Shines At Global Competition

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Recalling that the ICT National final was held on December 10, 2019, Omijeh disclosed that over 23, 000 Nigerian students took part in the preliminary round. “From the National final, two teams of cloud track students of six and three teams of network tracks of nine were selected from University of Port Harcourt, University of Ibadan and Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria to proceed to the Regional final, which was held on Friday, September 11, 2020,” he explained.

“These 12 students from three top Nigerian universities progressed to represent their respective place virtually on Saturday, November 6, 2020 as one cloud team and one network team. It is also important to note that nine out of the 12 students are already in Huawei as interns, many of the students are acquiring professional certifications such as Huawei Certified ICT Associate (HCIA), Huawei Certified ICT Professional (HCIP), and Huawei Certified ICT Expert (HCIE),” Omijeh said.

In another development, National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) had approved for implementation in the University an upgrade of the IT innovation and Incubation Park (Phase 2). A Letter signed by the Director General/Chief Executive Officer, Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi, and addressed to the Vice Chancellor, read: “The IT Park is designed to create a platform, where Technology, Business, Innovation and Entrepreneurship are nurtured in line with the Agency's mandate to support economic growth through Digital Job Creation,” adding that the University is expected to create modalities for utilising and sustaining the centre.

Mgt Recalls Nnabuo, Efemini, Ugiomoh, Re-opens Payment Portal For Students

By Otikor Samuel

Management of the University, has recalled Professors Peter Nnabuo of the Department of Educational Management, Andrew Efemini of the Department of Philosophy and Frank Ugiomoh of the Department of Fine Arts and Design to duty. Management also granted amnesty to different categories of students who defaulted the 'no payment of charges, no examination' policy of Senate of the University.

The Registrar, Dr Dorcas Otto, in separate letters dated October 20 and 21, 2020, respectively, stated that Management took the steps based on the recommendations of the Committee on Staff and Students' Grievances which was set up by the Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu on assumption of office to reconcile aggrieved parties on Campus.

“I write to inform you that you are hereby recalled to duty, and reinstated as Professor in the

Department of Educational Management with effect from the date of your suspension from duty and dismissal on 31st May 2013, up to the time of your statutory retirement from the service of the University, effective 13th December, 2019,” read part of the letter to Professor Nnabuo.

“I write to inform you that you are hereby recalled to duty and reinstated as Professor in the Department of Philosophy with effect from the date of your suspension from duty, that is, 1st July, 2019,” read part of the letter to Professor Efemini.

“I write on the directive of the Ag. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Stephen A. Okodudu, to convey to you the resolutions of the Committee (Committee on Out-of-Court Settlement of Disputes) as follows: That you be recalled to duty; that the University should pay your salaries, earnings and financial entitlements with effect from the date of your suspension from duty that is, 6th October, 2017; that the University should pull down the publication regarding your suspension and termination on the website,” read part of the letter to Professor Ugiomoh.

On the amnesty granted to students and re-opening of students' portal for payment of charges, the Registrar listed the beneficiaries to include: students who obeyed Senate's directive and repeated the 2015/2016 session in 2018/2019 session, but failed Courses that they had previously passed; students who did not obey Senate's directive to repeat the 2015/2016 session in the 2018/2019 academic session and their results were released and certificates issued and students who did not obey Senate's directive to repeat the 2015/2016 session and their results withheld.

Others are students who had issues of late payment of charges after closure of portal as at 2018/2019 session and those who for one reason or the other failed to apply for Temporary Withdrawal from Studies and needed an extra year to graduate as at 2018/2019 session.

“In view of the closure of school owing to COVID-19 pandemic, students who may wish to make submissions that are applicable to any of the categories could be considered for amnesty,” the statement concluded.

Stakeholders Call For Research Evidence Use In Policy Making

By Letom Nnen



ELA Project Leader and Ag Director ELP, Dr Nwaichi (4th left), Representative of the Minister, Dr Ekweozoh, (right), Ag Vice Chancellor, Prof Okodudu, DG, NNMDA, Dr Eituvie, Senior Officers and other Members of ELA

The Minister of Science and Technology, Dr Ogbonnaya Onu and other stakeholders have called for a conscious application of research evidence in solving societal problems and in making policies. The Minister stated this at the closing ceremony of the Evidence Leaders Africa (ELA) 2020.

Reading the goodwill message of the Minister at the Exchange and Linkage Programmes Unit on Thursday, December 3, 2020, the Director, Department of Environmental Sciences and Technology of the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology, Nigeria, Dr Peter Ekweozoh commended the Project Leader of Evidence Leaders Africa (ELA), Dr Eucharia Nwaichi and her sponsors, African Institute for Development Policy (AFRIDEP) and the African Academy of Science (AAS).

The Minister lauded the timing of the Project and pledged the support of his Ministry. The Minister also congratulated the Nigeria Natural Medicine Development

Agency (NNMDA), for improving staff capacity in evidence informed decision making.

“Policy decisions drive the direction and progress of the national developmental objectives in any economy, and this is measurable by key indicators such as research development, patents, publications, linkages and collaboration as well as funding. The Ministry is currently reviewing its Science Technology and Innovation policy. It is in line with these ongoing activities that the Ministry, recognising the pivotal role of evidence in policy formulation and implementation, keyed into the Evidence Leaders in Africa (ELA) project. It is hereby endorsed for use by stakeholders in the traditional medicine sector. I encouraged other sectors to view it as a template to adapt and build-on in developing strategies for national growth and

economic development,” the Minister said.

In his remarks, the Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu who was represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Regina Ogali congratulated Dr Nwaichi and her team for the project, encouraging participants to make good use of the opportunity. “I congratulate Dr Eucharia Nwaichi for emerging one of the three Grantees of Evidence Leaders Africa Project and being recognised by the African Academy of Science and the African Institute for Development Policy. I look forward to seeing policymakers and researchers use their newly acquired skills and capacity to raise institutions and bring about expected developments in setting priorities and implementing programmes using evidence in Nigeria and Africa,” Professor Okodudu said.

Also speaking, the Director General of NNMDA, Dr Samuel Etatuvi praised the tremendous impact of the project, promising that his agency would abide by the policies as presented. The DG also appealed for more robust collaboration between Evidence Leaders Africa, NNMDA and the University of Port Harcourt.

In her presentation on Developing Guidelines for Evidence Use in Nigeria Natural Medicine Development Agency (NNMDA), Dr Nwaichi emphasised on heightened awareness use of evidence among participating researchers and policymakers “Through this partnership, new skills around accessing, synthesising applying evidence as well as preparing Policy Brief birthed among team,” she pointed out, disclosing that the Exchange and Linkage Programmes Unit under her leadership would facilitate curation of evidences in relevant areas from the University of Port Harcourt.

Highlights of the event were the presentation and endorsement of the Guidelines for Evidence Use in Nigeria Natural Medicine Development Agency and Presentation of Policy Briefs. Goodwill messages were also presented by the United States of American Leadership Coach, Rachel Peterson, the Director of AFIDE, Dr Rose Oronje, and the Director, Strategy and Partnerships at Africa Academy of Science (AAS), Dr Isayvani Naicker and others.

Humanities Faculty Hails AVC, Pledges Support

By Sam Kpenu



Ag VC, Prof Okodudu (arrowed) flanked by Dean, Prof Owete (right), senior academics, other staff of the Faculty and SAVC, Mr Alex Nmecha

The leadership and some senior staff of the Faculty of Humanities, took time out on Friday, September 4, 2020 to appreciate the Acting Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Stephen Okodudu for positive changes taking place in the University under his watch. The Heads of Department, senior academics and other staff of the premier Faculty of the University said they visited to congratulate and offer their solidarity to the Acting Vice Chancellor who they said had given them a sense of belonging. Speaking on behalf of the Faculty, the Dean, Professor Kingsley Owete, said that the visit was to express the gratitude of the Faculty for the assistance and encouragement they have received from the present administration, including the electrification of the Captain Elechi Amadi Faculty of Humanities building. "This great achievement is a testimony to the fact that staff welfare is crucial to your administration. Similarly, we deeply appreciate and thank you for finding some members of the Faculty worthy for appointment to serve in different capacities in this dispensation," the Dean added.

He further promised that the Faculty would continue to give the Acting Vice Chancellor the needed support to succeed in the assignment given to him by the Federal Government. While formally congratulating him on his appointment, Professor Owete expressed hope in the ability of the Acting Vice Chancellor to bring about the needed peace and transformation of the University. Responding, the Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Okodudu, said that his was an interim administration committed to the mandate of ensuring lasting peace on campus and thanked them for the visit and their encouraging words. "We are committed as a team to ensure peace, but we cannot do it alone, we need your support. I have a short time to stay, I came in peace, I want to administer in peace and leave in peace," he said. Highlights of the occasion included the presentation of a portrait of the Acting Vice Chancellor by the most senior Professor, onetime Dean of the Faculty, and the composer of the University of Port Harcourt Anthem, Professor Sylvanus Udodim.

Frank-Peterside Sets Agenda For QAQC, SERVICOM Unit

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Newly-appointed Director of the Quality Assurance and Quality Control/SERVICOM Unit, Professor Nnenna Frank-Peterside, has disclosed plans to reconstitute a University-wide quality assurance and control committee in line with its mandate of ensuring efficient and effective quality service delivery in the University. Speaking during an interview with a *UniPort News* Correspondent, Professor Frank-Peterside noted that as a way of sensitising members of the University community on the activities of the Unit that is saddled with the responsibility of coordinating all SERVICOM activities in the University, she would convene a meeting of Deans of Faculty, teaching and non-teaching staff and the students to emphasise the need for quality service delivery. "As part of efforts to facilitate University-wide quality assurance and control in teaching and learning, we would develop an assessment form for teaching and non-teaching staff. The idea is to assess staff and appreciate those performing well and send feedback to those with

lapses," she said, adding that the Unit would develop a comprehensive database that would capture such information as the total number of students admitted amongst others.

Stressing the need to review the existing SERVICOM Charter, the newly-appointed Director said that the review was in line with the need to drive the University towards International Standard Organization (ISO) certification. "We want to look at areas in which ISO certification applies such as quality service delivery with a view to satisfying our clientele.

Emphasising that her tenure would run an open-door policy, Professor Frank-Peterside observed that the Unit is looking forward to receiving, collating and managing proposals and complaints from the University community in addition to proposing solutions for improving efficiency in administration. She expressed gratitude to the pioneer and immediate past Directors of the Unit, late Professor Anthony Arinze and Professor Ikechukwu Agbagwa, promising to consolidate on their achievements over the years.



Prof Frank-Peterside

CHS Honours Retiring Profs, Departed Colleague At Valedictory College Board

By Humphrey Ogu



Profs Obiechina (right), Okerengwo (2nd left) and representatives of the retirees

It was a feeling of ambivalence that pervaded the College of Health Sciences Board Room on Wednesday, November 25, 2020, when a Valedictory Board Meeting was held in honour of four Professors, who retired from the service of the University after decades of

teaching, researching and mentoring younger colleagues and students in the College. Among those honoured were Professors Anthonia Okerengwo of the Department of Haematology, Immunology and Blood Transfusion, Ndubuisi Eke of the Department of Surgery and Ambrose Obiechina of the Faculty Dentistry. Also honoured at the event was Professor Rollings Jamabo of the Department of surgery, who died on July 6, 2020.

Welcoming guests to the event, Provost of the College, Professor Iyeopu Siminialayi expressed mixed feelings that the Professors were retiring in good health, while their services, expertise and experiences would be missed in the College. He particularly expressed sadness that the late Professor Jamabo did not live to see the day. In his tributes to each of the retirees, Professor Siminialayi also recounted their contributions to the development of the College, wishing them good health, peace and joy in retirement. In their separate speeches, former Provosts of

the College, Professors Osaretin Odia and Blessing Didia and others heaped encomiums on the retiring Professors, highlighting the important roles they played in building the College. Others who also extolled the virtues of the retirees included Professors Oladimeji Akadiri, Henry Alapiki and the Deputy Provost, Angela Frank-Briggs.

In her response, Professor Okerengwo, expressed gratitude to the College for honouring her, disclosing that she recently enjoyed a TETFund-sponsored training overseas. "Despite my retirement, I would be available to teach my postgraduate classes which I was unable to complete due to the Covid-19 pandemic," she said. On his part, Professor Obiechina, who recalled how he got to the University, said "University of Port Harcourt gave me the opportunity to rediscover myself. I'm glad I came here." Professor Eke who joined the event via zoom, had Professor Nze Jebbin stand in for him at College Board Room, while Dr Ibiebeleari Jamabo represented his family.

UniPort Gets COVID-19 Treatment Centre

By Letom Nnen



Equipment at the Treatment Centre

In its contribution to winning the war against the dreaded COVID-19 pandemic that is ravaging the world, the University of Port Harcourt has provided a centre for the treatment of the disease in case of any eventuality. The Centre is located in the premises of the International Students' Centre, University Park. Speaking shortly before commissioning the 20-bed capacity treatment Centre donated by the UniPort 80s Alumni Group on Monday, October 26, 2020, the Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu commended the Group, the Chief Medical Director of the University of Port Teaching Hospital (UPTH), Professor Henry Ugboma and other stakeholders who contributed to the establishment of the Centre. Professor Okodudu also promised to always place premium on the welfare of students, to enable them give back to the University. The Acting Vice Chancellor who decried poor funding of public institutions, however appealed for more support from the

alumni and public-spirited individuals. "As you know, public institutions are not well resourced for reasons that are not beyond the fact of what is generally going on in the entire country, and so, we can only continue to leverage on the support of those who see themselves as part of this institution. The University is a community of students and their teachers and so what that means is that, whatever it would take to make our students comfortable in the University, to make them feel a sense of belonging to the University we must do because we would be looking forward to seeing another set of alumni members wanting to do something similar, if not more than what we have done here now.

"I want to from the depth of my heart, express the gratitude of the Principal Officers, staff and even Council of our University and our students to Class 80s for the job that you have done for the University and also to thank the CMD of the Teaching Hospital for his commitment as well as partnering the University for this onerous task of dealing with the pandemics," Professor Okodudu stated.

Speaking separately of how the idea of donating the Centre was conceived, the Coordinator and the Spokesperson of the UniPort 80s Alumni Group, Mr Ben Willie and Mrs Uloma Braide disclosed that a small group was formed in

reaction to the death of Mr Eze Alomefuna, who was an alumnus of the University. They commended the Management of the University for providing the facility and individuals who contributed to the success of the Centre. "This is a group of men and women who always stand with the University. This is our way of giving back to the University. If one life could be saved here, it's worth it. We hope we would touch the life of the University community," Mrs Braide said.

Speaking earlier before conducting a tour of the facility which has male and female wards, the Chairman, UniPort Covid-19 Steering Committee and the Provost, College of Health Sciences, Professor Iyeopu Siminialayi commended the University for providing the facility. He also lauded members of the Group for the kind gesture.

In his contribution, Professor Ugboma stressed the need for strict adherence to safety protocols to avoid the spread of the pandemic in the University. He commended the Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Okodudu while pledging continuous partnership of the Hospital with the University. Professor Ugboma further appealed to the Alumni Association to extend their support to the Teaching Hospital.

Your Programme Is Intensive, Ag VC Tells OTI Students

By Otikor Samuel



AVC, Prof Okodudu (5th left), flanked by Ag Director of OTI, Dr Briggs, former DVC (Admin), Prof Iberight, Dean, School of Graduate Studies, Prof Nwinee (left) and others

Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu, has urged the newly-admitted students on the Master of Science degree programme of the Offshore Technology Institute to take their studies seriously as they are in for an intensive programme.

The Acting Vice Chancellor made the remarks at the 8th Orientation exercise of the Institute which held at the Lecture Hall I on Thursday, November 19, 2020. Professor Okodudu, stated that the exercise was necessary to enlighten the students on how the programme would run.

"It is necessary to acquaint the students with the basic information they would need to have a smooth take-off of the programme. It is on that note that I wish to commend the Institute for organising the orientation exercise for the students. I am also happy to see industry partners here. We need partnership with industry professionals to continue to give our products a competitive edge the labour market on graduation," the Acting Vice Chancellor said.

Professor Okodudu showered praises on lecturers

in the Faculty of Engineering for leading the way in University-Industry partnership, stating that the University needs to consolidate on its Triple Helix model as Quadruple Helix approach is now the best way to attract strategic partners in the training of students.

Earlier, Acting Director of the Institute, Dr Tobinson Briggs, who reiterated that the programme was highly intensive, disclosed that the Institute works round the clock and only observes Christmas break. Dr Briggs listed the achievements of the Institute so far, revealing that the Institute has graduated up to six batches.

Others who spoke at the exercise included the Dean, School of Graduate Studies, Professor Barisua Nwinee, former Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, who stood in for the Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Professor Ogbonna Joel, Professors Ayo Kuye and Adevale Dosunmu and representative of Technip FMC, Engr Jonathan Ogbekhlilu and Managing Director of Irovestor Engineering, Engr Sylvester Iroghama.

RSC Mounts Training For Chemistry Professionals In Niger Delta

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), has mounted a six-month training for Chemistry professionals in higher institutions in the Niger Delta. The training is aimed at tackling diversity and inclusion issues among the professionals.

Welcoming participants to the University for the commencement of the training which held on Monday, November 16, 2020 at the auditorium of the Exchange and Linkages Programmes Unit (ELPU), Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu expressed gratitude to the Royal Society of Chemistry for sponsoring the training. "This is the kind of thing we encourage in an academic environment like ours. A continuous interaction of intellectuals where senior professionals mentor younger ones on the need to understand Chemistry and practice professionally," he said, adding that events of this nature facilitate the ranking of the University. Disclosing that the training would improve confidence and promote mentorship among Chemistry professionals in selected institutions in the region, Acting Director of the Unit, Dr Eucharia Nwaichi described the RSC training as a project that seeks to increase participation from the under-represented groups, create active interaction between early and mid-career and experienced professionals, find career mentors, map out capacities for networking and collaboration to build necessary skills for Chemistry professionals, amongst other objectives. "The inclusion and diversity capacity building training is expected to add meaning to Chemistry given its contribution to mankind," she said.



L-R: Ag, Director, ELPU, Dr Nwaichi and other participants